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History of Family Möller, Altona (Near Hamburg), Germany

(was originally written in German by Rabbi Yechezkel Eduard Duckesz)

Approximately 1740, Jesaias Möller lived in Fackenburg, near Lübeck. It is not clear when he passed away, but it was before 1810. Since his grandson – Jesaias Moller – born in 1810, was named after him.

In 1770 Joseph Jusra Moller, Jesaias Moller's son, was born in Fackenburg. His wife's name was Esther. He was the elder statesman in the Kehillo of Fackenburg where he was instrumental in acquiring a Jewish cemetery (original documents and title of the cemetery were in the position of Alexander Moller).

Joseph Jusra Moller and his children were legal citizens of Gute Mori (probably near Fackenburg). Certification about their upright citizenship from the justice of Mori entitled him and his daughter Jette, the widow of Michael Isaac Cohn, to resettle in Kiel, on November 24th, 1849.

On February 11th 1857, in advanced age, Joseph Jusra applied to the board of the Altona Kehillo for permission to resettle there. The board referred his request to the city council of Altona for further inquiry about his former citizenship record.

According to the minutes of the Altona Congregation (archives of the year 1857 #104), he was granted permission to resettle in Altona, after further documentation about his flawless citizenship in Gute Mori, November 1849, and upon a favorable report from the police department of Kiel, dated January 22nd 1857.

Unfortunately, Joseph Jusra was not able to enjoy the circle of his children and grandchildren in Altona very long, as he passed away on Elul 25th – September 1857 at the age of 87. He is buried in Altona – Ottensen Cemetery, grave #47.

Although his grave is overbridged, a monument marks his resting place. It is recorded in the Altona cemetery register #980/30 that the elder Josaphat – son of Jesaias Moller – passed away on September 14th 1857 at the age of 87.

1. One of Joseph Jusra's daughters – Jette – was married to the pious Michael Isaac Cohn in Fackenburg. The name Michael Isaac Cohn is frequently recorded as Sandik in a Mohel register of Lippman from Kiel.

According to the Altona Luach, Michael Isaac Cohn was the great-grandson of the prominent citizen Behrend Lehman whose daughter – Lea – was married in Schleswig to Isaac Cohn of Hannover.

On May 5th 1849, Betty, the daughter of Michael Isaac Cohn, married Alexander Storch. He probably lived in Fackenburg, and was the father of the physician Dr. M. Storch of Hamburg.

2. Jesaias Josef Moller, a son of Joseph Jusra, born in 1810, married Marianna Moller from Kiel. He was named after his grandfather – Jesaias Moller, who had passed away before 1810. The children of Jesaias Moller were: Hirsch, Julius, Esther, Rosa, Jennie, Wolf, Guste, Ahron.

3. On Adar 10th 1825, Moses Moller, another son of Joseph Jusra, married Frummet, the daughter of Hertz Popper, and moved to Hamburg.

Another son of Joseph Jusra – Juda Moller, was born in 1805 in Fackenburg. He married Chavo Eva Peine of Rendsburg. She was the daughter of the scholar Wolf Peine of Rendsburg.

Wolf Peine's father, Pincus Peine, was a wealthy, charitable businessman and president of the main synagogue of Hamburg. At the same time he was the most sought-after Mohel in Hamburg and Altona where he performed over 2000 Brissim (circumcisions) and he also distributed communal funds to the needy.

Pincus Peine passed away in 1815, and is buried in the Hamburg section of the Altonaer Cemetery, next to Rabbi Elias Kalman. His wife, Särche Rahel, was the daughter of Moses Leidersdorfer. Hamburg's Commissioner of Appraisals (see Family History – Leidersdorf). Her daughter, Zippora, was married to Salmen Warburg of Altona. Because of this relationship, the children of Pincus Peine were associated with the well-known Warburg Banking firm.

Särche Rahel Peine passed away on Kislev 18th 1816, and was buried in the Hamburg part of the Altonaer Cemetery, grave #131.

Pincus Peine's son, Wolf, who was a leader and trustee in the Rendsburg Kehillo, was married to Sulka (Cäcilie), the daughter of the Kehillo board member Levin Streiber, also known as Levin Lazarus.

Lazarus had several daughters:

1. Betty, who was married to Wolff S. Warburg, the founder of the Altona "Bankhaus Warburg".

2. Hetty, who was married to J. Lewenz, board member of the Hamburg "Gemeinde" and the grandfather of Dr. Luria.

3. Sulka (Cäcilie) who was mentioned before, married to Wolf Peine in Rendsburg. Wolf Peine was Minister of the religious affairs in Rendsburg for 40 years, and a noted Torah scholar, as documented in the title page of "Yorei Dea", which is in the possession of Wolf Moller. Wolf Peine's signature is often found on Rendsburg community documents. He passed away on the 15th of Schewat 1843, and is buried in Rendsburg. His Matzevah which is in good condition, is inscribed:

"Here rests HaChover Rabbi Wolf, son of R. Pinkus Peine. Schochet and "Beglaubigter" (Trustee) of the Kehillo of Rendsburg. Died on 15th of Schewat 5603".

Alexander Peine, another son of Pincus Peine, was married to Mer Frank. He was a learned businessman who dedicated himself to helping the refugees from Hamburg

during the French occupation, and to caring for the aged, sick, and weak. He became seriously ill himself and passed away on the 1st of Nissan 1812. Several of his nephews were named after him.

Ritschel, the daughter of Susskind Peine, was married to the engraver Nathan of Hamburg.

Juda Moller, son of Joseph Jusra Moller, was a disciple of the Moislinger and later of the chief Rabbi Akiwa Wertheimer of Altona, who authorized him to be a schochet and teacher. Correspondence from Rabbi Akiwa Wertheimer to Juda Moller can be found in A.J. Moller's estate. At first, Juda Moller Schochet, teacher and religious leader in Fackenburg. Upon the request of the Chief Rabbi Jacob Ettlinger, he also performed several marriages. In the marriage register of Schleswig-Holstein it is noted and signed by Rabbi Jacob Ettlinger himself that on the 16th of Av 1846, Juda Moller gave Kedushin to Gottschlick Isaak in Fackenburg. In 1848 he gave Kedushin to Josua, son of Gedalia Horowitz. And in 1849 to Moses Zebi. Later, for a number of years, Juda Moller, became a teacher in Kiel and subsequently moved to Altona where he taught Talmud and was particularly successful in teaching and inspiring the youth. As a Mohel he was also in great demand and raised his children to be Godfearing and Torah-true.

In his later years he started a small cigar workshop with an adjoining store. The cigar boxes bearing the emblem "J.J Moller" are still in the possession of the family.

Juda Joseph Moller passed away on the 20th of Teves, January 3rd 1869. Buried in Ottensen, grave #181. The inscription on his gravestone was written by the teacher Wittkower and can be found in "Agudath Perochim" on page #270. The text reads as following:

"Here rests HaChover Jehuda, son of Josef Moller. Jehudah, your precious children, whom you guided on the path of religiousness and honesty, praise you. With your wise counsel and guidance you guarded many from transgression and wrongdoing. They now follow in your footsteps and praise your influence. You will be elevated to the highest spheres in haven, since you sowed many good seeds and your harvest will be bountiful".

Juda Moller's wife, Chavo Eva, passed away on May 31st 1868, and likewise, the inscription on her gravestone can be found in "Agudath Perochim" page #279, as follows:

"You diligently offered the last service of loving kindness to the deceased. You visited the sick and spent you lifetime performing good deeds. You were the adornment of your husband and the delight of your 8 children, whom you raised to practice loving kindness and justice. Beyond this stone, your memory lives on in your children who continue to blossom to noble ranks. Here you should find your peaceful rest in the domain of Eternal Life in shadow of the Almighty".

Children of Juda and Eva Moller, nee Peine

1. Raphael
2. Pinkus
3. Alexander
4. Wolf
5. Sulka Cacilie

6. Emma Esther 7. Sara (Hertz-Lazarus) 8. Guste Schmidt

Alexander Moller was born on December 14th 1841 in Fackenburg. He moved with his parents to Altona where he founded the tobacco firm A.J. Moller. For over 75 years it was one of the most prestigious tobacco firms in Hamburg. Like his father and grandfather, he was a competent Mohel who was in great demand, and an effective leader in the Jewish community life in Altona. Later, he became a director on the board of the Kehillo, where he diligently promoted strictly religious positions. With his pleasant voice, Alexander Moller functioned as honorary Shliach Tzibur in the main synagogue of Altona, and later in the Portuguese Synagogue on Bäckerstreet. In his later years he was also an esteemed Shliach Tzibur in the “Klaus”. As president of the Chevra Kadisha and Bikur Cholim he spent many nights at the bedside of the sick, offering them comfort, and the last loving kindness.

He passed away on August 22nd 1906. His wife, Therese (Telzche), nee Heymann, was a refined, sensitive lady with a “heart of gold” who understood how to establish her home as the center of genuine Jewish Life. Here is just one example from her life, to demonstrate her sensitivity to others:

When a young, inexperienced and helpless friend gave birth to her first baby, Therese came to bathe the infant every morning. Every day, before going to school, Therese’s son brought fresh eggs from their chicken coops to the new mother. One morning Therese came to her friend a little later. When the visiting house-doctor, Dr. “G”, who did not know Therese, reproached her for coming late, she answered: “Excuse me Doctor, my hairdresser came a little late, but it will not happen again”. When Dr. “G” heard who Mrs. Therese Moller was, he apologized.

Therese Moller passed away on November 8th 1909. Both she & her husband, Alexander Moller, are buried in Bornkampsweg in Altona. To honor their parents’ memory, the children donated a beautiful Porauches and Torah “Mäntelchen” to the main synagogue in Altona.
