



Our Family

by

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The Sahlmanns and Rosenblatts of Burghaslach: Introduction and Acknowledgements, Abbreviation of Sources

The Sahlmann and Rosenblatt families, who comprise paternal ancestors of the Skyte/Scheidt families originated in Burghaslach, a small village in the north-west of Central Franconia (Mittelfranken) in Bavaria. Up to 1806 Burghaslach had belonged to the completely independent territory of "Grafschaft Castell".

Having found a copy of great-great-great-grandfather Schlom's Kaufbrief (Deed of Conveyance) of the "Judenhaus" in Burghaslach after a burglary in 1983 made us very curious. The house including stables, well and baking oven had been bought 200 years previously in 1783 from the rulers of Castell by our ancestor Schlom, whose descendants later adopted the family name Sahlmann.

In 1986 as complete novices on our first genealogical exploration trip to Germany we found Castell on the map marked with a sign denoting perhaps a castle or ruin. What we did not expect was to find a very large beautiful baroque Schloss in the centre of the lovely little village still occupied by the Fuerst Castell-Castell, a descendant of the former rulers of Grafschaft Castell. In the converted former stables, apart from a wine bar and restaurant, is also the Kanzlei Castell and the Domaenenamt (chancellery and estate office). To our greatest surprise and pleasure we also found a very large and extremely well organised private archive, where over the years, we have done much research and were able to find many documents relating to the Burghaslach Jewish community and to our families.

Our thanks must go to Professor Dr. W. Scherzer, former archivist of the Fuerstlich Castell'sche Archiv for his help. Most of all we would like to express our sincere appreciation to Jesko Graf zu Dohna, the present archivist, who not only tried his utmost to help us by finding numerous documents and giving us copies of these, but also showed much interest in our research, kindly read *Our Family*, correcting and clarifying some of the text and matters discussed. Apart from this he also gave us additional information and we are extremely grateful to him.

We would also like to thank the late Charles Stanton with whom we have been exchanging some Sahlmann information. After reading in the "Nachrichten fuer den Juedischen Buerger

Fuerths" about his interest in collecting family trees of Franconian families, we nearly upset his practically completed research into his Sahlmann ancestors by adding another branch, of which he had no knowledge and also correcting different ancestors. Much gratitude also goes to Hilde Hines of Adelaide, Australia for sharing her Guckenheimer material with us.

Thea Ruth Skyte

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Footnote Abbreviations

FCA Fuerstlich Castell'sche Archiv, Castell

CAHJP Central Archives for the History of the Jewish People, Jerusalem