

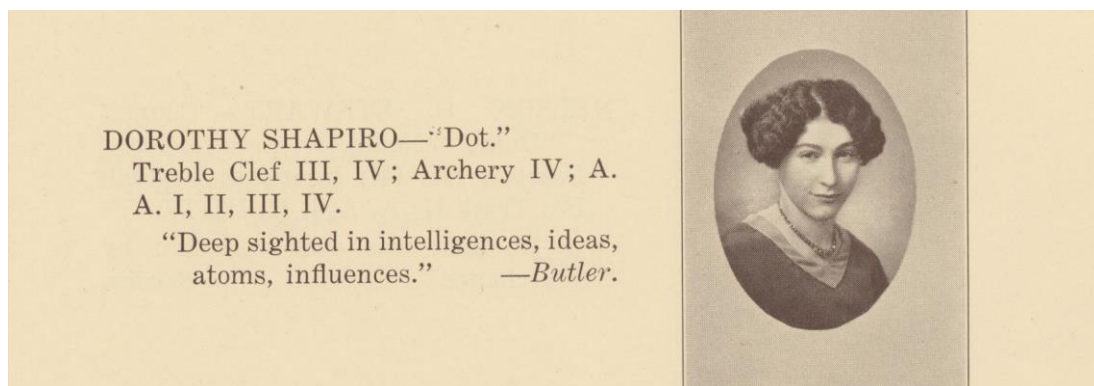
DOROTHY'S BOOK OF SEWING LESSONS

OVERVIEW OF THE RECORDS

- Repository:** Crandall Public Library – The Folklife Center
Glens Falls, NY.
- Creator:** Dorothy Shapiro Fink
- Title:** Dorothy's Book of Sewing Lessons
- Dates:** [ca. 1920]
- Abstract:** A small home-made book used to display a student's mastery of various sewing and embroidery stitches.
- Quantity:** 1 book
- Identification:** Archives & Manuscripts: Personal and Family Collections

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Dorothy Shapiro was born 7 June 1912, in Glens Falls, NY, a daughter of Samuel and Ida Shapiro who had immigrated to the United States in 1905 from Vilna, Russia (now Vilnius, Lithuania). Activist Jews in Vilna were involved in the 1905 revolution in Russia and when the revolution was suppressed many Jewish families fled. This may suggest why the Shapiro's left when they did. Their oldest child was born in Vilna about 1905, their second a year later in Connecticut, and the last six in Glens Falls. Samuel had been trained as a rabbi in Vilna, but in Glens Falls he probably started first as a peddler, and by 1920 he is enumerated as a dry goods merchant. According to Sandra Phillips, who donated Dorothy's book, he ran the Army/Navy store which stood where the Civic Center is now.



Dorothy was an avid reader and read her way through the whole children's collection at Crandall Library and moved on the adult section. Dorothy graduated from Glens Falls High School in the class of 1928, indicating that she was 16 years old at the time. She went on to receive both a Bachelor's and a Master's degree in Social Work from the State College at Albany. She continued to live with her parents until 1936, when the City Directory lists her as employed in Albany, where she worked for Jewish Social Services (although still officially residing at 63 Glen St. with the family). In 1938 Samuel retired and moved to 9 Lincoln Avenue and Dorothy and her siblings continued to be listed at that address, in spite of the fact that Dorothy was working in Albany, and Lillian was working in New York City. This continues to be Dorothy's listing through 1941.

Dorothy married Edward M. Fink, who was born in New Jersey in 1898. They lived in Florida at some time, and Edward died there in 1975. Dorothy died in July 2004 in Albany and is buried with Edward in Temple Bethel Memorial Gardens, Davie, Broward County, Florida.

SCOPE AND CONTENT OF THE RECORDS

INDEX TERMS

Topics: Needlework
Sewing

Places: Glens Falls (Warren), NY

Important People: Dorothy Shapiro Fink

Form/Genre: Manuscript, work book

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

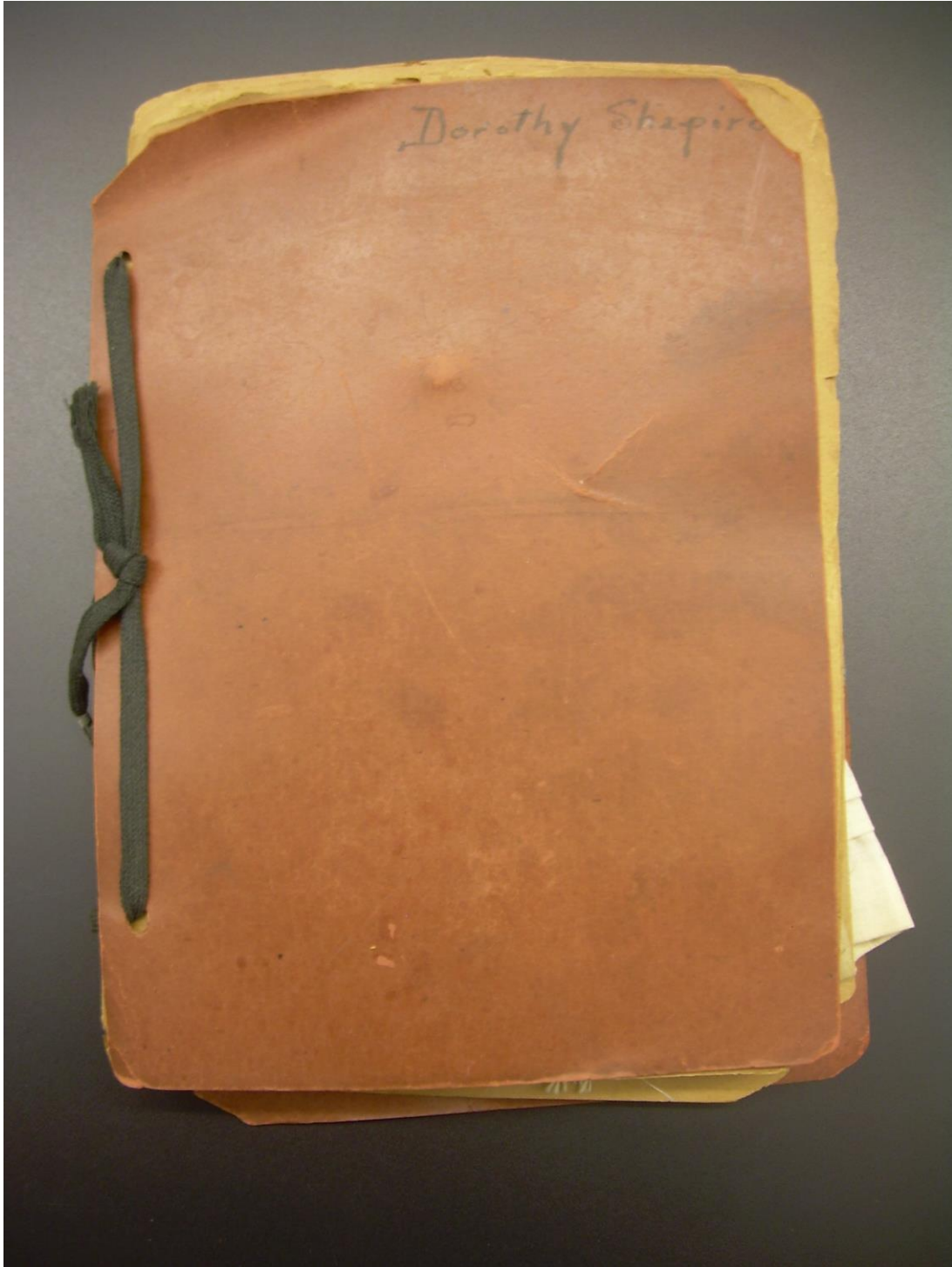
Preferred Citation: Dorothy's Book of Sewing Lessons
The Folklife Center at Crandall Public Library
Glens Falls, NY.

Accession Information: Donated to the Folklife Center June 17, 2015 by Sandra J. Phillips of Albany, NY

Processing Information: Arranged and described by Erica Wolfe Burke, May 2016

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE RECORDS

The home-made book is 8 ½ inches high and 6 inches wide. The pages are held between brown press-board covers by a black shoelace threaded through three punched holes. Dorothy Shapiro's name is on the cover.



To each page is pinned a piece of fabric with an example of stitching on it.

The book contains three sections, each beginning with a card listing the stitches to be displayed. The printed cards suggest that the book may have been part of school lessons but "Dorothy's story of this book was that she was sent to take sewing lessons from a woman in town, and paid her 5 cents each time. She painstakingly did the sewing, and was quite happy as an adult never to use those skills again!" (Phillips)

