



*Dedicated to*

JACOB J. GOLDSMITH

HONORARY PRESIDENT

## *Jacob Goldsmith*

Jacob Goldsmith, known to his many friends as "Uncle Jake", was one of the earliest Jewish settlers in Memphis having arrived in the Bluff City in 1867 as a German immigrant. He was a mere lad of seventeen years who had set out from Germany with the purpose of seeking his fortune in a new country.

Jacob Goldsmith, the son of Fred and Sylvia Goldsmith, was born in Germany in 1850. He received his elementary education there, but the desire to come to America put an end to his educational pursuits.

He came directly to Memphis, arriving practically penniless. He had a very humble beginning, but managed to save a small amount of money which he invested in a retail store on Beale Avenue in 1870. His business dealings were honest and his efforts were rewarded by a steady growth of his business.

The firm outgrew its limited quarters and started its program of expansion which ultimately resulted in the creation of one of the largest department stores in the entire South. The present firm was organized in 1890.

Mr. Goldsmith has had many commercial activities other than his department store, the most important of which included directorship of the William R. Moore Dry Goods Company, and of the First National Bank, for the past twenty-five years, Manhattan Bank, and the Memphis Hotel Co. He recently resigned from these offices.

Altho a successful merchant and a very busy one, Mr. Goldsmith found time to relieve the distress of his fellow-man, and has given frequent contributions to worthy causes. He is the honorary president of Congregation Children of Israel, a member of Sam Schloss Lodge of the B'nai B'rith, a member of the Odd Fellows, Knights of Pythias, and a liberal supporter of every institution.

The family life of Mr. Goldsmith is one of which any person might feel justly proud. In 1885, he married Dora Ottenheimer, and their union was blessed with seven children. Their children are Sophia, Fanny, Fred, Elias, Leo, Aline, and Sadye. There are fifteen grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren. The Goldsmith family represents four generations, and in the entire line, there has not occurred a single death.

Mrs. Goldsmith is very charitable and is a member of many local feminine activities.

Mr. and Mrs. Goldsmith reside at 696 Vance Avenue.