

The Kahns of Memmelsdorf Lower Franconia



Blessing hands, detail from grave of
Simon Kahn, Paramus N.J., USA,
symbol for the name „Kahn“, derived
from the Hebrew name „Cohen“ = priest
photo Almuth David 2007

Concept and research:
Doris Barth and Almuth David, Munich
(www.spuren-muenchen.de/Kahn)

Supported and funded by:
Traeger- und Foerderverein
Synagoge Memmelsdorf (Ufr.) e.V.
(www.synagoge-memmelsdorf.de)
and
Institut fuer zukunftsweisende
Geschichte e.V., Munich

Exhibition design:
Florian Raff, Munich

Donations can be made to:
Traeger- und Foerderverein
Synagoge Memmelsdorf (Ufr.) e.V.
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Title photo:
Selig Kahn together with his children
in front of his house in Memmelsdorf, ca. 1918
collection Cordula Kappner, Zeil a.M.
and collection Elisheva Redler, Israel



Biographies of a Jewish family



Exhibition June 27 – August 1, 2010 Synagogue of Memmelsdorf

The Kahns of Memmelsdorf Lower Franconia

How the exhibition evolved:

This project, developed by Doris Barth and Almuth David, evolved from an earlier exhibition in Munich titled: „Into the Light, Jewish Biographies in Munich-West“. It was produced by a local history group and was shown in the cultural centre „Pasinger Fabrik“ in Munich in the spring of 2008. One chapter of that exhibition focused on some members of the Kahn family from Memmelsdorf who had moved to Munich.

Following the Munich exhibition further studies on the Kahn family by the two authors uncovered a wealth of new material. Intensive research supported by descendants of the family has permitted the reconstruction of life histories for additional family members. The result is a comprehensive portrait of the Kahn family over six generations.

Contents of the exhibition:

The exhibition portrays the Kahns as a prototypical Jewish family in rural Thuringia and Franconia in the 19th and 20th century. It includes biographies of various family members, in particular those who had to leave the rural village of Memmelsdorf and its Jewish community: young women, who emigrated to America in the 19th century, merchants and manufacturers who moved to the city. Among them are victims of the Nazi regime, who either were forced to emigrate or were deported and killed, as well as survivors, who started anew in Israel, the US and The Netherlands.



Margot, Julius and Suse Wassermann, children of Herbert and Martha, née Kahn, with their cousin Manfred (Fred) in front of the Kahn-house in Memmelsdorf, ca. 1929
collection Manfred Kahn, NL

Additional information:

A reading room provides more detailed information:

- memoirs and notes of individual family members
- albums with historic family photos
- family trees
- official documents
- files for each family branch

Biographies of a Jewish family

Exhibition
June 27 – August 1, 2010
Synagogue of Memmelsdorf

Judengasse 6
96190 Untermerzbach – Memmelsdorf (Ufr.)
phone: +49 (=) 9533 – 982354
(www.synagoge-memmelsdorf.de)

Opening:
Sunday, June 27, 11 am
guided tour at 2.30 pm

Opening times:
Sunday, 1 to 5 pm
Tuesday, 1 to 4 pm

Guided tours:
Doris Barth and Almuth David, Munich
Sunday, July 11, 2010, 2.30 - 4.30 pm
Sunday, August 1, 2010, 2.30 – 4.30 pm

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Lower Franconia Biographies
of a Jewish family

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