David B. Shipman

Dear David,

Thank you for taking all the trouble and writing to so many unknown persons. In fact I never met your mother but there is no doubt in my mind that we were somehow related.

About ten years ago me and my son became interested in our Genealogy and searched for the Bernheim name related to the highly picturesque village of Haigerloch and its surroundings. Haigerloch lies in the Hohenzollern Province in the south west of Germany and is near in the Black Forest and the Nekkar River.

Bernheims resided in that village at least since 1840 when Isaack Bernheim was awarded a permit to Trade Cattle. It should be remembered that Jews were highly curtailed in the possibility to trade with Gentiles and Cattle Trading was one of the few activities allowed. A study published last year reveals that out of 53 families residing in Haigerloch 22 were Cattle Traders.

I am the daughter of Siegfried Bernheim who, together with his remaining 4 brothers and sisters, his mother and the family of one of his cousins (Isadore Bernheim) emigrated to Uruguay in 1937-38. To show that indeed we have some kind of relation, my aunt Julia Bernheim married Benno Weil. Louis Weil - his brother -emigrated with his wife Mehta to the USA. Margot Anker
the only daughter of Julia and Benno's lives in New York, as does my other cousin Julio Sundermann whose mother was Minna Bernheim.

I am the only Bernheim who came to Israel and have lived here and raised a family since 1963.
By your e-mail address I surmise you must have been born in 1942 which makes us be from the same generation as I myself was born in 1941.

In conclusion, Nathan Weil, your great-grandfather must have been a cousin to Benno and Louis Weil and Isadore must have been a cousin to my own grandfather Wilhelm Bernheim.

There are quite a few anecdotes about how it happened that my family chose Uruguay. Nobody of our parents generation is left but we are quite a clan of cousins living as I said in Uruguay, New York and Israel. Should you be interested in learning about us I would love to tell you more.

Yours
Nitia Zalmon (nee Margarita Bernheim)

[Image: A large image named 9_tree_snow_english.gif is attached to this message. Click HERE to view a thumbnail of this image.]