



# Our Family

*by*

**Heinz and Thea Ruth Skyte, née Ephraim**

## THE LEVYS IN BERLIN

### MEYER JOSEPH LEVY

born in Birnbaum an der Warthe on 3 August 1815 spent the latter days of his life in Berlin with his daughter Rosalie and her family. He died on 20 January 1900 and is buried on the Jewish Cemetery Berlin - Weissensee. Though the headstone appears to consist of some hard stone like granite or something similar, the inscription is now very difficult to read. The inscription reads:

Hier ruht in Gott

unser geliebter Vater

Schwager und Grossvater

Meyer Joseph

Levy

geboren zu Birnbaum

den 3 August 1815

gestorben 20 Januar 1900

Here rests in God our beloved father, brother-in-law and grandfather Meyer Joseph Levy, born in Birnbaum on 3 August 1815 died 20 January 1900.

### JOSEPH MEIER LEVY

Third child and eldest son of Meyer Joseph and Bertha Levy was born in Birnbaum on 23 May 1852. He settled in Berlin, probably around the 1870s. He was married twice. After the death of his first wife he married his second wife Clara Brann, born in Rawitsch on 13 May 1868, on 4 February 1897 in Berlin.

Joseph had four children, three sons by his first and a daughter by his second marriage:

- Walter Levy (8 March 1882 Berlin - about 1948, Los Angeles)
- Martin Levy (29 April 1884 Berlin - about 1955, Los Angeles)
- Erich Levy (22 October 1885 Berlin - Killed 4 November 1915 World War I)
- Hilda Bertha Levy (mother Clara BRANN; 21 October 1898 Berlin - deported 24 September 1942 from Berlin to Reval)

Joseph Meier Levy died in Berlin on 14 January 1927, shortly after the death of his wife Clara, who had died on 20 October 1926. They had lived in Joachim Friedrich Strasse, Berlin-Halensee.

- WALTER LEVY, eldest son of Joseph by his first marriage, was born in Berlin on 8 March 1882 and was married to Selma. They had one son:

Manfred Levy (Fredy) born about 1913 in Berlin

Walter served in the German Army during the 1914-18 war. Prior to their emigration to Los Angeles, they lived at Heilbronner Strasse 10 in Berlin-Charlottenburg.

Both died in Los Angeles, Walter around 1948 and Selma around 1952.

Until his emigration their son Manfred (Fredy) Levy worked for the Juedische Kulturbund in Berlin.

- MARTIN LEVY, second son of Joseph by his first marriage, was born on 29 April 1884 in Berlin. Like his brother Walter, Martin also served in the army in the 1914/18 war. In 1929 he married Erna. They were childless and lived in Berlin-Halensee, Hektorstrasse 5. Martin was a gifted artist (drawing) and professionally used the name Martinsberg. Together with his cousin Paul Ephraim (see the Ephraims in Berlin) they wrote both lyrics and music for one or two operettas under the name Martinsberg-Raimer, Raimer being an adaptation of Paul's family name Ephraim. At least one of these is supposed to have been performed after the war. Around 1939/1940 Martin emigrated to Los Angeles, where he died about 1955. His wife Erna had joined him there after the end of the war.
- ERICH (ASHER) LEVY, youngest son of Joseph by his first marriage, was born in Berlin on 22 October 1885. During World War I he served with the 11. Fusilier Regiment 35 (a Light Infantry Regiment) and was killed in action on 4 November 1915.
- HILDA BERTHA LEVY only child of Joseph by his second marriage to Clara née Brann, was born in Berlin on 21 October 1898. On 10 August 1920 in Berlin she married Hermann Mueller, born on 3 June 1883 in Muensterberg. They lived in Berlin, where their son, their only child, was born in 1921. Hilda and Hermann were deported from Berlin to Reval on 24 September 1942 and murdered there.