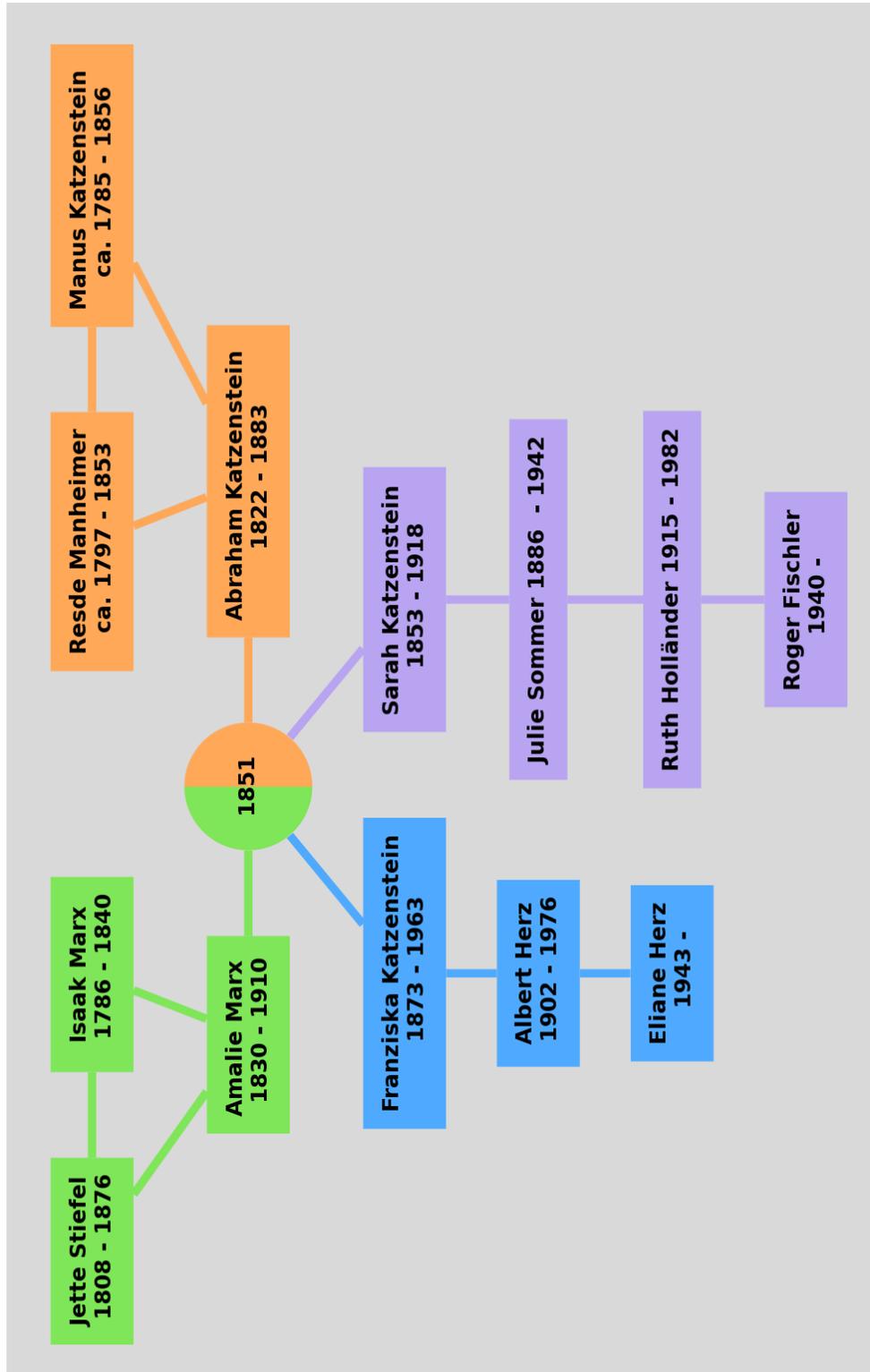


Common Ancestors

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 Kirchhain/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.

Common Ancestors

[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.



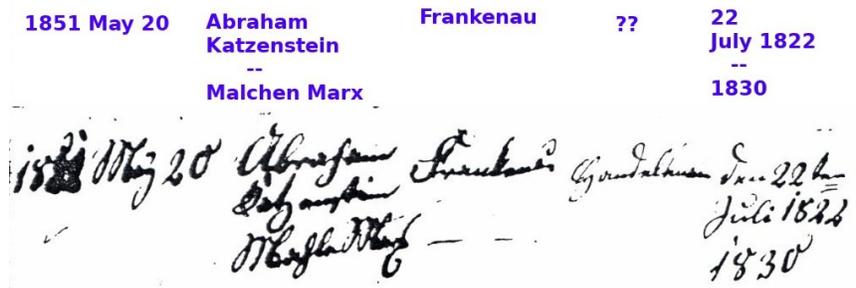
1830.12.20: BD Amalie Marx

Common Ancestors

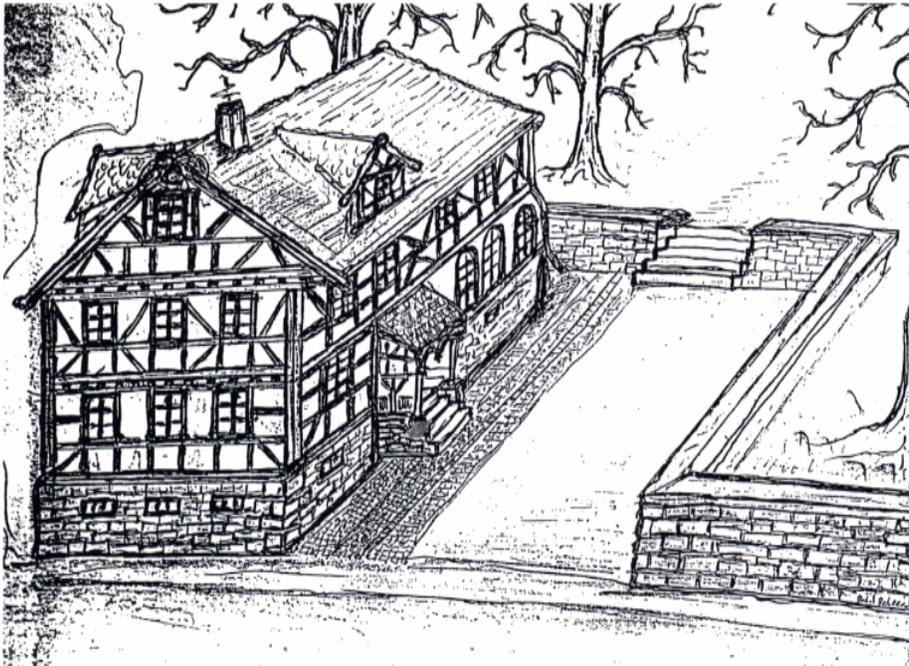
Abraham Katzenstein (1 2 1 • 2 / 2 1 1 • 1 2) 1822.07.22, Frankenau -- 1883.06.04, Frankenberg [DD (LAGIS, 922-3661, p. 31; 365-185, p. 19, HH, p. 328, 423), P].

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].



1851.05.20: 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

Common Ancestors

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.

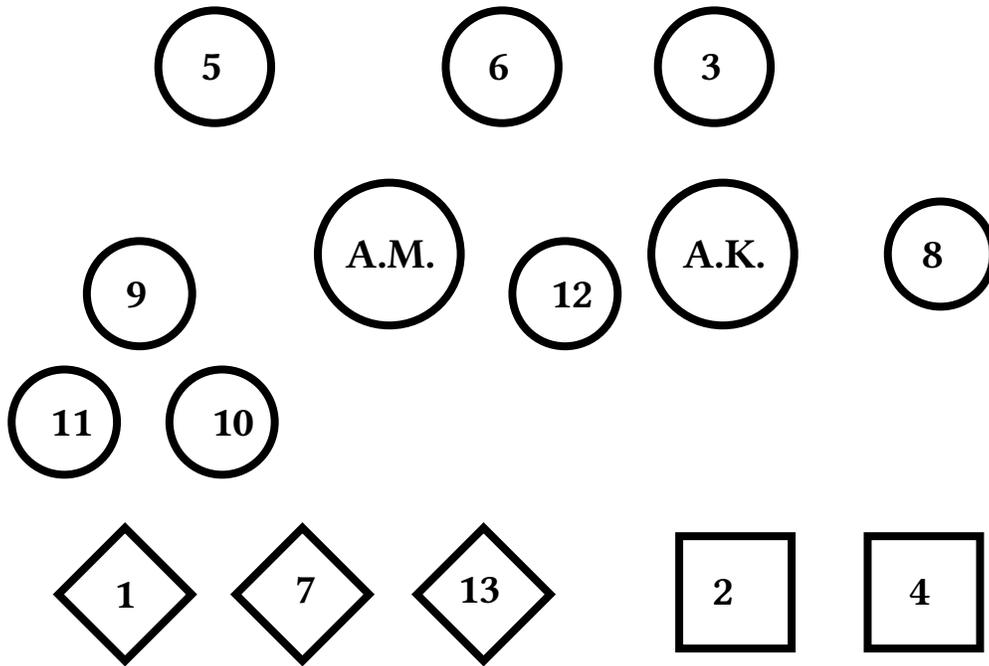
Common Ancestors

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.

Frankenburg am 4. Juni 1883.

Der israelitische Lehrer Israel Gold-
schmidt
wohnhaft zu Frankenburg, 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.

Frankenburg, am 18. Februar 1910.

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

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.

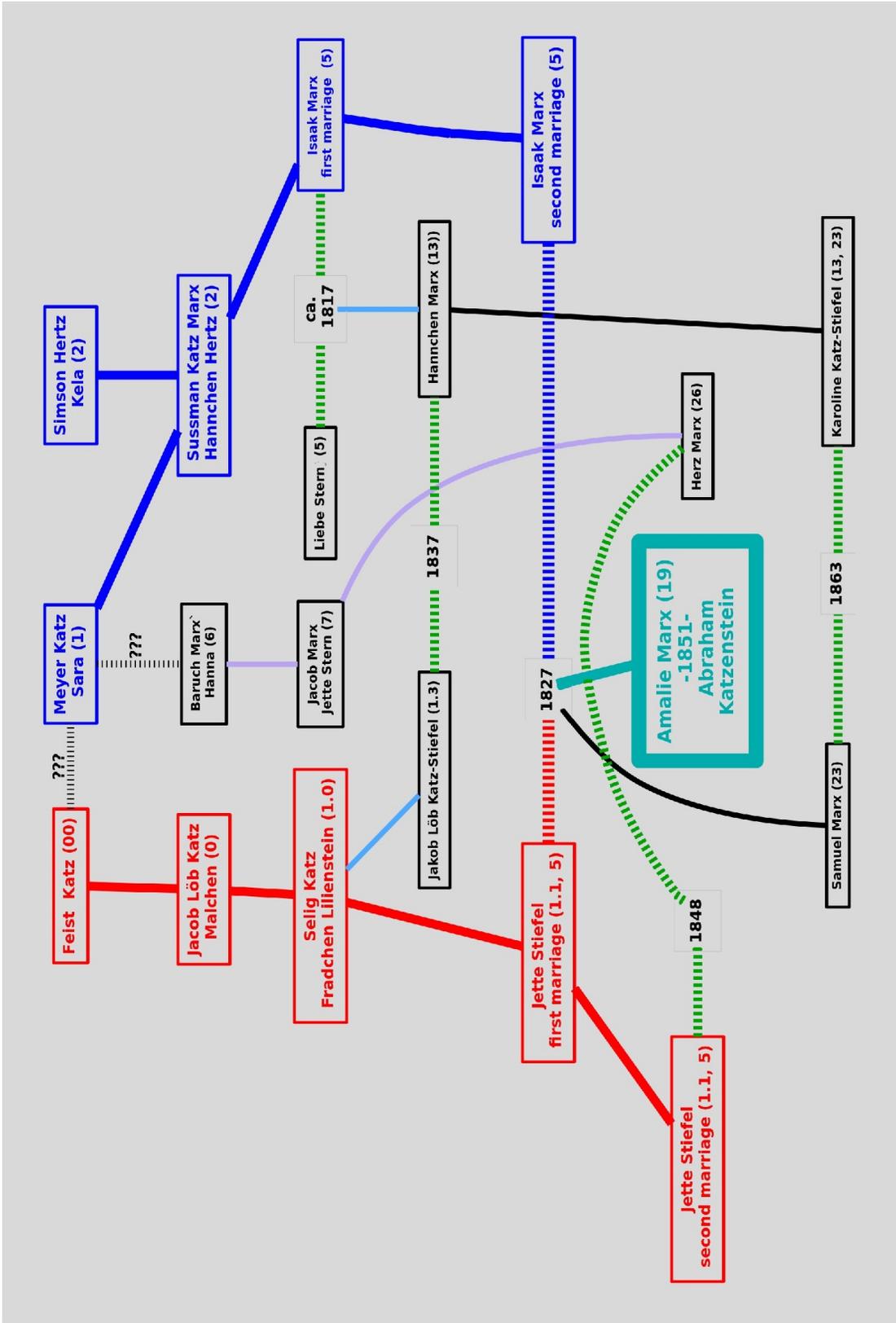
Already in 1976 I had heard how complicated the story was from Julius Stern [JS] (the son of Friedricke Katzenstein, child 9 above) and, as I recall, he mentioned some sort of health-related problem that were prevalent. A further aperçu, also dating from 1976, was forthcoming from Tilda Plaut [TP]. Tilda 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.

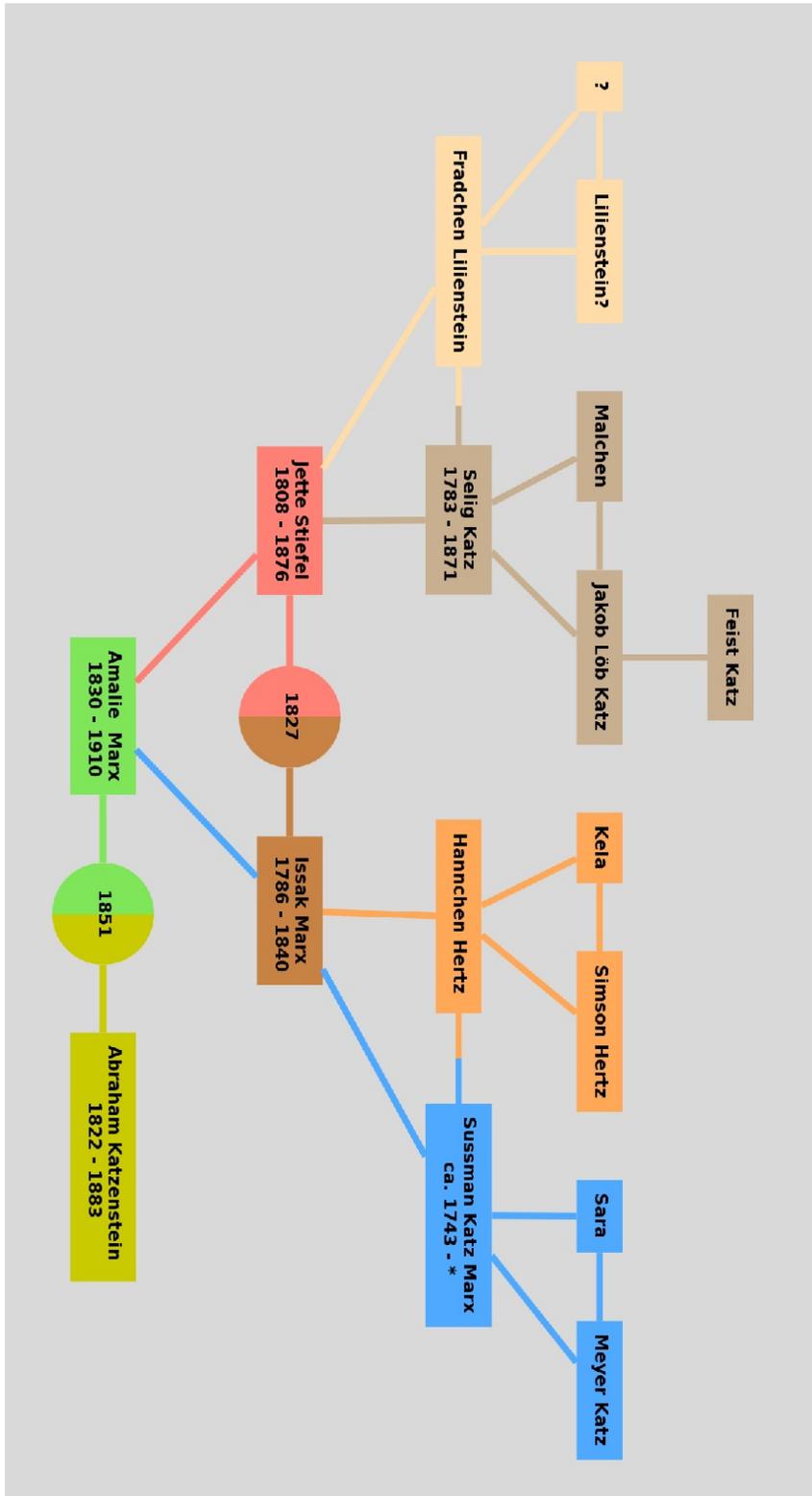
The chart on the next page is only a partial illustration of just how complicated the relationships between the ancestor of Amalie Marx are. The numbers with decimals, such as 1.1, are those of [SCH] and those with just integers, such as 5, are those of [KLE]. The designations 0 and 00 are used as identification 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.

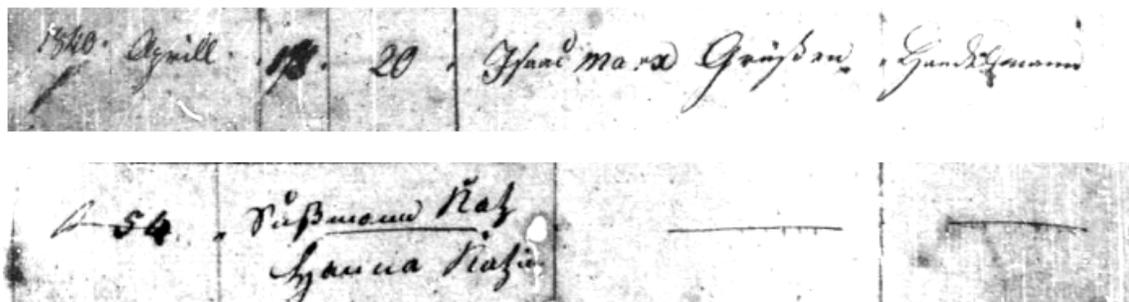
As mentioned above there were several changes of names in the families of interest. The maternal grandfather of Amalie Marx was called Selig Katz and on the 1812 and 1814 birth registrations of his children Amalie and Jakob his family name is still Katz. Thus the mother of Amalie Marx would have been 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].

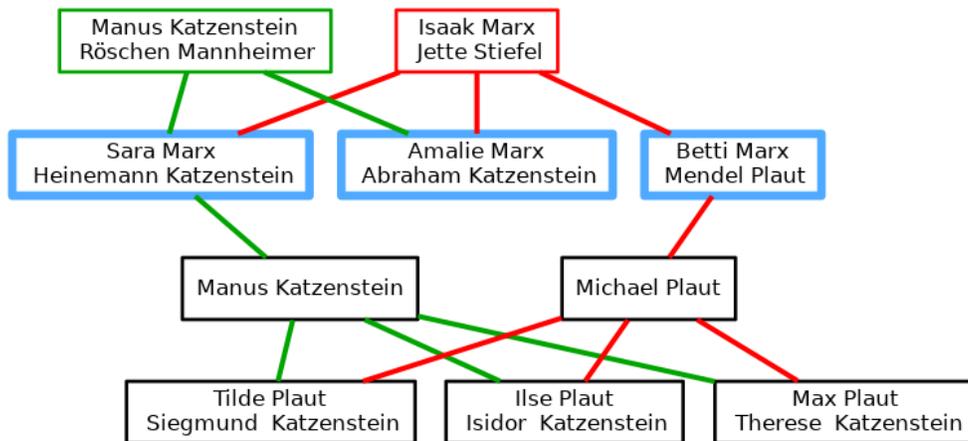
1. **Jakob Löb Marx** 1828.05.20, Grösen -- 1858.11.26, * [KLE, no. 17].
2. **Simson Marx** 1829.12.27, Grösen -- 1830.03.17, Grösen [KLE, no. 18].
3. **Amalie Marx Malchen** (121 • 1 / 211 • 11) 1830.12.16, Grösen -- 1910.02.27, Frankenberg [KLE, no. 19]; see above.
4. **Sara Marx** 1833.01.01, Grösen -- 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

The date of their marriage is suggested by the ca. 1818 date of birth of child 8. Liebe Stern passed away on 1826.11.07 and six months later, with four young children, Issac Marx married Jette Stiefel.

children from the first marriage of Issac Marx:

8. **Hannchen Marx** ca. 1818, Grüsen -- 1891, Rauschenberg [SCH., no. 1.3, KLE no. 13].

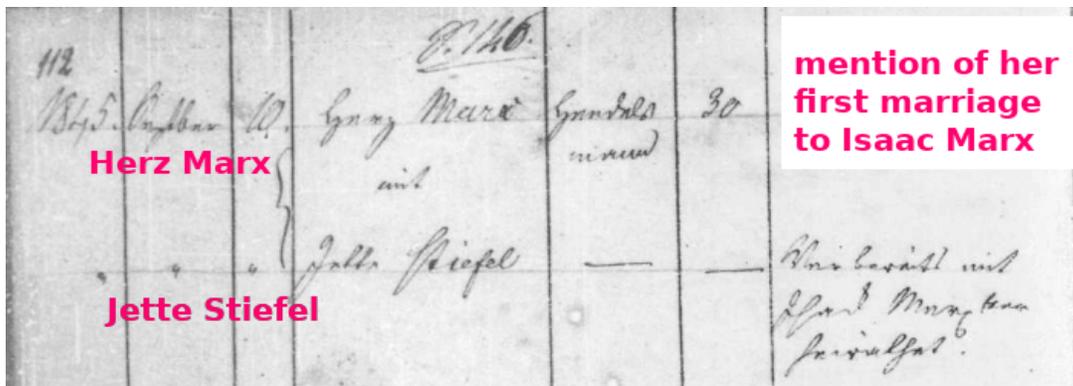
Hannchen Marx

Hannchen Marx was eight years old when her father married Jette Stiefel. On 1837.11.17 when she was nineteen, she married Jakob Löb Katz-Stiefel (1814 - 1890) from Rauschenberg [SCH, no. 1.3]. This Jakob Löb Katz-Stiefel was the *brother* of Jette Stiefel, the second wife of Hannchen Marx's father Issak Marx. In other words, Hannchen Marx married the brother of her step-mother!

But the story becomes even more involved. Hannchen Marx and Jakob Löb Katz-Stiefel had nine children, the second of whom was Karoline Katz-Stiefel (1841.12.17, Rauschenberg -- *) [SCH no. 13.2, KLE no.13]. On 1863.08.25 Karoline married her step-uncle Samuel Marx (1839.03.28, Grüsen -- *) who is listed above (child no. 7) as the child of the marriage of Karoline's grandfather Issak Marx and Samuel's mother Jette Stiefel!

-
9. **Moses Marx** 1820.10.10, Grüsen -- 1828.01.07, Grüsen [KLE, no. 14].
 10. **Meier Marx** 1823.01.21, Grüsen -- * [KLE, no. 15].
 11. **Ruben Marx** 1825.05.24 Grüsen -- * [KLE, no. 16].

second marriage of Jette Stiefel: with Herz Marx, 1845.09.10 [LAGIS, 365-351, p. 61], [KLE, no. 26].



1845.09.10: MD Jette Stiefel and Herz Marx

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.

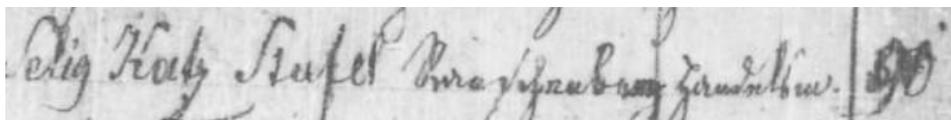
Since the request mentions nine children and Issac Marx and Jette Stiefel had seven children together, the two other children were probably Meier Marx (born in 1823) and Ruben Marx (born in 1825) from Issac Marx's first marriage.

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

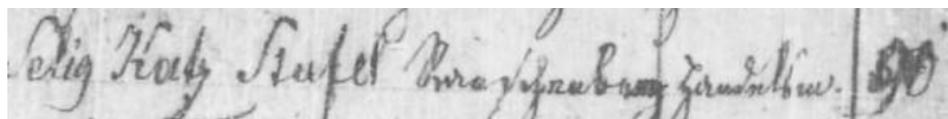
"same as
above", i.e.
boy

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

11. 12. 11 5 9

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

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

Gross Meyer Katz
Emanuel
Marx

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

56
71

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

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).
