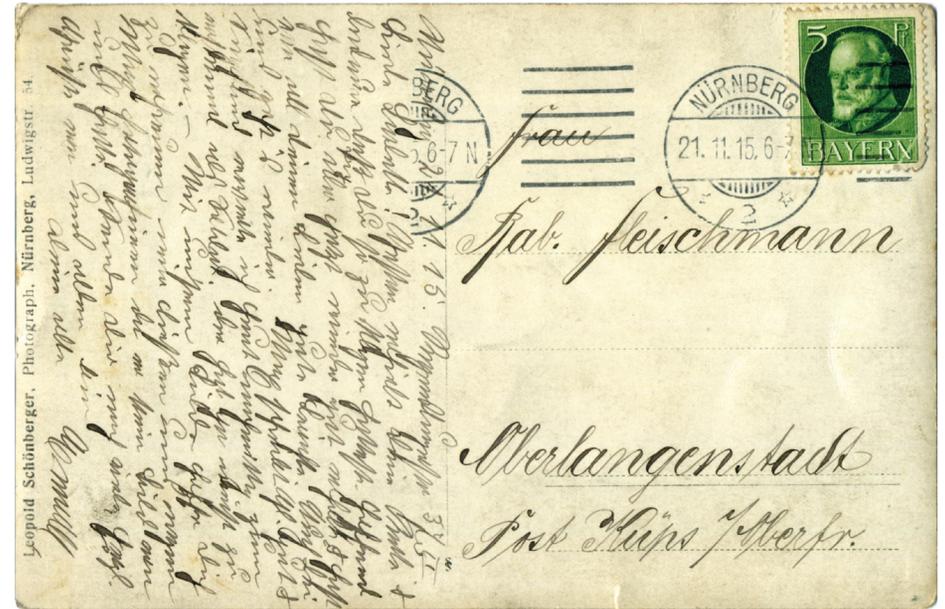


Identifying People in Old Photos

It is really thrilling when people in nearly a century-old photos can be identified. In one case a photo was sent as a postcard to Babette Fleischmann in Oberlangenstadt dated Nuremberg, 21 Nov 1915. The writer signed with „Deine alte ...” (“Your old ...”); the German word *alt* (old) in its female form tells the gender of the writer. The signature could have been Emma, although it seems to be a little too long for that. Altogether the woman’s handwriting is not easy to decipher. Although the two ladies addressed each other with *Du*, not with the formal *Sie*, the style of the text gives the impression that they were not very close, such as good friends or sisters. They seemed to be more the sister-in-law kind of relatives. Date and mailing place are given both by the writer and the postmark. The writer, and this was not usually the case, wrote the address: Regensburger St.—probably 3/II meaning number 3, 2nd floor.¹

There weren’t any city directories of Nuremberg on the internet in 2011. So I called a friend, Gunther Friedrich, who is an archivist at the Nurem-



The rear side of the photo, which was sent by Emma Fleischmann as a postcard to her remote relative Babette Fleischmann in Oberlangenstadt, Upper Franconia.

berg State Archive. “Yes, we have all the city directories of Nuremberg at the archive”, he told me, and “sure, I can look it up”. I sent him a scan of the postcard. Gunther read the address as Regensburger St. 37, 2nd floor and he agreed that, the signature could be “Emma”. Eureka! In the directory of the year 1916 he found the entry of an Emma: Emma Fleischmann, cattle trader’s widow at that very address, on the 2nd floor.

I searched through my compiled data and research results and found an Emma Fleischmann in the revised *Grundsteuerkataster* (property tax cadaster) of Oberlangenstadt produced by the Royal Bavarian Kataster-Bureau, stored in the State Archive in Bamberg. It documents a transfer of ownership for the properties no. 35 and no. 73 in Oberlangenstadt from the married couple Samuel and Johanna Fleischmann, butchers, to the married couple Moritz Fleischmann and Emma née Wertheimer, butcher and cattle trader married, on 22nd June 1893 for 9000 Mark plus 1000 Mark for a right of abode. Obviously this was a case of the parents passing on the properties to the next generation and securing their life estate. The family lived in house no. 35. Then in the 3rd quarter of the year 1908 the owners were:

“Fleischmann Emma, butcher and cattle trader’s widow, together with her children, in continued community of property.”

¹ German 2nd floor is equivalent to 3rd floor in the USA

Kronach, the 6th of March 1908

Testimony

about the Continuation of the Community of Property
It is herewith testified that the butcher and cattle trader's widow Emma Fleischmann nee Wertheimer in Oberlangenstadt has continued the general community of property, which exists by operation of law, after the death of her husband Moritz Fleischmann, which took place on 21 Feb 1908, together with their children: Gretchen Fleischmann, unmarried full-aged housekeeper in Marktbreit, Amalie Fleischmann unmarried underaged girl in Gera, Ida Fleischmann unmarried and underaged in Oberlangenstadt Max Fleischmann underaged commercial apprentice in Gerolzhofen, Siegfried Fleischmann and Eugen Fleischmann, unmarried underaged in Oberlangenstadt.

Roy. Regional Court Greiner.

Since 1831 the Jews of Oberlangenstadt buried their dead in the Jewish cemetery of Burgkunstadt. Moritz Fleischmann was buried there as well. A small stone plaque leans on his grave stone. The words on it are weather-beaten and hardly legible. Fortunately the cemetery was surveyed in the 1990s and the inscriptions on the stones were published by Josef Motschmann and Siegfried Rudolph in 1999.⁴ The words on the plaque would be in English:

*Max Fleischmann, killed in action
14 Aug 1916 in Maurepas/Somme.*

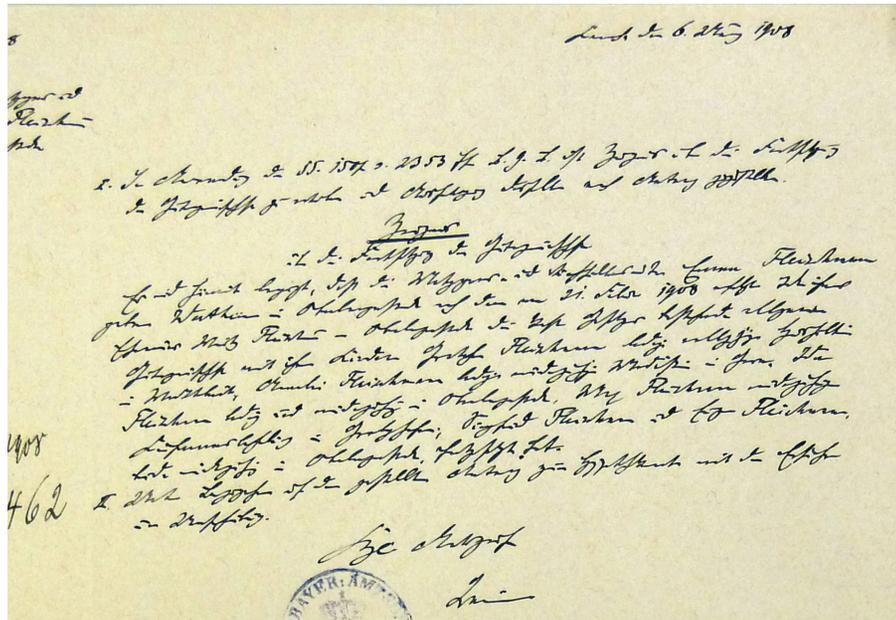
In 1932 the Reichsbund Jüdischer Frontsoldaten (Empire's Association of Jewish Frontline Soldiers) had published the names of the Jewish soldiers and jackies, who were killed in World War I. In here

*Inscription on the grave stone of Moritz
Fleischmann from Oberlangenstadt,
born 17 Dec 1855, died 21 Feb 1908,
Jewish Cemetery Burgkunstadt, Upper
Franconia*



This continuation followed the decease of husband Moritz Fleischmann on 21st February 1908 according to a certificate of the Royal Regional Court in Kronach. The widow and the children sold the estate according to a notarial deed dated 2nd June 1908 for 13,600 Mark to Leonhard Sammler, carpenter in Meder near Coburg.² Very likely it was at that time that Emma Fleischmann and her children moved to Nuremberg. But who were these children?

Here again a file from the State Archive in Bamberg helped: the estate record from the Regional Court of Kronach concerning the inheritance of "Moritz Fleischmann, married cattle trader from Oberlangenstadt"³. The handwriting



Detail of a document from the Royal Bavarian Regional Court of Kronach concerning the inheritance of Moritz Fleischmann dated 6 Mar 1908 (Staatsarchiv Bamberg); see translated transcript below.

of the clerk at court is really difficult to read. I'd liked to have a word with him or even to kill him—posthumously. But it was worthwhile transcribing the file. One document listed the children of Moritz Fleischmann.

2 Staatsarchiv Bamberg, K221 656 III, Renovirtes Grundsteuerkataster der Steuergemeinde Oberlangenstadt pages 63 et seq for no. 35 and 127 et seq for no. 73
3 Staatsarchiv Bamberg, Amtsgericht Kronach, K121 UR11 2751 Nachlass Moritz Fleischmann

4 Motschmann, Josef / Rudolph, Siegfried. "Guter Ort" über dem Maintal. Der Jüdische Friedhof bei Burgkunstadt. Lichtenfels 1999.

A granite plaque leaning at the rear side of Moritz Fleischmann's grave stone commemorating his son Max, who died as a German soldier in France.



two Max Fleischmanns, both born in Oberlangenstadt, are listed under the placename of Nuremberg. One of them was indeed killed in action on 14 Aug 1916. His birth date was 18 Mar 1894. His unit is given as: 9/bayr.R.I.R.12, 308 Bay. which was the 9th Bavarian Reserve Infantry Regiment No. 12, 308 Bavaria.

Transcribing handwritten documents is sometimes very difficult. The more data are known, the better. After compiling all the information I tried to decipher the words of the photo postcard again. Missing or reconstructed words are put into square brackets.

Nürnberg, 21 Nov 15 Regensburgerstr. 37/II.
 Beloved Babette! Yesterday [I] received your card & am sorry that you had to grieve so much. Hoping you have well recovered now, you have all your good beloved ones [with you]. Max writes thank God well & Siegfried I have [...] this afternoon for [...]time as soldier. He has nothing to complain about. – With our picture I hope to delight you. We are having ours own photo taken because of Max, since he had no picture of us. Sending you many heart greetings from all of us.
 Your old Emma

Now it became clear that the photo was taken because Max had to go to war, so that he might have a picture of his beloved ones while in the field. At the beginning of World War I he was 20 years old. If the photo was taken shortly

before it was sent in November 1915, he had already been drafted. “Max writes thank God well” means of course, he had written from France while at war. When he lost his life, the poor young man was just 22 years and 5 months old.

Now it was clear as well why only three of the six children are in the photo. According to the inheritance file of 1908 Gretchen, had already lived in Marktbreit, Amalie had lived in Gera. So the young lady in the photo is very likely Ida. According to the Census of May 1939 she was born on 09 Nov 1889, Siegfried on 07 Jun 1896 and Eugen on 04 Dec 1899. Thus in November 1915 Ida was 26 years old and her brothers at home 19 and 16 years old. The data match the ages of the ones in the photo. When that was taken, Siegfried and Eugen were too young to be drafted. It is very possible that the words concerning Siegfried mean that Emma arranged the deferment of his call-up or at least applied for it.

The just mentioned database of the Census of May 1939 from the Bundesarchiv in Berlin is one of the most important sources concerning Jews in the German countries in the 1930s and early 1940s. There is no entry for Emma Fleischmann, who would have been 76 years old, but there is for her three children from the photo. In May 1939 they still lived in Nuremberg, all at the same address: Praterstrasse 5: Siegfried together with his wife Hertha and their two children Max and Ruth in one household; Eugen and Ida in another.

Fleischmann	Ida	09 Nov 1889	Oberlangenstadt
Fleischmann	Eugen	04 Dec 1899	Oberlangenstadt
Fleischmann	Siegfried	07 Jun 1896	Oberlangenstadt
Fleischmann	Hertha née Hessdörfer	28 Aug 1900	Ottensoos
Fleischmann	Max	16 Jul 1925	Nürnberg
Fleischmann	Ruth	20 Sep 1930	Nürnberg

While the story of Max was really sad, the one of Siegfried is horrible. He, his wife Hertha and the children Max and Ruth were deported from Nuremberg to Izbica on 24 Mar 1942. All four were lost without a trace.

Their entries in the Memorial Book for the Nuremberg victims of the Shoah⁵ are to be found on page 72 to 74—all four with photos. Especially the one of 10 or 11 years old Ruth is very touching in a sad way. The one of Siegfried Fleischmann proves again that he is the one to the very left in the photo of 1915—just 25 years or so younger (see next page).

⁵ Jochem, Gerhard / Kettner, Ulrike. Gedenkbuch für die Nürnberger Opfer der Schoa. Nürnberg 1998.



Siegfried Fleischmann in 1915 and about 1942, his wife Hertha, and their children Max and Ruth before their deportation to Izbica in March 1942 (Stadtarchiv Nürnberg)

YAD VASHEM DAF-ED דף-יד 239519
 Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Authority A Page of Testimony P.O.B. 84 Jerusalem, Israel

חוק זכרון השואה והנבחרת - תשי"ג 1953
 קובץ בספרון מס' 2:
 תקדימו של ה"דף" הוא לשמור את מכלולות את זכרם של כל אלה שבני העם היהודי שנאלצו לספר את נפשם, להחליט ומרדו באויב הנאצי ומקוריו, ולהעיד על שם "דף" - לספרות, למאמצים ולטובות שחייבו בזמן ההתיישבות לעם היהודי.
 (מס' החוקים מס' 132, ידו אילול תשי"ג 28.8.53)

THE MARTYRS' AND HEROES' REMEMBRANCE LAW, 5713-1953
 determines in Article No. 2 that
 The task of YAD VASHEM is to gather into the homeland material regarding all those members of the Jewish people who laid down their lives, who fought and rebelled against the Nazi enemy and his collaborators, and to perpetuate their memory and that of the communities, organizations, and institutions which were destroyed because they were Jewish.

1. שם המשפחה * Fleischmann
 2. השם הפרטי (שם לפני הגיטואי) Siegfried
 3. תאריך הלידה Date of birth June 7, 1896
 4. מקום הלידה (עיר, מדינה) Place of birth (town, country) Oberlangenstadt, Germany
 5. שם האב Name of father Moritz Fleischmann
 6. שם האם Name of mother Emma, nee Wertheimer
 7. שם בן או בת הזוג (אם זה זוג נא להוסיף שם משפחה לפני הגיטואי) Name of spouse Hertha nee Hessdoerfer
 8. מקום המגורים לפני המלחמה Place of residence before the war Nuernberg
 9. מקומות המגורים במלחמה Places of residence during the war Izbica, Poland
 10. נסיבות המוות (זמן, מקום, וכו') Circumstances of death (place, date, etc.) murdered

I, the undersigned Herbert Kolb
 residing at (full address) 354 Janet Avenue, Paramus, N.J. 07652
 relationship to deceased nephew
 hereby declare that this testimony is correct to the best of my knowledge.
 מצהיר/ה בזה כי צויתי על נפשו/ה לפי מיטב ידיעתי.
 Signature: Herbert Kolb
 Place and date: Paramus, NY, 5.28.97

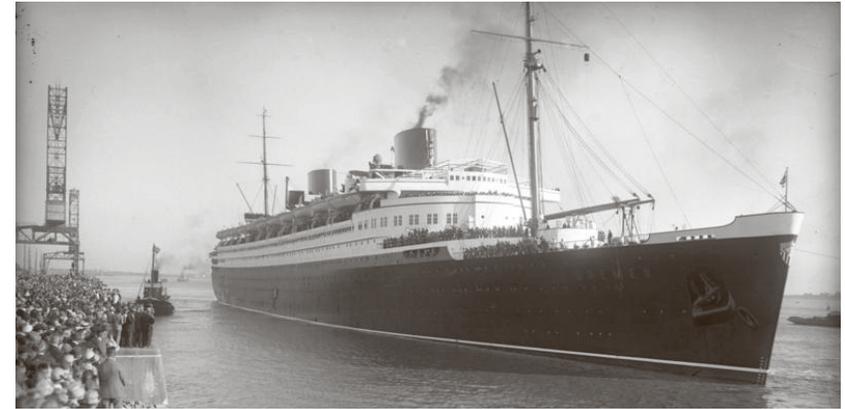
אני, הח"מ, הנ"ל, מצהיר/ה בזה כי צויתי על נפשו/ה לפי מיטב ידיעתי.
 "ונתתי להם בביתי ובחומותי יד ושם... אשר לא יכרת"
 "...even unto them will I give in mine house and within my walls a place and a name... that shall not be cut off."
 (Leviticus, LV, 5)

* Please inscribe the name of each victim of the Holocaust on a separate form.

One of the four Pages of Testimony at Yad Vashem Herbert Kolb has filled in for the Fleischmanns from Nuremberg.

Herbert Kolb, son of the last chairman of the Jewish Community in Nuremberg until 1944 and Theresienstadt survivor Bernhard Kolb, filled in Pages of Testimony at Yad Vashem⁶ for the four victims. He signed as a nephew or cousin of the deportees.⁷ By these testimonies it is verified that this Siegfried Fleischmann is indeed the son of Moritz and Emma Fleischmann from Oberlangenstadt, and not a namesake with the same birth place.⁸

And what happened to Eugen Fleischmann? He is listed on a website called Passengerlists.⁹ On 14 Jul 1939 he left Bremen harbour on the ship *Bremen*, owned by the North German Lloyd, heading for New York. There he arrived in July 1939.¹⁰ Therefore he survived the Nazi tyranny.



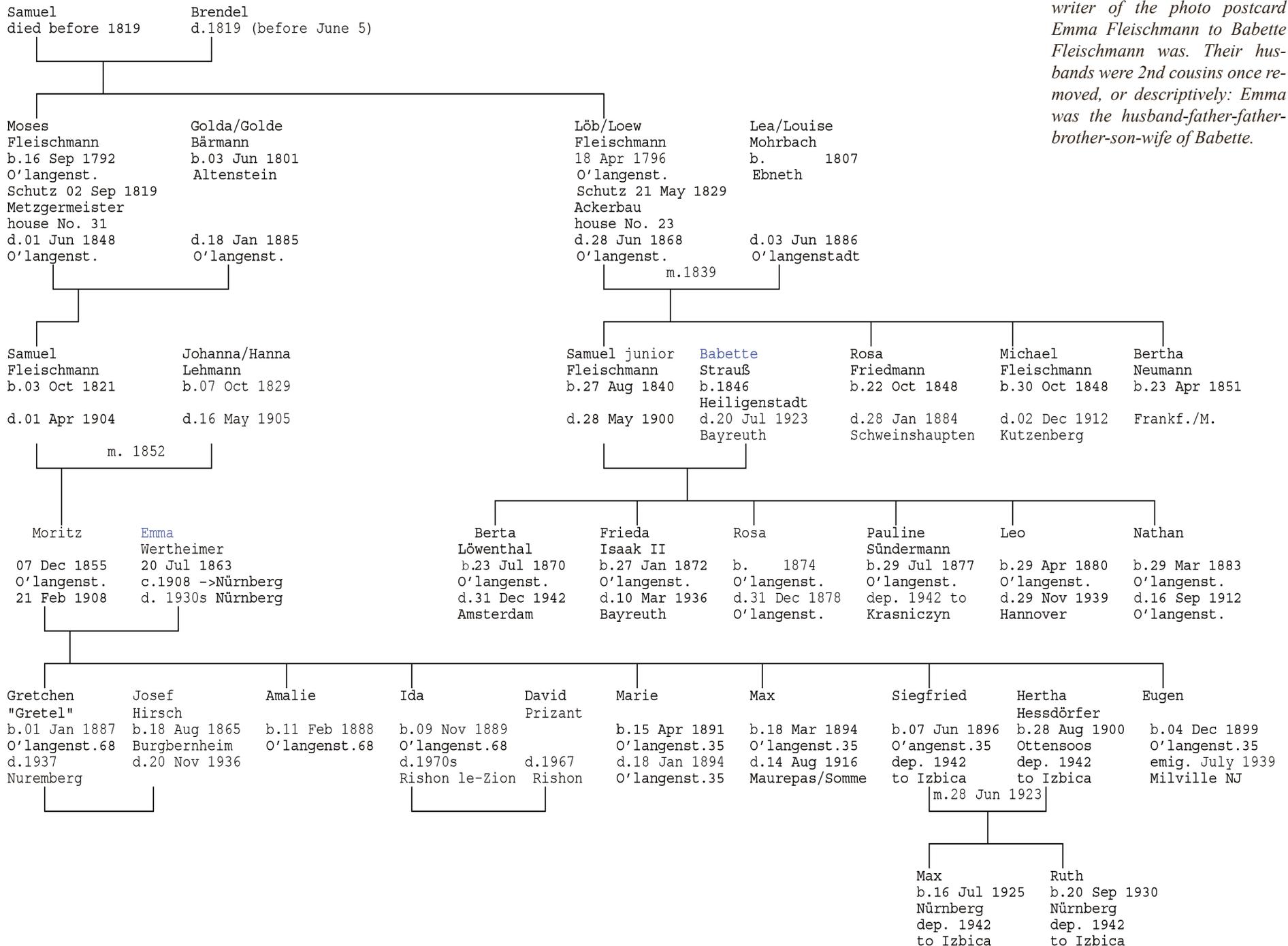
On board of the Bremen Eugen Fleischmann from Nuremberg arrived at New York in July 1939 (Bundesarchiv Bild 102-11081)

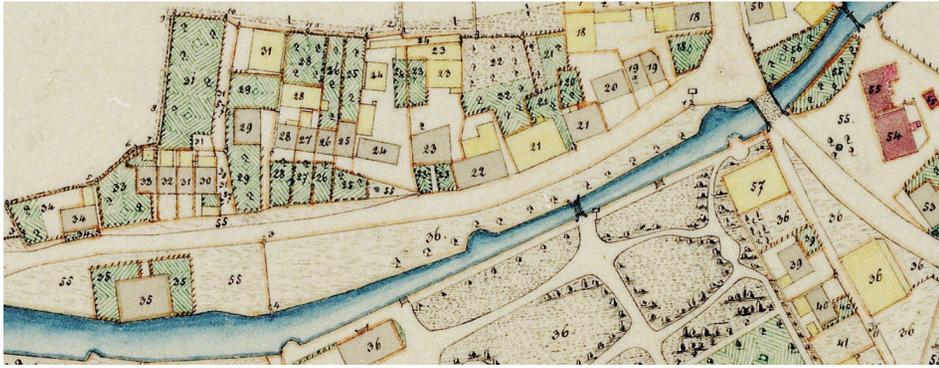
It is well possible that the eldest two children of Moritz and Emma Fleischmann, Gretchen and Amalie, survived the Shoa as well; at least they are not listed in any memorial publication.¹¹

- 6 Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Authority, Jerusalem, Israel
- 7 Certainly his mother Reta and Hertha Fleischmann, both born in Ottenssoos, were sisters.
- 8 <http://www.yadvashem.org/>
- 9 A Project of *Die Maus*, the Association for Familyresearch of Bremen, with the Bremen Chamber of Commerce and the Bremen Staatsarchiv
- 10 Archiv Ident.Nr.: AIII15-14.07.1939_N, http://hotel432.server4you.de/passagierlisten/listen.php?lang=en&ArchivIdent=AIII15-14.07.1939_N&pass=Fleischmann&abreisehafen=Bremen&ankunftshafen=New%20York&ID=683110
- 11 Later research in the Standesamt Küps resp. in the Birth Register of Oberlangenstadt revealed the dates of the two sisters: Amalie, b. 11 Feb 1888 in Oberlangenstadt House No. 68; – Gretchen, b. 01 Jan 1887 in Oberlangenstadt House No. 68, d. 1937 in Nürnberg

The FLEISCHMANN of Oberlangenstadt - the Kinship Relation of Emma and Babette

This family tree shows how distant the kinship relation of the writer of the photo postcard Emma Fleischmann to Babette Fleischmann was. Their husbands were 2nd cousins once removed, or descriptively: Emma was the husband-father-father-brother-son-wife of Babette.





Detail of a map of Oberlangenstadt dated 1851. The old house numbers existed until the 1970ies. The street is nowadays called Nageler Strasse. House No. 35 of Moritz and Emma Fleischmann to the left is situated at the mill stream. Left to the center house No. 23, in which Babette Fleischmann née Strauß lived. No. 54 to the right (marked in red) is the Synagogue (Landesamt für Vermessung und Geoinformation, München).

Below: The same map in a smaller scale.

