



Our Family

by

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THE STRAUSS FAMILY

The earliest member of the Strauss family found was MICHAEL MERZBACHER. It is thought that the name Merzbacher was not an adopted family name but possibly an indication that Michael originated in Merzbach. It is known that there was a branch of the Strauss family resident in Merzbach, and it is possible that Michael may have been born there too. Michael Merzbacher adopted the family STRAUSS. As far as can be seen at present, there does not seem to be a family connection with the Merzbacher family of Baiersdorf.

Michael Strauss was married to Blum, born around 1795, who died in Baiersdorf as a widow on 15 March 1858. Michael probably died between 1852 and 1854, as Jonas named a son born in 1854 after him.

Their son JONAS STRAUSS was born in Baiersdorf on 13 December 1818. On 8 September 1848, he married Babette Westheimer of Fassoldhof near Kulmbach. The following children have been found, all born in Baiersdorf:

- BERTHA STRAUSS, born 11 August 1849 was married to Bernhard Apfelbaum of Fuerth. The family lived in Fuerth, where Bertha died on 22 November 1912.
- AARON STRAUSS, born 5 July 1851 died in Baiersdorf on 3 July 1882. After the Baiersdorf Voluntary Fire Service was formed in 1868 Aaron was one of the members of its first crew. (1)
- MICHAEL STRAUSS (1 October 1854 - 6 January 1855 Baiersdorf).
- EMIL STRAUSS, born 24 October 1855. Nothing is known about him.
- KAROLINE (LINA) STRAUSS (26 November 1857 - 23 November 1937 Hanover (2)). On 21 September 1882 Karoline married Benjamin KOHN, (son of Susmann KOHN and Sara ENGEL), born on 28 September 1850 in Baiersdorf on 28 December 1918. They had at least three children, Ludwig, Ernest and Rosa.
- ARMIN STRAUSS born in Baiersdorf on 17 April 1860 married Sophie RIESER (born in Sulzburg on 4 May 1866). The family emigrated to USA and lived in Buffalo NY, where Armin died on 26 October 1927 and his widow Rosa on 13 November 1935.

- PAULINE STRAUSS (18 February 1861 Baiersdorf).
- JULIUS STRAUSS was born 13 November 1862 in Baiersdorf. On 1 June 1887 he married LOUISE KEINER. Louise, daughter of Lazarus KEINER and Julia WASSERMANN was born in Baiersdorf on 5 June 1865. They had a shop in Baiersdorf. Julius died in Baiersdorf on 31 March 1927. After his death Louise appears to have moved to Nuremberg, where she died on 21 September 1936.
- EMMA STRAUSS (27 August 1864 Baiersdorf - 31 December 1864 Baiersdorf).

Footnotes

- (1) Horst Gemeinhardt: Zur gesellschaftlichen Stellung der Juden in Baiersdorf um die Jahrhundertwende (Social position of Baiersdorf Jews around the turn of the century).
- (2) Ilse Sponsel: Date of death confirmed by Einwohnermeldeamt Hanover.