

THE FAMILIES

OF

WEIL

AND

ROSENTHAL

I n t r o d u c t i o n

On the occasion of my 60th birthday (Dec.1978), when Jack and Marilyn visited with us, Jack brought me a bundle of letters and papers and asked me to look through them and continue the search into the family history, which he had began. Eight years have passed, two of which were spent away from home, in Nepal, and something has been accomplished. A very thick file of letters and papers has accumulated.

The following institutions were approached:

Yad Veshem	Jerusalem/Israel
The Mayor	Fischborn-Bierstein/Germany
The International Tracing Service	Arolsen/Germany
The Central Archives of the Jewish People	Jerusalem/Israel
Stadt Archives	Frankfurt/Germany
Central Institute für Genealogische Nachforschung	Bonn/Germany
German Embassy	Tel-Aviv/Germany
The Genealogical Society of Uta	Salt Lake City/U.S.A.
The Leo Beack Institute	New York/U.S.A.
Institute für die Geschichte der Deutschen Juden	Hamburg/Germany
Die Jüdischen Gemeinden in Baden	Stuttgart/Germany
Die Jüdischen Gemeinden in Hessen	Wiesbaden/Germany
Archive, Haus Ysenburg-Bierstein	Budingen/Germany
Hessisches Hauptarchiv	Wiesbaden/Germany
Hessisches Staatsarchiv	Marburg/Germany
Hauptarchiv Baden	Stuttgart/Germany
Kreisarchiv	Heilbronn/Germany
Oberrat der Israelitischen Gemeinden	Karlsruhe/Germany
Verein für Familien & Wappenkunde, Württemberg & Baden	Stuttgart/Germany

There were exchanges of letters with all these institutions. Some of them replied immediately, others took many months. Others again, took up the challenge and wrote several times, whenever they discovered some new facts. The main information, however, came from the Central Archives of the Jewish People in Jerusalem. There, I spend many hours going through the documents of the villages of Ittlingen, Eppingen, Sinsheim, Fischborn-Mauswinkel-Kirchbracht, Bierstein, etc.

At a certain point I could not get any more documented information, so I tried to utilize an ancient Jewish custom. Besides, there were no family names before the 19th century. Children were always called the son or daughter of their father and mother:

Salomon ben Zeev

Shlomith bath Salomon and Rivka

Also, newborn children were called after a father or grandfather, etc., who had recently died.

I visited the cemeteries in Germany, where the forefathers of both families are buried. Usually, there is a short history of the person buried inscribed on the gravestone, all in Hebrew:

Here lies Miryam bath Shlomo good wife of Zeev ben Eliezer

She was born on *כ"א תמוז ה'תק"א*

She died on *י"א שבט ה'תק"ב*

I found some gravestones related to the houses of Weil and Rosenthal. However, as the stones are spread all over the cemeteries and some are in bad condition, it would have taken weeks to collect the information required. I simply did not have the time.

It would have been possible to continue the research, beyond the point I reached,

but all the additional information is only available from the private archives of the houses of Gemmingen-Gemmingen and Gemmingen-Hornberg for Ittlingen and the house of Ysenburg-Bierstein for Fischborn. These are private archives and no copies are available in official institutions. Besides, one has to have some professional knowledge. Any research has to be done personally, after receiving permission from these families.

I have therefore decided to conclude the work and sum-up what has been found up to this stage. Any additional facts, which may turn up later on, may be added later as an appendix.

General

The first Jews reached Germany, following behind the Roman Legions, some as Legionairs, but most as suppliers and merchants. The first Jews were known to reach the south and south-west german towns of Konstanz, Worms, Speyer and Köln in the first and second century. When the Romans withdrew, Jews stayed on and followed the german armies, in the same occupations.

They were then known as the "private" possession of the King himself. Only in the year of 1103 were the Jews officially taken under the "protection" of the King and permission was granted to cities or local rulers to have limited numbers of Jews settle within their boundaries. This, however, was not enacted, based on humanitarian believes, but for pure economic reasons only.

Jews had to pay regular "Protection Taxes", taxes for passing from one place to an other, taxes to settle in one place, taxes for birth-marriage-death, etc. In short: taxes for any event in one's live. Or in other words: a good source of income for the local or national rulers.

Jews were permitted to settle under certain conditions. First of all, their number was limited to the number permitted by the King or local ruler. Children coming of

age had to leave, unless somebody of the community had died, or special permission was granted. The professions of the Jews were very limited, to almost only traders or merchants. There were very few craftsmen.

As the economy, at that time, was based on agriculture only, the scope of the trade was very, very limited. Therefore, many of the Jews found a living as travelling salesmen or tradesmen. Travelling on horses or horse-drawn carts to the East, from south-west Germany to Poland and Russia. They were away from home for many months. This is how the ~~west~~ south-west german dialekt, mixed with many hebrew words, reached East Europe, a language of the Jews, which was later known as "Yiddish".

To make the Jews distinkt from the christian population, Jews had to wear special clothes. Usually, a yellow stripe sewn on to the coat.

Every mishap, or in the local christian community or in the house of the local ruler, or the royal house, was layed at the feet of the Jews. This was usually followed by murder, killing, plunder, organized by so-called courts of law, or in many cases by spontaneous actions. During the epidemic of the Plague (1348/49 and 1364) the biggest part of the jewish populations was killed or burned to death.

Only after the French Revólution, but mainly after the Napoleonic Wars, at the beginning of the 19th century, were special rules governing the jewish population eventually dissolved and the Jews gradually received equal rights.

Only towards the end of the 18th and the beginning of the 19th century were Jews ordered to adopt family names. Before this period they were only known by their names, i.e. Jakov ben (son of) Moses. This makes the research into family histories specially difficult.

P l a c e s o f R e s i d e n c e

This family history deals with two families : the W E I L s and the R O S E N T H A L s. I was unable to trace the history of the two families to their origin, but found details beginning with the middle of the 18th century only.

The history of that period occurs in two villages; the WEILs in Ittlingen and the ROSENTHALs in Mauswinkel-Fischborn. Following is a short description of the

jewish communities of these two villages.

I T T L I N G E N

Situated in the State of Baden, in the District of Sinsheim, approximately 100 km south of Frankfurt.

The knighted families of Gemmingen-Gemmingen and Gemmingen-Hornberg, in whose possession was the village of Ittlingen, till its transfer to the State of Baden (1806), accepted the first Jews after the Thirty Year War (1618 - 1648). Their number, origin and professions are not known.

The Jews of Ittlingen lived a very simple life as cattle dealers and small merchants. With the economical and social improvement of the 19th century a larger jewish community developed. They were affiliated to the Rabinical District of Bretten in 1827. A small synagogue was erected at the same time, in the Untere Mühlgasse. A small cemetery, on a hill overlooking the village, was consecrated at the end of the 19th century. Before this, the dead of the small jewish community were buried at the neighbouring village of Eppingen.

Around the 1930s the Jews earned their living in the following ways: a delicatessen shop (retail and wholesale), textiles, agricultural products, cattle skins, furs, tabac, etc. Some families were house to house salesmen of oils and fats, soap and scrap. In 1937 their business licences were cancelled and in 1938 all shops had closed down. The synagogue was destroyed in the Cristal Night of November 1938.

19 Jews left the village between the years 1935 to 1938, as living conditions for Jews in the village deteriorated more and more. One family settled in France. On the 22 October 1940 8 Jews of the village were deported to Gurs (Pyrenees/France). Three of them died there of hunger and disease, three were deported from there to Auschwitz and killed there. There are no records of one person. The only one freed from the Gurs Camp was the simpleton Erwin Wimpfheimer, who afterwards lived in France.

The building lot of the former synagogue has been turned into a field. The

cemetery is looked after well by the village.

The number of Jews in Ittlingen were : 1825 - 86; 1875 - 145; 1900 - 113; 1925 - 46; 1933 - 37.

Following is the translation of part of the history of the village of Ittlingen, which was published in 1981.

The jewish part of the population:

Jews must have been settled here before 1584, because the village regulations of that date forbade the villagers to borrow money from Jews. Jews dealt in the difficult field of changing money of the different denominations, like small bankers. The majority were cattle merchants and property dealers. In the basement of the old village hall, before 1861, was a butcher shop, which was rented by jewish butchers. Jews were also grain merchants.

In the population list of 1752 the following were listed as "Protected Jews" under the family of Gemmingen-Gemmingen : Young Marx, Old Marx, Marx Gerson, Marum, Jessel, Chaijum, Jankoff, Salomon, Seligmann, Samuel, Young Chaiyum, Darich.

There were 13 jewish families in 1785 with the names : Rabbi, Chaiyum, Moses Marx, Joseph, Marum Widow, Jossel, Salomon, Gabriel, Mayer, Marum, Jacob Lerch, Hirsch, Moses.

The following immigrated to the U.S.A., beginning with the year 1851 : Gabriel Weil, Hannchen Weil, Salomon Weil, L^öb Wimpfheimer, Max Wimpfheimer, Moses Weil, Josua Hirsch, Isac Karlsruher, Sigmund Eichtersheimer.

Joseph Hirsch Weil received a licence in the year 1827 to operate an Inn and restaurant, which was later operated by Max Weil under the name "Zum Deutschen Kaiser".

In 1805 the Jews, then still as "Protected Jews", erected a synagogue. In 1887, then as full citizens, the Jews consecrated a cemetery on the "Richener Buhl".

F I S C H B O R N

Is situated in the State of Hessen, in the District of Gelnhausen, approximately 70 km north-east of Frankfurt.

Bierstein is the major village of the district and the District was in former times called "Gericht Reichenbach". In historical times the district was under the rule of the Monastery of Fulda. Beginning with the 13th century the district came under the rule of the house of Ysenburg. The house Ysenburg then received the right to have 12 Jews settle in its area. The first Jews settled in Bierstein and gradually more families moved to the neighbouring villages: Reichenbach, Fischborn, Kirchbracht, Mauswinkel, Lichenroth, etc.

As far as is known the first Jews lived in Fischborn-Mauswinkel-Kirchbracht at the end of the 17th, beginning of the 18th century. In the beginning they used to belong to the jewish community of Bierstein. The separate jewish community of Fischborn-Mauswinkel-Kirchbracht, three villages, approximately 3 km from each other, was started with the beginning of the 19th century.

The Jews of Fischborn acquired a house in 1858, to install a teacher's (Chassan) living quarters in it. In 1868 a synagogue was erected next to it, with approximately 50 seats. Simon Weissbecker was then head of the community. His successor was Salomon Weissbecker, who was also a member of the village council and so was Wolf Rosenthal and after him his son Salomon, who was also deputy mayor. The latter initiated the construction of a central water supply system for the whole village in 1913, the first in the whole district.

About 8 to 10 families lived in the jewish community of the three villages, Fischborn-Mauswinkel-Kirchbracht, and they had excellent relations with the village population.

The Jews earned their living as cattle merchants, small merchants with general goods, textiles, shoes, a saddle maker and a jewish owned Inn in Fischborn till after World War I and a jewish owned Inn in Mauswinkel till 1930, small scale farming, etc. The economic conditions were already very hard before 1930 and a number of members of the community left already before that period for larger towns.

Most of the Jews left after 1933, the majority to Frankfurt. The Rosenthals left in 1936. The last Jew to leave was Max Meyer, the former owner of the Inn in Mauswinkel, who was a labourer with the State Railways since 1930.

The cemetery of the Jewish community of Fischborn-Mauswinkel-Kirchbracht was in Bierstein.

The number of Jews in Fischborn was : 1835 - 36; 1861 - 62; 1905 - 36;
In Mauswinkel lived : 1835 - 7; 1861 - 7; and in 1905 - 4. In Kirchbracht lived : 1835 - 28; 1861 - 38; 1905 - 35.

THE HOUSE WEIL

1st Generation

2nd Generation

3rd Generation

4th Generation

5th Generation

6th Generation

7th Generation

(1.1) Elias-Wolf

(1.1) Salomon-Wolf

(A.1.1) Marum-Wolf

(A.2.1) Lazarus-Marum

(B.2.2) Salomon-Marum

Kaio

(B.3.1) Moses-Salomon

Sarah

(B.4.1) Marum

(B.4.1) David

(B.4.1) Hanne

(B.4.2) Josef

Hannehen

(B.5.1) Jakov

Ida

(B.3.2) Low-Salomon

(B.3.2) Marum-Salomon

(B.3.2) Moses-Hirsch

(B.6.1) Johanna

David

(B.7.1) Gina

Fritzi

(C.2.3) Moses-Marum

Sarah

(C.3.3) Marum

(C.3.3) Lazarus

(C.3.3) Wolf

(C.3.3) Simon

(C.3.3) low

(C.3.3) Sarah

(B.6.2) Selma

Heksch

(B.7.2) Arthur

Joe-Hope

(B.6.3) Moritz

Marguerite

(B.7.3) Hanspete

Elisabet

Fritz

(B.6.4) Josef

Jenny

(B.7.4) Maud

Robert

Jackie

(B.5.2) Salomon

Karoline

(B.6.5) Clara

Julius

(B.7.5) Trudy

Erich

(B.6.6)

Berthold

Selma

(B.6.7) Hermine

Moritz

(B.6.8) Moses

Florence

T H E H O U S E W E I L

6th Generation

7th Generation

8th Generation

9th Generation

(B.6.6) Berthold

(B.5.1) Selma

(B.7.1) Ernst
Lilo

(B.7.1) Ernst
Dina

(B.8.1) Nava
Zeev

(B.8.2) Rona
Erez

(B.9.1) Maya
Amith

(B.9.2) Noam
Lior

(B.8.3) Shlomith
Chayim

(B.7.2) Walter
Ruth

(B.9.3) Roeh

~~ROEH~~

(B.8.4) Micky
Yaffa

(B.9.4) Nirith
Hilla
Adee

(B.8.5) Joshua
Ariella

(B.9.5) Yaniv
Netta
Tamar
Amir

(B.8.6) Liorah
Josef

(B.9.6) Ori
Shani

(B.7.3) Jack
Paula

(B.8.7) Nina
Bryan
Kenneth
Daniel

(B.9.7) Joe

(B.7.3) Jack
Marilyn

(B.6.7) Hermine
Moritz

Else (B.7.4)
Hans

(B.8.8)
.....

(B.7.5) Martin
Lucy

(B.8.9)
.....

(B.7.6) Liesel
Henry

(B.8.10) Bernie
Marilyn

(B.6.8) Moses
Florence

(B.7.7) Stanley

THE HOUSE WEIL

No trace could be found when the first Weils settled in Ittlingen and where they came from. However, more serious and important researchers, then myself, into the history of the German Jews found that all literature and documents point to one direction: That all the Weils, where-ever they are to-day, are the descendents of one J E H U D A, from Weil-der-Stadt, who died a martyre's death in 1456. His son was Jakov ben Jehuda, the most famous Rabbi of his era in german-jewish history.

I visited Weil-der-Stadt, aproximately 20 km south-west of Stuttgart, in the autumn of 1984. A sleepy little town, with very ancient buildings, but nothing could be seen or found of its ancient jewish history.

According to a village bill of the year 1739/40 Marum-Wolf (A.1.1) bought at that date a house in Ittlingen. This is actually the first date when any of the forefathers of the Weil House appear in Ittlingen, in any documents.

Marum-Wolf (A.1.1) had twox brothers : Elias-Wolf (1.1) moved to Stebbach, near Heilbronn and Salomon-Wolf (1.1). The latter lived in Ittlingen since 1744 and a document of 1764 showed that he had 8 children at that time.

Arround 1757 Marum-Wolf (A.1.1) bought an other house, near the village hall, together with Josef, the father-in-law of one of his sons. This house served temporary as a synagogue.

Marum-Wolf (A.1.1) passed away before 1790; no details are known.

According to an other document of the year 1790 Marum-Wolf (A.1.1) had 3 sons: Lazarus (A.2.1), Salomon-Marum (B.2.2) born in 1745 and Moses-Marum (C.2.3) born in 1763.

Nothing is known about Lazarus (A.2.1). The two families of Salomon-Marum(B.2.2) and Moses-Marum (C.2.3), altogether 19 souls, accepted the heriditary name of W E I L in the year of 1809.

Salomon-Marum (B.2.2) was married to Kaio (Chaya) and they had four sons: Moses-Salomon (B.3.1) born in 1774, Low-Salomon (B.3.2) born in 1779, Marum-Salomon

(B.3.2) born in 1781 and Moses-Hirsch (B.3.2) born in 1783.

Salomon-Marum's (B.2.2) eldest son Moses-Salomon (B.3.1) was, at the request of his father, accepted into the "Protection" of Ittlingen in the year 1799. He was at that date married to Sarah, born in 1779, daughter of Josef-Moses of Ittlingen, who later accepted the name Wimpfheimer.

Moses-Salomon (B.3.1) and his wife Sarah had three children up to 1809: Marum (B.4.1) born in 1802, Hanne (B.4.1) born in 1804 and David (B.4.1) born in 1807.

I could not find out whether there were any more children born after 1807 and up to 1813, when Josef (B.4.2) was born.

Sarah passed away on March 29, 1847 and Moses-Salomon on March 21, 1856. Josef (B.4.2) was married to Hannchen Würzweiler, born 1818, the daughter of Josef and Klara Würzweiler, a merchant, from Neidenstein (Kreis Rhein-Neckar).

No birth registry of Ittlingen exists, only a death registry. The number of women dying in birth and the number of babies dying at birth is enormous. According to the death registry Josef Weil's (B.4.2) wife Hannchen gave birth to a number of babies, but only two survived: Jakov (B.5.1) and Salomon (B.5.2).

Hannchen passed away on March 23, 1878 and Josef on December 15, 1883. Jakov was born in 1841. He was married to Ida Miller. They had five children, who were all born in Ittlingen.

Johanna (B.6.1) born on September 21, 1878. She was married to David Rothman and they had three daughters: Gina (B.7.1) who died very young; Fritzi was married to Othmar Weiss and lived in Manhattan; Ida Rudley lived in Elmer/N.J. .

Selma (B.6.2) was married to Heksch and divorced and was born on June 13, 1879 and died September 24, 1959 in New York. She had two sons: Arthur (B.7.2) and Joe-Hope (B.7.2), who lived in Brooklyn.

Moritz (B.6.3) was born on February 23, 1881 and died on July 30, 1971. He was married to Margueritte (nee Lippmann) and they lived in St. Gallen/Switzerland. They

had three children : Hanspeter (B.7.3) born July 10,1911; Elisabeth-Charlotte (B.7.3) born September 5,1914 who died in Israel on May 5,1972; Fritz-Werner (B.7.3) born July 21, 1919 and married to Marguerite (nee Bloch) and lived in St.Gallen, they have two sons.

Josef (B.6.4) was born on February 28,1886 and died August 2,1957. He was married to Jenny (nee Wyler), born November 18,1895. ~~XXXXXX~~ They lived in St.Gallen. They had three children : Maud Ellen (B.7.4) born July 29,1918 and was married to Alfred Bloch and have two children and 4 grand-children. They lived in Yverdon/Switzerland; Robert Ernst (B.7.4) was born December 29,1919 and is married to Jane Filman and live in Zurich; Jaque Henry (B.7.4) was born August 9,1930 and is married to Jacqueline (nee Guggenheim) and they live in St. Gallen and have three children.

Clara (B.6.5) was born on May 2,1894 and was married to Julius Guggenheim and has two children : Trudy (B.7.5) and Erich (B.7.5). They lived in Zurich.

I could not find any trace of when Jakov and Ida passed away and where they were burried.

Josef and Hannchen's (B.4.2) second son was Salomon (B.5.2) who was born on September 6,1847. He was married to Karoline Schlessinger from Menzingen (Kreis Bruchsal) who was born on December 9,1851. Her parents were Bernhard and Fanny (nee Fröhlich from Grotzingen near Karlsruhe). Salomon and Karoline (B.5.2) lived in Ittlingen till Salomon passed away on July 15,1923. After that date Karoline moved to her daughter in Frankfurt. Karoline passed away on January 10, 1927. Both, Salomon and Karoline are burried in Ittlingen.

They had three children: Berthold (B.6.6) born October 2, 1881, Hermine (B.6.7) and Moses (B.6.8), all born in Ittlingen.

Berthold (B.6.6) born on October 2, 1881, was married to Selma Rosenthal (B.5.1), born on November 24, 1891, at the Registry Office in Unter Reichenbach and by the Rabbi of Schlüchtern in Fischborn on November 24, 1913. They lived in Frankfurt

till January 1939, when they emigrated to England and from there in 1941 to the U.S.A. where they settled in Chicago. They both passed away in Chicago, Berthold on July 10, 1945 and Selma on November 30, 1968. They had three children :

Ernst Josef (B.7.1) was born on February 7, 1915 and emigrated to Palestine in 1936. He was married to Lilo in 1940 and divorced in 1942. Ernst was married again to Dina, born June 29, 1924. Ernst passed away on June 21, 1985. They have three children: Nava (B.8.1) born on November 2, 1951 and who is married to Zeev Efroni. They have two children (B.9.1) Maya born September 21, 1973 and Amith born October 3, 1980. Rona (B.8.2) born March 28, 1955 and married to Erez Taoz and they have two children (B.9.2) Noam born February 2, 1981 and Lior born Schlomith (B.8.3) born January 18, 1958 and married to Chayim Cohen and they have one child (B.9.3) Roeh born

Walter Zeev ^(B.7.2) was born on December 20, 1918 and emigrated to England on November 1938 and to Palestine on July, 15, 1945. He was married to Ruth Gerson at the Registry Office in Cirencester/Glos. England on May 19, 1941. Ruth was born on July 15, 1914 at Sonneberg/Thüringen-Germany of the parents Herrman and Julie Gerson. They have three children : Micky (B.8.4) was born on September 27, 1941 in Newport /Shrops. England. He was married to Yaffa Avni on March 5, 1965 and they have three children (B.9.4) Nirith born on February 26, 1966, Hilla born July 7, 1967 and Adee born December 20, 1972. Joshua (B.8.5) was born on February 26, 1947 and was married to Ariella Berensohn born on October 5, 1947. They were married on May 24, 1970. They have four children : (B.9.5) Yaniv born on June 23, ~~1967~~ 1971; Netta was born on September 22, 1974; Tamar was born on July 20, 1980 and Amir was born on August 15, 1983. Liorah (B.8.6) was born on August 9, 1950. She was married to Yosef Agam on February 9, 1983. They have two children: (B.9.6) Ori born on August 12, 1982 and Shani born July 30, 1985.

Hans Jack (B.7.3) was born on August 22, 1921. He was married to Paula Companion

They have four children : (B.8.7) Nina born on September 7, 1953 and she has one son Joe; Bryan born on August 4, 1954; Kenneth born on February 18, 1958 and who was married to Tamara on October 13, 1985; Daniel born on March 29, 1961 and who was married to Brenda on September, 1985.

Jack was divorced in 1970 and married to Marilyn in 1978.

Hermine (B.6.7) born on June 8, 1889 was married to Moritz Reinheimer. They emigrated in 1938 from Frankfurt, where they used to live up till then and where their three children were born, to the U.S.A. and settled in Chicago. There they both passed away.

As mentioned already, they had three children: Else (B.7.4) who was married to Hans Wonschowski and who emigrated to Johannesburg/South Afrika, where they had two children and where Else passed away. Martin and (B.7.5) and Liesel (B.7.6) emigrated with their parents to the U.S.A. Martin (B.7.5) got married to Lucy and they have two children: (B.8.9) Brent and Judy. They live in Chicago. Liesel (B.7.6) got married to Henry Scheidt and they have two children: Bernie and Marilyn (B.8.10) and two grand-children. They live in New York.

My mind was so occupied with trying to trace the distant passed, that I did not try to find out the details of the Reinheimer family and for that I am deeply sorry. Our families, specially our parents, have always been very close and without these details the history would not be complete. However, I would like to request Martin and Liesel to fill in the missing details and add it to the history.

Moses (B.6.8) emigrated as a young man from Ittlingen to the U.S.A. and settled in Chicago. There he got married to Florence and they had one son: (B.7.7) Stanley.

Here again, I have no details and I would be grateful if somebody could fill them in.

THE HOUSE ROSENTHAL

1st Generation

(1) Liebman

2nd Generation

(2.1) Hirsch

(2.2) Miyam
Kalman

(2.3) Löb
Sarah

3rd Generation

(A.3.1) Süssel
Fanny

(B.3.2) Wolf
Maryanne

(C.3.3) Moses
Bettchen

(D.3.4) Liebman
Hannchen

4th Generation

(A.4.1) Gava
Avraham

(B.4.3) Salomon
Rickchen

(B.4.4) Levi
Auguste

(B.4.4) Levi
Minna

(B.4.5) Sarchen

(D.4.6) Jacov

Leopold

Sarah

(D.4.7) Bertha
Lederer

5th Generation

(A.5.1) Max
Adele

(B.5.1) Selma
Berthold

(B.5.2) Ludwig
Selta

(B.5.3) Irma
Moritz

(B.5.4) Sigfried
Ria

(B.5.5) Erna
Ludwig

.....
Bernhard
Selma

Ludwig
Erna

Jeffry
Ralf

6th Generation

Arnold

Walter

Kurt

Eli
Jakov

Shulamith
Shalom

T H E H O U S E R O S E N T H A L

Here again, I could not find out when the first Rosenthals came to the area and where they came from.

The first person appearing in the documents I found is Liebman (1). He was born in 1751 and lived in Mauswinkel and that is about all that is known of him. Nothing is known, who was his wife, what was her name and where she came from. He died at the ripe age of 90 on October 6, 1841.

He had three sons: Hirsch (2.1) born in 1790, lived in Mauswinkel and remained a bachelor and died on October 23, 1860. Marianne (Myriam) (2.2) was born in 1793 and was married to Kalman Levi of Fischborn on December 12, 1826. She died on September 18, 1852. Löb (2.3) was born in 1797. He was married to Sarah Grünbaum, born in 1793. They lived in Mauswinkel. She died on January 26, 1868 and he on October 10, 1872. In fact, he committed suicide and was found at 8 in the morning on the way between Mauswinkel and Fischborn. They had four sons.

Sussel (A.3.1) was born in 1828 and was married to Fanny Schwarzenberg, born in 1836, of Hitzkirchen nr. Bierstein. They were married on August 21, 1861. They lived in Mauswinkel. He died on September 23, 1872. They had two children: Gava (A.4.1) born April 30, 1862 and Liebman born March 15, 1864. Nothing more is known about Liebman. Gava got married to Avraham Meier, born March 30, 1864. They lived in Mauswinkel. Gava died August 8, 1918 and Avraham on September 7, 1920. Their son Max (A.5.1) got married to Adele Weissbecker from Fischborn and they were the last family of the Jewish community of Kirchbracht-Mauswinkel-Fischborn to leave the village (1938). Their son Arnold lives in the U.S.A.

Wolf (B.3.2) was born on August 26, 1832. He got married to Maryanne Klein of Fischborn, born on September 15, 1838 and married on February 4, 1863. Maryanne was the daughter of Salomon and Sarah Klein. He had passed away 14 years previous to the wedding and she passed away 6 years after the wedding of their daughter. They lived in Fischborn. Wolf passed away on December 21, 1902 and Maryanne on June 20, 1918. They had three children: Salomon (B.4.3) was born on January 15, 1864. He was

married to Rickchen Marx of Gross Eicholzheim/Baden and who was born on March 19, 1864 and they were married on January 13, 1890. They lived in Fischborn till 1936 and then moved to Frankfurt. Salomon died in Frankfurt on March 9, 1940 and Rickchen died in the Concentration Camp of Theresienstadt on November 7, 1942. They had one daughter Selma (B.5.1), born on November 24, 1891, who was married to Berthold Wehl.

The second son was Levi (B.4.4) ^{Jacob B. 1867} who was born on February 23, 1867 and who was married to Auguste Marx born on February 16, 1861, of Gross Eicholzheim/Baden, sister of Rickchen Rosenthal. They were married in 1895. Auguste passed away on July 3, 1905. They had three children: Ludwig (B.5.2) who was born on November 15, 1896 and who was married to Selta Reise born on May 27, 1901. They had one son Walter. They lived in Fischborn till 1936, when they moved to Frankfurt. The whole family died in the Concentration Camp of Lublin on August 10, 1942. Irma (B.5.3) was born on April 22, 1898 and married Moritz Viktor of Rhina nr. Fulda, born on September 26, 1893. They lived in Rhina till 1938, when they moved to Frankfurt. They had one son Kurt. The whole family was evacuated by the Gestapo to Minsk/Poland on November 11, 1941 where they disappeared. Sigfried ~~xx~~ (B.5.4) was born in 1901. He lived up till 1935 in Frankfurt, when he moved to Paris and where he got married to Ria. After the invasion of France he moved to Stockholm/Sweden and Ria remained in France till the end of the war. They both passed away in Stockholm, 1965 and 1967. 3.17.65 & 5.18.67

Levi (B.4.4) was married again ~~xxx~~ to Minna Jafet, born on November 8, 1870 and who died on November 6, 1930. They had one daughter: Erna (B.5.5) who was married to Ludwig Oppenheimer. They used to live in Jerusalem and both have passed away.

The third child of Wolf (B.3.2) and Maryanne was Sarchen (B.4.5) who was born on June 6, 1870 and passed away as a child on September 23, 1872.

The third son of L"ob and Sarah ~~(2.3)~~ (2.3) was Moses (C.3.3) who was born on January 20, 1838 and who got married to Bettchen Blumenthal, born 1845, from Kirchbracht, married on August 22, 1866. He died on March 9, 1869. They lived in Kirchbracht and had three children: Levi who died as a child, Leopold and Malchen.

The fourth son of L^ob (2.3) and Sarah was Liebman (D.3.4), who was born on February 2, 1843. He was married to Hannchen Silbermann of Oberalsbach and she was born in 1841 and they married on November 4, 1869. They lived in Wächtersbach and after their first child was born they moved to Lohrhaupten.

Their first child was Jakov (D.4.6), who had two children: Bernhard, who got married to Selma and who had two sons: Eli and Jakov; Ludwig got married to Erna and they had two children: the oldest was killed in the War of Independence of Israel and the second is Shulamith. Both these families live in Israel. Bernhard and Ludwig have meanwhile passed away.

Liebman and Hannchen's second child was Lepold. Their third child was Sarah and their fourth was Bertha (D.4.7) who was married to Lederer and their son is Benno, who emmigrated from Germany to South Afrika and from there to Israel. He has two sons: Jeffry, living in Israel and Ralf, living in Canada.

T H E H O U S E M A R X

3RD Generation

(D.3.1) Jakov
Babette

4th Generation

(D.4.1) Moses
Bertha

♀

(D.4.2) Max
Rosi

(B.4.3) Rickchen
Salomon

(B.4.4) Auguste
Levi

(D.4.4) Isidor
Yettchen

(D.4.5) Emma
Michael

5th Generation

(D.5.1) Fritz
(D.5.2) Paul
Lotte

(D.5.3) Rosi
(D.5.4) Julius

(D.5.5) Hertha
Otto

(B.5.1) Selma
Berthold

(B.5.2) Ludwig
Selta

(B.5.3) Irma
Moritz

(B.5.4) Sigfried
Ria

(D.5.5) Erna
Arthur

(D.5.6) Liesel
Heinz

(D.5.7) Hermann
(B.5.8) Dora

(D.5.9) Nathan-Albert
Grete

(D.5.10) Berthold
(D.5.11) Carry

(D.5.12) Frieda
Max

6th Generation

(D.6.1) Ernst
Steven

(D.6.2) Anneliese

(B.6.3) Walter

(B.6.4) Kurt

Chayim (D.6.5)
Channa

(D.6.6) Yochanan
Channa

(D.6.6) Eli
(D.6.6)

(D.6.7) Emma

T H E H O U S E M A R X

I do not have many details of this family, but drew up the family tree, not only this being grand-mother's part of the family, but ~~there~~ because there always were close relations with this family.

They came from a village Gross Eicholzheim, 40 km south-east of Heidelberg. The first persons known to me are Jakov (D.3.1) and Babette, nee Lowengart. They had three sons and three daughters:

Moses (D.4.1) was born on April 3, 1863 and was married to Bertha Aufhäuser, born on July 20, 1869. They lived all their lives in Gross Eicholzheim. They were evacuated to the Concentration Camp of Gurs/Pyrenees on October 22, 1940. Bertha died there on May 26, 1941 and Moses was transferred to Auschwitz on August 10, 1942 where he was killed. They had ~~three~~ ^{four} children: Fritz (D.5.1) used to live in Frankfurt. He disappeared in a Concentration Camp. No details are known. Paul (D.5.2) used to live in Frankfurt, where he got married to Lotte Hammerschlag. They emigrated to the U.S.A. in 1939 and settled in New York. They have two son, Ernst married to Dorothy and has two sons, ~~Ernst and Michael~~ Victor and Michael and they live in Kansas. Steven is married to Alice and they too have two sons Gerald and Eirie and they live in Chicago. Paul got divorced and married again Else Häusler. Rosi (D.5.3) used to live with her parents in Gross Eicholzheim, was deported to Gurs and then send to Auschwitz and killed there. Julius (D.5.4) also used to live with his parents in Gross Eicholzheim, but emigrated in 1939 to the U.S.A. and lived in New York.

The second son of Jakov and Babette (D.3.1) was Max (D.4.2). He used to live in Frankfurt, where he was married to Rosi Rossbach. They had one daughter Hertha (D.5.5), who was married to Otto Deutsch. They had one daughter Annelise (D.6.2), who was married to Ashkenazi and lives in Leipzig/East Germany.

The third child was Rickchen (B.4.3) who was married to Salomon Rosenthal.

The forth child was Auguste (B.4.4) who was married to Levi Rosenthal.

The fifth child was Isidor (D.4.4) who was married to Yettchen Stein and they

they lived in Cologn. They had two daughters: Erna (D.5.) who was married to Arthur Cahn. They too used to live in Cologn till 1934, when they emmigrated to Palestine and lived in Jerusalem. They have two sons, Chayim married to Channe and Yochanan married to Shanna. Both live in Haifa. Liesel (D.5.6) also used to live in Cologn and was married to Heinz Simon. They also emmigrated to Palestine in 1934 and used to live in Haifa. They too have two children.

The sixth child of Jakov and Babette (D.3.1) was Emma (D.4.5), who was married to Michael Frank and they used to live in Buchen/Baden. They had three sons and three daughters, but very little about them is known to me:

The oldest is Herman(D.5.7). The second is Dora (D.5.8). The third is Nathan-Albert (D.5.9), who used to live in Hamm/Westf.-Germany and who was married to Grete Isay. They emmigrated to the U.S.A. and setteked in Chicago, where Albert passed away. They have one daughter Emma ~~(D.5.10)~~ (D.6.7), who has three children. The fourth child is Berthold (D.5.10). The fifth child is Garry (D.5.11) who was married, lived in the U.S.A. and had a son and a daughter. The sixth child was Frieda (D.5.12) who was married to Max Weinberg and they used to live in Münster/Westf.-Germany. They perished in a Concentration Camp. No details are known.

Livelihood

Up to now I have tried to reconstruct the trees of the different families, i.e. the flow of the generations, their relationship and the relevant dates, where-ever I could find them. But after all, all these people did not live in a vacuum, they had an occupation, they earned a living.

Almost nothing, or very little is known about the early generations. Documents speak about taxes, payments, permissions, grants, etc. but very little of what these people did to ~~earn~~ earn all those. Every document was connected with some payment or other.

What is known however is a long list of professions and occupations which were forbidden for the Jews. Agriculture, Jews were not allowed to own land and only with great difficulties were they permitted to purchase and own a house. All of the handicrafts were organized in a sort of unions (Zunft) and these would not permit Jews to take up any of their professions.

Therefore, there was only a very small field left to earn a living. Trade, which was mostly peddling, cattle trading and the money market. This situation continued till the end of the 18th century. Only after the Napoleonic Wars, as a result of the influence of the French Revolution and the beginning of the Emancipation, with the start of the 19th century, did the situation gradually change.

The representatives of 40 Jewish communities in Germany met in 1809 and decided to spend a very large sum of money, for the next six years (as a beginning), to assist about 200 youngsters (at least) to learn trades: agriculture, builder, carpenter, smith, etc. All of them would receive, after a period of learning, the required equipment or ground, with the undertaking not to sell any of it for 10 years. Also, they had to undertake to take on at least one Jewish under-study, after receiving a certain professional standard.

This is also the period, when the Jews living in the villages in Germany, were permitted and started to acquire fields and turned to small-scale agriculture, to assist them in their traditional occupations as traders and cattle dealers and money lenders.

The W E I L S

I do not know anything at all about the early periods, but I suppose they earned their living, as did all the Jews in those small villages: buying and selling agricultural products, buying and selling cattle, peddelling soaps, oil, fabrics, clothes, etc.

Our grandfather passed away when we were still small children: Ernst was 8, I was 5 and Jack was 2. So, there is very little I do remember. I remember the little house and the small vegetable garden in front of it.

The only thing known to me is that our grandfather sold clothes and fabrics and had a few fields to supplement the small income. Their way of living was very simple and without any luxuries.

Berthold Weil: his business activities in Germany.

The firm of Marx and Rode was founded before World War I and dealt with the wholesale supply of furniture fabrics. The founders were Mr. Marx and Mr. Rode, a Jew and a Christian. Father started to work with the firm before World War I and in 1913 got married to the niece of Mr. Marx, Selma Rosenthal. Soon after the war he became a junior partner.

The firm had fabrics specially made, according to their specifications and design, in the two major weaving centers of Germany: Wurthenberg and Saxonia. Father was the main force of activity in this sphere.

The firm gradually developed into the leading company, in its field, in Germany and eventually in Europe.

In the late twenties the firm was joined by the son-in-law of Mr. Rode, Mr. Zimmer and after Mr. Rode passed away father became a senior partner.

At the beginning of the thirties a daughter company was founded in Switzerland,

which dealt mainly with all the export business of the company.

Father travelled a great deal, both inside Germany and all over Europe. He dealt with the supplying factories and although, the firm had travelling salesmen all over Europe, he dealt personally with the major customers, all over Europe.

Although he had excellent connections all over Europe, he refused to leave Germany, when the Nazis came to power, not believing that the regime would last very long. In 1938 he was forced to leave the company. After receiving a fictitious payment, the Nazi employees union demanded an enormous sum from him as a "Farewell" payment. Father travelled for two weeks all over Germany to escape the blackmail.

Father was incarcerated at Buchenwald Concentration Camp after the Christal Night, November 10, 1938. Only then was he convinced that there was no more future for him in Germany and he left a spiritually broken man.

The R O S E N T H A L S

According to a document (Death Certificate) the first known Rosenthal, Liebmann of Mauswinkel, earned his living as a "Lehrer" (Teacher), evidently teaching the Jewish children in the surrounding villages in the Jewish subjects and leading prayers on holidays. He operated an Inn to supplement his income.

His two sons, Hirsch (who remained a bachelor) and Lob, continued to operate the Inn, but also dealt with cattle. They did not have any agriculture. Lob's son Süssel continued to operate the Inn. In fact, the Inn was operated by Süssel's grand-children, Max and Adele Meier, till 1933, when the Nazis came to power. This, as far as the Rosenthals of Mauswinkel.

Lob's second son, Wolf, was married to Maryanne Klein in the neighbouring village of Fischborn. Maryanne's father, Salomon, had passed away years before the wedding. He had earned his living mainly by dealing with cattle, but also operated a very small Inn and a very small grocery store and some agriculture.

Wolf was a very active man and as head of the family developed all the small economic branches. Agriculture had two major goals: (1) food supply for the house and (2) food supply for the animals (cows, goats, sheep, chicken, geese, horses). This development was speeded up, as the two sons, Salomon and Levi grew up and took a hand in the activities and later got married and their wives also participated in the activities. The whole enterprise remained a family affair and was known as Wolf Rosenthal & Sons. The Inn remained a small, more or less social affair, where the leading ~~walk~~ male members of the village met every evening. The cattle business and agriculture gradually developed. The little grocery store developed into a general goods store, where everything required in the village life was available: groceries, kitchen and dining room utensils, patent medicine, eye-glasses and lenses, building materials, seeds and fertilizer, etc.

Of course, there was not enough room in the little store to hold all these wares. So, as the two boys, Salomon and Levi, became young men, an additional two-storey house was build, accross the road and adjacent to the old barn, stables and shed. Also a new stable was build, with a hay-loft above it and next to it a large modern ~~the~~ two-storey warehouse.

Levi moved in to the new house and lived there all his life and also passed away there.

Salmon and Rickchen lived in the old house, in the second bed-room, where Selma was born.

Wolf also took part in the activities of the village and was elected to the village council, as was later on his son Salomon.

They had to work very hard, as they had to feed three families towards the end of the 19th century (Wolf and Maryanne, Salomon and Rickchen, Levi and Auguste), based on the same facilities, which had formerly fed just one family.

I attach in the Appendix a sketch of the Rosenthals, as I remember it.

The M A R X S

Very little of the livelihood of that family is known to me. There are two things I do remember: (1) that they operated an Inn and (2) that they dealt with cattle.

But to round up the picture, here is the storey of a very serious problem and how it was solved:

Arround 1880 the Marx house had gotten too small, existing only of one storey and having six children, three boys and three girls. A second storey was programmed and the builders started to work. The contractor came every week-end for his weekly pay. Till one day Jakob Marx figured he could not any longer stand by his obligations of financing the building and ordered to halt the work. The roof of the old house had been taken off, winter was approaching and a crisis was at hand. In her desperation Babette Marx went to the Mayor of the village. He was Jakob's school mate and also soldiered with him in the 1848 war. She appealed to him to assist them to continue the building. The Mayor vouched for the sum needed to complete the house and the contractor continued the work. The house was completed in time, before winter set in. The following year was exeptionally profitabl and the Marxs could repay all their debts.

MAAYAN ZWI

As Ernst (Joseph) and Walter (Zeev) spend a decisive time of their lives in Maayan Zwi I will give a short description here-after.

The founders of the Kibbutz were members of the Youth movement I.P.D.-Makkabi Hazair (Judischer Pfadfinder Bund Deutschland - Jewish Boy Scouts of Germany). The majority went on Hachscharah (Agricultural Training) on a Jewish owned farm at Alt Karbe, east of Berlin, in 1934. There the first nucleus of about 25 to 30 people was formed.

From there the group immigrated to Palestine in 1935 and went for further training to Degania A, the first Kibbutz. In March of 1936 the group left for Kfar Bilu, near Rechovoth, to start their way as an independent settlement. They lived in tents, in a very small area and earned their living working in orange plantations in neighbouring settlements, competing with Arab labour.

In 1938, during the Arab unrest and uprising, the Zionist institutions implemented the "Wall and Watchtower" plan to found new settlements all over Palestine. Then the group was allocated a place for final settlement, an ancient orange plantation, in the coastal plain, at the foot of the Carmel mountain, near the old P.I.C.A. (Palestine Jewish Colonization Association) settlement of Zikhron Yaakov, founded by Rothschild. "Wall and Watchtower" settlements had to be erected within 24 hours, as according to an old Turkish law they could then not be dismantled by the British authorities, who would not permit new settlements at that time.

The area within the wall was very limited and there was only room for a small number of tents. The allocated agricultural area was also very small and additional ways of income had to be found. The settlement was situated next to a very large swamp, in the draining of which members worked. Almost all the people fell sick of Malaria and eventually of Typhoid. Here, the first children were born. It was impossible to bring up children in such conditions and the children were moved up

on to the hills, overlooking the plain and there the first house was erected, for the children. Within two years the whole Kibbutz moved up on to these hills.

The first nucleus group was gradually joined by graduates of three Youth Aliyah groups and also by graduates of an agricultural girls school, all of whom originated from Central Europe.

Ernst (Joseph) was mobilized in 1938 by the Hagana (Jewish self-defence organization) to assist in the erection of Chanita, another "Wall and Watchtower" Kibbutz, on the Lebanese border. He drove the ~~truck~~ truck connecting the settlement with the outside world. He was ambushed twice and only by luck escaped being caught and serious injury.

Back in Maayan Zvi the first truck was purchased and it operated on outside contract work, as an additional source of income. It was driven by Ernst. During World War II he drove all over the Middle East, on contract work for the British Army. This branch, with a number of heavy trucks, is being operated up to this day.

After the war Maayan Zvi established a workshop for the repair of heavy diesel trucks and Ernst was its first manager.

The swamps were drained and beginning with 1944 fish ponds were constructed in the area, which gradually were turned into the largest fish growing area in the country. After the War of Independence an additional agricultural area was allocated to the settlement.

In the fifties a small plastics industry was started, which actually began as a hobby of one of the members. It produced decorating and advertising articles. In the seventies know-how was purchased, for the production of plastic optical lenses and other optical articles. Agriculture was more and more mechanized and the workforce gradually moved over to industry, comprising to-day 60 %.

In the fifties an Ulpan was started (Hebrew study course, half day study, half day work, for half a year) of young people, mainly from English speaking countries. Many of the Ulpan graduates stayed on after the course and many got married to members, mainly of the second generation.

The economic branches of the Kibbuz are to-day:

Agriculture: Fishponds, Turkeys - meat production, Turkeys - breeding egg production,
Bananas and Tropical Fruit, Citrus, Cotton and other field crops

Industry: Plastic optical lenses, Periscopes, Decorating & Advertising Articles,
Special plastic articles for the electronics industry, workshop for the
repair of heavy diesel trucks

The population of the Kibbuz to-day is approximately 750, consisting of 385
members, about 200 children, parents, Ulpan and temporary residents.