



ELEVEN
Generations
OF THE
GERSTLE
Family

BY KAREN SPIEGEL FRANKLIN

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A note from the author: While compiling this book I accumulated much information which was not included in the text. Should you desire more details about specific family lines or members, send any inquiries to the above address.

Acknowledgments

It is proper and fitting to thank my grandfather, Stanley Sundheim, in the beginning of this book. It was his interest in his family and his keen memory of names and places that inspired me to search for my relatives and enabled me to do so. He has been supportive throughout this venture.

I would also like to thank the many cousins who helped me by sending information about themselves and their families. I would hesitate to name them here for I would undoubtedly forget some of them. I mention only the name of one cousin, Arthur Abrams, who helped me in my initial research and died before this project was completed.

This book is dedicated
to my patient husband,
Stephen,
and my two sons,
Ross Fauer
and
Andrew Julian

IN MEMORY

Victims of The Holocaust

EMIL AUFHAUSER 1878-1945 *Treblinka*
ISIDOR AUFHAUSER 1884-1945 *Treblinka*
SELMA HEIDECKER AUFHAUSER 1887-?
SIEGFRIED AUFHAUSER 1874-?
LOUIS BERNHEIMER
PAULA STERN BERNHEIMER
SIGO BERNHEIMER
HANS GERSTLE EINSTEIN 1887-?
LOUIS EINSTEIN
THERESE ERLANGER EINSTEIN 1880-1945
EMMA REGENSBURGER ERLANGER 1888-1942
INGEBORG ERLANGER 1928-1942
HANS REGENSBURGER FRANKENHEIMER 1880-1943
LUDWIG FRANKENHEIMER 1875-1943
BERTHA ROSENSTEIN GERSTLE
DORA KLEIN GERSTLE d. 1941
GUSTAV GERSTLE d. 1941
HANNAH LAURA GERSTLE 1923-1941
JULIUS GERSTLE 1875-1942. *Concentration Camp Hospital Toulouse*
JUSTIN GERSTLE
LOUIS GERSTLE d. 1941
OSKAR GERSTLE 1893-1945
ROSALIE HEIDECKER GERSTLE
SOPHIE SCHWARZ GERSTLE d. 1944 *Auschwitz*
JULIE AUFHAUSER GRUNEBAUM 1882-1945 *Auschwitz*
ALFRED GRUNHUT 1910-?
ELSA GERSTLE GRUNHUT 1895-?
JOSEPH GRUNHUT 1893-?
LAURA GERSTLE GRUNHUT 1886-?
SIEGFRIED GRUNHUT 1876-?
BELLA GERSTLE GUTMANN 1884-?
IDA GERSTLE HEIDECKER 1862-?
RICKA GERSTLE HEIDECKER 1866-?
ALBERT HEIDELBERGER 1882-?
NANETTE MANNHEIMER HEIDELBERGER 1896-?
SALLY ERLANGER HEIDLERBERGER 1883-1942
ULRICH HEIDELBERGER
EDNA KUH HENLE d. 1943 (*suicide*)
JOHANNA HENLE 1907-?
MORITZ HENLE 1909-1943 (*suicide*)
PAULINE GERSTLE HENLE 1877-?
ELSBETH KOHLMAN 1907-?
HUGO KOHLMAN 1886-?
PAULINE GERSTLE KUSIEL 1864-?
FERDINAND MEINSTEIN 1878-?
ANNY KRAEMER OPPENHEIMER d. 1945 *Mauthausen*
LEOPOLD OPPENHEIMER
YAKOV OPPENHEIMER

IN MEMORY

JORAM PERES 1942-1969 *Murdered in a terrorist attack in Zurich*

INTRODUCTION

Little could Gerson Samuel Gerstle have imagined in the 1600's how many his descendants would be and how varied the routes their lives would take; that many would be slaughtered in Nazi Germany and none would remain in his home town of Ichenhausen, though a few would stay in Germany; that these descendants would live all over the world – in South Africa, South America, (Chile, Costa Rica, Uruguay and Mexico), Europe (Switzerland, England, Germany, Spain, France and Belgium), Australia, the United States, Canada and Israel; that some would give up their Judaism though one would become a reform rabbi and another, a yeshiva student; that one would be designing computer systems for the American Space Shuttle Program while others were to become doctors, lawyers, musicians and professionals; one would continue the family “business” generations later by raising horses; that one woman would become a judge while another woman would serve in the Israeli Air Force.

This is the story of the descendants of Gerson Samuel Gerstle and the Gerstle family of Ichenhausen: their lives in Germany and throughout the world. It would be impossible to relate the life stories of every family member, but I have chosen to write about our common ancestors as well as a few of us in the more recent generations, who have led interesting lives, and whose stories were related to me through interview or written record. First let us look at the history of the Gerstle family.

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THE GERSTLE FAMILY

The origin of the Gerstle family can not be known for sure, but there is a traditional story: Gerstle ancestors accompanied a mass migration of Jews from Italy to southern Germany by way of the ancient Roman military highway, the *Heeresstrasse*, about a thousand years ago. This migration followed an invitation from Charlemagne to the Jews of Italy to settle in his kingdom, an invitation prompted by the understanding that Jews in the Roman world prospered in business and were good for the general economy of the community. Charlemagne hoped that this prosperity would spread to his own kingdom.

The German rulers following Charlemagne were not so tolerant in their attitude towards Jews. Life was difficult for the Jews in the following centuries in Germany. In fact, one theory of the origin of the Gerstle name is that it was derived from the Hebrew word *garash*, meaning "to expel" or "cast out" with the addition of the German diminutive ending "le" for "little." Perhaps the name would have identified that man or family expelled in one of the many Jewish expulsions which occurred near Ichenhausen, in Neuburg on Kammel and Thannhausen.

A second possible derivation of the name is from the German word for barley (*Gerste*) with the same diminutive ending. Support for this origin is a Gerstle coat of arms containing three barley stalks on a blue background, shown in *Planches de L'Armorial General* by J.B. Rietstap. If authentic, this "coat" could suggest that the Gerstle name literally stems from barley. It is possible, however, that the coat of arms was created because of the similarity of the name to the barley symbol. It is interesting to note that one line of the family living in Israel hebraized the Gerstle name to the Hebrew word for grain, *dagan*. (See Chart III)

The Gerstles are known to have lived in Ichenhausen, a small southwest Bavarian town, halfway between Augsburg and Neu-Ulm, since 1538. Gerstles are also mentioned in documents from Krombach, a nearby town, in 1598. An unusual feature of this name is that so many of the residents of the town of Ichenhausen

used it. In this century the inhabitants of the town believed there were 27 to 33 distinct and unrelated Gerstle families. Though my research has shown many of these families to be related, the fact remains that the name was extremely popular.

One possible explanation for the frequency of the name is its relative age. Most Jews received last names in the Napoleonic period when these names were required by law. The Gerstles, however, appear to be one of the few Bavarian families whose name had been established already in the 16th century. It is important to remember here that Jews had large families in the ensuing centuries. Thus by the time that many other Jewish households were just receiving their family names, the Gerstle name was already extremely common in the town, and the number of Gerstle families continued to increase disproportionately to other families because of the 100-year head start. It is not surprising that many Gerstle families did not know their relation to each other; the connections in some families were many generations back. It is interesting to reflect on the fact that those families who carry the Gerstle name today represent nine or ten generations of sons of sons.

ICHENHAUSEN

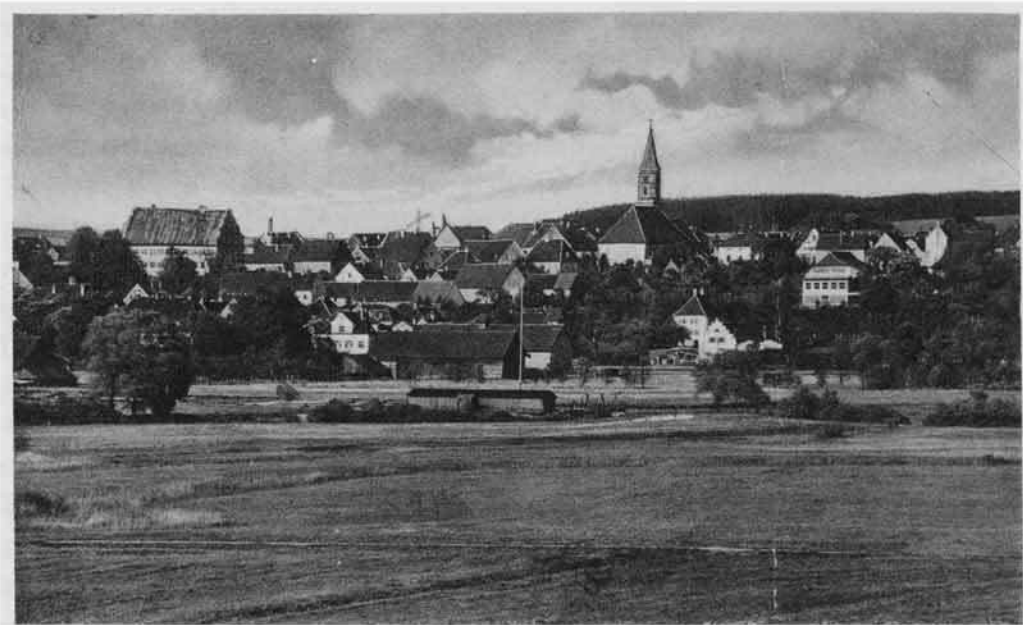
Ichenhausen is a small town, relatively undistinguished in architecture or historical importance. Yet it was unique because of the unusually high percentage of Jewish inhabitants until the Nazi period. Of the 2000-3000 inhabitants, a stable 25-30% of the population was Jewish, a percentage encouraged by the good relations with the Christian community. Many Jews, including the Gerstle families, were quite comfortable financially in the 18th and 19th centuries. There were far fewer Jewish persecutions in Ichenhausen than in other parts of Bavaria. How ironic it is that false hope in the goodness of gentile neighbors may have dissuaded some of the Jewish inhabitants of Ichenhausen from leaving Germany in time to avoid the Nazi Holocaust.

The synagogue, built in 1681, was the center of Jewish life in Ichenhausen for several centuries. The Gerstle family played a significant role in the growth and development of this institution, as can be evidenced in the following pages. Converted into a fire station after the Nazi period, the synagogue is presently being restored as a memorial museum to the Jewish population of Ichenhausen.

Several members of the Gerstle family have returned to Ichenhausen to search for their roots and to see what the town is like today. They found the appearance of the town to be similar to 40 years ago, and the people to be friendly. But according to one family member who had left Ichenhausen in the 1930's, the town will never recover from the loss of its Jewish population. She found the place void of character and said, "The only place I felt at home was the cemetery. There I was surrounded by my family."

From the Nazi period until the restoration of the synagogue was begun, the only visible reminder of the Jewish community was the cemetery. Though some sections were desecrated during the Nazi period, a number of tombstones remain standing, and the cemetery itself is cared for by the town. A Gerstle family member from the San Francisco clan, Robert Samuels, (not descended directly

from Gerson Samuel Gerstle though related to some of the family through marriage) visited Ichenhausen in 1977 with his family and catalogued all of the tombstones with the Gerstle name. He recorded 35 names (including husbands and wives). Of these, almost half can be identified as descendants of Gerson Samuel Gerstle. In the charts in the back of this book there is a special notation next to the names of those family members whose tombstones are still standing.



Ichenhausen

Postcard of Ichenhausen, ca. 1937

HOW THE RESEARCH WAS DONE

The active research for the Gerstle family tree began in the summer of 1980. The first step was to ask living relatives about the family history. My grandfather, Stanley Sundheim, has a remarkable memory, knows a great deal about the family, and was able to identify many cousins and relatives.

The second step was to consult Dan Rottenberg's book about Jewish genealogy, *Finding our Fathers*. The "Gerstle" listing here indicated that there was material under this name, held by the American Jewish Archives in Cincinnati. I sent for the material and found it to be the voluminous memoirs of Alice Gerstle Levison of San Francisco, compiled in 1967. I did not recognize any of the Gerstle family mentioned in the memoirs, but I did find a footnote to another book about a Gerstle family, *Hannah and Lewis Gerstle*, written by Mrs. Levison's cousin, Gerstle Mack, who was living in New York City in that year — but what of 1980?

How could I locate the book? I estimated Mr. Mack's age to be about 90. Hoping I would find him alive I checked the Manhattan Telephone Directory. Sure enough he was listed. I called . . . he told me the book could be found at the New York Public Library.

The book, written in 1953, dealt also with the San Francisco Gerstle family whom I did not know. However, reading the book carefully I discovered that a Gerstle from the San Francisco family had married a Gerstle from another line which I recognized (by means of mutual cousins who were mentioned) as my family. In addition, the book stated that this Gerstle line (my family) had been traced back to 1670, to Gerson Samuel Gerstle. I was ecstatic! I had traced my family to 1670. But, two major problems remained. First, I wasn't certain how my immediate family was related to the cousins mentioned in the book. Moreover, three generations between 1670 and the 1800's were missing — how was I to find them?

As for the first problem, I guessed at the relationships among the cousins

in the 19th century. My guess later proved to be wrong, but without major consequence.

The second problem was much more important – I was not sure if any records could be found to supply the missing generations of the 1700's. I telephoned Mr. Mack to find the source of his information – Germany? public records? relatives? He said that the information came from family members by the name of Frankenheimer, all of whom he thought had died. A dead end? I checked the New York phone book only to discover that Harold Frankenheimer was indeed listed.

Mr. Frankenheimer was, in fact, alive and related, and was able to supply me with the names of other cousins to call. Among them was a name with which I was already familiar, Gretl Regan (shortened from Regensburger), whom I already knew to be a cousin. The peculiarity of the situation was that Mr. Frankenheimer was related to Gretl's late husband, Martin, and I knew I was related to her. Subsequent research showed that Gretl and Martin were distant cousins, a fact they had never known. I later found that the parents of Anne Rotenberg (another cousin) were also distantly related to each other.

In the months that followed I discovered many fascinating relatives. Three belonged to Riverdale Temple in Riverdale, New York, the synagogue where my husband is Rabbi. A high school chum of mine turned up on the Gerstle tree, and so did other friends whom I did not know were related. The Gerstle family was to be found all over the world, and six cousins were situated within five miles of my home.

In June 1981 a member of the Philadelphia Gerstley clan, Kiefer Gerstley, sent me a copy of a family tree compiled in 1927 which included all of the missing generations I had been searching for; the tree traced the family from 1670 to the mid 1800's. Combined with the research I have done, the family tree now spans 11 generations of the Gerstle family.

Of course I have not been able to trace every descendant of Gerson Samuel Gerstle. Genealogy is an endless process and there are always more cousins to be "discovered." I have chosen to complete this book at this point in my research because I feel it is more important to keep the family informed of its origin and present status than to keep a record that may never be available to those whom it would interest.

I request that the family be in touch with me in the future so that I might continue to keep accurate and up-to-date records on the extensive Gerstle family.

OUR ANCESTORS

Gerson Samuel Gerstle was born in about 1670 in Ichenhausen. His wife's name is not known, but we do know that he had two sons, Reuben and Solomon Isak. Only a few records have been located concerning Reuben's branch. It is likely that many of the "unrelated" Gerstles in the town actually stem from Reuben's side.

This book traces the descendants of Solomon Isak, born in about 1700. Solomon's wife's name was Hendel, daughter of Isak. She died in November 1789. Solomon died in 1774 leaving two sons, Abraham and Gerson.

Nothing is known for certain about this Abraham, but an interesting theory exists concerning his identity. The famous San Francisco Gerstle family written about by Gerstle Mack in his book *Hannah and Lewis Gerstle*, and by Irena Narell in *Our City: The Jews of San Francisco*, traces itself to one Abraham Gerstle born in 1740. Could this be the very same person? It is certainly possible though difficult to prove. If the linkage could be made this would unite the two major Gerstle families on one tree, making traceable a clan of extremely large size.

Two differing traditions have been passed down concerning Gerson Gerstle, though we can be fairly certain that both are about the same person. One family tree places his birth in 1741, his death in 1827 and states that the name of his wife was Jette. A second source places his birth in 1743, his death on February 13, 1828 (28 Shevat 5588) and his wife's name as Babette (Bele), the daughter of Chone. She died in May 1822 according to this source.

I suspect that the latter source is correct because of a common Ashkenazic Jewish tradition in which newborn babies are named in memory of deceased relatives – often children are named after grandparents who have died. (It is most likely that Gerson Samuel Gerstle died before Gerson Gerstle was named after him). Gerson Gerstle's granddaughter born in August 1822 was named Bele or Babette. It would seem that she was named after her grandmother Bele who had died just three months earlier.

Gerson was a dealer in horses and farms. Thus he earned the nickname Ross-Gerson, "Ross" being the German word for horse. He was referred to in records as "Gerson Alt" in order not to confuse him with his younger cousin Gerson, the son of Reuben. The Gerstle family at this time was among the wealthiest in the community.

Ross-Gerson and Bele had five sons: Samuel Loeb, Jakob, Isak Rafael, Anshel and Abraham. Descendents of the first three sons are traced here – little information about the descendents of Anshel and Abraham could be found.

It is quite striking that so many Gerstles married within the family. In addition, Gerstles often married siblings and cousins of in-laws; that is, they married into the same families. The Gutmann name reappears many times throughout the Gerstle tree. The names Einstein, Erlanger, Aufhäuser, Heidelberger, Bissinger, Weil, Kahn and several others occur more than once. Three cousins married Bacharachs – in the United States! A fourth Bacharach on the tree may also be from the same family, and the Bacharachs were not even from Ichenhausen! Five sets of sisters married brothers; Bernheimer-Levite, Frohlich-Maier, Urnstein-Gerstle, Gerstle-Grünhut, and Gerstle-Heidecker. The Gerstle sisters' brother married a Heidecker cousin, too. In the case of the Rosskams and the Sunsteins, each man married two sisters – the second after the first had died.

These complicated family connections and marriage of cousins makes the precise division of family into sections nearly impossible. The problem begins with the generations following Ross-Gerson's sons. Samuel Loeb's daughters' (Edele or Adelheit and Esther) children married Jakob and Isak Rafael's grandchildren. Two family members, Alfred and Warren Regan, are consequently descended from all three brothers. Therefore, the division of family in the following sections is, in some cases, arbitrary.

SAMUEL LOEB and his Children

Samuel Loeb, born in 1775, was a trader of horses and grain. His first wife, Breindl or Braunle (the discrepancy because of illegible records), born in 1781, died at the age of 32 after having borne him six children. He was remarried within a few months to Sprinz, or Sophie (1789-1861). She bore him two more children. In 1840 Samuel Loeb was elected to serve in the administration of the synagogue; he died on March 17, 1850.

Hirsch, the firstborn child of Samuel and Breindl, moved to the Pfalz region of Germany and remained a bachelor until his death; their daughter Edele (or Adelheit or Judele) married Ulrich Roskam. According to family legend, when Edele was dying she begged her husband to remarry quickly for the benefit of their young son, Isaac. Ulrich appeared in her bedroom and said, "Congratulate me. I am a bridegroom!" Then he introduced his bride-to-be, Esther, Edele's sister! Ulrich married Esther only six weeks after Edele's death. The descendants of Ulrich are mentioned in other sections; two sons, Isaac and Samuel, married Gerstle cousins.

Daughter Rosa (or Rosle) from Samuel Loeb's second marriage married Simon Winschbacher. Of the Winschbacher line I could find little. Records show that a house on 7 Hohe Brühl in Ichenhausen was purchased by a Windsbacher (sic) in 1850, about the time Simon and Rosle would have married. The same house was in the possession of N. Windsbacher (sic) in 1934. One may assume that this is the same family since there was only one family by this unusual name in the town. What became of most of the family? It would be difficult to trace, but we do know that in 1939, 17 year-old Erich Winschbacher left Ichenhausen for Yugoslavia. His father, Nathan, brother and sister were deported in 1942.

Of Samuel Loeb's son, Abraham, whose mother died when he was less than six months old, we know a great deal. Abraham had 10 children by his first wife, Helene Gradmann. After she died he married Karoline Kress Kahn. She died at age 34, only two months after their wedding. Abraham then married Sofie Laemmler. She outlived him by nine years.

Edele's Descendants

Isaac (Edele's son) and Bertha Gerstley Rosskam's family had great success in America. Isaac and Bertha had come to the United States in the 1860's and were married in Elmira, New York. They were second cousins (Bertha's grandfather Jakob was a brother of Samuel Loeb, Isaac's grandfather). Isaac went into business with William Gerstley, his wife's brother, and started a liquor company, Rosskam, Gerstley and Co. Their main product was a whiskey called, "Old Saratoga." The bottle labels, quite interestingly, show a *Magen David*, a Jewish star, as the company emblem. Large and intricate company bar signs hang today in the San Francisco Steak House in San Antonio, Texas, and in a museum in Crimmins Creek, Colorado.

In 1893 the family sold the liquor company. Isaac's son, William, founded the Quaker City Chocolate and Confectionery Co. with the proceeds of this sale. One of the most well-known candies they sold was Good and Plenty. The name "Good and Plenty" was chosen, according to family legend, after a horse which William had bet on (and lost). The company was sold in 1974 to the Warner Lambert Company.

Walter Rosskam, son of Samuel Leon, has recently retired from the flavor extract business to write his own memoirs. He was married to Elizabeth Schults, adopted daughter of his uncle William. Much of the family is still involved in the extract business today.

Esther's Descendants

An initial glance at the Heidelberger line of the family tree tells a story in itself. Clara (Esther's daughter) and Moritz Heidelberger had 12 children – 11 sons and finally a daughter. One can imagine that the parents were delighted with their female offspring, but there is an unusual twist to this tale. As the family legend goes, the German rulers encouraged large families, presumably so that there would be enough men to serve in the army. When the seventh son was born in a family, the Prince Regent bestowed a gift upon them. Had the twelfth Heidel-

berger child been a boy, the King of Bavaria would have recognized the family in some way. But, alas, Miriam was born!

Of the 12 children, Albert, his wife Nanette, and brother Ulrich were victims of the Nazis. Most of the family came to the United States, with the exception of David's son Fritz, who remained in Germany and lives there today. Of those who came to the United States, several worked in the family businesses (See Edele's Descendants). Louis and Gustav ran the Quaker City Candy Factory. Isaac and Joe worked at the Old Saratoga Distilleries. Harry and Sam were employed there later. Isaac and Joe then formed their own business, Heidelberger and Co. The main product of this concern was a blended whiskey, "Regal."

The present generation is involved in a variety of enterprises: Roger Brown is in the auto business with his father in Hatboro, Pennsylvania; Dorothy Freedman works for the Jewish Community Relations Council in Philadelphia; Joan Woycik raises registered Quarter Horses in Virginia – ironically pursuing the same type of business, horses, as her ancestors in Ichenhausen centuries earlier.

Abraham's Descendants

The most striking characteristic of the descendants of Abraham and his wives is that so many of them have maintained Orthodox Judaism.

From the generation of son Jacob's children, only two family members survive; Leo's wife Emma, who lives in New Jersey, and Paula Oppenheimer in Brussels. Paula lost both sons, Leopold and Yakov, in the Holocaust.

Two of Abraham's grandchildren married each other; Sidonia (Jacob's daughter) and Emil (Lazarus' son) were first cousins. Emil and Sidonia's son, Theodor David, immigrated to Israel (then Palestine) in 1936. Today his 19 grandchildren thrive there. Two of his sons, Menachem and Yakov, changed their names to Dagan, the Hebrew word for grain (see Chapter on "The Gerstle Family"). Menachem, Yakov, and their families live on *kibbutzim*. Theodor's brother, Alfred, the family historian who helped provide much of the information for this branch of the tree, lives in New York. Alfred's son, Edwin, is in the business of refurbishing kitchen cabinets.

The descendants of Jacob's son Theodor David live in Missouri and Costa Rica. Theodor's son, Elmer, settled in St. Louis; later he lived in Japan where he worked for the Naval Civil Service. Elmer's daughter Katherine married Edwin Chaverri, a Costa Rican. They travelled to Costa Rica in 1951 on vacation and "are still on vacation"; they settled there and raised six children. Katherine's brother, David, a physical education teacher, lives in Missouri.

Leo's descendants have varied professions: Ernst is a purchasing agent for Albert Einstein Hospital in the Bronx; Kurt handles the electrical conversion of antiques into lamps; his son, Leon, is a paint contractor; Kurt's daughter, Esther, and son-in-law, Danny Rothschild, are in the housewares business in Switzerland. The entire family is extremely proud of Naomi's husband, Shmuel Feinstein, grandson of the esteemed Rabbi Moshe Feinstein.

Gustav's children, Jack and Ina, live in the New York area. Jack is in the photographic supply import business. His two children attend Harvard College. Ina Pretsfelder, who dwells in Riverdale, Bronx, is a Job Counselor for the Jewish Community Council of Washington Heights. Ina's daughter, Evelyn, lives in Israel. Son, Steven is a lawyer and Gary, a college student.

Arnold's son Jack is in Newcastle, England. Sons Manfred, Walter and their families reside in Israel.

The family has lost touch with (Jacob's brother) Lazarus' grandson, Fritz Lehmann. When last contacted he was a practicing physician in Mexico City. Granddaughter Ilse Peres lives on a kibbutz in Israel. Her son, Joram, a commercial airline pilot trainee, was tragically killed in a terrorist attack at the Zurich airport in 1969.

JAKOB and his Sons

Jakob (1776-1865), the second son of Ross-Gerson, dealt in horses and farms. He was married to Esther (1775-1846). Jakob took a leading part in the governing of the Jewish community and in January 1810 he was elected a member of its governing body.

On August 14, 1846, the community decided to introduce a tax on meat in order to meet its financial obligations. Twelve men were elected to administer the newly-collected funds. Jakob was among them. The resolution was signed also by Gerson Gerstle and by Samuel Loeb Gerstle.

In 1842 a vote was taken to enlarge the synagogue in order to accommodate the growing Jewish community. Among those who voted for this measure were the three Gerstle brothers, Samuel Loeb, Isak Rafael, Jakob, and Jakob's son Samuel Loeb.

Samuel Loeb (1811-1860), the fourth child of Jakob and Esther, was listed as an *Ökonom*, a tradesman and dealer in farm properties. On June 30, 1835 he married Sofie Marx from Moenchsroth. Samuel Loeb's tombstone is still standing in the Ichenhausen Jewish Cemetery.

Moses, the fifth child of Jakob and Esther, was born on February 8, 1817. He, too, was an *Ökonom*, dealing in farm properties and domestic animals. Moses was married in 1847 to Händele Gerstle, daughter of Isak Michael Gerstle (who was not related as far as can be established. Händele's brother was the famous Lewis Gerstle, a San Francisco merchant who established the Alaska Commercial Company. The Gerstle River in Alaska is named in honor of Lewis Gerstle). Moses spent his free time playing cards in coffee houses, earning him the nickname *Kaffeehaus Mosche*. He died while playing cards at a coffeehouse on January 27, 1893, presumably of a heart attack. Moses and Händele had nine children. Descendants of the four who survived to adulthood are mentioned in the following section.

Samuel Loeb's Descendants

Three sons of Samuel Loeb, Lazarus, Wilhelm and Hirsch, (who changed their names to Louis, William and Henry and added a "y" to Gerstle) left Germany in the 1860's and came to Philadelphia. Their families, along with the families of their sisters Babette and Emma (who also immigrated to the same area), distinguished themselves in the Philadelphia Jewish community already in the late 19th century. Their families were literally part of the fiber of growing Philadelphia. William's participation in business is described in the section concerning Isaac Rosskam, his brother-in-law, cousin and partner.

The descendants of William left their mark in building and real estate development. Daughter Emma's husband, Arthur Loeb, was involved in building construction. His firm was responsible for the construction of the City Hall complex, the Warwick Hotel and 30th Street Bridge in Philadelphia.

Selma's first husband, Alfred Fleisher, was a partner in the large and prestigious Mastbaum Brothers and Fleisher Real Estate Company. After Alfred's death in 1928, Selma married Leon Sunstein, who had been married to her younger sister, Florence (who had died). Selma and Alfred's son, Robert, is also in the real estate business and is extremely active in Philadelphia Jewish philanthropic and social organizations. Daughter Jill is married to a lawyer; Nancy, to an antiquarian book dealer.

Isaac formed the Gerstley and Sunstein brokerage firm which grew to be quite large and successful.

There are no living descendants of Henry today. His line is one of the few that died out completely. His daughter Rebecca married but had no children; sons Leon and William never married.

Of Louis' descendants, Samuel and his son Kiefer entered the legal profession; Louis is a physician, and the rest of this branch of the family consists of stockbrokers and businessmen, except for Louis Hecht, who deals in antiques.

The descendants of Babette and Emma are well represented in the business and engineering professions. An outstanding member of the family is Dr. Jane Oppenheimer, Professor Emeritus of Biology and History of Science at Bryn Mawr College.

Moses' Descendants

ABRAHAM MOSES AUGUST

The Holocaust claimed the lives of several descendants of Abraham Moses August and his wives, Sarah and Henriette: Julius, Laura and Siegfried Grünhut, and Elsa and Joseph Grünhut. Bella Gutmann was hidden in a convent during the war. The family lost contact with her when the war was over.

The remaining family is found today in New York, Israel, London, and Australia. The family has lost touch with Hans Gardner and the children of Selma and Arthur Einstein in London and Australia. Sisters Martha and Selma Froehlich married brothers Louis and Herbert Maier. Martha, Selma and Herbert live in Riverdale, New York today, near their sister-in-law Hilde Froehlich. The families are founding members of Riverdale Temple, where my husband, Stephen, is Rabbi.

SARAH

The descendants of Sarah and Elias Wasserman lost touch with each other because of the intermarriage of the two sisters, Helene and Klara, in the early part of the 20th century in Germany. Little is known of their side of the family.

Kurt Wasserman came to the United States in 1937 with the help of the influential James Gerstley, head of the Borax Consolidated monopoly in England. Kurt's father, David, was not quite so lucky. In 1938, alerted at night by a gentile neighbor that he would be arrested the next day, he left Coblenz and fled to Dusseldorf, where he was nonetheless arrested and sent to Dachau. Kurt contacted James Gerstley in London, who was able – startling though it is – to secure David Wasserman's release from Dachau through the influence of the famous munitions family, Krupp, in Germany. James Gerstley (related to the Wassermans through Sarah's mother, Händele Gerstle) supported David and Eva Wasserman in London until they were able to secure a needed affidavit to travel from Europe to America.

Kurt's cousins Senta and Paul Cahn live in New York City. Kurt's sister Hilde and her husband Bruno live in Florida.

PEPPI

The descendants of Peppi and Abraham Regensburger have led various and interesting lives. The Holocaust claimed the lives of Emma Erlanger and her daughter Ingeborg, Hansl and Ludwig Frankenheimer, and Pauline Henle and her daughter Johanna. Moritz and Edna Henle committed suicide rather than be captured by the Nazis.

Other family members left Germany and now live in Israel and the United States – mostly in the New York City area and California. Their occupations are varied; Kathe Biglovsky and Anne Rotenberg are nurses, Mark Henle is a teacher, Renee and Herman Scherk are interior decorators, and Arno Regensburger is in the car business.

SAMUEL MOSES

Although Samuel Moses and Peppi had 10 children, very few of their descendants are alive today. There are a number of reasons for this lack of reproduction: Sophie died in infancy; Max and Hugo died in World War I; Hansl and her husband Louis Einstein were victims of the Nazis; Emil, Moritz and Henry had no children. Several of the brothers married women much younger than themselves.

The lives of the few remaining descendants are indeed fascinating. Gudrun, the daughter of Doris and Eugen Goldberg, became a stockbroker and worked for Merrill Lynch throughout Europe. Eventually settling in Frankfurt, she died of cancer there in 1973.

Renate, Jacob and Johanna's daughter, married Ernst Mogendorff, a cattle owner. The couple resides in Mercedes, Uruguay with their daughter, Sonia Ruth, a bilingual secretary, and son George, a chemistry student at the University.

Siegbert, Renate's brother, is an extremely successful businessman with residences in Chile and Uruguay. He owns a large fruit farm and has half ownership of two large plumbing supply factories and a construction company. His four children are in various stages of completing their university educations in the fields of economics, education and agronomy.

ISAK RAFAEL and his Son

Isak Rafael (February 12, 1787) was the third son of Ross-Gerson. Like his father and many other Jews in the town, his occupation was listed as a trader of horses and farms. In 1814 he married Esther Gutmann (1797). The couple had 13 children over a 23 year period. Isak Rafael died on September 2, 1851; his wife, 16 years later, on December 21, 1867. It is recorded that in 1863 she gave her seats in the synagogue to her son, Gerson.

Abraham Isak Gerstle, born on February 13, 1819, was the third child of Isak and Esther. He was married on July 3, 1851 to Peppi Gutmann (1827). The ceremony was performed by Rabbi Hochheimer in Ichenhausen. It is likely that Peppi and her mother-in-law were related to each other.

We know a fair amount about Peppi's family. The Gutmann family had been in Ichenhausen for some years, and was large and well established. Peppi's father, Elias, was born in 1798. Her father's parents were Ephraim (1768) and Attele (1776). Peppi's mother was Fanni Schlenker from Sulzbach in the Bavarian region of Oberfalz, east of Nuremburg. Peppi's grandfather was Feist Schlenker, listed in a House Register from Sulzbach (1804-1808) as a "schutzjude" or protected Jew.

Abraham died in 1902. His tombstone is still standing in the Jewish Cemetery of Ichenhausen.

Abraham's Descendants

CAROLINA

Lina, or Carolina, born on March 14, 1855, was the eldest child of Abraham and Peppi. Carolina's name was also spelled "Karolina," as evidenced by a kiddush cup

given to her by her father and passed down through the family. The cup is inscribed, "To K.R. from A.G." (To Karolina Rosskam from Abraham Gerstle).

Carolina married Samuel Rosskam (b. August 1, 1850), a successful businessman in retail men's clothing, on August 27, 1874. Samuel was the son of Ulrich Rosskam (1804-1880) and grandson of Uri Hirsch Rosskam. Samuel's mother was Esther Gerstle, the daughter of Samuel Loeb. Carolina and Samuel were second cousins – their grandfathers were brothers.

Samuel and Carolina led a happy and prosperous life. They had four daughters; Eugenie, Franzl (Fannie), Clara and Idl. Though all four daughters immigrated to the United States, Samuel and Carolina never left Ichenhausen.

Eugenie (1876-1932) travelled to the United States by herself in 1891. In Philadelphia she met and married Harry Sundheim. The descendants from this line have attained an impressive variety of undergraduate and graduate degrees from such schools as the University of Pennsylvania, Bowdoin, Emory, Rice, Wellesley, Syracuse, George Washington University, Temple, and Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. Of the descendants, Frank Sundheim is a rabbi, Richard Sundheim an accountant, Rebecca Singer an attorney, James Spiegel a computer systems analyst, and Karen Spiegel Franklin (this writer) a religious educator, genealogist, and "producer" of one of the first members of the tenth generation of descendants of Gerson Samuel Gerstle: Ross Fauer Franklin.

Franzl married Herman Loewenberg. Herman went into his father-in-law's retail clothing business and later came to the United States with Franzl in 1938. Their daughter, Gretl, married Martin Regan, who, unbeknownst to either, was a cousin. Daughter Erna married Erich Marx in 1944 and presently lives in Queens, New York. Their daughter, Carol, is an Assistant Professor of Biology at the State University of New York, Dryden campus.

Clara came to Philadelphia in 1900 and married Alexander Abrams (shortened from Abraham) at Adath Jeshurun in 1903. Sons Lester and Arthur retained the shortened form of the name while Herbert and Norman chose the full form. Lester, involved in the shoe business, lives in Ohio. Arthur, an artist, had retired in Florida until his death in 1981. Ironically, although some of Norman's activities were legally questionable, his daughter, Lynne, has become a distinguished judge in the Common Pleas Court of Philadelphia.

Idl never married. She moved to Philadelphia in 1938 and lived with her sister, Franzl.

ISAK

Isak Gerstle married Lena Hirsch, whose mother was one of the best-known midwives in Munich. Lena, who is remembered by the family as being very short, vivacious and quite beautiful, gave birth to one son, Justin. Isak died soon after. Justin left Munich in 1914 to avoid military service and went to New York where he worked for Hirsch and Co. in the import-export business. He married a pianist, Olga Barabini. They had one son, Justin Jr., who lives in Greenwich, Connecticut today and works in the advertising business.

EPHRAIM

Ephraim lived in Ichenhausen as a boy. Upon his marriage to Rosalie Heidecker (a cousin of Jacob and Zacharias who married Ephraim's sisters), the family moved to Kham in the Oberfalz region. Ephraim's family ties were closest with his wife's family. Ephraim and Rosalie had three sons; Justin, Leo and Julius. All three sons married women by the name of Bertha.

Leo married Bertha Greenhut in Germany. There he was in the retail iron piece business. Leaving Germany on the last ship, the Exeter, in 1941, the couple escaped Nazi persecution. They settled in Queens where Leo worked in the wholesale food business until his retirement. Leo is the oldest surviving grandchild of Abraham and Peppi Gerstle. Julius was a director of Keim and Company, the Heidecker family factory. Justin owned a department store.

FANNI

Fanni married Aaron Heller, a successful businessman who ran a paper goods, novelties and toy shop. Aaron Heller apprenticed the famous Carl Laemmle in his store for three years. Carl later immigrated to the United States and became the founder and President of Universal Studios.

The Hellers had 11 children, three of whom died in childhood. The oldest daughter, Frieda, married Carl Laemmle's brother, Louis. The youngest daughter, Peppi, married Edward Laemmle, Carl's nephew. Peppi lives today in Los Angeles with her daughter, Constance.

Flora's husband, David Weglein, went into the Heller family business. Eventually the Wegleins along with the rest of the family came to California.

Flora and David's son, Rolf, is a Research Engineer and Consultant in microwave technology today. Cousin Albert Heller is also in the aerospace engineering field. Rolf's daughter, Naomi, is an ultrasound technician. Son Stephen is in the ceramics business.

Though Fanni and Aaron were quite prolific, their descendants are not great in number. Of the generation of their great grandchildren, only six can be counted.

IDA

Ida and Zacharias Heidecker lived in Nuremberg. Ida was an attractive woman, even through her seventies. Various legends have been passed down about Zacharias and his trips to Russia for trading teas and furs. According to one such story, while riding through the snow on a sleigh, he was chased by wolves. Ida and Zacharias had three children.

Herbert came to the United States and at one time was the conductor of an orchestra in Evansville, Indiana. His son, Larry, lives in Los Angeles.

Emma was quite musically talented. Her husband, Hugo Kohlman, was in business with Hugo Heidecker at Keim and Co., a tin can and toy factory in Furth. Emma, Hugo, and their daughter Elsbeth were victims of the Holocaust. Their son Hans, who later changed his name to Harry (Coleman), escaped the Nazis through Switzerland to England; he was then interned in Canada for a year and a half. He lives in Toronto today. He has two daughters: Eleanor, an educational consultant, lives in Los Angeles; Gloria, who plays French horn in the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra, lives in Winnipeg.

Selma, her husband Siegfried Aufhauser, and her mother, Ida, were murdered by the Nazis (Zacharias died in 1926). Son Walter went to Jerusalem in 1939; today he teaches piano to professionals in Tel Aviv where he lives with his wife Madeline, also a pianist. Walter's daughter, Semandar, is at present serving in the Israeli Air Force. Walter's sister, Hertha, left Germany for England in 1939. Hertha continues in the nursing profession at present, while one of her three children, Robert, studies in a yeshiva in Jerusalem.

PAULINE

Pauline and Isidor Kusiél lived in Ludwigsburg, where Isidor supplied the German army with horses. The couple had four children:

Pepi was born in 1900. She married Ludwig Ottenheimer, a dress designer and cutter in his family's manufacturing company. Daughter Gretel was born in 1923. Ludwig was, in his daughter's words, "pessimistic and intelligent;" aware of Hitler's threat, the family moved to N.Y. in 1937.

In New York Ludwig worked in clothes manufacturing, but disliked New York City so intensely that he moved the family to Vineland, New Jersey and went into chicken farming. Pepi still lives in Vineland today.

Gretel was married in New York to Erwin Hamburger by the famous Rabbi de Sola Pool. Erwin died several years later, leaving Gretel with 2 daughters, the younger only 3 months old. Gretel remarried Rabbi Gunther Gates who had come to the USA from Germany via Shanghai. Gretel had two more children by Gunther, who served the Alameda Jewish community for 34 years until his death in 1981.

Pauline and Isidor's son, Gustav, who was in the tobacco business, left his wife and daughter Elsbeth, when the girl was only four. Elsbeth was raised by her Kusiél grandparents and her aunt, Trude Kusiél. She remained in Germany during World II and after the war moved to France with a French husband, André, whom she had met in Germany. She presently lives outside of Paris with her husband, now retired from his management position at a Citroen factory.

Siegward led a fascinating career including a stint as European representative for Universal Studios. His daughter, Susan, works today for the American Broadcasting Company in New York. Son Stephen is employed by the Federal Government in the field of law.

Justin dealt in horses, his father's business, and later became a salesman. Justin's wife Trude lives in Queens today.

RICKA

Ricka married Jacob Heidecker, a brother of her sister Ida's husband, Zacharias. Jacob died in Nuremberg.

The Heidecker family of Munich was greatly effected by the Nazi regime. Ricka died in a concentration camp. Daughter Erna married a Swiss citizen, Her-

man Bernheim. Because of his nationality, they could not be interned by the Nazi's – she moved to Zurich. Her son, Heinz, miraculously survived an extremely premature birth and lives in Zurich today.

Jacob and Ricka's son Hugo worked for Carl Laemmle and Universal Studios before World War I. Hugo later became owner of Keim and Company. There are many stories of his thrilling escape from Germany with the SS Storm Troopers pursuing at his heels. The most reliable story is that he forced a taxi driver at gunpoint to take him to Munich where he hid in the British Consulate and eventually escaped to England with his family.

The family has lost touch with Hugo's children, but it is believed that his son George returned to Germany after the war to reclaim the family business. His daughter, Rosemarie, is married and living in England.

GUSTAV

Gustav immigrated to South Africa after serving one year in the army. There he met and married Marie Cohen. In 1914 the entire family made a trip to Europe. They were held as civil prisoners in Munich for the duration of World War I because Gustav was a British subject, having been naturalized in 1913. After five years in Germany the family returned home. Gustav died only a few months later.

Beatrice, their daughter, married Ferdinand Moos, a Swiss, and Director of the Dresdener Bank in Koenigsburg, East Prussia. They had twin boys, Henry and Jackie. The family moved to the United States, but later returned to Zurich.

Son Arthur came to the United States in 1930 and married the first girl he met, Estelle Ruben. Arthur is now a retired cameraman for Universal Studios and presently living in Los Angeles.

Babette's Descendants

Babette, or Bele, married Isaac Oswald Gerstle, who was not related as far as can be determined. It is not certain how many children they had. By my combining a family tree and archival records sent from Germany the offspring seems to

number 15. The descendants of three children whose names appear in the archival material, however, remain unidentified.

We do know about many of Babette's descendants. Eldest daughter Mina married a man by the last name of Hirschkind. Their son Albert married his first cousin, Emma Gerstle. Albert and Emma's son, Lothar, dwells today in New York with his wife, Ruth.

Emma was the eldest daughter of Leopold. Her brother, Moritz Leopold, lived in London. Arthur Abrams, whose mother was Moritz's first cousin, wrote to me before his death in 1981 about his fond memories of many visits to Moritz in London while Arthur was on furlough from the American Army in World War II. Moritz had been a manufacturer of ladies' handbags.

Rudolph was a wholesaler of cigars. His son, Julius, was, in his youth, the track and field champion of Bavaria. Today he resides in Germany. In this family two generations span an unusually long period of almost 130 years; Rudolph was born in 1853. It is even more unusual that Rudolph has two living cousins of the same generation. Emma Levi and Julius Gerstle (of California); their father was born in 1860.

Fanny married Samuel Aufhauser and bore nine children. Three of them, Isidor, Emil and Julie, died in concentration camps. Descendants from the other children can be found today in Jerusalem, Israel, Queens, New York City, Erie, Pennsylvania, Milwaukee, Wisconsin and San Francisco, California.

Sara's husband, Moritz Erlanger, was a butcher. Their granddaughter, Anny Oppenheimer, was murdered in Mauthausen. Daughter Theresa Einstein was also killed by the Nazis. Her sons, Siegfried and Martin, were able to immigrate to Israel where their families reside today.

Nathan was a dealer in real estate and horses. His wife, Sophie, was murdered in the gas chambers of Auschwitz in 1944. His oldest son Isak died in World War I. Second son, David, emigrated from Munich to the United States in 1940. Third son, Gustav was killed in a concentration camp in 1941. Daughter Emma Levi lives in New York today. The youngest brother, Julius, resides in California with his wife, Eva, a survivor of three years of concentration camps. Julius met his wife after the War at a Sabbath service for Army personnel at Wiesbaden, where he was stationed as an American soldier.

Sources and Related Materials on the Gerstle Family

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PRIVATE PAPERS

- Aufhäuser Family Tree: Beginning with Israel Aufhauser b. 1810.
Provided by Ephraim Grunebaum.
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Provided by Kiefer Gerstley.
- Gerstle Family Tree: Beginning with Gerson Gerstle, traced through Samuel Loeb. Provided by Alfred Gerstley.
- Gerstle Family Tree: Beginning with Isaak Oswald Gerstle and Babette Gerstle. Provided by Julius Gerstle.
- Gerstle Family Tree: Beginning with Gerson Gerstle, traced through Moses and Händele Gerstle. Provided by Arno Regensburger.
- Gerstle Family Tree: Beginning with Moses and Händele Gerstle.
Compiled and provided by Gerstle Mack.
- List of Gerstle family tombstones standing in the Jewish Cemetery of Ichenhausen, 1977. Compiled and provided by Robert Samuels.

Names and Addresses

Direct descendants of Gerson Samuel Gerstle are italicized.
Listed next to each name is the appropriate chart number.

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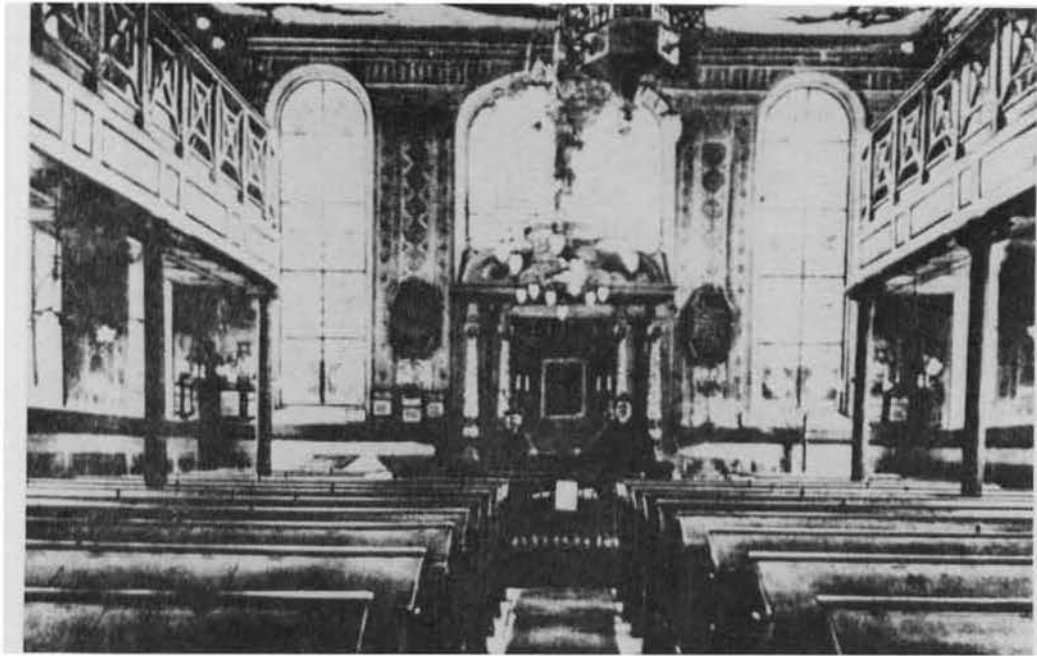
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Whiting, NJ 08759
- iv *Lawrence and Jan Gratz*
485 Hillside Court
Melbourne, FL 32935
- iv *Mrs. Margaret Gratz*
Elkins Park House
Elkins Park, PA 19117
- vii *Ephraim Grunebaum*
6 Alfasi St.
92303 Jerusalem-Rehavia
Israel
- viii *Mrs. Edith Gunz*
1 Arbor St.
Whiting, NJ 08759
- iii *George Gutman*
3080 Tylor Way
Costa Mesa, CA 92626
- iii *Peter and Frances Gutman*
116 Pinehurst Ave.
New York, NY 10033
- iii *Tom Gutman*
6411 Firefly Dr.
San Jose, CA 95120
- iii *Edgar and Carol Gutmann*
1479 E. Terrace Circle
Teaneck, NJ 07666
- iii *Leon and Rita Gutmann*
137 Sunfield Ave.
Staten Island, NY 10312
- iii *Theodor Gutmann*
615 W. 183rd St.
New York, NY 10033
- iii *Willie Gutmann*
615 W. 183rd St.
New York, NY 10033
- vii *Werner and Suzanne Haas*
54 Rue Henri Gerard
Les Bouchardees 21-121
Fontaine Le Dijon
Cotes D'or, **France**
- vi *William and Ruth Hartenstein*
2390 Willow Tree Trail
Clearwater, FL 33515
- vii *Hans and Ruth Hauser*
4611 N. Marlborough Dr.
Milwaukee, WI 53211
- iv *Julien and Elizabeth Hecht*
4422 Wickford Rd.
Baltimore, MD 21210
- iv *Louis and Shirley Hecht*
3502 Overbrook Rd.
Baltimore, MD 21208
- iv *Louis Jr. and Nancy Hecht*
3275 C. Sutton Place N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20016
- vi *Günter Heidecker*
Esperanto Str. 3
D 85 Nürnberg, **Germany**
- ii *Bernard and Betty Heidelberger*
1203 Claridge Rd.
Wyndmoor, PA
- ii *Mark and Vera Heidelberger*
915 W. Stetson St.
Orlando, FL 32804
- iv *Dr. Paul and Kay Heimowitz*
New York Hospital
21 Bloomingdale Rd.
White Plains, NY 10605
- iv *John and Nancy Hellebrand*
2210 Delancey St.
Phila., PA

- vi *Albert* and *Judy Heller*
12117 Maxwellton Rd.
Studio City, CA 91604
- v *Mrs. Ellen Henle*
687 W. 204th St.
New York, NY 10034
- v *Mark* and *Sima Henle*
3 Fraser St.
Staten Island, NY 10314
- ii *Dr. Howard* and *Gail Henry*
3 Candlewood Dr.
Brantford, Ontario **Canada**
- iii *Juan Carlos* and *Grace Hernandez*
Ave. 4 Calles 2-4
Heredia, **Costa Rica**
- vii *Lothar* and *Ruth Hirschkind*
100 Overlook Terrace
New York, NY 10040
- ii *Richard Illich*
6 Kensington
Arlington, VA 22204
- ii *Gilbert* and *Florence Illich*
8340 Greensboro Dr.
McLean, VA 22102
- vii *Dan* and *Tamar Iubar*
D'Israelistr. 22
Haifa, **Israel**
- vi *Mrs. Elsbeth Jerome*
14 Rue George Sand A3
91120 Palaiseau, **France**
- vi *Joseph* and *Eleanor Juliano*
RR #1 Box 105F
Gilbert, SC 29054
- ii *Bruce* and *Nancy Kanter*
8217 Marion Rd.
Elkins Park, PA 19117
- ii *Mrs. Suzanne Krasnoff*
130 Spruce St. 27A
Phila., PA 19106
- vi *Peter* and *Helene Kusiel*
14401 S.W. 71st Lane
Miami, FL 33183
- vi *Stephen Kusiel*
20 W. 86th St.
New York, NY 10024
- vi *Susan Kusiel* and *Richard Bessemyer*
40 W. 67th St.
New York, NY 10023
- vi *Mrs. Trude Kusiel*
137-47 45 Ave.
Flushing, NY 11355
- vi *Mrs. Peppi Laemmler* and *Constance*
432 So. Curson Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90036
- viii *Dr. Marguerite Larsen*
105 Longview Dr.
Princeton, NJ 08540
- vii *Sigo Lawrence*
303 E. 57th St.
New York, NY 10022
- vii *Mrs. Emmy Levi*
102-10 66 Rd. Apt. 14K
Forest Hills, NY 11375
- vii *Dr. Gerard* and *Phyllis Levi*
93 Woodlake Dr. West
Woodbury, NY 11797
- v *Jean* and *Elizabeth Levi*
50 Avenue de la Belle Gabrielle
94130 Nogent S. Marme, **France**
- v *Mrs. Thea Levi*
14 Rue Campagne Premiere
75014 Paris, **France**
- vii *Mrs. Herta Levite*
4445 Post Rd.
Bronx, NY 10471
- vii *Martin* and *Selma Levite*
1201 S. Hillcrest Ct.
Hollywood, FL 33021
- vi *Frank* and *Hertha Linden*
73 Greenfield Rd.
Birmingham B170EH, **England**
- vi *Mrs. Sylvia (Kusiel) Lipkin*
170 West End Ave. Apt. 5H
New York, NY 10023
- v *Mrs. Rose Lipman*
165 E. 66th St.
New York, NY 10021
- iv *Arthur* and *Laura Loeb*
7809 Ardmore Ave.
Phila., PA 19118
- iv *George* and *Caroline Loeb*
7149 Anderson St.
Phila., PA 19119
- iv *Thomas Loeb*
245 E. 63rd St.
New York, NY 10021
- iv *William A. Loeb*
c/o Flory's
Ronks, PA 17572
- iv *William S.* and *Nancy Loeb*
521 Spruce St.
Phila., PA 19106
- vii *Robert* and *Carol Logan*
P.O. Box 7167
Ardsley-on-Hudson, NY 10503
- iv *M. Philip* and *Joan Lorber*
Larch Tree Lane
Westport, CT 06880
- viii *Adolph* and *Diana Lurie*
1 Daybreak La.
Westport, CT 06880
- v *Louis* and *Selma Maier*
3875 Waldo Ave.
Bronx, NY 10463
- v *Mrs. Martha Maier*
3050 Fairfield Ave.
Bronx, NY 10463
- iv *Greil* and *Jenny Marcus*
828 Contra Costa Ave.
Berkeley, CA 94707
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88-34 St. James Pl.
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Rehov Histadrut 7/15
Kiryat Yam, **Israel**
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2200 Ben Franklin Parkway
Phila., PA 19130
- v *Ernst* and *Renate Mogendorff*
Florencio Sanchez 1053
Mercedes-Soriano, **Uruguay**
- vi *Walter Monasch* and *Brenda Gates-Monasch*
1921 S.E. 7th St.
Portland, OR 97214
- vi *John* and *Carol Morris*
22 Gee Hill Rd.
Dryden, NY 13053
- ii *Robert* and *Cathy Nathan*
1007 Prospect Ave.
Melrose Park, PA 19126
- ii *Dr. Jane M. Oppenheimer*
Mayflower Apts. K1
922 Montgomery Ave.
Bryn Mawr, PA 19010

- iii Mme. *Paula* Oppenheimer
1 Ave. Paul Dechanel
Brussels 1030, **Belgium**
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1172 New Pear St.
Vineland, NJ 08360
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Kibbutz Maayan Zvi 30805
Israel
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575 Canewood Crescent
Waterloo, Ontario N2L5P8
Canada
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29 Toledo St.
Delaware, OH 43015
- iii Otto and *Ina* Pretsfelder
3725 Henry Hudson Pkwy.
Bronx, NY 10463
- vii Alan and Nancy Rabb
1001 S.W. 74th Ave.
N. Lauderdale, FL 33068
- vii Bert and *Gertrude* Rabb
113 Beacon Hill Rd.
Dobbs Ferry, NY 10522
- iv William and *Nancy* Rackoff
Woodcliff Rd.
Pittsburgh, PA 15238
- vi Gary and *Gloria* Radcliff
717 River Rd.
Winnipeg, Manitoba R2M4A2
Canada
- vi *Alfred* and Eda Regan
6378 Valley View
Oakland, CA 94611
- vi Warren and Carol Regan
P.O. Box 462
El Granada, CA 94018
- v *Arno* and Ruth Regensburger
5 Blossom Rd.
Suffern, NY 10901
- v Mrs. Dora Regensburg
Grace Plaza of Great Neck
15 St. Pauls Place
Great Neck, NY 11021
- v Mrs. Lotte Regensburger
700 Ft. Washington Ave.
New York, NY 10040
- iv Ralph and *Suzanne* Roberts
Sural Lane
Elkins Park, PA 19117
- iv Martin and *Nancy* Rosen
1236 Red Rambler Rd.
Rydal, PA 19046
- v Bruno and *Hilde* Rosenberg
3801 S. Ocean Dr. Apt. 7U
Hollywood, FL 33019
- ii *George* and Vicki Rosskam
925 Woodcrest Rd.
Abington, PA 19001
- ii *Leon* and Loris Rosskam
8117 Heacock La.
Wyncote, PA 19095
- ii *Lester Jr.* and Irene Rosskam
991 Frazier Rd.
Rydal, PA 19046
- ii *Richard* Rosskam
910 Benson East.
Jenkintown, PA 19046
- ii *Stephen* and Merle Rosskam
928 Pleasant
Highland Park, IL 60035
- ii *Walter* Rosskam
Elkins Park House
Elkins Park, PA 19117
- ii *William B. Jr.* and Edith Rosskam
487 Clavey La.
Highland Park, IL 60035
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824 Pardee La.
Wyncote, PA 19095
- v Murray and *Anne* Rotenberg
110-50 71st Rd.
Forest Hills, NY 11375
- v Anthony and *Marguerite* Rothschild
383 Cedar Dr.
Briar Cliff Manor, NY 10510
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Basil 4054, **Switzerland**
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c/o Roohey & Pace, Inc.
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New York, NY 10004
- vii Amos and *Ruth* Schalev
Kibbutz Hamadia
Emek Beth Shean, **Israel**
- vii David and *Chava* Scheps
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Kiryat Motzki, **Israel**
- vi Barry and *Sylvia* Scher
12605 E. Bates Circle
Aurora, CO 80014
- v Herman and *Renee* Sherk
70-17 Ingram St.
Forest Hills, NY 11375
- ii *Steven* and Mary Jo Sims
308 McPherson St.
Warren, PA 16365
- vi Gil and *Betsy* Singer
10521 Orange Grove Dr.
Tampa, FL 33618
- vii Dr. Leonard and *Lore* Snider
4601 Glenwood Park Ave.
Erie, PA 16509
- vi *James* and Lee Spiegel
9014 Breezewood Terr. 103
Greenbelt, MD 20770
- vi Walter and *Jeanne* Spiegel
405 Lodges Lane
Elkins Park, PA 19117
- vi *Walter* and Rosemary Spiegel
6842 Ben Franklin Rd.
Springfield, VA 22150
- vi Robert and *Lenore* Steinberg
1802 Angelo Dr.
Beverly Hills, CA 90210
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Rehov Schachal 21
Jerusalem, **Israel**
- iv Mrs. Hilde Stern
4280 Gold Ocean Dr. 17L
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33308
- iv *Louis* and Carol Stern
1411 Hunter Rd.
Rydal, PA 19046
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309 W. Mandalay Dr.
San Antonio, TX 78212
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914 Warwickshire Ct.
Great Falls, VA 22066
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3326 Sawtell Blvd. #26
Los Angeles, CA 90066

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110 N. Sumner Ave.
Margate, NJ 08402
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524 W. Davis Blvd.
Tampa, FL 33606
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12908 Greenway Chase Ct.
Houston, TX 77072
- vi Richard and Joan Sundheim
1003 Prospect Ave.
Melrose Park, PA 19126
- vi Stanley Sundheim
Wyncote House #434
Wyncote, PA 19095
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8360 Fisher Rd.
Elkins Park, PA 19117
- iv Charles Jr. and Gayle Sunstein
1801 Wicks Valley Dr.
Marietta, GA 30062
- iv Leon C. Jr. and Emily Sunstein
1100 W. Allens La.
Germantown, PA 19144
- iv Ms. Lynn Sunstein
3472 Creatwood Trail
Smyrna, GA 30080
- viii Vincent and Barbara Tirola
18 Punchbowl Dr.
Westport, CT 06880
- vii Mrs. Ruth Traver
1831 35th St.
San Francisco, CA 94122
- v Kurt and Gerta Wasserman
660 Franklin Blvd.
Long Beach, NY 11561
- iv Richard and Ellen Watson
2 Walt Lane
Wyncote, PA 19095
- vi Rolf and Ruth Weglein
6317 Drexel Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90048
- v Doyle and Ronny Wiseman
1 Pine Ridge
Mill Valley, CA 94941
- ii William and Joan Woycik
Star Route 2 Box 319
Banco, VA 22711
- v Ariel and Edna Zafran
60 Rehov Tznabar
Naveh Monoson, **Israel**



Interior of the Synagogue in Ichenhausen before the Nazi period.

Reproduction by Arnold Danzig.



The Regensburger home in Ichenhausen about the turn of the century.

Courtesy of Gretl Coleman.



The Rosskam home in Ichenhausen, ca. 1911. In windows: Franzl Loewenberg and Ida Heidecker. Children: Gretl (Coleman) and Erna (Marx). The men were employees of the Rosskam clothing manufacturing business.

Courtesy of Erna Marx. Reproduction by Erich Marx.



The Regensburger brothers and sisters in the early 1930's. In back: Max, Wilhelm, Martin. In front: Pauline Henle, Hansl Frankenheimer, Emma Erlanger, Mina Gutmann (Chart V).

Courtesy of Gretl Coleman.



The Heller Family, ca. 1924. Standing: Emma, Fanni, Aaron, Frieda, Gertrude. Seated: Eleanor, Louis, Richard, Flora, David, Rolf (Chart VI).

Courtesy of Rolf Weglein.



Leo, Arnold and Gustav Gerstle, 1916,
World War I. (Chart III).
Courtesy of Gary Pretsfelder.

Tombstone of Mina Gerstle in the
Ichenhausen Jewish Cemetery, 1977
(Chart I).

Courtesy of Robert Samuels.





The Rosskam Family: Clara, Fanni, Carolina, Eugenie, Samuel and Idl (seated); (Chart VI).

Courtesy of Erna Marx. Reproduction by Erich Marx.



The Rosskam Family: Four more generations—Jeanne Spiegel, Ross Fauer Franklin, Stanley Sundheim, Karen Franklin, Carolyn Sundheim Bacharach, Andrew Julian Franklin.

Courtesy of Walter F. Spiegel.



Label from an Old Saratoga Whiskey bottle.

Courtesy of Walter Rosskam.



Emma Kohlmann, ca. 1934 (Chart VI).
Courtesy of Harry Coleman.

Dr. James and Sylvia Oppenheimer,
1935 (Chart IV).

Courtesy of Jane Oppenheimer.





Lottie and Isaac Gerstley, 1930's (Chart IV).

Courtesy of Margaret Gratz.



Hedwig Kalmheimer Gerstley (Chart IV).
Courtesy of Margaret Gratz.



William Gerstley (Chart IV).

Courtesy of Margaret Gratz.

Introduction to the Charts

If one studies the family tree charts carefully there is so much that can be learned about the attitudes of our ancestors, the quality of their lives, and sociological changes that have occurred throughout the centuries.

The charts that have been passed down from the first four generations do not include many daughters. Moreover, only some of the wives have been listed. Perhaps women were not considered important enough to mention – or, only men who carried the family name were thought valuable enough to be recorded.

From these charts we can speculate that the life for women in the 18th and 19th centuries must have been very difficult. Many of them had large families and the death rate among infants was high. It is no surprise that many women died young.

The tree has many branches that were cut off by the Holocaust. One may only guess how many more branches would have grown and flourished had Hitler's death camps not taken their toll.

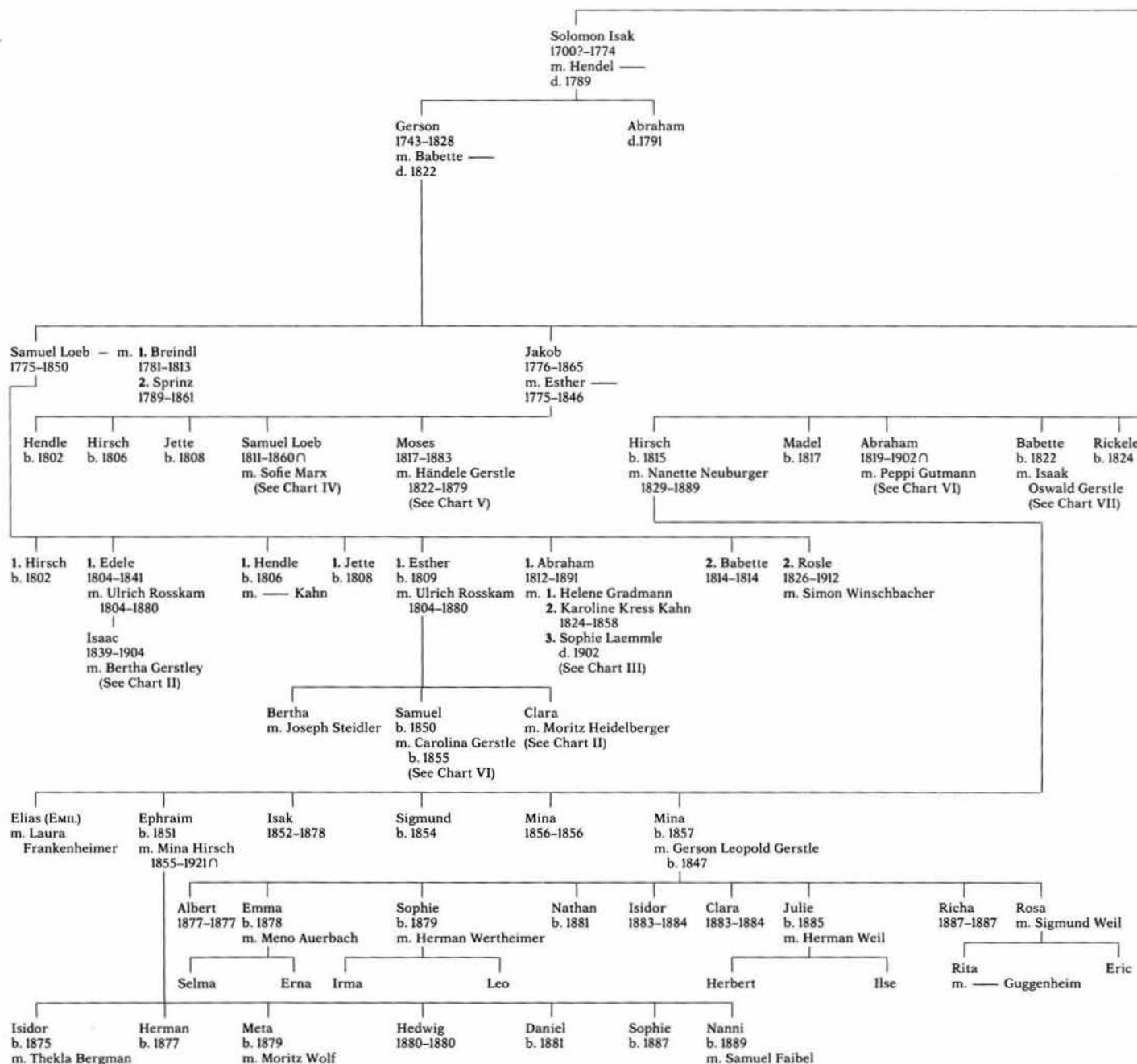
In addition, the growth of the tree has slowed in recent years because women have been producing fewer children. Some branches of the tree have completely died out.

Popular names on the tree have changed throughout the years. Abraham's, Isaak's and Gerson's abound in the 18th and early 19th centuries. Moritz, Samuel Loeb, Mina, and Emma then became popular. Some names like Ignatz and Klotilde seem peculiar to us today. The most recent generations include Jason's, Jacqueline's and Alysa's. It is ironic that several members of the newest generation have been named Ross, which is the nickname of our ancestor, Gerson, born in 1743. While many of the newest names are in Hebrew, others reflect the influences of an assimilated American, South American or European culture.

The following symbols and abbreviations are used:

b. – year born	1., 2., 3., 4. – Marriage number or child from marriage
d. – year died	☆ – Died in the Holocaust
m. – married	∩ – Tombstone standing in Ichenhausen Jewish Cemetery
d. – divorced	Name change is indicated by small capital letters in parentheses
a. – adopted	Nickname is indicated by parentheses
— – unknown	

CHART I



DESCENDANTS OF GERSON SAMUEL GERSTLE

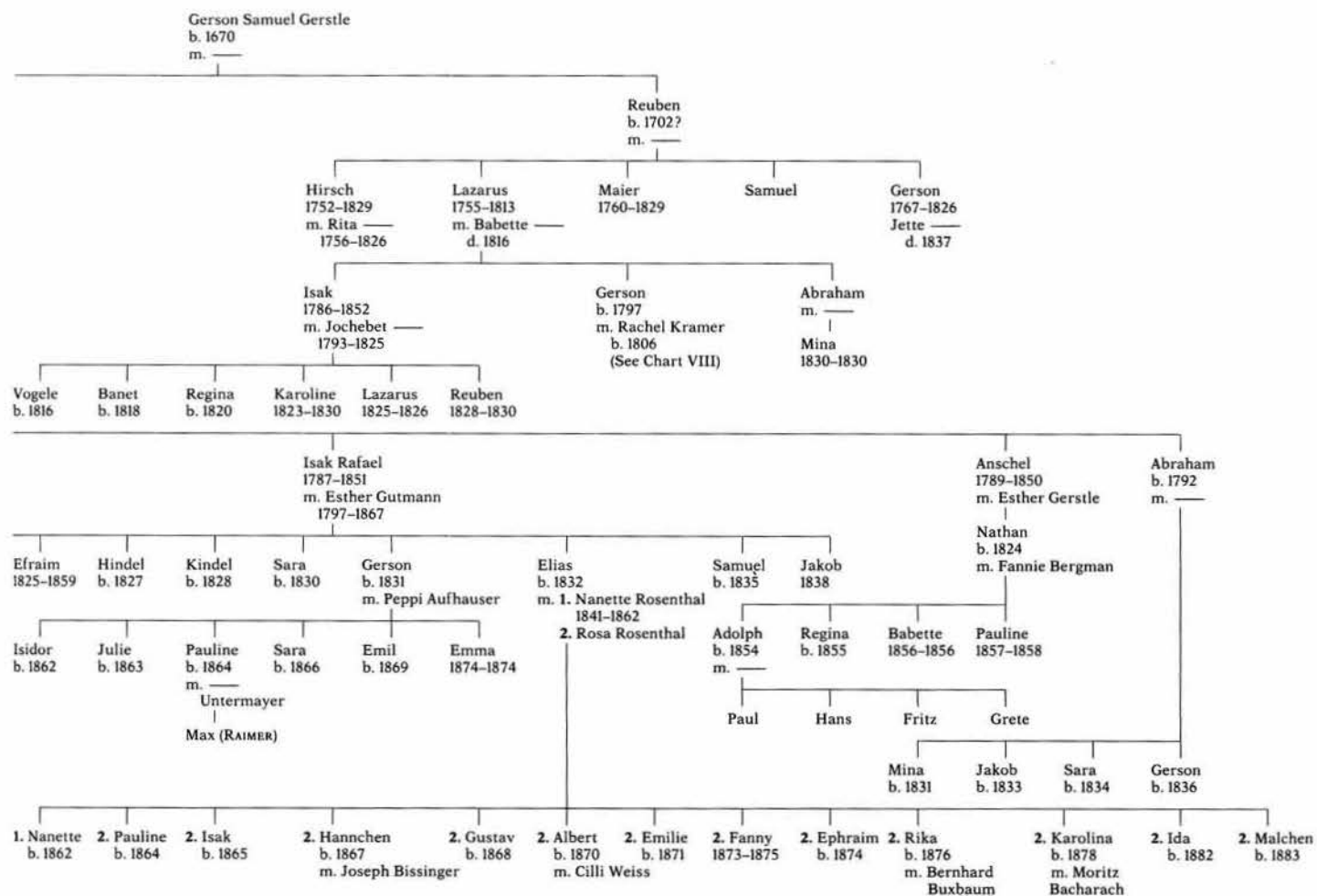
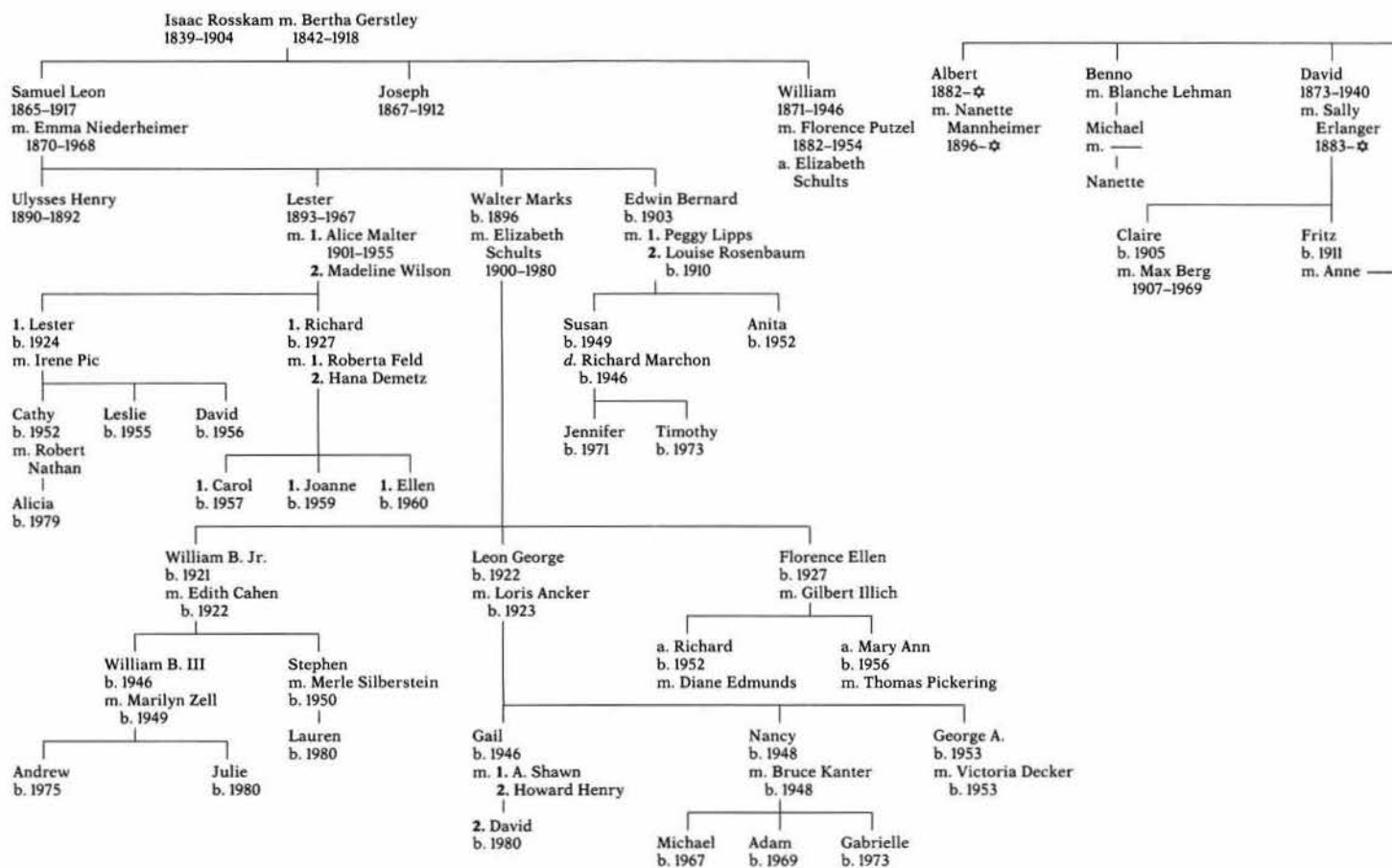
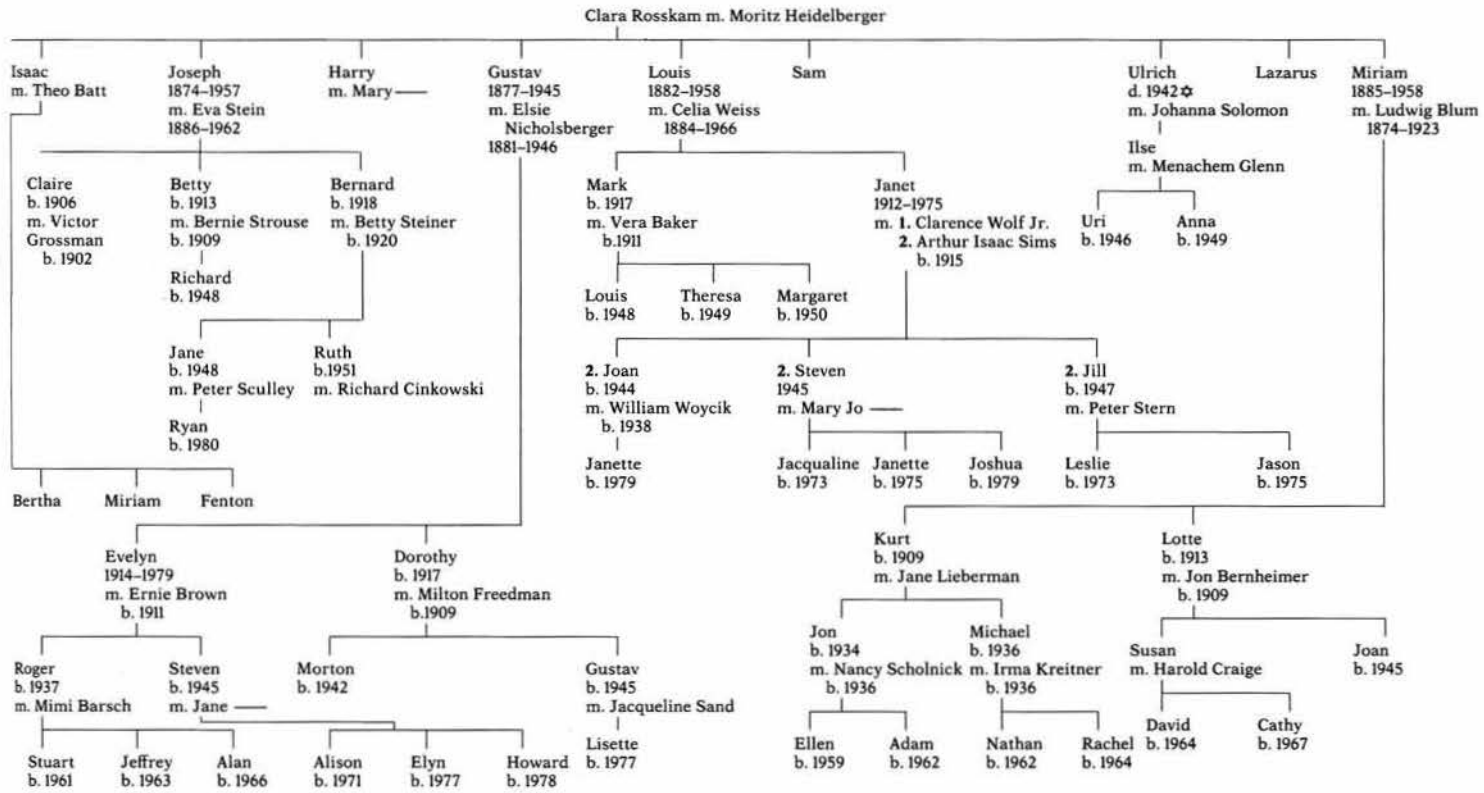


CHART II



DESCENDANTS OF SAMUEL LOEB



DESCENDANTS OF SAMUEL LOEB

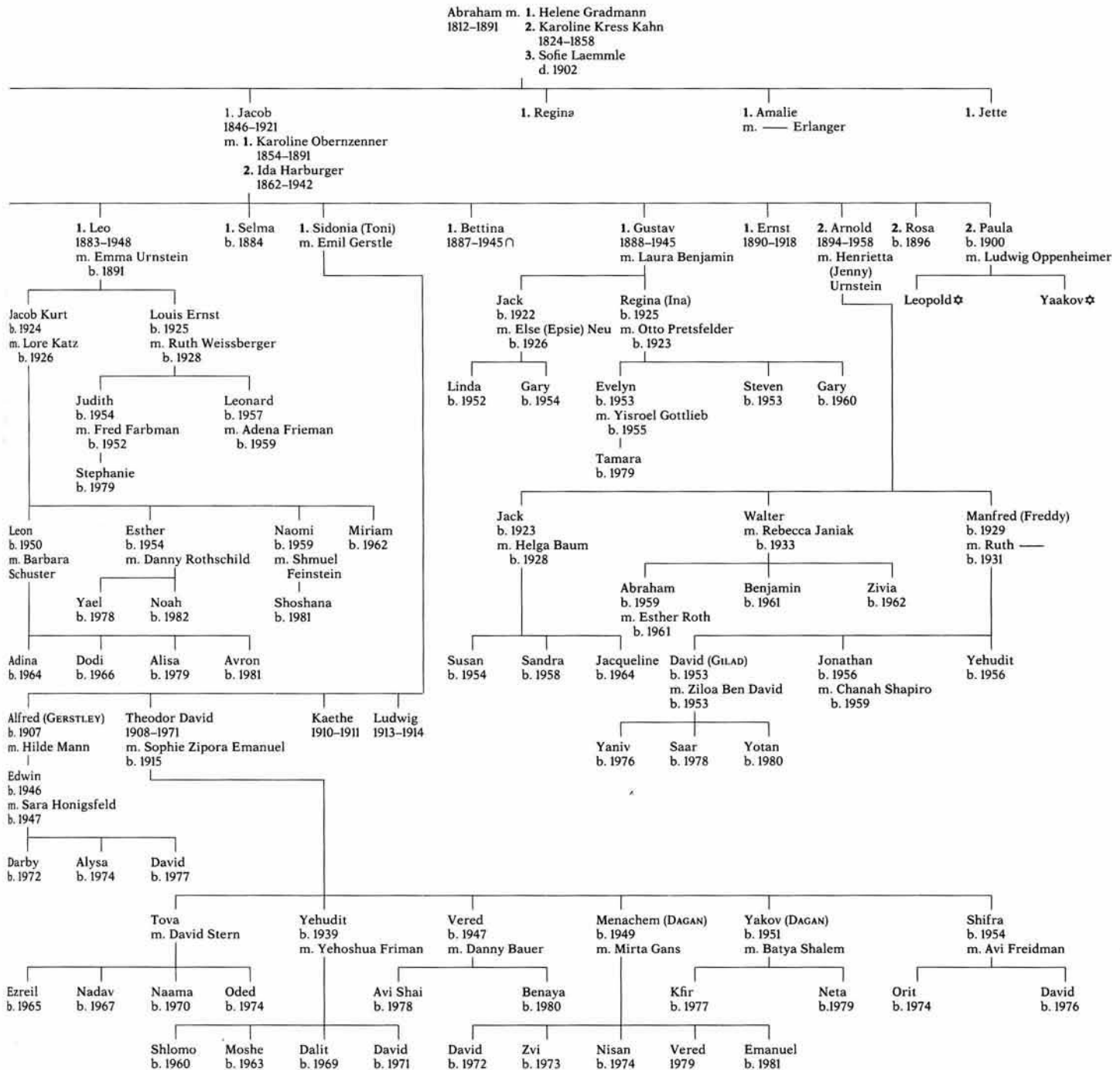
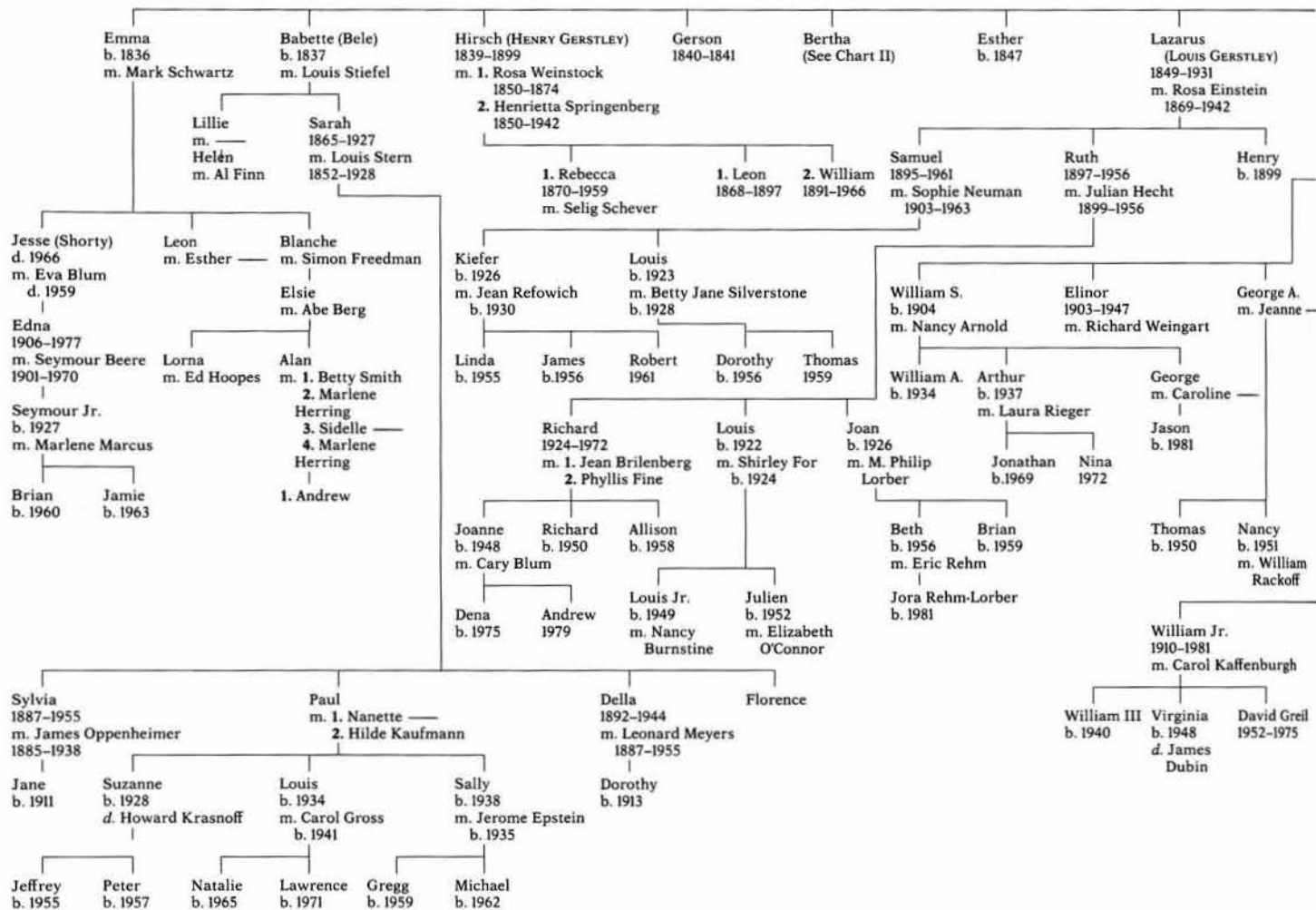


CHART IV



DESCENDANTS OF JAKOB

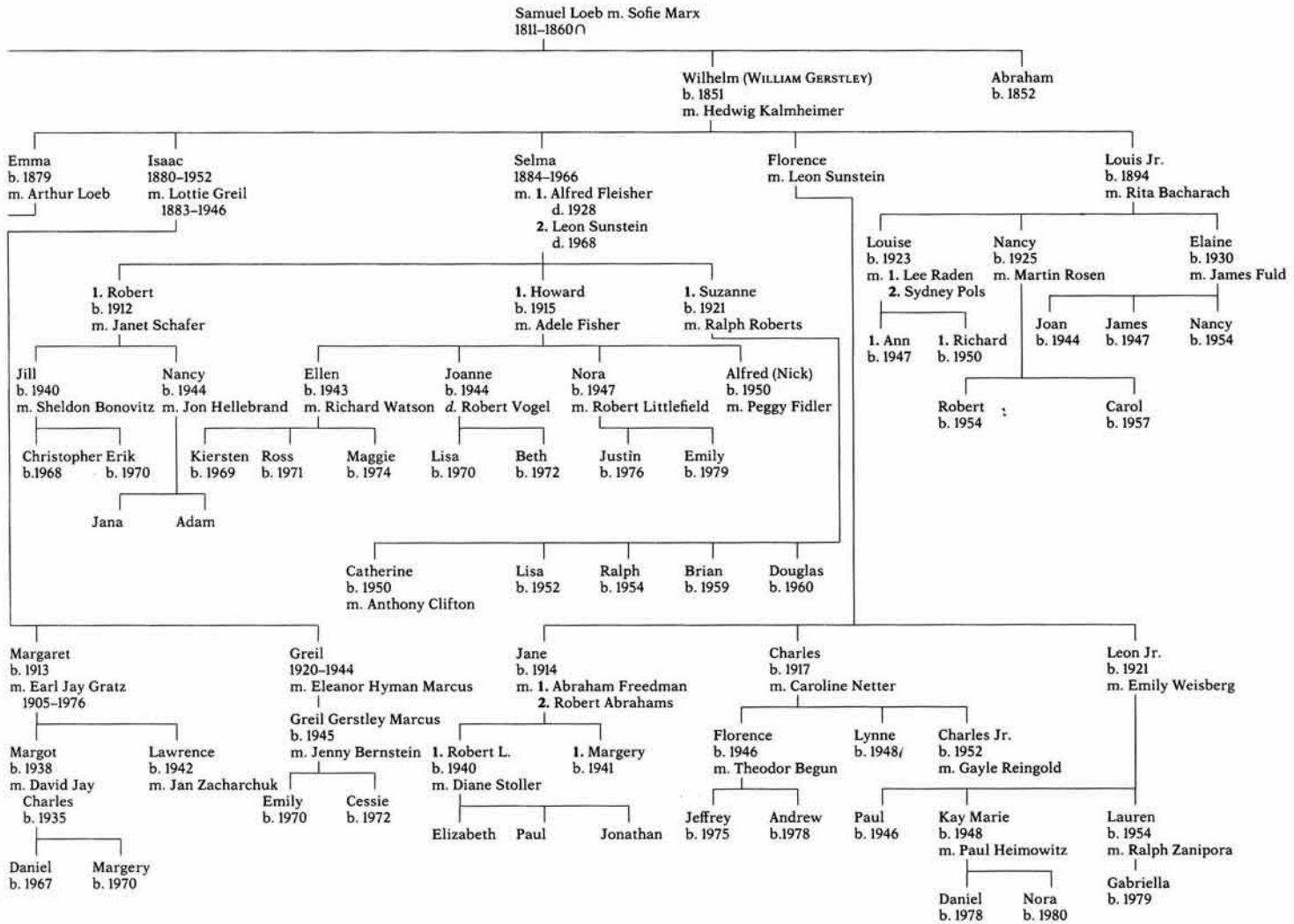
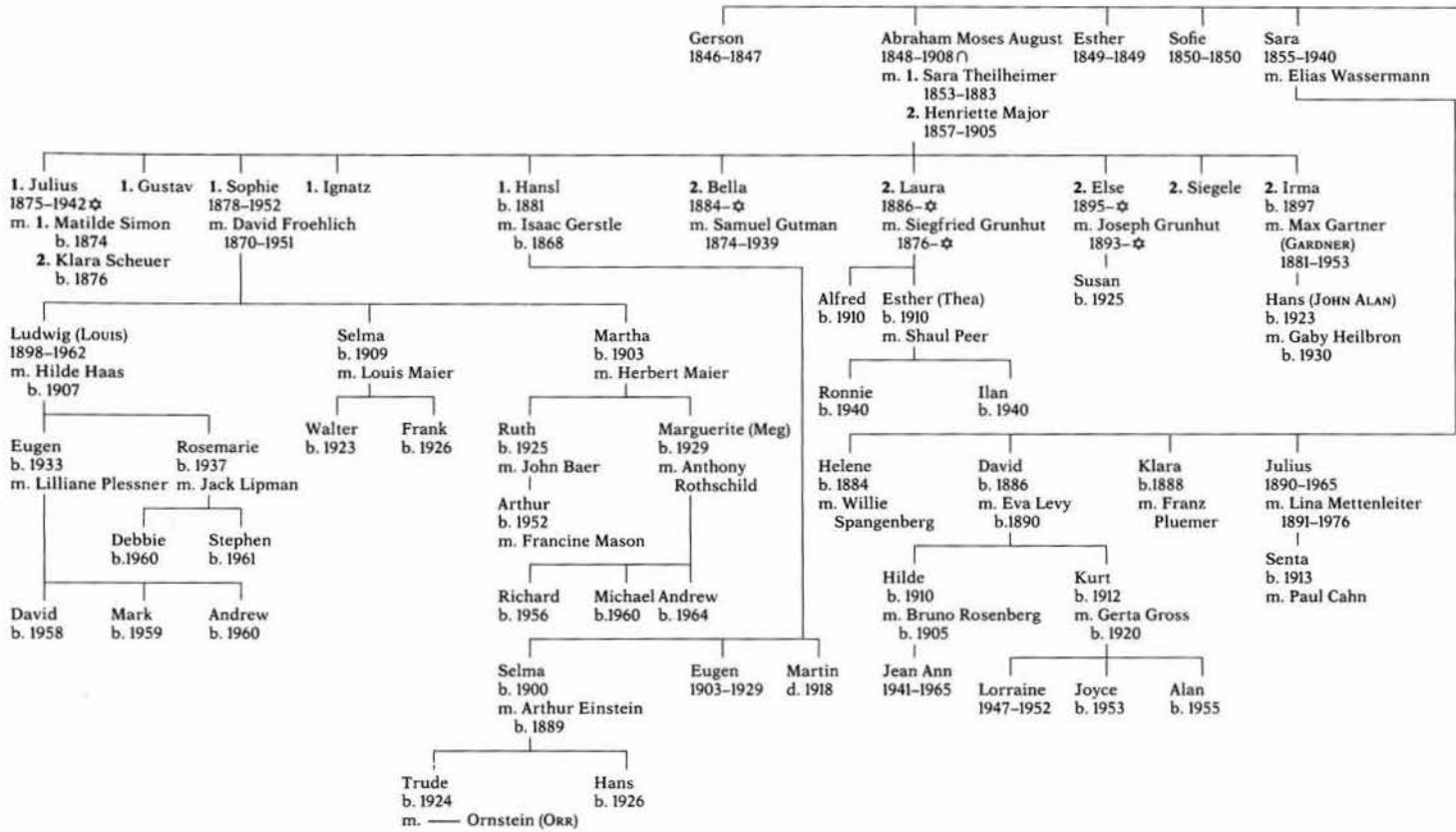


CHART V



DESCENDANTS OF JAKOB

Moses m. Händele Gerstle
1817-1883 1822-1879

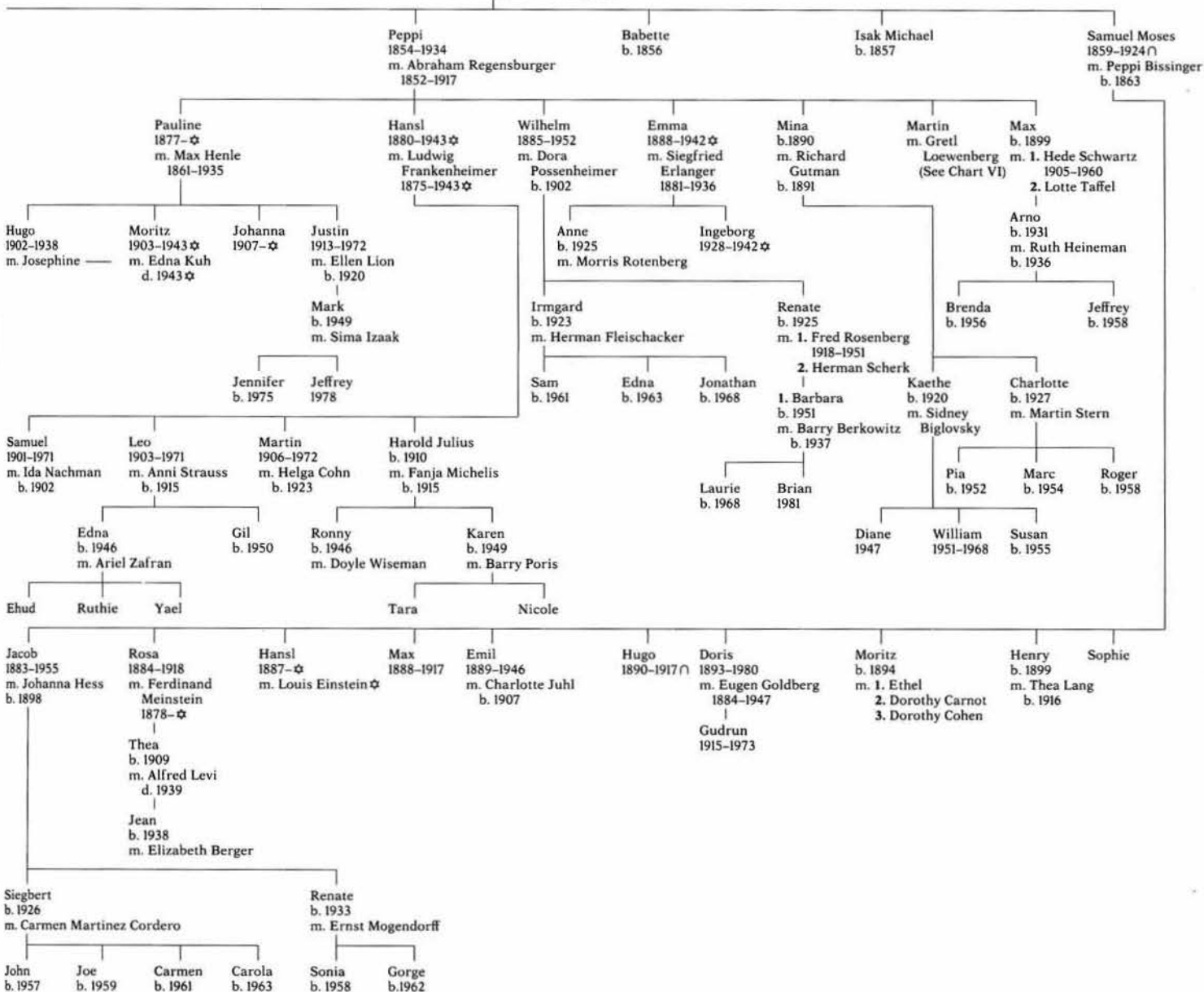
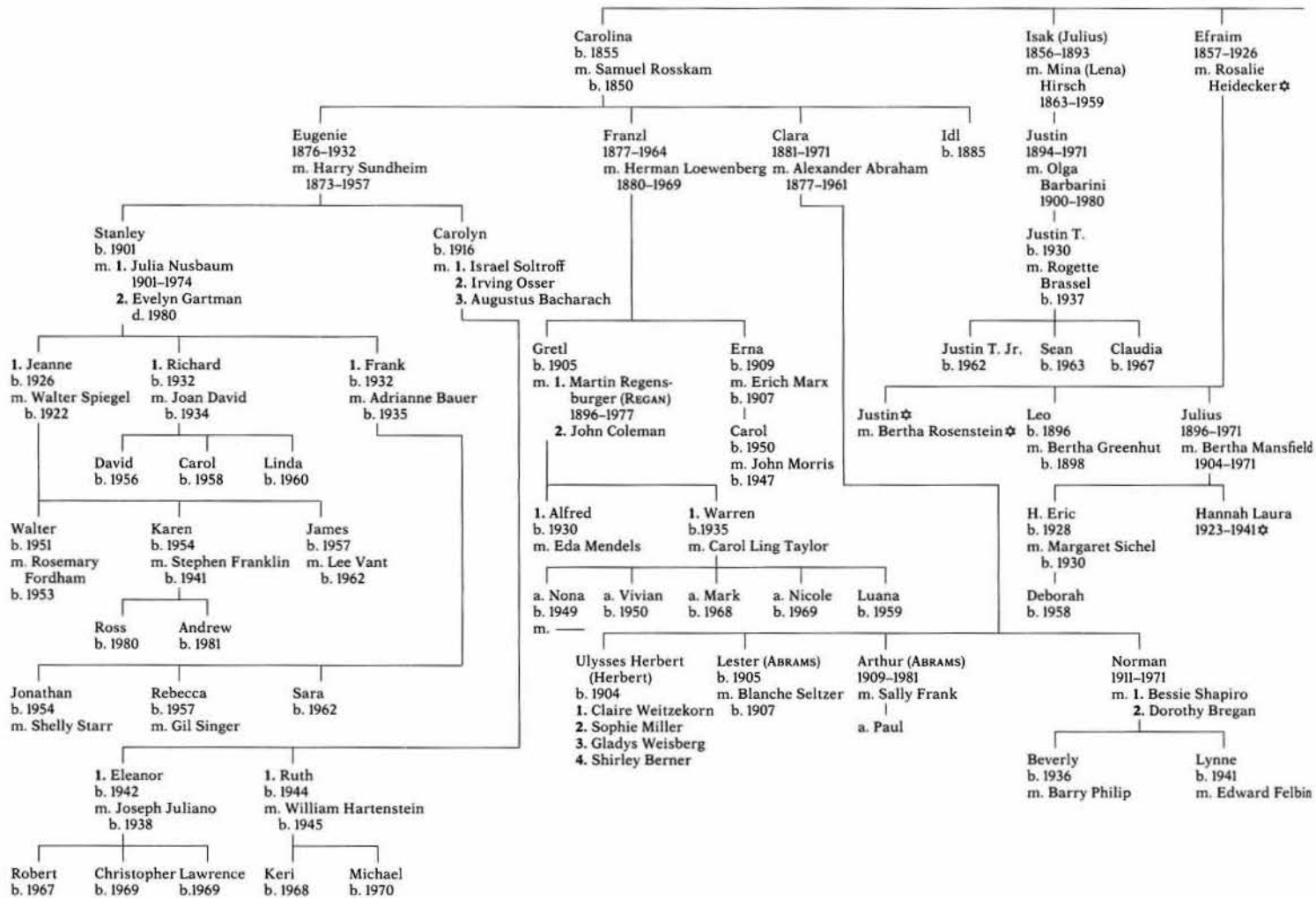


CHART VI



DESCENDANTS OF ISAK RAFAEL

Abraham m. Peppi Gutmann
1819-1902 ♂ b. 1827

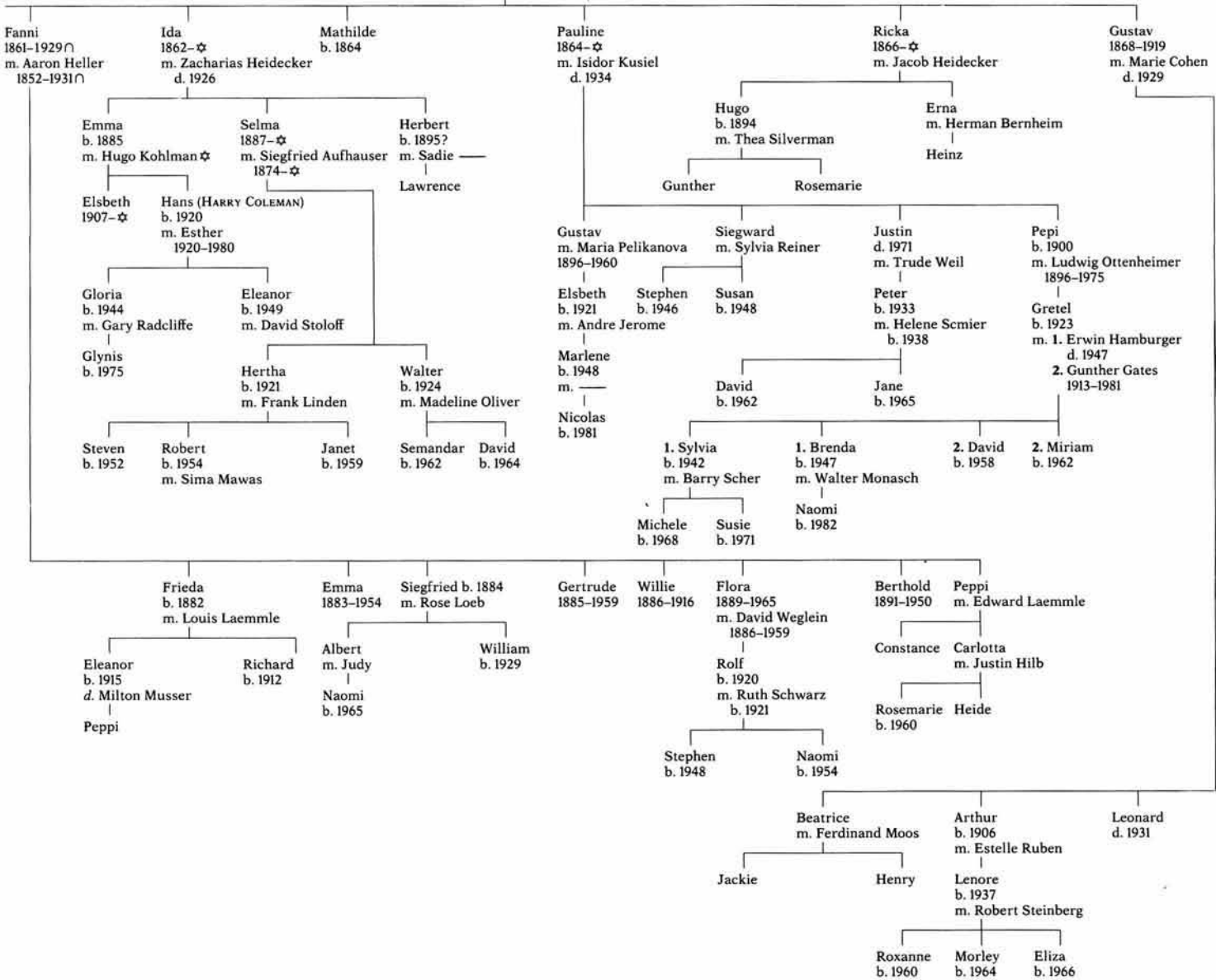
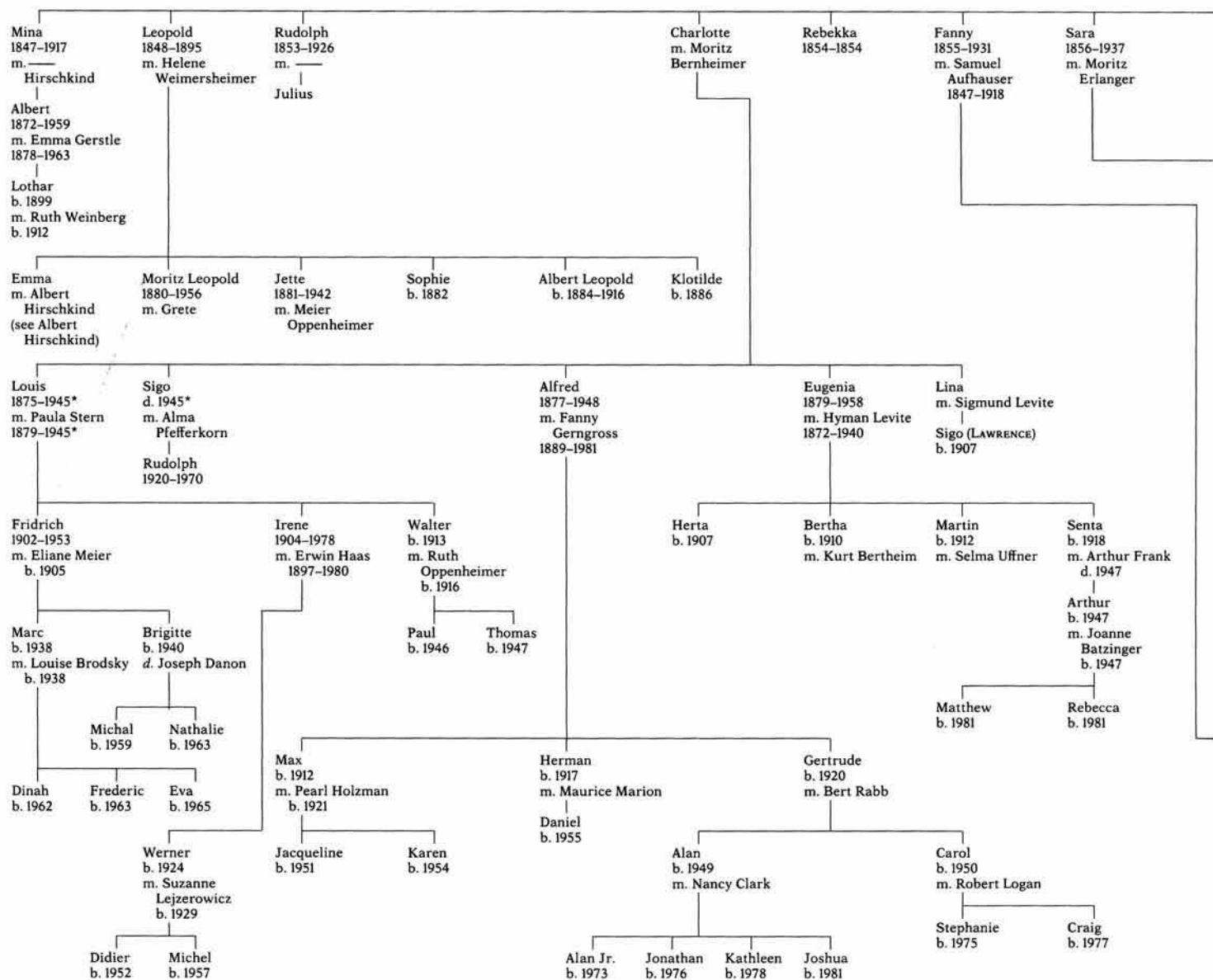


CHART VII



DESCENDANTS OF ISAK RAFAEL

Babette — m. Isak Oswald Gerstle
b. 1822

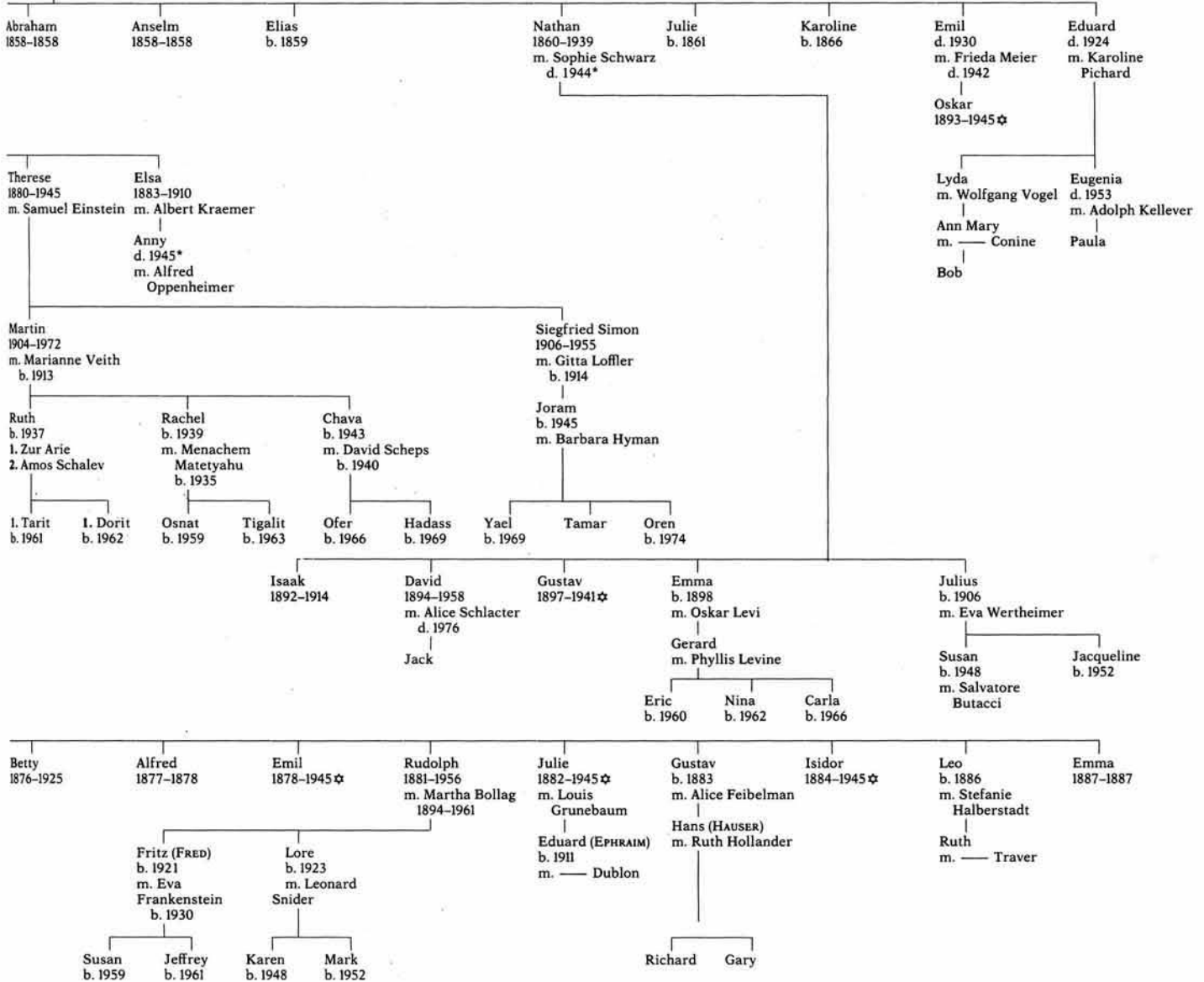
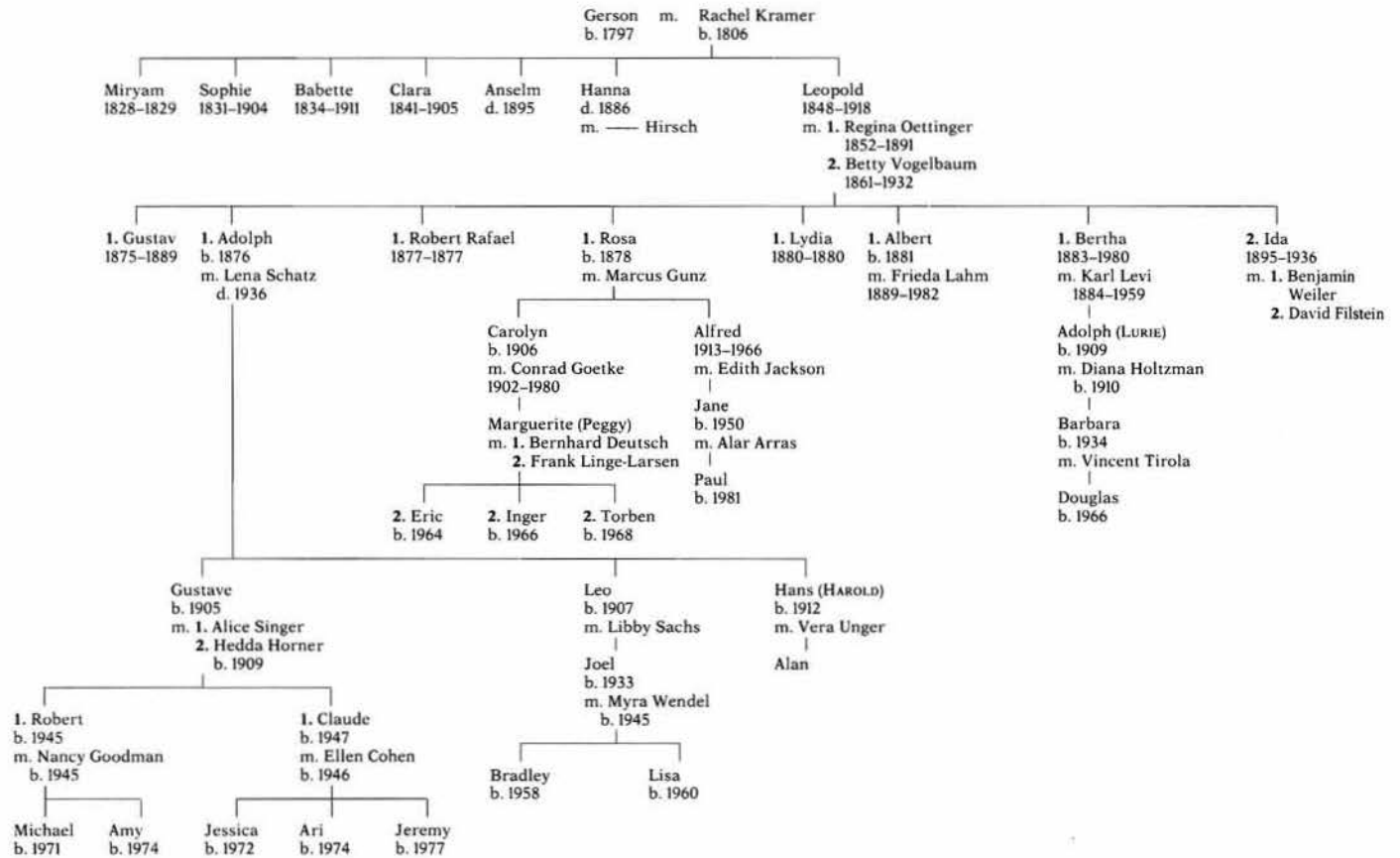


CHART VIII

DESCENDANTS OF GERSON



About The Author

Karen Spiegel Franklin received her bachelor of arts degree from Wellesley College and her master's degree in the Department of Religion at Temple University. She has taught at Temple University, Reform Congregation Keneseth Israel in Elkins Park, Pennsylvania, and at the Daroff Campus of Senior Adult Studies in Philadelphia.

Mrs. Franklin currently teaches in the adult education program of Riverdale Temple. She is on the faculty of the Temple Emanuel Religious School, Yonkers, New York. She lectures frequently in the community on topics such as genealogy, Jewish history, and women in Judaism.

Mrs. Franklin is the wife of Rabbi Stephen D. Franklin, Rabbi of the Riverdale Temple, Bronx, New York. The couple has two children, Ross Fauer and Andrew Julian.

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