



The Family of Ferdinand Hahn and Jette Oberndorfer

by

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In December 2003, I prepared a history of my Oberndorfer and Bauer ancestors. In March 2004, through Jewishgen.org, I got in touch with Gerald E. Caspary; and he and I found that we were third cousins—his great-grandmother Jette Hahn, nee Oberndorfer, and my great-grandmother Sophie Bamberger, nee Oberndorfer, were sisters. Jette Hahn's husband was Ferdinand Hahn.

In June 2006, I received a Hahn family tree from Diana da Costa, a descendant of Ferdinand Hahn's brother Bernhard Hahn. In July 2006, using information from Gerald (Gerry) Caspary and Diana da Costa, I prepared a summary of my information on Ferdinand and Jette Hahn and their descendants.

What follows is an updated version of my July 2006 summary. In July 2008, I received an updated version of the Hahn family tree from Diana da Costa and I did additional research on the Ferdinand Hahn branch.

Ferdinand Hahn and Jette Oberndorfer

Ferdinand S. Hahn was born in Altenkunstadt, Upper Franconia, Bavaria, around 1845.¹ His parents were Simon Hahn and Flora Hellmann.

Ferdinand Hahn married Jette Oberndorfer. She was born in Ermreuth, Upper Franconia, Bavaria, on April 8, 1843. Her parents were Jesaias Oberndorfer and Fanny Bauer.

Ferdinand and Jette (known as "Henrietta") Hahn had at least four children. Their first child, Flora, was born in Nuremberg on December 6, 1863.² Their second child, a son named Sigmund (known as "Semi"), was born around January 1866, probably in Nuremberg. Their next children—Emma, born on August 11, 1870, and Agnes (known as "Alice"), born on January 30, 1872—were born in St. Louis, Missouri. Jette and Ferdinand Hahn may have had another child in St. Louis--Fannie, who was born and died in 1868.³

Ferdinand Hahn died in St. Louis around 1873. He was about 28 at the time of his death. After Ferdinand Hahn's death, his widow and their four children returned to Bavaria.

I do not know the date or place of Jette Hahn's death.

¹ My only source as to Ferdinand Hahn's date of birth is a document ("Ancestors") that Gerry Caspary wrote and sent me on March 18, 2004. According to that document, Ferdinand Hahn was born in Burgkunstadt, Bavaria (just across a river from Altenkunstadt). However, the Hahn tree shows that Ferdinand Hahn's parents lived in Altenkunstadt and that all his siblings were born in Altenkunstadt.

² My information on the date and place of Flora Hahn's birth is from the 1939 German "minority" census.

³ The records of Mount Sinai Cemetery in St. Louis show that Fannie Hahn, age "00," died on August 1, 1868. (www.newmtsinaicemetery.org) The cemetery's records do not contain information on the parents of Fannie Hahn. One reason for concluding that her parents were Jette and Ferdinand Hahn is that the first name of Jette's mother was "Fanny."

The surviving children of Ferdinand and Jette Hahn

(1) Flora Hahn and Siegfried (Semi) Caspary. Flora Hahn was born in Nuremberg in 1863. She married Siegfried (Semi) Caspary. They may have been married in Nuremberg. Siegfried Caspary was originally from another area, probably the Posen Province of Prussia.

Flora and Siegfried Caspary did not have any children. According to the Hahn family tree, Siegfried Caspary died in 1929.

Flora Caspary lived in Nuremberg; she died there of natural causes in April 1942. She was 78.

(2) Sigmund Hahn and Minni Oberndorfer. Sigmund Hahn, the second child of Ferdinand and Jette Hahn, was born around December 1865.⁴ According to the Hahn family tree, his wife was Minni Oberndorfer.⁵ According to the family tree, they had three children—Fritz, Hans, and Emmy. The Sigmund Hahn family lived in Nuremberg.⁶

I do not know the date or place of death of Sigmund Hahn or his wife. However, in an (unpublished) book on his family, Gerry Caspary, who was born in 1929, wrote (p. 5) that Sigmund Hahn was dead “by my time.”⁷

The children of Sigmund Hahn and his wife:

(a) Fritz Hahn. My only information on Fritz Hahn is from the Hahn family tree, which shows that he died in World War I, in 1916.

(b) Hans Hahn. Hans Hahn was born on March 12, 1900, probably in Nuremberg.⁸ By 1924, he was a “doctor of philosophy;” he was single and lived in Nuremberg.⁹ In the spring of 1924, he traveled to the United States, arriving in New York City on May 4.¹⁰ I do not know the purpose of his trip or how long he stayed in the United States.

Apparently, in March 1937, Hans Hahn was living in Brussels, Belgium.¹¹

According to Gerry Caspary, Hans “emigrated to . . . Kentucky in the 1930s, married with children.”¹² Gerry Caspary had no contact with Hans Hahn¹³ and did not have information on the wife or children of Hans Hahn.

⁴ In 1866, Jette Hahn traveled to the United States with two children. The ship’s passenger list shows—incorrectly—that the children were both daughters. In fact, the children were Flora, who was two, and Sigmund, whose age is shown as ten months. *Germans to America*, vol. 18, p. 288.

⁵ It seems likely that Minni Oberndorfer and Sigmund Hahn were cousins, but I do not have information on the parents or ancestors of Minni Oberndorfer.

⁶ In 1924, Sigmund Hahn’s address in Nuremberg was “Bucherstr, 21/I.” New York Passenger List (for Hans Hahn, May 4, 1924) (ancestry.com).

⁷ In March 2004, Gerry Caspary sent me a draft of his (unpublished) book on correspondence between his mother and grandmother—“From the Edge of the Holocaust.”

⁸ I did not find information on the place of birth of Hans Hahn. The Social Security Death Index (ancestry.com) shows the date of his birth.

⁹ New York Passenger List (for Hans Hahn, May 4, 1924) (ancestry.com).

¹⁰ *Ibid.*

¹¹ Source: letter of March 19, 1937, to Dr. Hans Hahn from Dr. Hans Teutsch, the attorney for the estate of David Oberndorfer. (David Oberndorfer was the brother of Jette Oberndorfer Hahn.) From Diana da Costa, I learned that Hans Teutsch (b. 1897) was the grandson of Heinrich Hahn. Heinrich Hahn (b. 1839) was a brother of Ferdinand Hahn. The other member of the law firm was Dr. Fritz Blum (1880-1968), whose wife was Elizabeth Teutsch (b. 1894), the sister of Hans Teutsch.

The Hahn family tree shows that the first name of Hans Hahn's wife was Bertha and that they had a child, but the tree does not contain other information on Hans, his wife or their child. I recently found a 1951 record that seems to indicate that the first name of Hans' wife was Annie.

By September 1951, Hans Hahn lived in Lexington, Kentucky, where he was on the faculty of Transylvania College.¹⁴ Apparently, he was a professor of psychology.¹⁵

In September 1951, Hans Hahn and Annie Hahn flew from London to New York City.¹⁶ At that time, they had the same residence—Transylvania College; and I think that handwritten notes on the passenger manifest indicate that they were husband and wife. I do not know whether Hans Hahn was married more than once or whether, in the United States, his wife used a different first name (i.e., “Annie” rather than “Bertha”).

I think that the 1951 passenger manifest indicates that, at that time, neither Hans Hahn nor Annie Hahn was a United States citizen.

Hans Hahn died in August 1969. The Social Security Death Index (via ancestry.com) shows that his “Last Residence” was “(U.S. Consulate) Munich, Germany.” I do not know whether this means that he was in Munich temporarily or whether he had settled there. I do not have information on the death of his wife and do not know whether any descendants of Hans Hahn are still living.

(c) Emmy Hahn. Emmy Hahn, the daughter of Sigmund and Minni Hahn, was born in Nuremberg on September 8, 1901.¹⁷ She was a medical doctor.¹⁸ I do not know when she left Germany, but she emigrated first to England and then to the United States.

Emmy Hahn may have practiced medicine in England. She was listed as “Dr. Emmy Hahn” in London telephone directories; and, when she emigrated to the United States in 1946, she gave “Medical Practitioner” as her occupation.¹⁹

After arriving in New York City on April 6, 1946, Emmy Hahn joined her aunt, Emma Hirschfeld, whose residence was 46 Fort Washington Avenue in Manhattan.

Emmy Hahn became a United States citizen in July 1951.²⁰ At that time, her address was 33-23 73d Street, Jackson Heights, New York.

¹² E-mail to me from Gerry Caspary (3-16-04).

¹³ In his (unpublished) book on correspondence between his mother and grandmother, Gerry Caspary referred to Hans Hahn as follows (p. 5 of the draft): “Hans Hahn, who emigrated to the US, but with whom the rest of the [Caspary] family had no contact.”

¹⁴ New York Passenger List for Hans Hahn (flight arriving in NYC on Sept. 12, 1951) (ancestry.com).

¹⁵ I recently searched the Web site of Transylvania University for “Hans Hahn” and found only a poem which has a brief reference to him. The poem indicates that, around 1957, he was a psychology professor.

¹⁶ New York Passenger List for Hans Hahn (flight arriving in NYC on Sept. 12, 1951) (ancestry.com).

¹⁷ Sources (via ancestry.com): Social Security Death Index; and New York Passenger List (for Emmy Hahn, flight arriving in NYC on Apr. 6, 1946).

¹⁸ Source: New York Passenger List (for Emmy Hahn, flight arriving in NYC on Apr. 6, 1946). Also, letter of August 10, 1937, to the joint heirs of David Oberndorfer from Dr. Fritz Blum, Dr. Hans Teutsch; and e-mail to Diana da Costa from Gerry Caspary (6-15-06).

¹⁹ New York Passenger List (for Emmy Hahn, flight arriving in NYC on Apr. 6, 1946).

Emmy Hahn never married. She died in New York City in September 1983.²¹

(3) Emma Hahn and Siegmund Hirschfeld. Emma Hahn, the third surviving child of Ferdinand and Jette Hahn, was born in St. Louis on August 11, 1870.²² After the death of her husband around 1873, Jette Hahn, with her four children, returned to Bavaria. Emma and her siblings grew up in Nuremberg.

Emma Hahn married Siegmund Hirschfeld of Bayreuth. They lived in Bayreuth and had three sons—Fritz, Otto and Kurt (b. around 1900).

Siegmund Hirschfeld died around 1901 in Bayreuth. Emma Hirschfeld remained in Bayreuth until January 16, 1942, when she was deported to Nuremberg.

Later in 1942, Emma Hirschfeld and her sister Alice Caspary were both able to leave Germany, because they were United States citizens (having been born in the U.S.). They arrived in New York City on June 1, 1942.²³

Emma Hirschfeld and Alice Caspary lived together in New York City until Alice's death in 1949. Emma Hirschfeld remained in New York City. According to the Hahn tree, she died in 1961. She was 90 or 91.

The children of Emma and Siegmund Hirschfeld.

(a) Fritz Hirschfeld. Fritz Hirschfeld served in the German Army during World War I and was killed around 1917 at the front.

(b) Otto Hirschfeld. Otto Hirschfeld also served in the German Army during World War I and was killed at the front.

(c) Kurt Hirschfeld. Kurt Hirschfeld (b. around 1900) was married. According to the Hahn family tree, his wife's first name was Elisabeth. Kurt and Elisabeth (Lilo) Hirschfeld lived in the United Kingdom. According to Gerry Caspary, they did not have any children.²⁴

(4) Alice Hahn and Cesar Caspary. Alice Hahn, the youngest child of Ferdinand and Jette Hahn, was born in St. Louis on June 30, 1872.²⁵ After the death of her husband around 1873, Jette Hahn, with her four children, returned to Germany. Alice grew and her siblings grew up in Nuremberg.

Around 1890, Alice Hahn married Cesar Caspary. Cesar was the younger brother of Semi Caspary, the husband of Alice Hahn's sister Flora. Cesar Caspary was born around 1865, probably in the Posen Province of Prussia.²⁶

Alice and Cesar Caspary had two children—Else, who (according to the Hahn tree) was born in Coburg, Bavaria, in 1894; and Ernst, who was born in Quedlinburg, Dessau-Anhalt, on July 11, 1896.

²⁰ Source (via ancestry.com): U.S. Naturalization Records Index.

²¹ Source (via ancestry.com): Social Security Death Index.

²² 1939 German "minority" census for Bayreuth; and passenger list of the "S.S. Drottningholm," arriving in NYC on June 1, 1942.

²³ Passenger list of the "S.S. Drottningholm," arriving in NYC on June 1, 1942.0

²⁴ E-mail to me from Gerry Caspary (3-16-04).

²⁵ Birth certificate of Agnes (Alice) Hahn.

²⁶ In an e-mail to me (3-16-04), Gerry Caspary stated that his grandfather Cesar Caspary was born around 1865. The Hahn family tree shows that he was born in 1867.

Later, Alice and Cesar Caspary lived in Coburg. Cesar Caspary died there in 1932.²⁷ By 1939, Alice Caspary was living in Nuremberg with her sister Flora Caspary and later her sister Emma Hirschfeld.

In 1942, Alice Caspary and Emma Hirschfeld were able to leave Germany, because they were United States citizens (having been born in the U.S.). They arrived in New York City on June 1, 1942.²⁸

Alice Caspary died in New York City in early 1949. She was 76 or 77.

The children of Alice and Cesar Caspary

(a) Else Caspary and Adolf Eichbaum. Else Hahn married Adolf Eichbaum. They lived in Frankfurt and had one child—Heinz Eichbaum, who was born around 1920.

The Eichbaums emigrated to Belgium. Else, Adolf and Heinz Eichbaum were deported to Auschwitz and were killed there in November-December 1942.

(b) Ernst Caspary and Sophie Krautheimer. Ernst Caspary married Sophie Krautheimer in June 1923. Sophie was born in Fuerth on May 29, 1900. Ernst and Sophie Caspary first lived in Fuerth and then settled in Frankfurt. They had one child—Gert (later Gerard or Gerald or Gerry), who was born on January 10, 1929.

In April 1933, Ernst, Sophie and Gert Caspary emigrated to Paris. In October 1942, Ernst and Sophie Caspary were taken to Drancy. In November-December 1942, Ernst and Sophie Caspary were deported to Auschwitz and were killed there.

In 1946, Gerald Caspary emigrated to the United States and entered college there. In 1951, he received a PhD from Harvard University. He taught at Smith College and then the University of California at Berkeley. Gerald Caspary never married. He died in Berkeley on April 6, 2008.²⁹

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[Index*](#)

[Home*](#)

²⁷ E-mail to me from Gerry Caspary (3-16-04).

²⁸ Passenger list of the "S.S. Drottningholm," arriving in NYC on June 1, 1942.

²⁹ Social Security Death Index (ancestry.com).