

Leviseur Family of Bloemfontein By Amanda Jermyn

Isaac Baumann and his wife Caroline Allenberg, both from Germany, lived in Bloemfontein. They had 11 children: Joseph, Alexander, Bertha, Sophie, Gustav, Helene, Alfred Moritz, Herbert James, Jeannette, David Louis and Carl Otto.



Sophie Baumann married **Moritz Leviseur**, so all their Leviseur family are related to the Baumanns. Moritz's wife Sophie became the Grand Dame of Bloemfontein, presiding over a family of nine children and living till 104. Her memoir, 'Memories', her novella 'Ouma Looks Back', and her Boer War diaries are of historic interest, with copies housed in the Bloemfontein War Museum. The Boer War diaries of her daughters **Elsa** and **Clara** are housed there too. **Sophie Leviseur** was a suffragette and founder of the Bloemfontein Jewish Benevolent Society and the Child Welfare Society. She was also a member of the National Museum Commission. Her daughter **Elsa** was a talented musician, singer, composer and playwright. She married English solicitor **Henry Montefiore Cohen** and moved to London.

Daughter Clara was a suffragette and playwright, known for her play 'The Voortrekkers' Dream'. She married **Isidor Douglas Abrahamson**. Sophie and Moritz Leviseur's son **Ivan Leviseur** was a land surveyor in Fauresmith and Wepener who fought for the Boers and was injured during the Boer War. Another son, **Max Leviseur**, invented a long-life battery and sold the idea to the battery company Exide. Sophie's daughter **Josephine** married **Reginald van Breda Pritchard**, a physician and the last United Party MP for Bloemfontein. Sons **Ernest, Alfred and Herbert Leviseur** were eminent physicians. Herbert qualified at Guy's Hospital in London, practiced in Honeydew, Transvaal, and for a while was a ship's doctor for the Union Castle line. In addition, he wrote and published children's stories, as well as short novels in Afrikaans. The youngest son, **Wilfred (Billie) Leviseur** ran his father's business after Moritz passed away.



The Leviser boys: Ivan, Billy, Dad Moritz, Alf, Max and Herbie



The Leviser Girls: Elsa, Francis, Josie and Clara



MISS ELSA LEVISEUR.

The Charming Young Singer and Composer from the Orange River Colony. Miss Levisseur was the heroine of the "Miss Bloemfontein" episode, which is described in the late Julian Ralph's book on the Boer War.



Moritz and Sophie and their daughter Elsa a talented musician, singer, composer and playwright. She married English solicitor **Henry Montefiore Cohen** and moved to London.



Sophie Levisieur's 80th birthday 18-11-1947

Back: Reg, Josie, Kit, Herbie, Clara,
Billie, Wilf, Dick, Frances, Moritz, Tony
Middle: Max, Sophie, Ivan
Front: Shirley, Margaret Hill

South Africa - Ouma Sophie Levisieur
aged 100

Halévy House Hotel



HALEVY HOUSE HOTEL

Has the largest collection of Bloemfontein photographs for the period 1860-1928. This collection is open to the general public.

HALEVY HOUSE HOTEL

Besit ook die grootste versameling Bloemfontein foto's vir die tydperk 1860-1928, wat vir die publiek algemeen toeganklik is.



LEVEUR'S RESTAURANT

Restored to its late Victorian elegance, the restaurant offers an intimate and sumptuous atmosphere. Continental and full English breakfasts are served, with an A la Carte menu for lunch and dinner. Open from 7 a.m. to midnight.

DIE RESTAURANT

Herstel tot sy vorige Viktoriaanse swier bied 'n intieme weelderige atmosfeer. Kontinentale en volledige Suid-Afrikaanse ontbyt word bedien, met 'n A la carte spyskaart vir middag- en aandete. Oop vanaf 7 v.m. tot middernag.