

LAZARUS: A COLUMBUS TRADITION

Lazarus stores began selling clothes to the people of Columbus, Ohio in 1851. When Simon Lazarus and his wife Amelia immigrated to Columbus, Ohio from Germany they opened a small clothier shop on the opposite side of the street from the present day store. The original store was only 20' x 40' and sold exclusively men and boys' clothes. The business proved profitable and the store expanded in 1860 and continually got better after the Civil War when the men returning home from the war needed new clothes. When Simon died in 1877, his two sons, Fred and Ralph took over the business and the store changed its name from S. Lazarus' Sons and Co. to F. and R. Lazarus and Co. The business remained family-owned and operated for years.

Under the partnership of Fred and Ralph and their sons, the store greatly expanded in size and merchandise. Shoes were added in 1887 for men, women and children. In the 1890s, a soda fountain was installed on the first floor and a clock tower was added to the top of the store, which had grown to 100,000 sq. ft.

Lazarus was hard to miss in those early days, with the building painted orange, lit with electric lights and the clock tower on top. On August 9, 1909, the new six-story store opened at the South High street location. The store's new motto was "everything ready to wear" including women and children's clothes. Building this new store was a big risk for the family in those financially unstable times, but in the year 1912, Lazarus grossed over \$1 million in sales. Lazarus stores continued to grow and offer new services through the years. The bargain basement was introduced in 1917. Home furnishings in 1926. In 1933, charge accounts were offered. The first huge fall sale Lazarus that they were known for was introduced in 1948. It was in 1929 that the Federated Department Stores were formed among Lazarus, Shillito's, Filenes, Abrams & Strauss and Bloomingdales.

In the sixties the High Street store was expanded again and several new stores were built throughout the city – the Westland store in 1962, Northland in 1964 and Eastland in 1967. Lazarus was bought out by Macy's in 2003 and the name changed to Macy's in 2005 and the downtown High Street store closed.

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