



# Our Family

*by*

**Heinz and Thea Ruth Skyte, née Ephraim**

## Mainstockheim



(photo: Heinz & Thea Skyte)

Mainstockheim is an old little village. It lies two miles north of Kitzingen on the road to Dettelbach, directly on the western bank of the Main. Generally the Main flows east to west; here, however, the river makes a big loop, winding due south between the old towns of Schweinfurt in the north and Ochsenfurt in the south, and then flows north-west again past Wuerzburg to Gemuenden. The busy Wuerzburg-Nuremberg Autobahn crosses the Main valley on a huge viaduct just outside the village. Mainstockheim nestles between the river and the surrounding vineyards in the centre of "Franconia's Weinland", the wine district. Franconian wine, "Bocksbeutel", is instantly recognisable by the uniquely shaped, flat, squat bottles in which it is sold and after which it is named. The position, soil and climate of the village assured its prosperity.

Mainstockheim was founded around the 7<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> century. During the middle ages estates within Mainstockheim were owned by various lords, knights, convents etc. Some parts of the land passed in turn to the Prince Bishops of Wuerzburg and the Margraviate of Brandenburg-Ansbach. In the 18<sup>th</sup> century Kloster Ebrach, the Margraviate of Brandenburg-Ansbach, the family von Bechtolsheim with their respective places of administration in Mainstockheim, Mainbernheim and Main-

sondheim, as well as Fuchs of Dornheim shared power in Mainstockheim. Later it came within the Grand Duchy of Wuerzburg, which itself was absorbed into the Kingdom of Bavaria in 1816.

The reformation reached Mainstockheim in 1520, but Catholicism was reintroduced into the village around 1630. However, an agreement was signed in 1650, allowing the community Mainstockheim to remain Protestant.

The "Statistisch-topographisches Handbuch fuer den Unter-Mainkreis des Koenigsreichs Bayern" (book of official statistics) for 1830 shows that Mainstockheim then had 239 houses inhabited by 338 families. The total of 1424 people comprised 1204 Protestants, 16 Catholics and 204 Jews.

### **The Jewish Community of Mainstockheim**

Jews were first mentioned in Mainstockheim in 1594. The "Dorfbuch", the village chronicle, records Jewish inhabitants in the village in 1614, when the Jews Kussel and Mayer had been given the "protection" of the Margrave of Brandenburg. For this they had to pay special taxes, and swear the "Judeneid", an Oath of Allegiance. The "Dorfbuch" describes in detail how the loyal oath had to be sworn. The particular Jew had to present himself with his bible and open it at Exodus 20, verse 7, at the words:

Thou shalt not take the name of Lord Thy God, Creator of heaven and earth and all things, also of his law, which he gave to Moses on Mount Sinai, in vain.

He had then to declare that it was the correct book in which the Ten Commandments were printed, on which a Jew could and was willing to take a proper and correct oath. After the relevant clauses and conditions, as recorded in the village chronicle, had then been read to him, he had to put his hand over the joint of the book and swear the following:

I, Jew (name), swear by Almighty God, who created heaven and earth, that I will diligently, obediently and truly follow, perform and keep all rules and conditions read to me and which I have fully understood, and that I, like other fellow citizens and men of the community, shall not act against these in any way: And if I should act against this and commit perjury, I shall eternally be damned and cursed and the fire, that befell Sodom and Gomorra, shall consume me, and all curses as written in the Thora, the law, shall be laid upon me, and the true God, who created foliage and grass and all things shall nevermore come to my help in my concerns and needs; so help me God, Adonay.

In March 1719 the "numerous Jewish citizens of Mainstockheim" were obliged to pay a "Kirchenfrohn", a church tax, of 2 Reichtaler towards the building of a new tower for the Jacobkirche, the Protestant church of Mainstockheim. (1)

As in most villages the Jewish community of Mainstockheim developed and expanded, due to expulsion of Jews from the major towns of Wuerzburg and Schweinfurt in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, and grew further still as a result of the persecution and finally expulsion of the Jews from Kitzingen in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, when many more settled in Mainstockheim and surrounding villages.

After the absorption of the Duchy of Wuerzburg, in which Mainstockheim was then situated, into the Kingdom of Bavaria in 1816, the Bavarian "Judenedict" of 1813 also became effective in the village. The Royal District Court and District Commission Dettelbach reports on 30<sup>th</sup> May 1817 that they had complied with the orders. All "Schutzjuden" under their jurisdiction, who had been found

to be suitable, had been entered into the "Matrikel". On that day they had assembled and had repeatedly declared themselves willing to take the Oath of Allegiance. After they had been instructed by their teacher of its importance, they took the oath properly and correctly according to Jewish religion, rites and custom. Each and everyone of them had then personally signed the document, mostly in German script. A few, however, signed their name in Hebrew, which was then witnessed by an official. The oath had been as follows:

I swear to God Adonai, the creator of heaven and earth a solemn oath that I shall obey the constitution and the laws of the Kingdom, and be loyal to his Majesty the King, loyal without fail, so help me God Adonai, the creator of heaven and earth.

This document includes the personal signatures of several members of our families: "Aberham" and Jonas Scheid, Mayer and Joseph Stern, Wolff "Sterin", Borg "Kun", Moses Kuhn, and the Hebrew signature of Feist Kuhn are amongst them.

### Mainstockheim Jews

<b>1695 (2)</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Abraham</li> <li>• Absalon</li> <li>• Friela</li> <li>• Goetz</li> <li>• Joseph</li> <li>• Laemlein</li> <li>• Lippmann</li> <li>• Loew</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mayer</li> <li>• Moschl</li> <li>• Moses</li> <li>• Salomon</li> <li>• Sampel</li> <li>• Samuel</li> <li>• Schunle</li> </ul>

<b>1704 (3)</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Abraham</li> <li>• G Frielein</li> <li>• Laemlein</li> <li>• Lippman</li> <li>• Loew</li> <li>• Mayer Moses</li> <li>• Meyer</li> <li>• Moschla</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Moschlein</li> <li>• Samuel</li> <li>• Samuel</li> <li>• Seligmann</li> <li>• Simon</li> <li>• Simson</li> <li>• Sußmann</li> <li>• Wolflein</li> </ul>

<b>1733 (4)</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Breitbacht</li> <li>• Eisig</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Loew Laemlein</li> <li>• Meyer</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Elias Schneider</li> <li>• Goetzlein</li> <li>• Hirsch Laemlein</li> <li>• Hirsch Samuel</li> <li>• Joseph</li> <li>• Joseph Juttlein</li> <li>• Laemlein Hirsch</li> <li>• Loew Baruch</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Moses</li> <li>• Rabbib Simon</li> <li>• Rabbin Scholum</li> <li>• Salomon</li> <li>• Samuel</li> <li>• Seeligman's widow</li> <li>• Simon</li> <li>• Wolflein</li> </ul>
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<b>1745 (5)</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Benjamin</li> <li>• Eisig</li> <li>• Hirsch Samuel, son of Samuel, Barnas</li> <li>• Ischa Moses</li> <li>• Jaftli</li> <li>• Joseph Loew</li> <li>• Joseph Seligmann</li> <li>• Joseph Simon</li> <li>• Laemlein</li> <li>• Loew Salomon</li> <li>• Loew Laemlein</li> <li>• Loew Salomon</li> <li>• Loew Simon</li> <li>• Maennlein Joseph</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meyer Simon</li> <li>• Pfeifer Loew</li> <li>• Rabbi Simon's widow</li> <li>• Rabbin Laemlein</li> <li>• Rabbin Schlum</li> <li>• Raphael Kuhn</li> <li>• Raphael Meyer</li> <li>• Salomon Samuel</li> <li>• Samuel, Barnas</li> <li>• Schmul Meyer</li> <li>• Schmul Wolf</li> <li>• Wolf Salomon</li> <li>• Wolf Samuel, son of Samuel, Barnas</li> <li>• Wolflein</li> </ul>

<b>1784 (6)</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Joseph Seeligmann's widow</li> <li>• Judendoctin</li> <li>• Loew Eisig</li> <li>• Loew Salomon</li> <li>• Mendel's widow</li> <li>• Meyer Loew</li> <li>• Meyer Raphael</li> <li>• Meyer Salomon</li> <li>• Moses Ischa</li> <li>• Moses Ischla</li> <li>• Moses Loeb</li> <li>• Nathan Hirsch</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Raphael Hirsch</li> <li>• Salomon Seelig</li> <li>• Salomon Hirsch</li> <li>• Samuel Loew</li> <li>• Samuel Meyer</li> <li>• Schalum Baer</li> <li>• Schmul Moses' widow</li> <li>• Schmul Wolf</li> <li>• Seelig Salomon</li> <li>• Seelig Schmul's widow</li> <li>• Wolf Joseph</li> </ul>

<b>1835 (7)</b>	
<b>I. Unmittelbare Juden</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ettenheim, Loeb</li> <li>• Feldhahn, Hirsch</li> <li>• Feldhahn, Joseph</li> <li>• Freymann, Ischa</li> <li>• Kuhn, Feist</li> <li>• Kuhn, Moses</li> <li>• Mendel, Bernhard</li> <li>• Mendel, Joseph</li> <li>• Mendel, Reinhard</li> <li>• Mueller, Jakob</li> <li>• Rosenthal, Raphael</li> <li>• Rothstein, Herz</li> <li>• Scheid, Jonas</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scheid, Laehser</li> <li>• Scheid, Salomon</li> <li>• Sichel, Reitz Widow</li> <li>• Silber, Joseph</li> <li>• Sonder, Benjamin Widow</li> <li>• Sonder, Nathan</li> <li>• Sonder, Simon</li> <li>• Ullmann, Isaak</li> <li>• Ullmann, Simon</li> <li>• Withahn, Wolf</li> <li>• Witthahn, Simson</li> <li>• Withahn, Wolf</li> </ul>
<b>II. Mittelbare Juden</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bichmann, Samuel</li> <li>• Bloch, Lazarus</li> <li>• Dolz, Gronem</li> <li>• Eißenbach, Baermann</li> <li>• Eißenbach, Loeb</li> <li>• Feigenbaum, Isaak</li> <li>• Feigenbaum, Isaak's children</li> <li>• Fisch, Herz</li> <li>• Friedmann, Sueß</li> <li>• Gronem Dolz</li> <li>• Hahn, David</li> <li>• Hoechs, Hirsch's widow</li> <li>• Mendel, Joseph</li> <li>• Mueller, Samuel</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ney, Loeb</li> <li>• Rothstein, Wolf</li> <li>• Scheid, Abraham's children</li> <li>• Silber, Nachum</li> <li>• Silber, Salomon</li> <li>• Stern, Joseph</li> <li>• Stern, Moses</li> <li>• Stern, Samuel</li> <li>• Stern, Seligmann</li> <li>• Stiebel, Jakob</li> <li>• Stiebel, Salomon</li> <li>• Ziegel, Salomon, (single)</li> <li>• Ziegel, Simon's widow</li> </ul>

### **Registration of Jewish Births, Marriages and Deaths**

On the orders of the Government of the Grand Duchy of Wuerzburg, to which Mainstockheim belonged at that time, official birth, marriage and death records of the Jewish community Mainstockheim were kept by the Rector of the Protestant Church and were started in October 1811. The cover of this register and some of the original pages were found on microfilm in the Central Archives for the History of the Jewish People in Jerusalem:

"Verzeichnis ueber die Geburthen, Trauungs und Sterbefaelle in der Judengemeinde Mainstockheim. Angefangen im Oktober 1811 nach der Verordnung der Gross Herzoglichen Landesdirektion der Wuerzburger Regierung 1811".

and

"Pharramtliches Verzeichnis der Geburthen in der Judengemeinde Mainstockheim. Anno 1811 im Monat October angefangen".

For keeping the records the rector was presented by the Jewish Congregation each New Year with a silver spoon.

The Bavarian "Judenedict" of 1813, however only became effective in this area after the integration of the Grand Duchy of Wuerzburg into the Kingdom of Bavaria at the end of 1816, had ordered all Jews to take Family names. Patronymic names had been in use up to then. The Birth Register of 1817 (pages 15/16) has the following note:

"Nach einem allerhoechsten Koeniglichen Bescheid muessen alle Juden eigene Familien-Namen annehmen.- Nach diesem Befehl werden also volligst an die neuen Namen eingetragen."

In accordance with the highest royal decree all Jews must adopt own family names. Owing to this order the new names will be entered from now on.

As elsewhere some records were prepared retrospectively and names of parents, dates of birth or marriage often appear for the first time on later marriage or death certificates. Often these do not agree. With different branches of families naming their children after a common ancestor mistakes can and do occur. In more recent years also transcriptions of the original Church records have been prepared, which are now generally used and circulated and can lead to misinformation, as we have seen in our research into Mainstockheim families.

## **The Synagogue**

On 24 March 1817 the District Court of Dettelbach reported that Mainstockheim had a synagogue or prayer room for some centuries, for which they had official permission. A new synagogue was built by the congregation in 1836. The building, which still stands, was converted after the war into two flats and a factory, but now serves the Mainstockheim Catholic community as a church. A plaque commemorating their former Jewish fellow citizens has been affixed to the wall of the former synagogue:



**The building of the former synagogue**

(photo: Heinz & Thea Skyte)



(photo: Heinz & Thea Skyte)

This building erected in 1836 served the Jewish Congregation as Synagogue  
The Community remembers its former Jewish Fellow-Citizens  
IN REMEMBRANCE AND AS A REMINDER

Inside the church, high above the altar above the painting a round area shows in the plaster. Here a stained glass window of the former synagogue has been plastered over. The window with its Star of David is still visible from the outside of the building.

## Schools

During the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century there was also the "Hirsch Institut" or "Hirsch'sche Schule", a charitable school for boys in the village, where Immanuel Adler, who later became Rabbi of the Congregation of Kitzingen and also District Rabbi, was a teacher. This may possibly have been the small preparatory school for the "Jeshiva", mentioned in some records, which however later moved to Miltenberg.

A "Judenschule", Jewish Elementary School, was built in 1908, which was still supposed to have had 11 pupils in 1937/38. In the basement of this school was also the "Mikvah" (ritual bath). After the war the former school (now Hauptstrasse 23) was converted into three dwellings.



**The Mainstockheim main street**

(photo: Heinz & Thea Skyte)

## The Cantor and Slaughterer

The salary of the cantor and slaughterer was shared by the members of the community. Between 1 July and 1 October 1860 payments for the salary of A. Dessauer amounting to 37.fl.30 was levied on 38 heads of families.

## Statistics of the Population of Mainstockheim

From early data found in the Gemeindecarchiv Mainstockheim the increase in the number of Jewish families in the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries, especially after their expulsion from Kitzingen in 1789, can be seen, continuing into beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. It was the third largest in the district (8). prior to their eventual movement away from the village after the "Emanzipationsedict" of 1861, which allowed Jews to settle anywhere in Bavaria and finally the effect of emigration, deportation and murder of Jews during the Nazi regime.

Year	Inhabitants	Protestants	Catholics	Jews
1695				15 families
1704				16 families
1733				21 families
1745				28 families
1784				38 families
1818	1309	1107	12	190
1822				206 (48 families)
1830	1424	1204	16	204
1835				53 families
1877	1348			199
1890	1262			141
1910	1100			82
1925	1107			72
1933	1128			74
1939				approx. 40
7.2.1942				34
21.3.1942				32
22.3.1942				5
22.9.1942				1
1943				0



On 21 March 1942 27 Jews were sent via Wuerzburg to the Concentration Camp in Izbica near Lublin and on 21 September 1942 a further four to Theresienstadt. None of these returned to Mainstockheim.

### **An old Mainstockheim mikva**

On 4 February 1993 the German Jewish paper "Allgemeine Juedische Wochenzeitung" reported that in 1992, during excavations carried out by the University Bamberg on the site of the former Cistercian monastery at the end of the village on the road to Dettelbach, a most surprising discovery was made. They found a former mikva.

The original monastery had been replaced between 1621 and 1624 by a beautiful renaissance building and the estate was surrounded with a new wall around 1727/34. In 1803 the estate "Schloss Erbracher Hof" became the property of the Bavarian State. From 1809 it has been in private ownership and was bought by the Jewish wine merchant Rafael Mendel, passing to his son David in the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. In recent years it has become an Old Age and Nursing Home. The present owners were trying to restore the property and keep the building in good repair. During this restoration work older residents of the village informed the restoration team of the existence of "a secret passage at the eastern side of the wall, which was supposed to have gone as far as Muensterschwarzach, Ebrach or Kitzingen".

During further excavations 14 steps were discovered leading to an old 3,30 m deep mikva. Originally the entrance to the mikva had been covered by some lightweight structure. The actual mikva was situated underneath the foundations of the boundary wall with an arched vault of lime stone above it. Ground water, at times up to a depth of 1,50 m., collects in it. It is thought possible that this mikva may have been built by David Mendel and made available by him to the Jewish community of Mainstockheim for their use.

Its preservation, which could be fairly costly, presents a problem.

*Thea Ruth Skyte, 1993*

### **Footnotes**

- (1) Gemeindebrief (Newsletter) of the Evangelical community September / October 1989
- (2) GAM
- (3) do.
- (4) do.
- (5) do.
- (6) do.
- (7) do.
- (8) Souvenir brochure for 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Sangerfreunde Mainstockheim (Choral Society)