



Our Family

by

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The Sterns of Mainstockheim

The Sterns of Mainstockheim, like many Jewish families in Franconia, were closely connected with other families of the Mainstockheim community. They were a very large family and there was also much intermarriage within the family.

The earliest found reference to our Stern ancestors of Mainstockheim is of Joseph. Many hundreds of names of his descendants have been traced, who now live in many parts of the world.

Joseph

Nothing is so far known about his origin. It is highly likely that he was a son of Seligmann recorded to have lived in Mainstockheim in 1704. Seligmann died before 1733 when Seligmann's widow appears on a list of heads of households for that year. In turn Joseph Seligmann is listed in 1745 as head of one of the 28 Jewish families then living in Mainstockheim. He died before 1784 when his widow is recorded. (1)

Great-great-great-great-grandfather Joseph certainly lived in Mainstockheim under the "protection" of the Baron von Bechtolsheim, as we learn from a 1777 document. Joseph had a daughter Fromet, who was unmarried and died in Mainstockheim on 27 October 1830 aged about 82 years, and at least two sons:

Wolf Joseph and Meier Joseph

As both Wolf and Meier named one of their sons Seligmann, it may suggest that Joseph was indeed the son of Seligmann.

Wolf Joseph and his Descendants

Wolf Joseph was born around 1749. Years of birth are calculated from the ages given at the time of their death, though these may not always be correct or agree with other data. In some documents Wolf Joseph is also wrongly named Joseph Wolf.

On 11th March 1777 he received "Schutz" from the Baron von Bechtolsheim on the payment of 12 ducats. One of the conditions was, that on the death of his father (Joseph) he would take over the whole of his father's house and not just half of it. It also stated that if his younger brother should at any time consider marriage, he would have to look for "Schutz" elsewhere and that in future not more than one son would have to expect territorial protection [from Bechtolsheim]. (2) Shortly after this he must have married "Doels die Eisig," daughter of Eisig of Kleinlangheim. They lived in house Mainstockheim No.136, which they shared with members of the Scheidt family. Doels died on 13 July 1815.

Wolf Joseph was one of the Mainstockheim "Schutz" Jews "found suitable to be entered into the Matrikel", after the Grand Duchy of Wuerzburg was finally integrated into the Kingdom of Bavaria in 1816. He took the Oath of Allegiance in 1817 and adopted the family name Stern. His personal signature appears as "Wolf Sterin" on the document. In 1817 he was supported by his son Joseph Wolf ("lebt von Alimnten seines Sohnes Joseph Wolf"). He died on 24 January 1827 (house No. 136) aged 87 years.

Wolf and Doels had at least four children:

- **Regina**, born about 1779 married Gabriel Oesterreicher on 18 February 1815 and probably settled elsewhere.
- **Babet (Braunlein) Wolf Stern** (ca. 1786 - 20.12.1858), our great-great-grandmother, married Moses Kuhn of Mainstockheim around 1810/11. They were the parents of Mina Kuhn and Jeanette Kuhn, who respectively married Leser and Salomon Scheidt (See The Kuhns and The Scheidts of Mainstockheim).
- **Seligmann Wolf Stern** (about 1782 - .28 March 1864) traded in corn, flour and old lumber. He was married to Merle (about 1784 - 20 December 1858). Seligmann Wolf born in Mainstockheim around 1782. His personal signature is also amongst those taking the Oath of Allegiance in 1817. No descendants of Seligmann and Merle have so far been found.
- **Joseph Wolf Stern** (born about 1789) On 19 November 1816 Joseph Wolf received Schutz and permission to marry Sara Samuel Friedmann (1789 Frankenwinheim - 23 February 1857 Mainstockheim). In 1817 he took the Oath of Allegiance and also personally signed the document. He traded in drapery and old lumber. The brothers Joseph and Seligmann Stern were amongst a "few of the most respected Jews" of the surrounding villages who, after Jews had been expelled from Kitzingen in 1789, were in 1816 given special permits to peddle their goods in Kitzingen. A few years later they were also amongst the Jews receiving permission to have storage cellars in side streets, providing goods could not be seen from the outside.

Children of Joseph Wolf and Sara were all born in Mainstockheim:

- **Doelz Stern** (31 July 1817 Mainstockheim) married Wolf Rothstein (about 1806 - 25 October 1895 Mainstockheim) on 15 August 1835. She died in Mainstockheim on 10 May 1846 leaving Wolf with six young children.

- **Babet Stern** (17 February 1819 Mainstockheim - 22 February 1881 Wuerzburg) married Salomon Stahl (about 1803 Sommerhausen - 24 November 1881 Wuerzburg), son of Elias Behr and Rachel Jacob, on 22 June 1841. They settled in Sommerhausen, where their eight children were born.
- **Minkele (Mina) Stern** (4 April 1820 Mainstockheim - 12 May 1880) On 16 October 1841 Minkele married Lazarus Stahl (about 1808 Sommerhausen - 20 April 1879), the younger brother of Salomon, the husband of her sister Babet. They also lived in Sommerhausen.
- **Hirsch Stern**, only son of Joseph Wolf, was born in Mainstockheim on 11 January 1822. He married Helene Friedmann (born 14 June 1821) on 25 May 1847 and at first settled in Mainstockheim, where their children were born:

Benjamin Stern (14 March 1848 - 30 May 1848 Mainstockheim)

Benjamin Stern (28 May 1851 - 7 October 1926 Kitzingen)

Sigmund (Suess) Stern (26 April 1855)

In 1848 Hirsch received special permission to start an ironmonger business in Kitzingen. Though Jews with special permits were allowed to trade there during the day, they all had to leave the town before nightfall. Not until the "Emanzipationsedikt" of 1861 were Jews allowed to settle anywhere in Bavaria.

Hirsch and many members of the Stern families now left Mainstockheim and moved to nearby Kitzingen and were to be closely associated with the newly established Kitzingen Jewish community. For further details of the family see The Sterns in Kitzingen.

Meier Joseph and his Descendants

Meier Joseph, younger son of Joseph born around 1755, was a slaughterer. Although the document granting protection to his elder brother Wolf specifically stated that he would have to look for "Schutz" elsewhere, he appears after all to have been accepted in Mainstockheim and settled there, where he also died on 31 October 1827. He was married to Hendla Heia (Henriette), born around 1766 and who died in Mainstockheim on 9 July 1814. "Mayer" also took the Oath of Allegiance in 1817 and personally signed the document on this occasion. There are several different spellings of his name on different documents.

In 1997 we finally managed to gain access to the Mainstockheim Gemeindearchiv (Village archive) and found, amongst other early documents, an 1820 record listing the following six children of Meier Joseph and their respective ages in 1820: This helped greatly in our research into the early history the Sterns of Mainstockheim. According to this they were born approximately

1. Joseph 1791
2. Moses 1795
3. Mina 1798
4. Seligmann 1802
5. Samuel 1806
6. Jutta 1809

Another document for the year 1820/21, "Notizen Juedischer Juenglinge, die sich seit Einfuehrung des allerhoechsten Ediktes vom 10.6.1813 die Verhaeltnisse der jued. GlaubensGenossen betrf., der

Erlernung der Handlung einer Kunst und einer Profession in dem L.G. Dettelbach gewidmet haben", a list of young Jewish men in the district of the "Landesgericht" (District Court) Dettelbach, who, according to the Edict of 10.6.1813 were learning a trade or profession, gives us further insight into the living and working conditions and the following information about members of the Stern family.

Joseph Stern, eldest son of Meier Joseph, was born about 1791. His name does not appear on Jewish birth, marriage and death records kept by the Mainstockheim Protestant Church, which only started in 1811. In 1820 was working as "Geselle" - journeyman - for 1 ½ years for Aqualin Horner in Dettelbach. He married Jarline Neumann and probably lived in Gissingheim, where their son Meier Joseph Stern was born around 1829. He married his cousin Henle Heia (Helene) Stern (about 1835 Mainstockheim), daughter of his father's younger brother Samuel (see Samuel Stern). We know of two children, both born in Gissingheim

- **Joseph Stern**, born 1864 married Fanny Schloss of Bechhofen (died 2 August 1922 in Mainstockheim) and became one of the many wine merchants in Mainstockheim, where he died on 11 August 1933. Their daughter
- **Hilde Stern** (9 June 1894 Mainstockheim - 6 February 1935 Kitzingen) was married to Abraham (Adolf) Stern (10 May 1880 Laudenbach) on 28 January 1920. Abraham (Adolf) was a son of Jacob Stern of Laudenbach and Sara Stern, a daughter of Samuel Stern and his wife Esther née Sonder of Mainstockheim.
- **Zaezelie Stern**, a second daughter of Joseph and Fanny, was born on 5 June 1900 in Mainstockheim. Nothing is known about her. She appears to have been a victim of the Holocaust.

Joseph and Fanny also had a son **Theodor Stern** (23 December 1895 Mainstockheim). He married his first wife Meta Sonder (11 November 1902 Mainstockheim - 27 January 1926 Mainstockheim), daughter of Simon Sonder and Bertha née Wild on 22 December 1924. After her death Theodor married Jettchen Nussbaum (1 January 1906 Mainstockheim) on 8 July 1929. The family with their son Guenther managed to emigrate.

Moses Stern, second son of Meyer Joseph and Hendla Heia (Henriette), was born around 1794 and was a master butcher in Mainstockheim. He married three times and had a large family. His first wife Amalia (Malka) Kuhn, daughter of Faust and his first wife Bessle (See The Kuhns of Mainstockheim), born about 1805, whom he married on 31 October 1826, died on 13 February 1832, leaving Moses with three very young children. Baruch, a fourth child had already died in December 1830, aged less than one month old.

On 5 July 1832 Moses married Kaetchen Scheidt, also named Goella, Gelche or Katharina on some records. Kaetchen, daughter of Abraham Leser and his wife Haesele (See The Scheidts of Mainstockheim), was born about 1801. She died on 23 December 1841 leaving Moses for a second time with a young family.

Babette Steigerwald (about 1811, Wiesenfeld - 12 March 1865 Mainstockheim) became Moses' third wife on 1 June 1842. Moses survived his three wives and died in Mainstockheim on 16 December 1865.

Children of Moses:

- **Henle Stern** (mother Amalia), 29 July 1828.

- **Meyer Stern** (mother Amalia) was born on 6 January 1829. He was also a butcher and cattle dealer in Mainstockheim. On 14 April 1858 he married Regina Hanauer of Wiesenfeld.

Children of Meyer and Regina all born in Mainstockheim:

Amalia Stern, 15 February 1859

Clara Stern, 26 October 1860

Faust Stern, 13 January 1863

Betty Stern, born 13 October 1865, on 13 October 1890 married Nathan Sonder (17 October 1863 Mainstockheim), another of the many Mainstockheim wine merchants. They eventually settled in Wuerzburg.

Moses Stern, 1867

Helene Stern, 1869

Louis Stern, 1871

David Stern, December 1873 - 16 January 1874

Emma Stern, December 1873 - 15 January 1874

Bernhard Stern (10 September 1875). Tenth child of Meyer and Regina on 18 September 1905 married Frieda Zimmermann, born 23 November 1880 in Mainstockheim. They settled in Kitzingen. (See The Sterns in Kitzingen).

- **Baruch** (mother Amalia), 17 November 1830 - 6 December 1830.
- **Bessla** (mother Amalia), 11 January 1832 - 2 April 1832.
- **Joseph Stern** (mother Kaetchen), 13 October 1833.
- **Abraham Baer Stern** (mother Kaetchen), 3 October 1835 (For further details see The Sterns in Kitzingen).
- **Eva Stern** (mother Kaetchen), born 27 April 1838, married Benjamin Sonder (2 May 1835, Mainstockheim - 19 May 1903, Mainstockheim) on 10 April 1861.
- **Loew Stern** (mother Kaetchen), 14 June 1841 - 25 November 1841.
- **Mina Stern** (mother Babette), 7 June 1843.
- **Henriette Stern** (mother Babette), 19 April 1 1845 - 5 May 1846.

Mina (Minkele) Stern, about 1798 - 11 April 1858 Mainstockheim, married Simon Sonder (1795 Mainstockheim - 16 June 1866 Mainstockheim) on 1 February 1832.

Seligmann Stern, son of Meier and Henrietta, (both Wolf and Meier had sons named Seligmann) was born in Mainstockheim about 1802. In 1820 he had still to complete another three months of his apprenticeship for Aqualine Hoerner in Dettelbach. He married Sara Kindler (born about 1807 in Gissingheim) on 2 March 1830. It is not known if they lived in Mainstockheim.

Samuel Stern, (1806 - 27 February 1881 Mainstockheim) served an apprenticeship with the shoemaker Christoph Salm in Mainstockheim. Later he appears to have followed the family occupation and became a butcher and cattle dealer. On 10 February 1834 he married Esther Sonder, daughter of Benjamin and Hindel (Hanna) Sonder of Mainstockheim, and sister of Simon, the husband of his sister Mina.

Children of Samuel and Esther, all born in Mainstockheim:

- **Henle Heia**, 1835.
- **Sara Stern** (5 January 1837 - 20 January 1888 Laudenbach) married Jacob Stern (29 March 1830 Laudenbach - 29 September 1888 Laudenbach) in Weikersheim on 20 May 1861. They settled in Laudenbach where their nine children were born. Abraham (Adolf), their

youngest son, married Hilde Stern, daughter of Joseph and his wife Fanny née Schloss (See The Sterns in Kitzingen)

- **Meyer Stern**, 12 December 1838 - 14 January 1839.
- **Joseph Loew Stern**, 1841.
- **Hindel Stern**, 1 March 1843 - 20 July 1845.
- **Mina Stern**, born 14 January 1845, married Leopold Strauss of Markelsheim. The family lived in Mainstockheim, where Leopold was a grocer and merchant. Mina died in Mainstockheim on 24 January 1923 and Leopold on 5 September 1925, aged 85 years.
- **Nathan Stern**, 17. April 1846 - 7 May 1847 Mainstockheim.
- **Abraham Baer Stern** was born on 23 June 1848. Nothing is known of his first wife Jeanette Seligmann. On 7 September 1875 he married Amalie Lichtenauer (16 June 1851 Sickershausen - 16 January 1907 Mainstockheim). Abraham died on 5 August 1895 in Mainstockheim.

Children of Abraham and Amalie:

Max Stern, born 5 June 1876, Mainstockheim became a wine merchant in Kitzingen. (See The Sterns in Kitzingen).

Joseph Stern, 13 June 1877 - 30 December 1877.

Benjamin Stern, 19 August 1879 - 3 September 1879.

Ernestina Stern, 5 February 1882, Mainstockheim.

- **Moses Stern** (5 August 1851 - 1 December 1915 Mainstockheim), tenth and youngest child of Samuel and Esther, another of the Jewish butchers and cattle dealers in Mainstockheim, married Fanny Kraemer in Kitzingen on 27 June 1876. Fanny, born 18 October 1850 in Huttenheim, died 17 May 1921 in Mainstockheim.

Children of Moses and Fanny:

Maier Stern, 26 May 1877 - 7 March 1879, Mainstockheim.

Sigmund Stern, (3 September 1878). Sigmund appears to have been a twin, his twin sister, dying soon after birth. On 21 May 1907 in Wuerzburg he married Helene Gundersheimer (26 June 1884, Mittelsinn. Sigmund was a wine merchant in Mainstockheim, where they lived and where their children were born:

Martin, 2 July 1908

Max, 7 October 1909

Moses Friedrich, 19 January 1917

Ruth, 4 November 1919

About 1938 the family emigrated to the United States and settled in Pittsburgh.

Benjamin (Benno) Stern (4 September 1880, Mainstockheim. He and his wife Rosi née Wolf (26 October 1891, Sommerau) settled in Wuerzburg and eventually emigrated to New York.

Samuel Stern (8 October 1881). In Wuerzburg on 9 July 1908 he married Rosa Gundersheimer (3 August 1885, Mittelsinn - 22 April 1936, Mainstockheim. Samuel was a butcher and wine merchant. Their three children were born in Mainstockheim:

Renny, 7 July 1909

Elli, 18 July 1912

Manfred, 12 August 1914

emigrated to the United States. Samuel, as a widower, managed to join them in Pittsburgh.

Ernestine (Emma) Stern was born on 4 April 1883. She married Joseph Bamberger (14 September 1871, Wiesenfeld) on 27 October 1905. They lived in Munich, where Joseph was a butcher, and were both victims of the Holocaust.

Clara (Klara) Stern, born 22 January 1885, Mainstockheim, was married to Jacob Kahn a wine merchant in Nuremberg. The marriage ended in divorce. Clara moved back to Mainstockheim and had a factory manufacturing crates. She died in the Holocaust.

Footnotes

(1) Documents - GAM

(2) STW