



Our Family

by

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The Sahlmanns in Burghaslach

Schlom Joseph

is the earliest member of the Sahlmann family found so far, though roots of the maternal line of the family can be traced back in Burghaslach to around 1650.

Schlom, a son of Joseph, according to one record was born in 1754 in Fuerstenforst, a tiny village adjacent to Burghaslach, which at that time had belonged to the Principality of Ansbach. However, in 1784, a "Grafschaft Castell" record of Burghaslach Jews states that he "was born here". Nothing is known of his father Joseph, though it may be assumed, that he was one of the number of Jews accepted by the Margrave of Ansbach in Fuerstenforst at that time.

In April 1777 Loew Benedict, Schlom's future father-in-law, applied for "Protection" in Burghaslach for his future son-in-law, "who as a Jewish teacher had only recently returned from foreign parts". (1) Having been accepted, Schlom about April/May 1777 married Gidel, daughter of Loew Benedict's first marriage to the daughter of Jekof. Records show that they moved into the "Jew House" of the Count of Castell-Remlingen and that Schlom paid 1 fl. "moving-in" money and rent of 3 fl. for the nine months between Walpurgis (1st May) 1777 and Petri 1778. The house was shared with another three families, those of Josua, Abraham and Maennlein. Accounts showing the receipts of "Protection money" for the year 1778, also show that Schlom paid this money "from the time of moving in to his Lordships "Judenhaus" at Walpurgis (1st May) 1777." (2)

In March 1784, after the whole of Burghaslach had come under the rule of "Grafschaft Castell", the local authority of Burghaslach was instructed by the Government of the Guardians of the Counts of Castell to order all local Jews to produce their original "Schutz-Brief" or the decree that domicile had been granted. In their reply dated 22nd March 1785, the Authority in Burghaslach stated that this order had been difficult to carry out, as

"Jews are often away, dealing in optical articles in foreign lands. As however all Jews have now returned before the approaching Easter, these have been ordered to appear one by one before the local Office".

It showed "that Jew Schlom had not actually received a "Letter of Protection", but had been granted the gracious right of domicile on the occasion of his marriage in 1777 and that document was enclosed with the accounts for 1777." (3)

In 1783 there appears to have been some disagreement between the local Jewish community and Rabbi Moses Guckenheimer, the Rabbi appointed by the Castell government, regarding the assessment of financial contributions and some other problems relating to Jewish observances. After an official complaint by the Rabbi to the local administration, that he had been insulted and abused, all Jews were called before that Office. Schlom admitted having accused the Rabbi of "being a traitor, biased and unable to settle disputes according to Jewish law", but felt this had been justified. For his part in the matter Schlom was fined two Rhenish florins and ordered to offer a public apology to the Rabbi. The rest of the community was instructed that in the future they should take more notice of their appointed Rabbi. (4)

On the 22nd of May 1783 Schlom bought the so-called "Judenhaus", including the stables, well and baking oven from the Government of Castell-Remlingen for 425 Rhenish florins. The house had been built by the Count of Castell-Ruedenhausen in 1754. The final contract of the sale is dated 12th January 1785, and was ratified by the Government in Castell on the 18th November 1785. (5) The house had stood in Hofgasse in the centre of the village, but has been demolished. (6)



Beginning of the "Kauf-Brief"

(photo: Heinz & Thea Skyte)

KAUF-BRIEF

vor

den Hochgraeflich Castellischen SchutzJuden Schlom zu Burghaslach ueber ein von Hochgraeflich gnaedigster Herrschaft pro 425 fl. rheinisch erkaufte Haus daselbst

Gegenwaertiger Kauf-Brief wird hiermit ratifiziert Urkundlich des hievorgedruckten Hochgraeflich Castell vormundschaftlich Regierungs-Siegels.

Castell, den 18. Nov. 1785. Hermann.

Kund und wissen sehe hiemit Jedermaenniglich, sonderlich denen es zu wissen noethig, dass hienach beschriebener aufrichtiger Verkaufs- und Kaufs-Accord, wie solcher denen Rechten gemaess, sonderlich in Hoher Grafschaft Castell, am bestaendig-und kraeftigsten errichtet werden soll, kann oder mag, abgeredet und abgeschlossen worden, nemlich:

Es kauft und gibt zu kaufen das allhiesig - Hochgraeflich Castell-Remlingensche Amt mit hochherrschaftlich gnaedigster Genehmigung das Ao. 1754 von Hochgraeflich Castell-Rudenhausischer Herrschaft auf die ehemalige Michael Lindnerische Hofraith erbaute - und mit dem Ao.1777 durch einen Kauf-und Wiederkauf-Contract an die Hochgraefliche Castell-Remlingensche gnaedigste Herrschaft ueberlassenen jenseitigen Antheil an dem Amt Burghaslach uebergeben wordene sogenannte hiesige Juden-Haus, nebst zugehoerigen Hofraith und halben Staellen, sowie Bronnen und Backofen, so wie es hoechstgedachte diesseitige Hochgraeflich gnaedigste Herrschaft bis hero inne gehabt, an den dies herrschaftlichen Schuz-Juden Schlom dahier, um und vor 425 fl. rhein. mit Worten: Vier Hundert Zwanzig Fuenf Gulden rhein. Kaufschilling, inclve. des vor diesesmal mit bedungenen Handlohns, dergestalten und unter nachfolgenden Conditionen verkaeflich ueberlassen dass

1. Von dem Kaufschilling die Haelfte baar- die andere Halbscheid aber successive, jedoch cum Interesse @ 5 p.Cento von Walbuergi 1783 an bezahlet -
2. ein jaehrlich bestaendiger Kammer-Zins ad 5 fl rhein. inclus. des bereits darauf gestanden 1 fl rhe. Erbzinnses, darauf uebernommen - auch bei kuenftigen Veraenderungsaellen das gewoehnliche Handlohn @ 10 p.Cent praestiret - ferner
3. von ihrem Kauefer sowohl als einem Bestaendner in der hintern untern Stube, und also von jedem Bewohner der beeden untern Wohnungen alljaehrlich 6 fl fraenkisch oder 7 fl 30 kr. rh. mithin von beeden 15 fl rh. Schutz-Geld - hingegen
4. von denen beeden Juden Bestaendern in den obern Wohnungen nur 10 fl rh. als von jedem derselben 5 fl rh. d.v. der gleichen entrichtet - und endlich
5. In dem Fall, wenn von dem Hochgraeflichen Haus Castell-Ruedenhausen bey dem allein-fallsigen Wieder-Kauf das Haus quastio etwa wieder verlangt werden wuerde, dasselbe gegen Erhaltung des dafuer bezahlten Kaufschillings und der darein erweislich verwendeten Verbesserungs-Kosten zurueck gegeben werden solle und wolle.

Hierauf wird nun obgedachter kaufender Jud Schlom in den ruhig und rechtmaessigen Besitz und Genuss des vormeldten Hauses hiemit eingewiesen und immitiret, dargestalten, dass er solches inne haben, nuzen,niessen,auch wieder verkaufen, vertauschen oder sonsten veraussern, und ueberhaupt nach seinem Gefallen als mit seinem Eigenthum /: jedoch dem hochherrschaftlichen Lehen-Recht und Interesse, auch obbeschriebene Conditionen ohne Schaden und Nachtheil:/ damit schalten und walten moege, als worueber ihm auch alle rechtsuebliche Eviction zu leisten versichert worden.

Alles getreulich und ohne Gefaehrde!

Burghaslach, den 12. Jan. 1785

Zu dessen allen wahrer Urkunde und mehrerer Bekraeftigung ist gegenwaertiger Kauf-Brief nicht nur dem Inhalt des sub acto 22. May 1783 gefuehrten Kaufs-Proticcoli gemaess, vom Amts wegen

ausgefertigt und gesiegelt - sondern auch zur Hochgraefl.hochloebli. Regierung in Castell ad ratificandum eingesendet - und sonach dem Kauefer zugestellt worden,

So geschehen

Burghaslach, den 12 Jan. 1785 Johann Eysselein Rath und Amtzman

Translation:

Letter of Purchase for Schlom of Burghaslach, protected Jew of the House Castell, regarding a house bought there from his gracious Lordship for 425 rhenish florins.

Burghaslach, the 12th Jan. 1785

This Letter of Purchase is herewith ratified and authenticated with the printed government seal of the guardians of Castell.

Castell, the 18th Nov. 1785. Seal Hermann.

Be it known and to acquaint everyone herewith, especially those, who need to know, of the hereafter described Sale and Purchase Agreement and how such shall, can or may be reached, put into force, agreed and completed according to the law, especially that of the Territory Castell, namely:

The local Administration of Castell Remlingen with his noble Lordship's most gracious permission hereby sells and puts up for sale the so-called local Jew-House, built in the year 1754 on the former Michael Lindner farm, and whose share was left through Purchase and Re-Purchase Contract to his noble and gracious Lordship, the Count of Castell Remlingen and which was transferred together with the courtyard and stables belonging to same, as well as the well and also the baking oven to the Administration of Burghaslach, and which was owned up to now by Our esteemed and gracious Lordship the Count, to Our own Lordship's protected Jew Schlom, for the purchase price of 425 Rhenish florins, in words: Four hundred and twenty five florins, and left for sale for the hereafter stipulated payments and under the following conditions, that

1. of the purchase price half be paid in cash - the other half in instalments, however at 5 per cent interest as from Walpurgis 1783
2. A fixed annual Court Tax of 5 Rhenish florins shall be levied thereupon including the Inheritance Tax of 1 florin already existing thereupon, also, in cases of future variations, the usual payment at 10 per cent shall be applied, furthermore
3. From him the purchaser, as well as from a tenant of the rear lower room and thus from each inhabitant of the two lower apartments annually 6 Franconian florins or 7 Rhenish florins 30 Kreuzer, therefore 15 florins, whereas
4. from the two inhabitants of the upper apartments only 10 florins, that means that each shall pay 5 florins, and finally
5. in the event of a possible re-purchase of the house being demanded by the House of Castell Ruedenhausen, same should and would be returned against payment of the original purchase price for this as well as any proven costs of improvements therein.

Hereupon the above mentioned purchaser Jew Schlom shall now herewith take and come into legal possession and use of the before mentioned house, which he may occupy, use and enjoy, also resell, exchange or otherwise dispose of and altogether control his property as he pleases without loss and

detriment - yet subject to his noble Lordship's laws and interests being observed, as well as the conditions described above,- and over which all customary legal safeguards are assured him.

All on trust and without prejudice.

In true witness and re-iterated confirmation thereof, the present Letter of Purchase has been officially prepared and sealed, not only according to the contents of the sub acto purchase record dated 22nd May 1783, but it has also been submitted to the territory's most noble government in Castell for ratification and been thereafter delivered to the purchaser.

Signed sealed and delivered Burghaslach, the 12th Jan. 1785
Seal Johann Eysselein Councillor and Magistrate

In an old genealogy the name of Schlom's wife is given as Esther, though this name does not now appear to be correct, or it may possibly have been the name of his second wife. as Schlom had been married twice. The "Memorbuch" of Burghaslach records that Gidel, wife of Schlomo died on 24 Kislev 562 (29 November 1801). (7) After her death, Schlom must have remarried, as an application by his son Joseph Schlom for "Schutz" dated 2. August 1815 mentions that he was the only son of his late father, who had enjoyed "protection" in Burghaslach for 39 years. His "constantly ailing stepmother" was living with him. (8) No records of her have been found so far and further research is necessary.

Schlom and Gidel had several children:

- Eliezer
- Rezele, died early 1800s
- Moses, died 17 December 1813
- Fradel, died 18 December 1813
- Joseph Loew Schlom, 17 May 1784 - 12. January 1866

From the "Memorbuch" of Burghaslach (9) we also learn of one of the tragedies of the family and of the times. The book began in 1775, the year the cemetery came into existence, in order to make a record of the position of graves on the cemetery "to enable one to fix easily the times and date of death of the righteous and where they are buried." It records the graves of "The young boy Moshe ben Schlomo from here, who died on 24th Kislev and was buried on 26th Kislev 574 [17/19 December 1813]. Next to him, his father the honoured Schlomo ben Josef from here, who died and was buried the same day. And next to him his daughter the maiden Fradel, who died and was buried the following day. These three, father, son and daughter all died from "Nervenfieber" [Typhus], may the Lord avert his anger from us and all Israel and banish death for ever, and with this in mind I allowed the sniffing of snuff and the drinking of an infusion of tobacco (?) during the funeral and during the washing (of the bodies) to prevent the smell of the plague, as consented to by the Chief Rabbi of Fuerth [Rabbi Meschulam Salman Kohn]." (10)

Schlom's only surviving son Joseph Loew Schlom adopted the name Joseph Louis Sahlmann. He was born in Burghaslach on 17th May 1784. In his application for "Schutz" of 1st August 1815, apart from mentioning his stepmother, Joseph states that he could adequately support himself and a family, as he owned his house, had savings of 1000 Rhenish florins, dealt in textiles, and was also employed as collector by the Royal Lotto Administration, which brought him in an average annual income of more than 300 florins. In spite of his income he led a miserable life. Often in the evening,

after coming home tired and hungry having pursued his business, he had to go to bed without a meal, as he had nobody to look after his household. He was already engaged to a "most worthy local girl." (11)

This application had been turned down twice. On re-applying directly to the Royal Government in Ansbach in 1817 (the area had by that time become part of the Kingdom of Bavaria), the application was finally granted, but still required the consent of the Count of Castell. This was begrudgingly given on the 23rd October 1817, with the remark that more careful consideration should in future be given to a Government order of 17 October 1801. This had laid down that the number of Jewish families be restricted to 30 whereas, in fact, by 1817 the number of families had grown to 38. The reduction was deemed necessary in order to re-establish the ratio between Christian and Jewish families and to forestall complaints by Christian inhabitants. (12)

Now Joseph was finally able to marry Mathilde Rosenblatt. Mathilde was born on 18 July 1791, fourth child of Isaac Baer and Esther Rosenblatt of Burghaslach. Mathilde's father Isaac was a half brother of Joseph's mother Gidel (See the Rosenblatts of Burghaslach).

The following table of their family appears on one of the first few pages of the "Registerbuch" of the Jewish Community of Burghaslach: (13)

- Joseph Loeb Schlom
- Magdeliene dessen Frau anno 1791 (his wife born 1791)

In later records variously named

1. Gidel, born June 1818 (Getta)
2. Salomon, born 27 July 1820 (Schlom)
3. David, born 22 October 1822
4. Moses, born 7 December 1825 (Moritz)
5. Esther, born 26 March 1826
6. Selka, born 15 December 1828 (Sigmund)
7. Bendit, born 16 October 1831 (Bernhard)
8. Aron, born 28 February 1834 (Anton)

Joseph Loeb Schlom and his family lived in house No 17, the house, bought by Schlom in 1783, which had stood in Hofgasse. The census of 1837 gives his name as Joseph Sahlmann. There were then five male and three female members in the family and his occupation is given as "Koeniglich Bayrisch Lotto Collector" (collector for the Royal Bavarian Lottery).

Various forms and spellings appear in different entries and on different documents, e.g. Joseph Loew or Joseph Loeb Schlom, Joseph Louis Sahlmann or just Joseph or Josef Sahlmann (inscription on his gravestone). His wife is variously named as Mindele, Mandele, Madel, Magdaliene or Mathilde.

In his will dated 12 May 1862 Joseph Sahlmann names his seven surviving children, Moritz, Sigmund, Bernhard and Anton, Esther and Gidel. (14) Moritz, Sigmund and Bernhard had moved to Fuerth. Daughter Esther had married Moritz Mainzer of Gaukoenigshofen on 18th August 1852 and had moved there. His son David had died at the age of three months on 13th January 1823. Only his eldest daughter Gidel (Getta), who on 24 March 1849 had married Sussmann Baer Sturm (see Sturm) and his son Salomon were still living in Burghaslach at that time.

Joseph set up a trust fund for the three children of his daughter Gidel to be paid out to them when they reach the age of majority. His sons Moritz and Bernhard were trustees of the fund, which he ordered to be invested at 4% interest. The interest was to be used to pay for clothing for the children during their years of minority and also to pay for their apprenticeships.

The will names the following children:

- Leon
- Carolina and
- Salomon

All entries in official Birth Registers however show the following: (15)

- Loeb Leon Sturm, born 9 August 1850
- Luise Sturm, born 13 January 1857
- Salomon Sturm, born 24 March 1861
- Isaac Sturm, born 24 May 1863

Isaac, the fourth child, having been born after the will was drawn up in May 1862, in which Joseph, however, stated that any further children of his daughter Gidel, should have equal shares of the legacy.

He left different amounts to different children, taking into account any amounts any of them had already received previously as dowries in order to treat all his children equally. Their shares were calculated in such a way that each of them will have received 2,000 fl. or have the sum made up to that amount.

Should any of his children contest the will and it should come to a court case, they would only receive 5 fl. of the inheritance.

He also left a legacy additional to her wages to his maid Babette Berg of Rumbach near Vollkach.

The will gives the age of Joseph Sahlmann in 1862 as 72 years. If this is correct, his year of birth would have been 1790 and not 1784 as shown in the records of his immatriculation and in the old family genealogy.

Mathilde Sahlmann née Rosenblatt died on 18th May 1861. There is a pre-war photograph of the grave in the cemetery Burghaslach, which is identical to that of her husband Joseph. The grave still exists, but the main stone has disappeared and the coping stone fixed directly to the plinth.



The graves of Josef (left) and Mathilde Sahlmann (above) in Burghaslach, 1986

(photo: Heinz & Thea Skyte)

The stones have the German inscription:

Hier ruhet in Frieden
Herr
Josef Sahlmann
gestorben 12. Januar
1866

Here rests in peace
Josef Sahlmann,
died 12 January 1866

Hier ruhet in Frieden
Frau
Mathilde Sahlmann
gestorben 18 Mai
1861

Here rests in peace
Mathilde Sahlmann,
died 18 May 1861

Salomon Sahlmann,

eldest son of Joseph and Mathilde Sahlmann, in some records also referred to as Schlom Sahlmann, was born in Burghaslach on 26th July 1820.

There appears to have been some form of conscription of Jewish youths. Records of Burghaslach have numerous lists headed "Konscriptionsliste der Juedischen Juenglinge" (Lists of conscriptions of Jewish Youths). The name of Salomon Schlom appears on several, e.g. he was conscripted between 24th July and October 1841. (16) Salomon learned a trade and became a Master Plumber and Tinsmith.

On the 27th December 1852 he received permission from the Royal Court and Police Authorities to marry Eva Laubheimer. Eva had been born on 26th July 1830 in Bibergau, a little village near Kitzingen. They were married in the synagogue at Burghaslach on the 9th February 1853.

HEIRATSCONSENS (17)

Dem Spenglermeister Schlom Sahlmann dahier wird hiermit die polizeiliche Bewilligung zur Verehelichung mit der Metzgertochter Eva Laubheimer von Biebergau nach Burghaslach ertheilt und ihm hierueber dieser Verehelichung-Consens zugefertigt.

Burghaslach, den 27 Dezember 1852
Koenigliche Gerichts und Polizeibehoerde. Signature

Die Trauung der obgenannten Brautleute wurde heute in der hiesigen Synagogue durch den Unterzeichneten vollzogen

Burghaslach den 9ten Februar 1853 Signature

CONSENT FOR MARRIAGE

The Master Plumber Schlom Sahlmann is hereby given permission by the Police Authority to marry the butcher's daughter Eva Laubheimer from Biebergau in Burghaslach, and this Marriage Consent has therefore been prepared for him.

Burghaslach, the 27th December 1852
Royal Court and Police Authority.

The Marriage ceremony of the above named couple was conducted today in the local synagogue by the undersigned

Burghaslach, the 9th February 1853 Signature

Salomon and Eva Sahlmann had three children:

- Isidor, born 3 January 1854
- Ricka, born 27 December 1855
- Moritz, born 5 January 1858

Original documents include precise Minutes of meetings of the Burghaslach Congregation still exist, which were always personally signed by all attendants. These show that Salomon and Eva took a very active part in affairs of the Community. Salomon and his brother Bernhard were signatories to the decision by the Congregation to use rooms at the Synagogue as a School for religious instruction and Primary School (dated 5th December 1858). The school fees appear to have been 1 fl. quarterly for each child, although they seem to have been some free places. From June 1860 onwards Salomon Sahlmann paid school fees for one child, the number of school children was then recorded as eighteen, and from 1863 for two children. (18)

When on 16th February 1868 a decision was taken to build a new synagogue, Salomon contributed 100 florins to the appeal. The women of the congregation had their own effort and a "Spendenverzeichnis" (a list of donations) of the same date shows that Eva Sahlmann pledged six Kreuzer weekly towards the cost of the synagogue. The synagogue was built during 1869 (burnt down 10th

November 1938). On the 8^h June 1870 seat allocations took place and Salomon was allocated two male seats (No. 12 & 13) and two female seats (No. 32 & 34). (19)

The Minute book of the congregation records that 18 members attended a meeting on 30 January 1874 to elect a chairman and vice-chairman of the Administrative Board of the Cemetery. "This showed that Hirsch Rosenblatt unanimously elected with 18 votes as chairman and in case of un-availability Salomon Sahlmann as deputy with 17 votes."

Salomon and Eva appear to have been the last Sahlmanns to have lived in Burghaslach. They must have moved to Nuremberg eventually, where their sons Isidor and Moritz had settled and where Salomon died on 24th February 1904 and Eva on 6th October 1912. They are buried on the old Jewish cemetery in Baerenschanzstrasse in Nuremberg.

Their children:

- Isidor Sahlmann had also been a Master Plumber. Records state, that "Matrikel" of Widow Schaerzer, who lived in America were transferred to him. He eventually moved to and settled in Nuremberg. He had married Lina Scheidling on 6th February 1882.
- Ricka Sahlmann had married Raphael Scheidt on 3rd May 1876 in Neustadt/Aisch. Raphael, son of Salomon and Jeanette Scheidt of Mainstockheim, was born 22 May 1848. They settled in Kitzingen, where Raphael was one of the many wine merchants (See the Scheidts in Kitzingen).
- Moritz Sahlmann had married Julie Aischmann on 19th March 1884. He left Burghaslach for Nuremberg on 6th July 1886.

The old genealogy also mentions a daughter, who married a "Fleischmann" from Brixenstadt. Unable to find Brixenstadt in the area the thought occurred, that this could possibly be Prichsenstadt, Bs and Ps as well as Ds and Ts often being interchanged in speech and spellings in Bavaria. Prichsenstadt is a beautiful walled old Franconian village, which also had a considerable Jewish community. A family Fleischmann is recorded there, but unfortunately the very few photocopies of records so far found were completely unreadable.

Footnotes

- (1) FCA DII 3, 12.
- (2) FCA Castell Receipts 1777/78 pages 174 &182.
- (3) FCA DII 3, 12.
- (4) FCA DII 3, 26.
- (5) Copy in own possession.
- (6) Information Gemeindeamt Burghaslach.
- (7) CAHJP Memorbuch Burghaslach.
- (8) FCA DII 3, 31.
- (9) CAHJP Memorbuch Burghaslach N5/18a.

- (10) Translation kindly made by Dr. Mosche Rosenfeld, London.
- (11) FCA DII 3, 31.
- (12) do.
- (13) CAHJP
- (14) Copy of will - own possession.
- (15) CAHJP
- (16) do.
- (17) CAHJP HM 432.
- (18) CAHJP
- (19) do.