

MS 914
READ-STRAUSS FAMILIES
PAPERS, 1800-1959 (bulk: 1870-1959)

DESCRIPTION

The collections represents three generations of the Read and Strauss families in Tucson, Los Angeles and in Cananea, Sonora, Mexico. This includes family correspondence as well as business and legal papers.

6 Boxes, 2 outside items, 3.5 linear feet

ACQUISITION

Donated by Madelyn Graf Rollins in September 1972.

RELATED MATERIALS

Read-Strauss Photo Collection

ACCESS

There are no restrictions on access to this collection.

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Requests for permission to publish material from this collection should be addressed to the Arizona Historical Society, Tucson, Archives Department.

PROCESSING

The collection was preliminarily processed in 1982; it was completed by Riva Dean in March 1998.

ARRANGEMENT

Series one: Biographical/Genealogy, 1800-1955, Series two: Correspondence, 1833-1959, Series three: Business records, 1887-1927, Series four: Memorabilia, 1884-1924

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Charles Moses Strauss (1840-1892), superintendent of public instruction and Mayor of Tucson (1883-1884), came to Tucson in 1879. He held many public offices and was instrumental in getting the University of Arizona in Tucson. He was married to Julia Kaufmann and they had three daughters and a son. One of their daughters was Gertrude Strauss Read, (1870-1935), known as Trudie, who married William Read in 1889. William

Selleck Read (1855-1912) came to Tucson in 1876 and owned the Fashion Saloon and was a manager of L. Zeckendorf and Company and held extensive property interests in Mexico. Trudie maintained the property in Mexico after Read's death. Read and Trudie had two daughters, Olive Read (1890-1968) and Lacy Read (1894-1966). Olive married Sidney Graf in 1913. Olive Read Graf owned a business in Los Angeles called *Olive Read Creations*. The Grafs had two children, Madelyn Graf (b. 1914) and Lawrence (b. 1917).

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collections represents three generations of the Read and Strauss families in Tucson, Los Angeles and in Cananea, Sonora, Mexico. There is a small amount of material from Charles M. Strauss, who was the patriarch of the family. His papers do not include any of his business materials or his work as mayor of Tucson. There are personal letters from him to his wife, Julia and several documents relating to the Masons. There is even less material relating to William Read; only some letters from his children are represented in the collection.

The bulk of the material are the papers of Gertrude Strauss Read Weaver and her daughter Olive Read Graf. Both women were businesswomen and the papers include both personal and business correspondence. Gertrude Strauss Read's papers include her operation of properties in Mexico through correspondence, as she seems to have run most of it from her home in Los Angeles. Most of Olive Read's correspondence is family correspondence from her parents and from her children. The collection also includes a collection of greeting and business cards.

The collection is divided into four series:

Series one is biographical/genealogy. It is arranged according to the individual family member represented. This includes an unidentified diary from 1800 and goes through 1955. The diary is written in Hartford, Connecticut and seems to be written as a prayer, asking for mercy.

Series two is correspondence. This begins with correspondence from an Elizabeth Jones in 1833 (the relation is unknown) discussing how to divide a household. The bulk of the correspondence is to Gertrude Read Weaver and Olive Read Graf, 1896-1959.

Series three are business records. They represent William Read, Gertrude Read and Olive Read from 1903-1933.

Series four is memorabilia. The bulk of this is a collection of business and greeting cards, including a scrapbook of greeting cards, mostly undated. This series includes a folder of handwritten undated recipes.

BOX AND FOLDER LIST

Series one: Biographical/Genealogy

Box 1

f. 1 Read Family biography/genealogy

- f. 2 Read family unidentified diary, 1800
- f. 3 Charles Strauss biographical materials
- f. 4 Gertrude Strauss Read Weaver
- f. 5 Gertrude Strauss Read Weaver notebooks, n.d.
- f. 6 Lacy Read Adler
- f. 7 Olive Read (Graf)
- f. 8 Olive Read (Graf) address books and notebook, n.d.
- f. 9 Olive Read (Graf) notebooks, 1908-1913
- f. 10 Madelyn "Billy" Graf
- f. 11 Lawrence "Buddy" Graf
- f. 12 Unidentified drawings, 1908-1955

Series Two : Correspondence

Box 2

- f. 13 Correspondence, Elizabeth Jones, 1833-1846
- f. 14 Correspondence, William Read, 1898, 1914
- f. 15 Correspondence, Julia Kaufmann Strauss, 1867-1891
- f. 16-24 Correspondence, Gertrude Read Weaver, 1896-1934

Box 3

- f. 25-28 Correspondence, Olive (Read) Graf and Family, 1912-1959

Series Three: Business Records

- f. 29-30 Financial Reports for Gertrude Read Weaver, 1912-1924

Box 4

- f. 31 Gertrude Read Weaver – invoices, 1912-33
- f. 32 Gertrude Read Weaver – property statements, 1908-1913
- f. 33 William S. Read – Will, 1907
- f. 34 Gertrude Read Weaver – Guardianship papers, 1904-16
- f. 35-36 Gertrude Read Weaver – Insurance policies, 1913-35
- f. 37 Olive Read Graf - Insurance policies, 1914
- f. 38 Gertrude Read Weaver – Real Estate Papers, 1887-1927
- f. 39 Miscellaneous legal papers – 1903-09

Series Four : Memorabilia

Box 5

- f. 40 Business cards
- f. 41-42 Greeting cards
- f. 43 Greeting cards scrapbook

Box 6

- f. 44 Publications – Masonic Orders (Charles Strauss), 1884-85

- f. 45 Publications – Christian Science, 1907-1924
- f. 46 Recipes (handwritten), n.d.
- f. 47 Travel Notes – Olive Read, n.d.

OUTSIDE ITEMS

Proclamation from Gov. Zulick appointing Charles M. Strauss to the Board of Regents, 1886

Letter of Credence from the Masonic Lodge in Charleston, S. C. presenting Charles M. Strauss in 1888