

How to use a family book ?

Translation of Chapter 3 “Wie benutzt man ein Familienbuch” out of “Juden in Lich, Birklar, Langsdorf, Muschenheim und Ettingshausen” written by Hanno Müller, Friedrich Damrath, Monica Kingreen und Klaus Konrad-Leder, translated by Manfred Stein, Stumpertenrod

For those who speak little or no German the following text might be helpful to explain the structure of this book and the main steps for its usage in English. A family book can't be read like a novel from page to page, it is a compilation of geneological facts .

I have tried to trace the Jews and the Jewish families who lived in Lich and its districts (including Reiskirchen-Ettingshausen) in the period from about 1800 to the last deportation in September 1942.

You also find a documentation and pictures of tombs, tombstones and epigraphs from the Jewish cemeteries in Lich, Muschenheim and Hungen. Plans of the graves on these cemeteries (each grave has a family number in the book) help you to connect the graves to the families.

The book also describes more detailed the economic situation of the Jewish families in Oberhessen at the end of the 18th and in the 19th century. Cattle trade was of great importance and moreover a good geneological source for the time before there were official registers.

You also find facts of local history not generally known so far (history of the Jewish cemetery, the synagogue, the women's baths). Together with other historical documents taken from various archives, tax lists, parish registers, requests for protection,newspapers etc they are helpful to describe the general conditions in those times.

The book also contains a large number of photos of individuals, families, houses, and text documents.

The structure of the family book

You will find the reconstructed Jewish families from Lich and its districts alphabetically arranged, families with the same name in chronological order (after the date of marriage).The next step now was to give all the families (in all my family books) continuous numbers.

These family numbers now [in square brackets] are the key for the work with the book.They help you to find additional information to names and families in other places.

A newly-wed couple for example is not noted with the names of their parents but only with the number of the parental families.There you find the names and further information.

In the index you only find the maiden names of married women together with the name of their husbands and the number of the new family. All other names in the index (names of witnesses, Christian witnesses, servants, alias names etc.) are also noted with family numbers for further information.

Here now some examples :

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1.) Anschel , Mariane | sie heiratete Emanuel Chambré [34]. |
| 2.) Arnstein , Elisabetha/Bettchen | sie heiratete 1834 Löb Levi Mendelsohn [110]. |
| 3.) Arnstein , Meyer II. in Laubach | siehe bei Emanuel Heß [59]. |
| 4.) Aron Abraham Isaac | siehe bei Nr. [70]. |
| 5.) Hildner , Leonora, geb. 04.11.1871 in ? | sie war Amme von 01.10.1893 bis ? bei Moses Baum [10]. |
| 6.) Vogt , Heinrich II. | er bezeugte einen Sterbeeintrag 1869 bei Joseph Bock [28] |

1. and 2. married women with their maiden name, the names of their husbands and the family numbers

3. the name is mentioned in the text of Emanuel Heß, family [59].
4. the name is an alias of Aron Isaac in family [70].
5. L.H. worked as a servant (nurse) for Moses Baum, family [10].
6. H.V.II., a Christian, testified a death in the family of Joseph Bock, number [28].

Families

Marriages between 1876 and 1920 (the first six months) were officially recorded with many geneologically important facts.

You find the names of bride and groom with the date of birth and birthplace, their residence, the names of their parents and the names of the witnesses to the marriage with age, profession and residence.

These facts are the basis for the entry of a family in the book.

Example

Nr. Name	aus/nach	geboren	Heirat	gestorben
31. Cahn, Moses		03.12.1850	28.02.1887	
Er war geboren in Moers und war dort Viehhändler; V: Falk Cahn, Viehhändler in Moers; M: Julie geb. Schmitz. Die Ehefrau war geboren in Holzheim. Trauzeugen waren Herz Weinberg, 61 Jahre alt, Kaufmann in Holzheim und Carl Chambré [36]. Sein Bruder Hermann Cahn heiratete 1886 in Steinbach Sabine Katz; siehe Nr. [Steinbach] 7).				
oo Bing, Sophie	14	20.07.1865		

Moses Cahn was born in Moers and worked there as cattle dealer. His parents were Falk Cahn and Julie née Schmitz in Moers. Moses's brother married in Steinbach and is mentioned in the book 'Juden in Steinbach' (MÜLLER, 2008, S.38) under the number [Steinbach] 7).

Witnesses were Herz Weinberg from Holzheim. His name is in the index under 'W' with reference to family number [31] and Carl Chambré of family Nr. [36]. In the text to this family you can read his name as witness to this marriage.

Moses's wife Sophie Bing came from family Nr.14, Abraham Bing, who had moved from Holzheim to Lich. His daughter Sophie was still born in Holzheim.

All marriages, births and deaths without another place name were in Lich the town this family book is about.

The following is an example of an incomplete family.

Nr. Name	aus/nach	geboren	Heirat	gestorben
44. Ehrenfeld, Daniel				
Er stammte aus Mettenheim, wurde am 30. April 1850 als Israelitischer Lehrer in Lich mit einem Gehalt von 200 Gulden angenommen (XIII/5/6). Siehe Kap. 5.1. Israelitische Gemeinde - B./12. Er bezeugte einen Heiratseintrag bei Jessel Bock [28] 1850 und einen Geburtseintrag 1852 bei Salomon Baum [9]. Hebamme war bei beiden Kindern Philippina Langsdorf.				
oo Adler, Röschen				
1. Tochter				
2. (1. Sohn) Ferdinand 26.10.1851				
Er wurde im Haus Nr. 195 geboren. Den Geburtseintrag bezeugten Salomon Baum [9] und Manasse Hecht [55].				
3. (2. To.) Frieda 29.12.1852				
Sie wurde im Haus Nr. 195 geboren. Den Geburtseintrag bezeugten Jacob Zimmer und Heinrich Eise III.				

Daniel Ehrenfeld came to Lich as teacher with his wife and daughter in 1850. You find his name in Chap.5.1. under B (Lehrer) in Nr.12. There you read that he worked in Lich until 1853. That he already had a daughter can be concluded from the words '2. Kind und 1. Sohn' for his son Ferdinand, born in 1851. The 'Ortsregister (Kapitel 10.2)' tells us that house Nr.195, today Charlottenburg 7, was the old synagogue. There was the teacher's flat.

The appearance as a witness or any other reason to mention a name can be important to decide on the time when a person must have lived or died in a village or town.

Nr.	Name	aus/nach	geboren	Heirat	gestorben
120.	Rollmann, Michael				
	1827 steigerte Michael für 13 Gulden Holz (Urk. 1827, Lit J), auch 1834 (Beleg 26), ebenso 1835 (Beleg 15, Nr. 981 u. 1089). Die Ehefrau starb als Witwe im Alter von 75 Jahren nachts um 23 Uhr im Haus Nr. 143. ...				
	oo Isaac, Schiele/Schöne		1764		31.12.1839

There is no entry of Michael Rollmann's death, it was forgotten or got lost. As his wife died as a widow, he must have died before 31.12.1839. In 1835 he still bought wood at an auction (his name is recorded in municipal documents of bills). He must have died after 1835 but before the death of his wife.

Let us turn now to a (nearly) normal family. I didn't use bold type here for marking specific terms to make reading easier. It might be helpful to look at family Nr. [37] in the book.

	Nr.	Name	aus/nach	geboren	Heirat	gestorben
(1)	37.	Chambré, Max I.		36 08.07.1879		Ermordet
(2)		Er war Kaufmann und wurde am 4. Mai 1911 als Bürger in Lich angenommen (IX/1/1).				
(3)		Er war Trauzeuge bei Moritz Wetterhahn [135] 1906 ...				
(4)		Die Ehefrau war geboren in Gedern.				
(5)		Er wurde in den Adressbüchern 1912-1933 (Unterstadt 7E, Kaufmann; 1927: Kaufmann ...				
(6)		Er war 1922 und 1928 Gemeindevorsteher und kaufte 1922 für die Israelitische Gemeinde ...				
(7)		Tochter Anne-Marie zog am 11. Juli 1933, die Eltern am 20. Juli 1933 nach ...				
(6)		<i>In der Nacht vom 12. auf den 13. März 1933 führte die Licher SA einen sog. „wilden Pogrom“ egen...</i>				
(8)		Gewerbe: Er übernahm am 11. Dezember 1907 die Firma „Karl Chambré Inhaber Max Chambré“.				
(9)		Dienstboten: als Magd: Enders, Elisabethe, geb. 22.11.1896 in Lich, von 26.12.1913 bis ...				
(10)		Grundbesitz: Nach einer Aufstellung aus dem Jahre 1938 besaßen Max u. Emilie Chambré ...				
(11)		Siehe ABSCHRIFTEN Nr. 2/3.				
(12)		GEDENKBUCH S. 470: „Chambré, Max *08.07.1879 in Lich, wohnhaft Kassel, Deportation: 1942,...				
(13)		oo Vöhl, Emilie		27.02.1881		Ermordet
(14)		1. Henriette	53	04.05.1907	1930	
		<i>Sie heiratete 1930 Herrn Ernst Hahn, zog mit ihm nach Berlin. Ernst Hahn hatte eine Tochter aus erster Ehe (Inge Hahn) und eine gemeinsame Tochter mit seiner Ehefrau (Monika Hahn). Nach dem Novemberpogrom flob die Familie Hahn nach Belgien, wo bereits die Familie Chambré lebte. Henriette Chambré und ihre beiden Kinder wurden 1942 von Mechelen nach Auschwitz deportiert und dort vergast (KONRAD-LEDER).</i>				
(14)		2. Ernst-Ludwig	41	04.11.1909		20.06.1996
		Er wurde nachts um 23.45 Uhr geboren, zog am 17. November 1931 nach Frankfurt a.M., später nach Tel Aviv 14 Mapustreet c/o Adler und dann nach 40th Street Long Island City New York, USA (ARNSBERG/UHRHAN). Siehe Kapitel 2.1.				
(14)		3. Anne-Marie		03.05.1918		Ermordet
		<i>Sie flob mit ihren Eltern nach Belgien und wurde mit ihrer Familie 1942 von Mechelen nach Auschwitz deportiert und dort vergast (KONRAD-LEDER). GEDENKBUCH S. 469: „Chambré, Annemarie *03.05.1918 in Gießen, wohnhaft Kassel, Deportation: 1942, Auschwitz.“</i>				

Explanations:

- (1) - Family Max Chambré has number 37. Max comes from family 36. His parents are Carl Chambré and Minna née Frohmann. Instead of the date of his death you read 'Ermordet'. Max Chambré was a victim of the National Socialist tyranny. 'Ermordet' is always used at the head of the entry in these cases also sometimes an exact date of death was found (for example in KZ Theresienstadt). It is then in the text. To inform only about the bare date of death wouldn't be suitable for the injustice the victims had to suffer (Look at 12). When people had to take the compulsory names Israel or Sara which became law in 1938 you find this with the date behind the first name when an application for this was found in the archives. These changes of names were annulled after the war.
- (2) - (IX /1/1) means a source 'Someone is accepted as citizen,' Stadtarchiv Lich, Abteilung IX, Konvolut 1, Faszikel 1.' This is the register of the citizens of Lich.
- (3) - In the text are year and families/names with family number when he appeared as witness.
- (4) - Max Chambré and Emilie née Vöhl didn't marry in Lich, probably in Emilie's birth place. She came from Gedern. Her parents are unknown.
- (5) - From directories for the 'Landkreis Giessen' the entries of the Jews were collected (look at chapter 9.6. Adressbücher). Here the user can quite easily find out which Jewish family lived in a place and when.
- (6) - Important facts that could be found about a person like a public office are mentioned in the text (look at chapter 5.1.G.3.).
- (7) - Moving from or to a place is mentioned, too.
- (8) - Directories and trade registers give information about commercial activities.
- (9) - When a person was employed as a servant, the name can be found in the 'Dienstbotenregister'.
- (10) - Particulars of land property in 1938. If the name of a family is in a local tax list (compiled between 1825 and 1901) the item 'Steuerkapital' compares their economic situation to that of Christians or other Jews.
- (11) - 'Siehe Abschriften Nr.2/3' is a link with chapter 8 to a collection of 80 source texts of different length. In this case the link is with 'Abschrift Nr.2'. (In 1946 the former mayor Uhrhan reports about property and farmyards (Hofreiten) of the Jews who had lived in Lich. Nr.3 is about the property of family M. Chambré).
- (12) - GEDENKBUCH – here you find the unchanged texts about the victims of National Socialist tyranny taken from the Gedenkbuch des Bundesarchivs. Similar to Ermordet this can be understood as a kind of inscription on the gravestone. There is a list with the names of all victims in chapter 4.6.
- (13) - line with the wife's maiden name, first name, dates of birth and death (if known). When the wife came from a place where a family book exists you find under 'aus /nach' the number of the parental family, for example family Adolph Behr [13]. His wife Bräunle,

née Strauß came from Ostheim near Butzbach. Her family is registered in the book about the Jews of Butzbach under number [Butzbach] 394].

- (14) - the children of the couple with first names ,possibly compulsory name, number of the family they started or in which they married, date of marriage and date of death. The next line informs about further facts like the house where they were born, schools, vaccinations, mustering, emigration etc.

These explanations are valid for all five family books. When you look for a particular name you don't have to look through all five books. You find a complete register of all grown-up Jews from these books in chapter 10.1.

There are also the names of the Christian witnesses together with the family number.