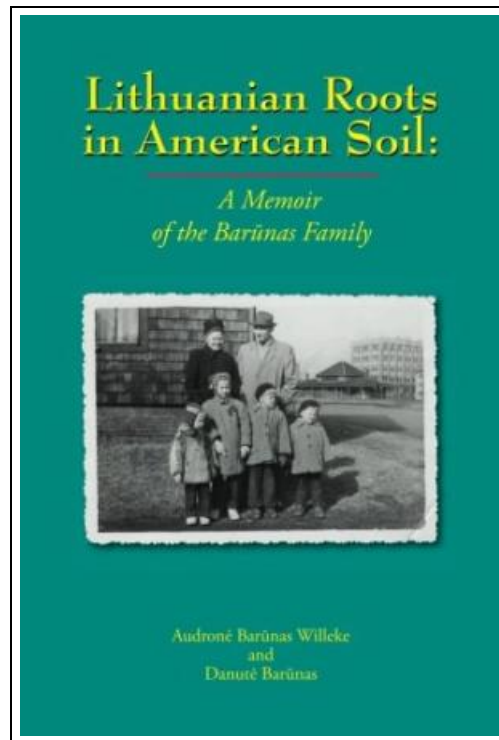


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LITHUANIAN ROOTS IN AMERICAN SOIL: A MEMOIR OF THE BARUNAS FAMILY



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Createspace, United States, 2014. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 229 x 152 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.Along with thousands of refugees fleeing the Soviet invasion of Eastern Europe, a young couple and their baby left Lithuania in the summer of 1944. They expected to return home at the end of the war but instead had to move further west into war-ravaged Germany, ahead of the approaching Soviet army. After miraculously surviving bombings and near starvation, they ended their flight in displaced persons camps under American administration. In these camps three more children were born and a grandmother died. Unable to return to communist-occupied Lithuania, they found the chance to start a new life when a helpful stranger invited them to the United States. This memoir, created by their two daughters Audrone and Danute, aims to preserve knowledge of family history for the generations born in the United States who, not knowing Lithuanian, cannot access the information contained in journals, letters, and photos. The authors father had chronicled the family s odyssey in a journal written in Lithuanian. This memoir includes translated excerpts from his journal in which he recorded his memories of pre-war Lithuania, his childhood on a farm, and his efforts to gain an education. He recounted the fate of relatives who remained behind, some of whom perished in Siberian exile. His journal provides insights into a complex era, in a country struggling to remain independent between two brutal dictators - Hitler and Stalin. In this fairly typical narrative of World War II refugees who come to America, readers will find a unique set of characters and unexpected twists of fate. Equally important here is the story of cultural transition, the often-painful adaptations to a new culture, along with the struggle to preserve...



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