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Bad Kreuznach, d. 17.11.2003

Mrs.
Dorothy B. Shipman
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Goldschmidt-family in Mannheim

Dear Mrs. Shipman,

in JGFF I found you requesting information about the Goldschmidt-family in Mannheim. Together with a colleague I am working on a book about some Jewish families in Kreuznach, as well as Mainz and Frankfurt.

We have chosen five families. Each family has at least a special protagonist, for example famous wrestlers, a writer, a journalist, a Zionist and bankers. The spectrum reaches from orthodox to liberal and very assimilated Jews, from poor to wealthy Jews. The history of every family will be reconstructed as far as possible.

My part is the Scheyer-family and the Kraemer-family.

The Scheyer-family played a main part in Frankfurt, Mainz and Kreuznach. Parts of the family remained strictly orthodox, other members like the Kreuznach Scheyers fought for integration and became assimilated. They had contacts to the most influential Jewish families not only in Palatine. Special marriage strategies assured the high social position.

Their children always married well-to-do Jews, descendants of well-known and successful families. Now, this plaited work of Jewish families related to one another is very interesting because it tells us a lot of social and economical life during the 18th and 19th century and the connections of those families sometimes lasting for generations. Descendants of court-Jews appear as well as descendants of former principals of the Jewish community. The more I get into this the more I am fascinated by it!

To come to the point: on Dec. 31, 1810 Jonathan Hirsch, trader in Kreuznach, married Helena Goldschmitt from Mannheim. The marriage took place in Kreuznach. The bride was born 1786 in Mannheim. Her parents were Loeb David Goldschmidt, trader in Mannheim, and Adelheid Trumm. Helena Goldschmitt died Mar. 12, 1827 in Kreuznach. She left three girls. The second wife of Jonathan Hirsch originated from Ehrenbreitenstein. She gave birth to 6 children. Sophia Hirsch the fourth of them, born Mar. 14, 1835, married Heinrich Scheyer. I would like to know whether Helena Goldschmitt fits in your genealogy and if so, whether her father was a descendant of a court-Jew. Can you tell me something more about the Goldschmitt-family in Mannheim – their social position, their economical success, their religious life, etc.?

I am looking forward to hearing from you.

Regards

Andrea Fink