

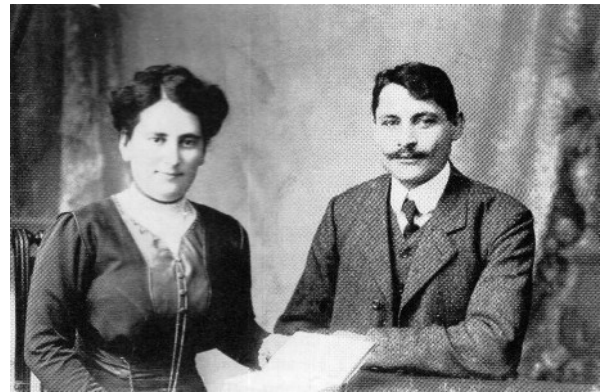
Goldblum Family

It was in the year 1903 that Leopold Goldblum migrated to Germany. He originally came from the village of Osiek in Poland, which at the time belonged to Austria-Hungary. In Germany Leopold first lived in Aschaffenburg and moved in 1906 to Heppenheim on the Bergstrasse. He settled here and established a shoeshop and cobbler's at Lorscher Strasse 2.

Through the Religious Instruction teacher and Cantor, Nathan Friedmann, he met Nathan's niece, Bertha Metzger. They married in 1908 in Roßdorf, a parish in the South Hessen district of Darmstadt-Dieburg. After their marriage, Leopold and Bertha ran the shoe business together. He was the shoemaker while she kept the books. Leopold and Bertha had three children. Their eldest daughter, Flora, was born in 1909 in Heppenheim. Irma, their younger daughter, followed in 1910, and son Bernhard in 1914.

When in the same year Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia, Leopold, who was still a national, had to go to war as a soldier for his country. His son Bernhard was only a few months old at this time. The young father was to stay on the front for three years altogether, working in the saddlery of the k. u. k. Infantry Regiment No. 20 "Heinrich, Prince of Prussia". In the meantime, Bertha employed an assistant shoemaker and ran the business alone. Bernhard only met his father at the age of three, previously knowing only photos and stories about him.

World War I ended in 1918, peace was declared, and Leopold's home village, Osiek, officially became Polish. Life gradually returned to a new normality. The Goldblum family were respected members of the Jewish community in Heppenheim and got involved wherever possible. In her later memoirs, daughter Irma describes her childhood and paints a very graphic picture of Jewish family life with all its festivals and traditions. But she also describes how her father's background prevented him becoming a member of the "Chevra Kadischa" (a funeral society dedicated to burials) and to taking on office. Eight years after arriving in Germany, Leopold finally applied for German nationality at the beginning of 1921. It was granted only in 1923 despite the intercession of several well-wishers. Why he waited so long to make an application which was to make his life so much easier in Germany, we don't know. In 1927 the family moved their residence and the business round the corner to Post-Strasse 6 (see the pink advertisement below).



Bernhard Goldblum and Bertha Metzger Goldblum (undated)

Nur erstklassige Fabrikate. **Von heute bis Hingsten** Reparaturen prompt u. billig. extra billige Verkaufstage!

Box Herren-Agraffentiefel
von Mh. 8.— an bis zu den feinsten

Box Damen-Knopf- u. Schnürstiefel
von Mh. 8.— an bis zu den feinsten

Wichsleder Damen-Schnürstiefel
von Mh. 6.— an

Wichsleder Herren-Schnürstiefel
von Mh. 6.— an

Zwangenschuhe für Damen- u. Kinder extra preiswürdig.
Sandalen, Lafting- u. Segeltuchschuhe zu sehr billigen Preisen.
In Kinderschuh große Auswahl.
Arbeiterschuhe la. Qualitäten zu billigen Preisen.
Farbige Damen-, Herren- und Kindertiefel billigt.

Schuhhaus Leopold Goldblum
Heppenheim
Lorscherstraße 2.

Streng feste Preise. Reelle Bedienung.

Schubhaus Advertisement 1908

Wo kaufen Sie gut und billig Ihren **Herbst- u. Winterbedarf** in **Schuhen u. Stiefeln**



Schuhhaus L. Goldblum
Heppenheim
Lorscherstr. 2.
Eigene Wiener-Schuhmacherei im Hause.

Schubhaus Advertisement 1911

Nur einmaliges Angebot! **Saison-Ausverkauf** zu jedem annehmbaren Preis.

1 Posten Damen-Stiefel mit Chromax, Derby-Lacklapp, assort. Absatz jetzt 8.50 vorher 12.50	1 Posten Herren-Stiefel Chromax Gellarsort jetzt 10.90 vorher 14.50
1 Posten Damen-Stiefel Lacklapp, mit Chromax jetzt 6.50 vorher 9.—	1 Posten Herren-Stiefel mit Chromax, Derby-Lacklapp jetzt 7.25 vorher 9.50
1 Posten Damen-Stiefel Korksohle, Leder jetzt 9.— vorher 12.50	1 Posten Kameelhaar-Hauschuh jetzt 1.35 vorher 1.80
	1 Posten Kameelhaar-Hauschuh jetzt 1.75 vorher 2.25
	1 Posten Tuch-Hauschuh für Herren jetzt 90 Pf. vorher 1.20
	1 Posten Tuch-Hauschuh für Damen jetzt 80 Pf. vorher 1.10

Auf alle übrigen Schuh-Waren gebe 10—20% Rabatt.
Dieses Angebot ist nur so lange Vorrat reicht.

Schuh-Haus L. Goldblum
Heppenheim, Lorscherstrasse.

Schubhaus Advertisement 1913

Geschäftsverlegung und Empfehlung.
Meiner werten Kundschaft zur gefl. Kenntnis, daß ich mein Geschäft während des Umbaus von **Lorscherstrasse nach Poststrasse 6** verlegt habe.
Gleichzeitig empfehle mein reichhaltiges Lager in nur bekannt **guten Schuhwaren.**
Reparaturen werden schnell und billigst ausgeführt!

Schuhhaus L. Goldblum
Heppenheim a. d. B. — Poststr. 6.

Schubhaus Advertisement 1927

When life for Jews in Germany became ever more difficult, Flora became the first to leave for USA in 1936. After school she had done an apprenticeship as a seamstress, and now she applied for a travel permit in November 1935. In August 1936 she sailed on the SS Manhattan to New York and applied for naturalization in March 1937. Her younger brother Bernhard, who did an apprenticeship as a tailor journeyman with the Bensheimer Bekleidungswerk clothing works, left Heppenheim on 12th August 1937 and shortly after sailed on the SS St. Louis from Hamburg to New York. Their sister Irma finally followed them in September 1938. She had applied for her visa at the same time as her parents, but Leopold's background caused his application to be delayed by six months. He was a part of the "Polish quota". And so Irma left alone with a heavy heart leaving her parents back in Germany.

As with all Jewish men of Heppenheim, Leopold was forced after Pogromnacht to even out the burnt remains of the synagogue. In his desperation, and because he wanted to save the Thora rolls, he jumped in front of the collapsing walls. He was rescued and, along with all the others, arrested and sent for several weeks to the concentration camp at Dachau. In the meantime, his visa was approved, so that after his release in February 1939 he and Bertha were finally able to join their children in the USA.

On arrival in New York they initially all lived together in the same apartment. A few months after her parents' arrival, Flora married Ludwig Mayer from Reichenbach (Odenwald) on August 20th 1939. She worked as a seamstress and later ran a cleaning business together with her husband and brother. She died childless on 12. March 1972.

Irma also married at the end of the same year, in December 1939, to Leonard Reiss from Ulrichstein (Vogelsberg region). They had two sons to whom their mother told many stories of her childhood and youth in Heppenheim.

Bernhard continued to live with his parents in New York. He remained single, and died on 23rd March 1951 of Alzheimer's.

Leopold Goldblum died on 6th October 1947 of liver cancer; Bertha died on 12th June 1951.

Sources

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