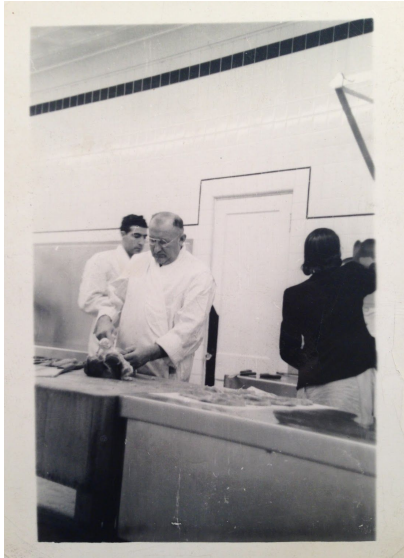


I. Read the following sources

● **Joseph Paull. A One-Man Institution.**

Type of source: **biography**. Extracted from *Social Album. For biographies of men and women active in industry, labor, professions and social welfare work*, n.d. The Joseph Paull Papers (1893-1966) #MSS44, Box 1. Historical Society of Pennsylvania.



Joseph Paul was born in 1893, in Bendin, Rusia-Poland. He was the oldest of six children. **His father and mother, Abraham Isaac and Shaindel, were both very pious, adhering rigidly to Jewish traditional law.** The family as a whole suffered poverty, struggling continuously to make ends meet.

With the outbreak of the Russo-Japanese war, conditions in Joseph's home took a change for the worse. **Joseph's father was called to the armed forces and Joseph, who was then a young boy, was compelled to quite Cheder and become the sole supporter of the family.** He worked as a helper in a butcher shop, providing his ability made rapid advance.

After the war, Joseph's father returned home with infected lungs that necessitated a change in climate. Upon the advice of physicians, the Paul family moved to Genf, Switzerland. There Joseph resumed his work as a **butcher**, and being already experienced he once again became the sole provider for the family.

Joseph Paul is a man of the people in its fullest sense. Nature has endowed him with two important attributes: a gigantic body and a heart full of compassion.

[...]

Not having the opportunity for a higher education he nevertheless developed an inclination to dramatic art, athletics and unique collecting. Already in Genf he organized athletic clubs, participated in their activities, became their physical director and enjoyed popularity. His friends referred to him as Samson II.

**In 1914 he came to the United States. At first he struggled hard, worked in various butcher shops, and earned very little.** Having a strong willpower and being perseverant, he endured all hardship until he finally succeeded in going into business for himself. The business was grown fast; **he soon became prosperous and gained a permanent place in the wholesale meat business.**

In America Joseph resumed his athletic activities, was awarded many prizes and proclaimed the "Iron King."

[...]

Just as his heart is widely open to every needy and sufferer, so are the doors of his house widely open to everyone who may seek his advice and help. **One will always find at his table people all walks of life, Jews and Gentiles, white and colored,** who come to seek assistance either for themselves or to consult him on behalf of others.

**Joseph Paul has helped a great many unfortunate people, particularly those confined to prisons.** Both prisoners and officials have great respect for him. When a prisoner is released, Joseph Paul invites him to his home, and there the prisoner learns to value the better things in life and is steered, through kind and helpful guidance, in the direction of right doing and good citizenship.

Joseph Paul is a member of the B'nai B'rith, Jewish Welfare Board, Vice President of the Uptown Home for the Aged, founder of the First German Jewish Synagogue and of the Central Club for German Jewish Refugees.

His wife, Anna, is a great help in the business and also an equal partner in his social and philanthropic activities. They have one daughter, Esther, now a student at the Workmen's Circle School.

● **Philadelphia Has a Butcher Who is a Real Friend of the City's Underprivileged.**

Type of source: **newspaper article**. Extracted from *Meat and Fresh and Frozen Food – Merchandising*, n.d. The Joseph Paull Papers (1893-1966) #MSS44, Box 1. Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

More than thirty years ago, Joe Paul surprised a young burglar in the act of rifling the safe of his Philadelphia meat market on 1131 Callowhill. After a short struggle in the mightily arms of the one-time circus strong man, the thief wilted and begged not the surrender to the police.

Joe Paull went home with the safe cracker, found a wife and three destitute children. He got the man a job and kept the family supplied with food until the father made good on the job.

Since that time, **Paul has sponsored hundreds of prisoners from nearby jails to a new start in life.** He feeds them along from his own pocketbook. Not one has ever betrayed his confidence.

On Jewish holidays, Paul makes the rounds of the other food provisioners (sic) of Philadelphia and collects thousands of pounds of meat and distributes the food –at his own cost- to the prisoners so that they may have their traditional holiday feast.

**Currently engaged in repatriating Jewish refugees, he has single-handedly brought many Jewish families to the United states by paying their ship passage and keeping them in his own home until they were able to find work and place to live.** More than a thousand of these displaced persons recently gathered to express their appreciation for Paul's efforts "in helping us to establish our homes and rebuild our lives in this land of freedom."

Paul has made it a practice to help other people whenever possible. He believes that if you give most so-called criminals a good mean, a few dollars, and a job, they will go straight. He is a chairman of the board of Philadelphia home for the aged and he is the butcher-champion of many prisoners, old folks, and displaced persons living in Philadelphia.

II. In groups, discuss the readings and answer the questions:

1. Where did Joe Paul live before coming to Philadelphia?
2. Why did Joe and his family leave their hometown?
3. Did Joe have a formal education? What jobs did he have throughout his life?
4. What was Joe's relationship with the prisons? Did his work help people?
5. Why do you think the author chose to write about Joe Paul's life? What can we, as historians, learn from it?