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

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Roger Herz-Fischler

זִכְרוּ אֶת־אִמּוֹתֵיכֶם וְאֶת־אֲבוֹתֵיכֶם

Remember your ancestors!

To

Our Ancestors

and

Our Descendants

Table of Contents

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

Instead of translating זִכְרוּ as "remember" I preferred "recall".

Technical Matters

The entire book was typeset using XeTEX.

The principal font family used was the open-source, unicode based, open type font L^{iber}_{tine}, 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/℞hfischl`

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
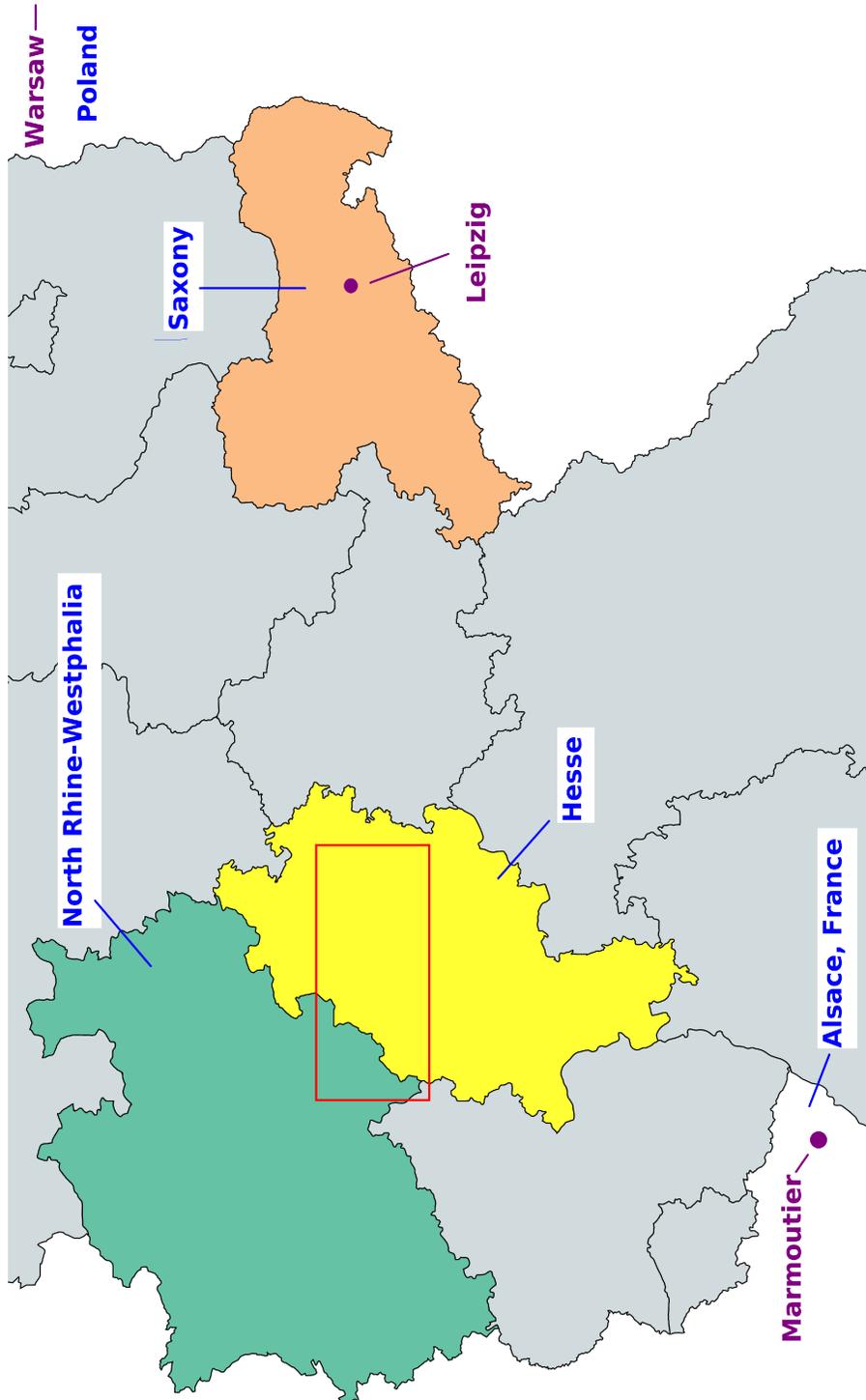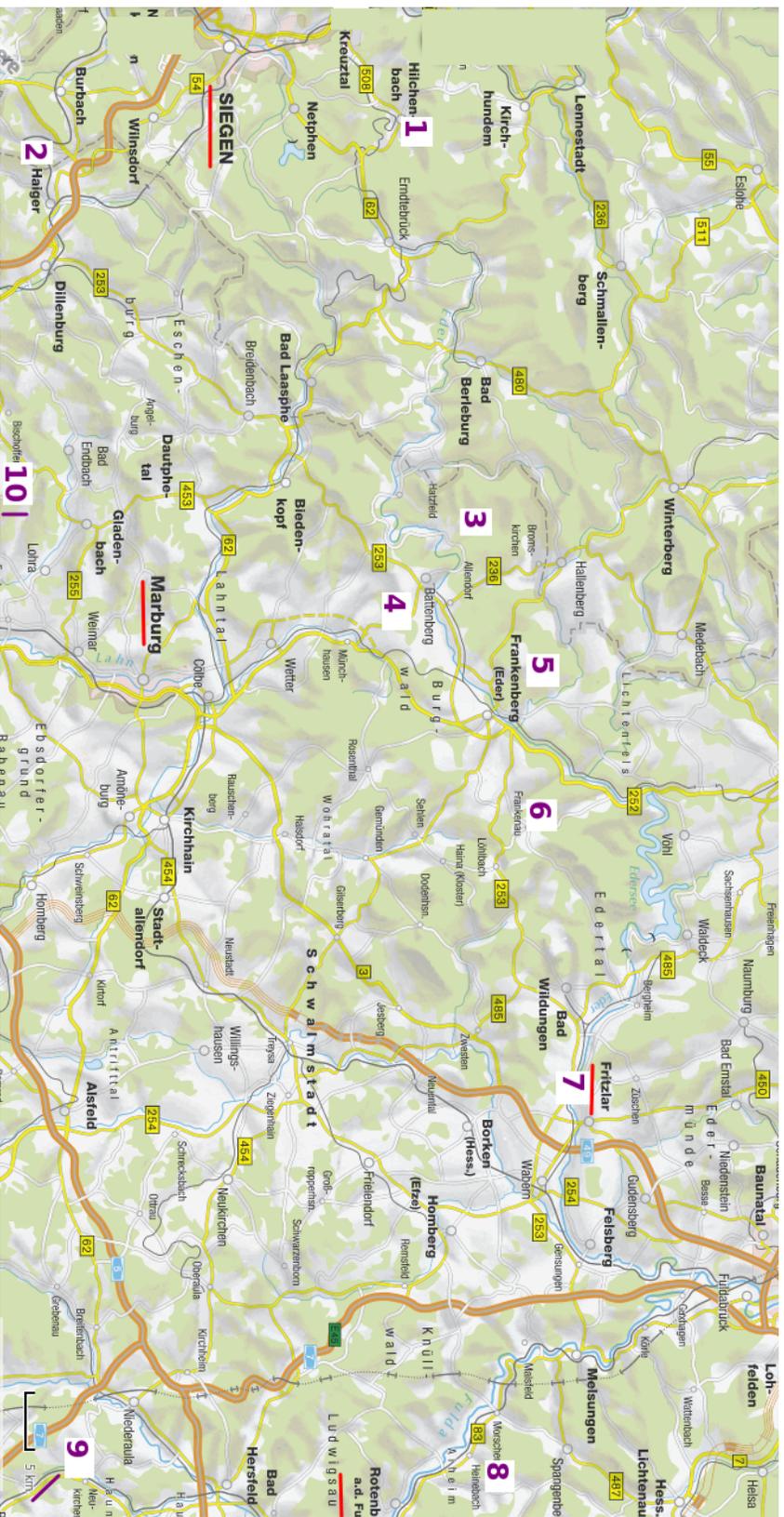
The towns indicated by a number are:

1: Hilchenbach; **2**: Haiger; **3**: Elsoff; **4**: Battenberg; **5**: Frankenberg; **6**: Frankenau; **7**: Ungedanken; **8**: Heinebach; **9**: Ermannrode; **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.

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.

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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

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 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`

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 correpond 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 uncertaintly is indicated by one or more questions 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 identication 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

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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, Grüsen -- 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, Grüsen.

121•12 / 211•112
Issac Marx ca. 1786, Grüsen -- 1840, Grüsen.

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.

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The Parents of Selig Katz

1 2 1 • 1 1 2 • 1 / 2 1 1 • 1 1 1 • 2 1
Malchen *.
1 2 1 • 1 1 2 • 2 / 2 1 1 • 1 1 1 • 2 2
Jaköb Löb Katz * -- b. 1830.

The Father of Jaköb Löb Katz

1 2 1 • 1 1 2 • 2 2 / 2 1 1 • 1 1 1 • 2 2 2
Feist Katz ca. 1700 -- a. 1760.

The Parents of Isaac Marx

1 2 1 • 1 2 1 / 2 1 1 • 1 1 2 • 1
Hannchen Hertz * -- 1809.
1 2 1 • 1 2 2 / 2 1 1 • 1 1 2 • 2
Sussman Marx ca. 1743, Grüsen 1810, Grüsen.

The Parents of Hannchen Hertz

1 2 1 • 1 2 1 • 1 / 2 1 1 • 1 1 2 • 1 1
Kela * -- b. 1811, Grüsen.
1 2 1 • 1 2 1 • 2 / 2 1 1 • 1 1 2 • 1 2
Simson Hertz * -- b. 1811, Grüsen.

The Parents of Sussman Marx

1 2 1 • 1 2 2 • 1 / 2 1 1 • 1 1 2 • 2 1
Sara * -- b. 1811, Grüsen.
1 2 1 • 1 2 2 • 2 / 2 1 1 • 1 1 2 • 2 2
Meyer Katz * -- b. 1811, Grüsen.

The Parents of Abraham Katzenstein

1 2 1 • 2 1 / 2 1 1 • 1 2 1
Resede Mannheimer ca. 1797, Ungedanken -- 1853, Frankenau.

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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, * .

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The Parents of Regine Frölich

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

1 2 2 • 1 2
Löb Frölich ca. 1800, * -- 1883, Ulrichstein.

The Parents of Löb Frölich

1 2 2 • 1 2 1
Chaya Katz *.

1 2 2 • 1 2 2
Moses Frölich *.

The Hilchenbach Group

2
Roger Fischler 1940.02.22 -- .

The Mother of Roger Fischler

2 1
Ruth Holländer 1915, Hilchenbach -- 1982, New York.

The Parents of Ruth Holländer

2 1 1
Julie Sommer 1886, Heinebach -- 1942, deported to Zamość, Poland.

2 1 2
Joseph Holländer 1884, Elsoff -- 1942, deported to Zamość, Poland.

The Parents of Joseph Holländer

2 1 2 • 1
Sophie Löwenstein 1855, Battenberg -- 1940, Hilchenbach.

2 1 2 • 2
Levy Holländer 1851, Elsoff -- 1939, Hilchenbach.

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The Parents of Sophie Löwenstein

2 1 2 • 1 1
Johanette Elsoffer early 1800s, Scharzenau -- 1894, Battenberg.

2 1 2 • 1 2
Levi Löwenstein early 1800s -- b. 1874, Battenberg.

The Parents of Levy Holländer

2 1 2 • 2 1
Rachel Schiff 1810, Allendorf, Kreis Biedenkopf -- 1895, Elsoff.

2 1 2 • 2 2
Joseph Holländer 1804, Elsoff -- 1857, Elsoff.

The Parents of Johanette Elsoffer

2 1 2 • 1 1 1
Frommet * lived in Schwarzenau.

2 1 2 • 1 1 2
Wolf Elsoffer lived in Schwarzenau.

The Parents of Rachel Schiff

2 1 2 • 2 1 1
Bella Löwenstein lived in Allendorf, Kreis Biedenkopf.

2 1 2 • 2 1 2
Falk Schiff lived in Allendorf, Kreis Biedenkopf.

The Parents of Joseph Holländer

2 1 2 • 2 2 1
Hänschen * -- 1838, Berleburg.

2 1 2 • 2 2 2
Wolf Holländer * -- b. 1838, Berleburg.

The Heinebach Group

2 1 1 • 2
Koppel Sommer 1850, Heinebach -- 1935, Heinebach.

The Parents of Koppel Sommer

2 1 1 • 2 1
Ettel Katz ca. 1820, Aua -- *.

2 1 1 • 2 2
Susmann Sommer ca., Heinebach -- 1873, Heinebach.

The Parents of Ettel Katz

2 1 1 • 2 1 1
Giedel Wallach *, Raboldshausen -- b. 1843, lived in Aua.

2 1 1 • 2 1 2
Koppel Katz *, Nesselröden -- lived in Aua.

The Parents of Susmann Sommer

2 1 1 • 2 2 1
Jüdel Wallach ca. 1778, Raboldshausen -- 1838, Heinebach.

2 1 1 • 2 2 2
Joseph Sommer 1769, Heinebach -- 1833, Heinebach.

The Father of Gietel Wallach and Jüdel Wallach

2 1 1 • 2 1 1 • 2 / 2 1 1 • 2 2 1
Leiser lived in Raboldshausen.

The Father of Joseph Sommer

2 1 1 • 2 1 2 • 2
Meyer Susmann ca. 1740, Heinebach -- b. 1828, Heinebach.

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The Father of Meyer Susmann

2 1 1 • 2 1 2 • 2 2
Susmann Isaak ca. 1710, * -- *, Heinebach.

The Father of Susmann Isaak

2 1 1 • 2 1 2 • 2 2 2
Issak last quarter of 17th century.

The Leipzig Group

2 2
Sigmund Fischler 1899.08.06, Leipzig -- 1972.03.06.

The Parents of Sigmund Fischler

2 2 1
Regina Reinherz 1874.04.10, Kalvarija -- 1937.11.29, Leipzig.
2 2 2
Isaak Fischleiber 1871.03.28, Miedzyrzec -- WW II, Poland.

The Father of Regina Reinherz

2 2 1 • 2
Max Reinherz lived in Kalvarija.

The Parents of Isaak Fischleiber

2 2 2 • 1
Sara Hochman[**n**] lived in Miedzyrzec and Warsaw.
2 2 2 • 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

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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 Jeresey: Avotaynu.

Menk [p. 3] provides a list of the dates for mandated surnames. For those parts of Germany under Napoleanic 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,

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which includes the town of Elsoff, where ancestors with the name Holländer lived. Menk also made used 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 Declarations 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 Jeresey: 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 (Napolean'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 "Epsztyn". 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 langue of culture, the German names adopted in 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 Jeresey: 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 eighteen hundreds. This surname, as well as the variants Appel, Appel and Apfelbaum, was a fairly common name in Germany [GER, p. 139]. There were other Apfels and Apfelbaums in Alsace.

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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 / Mannheimer: [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 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 "quard of the borderland". Menk suggests that the Jews used Mark as a familiar (*hypocorism*) name to replace the Hebrew name "Mordechai".

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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‑tsediq], 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 Napthaly. This is because in the biblical passage (*Genesis* 49:21) where Jacob describes his sons, Napthaly is compared to a swift hind (female deer). Evidence for the transposition from "Napthaly" 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 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

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), Fiszenfeld (fish-field), Fiszgrund (fish-ground), Fiszkopf (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, "Fiszleber", "Fiszlyber"and "Fiszlejber" 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 "Fiszkopf") 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", occured 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".