

THE GENEALOGY
of
THE THREE (FANTA) TEISER BROTHERS

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PREFACE

Several divergent accounts have come to me concerning the three Fanta, or Teiser, brothers -- the circumstances surrounding their coming to the United States; the mode of their migrations to this country; as well as the basic occasion for the changing their names from Fanta to Teiser .

Scrutinizing the accounts as related to me by Lester Teiser and by Sadie and Tessie Engleberg, and by supplementing these accounts with fragments of remarks heard from time to time, I have reached a conclusion as satisfactory as it needs be to be acceptable to the logical processes.

Lester Teiser said he obtained his facts from his mother and from his Uncle Philip (one of the three brothers) . He noted that his father, Gustave, was born about the year 1826 at Prague, then in Austria, but later becoming a part of the empire of Austria - Hungary.

Upon his father reaching maturity, he was attached to the court of the emperor Franz Joseph as an amenuensis. However, he did not want to enter the army, and he knew that he would be compelled to do so if he remained. Therefore he determined to leave, and somehow or other, he obtained a passport that had been issued to one whose name was Teiser. With such a passport he embarked for the port of Liverpool. After a brief stay there, he took passage for the United States of America. Upon his arrival he did not tarry long but made his way to Richmond in Virginia. There he met a family by the name of Lichtenstein and eventually he married one of the Lichtenstein girls, Hannah. Soon after their marriage they moved to Williamsburg, Virginia, where he opened a general merchandize store. After remaining in Williamsburg for several years, he moved to metropolitan New York, where he engaged in the business of manufacturing of Ladies' purses and hand bags.

While still in Williamsburg, Gustave had word from his younger brother William, still in Prague. He too would like to migrate to the new world of America. So Gustave let William have his "Teiser Passport." If he, Gustave Fanta, could travel on the "Teiser Passport", why also could not William do so. He could and he did, without any untoward incident. Settling too in Williamsburg while still a young man,

(He was born in 1829) and after engaging in the mercantile business for a short period, he opened a photographic studio in that town, and became a proficient artist in the profession of photography, many of his pictures being used in the restoration of historic Williamsburg. Visiting Norfolk, nearby, or perhaps it was Richmond, he met a young lady of the Engleberg family, Lena, and soon afterwards they were married. Some five or six years after marriage, William, became ill and went to New York for treatment at Mt. Sinai Hospital, and the same year (1886) he died.

During the period that the two brothers, Gustave and William, were in Williamsburg, they had word from the remaining brother, Phillip, still in Austria-Hungary that he also would like to come to America, with his wife, for he was married while still in Austria-Hungary. Phillip, during his early years, had left Prague to go to Gynla in Hungary to purchase grain for the Austrian army, and there he had met his future wife, Theresa Kauders. (Note how often the name Theresa runs in the Teiser family.) Gustave and William decided to send him the "Teiser Passport" in the hope that he too could use it as successfully as they had done. He did; though how the wife managed also to travel on that passport is a mystery, but then she may have managed

to acquire a passport of her own. At any rate, Philip and his wife, Theresa, arrived in this country without mishaps and made their way to Norfolk, Virginia. Soon they left Norfolk for Yorktown, Virginia, not to surrender as had Lord Cornwallis done years before, but to open a general merchandize store. and in time Philip's energy acquired for him a postmastership at Yorktown. Remaining at Yorktown until around the year 1888, he moved to Richmond, and there engaged in the wholesale brokerage business, dealing mainly in foodstuffs. Theresa, Philip's wife died sometime in the very early nineteen hundreds, then on or about the year 1908, Philip married again-- this time to Clara Hommel.

We pass now from the biographical data, in so far as it is known to the undersigned, and enter the field of theory. How did the Fanta brothers choose to change their name from Fanta to Teiser?

The Lester Teiser version is that when Gustave Fanta decided to come to America he was able to obtain a passport from one assuming the name of Teiser, since it had been made out in that name. He traveled without being molested on that passport and settled in this country. However he was fearful that a Fanta traveling on a "Teiser

Passport", if he were discovered by American authorities might bring him disaster, and then too, if he were to meet up with an Austrian who knew the name of Fonta, he might cause him to be apprehended and returned to Austria for service in the army. So it was but natural that he should adopt the name of Teiser, under which he was migrating to America. And so he did. When his two brothers made it known to him that they too would like to come to America, he figured that if the passport trick worked for him it should also work for them. So at different times the "Teiser Pasport" was sent to them -- and it worked. Each of the brothers, William and Philip, having the same fears and apprehensions as did Gustave, shed the Fonta name and donned that of Teiser.

The Engleberg version is that when Gustave was on his way to the United States, he traveled on the same boat that a man by the name of Peiser was traveling, Peiser, it seemed, was a man of distinction, and on several occasions had befriended Gustave, Upon arriving here in America, Gustave decided to change his name, for fear of being caught and brought back to Austria. So in the change of name, he thought also to show his appreciation to Peiser by honoring him through discarding Fonta and adopting the

name--Peiser. But when he was accosted by a customs officer and asked his name, his tongue became twisted and when he attempted to pronounce the name Peiser, the "P" of his name was sounded by Gustave as a "T" and the name was given as Teiser. So he let it go at that and thereafter his name became Teiser. William and Philip, following to America their brother Gustave, also adopted the T e i s e r name which he had first adopted.

Both of these versions are interesting and each has its plausibility, but that of Lester Teiser is the one which seems to me the more likely to be the true version. However you may make your own choice between the two. Assuming that there was a "Teiser Passport" and it was used as set forth in the Lester Teiser account, it is very unfortunate that the passport has become lost, for it indeed would be a family relic.

It will be noted that the cover design of this genealogy bears the Teiser Crest, created by William Teiser, photographer, whose photographs were so useful in the restoration of historic Williamsburg. I received a replica of this crest from the Restoration authorities of Williamsburg. So, should you desire a family relic, I offer this to you, with full privilege to use it at your will, as a substitute for the alleged lost "Teiser Passport".

Portland, Oregon,
January 1, 1973.

SIDNEY TEISER

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sidney Teiser". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name "SIDNEY TEISER".

GENEALOGY

of

GUSTAVE TEISER (d)

m

HANNAH LICHTENSTEIN (d)



Theresa (d)

William (d)

Dora (d)

Julian (d)

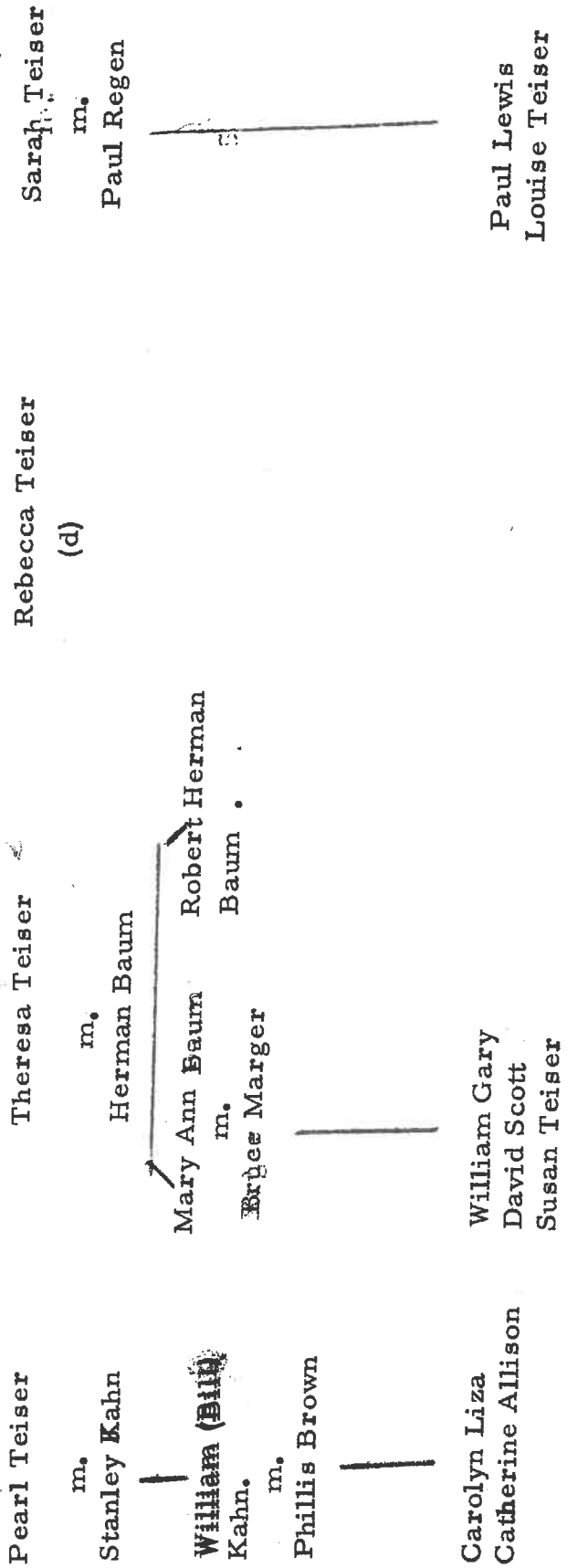
Lester

Theresa Teiser (d)
m.
Meyer Morris (d)

Julia Morris
m.
Benjamin S. Granby (d)
|
Joe Morris
m.
Ethel Brodsky

Hannah Morris
m.
Harry Kahn
|
John Kahn
m.
Rona Barbara
Fisher.
|
Steven Jay
Meredith Jo
Susan Melissa

William Teiser (d)
m.
Mamie Morris



Dora Teiser (d)
m.
Moses Heilbroner

Julian
Heilbroner.

Louise Heilbroner
m.
Seymour Willard Mayer

Rebecca (Reba)
Lichtenstein
Heilbroner
m.
Harold
Melvin
Gardner
(Divorced then m.
Edward Theodore
Trommald

William Edward
Trommald
(Name changed from
Gardner)
m.
Geraldine
Freas

Helen Dora
Mayer
m.
Billie
Johnston
(afterwards m.
Harold Weinman)

Daniel
Burgess
Johnston
m.
Marcia
Rogers.
Thomas
Willard
Johnson
m.
Mareille
Mentuer

Kelly Marie
Scott Edward
Kathleen Louise
John Eric
Ingred M.
Kimberly L.
Mark T.

Seymour
Willard
Mayer Jr.
m.
Maurine
Joan
Teel

Norman
Frederick
Mayer
m.
Arline
McCaddam

Jane Edith
Mayer
m.
Harry W.
Carpenter

Kathleen Jean
Jerry Ann
Susan Dale
Emily Jeanne
James Bradley
David Norman
Christene Louise
Timothy Harry
Kent Thomas
Marnie Lee

Julian Teiser (d)
m.

May B. Wise (d)

Dora M. Teiser

m.

Samuel Gittler

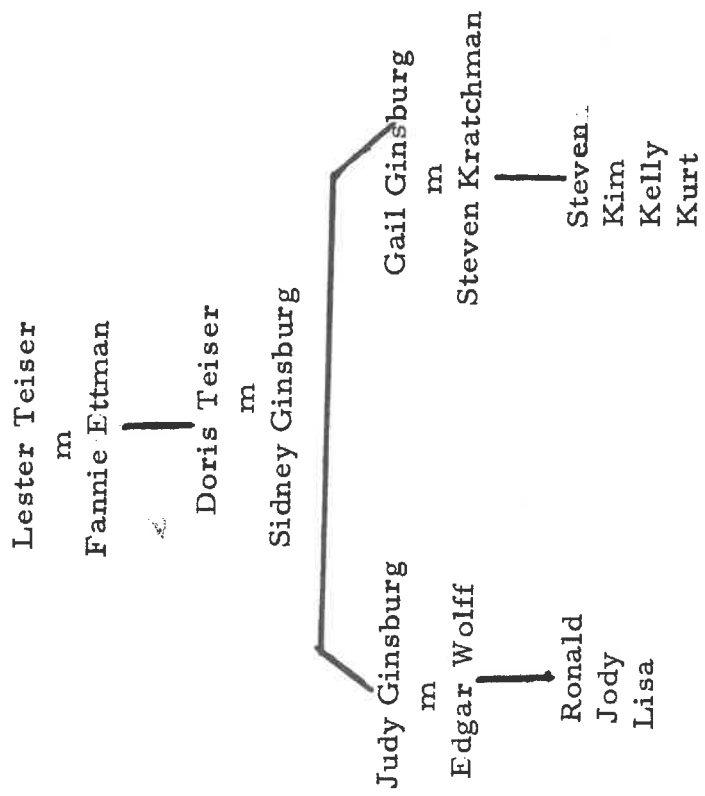
Jullianne Teiser

m.

Richard Winter

John

Matbeth



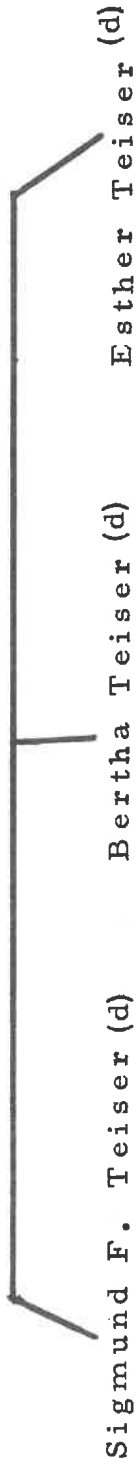
GENEALOGY

of

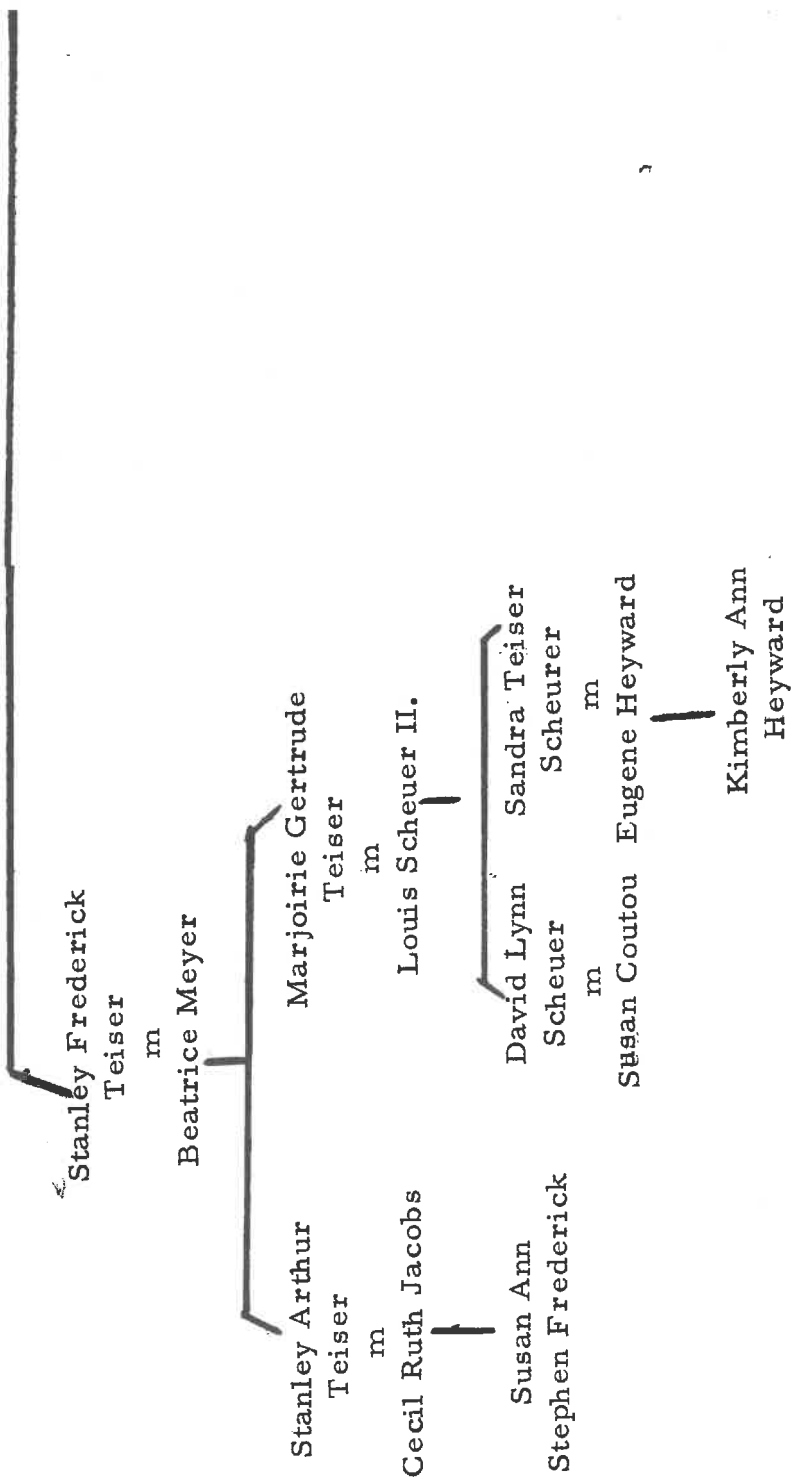
PHILIP TEISER (d)

m

THERESA KAUDERS (d)



Sigmond F. Teiser (d)
m
Helen Wallerstein (d)



Sigmond F. Teiser (d)
 m
 Helen Wallerstein (d)

Eugène McKinley Teiser
 m
 Geneva Barnes.

Eugene Sigmund Teiser
 m
 Mary Gene Falkner

Mary Kathryn Teiser m (to be m. to)
 Gene Wayne Harrell
 Robert Eugene Teiser
 John Thompson
 Haddock

Helen Elizabeth Teiser
 m
 Richard Thomas Johnson

Richard Thomas Jr.
 Carl Herndon.
 Mittie Elixabeth.
 Robert Reid Anderson
 m
 Vicki Lyn Martin
 Robert Hogan.

Uva Louise Teiser
 m
 Reid Hogan Anderson

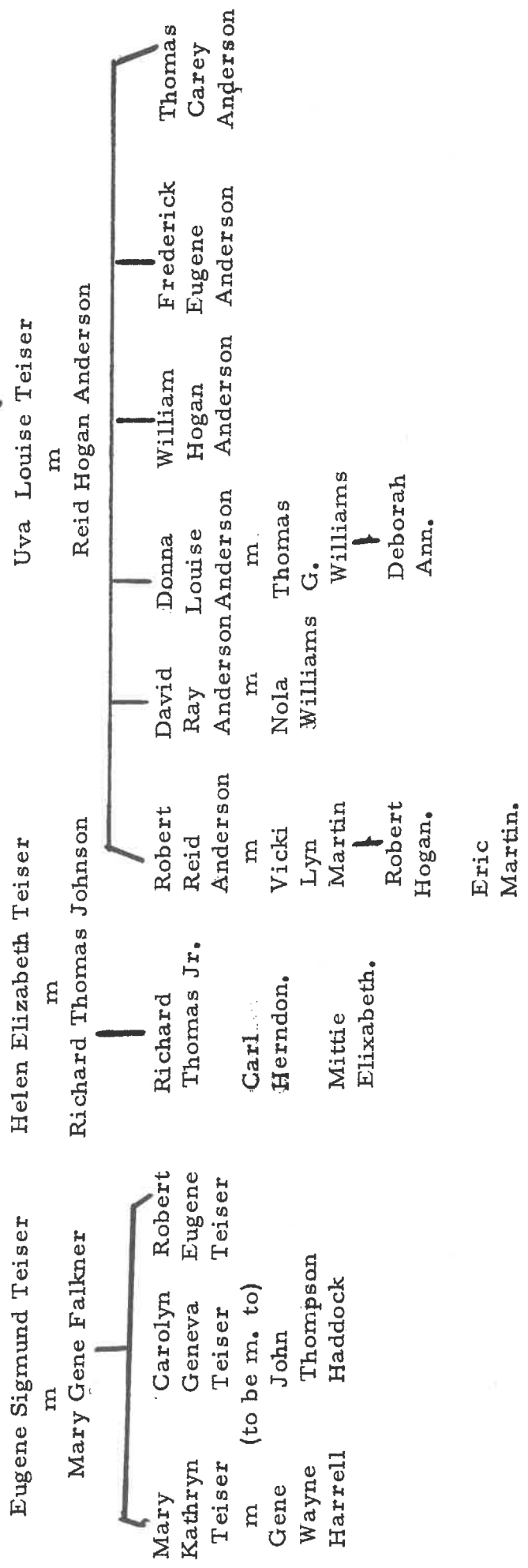
David Ray Anderson
 m
 Nola Williams
 Thomas G. Williams
 Donna Louise Anderson
 m
 Thomas Williams
 Deborah Ann.

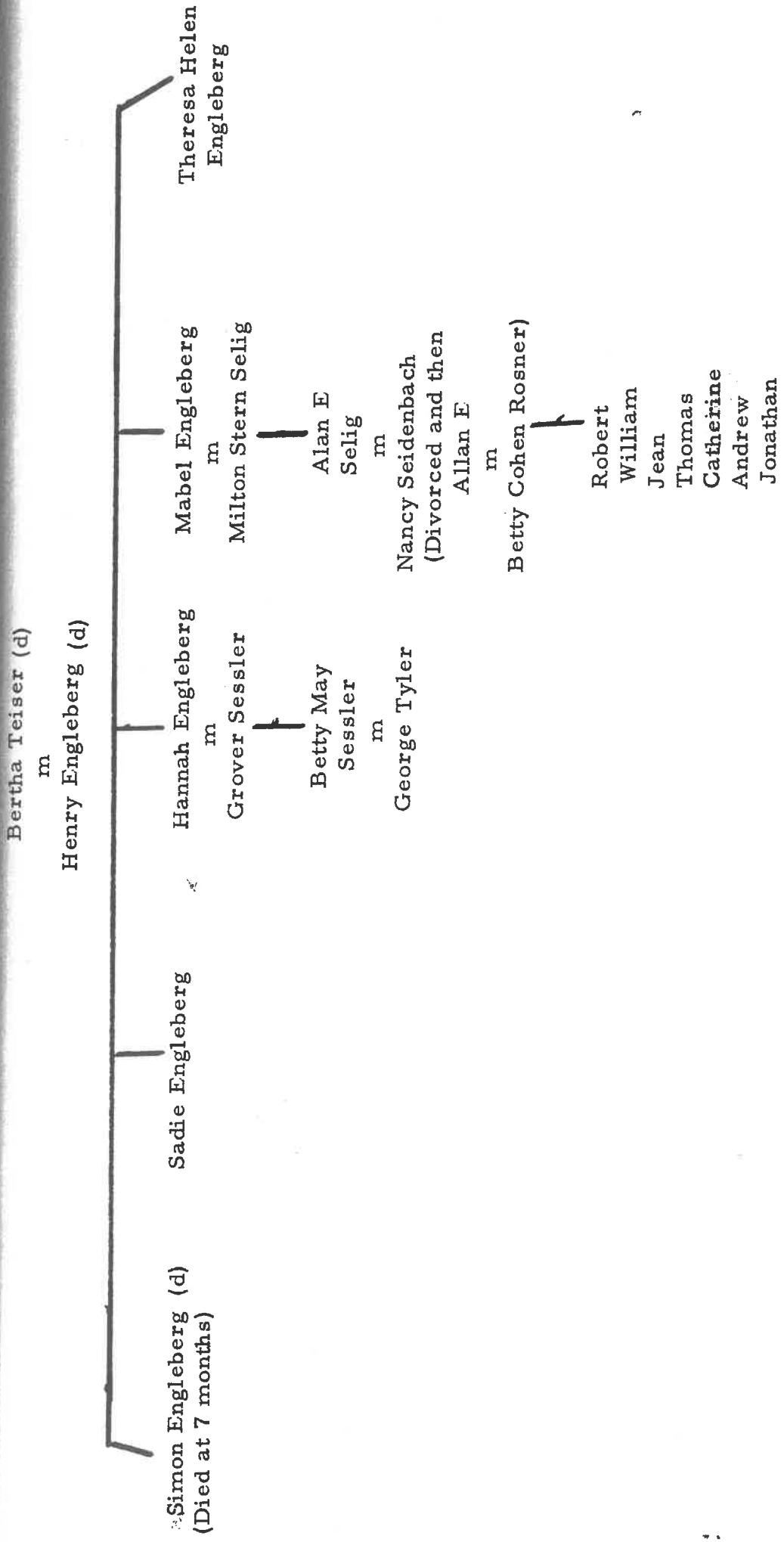
William Hogan Anderson
 Frederick Eugene Anderson
 Thomas Carey Anderson

Eric Martin.

Sigmond F. Teiser (d)
 m
 Helen Wallerstein (d)

Eugene McKinley Teiser
 m
 Geneva Barnes.





Ester Teiser (d)
m
Armin Pollak (d)

Theresa Pollak

Philip Pollak
m
Hilda Braxton
(Divorced)

Sara Pollak

Philip Pollak Jr.

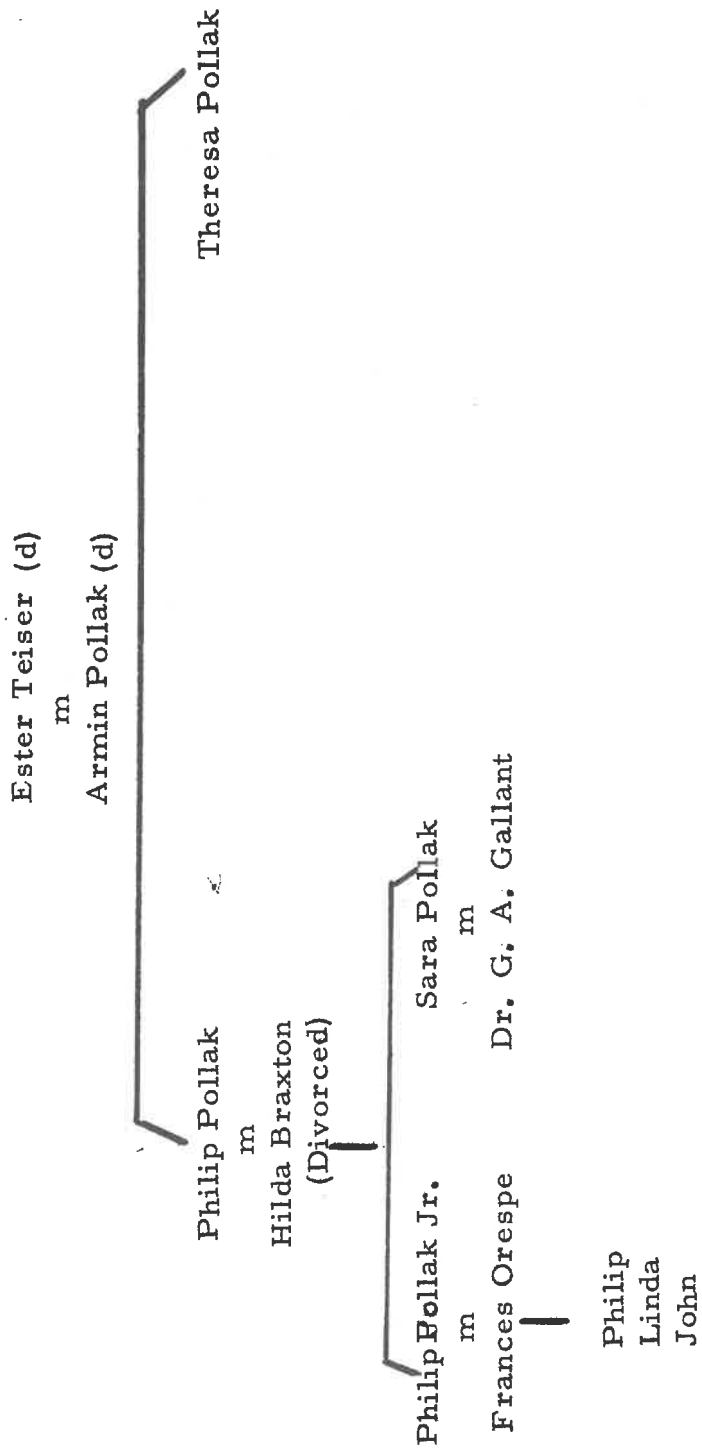
m

m

Dr. G. A. Gallant

Frances Orespe

Philip
Linda
John



GENEALOGY

of

WILLIAM TEISER (d)

m

LENA ENGLEBERG (d)

Sidney Teiser

Harry Teiser (d)
(died in infancy)

WILLIAM TEISER (d)
 m
 LENA ENGLEBERG (d)

Sidney Teiser
 m
 Birdie Teiser (d)

Harry Teiser (d)
 (Died in Infancy.)

(Upon death of Birdie Teiser)
 m
 Ruth F. Marx.

Ruth Teiser.

William K. Teiser
 m
 Mina Louise Lorch

William L. Teiser
 m
 Betsy Drautman Sloss

Amie Elizabeth
 Jimmie.

Donald Sidney Teiser
 m
 Jerry Hunn
 (Divorced)
 m
 Judy Kilgore

Memorial for Author, Historian Ruth Teiser

A remembrance in celebration of the life and works of Bay Area author and historian Ruth Teiser will be held in the fall by the Book Club of California.

Ms. Teiser was the author of numerous books and articles on California and was an oral historian for the University of California. She died of pneumonia June 27, one day before her 79th birthday.

An expert in the art of fine printing, as well as the history of the state's wine industry, Ms. Teiser was co-author with Catherine Harroun of the classic historical reference book "Winemaking in California."

Born in Portland, Ore., she came to the Bay Area in 1932 to attend Stanford University, where she received an undergraduate degree in English and did extensive graduate work in the history of the West.

With Harroun, the director of the Wells Fargo History Room, Ms. Teiser chronicled the Bay Area's active community of fine printers, lithographers, bookbinders and graphic artists with articles and photographs for printing and trade magazines. She also wrote numerous book reviews for *The Chronicle*.

In 1976, the Book Club of California published another classic reference work by Ms. Teiser and Harroun: "Printing as a Performing Art."

At age 50, Ms. Teiser began a new career as an oral historian for the Regional Oral History Office of the University of California at Berkeley.

With Harroun, she began a wine oral history series with inter-

views of such early wine titans as Louis Martini, Louis Petri, Edmund Rössl, Otto Meyer and Alfred Fromm. By the beginning of this year, that series had grown to 51 volumes of oral history transcripts.

Although she nominally retired in 1988, Ms. Teiser continued to work and had five more wine industry oral histories in progress at the time of her death.

Among the oral histories Ms. Teiser conducted were 33 on books and fine printing, including Oscar Lewis, writer; Warren Howell, bookseller; Adrian Wilson and the Grabhorns, printers; and photographer Imogen Cunningham.

Ms. Teiser is survived by her brother, William Teiser of Louisville, Ky., and two nephews.

The Book Club of California has scheduled a remembrance of her life for its regular monthly meeting at 312 Sutter Street, 5 to 7 p.m. on October 17. Ms. Teiser had requested that memorial donations be made to The Friends of The Bancroft Library for the Regional Oral History Office, University of California, Berkeley, 94720.



MORRIS MILLIE CARRIE VICTOR JENNIE SAM
 ADELIN PAT GREAT-GREAT GRANDMOTHER LORCH GREAT-GREAT GRANDFATHER LORCH ESSIE MAYME ROSE
 FRED KIL

HENRY (OLDEST) DROWNED
 EVA
 BERNARD

17 CHILDREN TOTAL
 (ONE ~~SOME~~ DIED IN CHILD BIRTH)

Victor became the owner of
 Vic Lorch + Sons Jewelers, Louisville, Ky.
 One of Vic Lorch's sons was Dan Lorch.
 Dan had a daughter: Mina Louise (Lorch)
 Teiser
 Mina Louise had two sons, one of whom
~~one~~ was William L. Teiser.
 William L. Teiser had 2 children:
 Amy (Teiser) Peck + James A. Teiser
 Amy had 2 children:
 Alexander + Caroline

