



Our Family

by

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The Scheidts, Kuhns and Sterns of Mainstockheim: Introduction and Acknowledgements, Abbreviations of sources

Introductions and Acknowledgements

After re-discovering the family papers following the burglary in 1983/4 we were absolutely stunned. They had been in our house since the death of our mother Frida Scheidt in 1976, who would have been a wealth of information. Unfortunately we left it too late. How could we possibly find further information? Where were some of these places? It was prior to the emergence of genealogical societies. Computers were in their infancy and the Internet and e-mail also still things in the future. However did we manage??

We went to the Reference Library and looked at maps and found places not marked on our Atlas, e.g. Ullstadt and Lenkersheim and finally Mainstockheim, hidden away under the Wuerzburg-Nuremberg Autobahn. The library kindly made us a photocopy of this part of the map. We consulted books on genealogy. We searched books on the localities without avail. We wrote to the various villages, but got no replies. From the bits of information available we wrote a family history on our 50-year old typewriter.

Eventually we got a letter from the Registry Office in Kitzingen enclosing Death Certificates of Loeser Jonas Scheidt and Mina Scheidt, which, instead of enlightening us, confused us further still. They were not the same Jonas and Mina Scheidt we had been looking for. Kitzingen did not know of any other records in existence, but told us that there was a list at the "Pfarramt" of the Evangelical Church in Mainstockheim containing inhabitants of the village in the 19th century. We wrote but got no reply. Kitzingen, however, also gave us the address of the State Archives in Wuerzburg.

We were complete novices in genealogy when we finally decided to go to Germany in October 1986 visiting, amongst other places, Mainstockheim and Kitzingen, the places of origin of the Scheidts. Several days were spent in the State Archives of Wuerzburg and Nuremberg, where we also learned that some material had been sent to Israel.

In spring 1987, whilst in Israel, we visited the Reading Room at Yad Vashem and the Central Archives for the History of the Jewish People in Jerusalem and found further information. Since then we have spent much time in many State and local archives in Lower and Central Franconia in Ger-

many and their respective cemeteries and have also been "digging" in archives in Israel and America.

As more and more material gathered we eventually had to buy a computer and eventually joined emerging genealogical societies. Through the Jewish Family Finder over the years we have made contact with several descendants of branches of our family, so sharing and adding information.

Very gradually we started to learn and still are in the process. It was and is a fascinating exercise as little bits of information in our possession and information found in the various archives slot into place very much like a jig-saw puzzle. So slowly it is becoming possible to build up a picture of the families, their lives, villages and communities. There is no doubt, whatsoever, that with more time for further research more would emerge, now that we have started to learn where to look.

Our grateful thanks go to members of our families, who have helped by contributing names, information and photographs. The archivists and staff of the State Archives in Wuerzburg and Nuremberg, the town archives of Fuerth and Kitzingen, and various village archives.

By a very lucky coincidence in 1987 we met members of the "Foerderverein ehemalige Synagoge Kitzingen", who have established an archive and library in the former Synagogue and who have been most helpful. A special mention has to be made to Gisela Bamberg, who started the archiv, and the late Karl Appold a very enthusiastic Mainstockheim local "hobby" historian, who has given us invaluable help in finding, identifying and photographing the old Scheidt house in Mainstockheim, finding copies of documents and filling us in with the history of the village.

Very grateful appreciation go to Frau Gisela Blume, who has been cataloguing the graves of the old Jewish Cemetery in Fuerth together with researching the families of the people buried there. Frau Barbara Ohm, a local historian of Fuerth, for her books and wonderful guided tours bringing the history of some of the buildings to life. The members and staff of Foerderverein, who worked hard to establish the Fuerth Jewish Museum and to the staff of the Museum Library.

We would also express our thanks to Karen Franklin and the Staff of the Leo Baeck Institute in New York. The Institute is one of the major depositories of German documents and family histories. Parts of the surviving documents of the former Gesamtarchiv der Juden in Berlin were deposited there after the war, other parts being in the Central Archives for the History of the Jewish People in Jerusalem, and some are now back in Centrum Judaicum in Berlin.

Last, but not least, and somewhat nearer home we would also like to thank the staff of the Wiener Library in London.

Heinz and Thea Ruth Skyte, 2002

Abbreviations

CAHJP	Central Archives for the History of the Jewish People
GAM	Gemeindearchiv Mainstockheim
RJF	Reichsbund Juedischer Frontsoldaten: "Die Juedischen Gefallenen des deutschen Heeres, der deutschen Marine und der deutschen Schutztruppen 1914 - 1918 (Jewish members of the German Army, German Navy and German Forces, who died 1914 -

1918)
STN State Archives Nuremberg
STW State Archives Wuerzburg