

## **Identification of the photograph with Sarah Katzenstein and Julie Sommer**

This is another photograph that was given to me by Meta Miller [MM]. If my notes are correct she said that the elderly lady, second from the right, is Sarah Katzenstein (1853 -- 1919) and that the young woman just to the left of her is Julie Sommer (1886 -- 1942). The identification of Julie Sommer seems correct if we compare this image with a photograph of her, most likely taken at the time of her betrothal, from 1914.

If this identification is correct, we are ready to try to identify the other people. We may assume that the picture was taken in Heinebach. Julie Sommer was married in 1914, so a rough guess would be that the photograph was taken around 1910. Julie Sommer would have been 24 years old and that seems about right. Sarah Katzenstein would have been 57 years old in 1910.

If the woman to the left of Julie Sommer and the man to the right of Sarah Katzenstein are also the latter's children, then we may ask who they are. The woman appears to have about the same age as Julie, i.e. about 25 years old. Sarah's other daughters were: Jettchen Sommer (born 1878, 32 years old in 1910); Rosa Sommer (born 1881, 29 years old in 1910); Lina Sommer (born 1885, 25 years old in 1910); and Bertha Sommer (born 1889, 21 years old in 1910).

A 1910 date for the photograph would eliminate Jettchen Sommer and Betha Sommer. The woman is much heavier set than Rosa Sommer (as in my memory and photographs from the 1950s). So the best guess seems to be that the woman is Lina Sommer.

Sarah's sons were: Siegmund Sommer (born 1879, 31 years old in 1910); and Abraham Sommer (born 1884, 26 years old in 1910). The man seems to be younger than the two women and this would eliminate Siegmund. So the best guess seems to be that the man is Abraham Sommer.

Who might the two girls to the left of the woman be? A first guess is that they are the daughters of the woman. They seem too old to be Lina's daughters so perhaps they are Jettchen's daughters. We know that she had two children living in Brooklyn, New York in 1974. Arguing against this is that at some point she married a man named Christ, a name which highly suggests that he was not Jewish! In that case would she still be in Heinebach or visiting? Certainly I have a photograph of my great-grandfather Levi Holländer in his garden with the non-Jewish father-in-law of one of his sons. The date 1910 might be pushed back a few years and that might conceivably change our analysis.