Summary of Research on Families: Schwabe, Wolff, Sykes, etc.
David Man, New York City, August 2002.

This document resides on the internet as an electronic file at a web site that contains genealogical and biographical information on a family called Schwabe, as well as others such as Wolff, May, and Sykes, etc.¹ It is intended to summarize the point in the research reached as of August 2002. Some of the information contained here is repeated elsewhere on the web site.

In 2001 a number of breakthroughs occurred. First, three ‘branches’ of the Schwabe family, all of whom are descended from a putative Benjamin Schwabe were ‘re-united’ after probably a hundred years of separation. Second, we ‘dis-united’ ourselves from a family, also known as Schwabe, whose history and background were so similar to our own that, for a time, it certainly looked like the same family. Thanks to the work of James Albisetti, Professor of History at the University of Kentucky, we now know better and acknowledge the fact that the family of Salis and Julie Schwabe is not related to that of Benjamin’s. Professor Albisetti has also provided information on the descendants of the latter, which has proved very useful and which is included here.

First, I would like to summarize the ‘re-union’ of the various descendants of Benjamin Schwabe brought about by Janet Barnes. A ‘genealogical report’ called ‘Descendants of Benjamin Schwabe’ can be accessed from the Schwabe family web site and will help in following the discussion. We have no evidence that Benjamin is the name of the brother’s father, however we will use it for now until his identity has been established.² So far as is known to date, only the descendants of Benjamin’s two sons Philipp Benjamin [P.B.] and Samson Benjamin [S.B.] are extant today.

On the P.B. side, there is one surviving branch through his daughter Fanny Schwabe who married Moritz Wolf. Their daughter Ida married Thomas May and they had seven children. Of these seven only one, as far as we know, has descendants – those of Eleanor May. Thus finding more descendants of P. B.’s is a challenge. Much of the genealogical information on the descendants of Phillip Benjamin comes from the Hamburg state archives and in particular a typed up genealogy dated 23 February 1938. This document was probably produced to prove how long one's ancestors had been non-Jews according to Nazi definitions.
Like his brother Philipp, Samson Benjamin had at least three sons: Leopold, Louis, and Stephan. The Louis branch kept in touch with Fanny’s over the years, but lost touch with Stephan’s descendants. One of Fanny’s grandchildren, Evelyn May, married one of Louis’ grandchildren — Gustav Louis Schwabe. Of Louis’ descendants today, we have information on only those descended through his eldest grandson Henry Thackeray Schwabe. Henry’s younger brother Clifford also had children, Betty and Maud, but we have little information on that branch, so far. Thus the branches of Fanny (daughter of Philipp) and of Louis (son of Samson) kept in contact, but those of Stephan (son of Samson) was lost touch with until recently. Now, thanks to Janet Barnes (a Stephan descendant) a re-union of sorts has taken place and the connection to Stephan has been re-established. The existence of Stephan and his 15 (!) children was known because most of the children’s christenings can be found online at the International Genealogical Index (IGI). However, the evidence needed to make the connection with the other branches of the Schwabe family was unavailable until supplied by Janet Barnes. Probably, the most well known person on the Stephan Schwabe side is Janet’s grandfather Randolph Schwabe. Although most of those on the Fanny and Louis side knew of Randolph’s existence and his work as an artist, we were unaware of the relationship.

The second major development has arisen out of James Albisetti’s research on Julie and Salis Schwabe. It was, and still may be, a common belief among many researchers that the Julie and Salis Schwabe family was somehow related to the descendants of Benjamin Schwabe’s. Most assumed that Salis was a brother of Philipp and Samson’s. It is not surprising that such a mistake was made as it certainly looked like the same family. Both left Germany for England at the start of the nineteenth century, both established large and successful textile mills in Manchester, both joined Unitarian chapels (Salis’ family at Upper Brook Street and Louis’ at Cross Street), etc. Not only have outside scholars confused the two families, even family members have made the same assumption; for instance one of Stephan Schwabe’s descendants, Eric Anthony, signed his own marriage certificate Eric Anthony Salis Schwabe, in the mistaken belief that he and the original were related!

In 2002 James Albisetti published a paper ‘The Inevitable Schwabes’ in which he summarizes the lives of Julie and Salis and in so doing solves the confusion by clearly demonstrating that the two families’ origins in Germany are not the same. Although Hamburg features in both families, Julie and Salis trace their roots to Oldenburg, while Philipp and Samson trace theirs to Dessau. (See ‘Appendix One’ for Albisetti’s commentary.)
Julie and Salis lived interesting lives being on terms with such figures as: Florence Nightingale, Richard Cobden, Thomas Carlyle, Elizabeth Gaskell, Ary Schefer, Garibaldi, etc. In Wagner’s biography he describes how he thought that money he had received from Julie (5,000 francs) when he was living in Paris in 1860 was a gift and the great shock he experienced when he found out she considered it a loan. This may explain why it took her five years to recover, including sending the police to his flat to remove his furniture.

But Julie is not the only reference to a Schwabe that Wagner makes in his biography, he also disparaged the relationship that his wife Minna once had with a ‘merchant Schwabe’, before he (Wagner) married her. He seems to have caught Minna with letters from this Schwabe which added to his general contempt of her, etc. (the extract from the biography needs to be retrieved). Professor Albisetti has supplied the following observation on ‘the merchant Schwabe’:

‘I looked again at Wagner's My Life and discovered the comments about Schwabe and Wagner's first wife Minna, which seem to date from 1836 or 1837. I strongly suspect that the individual involved is the Jewish merchant given permission to settle in Berlin on 23 June 1836, named Louis Schwabe, formerly a merchant in Magdeburg, who was a wholesale silk dealer at Bruekerstrasse 37. He was born in Dessau on 12 April 1806; he had become a Buerger of Magdeburg in 1831 and had obtained a patent of naturalization (?I guess as a Prussian) in 1834. His father's name was Benjamin Berend Schwabe; he was in Magdeburg in 1836. All this information comes from Jacob Jacobson, Die Judenburgerbuecher der Stadt Berlin, 1809-1851 (Berlin: De Gruyter, 1962), p. 306. This is one of the series of publications by the Historische Kommission in Berlin. So he clearly looks like one of "yours" [i.e. related to Benjamin], though the link to Philipp or Samson Benjamin Schwabe is not clear.’

The source that Albisetti cites here (Jacob Jacobson, Die Judenburgerbuecher der Stadt Berlin…) also includes two other individuals named Schwabe who were born in Dessau and who were given the right to settle in Berlin, a Johanna who married Aron Abraham Fuhrmann in 1843, and a Heinrich in 1846. The question arises: how, if at all, are these Dessau Schwabes related to Benjamin? Could the famous son of Dessau, Samuel Heinrich Schwabe, the astronomer be a candidate for inclusion among those who are related here?

In 1819, Philipp Benjamin, left the Jewish community in Hamburg and the family became Lutheran from that point on. In the Birth Registers at the Hamburg Staats Archiv, Philipp Benjamin and five of his children are grouped together in 1819, which is the time of their christenings not their births. The youngest son, Hermann Heinrich, was born in 1816 and christened in 1818. According to the February 1938 genealogical file on the Schwabes, the mother of these children, Rosalie Marie Levy, was baptized in May
1820. Thus the process of ‘Christianization’ covers a number of years. I have a note somewhere that Rosalie was a widow when she married Philipp and that she had two children from her first marriage.

In the records of the Jewish community, there is also listed the dues paid by Philipp Benjamin from 1814 through 1819, beginning at 400 (Marks, courants) per year in 1814 and 1815, then 1816 and 1817 at 334, and then 1818 and 1819 at 374. There is also an explicit note that he left the community in 1819. Was he taxed out of his religion? (The information for this paragraph was supplied by James Albisetti.)

As to the descendants of Samson who moved to England we know very little about how and when their conversion took place. All Stephan’s children were christened at the Anglican Cathedral in Manchester. On the other hand, Louis II’s family were all baptized as Unitarians, a quite common path taken by those leaving the Jewish community. Among the material supplied by Janet Barnes is a note of the baptisms listed under the name Schwabe at the Cross Street Unitarian Chapel in Manchester. Apart from Louis II’s children, Leopold, the son of Samson Benjamin, is also listed as baptized in 1836. The Cross Street Unitarian chapel was closely associated with William Gaskell, the novelist Elizabeth’s husband. The “other” Schwabes, Salis and Julie were on quite familiar social terms with William and Elizabeth Gaskell, but unlike Louis’ family they did not attend William’s Cross Street chapel. Louis II’s family donated thirty-one guineas to the scholarship fund established in 1878 to mark William Gaskell’s fifty years at Cross Street and Louis’ brother, Charles, gave two guineas to this fund.

Louis II’s association with the Cross Street chapel is not surprising, however a book published in 1903 by a man named Guy Thorne called ‘When it was Dark’ is. The book tells the tale of a successful Jewish merchant living in Manchester, a German immigrant, called Schwabe (or Schuabe depending on which edition) who is a Unitarian and who undertakes a devilish plot to destroy Christianity! How does Schwabe intend to do this? Simple. A message, in the form of a clay tablet, will be discovered by a renowned archeologist in a tomb among the hills above Jerusalem. The message is from Joseph of Arimathea, admitting that he, Joseph, stole the body of Christ and hid it in this same tomb. So that when the disciples thought that Christ had risen from the dead, they were victims of a well-meant deception by Joseph of Arimathea. There had been no Resurrection. The body had merely been secretly transferred from one tomb to another. The entire Christian world had been the victim of this hoax. Schwabe manages to get the leading archeologist from the British Museum to authenticate the message by not only paying him a lot of money but also threatening to reveal the expert’s adulterous
relationship. As a result of the finding all hell breaks out mainly in terms of assaults on women by bands of rampaging men.

It is matter of debate as to whether Thorne was aware of the Manchester Schwabes, and if so which one(s) he may have had in mind. If he was aware, then it is unlikely to have been Salis since Guy Thorne lived from 1876-1923. Salis died in 1853, Louis I died in 1845, but Louis II not until 1922. Also, the Louis family was more closely associated with Manchester and Unitarianism than the Salis lot, most of whom had moved to London toward the end of the nineteenth century, while Louis II died at Manchester. The villain of the piece is called Constantine Schwabe (one of Louis’ daughters was baptized Constance but this may be stretching things). Who exactly Thorne had in mind when he created the devilish character of Constantine Schwabe we will never know. In 1973 Claude Cockburn, the British journalist, wrote an interesting article on this novel (‘The Horror of it all’). A heavily edited version of this article can be found here: http://www.manfamily.org.

Not only were the two Schwabe families members of the same Unitarian congregation, Albisetti has also noted that Gustav Christian Schwabe (P.B.’s son) contributed to the school that Julie established in Naples, Italy. Thus the two Schwabe families were aware of each other.

It is interesting to note that Louis Schwabe (Louis I) suffered a most terrible death by drinking poison. The notice of this event appeared in the Gentleman’s Magazine, Volume XXIII, February 1845, p. 218:

“**At Manchester, Louis Schwabe, a celebrated manufacturer of figured silks by the jacquard loom. He died from taking poison, and the act is ascribed to the loss of a valued relative, Louis Schwabe produced the silk that went to make the wedding dress of Queen Victoria.**” (See also Appendix Three for another article on Louis’ suicide that appeared later in the Gentleman’s Magazine).

Professor Albisetti has also supplied the following more detailed account of Louis’ death taken from the Manchester Guardian of 15 January 1845, p. 4, col. 5:

“We regret to announce the death of Mr. Louis Schwabe, of this town, the eminent silk-manufacturer and embroiderer by machinery, under circumstances of a peculiarly distressing character. On Friday forenoon last he returned home from the mill in a cab, and stated that he was very ill. He was promptly attended by Mr. Ransome, surgeon, who being in the immediate neighborhood, was instantly on the spot, and who sent for Mr. Turner and Dr. Lyon. They saw from the symptoms that Mr. Schwabe was suffering under the influence of some powerful poison. Notwithstanding all the aid that medical science and skill could give, however, the unfortunate gentleman lingered in great suffering only till
half-past seven on Saturday morning, when he expired. An inquest was held at his residence, Plymouth Grove, on Monday last, before Mr. Chapman, borough coroner, a respectable jury, when it appeared, that having obtained from a dyer at his works some sulphuric acid, for the purpose, as he said, of making some experiment with it (which he had frequently done before), he had taken a quantity of this corrosive poison. We understand that on Wednesday last, intelligence reached Mr. Schwabe of the death of his father, at Dessau, in Germany, and this circumstance evidently produced very considerable effect upon him, and probably led to the distressing event. Under these circumstances, after hearing the evidence, the jury returned an unanimous verdict to the effect that the fatal act was committed while the deceased was labouring under temporary insanity.”

In the early 1830’s, the marriage of Stephan Schwabe to Eliza Sykes was also a commercial union of sorts, since around the time of their marriage the firm of Sykes Schwabe of Liverpool was created of which Gustav Christian Schwabe was a major shareholder and partner. This company not only connected the Sykes and Schwabe families it was also partnered with a firm known as John Dugdale; John being Gustav Schwabe’s father-in-law.

In 1834, Sykes-Schwabe joined with a company called Edward Boustead in Singapore. My father, Frank Man (1914 -1986) worked his entire life in the Far East for Edward Boustead and Co., thus continuing a tradition that is in part summarized in the diagram below. Edward Boustead had wanted to marry one of the Schwabes. I recall a somewhat ugly silver bowl in my parents’ possession, which was said to have been given by Edward Boustead to a Schwabe female as an early gift in hope that it might lead to marriage, but it did not.

A reference to the Boustead – Schwabe connection is also mentioned in a letter from Randolph Schwabe’s brother Eric Anthony Schwabe, who spent most of his life in the Far East. Eric suggests that when Randolph’s daughter Alice visited him in China in 1934, she was the fourth generation of Schwabe to do so: “Schwabe, Boustead, & Sykes
began it in Singapore (the firm surviving as Boustead & Co.), Robert [Randolph and Eric Schwabe’s uncle, born 1841] came next just after Shanghai was opened, his firm of Sykes, Schwabe still surviving, records and all, as Probst, Hamburg and Co.”

The above diagram taken from Stanley Chapman’s book ‘Merchant Enterprise in Britain’ is in fact only partly accurate. Salis Schwabe & Co. was not involved with the formation of Sykes, Schwabe & Co. and that what should appear in the top left of the diagram is probably just Schwabe & Co., the company founded by Philipp Benjamin [?]. Salis Schwabe did not set up in business in Manchester until 1832-33.  

A further mention of Sykes, Schwabe & Co. can be found in the book ‘Rathbones of Liverpool’ by Sheila Marriner and published in 1961. Referring to the situation in China which in the mid-nineteenth century was quite lawless she writes: ‘Throughout 1851 the battle between non-smugglers and smugglers continued, Rathbone & Co joined Sykes, Schwabe and Co (and others) to petition the consul ... to try to control smugglers. In 1853 Rathbone’s agent in China W.S. Brown suggested that “in Shanghai only Sykes Schwabe and Co and Reiss and Co were equally careful to deal honestly with the Chinese” regarding prompt and accurate payment Ca. 1850 “Sykes Schwabe and Co was the only house regularly buying bills” in Shanghai i.e. in essence serving as a currency broker.’ [This paragraph is based on an email message from James Albisetti to me dated 21, August 2001.]. Gustav C. Schwabe was a partner not only in Sykes-Schwabe, but also junior partner with John Bibby’s shipping line company. (see extract from Moss and Hume ‘Shipbuilders to the World’). (Gustav Wolff also owned property in Shanghai, according to his will.)

Two or three of Stephan’s descendants also married members of the Ermen family. Fredricka Schwabe married Henry Ermen while her brother Lawrence Schwabe, father of Randolph, married Octavia Ermen whose father shared ownership of a cotton factory with the father of Frederick Engels of Marx-Engels fame. Engels was sent to Manchester by his father in 1842 as agent for the Manchester partnership, Ermen and Engels, of Pendleton.  

Some passing references can be found in German sources to the Schwabes. For instance, following the advice of Professor Albisetti, I found a reference in Monika Richarz, Juedisches Leben in Deutschland: Selbstzeugnisse zur Sozialgeschichte, 1780-1871 (1976), which includes the memoirs of a Samuel Meier Ehrenburg and who makes a brief reference to a Louis Schwabe. Unfortunately, my German is not good enough to provide an adequate translation, but one will be provided.
There is also one reference to Samson Benjamin on pp. 16-17, in a pamphlet by Ludwig Horowitz 'Die Emanzipation der Juden in Anhalt-Dessau. Aktenmässige Darstellung' and 'Geschichte der herzoglichen Franzschule in Dessau, 1799-1849'. According to Horowitz, Samson Benjamin appears as one of three “elders” who appealed to the Duke of Anhalt Dessau in 1809 to allow boys who had gone through the Jewish Free School there to enter Christian guilds. [Information supplied to me by James Albisetti].

One more point, on 27 September 1654 at the parish church of St Mary, Hambleden George Man (a direct ancestor of the Man family) married Jane Saunders. Jane’s grandfather, John Saunders, had on 14 February 1604 married a Susannah D’Oyley. At the time the D’Oyleys were big in Buckinghamshire and their family seat was known as Yewden Manor. The following is extracted from a pamphlet produced by the Henley-on-Thames Historical Society about the history of Yewden Manor:

“In 1871 Yewden Manor had been rented from W. H. Smith by an interesting character named Gustav Schwabe, who continued to live there until his death in 1897. He was born in Hamburg in 1813 and was a prominent patron of the arts in his day, eventually leaving his collection of pictures to his native city. He gathered about him at Yewden a number of artists known as the "St. John’s Wood Clique", many of them Royal Academicians. (They included G. D. Leslie, P. H. Calderon, W. F. Calderon, C. B. Stoney, J. E. Hodgson, H. T. Wells and W. F. Yeames). Schwabe, although only a tenant, not only added the south wing and a portion of the centre (indicated by the lower line of the roof) to the Manor House, but also built a number of flint and brick cottages in the village. After Schwabe’s death in 1897, a there was a succession of tenants which brings us up to 1953.”

Below is Yewden Manor. Gustav Schwabe also lived at No 19 Kensington Palace Gardens, London.

This then summarizes the state of knowledge on the Schwabe family as of July 2002. I have not included everything. There is for example an interesting theory about the development of modern taste by the Professor of History at Yale, Peter Gay in his book ‘Pleasure Wars’ where he presents a series of individuals whose taste he claims played the greatest influence on forming Victorian bourgeois sensibilities, among whom he includes ‘A German wool dealer resident in London’ (p. 181) who it turns out is Gustav Schwabe.
Since the criterion for inclusion in this document is broad, i.e. any descendant of Benjamin’s qualifies, then we should note also the contribution of the Wolff family. Information has recently been supplied by the archivist at the Northern Ireland Public Records Office in the form of a summary of Wilhelm Wolff’s will. Among the recipients of Wolff’s will was Aileen Smiles who, it turns out, is the granddaughter of the Victorian thinker Samuel Smiles whose book ‘Self-help’ had a quite profound impact during the nineteenth century. The question then arose as to why Wolff bequeathed money to Aileen. A solution is contained in a biography written by Aileen of her grandfather Samuel published in 1956: ‘Samuel Smiles and his surroundings’.

Gustav Wolff not only helped found the shipbuilding firm Harland and Wolff, but he also was one of the founders, owners and directors of the largest rope-works in the world located in Belfast, and so too was Aileen’s father, Willy Smiles. What makes Aileen's book interesting from a Wolff/Schwabe perspective is that it is (so far) the only source that gives a ‘description’ of Fanny Schwabe and Moritz Wolff, albeit extremely fleeting, as follows:

“They (Mr. and Mrs. Samuels Smiles) usually stayed on the Continent for three months and when there would meet their friends and neighbors. It was almost as good as being at home. Gustave Wolff with his father and mother, “good kindly folk”; …” (p. 158).

The book makes some further very brief mentions of Wolff and these will be placed on the web site later. It is interesting that rope should have been one of Wolff’s interests. Hamburg was one of the leading rope making centers of Europe and the fact that Wolff established a rope works in Belfast suggests the possibility that the Wolff family may well have had an interest in that industry in Hamburg. More research is needed here.
List of Illustrations by page:

Page 1. Clara May, daughter of Fanny Maria Schwabe.
Page 2. Thomas May’s house Hamburg. (TM was Fanny’s son-in-law.)
Page 2. Georg Schwabe (Fanny’s brother).
Page 5. Robert Schwabe (Stephan’s third son).
Page 5. Gustave Louis Schwabe (Louis II’s son) and Evelyn May (Fanny’s grand
daughter).
Page 7. Gustave Christian Schwabe and his wife Helen Dugdale painted by Calderon
and can be found at the Hamburg Kunsthalle.
Page 7. Fanny Maria Schwabe
Page 8. Yewden Manor.

List of associated documents to be placed with this document on the Schwabe family web
site.

1. Gustav Wolff’s will
2. Extract from Moss and Hume’s ‘Shipbuilders to the World’
3. Extract from Jefferson’s ‘Viscount Pirrie of Belfast’ on Wolff
4. Extract from Smile’s ‘Harland’s Recollections’
5. Genealogical report: Descendants of Benjamin Schwabe.
APPENDIX ONE

The following is an extract from a published paper by Professor James Albisetti, entitled ‘The Inevitable Schwabes’ which discusses, for the most part, the reasons for the lack of recognition of the important roles played by Julie and Salis Schwabe in Victorian England. Towards the end of the paper he contributes one cause to the fact that those Schwabes have been confused with the descendants of Benjamin. I have added a few comments in square brackets [ ] and have edited out some sentences not relevant to our purposes. Here is what he writes:

Additional confusion has arisen from a frequent, if not inevitable, tendency to make several Schwabes into one or to assume that all people named Schwabe were closely related. As early as 1839, at the time of the Chartists’ ‘National Holiday,’ the Manchester & Salford Advertiser reported in an article about Middleton, which has recently been reprinted, that there was a walkout at the ‘print works of Messrs. Lewis [Louis] Schwabe and Co.,’ when it was clearly Salis’s factory being discussed … A recent study of the children’s hospital in Manchester has stated, ‘The Schwabe family who supported Dr. Merei owned, in 1839, a silk mill in Portland Street, Manchester,’ which was not true. 12 [That factory was Louis’ while the hospital was supported not by Louis but by Adolph Schwabe Salis’s brother-in-law] Business historian Stanley Chapman has added to the confusion by claiming that Salis Schwabe and Co. was in business in Manchester in 1816, that it later had partnerships ‘in Singapore, Manila, and other centers in the Far East,’ and that Salis was the uncle of the merchant and art collector Gustav Christian Schwabe.

[In Moss and Hume’s book: ‘Shipbuilders to the World: 125 years of Harland and Wolff, Belfast 1861-1986’ they say that: “It (the firm of Sykes-Schwabe) seems to have been involved in the merchancing of calico goods, produced by Schwabe’s uncle (Salis) and other Lancashire firms, and in importing raw cotton and silk.” Moss and Hume site Chapman as their source for this.]

Todd Endelmann, in his study of Jewish assimilation in modern Britain, mistakenly claims that the children of Salis Schwabe served as trustees of Cross Street Chapel ‘for many years.’ 13

These confusions stem at least in part from the fact that several Schwabes came to England after the Napoleonic Wars; they were, however, from at least two different extended families. The Scholes manuscript 14 lists two merchant firms established in Manchester in 1816, M. H. Schwabe and Gobert, the firm of Salis’s uncle, at 35 Princess Street, and P. B. Schwabe and Co. at 14 Pall Mall [i.e. Philipp Benjamin]. No one named M. H. Schwabe ever lived in Manchester, however; and it is not clear who the company’s agent was. 15

N. J. Frangopulo once wrote that P. B. Schwabe was a name that was ‘to become famous in early Victorian Manchester,’ but this appears to be another case of mistaken identities.
P. B. Schwabe, in fact, disappears from the Scholes manuscript as of 1830; thus he [P.B.] never lived in Victorian Manchester. The crucial clue to discovering who he was comes from the obituary in the Manchester Guardian of Leopold Schwabe, a merchant who had been born in Dessau in the German state of Anhalt in 1800 and lived in the suburban estate of Victoria Park from the early 1840s until his death in 1888. According to this source, ‘About 1820 he and his two brothers, Stephen and Louis (the latter subsequently a well-known silk and embroidery manufacturer in Portland Street) came to their uncle, then settled as a merchant in Manchester.’ The father of these three brothers was Samson (or Sampson) Benjamin Schwabe, who in 1809 was one of the elders of the Jewish community of Dessau. Their uncle was Philipp Benjamin Schwabe, whose own children included the merchant Gustav Christian Schwabe—who had been baptized as a Lutheran in Hamburg—and Fanny Schwabe Wolff, whose son [Wilhelm Gustav] would be one of the founders of Harland and Wolff shipbuilding firm. Gustav Christian Schwabe became a partner in Sykes, Schwabe of Liverpool, the merchant house with outposts in the Far East that Chapman misidentifies. Salis Schwabe from Oldenburg was clearly not an uncle of these Dessau Schwabes.

The three Schwabe brothers [Louis, Leopold, and Stephan] from Dessau did have interesting careers of their own. Louis (or, in some sources, ‘Lewis’), whose firm produced some of the material for Queen Victoria’s wedding dress, was the most prominent but shortest lived. He was an active member of the Mechanics Institute and, in 1838, was among those Manchester residents who started the School of Design, of which he later became the treasurer and a vice president. In 1841, he served on the council of the Royal Manchester Institution and of the Manchester Association for the Patronage of the Fine Arts. In January 1845, however, he killed himself by drinking poison. His son Louis later was a partner in the firm of Zill and Schwabe, and it was he who was long associated with Cross Street Chapel. In 1885, Louis’ brother Charles became a life member of the Lancashire and Cheshire Antiquarian Society; he appears in several issues of its Transactions. Leopold Schwabe was less prominent in public life. His obituary stated that he was ‘in no sense a public man. He closely and conscientiously stuck to his business, and was an excellent example of the older generation of German merchants.’ After the departure of his uncle, he went into business for himself in 1832, ‘trading with Russia, South America, and Algiers.’ In November 1835 he was christened as a Unitarian; nine days later he married Emma Frances Priestly at St. Peter’s in Leeds. From the time of the Crimean War to his retirement in 1860 he was in partnership with Carlos Chamberlain. Despite his general avoidance of public affairs, Leopold did donate to the fund for relief of Hamburg, which Louis did not do. It is not clear which ‘Mrs. L. Schwabe’ was, in mid-December 1841, a late addition to the Ladies Committee for the Anti-Corn Law League Bazaar.
Stephen (or Stephan), the youngest, was the least prominent in Manchester affairs; he, in fact, disappears and reappears several times from Scholes’ lists of foreign merchants before he settled in business on Brazennose Street in the late 1860s. Yet he appears to have lived continuously in Manchester: between 1834 and 1857 fifteen children of Stephen and Elizabeth Sykes Schwabe were christened as Anglicans at the Manchester Cathedral. The youngest of these, Lawrence, would become the father of the prominent artist Randolph Schwabe, who in 1930 was named Slade Professor of Fine Art at University College, London.\footnote{21}

More difficult to explain than these many misidentifications of the Schwabes is their absence from numerous historical accounts where one would expect to find them. Neither appears in the seventeen volumes of \textit{Manchester Faces and Places} published between 1889 and 1906. They are also missing from the five volumes on \textit{Manchester Streets and Manchester Men} produced by Thomas Swindells in the following year.\footnote{22} What accounts for this continuing neglect of individuals so well known in their own time? ….. More important, perhaps, is the general neglect of immigrants in many of the recent studies of the Victorian middle classes—many scholars have found it difficult to conceive of the kind of assimilation to the English bourgeoisie that the Schwabes so clearly achieved. Also, the Schwabes’ ambiguous position as religious converts has certainly contributed to their being neglected. Bill Williams does, for example, discuss them briefly in his study of Manchester Jewry; but since they were never members of the local synagogue, his sources do not provide much information. Neither were they typical Unitarians: several of their children married in the Anglican Church, none, as far as can be determined, in a Unitarian chapel.
I have recently tied the following threads together: Among the newspaper entries for deaths noted by Sir Thomas Colyer-Ferguson under the name Schwabe is the following:


Cecil Langshaw Schwabe being the son of Henry Albert Schwabe, was the grandson of Leopold Schwabe and great grandson of Samson Benjamin.

There are two entries in the Times of London Index for Schwabe for the year 1891:

*May 6th 1891 – Oxford - Suicide of an Oxford Undergraduate*

About 7 o’clock yesterday morning Mr. Cecil Langshaw Schwabe, undergraduate at Oriel college, who lodged in the town, was found lying dead on his sitting room floor with a bullet wound through his head, and at his feet a six-chambered revolver of heavy calibre, one chamber of which had been discharged, the other five being loaded. The deceased had been reading very hard lately, and at 7 o’clock on Monday evening he complained of a pain in his head, and said that he should do no more that night. He appeared to have then gone out and purchased the revolver. He was in his third year at the University and was 23 years of age. An inquest by Mr. F.F. Morrell, one of the University coroners, will be held this morning.

The following day’s paper has:

*Inquest*

An inquest on the body of Mr. Cecil Langshaw Schwabe, of Oriel College, who was found dead on Tuesday with a bullet wound through his head, was held yesterday afternoon in the common room of Oriel College. Mr. Frank B. Schwabe, brother of the deceased, said that the deceased had always been fond of firearms and he had remonstrated with him on his carelessness with the use of them, and the only cause he could give of the occurrence was that he was examining the revolver and shot himself by accident. The deceased was in no monetary or other difficulty. He had suffered from neuralgia all his life. He had no mental derangement. Mr. Charles Greaves Hodgson, an undergraduate of Oriel, said that on Monday afternoon he and the deceased were on the river, and in the evening he dined in hall. After hall they played a game of billiards, and they then read together in the deceased's room from 9 to a quarter-past 10, when the deceased said he had a headache and should not read anymore. He was well on in his studies, and there was no need for him to fear not getting through. Evidence was given that the deceased had purchased a revolver on Monday evening, together with a box of cartridges. The Rev. Francis Henry Hall, dean and tutor of Oriel said that the deceased was quiet, industrious and well conducted, and was working for his last examination,
which he had every prospect of passing. He was always in a feeble state of health. The jury, having consulted for half an hour, returned a verdict that “Death was due to a pistol wound inflicted by his own hand, but there was not sufficient evidence to show the state of his mind at the time”.

Note that we knew nothing about Leopold except he was a son of Sampson Benjamin. Now we know this:

**Leopold Schwabe’s Descendants**

Somewhere (maybe the Times of London) there exists a notice of a change of name announcing that a family known as Schwabe would be calling themselves *Burdett*. Note the family name of Henry Albert’s wife. The source for this has to be relocated.
APPENDIX THREE


Mr. Louis Schwabe
Lately: Aged 47, Mr. Louis Schwabe,
one of the Council of the Royal Manchester Institution.

Mr. Schwabe was a manufacturer of silks of a high class, and might be said to have been the father of that branch of manufacture in Manchester having had on his books at the time of his decease orders not only for the high of our land, but for those of the French also, the name of the illustrious Louis Philipppe appearing as one of his patrons.

Mr. Schwabe was one of the many instances of those who rise in the world by dint of probity, talent, and industry. A native of Dessau in Germany where he was born in 1798, he came a stranger to Manchester in the year 1817, and, after working his way through the elementary processes of the silk manufacture (then taking root in the that town) he proceeded in his career until he attained the head of that important branch of manufacture the palaces of Windsor and Buckingham having been, in more instances than one, supplied from his looms.

Mr. Schwabe possessed a high taste in art, and was, to some extent, practically an artist, applying the knowledge he possessed to the purposes of manufacture -- hence the great superiority and perfection of his designs, and showing in his own case (if any proof were needed) how necessary is a practical knowledge of the “Art of Design” to the higher branches of manufacture. Mr. Schwabe, only a short time before his death, stated to a friend “that he might consider his love and knowledge of drawing as one great cause of his success in life.” His ardent pursuit of it, shortly after his arrival in Manchester (the importance of it being then foreseen by him), not only contributed, he observed, to the enjoyment of his leisure hours, but preserved him from the temptations which often beguile the young in large and populous towns. “Often, often," he said, speaking to the friend before alluded to, “do I wish that all young men could know the pleasure and advantage I have derived from it.” Mr. Schwabe was one of the early supporters of the School or Design, and to the last took a lively interest in it. Although a foreigner by birth Schwabe (having married into an old Manchester family) might be said to be almost an Englishman, having entered into all matters relating to the interests of the country with an ardour which evinced how completely his feelings were associated with those or the land which had fostered him.-Art Union.
ENDNOTES

1 This web site contains a number of other families’ data such as Man, Lowis, Huntley, etc. not all of which are necessarily related to the Schwabes. The ‘super ordinate’ family is Man and thus the Schwabes are contained within the Man web site because of a marriage of a Schwabe descendant to a Man.

2 The fact that Philipp and Samson share the name Benjamin would suggest that the name of the grandfather was Benjamin, not the father, since Jewish naming convention uses the name of the deceased forebear. On a family tree provided me by Ann Schwabe and based on one drawn up by her father Alec (Jack) Schwabe, the father of the brothers’ name appears as Moses. However he provides no source for this claim.

3 Stephan’s children are also noted by Sir Thomas Colyer-Ferguson, whose genealogical research is a major source of information. Sir Thomas, a gentile, married into one of the great plutocratic Jewish families of England and he became fascinated by the rich cultural milieu of his family connections. He spent a great deal of time scouring the papers for all mentions of births, marriages, and deaths of those named Rothschild, Montefiore, Montagu and others including Schwabe. From the mid- to late-nineteenth century until the early 1940’s, he made careful note of every mention he could find of the names that he was interested in. All of this data is now on microfilm at the Jewish Historical Society. The notes he made on the Schwabes were copied and sent to me by the chairman of that society Dr. Anthony Joseph.

4 The parallels between this Schwabe family and that of Philipp and Samson are surprising. The dates would make it possible for Benjamin Behrens to be a bother of Philipp and Samson’s. Benjamin Behrens has a son named Louis born in 1806, Samson also has a son Louis born around the same time. They all share the name Benjamin and all originate in Dessau.

5 Samuel Heinrich Schwabe was born on 25 October 1789 in Dessau. He began pharmaceutical studies in Berlin, in the course of which he became interested in astronomy and botany. He returned to Dessau in 1812 to take over his family's pharmacy, while pursuing astronomical and botanical researches as an amateur. His first telescope was won at a lottery in 1825, but the following year he ordered a more powerful one through Fraunhofer. Becoming increasingly absorbed his astronomical studies, he sold the family business in 1829. Schwabe died in Dessau on 11 April 1875.

Schwabe’s observational work was aimed originally at discovering possible intramercurial planets. Starting on October 11 1825, he observed the Sun virtually every day that the weather allowed, and did so continuously for 42 years. In doing so he accumulated volumes of sunspot drawings, the idea being to detect his hypothetical planet as it passed across the solar disk, while avoiding confusion with small sunspots. In 1843 Schwabe still had not discovered any new planet, but instead his 17 years of nearly continuous sunspot observations revealed a 10-year periodicity in the number of sunspots visible on the solar disk. That same year Schwabe published this interesting result in the Journal Astronomische Nachrichten, but it attracted little attention until 1851 when his sunspot data was included by Alexander von Humboldt (1769-1859) in volume III of his monumental Kosmos.

Curiously, Schwabe's astronomical researches initially won him greater recognition in England than in Germany. In February 1857 he was awarded the Gold Medal of the Royal Astronomical Society, and in 1868 he was elected to the Royal Society. While Schwabe's fame as an astronomer rests chiefly on his discovery of the sunspot cycle, he is also credited with the first description and drawing, in 1831, of Jupiter's great red spot. [Information on H. S. Schwabe taken from the internet.]

6 Cross Street Chapel, Manchester, Commemoration of the Fifty Years’ Ministry of Rev. William Gaskell, MA (Manchester, 1878), p. 59;

7 This is too sweeping a comment: Salis’ daughter Harriet was in Germany, son Edmund died 1891 with just a daughter, son George moved around a lot but did come back to Middleton/Manchester on occasion, son Fred retired from Manchester to Wales in 1895 but had no children, daughter Julie lived in London, and Catherine was with the Maclaine of Lochbuie, in Scotland and son Salis Arthur died unmarried in 1883.

8 He was born on the 5th February 1883 in Barton on Irwll, England, Lawrence Schwabe’s eldest son. He changed his name to Sykes in response to anti-German sentiment in 1917. He worked for a British import / export company, selling weapons manufactured by Remington and Colt to both China and India. He also organised hunting trips in India for rich Englishmen. He joined the S.M.P. [Shanghai Municipal Police] in
1926 and became an Inspector in charge of a unit of snipers. At the start of World War II Sykes (Schwabe) was commissioned as Captain in the British Commandos and ordered to teach a lethal version of the Defendo system at the Commando school in Scotland. Once the British Commando School in Scotland was able to produce it’s own qualified instructors, Sykes was transferred to the Special Operations Executive (S.O.E.) where he trained special agents for behind the lines duties. [Information downloaded from the Internet]

Robert went out to the far east and married, Kini Myandera, a Japanese woman in 1896. They had three children (see genealogy report).

Letter written by Karl Marx to Frederich Engels: You may be certain that despite all mishaps I and my wife (who, by the by, is well on the way to recovery) found our own affairs less disquieting than your latest report on the state of your health. While delighted beyond measure that you should be improving, I am thoroughly alarmed to learn that you intend to return to the office — and to do so this very week. If nothing else, the whole course of your illness should have shown you that what you needed physically was to rest, recuperate and temporarily shake off the dust of the office. You must go to the seaside as soon as possible. If, at this crucial moment, you should be so childish (pardon the expression) as to shut yourself up in the office again, you will suffer further relapses, and your resistance to the disease will at the same time be progressively impaired. Such relapses might ultimately lead to an infection of the lungs, in which case all attempts at a cure would be fruitless. Surely it is not your ambition to go down to posterity as one who sacrificed himself on the altar of Ermen & Engels’ office? One would feel sorry for a person with your complaint if he were compelled by circumstances to chain himself anew to his business rather than restore his health. [This letter was downloaded from a web site on Marx-Engels].

For which bequest he was made an honorary citizen in 1886. This was the first time Hamburg had made the honor since Otto von Bismarck and General Helmut von Moltke in 1871. Schwabe was followed by Johannes Brahms in 1889, by General von Waldersee (who commanded the German troops sent to put down the Boxer Rebellion) in 1901, and by General von Hindenburg in 1917. (Information from Albisetti)


18 *Manchester Guardian*, 15 June 1888; IGI Microfiche Index for Lancashire, p. 80.895; information on the wedding from Familysearch.org.; *Manchester & Salford Advertiser*, 21 May 1842.

19 *Manchester Guardian*, 15 June 1888; IGI Microfiche Index for Lancashire, p. 80.895; information on the wedding from Familysearch.org.; *Manchester & Salford Advertiser*, 21 May 1842.

20 *Manchester Guardian*, 15 June 1888; IGI Microfiche Index for Lancashire, p. 80.895; information on the wedding from Familysearch.org.; *Manchester & Salford Advertiser*, 21 May 1842.

21 Scholes manuscript, MCL; *Slater’s General and Classified Directory and Street Register of Manchester and Salford with Their Vicinities* (Manchester, 1869), p. 493; IGI Microfiche Index for Lancashire, p. 80,895; *DNB, 1941-1950*, pp. 762-63.

22 Williams, pp. 93, 169, 388.