



Our Family

by

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The Schloss' in Fuerth

Max SCHLOSS

eldest son of Loeser Gabriel (Lazarus) and Sara SCHLOSS had been born in Sugenheim on 20 December 1817, where records of his ancestors have so far been traced back to his great-great-grandfather Isaac, who lived there and died in the middle of the 18th century.

The effects of the "Judenedict" of 1813 are clearly illustrated by documents relating to Max. His very substantial files are still in existence (1). The edict, amongst other things, laid down that Jews had to learn a trade or profession, "proper trading" was recognised as such an occupation. It had required Jews to register with the appropriate police authority, give details of their age, position, family and their means of livelihood. These details were then entered in the "Juden Matrikel", a register of Jews, and they were given a number (Immatrikulierung). Only after "Immatrikulierung" had a Jew the right to domicile and was able to marry. As the numbers of Jews could not be increased, "immatrikulation" was strictly controlled. A new applicant could only get his "Matrikel" in any particular village or town if one had become vacant through death etc. or had been transferred to him possibly by an ageing parent or relative.

To enable him to learn a "proper" trade Max SCHLOSS came to Fuerth, where he served a three years' apprenticeship with the firm Elias Cohn Koenigsberger between 25 January 1837 and 28 January 1840. From January 1842 until August 1845 Max was working as a clerk/salesman for the firm David Allesheimer (or Ollesheimer?) and after that for a merchant by the name of Flaschfeld.

In 1847 Max intended to settle permanently in Fuerth, become self-employed and also to marry. To enable him to do this he now required "Matrikel" and also a trade licence. To receive this, he first of all had to apply for permission to apply to be examined by the appropriate trade examination board. His application was accompanied by numerous documents, reports and certificates, such as certificates of immunisation, school and religious instruction reports, apprentice indenture (Lehrbrief), Certificate of Discharge from military service, several other official attendance certificates, certificate of good character, permission of his parents to settle in Fuerth and to his proposed marriage, statements of his assets and expected forthcoming dowries, accompanied by an attestation of the authorities of Sugenheim.

From his military Certificate of Discharge we learn something of Max's physical characteristics. The certificate dated 23 July 1839 gives the following personal details:

Height	5'5"
Hair	Black
Forehead	Broad
Eyebrows	Black
Eyes	Black
Nose	Thick
Mouth	Proportional
Beard	Black
Chin	Oval
Face	Round
Colour of face	Healthy
Body	Stocky
Special marks	None

Max passed his trade examination in June 1847 and was declared "Meister" (master), i.e. competent to be a self-employed trader. He now applied for the drapery trade licence of the widow Fredericke Friedmann. He had again to prove that he would have sufficient funds to keep himself. Documents show that apart from 1000 fl of his own savings, accumulated during his military service, his parents Loeser and Sara SCHLOSS were willing and in a financial position to make over to him another 1000 fl in cash, without disadvantaging any of their other children, for whom financial settlements had already been made. This document, dated 16 June 1847 is again certified by the local government office of Sugenheim and bears the signature of Loeser SCHLOSS and the Hebrew signature of his wife Sara.

Hannchen Froehlich, his fiancée, also had a dowry of 1,300 fl from her father, an inheritance of 500 fl from a recently deceased relative and 600 fl, which had apparently been some sort of saving or investment in a dowry fund, altogether 2,400 fl. This would pass to Max on their marriage, giving him total assets of 4,400 fl. Unfortunately another applicant for the licence had 5,000 fl at his disposal and was granted the trade licence.

Max SCHLOSS now applied to be put on a waiting list. In January 1848 a Moses Kohn Kern died and his "Matrikel" was transferred to Max on 10 March 1848. He was granted a trade licence in May 1848 and was now able to marry Hannchen Froehlich on 29 August 1848. Hannchen had been born in Fuerth on 5 November 1825. Their Marriage Certificate gives the name of her father as "Suessmann Froehlich vormals (formerly) Forchheimer", indicating that he had changed his name. We know of no reason for this.

Max SCHLOSS now started a drapery business in house 457 (Sternbeckengasse), having taken over the drapery business started by his father-in-law between 1812 - 1818 in house No 461 (Sternbeckengasse), the firm now being Forchheimer & Schloss. Max and Hannchen lived there "above the

shop". The street and house 457 were renamed and renumbered several times, becoming Sterngasse 175, Sterngasse 19, later Sternstrasse (now Ludwig Erhardstr 19). The house was bought by Max in 1867. It still stands and is a listed building under "Denkmalschutz", its history going back to 1712. (See the houses Strasse 19 and Obstmarkt 1)

Max and Hannchen had four children:

- Gustav SCHLOSS (b. 27. 4.1849, d. 31.12.1921 London)
- Karoline SCHLOSS (b. 10.11.1850)
- Sigmund SCHLOSS (b. 14.10.1853, d. 14. 3.1859 Fuerth)
- Heinrich SCHLOSS (b. 2 7.1857, d. 29. 7.1928 Fuerth)

Hannchen died on 20 March 1862 of tuberculosis aged 36 years, leaving Max with a young family. Hannchen is buried on the old Jewish cemetery in Fuerth

Grave of Hannchen SCHLOSS, inscription on gravestone:

Ruhestaette

des so frueh dahingeschiedenen Biederweibes

Hannchen SCHLOSS

Frau des Kaufmanns Max SCHLOSS

geb. d. 6.Nov.1826

gest. 21.Maerz 1862

Wer fuer Gott u.Menschen lebte / Nein der stirbt im Grabe nicht

Wer nach Recht u. Tugend strebte / Steigt empor von Licht zu Licht

Resting place of the worthy gentlewoman, who departed life so young

Hannchen SCHLOSS, wife of the merchant Max SCHLOSS

born 6 Nov.1826, died 21 March 1862.

Who lived for god and mankind does not die in his grave

Who strafed for right and virtue becomes a shining light

On 2 September 1863 Max SCHLOSS married his second wife Amalie Dormitzer, born in Baiersdorf on 1 February 1839. Her parents Jacob and Caroline Dormitzer again had to give their written consent to the marriage.

PERMISSION BY PARENTS OF AMALIA DORMITZER TO HER MARRIAGE TO MAX SCHLOSS

(Translation)

Three Kreuzer Stamp

It came to pass Baiersdorf, the 12th August 1863
at the Town Hall

Present:

President of Community Fleischmann

Secretary Teufel

To-day the couple Jakob and Karoline Dormitzer appeared before us and stated:

Our daughter Amalie Dormitzer has become engaged to the widower Max SCHLOSS of Fuerth and we give our consent to this intended marriage of our daughter named Amalie Dormitzer with Max SCHLOSS.

Read and signed Jacob Dormitzer, Caroline Dormitzer

This certificate has been handed to the couple Dormitzer at their request.

Stamp Town Council Baiers-
dorf

Fleischmann

Teufel

Max had another four children by his marriage with Amalie:

- Sophie SCHLOSS (b. 7. 2.1865, d. 3. 2.1943 murdered Theresienstadt Concentration Camp)
- Phillip SCHLOSS (b. 4. 2.1866, d. 16. 8.1939 Frankfurt)
- Hugo SCHLOSS (b. 26. 7.1869, d. 5.10.1869 Fuerth)
- Betty SCHLOSS (b. 2.11.1874, deported Minsk)
- Amalie SCHLOSS née Dormitzer died on 25 February 1881 aged 42 years, again leaving Max with a young family.

In 1886 Max SCHLOSS was a member of the Executive of the Jewish Congregation of Fuerth. The address book of 1889 lists Max as "retired". He was to survive his second wife Amalie by some twenty years and died aged 85 years on 31 July 1902, shortly before the completion of the new house and shop premises of Forchheimer & Schloss at Obstmarkt 1, built next door to the old premises Sterngasse 19. The firm was now carried on by Max' son Heinrich and his son-in-law Samuel GUTMANN. In his will Max left M.200 to the Jewish community of Sugenheim, his place of birth.

Max and Amalie SCHLOSS are buried on the old Jewish cemetery in Fuerth. There is an old photograph of their graves. Although the cemetery was desecrated during the Nazi period, many of the old marble grave stones removed, ready for transportation for "other purposes" by the Nazi regime, the graves of Max and Amalie are undamaged, only the cast iron fence around their graves is no longer there.



The graves of Amalie and Max Schloss on the old Jewish cemetery in Fuerth in the 1930s

(photo: Heinz & Thea Skyte)

Inscription on the grave of Amalie Schloss reads:

"Dein Leben war Liebe und Guete. Dir nachzustreben unser hoechstes Glueck".

(Your life was love and kindness. To emulate you our highest hope.)

Inscription on the grave of Max Schloss reads:

"Ernst in der Arbeit, Freundlich im Umgang, Treubesorgt fuer die Seinen, Selbstlos fuer sich. Bleibt Dein Andenken uns unvergaenglich".

(Earnest in work, Friendly in associations, Deeply caring for his family, Self sacrificing, Thus you shall always be remembered.)

Max and Amalie's children:

Sophie SCHLOSS,

their eldest daughter, was born in Fuerth on 7th February 1865. She was almost totally deaf as the result of Scarlet Fever in childhood, but communicated by means of hearing aids and was an accomplished lip reader.

She married her cousin Samuel GUTMANN, son of her aunt Fanny GUTMANN née SCHLOSS (sister of her father Max) on 30th August 1887. (See The GUTMANNs in Fuerth)

Phillip SCHLOSS,

born 4.2.1866, remained unmarried. As a result of Scarlet Fever suffered as a child, he was deaf and slightly retarded. He lived on the fourth floor of the family house, Obstmarkt 1 in Fuerth, and was employed by the family firm Forchheimer & Schloss. Some family letters show that in 1939 he went into an Old Age Home in Frankfurt, where he died on 16 August 1939

Betty SCHLOSS,

the youngest daughter of Max and Amalie SCHLOSS was born in Fuerth on 2 November 1874. On 24 May 1896 at Unterfarnbach she married Alfred Fraenkel. They settled in Wuerzburg, where her husband was a solicitor and later became a judge. Alfred Fraenkel had been born in Wuerzburg on 25 August 1863 and died there on 15 January 1929. In May 1930 Betty SCHLOSS moved to Frankfurt. Family letters state that in 1939 she lived in Frankfurt in the same Old Age Home, to which her brother Phillip had also moved in 1939.

Betty Fraenkel was deported and is recorded as "verschollen" (missing) in Minsk.

Footnote

(1) Stadtarchiv Fuerth