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 Alsation 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-

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 (*Abtteilung*, 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

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 Grüsen 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 Grüsen. 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 Holländer, as well as photographs and information from her picture albums.

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

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.

?, ??, ???　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-Westfallen, 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-*

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.jüdische-gemeinden.de`