



# Our Family

*by*

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## THE KOENIG FAMILY

My grandfather Albert KOENIG, son of Karl Albert KOENIG and Christine née BRUKMANN, was born on 26 January 1863 in Gross-Wersmeninken, District Insterburg East Prussia. Nothing is known about his parents. Albert was a master saddler. In his youth, as was the custom of the time for young apprentices, he went on "Wanderschaft", finding work and accommodation, wherever it was to be found and then moving on to the next job, thus gaining experience in his trade.

He married Johanna Wilhelmine WILDIES, daughter of Johann WILDIES and Marie née GRIGAT. Johanna was born in Klein Bubainen, District Darkehmen, East Prussia on 31 May 1856. Albert and Johanna were Protestants. They settled in Pillkallen, a town near Tilsit in East Prussia, where their children were born:

- Albert Koenig (born Pillkallen)
- Rosa Martha Koenig (29 January 1891 Pillkallen - 30 May 1965 Berlin)
- Otto Koenig (date of birth unknown - about 1950/60 Berlin)
- Anna Koenig (23 August 1895 Pillkallen - 15 December 1983 Frankfurt an der Oder)
- Eduard Koenig (killed in action 1914/18 WWI)
- Max Koenig (about 1900 - about 1963/4 Berlin)

Two other children had died in infancy.



**Albert Koenig**

**born 26.1.1863 Gross Wermeninken, died about 1940 Berlin**



**Johanna Koenig née Wildies**

**born 31.5.1856 Klein Bubainen, died about 1937 Berlin**

#### **Photographs 1926**

(photos: Heinz & Thea Skyte)

### **THE KOENIGS IN BERLIN**

Albert and Johanna and their family must have moved to Berlin in the early 1900s and eventually lived in a second floor apartment at Gartenstrasse 9, where Albert also worked in later years making hand made leather brief cases and satchels.

Grandma Johanna was very old fashioned, always wearing long dark dresses with a long black al-pacca apron over it, the straps tied in a big long bow at the back. She also insisted on wearing black knitted stockings, which had been out of fashion for some time. Her daughters had quite a job to her supplied with these. After she had a bad fall, breaking an arm, sometime in the middle 1930s, her physical condition constantly deteriorated. She finally became completely bedridden and was looked after by her husband for some years. Breaking her leg in another fall, she died a few days later in hospital sometime around 1937.

Grandpa Albert eventually moved from the Gartenstrasse apartment to a small cellar room and kitchen in nearby Bergstrasse, and just around the corner from his daughter and son-in-law Martha and Alfred Ephraim and his son and daughter-in-law Max and Trude Koenig. In 1939 he suffered a stroke and died probably sometime around 1940.