

# The Jewish Community of Laupheim and its Annihilation

Book Pages 15 - 22

## ADLER, Isidor, wholesale grocer, Kapellen Street 44

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### KARL NEIDLINGER

In the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century, there were two different 'Adler' families living in Laupheim who were not related in any way. People used their respective addresses to differentiate between them, even though the houses of the 'Judenberg-Adlers' and the 'Kapellen Street-Adlers' were not far apart. The members of the former family were less wealthy weavers and livestock dealers, whereas the latter started off as bakers and confectioners and later on achieved considerable prosperity as wholesale grocers. Helene Adler of the Anton-Bergmann family and grandmother of Gretel Bergmann was a member of the Judenberg family. The Art Nouveau artist Friedrich Adler was born on Kapellen Street.

The first chapter of the book is dedicated to the Adlers from Kapellen Street, whose ancestor Simon Jakob moved from Ederheim/Ries to Laupheim in the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century. His great grandson Isidor Adler (1828-1916) founded the flourishing wholesale business and built a prestigious residence on 44 Kapellen Street in 1876, with his shop on the first floor. Today, a café called 'Hermes' can be found there (see picture below).

Isidor Adler married twice; first, he married Judith 'Jette' Engel from Wallerstein/Ries in 1859 and after her death in 1874, he wed Karolina Frieda Sommer from Buchen/Baden. Six of the nine children from both marriages reached adulthood. At the rise of the Nazi regime in 1933, three of them were still living in Laupheim: the eldest son, Eugen, born in 1860, as well as two sons from his second marriage, Jakob (1875) and

Edmund (1876). Isidor Adler's daughter Betty Wolf (born in 1863) moved back to Laupheim from Buchen in 1939 after the death of her husband Abraham Wolf.

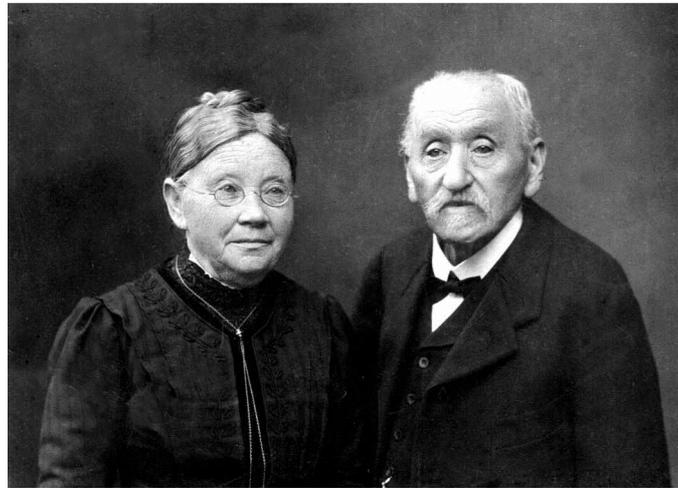


Before the Adlers rose to prosperity, many relatives had already immigrated to the U.S. due to pauperism and mass poverty during the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Only five of Isidor Adler's eight siblings reached adulthood. Three of them immigrated to the U.S. in the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century as did his seven surviving cousins, who all emigrated between 1850 and 1863.

## **The company 'Isidor Adler & Cie.'**

Following the end of the war, not only the artistic works of Friedrich Adler, but also the company of Isidor Adler fell into oblivion, leaving only a few traces behind. Even the building on Kapellen Street, which can be seen in the picture, was threatened by demolition in the 1980's. No documents linked to the company or written records of family members could be found, neither in the Chamber of Industry and Commerce of the city of Ulm, nor in the economic archives of the state of Baden-Wuerttemberg, where Laupheim is situated. After the *Shoah*, all traces of the forced and abrupt end of the company and the extermination of the entire elder generation of the family were obliterated. What followed was oblivion. This memorial book opens with this particular family, not only because of alphabetical order, but also because of their unfortunate fate as described

above. They also played an important role in the rise of Laupheim from a village to a city, a role in which education was of principal significance.



Isidor Adler and Frieda Adler at around 1912  
(Taken from the archive of Ernst Schäll)

The Isidor Adler Company gave this pewter jug to the wholesale grocer and baker Anton Schniertshauer from Huettisheim as a gift in 1910. It bears the following inscription:

'From the house of Isidor Adler to Mr. Anton Schniertshauer to commemorate 50 years of business relations from 1860-1910'

Only the forced aryanization of Jewish businesses in 1938/39 put a sudden end to the business relations between the Isidor Adler Company and the Schniertshauer grocery store ('Fideles'). The following anecdote, which was handed down from generation to generation and is verified by a newspaper article, serves as proof of their excellent long lasting relations.

In 1868, the not so prosperous family of Anton Schniertshauer came to sudden unexpected wealth when one of his sisters won the main prize in the Ulmer *Muensterbaulotterie*, a lottery to finance the restoration of the minster in the city of Ulm. But nobody in the family dared to carry such a large sum of money from Ulm to Huettisheim, not even Fidel. Thus, Isidor Adler had to come along all the way from Laupheim to Ulm to fetch the 10,000 guilders, the German currency at that time.



The bakers' and confectioners' craft marked only the beginning of the company's history, although today not many reliable records can be found. Even Isidor Adler was trained as a baker, but managed to rise to wholesale grocer very quickly. In 1859 he married his first wife in Augsburg and one can assume that he took over the family business in Laupheim at the same time. At that time the business was located across the street next to the Steiners' family home. Since at least the 1860's, Isidor Adler supplied the grocery shops in the smaller villages around Laupheim with sugar, salt, coffee, wine, vinegar and oil, even adding colonial goods to his inventory later on. Soon his business relations exceeded his district. During the arrival of a large delivery, for example a whole wagon full of special flour for calves, he would sell to the consumers directly at the station.

The main office as well as the family's residence was located in the same building on 44 Kapellen Street, together with a wholesale food store, which was quite spacious for that time. The other rooms on the ground floor were used as offices, where at times not only the owners of the company, but also up to three employees used to work. Behind the building, storerooms, stables, garages, a coffee roaster and a wine bottler could be found. Warehouse workers, coachmen and drivers worked there, so that in times of prosperity as many as ten people were employed by the company. This still did not include the maids working in the household, of which Isidor Adler's family always had three. Even before World War I the company bought their first truck to serve their customers in a better and faster way. The family's telephone number was '4', which shows that they were not shy about investing in new technologies.

**Sehr gemischtes Colonialwaren-Versandhaus**  
**zum „ADLER“ :: Kaffee-Verbrennerei**

Telefon Nr. Doled.                      Telegramm-Adresse: Auto.

empfiehlt:

Frank Sekt	— Söhnlein Cichorie
Dr. Oetker's Schuberème	— Pilo Backpulver
Kathreiner's Sauerbrunnen	— Göppinger Malzkaffee
Sunlight's Brustkaramellen	— Kaiser's Koscherseife
Leibniz Trocken	— Henckel Cakes
Persil Chocolate	— Subard Waschmittel
Gerolsteiner Pflanzenbutter	— Palmin Sprudel
Maggi's Dienglanz	— Gentner's Suppenwürze
Herz Uralt	— Asbach Stiefel
Kupferberg Haarwasser	— Dr. Oralles Gold
Jasmatzi Zahnpasta	— Pebecco Cigaretten
Nedarsulmer Fleischextract	— Liebig's Fahrräder
Dr. Thompson's Cigaretten	— A. Batschari's Waschpulver
Bergmann's Kälbermehl	— Heberlioger Lilienmildseife

Bei Einkäufen von 10 Pfg. an erfolgt die  
Lieferung franko ins Haus durch unser  
— neues 100pferdiges Lastauto. —

For Purim, the *Gesangsverein* (choir) 'Frohsinn' organized at least one ball per year, a social event with an extensive program, sometimes even including a printed pamphlet with all kinds of funny commentaries. An

advert by the Isidor Adler Company can be found in one of those pamphlets from 1912 on page 20 on the left side, giving a good impression of the wide variety of products sold by the company: the days of the confectionery had long been left behind. Although the unknown authors of the adverts changed over time, it is remarkable to see that about half of the brands mentioned in these pamphlets can still be purchased a hundred years later. The other adverts (see below and on the following pages) were all taken from Laupheim's former local paper, 'Laupheimer Verkuendiger'. Such adverts are nearly the only traces left today that provide information about the Isidor Adler Company.

Hardly anything is known about the economic impact the Nazi era had on the Isidor Adler Company except that the former authorized signatory, Gebhard Schneider, took over in 1939 and ran the company under his name. The same can be said about the post-war situation, because, unlike as was the case with other families and companies, there are no documents concerning negotiations of restitution and compensation in the National Archive of the city of Sigmaringen. All the remaining information from the time of the Nazi era deals mainly with family matters and will be displayed in the following paragraphs.

Soeben eingetroffen :

**1 Waggon Heberlinger Rälbermehl,**

anerkannt vorzügliches Mittel zur Aufzucht von Jungvieh aller Art,  
in Packungen von 25, 12 1/2 und 5 Kilogramm.

Weitere Lieferungen seitens der Fabrik sind wegen Mangel an Rohmaterialien ausgeschlossen, deshalb empfehle ich jedem Landwirt seinen Bedarf so rasch als möglich in **ausgiebiger** Weise zu decken.

**Isidor Adler,**  
Telefon Nr. 4.

*A scaled down advert taken from the local paper 'Laupheimer Verkuendiger' is supposed to tell the customers: Times are bad. Stock up now! The outbreak of World War I seven months earlier led to the 'lack of raw materials' mentioned in the advert and made further deliveries of special flour for calves impossible. The advert from March 13, 1915 shows clearly how quickly Germany was running out of raw materials and food due to the war.*

*The oldest of the adverts down below dates back to January 31, 1874. In the 'Laupheimer Verkuendiger', Isidor Adler advertises his flour prices and recommends flour No. 2. At that time, guilders and kreutzer were still the*

common currency in Germany (fl = guilder, one guilder consisted of 60 kreutzer). The changeover to the new national currency, the Reichsmark, took place a few years after the foundation of the German Reich in 1871. The Reichsmark was introduced in the state of Wuerttemberg on July 1, 1875. One guilder was 1.75 Reichsmark.

### Mehlspreise

bei  
**Isidor Adler**

Nr. 1 fl. 13. 56.    Nr. 2 fl. 12. 44.  
 Nr. 3 fl. 11. 44.    Nr. 4 fl. 11.  
 Roggenmehl fl. 10. 12.

Ich mache namentlich auf das ver-  
 hältnismäßig sehr billige und wunder-  
 schöne Nr. 2 aufmerksam.  
 Hochachtungsvoll  
**Isidor Adler**

Für die Qualitätszigarette  
**„Der Steiger“**

hergestellt aus **reln oriental**.  
 Tabaken in Preislagen zu 3, 4  
 und 5 Pfg. ist mir für Laupheim  
 nebst grösserem Umkreis der

**Allein-  
 Grossverkauf**

übertragen worden.  
 Die würzige Qualität dieser  
 Cigarette sichert Wiederverkäu-  
 fern **großen** Absatz.

**Isidor Adler**  
 Laupheim                      Telephon 4.

Im Laufe nächster Woche trifft ein  
**Waggon erstklassiges  
 Weizenanzugsmehl**

●●

ein. Aufträge zu äußerst günstigen Preisen  
 nimmt entgegen  
**Isidor Adler, Telefon 4.**

**La Relda Nr. 10**  
 eine kleine hochfeine  
**Qualitäts-Zigarre**

zu **10** Pfg.  
 empfiehlt  
**Isidor Adler.**

**La Relda Nr. 10**  
 eine kleine hochfeine  
**Qualitäts-Zigarre**

zu **10** Pfg.  
 empfiehlt  
**Isidor Adler.**

Nr. 5

Im Laufe nächster Woche trifft ein  
**Waggon erstklassiges  
 Weizenanzugsmehl**

●●

ein. Aufträge zu äußerst günstigen Preisen  
 nimmt entgegen  
**Isidor Adler, Telefon 4.**

**Kälbermehl**

wieder zu haben bei  
**Isidor Adler, Laupheim.**  
 Telefon 4.

The 'high holidays' in autumn start with the traditional Jewish new year festivities of Rosh Hashanah, which fall on a different date each year. Rosh Hashanah is then followed by the most important Jewish holiday, Yom Kippur; after that, Sukkoth is celebrated. The high holidays come to an end with the celebration of Simchat Torah. Should New Year and Yom Kippur fall on a workday, Jewish shops would remain closed, as was the case in 1903 and 1924.

Wegen der hohen

**isr. Feiertage**

bleiben die Geschäfte der Unterzeichneten  
am **Dienstag den 22. Sept.** und am  
**Donnerstag den 1. Okt.** geschlossen.

**Jsidor Adler,**  
**D. M. Einstein,**  
**Emanuel Einstein,** Drechsler,  
**Moritz Einstein,** Kürschner,  
**David Hofheimer,**  
**Albert Höchstetter,**  
**Seligmann Höchstetter,**  
**E. Heumann,** Kleidergeschäft,  
**S. Heumann,** Schuhhandlung,  
**Witwe Heilbronner,** Seifenfiederei.

**Hoher Festtage wegen**

bleiben unsere Geschäftsräume  
am **Montag,** den 29. September und  
**Mittwoch,** den 8. Oktober  
**geschlossen.**

**Jsidor Adler,** Kolonialwaren,  
**D. M. Einstein,** Kaufhaus,  
**R. Hofheimer & Co.,** Manufakturwaren.

*Some of the companies who had put their adverts in the 'Laupheimer Verkuendiger' in 1903 did not exist anymore in 1924, such as a tailor's shop called Hoechstetter, or Einstein, a turner's workshop. Other companies chose not to close their shops on the special holidays mentioned above.*