The Way It Was

Jewish Life in Storndorf and Ulrichstein in Upper Hesse

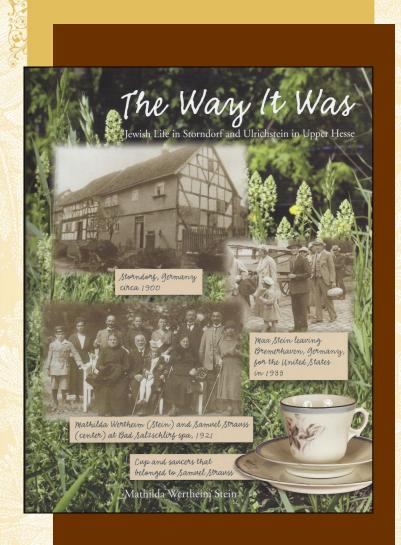
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In The Way It Was: Jewish Life in Storndorf and Ulrichstein in Upper Hesse, I took my family's history to the present, crafting the book as a letter to my dear Great Uncle Samuel who died in 1924. While weaving our family's Iberian roots with the regular oppression unevenly enforced by our Christian neighbors, I remembered carefully the customs, holidays and practices of my youth and those spoken often to me by my parents, my religious teacher Mr. Stern and the other Jews who lived in Lauterbach, the town where I was born in 1915.

Great Uncle Samuel, this second book was written so that you will know that the efforts to exterminate us as a people did not succeed. We persevered because of our beliefs, our commitment to family and our Jewish past. Your descendents, I believe, will know where they are going because they have a record of knowing from whence they came.

From generation to generation.



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A Note from the Author

Mathilda Wetheim Stein

"If you do not know where you have come from, you do not know where you are going," is the inscription my husband, Max K. Stein, penned in our son Kenneth's Mahzor (the prayer book we used on the Jewish holy days).

My origins as a Jewess, hailing from the Vogelsberg region in Hesse, Germany is a core element in my past. Proudly and dauntingly my own identity was shaped by my parents, their siblings, and generations before them. As a parent, grandparent, and great-grandparent, I have tried to impart to the next generations, an appreciation and love of Judaism, and an understating of our collective past.

In writing my first book, *The Way It Was: The Jewish World of Rural Hesse*, I wrote in general about Jewish survival in a fickle non-Jewish world, and in particular about the Jews of Hesse, tracing my own Jewish roots through my father's side of the family, the Wertheims.

In writing this, my second book, *The Way It Was: Jewish Life in Storndorf and Ulrichstein in Upper Hesse*, which I completed at the end of 2011, I focused on my mother's family, the Lamms.

Previous Works

The Way It Was
The Jewish World of Rural Hesse
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Mathilda (Tillie) Wertheim Stein

