

# Rich Uncle Hermann In America - Revisited

Carol Davidson Baird  
NSDCGS Case Study  
8 May 2007

# Hermann Frankenthal

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# Selig's Prayer Book 1838

[illegible]

Maria Susanna  
 ist geboren d. 5. Oktobr  
 1836  
 Salz für  
 112 Schilling 62 1/2 in 1857  
 27 1/2 1866

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Maria Luise Leutner ist  
 geboren d. 19 Okt. 1838

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Maria Luise Linn ist  
 geboren d. 8 Febr. 1861  
 122 Schilling 1867 1/2 1/2  
 62 1/2 1/2

---

Maria Susanna Leutner  
 geboren d. 15 März 1863  
 112 Schilling 182 1/2 1/2  
 1866

סדר  
הלימוד  
לליל שבועות.  
מסודר יפה ומדויק היטב  
של  
מחבר  
מחבר  
TIKUN  
für die Schabuoth- und Hoschanah rabba-Nacht.  
רעדעלהיים  
שנה תריח לפ"ק.  
Rödelheim,  
Druck u. Verlag von J. Fehrberger & Comp.  
1858.

# Family Information

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- He was born 5 October 1856 in Vöhl, Kreis Frankenberg, Hessen, Germany to Selig Frankenthal and Henriette Löwenstern
- My father and his mother saw him for the last time at his home on 75 Prospect Place in New Jersey after their immigration from England on 1 June 1940
- He died 25 August 1940 in New Jersey

# Family History Tales

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- Hermann came in the early 1900's
- Was never married, but was a playboy *dandy*
- Was a window dresser for B. Altman department store in New York City
- Was rich
- Lived in New Jersey in 1940

# Hermann's Reply To A Request

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- When approached by my grandfather, Hugo Davidsohn, to sponsor my grandmother (Hermann's niece, Ida Frankenthal) and her family to come to America in the late 1920's during the depression in Germany, and early 1930's during the early Nazi regime, he replied,

**“ Things aren't so good here (USA) either.”**



# The Search Began

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- Find ship's record of arrival to America from Germany (probably Hamburg)
- Document immigration and naturalization
- Find census reports for 1930 & earlier
- Look for B. Altman employee records for vital statistics and family life
- Look for newspaper articles and obituary regarding his vocation and death

# Ship Passenger Arrivals

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- **Germans To America** by Ira Glazier – no entries because volumes, at that time, did not include the date of his supposed 1900's emigration
- Tried looking in Hamburg Passenger Index
- Tried looking at Index of Passenger Lists Arrivals in NY after 1900
- Looked at Registers of Vessels from Hamburg to NY



# Passenger Index from Hamburg

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- Left Hamburg 16 August 1900
- Hamburg America Line – Kaiser Friedrich

Herm. Frankenthal #813, kaufmann  
(businessman), male, 47, domicile New York!

**1st SURPRISE** (that he already lived in USA)

Therefore, had to research earlier arrivals

# Passenger Index from Hamburg Ellis Island Database

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- Herm. Frankenthal arrived at NY 24 August 1894 as a 38 year old merchant on the Normannia from Hamburg, Germany
- Port of departure was Hamburg and Southampton
- Stated he was a **US citizen!**
- Instead of following my original research strategy, I went to the New York census for 1900 via 1890 Police Census of NY

**2<sup>nd</sup> SURPRISE** (He was a citizen!)

# No 1890 New York Census, So.....

I went to the 1900 NY Census

- 1890 New York City Directory  
Lived on 253 W. 30<sup>th</sup> Ave., dresser
- Went to 1890 Police Census for a map
- 1900 NY Census soundex
- 1900 NY Federal census, 5 June 1900, Borough of Manhattan, E.D. 196: lived on 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue
- He is listed as head of household, born October 1856, in Germany of German parents, age 43, profession: window dresser; *wife Kate, born April 1863 in Germany of German parents, age 37, naturalized?, married 1890; Hermann came to USA in 1880 and Kate came in 1884*

**3<sup>rd</sup> Surprise!**

(He was married and came to USA in 1880)

# 1910 NY Census

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- City Directory for address, fiche for street # to find E.D., E.D. to Soundex, Soundex to Census
- Borough of Manhattan, E.D. 1726
  - Wrong age (28) (he should have been about 54)
  - Married before Käte!
  - Says he was married only 1 year (should have been 11 years)
  - Says immigration was 1881 and not 1880
  - Käte's age wrong also (23) (should have been 47)
  - They had *no children* and she is called "Katie"

# 1920 NYCensus

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- Borough of Manhattan, Sup. District #1, E.D. 534, taken 10 January 1920
- Lived at 12 W. 60<sup>th</sup>
- Herman was 63 and immigrated 1882 (should have been 1881); unclear about his naturalization
- Käte was 53 (should have been 57); immigrated in 1884, not sure of her naturalization; did private housework (I have not found her naturalization papers)

# 1930 New York Census

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Neither Herman nor Kate found in 1930 census

**Where was rich Uncle Hermann?**

In Europe on a buying trip for B. Altman?  
Visiting his family in Germany?



# Census Discrepancies

Hermann not  
found in 1930  
NY or NJ  
censuses

1900	1910	1920
Frankenthal	Frankenthal	<b>Frenkisthal</b>
Age 43 - b. 1856	<b>Age 28</b> – should be 53	Age 63
Immigrated 1880	Immigrated <b>1882</b>	Immigrated <b>1882</b>
Naturalized	Naturalized	“un”
Married 10 years to Käte	Married twice – 1 year to Käte	Married
Window dresser	Window dresser at department store	Decorator Dept. Store
Wife – 37	<b>Wife 23</b> – should be 47	Wife – 55
No children	No children	-----
Wife immigrated 1884	Wife immigrated 1884	Wife immigrated 1884

# Immigration

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- Looked for ships' passenger lists from 1878-1881
- Tried Direct and Indirect Lists for dates January to December 1880
- By this time in my research, **Germans to America** had lists from 1880 to 1881
- Hermann came from **Amsterdam** in 1881

**4th SURPRISE**

# Immigration

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- Apparently, Herman traveled for business a lot since there were previous ship's passenger lists with him listed as a businessman
- Finally found ***the*** NY Passenger Arrival record
  - Hermann came as a 25 year old laborer on the **SS Pollux** that sailed into NY from Amsterdam arriving 25 October 1881

# Naturalization Papers

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- Declaration of Intention **23<sup>rd</sup> November 1891**:  
lived at 340 West 17<sup>th</sup> Street
- Superior Court of the City of New York,  
Herman Frankenthal, decorator, naturalized **6  
June 1894**, witnessed by Emo Bardeleben, a  
clerk who lived at 341 W. 18<sup>th</sup> Street
- Information on naturalization papers
  - Address 317 W. 21<sup>st</sup> Street, New York
  - Profession was die maker
  - Former nationality = Emperor of Germany

# B. Altman Department Store

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- 1989 - called B.Altman personnel department
- Told the store was bought by a Japanese company and all the old personnel records had just been burned
- Needed obituary to find out about his professional life
- Needed death certificate to find out who reported his death

# Hermann's Travels

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- 1881 Amsterdam to NYC
- 1894 Hamburg, Southampton to NYC
- 1900 Hamburg to NYC
- 1925 SS Stuttgart from Southampton to NYC



# NY Times 10 June 1930, page 51

(ProQuest 2003)

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*Display Fixtures For Fall Shown*

*Exhibit by 65 Makers a Feature of Convention Being Held at  
Pennsylvania (Hotel)*

*Styles Less Grotesque*

*Trend Toward Metal Effects*

*Full Figures Gaining*

*Movie Stars Being Reproduced*

“At today’s session an address will be made by Channing E. Sweitzer, managing director of the National Retail Dry Goods Association. A demonstration of live model draping will be staged by **Herman Frankenthal**, display director of B. Altman & Co. of this city.”

# Google Search July 2006

NY Historical Society

Guide to the Records of B. Altman & Co. 1876-1955 (Bulk 1881-1933)

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These volumes contain names of B. Altman & Co. employees; most include dates of employment and residence. Also included in some volumes are remarks on employees by supervisors and references.

**VolumeTitleDate[5] Employee Records: name, residence, department, dates of employment, references, notes ( all employees in this volume hired 1887-1893; some records later amended) 1887-1914**

**(Hermann worked there from 1898-1933)**

**Haven't looked at these yet**

**VolumeTitleDate[7] Employee Records: name, residence, position, dates of employment, references, notes (all employees in this volume hired 1899; some records later amended) 1899-1914**

# Google Search July 2006

NY Historical Society

Guide to the Records of B. Altman & Co. 1876-1955 (Bulk 1881-1933)

## Historical Note

- |             |  |
|-------------|--|
| 1865        | B. Altman & Co. founded by Benjamin Altman as a small dry-goods store at 39 Third Ave., New York City. |
| ca 1873     | Michael Friedsam, future president, joins B. Altman & Co.  |
| 1876        | Store moves to 627 Sixth Ave. (at 19th St.); new store known as the "Palace of Trade."                 |
| 1909        | Friedsam becomes Vice President.   |
| 1913        | Benjamin Altman dies; Friedsam takes over as President of B. Altman & Co. and the Altman Foundation.   |
| 1914        | Store moves to a twelve-story building on Fifth Ave., between 34th & 35th Streets.                     |
| 1931        | Friedsam dies; John S. Burke succeeds Friedsam as B. Altman & Co. president.                           |
| <b>1989</b> | <b>Owner L.J. Hooker Corp. declares bankruptcy; company ceases operations.</b>                         |

(Sources: *Encyclopedia of New York*; *B. Altman & Co.'s Enlarged Store*(1914); Joseph Devorkin, *Great Merchants of Early New York*; Robert Hendrickson, *The Grand Emporiums*; *New York Times*.)

# New York Times Obituary

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- NYPL - August 26, 1940, vol. 15:3
  - He died at Hackensack Hospital, Rutherford, NJ 25 August 1940, shortly after he collapsed on the platform of the Erie Railroad station there
  - Pioneer in field of window dressing; chief window dresser for B. Altman & Co., NY department store for 35 years; retired 7 years ago

# Surprising Obituary Information

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- Once president of Window Dressers of America
- Traveled extensively in Europe in connection with his work
- Received gold medal from Herbert Hoover in recognition of his work in connection with Belgian relief
- He was a widower
- Left behind a '**stepson**' and 2 sisters (Lina & Berthe)
- I was told by my father that, as an old man, he was living with his '**nephew**,' Alfred Solomon

A stepson? Who? From KÄTE'S 1<sup>st</sup> marriage?

# Death Certificate

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- Bergen Co., New Jersey, city of Hackensack
- Lived at 75 Prospect Terrace, East Rutherford, New Jersey – in community for 7 years (1933-1940: therefore, from time of retirement)
- Widowed; wife was Katie
- Birth 5 October 1856, Germany
- Died at 83 on 25 August 1940 of coronary occlusion due to senile arteriosclerosis



# Death Certificate

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- Profession was window dresser for store
- Father's name Selig, born Germany
- Mother's name Henrietta Lowenstein, born Germany
- Informant: Alfred Salomon of 75 Prospect Terrace, East Rutherford
- Burial at Woodlawn Cemetery 28 August 1940, Bronx, NY

# Late Wife of Hermann - KÄTE

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- A friend recently found her obituary in the NY Times
- She got more interesting as I went along
- OBITUARY: N.Y. Times **Dec. 30, 1920**. page 11

FRANKENTHAL – Cathe Frankenthal. On Dec. 28, beloved wife of Herman Frankenthal. Funeral Thursday at 10 A.M. from her late residence 12 West 60<sup>th</sup> St. Internment **Lutheran** Cemetery!

From the  
obituary to the  
death certificate  
at the

NYC Dept. of  
Records and  
Information  
Services,  
Municipal  
Archives on  
Chambers St.

Burial place  
does not match  
the obituary  
notice

1 PLACE OF DEATH

STATE OF NEW YORK  
Department of Health of The City of New York  
BUREAU OF RECORDS  
STANDARD CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

BOROUGH OF Manhattan

No. 12 West 60th St.

Character of premises,  
whether tenement, private,  
hotel, hospital or other place, etc. Tenement

Registered No. 33408

2 FULL NAME Cathe Frankenthal

3 SEX Female 4 COLOR OR RACE White 5 SINGLE MARRIED, WIDOWED, OR DIVORCED married  
(Write the word)

6 DATE OF BIRTH Apr. 9th, 1865  
(Month) (Day) (Year)

7 AGE 55 yrs. 8 mos. 19 ds. If LESS than 1 day, ... hrs. or ... min.?

OCCUPATION  
(a) Trade, profession, or particular kind of work Housewife  
(b) General nature of industry, business or establishment in which employed (or employer)

8 BIRTHPLACE (State or country) Germany

(9) How long in U. S. (if of foreign birth) 36 yrs (9) How long resident in City of New York 36 yrs

PARENTS OF DECEASED  
10 NAME OF FATHER Wilhelm Roder  
11 BIRTHPLACE OF FATHER (State or country) Germany  
12 MAIDEN NAME OF MOTHER Hertogde Schmidt  
13 BIRTHPLACE OF MOTHER (State or country) Germany

14 Special INFORMATION required in deaths in hospitals and institutions and in deaths of non-residents and recent residents.  
Former or usual Residence

15 DATE OF DEATH Dec. 28, 1920  
(Month) (Day) (Year)

16 I hereby certify that the foregoing particulars (Nos. 1 to 14 inclusive) are correct as near as the same can be ascertained, and I further certify that I attended the deceased from Dec 26 1920 to Dec 28 1920, that I last saw her alive on the 28th day of Dec 1920, that death occurred on the date stated above at 3:15 PM., and that the cause of death was as follows:  
Broncho-Pneumonia

duration 2 yrs. 2 mos. 2 ds.  
Contributory (Secondary) Heart Disease

duration — yrs. — mos. — ds.  
Witness my hand this 28 day of Dec 1920

Signature Jas. H. Munk M. D.  
Address 126 West 117th St

FILED

17 PLACE OF BURIAL Woodlawn Cemetery  
18 UNDERTAKER Julius Steinfeld  
State License 3770 City License 416

DATE OF BURIAL December 30, 1920  
ADDRESS 566 West 173rd Street

# Käte Frankenthal's Information

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- Called **Cathe**
- Died at 55 years, 8 months, 19 days
- Father = **William Roder**
- Mother = **Gertrude Schmidt** (something crossed out under this name)
- Address matches 1920 census
- Died of bronchial pneumonia; had diabetes
- Buried at Woodlawn Cemetery as is Herman

# Marriage Record

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- Searched the NY Bride and Groom Indices for all counties and found nothing
- Did he marry her on a trip back to Germany on one of his many trips abroad for business?
- Looked for her parents in the 1890 NY City Directory, on Ancestry.com, Genealogy.com and FamilySearch.org, but they are not listed



# NYC Municipal Archive

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**<http://www.italianguen.org>**

(I assumed from the censuses that they were married in 1890 in Manhattan, but checked other counties – only Kings Co. had index for 1890)

- ✓ Kings County Grooms 1866 to 1879
- ✓ Kings County Grooms and Brides: 1895 to 1897
- ✓ Manhattan Grooms: 1895 to 1897
- ✓ New York City Grooms: 1908 to 1936
- ✓ Brides' Index Bronx 1899 through 1937
- ✓ **Kings 1871 through 1910** and 1931 through 1937
- ✓ *Kings 1911 to 1930 Not available*
- ✓ Queens 1905 through 1937

Not all years are 100% complete.



# So, Nu?

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- According to the 1900 census Kate came to NYC at age 19 in 1884 & married Herman at age 25 in 1887 (does not compute with her birth date)
- Where was she from 1884 to 1887 and what was she doing?

# Marriage Recently Found in IGI

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- FamilySearch.org: Herman Frankenthal is now in the IGI, married to a **KATHCHEN RODER**, whose father was *Wilhelm Rider* and whose mother was **Elise Diederich** (not the Gertrude Schmidt who is listed on her death certificate – could be father's 2<sup>nd</sup> wife)
- They were married in Manhattan on 11 June 1887, 3 years earlier than the censuses said

# NY City Dept. of Records & Information Services Municipal Archives

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Certificate of Marriage State of New York #  
76811

Herman Frankenthal and Kätchen Roeder  
joined in marriage by me, in accordance with  
the Laws of the State of New York, in the City  
of New York, this **eleventh day of June 1887**.  
By Chas E Bengler, **Minister**, residence 312  
6th St. Witnesses: *Emo Bardeleben* and  
*George Schilpp*.

# Return of Marriage has more information than certificate

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- Herman Frankenthal residing at 436 W. 26th; age at next birthday 36 years, Oct. 5; occupation merchant, born Vöhl, Hessen; father's name Selig Frankenthal, mother's maiden name Jetta Kaiser; **no. of groom's marriage – second!**
- Käthchen Röder residing at 436 W. 26th St.; age at next birthday 24 years, April 9; born City of Hessen-Darmstadt; father's name Wilhelm Röder, mother's maiden name Elise Diederich; **no. of bride's marriage – second!** New York, June 11, 1887, signed Herman Frankenthal and Kätchen Röder; witnesses Emo Bardeleben and George Schilpp.

# As I Suspected.....

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- Another marriage listed in IGI, but under the name of **CATHERINA ROEDER**
- 2 years earlier, she married Sigmund Karl Fritz, the son of Bernhardt Fritz and his wife, Amelia Jacoby!
- Marriage was 21 March 1885, also in Manhattan, NY
- Her parents are listed this time as **Wilhelm Roeder and Elizabeth Dietrich**

# Guess what HERMANN did after HIS immigration in October 1881?

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- IGI: he married 14 January 1882 in Manhattan, NYC, NY to **KATHI SCHILPP\***
- Therefore, the census was correct when it listed him as married twice
- I guess he was partial to Kathies so he wouldn't slip up during love making!

*\*Interestingly, a George Schilpp was a witness at Hermann's SECOND marriage!*

## Bureau of Vital Statistics, Health Department of the City of New York, RETURN OF MARRIAGE

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- Herman Frankenthal, residing at 201 Broome W., age at next birthday 25, clerk, father's name = Selig Frankenthal, mother's maiden name = **Yette Kaiser**, first marriage of husband.
- Kathi Schilpp, residing at 201 Broome W, age at next birthday 23, born German, father's name **Carl Schilpp**, mother's maiden name = **Elizabeth Raab**, first marriage of wife.
- Signed January 14, 1882 by Herman Frankenthal and Kathi Schilpp in presence of Suscherhumker (sp?) and S. Landsberg.

# Death Certificate of Kathi Schilpp Frankenthal

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- Catherine Frankenthal, age 26, born Germany, lived in NYC for 4 years
- Father = Geo. Sthei?pe (ink smudge); mother = Eliz??beth; both born Germany
- Died at NY Hospital on S. 15<sup>th</sup> St, 18<sup>th</sup> Ward on July 10, 1885
- Died of pericarditis due to diffuse nephritis; consecutive = fatty liver, and contributing = ulcer of stomach
- Burial Lutheran Cemetery on July 12<sup>th</sup>, 1885



# Multiple Marriages

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- Catherina Roeder was first married to Sigmund Karl Fritz in 1885 in Manhattan
- Hermann was first married to Kathi Schilpp January 1882 in Manhattan
- Herman & Kathchen (daughter of Wilhelm Roeder and Elizabeth Dietrich) married in Manhattan on 11 June 1887

# Another Search - Ancestry & IGI

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- Found birth information about an **Ernst S. Frankenthal**
- Birth record: 4 October 1891
- At 340 W. 17<sup>th</sup> St., Manhattan
- Father = Herman Frankenthal, born Germany, age 34
- Mother = Katherine nee Roeder, born Germany, age 28
- **No. of child of mother – 4<sup>th</sup>!! 2 now living!**

# Another Search - Ancestry & IGI

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- Found death certificate for Ernst
- Died 2 March 1982 at 4 mo. 28 days
- Father = Herman Frankenthal
- Mother = Catherine Frankenthal
- Both born Germany
- Place of death 340 W. 17<sup>th</sup> was tenement residence
- Cause of death = Acute Nephritis (idiopathic – means cause unknown), indirectly caused by Infantile Eczema & exhaustion

# Marriages Resolved

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- Herman first married to Kathi Schilpp January 1882 after he immigrated in October 1881
- Kathi Schilpp Frankenthal died July 1885
- Herman married second to Kate Röder June 1887; they had a child who died at 4 mo. (her 4<sup>th</sup>)
- Kate Röder was married first to Sigmund Karl Fritz and must have had 3 children with him; only 1 survived to be the 'step son' in Herman's obituary
- Kate Röder Frankenthal died December 1920

# Questions Still Unresolved

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- Did he leave his family in Germany to find his fortune in America? Was he a reprobate son? Did he abandon his religion on purpose?
- If he was married to Kathi and also Käte as the IGI stated, why didn't he tell his family and why didn't they find out even after his death?
- Or did they know he married a *schickse* and therefore *sat shiva* for him, never acknowledging his marriages?
- Who was this 'step-son' mentioned in the obituary of his second wife?
- Who was Alfred Salomon? Was he related as my father told me, and did he leave family with descendants for me to question, i.e. was he really a 'nephew' of Herman?

# Hermann's Mother

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- Henriette “Jettchen” Löwenstein in family tree
  - Henriette Löwenstern on her German death certificate (schmutz over ‘r’ made it look like ‘i’)
  - First marriage to Kathi Schilpp, record says Yette Kaiser
  - Second marriage to Kate Röder record says Jette Kaiser
  - Herman's death record says Henrietta Lowenstein
- 
- Luckily I knew that her name was Henriette Löwenstern who first married a man named Kaiser and that she was called Jettchen in Germany

# Herman's Wives

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- Kathi Schilpp aka: K. (immigrant ship record), Kathi (marriage certificate), Catherine (death certificate), Katherina (IGI pedigree chart)
- Kate Röder aka: Käthchen Röder (marriage certificate), Katherine (on birth record of son), Catherine (on death record of son), Katie (1900 NY census), Kate (1920 NY census), Katie (1920 NY census), Cathe (on her death certificate & obituary), Käthchen Roder (IGI pedigree chart)

# Herman's Residences

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- 1881 October - arrival NYC (ship arrival list)
- 1882 January – 201 Broome W. (marriage to 1<sup>st</sup> wife)
- 1885 234 W. 16<sup>th</sup> St. 18<sup>th</sup> Ward (1<sup>st</sup> wife's death certificate)
- 1887 436 W. 26<sup>th</sup> St. (marriage to 2<sup>nd</sup> wife)
- 1890 253 W. 30<sup>th</sup> Ave. (NY City Directory)
- 1891 October 340 W. 17<sup>th</sup> St. (son's birth record)
- 1891 November 340 W. 17<sup>th</sup> St. (Declaration of Intention)
- 1892 March 340 W. 17<sup>th</sup> St. (son's death record)
- 1894 June 317 W. 21<sup>st</sup> St (Naturalization record)
- 1900 West 21<sup>st</sup> St at 8<sup>th</sup> Ave. (1900 NY census)
- 1910 12 West 60<sup>th</sup> St. (1910 NY census)
- 1920 12 West 60<sup>th</sup> St. (1920 NY census)
- 1925 601 W. 115<sup>th</sup> St. (SS Stuttgart ship record as a single man again)
- 1930 NOT HERE
- 1940 75 Prospect Place, East Rutherford, Bergen Co., New Jersey
- 1940 Burial Woodlawn Cemetery, Bronx, NY





1

Arrival in NYC 1881

2

1882 marriage to 1<sup>st</sup> wife

Soho area

3

1885 death 1<sup>st</sup> wife

4

1887 marriage to 2<sup>nd</sup> wife

5

1890 city directory

6-8

1891-92 son's birth

9-10

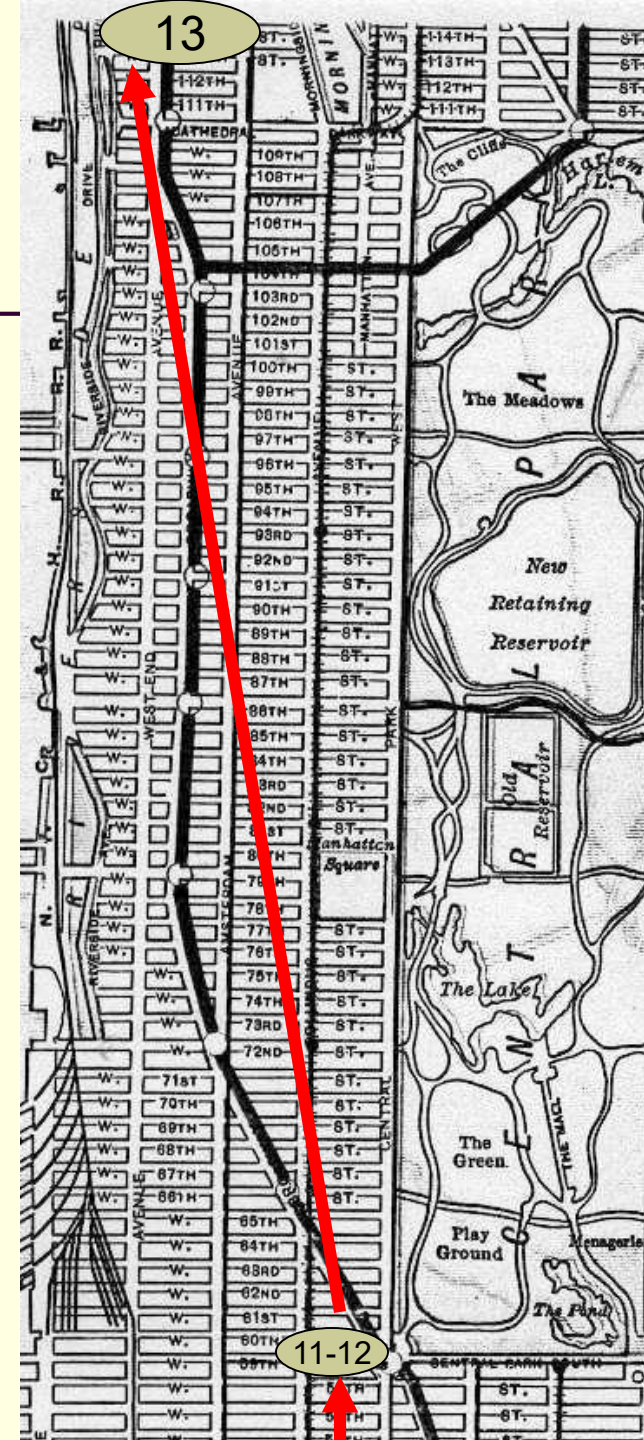
1894-1900 Nat. & census

11-12

~1905-1920 censuses

13

1925  
(widowed)



# Questions Still Unresolved

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- If he got a commendation from President Hoover, was mentioned in the NY Times, and published a book, he must have had some status
- If Herman was so successful in the window dressing business and lived on the upper West side in Manhattan, he must have been wealthy
- Did he lose his money in the Crash of 1929?
- If he didn't, why didn't he send help to his niece in Germany in the late 1920's, or sponsor them to come to the USA in 1938 after Kristallnacht?

# Social, emotional, historical evidence needed – not vital statistics

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- My grandfather first asked for help when my father was only a child about 8 years old, about 1929, during terrible inflation in Germany just before the fall of the Weimar Republic – unemployment 3 million.
- Did Rich Uncle Hermann say “Things aren’t so good over here either,” not because of financial reasons, but that he was depressed as widower after his wife died in 1920?
- When my grandfather asked for help in the 1930’s, was he just a retired old man living on a pension and unable to help my dad’s family?
- Or was he just a *schmuck*?

# SDJGS Program Meeting

## with Ron Arons in January 2007

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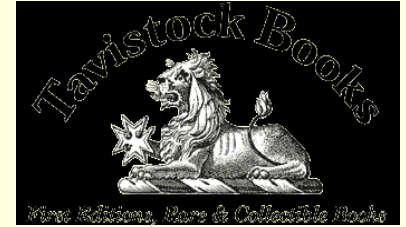
- “Beyond Ship Manifests, Census Data & Draft Registrations”
- Best bet websites included antique/used book sellers online
- Immediately entered title of Herman’s book on window draping found only in LOC
- <http://www.abebooks.com> (\$302.50 plus \$4)
- <http://www.bookfinder.com> (\$278.50 - 2 sites)
- <http://www.antiqbook.com> (\$275.00 via Tavistock Books)



# Tavistock Books

1503 Webster Street Alameda, CA 94501

PH: (510) 814-0480 FX: (510) 814-0486



E-mail: [vjz@tavbooks.com](mailto:vjz@tavbooks.com)

Booknumber: 20710 [CLOTHING FASHION].

*FRANKENTHAL, HERMAN.,*

*DRAPING By FRANKENTHAL (Illustrated).*

*A History and Treatise on Full Form Draping with the Use of Yard Goods, Showing Methods of Procedure in Draping Original Creations in Keeping with Changing Fashions.* Edited by F. F. Purdy. Chicago & New York: Published by Merchants' Record & Show Window., (1923). Green faux silk-moire cloth lettered in gilt. AEG., A Nr-Fine copy with a hint of a lean. Profusely illustrated with full-page drawings, with some in color. **USD 275.00 [Appr.: EURO 213 | &pound;UK 140 | JP¥ 33141]**

# My gift from Steve



HERMAN FRANKENTHAL

*Originator of the Art of Full Form Draping.*

## DRAPING BY FRANKENTHAL (ILLUSTRATED)

A HISTORY AND TREATISE ON FULL FORM DRAPING WITH  
THE USE OF YARD GOODS, SHOWING METHODS  
OF PROCEDURE IN DRAPING ORIGINAL  
CREATIONS IN KEEPING WITH  
CHANGING FASHIONS.

BY

HERMAN FRANKENTHAL

Display Manager for B. Altman & Co., New York

Edited by

F. F. PURDY

Published by

MERCHANTS' RECORD AND SHOW WINDOW  
CHICAGO AND NEW YORK

this crowning service which I, with my fellow members of the fraternity, have been able to render, to the intelligent distribution of the most needed and suitable fabrics and accessories manufactured by a great industry.

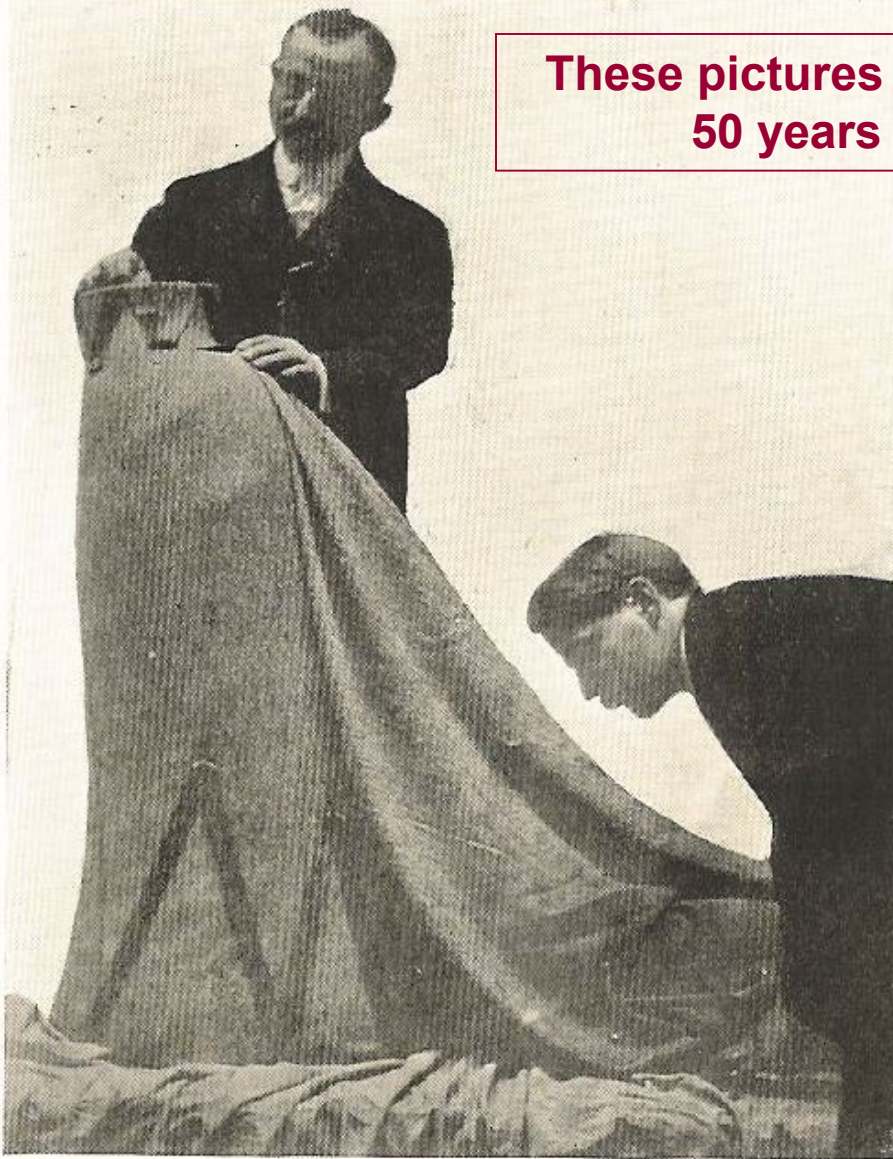
We will glance at the beginning of this art, and go on gradually through its development, starting with the simplest drapes dealing with the needs of the largest numbers, and on up to the more ambitious creations that suggest the higher forms of art and illustrate the use of the finer fabrics—many of which drapes have brought the public immediately to the counters of the house I have the honor to serve, for the fabrics of all grades and prices. Hundreds of display men from coast to coast have doubtless had this experience, and will have it in greater degree as they progress in their work. Let us all advance together.

With sincere good wishes,

*German Frankenthal*



**These pictures appear to be about  
50 years apart in time**



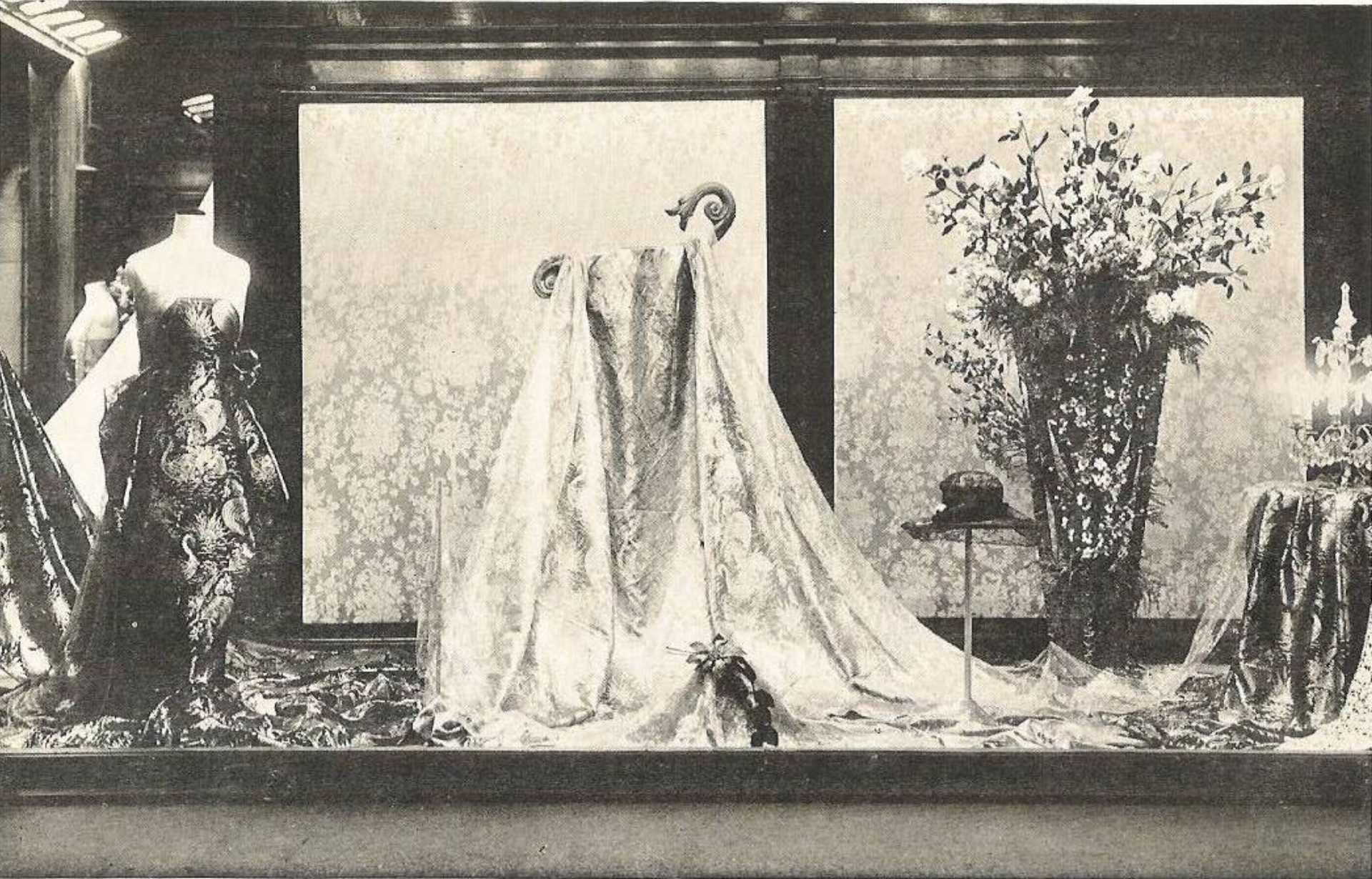
THE FIRST SKIRT DRAPING FORM.

This photograph shows Herman Frankenthal and his assistant, Samuel Ellis, draping the first skirt form twenty years ago. The creation of this form resulted in revolutionizing the display of dress goods.



ILLUSTRATION NO. 1.—CHAPTER III.  
Starting a Drape.





Uncle Herman's window display in about 1923 for B. Altman & Co., New York  
Display reveals the effect of full form draping, together with the use of draping stands  
(designed by Herman Frankenthal) and accessories

# Things To Do

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- Find probate records for both Herman (in NJ) and his two wives (in NYC)
- Who was Herman's step-son from second wife Kate?
- Who was Alfred Solomon who gave information on Herman's death certificate?
- Keep looking for Herman in 1930
- Oh yeah.....when and how did Herman meet his first wife? When did she immigrate?



# I'd been looking at it for 18 years!

Ship **Pollux** from  
Amsterdam to NY

Arrival 25 Oct 1881

Right next to each  
other on the list:

H. Frankenthal, 25

K. Schilp, 23

NAME	AGE	SEX	OCCUPATION	The country to which they are usually going	The country in which they intend to remain	What is the cargo	Part of the vessel occupied by each passenger during the voyage
428 C. B. B. B. B. B.	35	M	without				
429 " " " " " "	8	M	"				
430 C. Smith	28	M	without				
431 H. Meyer	20	M	without				
432 S. Kamm	21	M	without				
433 V. H. H. H.	18	M	"				
434 C. H. H. H.	11	"	without				
435 C. H. H. H.	21	"	without				
436 C. H. H. H.	21	"	without				
437 E. H. H. H.	30	"	"				
438 H. " "	26	"	"				
439 H. " "	6	"	without				
440 H. " "	8	"	without				
441 L. " "	1	"	without				
442 C. H. H. H.	36	M	"				
443 V. Schen	20	"	"				
444 C. H. H. H.	38	M	without				
445 H. B. T. T.	26	"	without				
446 C. " "	12	"	without				
447 V. H. H. H.	30	M	"				
448 C. H. H. H.	16	"	"				
449 C. H. H. H.	38	"	"				
450 H. L. L. L.	23	"	without				
451 H. " "	8	M	without				
452 C. " "	8	"	without				
453 H. L. L. L.	31	"	"				
454 H. B. B. B.	29	"	"				
455 H. " "	1	M	without				
456 H. " "	12	"	without				
457 C. H. H. H.	30	M	without				
458 C. H. H. H.	24	"	"				
459 C. H. H. H.	29	"	"				
460 " H. H. H.	18	"	without				
461 H. B. B. B.	24	"	"				
462 H. B. B. B.	26	"	"				
463 H. B. B. B.	23	"	"				
464 H. B. B. B.	29	"	without				
465 " " "	2	"	"				
466 " " "	2	"	"				
467 B. B. B. B.	2	"	"				
468 C. H. H. H.	26	"	without				
469 F. H. H. H.	19	"	"				
470 H. Frankenthal	25	"	"				
471 K. Schilp	23	"	"				
472 C. H. H. H.	29	"	without				

# What Did I Learn?

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- I learned about Herman's physical appearance, travels, immigration, naturalization, occupation, residences, marriages, death and burial
- I learned, not surprisingly, that official records are as erroneous as any family fable or 1/2 truths
- I learned I didn't like Hermann any more than my grandmother did!
- But he was a fascinating, talented character, nonetheless