



Our Family

by

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The Sahlmanns in Fuerth

The four younger sons of Joseph and Mathilde Sahlmann born in Burghaslach all eventually settled in Fuerth.

Moritz Sahlmann

fourth child of Joseph Louis and Mathilde Sahlmann, and not to be confused with his nephew of the same name and son of Salomon and Eva, was born in Burghaslach on 27 December 1823. Moritz married Fanny Sulzbacher (born 19. June 1819 in Muehlhausen), daughter of Salomon Sulzbacher and his first wife Jetta Selig. He settled in Muehlhausen and was in business there. He had a certificate from the relevant authority in Erlangen that he was competent to deal in drapery. In May 1861 Moritz applied for a trade licence and domicile in Fuerth. This was referred to the "highest authority" and on 7 June 1861 Matrikel above the normal numbers was granted. When he received a licence to trade in agricultural products he relinquished his drapery licence (1) and traded under the name M. Sahlmann & Co.

Moritz died in Fuerth on 18 December 1892. Fanny had predeceased him on 12 April 1879. They are both buried on the old Jewish cemetery in Fuerth.

Their children:

- Lina Sahlmann (17 June 1849 Muelhausen - 22 October 1917 Nuremberg) married Herzheimer (first name unknown) born in Mainz.
- Isidor Sahlmann (12 January 1852 Muelhausen - 11 August 1924 Fuerth).
- Josefine Sahlmann 13 August 1857 Muelhausen.
- Emilie Sahlmann (born 4 October 1858 in Muelhausen) married Max Bernhard Mayer born 23 February 1860 in Mannheim.

- Bertha Sahlmann (27 May 1860 Muelhausen) married Sigmund Mayer of Mannheim.
- Adele Sahlmann (13 October 1863 Fuerth - 30 January 1913 Munich). On 25 August 1885 Adele married Max Ottenstein, son of Heinrich Ottenstein and Ida née Bing, born 8 August 1850 in Gunzenhausen. Max was the owner of Victoria Werke in Nuremberg, a firm of cycle manufacturers.

Sigmund Sahlmann,

sixth child of Joseph and Mathilde, born in Burghaslach on 15 December 1828, died in Fuerth on 8th August 1903. He was married to Nanni Sulzbacher (31 July 1834 Muehlhausen - 13 April 1894 Fuerth). From 1856 he traded as a hop merchant in Muehlhausen. On 2 November 1861 he applied for a trade licence and permission to settle in Fuerth, where he wanted to establish a business. He had assets of 10,000 fl. There were no objections and on 16 January 1862 he received a trade licence for agricultural product as well as his acceptance for settlement in Fuerth. (2) He established the firm S. Sahlmann in Friedrichstrasse 18, later moving to Gebhardstrasse. Their three elder children were born in Muehlhausen:

- Ida Sahlmann (22 July 1857 - 21 February 1921) married Anton Kastor (8 August 1850 Bamberg - 2 February 1918) on 15 May 1876.
- Richard Sahlmann (21 April 1859 - 24 February 1927 Fuerth) married Berta Berolzheimer (born 16 May 1873 in Fuerth) on 7 April 1893. They had two sons: Franz Siegfried Sahlmann (20 June 1894) married Anna Rosenwald and appears to have emigrated. Ernst Sahlmann (16 May 1901) in Fuerth on 7 March 1928 married Anna Honig (2 January 1906). They also managed to emigrate.
- Mathilde Sahlmann, 1861.
- Emma Sahlmann was born in Fuerth on 9 May 1863 Fuerth. She married Philipp Weil (17 July 1857) and settled in Nuremberg. There were both deported from there to Theresienstadt on 10 September 1942, where Emma died on 1 October 1942. Nothing is known about their son Hans. (3)
- Julius Sahlmann, 21 June 1865 Fuerth - 5 March 1868 Fuerth.
- Sophie Sahlmann, 14 February 1867 Fuerth - 16 April 1868 Fuerth.
- Paula (Pauline) Sahlmann (September 1869 Fuerth) on 16 September 1891 married Michael Sigmund Prager (28 December 1866 Fuerth) a Doctor in Fuerth. He also held several political and community appointments. They left Fuerth on 11 March 1939 for Amsterdam, where their only son Kurt then lived. Kurt Adolf Prager had studied law and became a judge. After he lost his position and his marriage to Lisa Rau (1 February 1911 Nuremberg) in 1935 they settled in Amsterdam. Kurt opened a law practice in Amsterdam. He and Lisa were sent to Westerbork and deported to Auschwitz on 17 July 1942. Kurt died there on 17 August 1942 and Lisa two days later. (4) Paula and Michael Prager were eventually deported on 2 April 1943 to Sobibor and murdered. (5)

- Marie (Marta) Sahlmann (8 May 1871 Fuerth) married Hugo Rose (4 January 1863 in Unsleben) in Fuerth on 16 May 1893. Hugo became "Oberlandesgerichtsdirektor" (Director of the Supreme Court of Bavaria).
- Jenny Sahlmann (27 March 1873 Fuerth) on 27 April 1896 married Gerson Bloede of Nuremberg. She died in 1904.
- Joseph Sahlmann (9 July 1875 Fuerth - February 1938). In Dresden on 10 November 1905 he married Paula Sofie Frank, daughter of Max Frank and Bertha née Obermeier, born on 17 October 1882 in Bamberg. They had one son Georg Sigmund, born in Fuerth on 12 December 1906, who later lived to Paris. After the death of her husband his widow appears to have moved to France. She was deported from Drancy to Auschwitz on 31 July 1944 and died there.

Bernhard Sahlmann

seventh child of Joseph and Mathilde was born in Burghaslach on 16 October 1831 . From the age of 13 to 16 ½ years he learned the hop and drapery trade at his father Joseph's business in Burghaslach and then had "half" of his own business there. In January 1859 he wanted to join his younger brother Anton in Fuerth but required the necessary "Matrikel" . He was engaged to Fanny Dessauer (28 November 1839 Bamberg), daughter of Isidor Dessauer and Hanna née Fleischer of Bamberg and had assets of 10,000 fl. Although this application is at first refused because it was over the recognised number limit. He reapplied and, "in view of his not inconsiderable means", the application should granted on condition he received the "Matrikel" which the widow Gosdorfer intended to relinquish. There were however many difficulties regarding this seen from lengthy documents in which Alexander Frankenthal, father-in-law of Bernhard's brother Anton, acted for him. However on 9 June 1859 he was granted the vacant Matrikel of Lippmann Markbreiter, who died unmarried in New York in June 1857, and later that year received the necessary permits to settle Fuerth and join his brother Anton to set up the hop merchant firm Gebrueder Sahlmann. (6)

Bernhard married Fanny on 31 August 1859. As required according to 1855 regulations he pays 125 fl., a percentage of his dowry to the Jewish Community of Burghaslach.

In 1860 Bernhard was inducted into the II. Fusilier Company of the I. Batalion of the Royal Bavarian Infantry Regiment and owned his uniform and military assessories, as was usual at the time.

Fanny died in Fuerth on 22 March 1886, and was survived by Bernhard till 15 January 1906. The family had lived Friedrichstr. 14. In 1895/6 Bernhard had the house Hornschuchpromenade 6 built.

Their children were all born in Fuerth:

- Stefan Sahlmann, 8 July 1860 - 6 March 1894 Fuerth.
- Johanna Sahlmann (15 September 1861 Fuerth - 21 January 1945 in Great Neck NY) married Max Jacob Einhorn (born 24 January 1853 in Fuerth), son of Sigmund Max Einhorn and Karoline née Schloss, on 9 May 1880. Johanna helped her father in bringing up her youngest brother Karl after the death of their mother. The Einhorns emigrated to the United States in February 1939, where Max died on 30 May 1940 in New York.

- Justus Sahlmann (6 September 1862 - 23 March 1932) also worked in the family firm. He received a "Heimatschein" in 1893 to enable him travel, his father intending to open a branch of the hop business in Saaz in Bohemia. In Bamberg on 22 December 1889 Justus married Klara Gerst (born 27 September 1868 in Bamberg), daughter of Simon Gerst and Marie née Biermann. They seem to have moved to Nuremberg. Klara as a widow lived in Berlin-Grunewald. She died (suicide) in Berlin on 12 August 1942.
- Mathilde Sahlmann, 8 April 1864 - 15 May 1877 in Fuerth.
- Rosa Sahlmann (1 August 1865 - 5 March 1943 in USA) married Max Illfelder (3 November 1854 - 2 July 1943 in USA) on 16 May 1886. They emigrated to the United States, where Franz Illfelder, one of their three sons had established a toy importing business.
- Louis Sahlmann (19 December 1867). The Fuerth birth register gives his name as Josef Baer. He married Julie Gutmann, daughter of Nathan Gutmann and Soppheie née Dessauer of Stuttgart, (born 17 August 1875 in Stuttgart) on 25 April 1895 in Stuttgart. Louis died on 3 October 1925. His widow Julie lived in Berlin and was deported from there on the 84. "Alterstransport" on 29 January 1944 to Theresienstadt, where she died in November 1944.
- Ida Sahlmann (20 December 1871 - 22 June 1953 in USA) married 17 August 1892 "Sanitaetsrat" Dr. Max Louis Mayer, born 24 December 1868 in Bibra. Ida died in USA.
- Karl Sahlmann, youngest son of Bernhard and Fanni, was born on 7 September 1877 Like his father he was a successful wholesale hop merchant. On 20 January 1910 he married Ida Krailsheimer, daughter of Moritz and Fanni née Landecker, born 22 February 1887 in Fuerth. Following the effects of "Kristallnacht" he committed suicide on 15 November 1938 in Fuerth. His widow moved to London soon after his death and died there on 7 June 1976. (7) Their three children all managed to emigrate: Bernhard Erich (Bernd), born in Fuerth on 23 July 1911 moved to London in 1935. He was employed for many years by the bank house Keyser Ullmann and changed his name to "Sarle". Ilse, born 15 March 1913, after a short stay in Berlin in 1935 emigrated to South Africa. She was an architect. Lisa (8 February 1920) emigrated in 1939 to London.

Anton Sahlmann

youngest son of Joseph and Mathilde, was born in Burghaslach on 28 February 1834. Between 1847 and 1850 Anton had served an apprenticeship with his brother Moritz in Muehlhausen. After that he was employed by his father Joseph as commercial traveller in hops and drapery. Anton appears to have been the first of the brothers to have settled in Fuerth in October 1857. He applied for permission of domicile and also to marry Betti (Petti, Betty, Bertha) Frankenthal, daughter of the mirror manufacturer Alexander Frankenthal. He now wanted to set up a business in hops and wool. He had been given 3,000 fl. by his father Joseph and had a dowry of 5,000 fl. from his fiancée. The application was granted. To set up the intended business "Gebrueder Sahlmann" he needed his brother Bernhard. (8) Anton and Betti, born on 26 March 1837 in Fuerth, were married on 12 May 1858 and set up home in Friedrichstrasse. In 1858 Anton also enlisted in the II. Grenadier Company of the II. Battalion of the Royal Bavarian Infantry Regiment and owned his uniform and accessories.

Betti died in Fuerth on 17 June 1869, leaving Anton with five young children.

Anton married his second wife Flora Marianne (Marie) Klein (born 21 November 1850 or 1858), daughter of Naphtali and Clementine Klein of Mainz, on 28 December 1870.

Anton was a very successful hop merchant. In 1888, for instance, he was awarded the Gold Medal (Beer Industry) at the International World Exhibition in Brussels. In 1890 he was elected as one of the 11 liberal members of the City Council. The family lived in the "Sahlmann'sche Villa" at Bahnhofplatz 4, which had been built about 1867/68 and became one of the famous buildings in Fuerth. Its demolition in 1983 caused great controversy. (9)

It must have been a very prestigious mansion, as Prince Ludwig of Bavaria, who in 1913 became King Ludwig III, stayed there, when, as representative of the Prince Regent, he visited Fuerth on 25/26th May 1906 for the Centenary of the town's belonging to the Kingdom of Bavaria. The Chronicle of the Town reports that Prince Ludwig arrived on 25 May by Express Train. After an official reception at the Town Hall he went through streets, decorated with flags and garlands to his accommodation at the house of "Kommerzienrat" Sahlmann, who greeted him at the gate. The dinner at the house, attended by many notables, was followed by a gala performance at the theatre, the return to the Villa proceeded through splendidly lit streets. "The Bahnhofplatz and the fountain had electric illumination. The decoration of the house No 4 at the Bahnhofplatz, where the Prince stayed, was marvellous and the electric illumination of the house breath-taking and beautiful". On the following morning special Services were held in the Protestant Michael Church, the Catholic Church and in the Synagogue. A children's party had been arranged for 1,500 children in one of the parks, where each child received a voucher for a sandwich. Jewish children, however, received a bar of chocolate.

Anton Sahlmann died in Fuerth on 14 June 1909. After his death his widow Marie made several donation in his memory, some large, some smaller, to various organisations and societies of a humanitarian character. She also founded the Anton and Marie Sahlmann Foundation for education. Marie Sahlmann died in Fuerth on 25 February 1919. They are both buried on the new Jewish Cemetery in Erlangerstrasse in Fuerth.

Children of Anton's first marriage with Betti Frankenthal:

- Siegfried Sahlmann (23 June 1859 Fuerth - 23 March 1932 Nuremberg) on 26 March 1890 married Fanny Buechenbacher, born 22 March 1869 in Fuerth, daughter of Leopold Buechenbacher. The Buechenbacher family were founders of the "Fuerther Spiegelglass A.G" (mirror manufacturers), which with Siegfried also became associated. Both Siegfried and Fanny died in Nuremberg, Fanny on 7 August 1924.
- Doris Sahlmann (8 September 1860 Fuerth - 17 December 1936 Bad Homburg) married Siegmund Neuhaeuser (20 February 1851 Osthofen - 7 February 1933 Bad Homburg) on 29 April 1880. They lived in Ludwigshafen.
- Alexander Sahlmann was born 12 May 1862 in Fuerth and died August 1902 in Mexico. Alexander, a commercial traveller, left for North America in April 1882. He married Rosa Betty Ritterstein, born in Montevideo On 19 November 1902 the Imperial General Consul in Buenos Aires confirmed: "Alexander on 20 July 1889 married Rosa Betty Mitterstein (or Ritterstein) in Montevideo. He died on a train in Mexico in August 1902. At that time he was resident in Buenos Aires. His son born in 1886 in Paris was declared as legitimate".
- Mathilde Sahlmann (29 October 1863 Fuerth - 7 September 1928 Frankfurt am Main) married Max (or Louis) Klein (?? - 5 December 1903 Frankfurt am Main) on 12 December

1882. Records in the Stadtarchiv Fuerth give his name as Max. Charles Stanton on his family trees gives his name as Louis Klein, born 1 January 1853 in Mainz. Further research is obviously necessary.

- Frieda Sahlmann (21 December 1864 Fuerth - 21 December 1867 Fuerth).
- Joseph Sahlmann (18 November 1866 Fuerth - 3 August 1937 (? Nuremberg). On 18 January 1894 he married Emilie Lust, born 23 November 1872 in Nuremberg. Emilie died in Chicago on 6 February 1954 in Chicago.

Children of Anton's second marriage to Marie (Flora Marianne) Klein:

- Karl Sahlmann, 10 October 1871 Fuerth - 27 October 1871 in Fuerth.
- Oskar Sahlmann, 3 January 1873 Fuerth - 31 August 1892 Fuerth.
- Robert Sahlmann was born on 29 July 1874 in Fuerth and married Johanna Loewensohn (26 May 1886 Fuerth - 29 May 1934) 1 May 1906 in Fuerth. Robert died on 3 April 1944 in London.
- Clementine Sahlmann (2 December 1879 Fuerth - 10 December 1949) married Julius Biermann (4 September 1874 Fuerth - 12 December 1947) on 16 April 1902. Their two children emigrated to England: Fritz Biermann, born in Fuerth on 20 September 1903. He eventually managed to emigrate to England, where he worked as a teacher. He married Ann Hyams on 6 August 1941 and settled in Darlington, where he died on 10 December 1987. A substantial Sahlmann family history written by him has been deposited in recent years in the Stadtarchiv in Fuerth. Lili Ellen Biermann, born in Fuerth on 23 October 1908 died in Darlington in September 1986.
- Paul Sahlmann, born 31 October 1884 in Fuerth, studied law and practised as a lawyer in Berlin. In 1939 he moved into the Sahlmann Villa. Along with all Jewish men he was arrested on "Kristallnacht", subjected to ill treatment before being sent to Dachau. His efforts to emigrate to Palestine in the spring of 1939 were unsuccessful. On 22 March he was deported to Izbica and is reported as "missing".
- Kurt Sahlmann, born 10 January 1886 in Fuerth, eventually lived in Berlin. He was married to Ida Alma Wingelsdorf and was a victim of the Holocaust.

The following article by "Cousin" Dr. Fritz Biermann of Darlington appeared in "Nachrichten fuer den Juedischen Buerger Fuerths" in 1982:

Prince Luitpold (10) of Bavaria on a Visit in Fuerth

When I read the articles about the Bavarian Kings Ludwig II and Ludwig III in last year's edition of the "Nachrichten fuer den Juedischen Buerger Fuerths", I remembered a letter in my possession, which my grandmother Marie wrote to her son Paul, who later became a solicitor.

My grandfather the "Koenigliche Kommerzienrat" Anton Sahlmann, put up King Ludwig III, whilst he was still Prince, at his "Villa", Bahnhofsplatz, 4. (Unfortunately the Villa Sahlmann is now threatened with demolition. Note by editor). Prince Luitpold arrived with his whole entourage and with a rubber bath tub, which he used to take with him on his travels. After the departure of the no-

ble visitor my Grandmother Marie wrote the following to her favourite son Paul, a letter, which I believe to be characteristic both of the writer and her times.

"Our festivities went off brilliantly. Prince Ludwig found the accommodation ideal, the dinner exquisite and the bed wonderful. The Archbishop of Bamberg, the Government President, the District Bailiff, Major General N., Dr. von Ehering (Professor at the University of Erlangen), the President of the County Court, Mayor Dr Kutzer, the President of the Congregation, Rabbi Dr. Neuburger, had been invited. After I had welcomed the Noble Gentleman, he spoke a few gracious words, gave me his arm and led me into the yellow salon. Then we went into the newly decorated ground floor rooms, where the other gentlemen had congregated. Everybody was extremely amiable, particularly the Archbishop and the President. On the order of the Court Marshall, everybody was in full Court dress. Prince Ludwig gave me his arm and led me to dinner. The dinner went off beautifully. I was not a bit shy and conversed freely with the Prince. Then we drove in the Court carriage to the theatre. I sat with the Mayoress and the wife of the County Court Judge in the Mayor's box. The show was very good. Later I heard that people had looked as much at me as they had at the Prince, I had looked stunning. Our house looked fairy like. Above the house in the electric light glittered a crown, which could be seen from afar. The windows were decorated with garlands of fir and foliage, held together with golden bows, and all windows were draped with real Persian carpets "just like a picture from 1001 nights" wrote a reporter. The Prince and his entourage repeatedly stressed, how very much at home they felt in our house. I forgot to mention, that the table was covered with gentians and carnations.

Too tired to write more - With much love, Mother."

So much for the letter of Grandmother Marie to her son Paul. She could not have anticipated, that a few decades later, this son, encouraged by thrashings of friendly S.A. men, was to be chased out of the same house and, watched by masses of spectators, had to jump over tables and chairs in the Berolzheimianum (11) until Dachau "protectively" embraced him in order to prepare him fittingly for the Final Solution in Poland.

(Translation Thea Ruth Skyte)

After a law had been passed in January 1939 abolishing the security of tenants, Jewish families were moved into houses, which had been "bought" from former Jewish owners. The "Sahlmann-Villa" had been "bought" in October 1941 by the NS-Volkswohlfahrtsamt in Fuerth. At least 14 Jewish families lived here herded together until their deportation on 22 March 1942. After that until its demolition in 1983 the house was used for various purposes until it became an eyesore. In May 1983 long articles and photographs appeared in newspapers regarding "The End of an Architectural Monument", describing the slow demolition of the Sahlmann Villa, which brought a 116 year old history to an end. As the building had been under a preservation order, it was decided to save some of its materials. Stones were to be stored and cut into slabs for the facade of the new building of the Dresdner Bank, who were the owner of the Villa at that time. To satisfy some of the critics much of the outstanding ornamentations of the old villa were supposed to be incorporated into the interior of the new building, e.g. in the entrance hall, in offices and for counters.

Footnotes

(1) Stadtarchiv Fuerth, Fach 18a, 459.

- (2) Stadtarchiv Fuerth.
- (3) Gedenkbuch Fuerth.
- (4) do.
- (5) do.
- (6) Stadtarchiv Fuerth, Fach 18a, 441.
- (7) Gedenkbuch Fuerth.
- (8) Stadtarchiv Fuerth, Fach 18a, 397.
- (9) Various articles in Fuerther Nachrichten.
- (10) This should have read Prince Ludwig.
- (11) Large Meeting/Concert hall presented to the town in 1906 by Heinrich Berolzheimer, a prosperous Fuerth Jewish Manufacturer.