

## MY GRANDMOTHER'S FAMILY: THE KRONHEIMERS AND THE ENGLÄNDERS

Dr Paul Gardner\*

My paternal grandmother was Rosalie Gärtner. She was born in Oettingen in 1875, married my grandfather Albert and migrated to Australia in 1939, arriving just weeks before my birth. I knew her when I was a child and young adult until she passed away in Melbourne in 1959. Her maiden name was Engländer; she was the daughter of Simon Engländer and his wife Clara (nee Kronheimer).

I spent much of 2014 studying the family history of several branches of my family. Early in the year, new information became available that expanded my knowledge of both branches of my grandmother's family. In December, I learned about (and contacted) previously unknown living Kronheimer descendants in several countries.

### THE KRONHEIMER BRANCH

In March, my wife received a message via the ancestry.com website from a German woman named Elke Kehrmann, who was studying the family trees of people with her surname. The contact came about because one member listed on our family tree, Hedwig (Hedy) Dina Kronheimer, married a man surnamed Kehrmann. Elke asked us what we knew about this man. The answer: not much; we knew that his first name was Ernst, but nothing else. We naturally wondered who Elke was, and thought that perhaps she might be a newly discovered relative. It took a couple of weeks to establish direct email communication. Elke was not a descendant of Hedy and Ernst and we are not related.

One might think that Elke's simple request, to find what I knew about the Kehrmann on our family tree – hardly anything! – would have been the end of the matter for both of us. On the contrary. In April, Elke directed me to the Kronheimer family tree information produced by the Harburg Project and available on the alemannia-judaica website. ('Alemannia' is the old Latin name for Germany.) For me, this information was the start of a whole new line of enquiry into the Kronheimer branch – my ancestors via my paternal grandmother – and this led to some exciting findings. Nor was it the end of the matter for Elke. Throughout the year, she continued to assist me with my studies of other branches of my family.

**Rolf Hofmann.** At first, this was just a name on a document that described him as the compiler of the Kronheimer family tree (one of the many such documents produced by the Harburg Project). This project gave me much new information about my Kronheimer ancestors. Rolf and I began to correspond by email, and through biographical material on the web, I began to learn more about this quite remarkable man.

Rolf was born in Stuttgart in 1943, the son of a bank manager who served in the German Army during World War II. His father was taken prisoner by the British and returned home in 1947. Rolf was an able student at school, and went on to study architecture. He practised in that profession, and also in real estate management and property re-development, for many years. Rolf bought a holiday home in the Swabian region of Bavaria and this led to the discovery of the Harburg Synagogue, erected in 1754, ransacked but not destroyed by the Nazis. By the 1960s, it was in poor condition. The exterior, however, was still original, and Rolf conceived the idea of restoring the building and turning it into a local cultural centre. This he did, and in the early 1980s numerous and diverse cultural events were held there.

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Former Harburg Synagogue. (Photo: [www.alemannia-judaica](http://www.alemannia-judaica))  
(The Harburg Castle can be seen on the hill in the background.)

However, there was also opposition in high places to the cultural centre, and political pressure resulted in its closure in 1992.

**The Harburg Project.** Rolf then turned his attention to a quite different project. He began to conduct historical and genealogical research into the Jewish communities of various towns in southern Germany. His work is described on the [alemannia-judaica](http://www.alemannia-judaica) website. I have edited the Google translation from the original German:

I was offered complete access to the Royal Archives at Harburg Castle. Tax lists, burial lists, personnel files and other vital records helped me delve deeper into the lives of Jewish families who had once lived in the historic County of Oettingen, ruled by its Counts and Princes. Over the years I gathered an incredible amount of personal family data that enabled me to compile family sheets, ancestral charts and describe episodes, which provide an excellent description of the lives of remarkable people who would otherwise have been forgotten. Communication with fellow researchers worldwide, major archives and descendants of Jewish families of Southern Germany became a major aspect of my activities.

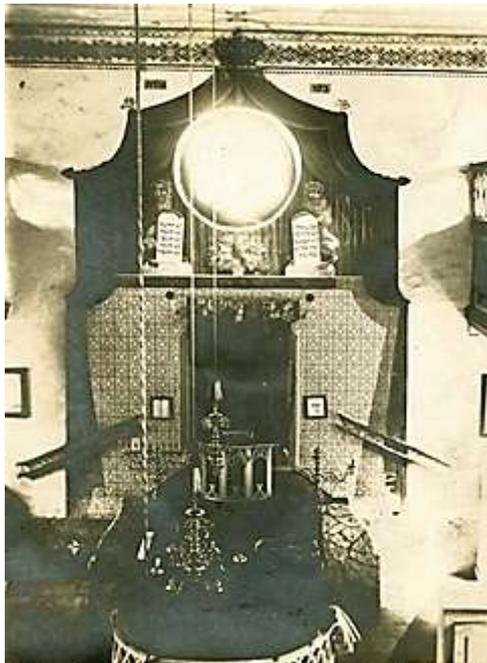
Rolf has published his findings on the same website. The two key areas of his work of personal interest to me were the family tree of the early generations of the Kronheimer family, which originated in Schopfloch, and a listing of the graves in Oettingen, the home town of my great-grandparents Simon and Clara Engländer (nee Kronheimer) and the birthplace of my grandmother Rosalie.

The discovery of earlier ancestors was an exciting outcome for our family:

- Previously, the earliest-known ancestors in this branch that I knew about were Rosalie's grandparents, Heinrich (Haium) Kronheimer and his wife Sophie, my great(x2)grandparents. [I will use this form of abbreviation throughout this article. Here it means "great-great-grandparents"]. Heinrich was a merchant; he and his wife both came from Schopfloch in Bavaria. We had previously thought that Sophie's maiden name was Sprinz. Not so: Sprinz is probably a nickname or a pet name or a Germanised version of a Hebrew name. She was actually Sophie Bernheimer. (The spelling given in the Harburg listings is 'Sofie', but we had her originally listed on our family tree as 'Sophie' and I'm sticking with that. The death certificate of her son

Woolf who died in Melbourne – see later – describes her as Sophie and her father as Hyam. So does the record of her birth in the Schopfloch community register. One quickly realises that the spelling of names is often inconsistent in family records.

- The couple (according to the original Harburg Project material) had three children Klara/Clara, Elias and Samuel. (We already knew that there were two other children, Woolf/Wolf and Meier/Max, who had left for Australia and had been overlooked by the Harburg Project.)
- The Harburg Project identified Sophie's parents. She was the daughter of Moses Samuel and Gale Bernheimer: my great(x3)grandparents. So I (and all my descendants) have some Bernheimer genes as well. (I discovered some weeks later that the Harburg Project had also prepared a Bernheimer family tree.)
- Heinrich's parents were Moses Haium and Margolis Kronheimer (nee Freundlich). Moses was born on 24 May 1791 in the southern German town of Schopfloch, worked as a merchant, married Margolis about 1816, and died on 23 April 1870. Margolis was born on 15 March 1798 and died on 1 May 1836. So I could add another pair of great(x3)grandparents to my ancestry.
- The parents of Margolis are also known: Meier Isaak Freundlich (1763-1843) from Wittelshofen who married Voegele (1772-1818) (maiden name unknown) about 1791. My great(x4)grandparents!



Wittelshofen Synagogue (Yad Vashem Photo Archive)

Wittelshofen was the home town of my great(x4)grandparents Meier Isaak Freundlich (1763-1843) and his wife Voegele (1772-1818). Their daughter Margolis married Moses Haium Kronheimer in Schopfloch about 1816. This synagogue was inaugurated in 1843, possibly replacing an earlier one. The building was incinerated on Pogrom Night, 9<sup>th</sup> November, 1938 and soon after the structure was demolished.

- Ten years after Margolis died, Moses married a widow, Malka (Maria) Kohn (c.1797-1883) on 31 March 1846 and this second marriage to an almost fifty-year old woman (not surprisingly) produced no offspring.
- And since we are focussing on the Kronheimer branch, the really big news was that the parents of Moses were also known. They were Hayum Levi, who settled in Schopfloch around 1787 and married Hindle, who was born on 9 June 1766. Two more great(x4)grandparents! They lived prior to the time when people had permanent family surnames.



The Schopfloch synagogue in Bahnhofstrasse ("Railway Station Street), 1910 (www. allemania-judaica)

Schopfloch was the home town of my great(x4)grandparents Hayum Levi and Hindel (no surnames back then) from around 1787. They were the parents of Moses Haium Kronheimer (1791-1870). The community was probably founded by Jews expelled from Dinkelsbühl in 1400. Its cemetery served 14 neighbouring communities (including Wittelshofen) in the 16<sup>th</sup> -17<sup>th</sup> centuries. After the town was annexed to Bavaria in 1608, the Jews were under the authority of the counts of Brandenburg and the rulers of Oettingen. The Jewish population reached a peak of 393 in 1867 (out of a total 1,788) and a new synagogue was built in 1877. In 1880 the Jewish population was 147 and in 1933, 37. In the Nazi era, some Jews left before mid-1938, but with anti-Jewish agitation rising, the last 27 left for other German cities. (Information from www.allemania-judaica)



The Jewish Cemetery of Schopfloch (Google images)

As my great(x2)grandfather Heinrich was also known as Haium, his Hebrew name was almost certainly Haium ben Moshe. His father, Moses Haium was probably called Moshe ben Haium before adopting the Kronheimer surname. Following that line of logic, his father was probably Haium ben Levi. Which makes **his** father – my great(x5)grandfather! – Levi ben something-or-other, born in the early 1700s. However, as we know nothing else about him, there is little point in adding him to our family tree. But there is still something special about this Kronheimer ancestor: his Hebrew name, Levi, is the same as mine.

The Harburg Project's research meant that our Kronheimer family tree, from Haium Levi down to our grandchildren, had been extended to nine generations.

### The arrival of Joseph Kronheimer in Australia

The Harburg Project had noted that Heinrich and Sophie's brother Joseph Kronheimer had left Schopfloch about 1860, but there was no mention of his migration to Australia. (There was also a curious reference to his being married, which we had never heard of; there is no record of a wife in Australia, and our family stories always described him as a bachelor.) A more detailed account of his life can be found in an article, "Joseph Kronheimer in Australia", previously published on the alemannia-judaica website.

This point in the story marked a change in what was happening in my personal development as a family historian. Previously, I was simply a recipient of information provided by other people. Certainly not a passive recipient: I was always thinking about the new information, processing it, writing about it, trying to make sense of it, but a recipient nonetheless. Now, however, I began looking for relevant information for myself. I began to do some internet searching.

The earliest documented references I could find of Joseph's presence in Melbourne were dated 1865. One was a notice in the Victorian Government Gazette, recording that he was a shareholder in the Shareholders Chance Prospecting Gold Mining Company. The other was a legal notice relating to a business merger. I know nothing of the Hugo Goebel mentioned in the notice, but a shipping/immigration record notes that he was born about 1834 and arrived in Melbourne from Hamburg in September 1853.

**N**OTICE is hereby given that by indenture bearing even date herewith and made or expressed to be made between Hugo Goebel, of Bourke street, in the city of Melbourne, in the colony of Victoria, tobacconist, of the first part; Emanuel Davis, of Melbourne, in the said colony, merchant, and Joseph Kronheimer, of the said city of Melbourne, merchant, (thereinafter designated the said trustees), of the second part; and the several persons and parties whose names are set forth in the first schedule thereunto annexed or thereunder written (being severally creditors in their own right, or being agents or attorneys of creditors in their own right or being agents or attorneys of creditors absent from the said colony) of the said Hugo Goebel, of the third part; the said Hugo Goebel conveyed and assigned all and singular his real and personal estate (except as therein is mentioned) unto the said trustees, their heirs, executors, administrators, and assigns, for the benefit of all the creditors of him the said Hugo Goebel, as therein is particularly mentioned. And notice is hereby further given that the said indenture was duly executed by the said Hugo Goebel and Emanuel Davis and Joseph Kronheimer in the presence of and that such execution was attested by Alexander Fraser, Esquire, one of Her Majesty's justices of the peace, according to the provisions of an Act of the Governor and Legislative Council of the colony of New South Wales, made and passed in the fifth year of the reign of Her present Majesty, intituled, *An Act for the further amendment of the Law and for the better advancement of Justice*, and numbered nine. And notice is hereby further given that the said indenture is now lying at the office of John Hughes Clayton, No. 64, Little Collins street east, in the said city of Melbourne aforesaid, for inspection and execution by the creditors of the said Hugo Goebel.

Dated this second day of May, A.D. 1865.

**H. GOEBEL,  
E. DAVIS,  
JOSEPH KRONHEIMER.**

1865 business dealings of Joseph Kronheimer

**Wolf (Woolf) Kronheimer.** The Harburg data is also interesting in that two people were missing. On our original family tree, Heinrich and Sophie had five children, while the project listed only three. One missing person was Woolf Kronheimer (1850-1870); we had him recorded as dying in Melbourne. He therefore left Germany either as a child (accompanied by whom?) or as a young adult. To confirm our details, on the 12<sup>th</sup> April we purchased an electronic copy of his death certificate from the Victorian Government Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages. This copy of the hand-written original confirmed that Woolf was the son of Hyam and Sophie Kronheimer formerly Bernheimer, that he had lived at Nicholson St., Fitzroy, that he had been ill for 7 months (the cause of death is illegible, but looks a bit like 'phlebitis') and died aged 19 on 19<sup>th</sup> May 1870. The spelling of names differed slightly from the Harburg records. The place of death, Nicholson St, Fitzroy, corresponds to the address at the time of his uncle, Joseph Kronheimer.

19 <sup>th</sup> May 1870			1 Phlebitis	Hyam Kronheimer merchant
	Wolf Kronheimer	male 19 years	2 7 months	Sophie Kronheimer family Bernheimer
Nicholson Street Fitzroy			3 13 (illegible)	
19 <sup>th</sup>			4 19 <sup>th</sup> May 1870	
			5 Cause of death	

Death certificate of Woolf Kronheimer

**The mysterious death of Max Kronheimer.** The other “missing person” was Woolf’s brother Max. Early in April, I finally came across some documentary evidence that allowed me to link some recorded facts to a vague story that I had first heard many years ago, probably in the 1950s when both my father and my great-uncle Jack Englander were still alive. The story was that my great(x3)uncle Joseph Kronheimer had invited his nephew Max to migrate to Australia to work in the tobacco business. Max duly arrived but after a while decided he didn’t want to stay and set out to return to Germany. On the voyage, he was washed overboard and drowned. However, I had never read anything to verify this story.

The Harburg material, not surprisingly, was based entirely on German data. The existence of Max and Woolf was (apparently) unknown. The fact that Joseph had left Schopfloch was known, but not that he had migrated to Melbourne. The only mention of Australia was a brief statement that Heinrich’s sister Michle had married Raphael Hoehstaedter and they had migrated to Australia about 1860. With its focus, understandably, on German archives and graves, the fact that, over a period of about 80 years, Heinrich’s brother Joseph, Heinrich’s sons Max and Woolf, grandson Jack Englander, grand-daughter Rosalie Gärtner and great-nephew Max Wildberg had all migrated to Australia was completely unrecorded.

In April I began searching for local Kronheimer information. The earliest mention of Max’s presence in Australia that I could find was in a shipping report of arrivals in Victoria, which shows that Max disembarked in Melbourne in October 1860 on the *Essex*, out of Gravesend, England. The record describes him as aged 14, with an estimated birth year of 1846. It is therefore doubtful that his uncle Joseph’s motivation for bringing him to Australia at that stage was to involve him in the tobacco business, although that is what happened later as Max reached maturity. The original hand-written shipping report, which I also viewed, lists him as a steerage passenger; he is not shown as being part of a family group. In the column headed “Profession, occupation...” he is described (along with two other males on the same page) as “Goldseeker”.

The first mention of his association with Joseph Kronheimer is dated 1876, in a Melbourne business directory, where he is listed in both the Queen St business address and the private Nicholson St F[itzy] address where he lived at the time together with his uncle:

**Kronheimer, Julius (Kronheimer and Co.)  
Hamburg**  
**Kronheimer, J., and Co. (Kronheimer, Joseph  
and Julius; Frankein, Charles; Kronheimer, Max)**  
**tobacco merchants and importers,  
21 Queen-st**  
**Kronheimer, Joseph (Kronheimer, J., and Co.)  
Richey's-terrace, Nicholson-st, F.**  
**Kronheimer, Max (Kronheimer, J., & Co.)  
Richey's-terrace, Nicholson-st, F.**

Sands & McDougall, *Melbourne Directory* (1876)

In other words, at the time of his death in 1893, he had been working for Joseph Kronheimer and Co for at least 23 years. The wording of the business directory entry implies that by 1876 he was a partner in the business.

I was still intrigued about the nature of Max's death. On Sunday afternoon, 6<sup>th</sup> April, I decided to do some web searching about this event. The first attempt produced a trivial and irrelevant bit of information. I googled "Kronheimer shipwreck" and up came a story in the *West Australian* newspaper of 7<sup>th</sup> April 1910 describing the shipwreck of the *Leeuwin* off the coast of Fremantle. Buried in the long article was a list of donors to the relief fund that had been set up for the survivors. Kronheimer Ltd donated £3.3.0: interesting but irrelevant, as Max had died in 1893.

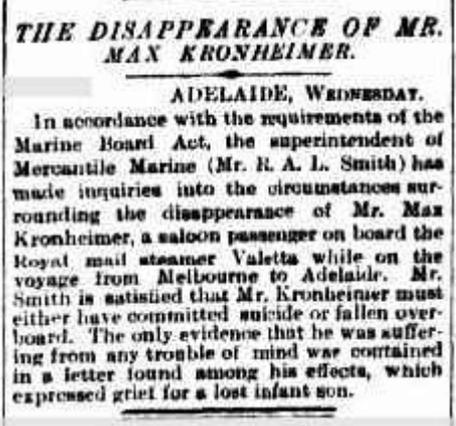
Then, I thought, why did I use 'shipwreck'? The nephew supposedly fell overboard. So I googled "Kronheimer lost overboard". Voila! An Australian website called Trove has been systematically digitalising old newspaper archives, using OCM (optical character recognition) which scans printed text and converts it into searchable electronic copy. OCM frequently yields garbled text (e.g. 'Wednesday' became 'WbdnesDAT'), but the text is usually good enough, with a little editing, to be comprehensible. The Melbourne paper, *The Argus* (which I used to read at home as a teenager) carried the following story in its issue of 27 September 1893:

**DROWNED AT SEA,  
MR. MAX KRONHEIMER LOST OFF H.M.S. VALETTA.  
A MYSTERIOUS DISAPPEARANCE.**

The brief message published yesterday from our Adelaide correspondent announcing the disappearance of Mr. Max Kronheimer off H.M.S. Valetta on Sunday night, while the vessel was steaming to Adelaide, has been confirmed, but the late messages have not assisted to explain away the mystery which is attached to the sad occurrence. Mr. Kronheimer was a nephew of Mr. Joseph Kronheimer, of the firm of Messrs. J. Kronheimer and Co., tobacco merchants and importers, of 334 and 340 Flinders-lane and Hamburg, and he was himself a member of the firm. On Saturday he left Melbourne in the H.M.S. Valetta, intending to go as far as Adelaide and remain there until the next returning mail boat gave him an opportunity to come back to Melbourne. This short trip was undertaken by him, not because of ill health, for his health was good, nor for business reasons, but simply as a holiday excursion. Several of his relatives saw him off, and before the ship left the pier he was in his usual spirits, and chatted gaily to his friends. He had promised to telegraph when he arrived in Adelaide about some matter of a private nature, and when on Monday no telegram was received from him his friends were somewhat anxious. However, until yesterday morning when they read in *The Argus* of his disappearance from the vessel, they were inclined to believe that he had not communicated with them because he had forgotten, or because he had not had time to get the information he required for the purpose of the message. The news of his death, which was thus learned was supported an hour or two later by a telegram received from the agents of the H.M.S. Valetta, Messrs. Elder, Smith, and Co. Their message simply intimated that Mr. Kronheimer had gone on deck after dinner on Sunday night, and that he was subsequently missed. It added that another message would be sent on the following day (Wednesday), but no further particulars that would tend to explain the

occurrence were likely to be obtained. The meagre details of the fatality seem to indicate that Mr. Kronheimer was promenading the deck after dinner, and was thrown overboard by the lurching of the vessel in the violent storm of Sunday night. The supposition that he committed suicide does not appear tenable for a moment. He was 45 years of age, and a married man with two children, residing at Redan-street, St. Kilda. The business of his firm is a prosperous one, and his private fortune a large one, and as in addition his relations with his family and friends were cordial and his health good, his death must be ascribed to an unfortunate misadventure.

“His death must be ascribed to an unfortunate misadventure”, said Wednesday’s *Argus*. The next day’s edition was less confident about maintaining this interpretation.

<p><i>The Argus</i>, Thursday 28 September 1893</p> <p><b>THE DISAPPEARANCE OF MR. MAX KRONHEIMER.</b> ADELAIDE, Wednesday.</p> <p>In accordance with the requirements of the Marine Board Act, the superintendent of Mercantile Marine (Mr R A L Smith) has made inquiries into the circumstances surrounding the disappearance of Mr Max Kronheimer, a saloon passenger on board the Royal Mail Steamer <i>Valetta</i> while on the voyage from Melbourne to Adelaide. Mr Smith is satisfied that Mr Kronheimer must either have committed suicide or fallen overboard. The only evidence that he was suffering from any trouble of mind was contained in a letter found among his effects, which expressed grief for a lost infant son.</p>	
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The news report helped to clear away some misconceptions. Max certainly wasn’t returning to Germany: he was just planning a short holiday break by taking a sea journey to Adelaide (if we accept the more optimistic interpretation). He had a large private fortune acquired through his work for the company for more than 25 years.

There were still some minor discrepancies in the information I had gathered. If the newspaper report of his age at death in 1893 is correct (45), then that meant he was born about 1848, which would make him the second of Heinrich and Sophie’s children, after Klara and before Woolf. If on the other hand the ship arrival data describing him as a 14 year old in 1860 is correct, that would mean he was born about 1846, the year after his parents’ wedding and the year before the birth of my great-grandmother Klara. He was therefore about 47 years old when he died in 1893, and not 45 as described in the newspaper report.

I wrote the preceding paragraph on Sunday afternoon of 13<sup>th</sup> April. In the evening, an email from Rolf Hofmann contained some new information. We had been corresponding about Max and Woolf frequently during the previous few days. Rolf told me that he had gone back over some old archival material and found that Heinrich and Sophie had **three** children not previously recorded in the Harburg lists. He wrote that these were:

- MAIER** b. 22 Aug 1845 (= 3 months before parents' marriage!) this must be your "MAX"
- ROSALIE** b 30 Nov 1848 (don't know what happened to her – died young ?)
- WOLF** b 26 Jan 1851 (with one "o")

These three short lines contained seven new bits of information: the existence of another Kronheimer daughter, her date of birth, the original spelling of Woolf’s name, his date of birth, Max’s original name, his date of birth, and – most intriguing of all – the statement that he had been born out of wedlock. In other words, my great(x2)grandparents had (shock, horror!) apparently engaged in some pre-marital hanky-panky.

Or so I believed for the next three weeks, until still more information came in from another researcher, who was able to provide definite evidence that Rolf’s statement was based on an incorrect date for Heinrich and Sophie’s wedding. We will return to that later. In the meantime, let us focus on Maier’s name, age and subsequent history.

By the mid-19<sup>th</sup> Century, it was fairly common practice for German Jews to have an everyday “German” name as well as the “Jewish” name given to them as a baby. Maier might have used both his birth name and Max as a boy, but I would confidently assume that he invariably stuck to Max on the English boat as he sailed to Australia in 1860, and held to that name forever after. So the shipping report describing him as a 14-year-old was essentially correct, although he turned 15 on the voyage. *The Argus* report describing him as a 45 year old when he died was therefore incorrect: he had turned 48 a month earlier. Wolf’s previously unknown date of birth is entirely credible and is consistent with the report that he was 19 years old when he died in May 1870. The original entry on our family tree was that his birth year was 1850.

Max’s mother Sophie died in 1858, leaving his widower father with no-one to look after his several children, so one could speculate that Heinrich welcomed the idea that Max could be shipped off to Australia. I would suggest that the fact that the two males on Rolf’s additional list both left for Australia at a young age and the possibility that Rosalie died young would account for their “disappearance” from the communal memory – none left any traces in Schopfloch – and hence their omission from Rolf’s original compilation of the Kronheimer family tree. I am therefore pleased that the record of Max and Wolf’s existence on our family tree triggered Rolf’s search of the Schopfloch archives and restored them (and Rosalie) to their proper place.

We don’t know whether Max and Wolf travelled to Australia separately, or together, or whether either of them were accompanied by older members of the family such as uncle Joseph or aunt Michle and her husband Raphael Hoechstaedter. The shipping report implies that Max was travelling alone. All of these people left Schopfloch at around the same time. We can fairly safely assume that 14-year-old Max never saw his father again.

Max’s tragic death is much more than a side story in my family history. Max’s uncle Joseph, unmarried and childless, 66 years old at the time of his nephew’s death, was almost certainly looking to pass the leadership of the enormously successful family business he had built up over more than a quarter of a century to his middle-aged nephew. To whom should the baton then pass? Very soon after Max’s death in 1893, Joseph succeeded in encouraging his great-nephew Jacob Englander, the son of my great-grandparents Simon and Klara (or Clara, nee Kronheimer), to migrate to Australia and work for the firm. A note in the Attorney General’s records attests that Jacob Englander, described as a clerk, 23 years old, was naturalised on 26 May 1897 (presumably as a British citizen, Australia as a nation did not yet exist). I don’t know how long a German national would have to wait before being accepted as a British citizen; I would speculate that Jacob arrived in Melbourne around 1895 or 1896.

That was my great-uncle Jack, who joined the family business and became a director of the family company which merged with the huge cigarette company WD & HO Wills. I remember him from my teenage years. It was Jack who sponsored my parents’ emigration to Australia prior to World War II. And so, here I am today.

We already knew that Max’s wife Adele had a son, Edgar, their second child, who died the same year. The phrase “grief for a lost infant son” means that the baby was born before Max’s ill-fated voyage to South Australia. (Another web search told me that Edgar lived for 15 days, but not his date of death.) This information raises unanswered questions. His wife Adele was undoubtedly grieving, too, so why does Max leave home to go on a “holiday excursion”? Was there a strain in the marriage and the couple had a temporary separation? Was the “holiday excursion” and “the gaily chatting to his friends” on departure (no mention of his wife) part of an elaborate cover for an intended suicide? We will never know. All we do know is that we now have a definite date and time of death, Sunday night, 24<sup>th</sup> September, 1893.

We have one personal link to Max's family. His surviving daughter, Aimee, born 1891, was two years old at the time of her father's death. She remained in Melbourne, never married, changed her surname to Keynes, and lived a comfortable existence in the suburb of Kew as one of the wealthy beneficiaries of the Joseph Kronheimer estate. We knew her in our young married days (she died in 1972) and we think of her each year when we look at the elegant set of drinking glasses that she gave us as an engagement present and which we keep aside for use on Passover.

**The Hoehstaedters.** I know nothing about the subsequent history of Michle Kronheimer and her husband Raphael Hoehstaedter. The surname, incidentally, originated in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century when the grandsons of Jacob ben Simon HaLevi, whose family had been expelled from the town of Hoehstadt in 1741 and moved to Moenchsdeggingen adopted the name of their former town as their surname. Adding –er to the town name is a standard German suffix, like –ite or –ian in English. Recall President Kennedy's famous utterance, "Ich bin ein Berliner"?

I carried out a search and the only reference that bore any relationship to our family was this statement in an Australian government website:

Clotilde Hoehstaedter (now deceased 17 May 1941) beneficiary on estate Sigmund Hoehstaedter deceased (head estate Joseph Kronheimer) – funds held by the controller of enemy property and the Equity Trustees Company.

A web search for Sigmund Hoehstaedter yielded this information gathered by the Harburg Project:

**SIGMUND HOECHSTAEDTER**, merchant in Noerdlingen, born 20 Aug 1843, Moenchsdeggingen, died 05 Jul 1921 Stuttgart (grave in Stuttgart – Jewish part of Prag cemetery) (parents = Eduard Hoehstaedter + wife Klara nee Obermeier); married 25 Nov 1873 in Cannstatt (near Stuttgart)

Wife: **EMMA STERN** born 26 Sep 1852 Rexingen, died 23 Oct 1932 Stuttgart (grave in Stuttgart – Jewish part of Prag cemetery) (parents = Samuel Stern + wife Elise/Elsbeth nee Hirschfelder).  
No known children

Sigmund's birthplace, Moenchsdeggingen, is the same as the town of Raphael and Michle; perhaps Sigmund was a brother of Raphael. The name Hoehstaedter appears numerous times in the records of that town and others in the surrounding region. A web search for Clotilde Hoehstaedter yielded these two (widely separated) lines in the Yad VaShem records of Holocaust victims, with a variation in the spelling of her forename and a slight discrepancy of a few days in the date of death.

**CLOTILDE HOECHSTAEDTER 23/11/1861 MUNICH,GERMANY WESTERBORK 27/05/1943**  
**CLOTHILDE HOECHSTAEDTER 23/11/1861 MUENCHEN,GERMANY WESTERBORK 22/05/1943**

Westerbork is in Holland. It was originally set up as a refugee camp for Jews fleeing Nazism (ironically funded by the Dutch Jewish community). It was then taken over after the Nazis invaded Holland and turned into a transit camp from which about 100,000 people were transported, mostly to concentration camps and extermination camps in occupied Poland. Her date of birth shows that this Clotilde was obviously not Sigmund and Emma's daughter. I found later that Hoehstaedter was her married name.

Another later search of Yad VaShem records found that a Klothilde Hoehstaedter, nee Sternfeld, born in Munich on 23 November 1861, was listed in the *Gedenkbuch - Opfer der Verfolgung der Juden unter der nationalsozialistischen Gewaltherrschaft in Deutschland 1933-1945*, Bundesarchiv (German National Archives), Koblenz 1986, as having been in the Westerbork camp. Her date of death is recorded as 27 May 1943. Her place of death is given as Westerbork, but the record also lists her as having been "deported to an extermination camp". This is slightly confusing, as Westerbork was a transit camp, not an extermination camp, and most victims were deported to either Auschwitz or Sobibor.

A larger puzzle is the reference in the Australian government note referring to Clotilde being already "deceased 17 May 1941". Wrong information somewhere? Two different Clotildes?

The family links that led Joseph Kronheimer to include these German members of the Hoechstaedter family as beneficiaries of his estate are therefore unclear.

**A new source of help.** Rolf Hofmann had told me that he was now 71 years old and was no longer actively engaged in research for the Harburg Project. He suggested that I contact David Kurz, who lives in Israel and works with the Landesverband der Israelitischen Kultusgemeinden in Bayern Archiv-und Friedhofsdezernat (National Association of Jewish Religious Communities in Bavaria Archives and Cemetery Department). This organisation is based in Munich, where David spends some time working. Here he has access to all the available archive material, which Rolf did not have.

I wrote to David in mid-April and he responded from Israel ten days later, telling me he was about to leave for Munich and would look at the archives there. True to his word, he wrote to me again a week later, attaching photocopies of original Schopfloch marriage and birth records, accompanied by transcriptions of the spiky old-German (and difficult to decipher) writing. It contained a treasure trove of new information.

### Marriage record of Haium and Sophie

Haium Kronheimer, ledig, ahalig, Sohn des  
Gendelmanns Mosab Kronheimer und seiner Frau  
Frau Meszeliach geb. Sternlicht aus Weiskopfstein,  
geboren dafirt den 19. Januar 1819 und  
ein Jungfrau Sophie / Spring / Bernheimer, ahalig  
Tochter des Gendelmanns Mosab Bernheimer  
und seiner Frau Frau Rosalia / Gela / geb. Gersberg  
geboren dafirt den 5. April 1825, warden geboren  
dafirt den fünf und zwanzigsten / 25 / November  
1845.  
Rathhaus und Jungfrau sein aben.  
Lohn der Aufsigung: Ackmann. Haus No 27.  
Abgeschloss Schopfloch, den 1. Januar 1845  
des Dip. d. Rathhaus  
Ertel

---

Ein Tausend auf Grund der Dreizeig und Fünf.  
1845

Copy of original Schopfloch marriage register

David

30/04/2014 8:56:21 PM

Haium Kronheimer, lediger ehelicher Sohn des Handelsmannes Moses Kronheimer und seiner Ehefrau Margalith geb. Freundlich aus Wittelshefen, geboren dahier den 19. Januar 1819 und die Jungfrau Sophie /(?) / Bernheimer, eheliche Tochter des Handelsmannes Moses Samuel Bernheimer und seiner Ehefrau Karolina /Gela/ geb. Hamburger geboren dahier am 5. April 1823, werden getraut dahier am fünf und zwanzigsten /25/ November 1844.  
Rabbiner und Zeugen wie oben.  
(?) der Ansäßigmachung: Oekonom. Haus No 27.  
Abgeschlossen Schopfloch, den 1. Januar 1845  
das Distrikts Rabbinat  
(?)

David Kurz's transcription of the Schopfloch marriage register

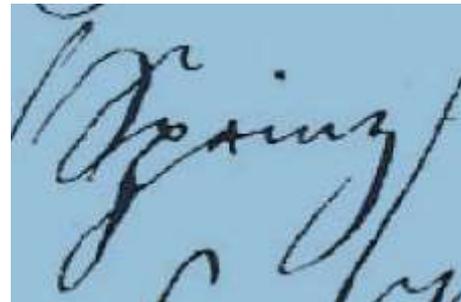
Translation: Haium Kronheimer, the legitimate son of the trader Moses Kronheimer and his wife Margalith nee Freundlich of Wittelshefen [sic], born on 19 January 1819 and the maiden Sophie /(?) / Bernheimer, the legitimate daughter of the trader Moses Samuel Bernheimer and his wife Karolina/Gela nee Hamburger, were married here on the twenty-fifth /25/ of November 1844. The Rabbi and witnesses as above. [Address] Closed off on 1 January 1845. The District Rabbinate. [Signature]

(And on the original document, a line has been drawn across, followed by 1845 One thousand eight hundred and forty five.)

The marriage record states unambiguously that Haium and Sophie were married in 1844, not 1845, and that the date Rolf had listed in his version of the Kronheimer family tree was out by a year. (Rolf also had the actual date slightly wrong: they were married on November 25<sup>th</sup>, not the 23<sup>rd</sup>.) The record mentions 1845 in two places, but the first reference ("Abgeschlossen...1 Januar 1845") refers to the date of closing the register for the previous year, and the second looks like the heading for that year's entries. (Of course, Rolf may not have seen this record at all, and based his report to me on a different source of information.)

So baby Max was legitimate! (What a relief for the honour of the family!) We can also note that with Max being born on 22 August 1845, Haium and Sophie wasted no time at all in getting on with the job of producing a family.

Note that David had a question mark in the line **Sophie /(?) / Bernheimer** as he could not decipher her middle name. We already had her originally on our family tree as **Sophie Sprinz**, believing, incorrectly, that Sprinz was her maiden name. Some commentators have suggested that this name is a German version of the Polish Sprynca or the Yiddish Shprintse and may have originated in pre-1492 Spain as Esperanza ("Hope"). The Harburg Project recorded her as Spinz, but this is either a misreading of the handwriting or a typographical error. Heinrich's Hebrew name is transliterated as Hajum on the Harburg list (The j in German is like a y in English), but as the marriage record describes him as Haium, that is what I have used.



Sprinz (detail)

### **Birth record of Maier (Max)**

David Kurz also provided me with copies, transcripts and translations of Max's birth register entry. This explicitly stated that Meier (the way Maier is spelled in the birth record) was the legitimate son of Haium and Sophie, and that he was born on Friday, 22 August. Ah yes, you might ask, but in what year? As a double-check I asked the Wolfram Alpha website the question, "What day of the week was 22 August 1845?" and within seconds, back came the answer: Friday. Case closed.

### Geburtseintrage (Birth Records)

Meier Kronheimer, ehelich erzeugter Sohn des Oekonomen Haium Kronheimer und seiner Ehefrau Sophie geb. Bernheimer von hier wurde geboren dahier Freitag den zwei und zwanzigsten /22/ August nachts ½ 1 Uhr. Die Beschneidung wurde vorgenommen am 30. ejd., wobei Moses Kronheimer ud. seine Tochter Mina Gevattern waren.  
Beschneider ( ? ? ? ) No 27.

Translation: Meier Kronheimer, legitimate son of the commercial businessman Haium Kronheimer and his wife Sophie nee Bernheimer , was born here on Friday the twenty-second /22/ of August in the night at 12.30 am. The circumcision was carried out on the 30<sup>th</sup>, with Moses Kronheimer and his daughter Mina as godparents. The mohel [indecipherable]. No 27 [the house number]

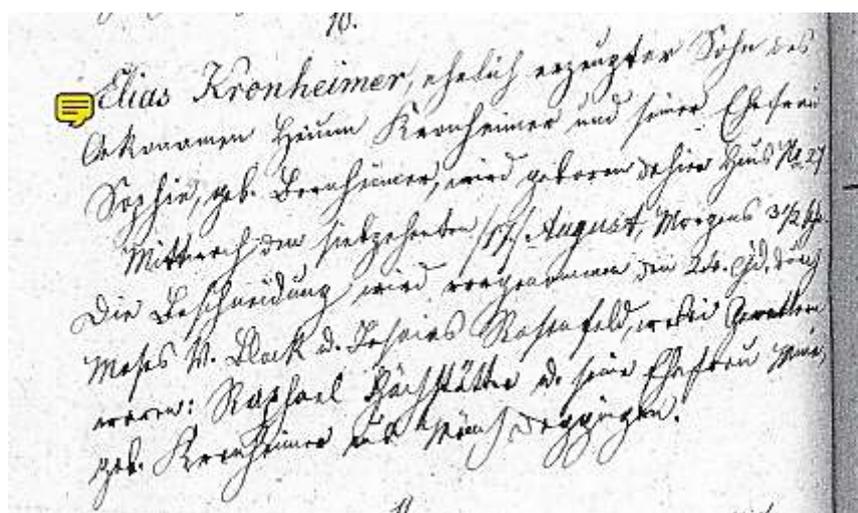
#### Birth and circumcision record of Meier Kronheimer

**Gevattern.** The Gevattern (Yiddish, male, *kvatter*; female *kvatterin*) are usually (but not always) a married couple, by convention one that has not yet had children. The *kvatterin* carries the baby to the door of the room where the circumcision is carried out, and then hands the baby to the *kvatter*, who then hands him on the person, sitting in “Elijah’s chair”, who holds the baby while the *mohel* performs the circumcision.

Note the reference to Moses and Mina, the Gevattern present at Meier’s circumcision. This raises another question.

**Who was Mina Kronheimer?.** I had on my family tree – I don’t recall the source of the entry – an alternative name for Margalith as Mina. Meier’s birth record made me doubt that this was correct. The transcript, which also records his circumcision, stated that the Gevattern were “Moses and his daughter Mina”. (Moses was the father of Haium and the grandfather of baby Meier.)

Grandfather Moses and his (now late) wife Margolis (she had died in 1836) had (as far as we know) only one daughter, described on the Harburg tree as Michle. I would doubt that a daughter would be given the same informal forename as her mother, so I would suggest that Mina was an alternative name for Michle. The same woman, with a forename difficult to decipher, appears again on a birth and circumcision record of Elias, a younger brother of Meier.



10.  
Elias Kronheimer, ehelich erzeugter Sohn des  
Oekonomen Haium Kronheimer und seiner Ehefrau  
Sophie geb. Bernheimer, von hier wurde geboren dahier Freitag den zwei und zwanzigsten /22/ August nachts ½ 1 Uhr.  
Die Beschneidung wurde vorgenommen am 30. ejd., wobei  
Moses Kronheimer und seine Tochter Mina Gevattern waren.  
Beschneider: Raphael Eichstätter, wohnhaft in Mönchsdeggingen.  
11.

#### Birth record of Elias Kronheimer

Translation of last sentence: The Gevattern were Raphael Eichstätter [sic] and his wife Mina (?) nee Kronheimer from Mönchsdeggingen.

When Meier was born in 1845, Moses’ daughter Michle (= Mina?) wasn’t married, but in 1846 she married Raphael, so now as a couple married for nine years, the uncle and aunt of the baby could now serve as the Gevattern at the circumcision of Elias in 1855. David had

transcribed the illegible surname of Raphael as Eichstätter, but I already knew from the Harburg data that this was Raphael Hoechstædter, the husband of Michle Kronheimer.

**A great(x3)grandmother is more fully identified.** There was some other useful information in the marriage record of Haium and Sophie. The Harburg Project had listed Sophie's mother as Gale Bernheimer. David's transcript provided a more detailed description of her as Karolina (Gela) nee Hamburger thus giving me the full name of another of my great(x3)grandmothers. And this opens up (perhaps) a whole new line, since that makes me also the descendant of some unknown Mr Hamburger, my great(x4)grandfather. I drew the attention of David to this, seeking more information, and sent a copy of my request to Rolf, who replied within a couple of hours, attaching a copy of the Hamburger Family of Schopfloch family tree. More about this quite exciting new information below.

The other great(x3)grandmother already identified by the Harburg Project was Haium's mother Margolis. David's transcript describes her as Margalith. As previously mentioned, spelling of names is notoriously inconsistent in records of the period. The discrepancy might simply be due to alternative pronunciations and transliterations into German of a name originally written in Hebrew. (cf. Boruch/Baruch, b'ris/b'rith, reflecting varying Ashkenazic/Sephardic pronunciations.)

**Rosalie Kronheimer.** This daughter of Haium and Sophie appeared in neither our original family tree nor Rolf Hofmann's Kronheimer of Family of Schopfloch list. It was only after I drew Rolf's attention to the missing Max (=Meier) and Woolf (=Wolf) that he found the two of them, and Rosalie as well, in some old archival material. Rolf knew Rosalie's date of birth, but not her date of death. In the material that David sent me, Rosalie's year death (1870) was recorded in a marginal note next to her birth record. So she died as a young woman, not as an infant, but young enough not to leave any other trace of her existence. Obviously, David and Rolf had access to differing archival records.

**Freundlich and Kronheimer: a double connection.** Early in May, I came across a little jigsaw piece that fitted two families together in two different ways. The earliest encounter with the Harburg Schopfloch list some weeks earlier had identified Meier Isaak Freundlich and his wife Voegele as my great(x4)grandparents: their daughter Margolis married Moses Haium Kronheimer. Now there was something else. The Schopfloch list had noted that Elias, one of the younger sons of Moses and Margolis, had married Fanny Freundlich, described as the daughter of Joseph and Lea Freundlich, from Wittelshofen, the same village as Meier Isaak and Voegele's. The missing link was provided by a Freundlich family tree, prepared by Thomas Föhl, a German genealogist and historian who had previously helped me while I was working on my Gärtner ancestors. The Freundlich tree told me that Meier Isaak and Voegele had two sons as well as their daughter Margolis: Heinrich (b. 1796) and Joseph (b. 1803). The brothers had married sisters, respectively Zehlia and Lena (Lea) Rosenfeld. Elias and Fanny were therefore first cousins: they both had the same grandparents. (I thought that this discovery would be of interest to the four generations of the Wildberg family currently living in Melbourne, as they are all descendants of Elias and Fanny.)

**The Bernheimer and Hamburger branches.** Early on in our new discoveries about the Kronheimer branch, we learned from the Harburg Project that Haium's wife Sophie Sprinz had a maiden name, Bernheimer. She was the daughter of Moses Samuel and Karoline (Gale/Gela) Bernheimer. As previously mentioned, this added a new pair of great(x3)grandparents to our family tree.

I did some searching in early May for further information about the Bernheimer family. Why wouldn't I? They are just as much my ancestors as the Gärtners and the Kronheimers. I found that the Bernheimers are a vast international family – with Moses Samuel listed among the 260 entries, but I could not find any links between him and the others, or anything

about his predecessors. I sent an email to a prominent Bernheimer who was a major art dealer in Munich – the firm had existed for three generations – but received no response. However, sometimes attempts to climb up family trees can yield fruit hanging on nearby branches. Gale Bernheimer's maiden name was not mentioned on the Schopfloch Kronheimer list. When I carried out a search specifically for her, I found her on another of Rolf Hofmann's family lists. Her maiden name was Hamburger. The list gave further information about these great(x3)grandparents. Moses came from Jochsberg; he was born about 1790 and became a farmer and cattle dealer in Schopfloch. He married Gale about 1822. Both are buried in Schopfloch: she died first, on 4 April 1865, he four years later, on 15 April 1869. A separate family sheet shows that the Bernheimer couple had fourteen children (a record on our family tree, I think). Apart from Sophie Sprinz, five others are known to have married, and one of these couples is known to have had children. One of the daughters married a first cousin in the Hamburger family, the son of Moses younger brother. Another child is known to have died when he was two weeks old. The other seven children have birthdays recorded, but nothing else is known about them.

The Jochsberg area is first recorded by name in 1274 and had an existing castle. From 1318 to 1791 it was ruled by a succession of Margraves (military governors of border provinces, usually with a hereditary title), and a village had been established by the 16<sup>th</sup> Century. In the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> Centuries, it had a small Jewish community (six families in 1714). By 1803, the community had grown to 82 people in twelve families. In 1806 the village came under Prussian rule. During the next century the community declined for educational and economic reasons, and was disbanded by 1920. The community's dead were buried in nearby Bechhofen; a regional newspaper in 2013 described a project which is attempting to document the 2300 Jewish graves.



The (former) Jochsberg synagogue



Advertisement in *The Israelite*, 1920

(The Jochsberg Jewish community is offering five sifrei torah and various synagogue fittings for sale.)

(Photos: alemannia-judaica)

But there's more: Rolf Hofmann's Hamburger list also identifies Gale's parents and one of her sets of grandparents. She was the daughter of Wolf Samuel Hamburger, a cloth merchant in Schopfloch, who was born on 13 February 1764, married before 1795 and died on 10 June 1839. His wife's name was Maile (maiden name unknown, born 13 February 1765, died 25 December 1852). They were another set of my great(x4)grandparents.

And still more: Wolf's parents are also known. His father lived and died decades before surnames were required. He was called Samuel Benjamin, born about 1741, married about

1763, known to have owned a quarter of a house in Schopfloch in 1770, described as “poor” and died (named as “Samuel Wolf”) on 3 November 1771. He married a woman named Gale, who died after 1798. (Presumably, grand-daughter Gale Hamburger was named after her.) I therefore now have a set of great(x5)grandparents.

The Harburg Project’s research means that by adding the Hamburger and Bernheimer links to our Kronheimer ancestry, from Samuel Benjamin down to our grandchildren, our family tree was now a chain of ten generations.

Beyond that, there is only speculation. Rolf Hofmann suggested that Samuel Benjamin’s father may have been called Benjamin Moises, but there is a question mark after the entry. Whatever his name was, that man was my great(x6)grandfather. But we know absolutely nothing about him.

This section of our family history illustrates the obvious point that family lines tend to be dominated by male ancestors whose surnames (at least after the early 1800s) are passed on through the generations. Thus my family history is dominated by the Gärtner branch. The Kronheimer name is remembered because in my own lifetime, there were members of my family (grand-mother Rosalie, great-uncle Jack) who knew of their Kronheimer roots. What the present episode demonstrates clearly, though, is that I am just as much a descendant of Wolf Samuel Hamburger or Moses Samuel Bernheimer as I am of my Gardner ancestor Herz Gärtner. It’s just that daughter Gale Hamburger marries a Bernheimer and the Hamburger name disappears from our family history, and their daughter Sophie Sprinz marries a Kronheimer and the Bernheimer surname is lost as well. My great-grandmother Clara Kronheimer marries an Engländer and that’s the end of the Kronheimer surname in my list of direct ancestors. Nor does the Kronheimer name survive in Australia. Wolf migrates and dies as a young man; Max marries and has a son who dies soon after birth; his daughter Aimee changes her surname to Keynes and dies unmarried; Joseph never marries.

Which leads to an interesting observation. The Hamburger family tree has been described by the Harburg Project from the latter half of the 18<sup>th</sup> Century to the period of World War II. There are more than thirty names on the list. By now, the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, there might well be a couple of hundred Hamburger or Bernheimer descendants of my ancestors. All of them are just as entitled to a place on our family tree as the Gärtners and the Kronheimers. Should I add the ones I know about to the tree? Why wouldn’t I?

All of these additions gave me a great deal of personal satisfaction. Firstly, as an academic (retired but not yet entirely in intellectual decline) I enjoyed the thrill of the chase, of discovering new members of the family and adding them to our family tree. Secondly, there was the personal pleasure in mid-year of being able to uphold the family honour of Haium and Sophie Kronheimer over the matter of Max’s legitimacy. Thirdly, this particular case study provided a clear illustration of an important principle of historical research – any sort of research, really – that a “fact” is not an absolute truth; there are only individual interpretations of data. Some interpretations are reasonably reliable, while others are less so and are always open to re-interpretation.

## **THE ROSENTHAL-PETTEN-MOCELLIN BRANCH**

By the middle of the year, and certainly as 2014 drew to a close, I thought that I had put together a reasonably complete compilation of the available knowledge of the Kronheimer branch of my family.

But near the end of the year, I was proven wrong. One name that had been added early in the year was Johanna Kronheimer, who married a Rosenthal. They had children and grandchildren. It was a side branch, one of many, and not a major focus of interest to me at the time. Many other new surnames were being added – Freundliches and Hamburgers and

Bernheimers among others – and a marriage of a Kronheimer to a Rosenthal was seemingly no more significant than the marriage of a Kronheimer to a Kehrmann. I have learned many things about genealogy in the past year. One of them is that you can never confidently distinguish between what is significant and what isn't.

**The Petten branch.** At the end of November, Thomas Föhl posted some new information on the Geni family tree website about Johanna's grand-daughter, Edith Rosenthal. Edith was married to Houwerd Petten. Edith had already been listed on our family tree earlier in the year; she was born in Hilversum, Holland. That geographical fact didn't make an impression at the time, but by now I had a wonderfully helpful colleague in Holland, Freda Voorhorst, who was helping me research another branch of my family.

Edith is a descendant of our common great(x2)grandparents Heinrich and Sophie Kronheimer, whose youngest son Samuel married Rosa Metzger. Sam and Rosa's second child, Johanna, married Norbert Nathan Rosenthal (the son of a prominent antiquarian bookseller in Munich, Ludwig Rosenthal). They had a son Fritz (1908-55), who married Hilde Berta Wolf (1910-1998). Edith was this couple's only child, born after the war, in 1948; the parents migrated to Holland before the war, survived the Nazi period and died in Holland. Fritz died young (the result of a medical error); his widow lived to old age.

I emailed Frieda Voorhorst and next day Frieda sent me not only Edith's email address but also Facebook information about her family and web information about her bookshop. I then emailed Edith and she promptly responded with further information. All my previous Kronheimer information had come from genealogists and historians. This was my first contact with a living, newly-discovered descendant of Haium and Sophie. Edith is my third cousin.

Her full (maiden) name is Edith Maria Johanna Rosenthal. She was born in Hilversum on 2 February 1948, and she married Houwerd Petten, a lawyer working in The Hague. Houwerd was born in Bandung, Indonesia. I googled his name and discovered from another family tree website ([www.nachum.co](http://www.nachum.co)) that they have two sons, Laurens Pepijn (b. 1976) and Arjan Merijn (b. 1978). Laurens is married (for the second time); his second wife Emma (nee Furniss) have a little daughter, Lilla. (A second child is expected in April 2015.) Arjan is married to Sytske (nee Groenewald) and they have two sons Hugo (born in 2011) and Arthur, at time of writing the newest Kronheimer descendant in the world (born on 25 September 2014).

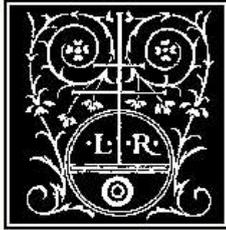
Edith's great-grandfather, Ludwig Rosenthal, founded his antiquarian bookshop ("Ludwig Rosenthal's Antiquariaat") in Fellheim in Germany in 1859. The business later moved to Munich and remained in the family. Edith told me, "My parents fled to Holland in 1937, together with Paul Rosenthal, brother of my father Fritz. They could bring a small amount of books and prints from Ludwig Rosenthal's Antiquariaat in München and continued the firm, until they had to hide and restart after the war. Some stock was recovered several years after the war and transported to the Netherlands." Edith is now the fourth-generation owner of the family

Paul, Hilde und  
Fritz Rosenthal (v. l.)  
in Den Haag vor  
ihrem Geschäft an  
der Willem de  
Zwygerlaan 135,  
um 1938.



Fritz Rosenthal (right), with his wife Hilde and brother Paul in front of their bookshop in The Hague in 1938

(Source: Jüdisches Museum, München)



## Ludwig Rosenthal's Antiquariaat

Established 1859

Park Leeuwenberghlaan 1  
2267 BM Leidschendam  
The Netherlands  
(Edith Petten-Rosenthal)  
Tel. +31-(0)70-31 93 049  
Fax +31-(0)70-31 94 731

E-mail: [info@ludwigrosenthal.com](mailto:info@ludwigrosenthal.com)

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### Exhibition and book on the Rosenthal family of antiquarian booksellers

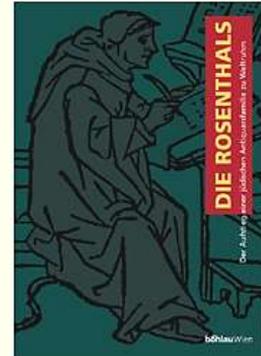
From October 2002 until January 2004, the [Jewish Museum in München](#) presented an exhibition on the Rosenthal family of antiquarian booksellers. On this occasion, their history was published in book form by the Austrian publisher Böhlau, Vienna:

**Die Rosenthals. Der Aufstieg einer jüdischen Antiquarsfamilie zu Weltruhm.**

Mit Beiträgen von Elisabeth Angermair, Jens Koch, Anton Löffelmeier, Eva Ohlen und Ingo Schwab.

Wien, Köln, Weimar, Böhlau Verlag, 2002. Richly illustrated. 262 pages. Svo. Cloth, dust-wrappers.

The exhibition moved in July 2004 to [Fellheim, Bavaria](#), the birthplace of Ludwig Rosenthal in 1840, and from April 2008 the exhibition was on display in [Mindelheim, Bavaria](#).



bookshop business, which operates in the township of Leidschendam, near The Hague. From 2002 to 2004, an exhibition about the history of the bookshop was mounted in Munich and a book was published in Austria, titled *Die Rosenthals*. The subtitle of the book is *Der Aufstieg einer jüdischen Antiquarsfamilie zu Weltruhm*, (The rise of a Jewish family of antiquarians to world renown.) The 1938 photo is from the brochure promoting the exhibition.

Frieda discovered that Edith is active in the Jewish community, and serves as secretary of Stichting Sja'ar (Educatieve stichting van het Nederlands Verbond voor Progressief Jodendom, the Education Foundation of the Netherlands Alliance for Progressive Judaism).

Edith's uncle Paul (born in Munich in 1906) was already on our family tree, based on Geni information received early in the year. I knew that he had perished in the Holocaust. Edith told me that he was in hiding for several years during the Nazi period but in 1944 he was betrayed. (The Nazis ran a bounty system whereby Dutch citizens could turn in hidden Jews and receive a 7.50 guilders reward.) Frieda sent me an email to tell me that he was listed in a Dutch website, [joodsmonument.nl](http://joodsmonument.nl), which memorialises Dutch citizens and residents who were victims of the Nazis. I checked the site and found that there were actually two people of about the same age named Paul Rosenthal. Frieda had described the wrong one, a man born in Amsterdam in 1895 (which didn't match my previous knowledge of a Munich family that left for Holland in the 1930s). The most convincing piece of evidence for identifying the one who belonged to Edith's family was the caption underneath the photograph, which noted that it had been supplied by Edith. Paul lived in The Hague.

**Petten Family photos.** I asked Edith to send me some family photos, and she responded by sending me this collection.



Houwerd and Edith Petten



Hilde Rosenthal-Wolf (in 1981)  
(Edith's late mother)



Norbert and Johanna Rosenthal (nee Kronheimer)  
(Edith's grandparents, probably taken at their wedding in Munich)



Laurens and Emma Petten, with Lilla  
(a selfie taken in 2014 on holidays in Australia)



(l-r) Sytske, Arthur, Hugo and Arjan Petten



Houses in Leidschendam, alongside the Vliet (Wikipedia)

**The Mocellin Branch.** But there's more, with some even more fascinating outcomes. Paul had a twin brother Ernst. A combination of information from Edith, from the Geni website and other sources linked to the Geni website led to my finding something quite extraordinary in the space of only two days.

Ernst married Anneliese Roth in Munich in 1938, and remained in Germany. Ernst was arrested and imprisoned in Dachau concentration camp. Edith told me that her parents, already in Holland, paid money to get him released. The Nazis at that stage weren't engaging in mass murder (just occasional murder); they were mostly interested in humiliating Jews, depriving them of their property and coercing them to emigrate.

Ernst and Annelies were able to escape to England and spent the war years there. In 1941, they had a baby boy, Harry, who died in infancy. Their daughter Eve Joan was born in Hampton, Middlesex in 1944.

**Eve Joan Rosenthal**

b. Hampton, Middlesex, England April 19, 1944

m. Enrico Mocellin, Melbourne, Australia January 14,  
1969

d. Melbourne, Australia, October 29, 2011

Source: <http://www.olschki.it/media/31980e67.pdf>

And here is where the story became especially interesting. **The family migrated to my home city of Melbourne in 1948.** Eve was four years old. She grew up, met an Italian immigrant, Enrico Mocellin, and they married in Melbourne in 1969. The couple moved to Geelong (the largest regional city in the state of Victoria), where their two children were born, Claude in 1977 and Este in 1979. Eve's father died in 1984, her mother ten years later, and Eve passed away in 2011.

Edith had given me Enrico's email address. Early in December, I sent him an email and he called me and told me about his children. Claude is married to Suzy (Rosandic) and they have two young daughters, Chloe and Sofia. Google informed me that Claude is a graduate in Engineering and Science from the University of Melbourne., he has worked for BHP Billiton (one of the world's largest mining companies) since 2007. He is currently Superintendent of Modifications & Small Projects at BHP Billiton Mitsubishi Alliance. Since 2013, he has been working on the Hay Point Coal Export Terminal. Located 38 km south of the Queensland town of Mackay, this is one of the largest coal export terminals in the world.



Claude Mocellin (LinkedIn)

Este, Claude's sister, is also married, to Anthony Torzillo. They have a three-year-old son Benjamin and a six-month-old daughter Eve. Enrico gave me the family's address and telephone number. **They live in the inner Melbourne suburb of North Carlton!** I called Este. And so the genealogical investigation of the Kronheimer branch has turned a full circle. The Gardners, the Englanders and the Wildbergs (descendants of another Kronheimer branch) are no longer the only Kronheimer descendants in Australia. A journey through cyberspace that began in Caulfield South and took me to Schopfloch in Bavaria has led me back (via Holland) to a Melbourne suburb just 12 km away. When Ernst decided to leave England sometime after the Second World War, he became – probably quite unknowingly – the newest addition to the various lines of the Kronheimers of Schopfloch to migrate to Australia.

## LIVING KRONHEIMERS

But that's still not the end of the Kronheimer saga. Edith also mentioned in her email correspondence that there were Kronheimers living in England and the United States, and soon after making contact with members of the Mocellin branch in Geelong and Melbourne, I followed up by contacting Peter Kronheimer in the US by email. (I had Peter's parents' street address in London, but not their email.) I found this branch of the family especially interesting, because for the very first time in my life I was now corresponding with a descendant of Heinrich and Sophie Kronheimer who still bore the family surname. Every other descendant I know, either personally or through email correspondence, is descended from a female Kronheimer who lost her surname when she married.

Let's start with the parents, whose photo is on Peter's web page. Erwin Kronheimer, born in Germany in 1928, is the son of Dr Wilhelm Kronheimer and his wife Else (nee Mezger), the grandson of Sam Kronheimer and Rosa (Metzger) and the great-grandson of Heinrich and Sophie. (Else Mezger and Rosa Metzger come from different families.) Wilhelm divorced Else in 1931, went on to marry again, was imprisoned for a month in Dachau and later was murdered in Auschwitz in 1942. Else fled Germany with Erwin and Erwin's sister Anita, first to Switzerland and then, in 1938, to England. Erwin became a distinguished mathematician, working in the field of theoretical physics. For example, his paper, "Calculation of Nuclear Binding Energies with Single-Particle Oscillator Wave Functions" was published in the highly regarded American physics journal, *Physical Review*, in 1953. Erwin married Janet Harris, and they have two children, Peter and Ann. Ann lives in London and is a prominent book illustrator.

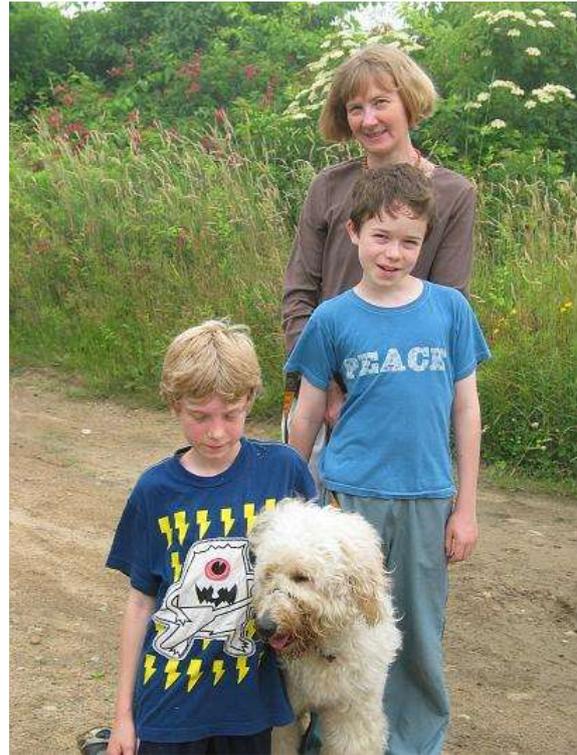


Janet and Erwin Kronheimer



Peter Kronheimer (Photo: Tony Rinaldo)

Peter took after his father and is now a professor of mathematics at Harvard University in Boston, Massachusetts. He is the first Kronheimer descendant (of whom I'm aware) to merit a biographical entry in Wikipedia (see Appendix 1). Peter is married to Jennifer (Andrews) and they have two sons, Matthew (born 1998) and Jonathan (2000).



Peter's wife Jennifer and their sons

Matthew and Jonathan (in front)

Photos of the family are from Peter's web page.

## THE WEIL AND THE STONE FAMILIES

Edith mentioned another branch, the Weil family. I remember the name, because they migrated to the US and (if my memory serves me correctly) my late uncle Kurt Gärtner (Rosalie and Albert's son) who lived in the US was in touch with them. Robert Siegmund Weil (1904-1984) was two years older than my uncle. Robert was the son of Siegfried (Fritz) Weil and Sophie (nee Kronheimer), the sister of Johanna. His wife was Marianne, nee Oberdorfer.

US immigration records, searchable on-line via the Mormons' familysearch.org website, show a Robert Weil, described as a 33-year-old Jewish merchant from Germany, born in Freiburg, travelling on the SS *Europa* out of Cherbourg, France, arriving in New York on 16 June 1937 and possessing a visa issued in Zurich, Switzerland. (The 1925-1957 records contain four Robert Weils arriving in New York, but this is the only one consistent with his known birth year of 1904.)

WALDOCH	WITA, S.	42	8	2	PRIVATE	Y	ENGLISH	Y	CANADA	ENGLISH	CHICAGO	ARRIVAL	1125496	WASH. DC.	1-28-37	U.S.A.
WEIL	ROBERT	33	6	2	MERCHANT	Y	ENGLISH	Y	GERMANY	HANNOVER	CHICAGO	ARRIVAL	455 37	WASH. DC.	6/16/37	U.S.A.
KING	KATHARINE, S.	55	8	20	PRIVATE	Y	ENGLISH	Y	SCOTLAND	GLASGOW	CHICAGO	ARRIVAL	27-3611	PARIS	6-11-37	U.S.A.

(Source: "New York, New York Passenger and Crew Lists, 1909, 1925-1957," index and images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.1.1/24KV-WKY> : accessed 15 December 2014), Robert Weil, 1937; citing Immigration, New York, New York, United States, NARA microfilm publication T715, National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, D.C.; FHL microfilm 1,757,732.)

Other US records indicate that Robert was naturalised (i.e. attained US citizenship) in 1945. Census records show that his wife called herself Mary Ann in the US.

Edith informed me that Robert and Marianne had a son, Jim. Jim and his wife (Connie) have a son Dustin (and possibly another son as well). Through Google I found that Jim had

worked at the Science Museum of Minnesota. An email to Jim at the museum bounced. A follow-up email to the museum office seeking contact information resulted in an automated reply, but there was no response to my request.

Robert's sister Fanny Weil (1907-2001) married John K. Stone (1909-96). My wife located John's bio-data on the US Social Security Death Index and I found Fanny's death notice on the web:

FANNY STONE, 93, passed away Monday, October 22, 2001. Born in Munich, Germany on December 26, 1907, Fanny immigrated to Houston in 1941. She was preceded in death by her husband of 52 years, John K. Stone, whom she assisted in their business, Atlas Office Supply & Printing Company. She was a member of Congregation Emanu El. She is survived by her loving family, including son, Robert and his wife, Barbara; three grandchildren, Jill, Pia and Ali and five great-grandchildren, Jeremy, Jessica, Jacob, Jordan, and Molly.

As John had died in 1996, this tells me that Fanny married him about 1942, i.e. about a year after she arrived in Texas from Germany at the age of 33.

I emailed Congregation Emanu El in Texas in an unsuccessful attempt to find contact details for members of the Stone family. Fanny and John's son, her three grandchildren and five great-grandchildren form the second largest family group of living Kronheimer descendants that I know about. The congregation replied, but although Fanny had been a member, none of the other members of the family were associated with it.

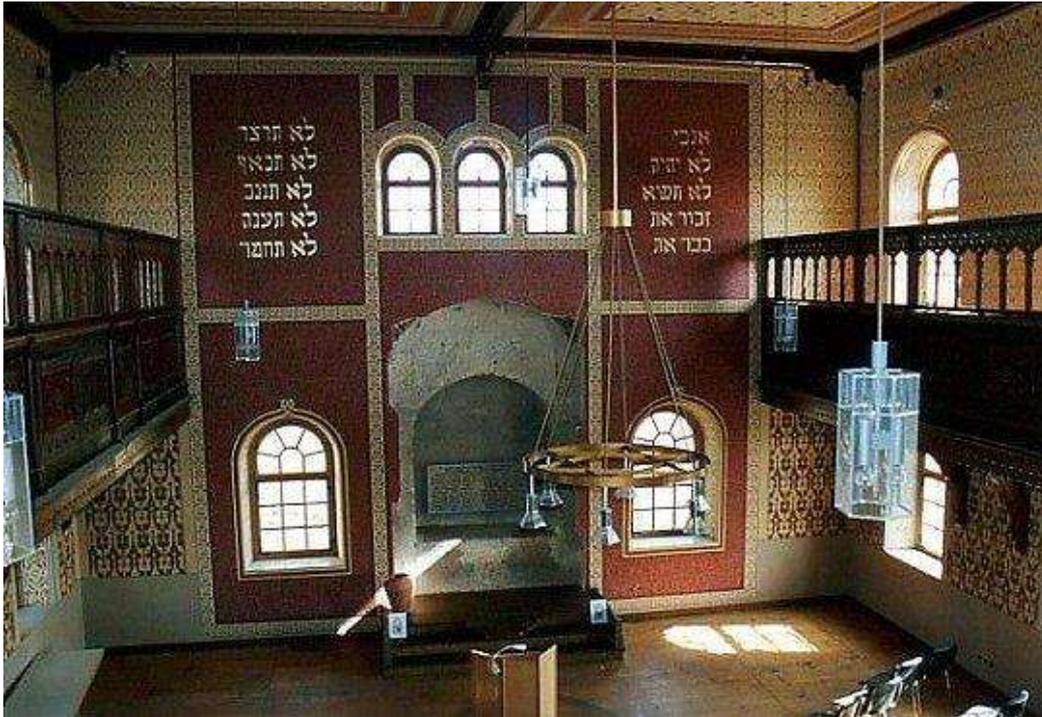
In a busy two weeks of emailing, web-searching and telephoning at the end of the year, I was able to add living Kronheimer descendants from Holland, England, the United States and Australia to my family tree.

## THE ENGLÄNDER BRANCH

The alemannia-judaica website lists a document, *Gräberliste jüdischer Friedhof Hainsfarth 1850-1939*, listing information obtained from the tombstones of the Jewish cemetery of Hainsfarth. The inscriptions provide useful data about dates of birth and death, spouses, parents and children. Hainsfarth was the birthplace of my great(x2)grandfather David Löw Engländer (c.1794-1871). He married Karoline Engländer (died 12 December 1888). They had two sons, Simon and Jacob. The older son, Simon (1837-1917), married Clara Kronheimer (1847-1933) and they were the parents of my paternal grandmother Rosalie and my great-uncle Jack. A significant piece of information on David's tombstone is that he was the son of Simon Isaac Engländer and his wife Schiffele (no other information about her), thus identifying another set of my great(x3)grandparents. I would estimate that Simon Isaac was born around 1770.

My first reaction to the fact that Karoline's maiden name was Engländer was that she and David were possibly distant cousins. Some weeks later, information gained from another Harburg Project family sheet showed that they were actually first cousins. Karoline was the daughter of Jacob Isaac and Dolz Engländer, and her father and her husband's father were brothers.

As these brothers were born in the mid-1700s before surnames were introduced, I would therefore assume that they were named Simon ben Isaac and Jacob ben Isaac. That tells me that their father was named Isaac ben something-or-other. He was my great(x4)grandfather. I would estimate that he was born around 1745-50. David Löw Engländer also had a younger brother, Jakob Simon Engländer (1802-79) whom I had never heard of before and who married Karoline Nathan (c. 1805-1884). So now I could add a new great(x3)uncle and aunt to our family tree.



Hainsfarth: The (restored) synagogue, damaged on 9/10 November 1938 (Photo: [www.halil.com](http://www.halil.com))  
 Hainsfarth was the birthplace of my great-grandfather Simon Engländer (1837-1917) and my great(X2)grandparents David and Karoline Engländer.



The Marktplatz, Oettingen (Photo: [www.schwabenstaedte-in-bayern.de](http://www.schwabenstaedte-in-bayern.de))  
 Great-grandfather Simon Engländer moved from Hainsfarth to nearby Oettingen as a young man and married my great-grandmother Klara Kronheimer (1847-1933). The fourth of their six children was Rosalie (1875-1959), my paternal grandmother.



The former synagogue in Oettingen (Photo: [www.jhva.wordpress.com](http://www.jhva.wordpress.com))

## SNIPPETS

**Relative or total stranger?** A Henry Kronheimer, quite possibly the first person of that surname to land in the United States, declared before the Clerk's Office in Ohio County Court, West Virginia on July 31<sup>st</sup> 1855 that he was born in Bavaria on the 20<sup>th</sup> February 1827 and that he was by occupation a pedlar. He had sailed from Le Havre on 26<sup>th</sup> July 1853 and landed in New York on 27<sup>th</sup> August 1853. In that year he came to Wheeling and had lived there ever since. He declared his intention to renounce all previous allegiances and become a citizen of the United States, which was duly accepted.

82  
 Clerk's Office Ohio County Court July 31<sup>st</sup> 1855  
 Henry Kronheimer a native of Germany this day came before me  
 John M. Collock Clerk of the County Court of Ohio County aforesaid  
 in the State of Virginia in my office and declared as follows  
 viz. I was born in Bavaria on the 20<sup>th</sup> day of February 1827  
 I am a Pedlar by profession or occupation I sailed from Havre on  
 the 26<sup>th</sup> day of July 1853 and landed at the port of New York on  
 the 27<sup>th</sup> day of August 1853 I came to Wheeling September 1 1853  
 where I have since resided I declare it to be my bonafide int  
 ention to become a Citizen of the United States and to renounce from  
 all allegiances and fidelity to every Foreign Prince and Potentate  
 State and Sovereignty whatever and particularly to the King of  
 Bavaria  
 Signed Henry Kronheimer  
 And he said Henry Kronheimer here before me made oath as above stated  
 J. M. Collock

Henry Kronheimer becomes a US citizen in 1855

Was Henry, born eight years after my great(X2)grandfather Heinrich, perhaps a relative? A cousin, perhaps also named Hayum after their grandfather Hayum Levi and who then called himself Henry in America? Or just someone totally unrelated whose family two generations earlier had come from Cronheim (aka Kronheim), a small township in Bavaria, and had also adopted the place name as their surname in Napoleonic times? I must confess that I don't have the slightest idea!

**Moritz Hamburger.** Although not a close relative (he is my second cousin, three times removed), he is, like me, a direct descendant of the earliest known ancestor of the Hamburger family, Samuel Benjamin. Moritz, a great(x2)grandson, was born in Dinkelsbuehl, the son of Seligmann and Hanna Hamburger, on 16 December 1885. He married Lina Heimann (born 20 October 1876) on 24 August 1898, but they were married for only 17 years as Lina died on 18 November 1915. In 1925, Moritz moved to Pforzheim, in the Karlsruhe district. After the Nazis came to power, all Jews had to add the middle name "Israel" and were issued with identity papers. I have included this one, issued in 1939, a copy of which is in the Yad VaShem records, as it is a rare example (in our family) of a Nazi-issued ID document.



Nazi-issued ID document to Moritz "Israel" Hamburger, 1939 (Yad VaShem archives)

Moritz was deported to Gurs in France, and died there on 5 November 1940. Gurs was originally a refugee camp set up by the French Government at the end of the Spanish Civil War. In 1940, it became an internment camp for a large variety of prisoners, among them a group of about 6500 Jews transported from Baden (Moritz's district) by order of the Nazi Gauleiter in October of that year. This is a unique case in the history of the Holocaust: it is the only case of Jews being transported westwards from Germany. (This needs to be placed in its historical context. This was early in the war, prior to the adoption of the Final Solution policy of deporting Jews "to the east" i.e. to extermination camps.)

Yad VaShem correctly records Moritz as a victim of the Holocaust, as he was transported and interned by order of the Nazis. . Gurs was not an extermination camp, but living conditions were poor and more than a thousand died from typhus and dysentery in the year following deportation. Moritz, 74 years old and frail, was probably one of them. The Harburg list notes that his daughter, son-in-law and grandchild were also deported to Gurs but survived the war and emigrated to Palestine.

The Yad VaShem testimony was submitted by a relative living in Israel, Helene Vered. In the Yad VaShem testimony sheet, Helene has entered Hamburger into the (ambiguous) "Previous/Maiden Name" box. She notes, consistent with the Harburg data, that Moritz and Lina had two children. The Harburg data notes that they were daughters, both of whom married men surnamed Reutlinger, so if she is descended from them, her maiden name would not have been Hamburger. However, there is a Helene Hamburger (born 5 September 1925) listed in the Harburg records, the grand-daughter of Moritz's uncle Robert Hamburger.

I discovered a Google reference to a Helene Vered, living in Holon Israel in 2003, the widow of Uri Vered (born 1919), formerly known as Ulrich Rosenfeld. Perhaps it's her.

**Great-uncle Jack's arrival in Australia.** A search of Australian government immigration files provided evidence of Jacob Englander's naturalisation on 26 May 1897. His occupation is described as "clerk"; presumably he was working in the office of his great-uncle, Joseph Kronheimer. Within a decade or two, he became a director of the company.

The Secretary,  
Attorney-General's Department.

With reference to the attached file, I  
\_\_\_\_\_ have to inform you that searches have been made  
in the naturalization records of this Department,  
and it is found as follows:-

Herbert B. Silberberg, of Sydney, - not naturalized  
by Commonwealth.

Jacob Englander, was naturalized on 26/5/1897.  
Was then 23 years old; a clerk; living in  
South Yarra; born in Bavaria, Germany.

Henry C. Silberberg, of Prahran; not naturalized.

**Acknowledgements.** I am deeply indebted to many people whose expertise, time and cheerful assistance were invaluable in bringing about this extraordinary growth in my knowledge about the ancestors and descendants of the Kronheimer branch of my family tree.

The major contributor was Rolf Hofmann, whose Harburg Project work in southern Germany, resulting in the formulation of a couple of hundred family trees, has been simply astonishing. However, other people made small, but crucial contributions too. Elke Kehrmann's simple question about one entry on my Kronheimer tree, and her mention of the Harburg Project were the starting points for my studies of my paternal grandmother's forebears. David Kurz, based in Israel but with an office in Munich, helped obtain and decipher some vital, original Kronheimer documentation. Joachim Hahn, editor of *alemannia-judaica*, was encouraging and accepted some of my writings for his on-line website of German-Jewish history and genealogy, and also invited me to submit the present article. Thomas Föhl, the German genealogist who had previously provided information about my Gärtner ancestors, helped again on two occasions: finding information about my Freundlich ancestors early in the year, and then, much later adding new information that drew my attention to my living third cousin in the Netherlands, Edith Petten-Rosenthal. Edith then provided me with information and contact addresses that informed me about several Kronheimer descendants, including some living ones. Enrico Mocellin, whom I met for the first time in Melbourne in January 2015, kindly gave me a copy of the brochure promoting the 2003 Munich exhibition and also showed me his copy of the book *Die Rosenthals*, both mentioned in this article. And without Frieda Voorhost, my extraordinarily helpful colleague in the Netherlands, I probably would not have been able to find Edith (or Enrico). I thank them all.

## Peter B. Kronheimer

**Peter Benedict Kronheimer** (born 1963) is a British mathematician, known for his work on gauge theory and its applications to 3- and 4-dimensional topology. He is William Casper Graustein Professor of Mathematics at Harvard University.

Kronheimer's early work was on gravitational instantons, in particular the classification of hyperkahler four manifolds with asymptotical locally euclidean geometry (ALE spaces) leading to the papers "The construction of ALE spaces as hyper-Kähler quotients" and " A Torelli-type theorem for gravitational instantons. " He and Nakajima gave a construction of instantons on ALE spaces generalizing the Atiyah-Hitchin-Drinfeld-Manin construction. This constructions identified these moduli spaces as moduli spaces for certain quivers (see "Yang-Mills instantons on ALE gravitational instantons.") He was the initial recipient of the Oberwolfach prize in 1998 on the basis of some of this work.

Kronheimer has frequently collaborated with Tomasz Mrowka of MIT. Their collaboration began in Oberwolfach and their first work developed analogues of Donaldson's invariants for 4-manifolds with a distinguished surface. They used the tools developed to prove a conjecture of Milnor, that four-ball genus of a  $(p,q)$ - torus knot is  $(p-1)(q-1)/2$ . They then went on to develop these tools further and established a structure theorem for Donaldson's polynomial invariants using Kronheimer–Mrowka basic classes. After the arrival of Seiberg–Witten theory their work on embedded surfaces culminated in a proof of the Thom conjecture—which had been outstanding for several decades. Another of Kronheimer and Mrowka's results was a proof of the Property P conjecture for knots. They developed an instanton Floer invariant for knots which was used in their proof that Khovanov homology detects the unknot.

Kronheimer attended the City of London School. He completed his PhD at Oxford University under the direction of Michael Atiyah. He has had a long association with Merton College, the oldest of the constituent colleges of Oxford University, being an undergraduate, graduate, and full fellow of the college.

Besides his research articles, his writings include a book, with Simon Donaldson, on 4-manifolds, and a book with Mrowka on Seiberg–Witten–Floer homology, entitled "Monopoles and Three-Manifolds". This book won the Doob Prize of the AMS.

His PhD students have included Ian Dowker, Jacob Rasmussen, Ciprian Manolescu, and Olga Plamenevskaya.

(Wikipedia)