



The Neuburger Family and Businesses

by

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The following text was prepared according to a manuscript written by Henry Louis Newton after 1976 and edited by his son Anthony Newton and Gerhard Jochem. For further information the editors can be contacted at the address as given in the imprint.

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A. Relationships

- 1) The family originated from Middle Franconia ("Mittelfranken" in German), partly from Fuerth in Bavaria and partly from Wilhermsdorf, a small village 20 km north west of Fuerth. Jews were not allowed into Nuremberg until 1850.
- 2) The first known and documented Neuburger was Wolf Neuburger who signed a petition together with a Jacob Henle and Isaac Marx in Fuerth on 14.2.1792. This petition should be in the Nuremberg archives.
- 3) Grandfather Moritz Neuburger's mother was Roeschen, married to a brother of Zacharias Neuburger (a cousin) who was the father of grandmother Jeanette (see further down). The children of Roeschen were:
 - a) Moritz, my grandfather, Jewish name Moshe ben Isaak, born 2.6.1844 in Wilhermsdorf, died 25.3.1925 in Nuremberg, married to Jeanette (see further down).



Moritz Neuburger senior

(Photo: Nuremberg City Archives)

- b) Joseph Neuburger senior who was also called Joseph Joel Neuburger married Karoline. Joseph's and Karoline's child Clementine married Zacharias Hackenbrock. Clementine's daughter married Hermann Cramer. Their child Frieda Cramer married P. Mossbacher.
- c) Simon Neuburger, married to Jette in Fuerth. Their son Harry Zacharias married Edith Schulhoff from Prague. Their child was Marion Rosenfield.

- d) Rosa Neuburger (Wilhermsdorf 1848 - Nuremberg 1923), married to Julius Neu (Wilhermsdorf 1846 - Nuremberg 1924). Her children were Justin Neu, Martin Neu and Frieda. Justin Neu married Johanna Neu, nee Reis of Mannheim. Their child was Eric Neu. Martin Neu remained single. Frieda married Louis Bamberger ("Pelikan" shoe factory). Their child married a lawyer Eismann.



Rosa, nee Neuburger, and Julius Neu

(Photo: Nuremberg City Archives)

- e) Another daughter, maybe also by the name of Rosa, married in Munich. Their child was the well known "Kommerzienrat" (commercial counsellor, honorary title) Fraenkel.
- 4) Grandmother Jeanette's parents were Zacharias and Sile (Rosalie), nee Weissmann. Their children were:
- a) Joseph Neuburger junior (13.3.1853 - 1925?), married to Josephine, nee Kohn of Wsentin in Moravia (4.3.1857 - 10.9.1930).



Joseph Neuburger junior

(Photo: Nuremberg City Archives)

- b) Jeanette (see further down).
- c) Moritz Neuburger junior, married to Emmi. Their daughter Lilli married Lutz Schwarz of Schwarz-Goldschmidt Bankers, Berlin.
- 5) Grandfather Moritz married grandmother Jeanette in Fuerth 1871. Jeanette was born on 26.11.1850 in Fuerth and died 7.4.1911 in Nuremberg. Their children were:
- a) Julius (my father, Jewish name Joel ben Moshe), born 13.8.1872 in Nuremberg and died 14.5.1935 in Nuremberg.
- b) Rosi married Max D. Goldschmidt, Frankfurt/Main 29.5.1900 and died at Frankfurt 3.8.1933. Her son Harald Goldschmidt born 30.4.1901 still alive in New York as far as it is known.
A cousin of grandfather Moritz was Joseph E. Newburger, Justice of Supreme Court of New York.

- 6) Julius Neuburger married Lea Sokolowski (born 5.3.1881 in Berlin), wedding in Berlin on 1. December 1903. Their children were:
 - a) Franz Zacharias, born 5.2.1905, married for the second time to Marjorie. Franz changed his name in 1935 when he became British to Frank Francis and died in a London Hospital 2.11.1953 but before his death he lived in Maidenhead 56, Laburnham Road. His wife died in Maidenhead 7.11.1975.
 - b) Heinz Ludwig (Jewish name Israel ben Joel), changed his name in 1947 when he became British to Henry Louis Newton. Born 24.6.1907, married to Ilse (Ursula Margaret) on 21.6.1936 in London. Children: Anthony Julius (Jewish name Joel ben Israel) born in London 16.4.1939 and Irene Claire born in London 30.9.1943.

B. Connections and Financial Interests

- 1) The Neuburger family had a hop wholesaling business in Fuerth. Partners were Moritz (grandfather), Simon, Joseph junior and Moritz Neuburger junior. Moritz Neuburger junior left later on the firm when he moved to Berlin after the wedding of his daughter to Lutz Schwarz.
- 2) When Julius Neu married Rosa Neuburger he started various ventures and nearly went broke. To help him my grandfather Moritz Neuburger senior, his brother in law, saw to it that Julius Neu was accepted by his brother Simon and his brothers in law Joseph junior and Moritz junior into a new firm, starting a banking business called then Julius Neu in Nuremberg, Josephsplatz.

In the banking business Julius Neu had 50 % and the Neuburger family had together 50 %, namely Moritz senior, Simon and Joseph junior. The banking business was formed just before 1870 and flourishing. My father became full partner in July 1900. It was liquidated after the death of my grandfather in or after 1925.

There are selling and purchase orders and other correspondence available with Frankfurt, Vienna, Berlin, Russia etc. during the 1870s, 1880s etc. Usually buying and selling orders were executed at the Frankfurt stock exchange. My father Julius Neuburger left the banking firm in 1923.

The banking firm branched out - what would be called today diversification - into various trades:

 - a) There was a very active mortgage business under the name of "Hypothekengesellschaft". Manager was a Herr Baumann. The firm possessed 53 properties in Nuremberg and disposed of them all during the inflation time - very much to the credit of the management!!!
 - b) A brick factory outside of Nuremberg.
 - c) The then very well known Hotel "Zum Strauss" (Ostrich), Karolinenstrasse in Nuremberg. The building was situated more or less opposite to the present main post office in Karolinenstrasse. Julius Neu sold it later on.



Nuremberg's Karolinenstrasse and St. Lawrence church in the 1880s. The building on the right with the trees on the sidewalk is the Hotel "Zum Strauss" (Ostrich). Its gable is decorated with a life-size sculpture of the bird as a pediment.

(Photo: Nuremberg City Archives)

- 3) "Elektrische Bogenlampen- & Apparatefabrik G.m.b.H.", Nuremberg, Kirschgartenstrasse 5, making "Armaturen" (fittings) etc., especially gas filled apparatuses which were exported to many different countries at a time when streets were lit by gas. The firm nearly went broke as Justin Neu although a very good business man, had not the slightest idea of the technical side and left it all to draughtsmen and engineers. Firms who manufactured gas mantles like Falk Stadelmann were customers and according to envelopes available (stamps) there was a lot of correspondence even with Tsarist Russia. My father was then called in as joint manager with Justin Neu. This was in 1903 when he was made one of the two directors. The firm was liquidated on the 27th May 1918. During the First World War the factory manufactured periscopes for submarines, cases for hand grenades, iron widow handles and also door handles as all brass and copper ones were sent for conversion to war materials.

When First World War came to an end there was an outstanding order from the German government of 17 millions of such iron handles for which the government later on paid some sort of compensation for the cancellation.

In 1917, still during the lifetime of the "Elektrische Bogenlampenfabrik" a new firm was founded which was to become its successor by the name of "Ennwerke Neu & Neuburger". The factory was moved to Eschenstrasse 5 in the Gibitzenhof quarter of Nuremberg. Ennwerke manufactured pocket lamps, torch cases, bell transformers, later on cycle lamps and still later on bicycle dynamo sets and various sidelines. This was a seasonal business, as the main lighting season started from September 1st. The turnover reached up to 5 million Reichsmark and during the season up to 1,500 people were working in

the factory, I would say about 2/3 women. Ennwerke were by far the biggest manufacturers of pocket and torch lamps and also cycle lamps. When cycle dynamos were taken up there was competition from such giants as Bosch, but Ennwerke were most successful and the export share in the turnover was up to 65 %.

It was an open partnership right from 1918 and the two fully responsible partners, each of whom entitled to represent the company, were Julius Neuburger and Justin Neu. There were a number of sleeping partners, namely Zacharias Neuburger (called Harry, father of Marion Rosenfield), Julius Wassermann (son in law of Joseph Neuburger junior) who however later left the firm, Eugen Neuburger (son of Karoline Neuburger who married Selma) and the two sons of Joseph Neuburger junior, namely Eugen Neuburger and Dr. Ary Neuburger.

My late brother already travelled for Ennwerke in 1929 to Burma, which was then called "Hinterindien" in German, and on the next trip to Shanghai, Tientsin, Harbin in China, Straits Settlement (now Malaysia) and Singapore. There he sold pocket lamps, torch cases and cycle lamps.

After my father's death in 1935, the firm was changed into a "Kommanditgesellschaft" (limited partnership) with Justin Neu the only fully responsible partner, and my mother, Lea Neuburger, becoming a "Kommanditist" (limited partner). After her remarriage in 1938, Frank and I became "Kommanditisten" (limited partners) as well.

The factory was sold by order of the Nuremberg Nazi authorities in 1938. They forced Justin Neu and Zacharias Neuburger whom they sent to prison on a trumped up charge of using brass for the manufacturing of products for the home market (it was only permitted for export) to sell the whole company to a friend of the Nazis, Herr Franke. The price was a very small amount for the assets, whereas the liabilities had to be kept. The consequence was that the firm went bankrupt within 1 - 2 days.

In 1945 when the Americans marched in, the factory was put immediately under American military trusteeship and after fighting a case before the High Court in Nuremberg (Landgericht, Wiedergutmachungskammer), for years the factory came back to us in 1951 including a very big property at the Tegernsee, called the Schwaighof, near Rottach (Upper Bavaria) which was used as a recreation and sanatorium centre during the war. That property was sold by us then to the town of Tegernsee after two other parties showed interest for the purchase. The one party was the Herzog in Bayern (Bavarian Duke) and the other was one of the Archdukes of Austria.

The business liquidation started in 1954 after we received an offer from the district government of Middle Franconia for a loan at the rate of 2 % to avoid liquidation and to keep the places for so many workers. After 1951 when the factory became our property again nearly up to 300 workers were employed.

Partners after the restitution were Erich Neu (called Eric Tom New) of New York, son of Justin Neu, who died during the early 1960s, Frank Francis, Henry Newton, Marion Rosenfield and naturally my mother, Lea Bright. The firm was liquidated by Herr Hans Boehles, accountant.

There is still a claim outstanding for my mother, represented by me before the "Lastenausgleichsabteilung" of the City of Nuremberg for war damage to the factory with which I cannot proceed, pending the estate matter. This is due to the bombing of the RAF during the war. When the factory came back, 2/3 of it were bombed and when the Nazis fled in 1945, they destroyed two wagon loads of tools in order to do the utmost damage.

III. Connections

Through Joseph Neuburger junior we were related to A. E. Wassermann bankers, Bamberg. One brother of the Wassermanns was Oskar who was the head and managing director of the head office of "Deutsche Bank" in Berlin. He was not just a local director, he was actually the head.

Through Moritz Neuburger junior we were related to Lutz Schwarz who died early. He was a partner in the well known Berlin banking business of Schwarz-Goldschmidt. Goldschmidt was afterwards the head of one of the four leading German banks, namely the "Darmstaedter Bank" which crashed in 1930. His pictures were sold in London in 1975 or 1976.

On my mother's side - Marga Reiss, wife of Julian Sokolowski - we are related to their banking business in West Germany.

In the hop business of Gebrueder Neuburger the main customers were the breweries and most of the business was done with the Bavarian ones, namely Paulaner Braeu Munich, Tucherbraeu Nuremberg, Loewenbraeu Munich, Brauhaus Wuerzburg etc. This was also one of the reasons why my mother had Paulaner Braeu and Brauhaus Wuerzburg shares still in the 1950s in London.

Very often extensive credits were given by Gebrueder Neuburger. My father always told us of one journey to Brauhaus Wuerzburg, when he and Joseph Neuburger junior transported 120,000 Goldmark in gold to them. At that time very little bank notes were used.