



Our Family

by

Heinz and Thea Ruth Skyte, née Ephraim

THE EPHRAIMS OF NEUSTADT BEI PINNE

SAMUEL (SHMUL)

is so far the first known ancestor of the Ephraim family. He is known to have lived in Neustadt bei Pinne and is one of the signatories of the document of settlement of 1797/1799 between the Jewish Community of Neustadt and the "Rittmeister" Melchior von Lacki zu Bolowice. The story told in the family is that his son was the first to adopt the family name of Ephraim. When asked his name by an official, he is said to have replied:- "I am Samuel's Ephraim" and so the name of Ephraim was entered on the document.

FRAUM EPHRAIM

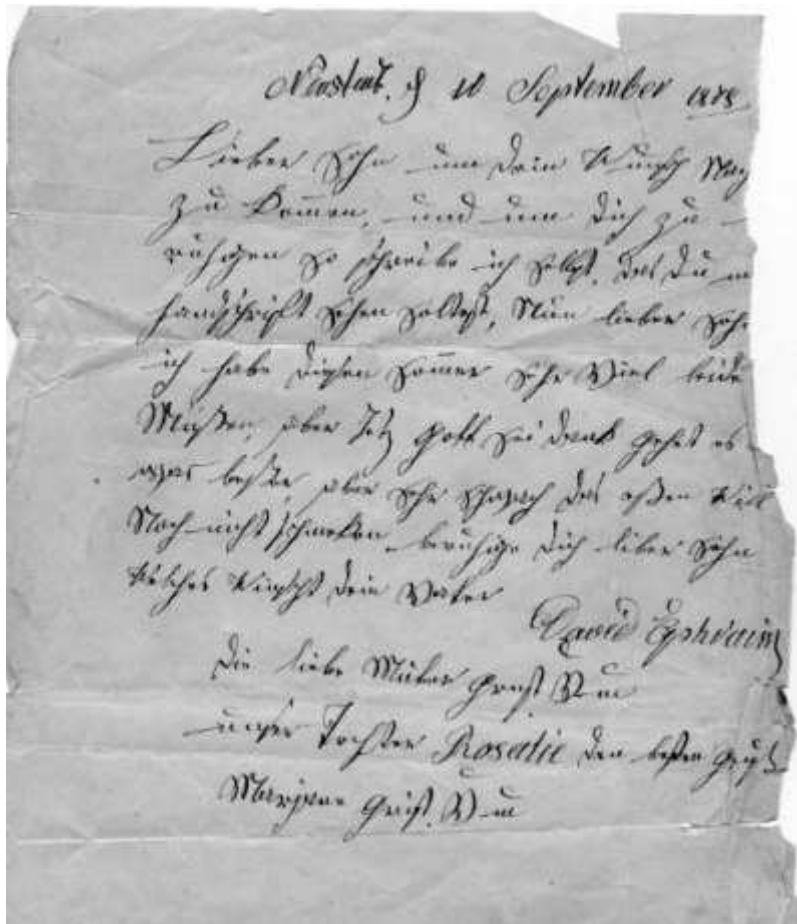
could possibly be this ancestor, Fraum being a form of Ephraim. He must have been born in the second half of the 18th century and was married to Rechel. They lived and died in Neustadt. Their son:

DAVID EPHRAIM

was born in 1809. His name is on the register of naturalised Jews of Graetz (1). The date is given as 11th November 1834 and his occupation as "Handelsmann" - merchant. He was married to Hannchen née Levy. The Minute book of the Jewish Community Neustadt records that in 1848/49, David leased a female seat in the synagogue (2). This could indicate that this may either have been the year of their marriage or that he had then moved to Neustadt. His Death Certificate gives Neustadt as his place of birth. David and Hannchen had several children, though the only record found so far is of their sons:

- Julius Ephraim 12 June 1850 Neustadt - 1 June 1904 Berlin
- Sigismund Ephraim 27 January 1853 Neustadt - ?

David Ephraim seems to have been ailing for the last few months of his life. Some of his 1878 letters to his son Julius in Berlin in 1878 have survived. In these David states that he was unable to write, as he was still far from well, very weak, unable to work and suffering from chest pains.



A letter of David Ephraim dated 10 September 1878

(photo: Heinz & Thea Skyte)

David died in Neustadt on 11th March 1879, aged 70 years. He was survived by his widow Hannchen, who died in Neustadt 1909 aged 90 years. David's Death Certificate gives the names of his parents as Fraum and Rechel Ephraim.

DEATH CERTIFICATE DAVID EPHRAIM

Translation of Death Certificate of David Ephraim:

DEATH CERTIFICATE No 42

The Registry

Neustadt District Neutomichel

Neustadt near Pinne, the 12th March 1879

To-day appeared before the undersigned Registrar the personally known Tradeswoman Hannchen Ephraim née Levy, resident in Neustadt/Pinne and notified that David Ephraim, Merchant aged 70 years, of the mosaic religion, resident in Neustadt/Pinne, who had been married to the notifier, son

of Fraum and Rechel, the couple Ephraim, who died in Neustadt, had died in Neustadt/Pinne on the eleventh of March one thousand eight hundred and seventy-nine at seven o'clock in the evening.

Read, approved and due to illiteracy of the Notifier marked with her mark XXX

The Registrar

p.p. Witte

It is herewith confirmed that the above extract agrees with the Main Death Register. Neustadt, the 9th January 1940

Seal Registry Neustadt

The Registrar

It is however thought that another son, either in the late 19th or early 20th century, emigrated to America, where he probably settled in Los Angeles. It is also thought that he had a son, Lawrence, who was traced in the 1930s and was instrumental in helping a member of the Levy family to emigrate to America in 1939/1940.

JULIUS EPHRAIM

son of David and Hannchen Ephraim was born in Neustadt on 12th June 1850.

Translation:

The County Court Gratz

EXTRACT

of the Birth Register of Jews for the year 1850

No.298 According to the decision of the Town Council of Neustadt, dated 12th June 1850 Volume VI page 63 of the Register concerning the confirmation of births of Jews, Hannchen nee Levi, the wife of the Merchant David Ephraim, was delivered of a child of the male sex on the 12th June 1850 at 5 o'clock in the morning, which received the name Julius Ephraim.

Registered, Graetz, the 18.June 1850.

Signature unreadable Signed Kuczewski

Issued Graetz, the 20. November 1939

Inspector of Justice



(photo: Heinz & Thea Skyte)

Translation:

It is herewith officially certified that, according to the extract of the Royal District Court in Graetz, Julius Ephraim, son of the Merchant David and Hannchen née Levy, the couple Ephraim, was born on 12th June 1850 in Neustadt near Pinne.

This document, however, is only valid in respect of the confirmation of the Register of Names.

Neustadt near Pinne, the 11th January 1870

The Council

Seal Signature

Julius must have moved from Neustadt to Schwerin an der Warthe, where he started a business, as a letter dated June 1873 from his wife-to-be Rosalie to him indicates. On 2nd December 1873 at Gottschimer Muehle near Driesen he married Rosalie, second child of Meyer Joseph and Bertha Levy (née Alterthum), born in Birnbaum an der Warthe on 20th August 1846. Julius and Rosalie made their home in Schwerin until their move to Berlin about June 1876. They were just one of the very many families who left the eastern provinces of Germany for Berlin at that time. In documents relating to their move, his occupation is given as "Haulage Contractor".

Official Notice of Departure

1. Whoever leaves his place of residence and chooses another has to apply to the Police Authority, (Council, District Commission or any other authorised local authority appointed for the purpose) of the place of present residence for a Certificate of Departure.
2. The person moving is under an obligation to present this Certificate to the Police Authority of the new town of residence, at the latest, within three days of the move.
3. Whoever ignores these orders and either changes his place of residence without a Certificate of Departure or fails to present this to the authority of the new place of residence within the

specified time, does not only become liable to a police fine of 10 Silver Groschen or 5 Reichtaler, but is ultimately obliged to comply with these regulations.

4. By a move from one tax district to another, the graduated tax for the month of the move has still to be paid to the former place of residence of the person moving, and thereafter to the new place of residence, if no prepayment for these has been made at his former place of residence (Par. 13b of the law of 1. May 1851)
5. The column "Time for which tax is paid has to be completed and executed by the respective Tax Office

Certificate of Police Clearance

This certifies that Julius Ephraim, removal agent, aged 25 years, who wants to move to Berlin

1. is self employed and a Prussian subject
2. is not restricted in his choice of residence
3. has, as far as is known, provided for himself and his family out of his own means
4. that nothing detrimental is known about his behaviour.

Schwerin/Warthe, the 6th May 1876

The Town Council and the Police Authority

The document required for the move from Schwerin to Berlin in 1876.

On this document Rosalie's year of birth is wrongly given as 1849, whereas she was born in 1846.

Footnotes

- (1) Leo Baeck Institute, New York, also Edward David Luft : "Naturalized Jews of Grand Duchy Poznan 1834/1835.
- (2) CAHJP