



The factory employed 70 workers, whose products were sold world-wide. Sally Goldmann was involved in many areas of public life in the town, as a member of the trade association, as board of the small Jewish community and as the donor of an honorary award on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the men's singing society.

During National Socialism the company suffered from increasing "Aryanization" pressure. Jewish businesses were boycotted, sales declined and business partners withdrew more and more. Thus Sally Goldmann was forced to close the business in September 1938. In November 1938, the family left Oberursel, the town where they had worked and lived for more than 40 years.

7) **Pharmagans** • Ludwig Wilhelm von Gans came from a well-known Jewish family and was born in Frankfurt am Main in 1869 as the youngest son of the manufacturer Fritz Gans, co-founder of Cassella Farbwerke. Ludwig von Gans founded his own chemical company, Pharmagans, in 1897, which was initially based in Frankfurt am Main. Later Gans moved its headquarters to Zimmersmühlenweg 21 in Oberursel. The successful company produced serums for vaccines and insulin, among other things.

The manufacturer also distinguished himself socially. In 1910, Ludwig von Gans and his family moved to the villa on Kestenhöhe in Oberursel. He became well known in the Taunus town for his involvement in local politics.

The Gans family's time in Oberursel came to an end in 1928. The company went bankrupt and the villa was sold. The background to this was probably a lost patent dispute between the company and the Cassella Werke, respectively IG Farben. Ludwig von Gans returned to his birthplace Frankfurt am Main and later emigrated to Switzerland.

One and a half years after his release from the Theresienstadt ghetto, Ludwig von Gans died on October 19, 1946.



## Off to the Taunus!

Oberursel is known as the town of the mills. Around 40 mills lined the Urselbach from the Hohemark at the foot of the Taunus to the mouth of the river Nidda. During the industrialization from the middle of the 19th century, many of the mills developed into industrial operations due to their favorable sites. The development of the infrastructure promoted industrialization and vice versa.

The newly established industrial companies were often built by wealthy non-Oberursel residents.

Apart from the favorable location an advertising campaign of the District Administrator Ritter von Marx attracted entrepreneurs and private individuals to the edge of the Taunus, including a number of Jewish industrialists. This advertising campaign was promoted with the slogan: "Undertaking to increase the traffic and the promotion of settlement of the southern Taunus". Little is known about the fate of the Jewish industrialists. Due to the persecution during the National Socialist era the Jewish entrepreneurs had to give up their businesses, were forced to emigrate or became victims of the Holocaust. As a result, they were forgotten. This flyer aims to bring them back to awareness and to remember them.




- For further reading, among other things:**
- Rieber, Angelika: Wir bleiben hier! Lebenswege Oberurseler Familien jüdischer Herkunft, Frankfurt 2004
  - Rieber, Angelika und Laeuen, Eberhard: „Haltet mich in gutem Gedenken“. Erinnerung an Oberurseler Opfer des Nationalsozialismus, Oberursel 2015
  - „Hier ruht eine tüchtige Frau, Krone des Hauses, gottesfürchtig, lauter und aufrecht“. Der jüdische Friedhof in Oberursel, hrsg: Angelika Rieber und Lothar Tetzner, Oberursel 2020
  - Rieber, Angelika u.a.: Jüdische Mühlenbesitzer und Industrielle in Oberursel, in: Mitteilungen des Vereins für Geschichte und Heimatkunde Oberursel, Heft 54, 2015
  - [https://www.ursella.info/obu\\_in\\_han/files/Neubronner\\_Buch\\_01\\_03\\_014\\_fin.pdf](https://www.ursella.info/obu_in_han/files/Neubronner_Buch_01_03_014_fin.pdf) • <https://www.neubronner.de/de/>



Information about regular guided tours on the traces of Jewish life in Oberursel and the Jewish cemetery can be found on the website of the town of Oberursel and at: <http://www.gcjz-hochtaunus.de/>

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## Along the mill trail Jewish mill owners and industrialists in Oberursel

 Gesellschaft für  
 Christlich-Jüdische Zusammenarbeit  
 Hochtaunus e.V.



**1) Berger company** • Many older Oberursel residents were still familiar with the company Ignaz Berger OHG at Kupferhammer in Oberursel. Louis Rambeau and Jacob Jandorf founded a synthetic wool factory on the site of a former grinding mill in 1857. Ignaz Berger and Ferdinand Lissa took over the factory in 1902, followed by their sons Alfred Berger and Paul Lissa.

Popularly known as the „Lumpensortieranstalt“ [sorting rags place], in 1915 the company advertised itself as a manufacturer of wrapping and tissue paper and as a specialist for sorting artificial wool. Among other things, the company produced raw products such as mattress wool, wadding and rag wool. In addition to old clothes, „rags“, especially fabric remnants from tailoring businesses were processed.



During the National Socialist era, the company was boycotted and came under increasing pressure. The company was finally sold to the Neuss Paper and Parchment Factory on April 13, 1937.

Alfred Berger emigrated to Palestine in the summer of 1939. His business partner Paul Lissa was arrested on November 16, 1938 and deported to Dachau concentration camp, where he died two weeks later.

During the Second World War, foreign forced laborers from Eastern Europe were housed in a camp on the company premises.

**2) Neubronner company** • In the second half of the 19th century, the pharmacist Wilhelm Neubronner developed the first gumming machine for producing adhesive plasters. In 1905, his son, Dr. Julius Neubronner, a passionate photographer, founded a “factory for wet and dry adhesive papers” in Kronberg, which -among other things- produced black adhesive strips for glass plates of slides.

In 1934 his son Carl Neubronner moved the production to Oberursel. Since his mother’s family was Jewish, Carl had to

do forced labor as a „half-Jew“ in the Derenburg camp in 1945. As a former persecutee, he was commissioned by the Allies to rebuild the German rubber industry.

His company still exists today. It develops and produces machines for the production of adhesives and adhesive tapes. „We stick together - paper and glue as a connecting element“, is one of the slogans of the company in Neubronnerstraße in Oberursel, named after the company founders.

**3) Oberursel scythe factory** •

Together with Adolf Gregory Franz Walter Nassauer (born in Mainz in 1889) had been owner of the company „Sensenwerke“ (Scythe Factory) in Hohemarkstraße 42 since 1910. This is the site of the church of St. Hedwig’s parish today.

The company was one of the few factories in Germany that produced scythes and sickles. The scythes produced in Oberursel were sold in Germany and abroad. The permanent staff came from Tyrol, the Rhineland and the Black Forest. On the grounds of the factory simple workers’ apartments were located.

After the National Socialists came to power in 1933, problems arose with the allocation of raw materials, which had to do with the rearmament of Germany and the fact that Walter Nassauer was of Jewish origin.



In 1938, the businessman was forced to sell his company shares due to increasing „Aryanization“ pressure. Walter and Anneliese Nassauer left Germany in September 1938. The entrepreneur was no longer able to regain a professional foothold in the USA. He died in 1942 at the age of 62.

**4) Motorenfabrik** • The Motorenfabrik Oberursel (abbreviated to MO) was founded in 1892 on the site of the Wiemersmühle in Oberursel as „W. Seck & Co“, branch of the „Mühlenbauanstalt Gebrüder Seck & Co.“ The stationary engine GNOM was produced here with great success.

In 1900, under director Blumenthal, the 2,000th GNOM was completed and celebrated, the workforce had tripled. The interest in the Oberursel engines was so great that Kaiser Wilhelm II paid a 45-minute visit to the MO on November 22, 1900. At the beginning of the 20th century, MO became the second largest manufacturer of motorized locomotives in Germany. In 1896, the company was

transformed into a limited liability company, and two years later into a stock corporation, the „Motorenfabrik Oberursel Actien-Gesellschaft“ (MO AG). As the first director of the Motorenwerke, Elkan (Elik) Henry Blu-

menthal had a significant influence on the company. Blumenthal left the company in 1915. He died on August 28, 1938 in Frankfurt and is buried in the Jewish cemetery in Frankfurt.

Since 1921, MO had cooperated with the company Deutz AG, and in 1930 the engine factory was merged into Humboldt Deutz Motoren AG (KHD), thus becoming the „Oberursel plant“. From 1941, the company worked on the development of large aircraft engines. In 1990 a new era began with the company BMW Rolls-Royce AeroEngines.

**5) Herzfeld’s mill** • The Jewish merchant Wolf Herzfeld was one of the Oberursel mill owners. Numerous graves of members of the Herzfeld family in the Jewish cemetery in Altkönigstraße bear witness to the close connection with the history of Oberursel.



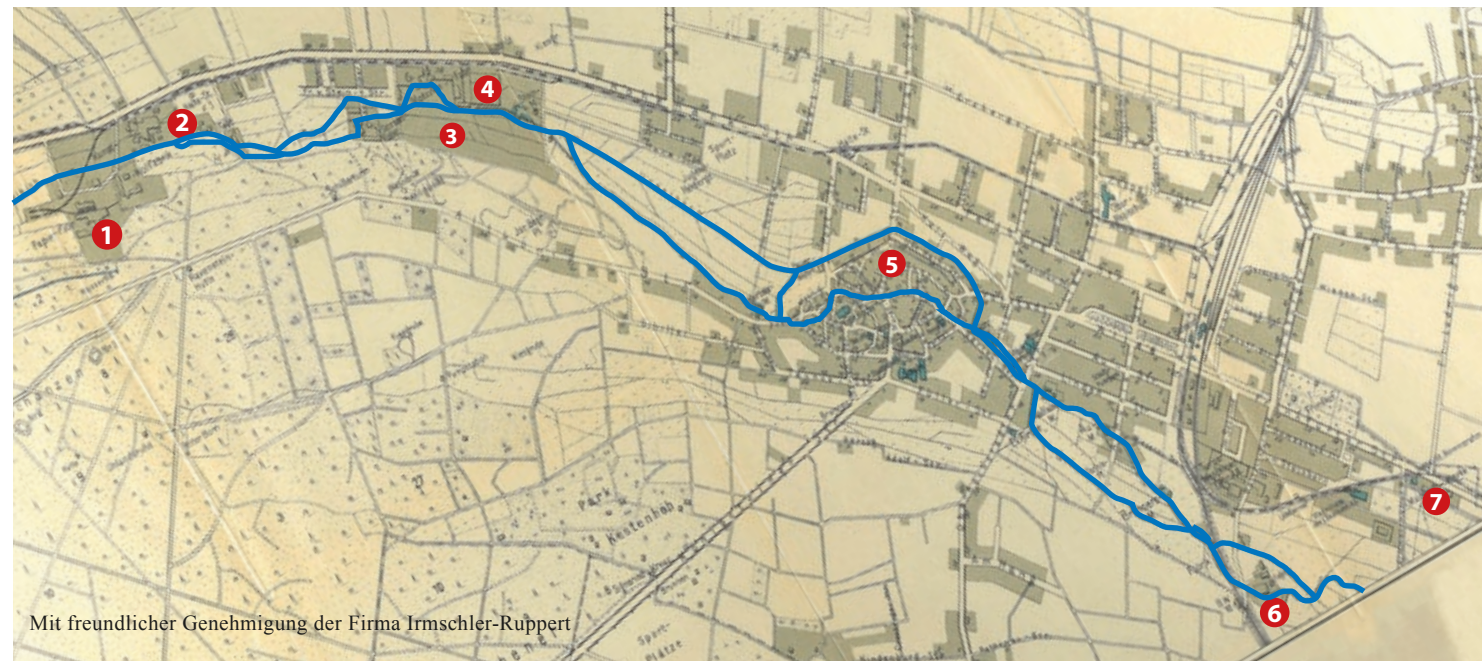
In 1855 Wolf Herzfeld (1825-1883), one of the seven children of the merchant Heymann (Chajim) Herzfeld, bought a house on the

corner of Oberursel’s Weidengasse and Schlenkergasse, known as “Spangsche” mill, and operated a grinding mill there.

Temporarily, Wolf Herzfeld owned another grinding mill at Hohemarkstraße 98, the later Menges oil mill, which he sold again in 1864.

For two decades, he served as an elder of the community and held honorary offices; for example, as a member of the state parliament and an alderman in his district and hometown. His two sons, Siegfried and Hermann, later moved to Frankfurt am Main. While Siegfried Herzfeld’s children managed to flee to the USA and Switzerland, his daughter-in-law Clara and his granddaughter Rosi became victims of the Shoa.

**6) Goldmann & Jamin** • Sally Goldmann came from Zeil/Main. In 1894, the young businessman became the owner of the umbrella cane and wooden goods factory Goldmann & Jamin in Oberursel. He bought a plot of land in Gattenhöferweg, on which he built a new factory. The company produced „luxury gallantry articles, finely polished, lacquered and carved, such as photography frames, mirrors, etagères, tables, smoking sets etc., as well as umbrella handles, lacquered and carved“.



Mit freundlicher Genehmigung der Firma Irmschler-Ruppert