

Emil Taussig: First Class Passenger

Source: Encyclopedia Titanic

<https://www.encyclopedia-titanica.org/titanic-victim/emil-taussig.html>

He was the son of Solomon Joseph Taussig (1829-1896), a manufacturer of children's clothing, and Rosie Pick. His family were Jewish.

He spent his childhood in Bohemia and/or Vienna and had two siblings: Annie (b. 1859, later Mrs Sigmund Cahn) and Jennie (1861-1938, later Mrs Abraham Klein).

His mother died at a young age and his father was remarried around 1863 to Charlotte Bundig (3) (1844-1906). From that union he gained six half-siblings: Rosa (1863-1931, later Mrs Moses Herman Mann, latterly Cohen), Olga (1868-1946, later Mrs Siegfried Lewisohn), Otto (b. 1870), Maximilian (1872-1878), Jacob (b. 1873) and Flora (b. 1875, later Mrs Emil Goodkind).

The family emigrated in 1866, leaving Hamburg aboard the Germania on 14 January that year, settling in Manhattan with his father becoming naturalised in 1875. The family appeared in Manhattan on the 1880 census and Emil, then aged 23, was described as a store clerk. He later became President of the West Disinfecting Company in Buffalo, New York. Emil's 1912 passport describes him as standing at 5' 7½", with brown hair, a fair complexion and an oval face.

He was married on 18 January 1893 to Tillie Mandelbaum (b. 1872), the daughter of a New York tobacco merchant. Their only child, a daughter named Ruth, was born towards the end of 1893.

The family appear on the 1900 census as residents of 1335 Madison Avenue, Manhattan and Emil was described as a disinfectant manufacturer. By the 1910 census they are still residents of Madison Avenue, later living at 777 West End Avenue by 1912.

Following a visit to Vienna Emil, his wife and daughter boarded the Titanic at Southampton as first class passengers (joint ticket number 110413 which cost £79, 13s). Emil and his wife occupied cabin E67.

On the night of the sinking the Taussigs were reportedly alerted to the danger by German steward Alfred Theissinger, he telling them "You better put on your lifebelts and rush out on deck." "Is it as serious as all that?" asked Mr Taussig. "Yes, hurry" was Theissinger's reply.

Mr Taussig escorted his wife and daughter to a lifeboat (number 8) before standing back. He was lost in the sinking and his body, if recovered, was never identified.

Notes

1. He gave his birthplace as Austria (which, at time of his birth, was the Austrian Empire, followed by the Austro-Hungarian Empire in 1867) in census records; specifically, his 1912 passport and marriage record give his birthplace as Eisenbrod, Bohemia/Austria. Eisenbrod (Czech: $\frac{1}{2}$ elezný Brod) currently sits within the borders of the modern Czech Republic.
2. Age under dispute. The 1880 census gives his year of birth as 1857 and the 1900 census as 1854. By the time of the 1910 census his year of birth is given as 1860. His passport gives the date as 20 June 1859. The 1857 birth year seems the most likely based on the ages of his siblings.
3. Spelling uncertain; some sources give the name as Bondy, Baundy or Bande.

Newspaper Articles

New York Times (22 April 1912) SMITH CALLED BACK HALF-FILLED BOATS

New York Times (5 May 1912) Death Notice (15)

Images:



San Francisco Examiner (1912) Emil Taussig

Credits: Gavin Bell

most of her life in London and Paris. She was a war correspondent during WW I.

Rosenbaum, a very wealthy woman, was a real character, says Lynch.

"She had been arrested for smuggling a trunk load of clothing into the US. As she grew older, she was known to be very crotchety and would grant interviews about the Titanic, then tell the reporter she wouldn't allow it to print." She died in 1975 at age 98.

Leila Meyer, daughter of Andrew Saks, founder of Saks Fifth Avenue, was on board with her husband, Edgar Meyer.

"Leila had received a wire that her father was taken very ill and she should come home," Lynch says. "She wanted to get back to New York as quickly as she could and the Titanic was the very next ship leaving England.

"Her father died the day the ship set sail." Her husband, Edgar, died on the Titanic, but she survived.

Leila eventually remarried and died in 1957. Leila and Edgar's daughter, Jane, is supposedly still alive and is about 86 years old.

Of course, many of the Jewish passengers were not famous, but their stories were just as riveting. Emil Taussig was sailing with his wife and daughter, Ruth. He had several investments, including stock in a lifeboat company, but because there weren't enough lifeboats for all the passengers, he died.

"The irony is that before he sailed, he was trying to urge Congress to place more lifeboats on ships, even though it was for his own financial interest. After the sinking, the stock went up and his wife made a lot of money."

According to Walter Lord in *A Night To Remember*, on that fateful night, Mrs. Taussig was clinging to her husband when boat number 8 was being lowered with her daughter on board. Mrs. Taussig turned and cried, "Ruth," and the brief distraction proved enough, because two men tore her from Emil and dropped her into the boat. That was the last time she saw her husband.

Probably the most famous Jewish passengers were Isidor and Ida Straus, founders of Macy's Department Store. According to Joan Adler, director of the Straus Historical Society, the couple was returning to New York after spending the winter in Europe, and the Titanic's voyage seemed like a pleasant way to finish the trip.

The Strauses, who had turned Macy's into a national institution, had been married 41 years and raised six children. "The Strauses were very involved in Jewish and philanthropic causes and served on many committees," says Adler.

"Isidor served in the House of Representatives under Grover Cleveland from 1893-1894 and he was the founder of the Education Alliance. His family came from Otterberg, Germany, and Straus felt he had been very lucky in

America. Wanting to give something back, he was very generous with his time and money."

A grocery buyer from Macy's, John A. Badenoch, had been traveling to Europe and was on the rescue ship, the *Carpathia*. He knew that the Strauses were on the Titanic and he gathered stories from survivors, trying to piece together what happened to the couple. He wrote to the Straus children that their parents showed courage and composure to the end. The following is the account relayed in his letter:

"Mr. and Mrs. Straus were in bed at the time of the accident. Immediately after the boat struck, they were seen in the companionway in bathrobes. Your mother seemed to realize the danger and prepared to dress, requesting your father to do likewise. Shortly thereafter, they appeared on the deck, fully clothed, mingled with the other passengers and discussed the danger in a perfectly calm and collected manner.

"They evidently did not believe that there was any great danger of the ship sinking. On the advice of the captain, they put on a life preserver over their fur coats and assisted other passengers in doing the same. By that time, the boats were being filled with women and children, and your mother was asked by the officer in charge and urged by your father to get into one of the lifeboats. She refused to do so and insisted that the maid take her place in boat number 8.

"They stood by while other boats were being filled, all the while your father continuously urging your mother to enter one of them. Finally, when it became apparent that there was no hope of the Titanic staying afloat, your father insisted that your mother enter the second from the last boat that was being launched from the side they were on. She still refused, saying she would not go without him... an officer in charge again urged her to enter and, in fact, attempted force, aided by the urging of your father. She placed her foot in the boat, thinking at the time that your father would accompany her.

"Mr. Isidor, thinking that your mother was safe in the lifeboat, stepped back with the other men. Your mother, looking around and seeing your father was not with her, got out of the boat, went to where your father was standing and put her arms around him. The officer in charge, seeing that it was no use in trying to get your mother to leave your father, ordered the boat lowered away.

"She was quoted as saying 'We have been living together for many years, and wherever you go, I go.'"

Isidor was 67 and Ida was 63. The family was notified on April 26 that Isidor's body was found. Ida's body was never recovered.

Rabbi Samuel Shulman of Temple Beth-El officiated at the funeral and Isidor was buried at Beth-El Cemetery on Long Island, NY. On May 4, 1928, a Straus family mausoleum was erected in Woodlawn Cemetery in the Bronx. The stone contains Isidor's and Ida's date of birth and death. An inscription reads: "Many waters cannot quench love — neither can the floods destroy."

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OUTLINES

The feature evidence of the Titanic investigation yesterday was that furnished by Fifth Officer Lowe, who told how he rescued many people from drowning.

Rev. J. Frank Norris, Fort Worth, Texas, Baptist minister, was yesterday acquitted of the charge of perjury, but he still has to face an indictment on the charge of arson.

Emil Taussig, who lost his life in the Titanic disaster, made many efforts before his death to have vessels equipped with sufficient life boats.

Three hundred firemen on the steamer Olympic, which was due to sail from London yesterday, struck because they were not satisfied with the liner's life saving equipment.

The confidential correspondence which passed between President Roosevelt, Attorney General Bonaparte and Commissioner Herbert Knox Smith in 1907 about a government anti-trust suit against the International Harvester Co., was sent to the Senate yesterday from the files of the Department of Justice.

The Association of American Newspaper Publishers held their 26th annual convention yesterday.

The United States cruiser Maryland



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Wilmington, North Carolina
25 Apr 1912, Thu •
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With sincere sorrow, we announce
the death of our President
Mr. Emil Taussig
on board the ill-fated S.S. Titanic
April fifteenth, nineteen hundred and twelve
West Disinfecting Company