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Straus is the German word for ostrich

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ABE STRAUS - RECOLLECTIONS LONG AFTER HIS DEATH

By Richard Kelly (Dickie) Straus, Sr.

With an Introduction by Joan Adler

Not long after I started working with Robert K. (Bob) Straus of Santa Barbara, CA in 1990, I became acquainted, through him, with Gus B. Kaufman of Macon, GA. Gus and Bob had been corresponding for years. Gus was trying to prove that his part of the Straus family was related to Bob's part of the Straus family. Gus, and his cousin Clarisse Illes, spent countless hours, and many dollars, trying to find the connection. When Gus learned of my work with Bob, he invited me to visit him in GA where he promised to show me all the places his family had lived and to introduce me to those members of the family who were still living in GA. Gus and his wife Marian chauffeured me around the state, and along the way they shared their family stories.

One of the people Gus and Marian introduced me to was Richenda Kelly (Cindy) Straus, the widow of Jack Bernard Straus. Her son, Richard Kelly (Dickie) Straus wrote an essay about his family history for his high school history class, which she shared with me. Dickie's essay contains an overview of who these people were and how they fit within the family. However, it didn't answer the question of how they were related to the Lazarus Straus family. It wasn't until 2003, that DNA proved the two families are related. We still don't know how, but it is very clear that the two families are related.

Since the early 1990s I have continued to correspond with Dickie Straus. His interest in his family's history has not waned. Two years ago, SHS Assistant Director Catherine Smith and I stayed at Dickie and Julie Straus' lovely home during our annual trip to GA to participate in Mike and Debbie Buckner's Festival, "Harvest Days in Old Talbot". Dickie brought out boxes of photographs and mesmerized us with stories about the people in the images. It occurred to me then that I had not written about the Columbus branch of the Straus family and that Dickie was the ideal person to write that story. And so, with only a little begging and prodding on my part, he agreed to write an article for the newsletter focusing on his grandfather, Abraham (Abe) Straus, Jr.

What we know about Dickie's branch of the family; -- the Moises Lazarus branch, is that the progenitor, Moises Lazarus, was born in 1770 and died in 1798, which was before Jews

were required to take fixed surnames. Moises Lazarus would have been known as Moises ben Lazarus, which means Moises, son of Lazarus. Moises Lazarus died shortly before his own son was born, and his wife honored her husband's memory by naming their son Moises. In 1808, Napoleon decreed that all Jews were required to take permanent surnames and that is when Moises, born in 1799, became Moises Straus. Based on the science of DNA, we believe Moises Lazarus was the grandchild, or great grandchild, of the original Lazarus, born in 1715.



Abe Straus, Jr.
Date unknown

Dickie Straus, the great, great grandson of Moises Straus and Magdalena Tuteur, has chosen to write about his grandfather, Abe Straus, Jr., who was born in 1885 in Florence, GA. Abe was the son of Abraham Straus and Theresa Stern and the grandson of Moises Straus and Magdalena Tuteur. Magdalena's husband died in 1854. In 1857 she brought her four younger children; Matilda, Jacob, Theresa and Abraham to the United States on the *SS Trenton* from Le Havre to New York. They landed 21 July 1857 and made their way to Talbotton, GA where the Lazarus and Sara Straus family was living. Magdalena's daughter Fannie Straus arrived in 1859 but her older daughter, Caroline, remained in Germany. It is speculated that Caroline was already married and settled by the time Magdalena immigrated. After living in the U. S. for several years, Magdalena disappeared from the records and it is presumed she returned to Germany.

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For further details, see page 12

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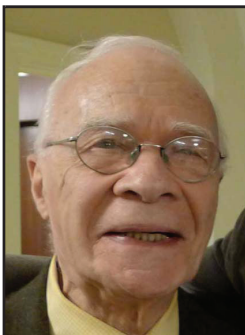
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The Straus Historical Society, Inc. is dedicated to advancing the knowledge, understanding and appreciation of the Lazarus Straus family and the historical context in which they lived through research and education. You are invited to submit articles or ideas for articles, calendar events, and material relating to the Straus family and to their history.

The Straus Historical Society, Inc. is a tax exempt organization as described under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Service Code. Contributions to the Society are deductible to the extent provided by law. A copy of the annual report of the Straus Historical Society, Inc. may be obtained from the Society or from the New York State Attorney General, 120 Broadway, New York, NY 10271



**A Message from the SHS
Scholarship Program Committee -
Al Berr, Richard Gerstman
and Liza Loop**

THE LATEST NEWS: We are pleased to report that, as of the January 31, 2019 deadline, we have received fifty-two applications to the 2019 SHS Scholarship Program, a dozen more than last year!



We announced the inception of the SHS Scholarship Program in the August 2017 newsletter. The goal of the Program is to help support the continuing education of a student, or students, whose professional goal is a career of public service. The Program is intended to reflect the Strauses' long, and honored, tradition of public service and to serve as a legacy for the family.

The Scholarship awards are based on academic achievement and the submission of an essay that identifies a social problem which the applicant considers important and offering ideas on addressing the problem. The essay can also reflect the contribution that the applicant anticipates making in the field of public service. Essays are judged by an independent Award Committee of outside educators who have no relationship to the Straus family or to SHS board members.

Last year, the first year of the Program, we invited two prominent schools to participate: the School of International Service at American University in Washington, DC and the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University in Massachusetts. This year, we added the equally prominent School of International and Public Affairs at Columbia University.

We were pleased last year to announce that Rachel King, a graduate student at American University, was selected to receive our first \$5,000 Straus Historical Society Scholarship. Ms. King is a Fulbright Scholar and has a five-year contract with the U.S. Foreign Service as a Pickering Fellow after graduate school. She plans to become a Foreign Service Officer with the U.S. State Department after graduate school.

The Scholarship Committee plans to expand the Program in order to offer more than one scholarships each year. The Award Committee admitted that a number of applications were sufficiently strong to deserve recognition along with the winning submission, and regretted that only one applicant could receive the award this past year. This has encouraged us to consider a fundraising event in the near future that ideally, will include a prominent person in the field of public service who would be the honoree and featured speaker. Funds and donations from the event would be designated for future scholarships and if such an event turns out to be successful, we will consider it as an annual date on SHS's calendar.

We hope to build the Straus Historical Society Scholarship so that future generations in the field of public service will represent and honor the rich legacy of the Straus family. We warmly welcome current contributions to the Scholarship Program and we thank you in advance for your support.

What follows is Dickie's article about his grandfather, Abe Straus, Jr.

Abe was born in 1885 at an area known as Florence Landing, GA, about 30 miles south of Columbus, GA on the Chattahoochee River. The family moved to Columbus in 1889 where he attended Wynnton Academy. He was the fourth of seven siblings. There is no evidence that he went to college.

Abe's first job was opening oysters for a local restaurant. His pay was all the oysters he could eat.

Fast forward to 1906/1907 when he was a traveling salesman for a wholesale grocer and tobacco distributor named Sol Loeb and Co. His territory was South Georgia and the Florida panhandle. I have more than a hundred handwritten letters he wrote while traveling, to Gertrude Louise Stern, his future wife. She saved all of them. She also saved all the letters my dad wrote home from World War II - very interesting reading. I also have numerous congratulatory letters to Abe and Gertrude on the birth, in 1908, of their first child, Sarah Evelyn, as well as a book of bound telegrams sent to them upon the occasion of their wedding. Thankfully, Gertrude saved it all.

In 1920, Abe began to work for a company the Mitchell Hosiery Mill in Columbus which was founded in 1917. Initially he was its secretary/treasurer and became President in 1923; in 1928, he moved the mill from downtown. In order to make this move, he presumably used money that he had saved from the proceeds of the sale of Coca-Cola stock which he'd bought upon the recommendation of his brother Melville, who had become the Coca-Cola bottler for the Pittsburgh area.

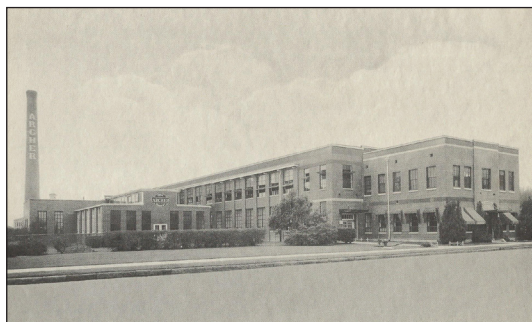
Abe bought Mr. Mitchell out, became President, and changed the name of the company to Archer Hosiery Mills after Mr. Mitchell's middle name, Archer.

Abe's brother Melville had operated the Columbus Barrel Manufacturing Company. Melville left Columbus and moved to Pittsburgh at the urging of Columbus industrialist W. C. Bradley, who was close friends with the founder of Coca-Cola, Asa Candler. Presumably, Abe was also a shareholder, as were many people in Columbus. The sale of the appreciated stock provided a good opportunity for raising capital. My father once calculated that had Abe not sold that stock, it would have been worth somewhere around 180-200 million dollars by the late 1980s! But, of course, he needed to build his company, and who knew of the future growth of Coca-Cola both in the US and worldwide!

In 1930/31, right at the beginning of the Great Depression, the Columbus newspaper records; "Archer Mills to expend huge sum in enlargement of plant; fine hosiery will be made; expansion plans call for expenditure of \$200,000 within the next 12 months; new brick and steel building planned."

It was remarkable to spend that kind of money during the Depression. What was built was the Full Fashion Department. It was further enlarged in 1935/36 and extended again in 1939.

Abe's largest work impact was definitely the Archer Hosiery Mill. It's worth noting that at full capacity in 1942, the mill employed 533 fulltime employees working two to three shifts and produced more than 6,000,000 stockings per year with each stocking consisting of 500,000 loops! The stockings were marketed under the Archer name and distributed solely through exclusive agreements with top-flight department stores. They generally were sold at only one store in each city. In addition to Archer's facility in Columbus, Abe also had an office in the Empire State Building and always stayed at the St. Regis Hotel when he visited that office. It is said that he also called on the New York Strauses when in town. When his daughter, my Aunt Sarah Evelyn Straus married, the New York Strauses presented her with gifts. My father related the story that the Japanese Consulate was on the same floor as the Archer office and noted that it mysteriously became vacant the first week of Dec. 1941. Imagine if he could have figured that out!!!



Archer Hosiery Mills - Columbus, GA

Some mill specifics: It was one of the few completely air-conditioned hosiery mills in the U.S. They employed several fulltime manicurists. If employee's fingernails and cuticles were not rough, then the rate of "seconds" or defective products would be greatly reduced by cutting down on the number of "runs" in the silk of the stockings. (Thus the salary of the manicurists

paid for themselves and more!) There was also a well-tended rose garden on site. Salaries were \$40-\$60 per week, which was excellent for the time. And, though there was no health insurance, I had more than one elderly employee tell me, years later, that if there was ever an industrial accident at the mill, Abe always would either accompany the employee to the hospital or meet them there and pay the bill. That's one reason why the mill was never unionized and he was very proud of that. In a "sketch" of the company Abe states that, "We have never had a strike or even a threat which would indicate significant discontent. We believe these good relations exist because of our efforts to make work in our plant as pleasant as possible. Our foremen and supervisors are trained to lead rather than drive." I can personally attest to the happiness of the employees.

After Abe sold the mill in 1950 to Wayne Knitting Mills of Ft. Wayne, IN, and after it finally closed in 1971, the employees continued to have yearly outings and reunion picnics into the early 2000s. I attended several. You would have thought I was royalty. I immensely enjoyed hearing the stories about my grandfather; -- stories I never knew. The employees were extremely loyal to Abe, and to Archer, expressing to his descendants at reunions many years after his death, at my dental office, and elsewhere, the profound affection for the work environment they had experienced. I still have the

rosters, photos, clippings, and yes, obituaries of all the old employees.

Referencing an article from the Columbus newspaper on June 25, 1944; "Secret B-29 Armor Is Made by Columbus Hosiery Mill." During wartime, Archer, as well as most other mills, converted some, or all, of their capacity to war materiel manufacturing. Top management and the employees knew of the items being manufactured, but, details could not be released. Whatever the product was, it was something that reduced the weight of the B-29, allowing it to fly farther on less fuel. Archer met the military's requirements to be able to manufacture it and was granted the highest attainable quality rating. The product also was used on B-24s and B-17s. Archer also produced different items for other branches of the service including items for Chemical Warfare. I have one of these items, eyeshades, as does the National World War II Museum in New Orleans.

An interesting anecdote is that FDR maintained a second home in Warm Springs, GA, which was known as The Little White House. It is now open to the public as a National Historic Landmark. Roosevelt would come down for the hot mineral spring baths thinking them curative to a degree. Eleanor Roosevelt often hosted teas for the wives of the prominent businessmen in nearby Columbus and my grandmother, Gertrude, was, of course, invited. However, Abe forbade her to attend as he saw FDR as pro-union.

One final significant note about Archer advertising. For one advertising campaign, which I think was scuttled for being a bit risqué, (It looked a bit Betty Grable-ish). Abe hired an artist named Walt Otto to paint a model of a beautiful young girl pulling up hose. Walt Otto was famous for being a pin-up artist, and his works had been featured several times on the cover of *The Saturday Evening Post*. That oil painting always hung in the Archer outlet store. The last employee to leave the premises the day the mill closed in 1971 took it with him. He had worked with my grandfather as a very young man beginning in 1935 and became a dental patient of mine when I opened my practice in 1984. I knew that he had the painting as he would take it to all the Archer reunions, and he knew that I wanted it. Finally, one day, he came in to get his teeth cleaned and asked me to come outside to the office parking lot as he had something to show me. It was the painting. He finally wanted me to have it. He died the following week. The painting proudly hangs in our den.

The other significant piece of the advertising campaign that actually came to fruition was that Abe employed the Academy Award winning British photographer and costume designer, Cecil Beaton, to photograph all the hosiery models for the Archer ads in *Vogue* magazine. It's worth noting that Abe and Gertrude's favorite opera singer was Risë Stevens (They both attended opera in New York in season and again, always

stayed at the St. Regis.) Risë Stevens was the model for Cecil Beaton in the ads!

Other than the mill, and its contributions to Columbus regarding employment, civic pride, war materiel manufacturing, and the prestige that such an enterprise brought to Columbus, Abe and Gertrude's greatest gifts to Columbus, and the country, were their contributions to the war effort. For three summers in 1942-1944, they hosted outings for thousands of soldiers to their 200 acre country estate, about 25 miles outside of Ft. Benning, on the outskirts of Columbus. These outings were part of the Summer Hospitality Committee of the U.S.O. and consisted of busing 75-100 soldiers at a time, (WAACs as well), to the farm each Sunday afternoon where softball games were arranged for them; football, picnics, music, often with a regimental band, dancing, singing, swimming in their beautiful stone pool and horseshoes all took place. They generally were served ham, potato salad, rolls, pickles, cake, plenty of ice cream, and iced tea. The convoy back to Ft. Benning departed around 10:00 P.M. Abe and Gertrude entertained thousands of soldiers who signed a guest book and left their addresses and comments. Articles about these outings appeared in newspapers around the world and in all the military publications. For their generosity, Abe and Gertrude were awarded Gold USO pins by the Executive Secretary of the Army USO. The photographs of all the soldiers enjoying these outings are absolutely incredible and tell such a great story about what went on during these arduous times.



Risë Stevens in an ad for Archer Hosiery that appeared in *Vogue* Magazine

Three quick wartime anecdotes: 1. Bette Davis was a frequent visitor to Ft. Benning during the war as she was dating a soldier there. Abe and Gertrude hosted her for dinner one night at their home, 2. The soldiers got quite fond of Gertrude's cookies. She frequently took them out to the soldiers at Ft. Benning. When Gen. George Patton found out about her taking cookies to the soldiers, he stopped it immediately. Interestingly, at some point during the war, my mother had a blind double date with Gen. Patton's son. 3. My grandmother saved all 375 letters my dad wrote home during the war. At one point, my father wrote that on Christmas Eve, he volunteered to do some kind of guard duty out at a distant post on the cold night in Italy because he wanted those who celebrated Christmas to be able to do so. Very soon afterwards he wrote when he got home, he wanted a Christmas tree with all the trimmings from then on. I don't know if that's what prompted Abe and Gertrude to make a "big deal" about Christmas mornings after the war. My cousin, Bill Stein recalls getting a set of *Encyclopedia Britannica*, and he remembers Abe giving Gertrude an expensive fur coat.

Abe thoroughly enjoyed riding horses which he kept at their country estate. He also had a large and very productive vegetable garden. His son-in-law, my Uncle Morris Stein, had an award winning "Victory Garden" in Columbus that won the highest award in Georgia. Abe's grounds were taken care of by a very loyal African-American family that lived

on the premises. The USDA had a program that distributed grant money to Southern farmers who did not plant cotton. According to Bill, Abe had no intention of planting cotton. "But," he said, "If the government insists on sending me a check, I will gratefully accept it."

Abe was a very fastidious and particular person. His housekeeper, Mrs. Marion Peebles, had a bachelor's degree in nutrition from Duke University. He had a predilection for A. Sulka apparel. He was a gin rummy whiz and had a weekly card game with local businessmen who became fast friends.

A couple of interesting things about the final house that Abe built in Columbus. It sported the first zoysia grass lawn in Columbus and one of the first in the state. It also had the first underground sprinkler system in town. He had a switch in the bedroom that controlled the coffee pot in the kitchen. It was a finely constructed house using steel in addition to wood in the framing, and it was built by a very close friend, Charlie F. Williams, who is also credited with building Ft. Benning into what was then the largest infantry base in the world. Every day, after work, Abe would visit the construction site with a crowbar in hand. If he saw a stud that was bowed, or had any knots in it, he would pull it out, put it in the back seat of his car, drive down Hilton Avenue to Charlie Frank's house and leave the stud in his front yard with a friendly note requesting that he replace it.

One other interesting story which points to his personality was told to me by a patient and former mill worker. This employee once was tasked by Abe to meet him at the Atlanta airport and drive him back to Columbus, a trip of 100 miles. Upon arrival back in Columbus, Abe could sense that the driver wanted some kind of tip. So quick witted as he was purported to be, he handed the driver the Wall Street Journal that he had been reading on the trip back and told him to read it cover to cover and that in so doing, it would be far more valuable than any small tip.

Abe kept two leather bound, spiral notebooks. One was for his Christmas card list which also contained his Christmas gift list. It was all maintained by his administrative assistant. He would make handwritten notes in the margins if there were any changes to the alphabetized typed list. (He also frequently wrote on the back of photographs, the names and dates of when they were taken, who was in them, and how he wanted the photos cropped. This has proven very helpful in identifying folks.) The gift list makes for very interesting reading in that it not only was for family, but was a veritable who's who list of all the movers and shakers in Columbus and the surrounding area. Gifts would mostly be shelled pecans with peaches sent as well. For very special people, Abe would send Archer stockings. He specifically noted whether they were to be sent or if he preferred to hand deliver them, mainly to his closest

friends. He even had each recipient's size and color preference recorded. He further made certain that all the nurses at the Kempner Institute at Duke University, receive stockings. And he knew them all by name. About five or six years ago, I looked up the names of the nurses and actually found one still alive and in her late 90's. I managed to find her address and wrote her a letter revealing who I was and of my find of her yearly gift of hosiery from Abe. She remembered it well and had very complimentary words and pleasant memories of him. The other notebook was not as lengthy but included typed lists of all the places that he mail-ordered clothing, with sizes. It also contained information about foods he mail-ordered from various specialty grocers across the country as the Kempner Institute diet obviously had a huge impact on him. My Christmas list is not as perfect as Abe's, but I maintain a similar way of tracking my list on the computer and spend a lot of time keeping it updated. Some character traits seem to have been passed down the generations!



Abe Straus Jr.
July 1939

My cousin, Bill Stein, mentioned that Abe paid for all four years for him at Princeton. I also know that Abe put aside ten thousand dollars for my brother to pay for his future education. At the time of his death, Abe only had two grandchildren since he died in 1956 and I came along in 1958. After his death, we three grandchildren provided him with 8 great-grandchildren, 5 from me and 3 from Jack, Jr. followed by 4 great, great- grandchildren -- 2 from my son Richard, Jr. and two from Jack's son Nathan.



Gertrude Stern Straus
About 1940

According to Bill, Abe was never an officer of Temple Israel (Reform) and rarely attended services. However, the stained glass windows in the temple were donated by his daughter Sarah Evelyn and son-in-law Morris Stein and one of them was given in his memory. However, he was on the Board of Directors of St. Francis Hospital and helped raise the funds to construct it. He was a board member of the Fourth National Balm (now known as SunTrust Banks which is on the NYSE) and was on its Trust, Executive, and Building Committees. He was on the board of Wayne Knitting Mills; and Columbus Fibre Mills as well as a member of the Harmony Club (a Jewish club), the Country Club of Columbus (one of only a handful of Jewish members that I know of including a large contingent of local Rothschilds and Abe's brother-in-law, Joe Julius; -- who I'm told was a charter member in 1909 and who was married to Abe's sister, Amalia Straus Julius, known to me as Aunt Mal.) Abe became a 33rd Degree Mason, the highest rank one can achieve.

Even though I never knew Abe, I consider him to be my primary mentor in business. From what I gather, we have very similar personalities, qualities, work ethic, and character traits. Hopefully, I have inherited his best qualities - but perhaps, only time will tell!

"AUNT BABETTE'S" COOK BOOK - 1889

Shortly before the end of the year, I received an email from Jim and Lilli Greenebaum of Northbrook, IL alerting me to the availability of "*Aunt Babette's*" Cook Book – 1889. It's a Kindle book which I purchased from SmileAmazon.

We already had experience with a family cookbook when we published the cookbook of Gladys Guggenheim Straus. It's offered for sale on the SHS website: www.straushistoricalsociety.org That book, which we thought of as old, was originally published in 1948, with a second edition published several years later. We were charmed by the descriptions, many of which seemed dated, which gave us a glimpse into the lives and manner of entertaining of Gladys G. Straus at an earlier time. Imagine what we found in Aunt Babette's cookbook, written in 1889.

Jim Greenebaum and I have been corresponding for many years. He invited me to Chicago to give a talk about his branch of the family and has hosted Catherine and my stay at his lovely home on more than one occasion. Jim's family began immigrating to the United States in 1845. They changed the family surname from Grünebaum to Greenebaum shortly after their arrival. Within a few years, family members began moving west, eventually settling in Chicago, and the nearby towns, where many can still be found. We have letters in the SHS archives between the Grünebaum/Greenebaums and the Lazarus Strauses beginning in the late 1860s, after the Strauses moved north from Georgia following the Civil War.

The connection of the Greenebaums to the Strauses goes back many generations. Lazarus Straus (1809-1898) was the son of Isaak Straus (1788-1838) and Johanette Grünebaum (1791-1870). Jim and Johanette are first cousins four times removed, both descending from Hirsch ben Benjamin Grünebaum (1719-1799) and Barbara Jacob.

Upon reading Aunt Babette's cookbook, I found the descriptions clear and, if I were to follow the receipts [sic], I would have no difficulty creating these dishes. I was surprised in fact at how much of the book is not at all dated, as I frankly had expected, although the Preface and Miscellaneous sections were clearly written in a different era. I am pleased to present excerpts from "*Aunt Babette's*" Cook Book – 1889 for your enjoyment.

"Aunt Babette's" Cook Book – 1889

Foreign and Domestic Receipts for the Household: A Valuable Collection of Receipts and Hints for the Housewife, Many of Which Are Not to Be Found Elsewhere. 1889

We may live without poetry, music and art:
We may live without conscience, without heart:
We may live without friends, we may live without books,
But civilized man cannot live without cooks.
He may live without books – what is knowledge but grieving?
He may live without hope – what is hope but deceiving?
He may live without love – what is passion but pining?
But where is the man that can live without dining?
Lord Lytton.

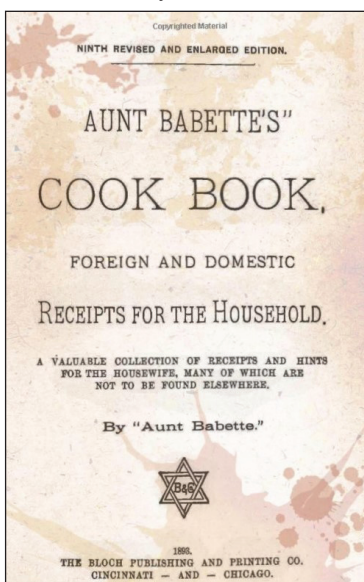
To the Young Housekeepers of America This Book Is Respectfully Dedicated.

Preface

In compiling these receipts, dear reader, it never occurred to me that the public would ever lay eyes on them. I hoarded them up as treasurer for my own daughters and grandchildren. I think it the duty of every woman to be the head of her household, as much as it is the duty of the man to be the head of his place of business or counting room, wherein to rule means to understand his position and duties. This same rule is applicable to the household. In order to govern and command the respect of your servants and to show them that you are not ignorant of the duties you expect them to perform, you must first learn the management of a household yourself.

The more and better educated you are the more fit you are to perform the duties of helpmeet to your dear husband. It is indeed a wife's duty to see that nothing goes to waste, and food improperly prepared is a waste; and what is still more important the health of every member of the family depends on properly selected and prepared food, made palatable by seasoning, and that not too high. A young lady ignorant of housekeeping and its duties is as unfit to be married as a man that has not the certainty of providing for a family. A lady that is able to go into the kitchen when necessity calls her there to perform certain duties is surely to be more respected than the ignorant one that boasts of her education and yet is sorely deficient in that sphere.

Many a lady may tell you that she did not know how to make a cup of tea when she got married, but prides herself on being an excellent "cook and housekeeper" now. Well and good, all honor is due her for her industry and perseverance, but she probably never told you of the heartaches and restless nights of worry it caused her when Henry came home and told her that his dear mother or father intended paying them a visit, or that he had invited them to dinner, on a special occasion, and wouldn't dear mother see that their favorite dish was prepared for dinner? She may have had a good plain cook, but she did not know how Henry wanted that favorite dish prepared. "Wouldn't missus just be kind enough to explain and tell me just how she wants it done, and share I'll try me besht to please?" But. Oh dear! She didn't know how to cook



a potato, much less give the receipt for Henry's favorite dish. Poor child – I hope I have not worked in vain; try and learn from me, through practicing the following receipts, and if I have succeeded in eliciting Henry's praises about his dear wife's meals, and making you look all smiles and happy, I shall feel fully repaid for my labor.

Babette

Miscellaneous

Servants

No one serves from mere choice; therefore, we should treat those serving us kindly, and not notice every frown or cloud stamped on their faces; they cannot smile all the time. They have their secret sorrows, aches and pains as well as the mistress of the mansion, which alas they cannot or will not confide in others. Pick out a servant's good qualities and weigh them with good judgement against the bad, and if the better qualities outweigh the others try and have patience with her. You will probably find your reward in doing so. It is often better to teach less experienced help than to put up with the arrogance of one who feels her superiority. Visit your kitchen daily or as often as occasion requires. Reprimand your help kindly, tell them to do things so and so, in a pleasant tone and always say please. Servants and children are great imitators, and the consequence will be they will do likewise. How pleasant is a home where kindness reigns! A good and appreciative servant will show her appreciation by serving to the best of her ability.

Marketing

Every housewife should do her own marketing; no matter what her position in life maybe she should not be above this – and be proud of her knowledge and understanding in selecting and purchasing such stores as are needed in her family. Before marketing, pay a visit to the kitchen store-room, see what is needed and sometimes see more – see whether the pantry is kept as it should be. If there is a surplus of stale bread order it to be used up for puddings, toast, etc.

Fish and Oysters

Fish, to scale readily, should be dipped in boiling water, for a second only. Clean thoroughly, not forgetting to remove the eyes and ears, but in doing so try not to destroy the shape of the head, which not only adds to the looks of the boiled fish but to its flavor as well. Salt your fish the day previous to cooking this applies to both baked and fried fish. Heat the salt; this little extra trouble will pay you, for then the salt will penetrate through the flesh to the bone. Rub with salt inside and outside. Remember – heat the salt, this is easily done by putting the salt in a tin plate and setting in the oven a minute.

To cook fish properly is very important, as no food, perhaps is so insipid as fish if carelessly cooked. A good rule to cook fish by is the following: Allow ten minutes the first pound and five minutes for each additional pound; for example: Say you have

a fish weighing five pounds – boil it thirty minutes. By pulling out a fin you may ascertain whether your fish is done; if it comes out easily and the meat is an opaque white, your fish has boiled long enough. Nothing is so disgusting to the palate as a piece of raw or underdone fish. Always set your fish on to boil in hot water, but from the teakettle, adding salt and a dash of vinegar to keep the meat firm; an onion, a head of celery and parsley root are always an acceptable flavor to any kind of boiled fish, no matter what kind of sauce you intend to serve with it. If you wish to serve the fish whole, tie it in a napkin and lay it on an old plate at the bottom of the kettle; if you have a regular "fish kettle" this is not necessary. I prefer carving, or rather cutting up, the fish before boiling, and then arranging the fish on the platter as though it were whole, head first and so on. A good way to thicken sauces, where flour is used, is an even teaspoonful of flour to a cupful of sauce, or the yolk of one egg to a cupful of sauce. When boiling fish, allow the water to just reach the top, but not to cover it.

In frying fish, do not leave the fish lie in the spider in which it has been fried, for this absorbs the fat and destroys the delicate flavor. Fried fish should be nicely browned, then removed at once to a platter. Persons who say they cannot eat fried fish, on account of its oily, indigestible qualities, do not know that in most cases it is not the mode of cooking that is to blame, but the careless cook who allows it to spoil after it is cooked.

Pigeon Soup

Make a beef soup (receipt for this appeared on a previous page), and an hour before wanted throw in a pigeon. Boil slowly, with all kinds

of vegetables (provided your patient is allowed to have them, for remember this is a soup intended for the convalescent). Strain, add the beaten yolk of an egg, add salt to taste.

Raisin Sauce

Brown some fat or butter in a spider, stir in a tablespoon of flour; stir until it becomes a smooth paste; then add hot soup, stirring constantly; throw in a handful of raisins, some pounded almonds, a few slices of lemon, also a tablespoon of vinegar; brown sugar to taste; flavor with a few cloves and cinnamon, and if you choose to do so, grate in part of a stick of horseradish and the crust of a rye loaf. Very nice for fat beef.

Hashed Calf's Lung and Heart

Lay the lung and heart in water for half an hour and then put on to boil in a soup kettle with your soup meat intended for dinner. When soft, remove from the soup and chop up quite fine. Heat a spoonful of goose fat or butter in a spider; chop up an onion very fine and add to the heated fat. When yellow, add the hashed lung and heart, salt and pepper, and add soup stock and thicken with flour. You may prepare this sweet and sour by adding a little vinegar and brown sugar, half a teaspoonful of cinnamon and a tablespoonful of molasses; boil slowly; keep covered until ready to serve. Very nice.



1890s Victorian Mansion Kitchen

From Macy's to the Titanic - The Straus Family Legacy

April 15, 2019 - The Center for Jewish History, NYC

We are pleased to announce that the event celebrating the 20th anniversary of the Straus Historical Society has been rescheduled for Monday, April 15, 2019. This date coincides with the 107th anniversary of the sinking of Titanic and the 104th anniversary of the dedication of Straus Park in Upper Manhattan.

On Monday, April 15th, the Straus Historical Society and Leo Baeck Institute will co-host an event at The Center for Jewish History in New York City. There will be a pop-up exhibition and a program celebrating SHS, the accomplishments of the Straus family in business, public service and philanthropy, and commemorating the historic loss of the RMS Titanic in 1912.

The exhibition will display photographs and memorabilia from the archive of SHS with particular emphasis on Isidor and Ida Straus, their lives, and death aboard Titanic.

The program will feature a presentation by Michael Lisicky, department store historian and author of *Abraham & Straus*:

It's Worth a Trip from Anywhere, who will be speaking about the Straus family, their ownership of Macy's, and how the sinking of Titanic affected the family and its business.

Michael's presentation will be followed by a Q&A with panelists including Paul A. Kurzman, great grandson of Isidor and Ida Straus and William Weitzer, executive director of

Leo Baeck Institute. Refreshments will be served before and after the program. Family members and Straus family historians will be available to answer your questions and to give you personal insights into Isidor and Ida's lives and the times in which they lived.

Further details will be forthcoming as the event draws near. For now, *Save The Date!*

Contact Joan Adler, 631-724-4487 or info@straushistory.org for further information.



Painting of RMS Titanic
by Ken Marschall

**Please plan to join us for
this spectacular event!**

Preparing for SHS's Fall 2019 Auction

Last spring, SHS held an auction of family artwork that coincided with the release of our book, *Strauses and the Arts*. There were many firsts associated with that project. We had never created and published an E-book before, and we'd never conducted an auction. We learned quite a lot from both projects; experience we hope to use as we move forward.

We are planning to host our second SHS auction in mid-September 2019. This auction will be different than our last one, as we will be offering a wide variety of items and services. We will not be limiting the items to those that are Straus related, and the auction will be open to everyone.

You can help!

We are looking for contributions of almost any description: theater, concert or movie tickets, a week at a timeshare or vacation home, artwork, wine, services (like an hour of massage or a facial, a financial review by a CPA), gift baskets, a gift card to a nationwide company, an appointment with a decorator, or a meal at one's home created by a chef.

If you own a business or service-related company, this is a great way, not only to support SHS, but also to highlight your own firm and its philanthropic endeavors. Almost anything can be donated for our auction.

Like our previous auction, this one will be web based. In most cases, there is no need for the items to be sent to SHS. If you want to donate something that is location sensitive, we can add a note about this in the item's auction description so that only people who live nearby, or are willing to travel, will bid on it. We highly encourage donors to provide a minimum auction price ("reserve price") so items and services receive reasonable bids. Items that do not receive a successful bid can remain the property of the donor or be donated to SHS for future auctions.

Please contact me with your ideas for the auction. If you have items to donate, I would like to learn about that as well. Joan Adler; info@straushistory.org

Donors will receive a receipt to be used for tax purposes. Proceeds from this auction will benefit SHS's general fund where they can be allocated, as needed, to the scholarship program or other special projects.

This is a wonderful, and easy, way to support the Straus Historical Society! Participating in the SHS Fall 2019 Auction through your donation, or bidding, gives you the opportunity to obtain a variety of exciting items and services as well as to show your support for SHS.

Georgia

November 3 & 4, 2018

On November 3rd & 4th, Joan Adler and Catherine Smith traveled to Georgia for the Harvest Days in Old Talbot weekend festival accompanied by SHS Digital Archivist, Marissa Pelliccia. Having missed the 2017 festival, Joan and Catherine were excited to return, and to introduce Marissa to the incredible time capsule of history preserved in Junction City. The 2018 "Harvest Days in Old Talbot" was the tenth annual weekend hosted by Michael H. and Debbie G. Buckner of the Patsiliga Museum.

During the weekend, Joan, Catherine, and Marissa set up photographs, books and other informational materials about the Straus family in the dining room of Mike and Debbie's lovely antebellum home. Hundreds of visitors stopped by to learn about the Strauses and their connection to Georgia. As always, the festival was a great success. We are thrilled we could be a part of it. After attending for so many years, we've made a great many friends in Georgia. It's always a treat to see them and to catch up. This year we had the added pleasure of meeting, and staying in the home of, Mary Luna Shepherd, who could not have made us feel more comfortable, or welcome.



Straus photographs, books and objects on display in the Buckner's dining room

While in Georgia, we made sure to visit many of the historic sites in Columbus and Talbotton. It was Marissa's first visit to the area and we wanted her to see some of the sites we have come to love, and to meet some of the people we now call friend. Since her job involves the scanning of photographs and documents from the Straus' history, she was very familiar with the but it's a far different thing to see them in person. We were so happy to have the opportunity to share them with her.

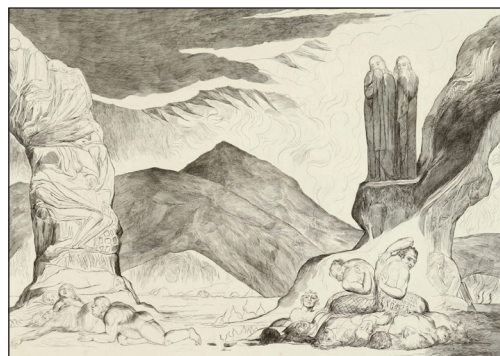
It was sad to visit the site of the Straus' last home in Talbotton. The house was destroyed by fire during Hurricane Irma in 2017. We walked around the property, remembering our previous visits to this site that holds so much history for the Straus family. On Saturday, David and Catherine Johnson took Marissa and Catherine on a tour of the Zion Episcopal Church, located across the street of Straus-LeVert Community Hall. It was wonderful to see the church's historic architecture and the conservation of the building that has been undertaken in the last several years to preserve this beautiful structure.

Later that day, Joan, Catherine and Marissa took a stroll along the Chattahoochee River Walk in Columbus as the sun set, before eating dinner at 11th and Bay Southern Table restaurant.



It was sad to see the Straus home burned to the ground. Plans for its restoration have been abandoned and the property is once again for sale.

On Monday, we returned to Atlanta to make the trip back to New York, but stopped at the High Museum of Art to meet with Frances R. Francis, Senior Registrar of the museum. In the August 2018 issue of the newsletter, we wrote that Frances responded to Joan's 10-year-old inquiry about the artwork donated to the High Museum by the Straus family and we saw several pieces of art that were featured in the article. SHS is extremely grateful to Frances for taking the time to open the museum to them and for the interesting tour. We look forward to returning next year when we are promised a visit to the museum's conservation and restoration facility where there are several other works of art that were donated to the museum by various Strauses.



Dante's Inferno Illustration by William Blake
Donated to High Museum of Art
by Irma Nathan Straus in honor of her husband
Jesse Isidor Straus

We crammed an amazing amount of history and good will into our weekend trip. We encourage the readers of this newsletter to consider joining us in Georgia when we return the first weekend in November 2019 for Harvest Days in Old Talbot and a tour of the sites related to the Straus family.

And So, We Keep On Working

After 28 years of research into the history of the Straus family, I am surprised when asked what there is left to do. Catherine Smith and I are so busy in the office, this isn't a question that would ever occur to us. We often receive queries about topics we've never thought of, and frequently are contacted by people who have some connection to the Straus family that we didn't know of prior to their call or email. For those who have wondered what is left to do after all these years, we hope you will find this article informative.

The Straus Historical Society maintains both a website and Facebook page. We post articles, photographs, videos, information about the Straus family, all past issues of the newsletters and digitized images of materials in our archives. We give presentations all over the country about aspects of Straus history and through this exposure, we are contacted by family members, students, scholars and others, who want to comment on our work or about a family story. And, we receive mail from people who are family members wanting to know about their own history.

Occasionally we are contacted by people who pose a question about something we had not considered before. Or, from someone who believes they are a member of the family, and actually are; -- someone we didn't know about until their contact. Or, from an individual who has a family artifact they want to show us, or to donate to SHS. I'd like to tell you more about some of these.

We received a phone call in the office from a man whose child is due to be born in March. He explained that he has been fascinated by all things relating to Titanic since he was a young boy but that he is especially enamored by Isidor and Ida Straus. He feels the way they conducted themselves was admirable, not only during their final moments aboard the ship, but throughout their lives. He doesn't know the gender of his unborn child, but would like to honor the Straus' memory by using Isidor or Ida's Hebrew name as the middle name for his child. Until that moment, it had not occurred to me that Isidor or Ida had a Hebrew name. And, of course, it set me on a completely new research journey of discovery, which is one of the delights of my job.

I remembered that, when I first started working with the family in 1990, I had seen a *wimpel* for Isidor. It was among the items at R. H. Macy & Co. that were donated to the New York Public Library, but which I was allowed to photocopy before the donation. A *wimpel* is a cloth, usually a long, linen sash, used as a binding for the *Torah* (the first five books of the Bible). It is used to swaddle a baby boy at his *bris milah* (circumcision, a ritual generally performed on the eighth day after birth). The custom is intended to unite the communal world of the synagogue with the individual's life cycle.

Although I was not permitted to retain the *wimpel* for the family, I had the photocopy of it. And so, I was able to tell my caller that Isidor's Hebrew name was Yishāq/Yitzach, ben Eliazer (Isaac, son of Lazarus). [Yishāq means laughter, or

one who laughs.] What a lovely, and loving, tribute to Isidor Straus to have a newborn child named for him.

Because there is no similar ceremony attached to the birth of a female child, we don't have a similar *wimpel* for Ida. We are continuing to research in Worms, Germany, where Ida was born. Perhaps her Hebrew name was recorded there.

On another occasion, my husband's cousin, an older woman who lives in Birmingham, AL, visited us with her new husband. During brunch, he mentioned that his grandmother was Amalia Straus and that she had married Charles Adler. He was telling us this because he thought it was interesting that he had both Straus and Adler ancestors; both names associated with me since my husband's surname is Adler and I, of course, work with the Straus family. I immediately recognized the people he was talking about as members of the Straus family and I was excited to learn that he was related to them. Although I knew about his grandmother Amalia Straus Adler, I didn't know anything about her descendants. Now I had an entirely new area for research, one that arose because of a chance comment.

We also recently received a large box of papers from the estate of a family member. His staff was closing his office and his family wanted his professional papers to be preserved in an appropriate repository. We were happy to accept them and are in the process of adding them to our growing archive.

On another occasion, a man contacted me because his grandmother was the governess for Sara Straus Hess' daughters, Margaret (Peggy) and Eleanor. He had photographs of the three taken in 1910 when she was with the family in Berlin and in Holland. He wrote that she really loved the children and the family, and cherished the time she spent with them and she stayed in touch for many years after leaving their employ.

After writing an article for the newsletter that included information about the Isidor Straus School, Junior High School 109 in Brooklyn, NY, I was contacted by a man who told me he had attended that school and had a fabric patch with the school's insignia on it. He was writing to ask if we wanted to see an image of the patch. Of course, we did! The Isidor and Ida Straus Schools were dedicated shortly after the Titanic disaster. The Isidor Straus School was for boys and the Ida Straus School was for girls; both New York City public schools. Unfortunately, neither school remains open today, but we have a lovely memento from them thanks to the generosity of the donor.

So, each day brings us new information and new challenges. We delight in the discoveries we are making, the contact with people who bring them to us, and the research that ensues. We encourage you to share your stories and your treasures. We honor the memory of the Strauses by preserving their history and by sharing their stories. Your contributions help to make that happen.

Friends of Straus Park

by Al Berr

Photographs by Anne Valley and Joe Arbo

For the second successive year, the day for our annual Art in the Park was blessed with good weather. Saturday, September 29th, was a perfectly acceptable autumn day. A lot of planning and work is necessary for a successful event, so, we are grateful when the weather cooperates.

Art in the Park was known as a Day-Long Celebration of Art, Food, and Music. However, for the past two years, we have deleted Food. Although the presence of food for sale lent a homey aspect to the event, we found that, with the departure of some former board members and assistants, the rest of us could not handle the necessary logistics. That included contacting neighbors about what they would be willing to prepare and insuring against too many duplicates, making certain that the soup would stay hot and the sodas would stay cold, and having enough cash to make change for purchases. So, sadly, we decided to forego the food.

The principal attraction of Art in the Park is the display by local artists and photographers of their work for sale. Each year, the artists who display their paintings, photographs, drawings, and illustrations also bring a new and exciting dimension to our event, which, according to comments from park visitors, is very welcome.

An added attraction, in reference to the Music in the event's title, is our customary quartet, the Blue Vipers of Brooklyn, who performed their signature old-time tunes in their inimitable renditions. We are glad to report that they were as popular as ever.

Board member Ian Robertson displayed some of his Titanic memorabilia as is his custom, and he gave a brief talk about the history of the ship and its tragic last moments. The saga of the Titanic has had its consistent hold for more than a century and there is every indication that it will continue for another century as well.

We displayed some vintage photographs from our collection. One, of the initial dedication of the park on April 15, 1915, usually draws particular attention. It shows the park crowded with people at that event, including a band gathered at the southern border behind the Memory statue. Other interesting photos were of the Straus residence more than a century ago at the corner of Broadway and West 105th Street – a Victorian mansion resembling a suburban country house, surrounded by a lawn.

As usual, we received many compliments on the beauty of the park, including the colorful autumn plantings, the work of our wonderful gardener and horticulturist, Joe Arbo.

At this writing, we are not sure of the date or the details of our annual Titanic commemoration, usually near April 15th. Please consult our website [www.fospark.com] for information.

February 2019

STRAUS HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



Wreath to honor the memory of the victims of the shooting at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh in October 2018



Flower arrangement in Straus Park draped over Memory to honor the victims of Titanic. The flower arrangement is by Lewis Miller, a florist whose vision is to create an emotional response through flowers. He calls them Flower Flashes.



One of Ian Robertson's images on display during Art in the Park

<https://youtu.be/GpJxoHDcppM>
Scenes from Straus Park taken January 9, 1930.

Croquettes of Calf's Brains

Lay the brains in salt water for an hour, or until they look perfectly white, then take out one at a time, pat with your hands to loosen the outer skin and pull it off. Beat or rub them to a smooth paste with a wooden spoon, season with salt and pepper and a very little mace; add a beaten egg and about half a cup of bread crumbs. Heat some goose fat in a spider and fry large spoonfuls of this mixture in it. Spinach is a nice accompaniment.

Grieben

Cut up the fat (goose fat) into two-inch squares. Put on to boil slowly for about three hours with salt but no water. You may preserve one or two breasts of goose by laying them in the hot goose oil half an hour before taking off the fire and leave them in the goose fat until spring.

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We've enjoyed reading this very old cookbook and imagining what it must have been like to cook some of these receipts [sic]. We hope you've also enjoyed our brief article about it. "Aunt Babette's" Cook Book - 1889 is available to download from AmazonSmile.

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AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support SHS every time you shop on Amazon -- at absolutely no cost to you. You'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate 0.5% of the purchase price to the Straus Historical Society once it is designated for this benefit. This money comes from Amazon's Foundation and is not added to your purchase price.

You must first select Straus Historical Society as your charitable organization by going to smile.amazon.com. You will be prompted to select a charitable organization from almost one million eligible organizations. After your selection, SHS will continue to automatically receive this added bonus for each purchase at no cost to you. After you register, you simply sign onto smile.amazon.com every time you shop in order for SHS to receive this benefit.

We've received several donation checks from AmazonSmile!
Keep on shopping!

Available from the Straus Historical Society, Inc.

www.straushistoricalsociety.org/publications

Strauses and the Arts, a collection of articles about family members who are artists, patrons of the arts, musicians, dancers, or involved in the arts in some other manner. Personal interviews with the artists reveal details about their creative process and their philosophy of the arts. Images of the artists' work are included at the end of each article. Available from the SHS website as an eBook (\$4.99) or paperback (\$25).

Under Four Administrations: From Cleveland to Taft, the autobiography of Oscar S. Straus. This recently re-published autobiography includes a new supplement with articles about Oscar S. Straus from past issues of the Society's newsletters and new photographs. Hard cover with dust jacket - \$40.00

Disease in Milk: The Remedy Pasteurization by Lina Gutherz Straus, a loving tribute to the life's work of Nathan Straus, greatly expanded in 2016 including the addition of many photographs and articles. Hard cover - \$40.00

For the Sake of the Children: The Letters Between Otto Frank and Nathan Straus Jr. by Joan Adler published in 2013. When Otto Frank realized he had to get his family out of Europe in April, 1941, he wrote to his Heidelberg University roommate and lifelong friend Nathan Straus Jr. for help. This book describes their struggle to find a way to save the Frank family. Hard cover with dust jacket - \$30.00

The Autobiography of Isidor Straus privately published by Sara Straus Hess in 1955, greatly expanded and updated by SHS in 2011, including the addition of many photographs and articles. Hard cover with dust jacket- \$30.00

The History of the Jews of Otterberg by Dr. Hans Steinebrei, translated by Frank and Sue Kahn and Dr. Andreas J. Schwab. This publication contains a large section about the Straus family. Many photographs complement the text. Published in English by the Straus Historical Society, Inc. Hard cover - \$35.00

My Family: I Could Write a Book by Edith Maas Mendel. A must read for all those interested in family history. Even if the people in this book are not your direct relatives, their appeal is universal. *My Family* is amply enriched with photographs of the people and places mentioned. Hard cover - \$25.00

Additional items are available for sale on the SHS website. www.straushistoricalsociety.org/publications. Contact Joan Adler by phone: 631-724-4487 or e.mail: info@straushistory.org if you have questions about ordering.

The Straus Historical Society collection contains many photographs, articles and other items that are also available. Contact Joan Adler if you want to learn more about the SHS collections or if there is a specific photograph or article you wish to purchase.