



The Family of Jesaias Oberndorfer and Fanny Bauer

by

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Introduction. Jesaias Oberndorfer and Fanny Bauer, my great-great-grandparents, lived in Ermreuth, Upper Franconia, Bavaria, some 14 miles north of Nuremberg. According to my information, they had at least eight children. One of their children, Sophie Oberndorfer immigrated to the United States and remained in this country. In 1870, Sophie Oberndorfer and Jacob Bamberger (my great-grandparents) were married in St. Louis, Missouri. After their marriage, they lived in Fort Scott, Kansas.

Sophie Bamberger and her daughter Fannie Bamberger corresponded with family members who lived in Germany. I have a few of the letters received by the Bambergers in Fort Scott—letters written in 1931 and 1932 from Emma and Adolf Simon of Munich; a 1933 letter from Flora Caspary of Nuremberg; correspondence relating to the estate of Sophie’s brother David Oberndorfer, who died in Nuremberg in 1936; and a letter from Alice Caspari who arrived in the United States in June 1942.

This is a summary of my information on Jesaias Oberndorfer and Fanny Bauer and their descendants. It includes the family members who corresponded with the Fort Scott family and also includes family members mentioned in that correspondence. It deals only briefly with the descendants of Sophie Oberndorfer Bamberger and does not include her living descendants.

The letters of Emma and Adolf Simon, the letter of Flora Caspary, and the correspondence regarding the estate of David Oberndorfer are all in German. That material was translated by Else Moskowitz. Other sources for this family history include books on the Jewish communities of two Bavarian cities—Wuerzburg and Bayreuth; parts of those books were translated by Kurt Shaffert and by Frank Ephraim. (A number of quotations from the translations of German material are included in this history.)

I want to express my thanks for the translations and also want to thank the many people (listed in the conclusion) who helped me by providing information on sources or material on my family.

I. Jesaias Oberndorfer and Fanny Bauer

One source of information on the Oberndorfer family and the Bauer family is a book, by Dr. Rajaa Nadler, on the Jewish cemetery of Ermreuth—Der Juedische Friedhof Ermreuth (Ermreuth, 1998)(referred to as “Nadler”). In addition to information on the persons buried in the cemetery, the book contains family trees of Jewish families that lived in Ermreuth. Another source of information on the Bauer family is the Family Tree of the Jewish People, which includes information provided by David H. Solomon.¹

A. Jesaias Oberndorfer. The Oberndorfer tree in Nadler (p. 296) shows that Jesaias Oberndorfer was born in 1807² and that his parents were David Abraham Oberndorfer and Guetel Oberndorfer. David Abraham Oberndorfer was born in 1777 and died on 19 August 1855.³ Guetel Oberndorfer was born in 1774 and died on 1 October 1840.⁴

B. Fanny Bauer. Fanny Bauer was born in Ermreuth in 1816.⁵ Her parents were Moses Samuel Bauer and Sarah Spatz. Moses Samuel Bauer was born in Ermreuth in 1786

¹ The Family Tree of the Jewish People (“FTJP”) is part of JewishGen.org. David Solomon obtained information on the Bauer family of Ermreuth from a researcher in Israel.

² According to the FTJP, Jesaias Oberndorfer was born on 2 June 1809.

³ All dates in this family history are shown in the German form (day/month/year).

⁴ The gravestone of Guetel Oberndorfer is described in Nadler p. 163.

⁵ The page in Nadler (p. 98) describing the gravestone of Fanny Oberndorfer, nee Bauer, gives 27 May 1816 as the date of her birth; the Bauer and Oberndorfer trees (p. 278; p. 296) give 27 November 1816 as the date of her birth.

and died there on 30 April 1852.⁶ Sarah Spatz was born in 1787 or 1788 and died on 28 March 1848.⁷

C. Jesaias and Fanny Oberndorfer (1840 and after). Information obtained by David Solomon shows that Jesaias Oberndorfer and Fanny Bauer were married in Ermreuth on 18 June 1840. They had at least eight children—Karolina (b. 1841), Jette (b. 1843), Sophie (b. 1848), Jeanette (b. 1850), Friederika (b. 1855), and David (b. 1858).⁸ I think that all of the children were born in Ermreuth.

Fanny Oberndorfer died on 7 July 1861 and was buried in the Jewish cemetery in Ermreuth.⁹ At the time of her death, she was 45; her youngest child David was three then.

I think that, at some point, Jesaias Oberndorfer and his children moved from Ermreuth to Nuremberg, but I do not know when they moved. Nor do I know when or where Jesaias Oberndorfer died.

The remaining parts of this family history discuss the descendants of Jesaias and Fanny Oberndorfer.

II. Descendants of Jesaias and Fanny Oberndorfer

A. Karolina Oberndorfer. Jesaias and Fanny Oberndorfer's daughter Karolina was born on 23 April 1841 and died on 22 July 1846. She was buried in the Jewish cemetery in Ermreuth¹⁰

B. Jette Oberndorfer and her family. Jesaias and Fanny Oberndorfer's daughter Jette was born on 8 April 1843.

1. Jette Oberndorfer and Ferdinand S. Hahn. In the early 1860s, Jette Oberndorfer married Ferdinand S. Hahn. I do not know the date or place of their marriage, but it may have been Nuremberg. Their daughter Flora was born in Nuremberg on 6 December 1863.¹¹

At some time before 1866, Ferdinand Hahn traveled to the United States. I do not know when he arrived in the United States or where he first lived. However, I think that, by October 1866, he was living in Baltimore, Maryland, and that his wife and daughter joined him there. Jette Hahn traveled to the United States on the "Hermann," which left from Bremen and arrived in New York City on 22 October 1866.¹² In addition to her daughter Flora,

⁶ Nadler p. 278 (Bauer tree); FTJP.

⁷ FTJP; Nadler p. 153 (the gravestone of Sarah Bauer, nee Spatz).

⁸ The Oberndorfer tree in Nadler (p. 296) contains certain printing errors. One error relates to the children of Jesaias and Fanny Oberndorfer. The Oberndorfer tree shows, as the children of Jesaias and Fanny Oberndorfer, the children of another couple-- Salie (Oberndorfer) and Laemlein Bamberger. (See the Bamberger tree, Nadler p. 277). Another set of siblings in the Oberndorfer tree includes ten persons; I know from other sources that six of them were the children of Jesaias and Fanny Oberndorfer and it seems likely that two of the others were their children—Klara (b. 26 May 1852; d. 10 July 1852) and Charlotte (b. 31 August 1853).

⁹ Nadler p. 98 (the gravestone of Fanny Oberndorfer, nee Bauer).

¹⁰ Nadler p. 162 (the gravestone of Karolina Oberndorfer).

¹¹ My information on the date and place of Flora Hahn's birth is from the 1939 German "minority" census.

¹² Germans to America, vol. 18, p. 288. According to the passenger list in Germans to America and the actual passenger list (at the National Archives in Washington, D.C.), Jette Hahn traveled with two children—Flora who was two and another daughter whose age was ten months. I do not have other information on the younger daughter.

Jette Hahn traveled with her sister Sophie Oberndorfer (who was 18) and her cousin Fanny Oberndorfer (who was 20).¹³

By 1869, the Hahns were living in St. Louis, Missouri. The St. Louis city directories for 1869, 1870 and 1871 show that the Hahns' residence was 2713 Walsh. Ferdinand Hahn was an insurance agent.

The Hahns' daughter Emma was born in St. Louis on 11 August 1870.¹⁴ Their daughter Agnes (known as "Alice") was born in St. Louis on 30 January 1872.¹⁵ In 1872, the Hahns' residence was 1134 South 13th.

Subsequently, probably around 1873, the Hahn family returned to Germany, perhaps, to Nuremberg. I do not know when or where Jette or Ferdinand Hahn died. They were survived by at least three children—Flora, Emma and Alice.

2. The children of Jette and Ferdinand Hahn

(a) **Flora Caspary, nee Hahn.** Flora Hahn's married name was Caspary, but I do not have any information on her husband or on the date or place of their marriage, and I do not know whether they had any children. Flora lived in Nuremberg.

According to Emma Simon's 1931 letter to the Fort Scott family, Flora Caspary owned a building in Coburg, Bavaria, where Flora's sister Alice lived and worked until she (Alice) went bankrupt.

In 1933, some 9,000 Jews lived in Nuremberg.¹⁶

In February 1933, Flora Caspary wrote a letter to her aunt, Sophie Bamberger, in Fort Scott. Flora noted that her Aunt Sophie was "surrounded with much love from your children." Then, Flora said: "I, who am alone, know what that means." In February 1933, Flora was 69.

At the time of the 1939 Census, Flora Caspary lived in Nuremberg. The Census form lists three other persons at Flora's residence—her sister Alice; a Jewish woman who was born in 1882 and whose married name was Stein;¹⁷ and a non-Jewish woman who was born in 1902. In 1939, only 2,611 Jews remained in Nuremberg.¹⁸

The Nazi deportation of Jews in Nuremberg began in 1941; the first deportation was on 29 November 1941 (a total of 512 people) and the second was on 25 March 1942 (426 people).¹⁹ Apparently, Flora Caspary was not deported; the letter that Flora's sister Alice Caspary sent to the Fort Scott family in October 1942 indicates that, in April 1942, Flora died of natural causes. Alice Caspary's letter included the following: "[Flora] was 78 and dangerous [sic] ill, she could not become healthy again."

¹³ Jette Hahn's cousin Fanny Oberndorfer was born on 2 November 1845 and was the daughter of Jakob Oberndorfer and Elonora Braun. Nadler p. 296 (Oberndorfer/Braun tree).

¹⁴ The date and place of Emma's birth are shown in the List of United States Citizens who traveled on the "S. S. Drottningholm," which arrived in New York City on 1 June 1942.

¹⁵ I have a copy of the birth certificate of Agnes Hahn.

¹⁶ *Encyclopedia Judaica* (Jerusalem, 1971), vol. 12, p. 1279

¹⁷ The first name of the Jewish woman who lived with Alice and Flora Caspary is not legible; her maiden name was Cohn and she was born in Burgkunstadt, Bavaria, on 14 Sept. 1882.

¹⁸ *Encyclopedia Judaica* (Jerusalem, 1971), vol. 12, pp. 1279-1280.

¹⁹ *Encyclopedia Judaica* (Jerusalem, 1971), vol. 12, p. 1280.

(b) Emma Hirschfeld, nee Hahn. As pointed out above, Emma Hahn was born in St. Louis in 1870; and, a few years later, her family returned to Germany, perhaps to Nuremberg.

I do not know the date or place of Emma's marriage, but her husband was Siegmund Hirschfeld. As shown in a book on the Jewish community of Bayreuth, Emma and Siegmund Hirschfeld lived in Bayreuth, where Siegmund had a textiles business.²⁰ They had three sons.

Siegmund Hirschfeld died in or before 1901. Emma, who was in her early 30s at the time of her husband's death, became the sole owner of the business. In 1910, Emma brought her cousin Julius Scheidt, a Wuerzburg businessman, into her business as a partner. In 1914, Julius Scheidt bought a building at Maxstrasse 49 in Bayreuth, and the textile business was moved to that location.

Emma Hirschfeld's oldest sons, Fritz and Otto, were both killed during World War I, serving in the German Army. (I do not know the first name of her youngest son, but it may have been Kurt. One of the 1937 letters relating to the estate of David Oberndorfer contains a reference to a "Dr. Kurt Hirschfeld.")

In 1920, Emma Hirschfeld retired from the business, but she continued to live on the second floor of the building where the business was located. She was living there at the time of the 1939 Census; the only other person listed on her Census form was her non-Jewish housekeeper, Eva Pfaffenberger, who was born in 1892.

I do not know how many Jews lived in Bayreuth at the time of the 1939 Census, but, in 1933, only 261 Jews lived there (0.7% of the total).²¹

Because Emma Hirschfeld was a United States citizen (based on her birthplace), she was protected from being sent to a concentration camp. However, as part of the second deportation of Bayreuth Jews, on 16 January 1942, she was deported to Nuremberg. Also, she was forced to "sell" her property for less than market value, and even that amount was never paid to her.

In 1942, Emma Hirschfeld and her sister Alice Caspari, both United States citizens, were able to travel to the United States. Their ship, the "S. S. Drottningholm" left from Lisbon, Portugal, and arrived in New York City on 1 June 1942. (They were assisted by the National Council of Jewish Women.) I do not know when Emma and Alice left Germany, but it was probably before April 1942.²²

Included in the Bayreuth book (Huebschmann pp. 195, 197) is part of a March 1947 letter from Emma Hirschfeld to the Mayor of Bayreuth. The Mayor had invited Emma to move back to Bayreuth. In her reply, Emma Hirschfeld stated: "never again." Her letter also included the following:

It would be totally impossible for me to find myself in a place [Bayreuth] where we experienced such unspeakable cruelty. At the time, I experienced the deportation of all my Bayreuth friends; and, as a result of the fact that I was born an American, I could escape this unimaginably horrible fate.

²⁰ Ekkehard Huebschmann, Helmut Paulus and Siegfried Pokorny, Physische und behoerdliche Gewalt: Die "Reichskristallnacht" und die Verfolgung der Juden in Bayreuth (Bayreuth, 2000), pp. 163-165. (Other references to this book will be abbreviated "Huebschmann.")

²¹ Encyclopedia Judaica (Jerusalem, 1971), vol. 4, p. 353.

²² In her October 1942 letter, Alice Caspari indicated that she and Emma had left Nuremberg before April 1942, the date of the death of their sister Flora. In her letter, Alice said: "It was good that we needed not say farewell to her [Flora]."

In 1947, Emma Hirschfeld was 77. I do not have information on the date or place of her death.

(c) **Alice (Agnes) Caspari, nee Hahn.** Agnes Hahn was born in St. Louis in 1872. When she was an infant, her family returned to Germany, perhaps to Nuremberg. She used “Alice” as her first name.

I do not have any information on Alice Hahn’s childhood in Germany or her life during the decades before 1930. Her married name was Caspari, but I do not have any information on her husband and do not know whether they had children.

In her 1931 letter to the family in Fort Scott, Emma Simon said that Alice Caspari lived in Coburg, Bavaria, in a house owned by her sister Flora Caspary and that Alice had become bankrupt.²³ I do not know the nature of Alice Caspari’s business, but the 1931 letter said that Alice lived and worked in the same building.

A book on the Jewish community of Coburg includes a list of the Jews who lived there between 1933 and 1942. That list includes only one Caspari—Alice “Caspari geb. Hahn,” whose address was Bahnhofstrasse 27.²⁴ In 1933, the number of Jews living in Coburg was 233 (0.9 % of the total).²⁵ During the next six year, most of the Jews, including Alice Caspari, left Coburg. In May 1939, only 65 Jews remained in Coburg.

At the time of the 1939 Census, Alice was living in Nuremberg with her sister Flora Caspary. As pointed out above, Flora Caspary died in April 1942 and, before Flora’s death, Alice had left Nuremberg. I do not know when Alice left Germany, but, later in 1942, she and her sister Emma Hirschfeld were able to travel from Lisbon, Portugal, to the United States.

On 22 October 1942, Alice Caspari wrote her cousins in Fort Scott. At that time, Alice lived in New York City.²⁶ In her letter (written in English), she said: “Life in Germany for Jews is terrible. Emma and I are happy that it was possible to leave this country [Germany] and without any difficulties . . . come to our native country.” Alice added the following:

[W]e are very glad to live in this wonderful country [the United States.] We are only very sorry that many of our best friends could not go with us. Hitler has all Jewish people old and young pushed away from home and house. You can not understand how frightful that is.

In 1942, Alice Caspari was 70. I do not know how long she lived in New York City; nor do I have information on the date or place or her death.

C. Sophie Oberndorfer and her family. Jesaias and Fanny Oberndorfer’s daughter Sophie was born in Ermreuth on 24 September 1848.

1. Sophie Oberndorfer and Jacob Bamberger. In 1866, when she was 18, Sophie Oberndorfer came to the United States. She traveled with her sister Jette Hahn and their cousin Fanny Oberndorfer. They arrived in New York City on 22 October 1866.

²³ A question that I cannot answer is whether the husband of Flora Caspary was related to the husband of Alice Caspari.

²⁴ Hubert Fromm, *Die Coburger Juden* (Coburg, 1990), p. 320.

²⁵ *Encyclopedia Judaica* (Jerusalem, 1971), vol. 5, p. 620.

²⁶ The return address on the 1942 letter is: “Alice Caspari, c/o Mr. Koopman, 108 Ellwoodstreet, N.Y.C.”

Sophie Oberndorfer lived first in Baltimore; and, according to her obituary, she attended a “finishing school” there.²⁷ By 1870, Sophie had moved to St. Louis, where she lived with Jette Hahn and her family.

On 13 March 1870, Sophie Oberndorfer married Jacob Bamberger of Fort Scott, Kansas. They were married in St. Louis by Rabbi Solomon H. Sonnenschein of Congregation Shaare Emeth.

Jacob Bamberger was born in Burgkunstadt, Bavaria, on 8 January 1840. His parents were Salomon Bamberger and Esther Kann.²⁸ Jacob Bamberger emigrated in 1854, when he was 14. He spent several years in North Carolina and, between 1862 and 1864, served in the Confederate Army. In early 1864, he left the South and eventually settled in Fort Scott, where he had a men’s clothing store.

After their marriage, Sophie and Jacob Bamberger lived in Fort Scott, and they spent the rest of their lives there.

Sophie and Jacob Bamberger had five children, all born in Fort Scott—Harry Jacob Bamberger (b. 1871); Oscar I. Bamberger (b. 1874; d. 1878); a son (not named) who died five days after his birth in 1877; Fannie Bamberger (b. 1879); and Eugene Solomon Bamberger (b. 1885).

Jacob Bamberger died in Fort Scott on 16 August 1920. Sophie Bamberger died in Fort Scott on 22 September 1934. They were both buried in Pine Lawn Cemetery, Fort Scott’s Jewish cemetery.

2. The surviving children of Sophie and Jacob Bamberger. Harry and Eugene Bamberger spent their entire lives in Fort Scott, and Fannie Bamberger spent all but her last eight years there.

Harry and Eugene Bamberger and, at times, Fannie Bamberger worked in the Bamberger Clothing Store in Fort Scott. In 1899, Harry Bamberger married Pearl Carrie Cohen. Neither Fannie nor Eugene ever married.

(a) Harry J. Bamberger. Harry J. Bamberger, the first child of Sophie and Jacob Bamberger, was born on 6 February 1871.

Harry Bamberger and Pearl Cohen were married on 16 April 1899, in New York City. They were married by Rabbi Maurice H. Harris of Temple Israel of Harlem. Pearl Cohen, the daughter of Samuel Cohen and Augusta Spiro Levy, was born in New York City on 21 August 1876. Pearl Cohen grew up in Fort Scott and lived there until late 1898 or early 1899, when her family moved to New York City. After their marriage, Pearl and Harry Bamberger lived in Fort Scott.

Pearl and Harry Bamberger had one child; their daughter Bernice Fay Bamberger was born in Fort Scott on 30 August 1900. On 24 September 1930, Bernice Bamberger married Irving Marblestone of Taylorville, Illinois. They were married in Fort Scott and, after their marriage, lived in Taylorville.

Pearl C. Bamberger died in Fort Scott on 4 November 1940. Harry J. Bamberger died in Fort Scott on 7 October 1950. They were both buried in Pine Lawn Cemetery in Fort Scott.

(b) Fannie Bamberger. Fannie Bamberger, the fourth child of Sophie and Jacob Bamberger, was born on 24 April 1879.

²⁷ *Fort Scott Tribune-Monitor* (22 Sept. 1934).

²⁸ I received information on the Bambergers of Burgkunstadt from Dr. Herbert Loebel in September 1999.

Fannie Bamberger lived in Fort Scott until 1956, when she moved to Taylorville, Illinois. She died in Taylorville on 13 September 1964. She was buried in Pine Lawn Cemetery in Fort Scott.

(c) Eugene S. Bamberger. Eugene S. Bamberger, the fifth child of Sophie and Jacob Bamberger, was born on 5 June 1885.

Eugene Bamberger died in Fort Scott on 23 December 1942. He was buried in Pine Lawn Cemetery.

D. Jeanette Oberndorfer and her family. Jesaias and Fanny Oberndorfer's daughter Jeanette was born on 4 July 1850.

1. Jeanette Oberndorfer and Salomon Adler. Jeanette Oberndorfer married Salomon Adler of Wuerzburg, Lower Franconia, Bavaria. Information on Jeanette and Salomon Adler and their children is contained in Reiner Straetz, Biographisches Handbuch Wuerzburger Juden 1900-1945 (Wuerzburg, 1989), p. 52 (referred to as "Straetz").²⁹ Some of that information is included in a database of JewishGen.org.³⁰

Salomon Adler was born on 10 July 1846 in Allersheim, Lower Franconia, Bavaria.³¹ His parents were Samuel Adler and Elisa Stern.³²

Salomon Adler obtained rights of citizenship in 1878. According to Straetz, Salomon Adler ran a grain business until the end of 1912 and also owned large tracts of land. According to the memoir of a family member, Salomon Adler was in the business of buying and selling indebted estates.³³

Jeanette and Salomon Adler had five children, all born in Wuerzburg—Frieda (b. 1874), Emma (b. 1877), Lilli (b. 1880), Julius (b. 1882), and Otto (b. 1887).

Jeanette Adler died in Wuerzburg on 26 June 1901. Salomon Adler died in Wuerzburg on 5 February 1914.

In 1933, the Jewish population of Wuerzburg was 2,150.³⁴

2. The children of Jeanette and Salomon Adler

(a) Frieda (Frida) Adler. Frieda Adler was born in Wuerzburg on 25 January 1874. (Straetz p. 52) According to the Fred Kahn memoir, she was a "spinster."

Frieda Adler died on 4 April 1929. She was 55. According to the 1931 letter of her sister Emma Simon, the cause of Frieda's death was pneumonia.

(b) Emma Simon, nee Adler. Emma Adler, the second child of Jeanette and Salomon Adler, was born in Wuerzburg on 11 June 1877. She married Adolf

²⁹ The biography of Salomon Adler in Straetz (p.52) gives 1852 as the year that his wife, Jeanette Oberndorfer, was born and Nuremberg as the place of her birth. However, based on the Oberndorfer tree in Nadler (p. 296), I feel certain that Jeanette was born in 1852 and I think that she, as well as her siblings, was born in Ermreuth.

³⁰ The JewishGen database on Jews in Wuerzburg was compiled by Naomi Teveth, using data from Straetz. The database is at: www.jewishgen.org/databases/Germany.

³¹ Straetz p. 52.

³² Allersheim records (obtained by Cory Streisinger and translated by Hans George Hirsch) show that the parents of Salomon Adler were Samuel Adler and Elisa Stern.

³³ Fred Kahn, About our Parents and Mother's Family (summer 1978), p. 29. I received part of this unpublished memoir from Cory Streisinger.

³⁴ Encyclopedia Judaica (Jerusalem, 1971), vol. 4, p. 235.

Simon, who was born in 1867 in Bingen/Rhein.³⁵ They were married in Munich and lived there after their marriage. Adolf Simon was a physician.³⁶

Emma and Adolf Simon had one child; their son Robert was born in Munich on 10 April 1899. (Straetz p. 52). Robert Simon was a surgeon. In her 1931 letter, Emma Simon wrote that Robert began a surgical practice in Munich in 1929.

In their 1931 and 1932 letters to the Bambergers in Fort Scott, Emma and Adolf Simon wrote about themselves and other family members and also referred to general conditions in Germany. Emma Simon's 1931 letter said: "You know from the newspapers how badly things are going in Germany and there are no prospects at all for any improvement." Adolf Simon also referred to the deteriorating conditions in Germany and then said: "Our sole consolation is our son, who has rapidly established a practice . . . and is very content in his profession."

In her 1932 letter, Emma Simon referred to the high unemployment in Germany and the difficulty for young people. Adolf Simon's 1932 letter included the following:

We are living in very grave times. As you have learned from the newspapers, anti-Semitism has intensified greatly, . . . and we cannot know what lies before us. Until now, fortunately, everything has passed us by without any particular damage to health, etc.: War, revolution, hunger, inflation, etc. We can only hope that the bad times will eventually cease. We the, old ones, will scarcely experience it, but perhaps the children will have better times.

In February 1933, Robert Simon married Paula Weinmann (who was born on 14 November 1907).³⁷

In 1933, the Jewish population of Munich was approximately 9,000.³⁸ Between 1933 and 15 May 1938, 3,574 Jews left Munich.³⁹ The Simons were among those who left Munich. In September 1935, Robert Simon left Munich for Palestine.⁴⁰ According to Dr. Andreas Heusler of the Munich City Archives, Adolf Simon "emigrated (maybe together with his wife Emma) to Switzerland" on 7 January 1936⁴¹

Other sources show that, by 1937, Emma Simon had gone to Palestine,⁴² but I do not know whether Adolf Simon also went there. I do not know the date or place of death for either Emma or Adolf Simon.

³⁵ Straetz (p. 52) gives the date of Adolf Simon's birth as 22 June 1867. The date is given as 22 July 1867 in an e-mail that I received from Dr. Andreas Heusler of the Munich City Archives on 26 July 2001.

³⁶ The 1922 Munich city directory shows (p. 257) that Adolf Simon's office was located at Muehlbaurstr. 1. He was listed as a general practitioner and obstetrician.

³⁷ My information on Robert Simon's marriage is from Dr. Andreas Heusler, who heads the Munich City Archives' Department for Jewish History. E-mail of 26 July 2001 from Dr. Heusler.

³⁸ *Encyclopedia Judaica* (Jerusalem, 1971), vol. 4, p. 345.

³⁹ *Encyclopedia Judaica* (Jerusalem, 1971), vol. 12, p. 523.

⁴⁰ E-mail of 26 July 2001 from Dr. Andreas Heusler.

⁴¹ E-mail of 26 July 2001 from Dr. Andreas Heusler.

⁴² In April 1937, Harry, Fannie and Eugene Bamberger received correspondence from Germany relating to the estate of their uncle, David Oberndorfer. Letters of 5 April 1937 include references to "Emma Simon, Jerusalem." According to Straetz (p. 52), Emma Simon emigrated to Jerusalem in "1939," but the correspondence regarding the Oberndorfer estate indicates that she went to Jerusalem before April 1937.

According to the Fred Kahn memoir (p. 29), Robert Simon “was killed in the war against the Arabs in 1946.” I do not have information on the date or place of death of Robert Simon’s wife, Paula Simon; and I do not know whether they had children.

(c) Lilli (Lily) Meyer, nee Adler. Lily Adler was born in Wuerzburg on 30 December 1880. Her first husband was Otto Schuelein, a manufacturer; they were divorced. (Straetz p. 390.)

In 1912, Lily married Oscar (Oskar) Meyer in Wuerzburg. Oscar Meyer, a psychiatrist, was born in Wuerzburg on 8 March 1880. During World War I, he performed volunteer medical duty at a military hospital, and he was awarded the King Ludwig Cross. (Straetz p. 390.)

Lily and Oscar Meyer had two children, both born in Wuerzburg. Their son Hans Ulrich Meyer was born on 20 July 1913. (Straetz p. 396.) Their daughter Johanna Hildegard Meyer was born on 23 November 1915; she died in Wuerzburg on 14 March 1920. (Straetz p. 391.)

In August 1931, Lily Meyer was hospitalized, in Munich, because of a gastric ulcer.⁴³ She died in Wuerzburg in 1931. (Straetz p. 390.)

In her 1932 letter to the family in Fort Scott, Lily’s sister Emma Adler said: “Lily is greatly missed.” Emma also said that she and her husband Adolf Simon had taken a vacation with Oscar Meyer and Julius Adler (Emma’s brother) and that Oscar “does not look at all well.”

In September 1938, as a result of a Nazi order, Oscar Meyer was no longer allowed to practice his profession. In November 1938, during Kristallnacht, Oscar Meyer was arrested and was imprisoned at Dachau. He was released from Dachau on 10 December 1938. Subsequently, he tried to emigrate to Paraguay, but was not able to do so. At some point, he became a forced laborer. Around 1940, he was released from forced labor, because he suffered from heart disease. (Straetz p. 390.)

In 1941, Oscar Meyer married Alice Gundersheim.

On 4 May 1941, Oscar Meyer died in Wuerzburg. (Straetz p. 390.)

Hans Ulrich Meyer, the son of Lily and Oscar Meyer, was educated as a businessman. (Straetz p. 396.) In 1931 and 1932, unable to obtain a job, he was a volunteer at a bank in Wuerzburg.⁴⁴ According to Straetz (p. 396), Hans Ulrich moved to Berlin and lived there during the 1930s. He was arrested during the Kristallnacht “pogrom” of November 1938. Hans Ulrich Meyer emigrated to England, probably in August 1939; and he changed his name to Peter S. Morton. (Straetz p. 396.)

In 1941, in London, Peter S. Morton married Sophie, nee Freudenberger. Sophie Freudenberger was born in Wuerzburg on 22 February 1901; her first marriage, which ended in divorce, was to Werner Fischl. In 1939, Sophie emigrated from Berlin to London. (Straetz p. 396.)

Peter S. Morton died in London on 7 April 1981. In 1982, his widow Sophie Morton lived in London. (Straetz p. 396.)

⁴³ Emma Simon’s letter of 18 August 1931.

⁴⁴ Emma Simon’s letters of 18 August 1931 and 21 August 1932.

(d) Julius Adler. Julius Adler, the fourth child of Jeanette and Salomon Adler, was born in Wuerzburg in September 1882.⁴⁵

Julius Adler was an attorney; he established a practice in Wuerzburg in 1911. (Straetz p. 49.) According to Fred Kahn's memoir (p. 29), Julius Adler was a "sworn bachelor," who had gentile girlfriends.

During World War I, from 1915 to 1918, Julius Adler served in the German Army, as a volunteer in an anti-aircraft battery. (Straetz p. 49.)

On 11 June 1934, Julius Adler was put into "protective custody," on a charge of "economic sabotage." (Straetz p. 49.) The charge resulted from the support Julius Adler gave his cousin Willy Adler, who opposed a government takeover of his business, the Mohr Malt Factory. (Straetz p. 53, p. 49.) On 20 June 1934, "without a legal basis," Julius Adler was taken to Dachau concentration camp. (Straetz p. 49.)

On 30 June 1934, as part of the "Roehm Action," Julius Adler was shot and killed in Dachau. (Straetz p. 49.)

(e) Otto Josef Adler. Otto Josef Adler, the youngest child of Jeanette and Salomon Adler, was born in Wuerzburg on 21 June 1887.

Otto Josef Adler was a physician; and, in 1912, he moved to Berlin. According to Straetz (p. 52), Otto Josef Adler was still in Berlin in 1937.

I do not have any later information on Otto Josef Adler. For example, I did not find a listing for him in the 1939 German Census.

E. Klara Oberndorfer. Klara Oberndorfer was born on 26 May 1852 and lived only until 10 July 1852. My only information on Klara is the Oberndorfer tree in Nadler (p. 296), which shows that her parents were Fanny and Jesaias Oberndorfer.

F. Charlotte Oberndorfer. My only information on Charlotte Oberndorfer is the Oberndorfer tree in Nadler (p. 296), which shows that she was born on 31 August 1853 and that her parents were Fanny and Jesaias Oberndorfer.

G. Friederika Oberndorfer and her family. Jesaias and Fanny Oberndorfer's daughter Friederika was born in Ermreuth on 7 December 1855. (Nadler p. 296; Straetz p. 505.) (In Straetz, her first name is given as Frieda or Friederike.)

1. Friederika Oberndorfer and Joseph Scheidt. In 1874, Friederika Oberndorfer married Joseph Scheidt.⁴⁶ (Straetz p. 505.) Joseph Scheidt was born in Mainstockheim, Lower Franconia, Bavaria, in 1846.⁴⁷ His parents were Leeser Jonas Scheidt and Mina Kuhn.

In 1870, Joseph Scheidt obtained citizenship rights. (Straetz p. 505.) He was a banker in Wuerzburg. (Straetz p. 505; Skyte family history.)

⁴⁵ The biography of Julius Adler in Straetz (p. 49) shows his birth date as "29 (20?) September 1882."

⁴⁶ According to Heinz and Thea Skyte, Joseph Scheidt and Friederika Oberndorfer were married on 24 December 1874. Information on Joseph Scheidt and his family, as well as other branches of the Scheidt family, is included in a detailed family history written by Heinz and Thea Skyte, nee Ephraim. The Skyte family history is included in the (multi-lingual) RIJO Web site of Susanne Rieger and Gerhard Jochem of Nuremberg. For the Skyte family history, see <http://home.t-online.de/home/RIJONUE/sky10102.htm>.

⁴⁷ Straetz (p. 505) gives the date of Joseph Scheidt's birth as 4 September 1846. According to (1) an e-mail I received from Thea and Heinz Skyte on 28 July 2000 and (2) a Scheidt tree prepared by Charles Stanton, Joseph Scheidt was born on 15 March 1846.

Friederika and Joseph Scheidt had four children, all born in Wuerzburg—Flora, who was born on 2 December 1875 and died on 20 July 1876; Julius (b.1877); Eloise, who was known as Alice (b. 1878); and Mathilde (b. 1880). (Straetz p. 505.)

Friederika Scheidt died in Wuerzburg on 20 September 1909. (Straetz p. 505.) Neither Straetz nor any other of my sources shows the date or place of the death of Joseph Scheidt.

2. The surviving children of Friederika and Joseph Scheidt

(a) Julius Scheidt. Julius Scheidt, the second child of Friederika and Joseph Scheidt, was born on 23 April 1877. He attended the New Gymnasium in Wuerzburg and later was a businessman there. In 1910, Julius Scheidt obtained citizenship rights. (Straetz p. 505.)

In 1910, Julius Scheidt moved to Bayreuth and became the business partner of his cousin Emma Hirschfeld, nee Hahn. (Huebschmann p. 163.) As discussed above, in 1901, after the death of her husband, Emma Hirschfeld became the sole owner of the Bayreuth textile firm, Siegmund Hirschfeld. Between 1910 and 1920, the firm was owned by Emma Hirschfeld and Joseph Scheidt. In 1914, Julius Scheidt purchased a building located at Maxstrasse 49 in Bayreuth and moved the business to that building.

In 1920, Emma Hirschfeld retired from the firm. Julius Scheidt continued with the textile business. In her 1931 letter, Emma Simon wrote that, even though Julius Scheidt's vision was almost gone, he still worked from early morning until late evening.

In 1937, Julius Scheidt's business was taken over by Alfred Schaupp. (Huebschmann p. 163.) Huebschmann added that Julius Scheidt did not have to experience the "excesses" of Kristallnacht, because he died earlier in 1938.

Julius Scheidt died in Bayreuth on 13 July 1938. (Straetz p. 505.) My information does not indicate that Julius Scheidt was ever married. The building that he owned in Bayreuth, Maxstrasse 49, was inherited by his sisters, Alice Kirschstein and Mathilde Cahn. (Huebschmann p. 99, p. 175.)

(b) Alice Kirschstein, nee Scheidt. Alice (Eloise) Scheidt was born in Wuerzburg on 12 July 1878. (Straetz p. 505.)

Alice Scheidt's married name was Kirschstein, but I do not know the first name of her husband. Alice Kirschstein and her husband settled in Quedlinburg.⁴⁸ (Quedlinburg, which is not in Bavaria, is some 150 miles northeast of Wuerzburg.) In her 1931 letter, Emma Simon wrote that: "Alice Kirschstein, who is married and living in Quedlinburg, unfortunately had to close down her business."

In 1938, Fannie Bamberger of Fort Scott, Kansas, received an envelope postmarked Leipzig, 3 August 1938, which has the return address: "Dr. Kirschstein, Quedlinburg, Heiligegeiststr. 4." I have the envelope, but not the contents. I do not know whether Alice Kirschstein and her husband had children, but it seems likely that Dr. Kirschstein was either the husband or child of Alice Kirschstein or a relative of her husband.

At the time of the May 1939 German Census, Alice Kirschstein was still living in Quedlinburg. Apparently, she lived alone, because she is the only person listed on her census card.

⁴⁸ Skyte family history.

Alice Kirschstein died in Berlin on 7 September 1942.⁴⁹ According to the memorial books, she committed suicide. The Berlin Memorial Book gives as her last address, Weissen-see, Parkstr. 22.

(c) Mathilde Cahn, nee Scheidt. Mathilde Scheidt, the youngest child of Friederika and Joseph Scheidt, was born in Wuerzburg on 14 January 1880.

On 20 August 1904, Mathilde Scheidt and Heinrich Cahn, a Bayreuth businessman, were married in Wuerzburg. (Straetz p. 505; Skyte family history.) Heinrich Cahn was born in Bayreuth on 27 November 1878. (Huebschmann p. 112.)

In 1838, Heinrich Cahn's grandfather, Bernhard Cahn, began a business in Bayreuth, dealing with drapery and ladies' clothing. (Huebschmann p. 173.) In 1899, Heinrich's father, Gustav Cahn, moved the business to Richard-Wagner-Strasse 7 in Bayreuth. In 1911, Gustav Cahn accepted his son as a partner; and, after his father's death in 1915, Heinrich Cahn became the sole owner of the business. The name of the business was Loeb Gerson Cahn.

Heinrich and Mathilde Cahn and their daughter Charlotte lived above the business, as did Heinrich's sister Jette Cahn. (Huebschmann p. 173.) Charlotte Cahn was born on 5 June 1905.⁵⁰

In October 1938, Heinrich Cahn was forced by Nazi authorities to deregister his business. Huebschmann states (p. 173) that having to deregister a family business that had lasted for 100 years must have burdened Heinrich Cahn immensely.

On 10 November 1938, at the time of Kristallnacht, Heinrich Cahn and 22 other Jewish men in Bayreuth were arrested and taken to the Bayreuth jail. (Huebschmann p. 112.) On 18 November 1938, Heinrich Cahn and six of the other men were released, for reasons of age or health.

Before Kristallnacht, Heinrich, Mathilde and Charlotte Cahn and their housekeeper Anna Stein lived on the second floor of Richard-Wagner-Strasse 7; and Jette Cahn, her housekeeper Ann Buchbinder and two tenants lived on the first floor. (Huebschmann p. 175, pp. 224-225.) After Kristallnacht, three other families were forced to live with the Cahns—Berthold and Regina Klein; Clothilde, Theodor and Liselotte Wannbacher; and Ernst, Sophie, Gerhard and Hans Wannbacher. (Huebschmann p. 175, p. 189.)

The May 1939 Census form that lists Mathilde and Charlotte Cahn and their housekeeper does not include Heinrich Cahn; my information does not indicate where he was at that time.

On 18 November 1939, Heinrich Cahn committed suicide. Huebschmann states (p. 175) that Heinrich Cahn hung himself, because he could not withstand the pressure of the Nazis. Huebschmann then states that Mathilde Cahn tried to jump from a window, but she was restrained. The date of Mathilde Cahn's attempted suicide is not given.

On 9 February 1941, an official of the Reich post office came to Richard-Wagner-Strasse 7 in order to take Mathilde Cahn's telephone. She told the official that he could take the telephone, as her husband, as well as her money, silver and radio, had already been stolen. The Criminal Police arrested Mathilde Cahn for "subversive remarks" and took her to the

⁴⁹ Alice Kirschstein is among the Holocaust victims listed in the 1986 German Gedenkbuch (Memorial Book), vol. 1, p. 742, and in the 1995 Gedenkbuch Berlins, p. 644. The 1986 Gedenkbuch, published by the German government, covered what was then West Germany and West Berlin. The Gedenkbuch Berlins, published by the Free University of Berlin, lists Holocaust victims who resided in Berlin.

⁵⁰ 1986 Gedenkbuch, vol. 2, p. 1660.

Health Department because of symptoms of mental illness. The Health Department referred her case to the Gestapo. (Huebschmann p. 175.)

Later in 1941, Mathilde Cahn, her daughter Charlotte Cahn, and sister-in-law Jette Cahn were included in the first deportation of Bayreuth Jews. (Huebschmann p. 92, p. 175.) On 27 November 1941, they and approximately 50 other Jews from Bayreuth were sent to Nuremberg-Langwasser, a “collection center.”⁵¹

On 29 November 1941, the deportees were sent from Nuremberg to the Jungfernhof concentration camp near Riga, Latvia, and then to the Kaiserwald concentration camp in Riga.⁵² According to Helmut Paulus, on 26 March 1942, most of the Bayreuth deportees were shot and killed in the woods of Riga.⁵³ Mathilde and Jette Cahn were among those killed on 26 March 1942.⁵⁴ According to Huebschmann, Charlotte Cahn also perished in the Riga area, but the date of her death is not known.⁵⁵

Another member of the Cahn family was Anna Cahn, but I have little information regarding her. I do not know how she was related to Mathilde and Heinrich Cahn, though possibly she was their daughter.

In November 1938, Anna Cahn, who was then in New York City, wrote Fannie Bamberger in Fort Scott. I have the envelope, postmarked 27 November 1938, but not its contents. The return address in New York City is only partly legible.⁵⁶

My only other information on Anna Cahn is from the Huebschmann book, which contains two references to her. In discussing the family of Heinrich Cahn, Huebschmann (p. 175) refers to the transfer of the family’s real estate to the German government. Huebschmann states that, before its transfer in 1943, the building at Richard-Wagner-Strasse 7 “belonged to Mathilde, Charlotte and Anna Cahn.” Also included in the Huebschmann book (p. 99) is a table on the transfer of real estate that Jews had owned; that table shows that the former owners of Richard-Wagner-Strasse 7 were “Mathilde and Anna Cahn.”

I was not able to learn whether Anna Cahn remained in the United States after November 1938.

H. David Oberndorfer. David Oberndorfer, the youngest child of Jesaias and Fanny Oberndorfer, was born on 22 January 1858. (Nadler p. 296.) He was only three at the time of his mother’s death.

David Oberndorfer lived in Nuremberg and was a bachelor. The name of his business was Frankenburger & Oberndorfer; in 1930, the firm was located at Obere Kanalstrasse 26 in

⁵¹ On 27 November 1941, a Gestapo document regarding the confiscation of the property of Mathilde Cahn was delivered to her at “Camp II, Allernbergerstrasse,” in Nuremberg. A copy of that document is included in a German Web site that contains material by Helmut Paulus on Kristallnacht and the Jews of Bayreuth.

⁵² The transport on 29 November 1941 was the first deportation from Nuremberg. A total of 512 Jews were deported then, including residents of Nuremberg, as well as persons whom the Nazis had sent to a Nuremberg “collection center” from Bayreuth and other areas.

⁵³ Helmut Paulus’ discussion of the Bayreuth deportations and the deaths on 26 March 1942 is at Huebschmann pp. 92-93.

⁵⁴ Huebschmann pp. 224-225; 1986 Gedenkbuch, vol. 1, p. 193.

⁵⁵ Huebschmann p. 175, pp. 224-225; 1986 Gedenkbuch, vol. 2, p. 1660.

⁵⁶ The return address is “Anna Cahn” and then “c/o L. [illegible]nschweig.” The street address is not clear, but may be “547 W. 157th St.,” New York City.

Nuremberg.⁵⁷ I do not know the first name of his business partner and do not know the nature of their business.⁵⁸

In her 1931 letter, Emma Simon said: “Uncle David’s condition is unchanged. Of course, he is saddened by all the family problems which he cannot solve.” In 1931, David Oberndorfer was 73. I do not know the nature of his health problems.

In her 1932 letter, Emma Simon wrote: “We, too, hear very little from Uncle David. He has very good care and his overall condition appears to have improved somewhat. He can apparently again take part in daily happenings.” Emma added that she had conveyed to “Bayreuth and Nuremberg” the desire of the family in Fort Scott “to hear from us.” The family members in Nuremberg included David Oberndorfer and Flora Caspary.

In her letter of 17 February 1933, Flora Caspary wrote that Uncle David was delighted with the “four-generation picture” (a photograph that would have included Sophie Bamberger, as well as her great-grandson, born in 1932). Flora said: “Uncle David is in very good condition mentally. Only his left side is paralyzed so that he cannot walk without help.” Flora added that she visits Uncle David every day, that he has lots of other company, and that his 75th birthday was a “very happy occasion.”

Sophie Bamberger died in Fort Scott in 1934. Her obituary indicates that David Oberndorfer was her only surviving sibling.

David Oberndorfer died in Nuremberg on 5 June 1936.⁵⁹ He was 78.

David Oberndorfer’s heirs included his nieces and nephews, at least four of whom lived outside Germany—Emma Simon in Jerusalem and Harry, Fannie and Eugene Bamberger in Fort Scott.⁶⁰

Conclusion

I hope that this history of the descendants of Jesaias and Fanny Oberndorfer will help to preserve the memory of members of our family, including those who perished during the Holocaust.

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⁵⁷ The RIJO Web site (<http://home.t-online.de/home/RIJONUE/gewerbe.htm>) contains a list of Jewish businesses in Nuremberg in 1930. That list includes Frankenger & Oberndorfer.

In correspondence relating to the estate of David Oberndorfer, the firm is referred to as “Frankenger & Oberndorfer G.m.b.H.”

⁵⁸ A history of the Jewish community of Nuremberg, published in 1968, has a name index that includes a number of Frankengers, but I did not find any reference to Frankenger & Oberndorfer. No Oberndorfer is included in the name index. Arnd Mueller, *Geschichte der Juden in Nuernberg, 1146-1945* (Nuernberg, 1968).

⁵⁹ Letter of 15 April 1937 from Dr. Hans Teutsche of Nuremberg, the attorney for the estate of David Oberndorfer, to the joint heirs of David Oberndorfer.

⁶⁰ On 5 April 1937, A.E. Wassermann of Berlin sent letters to Harry, Fannie and Eugene Bamberger that discussed a joint account, for them and “Emma Simon, Jerusalem,” at the Nuremberg office of the Dresden Bank.

December 13, 2003
David B. Marblestone
Chevy Chase, Maryland

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