

AR 5275

Strauss - Neugass Families of Bad Homburg vor der Höhe

S41/4

THE STRAUSS AND NEUGASS FAMILIES

OF

BAD HOMBURG VOR DER HOEHE

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1984

OVERVIEW

The Stiefel family has some of its roots in Bad Homburg vor der Hoehe through its ancestor, Joseph Loeb Strauss, who moved to Homburg about 1800 and his third wife, Bessche, who came to Homburg in 1814. In addition, through several marriages, the Stiefels also have close ties to the Neugass family of Bad Homburg vor der Hoehe. The purpose of this paper is to describe the history of the Homburg Strauss and Neugass families and give the various sources from which the information was obtained.

Fortunately, some original family documents from the home of Joseph Loeb Strauss, dating back to 1806, were preserved and brought by me to the United States of America in 1940/41. Other documents, cited herein, were obtained from various archives; the source of each document is given below.

The story of the original documents from the home of Joseph Loeb Strauss is quite interesting. It appears that in 1915 or 1916, shortly after the death of Ernestine Strauss, who was the daughter-in-law of Joseph Loeb Strauss, at the time of the dissolution of her household - the last of the Strauss family in Bad Homburg - some of her children or grandchildren wanted to throw "the old papers away" and, in fact, may, in part, have succeeded. At that time, my father, Arthur Stiefel, intervened and some of the documents were saved.

The original documents made the trip to the United States of America in my uninsured baggage which traveled by way of Russia, Siberia, Manchuria, Korea and Japan. The baggage left Berlin on September 13, 1940, two months after my departure from Germany and with the help of the Relief Aid Committee in Tokyo, Japan arrived in Seattle on February 13, 1941, six months after I came here.

STRAUSS FAMILY

Joseph Loeb Strauss

My great-great-grandfather Joseph ben Jehuda was born in Mockstadt about 1776 (it is not known whether Ober-Mockstadt or Nieder-Mockstadt, both of which are located in Ober-Hesse). Around 1800 he moved to Homburg vor der Hoehe. He was a butcher by trade.

In order to Germanize his name, he was later known as Joseph Loeb. The original Jehuda (Judah) was a son of the biblical patriarch Jacob and when he was blessed by Jacob, he compared him to a Lion (Genesis, Chapter 49, Verse 9). This led to the adoption of the name of Loeb which is probably a derivation in Yiddish of the German word for lion "Loewe."

On March 6, 1809, the "Schutzjude" (a Jew under the protection of the sovereign) Joseph Loeb assumed for himself and his descendants the family name "Strauss." Since my great-great-grandfather could not write German, he signed his name in Hebrew on the document. This is registered on page 4 of the "Protokollbuch ueber die Familiennamen der Juden, 1809 to 1814" (40 pages). The original of this register is located at the Central Archives for the History of the Jewish People at the Givat Ram Campus of Hebrew University, Jerusalem (G 3/176).

A list of butchers from Homburg for the year 1811 gives the name of Joseph Loeb Strauss. This information comes from the Stadt Archiv, Bad Homburg vor der Hoehe - Statistik der Metzger, 1811 - D III 5.

My great aunt Josephine Sichel told me that Joseph Loeb Strauss was also known as "Zwiewel (Homburg dialect for Onion) Joseph." He was married three times. His first marriage, on the 8th of Tamuz 5566 (1806) was with Heva Zwingenberg (Heva bas Mordechai - the father being Mordechai Zwingenberg - possibly later also referred to by the family name of Reinach). They had one daughter Krille (or Keile or Schiele) later known as Caroline, who was born in 1807. Heva died on April 12, 1808. The marriage contract between Joseph ben Jehuda and Heva bas Mordechai and the list of wedding presents are part of the original documents. They are written in Hebrew letters, in either German or Yiddish. The death of Heva is recorded in the "Civilstands- oder Geburts-Sterbe- und Heiratsregister der Judengemeinde Homburg vor der Hoehe, page 61. This information was furnished by the Juedische Gemeinde, Frankfurt am Main.

The second marriage, which took place on August 31, 1808 was with Fradel (whose last name later was probably Neugass). They had no children. Fradel died on January 21, 1814 at the age of 34. A copy of the death certificate was obtained from the Hessische Hauptstaatsarchiv in Wiesbaden.

On February 16, 1809, Joseph and Fradel, as husband and wife, entered into a mortgage for their half of the house which they owned together with Mendel Isaac Holzmann. At that time Joseph was described in the document as Joseph Loeb Mockstadt. The mortgage was for 450 Gulden, the currency of Homburg at that time, in favor of Hauptmann (Captain) von Busel, which Joseph and Fradel (note the

spelling of her name on the mortgage) signed in Hebrew, and it is among the original documents. The mortgage was paid back in either 1845 or 1846.

The third marriage took place on the 22nd of Kislev 5575 (December 15, 1814). The bride was Bessche, the daughter of Feist Moses Jacob (Joel Feist, son of Jacob Moshe) from Villmar. Bessche was born in December 1785. Once again, among the original documents are the list of wedding presents and a transfer of property by Joel Feist, son of Jacob Moshe to Bessche, wife of Joseph, son of Loeb, both written in Hebrew letters. There is also the original marriage contract, written in German, dated December 5, 1814, signed in Hebrew by the bridegroom and the father of the bride. The father of the bride took a great deal of caution to protect his daughter. The marriage contract provides for a wedding in accordance with Jewish law. It further states that the bridegroom brings into the marriage his half house plus furnishings and his clothing. He also promises to give his wife proper clothing, including those for Sabbath and holidays. As security, the bridegroom gives his bride a second mortgage on his home. When his bride's son, Moses Seckel is four years old Joseph Loeb will take him into his house. The father of the bride gives his daughter a dowry 500 Gulden and her clothing and states that after his death she would be entitled to one half of the inheritance his sons would receive. The contract also provides for the bridegroom to pay for the wedding and that afterwards husband and wife should live in "love" and "friendship." There is also a provision for the event that should Joseph Loeb Strauss behave so miserably toward Bessche that she can no longer

stand it and move out, he is to give her 10 Gulden a month support and her personal belongings. After they had settled their differences before a Jewish court or before two men selected by themselves or in any other way, she should come back to her husband with all her clothing, cash and belongings. The balance of the contract pertains to inheritance provisions, if either the bride or bridegroom should die in the first or second years of the marriage or later. A copy of the marriage certificate, dated December 15, 1814 in which both the bridegroom and the bride declared that they could not write German was obtained from the Hessische Hauptstaatsarchiv in Wiesbaden.

Joseph Loeb and Bessche had the following children:

1. Jette (Jochabeth) or Henriette
- Born December 16, 1815 in Homburg
- Married Bernhard Rosenberg, Paris
2. Brendle or Bertha
- Born February 23, 1819 in Homburg
- Married 1840 to Marcus (Mordechai) Reinach who was born 1809 in Homburg and died there on March 18, 1893

[Mordechai Reinarch is the subject of an unpublished article by Fritz Storch "Of the Jews in the Homburger Land", 1945 (Stadtarchiv, Bad Homburg v.d.H., A II IIa 1.c) Mordechai was known as "Mordche the drummer of 1848." He entered the Hesse Homburg militia as a drummer in 1833 and later beat the drum on all occasions, including fires. He was a member of the rifle association (Schuetzengesellschaft) which honored him several times.]

3. My great-grandfather Feist, later known as Feist Philipp Strauss, born March 30, 1823 in Homburg (see details below).
4. Huentle (Gentle)
- Born August 20, 1825 in Homburg and died June 6, 1828 in Homburg.

As mentioned above, my great-great-grandmother Bessche had a son (probably born out of wedlock) Seckel, born 1812.

The details of the Joseph Loeb Strauss family can be found in the following documents:

- Musterliste der Israelitischen Gemeinde Homburg, established in 1824 with entries to 1840, a copy of the parts pertaining to the Strauss family was received from the Stadtarchiv in Bad Homburg vor der Hoehe (A II II b).
- Civilstands- oder Geburts- Sterbe- und Heirats-Register der Judengemeinde Homburg v.d.H., pages 61 and 62, as furnished by the Juedische Gemeinde Frankfurt am Main.

Among the original documents, which I brought to the United States, are several court related papers pertaining to Joseph Loeb Strauss. On July 29, 1829, a fine of 160 Gulden, levied against him, was reduced by one half and he was permitted to pay the fine within three months, rather than the required two weeks. In the matter of Kallmann Schwarzschild plaintiff, v. Joseph Joeb Strauss, defendant, on March 18, 1830 the court found that Joseph Loeb Strauss owed 54 Gulden and he was ordered to pay this amount and costs. The matter of Mendle Holzmann, plaintiff and appellant v. Joseph Loeb Strauss, defendant and appellant, involved a boundary dispute, probably regarding the house they jointly owned. It appears this matter was in part settled, yet a judgement was entered against Joseph Loeb Strauss on February 27, 1836. Based on this judgement,

the attorney for the plaintiff requested payment of his fee in the original proceedings in the amount of 27 Gulden and 26 Kreuzer. This was granted by the court on June 9, 1836. The original documents contain a copy of the bill of Holzmann's lawyer and also the statement of Joseph Loeb Strauss' lawyer, Regierungs-Advocat Binge for 46 Gulden and 24 Kreuzer. Some of the costs in this case pertained to the acquisition of maps and survey fees.

Joseph Loeb Strauss died on July 1, 1858 at the age of 82. His widow Bessche Strauss (who in her death certificate was named Bette Strauss, nee Feist) died on February 18, 1874 at the age of 88. Both deaths occurred in Homburg. Copies of the death certificates were obtained from the Hessische Hauptstaatsarchiv in Wiesbaden.

A copy of the last will and testament of Joseph Loeb Strauss, dated July 11, 1846 is still in existence. He leaves all his property, after the death of his wife, to his children. He praises his son Feist for all his help and leaves him, in addition, his butcher tools and his half of the house located in the "Judengasse" (Jew Street), which at that time he owned with Salomon Stein.

To his stepson Seckel in Paris, Joseph Loeb Strauss left 50 Gulden.

Feist Philipp Strauss

My great-grandfather Feist Philipp Strauss was, like his father, a butcher. On May 9, 1855 he was admitted to the "Metzgerzunft" (Butcher's Guild). This is shown in the Akten der Metzgerzunft, as transmitted by the Stadtarchiv Bad Homburg vor der Hoehe (P III 5). The original document attesting to the admission is still in existence. Prior to admission, Feist Philipp Strauss applied on, April 2, 1855, for dispensation from the "Wanderzeit" (journeyman's years of travel) as required by law. A copy of the pertinent document was furnished by the Stadtarchiv Bad Homburg v.d.H., (D III 5). When Feist was admitted to the Metzgerzunft he apparently received a special belt, which is in the possession of my second cousin Kurt Dillenberg. It is a belt with a lot of brass decorations including the letters "P.S." Attached to the belt is a whet iron with an ornately carved iron handle.

On December 26, 1852 Feist Philipp Strauss was married to my great-grandmother Ernestine Hachenburger born June 11, 1831 in Darmstadt. For many years the marriage certificate could not be found, and I have many letters attesting to the fact that the registers were either destroyed by either the Nazis or an air raid. In 1980 I found the original of the Trauungs-Register der Juedischen Gemeinde Homburg v.d.H., 1840 to 1874, 185 pages, at the Central Archives for the History of the Jewish People at the Givat Ramat Campus of Hebrew University, Jerusalem (G 3/230).

The birth of Ernestine Hachenburger is recorded in the Judenmatrikel of Darmstadt; a copy of the birth certificate was received from the Hessische Staatsarchiv in Darmstadt (Faz. 1831, Fol. 9). Ernestine was the daughter of Herz Samuel Hachenburger of Darmstadt. Herz Samuel Hachenburger had the exclusive right to play music at Jewish weddings in the county of Katzenelnbogen. This interesting story is found in Karl Esselborn's book "Darmstadter Originale", (pages 31 to 33). A copy of these pages was obtained from the Hessische Staatsarchiv in Darmstadt (Abt. O., Konv. 831/3, Fasz. 1937).

Feist Philipp and Ernestine Strauss had the following children:

1. Marx

- Born October 8, 1853 in Homburg and died
February 22, 1854 in Homburg.

2. Josephine

- Born January 29, 1855 in Homburg

- Died November 22, 1940 after being deported
by the Nazis in Camp de Gurs, France

- Married on July 15, 1875 to Marcus (Max) Sichel
who was born April 3, 1836 in Lieblos and died
November 15, 1915 in Frankfurt am Main. They
had seven children:

° Johanna born 1876

Married: 1. Isaac Adler
2. Alfred Kahn
They had one adopted son

° Johanna, born 1877

Married: David S. Dillenberg, D.D.S.
They had two sons

° Hermann, born 1878

Married: Marie Ullner
No children

- ° Edward, born 1881
Single
- ° Flora, born 1882
Single
- ° Ludwig, born 1884 (moved early to U.S.A.)
Married Hanna
Two sons and one daughter
- ° Paula, born 1886
Married Siegfried Heumann
No children

Prior to his marriage, Marcus Sichel spent some time in the United States of America and owned a tavern in Montana. It is not known when he returned to Germany; one story is that he came back to volunteer for the Franco-Prussian War (1870/1871). On the other hand, some documents show him in Montana as late as 1873.

3. My grandmother Bertha

- Born January 11, 1856 in Homburg
- Died July 19, 1929 in Frankfurt am Main
- Married June 5, 1878 in Homburg to my grandfather Simon Stiefel. Simon was born July 27, 1847 in Usenborn (Ober-Hesse) and died June 24, 1930 in Frankfurt am Main. They had two children:
 - ° My father, Arthur Stiefel
Born 1879 in Frankfurt am Main
 - ° My uncle, Julius Joseph Stiefel
Born 1881 in Frankfurt am Main

4. Joseph Strauss

- Born August 5, 1858 in Homburg
- Died October 13, 1934 in Berlin
- Married to Bertha Gruenbaum who was born March 7, 1870 in Bad Nauheim and committed suicide in Berlin in 1942 at the time of her deportation by the Nazis. They had two children:
 - ° Heinz, born 1894
Married Maria Muller
One daughter
 - ° Margarethe (Grete), born 1900
Married Max Perl
No children

Feist Philipp Strauss together with his brother-in-law Louis Sommer, whose wife Johanna was Ernestine's sister, owned the property located at Louisenstrasse 18-20 in Homburg where they lived and conducted their businesses; Feist was a butcher and Louis owned a furniture store. (See an extract from the Grundbuch (Land Register) of 1898 - Grundakten 1234, Homburg vor der Hoehe and an original map of the property dated November 16, 1864.)

On November 4, 1852, Feist Philipp Strauss became a German citizen. This information was obtained from the Stadtarchiv Bad Homburg vor der Hoehe (Buergerrezeptionsbuch, 1842 to 1890, page 67).

Feist Philipp Strauss died in Homburg on August 10, 1897 and Ernestine Strauss died on October 22, 1915 in Homburg. None of their children lived in Bad Homburg vor der Hoehe at that time. Josephine moved to Frankfurt am Main in 1875, Bertha to Frankfurt in 1878 and Joseph to Berlin around 1890.

Two items from their home have made the trip to the United States in my baggage; a beautiful megillah encased in wood and a brass Schabbes-lamp. Other items, such as some of the Homburg furniture has been restored and had become part of our home in Frankfurt. They were lost when my parents were deported from Germany in 1942.

Samuel Feist

Joseph Loeb Strauss' daughter from his first marriage Caroline married on June 13, 1837 Samuel Feist (born August 22, 1804 in Villmar). Samuel Feist was later known as Samuel Philipppson. He was a brother of Bessche, the third wife of Joseph Loeb Strauss; thus, upon his marriage his sister became his step-mother-in-law. Information with regard to the marriage comes from the Kirchenbuecher, Zivilstandsregister im Katholischen Pfarramt zu Villmar, Amts Runkel von 1794 to 1902. It is interesting to note that while the marriage of Samuel and Caroline was performed by Loeb Baer, the Jewish Cantor of Homburg, the Catholic priest of Villmar, Phillip Hilb, was the witness. Also, among the original documents are the marriage contract between Samuel Feist and Caroline Strauss dated June 12, 1836 and a list of wedding presents dated June 12, 1837. Both of these documents are in German. Samuel Feist signed his name in German while his bride, Caroline, signed her name in Hebrew.

Samuel and Caroline Feist had at least five children and later moved to the United States of America where Samuel (Feist) Philipppson died 1893 in Warsaw, Indiana. A descendant was a General Philipppson who was on active duty in the United States Army prior to World War II.

A sister of Samuel Feist (Philipppson) and Bessche Strauss, Gertrude married in her second marriage a man named Fuerst from Sprendlingen. There is an interesting Chaliza letter (a document which the brothers of a deceased brother renounce the obligation to marry his widow) among the original documents. This Chaliza letter which is written in Hebrew letters and dated 5589 (1828/29) is from Ruben, Pinchas and Ephraim, sons of Abraham Bentheim Siegel to Gertreut (Gertrud), daughter of Feist of Villmar, wife of Loeb, son of Abraham Bentheim Siegel.

Simon Stiefel and Descendants

My grandfather Simon Stiefel came to Frankfurt am Main in 1866 when it was still a free city. He was present when the Prussian army marched into Frankfurt and annexed it to Prussia. He started to work for the book and paper business of Leo Geiger. In 1873, Simon Stiefel established his own paper and printing business, which was later known as "Frankfurter Geschaefsbuecher Fabrik Simon Stiefel." As mentioned above, my grandfather married my grandmother Bertha Strauss in 1878 and they had two sons, my father Arthur Stiefel, born 1879, and my uncle Julius Joseph Stiefel, born 1881. In 1908 my grandfather transferred his business to his two sons.

In 1908 my uncle Julius married Adolfine Abraham, born 1881. They had one daughter Gerda, born 1909. My uncle served in the German army in World War I and was killed in 1916 while fighting near Verdun. Gerda died in 1917. In 1942 Adolfine Stiefel was deported and killed by the Nazis.

In 1911 my father married my mother, Frida Strauss born 1889 in Frankfurt am Main (not related to the Homburg Strauss). My parents had three children:

- My brother, Siegfried Philipp Stiefel
Born 1913 in Frankfurt am Main
- My brother, Alfred Stiefel
Born 1915 in Frankfurt am Main
Died 1916 in Frankfurt am Main
- Myself, Ernest Raefel Stiefel
Born 1921 in Frankfurt am Main

My brother and I were able to emigrate to the United States of America. Unfortunately, our parents could not; they were deported by the Nazis to Eastern Europe from Frankfurt am Main in May of 1942 and were never heard from.

In 1943 my brother married Erica Lang from Berlin. The marriage took place in New York. They have three daughters (and as of this writing four grandchildren):

- Lyn Francis Stiefel
Born 1947 in New York
Married 1970 to Forbes I. Hill
One daughter and one son:
Stephanie Frederica Hill
Born 1975 in New York
Timothy Ethan Hill
Born 1978 in Brooklyn
- Amy Harriet Stiefel
Born 1950 in New York
Married 1971 to Bruce N. Cooperstein
Two sons:
Saul Stiefel Cooperstein
Born 1977 in Santa Cruz, California
Ezra Stiefel Cooperstein
Born 1980 in Santa Cruz, California
- Jane Pamela Stiefel
Born 1951
Single

My brother Siegfried (known as Fred) died in 1968.

I married Doris Pintus in Seattle, Washington in 1950. My wife is from Aachen and we have three children:

- David Arthur Stiefel
Born 1955 in Seattle, Washington
Married 1977 to Joy Suzanne Fulton
- Mark Jonathan Stiefel
Born 1957 in Seattle, Washington
Married 1982 to Sheryl Kay Cooperman
- Sharon Beth Stiefel
Born 1961 in Seattle, Washington

I am a Certified Public Accountant, and my wife Doris is a dentist.

NEUGASS FAMILY

The oldest known Neugass ancestor is Raphael Simon Neugass who was married to Fanny, nee Koppel. I am told that they had at least two sons:

1. Simon Neugass
 - Born 1825
 - Died June 29, 1902
 - Married on January 15, 1851 in Homburg to Treitsche Lazar Goldschmidt
 - Born 1818
 - Died September 20, 1887

(More about their descendants below)

2. Koppel Neugass
 - Born October 26, 1826 in Homburg v.d.H
 - Died April 29, 1896 in Homburg v.d.H
 - Koppel was married twice

The first marriage, with Kathrina Sichel

took place on December 5, 1850 in Homburg v.d.H.

This marriage is recorded in the Trauungs-Register

der Juedischen Gemeinde Homburg v.d.H., 1840 to

1874 (Central Archives for the History of the

Jewish People, Hebrew University, Jerusalem - G3/230).

They had two children:

- ° Fanny Neugass
 - Born September 10, 1852 in Homburg vor der Hoehe
 - Died February 12, 1939 in Frankfurt am Main
 - Married Isaac Stiefel (my great-uncle, brother of my grandfather Simon Stiefel) on April 19, 1876
 - Isaac Stiefel was:
 - Born October 26, 1849 in Usenborn and died August 26, 1905 in Frankfurt am Main
 - They had five children all of whom died young.

- ° Jeantte Neugass
 - Married a man by the name of Lang;
 - both died at a young age
 - No children

Koppel Neugass's second marriage was with Giedchen (Kaetchen) Stiefel (my great-aunt, sister of my grandfather Simon Stiefel). The marriage took place on January 15, 1875 in Homburg v.d.H. Kaetchen Neugas was born June 11, 1845 in Usenborn and died on July 1, 1931 in Bad Homburg v.d.H. She was the step-mother-in-law of her brother Isaac. Koppel and Kaetchen Neugass had one son:

- ° Rudolf Neugass
 - Born September 29, 1876 in Homburg
 - Died November 18, 1942 in Theresienstadt Concentration Camp after being deported by the Nazis
 - Never married.

He was a Bank Prokurist (Bank Manager) for the Frankfurt private bank of Haas & Weiss.

Simon and Treitche Neugass had two sons, Isaac and Karl.

- Isaac Neugass
 - Born February 6, 1852 in Homburg v.d.H
 - Married Lena Lutz
 - They had one son, Robert Neugass, born in Homburg v.d.H on April 27, 1882.

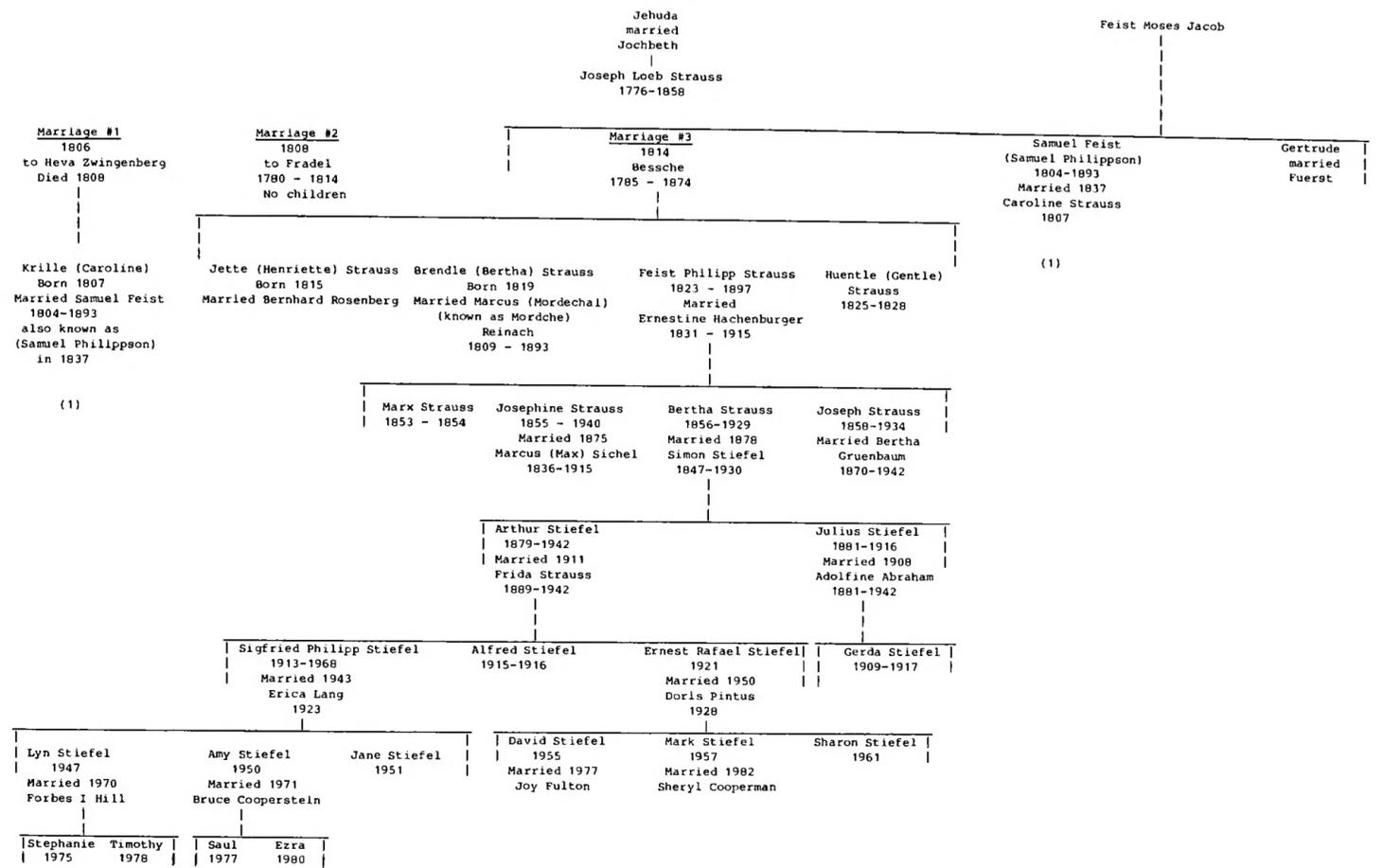
Isaac moved to London where both he and his wife died in 1920. His son, Robert, married Leah Festenstein on June 12, 1911 and they had two children; Betty who was born 1912 and Stuart who was born 1914.

- Karl Neugass
 - Born 1854 in Homburg v.d.H.
 - Married Ernestine Mohr who was born 1858.

Karl died in 1937 and Ernestine in 1918. They had three children; a son who died in infancy; two daughters Blanche, born 1883 or 1884 and Gertrud born in 1887. Both daughters were unmarried and in 1942 were deported by the Nazis to Eastern Europe and never heard from.

Most of the information about the Simon Neugass family is based on personal conversations between myself and Robert Neugass in London in early 1946. The information about the Koppel Neugass family is personally known to me.

STRAUSS FAMILY



NEUGASS FAMILY

Raphael Simon Neugass
married
Fanny nee Koppel

