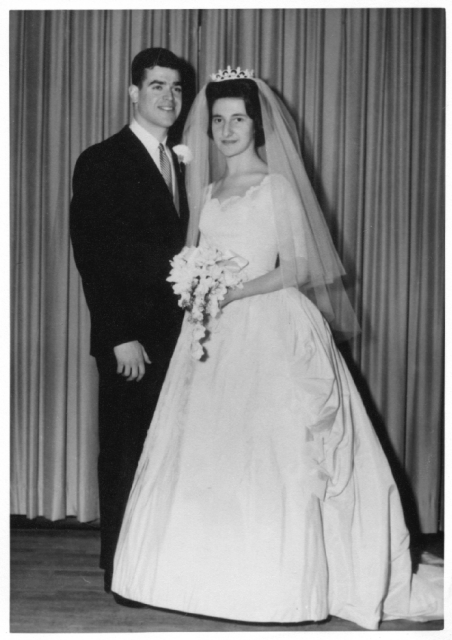


A Triple Love Story

**The Ancestors of
Eliane Herz and Roger Fischler**



Upper left: Marriage of Coralie Weill and Albert Herz, February 3, 1936

Upper right:: Ruth Holländer and Sigmund Fischler, August 27, 1939 (marriage, March 19, 1939)

Bottom:: Marriage of Eliane Herz and Roger Fischler, April 12, 1964

A Triple Love Story

The Ancestors of Eliane Herz and Roger Fischler

Roger Herz-Fischler

זָכְרוּ אֶת־אֲמוֹתֵיכֶם וְאֶת־אֲבוֹתֵיכֶם

Remember your ancestors!

Mzinhigan Publishing

LPeΔb°

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This book, and the accompanying DVD, include documents obtained from *Lagis*, the on-line site of the archives of the German state of Hesse. Persons wishing to use any of these documents for commercial purposes should consult the archives.

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“Mzinhigan” is the word for “book” in the Odawa (Ottawa) dialect of Ojibwa. The logo is “Mzinhigan” written in the related Algonquin language of Cree---as spoken on the west coast of James Bay---using Cree syllabics.

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**To
Our Ancestors
and
Our Descendants**

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The quotation on the title page was inspired by the command in *Exodus* 20:12, כִּבֵּד אֶת־אֲבֹתֶיךָ וְאֶת־אִמֶיךָ, which is usually translated as “Honour your father and mother”. Biblical Hebrew does not have a specific word for “ancestors” and speaks of אֲבוֹת, “fathers”. Thus for “your ancestors” I have used both אִמּוֹת and אֲבוֹת, “mothers and fathers” with possessive suffixes to indicate “your”.

Instead of translating זָכְרוּ as “remember” I preferred “recall”.

Technical Matters

The entire book was typeset using Xe \TeX .

The principal font family used was the open-source, unicode based, open type font ^{Lib}_{er}^{ti}_{ne}, in particular LinLibertineR.otf for the main text. This available at:

sourceforge.net/projects/linuxlibertine

Certain symbols were typset using specialized fonts.

The Hebrew parts of the text are set in Society of Biblical Literature Hebrew font. This is available at:

<https://www.sbl-site.org/educational/biblicalfonts.aspx>

The nominal text font size is 12.5 points. In practice this resulted in a maximum height plus depth (below the baseline) of 11.7 points. The baselineskip was set to 14 points.

I created various macro files to facilitate the typesetting and the uniformity of the presentation.

The operating system used was  **mageia** Linux, version 6.0, with the  KDE desktop.

Among the tools used were:

The text editor Kwrite.

Qpdfview, Okular, and Pdfarranger for PDF viewing and manipulation.

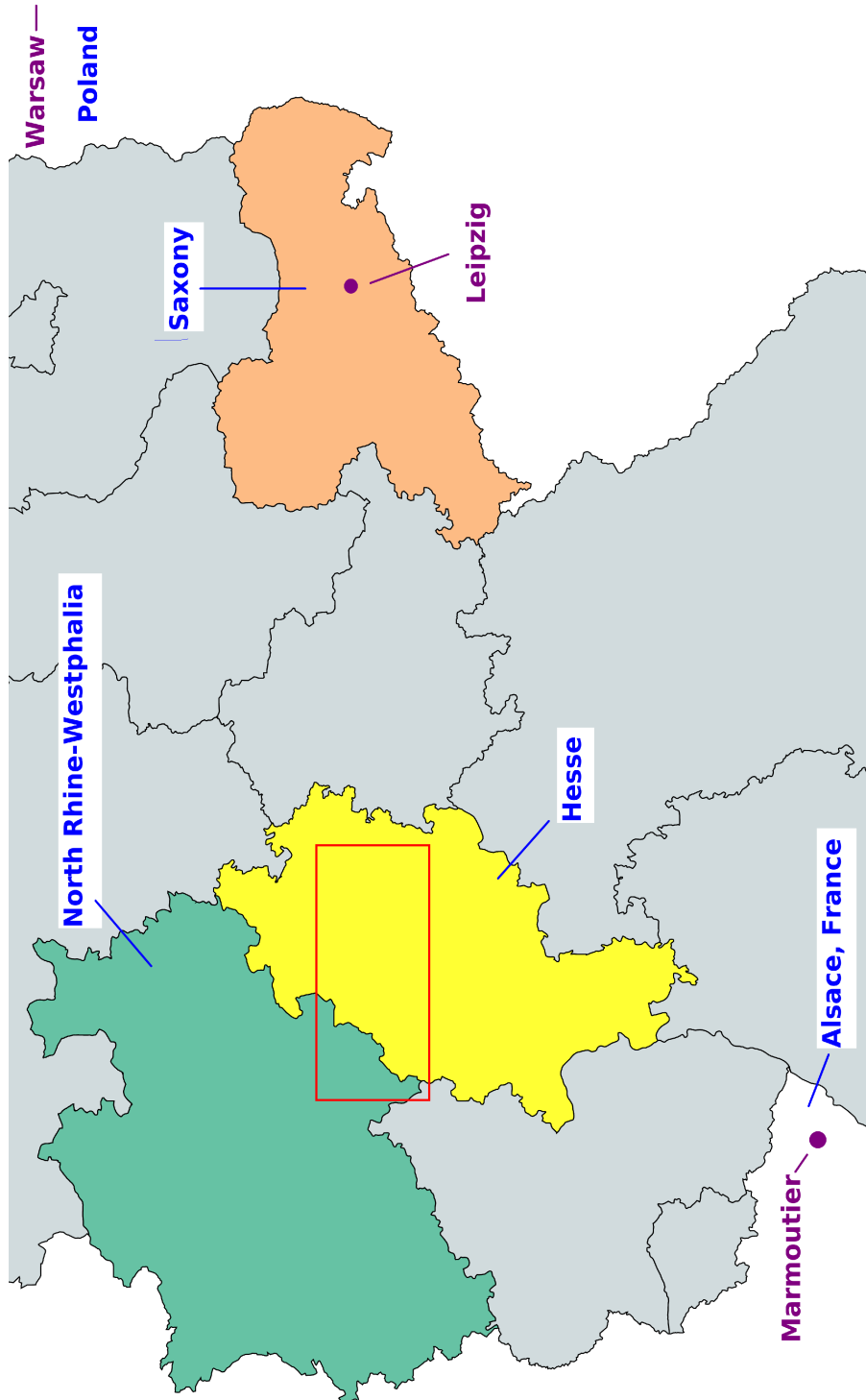
Gwenview and KolourPaint for photo manipulation and for adding notes to images.

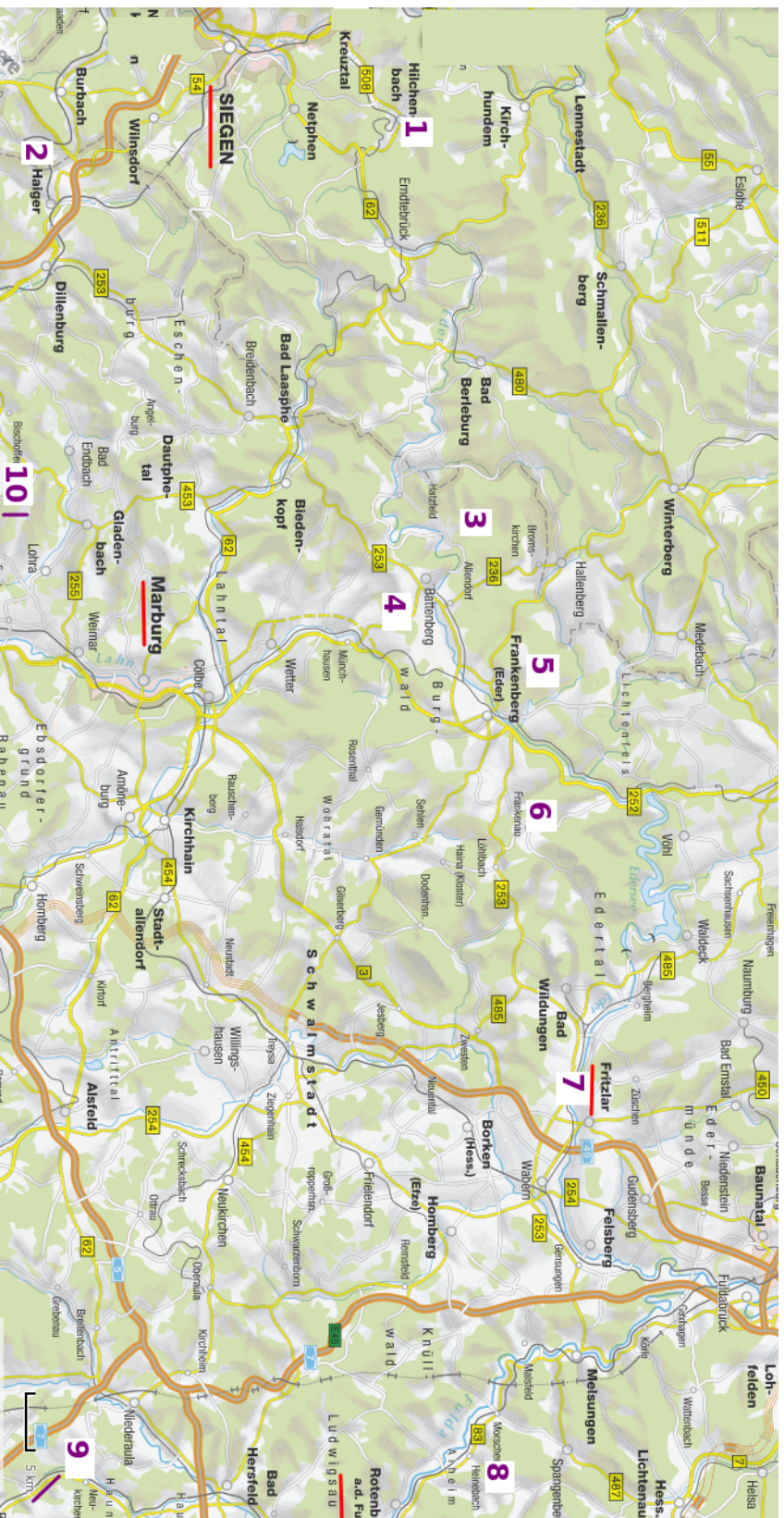
Graphviz for producing the genealogical graphs; see:

<https://people.math.carleton.ca/~rhfischl>

Where our Ancestors Came From

The following maps shows the central part of Germany as well as part of Poland (The Leipzig Group) and Alsace (Coralie Weill and her ancestors). The rectangle, which corresponds to a region 135 km wide and 80 km in height, is where all the other ancestors were born. The map on the next page shows this latter region in more detail





The towns indicated by a number are:

- 1: Hilchenbach; 2: Haiger; 3: Elsoff; 4: Battenberg; 5: Frankenberg; 6: Frankenau; 7: Ungedanken; 8: Heinebach; 9: Ermanrad; 10: Altenkirchen.

To avoid overcrowding the map a few of the towns of early ancestors have been omitted. The names of four cities have been underlined to help in localization

By Way of a Preface

I had heard the voyage part of the following story from my mother, but it wasn't until 1996 that we could piece everything together. This is because some of the pictures were scattered -- and not completely identified -- in my mother's album, and others were only found in a shoebox after my mother-in-law died.

My father Sigmund Fischler was born in Leipzig and had emigrated to the U.S. in 1925. He had however returned to Germany and Poland several times, including two extended stays in the 1930s.

My father-in-law Albert Herz from Haiger (Hesse) had -- thanks to a warning from the mistress of a local SS officer -- fled to France in early September 1935. In Belfort he met Coralie Weill, a friend of his sister. The couple were married on February 3, 1936 and they eventually moved to Paris.

Ruth Holländer, my mother, came from the small town of Hilchenbach (Westphalia). She left Germany on November 1, 1937 and her last photographic record of Germany is a picture of her father Joseph taken in Cologne on that day. The next day, November 2, she was in Paris where she stayed with her cousin Albert Herz. They took three photographs in front of a Parisian park. Then on November 3 Coralie Weill took my mother to the boat train and my mother took a picture from her compartment.

From November 3 to November 9, my mother sailed to the USA on the Aquitania. The man sitting next to my mother in two of the contact prints and standing on the right in the photograph with the little girl is my father. The story that I had heard was that some US sailors wished to speak to my mother, but not being conversant in German they asked my father to act as an interpreter ...

My parents were married on March 19, 1939 and in February 1940 I was born. Three years later, in January 1943, in a tiny hamlet near Limoges, France -- where Albert Herz had been demobilized from the French Foreign Legion in 1941 -- Eliane Herz was born. The Herz family emigrated to the US in 1958 and on their second day in their new country, Albert Herz reversed the 1937 roles and took his family to see his cousin Ruth Holländer. Eliane Herz and Roger Fischler were married on April 12, 1964.

N.B. See the frontispiece for the marriage photographs.

Contact Prints Found in the Album of Ruth Holländer, New York

Contact print 11: Munich, November 1, 1937; Joseph Holländer is on the right in the foreground.

Contact print 12: Albert Herz, Coralie Weill; Paris, November 2, 1937.

Contact print 13: Coralie Weill, Ruth Holländer; Paris, November 2, 1937.

Contact print 14: Albert Herz, Ruth Holländer; Paris, November 2, 1937.

Preface



Contact print 27: Sigmund Fischler, third from the right; *Aquitania*, November 3-9, 1937.

Contact print 28: Sigmund Fischler, third from the right; Ruth Holländer, second from the right; *Aquitania*, November 3-9, 1937.



Preface

Large Size Prints Found in the Album of Ruth Holländer and a Shoebox belonging to Coralie Weill



photo 12: Albert Herz, Coralie Weill, Paris, November 2, 1937; album



photo 13: Coralie Weill, Ruth Holländer, Paris, November 2, 1937; sent to Paris

Preface



photo 15?: Coralie Weill, train station, sending off Ruth Holländer
Paris, November 3, 1937; sent to Paris

photo 30: Sigmund Fischler, on the right; *Aquitania*, November 3-9, 1937; album
A note on the back of the photograph says that the name of the little girl is Gretl
Schlesinger. This photograph corresponds to contact print 30.

Introduction

This book is a study of the ancestors of Eliane Herz and Roger Fischler with the exception of the maternal ancestors of Eliane Herz. The latter are discussed in the book, *An Alsatian Jewish Story/The Ancestors of Coralie Weill of Marmoutier*.

The location of the places from which these ancestors came is shown on the two maps that follow the table of contents.

The first chapter deals with the common ancestors and starts with the first of these, Amalie Marx and Abraham Katzenstein, who lived in Frankenau and Frankenberg in North Hesse. The ancestors of Amalie Marx and their descendants present an extremely entangled history of interrelationships and marriages.

Eliane's paternal grandmother was Fransiska Katzenstein, the youngest daughter of Amalie Marx and Abraham Katzenstein. Fransiska married Hermann Herz and the ancestors of the latter are the subject of the chapter, "The Haiger Group".

Julie Sommer, the daughter of Sarah Katzenstein and Koppel Sommer and the mother of Roger's mother, was born in Heinebach and married Joseph Holländer of Hilchenbach. His ancestors are discussed in the chapter, "The Hilchenbach Group".

Roger is one generation further away from the common ancestors than Eliane. His mother's maternal grandmother, Sarah Katzenstein, was the oldest daughter of Amalie Marx and Abraham Katzenstein, and was thus a sister of Fransiska Katzenstein. Sarah Katzenstein married Koppel Sommer of Heinebach and the latter's ancestors are discussed in the chapter, "The Heinebach Group".

The above four chapters are about people who lived in a relatively small region in Germany and because of the abundance and availability of documents we know a great deal about those ancestors. The situation is completely different for Roger's paternal ancestors who were born in Poland and Lithuania. There are large gaps -- probably due to the territorial changes in the former Russian Empire and/or WWII -- in the birth and marriage archival holdings and the missing documents include those of these paternal ancestors. On the other hand Roger's father kept many of his documents and these permitted a fairly complete reconstitution of his life.

Selma Holländer was the sister of Roger's mother. Because she and her husband Freddy Furcht did not have any children, I decided to dedicate a chapter to them. Freddy Furcht also left many documents and from these we learn about his escape from Nazi Germany, his sojourn in Shanghai, China and his eventual arrival in the U.S.A.. Selma Holländer was able to flee to Great Britain and there are many interesting documents related to her life.

Throughout each chapter the relationship of an ancestor or group of ancestors to the first ancestor(s) is noted. For example, in the chapter "Common Ancestors" there is a section entitled "The Maternal Grandparents of Amalie Marx". Since Jette Stiefel was the mother of Amalie Marx we have a subsection entitled "The Parents of Jette Stiefel".

After the technical sections: sources, symbols and abbreviations, and the general bib-

Introduction and Preliminary Material

liography, there is a list, divided according to the names of the chapters, of all the ancestors discussed in the book. The numerical identification system used is explained at the beginning of the list. At the end of the list is an onomastical study of the names of our ancestors

Since our main interest is in the *ascending* lineages of Eliane and Roger no special effort was made to find the *descending* lineages. However, in many cases information was available concerning children of the ancestors and this information is included.

Sources

Sources which are specific to a group are listed in the corresponding chapter.

N.B: Material from the various sources appear either in the text or on the DVD.

- [P] There is a photograph of the person on the DVD.
- [S] Signature: Some of these appear in the texts, others are on the DVD.
- [BD] Birth document, either from an archival source or a source based on an archival source.
- [MD] Marriage document, either from an archival source or a source based on an archival source.
- [DD] Death document, either from an archival source or a source based on an archival source.
- [DOC] Another type of document.
- [LAGIS] The on-line source for some of the documents related to the present day German province of Hesse (*Land Hessen*). The archives themselves come from former German political entities, not all of whose boundaries are contained within the present boundaries of Hesse. The site is:
<https://www.lagis-hessen.de/en>

There are in fact three main locations for the original archival material: Wiesbaden, Marburg and Darmstadt. Because of this and the varying political divisions, material of interest is often found in different places. Documents are grouped within main sections (*Abteilung*, abbreviated as *Abt.*), which are further divided by serial numbers (*laufend Nummer*, abbreviated as *lfd.* or *num.*).

The earlier Jewish material appears to be mainly under *HHStaW Abt. 365*, but some acts are in the general civil sections under the town's name. Thus the death certificate for Amalie Marx is found in section 922, which

Introduction and Preliminary Material

corresponds to Frankenberg. For Abraham Katzenstein there are *two* notices of his death, a short one in section 365 and the formal one in section 922. To further complicate matters material for towns such as Grösen can sometimes also be found as a subset of a larger political entity such as Gemüden.

As the material is sometimes difficult to locate, I have given references in the form [LAGIS, 365-351, p. 61], where 351 is the serial number in section 365. This section includes some, but not all of the acts for Grösen. It can searched by typing “nr.365” in the search box.

The Electorate of Hesse

Our Hesse ancestors were all from the northern part of present day Hesse. The following is an extract from the Wikipedia article, “Electorate of Hesse”. More information appears on the DVD.

The *Electorate of Hesse* (*Kurfürstentum Hessen*), also known as *Hesse-Kassel* or *Kurhessen*, was a state elevated by Napoleon in 1803 from the *Landgraviate of Hesse-Kassel*. When the Holy Roman Empire was abolished in 1806, the Prince-Elector of Hesse chose to remain an Elector, even though there was no longer an Emperor [of the Holy Roman Empire] to elect. In 1807, with the Treaties of Tilsit, the area was annexed to the Kingdom of Westphalia [ruled by Jérôme Bonaparte], but in 1814, the Congress of Vienna restored the electorate.

The state was the only electorate within the German Confederation. It consisted of several detached territories to the north of Frankfurt, which survived until the state was annexed by Prussia in 1866 following the Austro-Prussian War. It comprised a total land area of 3,699 square miles (9,580 km²), and its population in 1864 was 745,063.

[LBI] Leo Baeck Institute (New York). This can be a reference to:

1. A document in their holdings, which in some cases we gave to them.
2. A document that appears in one of the fourteen PDF files that they created from documents that we gave or lent to them. These are contained in the directory LEO_BAECK_INSTITUTE on the DVD. References to page 14 of the file [la_ar252.pdf] are in the form: [LBI 252, p. 14].

The documents are often out of chronological order. I have preferred not trying to rearrange them as this would mean the PDF files would no longer be the same as the master copies at the Leo Baeck Institute and the page numbers cited in the text would be different.

[RH] Information either written or oral as provided by my mother Ruth Höländer, as well as photographs and information from her picture albums.

[MM] A document or photograph provided by Meta Miller, a cousin of my mo-

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ther (they were both granddaughters of Sarah Katzenstein). She was the source of the late nineteenth and early twentieth century photographs from Frankenberg and Heinebach, as well as various documents. We would visit her, her sisters and parents in Brooklyn at least once a year. She and her husband Joseph Levy were true saints, visiting the sick In the chapter on Hilchenbach there is a picture of her, taken some time in the 1930s, when she visited my mother and her family.

Symbols and Abbreviations

names The name in roman font is the name that the person appears to have used later in life. The name in italic font is either their full birth name or an alternate name that was used e.g.

Jette Stiefel *Gütel Katz*. *Gütel Katz* was her name at birth, but on her first marriage certificate she is called Jette Stiefel.

Amalie *Malchen* Marx. On her birth and death certificates her *given name* (or *personal name*) is Amalie, but on her marriage certificate she is referred to as Malchen.

The *family names* of married women are *never* listed using their husband's family name. This avoids the confusion that arises when two women with the same given name marry different men having the same family name. It also aids in establishing the link with their parents and other ancestors.

dates Dates are given in the format: year.month.day, e.g. 1811.03.19 for March 19, 1811.

Note also that numbers less than 10 are written with a 0 before the number, i.e. the above date is *not* written as 1811.3.19. [This format provides a means of listing the files in a directory of the DVD in the correct chronological order.]

ca. Circa, used when an educated guess can be made concerning a date. E.g. the age of a deceased person might appear on the death certificate, without the actual year of birth being given. The estimated date of birth is obtained by subtraction, but this might be off by one or more years.

b. Before the date, e.g. b. 1815.

a. After the date, e.g. a. 1815.

* No information. Used when a first or last name, date or place name is missing.

Introduction and Preliminary Material

- ?, ??, ??? These indicate respectively, “not absolutely certain”, “educated guess”, “wild guess”. These are not employed on the charts or on the list of all the ancestors.
- !, !!, !!! These indicate respectively, “does not seem right”, “hard to believe”, “truly unbelievable”. These reflect such things as disparate ages of children, etc..
- DVD** This refers to the accompanying storage device (DVD or USB). Copies of all documents and photographs that appear in the text also appear on the storage device, but the latter contains many more. The symbol DVD is used to indicate that material such as texts, maps etc. also appear.
- HTML** Indicate that a topic can be accessed on the DVD from the HTML page.
- ↪ Used with long web addresses to indicate that the address is continued on the next line.
- WWI** World War I (1914-1918). Mainly fought in Europe, with some naval action.
- WWII** World War II (1939-1945). A truly world war with catastrophic consequences for the Jews and in particular for our ancestors.
-

General Bibliography

These works are referred to by their acronym in various chapters. Some of the chapters have their own bibliography with references specific to that chapter. Additional references related to the history of the Jews in Germany and in Russian controlled lands, as well as other topics, can be found on the DVD.

- [ARN] Arnsberg, P. 1971. *Die jüdischen Gemeinden in Hessen*. Frankfurt: Societäts-Verlag.
- [FRI-1] Grulms, E; Kleibl, B. 1982. *Jüdische Friedhöfe in Nordhessen: Bestand und Sicherung*. Kassel: Stauda, 1984.
The same authors have a trilingual summary article^{DVD}: “Zeitzeugen: jüdische Friedhöfe in der BRD / Témoins du passé: les cimetières juifs en Allemagne fédérale / Historical testimonies: Jewish cemeteries in West Germany”, Anthos: *Zeitschrift für Landschaftsarchitektur / Une revue pour le paysage*. 21 (1982)
- [HHSD] Klocke, F. von et al. 1970 *Nordrhein-Westfalen, Handbuch der Historischen Stätten Deutschland*, second edition, vol.3. Stuttgart, Kröner.
Summaries of the history of virtually all cities and towns in Germany.
- [HLDL] Koebler, G. 1989. *Historisches Lexikon der deutschen Laender: die deut-*

Introduction and Preliminary Material

schen Territorien vom Mittelalter bis zur Gegenwart. 2nd edition. Munich: Beck.

Summaries of the history of virtually all cities and towns in Germany.

[JU-GEM] Klaus-Dieter Alicke. 2008. *Lexikons zur Geschichte der jüdischen Gemeinden im deutschen Sprachraum*. Munich: Gütersloher Verlagshaus.

This is now available on-line:

<https://www.juedische-gemeinden.de>

A List of Ancestors

The following is a list of the sixty certain, probable and possible ancestors of Eliane Herz and Roger Fischler who appear in this book. The book, *An Alsatian Jewish Story* lists an additional eighty-six ancestors. This brings the total number of ancestors to one hundred and forty-six. The ancestors of Freddy Furcht who appear in the chapter on Selma Holländer and Freddy Furcht are listed here, but are not counted in the total number of ancestors.

The list is divided into sections which correspond to the chapters and the order of the names in each section follows that of the chapter. Several people appear in two chapters, once when their lives are discussed in detail and once, without details, as a spouse. In what follows such people only appear once, in connection with the chapter in which there is a discussion. For dates only the years are given. In the chapters themselves uncertainty is indicated by one or more question marks, but these are omitted here.

Both in the following list and in the chapters themselves the wife, under her own name, is always listed *before* the husband. Similarly in the charts the wife always appears to the *left* of the husband.

The Identification System

As explained in the introduction this is an *ascending* genealogy. In order to precisely identify each person and to clearly indicate their relationships with descendants and ancestors, the following method is used:

Each person is assigned a unique identification number or, for common ancestors two such identification numbers, consisting of 1s and 2s, where the digit 1 indicates a female and the digit 2 a male. Eliane Herz is identified by the number 1. Her father Albert Herz, who is one generation earlier, will have the two-digit identification number 12. Then his mother, Franziska Katzenstein, is 121. Turning to Roger Fischler his number is 2, that of his mother Ruth Holländer is 21 and her mother Julie Sommer is 211. In turn Sarah Katzenstein, the mother of Julie Sommer will have the four-digit identification number 211•1.

This system relates the identification number of a person to that of their parents and also that of their child; the parents are identified by adding the digits 1 and 2 at the end and the child's number is obtained by eliminating the last digit.

We now arrive at the point where we start to find the common ancestors of Eliane Herz and Roger Fischler, for Sarah Katzenstein was the sister of Franziska Katzenstein. Their mother Amalie Marx will thus have 121•1 and 211•11 as her *two* identification numbers and her ancestors will also have two identification numbers. Note that the lengths of the two identification numbers are not the same. This is because Roger is one generation further away from Amalie Marx; this makes Eliane and Roger *second cousins, once-removed*.

Note that the identification numbers for Amalie Marx and Abraham Katzenstein are identical except for the last digit and the same will be true for any couple. Further

A List of Ancestors

the length of the identification number also shows the degree of ancestry with respect to Eliane or Roger. Thus Eliane's parents are identified by two digits and her grandparents by three. Next come the great-grandparents with four digits and her great-great-grandparents with five. From this we see that the number of "greats" is given by the number of digits minus three and conversely to find the number of digits in a designation we simply add three to the number of greats.

The longest designation for Eliane in this book is 122•222•22 for her five times great-grandfather Feist Katz (ca. 1700 -- a. 1760) in the "Common Ancestors" chapter. However she has three *seven times* great-grandfathers on her mother's side; see *An Alsatian Jewish Story*, p.24. These are Meyer Wolf 112•111•121•2; Jacob 112•111•122•2; and Moyse-Samuel 112•122•222•2. They were born in the second half of the seventeenth century with Moyse-Samuel having probably been born around 1650.

For Roger it is the same Feist Katz, but with the number 211•111•222 and also 211•212•222 for Issak in the Heinebach chapter. Both were his six times great-grandfathers; they lived in the last quarter of the seventeenth century.

Common Ancestors

121•1/211•11

Amalie Marx 1830, Grösen -- 1910, Frankenberg.

121•2/211•12

Abraham Katzenstein 1822, Frankenau -- 1883, Frankenberg.

The Parents of Amalie Marx

121•11/211•111

Jette Stiefel 1808, Rauschenberg -- 1876, Grösen.

121•12/211•112

Issac Marx ca. 1786, Grösen -- 1840, Grösen.

The Parents of Jette Stiefel

121•111/211•111•1

Fradchen Lilienstein * -- a. 1814, Rauschenberg.

121•112/211•111•2

Selig Katz 1783, Rauschenberg -- 1871, Rauschenberg.

A List of Ancestors

The Parents of Selig Katz

121•112•1/211•111•21

Malchen *

121•112•2/211•111•22

Jaköb Löb Katz * -- b.1830.

The Father of Jaköb Löb Katz

121•112•22/211•111•222

Feist Katz ca. 1700 -- a.1760.

The Parents of Isaac Marx

121•121/211•112•1

Hannchen Hertz * -- 1809.

121•122/211•112•2

Sussman Marx ca. 1743, Grüsen 1810, Grüsen.

The Parents of Hannchen Hertz

121•121•1/211•112•11

Kela * -- b. 1811, Grüsen.

121•121•2/211•112•12

Simson Hertz * -- b. 1811, Grüsen.

The Parents of Sussman Marx

121•122•1/211•112•21

Sara * -- b. 1811, Grüsen.

121•122•2/211•112•22

Meyer Katz * -- b. 1811, Grüsen.

The Parents of Abraham Katzenstein

121•21/211•121

Resede Mannheimer ca. 1797, Ungedanken -- 1853, Frankenau.

A List of Ancestors

121•22/211•122

Manus Katzenstein ca. 1785, Erdmannrode -- 1856, Frankenau.

The Parents of Manus Katzenstein

121•221/211•122•1

Sara Ephraim *.

121•222/211•122•2

Abraham ben Menachem/Abraham Katzenstein *.

The Father of Manus Katzenstein

121•222•2/211•122•22

Menachem *.

The Haiger Group

1

Eliane Herz 1943, Limoges -- *.

The Father of Eliane Herz

12

Albert Herz 1902, Haiger -- 1976, New York.

The Father of Albert Herz

122

Hermann Herz 1869, Altenkirchen, Kreis Wetzlar -- 1938, Haiger.

The Parents of Hermann Herz

122•1

Regine Frölich ca. 1834, Ulrichstein -- 1904, Haiger.

122•2

Jakob Herz * -- ca. 1915, *.

A List of Ancestors

The Parents of Regine Frölich

122•11

Regine Katz * -- a. 1834 and b. 1876, Ulrichstein.

122•12

Löb Frölich ca. 1800, * -- 1883, Ulrichstein.

The Parents of Löb Frölich

122•121

Chaya Katz *.

122•122

Moses Frölich *.

The Hilchenbach Group

2

Roger Fischler 1940.02.22 -- .

The Mother of Roger Fischler

21

Ruth Holländer 1915, Hilchenbach -- 1982, New York.

The Parents of Ruth Holländer

211

Julie Sommer 1886, Heinebach -- 1942, deported to Zamość, Poland.

212

Joseph Holländer 1884, Elsoff -- 1942, deported to Zamość, Poland.

The Parents of Joseph Holländer

212•1

Sophie Löwenstein 1855, Battenberg -- 1940, Hilchenbach.

212•2

Levy Holländer 1851, Elsoff -- 1939, Hilchenbach.

A List of Ancestors

The Parents of Sophie Löwenstein

212•11

Johanette Elsoffer early 1800s, Scharzenau -- 1894, Battenberg.

212•12

Levi Löwenstein early 1800s -- b. 1874, Battenberg.

The Parents of Levy Holländer

212•21

Rachel Schiff 1810, Allendorf, Kreis Biedenkopf -- 1895, Elsoff.

212•22

Joseph Holländer 1804, Elsoff -- 1857, Elsoff.

The Parents of Johanette Elsoffer

212•111

Frommet * lived in Schwarzenau.

212•112

Wolf Elsoffer lived in Schwarzenau.

The Parents of Rachel Schiff

212•211

Bella Löwenstein lived in Allendorf, Kreis Biedenkopf.

212•212

Falk Schiff lived in Allendorf, Kreis Biedenkopf.

The Parents of Joseph Holländer

212•221

Hänschen * -- 1838, Berleburg.

212•222

Wolf Holländer * -- b. 1838, Berleburg.

A List of Ancestors

The Heinebach Group

211•2

Koppel Sommer 1850, Heinebach -- 1935, Heinebach.

The Parents of Koppel Sommer

211•21

Ettel Katz ca. 1820, Aua -- *.

211•22

Susmann Sommer ca., Heinebach -- 1873, Heinebach.

The Parents of Ettel Katz

211•211

Giedel Wallach *, Raboldshausen -- b. 1843, lived in Aua.

211•212

Koppel Katz *, Nesselröden -- lived in Aua.

The Parents of Susmann Sommer

211•221

Jüdel Wallach ca. 1778, Raboldshausen -- 1838, Heinebach.

211•222

Joseph Sommer 1769, Heinebach -- 1833, Heinebach.

The Father of Gietel Wallach and Jüdel Wallach

211•211•2/211•221

Leiser lived in Raboldshausen.

The Father of Joseph Sommer

211•212•2

Meyer Susmann ca. 1740, Heinebach -- b. 1828, Heinebach.

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The Father of Meyer Susmann

211 • 212 • 22

Susmann Isaak ca. 1710, * -- *, Heinebach.

The Father of Susmann Isaak

211 • 212 • 222

Issak last quarter of 17th century.

The Leipzig Group

22

Sigmund Fischler 1899.08.06, Leipzig -- 1972.03.06.

The Parents of Sigmund Fischler

221

Regina Reinherz 1874.04.10, Kalvarija -- 1937.11.29, Leipzig.

222

Isaak Fischleiber 1871.03.28, Miedzyrzec -- WW II, Poland.

The Father of Regina Reinherz

221 • 2

Max Reinherz lived in Kalvarija.

The Parents of Isaak Fischleiber

222 • 1

Sara Hochman[n] lived in Miedzyrzec and Warsaw.

222 • 2

Chaim Jacob Fischleiber lived in Miedzyrzec and Warsaw.

Selma Holländer and Freddy Furcht

N.B. The following people were not ancestors so that no identification numbers appear.

Selma Edith Holländer 1920.09.17, Hilchenbach -- 1982.07.02, New York.

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Freddy Furcht 1911.07.04, Frankfurt -- 1995.06.30, New York.

The Parents of Freddy Furcht

Mathilde Mannheimer 1873.03.24, Frankfurt -- 1942.10.07, Theresienstadt

Hermann Furcht 1876.03.20, Wassertrüdigen -- 1937.09.23, Frankfurt

The Parents of Mathilde Mannheimer

Karoline Oppenheimer * -- b. 1904.06.10, Frankfurt.

Marx Mannheimer *, Birkenau -- *, Frankfurt

The Parents of Hermann Furcht

Fanny Engel lived in Wassertrüdigen.

Moritz Furcht lived in Wassertrüdigen.

What's in a Name?

I had often wondered about the origin of some of the surnames (family names) of our ancestors, in particular *Holländer* and *Fischleiber*, and wondered when and why they were adopted. While the etymology of some names such as *Herz* (heart) is clear, for others such as *Holländer* and *Katzenstein* the various claims that been made are not entirely convincing.

The following three books not only discuss the meaning of names, but also their geographical distribution and earliest known use:

Bibliography

[GERM] Menk, L. 2005. *A Dictionary of German-Jewish Surnames*. Bergenfield, New Jersey: Avotaynu.

Menk [p.3] provides a list of the dates for mandated surnames. For those parts of Germany under Napoleonic control dates in the second half of 1808 were set. For Hesse-Darmstadt -- see under the Hilchenbach group -- it was December 15, 1808; for Frankfurt and surrounding regions the dates were in late 1807 (an earlier exception) and 1811. Despite the various regulations, there are only few published lists of adopted names [p.107], all dating from the late 1820s and mid-1840s. One example is the 1846 list for the region of Arnsberg in Westphalia,

A List of Ancestors

which includes the town of Elsoff, where ancestors with the name Holländer lived. Menk also made use of naturalization lists from the 1810s, but these concern Prussian provinces. He also used unpublished lists and many other published compilations.

Menk does not include Alsace in his list of names. Jews there were required to take a civil name in 1808 and for the Bas-Rhin there is an almost complete documentation. These have been published:

Katz, P. *Recueil des Déclarations de Prise de Nom Patronymique des Juifs du Bas-Rhin en 1808*.

- [POL] Beider, A. 1996. *A Dictionary of Jewish Surnames From the Kingdom of Poland*. Bergenfield, New Jersey: Avotaynu.

According to Beider [p. 50] the first surnaming process for those parts of Poland which were annexed by Prussia and Austria took place between 1787 and 1809 (see the historical discussion in the chapter on the Leipzig group). In these areas the official language was German. During the periods 1807 - 1813 (Napoleon's Duchy of Poland) and once again in the period 1815 - 1868 (Kingdom of Poland) the official language was Polish. Thus, especially in the 1820s, when surnames were taken from German or from the German component of Yiddish they were often spelled in Polish, in accordance with the phonetic value of the surnames. In this way the spelling "Epstein" was changed to "Epsztyń". Sometimes the spelling involved a blend of German and Polish orthography and in a small group, particularly the wealthy Jews of Warsaw who considered German to be their language of culture, the German names adopted during the Prussian period were kept with the original spelling.

- [RUSS] Beider, A. 1993. *A Dictionary of Jewish Surnames From the Russian Empire*. Bergenfield, New Jersey: Avotaynu.

The first Russian law concerning surnames for Jews dates from December, 1804 [p. 10] and this requirement was restated -- an indication that either many Jews had not adopted a surname or had changed it -- in May 1835 as part of the law which definitely defined the Pale of Settlement.

- [JRI] The web site of *Jewish Records Indexing-Poland* founded by Stanley Diamond of Montréal.

<http://jri-poland.org/>

The transcription system used appears to be different from that used in [POL]; see the discussion under the Leipzig group.

- [AJS] *An Alsatian Jewish Story/The Ancestors of Coralie Weill*.

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The first group of names relates to the people in Alsace who are discussed in [AJS]. The groups that follow are arranged in the order of the chapters of this book. Within each group the order is alphabetical. The name “Katz” appears in several chapters, but it is discussed along with “Katzenstein” in the chapter, “Common Ancestors”. The name “Herz” is discussed with the Haiger group.

Alsace

In the Bas-Rhin, where almost all of the ancestors of Coralie Weill lived, the vast majority of the Jews had not yet taken a civil name in 1808, and, contrary to what occurred in Germany, very few of the civil surnames were derived from a place of residence.

An interesting example is the name “Mandel” which was the name adopted by the ancestor of Coralie Weill who had previously gone by the name “Hirtzel Feiss”. The Feiss came from the first part of his father's name which was “Feiss Solomon” and the latter in turn was the son of “Salmen Naphtaly”. These three people became Daniel Mandel, Jacques Mandel, and Solomon Mandel, respectively. Aside from people related to the above three Mandels the only other person in Alsace who adopted the name “Mandel” lived in another town, had previously gone by the name Joseph Simon and had no apparent connection with the above ancestors.

By contrast in Germany [GER, p.511] we find many references to people with the name “Mandel” and “Mandelbaum” -- meaning “almond” and “almond tree” respectively -- as well as variations. The same is true of the name “Katz” -- see the discussion below under “Common Ancestors” -- which was only adopted in two towns in Alsace, but was not uncommon in Germany. The name “Katzenstein” was only adopted in one town.

The name “Kling” was only adopted by one male, the ancestor Charles Kling of Dauendorf. It was adopted by his wife and women in three other towns. The name may come from *kiingen*, which means “to sound”, or from *Klinge* which means “blade” or from a location name involving a brook. Kling is not an uncommon name in Germany [GER, p.427].

The only ancestor of Coralie Weill who came from Germany was Caroline Apfel, the wife of Daniel Mandel. In 1808 her previous name was said to be Crönel Raphael and on her 1838 DD the place of birth is given as Pleiswiller, Germany. On the latter document her father's name is stated to be Raphael Apfel and this shows that her former name combines the Judeo-Alsatian name “Crönel” with her father's given name “Raphael”. “Crönel” was then changed to the very French “Caroline”. Thus, from the DD, we may suppose that her father had indeed taken the surname Apfel and that this had occurred sometime in the eighteenth century. This surname, as well as the variants Appel, Appell and Apfelbaum, was a fairly common name in Germany [GER, p.139]. There were other Apfels and Apfelbaums in Alsace.

A List of Ancestors

Two other names of interest among the Alsatian ancestors are Weil / Weill and Weiller. One sometimes reads that “Weil” is an anagram based on the Jewish tribal designation “Levi”, but Menk [GER, p. 757] does not mention this possibility. Among the examples are one from Bouxwiller in the Bas-Rhin (not far from Dauendorf) that dates from 1580. This person was apparently descended, as were others with the same surname, from a noted rabbi named Jacob ben Judah Weil who was active in the early 1400s and who apparently came from the town of Weil der Stadt (a town near Stuttgart in the state of Baden-Württemberg; the “Weil” being a transformation of the Latin *villa*). Several other towns are suggested as having been the origin of the name Weil. There are also three examples from the late 1600s in the Haut-Rhin. The first ancestor of Coralie Weill who used the name “Weil” was an Alexandre Weil who changed his name from Süsskind Hirtzel in 1808 [AJS, p. 107, 129]. On the name “Hirtzel” see below under “The Haiger Group”.

The other interesting name of an ancestor is “Weiller [GER, p. 758] of which there were several in the Bas-Rhin. With one “l” Weiler means “hamlet” in German and again for some people the surname seems to have been based on the name of a town. For some people it may have been derived from Weil.

Common Ancestors

Lilienstein: Literally “lily - stone”. Apparently [GER, p. 484] the word *stein* is sometimes a component of surname based on a geographical feature. Menk says that according to a family tradition in the town of Usingen -- about 90 km south of Rauschenberg where Fradchen Lilienstein, the mother of Jette Stiefel lived -- the first Lilienstein adopted this as a surname from a mountain that he had passed during his travels; see below with Katzenstein.

Hertz: This is probably a variation of the name “Herz” [GERM, p. 362] which is discussed below with the Haiger group.

Manheimer / Mannheim: [GER, p. 510, 511] perhaps from one of several towns named Mannheim. There is also the name Mannheim which translates literally as “man-home”. Jews may have used this as a familiar (*hypocorism*) name to replace the Hebrew name “Menachem”.

Marx: A very common German name (13, 845 times in the 1998 German telephone book according to [GER, p. 518]). In turn [p. 517] Marx may come from either the German name “Markus”, which is derived from the Roman god of war Mars, or the German name “Marquard”, derived from “Markwart”, meaning “guard of the borderland”. Menk suggests that the Jews used Mark as a familiar (*hypocorism*) name to replace the Hebrew name “Mordechai”.

A List of Ancestors

Katz/Katzenstein: First we consider the name “Katz” [GER, p.415, 223]. Based on tombstones and the names attributed to authors of books it would appear that for some Jews who were Cohens in the tribal / religious sense the name came from the Hebrew abbreviation כ"ץ of כהן צדק [cohen - tseidiq], probably meaning approximately “a just priest”.^{DVD} This in turn was vocalized in German as KaTZ. Several problems arise with uniformly associating Jews whose name was “Katz” with the Cohen group. First of all one wonders why someone who is a cohen and who wants others to know this fact does not simply use “Cohen” as a surname. Secondly, how was the use of the name Katz to designate a Cohen supposed to have been disseminated. The associations cited in the literature between the two is very limited and this contrasts with a widespread use of the name “Katz” by Jews. There is another possibility suggested by the use surname “Katz” by non-Jewish German (1,440 times in the 1998 German telephone book according to [GER, p. xiii, 415]) and the origin may be related to *Katze*, the German word for “cat”. It may have been that some Jews decided to use a name already in use in the wider German population.

Based on the Hebrew interpretation of the name Katz, some authors attempt to make the same link for the name Katzenstein. Now we know from his tombstone that Abraham Katzenstein was indeed a Cohen, but we can not be sure that this is the link. First of all the addition of “stein” [German: “stone”] does not seem to fit the attribution of the priesthood (Cohen) to a person; see also above under “Lilienstein”. Menk [GER, p.416] says that the name in Northern Hesse, where Frankenberg is located, might be derived from a mountain called Katzenstein near Zierenberg. There is also a town called Katzenstein in South Germany. Other names with Katz are Katzenellenbogen (“cat's elbow”), Katzenmeier, Katzenberger, Katzauer, Katzenberg and Katzmann.

Stiefel: German for “boot”. A common German name (1078 times in the 1998 German telephone book according to [GER, p.713]). The name was already in use by a Jew in Frankfurt in 1568.

The Haiger Group

Frölich/Fröhlich: The word *Fröhlich* means “merry, gay” in German. It is a very common German name (12,600 times in the 1998 German telephone book according to [GER, p.293]).

Herz: The word *Herz* means “Heart” in modern German, but as a Jewish surname it seems to have come from the middle high German *Herts/Hirts* meaning “deer” (modern German *Hirsch*). Although Menk [GER, p.362] does not mention the possibility, it may have been chosen as a German replacement for the Hebrew name Naphtaly. This is because in the biblical passage (*Genesis 49:21*) where Jacob describes his sons, Naphtaly is compared to a swift hind (female deer). Evidence for the transposition from “Naphtaly” to “Herz” appears on the 1786 MD of an ancestor of Coralie Weill,

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[AJS, p. 129]. The groom is referred to as Alexandre *Zyskind* son of Naphtaly *Hirzel*, where “Hirzel” is the replacement name for “Naphtaly”.

The Hilchenbach Group

Holländer: The “obvious” meaning of the name Holländer is someone who came from Holland. This hypothesis is entirely reasonable as there are many examples of Jews whose civil name is taken from the name of a city. As an example of this we have the ancestor Wolf Elsoffer who lived in Berleburg, which is very close to the town of Elsoff. As a variation on the link to the country name, an archivist once suggested to me that it was a name given to poor Jews who went to Holland to work.

If we look up the name “Holländer” [GERM, p. 379] for the period of interest -- before 1835 when there was already a Wolf Holländer in Elsoff -- we learn that some of the Jews listed did indeed come from Holland (used as a designation for the entire country of The Netherlands) or from the German lower Rhineland (thus not far from Holland).

However, other people named Holländer did not live close to Holland. For example there were people named Holländer in Prussia, which is to the east. There was also a Holländer in 1785 in Darmstadt (south of Frankfurt). Furthermore some people named Holländer had changed their name from Horowitz. Thus, since the Jews in Elsoff most likely had moved westward from the neighbouring state of Hesse-Darmstadt, rather than down from the north, the link with the country of Holland for the Holländer ancestors is rather tenuous.

There is another possible origin for the name Holländer which is related to the most likely etymology of the name of the country Holland. The latter seems to be derived from an old Dutch word *Holtand* meaning “wood-land” (cf. the German word *Holtz* for “wood”). Again the link with the surname “Holländer” seems rather remote.

Löwenstein: Literally the name means “lions stone”. This was a very common name [GERM, p. 498] with many variations of the spelling. In some cases there might be an association with a person who is a Levy, just as, in certain cases at least, the name “Katzenstein” was associated with people who are a Cohen.

Schiff: The German word *Schiff* means “ship”. According to [GER, p. 656] this was a German surname found mainly in Baden and in the middle Rhineland (near Frankfurt).

The Heinebach Group

Sussman: The explanation given [GERM, p. 722] is that it is a variation of “Süssmann” which literally means “sweet-man” and which was used as the German equivalent of

A List of Ancestors

the Hebrew name “Elyezer”. There is also the name “Süsskind”; see above under Alsace. under “Herz”.

Sommer: The name literally means “summer” and appeared (20,899 times in the 1998 German telephone book according to [GER, p.696]. So it is hardly a “Jewish” name.

Wallach: According to Menk [GER, p.749] the name was used to denote someone from a Romance speaking country, in particular Italy or France. With the spelling “Wallache” it could denote someone from the Wallachia district of Roumania. The German word *Wallach* means a gelded horse or other animal.



The Leipzig Group

Fischleiber: In [POL, p.166] we find the spelling “Fiszlejber” which Beider considers as being derived from the Central Yiddish “fishleyber”, meaning “fish-liver”. This does not have the same meaning as the German “Fischleiber”, which translates literally as “fish-body”. The authors lists Warsaw and Radzyn, Podlaski (about 33 km SW of Miedzyrzec, it too had a large Jewish population), but not Miedzyrzec. The spelling “Fischleiber” is not listed.

The spelling “Fiszlejber” is, however, mentioned in connection with Miedzyrzec in the introduction [p.52]. This is part of a general discussion of the orthography of surnames adopted by Polish Jews; see the discussion under the entry [POL] above. The author points out that in civil records for Miedzyrzec for the period 1836-1839 certain Jews were recorded using the Polish spelling “Fiszlejber”.

There are many other examples [p.165] of surnames that start with “Fisz”. These include Fiszalter (fish-basin), Fiszauft (fish-head), Fiszberg (fish-mountain), Fiszfeld (fish-field), Fiszgrund (fish-ground), Fiskopf (fish-head), Fiszman (fish-monger or fisherman) etc. Missing is the equivalent of German “Fischlieber” meaning “fish-lover”.

The website for [JRI] has three different spellings, “Fizleber”, “Fizlyber” and “Fizlejber” for people who lived in Miedzyrzec in the period 1828-1841. This overlaps the period 1836-1839 discussed just above so I assume that we are dealing with the same name, but spelled in different ways. The spelling “Fajzylber” appears in the [JRI] records for Kolbiel, which is in the Warsaw region.

When we turn to [RUSS, p.211] we find variations of the name “Fishel” including “Fishman” (fish-monger or fisherman; the equivalent of the Polish “Fiszman”), “Fishgob” (fish-head, the equivalent of Polish “Fiskopf”) etc., but there does not seem to be the equivalent of the Polish “Fiszlejber” and the variations that are found on [JRI].

Reinherz: The name “Reinherz” translates as “pure-heart”. Kalvarija (which was part

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of Suwalki) where Regina Reinherz was born, was included in the Kingdom of Poland, but was close to the Pale of Settlement so that we have to consider both Polish and Russian surnames.

In [POL, p.364] we find both the spellings “Rajnharc ” and “Rajnerc ”, both meaning “pure-heart”. The first occurs in Warsaw and is said to be derived from Central Yiddish. The second is found in Suwalki, Warsaw and other towns in the Kingdom. In this case it is said to be derived from the German “Reinherz”.

In [RUSS, p.480] the name “Rejngerts”, with the meaning “pure-heart”, occurred in Riga, Latvia and what is now the town of Grodno, Belarus. The latter town is not far from Suwalki.

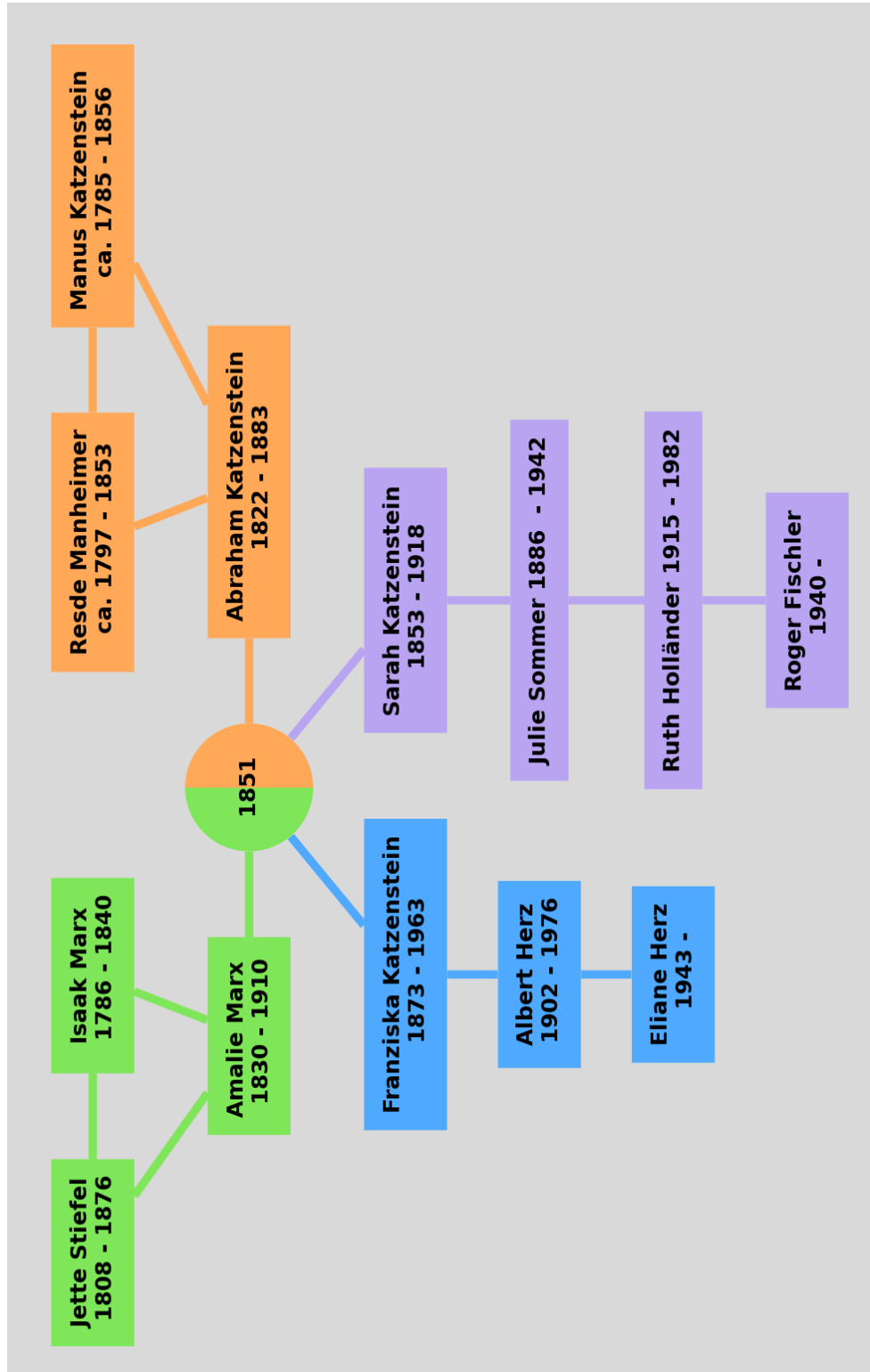
Selma Holländer and Freddy Furcht

The name Holländer is discussed above with the Hilchenbach group.

Furcht: The German word *Furcht* means “fear”, but this hardly seems a name that someone would adopt, or keep. According to [GER, p.295] the name Furcht appeared in the sixteenth century when it was derived from the middle high German (tenth to fourteenth centuries) word *Vorech* meaning “pine-forest”.

Common Ancestors

The following chart shows how Eliane Herz and Roger Fischler are related via their common ancestors Amalie Marx and Abraham Katzenstein.



Common Ancestors

Special Bibliography for the Common Ancestors Group

See also the “General Bibliography” in the introductory part for references that do not appear in the following list.

The main source for our information about Amalie Marx and Abraham Katzenstein and their descendants is the 591 pages long monumental work by Horst Hecker, the Frankenberg archivist:

- [HH] Hecker, Horst. 2011. *Jüdisches Leben in Frankenberg*. Zweigverein des Vereins für hessische Geschichte. The Katzenstein family is discussed on p. 328 ff. and there is a list of various members of the family on p. 423.

As will become evident the story of the ancestors of Amalie Marx is extremely complicated. Fortunately there are two reliable sources to help us illuminate our path through the labyrinth. Because of the intermarriage between people from Rauschenberg and Grösen (and also with the Katzensteins) these two sources complement each other, e.g. one may give the date of birth and the other the date of death:

- [SCH] Schneider, Alfred. 2006. *Die jüdischen Familien im ehemaligen Kreise Kirchain/Beiträge zur Geschichte und Genealogie der jüdischen Familien im Ostteil des heutigen Landkreises Marburg-Biedenkopf in Hessen*. Amöneberg: Museum Amöneberg, p. 196.

Dr. Schneider was the director of Museum Amöneberg and from correspondence with him as well as from the foreword, I learned that he used archival documents for his research. This work is particularly useful for the earliest known (mid-eighteenth century) history, but it also includes information up to the early twentieth century. Information from this work is cited in the form [SCH, no. 1.1] where 1.1 is Schneider's designation for Gütel Katz/Jette Stiefel. In addition to information concerning the Katz family of Rauschenberg, this work includes details about members of the Plaut family of Rauschenberg and their relationship to the Marx and Katzenstein families.

Schneider's numbering system involves a modified d'Aboville System in which a period is added to the end of the *digits* of the preceding generation and to this is added another digit corresponding to a child. Thus, for example, we have the designations 1, 1.3 and 13.8 respectively for Selig Katz, his son Jakob Katz/Jakob Löb Katz-Stiefel, and one of the latter's daughters, Friederike Katz-Stiefel. I have given the numbers 0 and 00 to Selig Katz's father and grandfather respectively.

- [KLE] Klein, Hans-Peter. 2009, revised edition 2014. “The Descendants of Sussmann Marx and Hannchen [Hertz] from Gruessen”.

As of May, 2019 this text, as well as genealogies for other families, was available at:

Common Ancestors

inh.lima-city.de/index-gene.htm

References to this work use Klein's numbering system wherein Meyer Katz is assigned the number 1, his son Sußman the number 2 and the three sons of the latter are 3, 4 and 5 (Issac Marx). Then the children of son 3 are 8, 9, 10 and 11; the child of son 4 is 12. For Issac Marx the numbers are 13 through 16 from his first marriage and 17 through 23 for the children of his second marriage to Jette Stiefel, with Amalie Marx being number 19. Spouses are discussed with the husband so that in connection with Issac Marx we learn that after he passed away in 1840 his wife Jette Stiefel remarried with no.26 (Herz Marx). Thus a reference to a number is also used for a person discussed in connection with that number.

In addition there are two local studies of the Jews of Frankenau and Frankenberg respectively:

[BRA] Brandt, Heinz. 1992, *Die Judengemeinde Frankenau zwischen 1660 und 1940/Aus dem Leben jüdischer Landmenschen*, Frankenberg Hefte: no. 1.

Brandt [p. 70] gives precise archival references for only some of his information. Unfortunately he does not do this for all of the dates of importance to us; see below under "The Parents of Abraham Katzenstein".

Brandt (1912 -- 1996) was a journalist. When I first came across this title in the summer of 1999, I was surprised that someone had written about the Jews in this small town. I now know that it had a reasonably sized, at least for rural northern Hesse, Jewish community.

[STA] Stadtler, Karl-Heinz. ["Various Genealogies"].

Stadtler was part of the group involved in the beautiful restoration of the synagogue in Vöhl (about 20 km north of Frankenau):

<http://synagoge-voehl.de>

He has done a lot of research concerning the Jews of the region and a map shows the villages and towns where Jews lived; by clicking on a highlighted town name one finds the index to the Jews who lived there:

synagoge-voehl.de/synvoealt/Juden_im_Landkreis/index.htm

Of particular interest to us are the Jews of Frankenau:

synagoge-voehl.de/synvoealt/Juden_im_Landkreis/frankenau/index.htm

Stadtler used [BRA] as the basis for some of his work, but he also obtained information from other sources.

We are fortunate in having information from two grandsons of Amalie Marx and Abraham Katzenstein and from a granddaughter of a sister of Amalie Marx.

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[RK] Richard Katzenstein (a son of child 4, Manus/Moritz Katzenstein), 1895, Frankenau -- *, New York? [HH], p. 424, no. 108.6]. He made a family tree which lists the names (but without any dates or further information) of the children and grandchildren of Amalie Marx and Abraham Katzenstein. In addition the chart gives the names of the siblings of Abraham Katzenstein and the names of the latter's grandfather and great-grandfather.

The few non-name words are written in English, so my best guess is that he escaped from Germany sometime in the 1930s. I would also guess that his information was based on what he had learned from family members. This family tree was given to me by Albert Herz in 1976.

[JS] Julius Stern (a son of child 9, Friederike/Rickchen Katzenstein), 1894, Gilserberg -- 1978, New York [Aufbau]. Oral communication and notes, 1976.

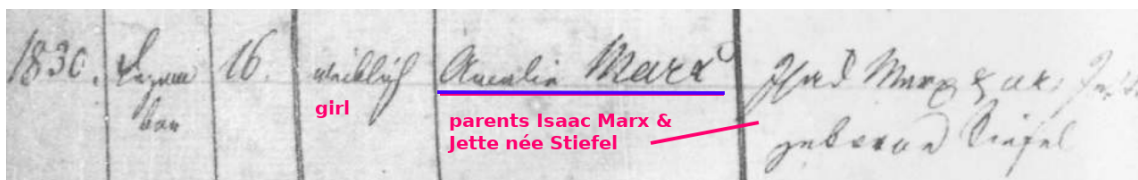
Julius Stern was able to give me the precise dates of birth and death of most of the children -- he even knew of Solomon (child 7) who had died at about the age of one year -- of Amalie Marx and Abraham Katzenstein, as well as other information. According to him the marriage of the parents of Amalie Marx was a "very complicated story of marriage between cousins" and that Amalie Marx had between twenty and twenty-five siblings and step-siblings. As the lists below indicate Amalie Marx had fifteen siblings and step-siblings, but in Julius Stern's memory the larger number may have included the vast number of cousins etc.

[TP] Tilly Plaut, 1905, Frankenau -- 1984, New York. Oral communication and family tree. Her paternal grandmother was Betti Marx, a sister of Amalie Marx. See below under "The Three Marx Sisters".

Amalie Marx and Abraham Katzenstein

Amalie Malchen Marx (1 2 1 • 1 / 2 1 1 • 1 1) 1830.12.20, Grösen -- 1910.02.27 Frankenberg [BD, (LAGIS, 365-361, p. 30), MD, DD (LAGIS, 922-3688, p. 30, HH, p. 328, 423), P].

Notice that on her marriage entry she is referred to as Malchen Marx.



1830.12.20: BD Amalie Marx

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Abraham Katzenstein (1 2 1 • 2 / 2 1 1 • 1 2) 1822.07.22, Frankenau -- 1883.06.04, Frankenberg [DD (LAGIS, 922-3661, p. 31; 365-185, p. 19, HH, p. 328, 423), P].

On his tombstone [HH, p. 544] he is referred to as the son of Menachem HaKohen, so we know that he too was a Cohen.

marriage: 1851.05.20, Frankenau. [MD, LAGIS, 365-175, p. 4].

1851 May 20	Abraham Katzenstein -- Maichen Marx	Frankenau	??	22 July 1822 -- 1830
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1851.05.20: MD of Amalie Marx and Abraham Katzenstein



The synagogue in Frankenau [Brandt, p. 36]

The first eight children of the couple were born in Frankenau and at first Abraham Katzenstein ran a food store in Frankenau, possibly inherited from his father Manus; see below. In 1866 he acquired a property in Allendorf, a small community 3 km away on the route to Frankenberg and here the next four children were born. At first Abraham Katzenstein ran a guest house and after the latter closed in 1872 (see the

Common Ancestors

copy of the advertisement^{DVD}) he ran a combined wholesale and retail store where alcohol was among the goods sold. By 1874 he possessed a large tract of land (4.7 ha) and had a maid, a male servant and animals. His reported income in 1874 made him one of the wealthiest persons in Allendorf.

He seems to have had an abrasive character and quarreled with members of the Jewish community, as well as with the school teacher. The latter also served as the reader in the church and expected everyone to give him a present in the form of a Christmas cake or bread. Abraham Katzenstein said that as a Jew he was not obliged to give a gift and refused. To give an idea of the size of the Jewish communities where the Marx-Katzenstein family lived, in 1861 Frankenau had 40 Jews out of a population of 1065 (3.8%), while Frankenberg had 58 Jews out of a population 2719 (2.1%) [BRA, p. 39].



2010.10.09: Marx - Katzenstein house, Frankenberg

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As the future in Frankenau did not seem promising, Abraham Katzenstein sold everything and in 1874 the family moved to Frankenberg. There Abraham Katzenstein bought the large house shown above, with Eliane standing in front, and in an adjoining building opened up a new wholesale and retail store. Among the items sold were goods imported from the "colonies". Hermann, the couple's last child, was the only one born in Frankenberg.

After Abraham Katzenstein passed away in June of 1883, Amalie Marx ran the business until 1894. We have several advertisements related to their commerce as well as announcements of their death.

children:

The couple had thirteen children of whom three died at a very young age. From a variety of sources, including the research done by Horst Hecker and the information provided by two of the grandchildren and one great-grandchild, we know a great deal about the children and their descendants:

1. **Isaak** 1852.05.20, Frankenau -- 1852.08.05, Frankenau.
2. **Sarah** (2 1 1 • 1) 1853.07.10, Frankenau -- 1919.02.14, Heinebach.

See the Heinebach group

3. **Rosa Röschen** 1855.06.16, Frankenau -- 1916.02.04, Wohra.
4. **Manus Moritz** 1857.08.20, Frankenau -- 1929.03.03, Frankenberg
5. **Sußman** 1859.08.29, Frankenau -- 1879.11.19, Frankenberg.
6. **Johanna Hannchen** 1861.07.01, Frankenau -- 1939.10.20, Frankfurt.
7. **Salomon** 1863.04.23, Frankenau -- 1864, Frankenau.
8. **Jakob** 1865.04.08, Frankenau -- 1942.11.27, Theresienstadt concentration camp.
9. **Friederike Rickesen** 1867.03.13, Allendorf -- 1934.01.16, Marburg.
10. **Samuel** 1869.07.06, Allendorf -- 1934.05.01, New York.
11. **Sally** 1872.03.25, Allendorf -- 1933, Cologne.
12. **Franziska** (1 2 1) 1873.07.20, Allendorf -- 1963.02.23, Belfort.

See the Haiger group.

13. **Hermann** 1877.07.19, Frankenberg -- 1877.11.12, Frankenberg.

More information on the children appears on the DVD.

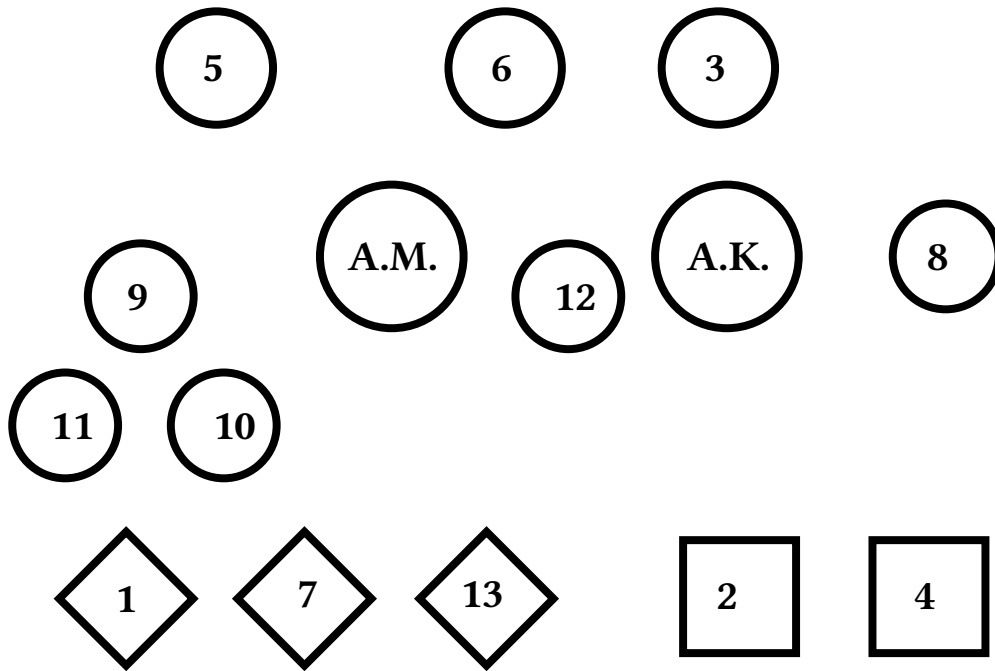
Common Ancestors

We are very fortunate in having a photograph [MM], most likely taken shortly after the family moved from Frankenau to Frankenberg in the summer of 1874:



Common Ancestors

A comparison^{DVD} of the dates of birth and death of the children with the photograph results in the following identification (1, 7, 13 were deceased; 2 and 4 were absent):



Amalie Marx, her sons Jacob and Issak and family members, ca. 1909

Common Ancestors

[D] Abraham Katzenstein 60 reported by
Israel Goldschmidt (teacher, [HH, p. 419,
number 68)

Seite 29

Nr. 29.

Frankenberg am 4. Juni 1883.

Der israelitische Lehrer Israel Gold-
schmidt
wohnhaft zu Frankenberg, Vorderstraße, Nr. 155 1/2,
und zeigte an, daß der Kaufmann Abraham Katzen-
stein, wohnhaft mit Mülhausen, geboren
Marx,
70 Jahre alt, israelitischer Religion,

1883.06.04: DD Abraham Katzenstein

Seite 14

[D] Amalie Marx, 79
reported by her son
Moritz. Born in Grösen

Nr. 14.

Frankenberg, am 18. Februar 1910.

Der Kaufmann Moritz Katzenstein
wohnhaft in Frankenberg, Ritterstraße, Nummer 27,
und zeigte an, daß die Witwe des Kaufmanns
Abraham Katzenstein, Amaliegeborenen
Marx
79 Jahre alt, israelitischer Religion,
wohnhaft in Frankenberg, Ritterstraße, Nummer 27,
geboren zu Grösen, Kreis Frankenberg,

1910.02.27: DD Amalie Marx

Common Ancestors

The graves of Amalie Marx and Abraham Katzenstein are located in the Jewish cemetery in Frankenberg. In the appendix to [HH, p. 535 -- 592] seventy-two graves, containing seventy-nine people, are listed. Some of the tomb stones are the original ones and others have part of the original tombstone together with recent additions/replacements in marble. The gravestones for Amalie Marx and Abraham Katzenstein appear to be more recent replacements of the originals. As in other parts of Germany this graveyard was not destroyed by the Nazis.

The Hebrew inscriptions read in part: מלה בת יצחק הכהן, i.e. “Malkah the daughter of Yitshak the Cohen” and אברהם בר מנחם הכהן, i.e. “Abraham the son of Menachem the Cohen”.



Graves of Amalie Marx and Abraham Katzenstein

The Ancestors of Amalie Marx and Abraham Katzenstein

Preliminary Discussion

Determining who is who among the ancestors of this couple is no easy task. Thus this preliminary section is devoted to a brief discussion of the problems and points

Common Ancestors

of possible confusion. The history of the ancestors and relatives of Amalie Marx is particularly complicated because it involves marriages (and remarriages) among cousins etc., name changes and the great repetition of given names. Furthermore there were several cases of marriage between Katzensteins and the extended family of Amalie Marx.

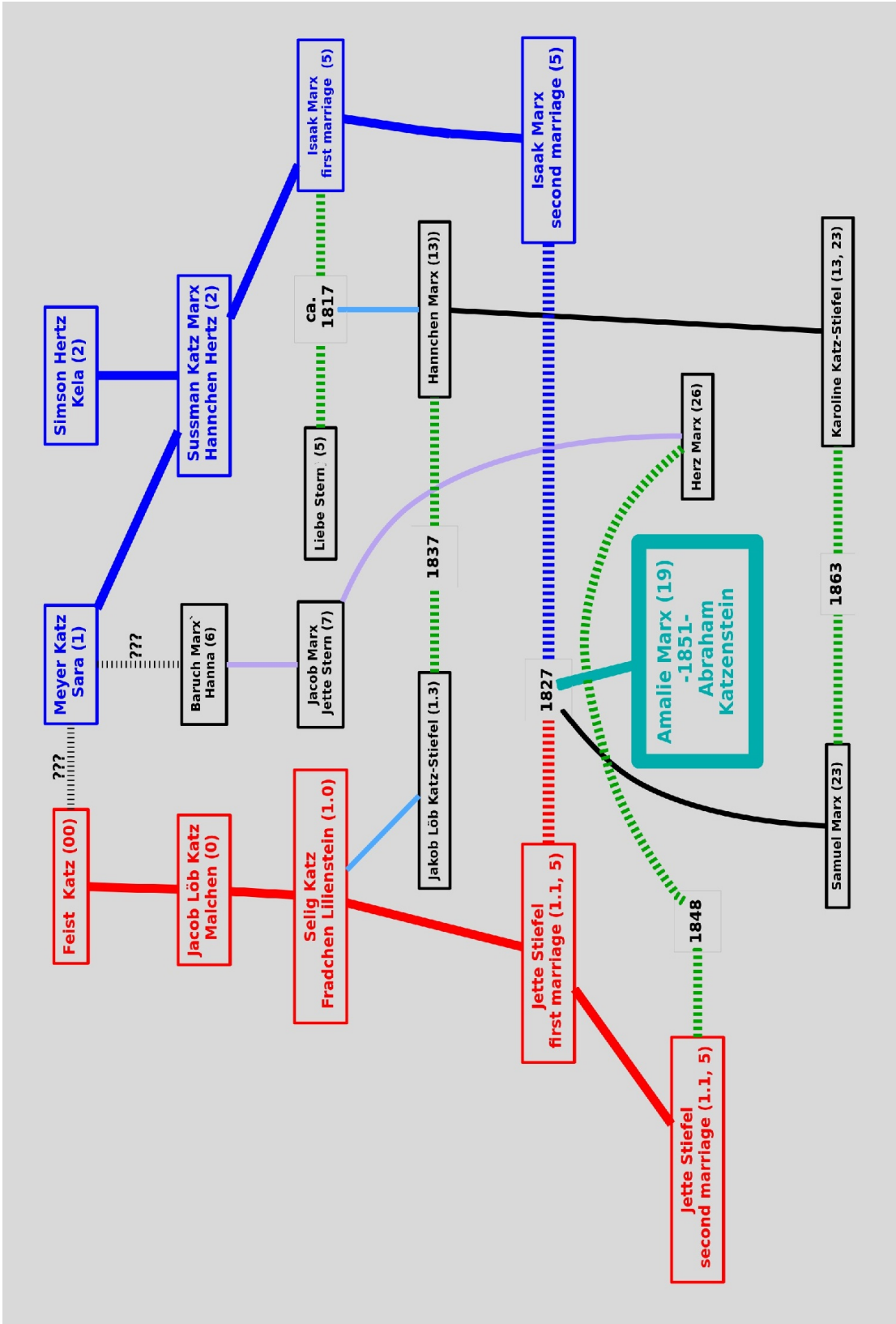
Already in 1976 I had heard how complicated the story was from Julius Stern [JS] (the son of Friedricke Katzenstein, child 9 above) and, as I recall, he mentioned some sort of health-related problem that were prevalent. A further aperçu, also dating from 1976, was forthcoming from Tilda Plaut [TP]. Tilda Plaut's paternal grandmother was Betti Marx, a sister of Amalie Marx and further she and her sister had both married the grandsons of Sara Marx (another sister) and Heinemann Katzenstein (the brother of Abraham Katzenstein). Further, as I learned from my own research their brother had married a granddaughter of Betti Marx!

When I started my own investigations, particularly when I started looking at other relationships between families with the name Marx, Katz-Stiefel, Katzenstein, and Plaut, I came to the conclusion that the inter-relationships was even more complicated (and confusing) than I could have imagined. I have indicated some of these in the text below and in the appendix to this chapter entitled, "The Plauts". The reader will excuse the excess numbr of exclamation marks which appear; my rough notes contained many more.

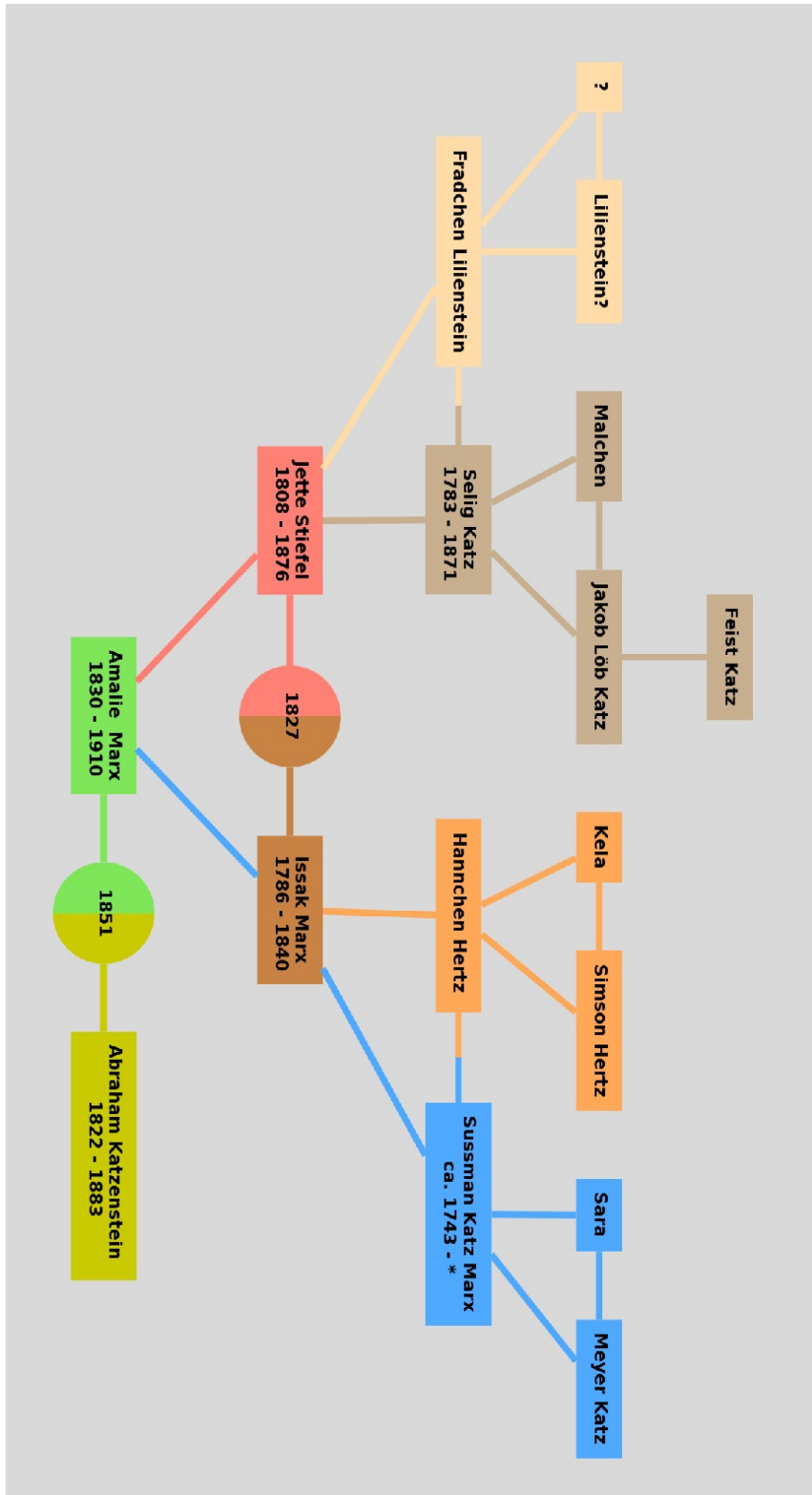
The chart on the next page is only a partial illustration of just how complicated the relationships between the ancestor of Amalie Marx are. The numbers with decimals, such as 1.1, are those of [SCH] and those with just integers, such as 5, are those of [KLE]. The designations 0 and 00 are used as identification numbers for the two entries without other numbers.

This chart is followed by a second chart that only shows the *direct* ancestors of Amalie Marx.

Common Ancestors



Common Ancestors



Common Ancestors

The Ancestors of Amalie Marx

The Parents of Amalie Marx

N.B. Because there are so many first and second marriages and other relationships involved in what follows, the discussion of the main line of ancestors is typeset in the normal font size, with text related to other people indented and in a smaller font size.

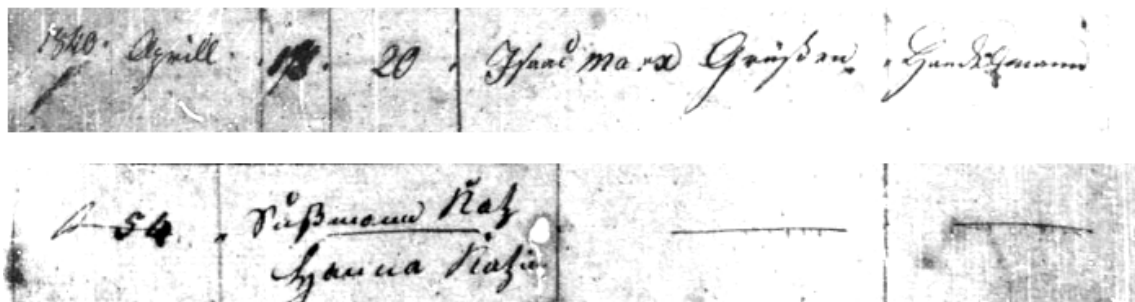
As mentioned above there were several changes of names in the families of interest. The maternal grandfather of Amalie Marx was called Selig Katz and on the 1812 and 1814 birth registrations of his children Amalie and Jakob his family name is still Katz. Thus the mother of Amalie Marx would have been known as Gütel Katz. However at the time of her marriage in 1827 to Issak Marx she was referred to as Jette Stiefel and I will use this latter name. The same for her brother, Jakob Katz who became known as Jakob Löb Katz-Stiefel [SCH, 1.3]. Similarly I will refer to the father of Issac Marx as Sussman Marx as this is the name that appears on his death certificate, even though his father was Meyer Katz.

Jette Stiefel *Gütel Katz* (121 • 11 / 211 • 111) 1808, Rauschenberg -- 1876.05.21?, Grösen [SCH, no. 1.1, KLE no. 5, 26]

Unfortunately the birth records for the Jews of Rauschenberg [LAGIS, 365-693, p. 3-4] do not exist for 1803 to 1811 so we do not have her BD. The date 1876.05.21 for her death is given in [KLE, no. 6]. I have searched the records for Grösen, Rauschenberg and Frankenau, but was unable to locate the record.

Issac Marx (121 • 12 / 211 • 112) ca. 1786, Grösen -- 1840.04.17, Grösen [KLE, no. 5], [LAGIS, 365-351, p. 7].

The cemetery listings in [LAGIS] do not include Grösen and so there is no possibility of searching for their tombstone and additional information. When we visited Grösen the cemetery plot was almost empty and the few remaining stones were in terrible condition.



1840.04.17: DD Isaak Marx with the names of his parents

There is a 1784 birth entry [LAGIS, 365-351, p. 7] for Emanuel Marx, the brother of

Common Ancestors

Issac Marx, and an entry for a person born in 1794, but for some reason Issac Marx does not appear. On the MD for his marriage with Jette Stiefel his age is given as forty-one, which would place his birth year as ca. 1786. In the 1811 copy of a document -- see below -- where his father Sussman Marx is officially declared deceased, the age of Issac Marx is said to be eighteen, but we do not know the date of the original act.

On the tombstone of his daughter Amalie Marx [HH, p. 567] he is referred to as Issac HaKohen. From a document, that I will discuss after first listing the three marriages involving this couple, we learn that Issac Marx was a cattle dealer, whereas the death entry describes him simply as a tradesman.

marriage: 1827.05.12, Grösen [KLE, no. 5], [LAGIS, 365-351, p. 60].

This was Jette Stiefel's first marriage and Issac Marx's second. Note that she was nineteen and that he was forty-one at the time of this marriage.



1827.05.12: MD Jette Stiefel and Isaac Marx

N.B. Jette Stiefel and Issac Marx were each married two times. I have given a number to all of the offspring of these marriages starting with the children they had together, then continuing with the children from Issac Marx's first marriage and then those from Jette Stiefel's second marriage.

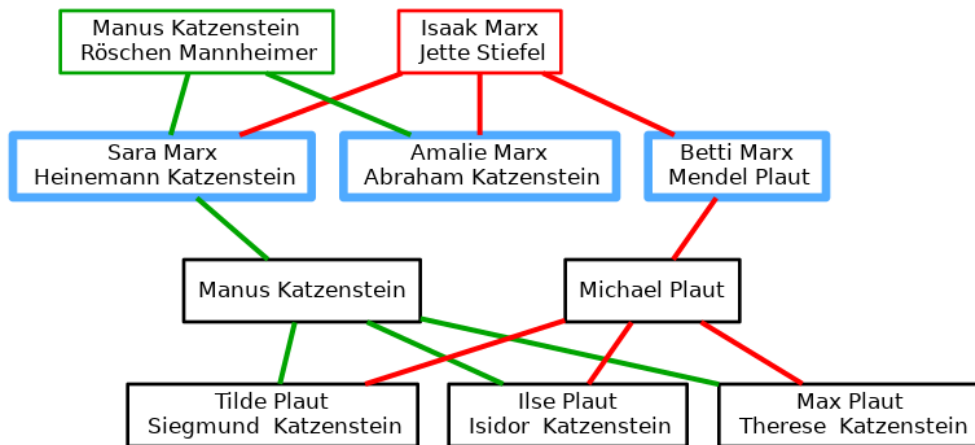
children of Jette Stiefel and Issac Marx [KLE, no. 5].

1. **Jakob Löb Marx** 1828.05.20, Grösen -- 1858.11.26, * [KLE, no. 17].
2. **Simson Marx** 1829.12.27, Grösen -- 1830.03.17, Grösen [KLE, no. 18].
3. **Amalie Marx Malchen** (121 • 1 / 211 • 11) 1830.12.16, Grösen -- 1910.02.27, Frankenberg [KLE, no. 19]; see above.
4. **Sara Marx** 1833.01.01, Grösen -- 1917.03.01, Frankenau [MD, KLE, no 20, TP , STA]
On 1855.05.20 she married Heineman Katzenstein, the brother of Abraham Katzenstein, and the story continues as their daughter Röschen Katzenstein (1855 - 1877) married (1877) Samuel Katz-Stiefel, the son of Jacob Katz-Stiefel and Hannchen Marx (child 8) below. [SCH, no. p. 177, 13.5].
5. **Johanette Marx** 1835.02.03, Grösen -- 1846.02.03, Grösen [KLE, no. 21].

Common Ancestors

6. **Betti Marx** 1837.03.24, Grösen -- 1919.02.20 [KLE, no. 22], [SCH, p. 175, 2.7].
She married Mendel Plaut of Rauschenberg and they had ten children; see the appendix, "The Plauts".
7. **Samuel Marx** 1839.03.28, Grösen -- * [KLE, no. 23].
See below under Hannchen Marx and Jette (Karoline) Katz-Stiefel!

The Three Marx Sisters



The sisters Amalie Marx and Sara Marx married the brothers Abraham Katzenstein and Heineman Katzenstein and, as I learned from [TP], the same scenario repeated itself two generations later when Tilde Plaut and her sister Ilse Plaut, the daughters of Michael Plaut, married two grandsons of Sara Marx and Heineman Katzenstein. In fact, while doing research on the Plauts -- for some reason Tilde Plaut did not mention him -- I learned that Tilde and Ilse had a brother Max, who married a Therese Katzenstein. Upon checking the latter's birth certificate I learned that she was a daughter of Manus Katzenstein (the latter being the son of Heinemann Katzenstein, and not Heinemann's father of the same name), which means that she was the sister of Siegmund Katzenstein and Isidor Katzenstein. Thus there was a triple intermarriage between the children of Manus Katzenstein and Michael Plaut!

The relationships are shown in the diagram, with the details regarding the Plauts being discussed in the appendix. I started to construct an expanded version of the diagram which showed further links between the Katzenstein and Plaut families and well as links with Marx and Stiefel/Katz-Stiefel, but these are so numerous and complicated that it would have been incomprehensible.

First marriage of Issac Marx: with Liebe Stern, ca. 1817 [KLE, no. 5].

Common Ancestors

Issak Marx died on 1840.04.17 when Jette Stiefel was thirty-two years old and had many children (see below) to look after. Some five and a half years later, on 1845.09.10, she remarried, this time to Herz Marx (1815.03.12, Grösen -- 1859.01.11). Whereas in her first marriage Jette Stiefel married someone who was twenty-two years older than herself, in her second marriage she married someone seven years younger. After fourteen years, with even more children to care for, she became a widow for a second time and lived another seventeen years.

Herz Marx

Who was this second husband of Jette Stiefel? His father was Jacob Marx (ca. 1779, Grösen -- 1835.05.15, Grösen and his paternal grandfather was Baruch Marx [KLE, no. 7, 6]. Issak Marx ([KLE, no. 5]), on the other hand, was a son of Sussmann Marx who in turn was the son of Meyer Katz [KLE, no. 2, 1]. There is no indication that Baruch Marx was also a son of Meyer Katz. In fact [KLE] states that there was no connection, although I do not know how one can be sure. In any case I have indicated the possible relationship by question marks on the chart. If Baruch Marx were indeed a brother of Sussmann Marx then Herz Marx would have been a nephew of Jette Stiefel's first husband Issak Marx. As we have already seen in connection with child 8 this would not have been out of place in the history of these families.

And while we are discussing family names, notice that the family name of the father of Sussmann Marx was Katz and not Marx. Was he related to the Katzs of Rauschenberg? If so this would add another layer of relationship between these families.

children from the second marriage of Jette Stiefel:

12. **Johanna Marx** 1848.01.10 Grösen -- * [KLE, no. 71].
13. **Rickchen Marx** 1849.05.10, Grösen -- * [KLE, no. 72].
14. **Frommet Marx** 1850.12.17, Grösen -- * [KLE, no. 73].
15. **Jakob Marx** 1852.10.15, Grösen -- * [KLE, no. 74].
16. **Fradchen Marx** 1854.10.19, Grösen -- *[KLE, no. 75].

Jette Stiefel's Life After the Death of Issac Marx

Brandt's book is about the Jews of Frankenau, but in his discussion [BRA, p. 33] of the difficulties that Meyer Blum of Frankenau encountered in obtaining the right to add spices to the items he sold, in what we would call a corner store (*Tante-Emma-Läden*), he provides three similar examples. One of these was a request by Jette Stiefel (identified as Jette Stiefel Marx) to open a fabric and drapery store

Common Ancestors

(*Ellen- und Schnittwaren*) in Grösen after the death of Issac Marx in 1840. She writes that, from both a physical and moral viewpoint, being a cattle dealer was not a suitable occupation for a woman and especially a mother with nine, mainly underage children. The administration refused the request on the grounds that Grösen, with twenty-eight houses and two hundred and ninety-seven inhabitants, had no need for such a store.

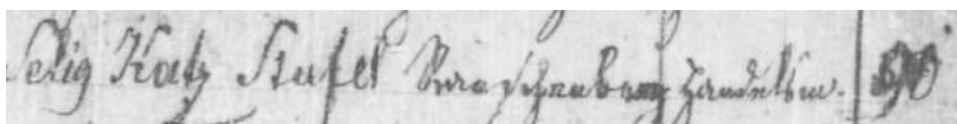
Since the request mentions nine children and Issac Marx and Jette Stiefel had seven children together, the two other children were probably Meier Marx (born in 1823) and Ruben Marx (born in 1825) from Issac Marx's first marriage.

The question of interest is how did Jette Stiefel manage after the request was refused. It was not until ca. 1846 that she married Herz Marx. Since he was born in 1815 he would have been thirty-one and therefore they could have married years before. Perhaps support was forthcoming from the other Marxs in Grösen. We know that Hannchen Marx (child 8) married Jakob Löb Katz-Stiefel, Jette Stiefel's brother, in 1837, so there was perhaps help from from that quarter.

The Maternal Grandparents of Amalie Marx

The Parents of Jette Stiefel

Even though we do not have a birth notice for Jette Stiefel, we find the names of her parents on the birth notice of her brother Jakob Katz. The same names appear on the birth notice of her sister Amelia Katz, born 1812.05.07 [LAGIS, 365-693, p. 3]. From Jakob's date of birth we know that his mother was still alive in 1814. There are no Jewish marriage records for Rauschenberg before 1827 and no civil records for Rauschenberg before 1874 so that marriage records of the parents are not available.



1814.06.05: BD Jakob Katz

Fradchen Lilienstein (121•111 / 211•111•1) * -- a. 1814, Rauschenberg? [SCH, no. 1].

Selig Katz *Selig Katz Stiefel* (121•112 / 211•111•2) 1783.04.10, Rauschenberg -- 1871.02.02, Rauschenberg [SCH, no. 1, BD, DD, LAGIS, 365-693, p. 3, 7].

On his birth notice the family name is Katz, but on the death notice it is Katz Stiefel.

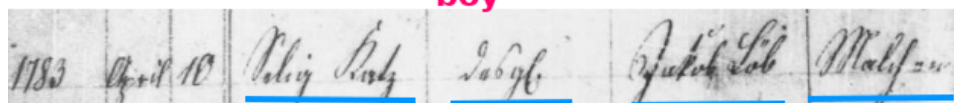
Common Ancestors

Selig Katz

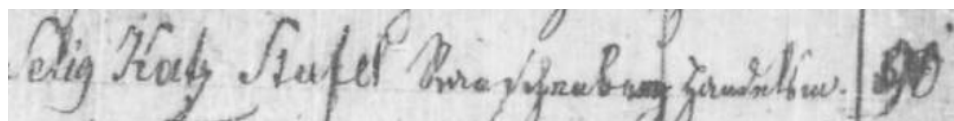
"same as
above", i.e.
boy

Jacob Löb

Malchen



1783.04.10: BD Selig Katz with the names of his parents



1871.02.02: DD Selig Katz Stiefel, part

children:

1. **Jette Stiefel** (121•11 / 211•111) 1808, Rauschenberg -- 1876.05.21?, grüsen; see above.
2. **Amalie Katz** 1812.05.07, Rauschenberg -- 1843.01.04, Rauschenberg [SCH, no. 1.2, BD].
3. **Jakob Löb Katz-Stiefel** 1814.06.05, Rauschenberg -- 1880.06.02 [SCH, no. 1.3, BD]. See the discussion above under child 8.

Mitochondrial DNA

Note that Fradchen Lilienstein has 211•111•1 as her identification number, which makes her a four times great-grandmother of Roger. Of greater interest is that since the number 2 is followed by six ones, Roger (2) is a strictly matrilineal descendant and thus has inherited Fradchen Lilienstein's Mitochondrial DNA.^{DVD} I hope (2019.05.22) to have this Mitochondrial DNA recorded so as to provide a positive link to this ancestor. Eliane does not have this Mitochondrial DNA, because with respect to Eliane the identification number for Fradchen Lilienstein is 121•111, with her father Albert Herz (12) breaking up the Mitochondrial link. She does have a Mitochondrial link to Hindel Gerstel (111•111•1) [see: *An Alsatian Jewish Story*, p.39] who lived in Alsace in the eighteenth century. Thus these two matriarchal ancestors were contemporaries.

Great-Grandparents of Amalie Marx

The Parents of Selig Katz

The names of the parents are given on his birth entry; see above.

Malchen (121•112•1 / 211•111•21) * [SCH, no.0].

Common Ancestors

Jaköb Löb Katz (121•112•2 / 211•111•22) * -- b. 1830 [SCH,no.0].

Schneider states that his name appears in an authorization of residence document (*Schutzbrief*) dated 1776.11.10.

children:

1. **Selig Katz** (121•112 / 211•111•2) 1783.04.10, Rauschenberg--1871.02.02, Rauschenberg; see above.
2. **Mendel Katz** * -- 1788.03.08 [SCH,no.0].

A Two Times Great-Grandfather of Amalie Marx

The Father of Jaköb Löb Katz

This person was a five times great-grandfather of Eliane Herz and a six times great-grandfather of Roger Fischler.

Feist Katz (121•112•22 / 211•111•222) ca. 1700 -- a. 1760 [SCH,no.00].

It is possible that the name Feist Katz appeared on the authorization of residence document, mentioned just above, accorded to his son Jaköb Löb Katz.

Schneider notes that there was an Issak Katz, alive in 1742 and still alive in 1790. There is no indication of any relationship between the two Katzs.

child:

1. **Jaköb Löb Katz** (121•112•2 / 211•111•22); see above.

The Ancestors of Issac Marx

In 2009 Hans-Peter Klein kindly sent me copies of all the documents that he found while doing research for [KLE]. Among these was a series of death certificates dated 1811.05.16, for the six ancestors of Issac Marx given below. One of these, for Sussman Marx, is only an abstract and so even though Issac Marx signed the original we unfortunately do not have an example of his signature. This death certificate is the only one which has a date of death, the others either give a year, or simply affirm that the person is deceased. Perhaps the creation of legal statements to the effect that a person was deceased was linked to a desire by the authorities to create some sort of census for the Jews of Grösen.

The Paternal Grandparents of Amalie Marx

The Parents of Issac Marx

Hannchen Hertz (121•121 / 211•112•1) * -- 1809, Grösen [KLE,no.2].

Common Ancestors

Hanna Marx wife of

Sussman Marx

1809 is indeed deceased

Handwritten German text snippet with blue underlines. The text includes 'Hanna Marx', 'Sussman Marx', and '1809'.

1809: DD Hannchen Hertz, dated 1811.05.16

Sussman Marx (121•122 / 211•112•2) ca. 1743, Grüsen 1810.07.02, Grüsen [KLE, no. 2].

Isaac Marx, age 18

father, the tradesman Sussman Marx (Grüsen) 67

2nd of July 1810

passed away

Handwritten German text snippet with blue underlines. The text includes 'Isaac Marx', 'Sussman Marx', and '1810'.

1810.07.02: DD Sussman Marx, dated 1811.05.16

children:

1. Meier Marx ca. 1784, Grüsen -- 1849.04.21, Grüsen [KLE, no. 3].
He married Edel Meier and they had four children.
2. Emanuel Marx ca. 1784, Grüsen -- * [KLE, no. 4].
3. Issac Marx (121•12 / 211•112) ca. 1786, Grüsen -- 1840.04.17, Grüsen; see above.

The Paternal Great-Grandparents of Amalie Marx

The Parents of Hannchen Hertz

Kela (121•121•1 / 211•112•11) * -- b. 1811.05.16, Grüsen [KLE, no. 2].

Common Ancestors

Kela Hertz wife of
 Simson Hertz and
 grandmother of
 Emanuel
 Marx on his mother's
 side is indeed
 deceased

1809: DD Kela *, dated 1811.05.16

Simson Hertz (121•121•2 / 211•112•12) * -- b.1811.05.16, Grösen [KLE, no.2].

Simson Hertz
 grandfather
 [on his] mother's side
 [of] Emanuel Marx
 is indeed deceased

DD Simson Hertz, dated 1811.05.16

The Parents of Sussman Marx.

Sara (121•122•1 / 211•112•21) * -- b.1811.05.16, Grösen [KLE, no.1].

Sara Katz
 grandmother
 [of] Emanuel
 Marx on his father's
 side
 is indeed deceased

DD Sarah *, dated 1811.05.16

Common Ancestors

Meyer Katz (121•122•2 / 211•112•22) * -- b.1811.05.16, Grösen [KLE, no. 1].

Meyer Katz
grandfather of
Emanuel
Marx on his father's
side is indeed
deceased

Joseph Meyer Katz Großvater des
Emanuel Marx
Handwritten text in German and Hebrew script.

DD Meyer Katz, dated 1811.05.16

The Parents of Abraham Katzenstein

Resede Mannheimer (121•21 / 211•121) ca.1797, Ungedanken?--1853.[10.18?], Frankenau [D; see the discussion].

Manus Katzenstein (121•22 / 211•122) ca.1785, Erdmannrode--1856.06.07, Frankenau [D; see the discussion].

On the tombstone of his son Abraham Katzenstein [HH, p.544] he is referred to as Menachem HaKohen.

The first death notice below, dated 1852.08.05, is that of Issac Katzenstein, child 1 (born 1852.05.20) of Amalie Marx and Abraham Katzenstein. The second is that of Resede Mannheimer, here referred to as Reis, who is identified as the wife of Manus Katzenstein. It is dated 1853.[10.18?] and her age at death is given as fifty-six, so that she was born ca. 1797. The third is that of Manus Katzenstein. It is dated 1856.06.07 and his age at death is given seventy-one, so that he was born ca. 1785. There was thus a fifteen year age difference between the wife and husband. Manus Katzenstein is listed as a tradesman (*Handelsmann*).

These death certificates were taken from the Jewish record books of Frankenau, so that even as late as 1856 the Jews in Hessen-Kassel were treated differently.

1852 August 5 6 Mann Issac Katzenstein
1853 Oktober 19 Reis Katzenstein
1856 Juni 7 Manus Katzenstein
21600 Mann Abraham Katzenstein
56 Reis Katzenstein
71 Mann Katzenstein

DD Issac Katzenstein, Resede Mannheimer, Manus Katzenstein

Common Ancestors

What the Sources say about this Couple

Resede Mannheimer:

According to [JS] she was born in Ungedanken bei Fritzlar in 1797, so the date agrees with the death certificate. [RK] only gives her name. Brandt [BRA, p.24] has 1777 which is probably a typographic error. He also gives her place of birth as Ungedanken.

Ungedanken, which is now part of the Fritzlar region, is about 25 km east of Frankenau. According to the town's web site Jews settled in Ungedanken ca. 1600 as a result of the Khmelnytsky Cossack uprising in Poland, in which tens of thousands of Jews were massacred. I note, however, that this uprising took place in the period 1648 to 1657. There were two Jews with the surname Pollack in Frankenberg in the late seventeen hundreds [HH, pp.446-449], [BRA, p. 15]. If Resede Mannheimer is descended from Polish Jews there might a mixture of western and eastern DNA in her descendants.^{DVD}

Manus Katzenstein

According to Richard Katzenstein [RK] he was born in Erdmannrode in 1785. On the copy of the genealogy on which I recorded Julius Stern's comments [JS], the date of 1785 had been obtained from [RK]. The former added "bei Hersfeld" to the Erdmannrode on the sheet, but for the date I have "1796?", which must indicate that Julius Stern was not sure of the date; perhaps he was influenced by the 1797 date he had given for Resede Mannheimer. According to [BRA, p.24] Manus Katzenstein was born in Ungedanken in 1788. My tendency would be to give more credit to [RK] and [JS], especially since Richard Katzenstein had the correct date.

Erdmannrode is about 65 km south-east of Ungedanken, where Resede Mannheimer is said to have been born.^{DVD}

Thanks to [BRA] we have a glimpse into the life of Manus Katzenstein. A summary is given in [STA].

We do not know exactly when Manus moved to Frankenau, but his name does not appear on an 1811 list of Jews [BRA, p.25]. This was the period (extending from 1807 to 1813) when Jerome Bonaparte, the brother of Napoleon, was the ruler of the Kingdom of Westphalia. As far as our ancestors were concerned this kingdom replaced the Principality of Kurhessen (also known as Electorate of Hesse, Hesse-Kassel, Kurfürstentum Hessen). In theory the Jews now enjoyed equal rights, but in practice this was not always the case.

After the dissolution of the kingdom in 1813 things reverted to the pre-1807 situation and once again Jews had to apply for permission to reside in towns. Thus in 1820 Manus and his wife had to pay a residency fee in Frankenau [BRA, p.29]. Manus thought that this gave him permanent residency, but in 1836 he was told by the officials that he only had the status of an "owner".

In 1836 [BRA, p.29] Manus owned nine acres (*Acker*: an imperial acre was about .4

Common Ancestors

hectares, it varied in different parts of Germany). However, on p.24 the figure given is one and a half acres in 1838.

We have a copy of a letter dating from 1827, unfortunately written by a scribe and thus not in Manus' handwriting, in which he says that, given his situation, he had been made to contribute too much towards the special church tax imposed on Jews. He compares his situation to that of two Jews in other towns, who he says are rich and should be paying relatively more (interestingly one of these is Emanuel Marx [KLE, no.4] who was the brother of Issak Marx, the future father-in-law of Manus' son Abraham). Manus says that Frankenau is a poor town, that business is poor, profits are low and that he has to sell things on credit. Further he suffers from poor health and his wife has crooked limbs so that she can not even go out. Despite an attestation from the regional doctor all this was to no avail.

In 1833 Manus Katzenstein was accused of using false weights, but, since apparently this was not an uncommon charge by competitors, we do not know whether this was indeed the case. The case came up again in 1843 [BRA, p.32] and Manus explained that he always added a little of the merchandise after the scales balanced. In addition one of his sons -- not named -- had been twice sentenced for peddling. Manus agreed to pay a fine, but pleaded that his grocery not be closed due to his poor health and the need to support his family. He obtained the support of eighty-four fellow citizens as well as that of the Protestant minister, the cantor, the director of markets and the forestry officer and also an attestation from the regional doctor in Frankenberg to the effect that he was indeed weak and unable to do any work aside from running a store. The police wanted to make an example and responded that a sick wife and poverty were no excuse. If I understand Brandt correctly there is no doubt that the store was closed. He further notes that there were many anonymous denunciations at the time and that while in theory Jews were to be treated equally, in practice that was not the case.

This is the last time that Brandt discusses Manus Katzenstein, so we do not have any further details regarding the rest of his life. His sons, Abraham Katzenstein and Heinemann Katzenstein were still in Frankenau at the time of Manus's death. Abraham, at least, was well off so Resede and Manus probably received help from them.

Marriage

According to [BRA, p.24] the couple were married in 1820. [LAGIS] does not show any marriage acts prior to 1829, so I could not verify the date. For birth records the earliest date is 1824, so the acts for Sarah and Abraham are not verifiable on-line. In the discussion concerning the money that Manus had to pay in 1820, Brandt [p.29] writes that part of this money was for the right to bring his wife to Frankenau and he suggests that a marriage in Frankenau would have resulted in fewer problems. This could mean that the couple married where Resede Mannheimer lived, and possibly that Manus had already moved to Frankenau.

Common Ancestors

Children:

1. **Sarah Katzenstein** ca. 1820, Frankenau -- 1866.12.01, Altenlotheim [STA, BRA, p.24]
I do not know how these dates were obtained, I was unable to locate any relevant documents in [LAGIS]
On 1841.08.26 she married Mannes Schiff in Altenlotheim. They had several children of whom two left for the U.S. in 1873.
2. **Abraham Katzenstein** (1 2 1 • 2 / 2 1 1 • 1 2) 1822.07.22, Frankenau--1883.06.04, Frankenberg; see above.
3. **Heinemann Katzenstein** 1824.06.17, Frankenau -- 1891.[03].31 [B, D].
On 1854.05.30 he married Sarah Marx, the sister of Amalie Marx; see above under "The Marx Sisters".
4. **Hanne Katzenstein** 1827.01.27, Frankenau -- * [BRA, p.24].
5. **Wolf Katzenstein** 1829.06.11, Frankenau -- * [BRA, p.24].
6. **Meyer Katzenstein** 1834.07.12, Frankenau -- 1903.08.23, Frankenau [STA, DD].
He owned a leather shop in Frankenau.

The Probable Parents of Manus Katzenstein

According to [RK] the father of Manus Katzenstein was **Abraham ben Menachem**.

In June of 2019, I had an exchange of e-mails with Barbara Greve of Gilserberg (by coincidence the home town of Julius Stern [JS]). She had done her research in Erdmannrode, Niederurff, Schwarzenborn, and Treysa, and also in Frankenau: The following is based exclusively on the content of her two letters. I have, for the purpose of this formal text, simply combined, rearranged and partially rewritten what she told me.

The couple Abraham Katzenstein, from Erdmannrode, and Sara Ephraim had four sons that we know of:

1. Jakob Katz/Katzenstein born in 1768. In 1813 he married a girl from Schwarzenborn and settled there.
2. Susmann Katz/Katzenstein, born in 1769. He was a witness at the marriage of his brother Jakob. He settled in the village of Niederurff, where he married before 1809. Susmann had two children named Abraham after his father and David after the father of his wife.
3. Leib Katzenstein, born in 1777. He was a witness at the marriage of his brother Jakob. He settled in the village of Treysa, where he married in 1813.

Common Ancestors

4. Manus Katzenstein, born in 1786. In a document from 1816 he is named as housemate of his brother Leib in Treysa.

In all my investigations over the years, I have not yet found the missing link, which would definitely prove the connection. The sources for Erdmannrode and Ungedanken are poor. The place of birth of *Manus Katzenstein* is nowhere specified in the files I have examined in Frankenau. It will probably always remain a 99 percent guess!

All these towns seem to be far away from each other, but the communication between Jewish communities had been well established by the traders and cattle dealers.

The question of interest is whether child 4 is one and the same person as “our” Manus Katzenstein. First we note that the 1786 year of birth of child 4 is essentially the same as the ca. 1785 from [RK] and the death document from Frankenau. Much more circumstantial evidence is suggested by the name “Abraham”, which was the name of the father of child 4 and the name that Manus Katzenstein gave to his oldest son. However, since Abraham is a very common Jewish name this might not mean very much.

Combining the information in [RK] and the above information from Barbara Greve, we have:

Sara Ephraim? (121•221 / 211•122•1) *.

Abraham ben Menachem / Abraham Katzenstein? (121•222 / 211•122•2) *.

The Probable Grandfather of Manus Katzenstein

From [RK] we have:

Menachem? (121•222•2 / 211•122•22) * [RK].

The Plauts

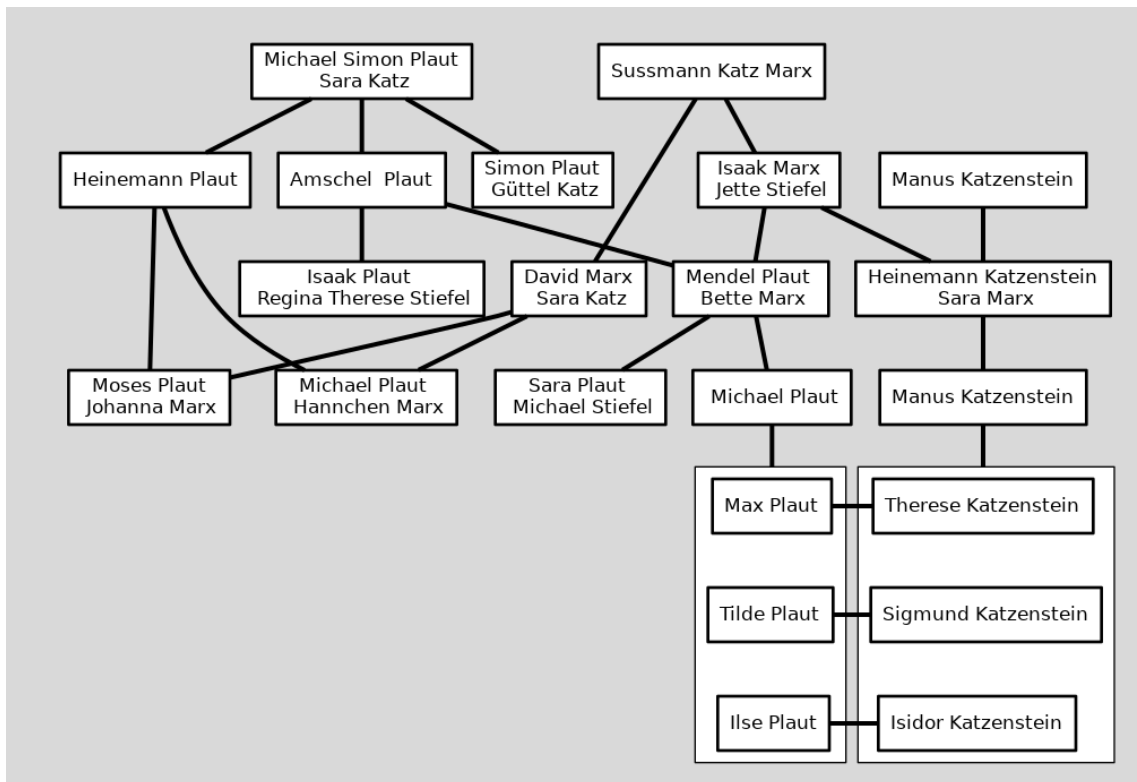
We saw in the discussion on, “The Marx Sisters”, that there were marriages between Katzensteins and Plauts, in particular those mentioned in [TP]. There are others that I noticed in [SCH] and [KLE], as well as marriages between people named Plaut and people named Marx, Katz and Stiefel. I thought that it would of interest to explore these relationships further, as an illustration of how the *Landjuden* families intermarried. It turns out that there is an entire work devoted to various Plaut families:

Common Ancestors

[EP] Plaut, Elizabeth S. Plaut. 2007. *The Plaut Family/Tracing the Legacy*. Bergenfield, New jersey: Avotaynu.

According to page 2, the author found 11,000 Plauts! The book itself is divided according to the towns where the first people named Plaut were located. The numbering starts anew for each town and it follows the d'Aboville system, with a period between each number, e.g. Tilly Plaut has the identification number 1.1.1.2.7.5.3, with the 3 at the end indicating that she was the third child of her father Michael Plaut, number 1.1.1.2.7.5. In turn the 5 at the end of his number indicates that Michael Plaut was the fifth child of 1.1.1.2.7, who is listed *nine* pages earlier, after *all* the descendants of the previous four children are listed. An index provides some relief from this cumbersome situation. The system in [SCH] is easier to follow because there is only one period before the last digit, and more importantly Schneider first lists all the children right after the parents and then later on discusses the individual children.

The following chart indicates the relationships between the various members of the Plaut, Marx and Katzenstein families.



Of interest to us are the Rauschenberg Plauts [EP, pp.137 - 164]. The following list only includes Plauts who married a Marx, Katz or Stiefel. If a person is related to the

Common Ancestors

extended family of Amalie Marx then this is indicated, otherwise I do not know.

The first number is the identification number in [EP] and is separated from the number in [SCH, p.173 ff.] by a ♦, with a dash indicating that the person is not listed. References to [KLE], [HH] and [BRA] are mentioned in the discussion. The designation (child 4) refers to the numbering of the siblings and half-siblings of Amelia Marx listed above under “The Parents of Amalie Marx”. Only the years and places of birth and death are given. The number of generations that a person is removed from Michael Simon Plaut, the first person cited, can be obtained by subtracting 3 from the number of digits in the [EP] reference number.

Michael Simon Plaut 1753,* -- *, Rauschenberg (1.1.1 ♦ “0”). He married **Sara Katz**.

Michael Simon Plaut had three children of interest to us:

Simon Plaut 1780, Rauschenberg -- 1849, Rauschenberg (1.1.1.1 ♦ 1). He married **Güttel Katz**.

None of his descendants is of direct interest to us.

Amschel Plaut 1791, Rauschenberg -- 1892, Rauschenberg (1.1.1.2 ♦ 2); see below.

Heinemann Plaut 1800, Rauschenberg -- 1874, Frankenau (1.1.1.5 ♦ -); see below.

The Descendants of Amschel Plaut (1.1.1.2 ♦ 2)

Isaak Plaut 1885, Rauschenberg -- 1952, New York (1.1.1.2.1.1.4 ♦ 211.5). He married **Regina Therese Stiefel** 1887, Rauschenberg -- 1968, New York.

The parents of **Regina Therese Stiefel** were **Röschen Katzenstein** and **Samuel Katz-Stiefel**. In turn the parents of Röschen Katzenstein were **Heineman Katzenstein**, the brother of Abraham Katzenstein, and **Sara Marx** (child 4). Samuel Katz-Stiefel was the son of **Jacob Katz-Stiefel** and **Hannchen Marx**. As discussed above under “Hannchen Marx”, she was child 8 from the first marriage of Isaak Marx and thus the half-sister of Sara Marx, and further Jacob Katz-Stiefel was the brother of Jette Stiefel!

Mendel Plaut 1833, Rauschenberg -- 1918, Rauschenberg (1.1.1.2.7 ♦ 2.7). He married **Bette Marx** (child 6) who was the daughter of **Jette Stiefel** and **Isaak Marx** and thus another sister of Amalie Marx.

Mendel Plaut had two children of interest to us:

Sara Plaut 1859, Rauschenberg -- 1931, Rauschenberg (1.1.1.2.7.1 ♦ 27.1). She married **Michael Stiefel** 1852, Rauschenberg -- 1937, Rauschenberg.

Michael Plaut 1872, Rauschenberg -- 1951, New York (1.1.1.2.7.5 ♦ 27.8).

Michael Plaut had three children of interest to us; see above under “The Marx Sisters” for a digram and other details.

Common Ancestors

Max Plaut 1901, Rauschenberg -- 1969, * (1.1.1.2.7.5.2 ♦ 278.2). He married **Therese Katzenstein** who was a granddaughter of **Sara Marx** (child 4) and **Heinemann Katzenstein**, the brother of Abraham Katzenstein.

Tilde (Tilly) Plaut 1905, Rauschenberg -- 1984, Israel (1.1.1.2.7.5.3 ♦ -). She married **Sigmund Katzenstein** who was a brother of **Therese Katzenstein** [TP].

Ilse Plaut 1908, Rauschenberg -- 1992, New York (1.1.1.2.7.5.4 ♦ 278.4) [TP]. She married **Isidor Katzenstein**, who was the brother of **Sigmund Katzenstein** and **Therese Katzenstein**.

Thus we have a *triple intermarriage* between the children of Manus Katzenstein (the son of Heinemann Katzenstein, brother of Abraham Katzenstein) and the children of Michael Plaut.

The Descendants of Heinemann Plaut (1.1.1.5 ♦ -)

Two sons of **Heinemann Plaut** married daughters of **David Marx** and **Sara Katz**:

Michael Plaut 1830, Frankenau -- 1892, Frankenau (1.1.1.5.1 ♦ -).

He married **Hannchen Marx**, ca. 1843, *Gemüsen* -- 1907, Frankenau.

Moses Plaut 1833, Frankenau -- 1911, Frankenau (1.1.1.5.1.2 ♦ -).

In 1861 he married **Johanna Marx**, 1841, * -- 1914, *.

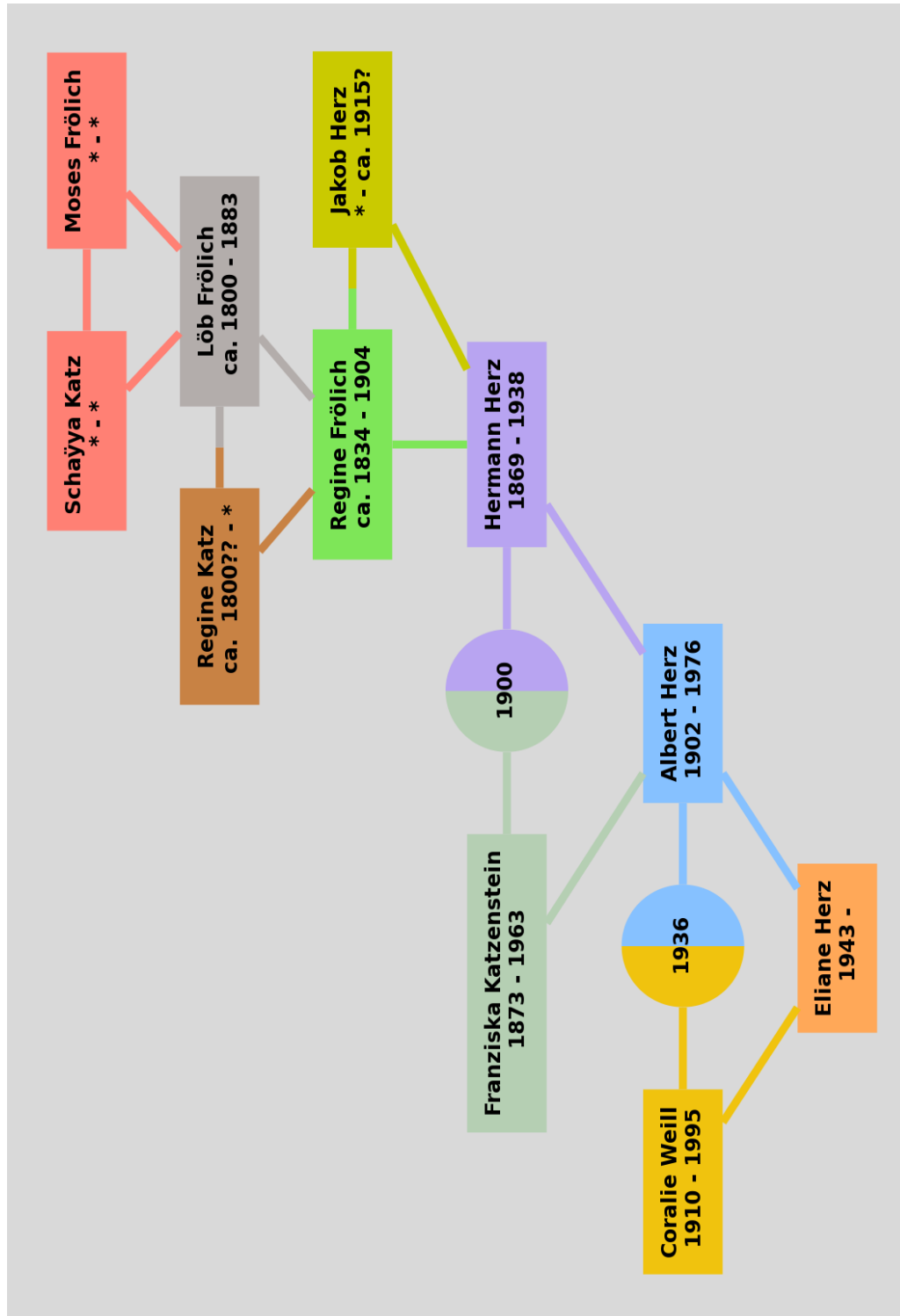
Now turning to [KLE, no. 10] we find a **David Marx** (1815, *Grüsen* -- *) who in 1841 married a **Sara Katz**. This David Marx in turn was the son of **Meier Marx**, the brother of **Isaac Marx**, the father of **Amalie Marx**. For daughter number 40 we read:

Johanna/Hannchen Marx, born 1843.04.29, she was married on 1861.11.20 to **Moses Plaut**, born 29.06.1833 in Frankenau, son of Heinemann Plaut and his wife Jette. Johanna and Moses Plaut lived in Frankenberg. ... Moses Plaut died on 1911.03.04 in Frankenau. Johanna Plaut died on 1914.12.04 in Frankenau.

The dates for **Moses Plaut** in [KLE] and [PL] agree, as do the dates for the death of **Johanna/Hannchen Marx**. On the other hand the 1843 birth date in [KLE] corresponds to that of Hannchen Marx, the wife of Michael Plaut. Given the information in [PL], I suspect that there is a conflation of the data for the two daughters, Johanna and Hannchen. **Johanna Marx** is not listed in [KLE]. The place of birth of Hannchen Marx is given as *Gemüsen* [PL]. Probably the town of *Gemünden* was meant as the town of *Gemünden* lies 4 km south of *Grüsen*. In fact *Grüsen* is now one of the constituent towns of the town of *Gemünden* (also called *Gemünden* [on the river] *Wohra* to distinguish it from another *Gemünden* in Hessen).

The Haiger Group

The following chart shows the known ancestors of Eliane Herz (1) on her paternal grandfather's side. Her paternal grandmother's side is discussed in the chapter "Common Ancestors". Her mother's side is discussed in the book, *An Alsatian Jewish Story/The Ancestors of Coralie Weill of Marmoutier*.



Haiger Group

Eliane Herz (1)

Eliane Herz *Eliane Herz-Fischler* (1) 1943.01.23, Limoges -- [BD, MD, P].

Roger Fischler *Roger Herz-Fischler* (2) 1940.02.22, New York -- [BD, MD, P].

See “The Hilchenbach Group” for a summary of his life

marriage: 1964.04.12, New York.

The Name “Herz-Fischler”

Eliane had used Eliane Herz Fischler (without the dash) on her 1977 doctoral thesis. Then in 1982, after eighteen years of marriage, we decided to combine our original family names. We started using it in France during the sabbatical year 1982-1983 when we were away from people who knew us as “Fischler”. The name of all members of the family was legally changed from Fischler to Herz-Fischler when we returned to Ottawa in the summer of 1983. The province issued Mychèle and Seline new Ontario birth certificates with the new family name. Rachel, Mychèle’s daughter, decided that she too wanted have Herz-Fischler as her family name and it too was legally changed. That brought the world total to five persons!

To avoid confusion, in this book Eliane and Roger are referred to as Eliane Herz and Roger Fischler respectively.

children:

1. Mychèle Erica Herz-Fischler. 1969.01.24, Thornhill, Ontario -- .
2. Seline Denise Herz-Fischler, 1972.06.29, Ottawa, Ontario -- .

A summary of Eliane’s life appears below. Her book, *Ma Famille*, provides more details and contains many more pictures.

The Parents of Eliane Herz

Coralie Weill (11) 1910.03.21, Marmoutier -- 1995.08.07, New York [BD, MD, DD, P].

See *An Alsation Jewish Story* for her ancestors

Albert Herz (12) 1902.09.07, Haiger -- 1976.12.12, New York [BD, MD, DD, P].

Haiger Group

marriage: 1936.02.03, Marmoutier [MD, P].

children

1. **Arlette Herz** 1940.04.22, Paris --

She married Henry Strauss (1959.09); children: Karen, Susan, Wayne.

2. **Eliane Herz** (1) 1943.01.23, Limoges -- ; see above.



Clermont-Ferrand, 1975.09: Mychèle, Coralie, Eliane, Albert, Seline

The following is a very brief summary of some of the salient events in the lives of this family; they are described in more detail in Eliane's book *Ma Famille*:

Albert Herz grew up in the town of Haiger, some 100 km north of Frankfurt, where he worked with his father in the livestock business. Coralie Weill was the daughter of a butcher in the small Alsatian town of Marmoutier, some 30 km west of Strasbourg. In September of 1935 Albert Herz fled Nazi Germany and went to the home of his sister, Gerda Herz, who lived in Belfort, France. The couple met when Gerda Herz invited Coralie Weill to come for Rosh Hashannah. They married in February of 1936 -- see the marriage photo in the frontispiece -- and in June of 1937 they moved to Paris, where Albert Herz worked in the wholesale cloth industry.

Their lives changed dramatically in September of 1939 with the outbreak of WWII. Albert Herz joined the French Foreign Legion and was stationed in Morocco until he was demobilized in March of 1941, in the city of Limoges. Fortunately for him

Haiger Group

Limoges was located at that time in the non-occupied portion of France. In August of 1941 he found work as a logger in the hamlet of Chéronnac. While Albert Herz was in the Foreign Legion the couple's daughter Arlette was born in Paris in April of 1940. In late 1941 Coralie Weill crossed the demarcation line to join Albert Herz in Chéronnac. Eliane was born in Limoges in January of 1943 and the family lived in Chéronnac, together with Albert's mother Franziska Katzenstein. Once the war was over the family was able to return to their apartment in Paris.



1960s: Coralie Weill, Albert Herz at Le Mont-Dore

Another major change in their lives was the result of Arlette's visit to New York in the summer of 1957. During that time she became engaged and this, coupled with Albert Herz losing his job, as well as the tense political situation in France linked to the colonial war in Algeria, led to the family's decision to emigrate in September of 1958. In the meantime Arlette broke off the engagement and later married Henry Strauss. Roger took Eliane to some college dances, and often saw her, along with her parents, but a romance only developed in December of 1963 when he returned from graduate studies in Oregon; see under the Hilchenbach group for more of the story. They became engaged on January 6, 1964 and were married in New York on April 12, 1964. They moved to Oregon where Eliane completed her Bachelor's degree and Roger his doctorate. Then in the summer of 1965 they drove their 1950 Ford (price \$100) to Toronto where Eliane obtained her master's degree and Roger taught in the mathematics department for five years.

In 1970, when Mychèle was a year and a half, the family moved to Ottawa and settled into their new home at 340 Second Avenue. Roger taught at Carleton University for thirty-four years and Eliane taught at the University of Ottawa. After obtaining her doctorate at the Sorbonne in 1977, she was involved in renovating houses and later on

Haiger Group

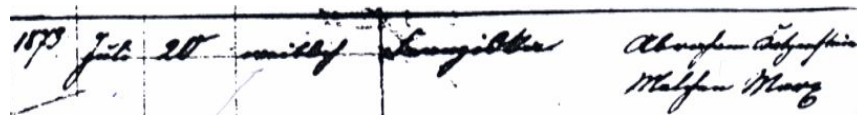
she worked with immigrants and refugees, teaching them English as well as literacy.

The Paternal Grandparents of Eliane Herz

The Parents of Albert Herz

Franziska Katzenstein (1 2 1) 1873.07.20, Allendorf bei Frankenau -- 1963.02.23, Belfort, France [BD, MD, DD, P].

As her BD indicates she is the baby seated on her mother's lap in the 1874 family portrait (see "Common Ancestors"):



Herman Herz (1 2 2) 1869.03.22, Altenkirchen, Kreis Wetzlar -- 1938.01.19, Haiger [MD, DD, P].

He was a cattle dealer and we have a photograph of him at a cattle market.^{DVD}

marriage: 1900.10.22, Haiger.

children:

1. **Rosa Rosie Herz** 1901.08.26, Haiger -- 1957.08.03, New York.
2. **Albert Herz** (1 2) 1902.09.07, Haiger -- 1976.12.12, New York; see above.
3. **Gertrude Gerda Herz** 1903.12.13, Haiger -- 1963.02.08, Belfort, France.
4. **Else Herz** 1907.02.08, Haiger -- 1968.06.05, Lima.



ca. 1911: Albert, Hermann, Franziska

Haiger Group

On August 5, 1937 twelve adults and three children, who were apparently the last Jews left in Haiger, gathered for a group photograph. Among this group were Franziska Katzenstein and Hermann Herz, who would pass away less than six months later. He signed -- at least we presume that it is his handwriting -- the photograph of himself with a little girl named "Inge".



*I am Herz with
the little girl Inge.
5 Aug. 1937*

Hermann Herz's (?) note on the back of the photograph



Haiger Group

The above photograph shows the Jewish cemetery in Haiger. Herman Herz's grave is on the left and it is the only Jewish tomb with a headstone. On right is a headstone for Polish workers conscripted by the Nazis.

Paternal Great-Grandparents of Eliane Herz

The parents of Hermann Herz

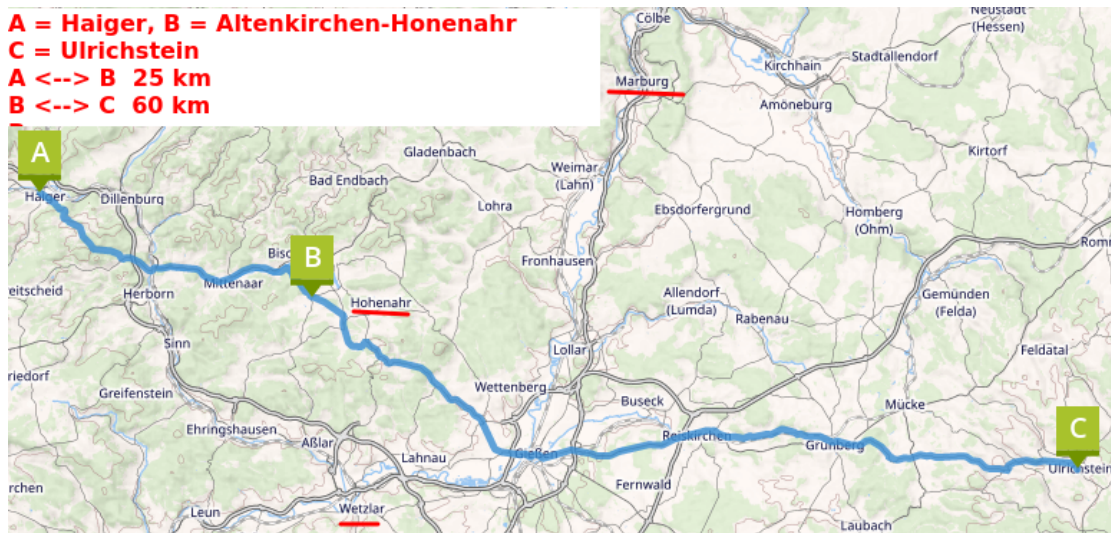
We know the names of the parents of Hermann Herz from his marriage certificate:

Regine RosaFröhlich (1 2 2 • 1) ca. 1834, Ulrichstein -- 1904.02.28, Haiger [DD].

Jakob Herz (1 2 2 • 2) *, Altenkirchen? -- ca. 1915, ??.

marriage: Ulrichstein?

Usually -- but not always -- couples married in the home town of the bride. The records for Ulrichstein start in 1876 and those for Haiger in 1874, which is unfortunate since we can not use the MD to determine the names of the parents of Jakob Herz.



Haiger - Altenkirchen - Ulrichstein

How was the Marriage Arranged?

One would always like to know how couples met; was it due to geographical or family relationships or was the marriage arranged by a third party? In the present case we see from the above map that Altenkirchen lies on a fairly direct route between Haiger and Ulrichstein. Thus it is possible that the families knew one another.

Haiger Group

children:

1. **Herman Herz** (12); see above.
2. **Abraham Herz** *, Altenkirchen? -- *, New York.
He married Hilda Wertheim. They had two children Kurt (ca. 1904 -- 2008) and Ruth.
This is another example of knowing somebody who could have answered many questions. Just as was the case with other “elderly” people he was simply referred to as “Uncle Abraham”. Unfortunately, no one ever told Eliane that in this case it was not just a respectful way of addressing him and that he was indeed the uncle of Albert Herz.
3. **Moses Herz**.
4. **Susan Herz**.
She and a daughter were deported by the Nazis.
5. **Frieda Herz**.
6. **Moritz Herz**
According to Albert Herz he had emigrated to New York ca. 1892. There is an immigrant listing for a German butcher of that name, dated September 29, 1897. He was said to be twenty years old which would be a reasonable date for a brother of Hermann Herz. His last address was Aachen and not Haiger.

Where and When did Jakob Herz Pass Away?

The 1904 death certificate of Regine Fröhlich gives the names of her parents and her birth place, namely Ulrichstein. The certificate says that she was the wife of Jakob Herz, but it does not say that he was deceased, something that would have been noted.

Albert Herz, who was in his teens during WWI, recalled that his grandfather had passed away during the war. For that reason I have written “ca. 1915”. Since two of Jakob’s sons were living in Haiger, and his wife had died there, one would assume that he too had lived out his life in Haiger. However, my own search, going well into the 1920s, and that of the Haiger archivist, Frau Kasteleiner, did not turn up a death certificate. Frau Kasteleiner suggested that I look at the records in the nearby, larger, town of Dillenburg in case he had died in the hospital there. However, a search through the Dillenburg records again turned up empty. The same was true for Ulrichstein, the home town of his wife. I also searched the records of the nearby town of Herborn which had a larger Jewish community. We know that Jakob Herz lived in Altenkirchen, but it hardly seems likely that he would have returned there, and a 2008 request to Hohenahr (Altenkirchen is now a district of Hohenahr) again failed to locate the record.

Haiger Group

Two Times Paternal Great-Grandparents of Eliane Herz

The Parents of Regine Fröhlich

From the 1904 death certificate of Regine Fröhlich we learn the names of her parents:

Regine Katz (1 2 2 • 1 1) * -- a. 1834 and b. 1876?, Ulrichstein?.

Löb Fröhlich (1 2 2 • 1 2) ca. 1800, * -- 1883.06.28, Ulrichstein [DD].

children:

1. **Regine Fröhlich** (1 2 2 • 1); see above.

There was another Regine Fröhlich who passed away on November 11, 1920, at the age of eighty-two, in Ulrichstein. This would make her about four years younger than the present person, so she might have been a cousin. She was married to a man named Riess, but the name of her parents are not given.

2. ? **Johanmette Fröhlich** ca. 1840, Ulrichstein? -- 1908.06.12, Ulrichstein.

Her father's name was Löb Fröhlich, as was the case with Regine Fröhlich, but the mother's name is now "Jette". It is possible that "Jette" was her surname although on her DD Regine Fröhlich is called Rosa, which I presume was the latter's surname.

Three Times Great-Grandparents of Eliane Herz

The Parents of Löb Fröhlich

We learn their names from the death certificate of Löb Fröhlich:

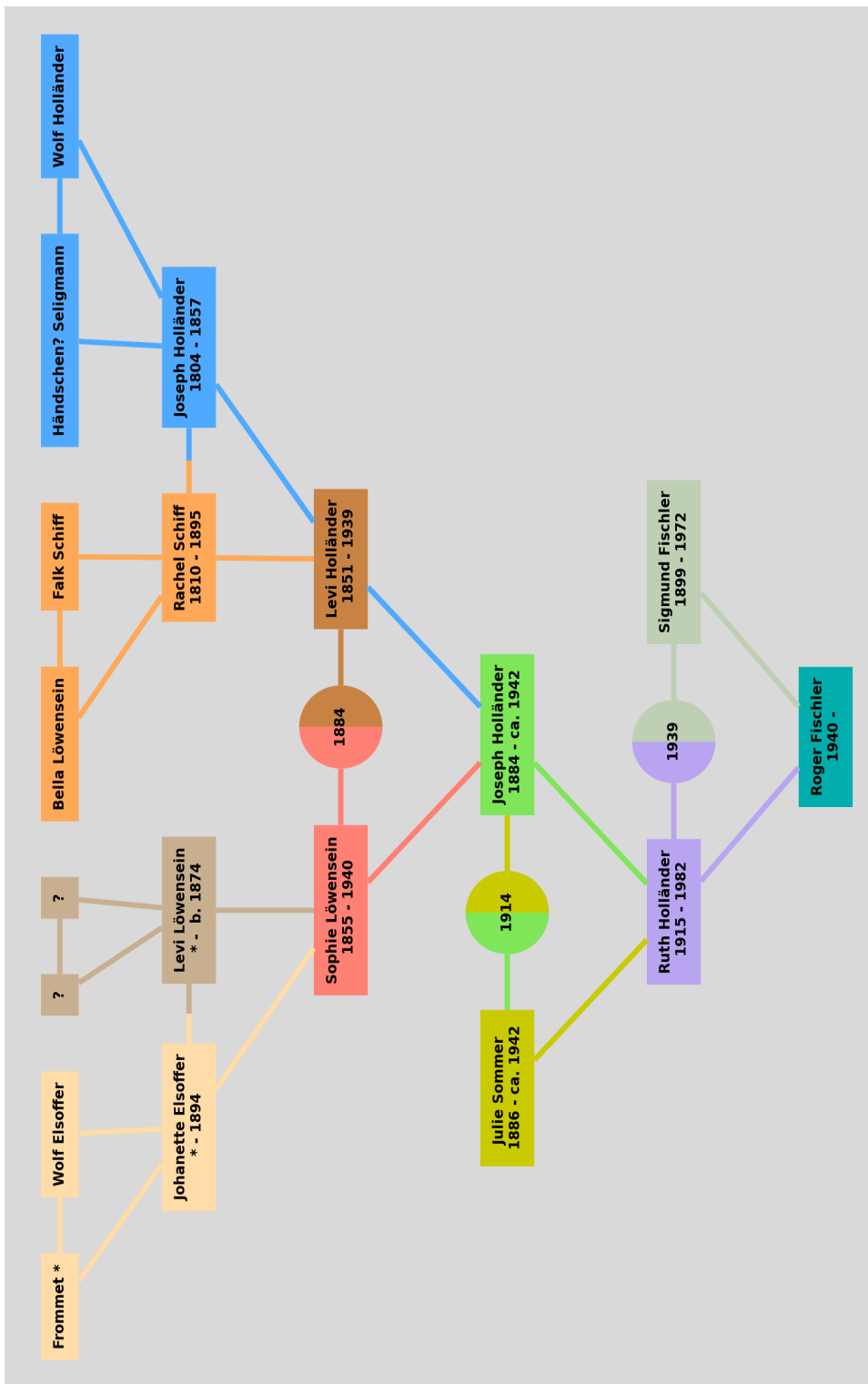
Chaya Katz (1 2 2 • 1 2 1) *.

Moses Fröhlich (1 2 2 • 1 2 2) *.

There are documents from Ulrichstein with the names "Moses Fröhlich the Second" and "Moses Fröhlich the Third". There are also other documents for people named "Fröhlich".

The Hilchenbach Group

The following chart shows the known ancestors of Roger Fischler on his mother's paternal side. His mother's maternal side is discussed in the chapter "The Heinebach Group". His father's side is discussed in the chapter "The Leipzig Group".



Hilchenbach Group

Photographs and Documents

The following photograph [SASS] of Hilchenbach is from a postcard mailed in 1898 and thus shows us Hilchenbach about ten years after my mother's paternal grandparents, Sophie Löwenstein and Levy Holländer, came to Hilchenbach from Elsoff. Somewhat to the right of the view, on the side of the tracks closest to us, is the house that my great-grandparents purchased in 1895 and where they lived until 1940. Below, in the section devoted to Sophie Löwenstein and Levy Holländer, is another early view of Hilchenbach in which the house is visible. In the foreground, to the left of the station, is the barn that appears in the cover photograph of [DIET-3]. Judging from our visit in 1996 the station has not changed much over the years.



There are many other photographs of Hilchenbach and the people who lived there, below and on the DVD. The main sources for people were the photo albums of Ruth Holländer and Selma Holländer and those sent to me over the years by Meta Miller [MM], the daughter of Rosa Sommer, who in turn was a sister of my grandmother Julie Sommer. A good guess is that Meta Miller brought many of these pictures to New York when she emigrated from Germany. Below there is a picture of her, taken some time in the 1930s, on a visit to Hilchenbach.

Other photos were sent by my mother's aunt Hedwig Holländer, and other cousins of Ruth Holländer, including Erna Schaefer and Wolfgang Holländer (Johnny Holland). Aside from Johnny Holland, with whom I was in contact by mail and telephone, I knew the four Schaefer sisters and the four Miller sisters.

Andreas Sassmannshausen [SASS] of Hilchenbach sent many old photographs, in particular of the houses where the various members of the family lived.

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Special Bibliography for the Hilchenbach Group

See also, “General Bibliography” in the introduction, and the additional bibliography in the “Hilchenbach Group” section of the DVD.

- [BATT] Documents and information sent to me by the city of Battenberg.
- [BERL-1] Documents and information sent to me by Rikarde Riedesel of the Hauptamt, Bad Berleburg.
- [BERL-2] Documents from the Bad Berleburg archives compiled by Rudi Braun in 1997 for Heinz Holländer.
- [BRA-1] Braun, Georg. 2002. *Dorfbuch über Elsoff und Christianseck*.
Images kindly sent to me by the same man who let us park our automobile on his property while we visited the cemetery in 2010.
- [BRA-2] Braun, Georg. 2014. *Die Elsoffer Juden*. Available at:
<http://elsoff-online.de> ↪ Dorf ↪ Geschichte ↪ Elsoffer Juden
A very impressive study of local Jewish history. The author used archival sources.
- [BRIL] Brillig, Bernhard. 1961-1963. *Deportations from Westphalia 1933-1942*
[LBI] [LBI has two updated versions, one in the form of a spreadsheet]
A list of 8,112 Jews who lived in Westphalia between 1933 and 1942, from the civic records of sixty communities; it includes information on where they were sent as well as on their fate.

The next four articles listed here are among the many written by Klaus Dietermann who, unfortunately, passed away from a rare cancer of the eye in 2017. Klaus was the person most responsible for the creation of the Aktives Museum in the remains of the foundation of the Siegen synagogue, which the Nazis had burned during Kristallnacht (November 9 - 10, 1938). He was a prolific writer on the Jews of the Siegerland and organized, along with Reinhard Gämlich, the Hilchenbach archivist, the Holländer exposition [DIET-3].

- [DIET-1] Dietermann, Klaus. 1975. “Ein Siegener Judenschicksal im Jahre 1817”. *Siegerländer Heimatkalender* 50, pp.117-122.
- [DIET-2] Dietermann, Klaus, Röcher, Ruth, Morgenstern-Wulff, Johanna. 1991. *Die jüdischen Friedhöfe im Kreis Siegen-Wittgenstein*. Siegen: Gesellschaft für Christlich-Jüdische Zusammenarbeit Siegerland.
The cemetery in Elsoff is discussed on p.16 and the identification of graves is on p.35.

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- [DIET-3] Dietermann, Klaus. 1998. *Familie Levy Holländer/Ein Jüdisches Schicksal aus Hilchenbach*. Siegen: Gesellschaft für Christlich-Jüdische Zusammenarbeit Siegerland.
This booklet served as the catalogue for the exposition of the same name held in Hilchenbach from December, 1998 until the spring of 1999.^{DVD}
- [DIET-4] Dietermann, Klaus. 1998. *Jüdisches Leben in Stadt und Land Siegen*. Siegen: Gesellschaft für Christlich-Jüdische Zusammenarbeit Siegerland.
- [ELKA] Elkar, Rainer. 1992. *Menschen-Häuser-Schicksale: Hilchenbach zwischen Monarchie, Diktatur und Republik* Kreuztal: Verlag Die Wielandschmiede.
- [GAML] Documents and various information sent by Herr Reinhard Gämlich, the archivist for the town of Hilchenbach. He helped organize the Holländer exposition that took place in the Hilchenbach museum in 1998-1999.
- [HIL-W] Wikipedia article, "Hilchenbach"; accessed 2019.11.25.
- [ORT] Arbeitsgemeinschaft Historische Ortskerne in Nordrhein-Westfalen. 1994. *Historische Ortskerne in Nordrhein-Westfalen*.
A beautiful book about the historic centres of sixteen towns in Nordrhein-Westfalen. Elsoff is discussed on pp. 28-33. The style of ancestral home of the Holländers is similar the houses shown.^{DVD}
- [PIOR] Piorr, Ralf. 2010 *Ohne Rückkehr: die Deportation der Juden aus dem Regierungsbezirk Arnsberg nach Zamość im April 1942* Essen: Klartext-Verl.
Discussions and lists of jews who were deported to the concentration camps located in Zamość, Poland in 1942. The parents and brother of Ruth Holländer were apparently part of this deportation; see the discussion under "The Parents of Ruth Holländer".
- [SASS] Information and especially many photographs, old and new, of Hilchenbach sent by Andreas Sassmannshausen.
- [THIE] Thiemann, W. 1968. *Von den Juden im Siegerland*. Siegen: Gesellschaft für Christlich-Jüdische Zusammenarbeit Siegerland.
The Jews of Hilchenbach are discussed on pp. 47-50.^{DVD}

Siegen-Wittgenstein and Battenberg and Their Jews

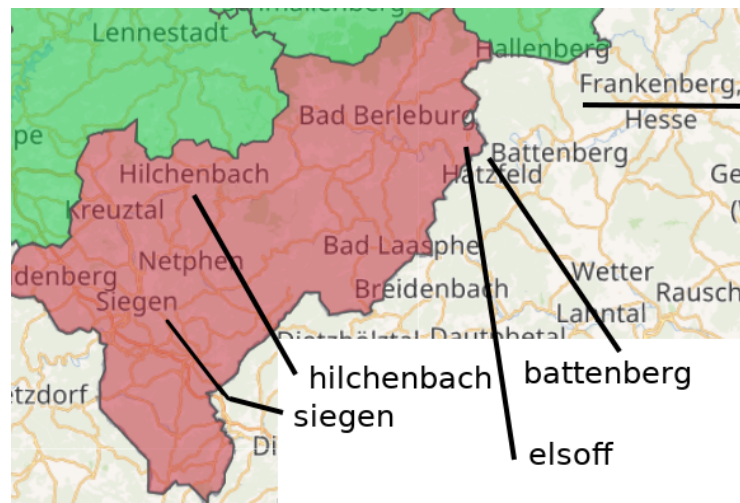
For the general history of the places discussed here see [HHSD, HLDL] in the "General Bibliography" and [HIL-W] above. On the DVD you will find a more detailed discussion of these regions and of the state of Westphalia as a whole, and in particular about the Jews who lived there.

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In France, after the end of the thirty-years war in 1648, power was concentrated in a central government (Alsace being a special case) and the rights / denial of rights as they related to Jews applied throughout the territory. The situation in the territory that makes up modern day Germany was completely different because at various points in time there were upwards of three-hundred distinct territories, some not much bigger than a town, ruled by kings, princes, dukes and counts. After the death of a ruler a territory might be divided among the heirs as was the case with Hesse-Darmstadt and Hesse-Kassel. Whether Jews were tolerated or not tolerated in a certain region depended on the local rulers and officials and on the period of their rule.



1803: "Nassau", Wittgenstein, Hesse-Darmstadt, Hesse-Kassel



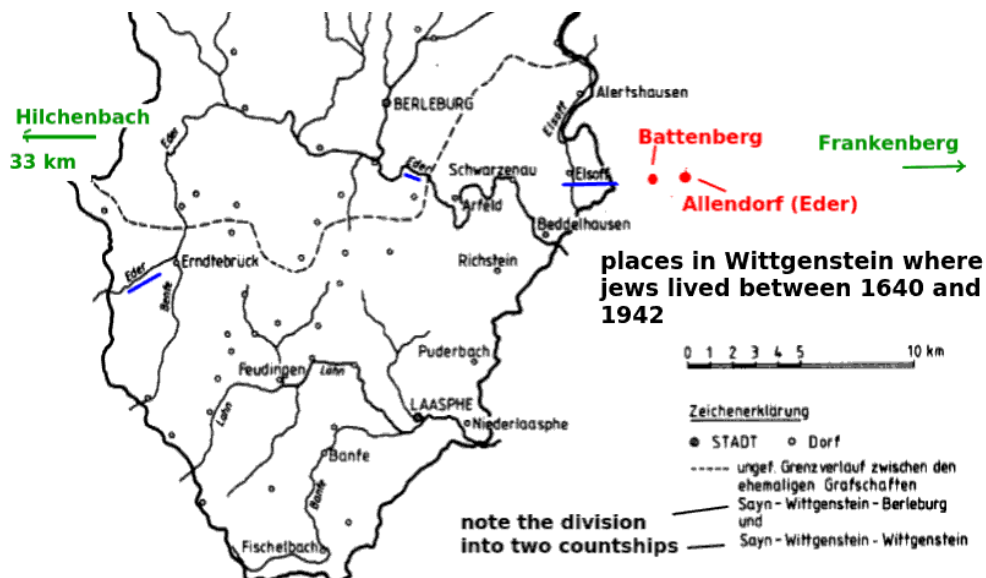
Present Day Siegen-Wittgenstein

Siegen-Wittgenstein is the name of a district (*Kreis*) in the present German state (*Land*) of North-Rhine-Westphalia. The history of the district, which is important

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for the understanding of the lives of these ancestors, is quite complicated. I chose a map which shows the situation in 1803 because -- although there were constant changes in borders throughout the years -- it essentially shows the old order when Wolf Holländer was living (and perhaps born) in Wittgenstein. This latter territory was bordered by both Hesse-Darmstadt and Hesse-Kassel and various houses of the Nassau dynasty. While constantly divided and rejoined "Nassau" more or less existed until absorbed by Prussia in 1816. Wittgenstein, at least in part, was first absorbed by Hessen-Darmstadt in 1806 and then by 1816 all of what constitutes present Siegen-Wittgenstein became part of the Prussian province of Westphalia [HIL-W].

Hilchenbach, whose name means "brook in the hills", is a municipality in the western part of the district and is located about 15 km northeast of Siegen, the major town in the region. Apparently the Jews of Hilchenbach went to Siegen for the high-holidays, even though they had their own prayer space and were not formally affiliated with the synagogue there.



Some 33 km to the east of Hilchenbach is the town of Elsoff which in turn is located in the far eastern part of Wittgenstein, and thus very close to the border with Hesse. Elsoff is where Joseph Holländer (the elder) was born in 1804 and where his father Wolf Holländer had been living.

The town of Battenberg, where Sophie Löwenstein was born is just 12 km to the east of Elsoff, but it is in Hesse. Previously, starting in 1648, Battenberg was part of Hesse-Darmstadt. I will discuss the possible implications of this below in the section "The Early Jews of Elsoff".

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Roger Fischler (2)

Eliane Herz *Eliane Herz-Fischler* (1) 1943.01.23, Limoges -- [B, M, P].

See “The Haiger Group” for a summary of her life

Roger Fischler *Roger Morris Herz-Fischler* (2) 1940.02.22 -- [B, M, P].

See “The Haiger Group” for a discussion of the name “Herz-Fischler”

marriage 1964.04.12, New York, with Eliane Herz.

children:

1. Mychèle Erica Herz-Fischler. 1969.01.24, Thornhill, Ontario -- .
2. Seline Denise Herz-Fischler, 1972.06.29, Ottawa, Ontario -- .

The following is a selection of photos taken at various times in my life before our marriage:

- i. June 1940; four months old.
- ii. Probably summer 1941.



- iii. Ca. 1946; perhaps when I was starting school. If so the tradition of taking first day of school photos has continued with our daughters and then with their children.
- iv Summer 1956, Ridgefield, Connecticut.

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- v. January 9, 1960. I am swimming the 200 yards butterfly; my time was 2min, 50.6 seconds. This was my first year of swimming butterfly and my head is coming up too high above the water. My best time for this distance was approximately 2min, 16 seconds in early 1964.
- vi. September 1960, just before leaving for graduate school at the University of Oregon.



Compared to Eliane's life, as described in her book *Ma Famille*, my early years were rather bland. While her father escaped from Nazi Germany in 1935 and spent the war years in France, my mother had obtained a visa to the United States where she arrived in November 1937. After the war Eliane's family faced food rationing and the effects of the war were felt for a long time. I, on the other hand, grew up in New York where little would have outwardly changed after the war and certainly there were neither food shortages nor physical signs that a world war had recently ended.

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My parents' friends all spoke German and I probably was under the impression when young that all Jews spoke German. A year or so prior to my bar-mitzvah we joined a synagogue where announcements, sermons and bulletins were entirely in German. My mother, and probably to some extent my father, spoke to me in German until around the age of three and since I continued to hear German I could understand daily conversations and speak what I refer to as "kitchen German". When, as an adult, I reproached my mother for having stopped speaking German to me, her reply was that my father wanted to stop because of the war. Since they continued to speak German to their friends throughout their lives, it may have been that they wanted me to speak like an American boy.

I speak of the German environment with which I was in contact even though it constituted a small part -- see the discussion on the DVD -- of the larger and very ethnically and religiously diverse world of the upper Manhattan where I grew up. I say this because at some point in my life -- probably in my mid-teens -- I realized who all these German Jews were and became conscious of the fact that I did not have any grandparents. My parents never spoke about the fact that their friends, the relatives on my mother's side, and the other German Jews that they knew were almost all refugees. Later in life I thought about these matters quite a bit, especially when I started doing genealogical research after my father passed away in 1972.

My childhood, through high school, consisted of school and playing with my friends. We lived in a densely populated area and since the larger parks were at least twenty minutes walk away we usually played in the streets (despite the automobiles), on sidewalks, and on the top of a huge parking garage to which we had access via fire escapes. I also was a member the Boy Scouts until I came down with rheumatic fever in my early teens. Every summer parents sent me away to camp in the country, usually for two months.

I am not sure exactly when it was, but at some point in my early teens I decided that I wanted to be an aeronautical engineer. And I can not remember why, but it certainly was not because I wanted to be a pilot, as was the case with my fellow troublemaker Sammy Greenbaum. In any case I wrote the test for Brooklyn Technical High School (about a fifty minute subway ride) and was admitted to the aeronautical programme. One of the ironies of my life is that because I heartily disliked the two years of French that I had to take in middle school, I did not go into the academic stream, where language study was required. Despite this, I ended up as a Francophile who speaks French to his wife, children and grandchildren! In any case I was not among the top students, although I had good marks in mathematics and physics, until near the end of my third year, when, within the space of a few weeks, my grades shot up and stayed up through the end of high school and college.

In January 1957 I graduated from high school and entered the aeronautical engineering programme of the Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn. I was the top student in this programme, but by the end of the third year I realized that I was more interested

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in the theoretical and mathematical aspects than the strictly engineering part and so I switched to the applied mathematics programme. In my mind I was going to do advanced applied mathematics, but I ended up going to the University of Oregon (in part because I felt that it was time to leave home) where the courses were all theoretical. The switch was quite difficult for me at first, but by the end of the first year my abilities improved. I eventually went into theoretical probability, which is a long way from aeronautical engineering. I was a university professor, first at the University of Toronto and then at Carleton University. For the first ten years I did research and wrote articles in the field of theoretical probability. But, as with so many aspects of my life, my research changed after I started teaching the mathematics course for students of architecture.

Above I spoke about playing with my friends, but this was at the level of informal games, without any instruction. I had taught myself to swim at a camp and at university I joined the swimming team as a backstroker, but I was not very good. However, the summer before my last year I was unable to find employment and so I went to the YMCA every day and switched to butterfly. I was much better at that and held the school record. Improving my swimming became important to me and in the summer before graduate school I became a life guard and worked out a great deal. When I arrived at Oregon, where the swimming level was much higher than at Brooklyn Poly, the coach let me work out with the first year team members and I continued to improve. For the rest of my life I continued regular exercise in the form of swimming, cross-country skiing (which Eliane and I loved doing together; see the photograph in the chapter, "By Way of a Conclusion") and then in my seventies (when I stopped swimming) and eighties, weight and cardio exercises in addition to cross-country skiing.

I can not close this short autobiography without saying more about my marriage to Eliane than what appears in "A Triple Love Story" in the Preface. Eliane and her family came to New York in September of 1958 and they visited us within a few days of their arrival, She was fifteen and I was eighteen and just starting my third year of university. I took both her and her sister to dances at the university and I would see her several times over the next two years, but the relationship was never that of girlfriend-boyfriend. I went away to Oregon in the fall of 1960 and do not recall if I ever saw her again until December of 1963. In particular, I do not recall asking her for help when I was studying to pass the Ph.D. reading examination in French during the summer of 1962. This is another irony of life in view of her being my constant French tutor and walking dictionary and grammar book for over fifty-six years!

Everything changed in the summer of 1963. I had just passed my doctoral examination and my parents came to Oregon, from where we embarked on a road trip through Oregon, Washington and Canada (my first visit here). I remember distinctly sitting in the cafeteria of the Grand Coulee Dam on the Columbia River and asking my parents about various people, in particular Eliane. It was at that moment that I started think-

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ing of her as a woman and on the flight to New York, where I went over the winter break, the thought entered my mind that I should ask her to marry me. Despite this thought, I did nothing to contact her. However, one day I was in the Bronx visiting someone whom I knew from Oregon and who was sitting Shiva. I decided to walk to Eliane's house and I spent some time talking to her mother, who in turn told Eliane that I had visited. Eliane called and we spoke for a long time. We went to two plays and as we were walking after the second play, I told her that I thought that I loved her and asked her to marry me. She was not ready to say "yes", but neither did she say, "no". We saw each other every day before I returned to Oregon. Then, on January 6, 1964, she called me up and wanted to know if I was still asking her the same question. We married on April 12, 1964. Years later Eliane told me that somehow she was not surprised when I asked her to marry me.

After I had written the above, I came across the photos of the summer 1963 trip in my mother's album. So in memory of the beginnings of a beautiful, and long, romance here are two photos of that fateful day:



July 18, 1963: Roger and Sigmund Fischler at the Grand Coulee Dam

The Parents of Roger Fischler

Ruth Holländer (21) 1915.01.09, Hilchenbach -- 1982.12.02, New York [B, D, P].

Sigmund Fischler *Fischleiber* (22) Leipzig, 1899.08.14 -- 1972.03.06, New York [B, D, P].

See "The Leipzig Group" for a summary of his life

marriage: 1939.03.19, New York.

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child:

1. **Roger Fischler** (2) 1940.02.22, New York; see above.

The Two Worlds of Ruth Holländer

From a strictly chronological view point we could divide the life of Ruth Holländer into two periods: from her birth in Hilchenbach on January 9, 1915 until her departure from Germany on November 1, 1937 and from November 1, 1937 until her death on December 2, 1982. But this would be an oversimplification for, like many refugees, she always maintained links---some being open and some being private---with the land of her birth.

A German Childhood



My mother did not talk very much about her childhood, but from the little that she and my aunt Selma Holländer (see the chapter devoted to her and Freddy Furcht) told me and from the photographs and documents that she left behind, it would seem that she lived the life of a typical child and young woman who grew up in a small German town of the 1920s and 1930s. The first photo, ca. 1926, shows my mother, her sister Selma, and her brother Artur. As was the case in most small towns, my mother finished her formal education after eight years of school. We see her (fourth from the right in the back) in a picture that might be of her graduating class. This was sent to her sometime after 1972 by one of the women in Hilchenbach with whom, as I learned from her address book, she remained in contact. On the back of the photograph the children are identified and their fate described.^{DVD}

Next, we see her in Wanfried [a. d. Werra] in July 1929, at the start of an apprenticeship with Herman Ehrlich, a manufacturer of women and children's clothing. Wanfried is on the north-east border of Hesse, so this was a long way from home. However, the town is about 50 km north-east of her mother's home town of Heinebach, so perhaps there was a family connection. She worked for Ehrlich from mid-1929

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until the end of 1933 and in 1934 she worked in Brühl (near Bonn). From early 1935 until mid-1936 she worked as a sales clerk in the Marshall textile store in Stuttgart. After the sale of the store -- probably due to restrictions or incidents related to the Nazi regime -- my mother worked in Frau Marshall's home. There was still a certain normalcy in life, at least in the small town of Hilchenbach, after the Nazis took power in early 1933 as indicated by several photographs in her album. For example, the next picture, which dates from 1936, shows her with her parents (far left), her aunt Hedwig Holländer (to the left of my mother) on the family plot in Hilchenbach. It was explained to me in Hilchenbach that the German government had distributed small tracts of land during the first world war.



The picture just above, on the left, was taken during a visit of my mother's cousin, Meta Miller, to Hilchenbach. It is possible that it was taken shortly before Meta Miller emigrated to New York. In the back row, from left to right are Hedwig Holländer, Levy

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Holländer and my mother. Meta Miller is standing in front of my mother. In the front row are Selma Holländer and Artur Holländer. The house in the background is that of Sophie Löwenstein and Levy Holländer [GAML].

Because of the deteriorating situation of the Jews of Germany my mother left Germany on November 1, 1937. She had obtained a visa on July 22, 1937. The next photograph was taken in Stuttgart and it most probably was a passport picture. On the back there is the message, "Meinem Sig", dated March 22, 1938 which suggests that my parent's relationship had progressed considerably in the five months since they had met.

In the picture below we see my mother with her brother Artur, her sister Selma and their parents. I suspect that this photo belongs to the series of photographs -- see the preface -- that my mother took as she left Germany.



A Katzenstein who Sponsored and Saved Many Jews

N.B. The documents consulted for the following are contained in the DVD in the directory: HILCHENBACH_GROUP/SOL_KATZENSTEIN/

There was an ironic, but fortunate, twist to the immigration of German Jewish

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refugees to the United States. American immigration policy was designed to let in mainly northern European people, including Germans, but in Nazi Germany non-Jews were in general not allowed to emigrate. Thus American quotas were not a major obstacle. Furthermore, though there were interments and murders of Jews before the systematic extermination that came out of the Wannsee Conference of January 1942, Jews who were able to go to another country were generally allowed to leave. Furthermore the United States did not enter WWII until the bombing of Pearl Harbour in December of 1941. The major obstacle for refugees was obtaining a sponsorship by someone who would be a moral and financial guarantor.

So the question of interest is: who sponsored my mother? My mother's cousin Meta Miller provided me with an unsigned notary document from 1941 written by a Sol Katzenstein who lived in Queens, New York. The document states that he is concerned about his cousin Abraham Sommer and his family and he requests that the American Consul provide them with visas. Abraham Sommer was the brother of Meta's mother Rosa Sommer; see "The Heinebach Group.

Since a Sol Katzenstein was not listed among the grandchildren of Amalie Marx and Abraham Katzenstein, the description "cousin" perplexed me. However, a search in the LBI catalogue led me to an article written by a David Auerbach, whose wife was a granddaughter of a Sol Katzenstein from Frankenau, the hometown of Abraham Katzenstein. From this text and the accompanying German newspaper articles I learned that this Sol Katzenstein was born in 1870 in Frankenau. With this information in hand I searched in [Lagis] and learned that Sol Katzenstein was born on 1870.[03?-05?].²⁶, that his full name was Solomon, and that his parents were Meir Katzenstein and Lina [Riesel?]. Meir Katzenstein may be child 6 of Resede Mannheimer and Manus Katzenstein, the brother of Abraham Katzenstein, which would explain the use of the expression "cousins" in the affidavit. The reason for the uncertainty is that a Meir Katzenstein passed away on 1903.08.23 in Frankenau and, according to the Auerbach text, Sol Katzenstein brought two Torah scrolls to Frankenau in the 1920s in honour of his parents fiftieth wedding anniversary.

Returning to the story of Sol Katzenstein, we learn that he emigrated to Texas, where a relative lived, in 1886. He did very well in business as demonstrated by his gross income -- over \$30,000 -- as declared in the 1941 affidavit. For comparison, my father, as I recall, earned about \$3000 a year in the 1950s. Sol Katzenstein sponsored well over a hundred people and lodged some of them in his house until they were able to obtain work. My mother lived at one point in Forest Hills, Queens, whereas Sol Katzenstein lived in Kew Gardens, Queens. These districts of Queens are only a few kilometres apart, so perhaps the Katzensteins found a place for my mother that was not too far away. In 1937 one of the sponsored groups smuggled the above two Torah scrolls out of Germany in some furniture. In June of 2007 the Auerbachs went to Germany with the scrolls where a celebration was held and that trip is the subject of David Auerbach's text.

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In view of the great number of people for whom he provided visas it is safe to assume that Sol Katzenstein provided visas for Meta Miller, her parents and sisters, as well as for my mother, thus saving their lives. Abraham Sommer and his family were not as fortunate. Sol Katzenstein was a good man, doing good deeds.

A New Life

The photograph that my mother took of her father as she left Germany on November 1, 1937, as well as the photographs of her stay in Paris with Eliane's parents and the photographs on the boat with my father appear in the preface. My parents married on March 3, 1939 and they received the following wedding card from her parents:



In the chapter on the Leipzig group there is a photograph of a postcard whose text starts off with, "Dear relatives". My father's father had sent the postcard from German-occupied Poland to my mother's parents in Hilchenbach, and they in turn sent it to my mother in New York.

My parents were far from well-off and I learned that at some point they shared an apartment with another couple. My father worked in the New York fur market, having learned the trade with his father, and my mother was a seamstress and did catering. At some point she started doing accounting for people and firms.

We were what has been referred to as "upper lower class" i.e. we did not live in a house, nor own an automobile, nor was there an excess of income; we certainly ate

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well, but never in a restaurant. I was sent to camp every summer and my parents were able to go to the country for a couple of weeks in the summer and attend a few concerts. I believe that, aside from the group of very rich people, the income gap in New York City was much less in the 1940s and 1950s than at present. All the people that I knew and my parents' friends were probably in more or less the same economic situation.

I end this section with two photographs, one shows my parents in 1969, about three years before my father passed away. The second shows my mother in Bath, England in 1978, four years before she passed away in 1982. There are more photos of my father in the chapter on the Leipzig group and more of both my parents on the DVD.



The Maternal Grandparents of Roger Fischler

The Parents of Ruth Holländer

Julie Sommer (211) 1886.09.02, Heinebach--1942.04.28, deported to Zamość, Poland [B,M,P,PIOR,BRIL].

See "The Heinebach Group" for her parents

Joseph Holländer (212) 1884.09.13, Elsoff -- 1942.04.28, deported to Zamość, Poland [B,M,P,PIOR,BRIL].

marriage: 1914.03.27, Heinebach [M].

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The following three studio photographs most likely date from 1914 and represent engagement and marriage photographs.

I wonder how this marriage came about. Heinebach is about 130 km east of Hilchenbach with 35 km between Hilchenbach and Elsoff and then another 25 km to Frankenberg and a further 75 to Heinebach; see the maps after the table of contents. Was the match due to someone in Frankenberg, where Sarah Katzenstein, the mother of Julie Sommer, had lived and still had siblings?



Joseph Holländer served, as did at least three of his brothers, in the German army in WWI and from his medical record we know that he was hospitalized on several occasions. I have two pictures of my grandfather in uniform, the one on the left with my mother dates from early- or mid 1916, but I do not have any dates for the one on the right.

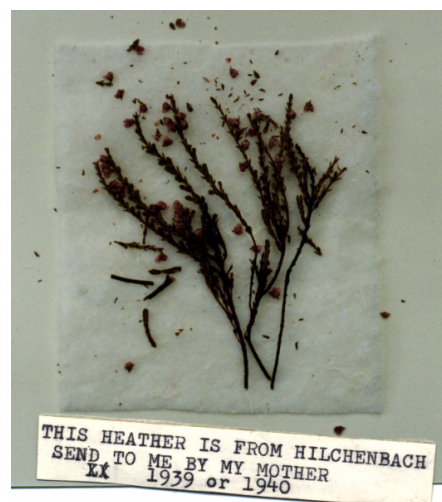


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As was the case with his father Levi, Joseph was a cattle dealer and, I believe, also a butcher. The photograph shows him bargaining in the cattle market (see the DVD for the meaning of the hand signals).

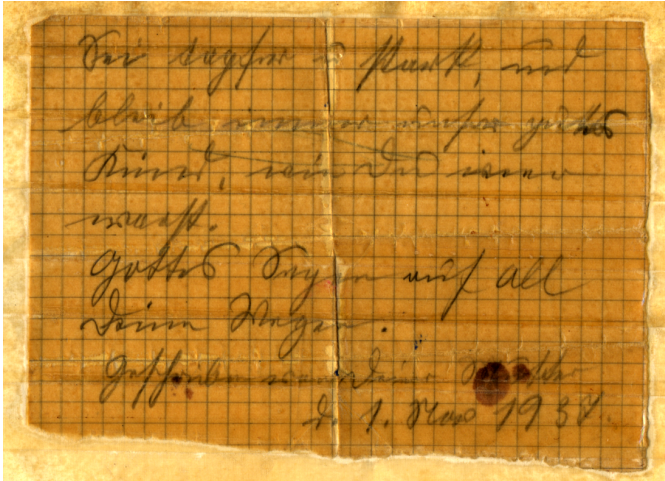


I have two objects that belonged to my grandparents. The first is my grandfather's fob watch, which he gave to his neighbour, Gertrude Peters, for safekeeping. The story of how it was given to my mother is explained in a letter that accompanied the watch which we found in her belongings after her death. The second is a bunch of heather sent by my grandmother to my mother. The botany technician at Carleton University tried to germinate the seeds these many years later, but apparently the seeds had not fully developed. Had he succeeded we would have planted the heather in our garden.



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I also have the following note that my grandmother Julie Sommer gave to my mother on the day that she left Germany.



Be courageous and strong,
and remain our good child,
as you always have been.
Godspeed in all your
endeavours.

Written by your mother.

November 1, 1937

Below is apparently the last photograph that my mother received from her parents, although they at least forwarded a postcard, sent to them from Warsaw on January 30, 1940, from my paternal grandfather Issac Fischleiber. It was sent for Rosh-HaShannah in the Jewish year 5700 (see the image of the back of the photograph), which occurred on September 14, 1939. World War II started on September 1, but since Germany and the United States were not yet at war, it may have been sent after the war had started.



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*Zu Rosh Hashana 5700
zum Andenken*

children:

1. **Ruth Holländer** (21) 1915.01.09, Hilchenbach -- 1982.12.02; see above.
2. **Selma Holländer** 1920.09.17, Hilchenbach -- 1982.07.02 New York.

See the chapter, "Selma Holländer and Freddy Furcht"

3. **Artur Holländer** 1925.04.07 Hilchenbach -- 1942.04.28, deported to Zamość, Poland [P].

Here are photographs from two barmitsvah celebrations, that of my uncle who died in a Nazi extermination camp and mine:



Artur Holländer, 1938.04.16 and Roger Fischler, 1953.02.28

The Deportation of Julie Sommer and Joseph Holländer

Different people and sources give two dates and destinations concerning the sad demise of my grandparents and uncle:

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The book [PIOR], deals exclusively with the deportation of Jews from the Arnsberg administrative region on April 28, 1942 and lists the Joseph Holländer family. The same is true of [DIET-4]. The same date, but with the statement that they were turned over to the Gestapo in Siegen appears in [BRIL].

There were three other deportations from Siegen, including one on February 27, 1943. In a letter from Herbert Praeger, dated December 13, 1999, he states that he was part of the latter deportation. On the way to the assembly point in Dortmund, the families of Joseph and Willi Holländer boarded the train. When the train arrived at Auschwitz he was fortunate to be sent to the Monowitz auxillary camp. This was the location of a factory run by the IG Farben company to produce synthetic rubber and was staffed by slave labourers. He states that he saw the Holländers (plural) on their bunk beds with a fever. If we look at [BRIL] again we see that while the Joseph Holländer family is said to have been transported to the camps on April 28, 1942, the family of Willi Holländer, the brother of Joseph was on a February 27, 1943 transport. I suspect that fifty-six years after his deportation, in 1999, he remembered meeting Willi Holländer and because I had written to him concerning Joseph Holländer his recollection was that of meeting both families. Zamość is a long way from Auschwitz and there is little probability that the Joseph Holländer family was later transferred to the latter camp.

I had another report from my grandparents' neighbour Gertrude Peters. We met her when we went to Hilchenbach in 1998 and she gave a talk at the the opening of the exposition. As I stated, my grandfather had given her his gold watch for safekeeping. He also asked her for a knapsack for the deportation transport. She quoted him as saying that the people who are doing this to them will regret it for a long time.

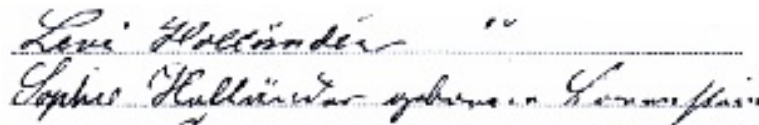
Maternal Great-Grandparents of Roger Fischler

The Parents of Joseph Holländer

Sophie Löwenstein (212 • 1) 1855.08.21, Battenberg -- 1940.02.29, Hilchenbach [B,M,P].

Levy Holländer (212 • 2) 1851.08.23, Elsoff -- 1939.06.27, Hilchenbach [B,M,P].

marriage: 1884.01.06, Battenberg [M].



The image shows two handwritten signatures in cursive ink. The top signature reads "Levy Holländer" and the bottom signature reads "Sophie Holländer geborene Löwenstein". Both signatures are written on a line of paper.

1884.01.06, MA: signatures of Sophie Löwenstein and Levy Holländer

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The first two of their children, Joseph (my grandfather) and Bianca were born in Elsoff, in 1884 and 1886 respectively, while the third, Hedwig, was born in Hilchenbach in 1889. Thus, the couple moved to Hilchenbach sometime between 1886 and 1889. According to a note from Hedwig Holländer, Johanna Holländer, Levi's sister (see below) raised Joseph and Bianca. This may have been for the first few years while the couple were establishing themselves in Hilchenbach. At first they rented a house (Dammstrasse 11) in the town centre and then around 1890 they purchased the house (Mülenweg 25) indicated by the arrow in the centre of the photograph [SASS]. The railway station is indicated by the arrow on the left; see the photograph at the start of the chapter.

Sophie Löwenstein lived in the house until she passed away in 1940. From 1940 until 1942 my mother's parents, Julie Sommer and Joseph Holländer, lived there until they were sent to a death camp in Poland.



Mülenweg 25, early 1900s

In 1891 Levy Holländer built a slaughterhouse which was attached to the house. Thanks to all the documents sent to me by Herr Gämlich [GAML] we have documents and plans relating to this construction.^{DVD} The first photograph shows the official announcement of his request, while the second has the signature of Levy Holländer on a bill of sale for what I read as “Kalbfleisch” (veal):

Hilchenbach Group

Öffentlicher Anzeiger

als Beilage zum 12. Stücke des Amtsblattes.

Ausgegeben Arnsherg, den 21. März 1891.

VII. Gewerbliche Anlagen.

1490. Der Metzger Levi Holländer zu Hilchenbach beabsichtigt auf dem Grundstück Flur 17 Nr. 94 der Steuergemeinde Hilchenbach ein Schlachthaus zu errichten.

Fol. Hilchenbach, den *1. Feb.* 19*17*

Rechnung für *Wm. King Hoffmann*
von **L. Holländer**, Metzgerei u. Viehhandlung.

<i>Am 1.6.5.66. Zuschüssen</i>	<i>5.45</i>	<i>48.90</i>
<i>Leibrag erfüllen</i>		
<i>H. 18/10 1927</i>		
<i>Li. Holländer</i>		

children:

1. **Joseph Holländer** (212) 1884.09.13, Elsoff -- 1942.04, deported to Zamość, Poland; see above.
2. **Bianca Holländer** 1886.09.16, Elsoff -- 1942.04, deported to Zamość, Poland.
She married Karl Schaefer; children: Thekla, Else, Erna, Charlotte, Arthur.
3. **Hedwig Holländer** 1889.02.14, Hilchenbach -- 1983.11.04, Manchester, England.
She emigrated to the U.K. in June, 1939.
4. **Hugo Holländer** 1891.02.17, Hilchenbach -- 1942?, Palestine.
He married Agnes Heil; children: Hete, Wolfgang (Johnny Holland).
Hugo was a master pastry chef and had a very successful *Kaffeehaus* in Dortmund. Due to persecution by the Nazis the family fled to Palestine.
5. **Willi Holländer** 1893, Hilchenbach -- deported 1943, Birkenau (Auschwitz).
He married Elisabetha Sonnheim; children Arno, Lothar. They too perished.
6. **Arthur Holländer** 1895, Hilchenbach -- 1916.05.20, France.
He died fighting in WWI; the following is a copy of the announcement that the family published in a newspaper [GAML].

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7. **Ferdinand Holländer** 1898.05.03, Hilchenbach -- 1899.01.29, Hilchenbach.

8. **Edmund Holländer** 1900.08.18, Hilchenbach -- 1978, Israel.
He married Edith Abrahamson; children Heinz, Gideon.

My mother's album contained several photographs of Levy Holländer, including a formal one -- with a dedication on the back -- taken at the time of his eightieth birthday in 1931. I obtained several others from various family members.^{DVD} For Sophie Löwenstein the situation was quite the opposite, I did not have a complete photograph of her until I obtained the photograph on the left from Erna Schaefer:



We have two pictures from the celebration of their fiftieth wedding anniversary, which was on January 6, 1934. There are no leaves on the trees, so the celebration could well have taken place around that date. Notice that Sophie Löwenstein has

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twice been cut in half and that both times we only see her right side! There is a sheet on the DVD that identifies all the people. My mother is not in the picture, so perhaps she was the photographer, although these are not up to the standards of her other family pictures. By the time that this joyous celebration, complete with formal wear, took place, the Nazis were entrenched in power.



There is an anecdote in [ELKA] which is worth retelling. At a meeting of the local Nazi party -- this surely took place before they came to power -- Levy Holländer shouted out, "You are all a bunch of liars".



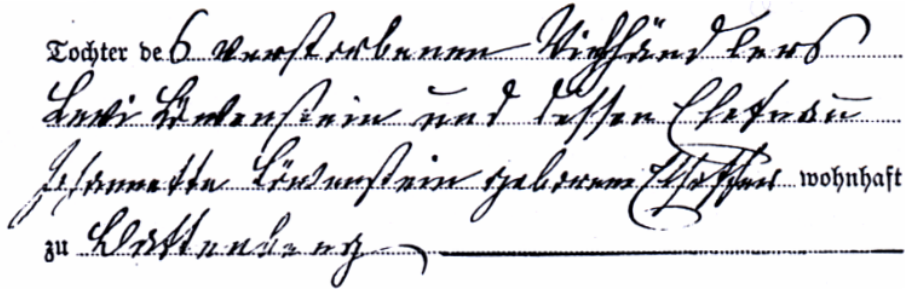
Hilchenbach: The Graves of Sophie Löwenstein and Levy Holländer

Hilchenbach Group

The Two Times Maternal Great-Grandparents of Roger Fischler

We know the names of all four grandparents from the 1884 MA of Sophie Löwenstein and Levy Holländer. Further, we learn that the two fathers were deceased, that they had been cattle dealers, and that the mothers were still alive. The marriage took place in Battenberg, where the bride and her parents lived, whereas the groom and his parents lived in Elsoff; see the maps and discussion above.

The Parents of Sophie Löwenstein



Tochter des verstorbenen Kaufmanns Leopold
Ludwig Löwenstein und seiner Ehefrau
Johanna Löwenstein geb. Meyer wohnhaft
zu Hilchenbach

1884.04.06: Names of the parents of Sophie Löwenstein

Johanette Elsoffer (212 • 11) ca. 1832, Scharzenau -- 1894.04.06, Battenberg [LAGIS, BERL-2].

Her DD clearly states that she was sixty-two years old at the time of her death which would put her birth year ca. 1832.

Scharzenau is a town that lies between Elsoff and Bad Berleburg and is now part of the Bad Berleburg municipality. Interestingly this is the place where the Scharzenau Brethren (also known as the German Baptist Brethren ...), was first organized in 1708. It was one of many groups that broke away from various Lutheran and Reformed churches.^{DVD}

Levi Löwenstein (212 • 12) early 1800s -- b. 1874, Battenberg [BERL-2].

He is said to be deceased on the 1879 DD of his son Willi, below, and he does not appear in the registers for 1874 (the year that civil records started in Battenberg) through 1879.

marriage: b. 1855 (birth of Sophie Löwenstein).

children:

1. **Sophie Löwenstein** (212 • 1) 1855, Battenberg -- 1940.02.29, Hilchenbach; see above.
2. **Willi Löwenstein** 1861, Battenberg -- 1879.01.07, Battenberg [LAGIS].
His DD says that he was eighteen years old and that he had been born in Battenberg.

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3. "son", Battenberg -- *, USA.

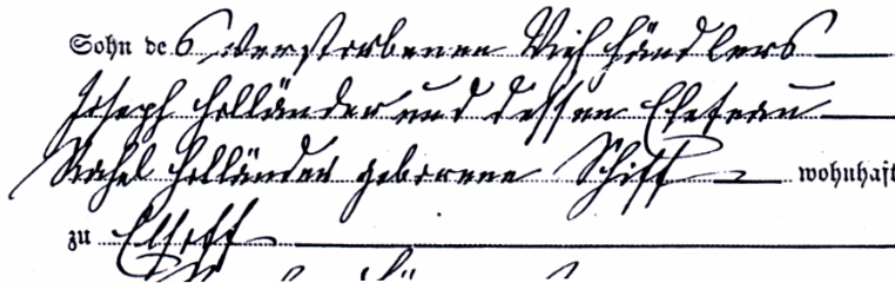
He emigrated to the USA and married Amalie? Gutermann; children: Lester, Milton.

A note from my mother says that a brother of Sophie Löwenstein went to the USA and gives the name of his wife and children, but not the name of the brother! From the note I deduced that Amalie? Gutermann was the "Tante Löwenstein" to whom we went on occasion when I was a boy. Of course -- the story of my genealogical life -- it was never explained to me how "Tante Löwenstein" fitted into the grand scheme of things.

The Parents of Levy Holländer

N.B. The Joseph Holländer introduced just below is the grandfather of the Joseph Holländer -- the father of Ruth Holländer -- above. The identification numbers (212) and (212•22) are used to distinguish between them.

The names of the parents of Levy Holländer appear on his 1884 MA and we learn that his father was deceased.



The image shows a handwritten document snippet with several lines of text in cursive script. The text is written on a form with horizontal lines. The first line reads "Sohn des verstorbenen Kaufmanns". The second line reads "Joseph Holländer". The third line reads "geboren am 29. August 1804". The fourth line reads "zu Elsoff". The fifth line reads "Wohnort".

MA, 1884.04.06: Names of the parents of Levy Holländer

Rachel Schiff (212•21) 1810.07.11, Allendorf, Kreis Biedenkopf-- 1895.07.11, Elsoff [DIET-2, p.35, DA].

This Allendorf is not to be confused with the Allendorf (Eder) which is right next to Battenberg nor with the Allendorf (Frankenau), which is discussed in the chapter dealing with the common ancestors.

Joseph Holländer (212•22) 1804.08.29, Elsoff -- 1857.01.24, Elsoff [DIET-2, p.35].

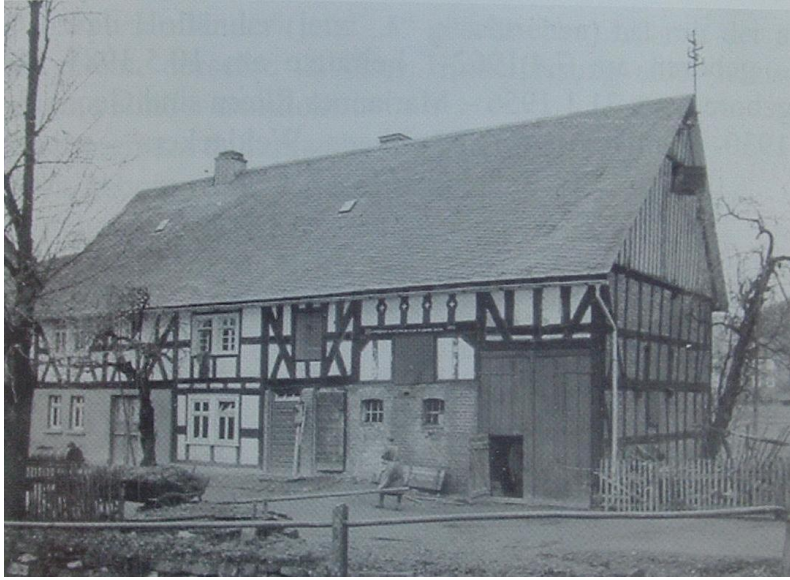
On the 1835 MA he is described as a *handelmann*, i.e. merchant, without further precision. I do not know if this category includes cattle dealers, which was the occupation of Levy Holländer.

marriage: 1835.03.02, Bad Berleburg [BERL-2, no.4]; see the image below in the section, "The Parents of Rachel Schiff".

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Rechels „Mehle“

In 1838 Rachel Schiff and Joseph Holländer purchased half of a house from the Zacharias family. The following, old but undated, photograph [BRA-1] shows what was probably the original appearance. The family lived on the left side.



In small towns houses were often referred to by the name of a person who had lived, or was still living, in the house (in fact, now in 2020 in Ottawa, we still refer to some houses on our street by the names of former owners). As the title -- which is part of a photograph of the explanatory plaque in front of the house -- indicates this house was referred to “Rechels” after Rachel Schiff. The origin of the the word “Mehle” is unknown. One suggestion is that it comes from *mühle* meaning “mill”, possibly because there had been a mill at that spot. Another suggestion relates the word to a supposed person named Müller.

After the death of Joseph Holländer in 1857, and particularly near the end of the nineteenth-century, parts were redistributed, taking into account the children who were deceased or who had emmigrated. In 1883 Rachel Schiff gave her part to Levi Holländer who in turn gave his part to his sister Johanna, so that by 1892 the latter became the sole owner. After her death in 1913 Levi resold her half of the house back to the Zacharias family.

children:

1. **Sarah Holländer** 1836.05.23, Elsoff -- * [BERL-2, no. 18].
2. **Wolf Holländer** 1838.09.06, Elsoff -- * [BERL-2, no. 37]. Braun, [p. 58], says that he emigrated to the USA.

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3. **Johanna Hanchen Holländer** 1840.10.22, Elsoff -- 1910.09.06, Elsoff. [BERL-2, no. 37; BRA-2, p. 33]

On the BA her name is given as the diminutive “Hanchen”, on the DA of her mother she signed “Johanna”.

There was another Johanna Holländer (1842.02.02, Elsoff -- 1911.08.01, Elsoff; [DIET-2, p. 35, grave 11; BRA-2, p. 43]) who, as the dates show, had a life span that virtually coincided with that of child 3. She was married to a Samuel Honey [grave 12] and they lived in the house -- referred to locally as “Mausches” -- that had belonged to Moses Holländer, the brother of Joseph Holländer (212 • 22). Could she have been a daughter of Moses Holländer?

4. **Meier Holländer** 1843.03.19, Elsoff -- * [BERL-2, no. 47]. The BA simply says “boy”; Braun, [p. 58], identifies him as Meier.

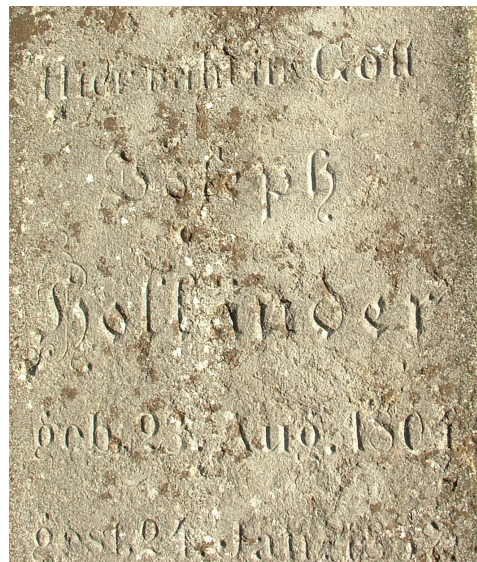
5. **Moses, Holländer** 1845.11.01, Elsoff -- 1910.03.30, Columbus, Ohio. [BERL-2, no. 53, DA].

This is indeed a strange situation. The DA gives the birth date as 1834.11.01 and says that he was 75 years, 4 months and 30 days old! The 1834 date would make him the oldest child.

6. **Joshua Holländer** 1849.04.06, Elsoff -- *. [BERL-2, there is no number on the sheet].

7. **Levi Holländer** (212 • 2) 1851.08.23, Elsoff-- 1939.06.27, Hilchenbach; see above.

The graves of Rachel Schiff and Joseph Holländer are numbers 1a and 1b in the notation of [DIET-2]. The left-hand picture was taken during our visit to Elsoff in 2010, the right-hand picture shows part of the inscription:



Hilchenbach Group

Three Times Maternal Great-Grandparents of Roger Fischler

The Early Jews of Elsoff

These ancestors were born before 1800 and thus before the various changes in rulers and boundaries. Before listing them, let us consider what is known about the Jews of Elsoff before 1800. The following information is taken from [BRA-2, p. 11, 60 ff.]:

The first mention of a Jew in Elsoff dates from 1723 and there are further mentions in 1725 and 1728. In 1762 eleven out of fifty-seven houses belonged to Jews. Braun points out that this was an extremely high percentage and a further indication -- along with the lack of any mention in the ducal archives covering several centuries of any Jewish-Christian conflicts -- of how well the Jews of Elsoff were able to integrate into the local society, and in particular to own property.

A list of "Schutzjuden" (Jews having the right of sojourn) from 1765 contains eleven names in particular people named Wolf Abraham, Wolf Abraham Bürgel, and Samuel Wolff (apparently the same as the Wolff Samuel listed on [p. 11]). The name "Wolff" is of interest to us because the great-grandfather of Joseph Holländer (212) was named Wolff Holländer (see person 212 • 222 below). One could conjecture that one of the three people named in 1765 changed his name to Wolff Holländer. Whether Wolf Abraham and Wolf Abraham Bürgel are related, with one being the father of the other being the son is another unknown. See at the end of the chapter for the official declaration by the sons of Joseph Holländer that their family name was Holländer.

The question arises as to where these Jews came from. There were few Jews immediately to the west in the territories ruled by the various houses of Nassau. Similarly to the north, in what is the present state of North Rhine-Westphalia, the Jews seem to have lived mainly in the northern parts of the state where Cologne, Muenster and Dortmund are located. Thus the most likely answer is that the Jews of Elsoff, and other towns in Wittgenstein, had moved west from neighbouring Hesse-Darmstadt where there was a Jewish population of over 19,000 in 1822.

The Parents of Johanette Elsoffer

From the 1894 DD of Johanette Elsoffer, the mother of Sophie Löwenstein, we know her father's full name and her mother's first name.

Frommet * (212 • 111) lived in Schwarzenau (now part of Bad Berleburg).

The DD leaves a space where the mother's family name would appear.

Wolf Elsoffer (212 • 112) lived in Schwarzenau (now part of Bad Berleburg).

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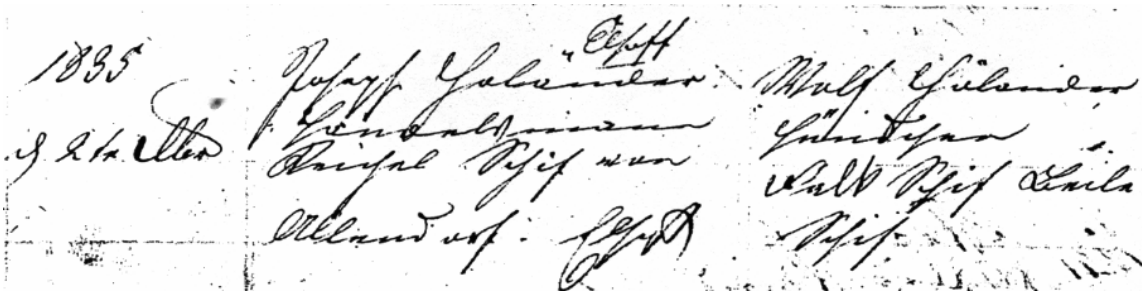
The family name of course suggests that it originated in Elsoff. A list of various people with the family name "Elsoffer" appears in [BRA-2, p.61], but there is no "Wolf Elsoffer".

The Parents of Levi Löwenstein

I was unable to obtain any information about the parents of Levi Löwenstein.

The Parents of Rachel Schiff

The names of the parents of Rachel Schiff are given on the 1835 MD of Rachel Schiff and Joseph Holländer:



1835.03.02, MD: Rachel Schiff and Joseph Holländer, with the names of their parents

The names of the parents of Rachel Schiff also appear on her DA, which was signed by her daughter Johanna:

The image shows a handwritten document from 1895. It reads "Tochter der zu Hollendorf verstorbenen Gabelman Salt Schiff und Gabelman Löwenstein".

1895.07.11, DD: Rachel Schiff

Bella Löwenstein (212 • 211) lived in Allendorf, Kreis Biedenkopf [BERL-2, no. 4; DA Rachel Schiff].

The transcription in [BERL-2] reads "Leila", but the first "L" has the little uptick which differentiates the capital "B" from the capital "L". That the first name is Bella is confirmed by the DA of her daughter Rachel Schiff.

I do not know if Bella Löwenstein is related to Levi Löwenstein, the father of Sophie Löwenstein.

Hilchenbach Group

Falk Schiff (212 • 212) lived in Allendorf, Kreis Biedenkopf [BERL-2, no. 4; DA Rachel Schiff].

marriage: 1835.03.02, Bad Berleburg [BERL-2].

child:

1. **Rachel Schiff** (212 • 21) 1810.07.11, Allendorf, Kreis Biedenkopf -- 1895.07.11, Elsoff; see above.

The Parents of Joseph Holländer (212 • 222)

The names of his parents also appear on the above 1835 MD of Rachel Schiff and Joseph Holländer:

Hänschen (212 • 221) * -- 1838.11.29, Berleburg? [BERL-2, no. 15].

Wolf Holländer (212 • 222) * -- b. 1838.11.29, Berleburg?.

On the DD of his wife it is stated that she was a widow.

It is possible that his previous name was either Wolf Abraham, Wolf Abraham Bürgel or Wolff Samuel; see the discussion above under "The Jews of Elsoff".

children:

1. **Moses Holländer** [BERL-2, no. 1]

He is referred to as a *Handeljud*, i.e. a Jewish merchant, whereas three years later his brother Joseph is referred to simply as a merchant.

On 1832.06.20 he married [Maehe?? Meta??] Baumeister in Bad Berleburg. They had at least four children [no. 5, 10, 22, 3x?] of whom the last one listed did not survive the first year.

2. **Joseph Holländer** (212 • 22) 1804.08.29, Elsoff--1857.01.24, Elsoff; see above.

An Official Registration of the Name Holländer

On the 1835 MA of Joseph Holländer both his family name and that of his father Wolf are listed as "Holländer" and the same is true of the 1832 MA of Moses Holländer. We do not know when members of the family first adopted the name or whether it was required by a government. In any case in 1846 the Jews of the Arnsberg region of Prussian Westphalia were registered, with their old and new names. Here is the entry for the two Holländer brothers; on the right their former name is stated to also have been Holländer:

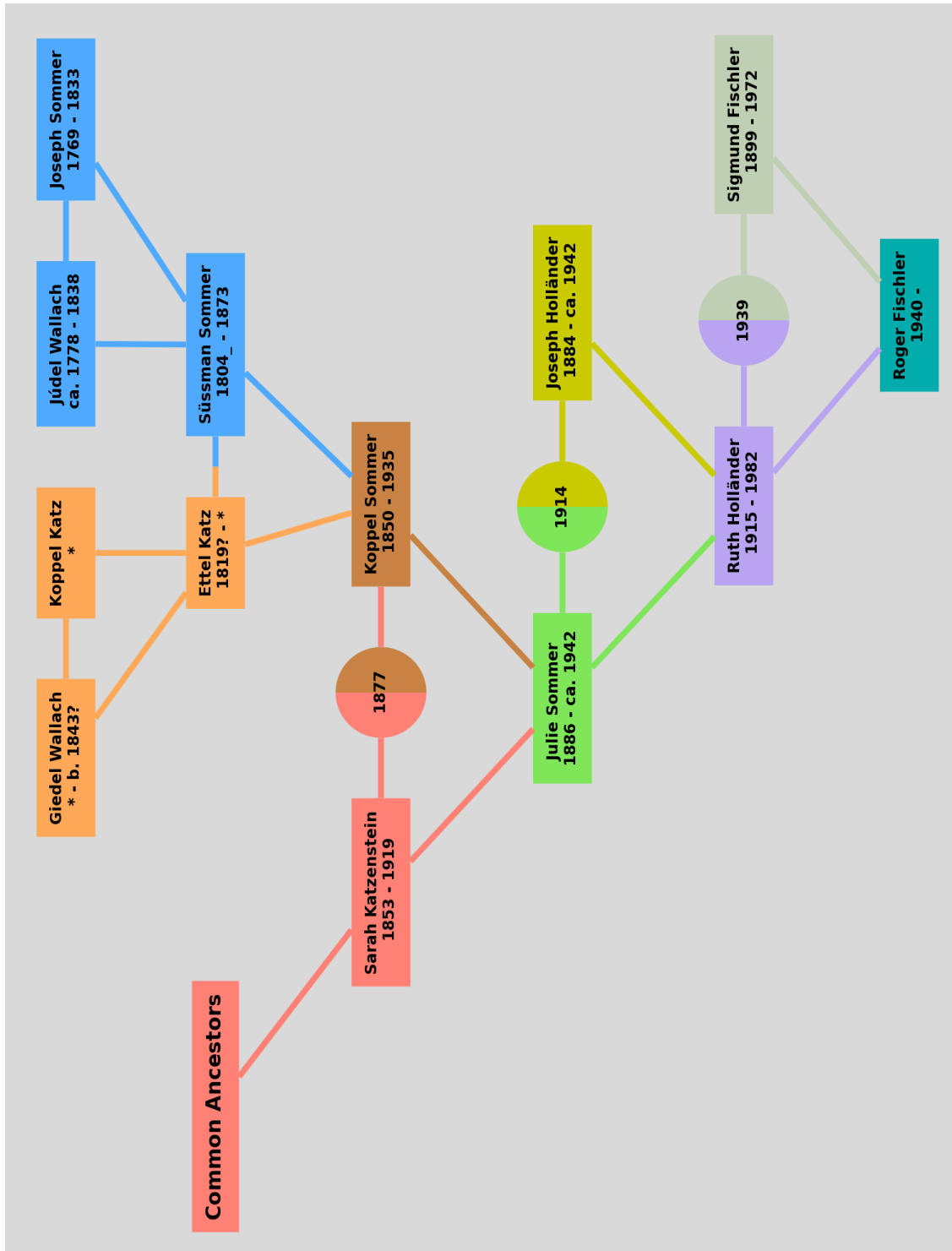
Hilchenbach Group

1178	Günzenhüser	Moses		Günzenhüser
1179	Holländer	Joseph		Holländer
1180	Holländer	Moses		Holländer
1181	Rieber	Wolf		Rieber

In view of the likelihood that the family originally came from neighbouring Hesse-Darmstadt it is not at all evident that the name “Holländer” is related to the country of Holland. See the discussion in the section, “What’s in a Name” in the “Introduction”.

The Heinebach Group

The following chart partially shows the known ancestors through the three times great-grandparents of Roger Fischler (2) on his mother's maternal side. His mother's paternal side is discussed in the chapter "The Hilchenbach Group". His father's side is discussed in the chapter "The Leipzig Group".



Heinebach Group

Special Bibliography for the Heinebach Group

See also the “General Bibliography” in the introductory part for references that do not appear in the following list.

[BIN] Photographs and transcriptions of the gravestones in the cemetery at Binsföörth. References to this site are in the form [BIN, grave number]. Graves can be located as follows.

- i. <https://www.lagis-hessen.de/en/subjects/index/sn/juf>
- ii. search:Heinebach and order by the date of death. In addition to the information that appears on the gravestones there is a great deal of genealogical information. See under “Heinebach and its Jews” below for a discussion of the cemetery.

The above holds for the three Katz DD from the cemetery at Oberaula.

[EIF-JU] Eifert, Manfred. 2001. “Die jüdische Gemeinde in Heinebach”.^{DVD} Available at:
<http://heinebach.de/geschichte/Juden.htm>

[HÄDE] Häde, Sabine. 2004. *Studien zur Geschichte der jüdischen Gemeinde in Heinebach*.^{DVD} This seventy-seven page study cites many sources and provides an extensive history of the Jewish community of Heinebach. Available at:
http://www.hassia-judaica.de/Orte/Alheim-Heinebach/↪Geschichte_der_Kjued.Gemeinde/heinebach.pdf.

[HEI-JU1] <https://www.jüdische-gemeinden.de/index.php/gemeinden/↪h-j/870-heinebach-hessen>

[HEI-JU2] documents relating to the Jews of Heinebach. These can be accessed by searching for “heinebach” on [LAGIS] and then ordering by date; the Jewish documents are then first.

We have an interesting situation in Heinebach because while civil documents only started in 1876 the Jewish documents started in the 1820s. More precisely the birth documents (BD) started in 1825, the marriage documents (MD) in 1827 and the death documents (DD) in 1828. Thus while the BD of the children of Jüdel Wallach and Joseph Sommer are not available, there are two MD (civil and Jewish) for their son Susmann Sommer and they provide us with valuable information.

Despite the introduction of the civil registers in 1876, the separate marriage and death documents for Jewish community were kept until 1913 and the birth documents until 1925. I do not know if these later Jewish documents were required by the administration as some

Heinebach Group

seem to have been signed by what I assume is an official. A similar situation holds for Frankenau, and thus applies to Sarah Katzenstein.

- [KLE] Klein, Hans-Peter. 2012. *The descendants of Joseph (Meyer) Sommer and Guetel Sommer, née Wallach from Heinebach*.^{DVD} Available at:
<https://jinh.lima-city.de/index-gene.htm>
Klein cites his sources in the Wiesbaden archives.
- [NUHN] Heinrich Nuhn of Rotenburg has developed a website that deals with the Jews of the small towns of eastern Hesse; see e.g. [HÄDE]:
<http://www.hassia-judaica.de>
Nuhn was instrumental in the establishment of the Jewish museum in the former *mikveh* of Heinebach; see: <http://www.mikwe.de>

Heinebach and its Jews

N.B. Unless otherwise noted the following is based on [HÄDE, p. 7 ff.] and [EIF-JU].

Heinebach is another one of the towns in North Hesse in which our ancestors resided. It is approximately 75 km due east of Frankenberg, where the Katzenstein family had moved to in 1874, and only 63 km from their previous home in Frankenau.

The first mention of Jews in Heinebach dates from 1678. Already in 1800 there were enough Jews -- there must have been at least ten males for a *Minyan* -- to engage a leader for the services. In 1825 there were six Jewish families in the town. In 1843 a residence was converted into a synagogue, of which only the ceiling, with its painted stars, is a reminder of its former usage; see the photographs in [HÄDE, p. 7 ff.]. By 1844 there were seven families, in 1853 eleven families with sixty-one people, in 1864 seventy-six Jews, but by 1907 the community had been reduced to fifty-six individuals.

Among the other items of interest is that one of the Jewish soldiers who fought in the Franco-Prussian War of 1870 was Joseph Sommer, an older brother of Koppel Sommer. We also learn that in 1931 the barn belonging to Abraham Sommer, one of the children of Koppel Sommer, burned down.

There was no Jewish cemetery in Heinebach so the Jews were buried in Binsförth [BIN], which is about 8 km to the NW. It also served as the burial place for the Jews of Melsungen and other communities (Rotenburg, which is about 9 km to the southeast, had its own cemetery [NUHN]). According to [FRI-1, p.106] the cemetery dates from the middle of the seventeenth century, with the oldest legible tombstone dating from 1694. A total of 303 tombstones are shown and transcribed in [BIN] and among these are the tombstones of Sarah Katzenstein, Koppel

Heinebach Group

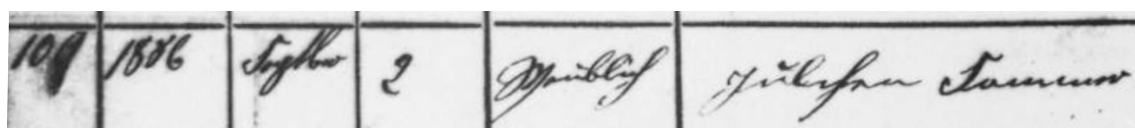
Sommer, Susmann Sommer and Joseph Sommer, the latter dating from 1833. More information concerning the cemetery appears in [ARN, "Binsförth"].

We visited the cemetery on our 2010 trip through North Hesse. It is a peaceful spot, perched on a hill at the beginning of small mountain range. As was the case elsewhere (e.g. Frankenberg and Leipzig) it was not desecrated during the Nazi period.



Julie Sommer (211)

Julie Sommer (211) 1886.09.02, Heinebach--1942.04.28, deported to Zamość, Poland [B,M,P,PIOR,BRIL].



1886.09.02: BD Julie Sommer

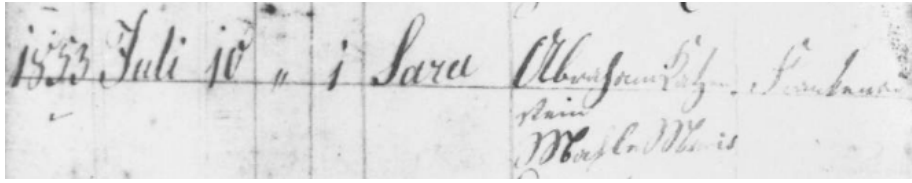
marriage: 1914.03.27, Heinebach to Joseph Holländer.

See "The Hilchenbach Group" for her life

The Parents of Julie Sommer

Sarah Katzenstein (211•1) 1853.07.10, Frankenau--1919.02.04, Heinebach [BD, MD, DD, P].

Heinebach Group



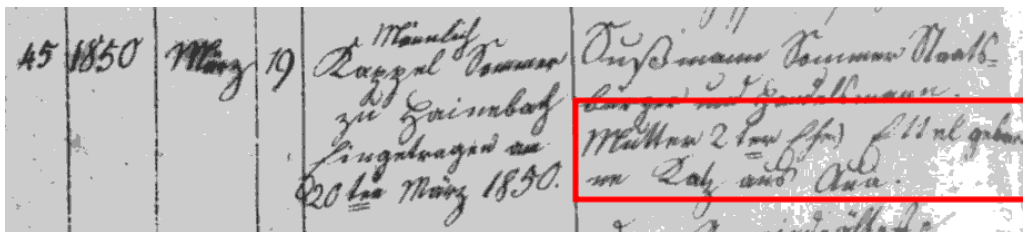
1853.07.10: BD [HEI-JU2] Sarah Katzenstein

1919	Februar	4	6/2	Offizin Tod Koppel Sommer Sarah geboren Katzenstein alt 65 geboren Heinebach
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1919.02.04: DD Sarah Katzenstein

Koppel Sommer (211 • 2) 1850.03.19, Heinebach -- 1935.02.19, Heinebach [BD, MD, DD, P].

The following BD of Koppel Sommer is of special importance because we learn that, “[his] Mother, [from the] *second marriage* of [Susmann Sommer is] Ettel née Katz from Aua”. This information will be used below in connection with his parents.



1850.03.19: BD Koppel Sommer

Normally civil documents were not signed in Germany -- unlike France -- and this deprives us of the signatures of the ancestors. However the BD of Abraham Sommer was signed by his father Koppel Sommer.

1884.03.21: Signature of Koppel Sommer, on the BD of Abraham Sommer

The requirement that the father sign the BD was apparently in effect in Heinebach

Heinebach Group

because the signature of Abraham Sommer appears on the BD -- see below -- of his children Elsie and Fritz.



ca. 1910?: Julie Sommer, Sarah Katzenstein; ca. 1930?: Koppel Sommer

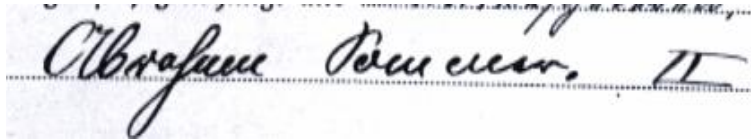
For the longest time we thought that the oldest girl in the 1874 photograph of the Marx-Katzenstein family (see the chapter, “Common Ancestors”) was Sarah Katzenstein, but in fact she is Rosa Katzenstein, child no. 3. Fortunately Meta Miller [MM] sent me the photograph on the left above and, if my notes are correct, she said that the elderly lady was Sarah Katzenstein and that Julie Sommer was the young woman to her right. The latter identification seems correct if we compare the image with her engagement and later photographs. The complete photograph and the tentative identification of the other people pictured is on the DVD. Julie Sommer married in 1914 and moved to Hilchenbach, so this photograph was taken before then. A date around 1910 seems reasonable. The photograph of Koppel Sommer on the right was also given to me by Meta. I would guess that he was about eighty at the time, just about my age as I am writing this:

marriage : 1877.05.01, Heinebach [MD].

Heinebach Group

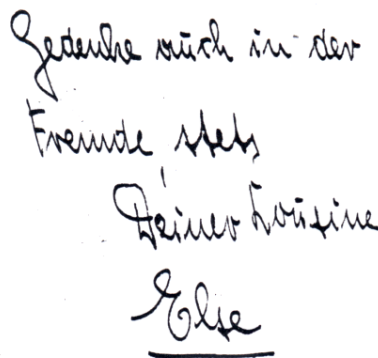
children:

1. **Jettchen Sommer** 1878.02.14, Heinebach -- * [BD, RH].
She married * Christ; two children were living in Brooklyn in 1974.
2. **Sigmund Sommer** 1879.10.05, Heinebach -- * [BD].
None of the trees that I have lists this person.
3. **Rosa Sommer** 1881.06.21, Heinebach -- 1959.01.24 [DD, MM].
She married Isack Miller of Eiterfeld; children: Bertha, Elsie, Meta (MM), Senta.
They lived in New York and we would visit them once or twice a year. I remember going to a seder at the home of the parents as a young boy. I was all excited about staying up late.



BD Fritz Sommer: signature Abraham Sommer

4. **Abraham Sommer** 1884.03.21, Heinebach -- concentration camp in WWII.
He married Lina Katz; children: Elsie, Irma, Sigfried.
My mother was very close to Elsie who was born in 1914.07.01, shortly before my mother. I have a series of letters that she wrote my mother.^{DVD} She moved to Frankenberg, where her Katzenstein relatives lived and was apparently deported from there. The entire family perished.



Gedenke mich in der
Fremde stets
deiner Cousine
Elsie



Elsie Sommer, 1937, sent to Ruth Holländer; Fritz Sommer

5. **Lina Sommer** 1885.08.23, Heinebach -- 1885.10.19, Heinebach [BD, DD].

Heinebach Group

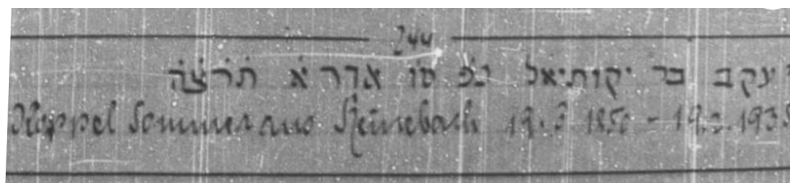
6. **Julie Sommer** (2 1 1) 1886.09.02, Heinebach-- 1942.04.28, deported to Zamość, Poland; see above.
7. **Bertha Sommer** 1889.04.02, Heinebach -- 1890.02.26, Heinebach [BD].

The Graves of Sarah Katzenstein and Koppel Sommer

The picture on the left, which we took in 2010 when we visited the Jewish cemetery in Binsförth, shows the Hebrew lettering side of the tombstone [BIN, 56] of Sarah Katzenstein. On the second line her name is written as: שרה בת אברהם הכהן, i.e. “Sarah the daughter of Abraham, the cohen”, in reference to her father Abraham Katzenstein.



During our 2010 visit to Binsföth we were unable to find the tombstone of Koppel Sommer, the reason being that the writing was barely legible. The archivists who worked on the Binsföth project relied on the text shown below [LAGIS, BIN, act 365, 72, entry 244] that had been made in 1936. From this we learn that his Hebrew name was: יעקב בר יקותיאל, i.e. “Jacob son of Jekutiel”. Jekutiel was the Hebrew name of his father, Süßmann Sommer; see below. The tombstone of Koppel Sommer is pictured on the right.



Heinebach Group

The Maternal Ancestors of Julie Sommer

The ancestors of Sarah Katzenstein (211 • 1), the mother of Julie Sommer, are discussed in the chapter “Common Ancestors”.

Paternal Grandparents of Julie Sommer

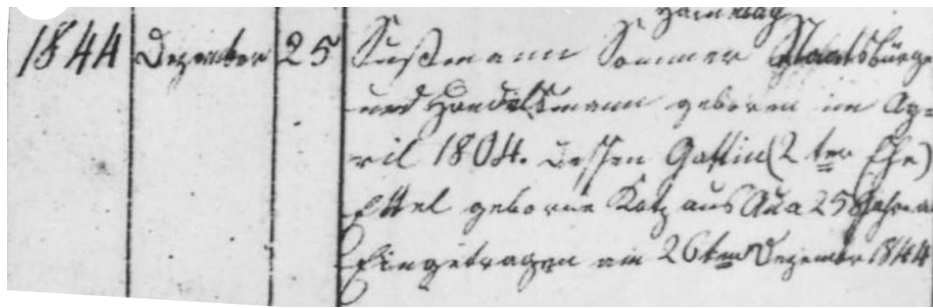
The Parents of Koppel Sommer

We know from the BD of Koppel Sommer, shown above, that he was the offspring of the second marriage of Süssmann Sommer and that his mother was Ettel Katz. Thanks once again to Meta Miller [MM] we have a picture of this couple which I estimate dates from ca. 1865:



From the MD we learn that Ettel Katz was 25 years old when she married, which implies that she was born ca. 1819. It also states that she was from Aua (about 23 km SW of Heinebach); that Ettel was born there appears to be confirmed by further information to be discussed below in connection with her parents. I could not find the DD of Ettel Katz, nor is she on the list of people buried in Binsföth. The archivists who wrote [BIN, 215] were also unable to discover when she passed away (a similar “disappearance”, is noted in connection with Jakob Herz in the chapter “The Haiger Group”).

Heinebach Group



1844.12.25: MD Ettel Katz and Süßmann Sommer, first part

On this MD Süßmann Sommer is stated to have been born in April, 1804. On the MD for his first marriage, dated July 22, 1834, his age is given as 30, which again places his year of birth in 1804. He passed away on September 11, 1873 and according to it he was “72 years, 4½ years old”. This would put his date of birth in May, 1801, three years earlier than on the MD which is from almost thirty years earlier. He was from Heinebach and from the second part of the MD, shown below with the discussion of the grandparents of Koppel Sommer, Süßmann's parents were living in Heinebach. We can thus presume that he was born there.

More, and sometimes different information, is given in the text of [BIN, 215] in connection with the tombstone of Süßmann Sommer. The inscription itself states that Süßmann's Judeo-German name was “Jekutiel”, which confirms what we learned from the inscription on the tombstone of Koppel Sommer. My guess is that “Jekutiel” is a dialectical version of the name of the prophet Ezekiel.

Other information was obtained in part from a marriage and tax document and also from an article, cited in [BIN, 215] which no longer seems to be available. The following is a summary:

Ettel was “22 years, 5 months and 24 days” [!] old at the time of the marriage. [This would place her birthdate in March, 1822, some three years later than the ca. 1819 suggested by the MD.]

Ettel Katz was born in Aua and was a cousin of Süßmann Sommer. Her mother Gietel Wallach was a sister of Süßmann Sommer's mother Jüdel Wallach.

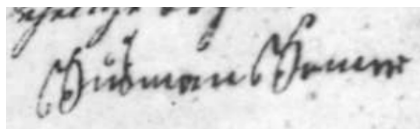
I note (see below with the parents of the couple) in connection with this last bit of information that both Jüdel Wallach and Gietel Wallach were from Raboldshausen. The latter town is only 3 km from Aua. The brothers of Ettel Katz were born in Raboldshausen, before the family moved to Aua in 1813. We can thus suppose that the Katz family and Wallach family knew each other quite well and this may explain how it came that Ethel Katz married Susmann. Presently both Aua and Raboldshausen are constituent parts of the community of Neuenstein.

Ettel Katz (211 • 21) ca. 1819?, 1822.03?, Aua? -- * [MD].

Susmann Jekutiel Sommer (211 • 22) 1804.04?, 1801.05?, Heinebach -- 1873.09.11, Heinebach [MD, DD, BIN no.215].

Heinebach Group

Susmann Sommer must have been an officer president of the synagogue / Jewish community, because his signature appears, along with that of a city official, on several documents:



1839.06.12: signature Susmann Sommer on a MD

second marriage of Susmann Sommer: 1844.09.04, Heinebach, with Ettel Katz [MD].

N.B. Unless another symbol is added, the following information concerning the two marriages of Susmann Sommer and the children of these marriages is taken from [KLE].

children of Ettel Katz and Susmann Sommer:

1. **Giedschen Sommer** 1845.02.08, Heinebach -- 1845.07.19, Heinebach.
2. **Joseph Sommer** 1846.05.09, Heinebach -- *.
3. **Ellen Sommer** 1848.01.24, Heinebach -- *.
4. **Koppel Sommer** (211 • 2) 1850.03.19, Heinebach -- 1935.02.19, Heinebach [BD, MD, DD, P]; see above.
5. **Lea Sommer** 1851.11.09, Heinebach -- *.
6. **Betti Pesschen Sommer** 1853.09.23, Heinebach -- *. Raboldshausen.
7. **Sargen Sommer** 1856.05.24, Heinebach -- * [BD].

first marriage of Susmann Sommer: 1834.07.22, with Malchen Mansbach (ca. 1813, Maden -- 1843.01.28, Heinebach) in Gudensberg.

children:

1. **Bertha Breine Sommer** 1835.08.26, Heinebach -- *.
2. **Merle Sommer** 1837.12.17, Heinebach -- *.
3. **Jittel Sommer** 1839.12.08, Heinebach -- *.
4. **Roeschen Sommer** 1842.02.09, Heinebach -- *.

The Grave of Susmann Sommer

N.B. As noted above, neither I nor the archivists who did the research for the cemetery at Binsförth were able to find information about the death of Ettel Katz.

Heinebach Group

The Parents of Ethel Katz

On the above MD the name of Ettel Katz's father is stated to be Koppel Katz. The family name of her mother is Wallach, but it is the given name that is not clear. If we compare the first letter of her name with the "A" in "Aua" we see that they are not the same. The end of the name is "[d?]l". So my guess is that the name is "Giedel", even though the first letter does not look like the letter "G", apparently lower case, in "Gattin" (spouse) which appears in the first part of the MD. That "Giedel" is the correct reading is supported by what we read concerning Ettel's brothers (below). It is also not clear to me whether the statement "from Aua" after the name of the mother applies to just her or to both parents. I suspect that it is the latter as the MD states that Ettel was from Aua. Again this is supported by the information concerning the brothers.

While looking through the list of people named Katz in [LAGIS] I came across information concerning three men, David Katz, Abraham Katz and Schafte Katz, who were almost certainly brothers of Ettel Katz. The three are buried in the Oberaula, not in Binsförth. In all three of the documents concerning these men the name of the father is given as Koppel Katz. Further we learn that the family had left Raboldshausen for Aua in 1813. This information coincides with what we learned above from the MD of Ettel Katz and Susmann Sommer.

There is a difference, however, in the name of the mother of Ettel Katz. On the documentation concerning the three sons the name of the mother is Giedel Leiser, where as on the MD of Ettel Katz and Susmann Sommer the name of the mother is Gietel Wallach. The difference between the two names is explainable by the "name" Leiser. This must have been her father's name and she would have been referred to as Geidel [daughter of] Leiser before the adoption of civil family names came into effect.

Giedel Wallach *Leiser* (211 • 211) *, Raboldshausen? -- b. 1843?, lived in Aua.

Koppel Katz (211 • 212) *, Nesselröden? -- lived in Aua.

children:

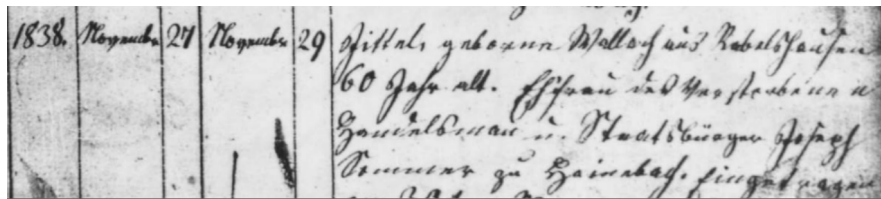
1. **David Katz** ca. 1811, Raboldshausen -- 1903.07.11, Ottrau [Oberaula, 194].
He married Reischen Oppenheim; no children.
2. **Abraham Katz** ca. 1812, Raboldshausen -- 1867.01.25, Raboldshausen? [Oberaula, 106].
He married Fradchen Ballin; they had one daughter.
3. **Schafte Katz** 1816.11.04, Raboldshausen -- 1899.01.13, Aua. [Oberaula, 201]
He married Jettchen Goldstein; they had four children.
4. **Ettel Katz** (211 • 21) ca. 1819, 1822.03?, Aua? -- *; see above.

Heinebach Group

The Parents of Susmann Sommer

On the above MD of Ettel Katz and Susmann Sommer the names of the latter's parents are stated to be, "the citizen (*Staatsburger*) and merchant Joseph Sommer, and his deceased wife Jüdel".

According to the information concerning the gravestone of Joseph Sommer [BIN, 106] the name of his wife was Jüdel/Jittel Wallach, who passed away on November 11, 1838. This enables us to find her DD:



1838.11.27: DD Jüdel Wallach

Further, from documents dealing with the ownership of the family house -- see below -- we learn that Jüdl Wallach's family name, before she adopted the family name Wallach, was Jüdl Löser.

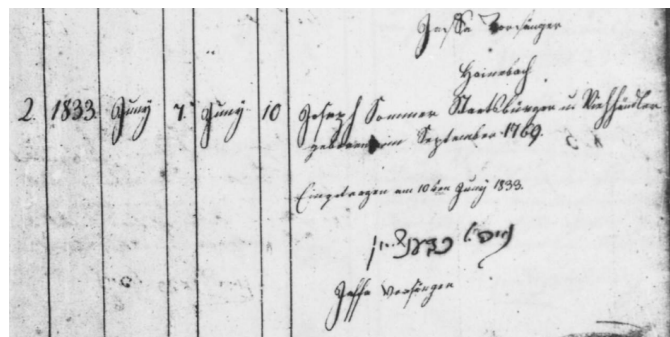
Jüdel Wallach *Jittel Löser* (2 1 1 • 2 2 1) ca. 1778, Raboldshausen--1838.11.27, Heinebach [DD; BIN, 106].

Her tombstone has either disappeared or can not be identified.

The above information lends weight to the text that I summarized above in connection with Ettel Katz and Süssman Sommer [Bin, 215] to the effect that the mother of Ettel Katz was Gietel Wallach, the sister of Süssman Sommer's mother Jüdl Wallach.

Joseph Sommer *Meyer* (2 1 1 • 2 2 2) 1769.09, Heinebach--1833.06.07, Heinebach [DD; BIN, 106; HÄDE, 40].

His DD describes him as a "citizen and cattle dealer". He is listed as Joseph Sommer as of 1839.



1833.06.07: DD Joseph Sommer

Heinebach Group

marriage: before ca. 1798 (before the birth of Moses Sommer).

children:

1. **Moses Sommer** ca. 1798, Heinebach -- 1873.03.19, Baumbach.
He married Sarah Abt; they had a son Hirsch Sommer, who married his first cousin Jettsche Sommer, a daughter of Susmann Sommer.
2. **Susmann Sommer** (211 • 22) 1804.04, 1801.05?, Heinebach -- 1873.09.11, Heinebach; see above.
3. **Abraham Sommer** 1806.12.02, Heinebach -- 1859.10.10, Heinebach.
He married Zerle Levi; they had ten children.
4. **Baruch Sommer** ca. 1811, Heinebach -- 1864.07.05, Heinebach.
He married Sara Mansbach who was born in Maden ca. 1816; they had seven children. As noted above, the first wife of Susmann Sommer was Malchen Mansbach who was born ca. 1813 in Maden, so it is not unlikely that they were sisters. If this were the case we would have two brothers marrying two sisters; see "Common Ancestors" where we have a similar situation.
5. **Itzig Sommer** ca. 1816, Heinebach -- *
He married Marianne Abt; they had seven children. I do not know if Marianne Abt was related to Sarah Abt, the wife of Moses Sommer.

The Grave of Joseph Sommer

The following is a photograph of the front (Hebrew) side of his tombstone [BIN, 196]; there apparently was no inscription in German on the other side. of the tombstone.



We read: שמו... יוסף ב'מ' מה"ב, i.e. his name [was] Joseph son of M from Heinebach”.

Heinebach Group

See below with his father for the interpretation of who “M” was.

Earlier Ancestors of Julie Sommer The Father of Gietel Wallach and Jüdel Wallach

We saw above that Gietel Wallach was referred to as Giedel Leiser in the documents related to her three sons and I concluded that Leiser was thus her father's name. Since Jüdel and Gietel were sisters (BIN, 215), Leiser was also the father of Jüdel.

Leiser (211 • 211 • 2 / 211 • 221) lived in Raboldshausen.

children:

1. **Giedel Wallach** *Leiser* (211 • 211) *, Raboldshausen? -- b. 1843?, lived in Aua; see above.
 2. **Jüdel Wallach** *Leiser* (211 • 221) ca. 1778, Raboldshausen -- 1838.11.27, Heinebach; see above.
-

Ancestors of Joseph Sommer

We saw that on the tombstone of Joseph Sommer he was identified as שמו... יוסף... ב'מ' מה"ב, i.e. his name [was] Joseph son of M from Heinebach”. The documentation [BIN, 106; also HÄDE, 40] that goes with the tombstone says that before Joseph Sommer adopted the family name Sommer he was referred to as Joseph Meyer. There is no indication as to how the archivists knew this, but I suspect that it was based on a change of name list.

According to the usual Jewish method of naming -- before civil names were introduced -- Joseph would have been his given name and Meyer the name of his father. Thus the archivists concluded that “M” stands for the first initial of “Meyer” and thus that Joseph Sommer was the son of Meyer Susmann from Heinebach. Meyer Susmann and other early ancestors are discussed in [HÄDE, 39, 17; KLE, 1] and I will summarize what their investigations showed:

In 1716 there is a record of a Levi Isaak in Heinebach and in 1729 a Court Jew (*Schutzjude*) named Susmann Isaak is recorded as having changed foreign money for the church. We also learn that the Susmann Isaak had six children. Again, because of the Jewish method of referring to children, the assumption is that Levi and Susmann were sons of a person named Isaak.

We also learn -- see below under houses -- that both Susmann Issak and Meyer Susmann lived in the same house and that later on Joseph Meyer / Joseph Sommer inherited the house. This a further indication of the relationship between the three.

Heinebach Group

Unfortunately we do not have the names of the wives of Susmann Issak and Meyer Susmann.

The Father of Joseph Sommer

Meyer Susmann (211 • 212 • 2) ca. 1740?, Heinebach -- b. 1828, Heinebach.

The DD for Heinebach start in 1828 so we can suppose that he passed away before that date.

The Father of Meyer Susmann

Susmann Isaak (211 • 212 • 22) ca. 1710?, * -- *, Heinebach.

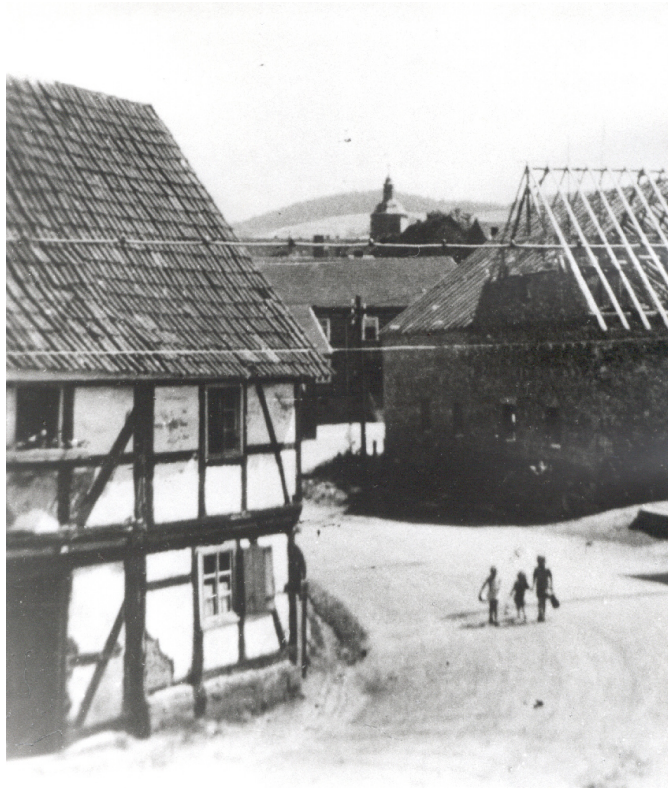
A Court Jew (*Schutzjude*). He had at least six children.

The Father Susmann Isaak

Issak? (211 • 212 • 222) last quarter of 17th century?.

Children: Susmann Isaak and Levi Isaak.

The Sommer Houses



The “Koppelsche Haus”

From at least 1750 Susmann Isaak and Meyer Susmann lived in a house that they

Heinebach Group

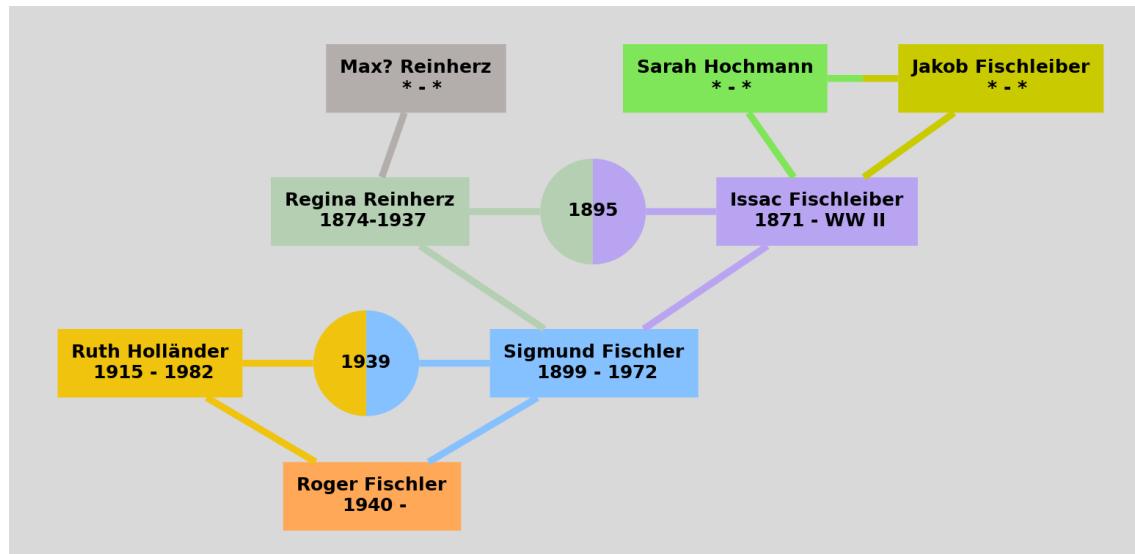
owned at Hof Straße 9. Afterwards Joseph Sommer, the son of Meyer lived with his family in the same house. In 1834, after Joseph had passed away, the house was owned by his wife Jüdel Wallach (still known as Jüdel Löser) who lived there with four of her sons. Nothing is stated about the rest of the nineteenth century, but in 1900 the butcher Moses Sommer, a grandson of Jüdel Wallach and Joseph Sommer, lived there with his family.

From 1834 on Susmann Sommer lived at 66 Nürnberger Landstraße. After he passed away in 1873 the house was inhabited by his son Koppel Sommer (211 • 2) who was referred to as "Sußmanns Koppel". In the tradition of many small towns (see "Rechels Mehle" in the chapter "The Hilchenbach Group") the name "Koppelsche Haus" was attached to the residence.

When the house was torn down in 1954 a Torah scroll was found inside. It is believed that it was hidden there by Abraham Sommer (child 4 of Koppel Sommer, referred to as Abraham II in [HÄDE]) at the time of the Nazi persecutions; I would guess that it was around the time of Krystal Nacht.

The Leipzig Group

The following chart shows the known ancestors of Sigmund Fischler, the father of Roger Fischler (2). His mother's maternal side is discussed in the chapter "The Heinebach Group". His mother's paternal side is discussed in the chapter "The Hilchenbach Group".



Special Bibliography for the Leipzig Group

See also the "General Bibliography" in the Introduction, and the additional bibliography in the "Leipzig Group" section of the DVD. The DVD also contains lists and copies of sources for the history of Eastern Europe and the Jews of the region and in addition it contains copies of the various trees and documents listed here.

[ESTATE] A family tree created by the lawyer for the estate of Sig Zelman Flishler (1902.09.06, Warsaw -- 1974.12.29, New York). The probate number is #.1153/gl 1975.

His father was one of eight siblings whose names appear on the list. Among these are Isaak Fischleiber, the father of Sigmund Fischler. The common parents of these eight children -- and thus the paternal grandparents of Sigmund Fischler -- are also given, but I do not know how these were obtained. Several dates and place names appear and these were probably obtained from some of the cousins of my father who were still alive at that point. It is obvious from the lack of certain information, which could have easily been obtained from New York death certificates, that the lawyer did not search very deeply. The lack of dates for the grandparents indicates that either there was no search in Poland or that nothing could be found.

[MOM] Part of a family tree created by my mother ("mom"), Ruth Holländer, showing what she remembered concerning the family of my father.

Leipzig Group

The names are the same as for [ESTATE], but with variations. This indicates that my mother did not simply copy from [ESTATE].

- [HERB] A genealogy created upon my request by Herbert Fischleiber.
See child number 4 under “The Parents of Isaak Fischleiber”.
- [SIMON] Information about Joseph Fischleiber provided by his son Simon for the Central Database of Shoah Victims.
- [FRIED] Friedlander, A. 2003. *From Suwalki to St. Ignace: a history of the Rosenthal, Reinhertz, Blumrosen, Winkelman and related families*. Brooklyn: Breakaway Productions.^{DVD} Available at the Centre for Jewish History:
<http://search.cjh.org>
- [JRI] The web site of *Jewish Records Indexing-Poland* founded by Stanley Diamond of Montreal.
<http://jri-poland.org/>
- [SCHUL] Kowalzik, B. 2002. *Das jüdische Schulwerk in Leipzig 1912-1933* Cologne: Böhlau-Verlag.

Fischler, Fischleiber, Fischleber, Fiszleber?

On his birth certificate my father’s family name is “Fischleiber”, and that is how it appears on various documents.^{DVD} It is also the spelling used by his father on the 1937 death certificate of my father’s mother. Thus “Fischleiber” is the form that I will use in the following.

However on certain documents, e.g. on his 1912 grade book from the Städtische Realschule, the spelling is “Fischleber” and that is how my grandfather signed his name in the grade book. We find the same confusion as to the spelling on the 1933 DD of Symcha Fischleiber, a brother of Issac Fischleiber. On the original document the family name is written “Fischleiber”, but a handwritten note, which dates from 1976, says that his family name was “Fischleber”.

Literally, Fischleiber means “fish-body”, and “Fishleber” “fish-liver” (if the spelling were “Fishlieber” the meaning would be “fish-lover”). To add even more confusion -- see the discussion in the chapter “What’s in a Name?” -- civil records for Miedzyrzec for the period 1836-1839 contain the Polish spelling “Fiszlejber”, which apparently corresponds to “Fishleber” rather than “Fischleiber”.

And for further confusion consider the use by [JRI] of the spellings “Fiszleber”, “Fejzleber” and “Fajzylber” for what is apparently the same surname.

Leipzig Group

It is of course possible that my grandfather's family kept an original German spelling instead of Germanizing an original Polish/Yiddish spelling when they came to Germany.

My father once told me that he had changed his name because the German spelling was too complicated for English speakers. On a letter from 1958, which accompanied his application for becoming a matriculated student at the City College of New York, he wrote, "Please note that I changed my name from Fischleiber to Fischler when I entered the United States in 1925". The ship's manifest, dated November 25, 1925, has the spelling "Fischleiber", but he may have made the change when he spoke to the immigration officer. On a German travel document dated July 31, 1928 his name is stated to be "Fischleiber". The first official sign of the change from "Fischleiber" to "Fischler" is on the following record of his reentry to the United States on January 25, 1929 where the immigration officer wrote "or Fischler".

20	Dreyer	✓	27
29	Fischleiber	✓ or Fischler	Sigmund

Sigmund Fischler (22)

Sigmund Fischler *Fischleiber* (22) 1899.08.06, Leipzig -- 1972.03.06 [BD, DD, P].

marriage: 1939.03.19, New York, to Ruth Holländer.

See "The Hilchenbach Group" for the life of Ruth Holländer



Leipzig Group

I have only three pictures of my father that predate his emigration to New York in 1925. The first was probably taken when he was two or so years old (notice the whip in the posed photograph). The second dates from when he was five or six and shows him with his three older siblings; from left to right we see Sale, Sigmund, Mareichen, and Moritz .

Moritz -- seated on the left in the photograph below -- passed away in January, 1921. Teddy, the young boy in the middle, was born in 1909 and appears to be around twelve years old. So an educated guess would be that the photograph was taken in 1920, perhaps slightly earlier.



ca. 1920: Moritz, Mareichen, Regina, Teddy, Isaak, Sigmund, Sale

Studies and End of Studies

Among the documents that I found after the death of my mother in 1982 were what seems to be a complete set of records from the schools my father attended, in particular from the *Israelitische Religionsschule zu Leipzig*. I had no idea that he had attended a Jewish school. Given the level of German schools he would have had a fairly advanced knowledge of Hebrew and Judaism. Aside from his helping me to recite from an elementary Hebrew learner I never had a chance to observe his knowledge of things Jewish. Neither did I know that he had studied English and French to a high level, with excellent marks.

Leipzig Group

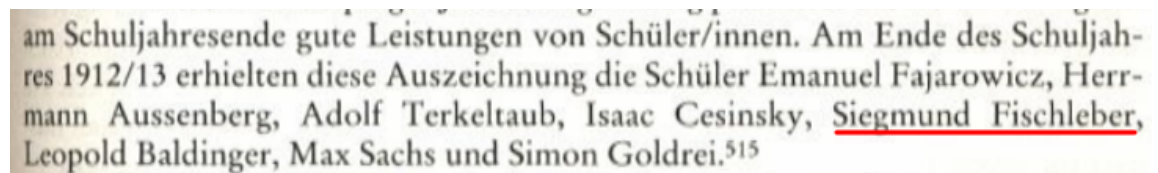
His post-secondary education was the only part of his youth that I had heard about, albeit briefly . On several occasions he would speak about attending the *Technischen Hochschule Dresden* (this corresponds to a polytechnic institute / engineering college). However, as we shall see below, his higher education was quite different from what I thought it had been. As far as non-academic activities he may have mentioned that he belonged to the Macabee athletic club, but I am not sure of this.

Since the nineteen years between the start of school at the age of six and his departure for New York in 1925 were of great importance in his life I will summarize the period, with many more details and documents appearing on the DVD.

The German system was, and still is, quite different from that of Canada. For now -- see the HTML for an extended discussion -- I note that there was a summer term that started after Easter and went until June or July, with the official end being "Michaelmas" (September 29, named after the archangel Michael). Then, starting at some point in the fall, there was a winter term, with the official end being Easter. Sometimes the school terms referred to as the Easter term and the Michaelmas term, but I will use the summer / winter terminology.

Starting with the summer term in 1906 when my father was almost six years old, and ending with the winter term of 1909-1910 he attended a primary school for a period of four years. Next he attended a regular (*Städtische Realschule*), starting with the summer term of 1910 and ending with the winter term of 1911-1912. I note that his worst grades ("sufficient") were in penmanship (this was a lot higher than what I received) and this continued to be a weak subject for him. During this latter period he also went to a Jewish school, probably after the regular school finished for the day and perhaps on Sunday.

In the summer term of 1912 he started attending the *Höhere Israelitische Schule*, founded by the well-known orthodox rabbi Ephraim Carlebach. This was the first year of its existence and as the following, from a book about the Jewish school system [SCHUL] in Leipzig, shows he was awarded honours in his first year:



am Schuljahresende gute Leistungen von Schüler/innen. Am Ende des Schuljahres 1912/13 erhielten diese Auszeichnung die Schüler Emanuel Fajarowicz, Herrmann Aussenberg, Adolf Terkeltaub, Isaac Cesinsky, Siegmund Fischleber, Leopold Baldinger, Max Sachs und Simon Goldrei.⁵¹⁵

My father attended the *Höhere Israelitische Schule* for four years and in addition to the diploma from this school he also received one from the *Städtische Realschule zu Leipzig*.

As the government did not give permission for the *Höhere Israelitische Schule* to continue beyond four years, my father attended the *Oberrealschule* for three years. This must have been a very demanding school as the class size went from thirty-five

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to twenty-one to fifteen with my father being ranked seventh, third and second in those three years. The following shows his grades and standing on the Easter 1918 report. On the bottom left is the signature of his father Isaak Fischleiber.

OBERREALSCHULE ZU LEIPZIG

Halbjahrszeugnis

für

Sigmund Fischleiber

Schüler der Klasse *12^a*

1918

Betragen Fleiß

Leistungen:

Religionslehre	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Physik	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Deutsch	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mathematik	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Französisch	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Darstellende Geometrie	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Englisch	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rechnen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Geschichte	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Freihandzeichnen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Erdkunde	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Schreiben	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Naturkunde	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Singen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Chemie	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Turnen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Wahlfrei: Stenographie		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Trigonometrie		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Latein		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

Klassenplatz: Unter *10* Schülern der *12^a* fe.

Leistungszensuren: sehr gut (1, 1^b), gut (2^a, 2, 2^b), genügend (3^a, 3), kaum genügend (3^b), ungenügend (4, 5).

Versäumt: *14 1/2*

Bemerkungen: ** genau der israelitischen Religionslehre.*

Unterschrift des Vaters oder dessen Stellvertreters: *Isaak Fischleiber*

H. Reitzner
Klassenlehrer.

At the end of their studies the students had to write the school-leaving examinations (*Reifprüfung*) which I believe is similar to the modern day German *Abitur* examinations. On September 11, 1918 he received his diploma (*Reifezeugnis*) and it is written that he intends to study engineering.

Shortly after graduating, starting on October 28, 1918 and continuing until January 3, 1919, my father worked at the *Deutsche Maschine-und-Papier-Industrie-Werke* as a volunteer. A 1916 document certified that he had the academic qualifications to do volunteer work. My father -- being a Russian citizen -- would not have been eligible to serve in the German army and this volunteer work may have been a replacement -- WWI was raging at that point -- for military service

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Despite his excellent grades, and for a reason beyond his control, things did not turn out well education wise. As stated above he had indicated that he wanted to continue his studies in the field of engineering. On May 8, 1919 he received an acceptance letter from the *Technische Hochschule Dresden*. However -- and this is completely incomprehensible to anyone used to the Canadian system -- the acceptance letter went on to say that there was no guarantee that space would be available for him in either the lectures or in the laboratories!

Since my father had mentioned the *Technische Hochschule Dresden* on several occasions, I wrote to the institution in 1998. They replied that there was no record of his actually attending. However in a letter to the City College of New York, dated October 14, 1958, he stated that he had studied there for *two* terms, but that the records were lost. Since he also submitted a translation of his *three* University of Leipzig terms, the statement about Dresden can not be due to a confusion between the two institutions. It is possible that he had attended the *Technische Hochschule Dresden* for two terms in the hopes of having a spot open up.

In August of 1919 he applied to the *Universität Leipzig* where he was accepted, but he was unable -- apparently because he had applied too late -- to start that fall. Thus it was only at the end of October 1920, a full year and a half after the end of his volunteer work, that he was able to proceed with his higher education.

From his *Kollegien-Buch*, and as confirmed by a copy of record sent to me by the university in 1998, he only attended the university for three semesters, winter 1920/1921, summer 1921 and winter 1921/1922. In the first semester he attended lectures in experimental physics II and experimental inorganic chemistry; in the second semester experimental organic chemistry; and in the third he took physical chemistry. Except for the physics course with Otto Wiener and physical chemistry with Max Le Blanc (a specialist in electro-chemistry) all these courses were taught by Carl Paal, a professor of applied chemistry.

Winter Semester 1921/22	69	Physikalische Chemie	Le Blanc
"	55c	Chemische Übungen	Dr. Paal.

Sigmund Fischler, courses winter 1921/1922, his handwriting

At the end of these three semesters my father received an *Abgangszeugnis*, literally "leaving certificate". My colleague Berndt Ulbrich -- who coincidentally also studied chemistry before switching to philosophy -- explained to me that this was not a

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diploma, but was rather, as indicated by the list of courses, what we would refer to as a transcript. It would be used in case a student changed universities or had to stop their studies for a variety of reasons. In order to obtain an *Abschlusszeugnis*, what we would consider a university diploma, ten or twelve semesters of study would have been required. With only the *Abgangszeugnis* future possibilities as a chemist would have been rather limited and I never heard him speak of working in the field.

I suspect that he had simply abandoned the idea of being a chemist and instead decided to work with his father in the fur business. At that time Leipzig, and in particular the *Brühl* district, was the world centre of the raw fur industry; see the discussion below. The following photograph dates from about the time that my father was in university. Note the horse and the men all dressed in white shirts, ties and jackets. People in the New York fur market in the 1950s and 1960s did not dress like this! My father, when I knew him, was not one to put on a white shirt and tie (any more than me) except to go to synagogue.



ca. 1920: The Leipzig *Brühl*

A Citizen of What Country?

Being born in Germany did not make one a German citizen and there was apparently no way that one could become one. That is why the Nazis were able to expel children born in Germany, but of Polish descent, in 1938. The citizenship of my father is not indicated on his birth certificate, but on a police document dated December 2, 1914 he is declared to be a Russian citizen and given the right to reside in Germany. The need for such a certificate is perhaps related to the outbreak of WWI in the summer of 1914 and the desire of the German government to control the non-Germans living

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on their territory. Not being a German citizen probably kept him out of the army, for he was eighteen before the war ended in November 1918. As suggested above he may have done voluntary work in lieu of serving in the army.

As part of the Treaty of Versailles, which was signed in June 1919, Poland became an independent country. The first elections were held in 1919, but a constitution only came into being in 1921. Thus one would think that my father and his parents would have automatically been considered Polish citizens at that point, but this does not seem to be the case. On his May 1922 leaving documents from the University of Leipzig he is said to have Russian citizenship. However, a police document dated October 27, 1922 states that it was being issued in connection with my father's application for a Polish passport. There is something of a mystery associated with this document because it notes that between August 3 and September 26 of 1917, when he was in the Oberrealschule, and again between May 23 and June 3, 1919, after he had applied to the Technische Hochschule Dresden, my father was absent from Germany. It would seem that the only country that my father could have visited in 1917 was Poland. Even though WWI was still raging, the front line was to the east of Poland. Had he gone to visit family (perhaps his grandparents were still alive) in Warsaw or Miedzyrzec or even for reasons of the fur trade?

Did my father want to obtain Polish citizenship because he was no longer going to study and wanted to be able to go with his father to work in the fur market in Warsaw? Did he want a Polish passport because he was already thinking of emigrating to the U.S.? I did not find any documents related to this.

There seems to be still another twist to the question of my father's citizenship. In July 1928 he obtained a travel pass from the German consulate in New York so that he could return to Germany. The document states that he was "presumably stateless" and that previously he had been "presumably Polish". This indicates that he was no longer considered to be a Polish citizen and perhaps that he had immigrated to the U.S. on a German travel pass rather than on a Polish passport.

To New York and Back to Europe: 1925 - 1937 [and 1939?]

I have no idea why my father left Leipzig to come to the U.S.. Was it to establish contacts in New York for his father's fur business? This possibility is suggested by a postcard, dated July 8, 1938, in which my grandfather speaks of having visited New York and also requests that my father pay someone for furs he had purchased. In any case on his July 31, 1928 German travel pass his occupation is listed as "fur sorter". Sorting is a task requiring a great deal of experience and he had surely learned this from his father.

I knew from my father that he had gone back to Europe a few times and that at one point he had worked with his father in the Warsaw fur market. I do not recall him speaking of working in Leipzig. As far as details are concerned I only remember him saying that he had left his very good library in Leipzig and that he had once attended

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a Nazi rally with a friend. With a variety of his documents at hand and the possibility of consulting immigration records on-line, I decided to try and trace his voyages as much as possible.

I know from the the immigration registries that he had been issued an immigration visa (no. 41897) in Leipzig on October 20, 1925 and left Hamburg on November 15. He traveled on the *Arabic* and arrived in New York on November 27. My father had mentioned that when he arrived he had stayed with his aunt Roza Fischleiber and family (see child 3 in the section, “The Parents of Isaak Fischleiber”) and it is their address that we see on the passenger list. His occupation is stated as being “merchant”. My father recalled that it was (American) Thanksgiving when he arrived, but in fact Thanksgiving was on the 26th in 1925. I suspect that the family held off celebrating because of his arrival. The association of Thanksgiving with his arrival was probably due to a first culture shock because he had probably never heard of such a thing in Germany.

Language would not have presented a barrier because my father had studied English at an advanced level (although New York English would have seemed strange) and he probably could converse in Yiddish, the lingua franca of the New York fur market. I do not know if his uncle by marriage Albert Epstein was also a furrier, but if this were the case my father might have worked for him for a while.



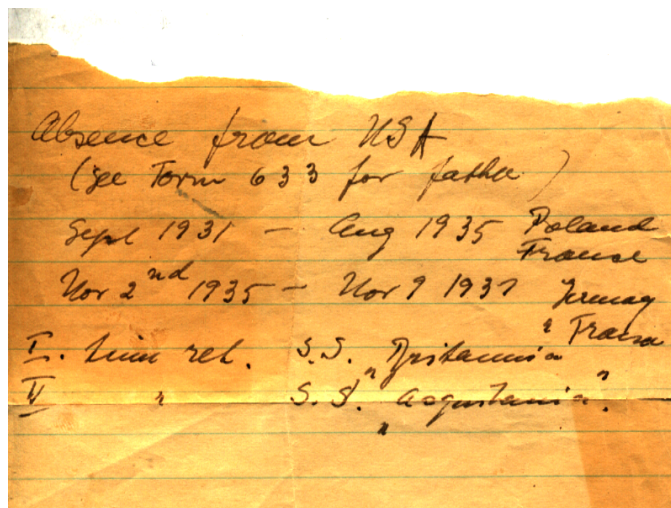
The German travel document mentioned above is dated July 31, 1928 and it was only valid until January 30, 1930. The picture on the left is the one on the German travel document and for comparison the one on the right is from what must have been his second U.S. passport, issued on October 11, 1935.

Thus after about three years in the U.S. my father returned to Germany for an extremely short visit. I do not know when my father actually sailed for Germany, but he returned on January 25, 1929, after a nine-day voyage aboard the *New York*. Al-

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together his stay in Germany was no longer than four months. When he reentered the U.S. he declared that his name was now "Fischler"; see the image above with the discussion of the various versions of the family name.

I know from a stamped statement on the back of the German travel document, and also from the November, 1937 immigration manifest, that he was naturalized on September 17, 1931. According to the following note, in his handwriting, he left shortly after becoming a citizen and did not return until August 1935. I vaguely recall my father saying that he had returned to Germany because of the depression of the 1930s that had followed the 1929 stock-market crash; the market for furs had surely dried up.



Absence from USA
(see Form 633 for father)
Sept 1931 - Aug 1935 Poland
France
Nov 2nd 1935 - Nov 9 1937 Germany
France
E. Lima ret. S.S. "Disakucia"
V " S.S. "Argentina"

He did not stay very long in New York because on October 11, 1935 he obtained a new passport and in it [p.9] there is a "verification" document, dated October 30, 1935, from the German consulate in New York. We know that he then set sail almost immediately because he disembarked in Le Havre on November 10. My father did not return to New York until November 9, 1937. It was on this latter voyage that, as described in the "Preface" ("A Triple Love Story"), he met my mother.

From the passport we can obtain an idea of his travels, although the official stamps and signatures sometimes overlap and others are difficult to read. Since he only seems to have arrived in Leipzig on the 15th, he may have first visited his brother Sale in Paris. A Polish visa is dated December 20 so he stayed in Leipzig at least until then. Notice that on the above handwritten sheet he does not mention having been in Germany on this trip, but in fact the year 1936 is marked -- at least from what the scattered stamps indicate -- by back and forth trips between Poland and Germany. What might be a visa was stamped by a Czechoslovakian authority in Poland on "21 Lip 1936", where the Polish month *Lipiec* corresponds to July and, if I decipher another stamp correctly, he entered Czechoslovakia on August 1. This is of special

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interest because of a visit, captured in the photograph below, that he made with his parents and brother Teddy (on the right) to the Czech spa town of Franzenbad, which is just over the border with Germany and about 220 km south of Leipzig:

Everytime I look at this picture I have the same feeling of surprise that I have when looking at the pictures of my mother at the pool or in the fields in the 1930s (see the chapter on the Hilchenbach group) and realize that this is Nazi Germany with the anti-Jewish decrees and persecutions becoming ever more frequent. From what I have read it was not until 1938 that the fur businesses in the Leipzig Brühl were confiscated. So apparently my grandparents were still able to afford a holiday, to leave Germany and then come back.



[August] 1936 Franzenbad, Czechoslovakia

The most surprising entries in the passport are the visa for Great Britain issued on February 2, 1937 by the consul in Leipzig and then the entry stamp at Harwich dated June 22, 1937. Harwich is a port on the North Sea, so my father must have sailed from Hamburg or Bremerhaven. Next we find a French visa issued on July 7, 1937 with the stamped note that it was a special visa issued in conjunction with the 1937 *Exposition internationale* held in Paris. I can not tell where this visa was issued or when, or even if my father actually went to France on this visa. It was not at the end of his stay in Europe because on October 26, he obtained a transit visa for France where he surely visited is brother Sale before leaving Europe for good. Finally on November 3, he set sail on the *Aquitania*, the trip on which he met my mother.

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It appears that my father again sailed -- or intended to sail -- to Europe, in the late spring or summer of 1939 for in postcard 7 (below), mailed on May 2, 1939, his father writes, "...In London you will obtain [exchange?] a lot cheaper" and a second hand who writes, "have a nice trip". An item which may or may not be related to the trip is his French-German dictionary (which I still use) with the inscription, "Walli Guzmann 12.6.39". At first I thought that my father had purchased this dictionary because he was also going to visit his brother Sale in France, but it did not seem reasonable that Walli Guzmann would have resold the book so soon after having purchased it. In addition may father spoke French quite well and had been in France two years prior, so why would he have purchased a dictionary. Perhaps he had borrowed it or had purchased it later when he was writing to Sale (writing in German was probably not a good idea once the war started). Another mystery.

WW II started on September 1, 1939 and, as evidenced by the correspondence he received from relatives in Poland there were unsuccessful attempts to provide them with visas; see the appendix to this chapter, "Postcards from Europe: 1937 - 1944. As the war dragged on and news of the mass murders of the Jews started filtering out it must have been a terrible time for my parents. They never spoke, as was frequently the case with survivors, about such things. Only once did I hear my mother cry out while watching a television programme.

At some point my father started training to be a lathe operator, probably to help the war efforts against the Nazis. It may have been after the U.S. entered the war in December 1941. He told me that he had not been allowed to work in that field during the war because he still had family in Germany. For a while -- before my mother threw them out, as she did with other things that I would have liked to keep -- some of the objects that my father had created on a lathe were in a closet and I would play with them. He did contribute to the war effort by joining the Air Warden Service in January 1942. The wardens would ensure that lights were off in case of an air raid and make sure that water hydrants would not be running etc.

Un Philosophe Manqué

There is no indication, either oral or written, that my father engaged in any formal education after he arrived in New York. On the other hand, he certainly continued his informal education and had a collection of books dealing with philosophy, art, history, atoms etc. He went -- and sometimes dragged me along -- to many art museums and galleries. When the United Nations was being built in the early 1950s we would often go, because of his interest in the organization, to the site. He also studied and played chess with different people (he wanted to teach me, but I was not interested).

In the late 1950s -- at the time when I was an undergraduate student in engineering -- he started taking evening courses at the City College of New York. He took courses in mathematics and philosophy and tried to obtain credits for his chemistry courses in Leipzig. Above is a page from one of his notebooks where he worked out mathematics

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N.B. Miedzyrzec Podalski is the modern name of the town which was simply called Miedzyrzec around 1900. Thus I will use Miedzyrzec to designate it. There is another town in the western part of modern Poland that is also called Miedzyrzec.



Congress Poland and the Pale of Settlement

To understand the world of my father's parents one has to consider the history of Eastern Europe. The countries involved had ever changing borders, so names such as Poland and Lithuania have to be considered as general expressions. In the sixteenth century Poland and Lithuania were joined in a commonwealth, but starting in the late 1700s Poland started being split up among Russia, Prussia and the Austro-Hungarian empire. When Napoleon started his march towards the east he created the Duchy of Warsaw, just as he had created the Kingdom of Westphalia (see under the Hilchenbach group). In 1815, after Napoleon's defeat, the Congress of Vienna once again split up Poland. Because of this the Russian held portion is usually referred to as Congress Poland, although the expression Kingdom of Poland is also used.

After 1835, Russia created another entity from the territories that it had acquired, the so-called Pale of Settlement [The word "pale" here has the sense of "a territory with fixed bounds, under a particular jurisdiction or subject to particular restrictions"]. Jews living in the Pale could not reside in the central part of Russia without special

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permission. The Jews of Poland were also barred from central Russia, but after 1862 Jews could at least move freely between the Pale and Congress Poland.

The map shows Poland and the northern part of the Pale, together with the number of Jews in the different sub-regions according to the 1897 Imperial census of all of Russia. Note that the Jews in the Congress Poland represented over fourteen percent of the total population. Yiddish was spoken by about ninety-nine percent of the Jews, often in addition to other languages.

The town of Kalvarija was in the Congress Poland province of Suwalki. The province was later divided between modern Poland and Lithuania, with Kalvarija now being in Lithuania. Miedzyrzec was in the Congress Poland province of Siedlce and has remained in Poland.



The Suwalki region was about 10 percent Jewish, but the town of Kalvarija was predominantly Jewish with about 7,000 Jews out of a population of around 8,500. Similarly the Siedlce region was about 16 percent Jewish, but the town of Miedzyrzec had approximately 9,000 Jews which represented about 65 percent of the population. Warsaw, where my father's parents married, was about 35 percent Jewish in 1901, out of a total population of about 712,000.

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From Poland to Germany

My father's parents moved from Warsaw to Leipzig at some point in time between their marriage in January, 1895 and 1899 when my father was born. Leipzig was part of the Kingdom of Saxony and it remained so until the king abdicated in November 1918, just after the end of WWI. Did the Saxon authorities encourage settlement or were the Jews of Poland merely tolerated? I have been unable to elucidate the matter.

As to why my grandparents left Warsaw, I suspect that it had to do with the importance of Leipzig as a centre of the fur industry, in particular the importation and distribution of raw -- see the etymological note below -- furs from eastern Europe. There were other members of the Fischleiber family in Leipzig in the early twentieth-century and some of these may have preceeded them.

Tobacco products and untreated furs!

On my father's October 10, 1922 police document it states that his father was a *Rauschwarenhändler*. I had seen the German word *Rauschwaren* earlier and immediately thought of the verb *rauschen* which means "to smoke" (from the noun *Rausch* which means simply "smoke"). Since *Waren* alone is related to the English "ware" I assumed that Leipzig was also a centre for smoking products. All wrong! The real word is *Rauwaren*, as it is still written in Austrian German. *Rau* is related to the English word "raw", which explains why *Rauschwaren* refers to the trade in untreated furs. I first confirmed the translation by looking in my father's German-French dictionary from the late 1930s (another sign of his continued interest in intellectual matters).

Learning More about my Father's Parents Erecting a Tombstone

Until 2009 all that I knew about of my father's parents was what my mother wrote on a family tree [MOM] that she had drawn for me sometime in the late 1970s.^{DVD} This consisted of the names of my paternal grandparents and the name, Max Reinherz, for my grandmother's father. She had also recalled that my grandmother had died in 1937, but did not know the date.

In 2009 I was in the process of looking at books and web sites describing Jewish cemeteries in Germany. I asked my colleague Bernd Ulbrich, who lived not far from Leipzig and had done research on Jews and Jewish institutions in Sachsen-Anhalt, if there were any books dealing with the cemeteries in Leipzig. He did even more, he contacted the *Israelitische Religionsgemeinde zu Leipzig* (IRG: Organization for the Jewish Community of Leipzig) and asked whether they had any information. Much to

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my amazement, given the Nazi and Communist regimes, they still had the registration cards of my grandparents.

On my grandmother's card it states that it was created in September 1935. On my grandfather's card 1915 is the date associated with the address so perhaps his card was older. I do not know if the Nazis had required the creation of these cards. In both cases my grandparents are stated as having been born in Russia and as being Polish citizens; see the discussion above.

Israelitische Religionsgemeinde zu Leipzig			
Familienname:	<i>Fischleiber wib.</i> <i>Reinherz</i>	Vornamen: <i>(Regina) Riva</i> <small>(Rufnamen unterstreichen)</small>	
Geburtstag und -jahr: <i>(10. 4. 73)</i>	<i>Pol. Aufg. 24/10. 37</i> <i>26. 5. 37</i>	Geburtsort: <i>Kalwaja-Siwalk i Rißl.</i>	
Staatsangehörigkeit (wenn nicht deutsch): <i>Polen</i>	Beruf:		
<small>ledig, <u>verheiratet</u>, verwitwet, geschieden</small>			
Wohnung:			
am <i>10. 9. 35</i>	<i>Zofmeister</i>	Str. Nr. <i>17.</i>	am : Str. Nr.
am :	Str. Nr.	am :	Str. Nr.
am :	Str. Nr.	am :	Str. Nr.
Bemerkungen: <i>Am 29. 11. 37 msp.</i>			
<i>NF Abt. 3A15</i>		<i>Auftrag v. 13. 7. 2009</i>	
<i>Reihe 5</i>		<i>v. 30. 11. 2009</i>	
<small>12000. III. 35. G.M.N.</small>			

IRG: Registration card for Regina Reinherz

Israelitische Religionsgemeinde zu Leipzig			
Familienname:	<i>Fischleiber</i> <i>(Modeller)</i>	Vornamen: <i>(Yoko) Yoko Fouch Riza</i> <small>(Rufnamen unterstreichen)</small>	
Geburtstag und -jahr: <i>28. 3. 71</i>		Geburtsort: <i>Meseritz i. Rißl.</i>	
Staatsangehörigkeit (wenn nicht deutsch): <i>Polen</i>	Beruf: <i>Gandelsmann</i>		
<small>ledig, verheiratet, verwitwet, geschieden</small>			
Wohnung:			
am <i>7. 9. 15</i>	<i>Zofmeister</i>	Str. Nr. <i>17.</i>	am : Str. Nr.
am :	Str. Nr.	am :	Str. Nr.
am :	Str. Nr.	am <i>Bernoth 17. 6. 58</i>	Str. Nr.
Bemerkungen: <i>unbekannt msp.</i>			
<i>Auftrag v. unknown [fate?]</i>		<i>28. 10. 38 Pol.</i>	
<small>12000. III. 35. G.M.N.</small>		1938.10.38 expelled to Poland <i>b.w.</i>	

IRG: Registration card for Isaak Fischleiber

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There seemed to be confusion concerning his name because it reads “Fischleiber (Fischleber), (Icko) Itzko Isaack Hizik[?]”. The card also states that he was born in Miedzyrzec in Russia and that he was considered to be a Polish citizen when the card was created. His profession is listed as “tradesman”. I learned from the card that he had been a widower before his remarriage with my grandmother. One further remark, at the bottom, is of importance: “unknown location, 1938.10.28, Poland”. This latter date corresponds to the expulsion to Poland of all Jews of Polish citizenship.

More information was provided by the death registration card of Regina Reinherz.

Neuer Friedhof, Leipzig, Delitzscher Landstr.		Nr. 132
Name:	Fischleiber geb. Reinherz	Vorname: Regina
Geburtstag:	26. 5. 24	Geburtsort: Kalwarja Staatsang. Polen
Gestorben am:	29. 11. 1937	Bestattungs-Verz.-Nr.
Sterbeort:	Leipzig	Sterberegister-Verz. 132/1937
in Einzelgrab — Rundgrab — Gartengrab — Aschenstelle — Erbbegräbnis		
für:	Gräber in Abt. III a 1	Reihe 5 Nr. 102
Das Familienbegräbnis lautet auf den Namen:		

IRG: Death registration card for Regina Reinherz

We learn that she was buried in the “New Jewish Cemetery” on Delitzscher Street (this dates from 1925; in 1937 the Nazis had all the bodies in the old cemetery exhumed and reburied in a mass grave in the new one) in section III, a, 1; row 5, number 102 (Abteilung III a 1, Reihe 5, Nr. 102). The date of death is given as November 29, 1937 which was just a few weeks after my father's return to New York.



Bernd Ulbrich did even more for me, for when he was in Leipzig he went to the cemetery and sent me the picture on the left. I assumed at first that my grandmother's stone had been destroyed, but as can be seen in the photograph there are old stones

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on either side. I finally figured out the reason for the lack of a stone; the unveiling ceremony normally takes place after eleven months. However eleven months had not expired on October 28, when, as the Jewish registration card above states, my grandfather and the other Polish Jews of Leipzig were expelled; see the comments on postcards 3 and 4 below.

Having understood the situation I inquired whether it were possible to have a tombstone placed. As the answer was in the affirmative my grandmother finally, seventy-two years after her death, had her place of burial (on the right in the above pictures) marked. The following photograph taken in the shop shows the details of the grave stone.



Regina (Riewa)

Fischleiber

née Reinherz

1874.05.26 -- 1937.11.27

In Memory of

Isaak Fischleiber

1871.03.28 -- ca. 1942

The Parents of Sigmund Fischler

Regina *Riwa* Reinherz (221) 1874.04.10, Kalvarija-- 1937.11.29, Leipzig [registration and death cards from the Leipzig Jewish Organization, D,P].

On her original registration card the date of birth was given as 1873.04.10, but this was later corrected. I have used the German spelling “Reinherz”, which appears on her DD.

In a letter in response to a request to the Lithuanian archives for her birth certificate, I was told that there were no Jewish records for Kalvarija for that period. The adjective “Jewish” suggests that the Russians kept the records for Jews separate from other records. This was confirmed in the very detailed chapter on the Reinherzs of Kalvarija in [FRIED, p.3].

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Isaak Itzko? Fischleiber (222) 1871.03.28, Miedzyrzec -- WW II, Poland [registration card from the Leipzig Jewish Organization].

Isaak Fischleiber was a furrier in the Leipzig *Brühl*, an ancient quarter of Leipzig which is named after the main street that runs through it. Already in 1900, thus about five years after my grandparents arrived from Warsaw, Leipzig was the centre of the world raw fur trade.^{DVP} He may have already been in the fur trade in Warsaw before he came to Leipzig and from what my father told me they worked together in Warsaw; see above on his travels.



ca. 1905, fair day in the Leipzig *Brühl*

Marriage : 1895.01.10, Warsaw; obtained from a note attached to the death certificate of Regina Reinherz.

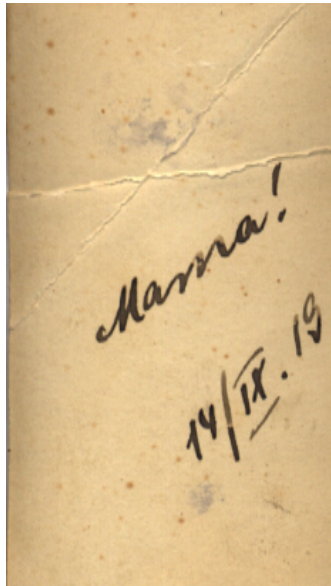


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The above photographs are undoubtedly their formal engagement photographs dating from 1894, which, from the information on the back, were taken in Warsaw. Since their first son Moritz was born on November 22, 1895 the couple moved to Leipzig during that year. It is possible that Isaak had previously worked in Leipzig.

Since Isaak was a widower, as we learned from the registration card, but not yet twenty-four years old when he remarried, his first wife must have died very soon after their marriage. How Isaak and Regina met or were introduced is, as was the case with my maternal grandparents, something that intrigues me.

Knowing the date of their marriage, I inquired -- via the consulat of Poland in Ottawa -- if it were possible to obtain a copy of the MD. This would have permitted me to know the names of their parents. Unfortunately, as was the case with Lithuania, the records no longer seem to exist.



1919.09.14: Regina Reinherz & handwriting, Isaak Fischleiber, 1920s?

Children:

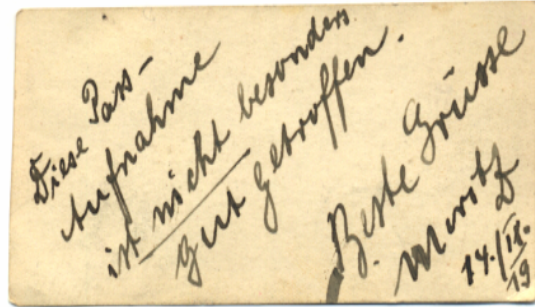
Children 1 and 5 are listed only in [MOM] whereas the other four appear in both [MOM] and in [ESTATE]. The latter source has been used for dates when documents were not available

1. **Moritz Fischleiber** 1895.11.22, Leipzig -- 1921.01.16, Leipzig [BD, DD]

According to my mother he died of influenza.

The date, November 14, 1919 on the back of the first photograph of Moritz is the same as that on back of the second photograph.

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1919.11.14: Moritz passport photograph



Moritz, 1919 -- Sale, Paris, 1942

2. **Solomon Sale Fischleiber** 1897.04.09, Leipzig -- 1969.09.14, France.

I do not know when Sale (the name that I knew him by) went to France, but I know that my father visited him on at least one of his trips to Europe. He was in hiding during the war, but in another one of the strange happenings in the history of this family he had a formal picture -- shown just above -- taken in occupied Paris in 1942.

He had a daughter Goldie, who aside from an unknown child of Selma Holländer (see the chapter on Selma Holländer and Freddy Furcht) was my only first cousin. I saw her for about thirty minutes in early January 1968 at the Tel-Aviv airport; and this only because her husband worked for Swiss Air and found out what return flight we were on.

3. **Sigmund Fischler** *Sigmund Fischleiber* (22) 1899.08.06, Leipzig -- 1972.03.06, New York; see above.
4. **Marie Marieschen Fischleiber** 1901.06.23, Leipzig -- 1992.08.31, Israel.

We visited her and her husband Joseph Lehrmann in Israel in 1967 and her alone in 1983. As far as I know the couple did not have any children.

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The 1901 date comes from [ESTATE], and since she is listed as an inheritor she was surely the one who supplied the date. If we look at the ca. 1905 photograph of the children Marie appears to be quite a bit taller than Sigmund, but since we do not see her feet she is probably kneeling on the chair.

5. **Helene Fischleiber** a. 1905? Leipzig -- b. ca. 1919, Leipzig.
She does not appear on the ca. 1905 photo of the children so she was either not yet born or still a very young baby. Nor is she in the above family photo which dates from ca. 1919.
A note on a sheet of paper, presumably based on what my mother told me, says that she died at the age of twelve from diabetes.
6. **Theodor Teddy Fischleiber** 1909.06.26, Leipzig -- World War II, Poland [DOC].



Mareichen, 1920s -- Teddy, 1920s

The Maternal Grandfather of Sigmund Fischler

The Father of Regina Reinherz?

My mother wrote Max Reinherz on a family tree as the name of the father of Regina Reinherz. She also told me that my grandmother was the daughter (or perhaps it was that she was a descendant of) of a famous rabbi, but she had no further information:

Max? Reinherz (221 • 2) lived in Kalvarija [MOM].

Despite the lack, as noted above, of records for Kalvarija Friedlander [FRIED] was able to gather a great deal of information from other sources. Of particular interest, because Regina Reinherz was born in 1874, is an 1865 list of ten members of a synagogue in Kalvarija named Reinherz. However, none was called "Max".

As to being the descendant of a famous rabbi, the only one that suggests itself is one Nathan Reinherz, who lived from 1792 to 1867. Some of the descendants of this

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rabbi, as well as those of his siblings appear in [FRIED, chart 12-2]. Intriguing are the children of Hirz Reinherz, a brother of Nathan; two girls have birth dates of 1870 and 1872 respectively compared to the 1874 date for Regina Reinherz. However as [FRIED, p. 3] states, the limited amount of information available suggests that the Reinherz family was extensive.

The Paternal Grandparents of Sigmund Fischler

The Parents of Isaak Fischleiber

These names appear in [ESTATE], [HERB] and the DD of Hermann Fischleiber (child 2). Herbert Fischleiber (see under child 4) would have either known them or learned about them from his father Joseph.

Sara Hochman (222 • 1) 1857, Miedzyrzec ??? -- a. birth Manja (ca. 1890) [HERB, ESTATE, JRI^{DVD}].

[ESTATE] says, "Sara or Sima". It is "Syma" on the DD of Hermann Fischleiber (child 3).

Chaim Jacob Fischleiber (222 • 2) lived in Miedzyrzec and Warsaw -- a. birth Manja (ca. 1890) [HERB, ESTATE].

[HERB] says simply, "Jacob".

marriage: before 1871 (birth of Isaak Fischleiber)

Since Hermann and other children after him were born in Warsaw, the couple moved from Miedzyrzec between 1871 and ca. 1876

children: The symbol ■ indicates that I knew the person in New York.

1. **Isaak Fischleiber** (222) 1871.03.28, Miedzyrzec -- WW II, Poland; see above.
2. **Hermann Hirsch Fischleiber** ca. 1876, Warsaw -- 1918.05.04, Leipzig [DD, ESTATE, MOM, HERB].

The DD gives his name as Hirsch and also states that he was born in Warsaw. He married Helene Bluseid. The couple had four children, all of whom perished at the Majdanek concentration camp, except Sigmund, the person whose estate was being probated in [ESTATE].

3. **Roza Rose Fischleiber** ca. 1877, Warsaw--1927.05.01, New York [DD, ESTATE, MOM, HERB].

She married Albert Epstein (ca. 1871, Warsaw -- 1941.04.21, New York). The family is listed on the 1905 census and her death certificate says that she was in the U.S. for twenty-two years which implies that they arrived in 1904 or 1905. The couple had two surviving daughters Eva (1902 -- 1960) and Myra ■ (1909 -- 1958). They also had a twenty-four year old boarder named Leo Fischleiber, who may have been a nephew of Roza Fischleiber.

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Myra ■ married Married Martin Steinberg ■. They had two children, Robert ■ and Cynthia ■. We would visit this family once or twice a year.

My father first stayed with this family when he immigrated in 1925.

4. **Joseph Fischleiber** 1879, Warsaw -- WW II [SIMON, HERB, ESTATE, MOM].
He married Charlotte Friedmann. They had three boys, Henek, who died in Treblinka, Simon, who lived in Israel, and Herbert, whom I met in Paris.
5. **Faigge Fischleiber** 1880, Warsaw -- ca. 1939 [HERB, ESTATE (states 1880), MOM].
She married Issac Finkelstein, who also died before the war. The couple had three daughters, all of whom perished during WW II.
6. **Leiser Leon Fischleiber** 1881.04.28, Warsaw -- 1939.10.31, Warsaw [HERB, ESTATE, MOM].
He married Fanny Neumann in 1909. They had two daughters Bella ■ and Ruth.
Bella ■ married Phil Laub ■ who went to the same Jewish school in Leipzig as my father. They had two children Leon ■ and Fern ■ and we would visit them fairly often.
Since Bella Fischleiber was alive and almost surely answered questions relative to [ESTATE] the date of 1881 probably came from her. There is a record of Leiser from the Warsaw ghetto, which gives his date of birth as 1889 [as opposed to 1881].04.27 and a date of death as 1939.10.30.
7. **Symcha Fischleiber** 1884.04.28, Warsaw -- 1933.07.17, Leipzig [DD, ESTATE, MOM, HERB].
On his DD and as confirmed by a handwritten marginal note that was added in 1976, his first name is "Symcha", but the other documents refer to him as "Sigmund". On 1911.09.14 he married Esther Schoenburg, who died in 1958. Since two of the children, George Fisher and Halina Fischleiber were alive and living in Great Britain in 1975, I suspect that they, their mother and another son, Alexander Fischleiber, had been able to escape there before the war.
8. **Manja Fischleiber** ca. 1890, Warsaw -- WWII [ESTATE, MOM, HERB].
She married Israel Goldman and was the addressee on postcard 6 and 7. She was living in Miedzyrzec at that time. They had a son Jakob, who apparently perished during WW II and a daughter Judith (1909.04.12 -- 1963, Poland).

Possible Ancestors of Issac Fischleiber

As we saw above in the discussion of the name Fischleiber there are several variations of the spelling. The web site for [JRI] has three different spellings, "Fiszleber", "Fiszlyber" and "Fiszlejber" for people who lived in Miedzyrzec in the period 1828-1841.^{DVD} This corresponds to the period when Jews were obliged to take civil names and it is possible that these people were related and that some were ancestors. Since

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there are great gaps in the Polish records, there is no way of knowing if this was indeed the case.

Appendix: Postcards from Europe: 1937 - 1944

Among my father's documents are ten postcards that had been sent from Czechoslovakia, Germany and Poland between July, 1937 and November 1941. There is also an envelope which indicates that a message had been received from his brother Teddy and other relatives.

In addition there is a copy of a letter addressed to his sister Mareichen in Tel-Aviv, as well as two postcards from his brother Sale in Paris, one from a few months after the war started, but before the Nazi occupation of Paris, and the other written -- apparently -- the day after final liberation of Paris.

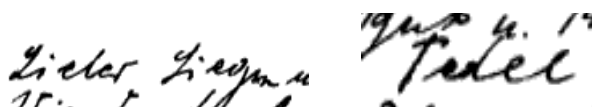
The following consists of summaries of the documents together with comments. Colour copies of all of the documents, a pdf document made up of high contrast black and white scans of the documents and a pdf document with transcriptions, translations and further comments can be found on the DVD.

Identifying the Writers

The following images show the salutation and signature of Issac Fischleiber and Teddy Fischleiber. Issac called my father "Siege", whereas his brother Teddy calls him "Siegmund". The signature of Issac Fischleiber reads "D[einer] Issac, and Teddy signs "Tedel".



Issac Fischleiber



Teddy Fischleiber

On cards 3, 5, 6 and 7 -- the latter two having been sent from Miedzyrzec -- a writer signs with what appears to be the letter "H", but it may be a symbol of some sort, especially given the text of postcard 3:

If the "signature" is indeed an "H", as opposed to a combination of letters or a symbol, then this may have been written by Henek Fischleiber, who perished, along with his

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father Josef Fischleiber, a brother of Issak Fischleiber. Josef Fischleiber is mentioned in postcard 4 where we learn that Issac and Teddy were living with him. The same return address as on postcard 4 is also used on postcards 5, 8 and 10. If Henek is indeed “H” then, in view of the statement on postcard 3 that he and his father had been expelled from Leipzig, they most likely were renting the apartment.

For information on the siblings of Issak Fischleiber mentioned here, see above under “The Parents of Isaak Fischleiber.”

Summaries

[card 1] 1938.07.08, Franzenbad, Czechoslovakia; from Issak Fischleiber.
We learn that *Isaak Fischleiber has returned from his trip to New York*. He asks my father to pay a person \$50 for the opossum furs that he had purchased from the seller.

That my grandfather had been in New York came as another great surprise to me.

[card 2] 1938.08.08.15, Franzenbad, Czechoslovakia; from Issak Fischleiber.
He will go to Leipzig for a few days and will meet up with Teddy in Karlsbad, Czechoslovakia for the Jewish holidays. *He is in favour of my father marrying*. We learn that Sale Fischleiber, my father’s brother, has received a French residence card, valid for three years.

[card 3] [1938.10.30?], Warsaw. The date on the card is “3.X.38”, but this date can not be correct as the writer states that they had had to leave Leipzig, the expulsions having started on October 28. The postcard was mailed from Poland with the post office stamp indicating “wars[aw]” and a date of November 2, 1939. I suspect that “3.X.38” should read “30.X.38”.

The postcard is signed “H”. The address is obliterated by the stamped postal mark so we do not know if it is the same as on postcard 4.

This is a postcard partially written in a coded language, e.g. “If this book from the hand of Nostradamus [the sixteenth century French astrologer] is not enough guidance, student bathe, without hesitation, your hot breast in the cool morning dawn ... [the dots appear in the original]”.

“H” further writes, “My father is also here; we had to leave Leipzig as we were, with hardly any time [to pack things]”. He speaks of making difficult[?] trips (*scharfe Trips [sic]*) with someone named Georg and again being a pioneer[?]with him.

Georg might be Georg Fischleiber, the son of Symcha Fischleiber, a brother of Isaac Fischleiber. George survived the war, along with his mother and a sister.

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October 27 preceeded the date when Isaak and Teddy were expelled from Leipzig and thus my father would have addressed the postcard to Leipzig; it is not clear how Isaak would have received it in Warsaw. The second hand does not sign "Tedel", but a comparison of the handwriting with that of postcard 4, and especially the salutation, indicates that the second writer was indeed Teddy. This part is signed "IC", unless it is the Hebrew letter aleph in cursive.

[card 6] 1938.11.20; from Issak Fischleiber and "H".
Issac says that he will find it more peaceful in Miedzyrzec and be together with Teddy a lot more. When he hears from my father he will perhaps have some of the essentials brought here.

"H" writes in a style somewhat reminiscent of postcard 3: "I am driving in the jungles of Poland and if this is even possible, from now on nothing is impossible ... You in America do something".

The postcard was written in Warsaw, but mailed from Miedzyrzec, and the returnee is M. Goldman. M. Goldman, must be Manja Fischleiber, a sister of Issac Fischleiber, who married Israel Goldman. The fact that Issac Fischleiber went to Miedzyrzec, combined with the name of his sister suggests that Manja was living there.

[card 7] 1939.05.02; from Issak Fischleiber and "H".
Isaac has not received anything today so if my father is not sure that Issac has received the money he should send 100 by telegram. "In London you will obtain [exchange?] a lot cheaper. Business is frozen as there are no buyers".

"H" writes that papa [not identified] wants to run away very fast and wants to save, "[but] with the present situation, saving is not worth while; who will live to have it ... Have a nice trip".

As with postcard 6 this one was mailed from Miedzyrzec, with the returnee being Goldman. There is a gap of over six months between the previous postcard and this one. It speaks of a postcard sent in April, 1939 and I assume that there had been others during this period. What do "In London" and "have a nice trip" refer to? Did my father travel to Europe? He had just married in March.

This is the last missive dated from before the outbreak of WWII in September 1939.

[card 8] 1940.01.30; from Issak Fischleiber in Warsaw to Joseph Holländer (the father of Ruth Holländer) in Hilchenbach.

Isaac Fischleiber says that he has received the card from his "Dear relatives" and asks them to let my father know that he and Teddy are well. Isaac requests that Joseph Holländer ask my father to send affidavits for himself and Teddy. Isaac also speaks of writing my father himself.

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The return address in Warsaw is the same as postcards 4 and 5 so Isaak and Teddy had returned from Miedzyrzec to Warsaw.



1940.01.30: Issac Fischleiber to Joseph Holländer in Hilchenbach

To properly understand this postcard one has to consider the historical and geographical background.^{DVD} The start of the WWII is usually dated to September 1, 1939 when both Germany and Russia invaded Poland and divided the territory almost equally between them. The aim of both occupying countries was the destruction of the Polish state. The Germans incorporated the western part of their conquered portion, which contained many ethnic Germans, as part of Germany proper. Further east they created the “Central Government” and forced the ethnic Poles and Jews who lived in the incorporated portion to resettle there. Both Warsaw and Miedzyrzec were located in this Central Government region. The affixed stamp, which partially covers the printed, presumably Polish, stamp simply says “Deutsche Reich”. This in turn implies that, at least for postal purposes, communication between Warsaw and Hilchenbach in Germany proper was possible.

The card was then sent from Hilchenbach to my parents in New York and so became part of my father’s document set. Note that Jews in Germany proper were still able to use the postal service, in particular they could send mail to the U.S. which was not yet at war.

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[card 9] 1940.03.09. This is the date that my father wrote on an empty envelope, so I do not know if this refers to the date it was sent or the date it was received.

The text (in English except for, apparently, the German abbreviation “u.” for “und”) on the envelope reads, “From Teddy, uncle Jo[seph Fischleiber] and aunt Tang[?]. I can not identify this last person. Note that Isaac is not mentioned among the writers.

[card 10] 1941.04.08 (according to the postage stamp); from Lotte Fischleiber [Charlotte Friedmann, the wife of Joseph Fischleiber]. The address is the same as on postcards 4,5 and 8. The printed postage stamp now reads, “General Government”; see above on postcard 8.

She complains that my father had received innumerable letters from them, but that he had not accomplished anything for them, He is to visit her aunt, who lives in New York. The aunt is to send papers (probably visas) via a certain person in Washington, D.C.. The latter sends them money each month via the Dresdener Bank, but unfortunately not much can be bought with it. My father is to send a telegram once the papers have been sent.

[card 11] 1941.11.17; the postcard was held up by the British censors (in Bermuda, which was a transit point, I believe) and only arrived on New York on March 3, 1946. The name of the sender is Maria Marczav in Warsaw, who was perhaps the name of the Polish woman where the sender was staying. Unfortunately, the name of the person who wrote most of the text is covered by stamps. The handwriting is not the same as that of Charlotte Friedmann on card 10.

The writer asks my father to ensure that there are no disruptions in the sending of packages even if there is no acknowledgement. The person has sent letters on September 23, October 30 and November 12. My father is to only send coffee and bitter chocolate because “everything else is of little value for me.” There is also a request to send greetings to an uncle Wolf.

There is also a short message by a second writer, but it too is covered by stamps. Partially visible under the stamps is “Naftal[i?]”.

Because of the stamps -- which I did not want to attempt to remove -- I can not identify any of the people. The Hebrew name “Naphtali” sometimes corresponds to the given name “Hirsch”, but I did not find any relatives with this name.

This is the end of the letters from Germany and Poland. I do not know if my father received the letters mentioned in postcard 11. Three weeks later, on December 7, 1941 the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbour and the U.S. entered the war, putting an end to any communication. In the sum-

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mer of 1942 the Nazis carried out mass deportations to the death camps and the Warsaw ghetto uprising of April 1943 resulted in more Jewish deaths. None of the people mentioned in the above letters appears to have survived until the end of the war; the only possible exception being "George" of postcard 3.

[card 12] 1940.05.30. From Sigmund Fischler in New York to Mariechen Fischleiber in Tel-Aviv. This letter was in an envelope marked, "Returned for additional postage". From a slip of paper inside the envelope and post office stamps on the outside, we know that the letter at least arrived in Rome.

The letter deals with the problem of delivering a visa to Issac Fischleiber and Teddy Fischleiber. My father says that he had had a letter from the U.S. government stating that the visa was in Berlin and that the consul was ready to send the visa to any place that Issac was allowed to go to. My father sent a cable to Issac on May 25 telling him to write the consul. Since Italy was no longer allowing transit passengers, my father suggested that he go via Romania. My father writes that he knows that Issac is sick and that he has not heard from him.

Since Issac Fischleiber was considered to be a Polish Jew the Germans would not have allowed him to travel to Berlin.

Two Postcards from Sale Fischleiber in Paris

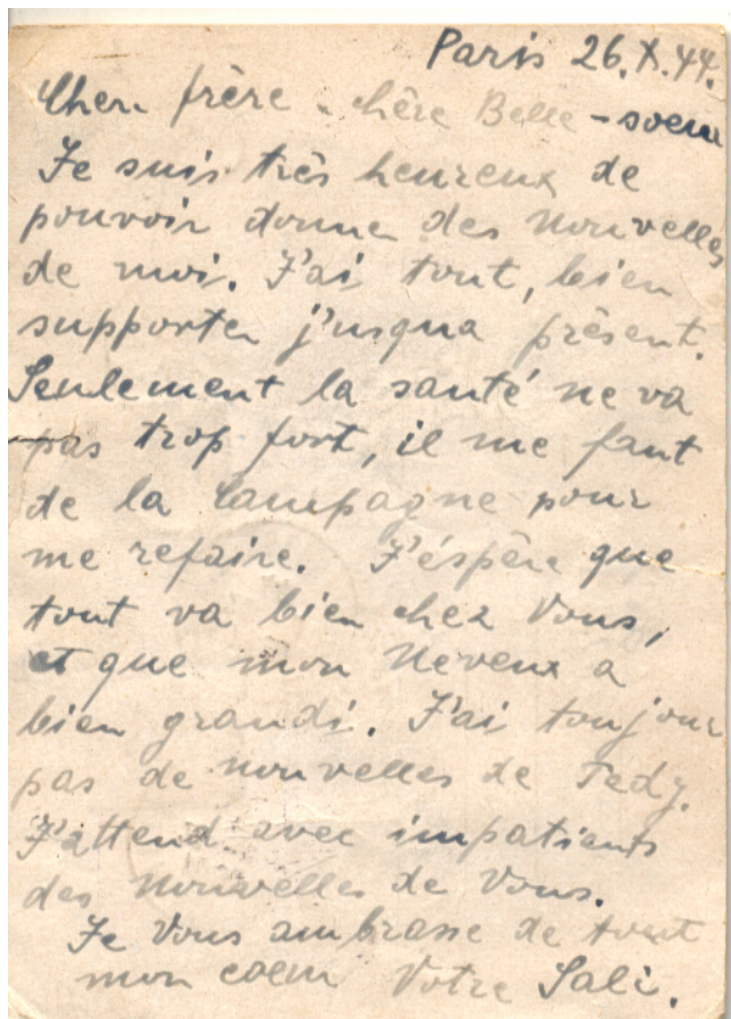
Although WW II started on September 1, 1939, the Germans did not attack France until May 10, 1940. Paris was occupied on June 14, well after the first postcard was written. The Parisian uprising against the Germans started on August 20, 1944 and the surrender date was August 25.

[card 13] 1940.02.12. From Sale Fischleiber in Paris to Sigmund Fischler in New York.

Sale received the card that my father sent and says that he was glad to have news [from my father] about Issac and Teddy. I had assumed that it would have been impossible to send a letter directly from Paris to Warsaw, but Sale says that he hopes to be in contact with them. In addition he says that he had met Herbert Fischleiber [the son of Joseph Fischleiber] who showed him a letter that he had received from his parents in Warsaw and that they are in good health. He is waiting to hear about my birth [which took place on the 22nd]. Sale is working a little, but the essential is that he is still alive.

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[card 14] 1944.08.26?. From Sale Fischleiber in Paris to Sigmund Fischler in New York.



Paris 26.X.44.
Cher frère - chère Belle-sœur
Je suis très heureux de
pouvoir donner des nouvelles
de moi. J'ai tout, bien
supporter jusqu'à présent.
Seulement la santé ne va
pas trop fort, il me faut
de la campagne pour
me refaire. J'espère que
tout va bien chez vous,
et que mon neveu a
bien grandi. J'ai toujours
pas de nouvelles de Teddy.
J'attends avec impatience
des nouvelles de vous.
Je vous embrasse de tout
mon cœur. Votre Sale.

Sale is happy to be able to send my parents news. He has been able to get along until the present, but his health is not the best and what he needs is to go to the country. He has not had any news about Teddy.

Sale wrote "26.x.44" as the date, but October 26, is the date of arrival that my mother wrote. The post office stamp has "26-8/44", which I imagine stands for August 26. If this date is correct Sale wrote the day after the Germans surrendered.

Selma Holländer and Freddy Furcht



Selma Holländer, my mother's younger sister, was born in 1920 and so was five years younger than my mother. Her fate was quite different from that of my mother who emigrated to the U.S. with a visa in 1937. My aunt was saved only because in 1939, shortly before WWII broke out, she was able to go the U.K.. Artur Holländer, their younger brother, was not as fortunate and perished in a concentration camp.

Freddy Furcht, who was nine years older than my aunt, also escaped certain death in 1939 when he was able to flee to Shanghai, half-way around the world from where Selma Holländer would find refuge.

Because they never had children together I decided to devote a chapter to them. Their stories illustrate another aspect of the lives of German Jews. I depart from the layout of the previous chapters by first discussing their lives after marriage and then treating their pre-marriage lives separately.

Selma Edith Holländer 1920.09.17, Hilchenbach -- 1982.07.02, New York

Freddy Fritz Furcht 1911.07.04, Frankfurt -- 1995.06.30, New York

His birth name was Fritz, but he was referred to by everyone as "Freddy".

marriage: 1955.09.04, New York.

Selma was thirty-five and Freddy forty-four at the time of their marriage. I vaguely recall my mother talking about placing an advertisement, seeking a marriage partner for my aunt, in the German-Jewish newspaper *Aufbau* and I presume that is how they met. The marriage took place in our apartment and it was officiated by Rabbi

Selma Holländer and Freddy Furcht

Justin Schloss, the husband of Selma's cousin Senta Miller.

Selma and Freddy lived not far from us and sometimes, especially when I was in college, I ate supper at their house. Later on they lived in the same apartment building as my parents. Selma's rheumatism became increasingly worse over the years and she suffered from a deformation of the hands and the slightest bruise created severe problems. She had already suffered from this in the U.K. as shown by a doctor's note [LBI 211, p. 62]. Freddy took very good care of her and I believe that they were a truly loving couple. They travelled more than my parents, visiting Canada, the UK (London and also Wales to visit Selma's cousin Arthur Schaefer), France, Freddy's home town of Frankfurt (I do not know if they visited Selma's home town of Hilchenbach), Washington, D.C., and Florida where they visited Selma's cousins. The following photograph was probably taken on an excursion in Florida:



Selma Holländer

The parents and ancestors of my aunt are discussed in the chapter “The Hilchenbach Group” and she appears in several of the photographs of that chapter. More photographs appear on the DVD and [LBI 211, p. 69 ff.]

The picture below on the left shows Selma at about the age of three with my mother and the one on the right shows her at the age of thirteen.

Selma Holländer and Freddy Furcht



Next is a school picture with Selma standing on the far right in the second row. On the back is a dedication to her paternal grandfather Levy Holländer on his eightieth birthday.^{DVD} This occurred in 1931 when Selma was eleven years old so the photograph must date from either 1931 or 1930.



I also have a copy of a poem that she wrote in January 1931. It was sent to me by Frau Gertrud Menn of Hilchenbach, who was a classmate of Selma's brother Artur Holländer.

Selma Holländer and Freddy Furcht

From her British alien registration booklet [LBI 211, p.34-45.], issued on July 11, 1939, we learn that my aunt had arrived in the U.K. on July 4 with a German passport issued on June 19. The picture on the left below is identical to the one on the German police registration form and because of the two holes I suspect that it was the one used on the passport. The centre photograph has the date June 6, 1939 written on the back and it is the same as the one in the British alien registration booklet. The one on the right has “[Na]tional Regist[ration]” stamped on the right and is also perforated and probably dates from 1940 or 1941.



The fact that she had a German passport suggests that she was not, contrary to what I had assumed, part of the *Kindertransport*, a reference to the saving of many children by organized groups.^{DVD} It is interesting to note that the immigration officer copied the Nazi-added name of “Sara” from the passport to the alien registration book [LBI 211, p.134]. The booklet is filled with police stamps, first in Aberdeen and then in Glasgow. Selma had most likely gone to the Aberdeen region because her aunt Hedwig Holländer -- who had arrived in June of 1939 -- was employed as a house keeper by a school principal named James Morrison.



Selma Holländer and Freddy Furcht

Selma started working as a mother's helper on July 14, just seven days after arriving. According to a letter of recommendation [LBI 211, p. 59] she could not speak a word of English and she and the mother communicated via a dictionary. From the details of the letter of recommendation the above picture dates from her first position:

At some point Selma made the following detailed list of the salient dates of her stay in the U.K.:

Arrived July 4. 1939 →

Worked July 11 1939 - May 30. 1940
X Jack Everett. Middx.
25 Kynaston Close, Harrow Weald

Interned May 30. 1940 - June 3. 1941

X Worked June 23. 1941 - Nov. 22. 1941
Mrs. Lewack, 34 Carlton Place Aberdeen

Unemployed Nov. 22. 1941 - March 10. 1942

X Worked March 10. 1942 - May 31. 1943
Mrs. Emely Sachs, 25 Dumbreck Road }
11 Bonavie Road }
248 Kenmore Street Glasgow

Unemployed May 31. 1943 - Sept. 27. 1945

Worked Sept 27. 1945 - Sept. 2. 1947
Mrs. Finkler 265 Kingsacre Rd, Rutherglen
X 39 Kingsbridge Drive "

Unemployed Sept 2. 1947 - Nov. 28. 1947 Left for U.S.A.

There are two intervals of particular interest. The first is the period from May 30, 1940 to June 3, 1941 when she was interned, along with many other Jewish refugees, on the Isle of Man, which is located in the Irish Sea.^{DVD} The second interval of time goes from May 31, 1943 to September 27, 1945. The latter period of sixteen months may correspond to what one of her Schaefer cousins (I believe that it was Charlotte; see "The Hilchenbach Group") told me during a phone call I had made after the death of Freddy. She said that Selma had had a child with a Canadian -- as I recall -- soldier and that the baby was given up for adoption. At first I was going to try to locate this first cousin (which would make a grand total two for me), but at this late date I thought that it might not be for the best.

Selma Holländer and Freddy Furcht



Selma: 1942, between her cousins Charlotte and Erna Schaefer, and 1946

In December 1947 Selma was able to come to the U.S.. I was seven years old, but I remember that day as my mother told me to go to my friend Irene's house when I came home from school. I had never known that I had an aunt, just as I was never told about grandparents.

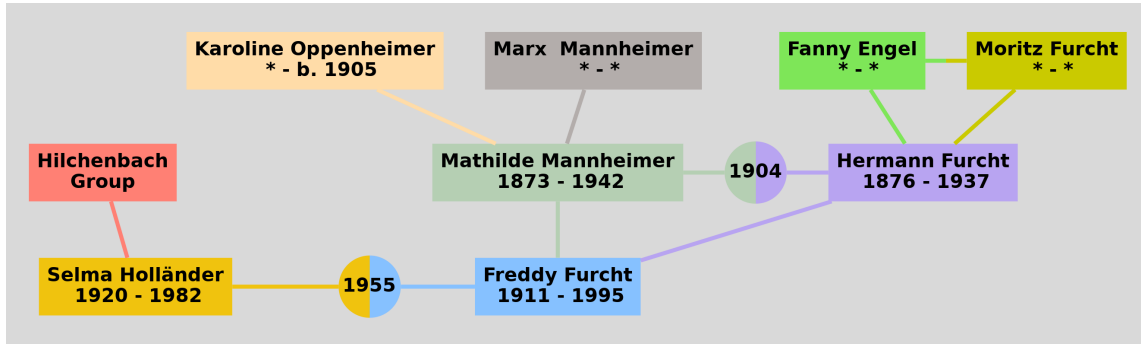
The following formal photograph dates from 1948 and thus not long after her arrival in the States.



Selma Holländer and Freddy Furcht

Freddy Furcht

The following chart shows the ancestors of Freddy Furcht through his grandparents, who were the only ancestors that I could identify.



I knew Freddy from about the age of fifteen when he became engaged to my aunt Selma. I always thought of him as a nice, friendly person who took care of my aunt, with her serious problems of arthritis. At some point I learned from him that he had been in Shanghai and that he had a deceased brother, but little else. As was the case with my parents and Selma he kept many documents and in perusing them I was able to reconstruct part of his earlier life. Perhaps the most interesting document was his German passport which he, contrary to my parents and Selma, had kept. Then after he had passed away I learned that his mother had been part owner of a building in Dresden, Germany and as part of the process of dealing with Freddy's estate I learned more about his ancestors.

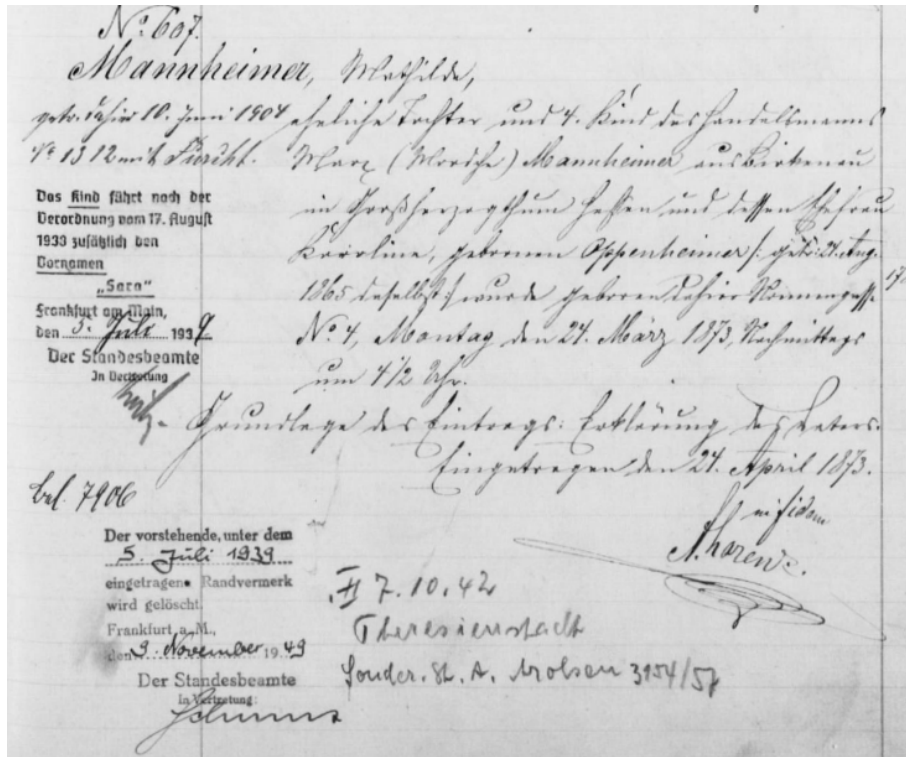
Just as was the case with my mother and Selma, Freddy's life can be divided into two completely distinct periods:

Family and Life in Germany

Since I do not have any documentary knowledge of Freddy's life before his sojourn in Shanghai I shall start by discussing his immediate family:

The following is the BD of Mathilde Mannheimer, Freddy's mother, and is of special interest as it provides us with a great deal of information, to an extent that I have not previously seen. In the text we have, as usual, her date of birth and the name of her parents. In addition, in the upper left corner we learn the date of her marriage. Just below we learn that on July 5, 1939 "Sara" was added to her given name (according to the stamp the law decreeing this addition dates from August 1933, some five months after the Nazis took control of Germany). In turn this change of name was revoked (bottom left) on November 3, 1949. Finally, at the very bottom is the mention that Mathilde Mannheimer had perished in the Theresienstadt (Czechoslovakia) camp.^{DVD}

Selma Holländer and Freddy Furcht



Mathilde Mannheimer 1873.03.24, Frankfurt -- 1942.10.07, Theresienstadt [BD, MD, DD]

Hermann Furcht 1876.03.20, Wassertrüdingen -- 1937.09.23, Frankfurt [BD, MD, DD]

Wassertrüdingen is in Bavaria so Hermann Furcht had moved quite a distance from his birthplace.

marriage: 1904.06.10, Frankfurt [AM].

From his DD we learn that Hermann Frucht was a merchant, as well as an officer of a synagogue. From the following photograph it appears that he was the proprietor of a feather store, the feathers being used in pillows and mattresses.



Selma Holländer and Freddy Furcht

Here is a photograph of the family taken at some point in the mid 1920s.



A post-July 1927 document from the Frankfurt archives is some sort of administrative file on the family and of particular interest are the names, and related dates, of the three boys born to the couple:

Kind			
F. Emil Moritz	4.5.05	↳	Aug 15/1908 geb. in
K. Karl Elias	7.1.09	↳	P. A. 25.5.35.7.11.26
O. Fritz	4.7.11	↳	7.18.31.0.28
K. Karl am 4.1.27 New York City, New York			

children:

1. **Emil Moritz Furcht** 1905.05.04, Frankfurt -- 1908.07.15, Frankfurt.
2. **Karl Elias Furcht** 1909.01.07 Frankfurt -- official date: 1943.12.31, [U.S.A.].

The above document states that Karl Furcht left for New York City on January 4, 1927, just before his eighteenth birthday. In a notarized statement dated April 4, 1958 Freddy wrote he had not had any sign of life from Karl since 1932. A document from the civil registry office in Berlin dated July 23, 196[?] states that following a decision of the Frankfurt municipal court dated April 25, 1959 Karl Furcht was declared deceased and that the date of death is declared to be December 31, 1943. We further learn that his last known place of residence

Selma Holländer and Freddy Furcht

was Chicago.

3. **Freddy Furcht** 1911.07.04, Frankfurt -- 1995.06.30, New York; see above.



Freddy must have been greatly affected by the disappearance of Karl because he carried with him, to Shanghai and then New York, three photographs of Karl. Two of them were made in Stuttgart, but the one below, on the left, has “Wellington” printed on the back. This does not sound like a name that a German firm or city would adopt. In fact I did not think that there would be such a historic English name in the U.S., but it turns out that there is a Wellington, Ohio, which is not that far from Chicago. It is also possible that Wellington was the name of the photographer and not of a town. The formal photograph of Freddy in the middle is the same as his passport picture, so it was probably taken in late 1938 or early January 1939. I am at a loss to explain the photograph on the right. In Freddy's album the date is given as “1940” which was when he was in Shanghai. Is this a server's uniform? Perhaps the date is wrong and it was taken in Frankfurt.

Freddy left Germany when he was twenty-seven years old. On his 1939 passport his occupation is listed as *Kaufmann*, i.e. a salesperson, so perhaps he worked with his father in the feather shop. The only other indications of his pre-departure life are the following photographs of two women, or perhaps they are of the same woman. The photograph on the left has “Edith Gander 1936” written on the back, whereas nothing is written on the back of the photograph on the right. That Freddy kept these two photographs, together with the formal nature of the photograph on the right, suggests a fairly serious relationship, but I have no way of knowing.

Selma Holländer and Freddy Furcht



Escape from Germany and a New Life



The above image is of pages 2 and 3 of his passport which, from the stamps, appears to have been issued in Frankfurt on January 20, 1939. Notice that he had to sign

Selma Holländer and Freddy Furcht

as “Fritz Israel Furcht” underneath the photograph. On page 4 it is stated that the passport would no longer be valid after January 19, 1940. Further, to make sure that Freddy would not return, a stamp on page 9 says that by leaving Germany he would no longer be a citizen as of January 27, 1939. Page 7 has three entries: permission from the police in Frankfurt, dated January 20, to go to Shanghai; a bank stamp, dated January 21, concerning “departure” (*freigrenze*) money to the sum of \$4; and the stamp of the border police from January 24.

The very last page of the passport was stamped on January 26 in Genoa by, as suggested by the stamp “*Marittimo* [?]”, the harbour police as he left Italy. The first stop indicated in the passport, on February 9, was in Colombo, Ceylon (now Sri Lanka). I imagine that the steamship went east in the Mediterranean, down through the Suez Canal and then south around India. The next stop shown is in Hong Kong on February 20 and there is a stamp giving permission to go ashore. Finally, on page 13, we find two Chinese stamps one of which has “Fritz Furcht / Shanghai” in English. The date “36” was a puzzle, but it was explained to me that these are exit permit stamps and that 36 was the year counting from the foundation of the Republic of China in 1911. So “36” corresponds to 1947 and the 36-8-10 probably corresponds to August 10, 1947.



Freddy Furcht: Shanghai, U.S. China Service?, U.S. travel document

Shanghai was one of the few places on earth before WWII where one could go without a visa. This was one of the treaty ports in which the British and French governments, starting in the nineteenth century, obtained concession rights from the Chinese government. There were about 30,000 Jewish refugees, along with other refugees, in Shanghai and some other cities, so Freddy was certainly not alone. There are several books and films about these Jews; see the references on the DVD. There are also several organizations and websites which are, totally or in part, devoted to these refugees. On one site (www.chinafamilies.net, record 7599) I found Freddy's address in 1944. The record indicates that he was not employed at the time. A letter of recommendation from the US China Service Command informs us that Freddy worked in the quartermaster department from mid-February to mid-June 1946.

Selma Holländer and Freddy Furcht



Among the items that Freddy left was mail from his mother Mathilde Mannheimer. These include two cards, with writing on both sides, dated June 10, 1941 and August 8, 1941 respectively. These cards, which have the dimensions of a post card, do not have addresses so they must have been seen in envelopes. In addition there are two postcards, with writing only on the address side, which have postmark dates of October 10, 1941 and November 13, 1941.

This last postcard -- shown above -- consists of only four lines. I found the handwriting difficult to decipher, but as far as I can tell it reads: ...Bleiben Gesund/ ... / Grüßen u[nd] Küsse / Dein[?] ..., i.e. ... / stay well/ ... / love and kisses / Your ...

After the war Freddy, who was still in Shanghai, made inquiries about the fate of his mother. In a letter from April 8, 1947 from the tracing office of the World Jewish Congress he learned that Mathilde Mannheimer had been deported from Frankfurt on September 15, 1942 and had perished in Theresienstadt on October 7, 1942.

Among Freddy's documents was a guarantee affidavit, dated April 4, 1947, from a Henry Borris. This Henry Borris, who had himself been a refugee in Cuba, states that he was a cousin of Freddy [See below with the parents of Freddy's mother for the relationship]. With the help of this affidavit he received, on June 25, 1947, a travel document from the U.S. consulat in Shanghai. Freddy needed this document because he was considered to be a stateless person and was thus without a passport.

Selma Holländer and Freddy Furcht

Interestingly a stamp on the back of the affidavit indicates that he was admitted as part of the German quota. Then on August 25, 1947 Freddy arrived in San Francisco. From some photographs I learned that he was in Florida for a while, but I do not have any details. Nor do I know when he came to New York.

The Grandparents of Freddy Furcht

The Parents of Mathilde Mannheimer

The names of her parents are given on both her BD and her MD:

Karoline Oppenheimer * -- b. 1904.06.10, Frankfurt.

She was not alive at the time of the marriage of her daughter Mathilde Mannheimer.

One of the documents that I found was an announcement from the *Aufbau*, dated February 17, 1967, announcing the death of a Mathilde Oppenheimer, whose married name was Borris, and who had been born in Frankfurt around 1880. One of the signatories was a Henry Borris. As stated above a Henry Borris had acted as a guarantor for Freddy when he was applying for entry to the U.S. Further this Henry Borris said that he was a cousin of Freddy. From her birth date Mathilde Oppenheimer could not have been the sister of Karoline Oppenheimer, so she was probably the daughter of a brother of Karoline Oppenheimer. This would make Mathilde Oppenheimer a first cousin of Mathilde Mannheimer, which in turn says that Freddy and Henry Borris were second cousins,

Marx Mosche Mannheimer *, Birkenau -- *, Frankfurt?

marriage: 1867.08.24, Frankfurt? [the date is given on the BD of Mathilde Mannheimer].

children:

After Freddy passed away I learned that his mother had inherited, in March 1933, part of a building in Dresden. On the list of the new owners there were two other people named Mannheimer and I assume they were siblings of Mathilde Mannheimer.

Jakob Mannheimer 1870.04.08, Birkenau ? -- * [DOC].

He was salesman and lived in Stuttgart in 1933.

A document from the Frankfurt archives lists a Jakob Mannheimer with the above information. Given that his father was from Birkenau and Mathilde Mannheimer was born in 1870, the document most likely refers to the present Jakob Mannheimer.

Erna Mannheimer Her married name was Erna Abraham.

Selma Holländer and Freddy Furcht

Mathilde Mannheimer 1873.03.24, Frankfurt -- 1942.10.07, Theresienstadt; see above.

As executor of Freddy's estate I became involved in the process of redistributing the various partial titles to the Dresden property. As is typical for me I was interested in learning about the history of the building and the people who had been the owners.

The city of Dresden had been fire-bombed by the British air force over three nights in February of 1945. The human casualties were mainly among the civilian population and it was the historic centre, rather than the nearby military installations, that were destroyed.^{DVD} The inherited property was located in this centre and the Nazis had not gotten around to confiscating it from the Jewish owners.

The three siblings had inherited their portion from a Hedwig Levi (1869-1931) the wife of Zacharias Mannheimer (1866-1924) who in turn was the brother of Marx Mannheimer, the father of the children. Thus they had inherited the property, not from their parents, but rather from their father's sister-in-law.

As to the monetary value of the property we eventually received about \$ 1,200, after the city has expropriated it, but I learned a lot and found it intellectually stimulating to do the research.^{DVD}

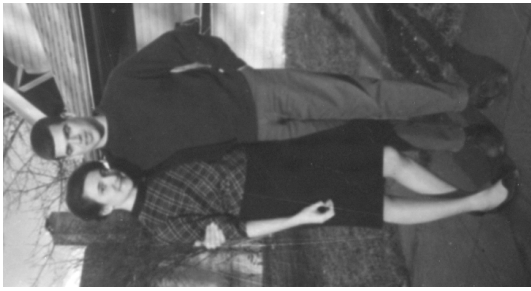
The Parents of Hermann Furcht

The names of his parents are given on his MD:

Fanny Engel lived in Wassertrüdigen.

Moritz Furcht lived in Wassertrüdigen.

By Way of a Conclusion



1964.02 - Eugene, Oregon, after our engagement; 1965.04 - Oregon, with our \$100 1950 Ford; 1967.08 - Start of a year in France, on board *La France*; 1968.01 - Eliane with her mother, Clermont-Ferrand; 1969.03 - Eliane and Mychèle; 1970.01 - Toronto



1970.02 - Mychèle, High Park, Toronto; 1970.07 - dans Les Vosges; 1971.04 - Mychèle at work after a record winter of snow; 1972.06 - Mychèle; 1973.03 and 1973.11 - Seline



N^o 40


UNIVERSITÉ DE PARIS III
SORBONNE NOUVELLE
BOULEVARD ROSSIGNOL


DOCTORAT DE L'UNIVERSITÉ DE PARIS

" LITTÉRATURE FRANÇAISE "

Le Secrétaire général de l'Université de Paris III - Sorbonne Nouvelle soussigné,
certifie que M. ELIANE F. I. S. C. H. E. R. R. O. N. S. H. E. R. Z.
né(e) ELIANE HERREZ-HERREZ
le 23 JANVIER 1943 à del Juyg^o signe des lettres de
M. ELIANE F. I. S. C. H. E. R. R. O. N. S. H. E. R. Z. avec la mention TITRE HONORABLE.

DOCTEUR DE L'UNIVERSITÉ DE PARIS

Paris, le 12 mai 1977.
Le Secrétaire général : 
P. HERREZ



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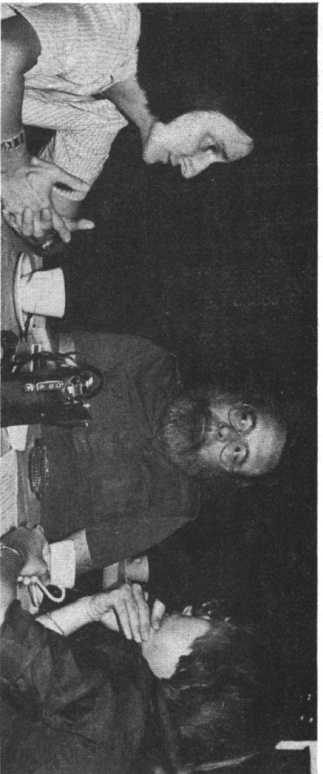


1975.04 - passport photos (sabbatical year 1975 - 1976); 1977.03 - Eliane's doctoral diploma; 1978.01 - Eliane's 35th birthday; 1978.08

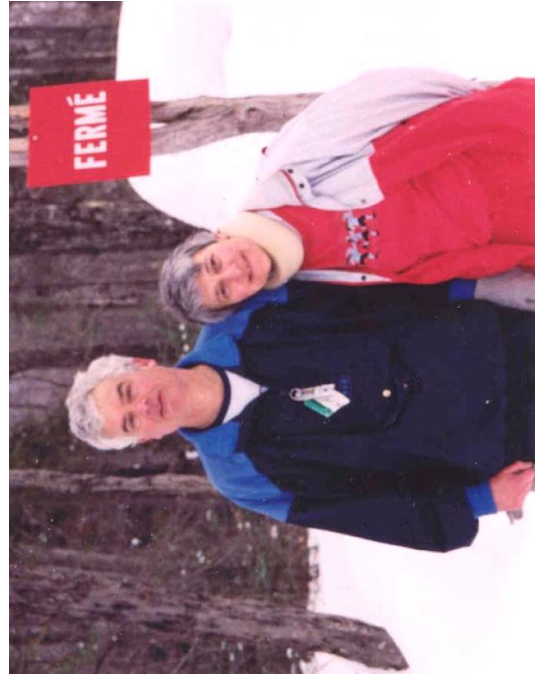
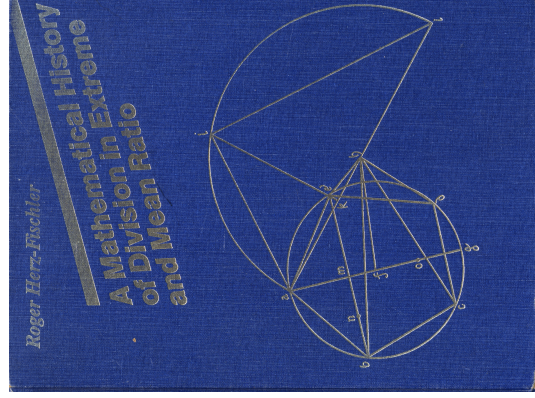


Les Femmes savantes ont donné lieu à toutes sortes de critiques, d'interprétations depuis la création de la pièce à Paris, en 1672. Que penser trois siècles plus tard? Nous avons demandé à Madame Eliane Fischler, spécialiste du XVIII^e siècle, et à Monsieur Jean Herbiet, metteur en scène, de nous livrer leurs réflexions sur l'avant-dernière pièce de Jean-Baptiste Poquelin.

Eliane Fischler, Jean Herbiet, Anne-Marie Demers



1979.09 -traditional first day of school pictures; 1979 - Pilat Plage; A discussion of *Les Femmes savantes*, presented at the National Arts Centre; 1982-1983: a wonderful year in Paris, 1982.10 -Strasbourg



1983.01 - Paris, before going to the Copernic synagogue; 1983.05 - Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris; 1985 - Eliane, Ontario Housing Award; 1987 - Roger, first book; 2000.02 - skiing in Gatineau Park;



2002.01 - in our house in St. Donat, Québec; 2002.07.20 - marriage of Seline and David; 2005.08; 2008.10 Forêt Quareau, St. Donat



2014.04.12 - our 50th wedding anniversary; 2014.07 - cruise to celebrate our 50th wedding anniversary; 2016.01 - nighttime band concert, Qu retaro, Mexico; 2018.02 - restaurant Deux Garçons, Aix, France

The Herz-Fischler Family

January 2, 1997

Amalie Marx and Abraham Katzenstein, the common ancestors of Eliane Herz and Roger Fischler, inspired us with their formal family photograph taken in the summer of 1874 (see page 30 in the chapter "Common Ancestors"). Our family wanted to leave a similar memento for future generations.



Roger Morris Fischler
22.02.1940 New York, USA

Roger Herz-Fischler

Mychèle Erica Herz-Fischler
24.01.1969 Toronto, Canada

Mychèle Herz-Fischler

Eliane Herz
23.01.1943 Limoges, France

Eliane Herz-Fischler

Seline Denise Herz-Fischler
29.06.1972 Ottawa, Canada

Seline Herz-Fischler

Rachel Ashley Herz-Fischler
24.10.1988 Guelph, Canada

Rachel H-F