



Our Family

by

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The Family of Moyses of Burghaslach

Through applications for "Schutz" made by ancestors for their future son-in-laws it has been possible to trace an early female line of the Sahlmann/Scheidt/Skyte families back to around the middle of the 17th century, though the history is very involved and somewhat confusing. Moyses, a maternal great-great-grandfather of Joseph Louis Sahlmann, who was a great-grandfather of Sali Scheidt, his brothers and sister is the earliest ancestor found.

Moyes or Moschel

who lived in Burghaslach in the 17th century. He was a "Schutzverwandter", protected by the House Castell-Remlingen probably since the 1680s. In 1718 in his application for Schutz in Burghaslach for his son Jeremias he stated to have been under Schutz there for 30 years. This was granted on 30 August 1718 provided that Jeremias would remain in his father's house and not establish his own household. Moyses died around 1720. His son:

Jekof Moyses also known as Jacob

was born in 1685. In October 1713 he received "protection" of the House of Castell-Remlingen. (1)

According to records found Jekof does not appear to have been of very good character, very "economical with the truth", not honouring agreements, causing problems within the family and, more than once, had been at odds with the law. At one time he was fined 20 Rthlr and threatened with further punishment, when he had been summoned but failed to hand over some jewellery, which had been found in a hostelry in Wasserbebensdorf (?) and been given to him for return to the authorities in Burghaslach. (2) But just because of this disreputable behaviour many records relating to him and his family are in existence, giving us an insight into his life and times and the history of the Jewish community of Burghaslach. Altogether he certainly was not an ancestor to be proud of.

On 17th May 1731, at that time the oldest "Schutzverwandter" of Castell-Remlingen in Burghaslach, Jekof applied for protection for his future son-in-law Loew Benedict (see also The Rosenblatts of Burghaslach), a "foreign, well-to-do and very learned Jew", to whom he had promised his eldest daughter (name unknown) in marriage. In his application Jekof explained that, around the time he was accepted into "Schutz" he had bought the very dilapidated small property of a certain Sigmund Poppen, which in turn later enabled him to buy the Kreyselmeyer small holding in Burghaslach. At the time of the purchase, he had also received permission, that during the repair and restoration of the house, he would be allowed to build an extension to the house as a home for one of his children. Although the annex had been built, the couple would be unable to marry until the following year. This was mainly due to the heavy taxes for the synagogue imposed by the Baron of Muenster. The synagogue stood on land owned by the Baron of Muenster, who had also some Burghaslach Jews his protection. This often led to bitter quarrels amongst the various sections of Jews in Burghaslach. Jekof proposed that this problem could be solved, by the Jews protected by Castell establishing a synagogue of their own, which for the time being could be located in the newly built annex of his house, which should, however, remain his property. To a query by the Castell Chancellery dated 2nd August 1731, Johann Hahn, the local Official in Burghaslach replied, that Castell protected Jews were harassed and highly taxed for the synagogue, which they cherished. The Baron of Muenster did not keep to agreements made, but demanded and collected annually 10 fl. above the agreed sum. There were at that time eleven Jews under the protection of the Baron of Muenster in Burghaslach. Muenster protected Jews were poor and assessed their own individual payments and the largest part of communal contributions fell upon them. (3)

Application by Jekof for Protection for his son-in-law Loew Benedict:

Castell, the 17th May 1731

To all the Right Honourable most Gracious Rulers and respectively their Guardians of Castell

Most humble application by my Jew Jacob of Burghaslach.

Most Honourable Counts of the Realm, most gracious Counts and Lords also Most Honourable Countess of the Realm, most Gracious Countess and Lady!

Your Excellencies will graciously condescend to have conveyed to you, that I settled here 20 years ago as a son of a protected subject of Castell and have now for 15 years myself been a protected subject and that, at the time of the purchase of the very dilapidated small property formerly belonging to Sigmund Poppen (through which I later managed to buy the Kreiselmeyer farm) my most humble request and plea was verbally granted, that during the necessary repair and restoration of the house, I shall most graciously be permitted to include the building of an annex for one of my children:

Not only have I carried out this building during the considerable repair to the house, but have also recently promised my eldest daughter in marriage to a foreign well-to-do and very learned Jew, though their wedding will only be able to take place next year. This is mostly due to the heavy taxes the Baron of Muenster has demanded up to now from us, the Jews protected by Castell, for the local "Juden Schul" (synagogue), which often leads to agitated quarrels. This could however be resolved, and I most humbly beg to propose the establishment of a synagogue of our own which, for the time being could be in this annex, but which would remain my property. I most humbly beg for the necessary permission for this and for the Letter of Protection.

As it befits I herewith most humbly implore and beg that your most Honourable Excellencies condescend to bestow unto me, at present the eldest of the local protected Jews who, without praising

myself, like my only recently deceased father Moyses, would at all times be most willing to be used and be at Your gracious command; and as there are already 6 protected Jews under the rule of Castell Ruedenhausen, but only 5 protected Jews on this side, the gracious favour to take and receive my daughter and future son-in-law into the protection of Your realm I beg to have the necessary Letter of Protection prepared for me, for the payment of the usual fee.

Such gracious favour deserves the lifelong gratitude of myself as well as that of the recipients, who await the granting of the request with deepest most humble respect and remain

Your Right Honourable Gracious Excellencies Most humble loyal and obedient "Schuzverwandter"

Jacob Jew in Burghaslach

Communication to Administrator Johann Hahn with the request to submit a report regarding the following:

1. Whether all Castell Jews are subjected to harassment on the part of Munster and the reason for this?
2. Whether all Castell Jews are in agreement with establishing a synagogue of their own?
3. Whether there are no more then 5 Jews under this protection?

Castell, the 2nd Aug. 1731

From the Chancellery

Johann Hahn confirmed that there were only five Jews protected by Castell-Remlingen, but six protected by the House of Castell-Ruedenhausen though, it was rumoured, that one of these no longer paid protection money. He further suggested that, as Jekof deemed it necessary to keep a teacher for his children, his future son-in-law Loew Benedict, in that capacity, could be allowed to spend one year without paying the usual protection money. This, however, would have to be done secretly, not to arouse the suspicion of the other local overlords. An irrevocable fine of 10 fl. should be imposed should either Jekof or his son-in-law breathe one word of this. A separate report would be sent at some other time regarding other matters mentioned in Jekof's application. In a further letter dated 23rd January 1732 Hahn reports that one of the local Jews would have to leave, as he had got into debt and, and that Jekof had to be thanked for that information. (4)

There were some lengthy negotiations some years later regarding land belonging to Jekof for the building of a "Judenhaus". It appears that the House of Castell-Remlingen bought this land from Jekof in 1745/46. (5) (Could this possibly be the land on which Castell Remlingen in 1754 built its "Judenhaus", the house purchased by ancestor Schlom in 1783?)

Jekof died on 17th April 1760 aged 75 years. There are substantial records showing his small assets and considerable debts, the eventual settlement of these, and the division of his personal belongings between his heirs and the disposal of half of his house, which was bought by his son-in-law Joseph. Joseph had already previously been given one half of this house as dowry by Jekof. (6)

Jekof's son-in-law, the husband of his eldest daughter **Loew Benedict**, (also named Loeb Benjamin in some records) was born around the turn of the 18th century. For his marriage to Jekof's eldest daughter a marriage contract was drawn up, in which Jekof undertook to make available to Loew the little house in the yard, which stood next to his house, including the yard and the little garden.

Should there be any disagreement it should be divided two thirds to go to Jekof and one third to Loew. He also undertook to procure for him a set of "well bound books", as well as to obtain and pay for the necessary "Schutzbrief" for his future son-in-law and deal with the local authority and with the Jewish community of the village in all necessary matters.

Loew received his "Schutzbrief" on 30th January 1732 and the marriage could now take place. In a document in October 1732 Jekof confirms with "his own signature, which is worth as much as if 100 defending witnesses had been present" that the promised books were at present unavailable and Jekof undertook to get these as soon as they could be obtained. In the meantime he would let him have his own prayer books, which were at the synagogue.

In August 1733 an official complaint to the authorities of Castell by "Loew protected Jew of Castell against his father-in-law Jekof, also protected Jew of Castell in Burghaslach" followed. Loew complained that he had not received the promised dowry of 325 fl. Instead of being paid this in cash Jekof had taken advantage of him and deceived him in having a joint business contract drawn up. In this venture, in which they were both to invest, as well as to share any profit or loss. Jekof's share would be two thirds and Loew would have a one third share. Loew had contributed his third share in cash, whilst Jekof, instead of giving his contribution also in cash, had entered worthless credit notes of unrecoverable moneys owed to him. When Loew tried to cancel the business contract or have to face total ruin, Jekof had caused trouble in his marriage. He had forced locks and broken into his chest, had defamed and denounced him to the authorities as a liar, when he found a small amount of money in the chest. As this had resulted in a quarrel between Loew and his wife, Jekof had him arrested on a Sabbath, and had him led around the streets by musketeers as a trouble maker. After that he had been kept under arrest for three days thus unable to follow his business. Jekof had then become so hostile towards him, that he had actually attacked him in the street and held him by the throat. If another Jew had not intervened, he might have been strangled. After that Jekof had accused him of trying to attack him with a knife. Jekof had also insisted that Loew paid his third share of a debt or he would take action against him, though the payment was not due and Loew had already paid a share of it. Jekof would not withdraw his accusations until he had given him his wife's silver belt and cap, as well as two silver spoons as surety. As Loew wished to remain a humble, loyal and law abiding Jew, he appealed to have the matter transferred and directly examined by the government of Castell, as he had not received the slightest justice at the hands of the authorities in Burghaslach. (7)

Further research is needed as to the actual outcome of the case. Official records of 1754 state that, at that time, the dispute still remained unsettled. During the dispersal proceedings of Jekof's belongings in 1760, the age old quarrel between the two is again mentioned.

After the death of his first wife Loew remarried. The name of second wife is also unknown. There at least three children by the two marriages:

- Aron Loew, born 1857 (8)
- Gidel, died 29 November 1801
- Isaac Loew, born 1760/61, died 1 June 1839

In April 1777 Loew Benedict, now aged over 70 years, applied for "protection" for his future son-in-law Schlom, who had been born in Fuerstenforst and "who as a Jewish teacher, had only recently returned from foreign parts". Schlom was hoping to settle in Burghaslach and to trade there. Johann Eysselein, the local official reports that there was one apartment empty in the rulers Jew's house, as the widow of the late Fromlein had moved to her son under the protection of the Baron of Muenster. In view of Loew Benedict's 40 years long protection and his good conduct, only his lordships deci-

sion was required. This was granted and Schlom could marry Loew Benedict's daughter Gidel. Their descendants adopted the family name Sahlmann. Loew Benedict died in Burghaslach in 1779.

Aron Loew, son of his first marriage, may have adopted the name of Hollerbaum, married the daughter of Sussmann of Hohefeld in 1780. They moved into a room in the house owned by Jew Joseph, his uncle. Joseph had been given half of his father-in-law Jekof's house as dowry and in 1760, on Jekof's death, bought the other half of the house.

His only son by his second marriage Isaac Loew later adopted the name Isaac Baer Rosenblatt. Around 1783/84 he married Esther, daughter of the Jewish teacher of Wallerstein. The couple were the parents of Mathilde Rosenblatt who married Joseph Louis Sahlmann, son of Gidel and Schlom.

Footnotes

- (1) FCA DII 3, 12.
- (2) FCA DII 3, 96.
- (3) FCA
- (4) FCA DII 3, 96.
- (5) do.
- (6) do.
- (7) FCA
- (8) Aron Loew later adopted the family name Hollerbaum.