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Mrs. Dorothy B. Shipman
1407 Greensboro St.
Boise, ID 83706
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Dear Mrs. Shipman,

I found your name in the Internet as researcher for the Bernheim family in Germany.

I recently started doing the same, after a cousin who was doing the family tree died in a gas explosion. All her research was lost and I feel it my duty to continue her project.

I was born a Bernheim in Uruguay after the whole of the family nucleus were lucky to emigrate to South America in 1938. These Bernheims come from Haigerloch in the Hohenzollern district of the Black Forest in Baden-Wuerttemberg. They were Viehandlers - traded in cattle. My grandfather was called Wilhelm Bernheim and had several brothers and sisters, as was usual in those years. One brother Albert Bernheim emigrated to America and made it big in San Francisco. He was in fact the family saviour because early in 1938 he returned invited the whole family for a posh weekend in Switzerland (just across the border) and explained there was no future for Jews in Germany. Wilhelm Bernheim was dead by then but his wife, married children and grandchildren took the advice and left for South America. A sister's children joined them later.

The Daube brothers (children of another sister) had already gone to Israel. I myself have been living in Israel since 1963, and am the only Zionist in the family. My father Siegfried Bernheim was the youngest of five and all of them are deceased now. However there is a very large family living in Montevideo, those include my generation: my brother and cousins, their children and grandchildren. Some married Jewish wives and husbands, some didn't. The war generation had no chance of a proper education, my generation went mostly to technical schools, there are quite a lot of college graduates in the next one, though.

I would love to hear from you and discover whether we are somehow related. My genealogical tree includes of course my husband's family who were pioneers in Israel and were the first settlers of a place in the Northern Galilee. Some of them emigrated to Brasil before the First World War and this makes the research very interesting.

Albert Bernheim died in 1946 childless and his estate was distributed in 1978. My part was only one/fiftieth two and it was just enough to go back to Uruguay for a visit.

Best regards

Nitza Zalmon