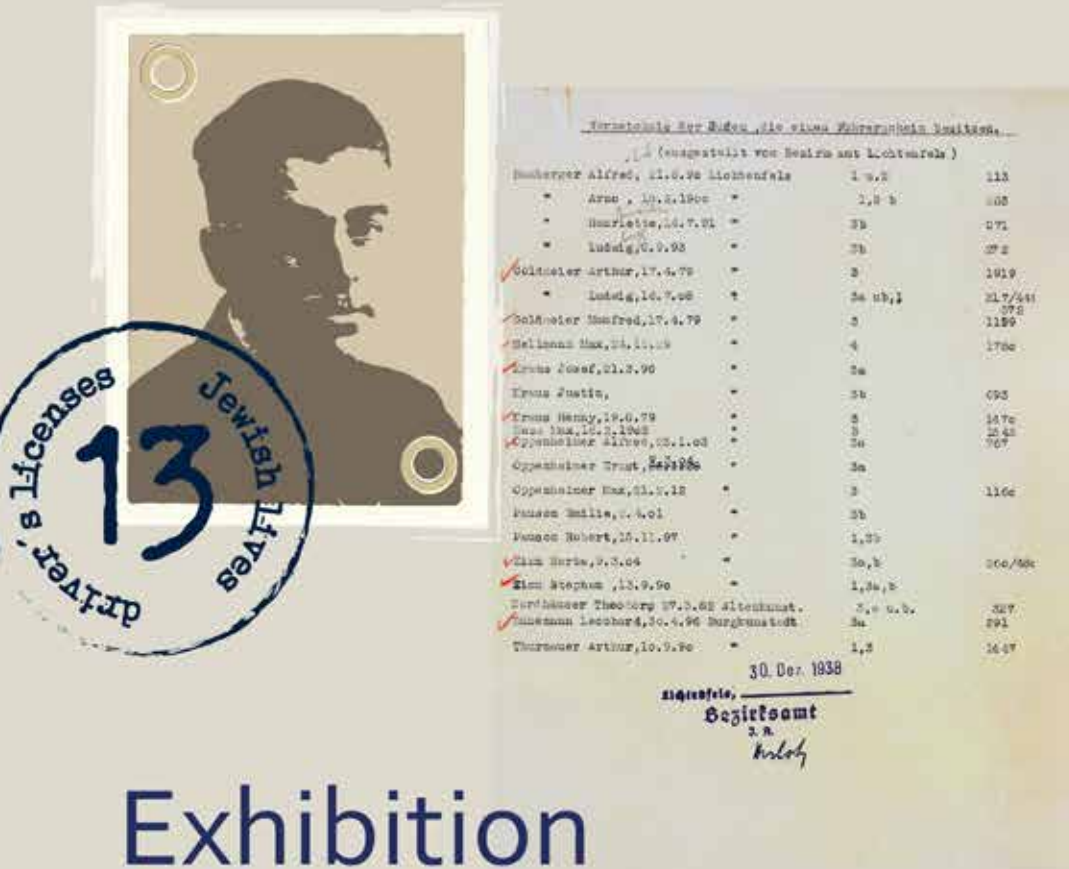


13 Drivers' Licenses

Thirteen Jewish Lives



Exhibition

about the lives of thirteen citizens
from Lichtenfels,
whose drivers' licenses were revoked in 1938
by the local administration,
because they were Jewish.

Book
drivers
scraps





13 Drivers' Licenses

Thirteen Jewish Lives

A project by P-Seminar 2-pg of Meranier-Gymnasium Lichtenfels
Initiated and supported by Landkreis Lichtenfels, Landrat Christian Meißner
Sponsored by Koinor - Horst- Müller - Stiftung
English Edition, translated by Steven A. Goldberg,
Holocaust & Human Rights Education Center White Plains, NY
(c) Meranier-Gymnasium Lichtenfels



About the Project

An Exhibition in the Making

A Disturbing Find

In the course of digitalizing their archives in February 2017, the District Administration in Lichtenfels stumbled across an inconspicuous brown envelope, hidden away under some files.

The contents of this envelope turned out to be rather sensitive: 13 driver's licenses from Jewish citizens, a list of vehicles belonging to Jews and letters dating to 1938.

After the pogroms of November 1938 Josef Goebbels coined the euphemism "Reichskristallnacht", which translates as "Night of Broken Glass", the leader of the SS Heinrich Himmler ordered all Jews to be dispossessed of their driver's licenses and their cars to be con-



fiscated. Not only were these documents in the envelope, but also the driver's licenses of Jews who had managed to emigrate during 1938.

So what now? What to do with such an awkward find?

Passing the folder with all its contents on to the appropriate archives of the Public Records Office would have been the easy way out – and according to official regulations. But District Administrator Christian Meißner decided to take a different path. In his view, young people had to deal with these documents and bring light into the original owners' lives.

An Extra-ordinary Project

We were the young people willing to undertake the task – a special seminar dealing with history at Merian-Gymnasium Lichtenfels.

13 students and their teacher SCD Manfred Brösamle-Lambrecht decided to explore and reconstruct the biographies of the 13 original owners, creating a memorial for them in their former home.

To tell the truth: In the beginning we did not yet know what was going to be in store for us when we embarked on our adventure.



For more than nine months we searched in archives, talked to experts and researched on the internet; contemporary witnesses helped us by passing on their stories.

Our adventure-filled journey took us to the USA, Argentina and Israel, where we managed to track down and interview relatives of eleven of the original 13 owners. They provided us with many pictures, documents and other material for our project. Thus, these 13 holders of driver's licenses started to come to life for us.

Support from the District administrator and a generous grant by Konrad-Horst-Müller-Stiftung helped us work more professionally on our project and the exhibition.

An Act of Symbolic Justice

"Guten Tag!!! [...] I was excited beyond words, to get your letter. When I saw my grandfather's driver's license, I had tears of joy and anger for what the Jews had to endure."

The reactions to our mails showed us clearly how moved the descendants of the 13 original owners were – ten of them even decided to take upon them the long journey across the Atlantic to be part of the opening ceremony of our exhibition. Quite a number!

At the end of the ceremony, District Administrator Christian Meißner returned the driver's licenses to the relatives of the original owners – accompanied by the applause of an emotionally deeply touched audience.



„Inge“

QR-Code leading to a documentary by Rachel Schlesinger about a trip of Alfred Marx's descendants to Germany in 2016.



„Auf den Spuren jüdischer Geschichte“
(Following the footsteps of Jewish history)

A school project in Lichtenfels – as presented on Bavarian TV on November 13th 2018



Former History Aug 2015/16

Left to right: Francesca Dill, Julia Wollmann, Antje Wollmann, Laura Brösamle, Lisa Brösamle, Viktoria Thiel, Clara Brösamle, Ingeborg Kuch, Laura Brösamle, Simon Brösamle, Julia Brösamle, Martina Brösamle-Lambrecht, Markus Roth, David Brösamle, Jan Brösamle

Why a Scrap Book?



When we started the “13 Drivers’ Licenses” project, to be honest, neither teachers nor students knew what they were getting into: reconstruction of 13 biographies? Yes, of course, let’s do it ...

Now, after completion, we know that the project has shaped and changed us. We met people - living and dead - who impressed

us, encouraged us, challenged us, and helped us. We were confronted with destinies and with human greatness. Lack of understanding and abhorrence about crimes of the past mixed with joy and warmth in the encounter with the descendants of the victims. And so past and present grew together. The thirteen people and their descendants came ever closer to us.

We therefore want to document subjectively how we experienced this process of approaching the 13 people and their descendants. It may be exciting to understand which strategies and also coincidences brought us on the trail.

An unexpected side effect was that the abundance of material multiplied, and much was not appropriate for the thirteen banners:

- What do you do with a handwritten postcard from the Gestapo prison to your daughter for her birthday?
- Should letters and thoughts of one of our thirteen relatives about his last time in Lichtenfels and his emigration to Argentina disappear in a file folder?
- What do you do with letters from our thirteen, which nobody would read in the exhibition? Photos for which we had no room?

There are so many materials that it would be a shame not to publish them. We want to give them space here. Maybe someone wants to read and absorb them.

Most of this information doesn’t appear on the exhibition banners, because it would have gone beyond the scope to visualize poorly or was thematically more of a “spin-off.” Unfortunately, we have neither the time nor the scientific qualification to prepare these materials in a historically appropriate way. But we would like to hand them over - perhaps in the form of an oversized essay - to an interested public as a collection folder or scrap book.

Nevertheless, there is a structure, as we are in school: the focus is, of course, on the thirteen people whose biographies should be researched in the seminar by groups of students (one to three). The process of research is presented (and there were adventures and coincidences!). Additional materials are presented and further stories are sketched. In essence, however, it remains a collection folder, a quarry. We wish you a lot of fun reading there!

To the English edition of the magazine in October 2020:

The exhibition banners have already been translated into English by our fellow students of the 2pe (course Head: Mrs. StDin Verena Schier) as of November 2018, in order to give the participating guests from the USA access to the exhibition.

It is thanks to the commitment of the descendants of our driving licence holders that the project has now found its way to Argentina and the USA. The Holocaust & Human Rights Education Center in White Plains, N.Y. has reproduced the exhibition in English and is now looking after it.

Steven A. Goldberg, Co-Director of Education at H&HREC(NY), has translated this booklet into English as a supplement to the exhibition, for which we are very grateful.

Participants of the Seminar 1pg:

Clara Aumüller, Luise Aumüller, Markus Betz, Luise Birkner, Simon Bornschlegel, Dennis Brosig, Manfred Brösamle-Lambrecht, Lukas Franke, Jan Höppel, Laura Kolenda, Julia Mehrmann, Sophie Rauh, Francesca Schütz, Victoria Thiel, Antonia Voll



District Administrator Christian Meißner shows seminar participants drivers’ licenses for the first time. Photo: Obermain Tagblatt, January 2018

Günter Dippold:

Speech at the opening of the exhibition "13 Drivers' Licenses"



The city of Lichtenfels was only a few decades old, when Jews were already mentioned. That was in 1268. We could have celebrated an anniversary this year: 750 years of Jewish Lichtenfels. It did not take place. So this evening will be a celebration instead.

From the very beginning Jews have been part of the history of this town. But the history of 750 years is

not simple, and was not good for longer periods of time.

There were disturbances. Christians used violence against Jews. Historical records indicate that in 1298, in a Franconian-wide pogrom, a Jewish teacher was burned in his house. The community became extinct. After several decades a new one emerged, which was then expelled from the town in 1478 by the ruler, the Prince-Bishop of Bamberg.

Continuity only returned after a bishop allowed the settlement of Jewish families in 1677. However, a climate of separation remained. According to the city council, Jews belonged in the recesses of town and not on the inner-city main streets or squares.

And yet the Jews were part of Lichtenfels and its urban society. Jews and Christians met, knew each other, did business with each other, spoke with each other. Neighborhood girls addressed each other informally - why should it be different? - even if the town pastor got upset about it!

It was no different in Burgkunstadt and Altenkunstadt with their larger Jewish communities; the same was true for several other villages in the district, for Redwitz and Horb, for Weidnitz and Mainneck, for Seubelsdorf, Hochstadt and others. The history of these places is inconceivable without their Jewish residents.

After 1800, under the influence of the age of Enlightenment, the situation for Jews changed, at first slowly, then more and more clearly. From 1815 on, Jews were not only allowed to live in Lichtenfels, but also became full citizens, with all rights and duties, like their Christian neighbors. So, Jewish girls and boys sat on the school bench with Christian children, and a few decades later, Jewish and Christian citizens also joined the same clubs, such as the popular marksmen's club, the voluntary fire brigade, or the choral society. When celebrations were held in the synagogue, Christian clergymen, civil servants, and city dignitaries were present. Starting in 1872, Jews sat on the city council, helping to determine the fate of the community. To give you an example of the significant role Jews played in the community, Sam Kohn (1851-1922), a respected basket merchant, who for decades served as chairman of the Jewish community, was also a member of the city council

and co-founder of today's Meranier-Gymnasium. After the death of his wife Ida (1860-1917), he established a foundation to benefit needy Lichtenfelsers, regardless of their faith. His daughter Lilly Kohn (1892-1985) remembered even at an advanced age how she had prepared her Catholic classmates for the Corpus Christi procession, for which Jews decorated their houses in the neighborhood just as Catholics did theirs.

Lilly's son, Sam's grandson, Prof. Dr. Walter S.G. Kohn (1923-1998), once a student of the municipal secondary school until the Nazis expelled him, came from Philadelphia to visit Lichtenfels in 1992. He told us about his own experiences (and suffering), what it was like for a young Jew under the Nazi regime here in Lichtenfels, in his homeland. He reported on snide remarks, on everyday insults, on disadvantages. And yet, life still seemed possible until 1938--and at some point, some believed, the Nazi nightmare would be over.

But, from 1937 on, the regime intensified its anti-Jewish policy. In the Pogrom Night 80 years ago, those in power showed their true face by ordering and planning an orgy of violence, which claimed the lives of two people in Lichtenfels, not to mention the psychological injuries and material damage to others. Walter Kohn told us about it. He saw from the neighboring house how the synagogue was desecrated, saw how SA men dragged the 80-year-old chairman of the religious community, Carl Kraus (1858-1940), half-dressed, to the synagogue. Kraus, a respected businessman, a popular member of local associations, a distinguished city councilman who had been honored on his 75th birthday in February 1933, when Hitler had been Reich Chancellor for one week. Now, nothing seemed left of his merits; the respected citizen had become a despised Jew!

The young Walter Kohn witnessed how Lichtenfels residents barbarically abused the teacher's wife Sophie Seliger (1885-1938), who lived in the same house as he. He learned how she disappeared under unknown circumstances; a few weeks later, her body was found in the Main River.

That night the sense of solidarity was trampled, broken, and all that was good, true, and beautiful was dragged into the dirt. The many threads that had united the Christian majority and the Jewish minority were brutally ripped apart.

Those who were able to, fled. The others, who had to or wanted to stay, fell victim to ardent hatred and were murdered after 1942, systematically and with bureaucratic accuracy. Only three people of Jewish origin survived and remained in our district during this time, thanks to their non-Jewish spouses who stood by them. And very few returned after 1945: two Blum brothers from Seubelsdorf, one for a short time, one permanently.

In the town of Lichtenfels, no different from the other places where perpetrators lived, the majority did not want to hear about violence and murder for a long time after 1945. Everyone, who wanted to see, had done so. But memory

was suppressed, at least not maintained; truths were denied, at least concealed.

Certainly, there were individual, random family friendships that lasted at a distance of thousands of miles and for decades. Klaus Bamberger (1920-2008) wrote down his memories, and there was mention of a visit by Walter Kohn. In 2011, his daughter Sharon Kohn--she is a cantor in a synagogue in Kansas City--came to visit us and taught us in the newly renovated synagogue in Lichtenfels about a Jewish religious service. Then the great-granddaughter of a former Jewish councilman sang liturgical songs that had probably not been heard in the room for over 70 years. Those who have experienced it will never forget that.

"But it is so little that those responsible here have done, such few contacts that have been made, such few connections that have been cultivated." These are Josef Motschmann's words. Joseph Motschmann (1952-2016) deserves to be recognized beyond his death. *[Josef Motschmann was a Christian theologian and historian in Altenkunstadt, in the county of Lichtenfels, who wrote numerous works on Jewish life, particularly in his region of Upper Franconia.]*

Tonight: There are events that cannot be planned, not even foreseen. That the folder with the 13 driver's licenses was preserved at the registration office in Lichtenfels, that nobody ever threw it away to eradicate the disgrace, that it, rediscovered, was not put aside again, but presented to the district administrator, that he had insight into this topic, that this interested teacher led the P-seminar, that so many pupils were inspired by the research and finding the connections, like spinning a thread--all this came together in what seems like coincidence to me.

That folder and its contents would have been in good hands in an archive. That would probably correspond with the law. Then the injustice of the drivers' licenses confiscation would have been permanently documented--a small, almost incidental injustice compared to all the violence, all the robberies, all the industrially organized systematic mass murder, and yet: it was one of many acts of injustice. But, it would have remained so. Instead, Christian Meissner was and is still interested in giving these documents to those who would have them in their hands today if this injustice would not have been committed: to the descendants of the victims.

From the action of the district administrator, one thing becomes obvious: there is a difference between law and justice. At that time, 80 years ago, people observed the laws. But not every law creates justice, and certainly not in a state where injustice rules. By abiding by the law, especially when they did so without thinking, civil servants committed acts of injustice. Those who clung to regulations and wanted to comply with them were wrong.

Therefore, it is also appropriate to remember those people who preserved their sense of decency and humanity in the age of inhumane rules. They also lived here in Lichtenfels, but unfortunately there were only few, far too few. There are no spectacular heroic deeds to report, but rather everyday decency. It is important to remember the official Wilhelm Aumer, who warned Jewish families of imminent

measures and who issued passports contrary to regulations--with the laconic comment: „I am not allowed to do that, but a lot of things are not allowed nowadays.“ Both Walter Kohn and Klaus Bamberger shared this information.

The achievements of the P-Seminar are astonishing. To be completely honest, at the beginning I was a bit skeptical whether the matter was a suitable topic for high school students. I was wrong. You see me impressed and touched.

Some names, events, connections were known. But, the students achieved something special due to their zeal for research. They have managed to turn the names into people again, with faces, biographies, families. They have rendered outstanding service--not only to the former license holders and their descendants, but also to all of us.

The contents of Article 131 of the Bavarian Constitution are in danger of being easily lost in the daily routine of schools, where commercially useful knowledge is more important. But in this seminar, thanks to this teacher and thanks to such students, the text of the constitution has been filled with life. Love for the Bavarian homeland has been conveyed--and home [*Heimat*] is not a sweet idyll, but the space one understands and for which one feels responsible. And by the way: The Jewish past is an indispensable part of the Lichtenfels *Heimat* (or homeland).

I was allowed to attend the seminar once. Fulfilling the true purpose of Article 131, one could almost grasp with one's hands a sense of responsibility and a willingness to accept responsibility. There was a willingness to help and an open-mindedness for all that is true, good, and beautiful --that is, that which, according to the constitution, should grow and thrive in school. School should be more like this more often.

80 years ago a togetherness was blindly destroyed. The confiscated drivers' licenses are symbolic of this. We want to remember this. This is what the exhibition commemorates. But the students also looked ahead. They have established connections again.

Thin threads are still there, but they are now noticeable and visible. There have been good encounters, friendships have developed, new togetherness is growing. Because our guests have picked up the threads offered to them.

In retrospect, these drivers' licenses are symbols of injustice. They will remain that way. And injustice must never be forgotten, especially here in Germany. But let the drivers' licenses become something additional: symbols of our togetherness. You, the descendants, will take these documents home with you and honor them. The drivers' licenses will remind you of father, grandfather, grandmother.

May they also be a sign to you that you have your roots here - that we have common roots in Lichtenfels, in Franconia, in Germany.

Prof. Dr. Günter Dippold is a Historian, the Custos of Upper Franconia and an Honorary Professor of European Ethnology at Otto-Friedrich-Universität Bamberg.



Leo Banemann

Burgkunstadt

Leonhard Banemann was born on April 30th 1896 in Burgkunstadt, the son of Hilda and David Banemann.

In World War I he was trained as a gunner and deployed to the Western front in France. There he survived many a battle without being wounded. For some months he even served in an airship unit.

The Banemann family owned a successful small business that sold butcher's equipment.

After their father's death, Leo and his brother took over the family business in 1928. He received his driving license on June 29th 1935, as he probably needed it for his line of work.



1918 on the Western front



In 1926 he got married to Martha Liebermann from Athenkunstadt, their only daughter Edith was born in 1927. She recalls a happy childhood, and she remembers trips to Baden-Baden and a vacation in Italy. The family was doing fine and was fully integrated into the social life in Burgkunstadt.



The Banemann estate in Burgkunstadt, consisting of the residential buildings Kuhnhauser Straße 37 and Farmhouse 34. Picture taken 2009

Life under the NS-Regime

Things started to change under the NS-dictatorship. Antisemitic propaganda and increasing repression led to the isolation of Jewish citizens, out of necessity, Jewish families kept more and more to themselves.

At school, Jewish students were discriminated against and degraded. Edith Banemann had to sit on her own in the last row. Non-Jewish children were forbidden to keep company with her. Therefore, Leo and Martha Banemann sent their daughter to a Jewish school in Nuremberg, where she stayed with her mother's cousin.

The last straw to give up his life here was the so-called "Night of Broken Glass", the pogroms of November 1938. In the night from November 9th to November 10th the Banemann house was looted by fanatic Nazis. The same day, Leo Banemann and all of the other male Jewish citizens in Burgkunstadt were brought to the municipal court in Lichtenfels and one day later to the prison. He was actually meant to be sent to Dachau concentration camp, but it was overcrowded, it took weeks for the all of the men to get released again. Now it was clear that they did not have a future in Germany anymore.

1939: Emigration to the US

Finally, in April 1939 the family had the chance to leave Germany for Cuba on board the "Orinoco". Their actual destination was the US, but there were waiting lists for entering the country. The Banemanns could take along their personal belongings, but only 10 Reichsmark per person. Leo's family was in luck as the "Orinoco" was the last ship the Cuban authorities let anchor. The "St. Louis", the boat carrying Leo's brother Philipp and his family, was turned away and had to endure a long and despairing odyssey around half the globe.



The Day of Departure

A few months later, the family travelled to Florida and then took a train to Baltimore, where Leo's niece and nephew, his sister Nelly's children, picked them up at the station.



Martha and Edith onboard the "Orinoco"

"Look at the Schlepper I am now"

At the beginning, life was not easy for the family in Baltimore, Maryland. Leo and Martha were not able to speak English, the family was poor and Leo's qualifications were not sought after in the US. Both were happy to find work in a local factory where they worked from morning till night. Even Edith chipped in, offering manicures for 50 ct. Their loss of social status was embittering. "Look at the Schlepper I am now", Leo said to his daughter, when he had to repair a chair.

Later, Leo worked in a local clothes store, the "Eleanor Dress Company", as a gofer. Soon he started a small business, selling clothes orders from door to door. Slowly the family regained prosperity.

They bought a new car, moved to Randalstown near Baltimore, paid off their house there and in summer they took trips to the beach. In the local Jewish community the family found new friends and started to feel at home.



about 1990

On October 29th 1996 Leonard Banemann died from a stroke in Maryland. His wife Martha led a long, active life and died in her 96th year. Edith married Larry Goldschmidt and the couple had two children (Carol and Norman). Today she is 93 years old and lives in a retirement home in Baltimore.

Leo was a loving father and grandfather. Surely he would have been proud of his four great-grandchildren and three great-great-grandchildren.



Leo Banemann



Leo Banemann

Born 30.4.1896 in Burgkundsstadt

Died 29.10.1964 in Randallstown,
Baltimore County, Maryland, USA

The search for Leo Banemann

In alphabetical order, Leo Banemann was the first one we looked for. Mrs. Inge Goebel was, of course, the first person who patiently and willingly revealed material and facts regarding his life in Burgkundsstadt, to us during several visits; she obtained the birth certificate and much more. We would not have made any progress without Mrs. Goebel.

The research about his emigration and his life in Maryland (USA) was also exciting:

We discovered first traces on the Internet on the page www.findagrave.com where gravestones are depicted. So, we knew that Leo Baneman(n) had died in Baltimore. The next clue also came from the internet: We found the name of his daughter Edith in a commemorative announcement in the bulletin of the Baltimore Hebrew Congregation for the 50th anniversary of Leo's death. An employee there connected us with Carol Kashan, Leo Baneman's granddaughter, whose first mail we haven't forgotten:

[...] Guten Tag!!! My name is Carol Goldschmitt Kashan, Leo Banemann's granddaughter. [...] He was a handsome man, hardworking (sold textiles door to door) and loved smoking cigars. [...]

I was excited beyond words, to get your letter. When I saw my grandfathers drivers license, I had tears of joy and anger for what the Jews had to endure. My father, Larry Goldschmitt, also lost most of his family during the Holocaust. I read what you are planning to do to commemorate the people of the the holocaust and put faces to my grandfathers past. My husband and I would love to come and be a part of your ceremony. Unfortunately, my mom is too sick to attend. I need some more information, and details of what you may need from me. I am also curious if the other drivers licenses, may be part of my family also.

I look forward to hearing more about the program, and helping in any way that I can.

Carol actually helped us wherever she could. We also contacted her cousin Evelyn Held, née Liebermann. She visited Altenkundsstadt in June 2018; we were allowed to join Mrs. Inge Goebel on her city tour. Evelyn also helped us lot to get in touch with other descendants. Carol pointed out to us that the life of the Banemann family had already been included in 2006, when the Jewish Museum of Maryland in Baltimore had mounted an exhibition "Lives Lost, Lives Found," that illustrated the fate under the Nazi dictatorship of Jewish-German emigrants who had settled in Maryland using case studies. One of the portraits was Leo Banemann.

The staff of the Jewish Museum, above all Joana Church, Tracy Guy-Decker, and Jessica Konigsberg,



were overwhelmingly helpful and friendly. This encouraged us to continue our work.

Carol and Dr. Brian Kashan visited Lichtenfels at the beginning of November 2018 and participated in the opening of the exhibition on 5.11.2018. Our connection to them is still very friendly and close today. Carol's mother, Edith Banemann Goldschmitt, 91 years old and raised in Burgkundsstadt, in her senior residence [in Baltimore] followed the results of our research with great interest.

Francesca Schütz
Manfred Brösamle-Lambrecht

Sources and materials on Leo Banemann

Field postcard of the Western Front, November 1916 [during World War I]



Transcription: My dearest!

I am sending you my photograph taken by one of my comrades about two months ago. He could finish the same only today, because we came to the Somme and he was now on vacation. Concerning Arthur I had some news today ... and he writes with satisfaction, but he was not yet in position. Many greetings from your truly. Leo.

The residential and commercial building in Burgkunstadt



The property near the synagogue consisted of two connected buildings at Feuerweg 14 and Kulmbacher Straße 37. According to later residents, it was already equipped with a garage and central heating before 1938.

Below: Building in January 2019



Edith in front of the house



Birthday party (?) in the garden behind the building



Edith and Margot Wolf

Pride and joy about the new car (early Thirties)



Leo Banemann:
The man behind the wheel



Children on the back seat



The Liebermanns:
Martha's mother, sisters and their children (all killed in the Holocaust)

Participating in the Town's Social Life



Above: Hilarious carnival party in the early Thirties;
Leo Banemann on the left, Theodor Nordhäuser in the middle

Left: The family on vacation

Leo Banemann as a member of the "Gymnastics Club 1861" left back; right beside him Justin Banemann (Group picture from 1931)



Banemann Family



Interview with Edith Baneman Goldschmitt, January 23, 2003

For the exhibition "Lives Lost, Lives Found: Baltimore's German Jewish Refugees, 1933-1945", the Jewish Museum of Maryland, Baltimore, interviewed contemporary witnesses, including Edith Baneman Goldschmitt, the daughter of Leo Banemann. We would also like to thank the museum for providing the material, which we are kindly allowed to reprint.

Interviewee: Edith Baneman Goldschmitt

Interviewer: Deb Weiner

Date: January 23, 2003

Subject: Refugees

SIDE 1:

Born Nov. 30, 1926, in Burgkunstadt, in Bavaria. Father's name, Leo Baneman. Mother's name, Martha Lieberman Baneman.

036: Father's business in Germany: sold butchers' supplies, casing for sausages. Leo and his brother Philip Baneman were partners. Edith was an only child.

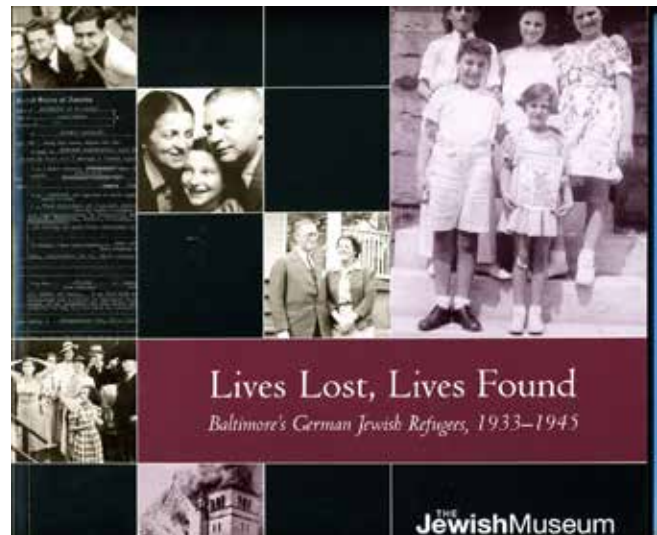
048: "Not too many" Jews lived in their town. "We were friendly with all the Jews who lived in this community. . . . I really associated much more with the Jewish people there, of my age." The town "used to have quite a community of Jewish people but they moved to different places." There were five or six Jewish families when she was growing up. There was a neighboring town, Altenkunstadt. They were "twin cities." There was a Jewish community there, too. "We had a small synagogue, and there was also one in Altenkunstadt."

075: By the time she grew up, Jews were no longer integrated. "My parents had plenty of gentile friends but it came to the point where everybody was afraid to associate with the Jews so we drifted away from them and we were mainly with our own people."

085: The earliest thing she remembers about Nazism: "I used to see the youngsters in their uniforms, in their Nazi uniforms and so forth. I guess, being in a small town I wasn't as much aware as if you lived in the bigger cities. My neighbors that were around us, we were friendly with them and we communicated with them. In fact when we went back to Germany in 1972 to visit, I looked up some of the people. They were very nice..."

095: "When we had the Crystal Night, I was away. I was sent to Nuremberg. I went to a Jewish school because I couldn't sit with the children in my school, in my town. I had to sit in the back row by myself. . . . My parents sent me to Nuremberg and I lived with a cousin of my mother's, I boarded with her. They had a Jewish school in Nuremberg. In my own school, I had to sit by myself in the back because I was Jewish. And my parents decided to send me away to a Jewish school so I could grow up normally." Nuremberg was two hours away by train.

118: "We had a number, a quota to come here to the United States. We were going to leave. That was before



all the Crystal Night and everything. We had to wait for the number to come up to be called, then we could leave Germany. You couldn't just pick up and go." Why did her parents decide to leave? "Because it was getting worse and worse."

124: Father came to U.S. to visit in 1937. Had relatives here.

130: Crystal Night, November 1938. "I was 12 years old. The way I experienced it in Nuremberg, the Gestapo that night they came to all the Jewish homes. They checked if we had any ammunition or any kind of things that we could do any harm. They were very nice, the ones that came to my cousin's home. They just looked through the apartment, looked in every room to see that everything was all right. They didn't do any damage. Therefore we didn't even know what was going on until the next morning when we heard that they went in the homes, they busted the windows, they mistreated people, it was a horrible situation. And I didn't hear anything from home until the next day. In my parents' home they came and they busted windows. In fact, I remember when we brought our furniture out -- we were able to take it along, in a big container -- when we unpacked it there was still glass in the sofa, because the sofa was right next to a window."

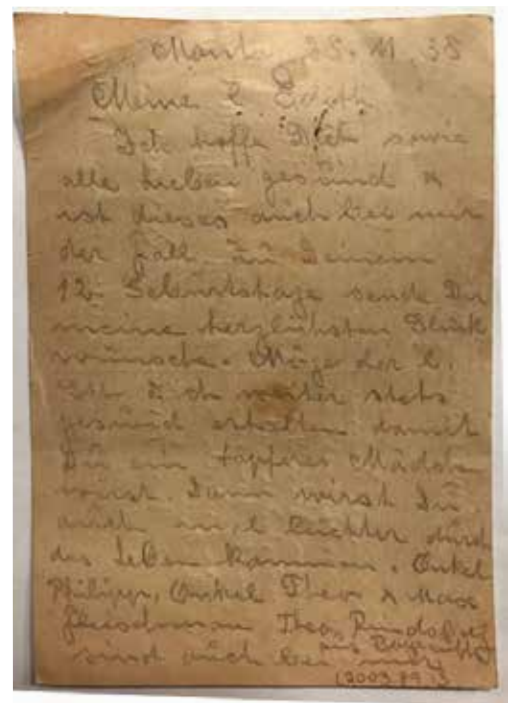
155: In Nuremberg, she lived in an apartment where no men were present. Her cousin's father was deceased, "we were just women."

159: "My father was taken to the temporary jail on the way to a concentration camp. . . . I heard about it afterwards. . . . He and a number of the Jewish men from Burgkunstadt were taken to this temporary jail, and by some luck, they let them out but they told them, get out of Germany as fast as you can. And that's when my father decided, we've got to do something."

174: Father sent her a postcard from the temporary jail, "wishing me a happy birthday." She still has it, translates: "He hopes that everybody is well and I am too. 'I want to wish you a happy birthday for your 12th birthday. May God keep you healthy so you become, so you will be doing all right as you grow up. So you get through your life all right. Uncle Philip, Uncle Theo, and Max Fleischmann are



Birthday card Leo Banemanns to his daughter Edith
from the GeStaPo prison in Hof



Monday 28.11.38

My dear Edith

I hope you as well as all loved ones are healthy & this is also the case with me. On your 12th birthday I send you my warmest congratulations. May the gracious God keep you healthy so that you may become a brave girl. Then you will also get through life more easily. Uncle Philipp, Uncle Theo & Max Fleischmann Theo [Rindsberg] from Bayreuth are also with me. Spend your birthday quite pleasantly. You will get your present later. Again warm greetings to you & all loved ones.

Your dad

Heart Congratulations & best regards from dear Uncle Philipp

also with us. . . . Have a nice birthday, and your present you will receive later. Again, best wishes for you and all your relatives. Your father.' And then my Uncle Philip wrote underneath wishing me a happy birthday." The postcard was written in pencil, "I guess he didn't have a pen." She wants to have it laminated, and give it to her grandchildren.

204: "When he came home, we made the decision we could get to Cuba." Got the necessary documents, and in April 1939, "we were able to leave."

213: "The business, we couldn't do anything. My mother got some restitution through the business."

218: "We had the relatives here who helped us with the affidavit, Martin Kohn and Clara Kohn." Martin Kohn and Leo Baneman were cousins, but she's not sure if first cousins, or more distant cousins. "I have some correspondence, I think somewhere, from Martin Kohn, when they worked on the affidavit together, the papers to come over." She would be glad to dig it up.

234: Had to go to Cuba first. Has a picture of the family on the boat coming over. "It was all right on the boat, we had no problems, they treated us OK."



239: Had possessions shipped to U.S., put in storage. Shipped "in a great big storage box. We were allowed to take that except, you couldn't bring silver along. . . . We were three, so we could only take four place settings of the silver, the rest we had to leave, it was not legal for us to take. We weren't allowed to take furs, we weren't allowed to take money." Doesn't really know what was done with things they left behind. They knew they were coming to Baltimore, so the furniture was sent here when left Germany.



251: Picture taken on boat, several people. Her father, her mother, herself, and "the others were strangers, also people immigrating." Festive picture, party hats.

58: "My Uncle Philip, my father's brother, they also wanted to get out. They were originally signed up for England, but then something came up that they could get out faster, to go to Cuba. They went on the St. Louis, the one that couldn't dock. That was another interesting and sad, sad story. They arrived in Cuba at Havana. We were there, we came on the boat before them." On the "Orinoco." Her relatives came, "but they would not let the ship dock, they said, no more can come in, they're gonna send that ship back to Germany. Well, every day we would go down to the harbor, my parents and I, we tried everything . . . to let them get off. Nothing we could do." They were in the harbor a couple days. "Nobody would let them in, not even the United States. That was the saddest part, because they passed the Florida coast." Roosevelt was President. "They would not let them dock there. But the captain of the ship was very nice, he said he's not gonna take them back to Germany, because if they take them back to Germany, forget about them, they're lost. So by luck . . . a number of them were taken off in England, and that's were my aunt and uncle and my cousin were going to go originally until they could come to this country." Her relatives were let off in England. Eventually they came to the U.S. also.

293: Her mother's mother and sister (Edith's aunt) moved into the Banemann's home in Burgkunstadt. "They never got out, they perished." Her father's parents were already deceased.

302: From Cuba, they "went straight to Baltimore." Flew to Florida, and then took the train to Baltimore. "My father's niece and nephew met us at the train." Her father's sister's children.

312: Her father and his sister had come to the U.S. in 1937 to visit her children, who already

lived here. "At that time, Martin Kohn, they all said, Leo, don't go back. Stay here. My father said, I still have my wife and my daughter over there, I'm going back. But after the situation in 1938, well, he was ready to go. At the time, our business was still OK, in 1937, we still conducted it. When he saw how people were struggling here in the beginning, and had to stretch the dollars, the pennies, he said, I can wait, I'm not ready for it, and he went back." His sister might have gone back to Germany after their trip, she thinks, but only temporarily. She immigrated in 1937 to her children in Baltimore. Her name was Nellie Pretsfelder.

330: After arriving in Baltimore: "It wasn't easy to start, we had to start from scratch, we didn't have the money. My parents both had to work. My father worked for M.S. Levy, the hat factory. . . . They took him in, that was also relatives. Eleanor Levy was a sister to Martin Kohn, so they took my father in and he did odd jobs, like a janitor. He worked long hours, but at least he had a job. He had no



The „St. Louis“ in the port of Havana;
Relatives speak of boats to the passengers to encourage them.
Leo Banemann probably talked to his brother like that. Photo: Getty images

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA			
ORIGINAL TO BE GIVEN TO THE PERSON NATURALIZED		No. 6508354	
OPERATION COME UP			
Petition No. 26430			
Personal description of holder as of date of naturalization: Age 49 years, sex Male, Color - White, complexion Fair, color of eyes Blue, color of hair Gray, height 5 foot 5 inches, weight 155 pounds, visible distinctive marks None, former nationality German, marital status Married.			
I certify that the description above given is true, and that the photograph affixed hereto is a likeness of me.			
 Leo Banemann		(Complete and true signature of holder) UNITED STATES OF AMERICA DISTRICT OF MARYLAND ss:	
Be it known that at a term of the District Court of the United States for the District of Maryland held pursuant to law at Baltimore, Maryland, on November 30th 1945, the Court having found that			
then residing at 2510 Park Heights Terrace, Baltimore, Maryland, intends to reside permanently in the United States (when so required by the Naturalization laws of the United States) had in all other respects complied with the applicable provisions of such naturalization laws, and was entitled to be admitted to citizenship, thereupon ordered that such person be and (she was admitted as a citizen of the United States of America).			
In testimony whereof the seal of the court is hereunto affixed this 30th day of November, 1945, the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and forty-five and seventieth.			
Not a violation of the U.S. Code and punishable as such to copy, print, photograph, or otherwise illegally use this certificate.		CHAS. W. MINNEMAN Clerk of the said District Court. Deputy Clerk.	

knowledge of English so it wasn't easy. And my mother had several jobs, she worked in a hat factory, in a ladies hat factory, and she worked in a pants factory. She had a little bit of knowledge of English when she came here, she learned it in school." Her father "spoke with a very broken English."

344: Later on, father was working in a wholesale dress shop. Mother was working in a pants factory, and "little by little, people asked her for some clothing." There were "a lot of Germans who did this here, door-to-door, they sold to people, they got a clientele, they always bought from them and then they went weekly to collect their money." The installment business. Mother started taking orders from people at her workplace. "My mother would call my father during her lunch hour" and tell him what kind of clothes she needed, what dresses and sizes. "He had a very nice boss at the time, who let him take out some things on consignment. He took it up there, and she would sell. And slowly, little by little, it mushroomed. And my father started the installment business. . . And later on my mother would go with him and help him with the business, selling, and whatever what was involved in it. These people where he worked, they were so nice, they let him take out clothes on consignment, what he didn't need, he could return." He worked for Eleanor Dress Company. Her mother found the customers in the pants factory, and he would bring her the clothes.

369: "She was sewing pants and all kinds of things. My mother never had anything in her hands before that . . . and she learned how to do. Before that she learned how to trim hats. . . . They asked her, have you ever trimmed hats, my mother said sure I did. And she learned!" She had never done anything like that before, "she didn't have to do that. She was a housewife! And she learned how to do these things. When you have to, believe me, you can do a lot. It's unfortunate that you have to do it that way."

378: "She used to have some boarders where we lived." Lived on Callow Avenue at first, in the 2300 block. An apartment. "She had two boarders, we had an extra room so that was for boarders. So she made some extra money that way." Boarders were German immigrants, "in fact, one was her cousin."

385: How did father feel going from business owner to janitor? "What could he do, it wasn't easy. It was hard on him. I remember one time . . . these things come back to me now [crying a little]. . . We were going up on Whitelock Street somebody gave him a chair to repair, and he says, **'look at the, the schlepper I am now, that I have to do things like that to make money.'** It was a hardship. But as time went on, we got acclimated, and things started to roll, that my parents could make a living."

394: So they ended up having their own business, the installment business, clothing. And "we bought a house on Park Heights Terrace," probably within a few years of arrival, maybe 1942.

"He went out with a cousin of my mother's to look for a home, not intending to buy a home. There were new



*Owner pride: Leo Banemann in his hard-earned car
Photo in family ownership*

homes there, the cousin was looking for a home. And he came home, and said to my mother, 'I bought a house.'" The cousin bought one corner of a rowhouse, her father bought the other corner. "We lived there for quite awhile until they bought a little home on Kellogg's Road." She was around 14 when they moved to Park Heights Terrace.

SIDE 2:

004: Talks about her own adjustment. "In Cuba I went to an American school to learn English." When she first came here, "I had to learn English. They stuck me back in the third grade, I should have been in the sixth grade because of language troubles. But as time went on, I skipped a couple times and I pretty much caught up with the right grade."

018: "I made friends. At that time on Callow Avenue . . . that was a very nice neighborhood. We were near Whitelock Street, which was a business street, where you got all your groceries. . . . Everything was within walking distance. And we got to meet a lot of people in that area also that came over from Germany." A Jewish area, lots of German immigrants. "It was a wonderful neighborhood. You could walk to everybody. Nobody had a car in those days until later on." Friends were German and American Jews. Went to public school 61 (not sure). Then junior high 79 and 49. Then Western H.S. Graduated in 1946, got married in 1947.

065: Comparing life in Germany and U.S.: "In Germany I had everything I wanted. I had no problems, I got everything. But here, I had to struggle. I did work a little bit to make some extra pennies." Did manicures, ten cents a manicure, for pocket money. "I helped my mother in our home. I helped her clean. Whatever I could do when she was at work when I came home, straightened up . . . the daily routine. Thank God my parents did not spoil me. I'm still that way today . . . I still have that saving inside of me. I can't go out and splurge like some people, and go overboard. I'm not used to that. I remember how hard it was to

make a penny, I don't spend more than what I can afford."

093: "We belonged to the social club that a lot of the Germans belonged to." [The Cosmopolitan.] "We got together and we went to the beach in the summertime, swimming. We had a generally good life. We used to entertain each other. We had people coming over for dinner. When I had children, we couldn't afford babysitters like they do today. On weekends I would take my children to my parents. . . . We had dinner parties and that's how we got together, that's how everybody entertained each other. Of course as time went on things changed."

113: Adults remembering life in Germany: "We compared what we had over there to what we had here." Life had been better there. "Everybody had to lower themselves, and it wasn't easy."

119: "We didn't get anything from the HIAS or anybody to help us, we made everything on our own, thank God." There was another club too, in addition to the Cosmopolitan. They didn't belong to that. "We joined the Chevra. I still belong to that."

139: She and her husband belonged to Baltimore Hebrew for a long time. She still belongs there. Joined when her son started Hebrew School.

148: In Germany, her family belonged to a synagogue. Went to services on Saturday mornings. "In Germany we were Conservative, but here we became Reform, because my sister-in-law belonged to Baltimore Hebrew, and that's how we joined Baltimore Hebrew." Her parents didn't join, were just members of the Chevra. "But they had a holiday service they belonged to every year, they would conduct service on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur in a private home. . . . They didn't actually belong to a congregation."

163: "When I first came here I went to Sunday school at Oheb Shalom, but I never pursued it all the way through because I knew a little more Hebrew at the time than the kids knew, and I was bored."

171: Met her husband at the beach, was on a date with somebody else. "He had been in the service, he was in the Army." His name was Larry Goldschmitt. In Germany, his first name was Lothar, "but they changed his name to Larry because they couldn't pronounce his name." He came to the U.S. around 1936. He was 16. "He had to struggle and make a living for himself." Came by himself, then his brother came a little later, also by himself. "And he had to make a living that way. He lived as a boarder, and he had to make enough just to pay for room and board, he didn't have much left for any extras. His parents never got out . . . and his sister never got out. His sister would have been my age. She was too young at the time, and they just didn't let



Leo relaxing in the garden

her out." Doesn't know why she didn't go on a children's transport.

207: Got married on March 9, 1947. Her husband died on January 1, 1986. In the Army, he was sent to Germany. "The ship that he was supposed to go on, they took him off because he wasn't a citizen yet." [The ship to go overseas.] "He wasn't a citizen yet, they took him off the ship. He had to become a citizen first. I think that was his luck, something happened to those people." Not to the ship, but to the company (or whatever) that he was originally part of. "It was an omen for him that they took him off and made him a citizen first. Then he was shipped over."

234: Asked if she ever experienced anti-semitism in U.S. "Well, I never felt too comfortable. I had this funny feeling. I was more comfortable with Jewish people. And I think it would be better if we wouldn't live in a ghetto like we do here, it would be better to be integrated a little bit, because there's some very nice people too. It's just that I'm still – they're not Nazis or anything – it's just that amongst my own people I feel more comfortable." Because of her experience growing up in Nazi Germany. "It kind of left me with it. . . . Not a distrust, I'm just, I'm comfortable with Jewish people. It shouldn't be that way. . . . I just have this feeling from my past."

249: Her husband worked for Comfy Manufacturing Company, slipcovers. "Slowly, he started with draperies. . . . We had a drapery business." Walter Straus was her husband's partner in the drapery business. "His wife and I, we helped out in the store, a couple days a week." Son born in 1950, daughter born in 1954.

271: Her children don't know much about her experiences, or her family in Germany.

277: "We tried to get my grandmother and my mother's sister, we tried to get them out and couldn't." Also tried to get her mother's other sister, who lived in Munich with a husband and son. "We couldn't get anybody out. They all

perished.” Her father’s family: Sister came to Baltimore, another sister also went to England first and came to Baltimore, also had a brother who lived in Argentina for many years. “All his brothers and sisters did come out.”

287: Martin Kohn signed affidavits for other people in her family as well. “He was very nice.” She has family history materials, other things that he gave her. He wrote a booklet about Hochschild Kohn, gave her that too. “His mother was a nice lady.”

300: Describes picture from her father’s visit to the U.S. in 1937. The Kohns took him to the boardwalk in Atlantic City. Martin Kohn’s mother Clara, Martin, his wife Rosa are in picture.



Leo Banemann (left) visiting the Kohn family in the USA in 1937, who made it possible for them to leave the country in 1939. Re-print courtesy of the Jewish Museum of Maryland

313: Martin’s sister, Eleanor Levy, was “lovely. . . . And Lester was wonderful.” She also knew Julia and Meyer Strauss. “Julia Strauss I think brought a lot of the Germans over here. She was a very nice lady.” Her father bought from Strauss’s wholesale house. Textiles.

326: She worked on Hanover Street as a secretary in a shoe wholesale place before marriage. All the wholesale houses were located in the same area. “It was wonderful. There was a whole wholesale community downtown.” Would walk to Hutzler’s, Hochschild, Kohn on lunch break.

338: Asked to reflect on her experiences: She’s settled, active, has friends. Of Germany, she recalls nice family vacations in Germany and Italy. Parents went to Marienbad (Czechoslovakia) on vacation also. “I have some good memories.” Has lots of pictures of these things.

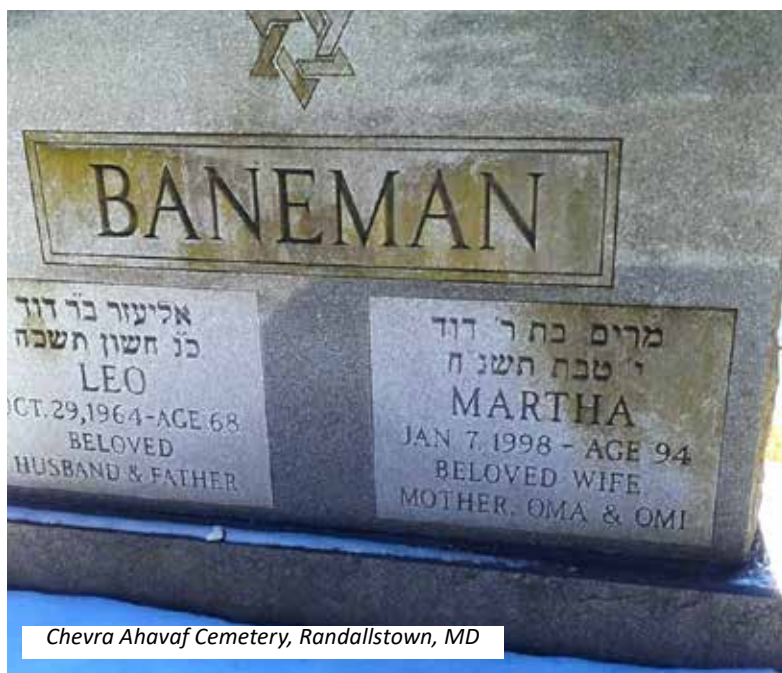
357: Went back to Germany in 1972 with husband and in-laws. “It was an experience. . . . They treated us royally. They showed us around and had us there for gatherings. It was wonderful, they were as nice as they could be. You know, not all the people were Nazis. People were afraid . . . because if they would associate with us, they would get punished.” After Crystal Night, when her parents couldn’t go out to get things, where they lived there was a courtyard and one neighbor would reach out and give them food, through the courtyard.



Martha enjoying her own home

Corresponded with this neighbor after the war, until the 1970s. Saw some old neighbors on her 1972 trip.

382: Father’s sister-in-law had a maid who came to the U.S., then went back to Germany. Visited her on their trip, she showed them all around, took them to the Jewish cemetery. Visited two Jews who still lived there, who had intermarried. Her father had a cafe he used to go to, to play cards with his friends. The cafe was still there, they went there.



Chevre Ahavaf Cemetery, Randallstown, MD



Arthur Goldmeier

Lichtenfels

Arthur, born April 27th, 1879 in Memmelsdorf near Ebern, was the son of a cattle trader called Leopold Goldmeier and his wife Therese, née Kahn. He had three sisters and eight brothers, one of them his twin brother Manfred.



Bertha Goldmeier

His brother Julius had incurable leukaemia and asked his brother to take care of his wife Bertha and his two children Ilse and Julchen shortly before his death in May 1905. So Arthur married the widow October 16th, 1907 and adopted the two girls. On 16th of July 1908 their son Ludwig was born in Lichtenfels.

Cattle trader - and so much more

Arthur and Manfred moved to Bamberg, Straße 40 1/2 in Lichtenfels in July 1906. In 1908, Arthur Goldmeier was registered in the commercial register as a cattle trader and opened a trading business with his brother.



The Goldmeier estate Bamberg, Str. Nr. 40 1/2, taken in 2009

Furthermore, he also registered a business on commission for a commodities trade, shortly before the First World War he started to deal with real estate and he took over Ernestine Fritzsche's dairy shop.

In September 1914, Arthur Goldmeier was drafted and sent to the Western front. He took part in the battles of Beaupré, St. Quentin and Arras, where he was wounded. After that he was trained as a radio operator. He received the Iron Cross and Class.

Immediately after the war Arthur and his brother got back into business. At first, they bought the house at the corner of Kirchgasse/Hinterstraße. In 1920, the brothers purchased a majority of shares for the Lichtenfels glue factory. In 1927 the brothers Goldmeier re-



LEIMFABRIK LICHTENFELS
VORM. ANDR. ULTSCH NACHFOLGER
SPEZIALFABRIK FÜR REINER LAUTZEN
LICHTENFELS

gistered a trade with cattle and real estate. At the same time, they opened commission business with Nathan Wertheim. In addition, they bought a car. The same year the brothers took over a textile and clothes shop from the Goldschmidt family, which was located in the Bamberger Straße 69. This describes the Goldmeiers' business activities only on a very superficial basis.

The financial statement of their commission businesses shows, how badly trading was affected by the crisis. Arthur paid 9,413 RM in taxes in 1927, but in 1931 it was barely 3,500 RM. The Nazis' anti-Semitic measures also left their mark. The cattle trade, which was established in September 1934, had 202,035 RM turnover in 1936, but in 1937 only just 122,828 RM. In the beginning of 1938 the brothers Goldmeier had to give up their business.

1938 ff: November Pogroms and Escape

There was no more room for them in Germany. Arthur's children emigrated in September and October 1938. Ilse, whose surname now was Liebenmann, fled with her husband, joined by her sister Julchen Schön, her husband and their two children, as well as her brother and his wife Bella, née Bambergers.

At first, Ludwig and Bella Goldmeier left their daughter Lisa with Bella's parents in Bamberg, with the intention of starting a new life in the USA first. Lisa and her grandparents stayed in

the house of a non-Jewish friend, until they were able to escape to their relatives in the US shortly after. They arrived at Ellis Island in 1938 on a overcrowded ship, having stayed there in appalling conditions.

As the direct route to the US was blocked, Arthur and his wife had to take a detour via France. They waited in Merton at the Côte d'Azur, until they were allowed to travel on the S.S. Champlain, a boat from the Holland-America Line, from St. Nazaire to New York. There, the whole family was reunited.

Starting again at 60

Arthur's son Ludwig, a competent businessman, had become a successful independent cattle trader and realtor in Unadilla, NY. Bertha and Arthur lived near their daughter's Ilse and Julia in Guilford, NY. Bertha Goldmeier already died on 14th July 1948 and was buried on the Beth David Cemetery in Conklin, Broome County, New York.

Later Arthur married Gustel (Gusti), who he met through an ad in a German-language newspaper. He lived with her up to his de-

ath. She owned a chicken farm in Vineland, New Jersey, which they both worked on. Sadly, Arthur rarely saw his brother due to the great distance of 350 km between Binghamton and Vineland.

Arthur died on June 20th, 1965 and was buried on the same cemetery as Bertha in Conklin.

Gustel and Arthur Goldmeier



Arthur Goldmeier and his great-grandchildren Robin, Charlie and Steven Oppen, Hans and Susan Schön (2004)



Arthur Goldmeier's relatives in 2013: Front row from left: Hans Domeneck, Ottavio Gelli, Lisa Goldmeier-Speckhard, Jennifer Speckhard, Julia Gelli, Jennifer Domeneck, Lori Gelli, Frank Gelli

Arthur Goldmeier



Manfred Goldmeier

Lichtentfels

Manfred Goldmeier, born April 17th, 1879 in Memmelsdorf near Ebern, settled down with his twin brother Arthur Goldmeier in Lichtentfels, Bamberger Straße 46 1/2, in July 1906.

Manfred was married to Helene Goldmeier, née Kaufmann, from Altenstein. They had two daughters: Hilde, born December 25th, 1904, whose surname was later Sternberg, and Florette, born May 4th, 1906, whose surname was later Nass.

Restless Retailer

The brothers Goldmeier conducted many different businesses in Lichtentfels. Manfred started to trade with hop and cattle in 1904, traded with commodities in 1905, went into the cattle trade with his brother in 1908 and became a realtor in 1914. Moreover, he bought the Hochrein property in the Bamberger Straße for 35,000 Mark.



Carlton Hugo Goldmeier / Nass Bayd

Their businesses almost came to a standstill during the First World War, while Manfred served in the military from 1914 to 1918. In the beginning, he was at the Western front, as of 1917 he was deployed to the Romanian front and fought in battles at the Arges, the Jalomita and the Putna, to name but a few. For that, he received the Iron Cross and Class.

Shortly after the First World War the Goldmeier brothers purchased a majority of shares for the Lichtentfels glue factory, which they expanded. In 1924 Manfred also registered a horse trade and 1927 a business as a realtor. In April 1930 the Goldmeiers took over the Goldschmidt's textile and clothes shop in the Bamberger Straße by, which they had to close again in 1933 during the economic crisis.



For his business Manfred Goldmeier needed a car and used it often. With his first 5000, under to the one in the picture, he started 60,000 km in 1930.

In this crisis, the brothers had to deal with great losses. They had to deregister their cattle trade, sell their car and freeze their private account as well as their farm labourer by 31st January 1933. After 1933 the business became more profitable again, despite the Nazis' anti-Semitic measures.

1938 ff: November pogroms and Escape

In 1938 all of this came to an end. The brothers had to sell their real estate far below value. Their businesses were all dissolved. During the November pogroms Manfred and Arthur had to flee to Bamberg to avoid their arrest. As of 6th December 1938, they had to live with the other Jews from Lichtentfels in the "Jews' house" (Judenhaus 14).

Manfred knew that his children were safe: Hilde had been waiting in Merton, France, for her to the US since 1938, which did not work out in the end. But she managed to flee to Switzerland. His daughter Florette and her family had already reached the US by November 1938.



Manfred's grandchildren: John, Karen, Jerry (left), Ursula, Frederick (middle) and Werner Nass (right) from left to right. The photo was taken in Lichtentfels in 1938.

In early April 1939, Manfred and his wife Helene also managed to emigrate to Merton in France. On May 18th, 1940 they finally departed on the SS Champlain to the USA. Their route led them from Saint Nazaire in Southern France to New York through Vladimir Nabokov and Hermann Kesten were aboard the same ship, too, where they arrived on 17th of May 1940. On the return journey, the ship was sunk.

From Retailer to "Shammes"

The task of starting a new life from scratch was very hard for 60-year-old Manfred. He and Helene found accommodation at their daughter's Florette in Binghamton (NY) in rural Broome County. His twin brother Arthur's children lived there, too, on a farm too. Their lives were hard and full of work.



But in this region, there was almost a kind of subculture of Jewish cattle traders from Southern and Western Germany, into which the families from Lichtentfels were integrated. In addition, Manfred and Helene were surrounded by their children and their families.

Manfred lived for 14 years in Binghamton, he was "shammes" (senior) in the local synagogue. In the summer, he worked as a janitor at the "Sunrise Farm" guesthouse, which was run by his daughters Hilde (now "Hilda") and Florette in the nearby Greene (Chenango County, NY). But he was not able to stop trading, as he loved interacting and communicating with people too much. Apart from that he also dealt with real estate.

Sadly, he rarely saw his twin brother Arthur, as he lived in Vineland, New Jersey, more than 350 km away.

Helene died from cancer in 1945. Manfred had a fatal heart attack on September 9th, 1953 at the age of 74. Both of them were buried in Cokesbury, Broome County, New York on "Beth David Cemetery".



Helene (Lichtentfels) Goldmeier



Sunrise Farm, Greene, NY 13



From left to right: Arthur Goldmeier, his granddaughter Lisa, Manfred Goldmeier in 1940

Manfred Goldmeier



Arthur Goldmeier

Born 17.4.1879 in Memmelsdorf b. Ebern

Died 20.06.1965 in Conklin, Broome County, New York, USA



Manfred Goldmeier

Born 17.4.1879 in Memmelsdorf b. Ebern

Died 09.09.1953 in Conklin, Broome County, New York, USA

The search for Arthur and Manfred Goldmeier

At the beginning of the project, of course, we had only the drivers' licenses as starting points, with which we could read out only the brothers' most necessary data. It made sure to search the Internet for the Goldmeier brothers. There we discovered the site www.findagrave.com, where we found their gravestones and, as it soon turned out, the gravestones of the rest of their family.

But this page did not report anything we could have worked with apart from the presumed place of death. Therefore our next address was the city archive of Lichtenfels. Here we received from Mrs. Christine Wittenbauer much useful data about their time in Lichtenfels and their occupations as businessmen. In order to supplement and complete this information, we contacted the district local historian Prof. Dr. Günter Dippold, who helped us with further information. This enabled us to lay the foundation for our research.

Based on the pictures of the two brothers' gravestones, our research also led us quite quickly to the USA. We contacted both the synagogue of the cemetery and the city of Binghamton itself. However, we received no response for months. Through further research we finally came across another synagogue,

the Temple Israel Synagogue, which we also contacted. And a short time later we even received an answer from Arie Ullmann (he wrote in perfect and idiomatic German):

Hello Laura and Luke!

Your mail to Temple Israel has been forwarded to me because I am the administrator of the Beth David Synagogue Cemetery. The cemetery in Conklin is divided in two, one part belongs to Temple Israel, the conservative Jewish community and the other part belongs to Beth David Synagogue, the Orthodox community to which I belong.

Yes and all that in German - certainly a bit surprising! I grew up in Zurich and lived in Berlin from 1976-1981, when the city still had a wall, before I emigrated to the USA with my American wife in 1981 and accepted an appointment as professor at the local branch of the State University of New York. My two children were born in Berlin. In addition, a part of my family with the name „Bamberger“ comes from Lichtenfels. They all left in time in the thirties and their descendants now live in the USA and Israel. There are coincidences, aren't there?

In response to your inquiry, in the cemetery can be found three graves: Helene (died 1945), Bertha (died 1948) and Manfred Goldmeier (died 1953). We don't have Arthur. I'll try to find out more about the family or give you tips where you can learn more. But I thought I would send you a quick answer, so that you know that your email has arrived at the right place.

Bye and good luck for your project,
Arieh Ullmann

He also spoke to friends born and raised in the area. His wife had written a sociological study about Jewish cattle dealers who had emigrated from Germany to New York in the 1930s, which gave us a lot of background information about the professional world of "our" Goldmeier twins. The contact with Mr. Ullmann

helped us a lot at the beginning of our research.

It was, of course, clear to us that we couldn't just do our exhibition with text. That's why we wrote to the Bamberg State Archives to receive pictures of the houses in Lichtenfels. The staff of the Bam-



Arthur and Gustel Goldmeier with the bridal couple Ruth Schön-Oppler and Fred Oppler, 1957

berg State Archives also drew our attention to the fact that there are several tax files handed down by the Goldmeier brothers, which were, however, transferred to the Coburg State Archives.

There we could also see the original files of the Goldmeier brothers and make copies of important parts. This helped us to complete our research about their lives in Lichtenfels.

After a long search on the Internet we discovered a funeral notice on www.obits.lohud.com/obituaries/lohud/ by a certain Lisa Stodolsky, in which we found the names of Ludwig Goldmeier and his

wife Bella. Because no email address of the relatives could be found, we wrote a letter to Lori Gallo, the daughter of Lisa Stodolsky.

She was enthusiastic about our work right from the start and promised to help us with lots of information and pictures from the time after the Goldmeiers' emigration to the USA. She also contacted other living relatives who also possessed other pictures and information from the Goldmeier family.

It can be said that Lori Gallo really brought us far with her photos and information and completed our exhibition.

Thank you, Lori!



Arthur Goldmeier's descendants 2013; Lori Gallo (2nd from right)

Lukas Franke
Laura Kolenda



Carriage ride in Lichtenfels, 1937: In the front row Manfred and Arthur Goldmeier

Lori Gallo about Arthur and Manfred Goldmeier (E-Mail of 30.08.2018)



Lenchen Goldmeier



Manfred Goldmeier

Manfred Goldmeier and his wife Lenchen came to the USA via Saint Nazaire Neves France on the ship Champlain on May 18th, 1940. He learned that the ship Champlain was sunk on the return trip to France in 1940. They arrived in New York City. His twin brother Arthur and his wife Bertha also came to New York City shortly around this time. After a short time, Manfred and Lenchen moved in with their daughter Florette, son-in law Max Nass and grandson Werner in Binghamton, NY. Binghamton is about 200 miles North of New York City in what is referred to as upstate NY. The Nass' also emigrated to the US from Lichtenfels and arrived in NYC on November 10, 1938.



Ludwig Goldmeier with wife Bella and daughter Lieselotte (1938); the picture was taken in Lichtenfels or Bamberg

Arthur's son Ludi married Bella Bamberger on October 27th, 1935. Their daughter Liselotte was born in Bamberg, Germany on April 19th, 1937. In 1938 Ludi and Bella came to America. Their daughter Liselotte and her grandparents, Elsa and Adolph Bamberger (Bella's parents) stayed in Germany, hidden in the home of a Catholic friend. The plan was for Ludi and Bella to get settled in America and then send for Liselotte, Elsa and Adolph. In 1938 Liselotte (Lisa), Elsa and Adolph arrived in Ellis Island on an overcrowded ship under terrible conditions.

In 1981, Bella Goldmeier traveled to Europe on vacation for a month with her grand-daughter, Lori Stodolsky (later to become Lori Gallo). They spent one week in Germany. During their time in Germany, they went to Bamberg and visited the home of the family that hid Lori's mother, Lisa. It was a very emotional reunion and the husband and wife cried when they saw Bella and her granddaughter. Bella and Lori spent the day with the couple. They drove by all of the places familiar to Bella, including her family home and the homes of other relatives.



Bertha Goldmeier

When Arthur and Bertha emigrated to America, they stayed with their children, Ilse, Julia and Ludi for a short time in Unadilla New York (near Binghamton). They eventually settled in Vineland, New Jersey on a chicken farm. Arthur and Bertha owned the chicken farm and worked on it selling eggs and chickens. In July 1948,

Bertha died. Arthur later married Gustel (Gusti) and they lived on the chicken farm until Arthur's death on June 20, 1965. Manfred and Arthur did not see each other very often since it was quite a trip from Binghamton to Vineland, New Jersey.

Over the years that Arthur and Bertha were alive, Werner said that his family did not see them very often, however Werner's family was always close to Arthur and Bertha's children, Ilse, Julia and Ludi.

Here is some background on the marriage of Arthur and Bertha back in Germany. Arthur's older brother Julius was married to Bertha. They had two daughters, Ilse and Julia. Three days after the birth of their second daughter, Julia, Julius died of leukemia. Before Julius died, he asked Arthur to take care of Bertha,



Ludwigs Farm in Unadilla, New York

and so Arthur married Bertha. After they married, they had a third child, Ludi (Ludwig).

When Werner and his mother and father (Florette and Max) came to the US, late in 1938, Werner was only 6 years old. The US was in a bad recession. Work was very hard to get and in early 1939 Arthur's children, who lived near Binghamton, told Max and Florette to get out of New York City and to come live with them on their farms until they were able to get jobs. Max and Florette took the advice of Ludi, Julia and Ilse and moved to upstate NY and stayed with Ludi, Julia and Ilse on their farms, spending most of their time with Julia and Simon Schoen. During the time they lived with Julia and Simon, Max and Florette's son Werner became very close with Julia and Simon's kids, Gunther and Ruth. When Max and Florette got jobs, they moved to Binghamton and got an apartment. When Manfred and Lenchen arrived in 1940, they moved into the apartment in Binghamton with Max, Florette and Werner. Lenchen died in 1945, Manfred died in 1954.

In the 14 years that Manfred lived with his daughter, Florette and her family, he kept busy as a caretaker of a synagogue and working at their summer guest house, owned by the families of his daughters Florette Nass and Hilda Sternberg. The Nass' and the Sternberg's spent their summers in Green, New York where Hilda and Florette ran a guest house called Sunrise Farms. Manfred stayed at the guest house all summer helping out as a caretaker. The rest of the year Manfred lived in Binghamton with the Nass' and the Sternbergs.

Manfred also did a little real estate work. Manfred liked dealing with people as he had done in Germany. So he kept busy in many ways. Life was not easy and everyone worked very hard to make a living.

Some additional information: Manfred and Lenchen had 2 daughters Florette and Hilda. Florette married Max Nass in Lichtenfels and had one son, Werner, born on October 1st 1932. They lived in Lichtenfels until Sept. 1938 when they left Germany. The Nass's owned a clothing store in Lichtenfels. Hilda and Siegfried lived in Oldenburg and left Germany in 1937 and went to Menton, France after the mayor of Oldenburg



from left: Arthur Goldmeier, his granddaughter Lisa, Manfred Goldmeier on the farm of Ludwig Goldmeier 1949

told them to get out of Germany. When they left Germany in Sept 1938, they went to stay with the Sternbergs in Menton, France until their ship to the US left La Have in Nov. 1938.

Unfortunately, the Sternbergs could not get to the US until after the war. They left France just in time and



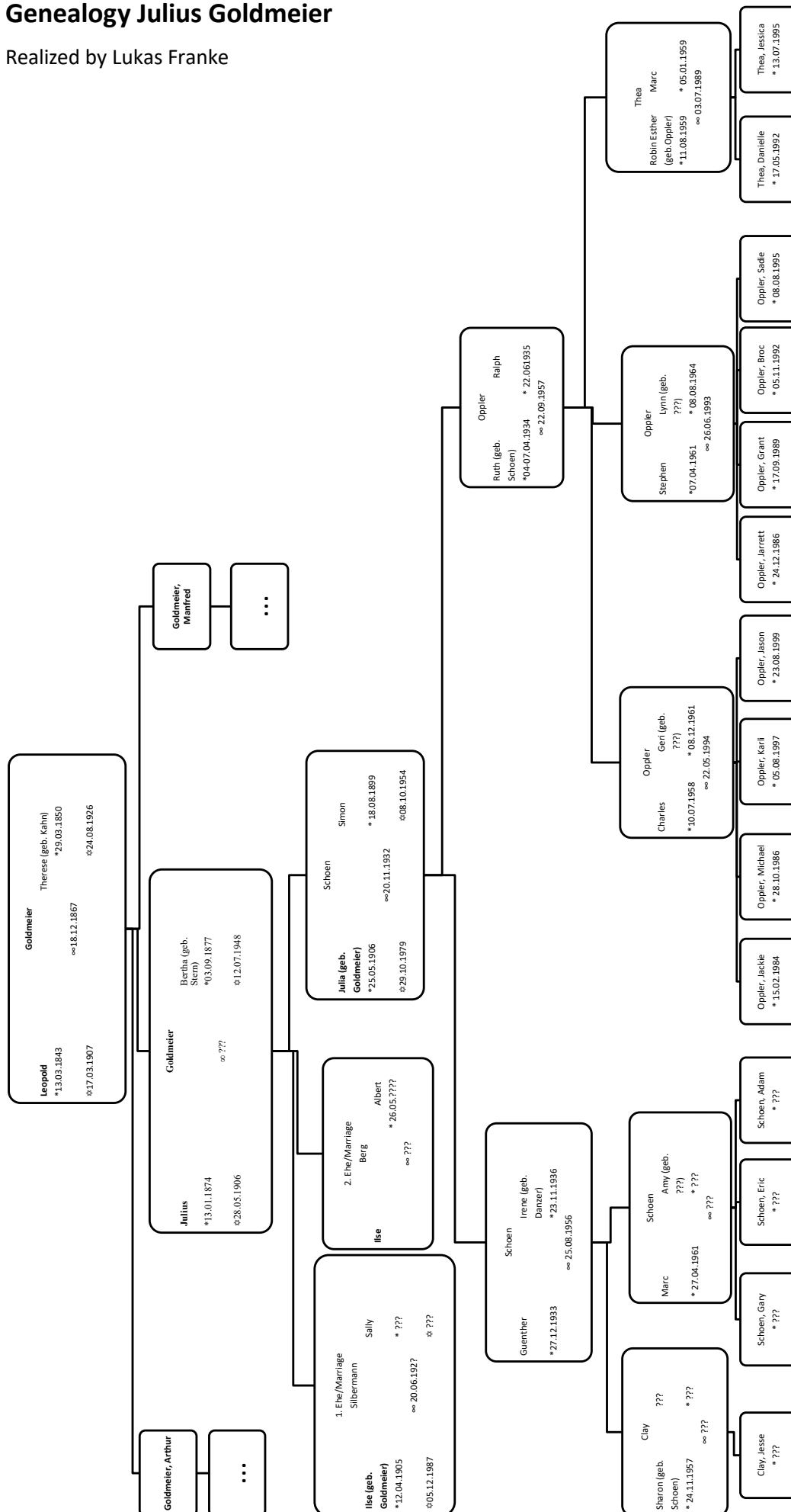
Lichtenfels, Prussia am Bamberger Tor
On the left the clothing store Goldmeier, which Manfred's daughter Florett ran with her husband Max Nass.

survived in Switzerland during the war. After the war, they were able to get to the US and they were united again with Manfred in 1946.

The Sternberg's and Nass' lived together in a two family house in Binghamton where Werner, John and Ursula grew up to adulthood.

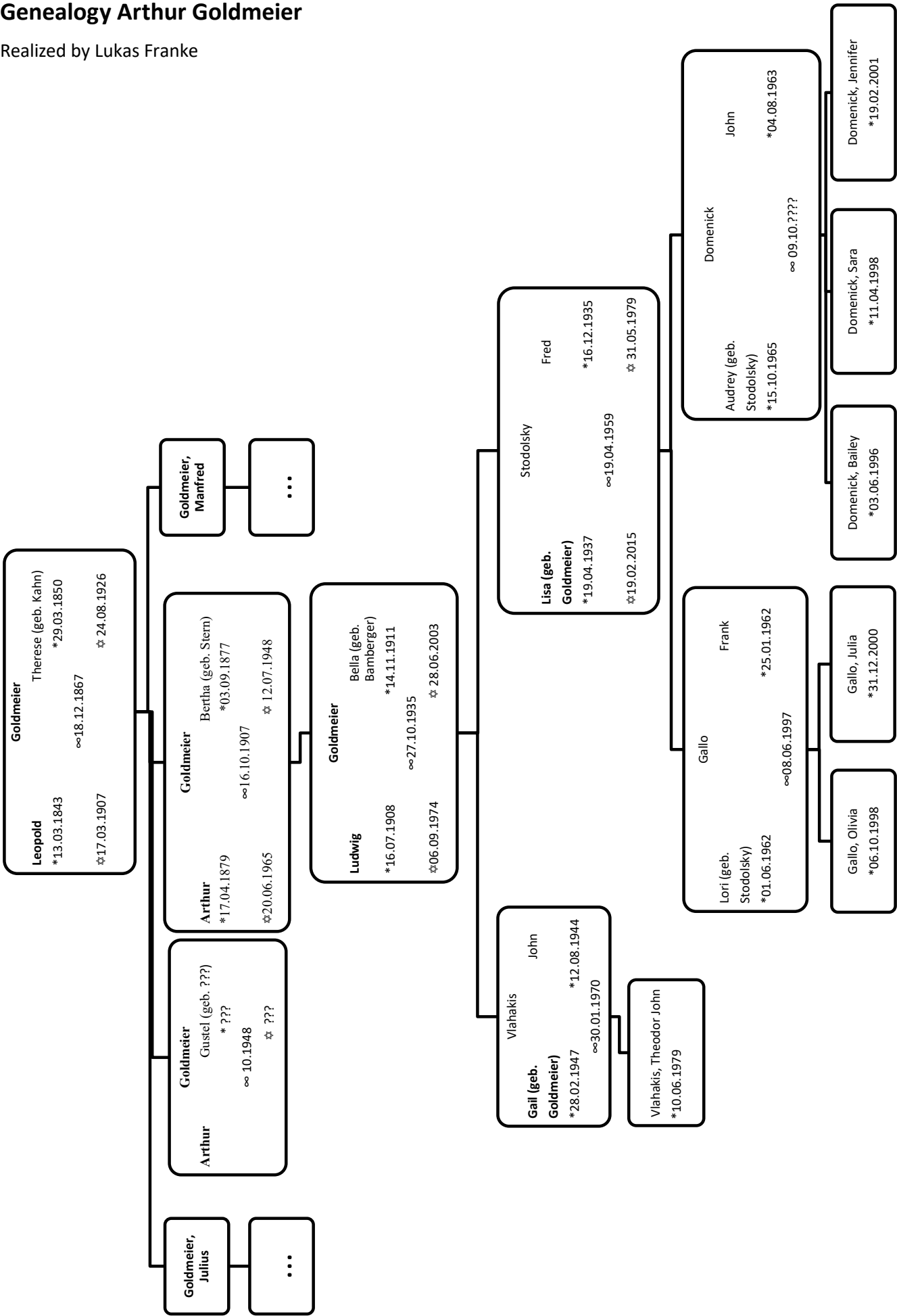
Genealogy Julius Goldmeier

Realized by Lukas Franke



Genealogy Arthur Goldmeier

Realized by Lukas Franke



Realized by Lukas Franke



WERNER NASS

Industrial Engineer and Former Tennis President



Werner Nass was born in Bavaria, Germany. This was dairy country and his grandfather was a successful cattle dealer. His parents owned a popular clothing store in the village of Lichtenfels. It was a wonderful life, but by the time Werner was 5-years-old, war clouds were gathering and Hitler came into power. Their idyllic life came to an end. Jews were being persecuted.

BY FRED CHERNOW

Photos courtesy of Werner Nass

HOW DID YOU GET TO THE UNITED STATES?

My parents realized there was no future for us in Germany. They contacted relatives in the United States and were able to get a sought-after visa for the three of us. Fortunately, a relative vouched for us and we arrived in New York in late 1938. Ironically, we set foot on American soil on November 10, the same day as the horrendous Krystallnacht in Germany, known as "The Night of Broken Glass."

WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?

We stayed with relatives in Brooklyn, where I was enrolled in the local public school. It was a difficult adjustment for all of us. I spoke no English and my parents couldn't find work because of the economic recession which gripped the city. Fortunately, a relative owned a farm upstate in Binghamton, New York. They invited us to come live with them until my parents could find work. Soon, they found jobs in retail stores. Eventually, my father found a good job at the local Sears. He became a department manager and worked for Sears for more than 23 years.

WHERE DID YOU GO TO SCHOOL?

I started public school in Binghamton and graduated from high school in 1952. I attended Clarkson College for one year and transferred to NYU School of Engineering. In 1956, with my degree in Industrial Engineering, I started my career at IBM in nearby Endicott, New York. I received a graduate degree in Industrial Engineering from Brooklyn Polytechnic Institute (now part of NYU) in 1964.

WHERE AND WHEN DID YOU MEET DAISY?

Daisy and her twin sister, Vera, were born in Bratislava, Czechoslovakia, and they were able to get to the United States in February, 1941,

by way of Lisbon, Portugal, with their parents. But first they had to stay with their grandmother in Czechoslovakia, while their parents looked for a place to live in France.

Hitler had occupied Czechoslovakia in 1939. The girls were saved by Red Cross nurses and eventually reunited with their parents in France. Soon after, they found asylum in Portugal and departed for the United States. (See photo).

During the summer of 1954 my parents had a small summer resort in Green, New York, (near Binghamton). Daisy and Vera (who now also lives at NST) answered an ad in a German language newspaper published in NYC. The resort was looking for a children's counselor and a waitress. The good-looking twins were both hired and I worked there as well. Thus started a romance between Daisy and myself and is still a romance after 61 years of marriage. We have two daughters, Valerie and Karen, and are blessed with five wonderful grandchildren, all grown and college graduates.

WHAT WERE YOUR CAREERS?

I worked for 44 years as an Industrial Engineer at Grumman, Western Electric, Recognition Equipment and Boeing. Later in



Werner and Daisy Nass

my career, I was in Information Technology. I loved my work and was grateful for the fine education I received. Daisy worked at Bloomingdales and later was an assistant manager at a boutique on Madison Avenue.

WHERE DID YOU LIVE BEFORE COMING TO NST?

We left Binghamton in 1959 and moved to Long Island. In 1960, we bought a house in Baldwin and lived there for 40 years raising our two daughters. We became empty nesters and decided we wanted a more active lifestyle. We heard about NST, and in 2000, bought an apartment in Building Three and have loved living there ever since.

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE AMENITIES AT NST THAT YOU ENJOY?

We are here 17 years now. I was involved in golf and tennis and served as President of the Tennis Association, as well as being an active member of the Country Club and NST Men's Club. My volunteer work extended outside NST as a volunteer at LIJ Hospital for more than ten years. I was selected to be on the Patient Advisory Council for two years. Daisy is active, playing Bridge, Canasta and Mah-Jongg and has volunteered as well.

They are one of North Shore Towers' most admired and respected couples. Their young lives were filled with danger. Not only have they survived and flourished, but also they give back to their community.



Gertrude Schwartz with twin daughters Daisy and Vera arrive in New York from Lisbon

Biographical interview with Werner Nass, the grandson of Manfred Goldmeier, from February 2018.

Werner Nass was born in Lichtenfels in 1928 and emigrated with his parents Florett Nass née Goldmeier and Max Nass to New York State in 1938.

Max Hellmann

Lichtenfels

Max Hellmann, the son of retail dealer Sigmund Hellmann and his wife Philippine (maiden name: Freudenthal), was born on November 24th 1889 in Altkunstadt.

His father dealt with lubricants, such as oils and fats, and came into business with farmers and smaller firms in the region. In the non-Jewish community he was known as "Schmer-Aud" (which roughly translates as "Lube-Jew"). Max first became his father's apprentice and later worked for his business.

Early in 1916 he was drafted and sent as a foot soldier to France, where he took part in combat. On June 15th 1917 he was severely wounded by shrapnel (face, neck, chest and his left upper leg). Later he was shot in the right part of his chest. For his merits he was awarded a so-called "Wound Badge", yet his scars remained.



From a Retailer to a Shop Owner

In 1919 Max got married to Katinka (maiden name: Erlanger). In 1920 their son Siegfried was born. Later he fled the Nazis to Tel Aviv. His adventurous journey took him along the Danube to his new life in Israel.



The family lived in his parents' small house in Altenkunstadt. Not only did Max Hellmann take up his father's business, he was also awarded his nickname of "Schneerjud". On



Hans von Arnimstraße



The story is Latham's 1912
Saint John on the right

a lottery ticket gained him a small fortune (in the lower five-digit area). Thus he was able to open a shop, something he had aspired to for a long time. He bought the property in Bamberger Straße 25 in Lichtenfels, moved his whole family there and opened a specialist shop for lubricants. In May 1939 he received his driving license (class IV) for four-wheeled vehicles.



his bicycle loaded with his goods he rode all around the region.

Life for the Hellmanns would have been harsh, as it was for many Jewish retailers. So it was pure luck for him to win the lottery in 1937. His one eighth of

1938 and later: Deprivation of Rights

Although they were constantly bullied, it was possible up to 1938 to lead a relatively normal life. This changed with the pogroms of November 1938.

Max Heilmann's shop was entered, robbed and destroyed in the early morning hours of November 10th 1938. He was taken into "protective custody", which lasted three weeks. The Nazi regime's measures to disperse and sanction meant that Jews had to give up their businesses and sell their property.

In 1939 Max Hellmann and his wife were sent together with other Jews from Lichtenfels to the so-called "Judenhaus" (which translates as "Jew house"), where they all lived in tight quarters in a decrepit building. Their situation worsened because of curfews, a ban on travel and the obligation to hand in winter clothes.

How Max Hellmann made a living at that time, we do not know. Other Jews were forced to work in local firms or for farmers. A contemporary witness stated that he had seen Katzka go to work every morning. She always tried to hide the Yellow Star on her coat.

The local milliner Helene Sievers, whose shop was situated at Unter den Eichen 70c, wrote in a letter to Max Hoffmann's son in 1945 that Katinka often secretly spent her lunch break at her place to talk. Mostly, she worried about her son's fate.

Max and Katinka never got to find out that her son had been able to get himself to safety.

1942: "Goodbye, my dearest family"

Five days before they were deported, Max and Katinka wrote a last letter to their relatives in Switzerland. As mail was severely censored, nothing negative could be put in the letters. But between the lines it documents the Hellmanns' desperate situation.



your effectiveness. After all, it is a ray of light for all, more than for them. The time, dear Alice, should be the best time to write in an old journal, some for me, because I am up when you come back from traveling. That you let us see of your life for it, otherwise I would have had to wait too long and we could not

Strengthening my health & my goals complete, one has to be, and I don't let myself get easily. In efforts a long time ago, I was able to find peace, inner peace and comfort and we're proud about that. Your little group has not been alone, and we are working hard from distance. Please the rest of the world.

Tonight, for today. Forward. Your family, me, and the world, you, I'll be working hard and waiting for you tomorrow.

Many, many greetings and kisses from your Aunt Patricia

Monday, 20th April. Cannot write any more now. Many greetings and kisses from your circle here.

Deportation and Assassination

In the small hours of April 19th 1942, Max and Kalina Hellmann were marched to Lichtenfels station. They were accompanied by four other Jewish citizens from Lichtenfels. In Bamberg, 103 Jews from Upper Franconia were loaded onto Deportation Train DA 43, which came from Würzburg. On April 28th, the transport reached Krasnyystaw in Southern Poland at around 8.45 a.m., all of the 999 deportees had to walk the remaining 40 kilometres to Krasniczyn. There, a ghetto had been cleared the day before by transporting the local Jewish community into the death camps.

We cannot reconstruct the further fates of Max and Katrina Hellmann to full certainty. But it is beyond dispute that in the following weeks they were sent to the extermination camps of Belzec or more likely - Sobibor like all of the other people on their train.

There, they were suffocated using carbon monoxide in gas chambers fed by the exhaust of a large petrol engine. Death would have taken up to 15 minutes to set in.

Humour has it that geese were kept next to the gas chambers. Their honking was supposed to drown out the screams of the dying, so the next victims in the camp would remain calm.

870	871	Blue	Fordland	20.11.89	R.H. Metzger	Lichtentafel
					schachmatt	Jugendzone
				89ff		3A
873	874	Kellmann	Haz	24.11.89	D.H. Arbeiter	*
					Altenheimstall	
874	875	Kellmann	Katinka	6.1.93	D.H. ohne	*
		geb. Metzger			Flörsch	Schule - Hausarbeit (Haus)

Wm. H. Bellman



Max Hellmann

born 24.11.1889 in Altenkunstadt

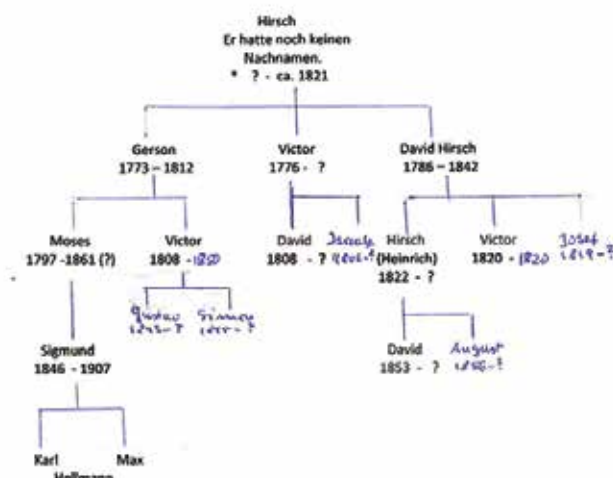
died 06.06.1942 in Sobibor (?)

As a first step in the search for Max Hellmann, we tried to find out as much as possible on the Internet. The first results were published on the platform www.ancestry.de, where one can find family trees and ancestors. Therefore, we also know that Max' wife Katinka comes from Fischach near Augsburg. In addition, we found on www.ancestry.de his military record, which documents his injuries in World War I.

As second step we asked Mrs. Inge Goebel from Altenkunstadt for her assistance; she immediately gave us her enthusiastic support. During several visits to Altenkunstadt, we got more and more information and invaluable materials such as photos of Max, Katinka and the house in Altenkunstadt. She also arranged the contact with Gabriel Hellmann, the grandson of Max and Katinka. He could also tell us more about his father's escape from Germany to Israel. It was not possible for him to come to the exhibition opening in Lichtenfels, but he wants to participate in the setting of Stolpersteine for his grandparents.

The photo of the house in Lichtenfels was made available to us by the city archivist Christine Wittenbauer.

Markus Betz
Dennis Brosig
Sophie Rauh



Genealogy realized by Ms Inge Goebel

Hello hello.

we in israel love to greet with SHALOM!

I am very happy to visit again the places where all my family lived and to meet again people whom I met there and here in Israel too.

answering your question is not easy but i'll try.

I know that my grandparents got married in 1919 and my father was born in 10/1920.

Yes I heard too that Max won the lottery or 1/8 of it and opened a business as his parents did.

As far as I know my fathers trip to Israel was a real Via Dolorosa. Starting in Germany sailing on the Danuba river to the black sea - Romania.

Waiting for the Black sea to defreeze and sailing to Palestina accompanied with British ships till Haifa port. From there to British camps for 6 months and about after a year of long way without knowing what happened to the family back in Germany.

After 2 years he joined the British Army and back to Europe. My fathers name in Israel was Shimon. We knew he was Siegfied or Fritz.

I hope I helped you a little...

My question is: When is the event we talk about? I work with my wife in our flowers shop „Nira flowers“ and we have to plan.

I think I'll come for 2-3 days.

Well I am very happy that i sat and write this mail and now I'll send it.

Please send hello to the people who know me and especially to Fritz.

Gabriel

a kind of farewell note. The desperate situation of the Hellmanns can be seen between the lines of the censored letter:

34 616 c
Herrn Baron Krügel, Hildesheim, Lichtenfels, Oefen
Campfänger, Herr Lichte, Hildesheim, Lichtenfels
Lichtenfels, etc. etc. etc.

Meine geliebte, gute Kinder!

Mehr wie in Lathropall in Jungs Cam so
 heimlich Brief, selbst tages I den schlief
 ja mehr ganz diese hatte es schon mal
 & vom, eben so gut so auch so aus
 Vornehm, eben bei der in Cam Reise aus
 mit, samt trach in mehr, verregeltete
 Oster Reise, am 10. 20. 30. 40. 50. 60. 70. 80. 90. 100.
 110. 120. 130. 140. 150. 160. 170. 180. 190. 200.
 210. 220. 230. 240. 250. 260. 270. 280. 290. 300.
 310. 320. 330. 340. 350. 360. 370. 380. 390. 400.
 410. 420. 430. 440. 450. 460. 470. 480. 490. 500.
 510. 520. 530. 540. 550. 560. 570. 580. 590. 600.
 610. 620. 630. 640. 650. 660. 670. 680. 690. 700.
 710. 720. 730. 740. 750. 760. 770. 780. 790. 800.
 810. 820. 830. 840. 850. 860. 870. 880. 890. 900.
 910. 920. 930. 940. 950. 960. 970. 980. 990. 1000.

Sender Max Israel Hellmann Lichtenfels
Recipient Ron (?) Lämmle Scha (?) Swit-
zerland

Lichtenfels, 20. 4. 42

My beloved good children!

Your heartfelt letters are more like a ray of light to us, have a thousand thanks for it, yes, our good Alice had guessed it was good time particularly to write us, because when you come back from your journey we start our late Easter journey [means: the deportation!] and so your letter was a very special joy for us. Otherwise it would have been left lying too long until we come back.

We hope your return from the Basel far was satisfactory. Respect dear. Ron, you do a lot, how much joy and pride would your dear parents in heaven have and also you we forever in our thoughts. Remain only healthy and continue all good and happiness and satisfaction; do not leave both of you. Dear Alice I hope you believe me, I love you so much as if I had known you for a long time. Dearest Leole is certainly very much looking forward to your coming home.

Health wise, I am also content and I do not let myself go so easily. Now you have received mail from your loved ones after a long time; we are all happy about that. The little parcel unfortunately still did not arrive today and also from the dearest Fritzle [the son; he was on an adventurous escape on the Danube to the Black Sea in order to reach Palestine - successfully in the end. Katinka and Max never knew that.] we wait daily for his mail.

*But now it's over for today. Farewell my
dear ones, God protect you, I bless you
[many many times. Greetings and kisses
from your Aunt Katinka*

Farewell my loved ones. I cannot write more. Heartfelt greetings and kisses your Uncle Max

Am liebsten. Im nach länger Zeit. Ist nun
 sehr wohl lechzend, aber kann nun alle mo-
 genlichen Pforten nach der harte nun mit
 der gut von 16 Pforten nun. Bis auf die
 nun sehr still. Im harte. Ist nun
 mehr still. Ist lechzend. Ist in der
 Segen. Ist sehr. Ist in der
 Ist, nun. Ist. Ist

Lebet Wohl meine Lieben. Ich
habe heute nicht schreiben
kann. Liebe — I know I am sure
I will have

Katinka and Max Hellmann

(Estate of Josef Motschmann)



The second letter was written in 1946 by Helene Sievers, a friend of Katinka, to Siegfried, Max's son. Helene Sievers was a Social Democrat and an opponent to the Nazis. She describes how she usually talked to her for an hour every day:

Letter from Helene Sievers to Siegfried Hellmann (Estate of Josef Motschmann)

Lichtenfels, 17. 12. 46

Dear Mr. Hellmann!

It's true, I have the cleaning shop at the lower gate and your mother was not only a dear customer, but also a good neighbor and acquaintance.

She came to see me, her last time in Lichtenfels stay almost every day at noon to one o'clock. We had to be very careful in front of the staff, this cruel and corrupt Hitler youth, and her main thought was how her son was doing; she had no news from you.

Now I am glad that you have found a home again and wish you all the best for the future. (...) Let me hear from you again

I greet you warmly

Yours

Helene Sievers

The Hellmann House in Altenkunstadt (30s) (Estate of Josef Motschmann)





Max Hellmann's Shop was in the grey slate house on the far right. (c) Lichtenfels City Archives



Gavriel Hellmann, the grandson of Max Hellmann, with his family (visit to the synagogue Altenkunstadt in the 1990s)





Jenny Kraus

Lichtenfels

Jenny Kraus was born as one out of three daughters to Jacob Dannenbaum, a cattle dealer from Barmen / Rhin (Lower Franconia) and his wife Sophie on 19th August 1875.



Focus of the Family

She got married to Samuel „Sami“ Kraus, also a cattle dealer, in 1903. From 1912 on, the family lived in a house in Bismarckstr. 7, their store was in Reischgasse 18. Samuel made his money selling horses and cattle. The Kraus family was highly esteemed in Lichtenfels as Jenny's brother-in-law Carl Kraus was the head of the Jewish community.

Her son Justin was born in 1904 and his younger brother Wilhelm (Willy) in 1909. The family led a good life with Jenny supporting her husband well, holding the money together and running the household. She must have been a brilliant cook because her son Willy asked her to send him home-made cookies to Buenos Aires.

The times were hard for the economy in 1933. Nonetheless, Justin founded the company "Kraus & Co" on his father's business premises. He expanded the business joining Adolf Strassner from Leipzig in 1934, and now also exported porcelain, toys and hardware. Not only the global economic crisis affected his business in a negative way.

Willy was able to attain further education. He transferred from the private school in Lichtenfels to a secondary school in Coburg, where he was able to pass his A-Levels in 1936. After graduation, he successfully studied law in Berlin.



The Kraus family around 1911: Justin, Sami, Jenny and Willy

1933-39: Life in Lichtenfels is shattered

As early as in 1933 the Nazi-dictatorship tried to exclude Jews from the legal system in Germany. Nazi-laws prevented Willy from getting a reasonable job as an attorney. Already working as a court trainee in Berlin, he was dismissed and had to move back to rural Lichtenfels. In 1934 he moved to Buenos Aires, annoyed by everyday anti-Semitism and joblessness.

It was a tough start for him, but finally, a well-paid long-term job in Paraguay in 1936 helped him to establish himself as a retailer in Argentina. Justin also emigrated to Buenos Aires in February 1936.

Sami Kraus had cardiac problems. Therefore Jenny took her driver's test in 1936 – an amazing feat for a Jewish woman of 57

years under the Nazi regime. She had to in order to support her husband in business.

Samuel Kraus did not experience the November pogroms. He died of a heart attack on 20th September 1938. Jenny was alone.

We cannot say for certain what Jenny went through on November 9th and 10th. Her brother-in-law Carl Kraus was chased by Nazi rioters across the market square in Lichtenfels – in his underwear.



Emigration to Argentina

After the departure of her two children and her husband's death, Jenny saw no reason for her to stay in Lichtenfels any longer. At the age of 60 she planned to emigrate and on 1st of April 1939 she started a journey halfway around the globe to reunite with her sons – in a country whose language and culture she did not know.

Willy, her son, traveled to Montevideo to join her for the last leg of the trip to Buenos Aires aboard "Cap Arconte", where they met Justin on 20th April 1939.

In his travelogue from 1934, Willy had written that on his departure for Argentina, the family had promised each other at Lichtenfels station that they would meet again after five years. Sami, who had cried at the station, was no longer among them.



Jenny's passport from Argentina (1939)

Jenny lived in Argentina with her son Willy / Guillermo. In February 1955 she died at the age of 79. Justin died at the age of 71 years.



In the early 80s, Guillermo visited Germany with his daughter Betina and showed her Lichtenfels. He died in 1999 at the age of 92. Betina lives with her two children in Buenos Aires. She speaks German without accent.

Jenny Kraus.



Jenny Kraus

Born 19. 08. 1879 in Bastheim (Rhön)

Died 03. 02. 1955 in Buenos Aires

The search for Jenny Kraus

The research led first to the Lichtenfels city archive in order to search through the files there. But, even the intensive, and time-consuming search did not really help us. At least the first indications that this search would lead us further away were given to us by District Curator Prof. Dr. Günter Dippold and city archivist historian Christine Wittenbauer: South America. Buenos Aires. But, more was not known.

“Kraus” is a common name; we knew from Prof. Dr. Dippold that Jenny was married to the cattle dealer Samuel “Semi” Kraus and lived at 7 Bamberger Straße and before that at 28 Reitschgasse. And we searched on genealogical internet sites, which told us a little about their origin, but nothing about their later history.

Via Internet we finally found the passenger list of the “Cap Arcona”: Arrival in Buenos Aires on 20 April 1939 (ironically Hitler’s 50th birthday), on board: Guillermo Kraus, 32 years old, and Jenny Sara Kraus, 68 years old, born in Bastheim. Bingo! That was she!

Unfortunately, the paths that had led to success with US emigrants did not work here. Letters to the Jewish community of Buenos Aires and the cemetery where Jenny lies remained unanswered. Thanks at this point to Mr. Thomas Fugmann, who translated a long letter to the AMIA (Jewish Association) into Spanish!

There were no additional traces of Jenny had apparently on the Internet. But, we did find found some more references to Guillermo (Wilhelm) Kraus and Justin(o) Kraus, the two sons of Jenny and Semi Kraus, both living and working as independent merchants in Buenos Aires

Then, the search seemed to come to a dead end. As a last attempt we enlisted the help of a professional family researcher in Buenos Aires: Andres Rodenstein from www.vitalrecords.com.ar. Andres turned out to

be a very friendly, open-minded person who was enthusiastic about our project and set to work with zeal. He found what he was looking for in court and estate files and gave us our first contact to Betina Kraus, the daughter of Guillermo and granddaughter of Jenny Kraus:

A lively exchange immediately developed between us, and she helped us wherever she could. All materials and photos of Jenny Kraus (except the pictures of

Dear Manfred,

Sorry if I make mistakes. I don't write German very often. My tears are running at the moment, I am very moved with this story.

A few hours ago today Mr. Rodenstein contacted me about Whatsapp. And now this mail. It is great what you are doing and I will of course participate. I have many photos and material for you. I have to search and arrange it. I also have a genealogical chart of my Kraus-Dannenbaum family. I will scan everything and send it to you by mail.

I had a very close relationship with my father, and I have a lot to tell. I also have a travelogue of his trip from Lichtenfels to Buenos Aires and his farewell to his family. It is very exciting and very well written. My father studied law in Germany; he was a very good student and his hobby was journalism and wrote for a Lichtenfels newspaper. So, writing came easily to him, and his emigration to Argentina flawlessly preserved.

These are long stories, so I may not tell you them all together. My father showed me Lichtenfels. We were together with my mother in Lichtenfels in 1983.

When will the exhibition take place in Lichtenfels? Maybe I can try to take part, I send you warmest regards and thanks for what you are doing.

Betina

Jenny's parents and the driver's license photo) were taken by Betina. She gave us her father's letters from Buenos Aires to his parents - and she did everything she could to participate in the opening of the exhibition.

Jan Höppel
Manfred Brösamle-Lambrecht



Betina Kraus with her children Sandro and Natasha (2013)



Wilhelm Kraus (undated)



Justin, Jenny, Samuel and Willy Kraus (about 1933)



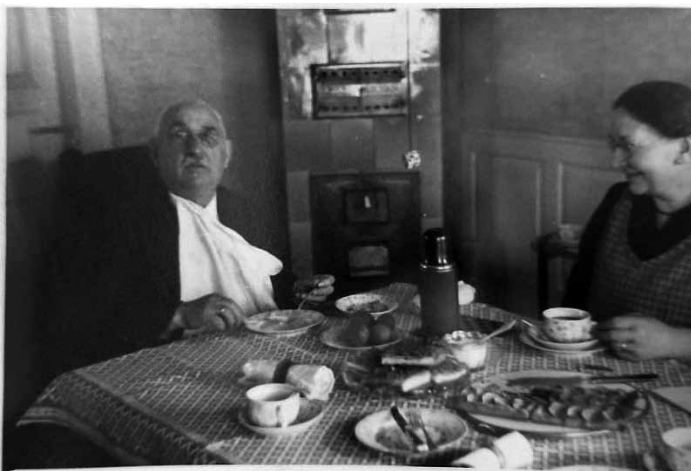
Justin and Jenny Kraus at dinner



Jenny and Semi before their back door



In Lichtenfels, Bamberger Straße 7 (about 1933)



Samuel and Jenny having coffee

Entry Jennys in her prayer book: „My beloved husband Samuel Kraus died Thursday 22th of Sepember 1938 in the morning at 3.30 a.m. (26. Seul)



Mein geliebter Mann
Samuel Kraus ist am Donnerstag
22. September 1938 Morgens
1/2 4 Uhr verstorben (26. Seul).

Kennort:	<i>Lindenberg</i>
Kennnummer:	<i>12 00 133</i>
Gültig bis:	<i>12. Februar 1944</i>
Name:	<i>Kraus</i>
Vornamen:	<i>Sara</i>
Geburtsort:	<i>19. August 1879</i>
Geburtsort:	<i>Lindenberg</i>
Beruf:	<i>Hilfslehrerin</i>
Unveränderliche Kennzeichen:	<i>Linke Hand</i>
Veränderliche Kennzeichen:	<i>Rechte Hand</i>
Bemerkungen:	<i>Arbeits</i>



Rechter Zeigefinger

Linker Zeigefinger

Jenny Sara Kraus.
(Unterschrift des Kennkarteninhabers)

12. Februar 1944
Der Landrat:
(Ausstellende Behörde)

(Unterschrift des ausfertigenden Beamten)

Nazi-ID-Card for "Jenny Sara Kraus"

Argentinian Passport 1950

Número *6081*
Número del retrato y credencial debe ser el mismo



DR. JORGE MARIO CATREN
MAT. PROF. 97483

Fot. tomada el *24-5-50*
Pulgar derecho



C. D.

Jenny Kraus.
FIRMA



Jenny Kraus in Argentina



The last pic of Jenny that we know

Good bye for a long time: Willy Kraus emigrates in 1934

The story of Wilhelm (Willy), later Guillermo Kraus, the younger son of Jenny and Samuel Kraus, is simply worth telling because his biography reflects contemporary history like few others.

Born in 1907, he soon proved to be intellectually gifted. After graduating from the private secondary school in Lichtenfels (now the Meranier-Gymnasium), he was admitted to the Ernestinum in Coburg, where he graduated from high school at the age of 19 in 1926.

His parents allowed him to study law in Berlin, which he successfully completed by 1933. He was already working as a court clerk in Berlin, when the new Nazi government ended all his hopes for the future with two laws which excluded Jews from the German legal system: Willy was denied both a career in civil service and admission to the bar.

Embittered, he was forced to return to his parents in rural Lichtenfels, where he spent grueling months searching in vain for a job - he was discriminated against

as a Jew, and at the same time the German economy was still suffering from the consequences of the world economic crisis.

Finally, he decided to emigrate to Argentina. On July 9, 1934, the family tearfully said good-bye at the Lichtenfels train station and swore to meet again in five years' time. But Semi Kraus saw his son for the last time on this day: he died in 1938. The other three actually did meet again in 1939 - but not in Lichtenfels, but in Buenos Aires.

After long, difficult beginnings with temporary jobs and low-skilled employment, Willy finally got a well-paying job in Paraguay, which after a certain time enabled him to become a self-employed businessman.

In the following, his travel report is presented in excerpts.



Guillermo Kraus 1941

		Ehefrau
Unterschrift des Paßinhabers <i>Wilhelm Kraus</i> und seiner Ehefrau		Lichtbild
Es wird hiermit bescheinigt, daß der Inhaber die durch das obenstehende Lichtbild dargestellte Person ist und die darunter befindliche Unterschrift eigenhändig vollzogen hat. Charlottenburg, den 23. FEB. 1933 <i>Hellner</i> Vorsteher des 128. Polizei-Reviers		

PERSONENBESCHREIBUNG		
Beruf <i>Referendar</i> Geburtsort <i>Lichtenfels</i> Geburtstag <i>24. III. 07.</i> Wohnort Charlottenburg. Gestalt <i>mittel</i> Gesicht <i>oval</i> Farbe der Augen <i>grau</i> Farbe des Haares <i>schwarz blond</i> Besond. Kennzeichen <i>Keine</i>		Ehefrau
KINDER		
Name	Alter	Geschlecht

Meine Reise nach ARGENTINIEN

Ich beginne damit, diesen Reisebericht zu schreiben, während unser Schiff schon in der Höhe von Brasilien fährt. In einer Woche werden wir schon im Hafen von Montevideo liegen. Heute ist der 30. Juli, ein Montag. Zeitlich und räumlich liegt Europa weit hinter uns. Es ist schon 17 Tage her, seitdem wir aus dem Hafen von Rotterdam in See gingen. Meine Leser werden sich wundern, dass ich so lange Zeit brauchte, um mit dem Schreiben zu beginnen; umso mehr, als ich doch für lange Schreibereien verschrien bin. Nur damit keiner von Euch sich Ängstigt, will ich schon hier sagen, dass mich nicht etwa Krankheit am Schreiben gehindert hätte. Alles weitere später. -- Es würde zu weit führen, wenn ich jetzt hier noch lang und breit die Vorgeschichte dieser Reise darlegen wollte. Ich kann es mir umso leichter ersparen, als Ihr mich ja wohl alle kennt und deshalb wisst, dass ich mich nur schwer dazu entschliessen konnte, Deutschland zu verlassen und es nach sehr reiflicher Überlegung dann doch tat, weil es mir nicht gelang, einen Beruf zu finden. --

Wenn es auch mit dieser Reise eng verbunden ist, beginnt es doch in der Vergessenheit zu verschwinden, wieviel Bemühungen ihr vorangehen mussten, bis alle Angelegenheiten geregelt waren, bis ich wenigstens mein Gepäck (der Zollamtswann meinte dazu: musterhaft) in Ordnung hatte, bis in meiner Tasche Fahrkarte, Geld und Genehmigung der Devisenstelle zur Ausfuhr desselben beisammen waren. -- Heute vor genau drei Wochen, möglicherweise sogar auf die Minute verliess ich Lichtenfels. Ich denke noch an all das Abschiednehmen. Ich fürchte, dass keine der vielen Einzelheiten je meiner Erinnerung entschwinden wird. Ich möchte es vermeiden, davon viel zu sprechen. Es fiel mir so schwer, mich von den Menschen zu trennen, die ich so sehr liebe und schätze. Es hatte sehr viel Kraft gekostet, dabei nicht zu weich zu werden. Ich war froh, dass es nicht viele Menschen gab, die mich weinen sahen. Montag Mittag gab es die letzte Mahlzeit bei meiner lieben Mutter, die mir -- wohl zum letzten Male für einige Zeit -- meine Lieblingsgerichte bereitet hatte. Die Minuten auf dem Bahnsteig, bis der Zug kam, wurden zu Ewigkeiten. Und das Weinen meines Vaters, als der Zug sich in Bewegung setzte, wird mir für alle Zeiten im Ohr liegen. Jedes Mal, wenn ich daran denke, wird es mir schwer ums Herz. Ich sah zum letzten Male mein schönes Frankenland, die Landschaft, die mir wohl für immer Heimat sein wird. --

Die Reise ging nach Berlin und ich musste noch immer mit einer Aufwallung meiner Gefühle kämpfen, als ich schon das Weichbild von Berlin sah. Sonst schlug mir das Herz höher, wenn ich wieder einmal nach meinem geliebten Berlin kam; dieses Mal sah ich alles mit einem Blick, der gleichsam alles noch einmal sehen und damit als dauernden Besitz erringen wollte. -- In Berlin blieb ich bis zum Mittwoch Abend. Leider konnte ich diese zweimal 24 Stunden nicht lediglich damit verbringen, in der Nähe jener Frau zu sein, die mir so viel bedeutet. Es gab noch eine Unmenge zu erledigen. Wegen der Devisen hatte Vetter Gustav sehr viel Arbeit und wir hatten viele Sorgen, bis alles im Lot war. Restlos in Ordnung war alles erst, als mir Vetter Gustav am Donnerstag Abend am Bahnhof Zoo die restlichen notwendigen Papiere aushändigte. --

Abschiednehmen ist etwas Scheussliches und so hatte ich es mir so eingerichtet, dass ich erst wenige Minuten vor Abgang meines Zuges zum Bahnhof kam. Riti war natürlich mitgekommen, Gusti und Gustav waren da und last not least Gerhard, der getreue. Riti fuhr noch bis zur nächsten Station mit, die leider nur ein paar Minuten entfernt liegt. Am Bahnhof Charlottenburg schlug auch uns die Abschiedsstunde. Ganz in der Ferne reikten sich Hände zum letzten Gruss. Am den Lichten von Berlin W vorbei fuhr der Zug in die schwarze Nacht. --

My journey to ARGENTINA

I'm starting to write this travelogue while our ship is already sailing at the level of Brasil. In one week we're going to be located in the harbors of Montevideo. Today is the 30th July, a Monday. Temporally and locally Europe's already left far behind us. It's already been 17 days since we set sail in Rotterdam. My readers will surely wonder, how much time I needed to begin writing, even more so because I'm known for my long writing sessions. Just so none of you will worry, I want to explain it here already that it wasn't sickness that hindered my writing. But more about that later - it would go too far if I were to tell the prehistory to this journey at great length. I can save that even easier as you all probably know me so you know that it was very difficult for me to make the decision to leave Germany and that I did it anyway after a lot of careful thinking because I wasn't able to find a job.

Even if it is closely related to this journey it still starts to be forgotten what great efforts you had to make until all of my issues had been resolved, until at least all of my luggage had been brought to order (the customs officer said: exemplary), until I had my ticket, money and a permit of the foreign exchange control office for the exportation in my bag.

Today exactly three weeks ago, maybe even at exactly this minute, I left Lichtenfels. I'm still thinking about all of the goodbyes. I'm afraid none of the many details will ever disappear from my memory. I want to avoid talking too much about it. It was so difficult for me to part with the people that I love so much and cherish. It took a lot of strength not to get soft during it. I was glad that there weren't many people to see me cry. At Monday noon I had the last meal of my dear mother's cooking, who had - probably for the last time in a long time - prepared my favourite meal. The minutes on the platform until the train came turned into eternities. And my father's crying, as the train started to move, will be stuck in my head for all time. Every time I think about it my heart sinks further. I saw my beautiful Franconian country for the last time, the scenery which will probably be my home forever.

The trip went to Berlin and I still had to fight with a rise of my feelings as I saw the silhouette of Berlin. Usually my heart was beating faster when I came back to Berlin once again but now I was looking at it with a gaze that wanted to see everything again and keep it as a permanent possession like that. I stayed in Berlin until Wednesday evening. Unfortunately I wasn't able to even spend 24 hours close to the woman I cherished so much. There was a vast number of things to do. Because of the currency cousin Gustav had a lot of work to do and we had a lot of worries until everything was in order. Everything was only completely fine when cousin Gustav gave me the remaining papers on Thursday evening at Bahnhof Zoo.

Saying goodbye is something atrocious so I had arranged that I would arrive at the train station only a few minutes before my train was to leave. Riti had obviously come with, Gusti and Gustav were there and last but not least Gerhard, the loyal one. Riti rode along until the next station which was sadly only a few minutes away. At the train station Charlottenburg our own parting hour began. Far away in the distance hands strained for a last farewell. Along the lights of Berlin W, the train travelled into the black night.



Josef Kraus

Lichtenfels

Josef Kraus was murdered. He did not have any descendants, and we lost track of his last remaining relatives in the USA. Thus, only little is known about him.

Life as a Merchant in Lichtenfels

Josef Kraus was born the son of Carl Kraus (1858 – 1940), a textile merchant, and his wife Johanna Kraus (née Neuburger) on March 22, 1896. He had two sisters, Hannelore (born in 1894) and Käthe.



Josef's father Carl

His father was widely respected in Lichtenfels. On the premises of his business at Markt-platz 32, he dealt with yardware and notions. In 1907 he even bought the house. He was part of the local trade association and was elected principal of the Jewish community in 1922. He also served as a councillor for the city council from 1924 onward and became a member of the board for Bavarian textile retailers.

One can assume that Josef joined his father in business, as Carl Kraus was kept busy by his duties and responsibilities and also grew older. Josef was registered as "merchant" on the list with names due for deportation on train DA 49 in 1942.



Hardware shop of the Kraus family at Obere Markt. The house on the left



1933-38: Exclusion and Discrimination

In February 1933 Josef's father Carl was honored by all the clubs, societies and committees in Lichtenfels on his 75th birthday – only six days after Hitler had been appointed Chancellor of the German Reich. One day later, the vice-mayor handed him a big bouquet of flowers in a meeting of the town council.

Only a few weeks later he was relieved from office and was forced out of all of his functions.

We do not know how Josef dealt with all of that.

1938: Fair Game in the "Night of broken Glass"

The Kraus family was hit especially hard by the pogroms in November 1938. Nazi rioters forced Josef's 40-year-old father out of his bed and drove him across the market square to the synagogue. There he had to watch how thugs from the SA destroyed the Jewish place of worship.

They also broke the glass windows of the Kraus' shop, and destroyed the interior. As a result, 20 to 30 women and girls looted the shop at 6 a.m. the next morning, until finally the police stepped in.

Not much later the same year the family had to sell the house. Carl had lived and worked in since 1890 to a non-Jewish person. Josef and his father were perished up with the other Jewish citizens from Lichtenfels in Judengasse 14, in a rundown house called "Schächter" or "Judenhaus".



The so-called "Schächter" or "Judenhaus" in Judengasse 14, where the Kraus family was forced to live in the ghetto.

Deportation and Assassination

Carl Kraus died there on January 10th 1940 at the age of 82. We do not know for certain how his son survived in these conditions. He probably had to endure forced labor in local businesses like all of the other Jews.

Hannelore, his sister, and her son managed to emigrate to her son in the USA. Their last known address is in New York. Kurt, her son, died there on August 5th 1977. We lost Käthe's tracks in 1940 in Aschaffenburg, Lower Franconia.

At daylight on April 25th 1942 Josef Kraus and five other Jewish citizens walked to the station. They were told they would leave Lichtenfels for employment of labor in the Eastern part of the Reich.

A total of 955 Jewish citizens from Franconia was transported by train "DA 49" to Krasnystaw in eastern Poland. From there, the journey went on to the extermination camps of Sobibor or Belzec.

In June 1942 Josef Kraus was probably murdered there in one of the gas chambers, inhaling carbon monoxide.

875 / 876	From Lichtenfels,	11.11.38	in Lichtenfels, Lichtenfels	Deportation	11.11.38	in Lichtenfels, Lichtenfels
877 / 878	From Lichtenfels,	11.11.38	in Lichtenfels, Lichtenfels	Deportation	11.11.38	in Lichtenfels, Lichtenfels
879 / 880	From Lichtenfels,	11.11.38	in Lichtenfels, Lichtenfels	Deportation	11.11.38	in Lichtenfels, Lichtenfels
881 / 882	From Lichtenfels,	11.11.38	in Lichtenfels, Lichtenfels	Deportation	11.11.38	in Lichtenfels, Lichtenfels
883 / 884	From Lichtenfels,	11.11.38	in Lichtenfels, Lichtenfels	Deportation	11.11.38	in Lichtenfels, Lichtenfels
885 / 886	From Lichtenfels,	11.11.38	in Lichtenfels, Lichtenfels	Deportation	11.11.38	in Lichtenfels, Lichtenfels
887 / 888	From Lichtenfels,	11.11.38	in Lichtenfels, Lichtenfels	Deportation	11.11.38	in Lichtenfels, Lichtenfels

Part of the deportation list of train DA 49, April 25th 1942

Josef Kraus



Josef Kraus

born 21. 03. 1896 in Lichtenfels
died 06. 06. 1942 in Sobibor [?]

In search for Josef Kraus

Josef was born on March 21st 1896 as the son of the textile and drapery merchant Carl Kraus (1858-1940) and his wife Johanna Kraus (née Neuburger). He had two sisters: Henriette (born in 1894) and Käthe.

Unfortunately, we found very little information about his life. It seems that he stood in the shadow of his prominent father Carl (or Karl). Carl was an elected city councilor, a member of the local trade association and a member of many local societies where he often took over executive roles. Above all he was the head of the Jewish community of Lichtenfels.

Research in the city archives revealed some details about Joseph's life. For example, Josef was a member of DDP, a liberal political party which supported the Weimar Republic, democracy and human rights. He was a former classmate and personal friend of the Lichtenfels lawyer Dr. Thomas Dehler, an upright democrat who defied the anti-Semitic orders of the regime and later became Germany's first Minister of Justice (1949-1953). Another fact is the date of his driver's license.

The list of the deportation train DA 49 calls him a "merchant." He lived in the family's house in the center of Lichtenfels, Marktplatz 21, so we assume that he worked in his father's business.

Researching the internet didn't provide substantial results despite intensive efforts. Josef wasn't married and didn't have children, so we could not look for members of his own family or descendants. We tried to find a way by his sisters. We lost track of Käthe in 1940 in Aschaffenburg, but Henriette's biography gave us hope to finally find still living descendants of Carl Kraus: Henriette married Louis Grünebaum in Lichtenfels on January 30, 1920 and moved to Aschaffenburg on January 27. On September 13, 1920 her son Kurt was born. We found out that he started an apprenticeship as a baker in Frankfurt am Main on

May 1, 1938, but already on November 16, 1938 he emigrated as a minor to New York via Hamburg. His parents followed him on August 9, 1941. Then the trail is lost. Kurt died on August 8, 1977 in New York. There was no information about him in the intervening years. In 2020, we found out that Käthe, too, had succeeded in leaving Germany and lived with her sister's family in New York.

Betina Kraus, whose father Willy / Guillermo Kraus was Josef's cousin, had heard that her grandmother Jenny had flown from Buenos Aires to the USA to visit cousins in New York and Cincinnati. Unfortunately, this weak trail also became a dead-end.

What remained for us was to apply events that affected the entire Kraus family to Josef. In the November Pogrom (Kristallnacht) the father was harassed and exposed, the business was devastated and plundered - we do not know what happened to Josef personally.

On December 31, 1938 Carl Kraus's business ceased; the family was forced to sell their house for below its value. The already mentioned deportation list gives Josef the address "Judengasse 14", that was the old butcher's house next to the synagogue. Here the remaining Jews of Lichtenfels were forcibly resettled.

We do not know why Joseph did not emigrate: Did he not have the opportunity? Both his sisters already lived in New York. Did he not want to leave his old father alone in Nazi Germany? Unfortunately, much remains unanswered.

A report of the bank account of Carl and Josef Kraus (dated 9 November 1949) shows that on 2 April 1942 the National Socialist bureaucracy still claimed 2,500 Marks "for evacuation costs" from Josef Kraus.

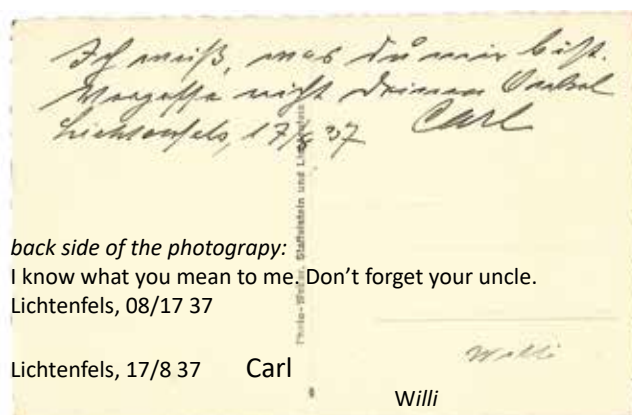
He was forced to pay for his murder.

Simon Bornschlegel
Manfred Brösamle-Lambrecht



Carl Kraus

Photography from 1937; owned by Mrs Betina Kraus



No. 6701810

Name GREENBAUM HENRIETTE

residing at 4520 Broadway N.Y.N.Y.

Age 52 years. Date of order of admission Dec 30 1946

Date certificate issued Dec 30 1946 by the

U. S. District Court at New York City, New York

Petition No. 549299

Alien Registration No. 406336960

Henriette Greenbaum
(Complete and true signature of holder)

Our last trace of Henriette Grünebaum Kraus

Residential and commercial building of the Kraus family (optically directly below the church tower; pic owned by Mrs. Betina Kraus)





The Schächter- or Jew's House Judengasse 14 (condition 1955) ["Schächter" means Kosher slaughterer]

*The remaining Lichtenfels Jews were forcibly quartered here in 1939. The house next to the synagogue was demolished in the post-war period.
Picture source: City Archive Lichtenfels*

Economic Annihilation of a Family

Aus dem Konto des Herrn Karl Kraus, Lichtenfels, später umgeschrieben auf Josef Kraus, wurden dann u.a. folgende Zahlungen geleistet :

Am 14.11.39 an das Finanzamt Lichtenfels f. 5. Rate Judenvermögensabgabe	RM. 2.500.--
am 2. 4.42 auf Sonderkonto " W " für Evakuierungskosten	" 2.500.--
am 8. 6.42 an das Finanzamt Lichtenfels - eingezogenes Restguthaben -	" 6.221.--

Die Abforderung dieses Restguthabens durch das Finanzamt Lichtenfels geschah auf dessen Verfügung vom 2.6.42 Aktenzeichen : 0 - 5205 - 875.

Hochachtungsvoll
ppa. Bankhaus Wunder & Co.

Handwritten calculations:
 5000 + 11221 = 16221
 28500 + 16221 = 44721
 46221 + 72279 = 118500

This account report was prepared on 9th November [!] 1949 in connection with the reparation negotiations by Bankhaus Wunder & Co, which had emerged from the Jewish bank A.E. Wassermann Bamberg / Berlin, which had been "aryanized" in 1938.

The "Judenvermögensabgabe" (Jewish property levy) was an arbitrary special tax for Jews. It was imposed on the Jews as "atonement" after the November pogroms on the orders of Hitler and Göring.

The fact that Josef Kraus was also financially burdened for his own deportation and murder is hard to beat in terms of cynicism.

By the beginning of June, the Lichtenfels tax office was already aware that the Kraus family's remaining assets were ownerless. It was the time when Josef Kraus was, as we suppose, suffocated in one of the gas chambers of Sobibór.

From the account of Mr. Karl Kraus, Lichtenfels, later transferred to Josef Kraus, the following payments were then made, among others

On 14.11.39 to the Lichtenfels tax office	
for the 5th installment of the Jewish property levy	RM. 2.500.--
on 2.4.42 to special account "W" for evacuation costs	RM. 2.500.--
on 8.6.42 to the Lichtenfels tax office - collected remaining credit	RM. 6.221.--

The request for this remaining credit balance by the tax office Lichtenfels was made on the basis of its decision of 2.6.42 Reference number: 0-5205-875

Sincerely
Bankhaus Wunder & Co.

Alfred Marx

Lichtenfels

Alfred Marx was born the second son of Solomon and Johanna (Hantschen) Marx in Oberlangenstadt on 18th May in 1903. The family had been in the furrier business for many generations and also catered for the needs of butchers and Alfred became his father's apprentice.

Businessman in Lichtenfels

In 1927 Alfred and his older brother Sigmund moved their family's business to Lichtenfels. One year later they registered it as "Marx & Bäumer Ltd." Their new home is in Bamberger Straße, where both families resided in a representative house.

In 1927 he married Ellen Bamberger, who was born into a well-known family in Lichtenfels that dealt with baskets. Their daughter Inge was born in 1930, Hannelore, their second daughter, in 1932.



Ellen and Alfred Marx with their daughter Inge
around 1930



1938: "The night of broken glass"

All in all, the family's financial situation was good, but because of the growing discrimination against Jews and their harassment, Alfred Marx travelled to New York in 1933, where he sought for future business opportunities. Then he started preparing for the family's emigration.

One day Inge saw a stranger driving by in the family's car, a Mercedes. She ran home to her father, who asserted that the car had

been confiscated by the Nazis. Around the same time in 1938, the family's business "Marx & Bäumer Ltd." was liquidated.

In the "Night of broken glass" the family's non-Jewish tenants hid the Marx' children in the attic, while Nazi rioters broke all breakable things they could find in their house: windows, crockery, glass. It is Inge's job - being the eldest at the age of eight - to keep her cousins quiet.

1939: Escape and Emigration

It was in the summer of 1939, when Alfred provided several fur coats for his sister in law's family, the Oppenheims. It was their aim to smuggle them out of the country and start a new life with the proceeds. When the Marx' family was found out, Alfred had to leave the country immediately to prevent being arrested by the Gestapo.

The female family members (Ellen, his mother Johanna Marx and the children) had enough time to pack their belongings. These items - including valuable objects - were to be shipped to the US, but got lost in Holland after the Second World War had started.

On 30th August 1939 the family members were reunited again in England. Due to the German air raids Inge and Hannelore's school classes were taken to safety outside of London.

While Alfred, Ellen and the Sigmund's family remained in London, the girls found shelter in the small village Knebworth in Hertfordshire. A lovely old woman took them in and they stayed in contact with her up to her death.



1940: A successful new Start in New York

Once their visa for the USA were valid, the family got onto one of the last passenger ships from Europe to the US, where they reached New York on April 17th 1940. There they moved into a small apartment in Elmhurst, Queens.

While Inge and Hannelore went to school, one of Alfred's relatives helped him to get a job in a furrier business. Ellen worked as a housekeeper. In 1946 both of them obtained the US citizenship. The family started to get accustomed to their new life and the financial situation improved.

Alfred started his own business as a furrier and was able to find new business partners in America and in Europe (e.g. "Striwa", a textile factory, in Lichtenfels).

His new success as a businessman allowed his family lead a life free from financial worries. Inge and Hanna went to college. Alfred and Ellen spent the rest of



Alfred at the park close to his home in New York



their lives in New York, where their daughters got married and raised their own children.

Alfred died at the age of 86 on 12th May 1989, his wife died four years later.

In 2015 Inge visited Lichtenfels with her whole family. This is what she wanted to say:

"Look, I'm alive. Hitler wanted to kill off every Jew that walked. Here I am with six grandchildren, two successful families. Just look at me. And I feel the Jewish people have come back, and I expect my family to be successful to make up for the Anne Franks who could not be successful, who might have been. And many like her. You tried to kill me off like a bug and I want say: Hitler, you failed."



Alfred Marx



Alfred Marx

born 08. 05. 1903 in Oberlangenstadt
died 11. 05. 1989 in New York

The search for Alfred Marx

As with all other license holders, our search for Alfred Marx began with nothing more than a blurry picture and the sparse information on his license. Prof. Dr. Günter Dippold and city archivist Christine Wittenbauer from the Lichtenfels city archive provided us with further information:

We learned Alfred's address, found out that he was employed in the family business, what his relatives and children were called and that he was married to Ellen Bamberger. We knew that the family had fled to England in 1939, but our search for their whereabouts after the escape was unsuccessful for a very long.

This changed when our classmates received an e-mail from the Jewish Museum of Maryland (JMM) in Baltimore, USA, which they had contacted about the Oppenheimer family. It also mentioned Alfred's sister-in-law Frieda Marx, née Oppenheimer. So we found out that the Marx family had emigrated to the USA.

When asked, Joana Church and Lori Rombro, the helpful staff of the Jewish Museum of Maryland in Baltimore, USA, who had already helped us with Sigmund Marx, looked for information about Alfred Marx. We learned from them that he and his family had arrived in the USA on the SS Volendam on April 7, 1940 and had later lived in Elmhurst, New York.

We then contacted some Jewish communities in New York, hoping that they could help us there and perhaps even establish contact with possible descendants. This was unsuccessful, but we soon managed to find a granddaughter of Sigmund Marx.

Through the granddaughter, Debra November-Rider, we came into contact with Alfred's descendants. His daughter Inge Stanton and his granddaughters Nancy

Stanton-Tuckman and Suzanne Schlesinger were very helpful and interested when they heard about our project.

They picked out old pictures for us and were very willing to answer all our questions, for which we are very grateful. To our great surprise we learned that Alfred's daughter and her whole family had already visited Lichtenfels in the summer of 2016. Her journey was even recorded in a very moving video by Inge's granddaughter Rachel Schlesinger. (Link see p. 50)

Inge Stanton was also kind enough to give us a detailed account of her memories of her childhood in Nazi Germany, the family's escape and her new life in America.

Inge Stanton, Suzanne Schlesinger, Nancy Tuckman and Ellen Schlesinger came from the USA to Lichtenfels for our opening event, even though they had already been here in 2016.

When Mrs. Wittenbauer, responsible for the laying of the Stolpersteine/"Stumbling Stones" of the artist Günter Demnig, learned about this, she spared no effort to put the Marx family to the list of the November 9, 2018 program, so that the descendants of the two brothers could attend the ceremony.

Clara Aumüller
Victoria Thiel

Inge Stanton's memories of the bullying of the Jews in Lichtenfels:



Inge Marx (later Stanton) nine years old

“I started first grade, (and those days in Germany, the public schools were taught by catholic nuns). I had a lovely nun. I still remember her name, it was sister Margaret and I learned to read and it was a good year. Second grade, I had a Nazi teacher. Second grade became a nightmare.”

“I was outside near the tower (which you will see) and all the sudden I saw our car come by. We had a Mercedes at the time and somebody else was driving the Mercedes. ... I ran home: “Daddy, daddy where is our car, I just saw someone drive off!” My daddy’d ran around, the car was gone. The Nazis took it. That’s all. Nothing to do. You fuss to much you lose your life. Goodbye car, goodbye House, goodbye business.”

“My father was bright enough to know that we had to get out. Hitler came into power in 1933, by 1936 Jews knew, that that was not a place, also they’d hope that Hitler was a passing fancy and it would end, but it didn’t. It was no life for Jews in Germany. Jews were nobodies, (you know the more I talk, I remember.) They just disappeared during the war. Concentration, killed to have a Germany free of Jews. That’s all. There were no Jews left.”

Inge's memories of November pogroms 1938 (“Crystal Night”)

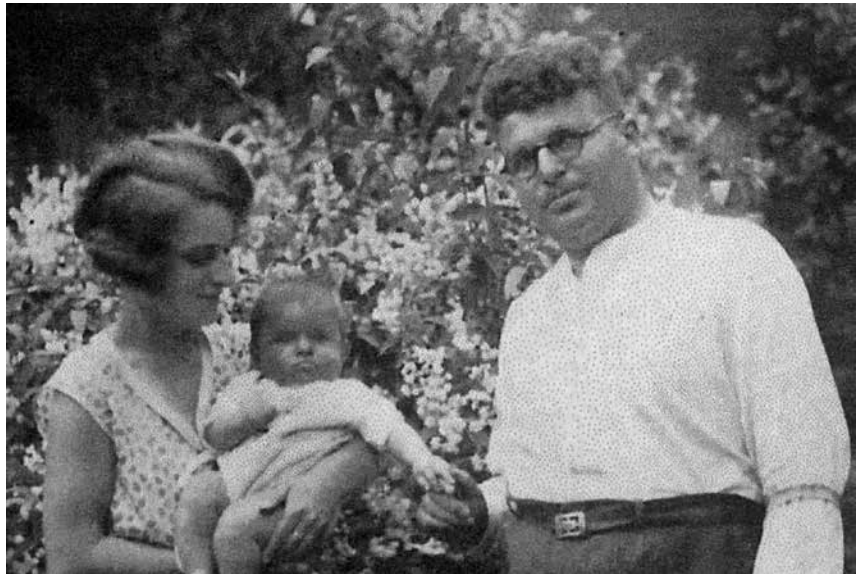
„In 39, when they had the crystal night, I remember it very, very clearly because it was a particular frightening time. The Nazis broke down the door, came into the house, destroyed whatever they could, every piece of glass, every dish was thrown through the windows. My mother had a beautiful rose garden, she was a rose person, and all our dishes and whatever that was breakable went through those windows and destroyed her rose garden.

My sister and I went up into the third floor, where we had my grandmother’s apartment and we had a non-Jewish tenant in the other half because she didn’t need the whole floor. They were very gracious and kind, they took us in and we hid up in the attic. I was the oldest at nine at that point, I had lots of little cousins and it was my job to keep them quiet and behaved. When they went looking for us, the tenant said: “oh, there’s nobody here”. He wasn’t Jewish, he was known to all the people there and we came



The stately house of the Marx Families in Bamberger Straße 19 (2018)

through it fine. But I still cringe any time any glass gets broken, I hear all the glass in our house being thrown through the windows, every window was broken, every piece of glass in the house. Through the windows. Not open windows. Through the windows.”



Ellen, Inge and Alfred Marx (ca. 1930)



*from left to right:
Ellen Marx, daughter Hannelore,
daughter Inge, Johanna Marx
(ca. 1936)*



*Inge Stanton in midst of her family
(Front row, second from left)*

Mail from Inge Stanton to Clara Aumüller

Dear Clara,

It is most interesting and commendable that you are undertaking this research and maintaining history. I am sorry that I have no further knowledge of the others on your list.

Should you need clarification, please get in touch with me. I am sure November sent you their memories of Sigmund & Friedel Marx, their grandfather and grandmother, but if you would like more, do email what you have, and I would certainly read and add my comments.

I also have some information on the Arno Bamberger family should you be interested. Arno Bamberger was the brother of Ellen Marx.

With best wishes for a successful project,

Inge Stanton

Subject: Alfred Marx – “Pathway to a New Life”

My father, Alfred Marx was born May 8, 1903 in Oberlangenstadt, Bavaria, Germany and died in New York City, USA May 11, 1989. He was married to Ellen Bamberger Marx, born in Germany May 7, 1904 and died in New York City April 27, 1993. They had two daughters, Inge J. Stanton and Hanne L. Erman who had three granddaughters and subsequently granddaughters.

Alfred Marx was insightful enough around 1937 to realize that Jews were no longer welcome or safe in Germany. As a result, he made a visit to New York to explore future business opportunities. On his return, he immediately applied for the necessary immigrant papers to the United States, but was put on a quota list, which required him to wait until 1940 because of a restrictive quota for immigrants.

In the meantime, the family including Johanna Marx mother of Alfred, made plans for temporary British visas, and prepared for eventual departure from Lichtenfels, Germany.

Crystal Nacht November 9th, 1938, all the Jewish men of the community were incarcerated in the local jail. Cell doors were not locked, and women were permitted to bring meals to the men. Most were released after a period without harm. After that date, Jewish families, if possible, realized they had to make arrangement to depart Germany.

By 1939 the family business, Marx & Bäuml, 100 years old, was dissolved by the Nazi Regime and our car as well home were forcefully taken.

Summer 1939, Alfred had to suddenly flee to prevent capture by the Gestapo because of being involved in the unlawful acquisition of furs for Oppenheims to be included in the packing of their belongings prior to emigration. The rest of our family, being female, was able to remain safely to pack all our possessions. However, they never reached the United States, as they were being stored in Holland, awaiting later shipment to New York. During that time Germany invaded that country and our “Lift,” large storage container, was returned to Germany. All was lost.

The family was reunited in England, August 30, 1939 just prior to the start of World War II. On arrival in England, Hanne and I, were enrolled in school and within days were evacuated with most children of London to safer environment. We went with our class and teacher to Knebworth, Hertfordshire, a small British Village. The generous British population opened their homes, made class-rooms available to ensure that education would continue. Hanne and I, as well as most siblings, remained together. We lived with an older loving and caring single lady with whom we stayed in touch until death.

Meanwhile our parents remained in London, reunited with our extended family including brother Sigmund and family who were also given interim shelter. When the American visas became valid, we boarded one of the last civilian liners, the Volendam surrounded by a convoy for protection, to cross the Atlantic Ocean. We arrived in New York April 17, 1939 to start our new life.

The ship was met by HIAS, The Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society, who took us to their shelter and consequently provided a furnished small apartment in New York City.



Inge Marx, 16 years



Ellen and Alfred Marx - a life between two photographs

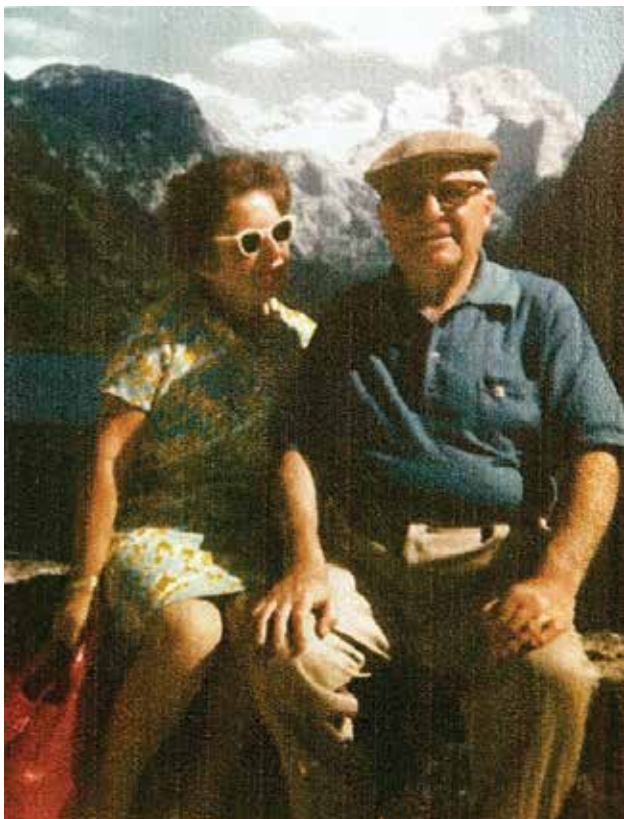
Hanne and I were registered in the local school for the remainder of the semester. As we both had become fluent in English, we adjusted well to the new environment.

Father and Mother found jobs, father with the help of a relative, in a small manufacturing company striping furs to enhance color, mother as a domestic. As a result, we were able to afford a small apartment in a quiet suburb of New York City. Some years later we moved to somewhat larger quarters in the same building. Our Parents remained there for the rest of their lives. Hanna and I attended local schools through High School and eventually college. Both of us married and raised our daughters who married and raised their own children.

After a short period of time the ladies of the family were able to advance to working at home finishing details of

manufactured goods, knitting dresses, embroidering epaulets (shoulder insignias) for the military as well as assembling petals and leaves of artificial flowers. This way they were able to be home to care for us.

By the end of the 1940s father's endeavors made the family financially comfortable and the additional income of our mother and grandmother was no longer needed. Father made new American business contacts and re-established his relationship with European companies including Striwa of Lichtenfels to find success as an independent entrepreneur. Parents were again able to enjoy some luxuries including travel within the United States and combining European travel with business. Throughout the remainder of their lives, parents lived a comfortable full life, seeing their children grow, marry and give them the joy of grandchildren.



Alfred and Ellen in Switzerland

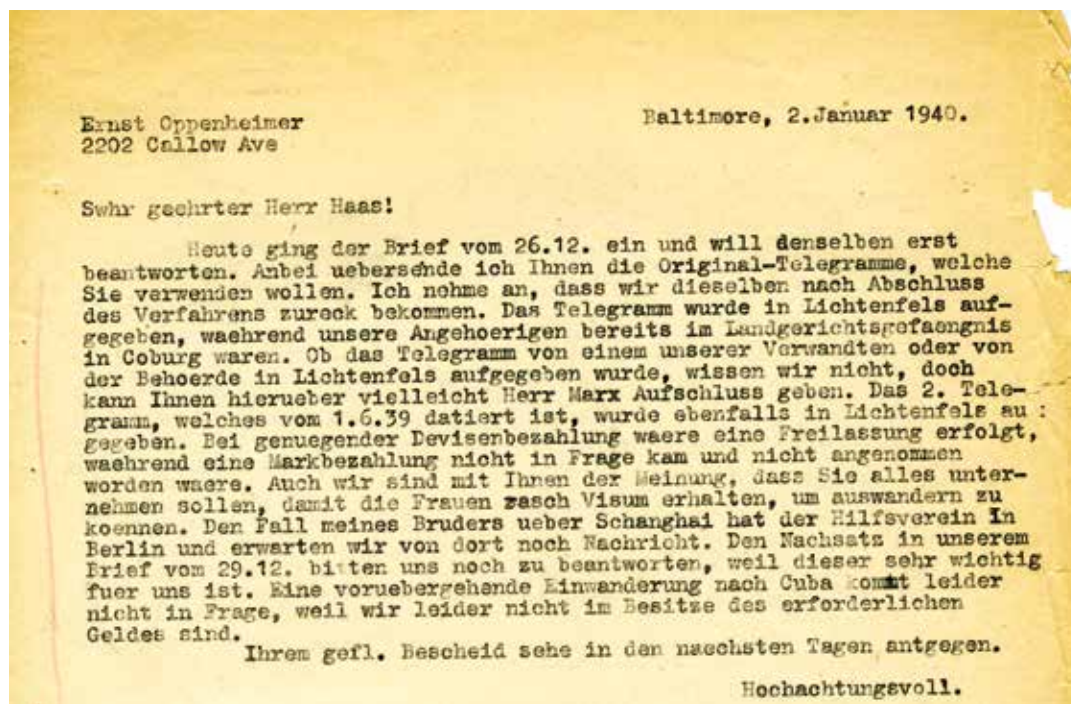


Alfred Marx in a park near his flat in New York

Alfred Marx fights for his brother's brother-in-law Alfred Oppenheimer and his family.

The letter from Ernst Oppenheimer, Alfred Oppenheimer's brother, mentions Alfred Marx as a source. Alfred had procured fur for his brother's brother-in-law Alfred Oppenheimer, which he wanted to take with him as seed capital for his new existence in the USA.

Photo courtesy of the Jewish Museum of Baltimore



Dear Mr. Haas!

Today the letter of 26.12. was received and I want to answer it first. Enclosed I am sending you the original telegrams, which I would like you to please use. I assume that we will get them back after the end of the proceedings. The telegram was posted in Lichtenfels, while our relatives were already in the regional court prison in Coburg. Whether the telegram was sent by one of our relatives or by the authorities in Lichtenfels, we do not know, but perhaps Mr. Marx can give you information about this. The second telegram, which is dated 1.6.1939, was also sent from Lichtenfels. If there had been sufficient payment in foreign currency, a release would have taken place, while a payment with marks was out of the question and would not have been accepted. We also agree with you that you should do everything you can to ensure that the women receive visas quickly in order to be able to emigrate. The Benefit Society in Berlin has the case of my brother about Shanghai, and we still expect news from there. We still ask to answer the postscript in our letter of 29. 12. because it is very important for us. An immigration to Cuba is unfortunately out of the question because we do not have the necessary money.

I look forward to receiving your estimated reply in the next few days.

Sincerely.

"Inge" - Movie by Rachel Schlesinger (2016)

Inge Marx Stanton and her whole family had already visited Germany and Lichtenfels in 2016. Rachel Schlesinger, granddaughter of Inges, shot and edited a very moving film about her grandmother's return to Germany.

The short version of the film was shown during the exhibition. The long version is also available on the Internet.

Short Version (5:30):
<https://vimeo.com/195914950>

Long Version (15:00)
<https://vimeo.com/248552305>



MARX & BÄUML G. M. B. H. LICHTENFELS BAYERN

Elektrische
Kühlschränke
u. Kühlanlagen

Gesalzene und trockene Därme, Fleischerei-Bedarf und -Maschinen
Gewürze · Ladeneinrichtungen · Felle · Häute · Rauchwaren

Vollautomatische
Schnellwaagen

Fernsprecher Nr. 131

Telegramme: Marx & Bäuml, Lichtenfels

Bank: Bayerische Hypotheken- und Wechselbank Coburg

Postcheck: Nürnberg Nr. 928

Gründungsjahr 1869

An den Bürgermeister - Amt
Oberlangenstadt

Lichtenfels, den 28.12.38.

*Für bitte davon Kenntnis zu nehmen, daß ich
ab 1. Januar 1939 den ausländischen Vornamen Israel
führe. Ich bin am 8.5.1903 in Oberlangenstadt
geboren.*

Alfred Marx

Alfred Marx informs his native community Oberlangenstadt on 28.12.1938 that he (compulsorily) accepts the additional first name „Israel“. Thus Jews were to become immediately recognizable as such at passport controls, legal transactions or the like. The deletion of the legal form „G. M. B. H.“ from the letterhead documents the dissolution of the company at the end of 1938.

Kindly made available by Mr. Christian Porzelt, Kronach.

LIST OR MANIFEST OF ALIEN PASSENGERS FOR THE UNITED STATES														
ALL ALIENS arriving at a port of continental United States from a foreign port or a port of the insular possessions of the United States, and all aliens arriving at a port of said insular possessions from a foreign port, a port of continental United States, or a port of the insular possessions of the United States. This (white) sheet is for the listing of														
S. S. VOLendam Passengers sailing from SOUTHAMPTON 7TH APRIL, 1940														
No. on List	HEAD-TAX STATUS (For aliens, see note on back of sheet only)	NAME IN FULL		Age	Sex	Calling or occupation	Able to read and write (in own language)		Nationality (Country of birth, or subject)	Place of birth	Immigration Visa, Passport, Visa, or Entry Permit (Date, number, and place of issue)	Issued	Date, concerning regulations of landing, etc. (This column for use of Government officials only)	*Last permanent residence
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
		Family name	Given name	Yrs. Mos.						Country	City or town, State, Province or District	Place	Date	Country
1		HIRSCHBERG	SIEGFRIED	57	M	MERCHANT	YES	GER. ENG.	GERMANY	HEBREW	BERLIN	QIV. 23322	LONDON	5.3.40.
2		HIRSCHBERG	STEPHANIE	45	F	NONE	DO	DO	DO	ITALY	BOLOGNA	QIV. 23323	DO	DO
3		HIRSCHBERG	WALTER	17	M	TECHN.	DO	DO	DO	GERMANY	BERLIN	QIV. 23324	DO	DO
4		HIRSCHBERG	MARTHA	16	F	HAIR-BRESSER.	DO	DO	DO	DO	DO	QIV. 23325	DO	DO
5		KAHN	WILLY	38	M	NONE	DO	ENG. GER. SP.	DO	DO	SPEYER	QIV. 23184	DO	4.3.40.
6		KAHN	GRETCHEN	33	F	NONE	DO	DO	DO	DO	MUNICH	QIV. 23185	DO	DO
7		KNOLLER	OTTO	27	M	STUDENT	DO	ENGLISH	DO	DO	VIENNA	QIV. 17630	DO	8.1.40.
8		LANGINGER	JULIUS	32	M	CHAUFFEUR	DO	DO	DO	DO	DO	QIV. 17817	DO	10.1.40.
9		LEMBERGER	KURT	33	M	CLERK	DO	DO	DO	DO	DO	QIV. 17795	DO	DO
10		LEMBERGER	SALI	31	F	DOMESTIC	DO	DO	DO	DO	STANISLAW	QIV. 17796	DO	DO
11		LEVOR	MARGRIT	14	F	NONE	DO	ENG. GER.	DO	DO	HEILBRONN	QIV. 23442	DO	7.3.40.
12		LORENBERGER	WALTER SIMON	18	M	NONE	DO	ENG. FR. GER.	DO	DO	OFFENBACH	QIV. 20898	DO	7.2.40.
13		LUSTIG	ELISE (SARA)	27	F	DOMESTIC	DO	ENG. GER.	DO	DO	GRITZINGER	QIV. 18541	DO	25.1.40.
14		MANDEL	MORITZ	36	M	READER IN SYNAGOGUE	DO	ENGLISH	DO	DO	KISLUTZ	QIV. 17692	DO	8.1.40.
15		MARGULIES	LAZAR	45	M	DOCTOR	DO	ENG. GER. FR.	DO	DO	PRZEMYSL	QIV. 4926	DO	18.3.40.
16		MARGULIES	RAFAELLA	39	F	WIFE	DO	DO	DO	DO	PODKAMIER	QIV. 4927	DO	DO
17	UNDER 16	MARGULIES	STEPHAN	12	M	NONE	DO	ENG. GER.	DO	DO	VIENNA	QIV. 4929	DO	DO
18	UNDER 16	MARGULIES	BIANCA	8	F	NONE	DO	ENGLISH	DO	DO	DO	QIV. 4928	DO	DO
19		MARX	ALFRED	36	M	NONE	DO	ENG. GER.	DO	DO	OBULANG-ENSTADT.	QIV. 21040	DO	9.2.40.
20		MARX	ELLEN	35	F	NONE	DO	DO	DO	DO	LICHTENFELS	QIV. 21044	DO	DO
21	UNDER 16	MARX	IRIS (JOSEPHINE)	10	F	NONE	DO	DO	DO	DO	BAMBERG	QIV. 21042	DO	DO
22	UNDER 16	MARX	HAVERLORE	7	F	NONE	DO	DO	DO	DO	DO	QIV. 21043	DO	DO
23		MARX	JOHANNA	63	F	NONE	DO	GERMAN	DO	DO	FUNKESBACH	QIV. 21041	DO	DO
24		PODORZER	ISAIAH DAVID	32	M	CLERK	DO	ENGLISH	DO	DO	TARNOPOL	QIV. 3577	DO	1.15.40.
25		POPPER	PAUL	35	M	NONE	DO	DO	DO	DO	LAUR	QIV. 826	LONDON	3.3.40.
26		REINER	LEON	42	M	CLERK	DO	ENG. GER.	DO	DO	CZERWELICA	QIV. 4269	DO	15.2.40.
27		REINER	MINA	38	F	NONE	DO	DO	DO	DO	KULIKOW	QIV. 4271	DO	DO
28	UNDER 16	REINER	MARFRED	6	M	NONE	DO	ENGLISH	DO	DO	VIENNA	QIV. 4270	DO	DO
29		REINOLD	EDUARD	52	M	FURS MAKER	DO	GERMAN	DO	DO	FORZHEIM	QIV. 23143	DO	2.3.40.
30		REINOLD	HILDA	41	F	NONE	DO	DO	DO	DO	HAIGERLOCH	QIV. 23144	DO	DO

Passenger's list of S.S. Volendam, April 7th 1940. On board Alfred Marx and his family



Sigmund Marx

Lichtenfels

Sigmund Marx was born on 19th of March 1899 as the oldest son of Salomon and Johanna (called Hanne) Marx. The family had been in the furrier business for three generations and also catered for the needs of butchers. Sigmund became his father's apprentice.

The family was involved in the town's social life. Sigmund played in the football team for his club in Oberlangenstadt (photo: first row, first person left side).



Businessman in Lichtenfels



After the father's death in 1918 Sigmund and his younger brother Alfred transferred the family business "Marx & Baumeister GmbH" to Lichtenfels. In the early 30s he met Frieda Oppenheimer, who was very pretty, and married her. Her family traded successfully with textiles and clothes in Lichtenfels.

On February 2nd 1936 their daughter Marion was born. They lived together with his brother's family in a representative house in the Bambergstrasse.



1938 ff.: Nazi-Terror and Emigration

During the "Night of Broken Glass" in 1938 Nazi rioters destroyed Sigmund's house, took away his car and arrested him. Shortly after that the company Marx & Baumeister GmbH had to be liquidated, both brothers were forced to sell their property below value. Luckily, Sigmund received a letter of assurance necessary to emigrate to the USA ("Alldavit") from a client's relative who he did not even know personally.

His business partner Chaim Rodoff from Leipzig tried in vain to attain the necessary documents for his children's emigration, as can be seen in the letters he wrote to Sigmund.

In April 1939 the family emigrated to England. There the family had to wait for eleven months until they were able to travel to the US, as there were waiting lists for the admission of Jews.

1940: Starting from zero

On 18th February 1940 the family were finally able to travel on board the "H.M.S. Newfoundland" to Boston. Some time later, this ship was sunk by a German submarine.



Press photo: Making in England. Frieda Marx is (second row) 4th person on the right (Sigmund Marx), Sigmund Marx is standing on the right.

The Marx family had exactly \$2 dollars of seed capital. From Boston they traveled to Baltimore, where they stayed with relatives for one and a half years. After the Nazi regime had taken everything they had from them, they had to start from scratch in the USA. They had to get accustomed to a lower social rank, a new language, a different culture and a different climate.



Report in the Boston Globe on the picture: Sigmund Marx (on the left).

Finally the found ten-tening jobs with the help of the Jewish Community that paid them 15 dollars per week. They were employed by a university professor and his wife (a sculptor), in whose house they had a room and a bathroom. In return, they kept the house in good order and looked after the cars.



Only after one or two years life became easier for the Marx family. A cousin in Newark, New Jersey, opened a factory where furs were dyed. As Sigmund was experienced in this field, he became the manager of this new company. Therefore, the family moved again. At the same time, Frieda completed a sewing machine course successfully and soon after, she was offered a job. Thus, the family started to rebuild their life and America became their new home.

Sigmund was very grateful to the USA for his admission to the country. In an interview with his granddaughter Lisa, Sigmund called America the "best country in the world".

In 1958, Frieda died at the age of only 50 years. Sigmund lived in Verona, New Jersey, where he died on January 13rd 1980, aged 81.



Sigmund Marx



Sigmund Marx

born March 19th 1899 in Oberlangenstadt
died January 23th 1980 in Verona, NJ

The search for Sigmund Marx

At the beginning of our research we contacted the Lichtenfels city archive. Mrs. Wittenbauer gave us some helpful information about the life of Sigmund Marx in Lichtenfels, e.g. his exact place of residence, his work and the names of his relatives. The only thing we knew about his flight was that he had left for England in 1939.

At first, our search for his whereabouts and possible descendants remained fruitless. Then an unlikely coincidence helped us:

In an e-mail from the Jewish Museum of Maryland, we were informed of the family's later place of residence. The museum had actually been contacted by our classmates about the Oppenheimer family because they knew that Ernst Oppenheimer, the brother of Alfred Oppenheimer, had emigrated to Baltimore.

In the e-mail, Lori Rombro, the museum staff member (many thanks once again for the willing help and encouragement!), also mentioned the siblings of Ernst Oppenheimer, including Frieda Oppenheimer, who was married to Sigmund Marx. We learned that the Marx family had also emigrated to America. When asked, we were told that Sigmund and his family had lived in Baltimore for a short time before moving to Newark, New Jersey and finally settling in Verona, New Jersey.

We could now limit our research to a few places. We contacted museums and Jewish communities in the specified cities, who provided some assistance. On various genealogy pages we found Sigmund's military and immigration documents.

By further searching the internet we learned that Sigmund's daughter Marion later married and took the name November. This also led us to his obituary.

On the Liberty Ellis Island Foundation website we found an entry on the "American Immigrant Wall of Honor" commemorating Marion Marx November. The entry was donated by Debra November-Rider. Finally we had hope again to find descendants of Sigmund. Soon we managed to find her Facebook account via Google.

After a short conversation on Facebook, Debra turned out to be a very friendly and helpful person, without whom (and her sisters Lisa and Linda) we would never have gotten this far. She sent us pictures of the time before emigration and of family celebrations in America. She even found an old school project by her sister Lisa Salko ("The Story of a German Immigrant"), which included an interview with Sigmund about his flight. This turned out to be a real treasure trove because Sigmund had kept a lot of documents that were pictured in it.

The three sisters accepted our invitation to visit Lichtenfels in November to experience the exhibition. They also took part in the setting of the Stolpersteine or "stumbling blocks" for their family and the memorial service on 9 November. The contact with them has not been broken off, the three "November Girls" have become friends.

We were especially touched by the fact that our project also had a little influence on the lives of the descendants of the Marx Brothers: The descendants of Alfred, on the one hand, and Sigmund, on the other, had lost sight of each other for years and found each other again through the exchange of driver's licenses.

Clara Aumüller
Victoria Thiel

The Marx Family in Oberlangenstadt

Oberlangenstadt is a village aside the road from Lichtenfels to Kronach. The Marx family ran a business for butcher' supply and skins there since 1863: "Marx & Bäuml" (the Bäuml family was paid out in 1919). They owned two buildings in that village and were well integrated - Sigmund for example was the team captain of the local soccer club. Another member of the Jewish community of that small village at that time by the way was Meta

Fleischmann, grandmother of singer and songwriter Bill Joel. She was five years older than Sigmund.

The Jewish Community in Oberlangenstadt - as anywhere else - was declining because of the drain into bigger cities or emigration. Sigmund was younger than 30 years when he as a trustee dissolved the possessions of the Jewish Community in Oberlangenstadt and sold the synagogue.



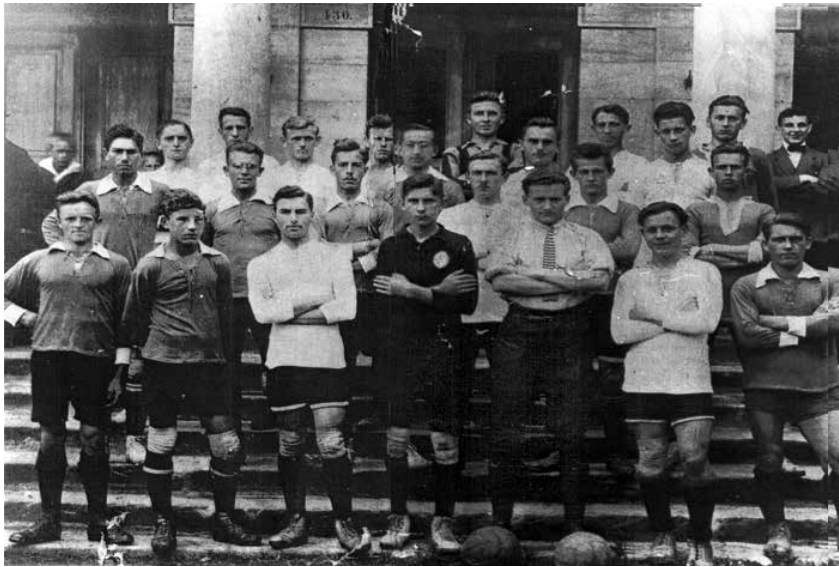
Sigmund Marx in his soccer team in Oberlangenstadt (lower row left)

Since 1927 the family moved their business to Lichtenfels, at first Alfred lived there in the stately house of his father in law Josef Bamberger, a well known and successful basket trader; Sigmund seems to have dissolved the properties of the family in Oberlangenstadt and then also moved into this estate in Lichtenfels, where the brothers continued and expanded their business.

Successful in Lichtenfels



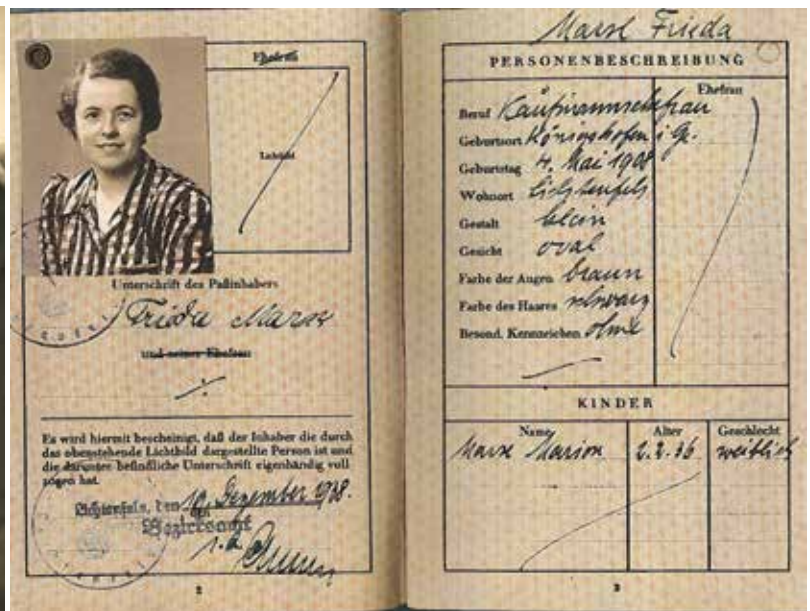
Frieda Marx Oppenheimer and Sigmund Marx in front of their (?) car



Sigmund Marx as team captain of the Oberlangenstadt football club (first row, third from left). The picture is from the mid-twenties.



Frieda and Sigmund Marx



Top: Passport of Frieda Marx, issued by Wilhelm Aumer (see p. 95)

Below: Sigmund Marx must inform the administration of his birthplace Oberlangenstadt of the forced acceptance of the additional first name „Israel“. Kindly made available by Mr. Christian Porzelt, Kronach

MARX & BÄUML G.M.B.H. LICHTENFELS BAYERN

Gründungsjahr 1869

**Elektrische
Kühlschränke
u. Kühlanlagen**

**Gesalzene und trockene Därme, Fleischerei-Bedarf und -Maschinen
Gewürze · Ladeneinrichtungen · Felle · Häute · Rauchwaren**

**Vollautomatische
Schnellwaagen**

Fernsprecher Nr. 131

Telegramme: Marx & Bäuml, Lichtenfels

Bank: Bayerische Hypotheken- und Wechselbank Coburg

Postcheck: Nürnberg Nr. 920

An das Bürgermeister-Amt
Oberlangenstadt.

Lichtenfels, den 28. 12. 38.

Ich bitte davon Kenntnis zu nehmen, daßs ich ab
1. Januar 1939 den israelitischen Vornamen Israel führe.
Ich bin am 19. 3. 1899 in Oberlangenstadt geboren.

Sigmund Marx

Farewell poem for the Marx family

The family had to wait eleven months in England for their onward journey to the USA. They lived in a temporary home provided by the Jewish community, the "Lincoln House". The roommate Fritz Weg dedicated this farewell poem to the Marx family, which was preserved in "The Story of a German Immigrant" (school project by Lisa November, 1977).

Wenn liebe Freunde von uns scheiden,
zu neuem ~~Kämpfen~~ Leben in die Ferne gehn,
um neue Kämpfe draussen zu bestehen,
um die wir sie bedauern und — beneiden,
so war's richtig, zu dem Abschied ihnen
soviel zu schenken, wie sie es verdienen.
Allein — ich sprech' im Namen wohl der meisten —
Geschenke können wir heute nicht mehr geben,
nur gute Wünsche für ein neues Leben —
die können allenfalls wir uns noch leisten.
Was also wünschen unserem Marx heute wir?
Wir dürfen auch da nicht das Maß verlieren
und müssen unsere Wünsche rationieren;
so wünschen wir ihm nichts — als ein Glas Bier!
Doch daß er in der grossen Welt, der neuen
auch das Glas Bier mag wirklich ganz enjoyen,
so steh' es täglich für ihn kühl bereit
in einer sichern, eignen Häuslichkeit!
Und daß er ~~ruhig~~ trinke, schlucke um Schlucke
(wie er beim Schachspiel tätigt Zug um Zug),
befrei' das Schicksal ihn von allen Sorgen,
wie habe Angst er vor dem nächsten Morgen,
wie zeige ihm der Dalles seine Schrecken;
wie sollte sonst denn das Glas Bier ihm schmecken.
Fern bleiben all die Krankheiten und Plagen,
die seines Sozius' family geschlagen!
Wir können ja die Zukunft nicht enthüllen,
jedoch das eine wissen sicher wir:
das Schicksal wird die kleine Bitte, dieses Bier,
mit allem, was dazugehört, erfüllen!

Was aber für Frau Marx? Daß niemals mehr
als hier im Lincoln Haus sie sich muss plagen
mit schlechten Menschen sei um sich her
und wie sich schne nach vergangenen Tagen.
Und oftmals rufe sie begeistert aus:
hier ist wie Lichtenfels plus Lincoln-Haus

When good friends leave and
Go for new life in the far
Win new battles outside there
For what we pity them and envy
To give them presents would be fair
so precious they deserve.
Alas - I say what we all think -
We can't give you presents
Just good wishes for a new life
is what we can afford today.

So what's a good wish for our Marx?
Even here we must stay mod'rate
Have to ration what we choose:
Let's wish him nothing but - a glass of beer!
But to ensure that he'll be able
To enjoy it in the far new world,
it shall evry day wait cool
in his own, safe home for him!
And that he'll drink it calmly, sip by sip
(Just as he's moving pieces on his board of Chess)
May a good fate clear his life from sorrows
relieve the grieves about tomorrows
Never shall this Dalles (?) scare him
So that he can enjoy his beer.
Oh stay away, disease and plagues,
That hit his partner's family!
We can not reveal the future
But we all here know for sure
Fate will grant that little pleasure:
A beer (and circumstances to enjoy).
But what to wish for Mrs. Marx?
May never she must work again
so hard as here in Lincoln House.
May no evil people cross her ways,
No more longing for these long gone days
And often may she cheer out loud:
"This is so nice like Lichtenfels and Lincoln-House!"



Waiting in England: Sigmund Marx standing right behind, Frieda Marx with Marion on her lap

Und die kleine Marion
geht nun weg von Wimbledon.
Fällt der Abschied ihr denn schwer?
Fährt nun übers große Meer;
größer ist, ~~was~~ das sieht sie gleich,
als dem Entlein sein Teich!
Und kommt nach Amerika,
Und was wünschen wir ihr da?
Nichts bedeutet ja der Kleinen,
was uns will so wichtig scheinen,
was wir unverständigen Alten
für so lebenswichtig halten:
Dollar, Orders hier und dort,
Börse, Boxen, Job und Sport,
Affidavit und Garantor —
nein, ein neuer Otto Kantor
sei dort in Amerika
immer für die Marion da!

Für Abschiedsfeier im Lincoln House
am 10. Feb. 1940
Fritz Weg

And our little Marion
Gonna leave now Wimbledon.
Is it hard for her to go?
She will cross the big, big sea
Much bigger than the duckling's pond
Which is really plain to see
And will reach America
What to wish her now? Let's see:
Nothing's worthy for our sweetheart
What for Grown-ups is important,
what we narrow-minded old ones
think is indispensable for life:
Dollars, orders more and more
Stock exchanges, jobs and sports,
Affidavit, Guarantees -
No! We wish her for America
A friend like Otto Kantor caring
all the time for her!

For the Farewell-Party in Lincoln-House
on February 10th 1940

Fritz Weg

British Steamer Arrives With 134 German Refugees

20 Children in Group,
Most of Whom Leave
by Bus for New York

Happy over their arrival in free America, after losing their homes and in many instances undergoing the hardships of concentration camps, 134 refugees from Germany shouted with joy when the British liner Newfoundland berthed at Pier 46, Charlestown, yesterday. Included in the party were 20 children, with their parents, who come in under the German quota.

Buses were at the pier to convey all except 12 of the group to New York. From there, most of them will journey to other sections of the country. Saul Hirschberg, 13, from Berlin, traveled alone. He will join his parents at New Rochelle, N. Y. All the refugees spent about a year in England after leaving Germany.

Those who were in concentration camps of the Nazis said that boys and men, 18 to 80 years old, were held there. Hans G. Marcus of Frankfort, Germa y, who with his wife and son, Rudolph, 13, were passengers, was in a camp at Buch-

Young Refugees From Germany



Left: Marion Marx

CHILDREN



Sigmund Marx raising a glass (2nd from left). Granddaughter Lisa Salko left

THANKS GIVING

1968



Cousins Inge Stanton and Marion November



The Fate of the Chaim Rodoff family, Leipzig

Chaim Rodoff was a business friend of the Marx families and lived in Leipzig. He was a Russian Jew by birth, had come to Germany during the First World War as a prisoner of war and finally stayed here. He married a German Jewess and had eight children with her.

Probably using his remaining connections to Russia, he set up a trade in furs and smoking goods in Leipzig. Alfred Marx did his apprenticeship at Rodoff's business; Inge Marx remembered many a visit of the Rodoff family in Lichtenfels. His letters from 1939 to his friend and associate Sigmund Marx bear witness to a desperate struggle for the lives of his children. The

letters document the difficulties and hurdles involved in emigrating from Nazi Germany. Sigmund Marx, at that time already in England, tried over months with all his might to get the children a place in a children's home there.

There were no more letters in Sigmund's possession that are dated later than August 1939. It was not until September 2019 that we found information about the cruel fate of the Rodoff family on the website of Archiv Bürgerbewegung Leipzig e.V., Haus der Demokratie Leipzig.

The ten-strong Jewish family Rodoff lived in the Waldstraßenviertel. The father Chaim, born 1892 in Kiev, had a fur shop at Brühl. His wife Rosa, born 1898 in Rzeszow (Poland), was an office clerk. They had married in Augsburg in 1921 and had eight children between 1924 and 1939: Irma, Max, Ruth, Miriam, Dorothea, Eva, Paja Jutta and Bela.

The contemporary witness Rolf Kralovitz attended the same school with Max Rodoff and did all sorts of things together with him. Kralovitz reported that the Rodoffs were members of the Orthodox Ez Chaim Synagogue, which stood in Otto Schill Street.

After the pogrom night of 1938, it became life-threatening for Jews to live in Germany. Like many others before him, Chaim applied for exit visas for the USA in 1940. Rosa's brother and cousin in New York vouched for them. Probably this was not enough to get the guarantees for all ten, because they only got three visas.

So the parents had the hard decision to decide who was allowed to leave and who was not. The only son Max and his two younger sisters Ruth and Miriam left Germany on May 31, 1941 and reached New York by ship via Lisbon.

The other seven family members were deported only eight months later. First they had been kept

for three days in a school in the former Yorkstraße (today: Erich-Weinert-Straße). On January 21, 1942, they were deported from Leipzig railway station / Engelsdorf to the Riga ghetto together with other Jewish Leipzigers. Rolf Kralovitz remembers that on this day it was ice-cold minus 20 degrees. At that time he had to help with the deportation.

When they arrived in the Riga ghetto, the people were forced to work hard at the port as well as at the construction sites of the airport and warehouses. From July to November 1943 the prisoners were taken to the new Riga-Kaiserwald concentration camp. On 2 November 1943, Mother Rosa and her youngest daughter Bela were taken to Auschwitz with a transport of children and sick people, where they were murdered in the same month. Dorothea, Eva, Irma and Paja Jutta died in Riga-Kaiserwald in June 1944. When father Chaim died there could not yet be determined.

Chaim Rodoff was 50 years old.

Rosa Rodoff was 45 years old.

Irma Rodoff was 20 years old.

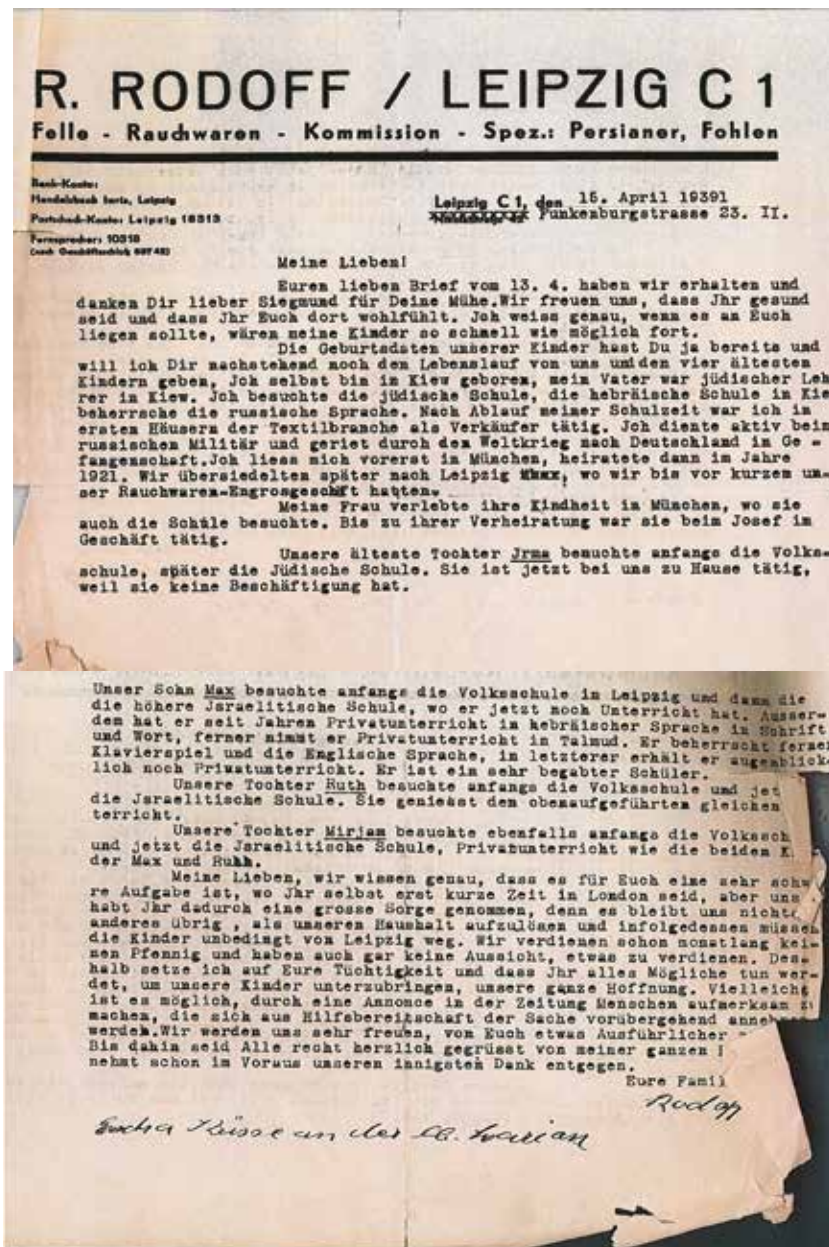
The twins Dorothea and Eva Rodoff were 12 years old.

Paja Jutta Rodoff was 11 years old.

Bela Rodoff was 4 years old.

*Source: Erich-Zeigner-Haus e.V.,
<http://www.stolpersteine-leipzig.de/index.php?id=238>*

Sigmund Marx' granddaughter Lisa told us that her grandfather had always spoken German loudly in dreams. She often heard the word "Leipzig" coming out of his mouth. He never explained it.



April 16th 1939 Funkenburgstrasse
23 II.

My Dearest! We received your dear letter of April 13th and thank you, dear Sigmund, for your efforts. We are pleased that you are well and feel good there. I know for sure, if it was up to you my children would have been gone from here as soon as possible. You already have our birthdates and I will give you in the following the life-stories of us and the four elder children. I was born in Kiev, my father was a Jewish teacher in Kiev. I attended the Jewish school, the Hebrew school in Kiev, and I speak Russian perfectly. After school I worked as a salesman in the best textile stores. I served my time in the Russian army and came to Germany as a POW in the World War. I settled in Munich and married in 1921. Later we moved to Leipzig where we ran our Furs Wholesale until recently. My wife spent her childhood in Munich where she went to school. Until her marriage she was employed in Josef's business.

Our eldest daughter Irma first attended the public elementary school, later the Jewish school. She is occupied at home now since she has no job. Our son Max at first attended the public elementary school

in Leipzig and then the Higher Israelite School where he still has classes. In addition, he has had private lessons in Hebrew speaking and writing, moreover he has private lessons in Talmud. He plays piano and speaks English for which he gets additional private lessons. He is a very gifted student.

Our daughter Ruth at first went to the public elementary school, afterwards the Israelite School. She has the same private lessons listed above. Our daughter Mirjam also attended first the public elementary school, afterwards the Israelite School. and has private lessons like Max and Ruth. Dear friends, we really know that it is a very difficult task for you, especially as you've stayed in London only a short time, but you relieved us from a heavy burden. but we are forced to dissolve our household and so the children necessarily have to leave from here. We didn't earn a penny for months and there are absolutely no chances to earn something anyhow. Therefore I lay all my hopes on your skill and that you do everything possible to get our children in, all our hope. Perhaps it's possible to catch the interest of helpful and merciful people by an advertisement in a newspaper so they could care temporarily. We will be very happy to hear more in detail from you. Up to then heartfelt greetings from my whole family to you and please accept our deepest thanks

Your family Rodoff.

Extra kisses to dear Marion!

R. RODOFF / LEIPZIG C 1

Felle - Rauchwaren - Kommission - Spez.: Persianer, Fohlen

Bank-Konto:

Handelsbank lwria, Leipzig

Postcheck-Konto: Leipzig 18313

Fernspreche ~~10319~~ 27442

(nach Geschäftschrift 53742)

Leipzig C 1, den

9. August 1939

~~Nikolaistraße 42~~

Funkenburg trasse 23.

Lieber Siegmund.

Wir haben Deine lb. Zeilen erhalten und haben uns sehr gefreut dass es Euch allen G.S.D. gesundheitlich gut geht. Auch uns geht es gesundheitlich soweit sehr gut, bis auf die Sorgen, welche schwer auf uns lasten, dass wir von hier nicht wegkommen können, weil der Amerikanische Konsul in Berlin uns grosse Schwierigkeiten infolg der grossen Familie macht.

Ich war gestern mit meiner lb. Frau in Berlin bei dem Amerikanischen Konsul und es gelang uns mit demselben zu verhandeln und hat sich der Konsul entschlossen, uns das Visum zu erteilen, sobald 4 Kinder in einen Heim untergebracht sind. Für die ganze Familie reichen die Papiere nicht aus.

Lieber Sigmund, ich bitte Dich versäume keine Stunde und mache einen Druck beim Comité, vielleicht hast Du Bekannte die Dir behilflich sein können, beim Comité zu indifinieren, dass die Kinder so schnell wie möglich angefordert werden. Ich lege Dir eine Abschrift unserer Registriernummer bei und kannst Du dem Comité erklären, dass wir russische Quote haben und infolge der kleinen Quotennummer können wir unsere Reise nach U.S.A. sofort antreten. Es hängt nur davon ab, dass wir 4 Kinder in London unterbringen können. Ich bitte Dich nochmals, setze alle Hebel in Bewegung. Wir werden selbstverständlich von hieraus noch heute an das Comité schreiben, aber wie ich mich beim hiesigen Sozialamt erkündigt habe, geht es viel schneller, wenn jemand in London der Sache hinterher ist.

Gleichzeitig wäre ich Dir sehr zu Dank verbunden, wenn Du mir mitteilen wirst, ob es ein Jüdisches Comité ist und ob die Kinder bei Juden untergebracht werden, denn wie Du weisst, möchten wir, dass die Kinder in Jüdische Familien untergebracht werden, oder in einen Jüdischen Heim.

Lieber Siegmund, weshalb hat der lb. Alfred seit seiner Anwesenheit in London noch nicht geschrieben und bitte Ihm wenigstens ein Lebenszeichen von sich hören zu lassen.

Leipzig August 9, 1939

Dear Sigmund

We have received your dear words and are very pleased that all of you, thank God, are in good health. We are also in very good health, except for the worries, which weigh heavily on us, that we will not be able to leave here, because the American Consul in Berlin creates great difficulties for us due to our large family.

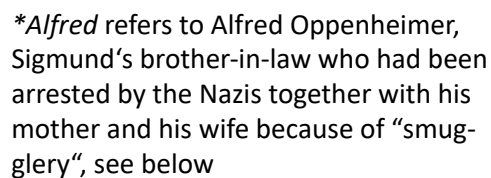
Yesterday I was with my dearest wife in Berlin at the American Consul and we started to negotiate with him, and the Consul decided to grant us a visa as soon as the four children are guaranteed a in a home placement. The papers are not sufficient for the whole family.

Dear Sigmund, I beg you not to miss an hour and put pressure on the committee, perhaps you have known people who could help you to place the children as soon as possible. I enclose a copy of our registration number and can you explain to the committee that we have Russian quota and due to the small quota number we can start our trip to the USA ...immediately. It all depends on our being able to place the four children in London. Again, please pull out all the stops.

We will, of course write to the committee from here today, but as I have inquired at the local office, it goes much faster if someone in London is on the matter. At the same time I would be very grateful if you would tell me if there is a Jewish committee and if the children will be placed with Jews, because as you know we would like to see more children placed in a Jewish family, or in a Jewish home.

Dear Sigmund, why hasn't dear Alfred written since his presence in London and ask him to let us hear some sign of life from him.

Leipzig Aug. 22th 39
Dear Sigmund, received your dear
Postcard from Aug. 07th, thank you for
it. Received a letter from the commit-
tee you registered our children in which
they inform us that our dear children are
booked with priority but they don't know
when they can leave here. This might last
months! You are our only hope and we
can't thank you as much as you deser-
ve it for all your efforts. The committee
doesn't know our situation, but you
know it in detail. What turned out with
Alfred*? Gracious God will have mercy
with this good people. Please answer
soon because you know we are very inte-
rested in this situation. Heartfelt gree-
tings to you, dear Friedel and dear Puppe
from my dear wife and family Yours
Chaim Many greetings to dear Alfred and
family and Mother



“America is the best country in the world”:
Sigmund Marx was deeply grateful to the United States for hosting him and his family.
On the left the application for naturalization



From right: Sigmund Marx, daughter Marion, Marion's husband David November, David's mother, Nettie November

*Below
Obituary of Sigmund Marx*



MARX — Sigmund, of Verona, on Wednesday, Jan. 23, 1980, beloved husband of the late Frieda and loving father of Mrs. Marion November, dear brother of Alfred, also survived by three grandchildren. Services from The BERNHEIM-GOLDSTICKER MEMORIAL HOME, 1200 Clinton Ave., Irvington, on Sunday, Jan. 27, 1980, at 11:30 A.M. Interment King Solomon Cemetery, Clifton. Period of mourning at the November residence, 3 Willow Ter., Verona, N.J. through Tuesday.

Theo Nordhäuser

Altenkunstadt

Theodor Northhauer was murdered by the Nazis. He did not have any surviving relatives who might have provided information about his life. Thus, what we know is scarce.

Life as a Merchant in Altenkunstadt

Theo Nordhäuser was born on March 27th 1882, the son of Jonas Nordhäuser, a teacher, and his wife Mathilde, née Langenberger. His sister Mathilde, who was four years his senior, lived with him up to his death.

When he was 19 he was drafted as a One-Year Volunteer Enlistee and left the army as a Gefreiter, a lance corporal. In the First World War he was sent to the Western front and fought in many combats. Late in 1914 he suffered from a persistent inflammation of the knee joint, which led to his demobilization in 1917.

It is not known to us when and where he started his apprenticeship as a merchant. The military registered him as a merchant in 1914. As a wholesaler and retailer he dealt with spirits and vinegar essences in Altenkunstadt. In 1926 he passed his driver's test for automobiles. Thus we can assume that he was quite successful in the years before the 1929 economic crisis.



A party for carnival in Altonaerstadt.
Theodor Nordhausen on the top left-hand corner fourth row.

Years in forced Labour

After all Jewish businesses had been closed at the end of 1938, the remaining Jewish citizens had to endure forced labor. Theodor worked on a farm; the farmer's niece, who was ten at that time, remembers Theodor as a sweet-tempered person.

According to her testament, he was looked after well in their house and got plenty of food, so he was able to take enough home to his sister.

Fanatic Naam found out about that, so Theodor was harassed - especially by one woman - on his way home. After he had spoken to the farmer about his problem, the latter told "Gretl" off, saying: "All of that stops from today. If you don't leave Theo alone, I'll throw you into the stream!"



The 1930s: The Way to Ruin

In the 1930s, his business was doing very badly. We do not know if that was due to the economic crisis or to discrimination against Jews.

He tried to avert bankruptcy many a time, but in 1936 he was not able to avert foreclosure for payment of social security. Even his office furniture was seized.



Thursday Jan 4th

Therese sub-
scribed the in-
formation about
surface as 0.03
(2nd signature
line removed)

Deportation and Assassination

We know that some anti-Jews among Israeli Jews secretly in Ashdod's Ashdod street, in the center of the town. The Israeli law strongly had to make him. "Schusterman" a newspaper said he had had to share with other Jews from Ashdod. It was located across the street from the NSDAP's favorite drinking place. Jewish citizens were harassed on a daily basis by drunk Nazi thugs.

In the morning of April 24th 1943 the Jewish citizens from Altona-Harzburg were led by the village constabulary to the stations from where their journey led them on Kresztopin in Eastern Poland to the extermination camp of Sobibor or Belzec.

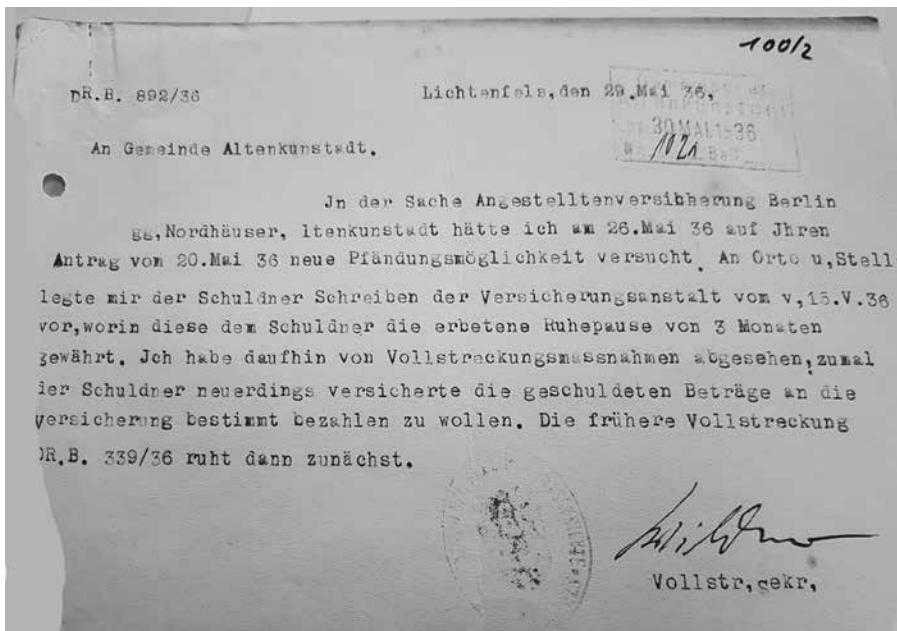
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Heuber von Kaiser



Exuberant Mardi Gras celebration in Altenkunstadt; Theodor Nordhäuser top left with hat. Right before him the married couple Wolf.
(Estate of Josef Motschmann)

Below right: Theodor Nordhäuser in the center



To community Altenkunstadt

In the case of the waiver of employment in Berlin Nordhauser of Altenkunstadt, I had attempted a new possibility of a pledge on May 26, following a request of May 20, 1936. On the spot, the debtor submitted to me letters from the insurance company in which the debtor granted the requested 3-months' grace period. I then refrained from enforcement measures, especially since the debtor recently assured the insurance company that he intended to pay the amounts due to them.

Executor

Business problems 1936

A 06 21

1. dass sie sich selbst Luftschutzräume zu bauen haben,
2. dass ihnen der Ausgang nach 20 Uhr verboten ist.

According to an order issued by the Reichsführer SS, Jews are to be informed of the following:

1. that they are to build air-raid shelters for themselves,
2. that they are forbidden to leave after 8 p.m.

Lichtenfels, September 11, 1939
The District Office.

Lichtenfels, den 11. September 1939.

Das Landratsamt.

May 1st. 1884
 Theodore Jacob Lieberman
 Johanna Sara Lieberman
 Leo Israel Wolf
 Emma Israel Wolf
 Therese Israel Wolf
 Lehman Isaac Friedenthal

*New harassment in connection with the outbreak of World War II. Theodor is the penultimate to sign the notice.
(Municipal Archive Altenkunstadt)*

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Id.Nr. v. Nr. 1	25. v. Vorname	Geburtsjahr u. Ort	Relig.	Beruf	Wohnort
880 / 879	Liebermann Rosa, geb. Hindenberg,	15.3.1875 Neumarkt, D.R.	ohne		Altenkunstadt,
881 / 880	Liebermann Johanna,	18.9.98 Altenkunstadt, D.R.	ohne		Altenkunstadt,
882 / 881	Liebermann Theodor,	6.7.83 Altenkunstadt, D.R.	Landwirt,		Altenkunstadt,
883 / 882	Liebermann Hedwig, geb. Leilberger,	11.5.92 Euerbachhausen, D.R.	ohne		Altenkunstadt,
884 / 883	Liebermann Ernst,	6.7.26 Altenkunstadt, D.R.	ohne		Altenkunstadt,
885 / 884	Liebermann Ruth,	4.7.28 Altenkunstadt, D.R.	ohne		Altenkunstadt,
886 / 885	Nordhäuser Theodor,	27.3.82 Altenkunstadt, D.R.	ohne		Altenkunstadt,
887 / 886	Nordhäuser, Mathilde,	4.4.78 Rodwitz a.d., D.R.	ohne		Altenkunstadt,
888 / 887	Schuster Max,	25.11.76 Rodenbach a.d., D.R.	Kaufmann		Altenkunstadt,
889 / 888	Schuster Julie, geb. Löwen- thal,	9.5.76 Altenkunstadt, D.R.	ohne		Altenkunstadt,
890 / 889	Wolf Leo,	15.4.92 Pappenhain, D.R.	ohne		Altenkunstadt,
891 / 890	Wolf Helene, geb. Brill,	4.12.06 Seubelsdorf, D.R.	ohne		Altenkunstadt,
892 / 891	Wolf Margot,	4.12.28 Lemberg, D.R.	ohne		Altenkunstadt,

The transport list of the deportation train DA 49 from April 1942 is the last trace of Theodor and his sister Mathilde.



Alfred Oppenheimer

Lichtenfels

Alfred Oppenheimer, who was born on 23rd January 1905, was the first of four children born to draper Nathan Oppenheimer and his wife Betty (née Maltz) Königschen in Gräbelfeld, Franconia. In 1904 his brother Ernst and in 1908 his sister Frieda were born.

Draperie N. Oppenheimer

That year the family moved to Lichtenfels, situated approximately 60 kilometers from their earlier home. Nathan took over the business of Betty's grandparents.

In August 1908 he started his own business "N. Oppenheimer" in Bamberger Straße 77 a second house nearby. The premises in Bamberger Straße remain nearly unchanged to the present day.



Oppenheimer's residential and business home
© Jewish Museum of Maryland (JMM)



A Businessman at the Age of 18

When Alfred was 16 in 1921, he started an apprenticeship in Bamberg. His father died at the age of 46 in 1920, when his son was away.



Alfred Oppenheimer
1918 (ID JMM)

In 1921 Alfred came back, took over his father's business and continued it, keeping the old name. In 1930 he passed the test for his driver's license.



Alfred Oppenheimer
1918 (ID JMM)

On October 18th in 1935 Alfred married Ann Kraemer. But their luck was short-lived. Three years later, on November 1st 1938 Alfred Oppenheimer was taken in protective custody during the pogrom against Jews. His mother Betty



A Walk on Sunday in the Main river 1937. Ann (left) and Alfred (right) Oppenheimer (ID JMM)

wrote a letter full of despair to the "political police of the district authority of Lichtenfels" and asked for her son's release.

A serious Mistake

In order to get enough money to emigrate, Alfred had to sell his business before his imprisonment in autumn 1938. Alfred, Ann and Betty already had their departure numbers and all the necessary documents including a letter of assurance for their emigration. The family planned to stay with some relatives in England before moving on to America.

In 1939 Ernst and Max, Alfred's brothers, had already emigrated to Baltimore. From there, Max moved to New Orleans. At the same time, Frieda and her husband Sigmund Marx were still in Lichtenfels.

Marx' brother Alfred had procured fur coats for the Oppenheimer family, which they wanted to sell to-

gether with some jewelry and watches in America to have an easier start.

This caused a fatal problem for Alfred Oppenheimer because it



was strictly forbidden for Jews to export valuable objects. But the family got betrayed. When they were packing, the police started a raid of their home and found out about these goods.

While the Marx brothers and Frieda were able to flee with their daughter to England, Alfred, his wife Ann and his mother Betty were imprisoned and sentenced to one or two years of imprisonment, which they had to endure in the district court jail in Coburg. From there, Alfred wrote this postcard to his brothers in America.

A futile Race against Time



Letter from Alfred's brother Ernst to the Mayor of Bamberg, 20.12.1940
© Jewish Museum of Maryland (JMM)

Now, a futile race against time started: Alfred's American relatives tried again and again to obtain their release. On the other side Ernst tried to enable them to emigrate to Shanghai, one of the last possible refuges for Jews willing to pay \$ 350 per person. Herbert Lehman, Governor of New York and one of their rela-

tives, wanted to search for them. All in all, they employed several lawyers for their mission.

But it was all in vain. The Oppenheimers stayed in prison, and the outbreak of the Second World War stopped further negotiations.

The transport list of the deportation train DA 49 from 25th of August 1942 notes the Oppenheimers' address as "Judenstrasse 14". There all the remaining Jews from Lichtenfels were forced to live. The Oppenheimers were probably taken there after their release from prison.

It was on April 28th that their transport reached Kraupsta, a town in the south-east of Poland, from there the 955 deportees had to walk the remaining 18 kilometers to Krasnyczyn. It is not absolutely clear what happened to Ann, Betty and Alfred. We know without dispute that all the deportees from train DA 49 were murdered soon after either in Sobibor or in Belzec, both of them extermination camps. According to one source the Franco-Jews probably died in Sobibor on 8th June 1942.

- 53 -		Jewish Museum of Maryland (JMM)			
DA 49	DA 49	DA 49	DA 49	DA 49	DA 49
877 / 876	Oppenheimer Alfred,	21.1.05	Lichtenfels, D.A.	none	Lichtenfels, D.A.
878 / 877	Oppenheimer Ann, geb. Kraemer,	21.9.08	Lichtenfels, D.A.	none	Lichtenfels, D.A.
879 / 878	Oppenheimer Betty, geb. Kraemer,	17.1.77	Lichtenfels, D.A.	none	Lichtenfels, D.A.



Alfred Oppenheimer

born 23.01.1903 in Königshofen im Grabfeld
died 06.06.1942 in Sobibor [?]

On the trail of the "cloth Jews"

An old file found, a worn out document, a name. That's how our research started in January 2018. When we saw Alfred Oppenheimer's driver's license for the first time at the Lichtenfels District Office, we hardly dared to touch it, worried that the grey paper might fall apart completely: A serious young man in a suit, who knew just as little about his sad fate as we did at the time, looked at us from a faded photo.

In fact, after some research, it was the tragic end of his story that we first came across: The imminent departure, the arrest for valuables he had taken with him, the deportation and murder by the Nazis. But where did it start?

What today represents only a fraction of our information was all we could work with at the beginning. In the Lichtenfels City Archive we were able to shed light on the dark for the first time and, thanks to the Oppenheimer file, were able to identify at least the closest relatives.

Alfred's parents Nathan Oppenheimer and Betty Mal-



Anni Oppenheimer 1938
(c) JMM

zer, daughter of Philipp Malzer and Franziska Stern, married in 1901 and had four children together: Their traces led us to Königshofen im Grabfeld in Lower Franconia. In an e-mail to the city administration we described our project, asked for information, and waited. Finally, we received an answer from Mr. Rainer Seelmann, a teacher from Bad Königshofen, who had

dealt with the history of the Jews there with his students. He provided us with the information he had collected.

This enabled us to extend our family tree, which now went back two generations from Alfred: Nathan was the oldest of five children and ran his late father Samuel's and his wife Regina Freund's business



Alfred Oppenheimer 1938
(c) JMM

S. Oppenheimer in Königshofen. However, why he moved with his family to Lichtenfels in 1908 and opened the N. Oppenheimer clothing store there initially remained unclear.

Our path now led us to Swabia, to Ichenhausen 300 kilometres away, the birthplace of Alfred's wife Anni Krämer. By writing to the community we hoped to obtain background information about her family. But we reached the limits of our possibilities: The marriage entry of the two from 1935 was preserved in the local archives, but some of the entries were no longer legible.

Our search became emotional when we leafed through an old file in the reading room of the Bamberg State Archives: through a newspaper report about a guided tour of Lichtenfels we had learned of a letter Betty had written to the authorities to obtain the release of her son Alfred from protective custody after the Reich Pogrom Night (Kristallnacht in November 1938). In her letter of petition, the desperate mother cited a whole range of arguments, such as the military service of her late husband Nathan, the health problems of herself and her son, and the family's



The business and residential building of the Oppenheims 1937
Reprinted with permission of the Jewish Museum of Maryland

Extra billige Angebote!

Hemdenbieder	gestreift u. kariert von M	13. an
Ritteldieder		von M 15. an
Blaudruck		14. 16. und 20.
Bettuchstoffe, Hemdentuche,		
Weißwaren gute Qualitäten		
Bettdecken, Bettbarment, Biederbettücher		
	weiß und farbig	
Handtücher	weiß und farbig	von M 10. an
Gardinen	preisw. Qual.	
Kleiderstoffe	weiß, schwarz und farbig	
	in größter Auswahl	
Costümstoffe	neue moderne Farben von M	30. an
Anzug- u. Winterstoffe zu billigen Preisen		
Flauschstoffe		von M 35. an
N. Oppenheimer.		

Advertisement in the Lichtenfelser Tagblatt of 20. 12. 1920



The former commercial and residential building of the Oppenheims
(admission from 2018)

imminent departure from Germany anyway. The fact that Nathan fought for Germany with honors in World War I, which was quite rare for a Jew of his rank, we could also see from his war record in the Ancestry collection. In the file with Betty's letter were other official documents, including a whole series of identical letters from the Nazi authorities, which demanded various renovations and fire protection measures in their offices from the Oppenheimer family. Each of these requests, which lasted for years, was accompanied by a reply from Alfred or one of his brothers, in which they stated that they lacked the financial means to carry out these costly measures and asked for postponement.

We were allowed to get to know the family and their living situation better when we held in our hands in the State Archives the original of a building plan that Betty Oppenheimer had made in 1927 as part of the extension work to the business premises. With her original signature we were also able to determine with certainty how her first name was spelled, as our previous sources had varied between different spellings.

While Alfred, Anni and Betty were deported and murdered only a few years after their marriage, Alfred's siblings were spared this cruel fate: all three were able to leave Germany in time and survived the Holocaust. The three granddaughters of Alfred's sister Frieda Oppenheimer Marx, Debra November-Rider, Lisa Salko and Linda Tutin took part in the ceremony of setting the "Stolpersteine (stumbling blocks)" for the three Oppenheims on November 9, 2018 in Lichtenfels.

Our research into the fate of the Oppenheims led us to America, where we contacted the Jewish Museum in Maryland to obtain information about the whereabouts of Alfred's brother Ernst, who had allegedly left for Baltimore. We were unable to provide much more than his date of birth and the approximate time of his emigration. But we were lucky: We learned from the museum that he married the German Meta Maier in Baltimore on February 6, 1938. On a group picture from 1937 she is shown in Lichtenfels together with Alfred, Anni and Mother Betty. Probably Ernst acted as photographer.

According to a source, when they emigrated to the United States the same

year, they still travelled in separate cabins until they were able to celebrate their wedding the following spring. The two remained childless and emigrated to Rio de Janeiro in the 1960s. But they returned to Baltimore, where they died in old age. Both are buried in the cemetery in Randallstown.

Brother Max also fled to Baltimore, from where he traveled on to New Orleans. But, here his trail gets lost. According to our research, he remained single and reached an advanced age. Sister Frieda with her husband Sigmund Marx and daughter Marion, born in 1936, also escaped from the Nazi extermination apparatus and built a life for herself in America. Her fate can be read in more detail in the research on the Marx brothers' drivers' licenses. Through this connection we learned even more sad details: The daughter of Frieda's brother-in-law Alfred Marx witnessed the arrest of the Oppenheimer family as a child and shared her memories with us. In addition to the information about Alfred's siblings, we received some pictures that were taken in Lichtenfels in the 1930s, including portraits of Alfred Oppenheimer and his wife: Anni finally had a face for us. The aforementioned group picture also comes from the Jewish Museum of Maryland, as does a photograph of the N. Oppenheimer shop at Bamberger Straße 33.

The latter led us to discover this very building in Lichtenfels, which today is located - almost unchanged on the outside - in the inner Bamberger Straße. We talked to the current owner, told him about our project and showed the photos from Baltimore. Little by little we found out that Alfred had sold the business premises in 1938 directly to his grandfather, a banker known to the Oppenheimer family, in order to raise money for the planned emigration to America. Now we finally found out why the Oppenheimers moved to Lichtenfels in 1908: they took over the business from Betty's grandparents, the Stern family, when they were no longer able to do so due to their age.

The anecdotes about the Oppenheimer family made them more and more alive for us: We were told, for example, that as children Alfred and his siblings sometimes stole sausage rolls from their father's journeymen, which they did not get at home because of their Jewish religion. The fact that the Oppenheimers



Sunday stroll along the river Main 1937.

*From left: Meta Oppenheimer (wife of Ernst Oppenheimer), Mother Betty, Alfred and Anni.
Reprinted with kind permission of the Jewish Museum of Maryland*

were called "Stoffjuden" (cloth Jews) also comes from this source. However, we were particularly pleased about the eyewitness report that Ernst and Max returned to Germany in the 1960s. They visited the owners of the former business premises and toured their home town; an opportunity that had been denied to Alfred and Anni.



The Oppenheimer Siblings: From left Ernst, Max, Frieda, Alfred
(c) Lisa Salko

In addition, we had received scans of correspondence with the family's lawyer, who, together with Ernst and Max, had been trying desperately from Baltimore from 1939 onward from Baltimore to enable Alfred and his family to leave the country in time. These letters also mentioned a certain Edgar Stern, whose identity was initially unclear to us. As a result, we came across a blog entry on the Internet in which the husband of the granddaughter of Betty's brother describes the fate of his relatives during and after the

Holocaust. With his help, we were able to reconstruct Betty's family tree, found out which rich relatives were supposed to help the Oppenheimer family leave the country, and were able to place the name Edgar Stern: He was the grandson of Betty's uncle and married the daughter of one of the directors of Sears & Roebuck.

The tragic fate of the Oppenheimers was made particularly clear to us when we were allowed to read a postcard that Alfred wrote to his brothers in America from his imprisonment in Hof in 1939: His words gave no indication of whether he was aware of his dangerous situation. They did, however, testify to despair and concern for the family, although the National Socialist censorship forbade him to write anything that went beyond mere insinuations. It was impossible for us to imagine the fear he must have felt in the last years of his life, and yet we learned a little more about the man whom we were allowed to get to know better and better over time; far beyond a faded black-and-white photograph and a handwritten name. With the old driver's license alone as material we could not guess at first how deep we would dig, how far we would get and what tragic story we would reconstruct. But with time we succeeded in bringing Alfred Oppenheimer and his

family back to life: We researched, delved deeper and deeper, piecing together an ever-growing picture from our fragments. These were scattered around the globe, so without support we would not have been able to give those people a face.

Therefore we would like to thank for research, information and materials

- Mrs. Lori Rombro from Baltimore and the Jewish Museum of Maryland
- Mr. Rainer Seelmann from Bad Königshofen
- Prof. Dr. Günter Dippold, District Custos of Upper Franconia
- Mrs. Birgit Traub (municipality of Ichenhausen)
- State Archives Bamberg
- Mrs Christine Wittenbauer (City archive of Lichtenfels)
- Mr Gerhard Deuerling from Lichtenfels and his family
- Ms Caitrin Gladow of the Jewish Federation of Greater New Orleans

They all helped us to realise a project that was unforgettable for us and helped it to take on dimensions that nobody had expected at the beginning.

Luise Aumüller, Luise Birkner

Open Racism already in March 1933



[Lichtenfelser Tagblatt, 03/30/1933]

NSDAP advertisement in the local daily newspaper

The Jewess Mrs. B. Oppenheimer, with genuine Jewish impudence, keeps herself from denigrating her sons as morally indecent.

Admittedly, after current Roman Jewish law, the prosecution of the Jew Oppenheimer accused of a moral crime had to be discontinued.

This law, which is still in force today, will soon have to give way to German law, under which such Jews will have to face severe and most severe punishment. Until such time as this German law comes into force, the Jewish boys who lust after German girls will receive a brief beating which will teach them to behave in a decent manner. The German girls unworthy of the name, however, who do not consider themselves too good for the desires of the Jewish boys, will be listed on a „blackboard“ which will be published in the press and by placard.

District leadership of the N.S.D.A.P. Lichtenfels

We do not know the exact details of this affair. Obviously one of Betty Oppenheimer's sons had a love affair with a non-Jewish woman. The local Nazi party, with its open, aggressive racism, publicly threatened the two young people, Betty Oppenheimer had opposed this.

Nor do we know how the affair ended. Perhaps this incident is connected with the early emigration of Max Oppenheimer.

Mother's letter to the „political police“ of November 1938

Source: Staatsarchiv Bamberg

For the attention of the
venerable District Office
Lichtenfels

Subject: Application of
the merchant's widow
Betty Oppenheimer in
Lichtenfels for protective
custody release of her
son Alfred Oppenheimer,
businessman in Lichten-
fels, born January 23,
1903

My pre-named son Alfred
Oppenheimer has been in
protective custody since
November 12, 1938 and is
currently, as far as I
know, in Hof.

The same has been for
years co-owner of the N.
Oppenheimer company in
Lichtenfels; I myself
have not been able to do
business for years due
to illness. I am already
over 60 years old and
have very painful and
difficult abdomen and
intestinal ailments;
I have a serious heart
condition.

In the course of the last
few years I have repea-
tedly spent long periods
in hospitals and sanato-
riums, most recently in
Baden-Baden.

My husband Nathan
Oppenheimer served for
four years in the mili-
tia, three-and-half of
them at the front in the
Vosges; he died soon after
the war.

My son Alfred Oppenhei-
mer's wife is currently
in the clinic of Professor Hauch in Erlangen, so that since my two other sons have already emigrated to North America, I
am all alone and cannot help myself.

My son Alfred Oppenheimer is also suffering from a severe heart condition: he very often has severe heart spasms.

He also suffers from sciatica and chronic inflammations of the throat and larynx; he has had to undergo repeated cu-
res for this, for example in Bad Salzungen and Bad Reichenhall.

Dr. Rossbach and Dr. Wiesend from here can and will confirm this at any time.

In the autumn of this year, we sold our business premises at Hans-Schemm-Str. 77.

The most essential part of the contract, with which the business was bought, is the settlement with the successor to the
business and the goods receipt on which this settlement is based, which has not yet been completed. Therefore, it was not

Lichtenfels, den 28. November 1938.

An die

Politische Polizei
z.Hd. des verehrl. Bezirksamts Lichtenfels

L i c h t e n f e l s .

= = = = =

Betr: Gesuch der Kaufmannswitwe Betty Oppenheimer
in Lichtenfels um Schutzhaft-Entlassung ihres
Sohnes Alfred Oppenheimer, Kaufmann in Lichten-
fels, geb. am 23.1.1903.

Mein vorgeb. Sohn Alfred Oppenheimer befindet sich seit 12.
Nov. 38 in Schutzhaft, zur Zeit, soviel ich weiss, in Hof.

Derselbe ist seit Jahren Mitinhaber der Firma N. Oppenheimer
in Lichtenfels; ich selbst kann seit Jahren krankheitshalber
mich geschäftlich nicht mehr betätigen. Ich bin bereits über
60 Jahre alt und habe ein sehr schmerzhaftes und schwieriges
Unterleibs- und Darmleiden; auch bin ich schwer herzkrank.

Ich war im Laufe der letzten Jahre wiederholt längere Zeit
in Krankenhäusern und Sanatorien, zuletzt in Baden- Baden.

Mein Ehemann Nathan Oppenheimer war 4 Jahre als Landsturm-
Mann im Felde, davon 3 1/2 Jahre lang an der Front in den
Vogesen; er ist alsbald nach dem Kriege verstorben.

Die Ehefrau meines Sohnes Alfred Oppenheimer befindet sich
zur Zeit in der Klinik des Herrn Prof. Hauck in Erlangen, sodaß
ich, nachdem schon 2 Söhne von mir nach Nordamerika ausge-
wandert sind, ganz allein da stehe und mir nicht zu helfen
weiss.

Mein Sohn Alfred Oppenheimer ist ebenfalls schwer herzlei-
dend: Er hat sehr häufig schwere Herzkrämpfe.

Auch leidet er an Ischias und chron. Hals- und Kehlkopf-
entzündungen; er musste hierwegen schon wiederholt Kuren
durchmachen, so in Salzungen und Reichenhall.

Die Herren Dr. Rossbach und Dr. Wiesend dahier können und
werden das wohl jederzeit bestätigen.

Im Herbst dieses Jahres haben wir unser Geschäftshaus in
der Hans-Schemmstr. 77 mit Geschäft verkauft.

Den wesentlichsten Bestandteil des Vertrags, mit welchem das
Geschäft verkauft wurde, bildet die Abrechnung mit dem Ge-
schäftsnachfolger und die dieser Abrechnung zu Grunde zu

yet possible to carry out the intended audit of the tax office and to prepare the necessary statements according to which the relevant taxes are to be determined and the resulting payments made.

A statement of assets and liabilities must also be drawn up for the new levy to be paid in mid-December.

Finally my son intends to emigrate with his wife and me as soon as possible.

All three of us have already received our number from Stuttgart: 13576 and 13577. The guarantees, and in fact completely sufficient guarantees, are already available.

We have very high-ranking and very wealthy relatives in America; such as the department store owners Lessing J. Rosenwald of the company Sears Roebuck in Chicago, New York and other cities.

Governor Lehmann in New York will also take care of our emigration

I refer here to the enclosed telegram. Through the mediation of my two sons who have already emigrated, we will do everything in our power to accelerate the emigration.

In order to speed up the necessary handling of our ownership and the necessary preparations and steps, it is necessary that my son Alfred Oppenheimer can do all this as soon as possible.

For these reasons, I take the liberty of making the most humble request: that my above-mentioned son Alfred Oppenheimer to be released from protective custody as soon as possible.

legende Warenaufnahme, welche noch nicht fertig gestellt ist. Deshalb war es auch noch nicht möglich, die beabsichtigte Buchprüfung des Finanzamts durchzuführen und die erforderlichen Aufstellungen zu machen, nach welchen die in Betracht kommenden ~~Steuern~~ festzusetzen und die sich daraus ergebenden Zahlungen zu leisten sind.

Auch ist eine Vermögensaufstellung für die Mitte Dez. zu leistende neue Abgabe zu machen.

Endlich beabsichtigt mein Sohn mit seiner Frau und mit mir, sobald als möglich, auszuwandern. Wir haben alle drei bereits unsere Nummer von Stuttgart erhalten: die Nummern 13576 und 13577. Die Bürgschaften und zwar vollständig genügende Bürgschaften sind bereits vorgelegt.

Wir haben sehr hochstehende und sehr vermögende Verwandte in Amerika; so die Warenhausinhaber Lessing J. Rosenwald der Firma Sears Roebuck in Chicago, New-York und anderen Städten.

Auch der Gouverneur Lehmann in New-York wird sich unserer Auswanderung annehmen.

Ich verweise hier auf das beiliegende Telegramm. Wir werden, auch durch die Vermittlung meiner beiden bereits ausgewanderten Söhne, alle Hebel in Bewegung setzen, um die Auswanderung zu beschleunigen.

Damit nun die dazu erforderliche Abwicklung unserer Verhältnisse und die dazu erforderlichen Vorbereitungen und Schritte möglichst beschleunigt werden können, ist notwendig, dass mein Sohn, Alfred Oppenheimer all das, sobald als möglich, erledigen kann.

Aus all diesen Gründen gestatte ich mir das ergebenste

Ersuchen:

= = = = =

Es wolle mein oben genannter Sohn Alfred Oppenheimer möglichst bald aus der Schutzhaft entlassen werden.

Ich gestatte mir auch noch zu bemerken, dass wir Verwandte in England haben, die sich dahin bemühen werden, dass wir auf Grund eines Passes vor der endgültigen Auswanderung nach Nordamerika unseren Aufenthalt in England nehmen können, wie aus der beigefügten Karte von Glasgow vom 19. November hervorgeht.

Damit also all das möglichst bald erledigt werden kann, bitte ich wiederholt um gefl. Entlassung meines genannten Sohnes Alfred Oppenheimer aus der Schutzhaft.

Betty Oppenheimer
Mutter.

I would also like to point out that we have relatives in England who will make every effort, on the basis of a passport, to ensure that we are able to reside in England before finally emigrating to North America, as can be seen from the attached map from Glasgow dated 19 November.

So that all this can be done as soon as possible, I repeat my request for the expedient release of my son Alfred Oppenheimer from protective custody.

Lichtenfels, November 28, 1938

Inge Marx Stanton remembers the Oppenheimers' arresting

Clara, here are some of the memories of the fate of Alfred, Anni and mother of Alfred. I was present as they were packing to leave Germany. As you might know Jews were not permitted to take with them more than a small amount of money or valuables only household possessions were permitted to be kept and shipped from Germany. However, Oppenheimers, in the hope of smuggling out some valuables to sell, to live on in America hid Jewelry, watches and furs, taking the chance of not being discovered. Evidently someone became aware of their actions and reported

then. As a result, the Nazi officials stormed in as they were packing, slashing upholstery, breaking open boxes, searching for hidden contraband.

Seeing the trouble, I immediately ran home to relate the bad news. Oppenheimers were taken away, probably to a concentration camp with no further knowledge of when or where of their final fate. This occurred some time in the middle of 1939. My father who was in the business of skins and furs had procured some of the furs, realizing he was in grave danger, left that evening flying to England and saying his life.

Post Card from Alfred to his brother Ernst, written in court prison Coburg 1939

meine geliebte, ich bin in der Lage, 18. Juni 1939.
 Meinetwegen. -
 Mit Eurer 1. Brief v. 18. 5., der uns schon am
 11. 5. erreichte, habt Ihr mir eine große Freude berei-
 tet. Ich kann Euch die kranke Gefühle nicht schildern, die
 ich beim Lesen hatte. Es freut mich, dass Ihr gesund und ge-
 nussig bei mir geht es so. Ich danke Euch sehr für die
 die bei dieser plötzlichen Verfassung, das Los mitbrachte.
 Liebe Brüder hoffentlich gelingt es Euch unter Mithilfe
 der Verwandten die Verhandlungen recht bald mit einem guten
 Ende zu führen. Damit wir recht bald die Freiheit wieder
 haben. Vielleicht kann Mr. Perlmann die Sache etwas beschleu-
 nigen, denn bis die Karte Euch erreicht, wird es 8 Wochen sein
 wir in Haft sind. Vor 18. Friedel haben wir wiederum Post sie
 schreiben in jedem Brief, Geduld haben. Habt Ihr Gelegenheit
 Mr. Cochran zu schreiben? Ich hoffe Euer nächster Brief ist schon

Coburg, June 18, 1939

Alfred Israel Oppenheimer, Regional
Court Prison Germany, Coburg

[Upside down:]

Write to my father-in-law too!

My dear ones. With your first letter of 28.5., which reached us already on the 11th, you have given me great joy. I cannot tell you the sad feelings I had while reading it. I am glad that you are still healthy so far, it is the same with me. My only regret is that our mother has to bear the burden of her weak condition. Dear brothers, I hope that with the help of your relatives you will soon be able to bring the negotiations to a good end, so that we will soon have freedom again. Maybe Mr. Perlmann can speed things up a bit, because until the card reaches you, it will be 8 weeks that we are in custody. We have weekly mail from the dear Friedels; they write in every letter, be patient. Have you had a chance to see Mr. Cochran? I hope your next letter will be more detailed. You may write to us as often as you like. You don't have to send anything, because the relatives are so attentive and send us packages every week. Especially Mrs. Vollmann. Are you dear Max [?] still in your old job? Are you still busy with Ernst & Meta? Let us hear good things from you soon & I am with heartfelt greetings & kisses your loving Alfred



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Unsuccessful fight for release

Dear Mr. Haas!

Today the letter of 26.12. was received and I want to answer it first. Enclosed I send you the original telegrams, which you would like to use please. I assume that we will get the telegrams back after the trial is over. The telegram was posted in Lichtenfels, while our relatives were already in the Coburg district court prison. We do not know whether the telegram was given by one of our relatives or by the authority in Lichtenfels, but perhaps Mr Marx can give you information about this.

The second telegram, dated 1.6.39, was also given in Lichtenfels. If there had been sufficient payment in foreign currency, a release would have taken place, while a payment in marks would not have been questioned and would not have been accepted. We share your opinion that you should do everything in your power to ensure that the women get a visa quickly so that they can emigrate. My brother's case about Shanghai is in Berlin's Hilfsverein,

Ernst Oppenheimer
2202 Callow Ave
Baltimore MD

Mr. Alfred Haas
c/o Mr. Fritz Mosses Attorney
50 Broadway
New York City N.Y.

Dear Mr. Haas!

I have been waiting all week for your answer about what documents you need in the matter of our relatives. Yesterday I received a letter from my brother-in-law, Mr Alfred Marx, telling me that I should send you, Mr Haas, the documents I have here. I have already sent them to D. [Germany] to send me the indictments immediately by airmail. By the same post I send you the Lichtenfelser Zeitung, in which you can see a part. In addition I send you, Mr. Haas, two copies, from which you can see that the matter was also a blackmail at the same time. Unfortunately, I cannot expect any financial help from my relatives. It is very difficult to get the missing affidavit for my

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Ernst Oppenheimer
2202 Callow Ave
Baltimore, 2. Januar 1940.

Sehr geehrter Herr Haas!

Heute ging der Brief vom 26.12. ein und will denselben erst beantworten. Anbei uebersende ich Ihnen die Original-Telegramme, welche Sie verwenden wollen. Ich nehme an, dass wir dieselben nach Abschluss des Verfahrens zureck bekommen. Das Telegramm wurde in Lichtenfels aufgegeben, waehrend unsere Angehoerigen bereits im Landgerichtsgefengnis in Coburg waren. Ob das Telegramm von einem unserer Verwandten oder von der Behoerde in Lichtenfels aufgegeben wurde, wissen wir nicht, doch kann Ihnen hierueber vielleicht Herr Marx Aufschluss geben. Das 2. Telegramm, welches vom 1.6.39 datiert ist, wurde ebenfalls in Lichtenfels aufgegeben. Bei genuegender Devisenbezahlung waere eine Freilassung erfolgt, waehrend eine Markbezahlung nicht in Frage kam und nicht angenommen worden waere. Auch wir sind mit Ihnen der Meinung, dass Sie alles unternehmen sollen, damit die Frauen rasch Visum erhalten, um auswandern zu koennen. Den Fall meines Bruders ueber Schanghai hat der Hilfsverein in Berlin und erwarten wir von dort noch Nachricht. Den Nachsatz in unserem Brief vom 29.12. bitten uns noch zu beantworten, weil dieser sehr wichtig fuer uns ist. Eine voruebergehende Einwanderung nach Cuba kommt leider nicht in Frage, weil wir leider nicht im Besitze des erforderlichen Geldes sind.

Ihrem gefl. Bescheid sehe in den naechsten Tagen entgegen.

Hochachtungsvoll.

and we are still expecting some advice from there. Please answer the postscript in our letter of 29.12., as this is very important for us. A temporary immigration to Cuba is unfortunately out of the question because we do not have the necessary money.

I look forward to your diligent decision in the next few days.

Respectfully

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Ernst Oppenheimer
2202 Callow Ave
Baltimore Md.
Dezember 22, 1940

Mr. Alfred Haas
c/o Mr. Fritz Mosses Attorney
50 Broadway
New York City N.Y.

Sehr geehrter Herr Haas.

Habe die ganze Woche auf Ihre Antwort gewartt, was fuer Unterlagen Sie in der Angelegenheit unserer Angehoerigen benoetigen. Gestern erhielt ich Post von meinem Bauernschwager Herrn Alfred Marx, worin er mir mitteilt, dass ich Ihnen Herrdie Unterlagen senden soll die ich hier habe. Habe bereits nach D. geschrieben sie sollen mir umgehend per Luftpost die Anklageschrift senden. Mit gleicher Post sende Ihnen die Lichtenfelser Zeitung worin Sie einen Teil ersehen koennen. Ausserdem sende ich Ihnen Herr Haas 2 Abschriften, woraus Sie ersehen koennen, dass die ganze Sache auch gleichzeitig einen Erpressung war. Leider kann ich von den Verwandten keine finanzielle Hilfe erwarten, es haelt schon sehr schwer, wenn ich das noch fehlende Affidit fuer meinen Bruder bekomme. Geben Sie mir gefl Bescheid, was Sie noch alles benoetigen in dieser Sache, werde es Ihnen dann besorgen soweit es in meiner Macht steht.

Ohne mehr fuer heute begruesse Sie bestens

Anbei 2 Zeitungen
2 Telegrammabschriften.

brother. Please let me know what else you need in this matter, I will get it for you as far as I can.

That is all for today, I greet you best.

New Orleans, Louisiana

February 20, 1940

My dear ones:

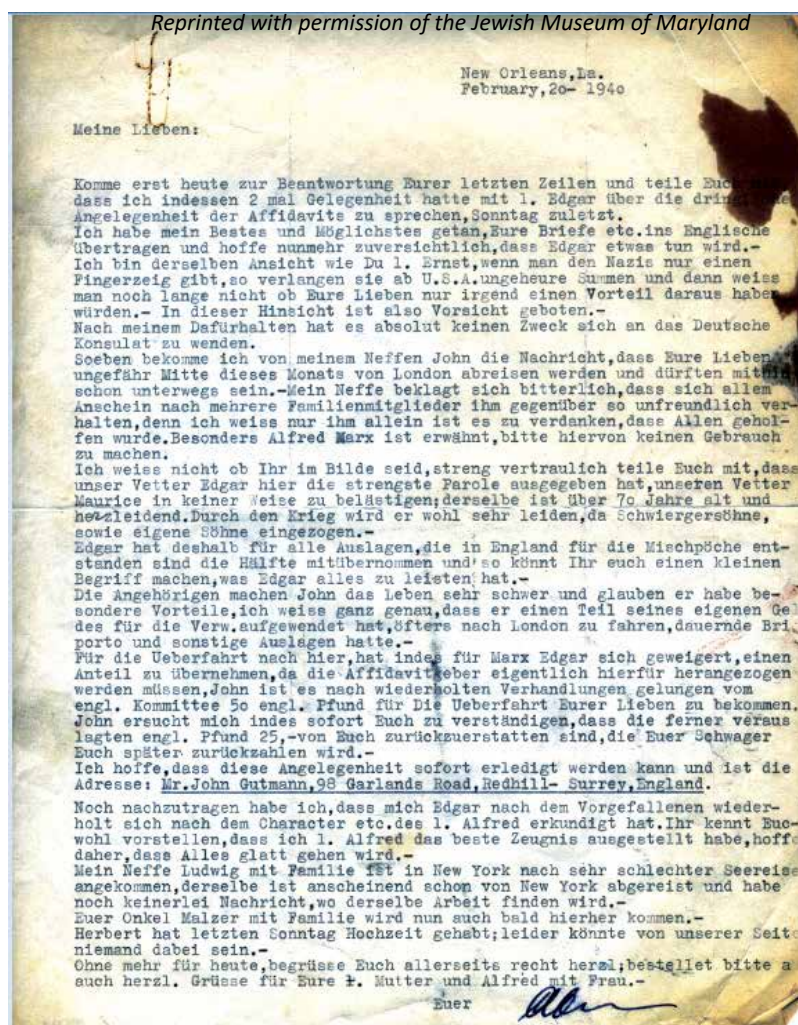
Only today I come to answer your last lines and tell you that I had two opportunities to talk to Edgar about the affidavits last Sunday. I have done my best and most possible to translate your letters etc. into English and now I hope confidently that Edgar will do something. I am of the same opinion as you, Ernst, if you give the Nazis just a hint, they demand enormous sums of money from the USA and then you don't know for a long time if your loved ones will have any advantage from it. Caution is, therefore, required in this respect. In my opinion, there is absolutely no point in contacting the German Consulate.

I have just received word from my nephew John that your loved ones will be leaving London around the middle of this month and so they are already on their way. My nephew bitterly complains that several members of the family seem to be behaving so unkindly towards him, for I know that it is only thanks to him that everyone has been helped. Especially Alfred Marx is mentioned, please do not make use of this.

I don't know if you are in the know, but I can tell you in the strictest confidence that our cousin Edgar here has issued the strictest warning not to bother our cousin Maurice in any way; he is over 70 years old and heartsick. Due to the war (world War I) he probably suffered a lot as his sons-in-law and his own sons were drafted. Edgar has, therefore, taken over half of all the expenses incurred in England for the family, and so you can get an idea of what Edgar has had to do.

The relatives make John's life very difficult and believe he has special advantages, I know for a fact that he has spent a part of his own money on the family, going to London more often, and other expenses.

For the passage to here, however, for Marx, Edgar has refused to take a share, since the affidavit providers actually have to be consulted for this. After repeated negotiations John has managed to get 50 English pounds from the English committee for the passage of your loved ones. John asks me to inform you immediately that you will have to pay back the additional English pounds, which your brother-in-law will pay you back later.



I hope that this matter can be resolved immediately and here is the address: Mr. John Gutmann, 98 Graslands Road, Redhill, Surrey, England.

I have to add that Edgar repeatedly asked me about the character, etc., of Alfred. You know how well you can imagine that I gave Alfred the best reference, so I hope that everything will go smoothly.

My nephew Ludwig and his family arrived in New York after a very bad sea voyage, but has apparently already left New York and I have not heard any word as whether he has found employment.

Your Uncle Malzer and his family will soon be here in America, too.

I have no more news to report. My heartfelt greetings to your mother, Alfred and his wife.

Transport List of the Deportation

- 53 -

Lfd.-u. Nr.	Fr.-u. Vo.-name	Geburts-zeit-u.-Ort	St.-A.-l.	Beruf	Wohnort	
877/ 876	Oppenheimer Alfred,	23.1.03	Königshefen,	D.R.	ohne	Lichtenfels, Judeng.14,
878 / 877	Oppenheimer Anni, geb. Krümer,	21.9.08	Ichenhausen,	D.R.	ohne	Lichtenfels, Judeng.14,
879 / 878	Oppenheimer Betty, geb. Malzer,	17.2.77	Bulsfeld,	D.R.	ohne	Lichtenfels, Judeng.14,



Leo Wolf

Altenkunstadt

Leo Wolf was born on April 10th 1893 in Pappenheim, Central Franconia to Solomon Wolf, a merchant, and his wife Lina, née Leist. His father was relocated to Altenkunstadt, so his family moved there. Leo and his brother started to work in the trading business.

1914-18: Military Awards in the World War

From the first day up to the last, Leo took part in the First World War. The list of places he was deployed to looks like guide to the Western front: Lorraine, Arras, Ypres, Somme, Flanders, etc. After being wounded in 1914 he worked as a



corporal. His job at the front was very dangerous.

In 1916 he was promoted to medical sergeant. He was awarded three medals, among them the Bavarian Military Medal of Honour 3rd Class with Crown and Swords, a rare medal.



Success in his Civilian Life

In 1923 in difficult times for the economy Leo started his own business, catering for the needs of saddlers and ropemakers, as a wholesaler and a retailer. And apparently he became very successful as he was able to start his own family.

He married Helene Brüll, the beautiful daughter of a cattle dealer from Lichtenfels, who was 15 years his junior. Their only daughter Margot was born on 23rd December 1928.

The Wolf family was part of the middle class, integrated into the Altenkunstadt society and widely recognized. Margarete Mitz, a contemporary witness, remembers Leo Wolf as a well-dressed, respected man. He was one of the few people in Altenkunstadt who drove a car.



A party for carnival in Altenkunstadt end of 1920s. Helene and Leo Wolf second row second and third from left.

Together with the Neighbours

Much of what we know about Leo Wolf as a person and his life comes from Margarete Mitz, a childhood friend of Leo's daughter Margot. The Wolf family took Margarete in as a kind of second daughter. When Margot got roller skates, the two girls took turns to use them, so Leo bought a second pair for Margarete. When taking trips to Franconian Switzerland or to the grandparents' farm in Seubelsdorf for the weekend, Margarete came along.



Margot Wolf at the age of 10.

Leo let the girls come along when driving to customers – afterwards he bought them ice creams. And he never scolded the girls when they had trampled down the flowers in the beds in the garden again.

On the other hand, Margot cried at Margarete's first communion because she did not have such a pretty white dress. Margarete's mother got her older daughter's dress from the wardrobe and gave it to Margot so she did not feel left out. Together, they shared what they had, they ate and they celebrated.

1933 ff.: An Existence got destroyed

Nazi antisemitism made life for the Wolf family harder; new measures limited their lives. The pogroms of November 1938 meant yet another degradation. We do not know what happened to the Wolfs that night. But by 1938 they had to sell their business and their house far below value. The family had been expropriated.

They had to move into "Schürer-Haus" (today in Langheimer Straße 1), a run-down place. It was next to the NSDAP's favorite drinking hole. Often, the inhabitants of Schürer-Haus had to endure nightly harassments and verbal attacks by drunk Nazis.

Forced labor, curfew, food in small rations, a ban on travel and clothes for winter weather, having to wear the Yellow Star – these and other hardships made life more and more difficult up to 1941.

Leo Wolf tried to emigrate with his family. Alas, he did not succeed.

1942: Deportation and Assassination

In the morning of April 14th 1942 the Jewish citizens from Altenkunstadt had to come to the city hall. From there they were led to Burgkunstadt station by village constables. Some people from Altenkunstadt stood in secrecy behind their drawn curtains, watching their fellow citizens walk to their deadly fate. They knew they would never see them again.

Witnesses said that Leo Wolf was the head of the group, walking with his head held high, his medals pinned to his chest.

After being joined by Jews from Burgkunstadt they were transported first to Bamberg, then to Nürnberg and finally to Southern Poland. At 8.45 a.m. on April 28th their train reached its destination Kraśnik. Every single passenger on this train was murdered in the next weeks in an extermination camp, either in Sobibor or in Belzec. According to one source, the Jews from Franconia were killed on June 6th 1942 in the gas chambers of Sobibor.

Among them were Leo Wolf (30), his wife Helene (35) and their daughter Margot (13).

Age	Sex	First Name	Last Name	Place of Birth	Place of Death
30	M	Leo	Wolf	Altenkunstadt	Altenkunstadt
35	F	Helene	Wolf	Altenkunstadt	Altenkunstadt
13	F	Margot	Wolf	Altenkunstadt	Altenkunstadt

Leo Wolf



Leo Wolf

born 10. 04. 1892 in Pappenheim
died 06.06. 1942 in Sobibor [?]

The search for Leo Wolf

People who are awarded medals for special achievements in war in service to their country and fellow citizens are heroes who have achieved great things and therefore deserve special recognition and respect. One of these people was Leo Wolf.

Leo Wolf was born on April 10, 1892 in Pappenheim in Middle Franconia. We are not aware of the circumstances that brought him to Altenkunstadt. We suspect that his father was transferred to Altenkunstadt as a bailiff or justice official. Since his brother Benno and his mother were also living in Altenkunstadt, it can be assumed that the family had moved to Altenkunstadt relatively early. We also know that together with Helene Wolf, nee Brüll and who came from Lichtenfels, he started a family. His daughter Margot Wolf, born on December 4, 1928, also grew up there.

Young Leo served in World War I. In his military roll the profession merchant is indicated. Until the end of his military service in 1918, he had worked for four years, mainly in the medical service, i.e. under the terrible war conditions, caring for young men who were facing death directly. Because of these special services he performed for his country and his fellow men, he was awarded three military distinctions, including the Iron Cross II Class and the Bavarian Military Order of Merit with Crown and Swords III Class.

After his time as a soldier, Leo obtained two driver's licenses, one for motorcycles (1922) and a few years later (1928) for the car.

In the reconstruction of his life we would not have progressed without Mrs. Inge Goebel of Altenkunstadt. She gave us (besides coffee and delicious cake) a wealth of information,

documents and pictures from her archive, such as the photographs of Leo and Margot Wolf. We would like to thank her once again!

Markus Betz
Dennis Brosig
Sophie Rauh

Orden, Ehren- zeichen und sonstige Auszeich- nungen.	Mit- gemachte Gefechte. Bemer- kens- werte Leistun- gen.	Komman- dos und besondere Dienst- verhältnisse. Kriegs- gefangen- schaft.	Führung. Gericht- liche Be- strafungen Rehabili- tierung.
11.	12.	13.	14.
<p>1. 12. 14. 1. 12. 14.</p> <p>2. 5. 14. 2. 5. 14.</p> <p>M. V. Nr. 3.</p> <p>auf K. in Befehl.</p> <p>19. 12. 14.</p> <p>J. 12. 3.</p> <p>26. 2. 18.</p>	<p>1. 12. 14. 1. 12. 14.</p> <p>2. 5. 14. 2. 5. 14.</p> <p>3. 1. 14. 3. 1. 14.</p> <p>4. 1. 14. 4. 1. 14.</p> <p>5. 1. 14. 5. 1. 14.</p> <p>6. 1. 14. 6. 1. 14.</p> <p>7. 1. 14. 7. 1. 14.</p> <p>8. 1. 14. 8. 1. 14.</p> <p>9. 1. 14. 9. 1. 14.</p> <p>10. 1. 14. 10. 1. 14.</p> <p>11. 1. 14. 11. 1. 14.</p> <p>12. 1. 14. 12. 1. 14.</p> <p>13. 1. 14. 13. 1. 14.</p> <p>14. 1. 14. 14. 1. 14.</p> <p>15. 1. 14. 15. 1. 14.</p> <p>16. 1. 14. 16. 1. 14.</p> <p>17. 1. 14. 17. 1. 14.</p> <p>18. 1. 14. 18. 1. 14.</p> <p>19. 1. 14. 19. 1. 14.</p> <p>20. 1. 14. 20. 1. 14.</p> <p>21. 1. 14. 21. 1. 14.</p> <p>22. 1. 14. 22. 1. 14.</p> <p>23. 1. 14. 23. 1. 14.</p> <p>24. 1. 14. 24. 1. 14.</p> <p>25. 1. 14. 25. 1. 14.</p> <p>26. 1. 14. 26. 1. 14.</p> <p>27. 1. 14. 27. 1. 14.</p> <p>28. 1. 14. 28. 1. 14.</p> <p>29. 1. 14. 29. 1. 14.</p> <p>30. 1. 14. 30. 1. 14.</p> <p>31. 1. 14. 31. 1. 14.</p> <p>32. 1. 14. 32. 1. 14.</p> <p>33. 1. 14. 33. 1. 14.</p> <p>34. 1. 14. 34. 1. 14.</p> <p>35. 1. 14. 35. 1. 14.</p> <p>36. 1. 14. 36. 1. 14.</p> <p>37. 1. 14. 37. 1. 14.</p> <p>38. 1. 14. 38. 1. 14.</p> <p>39. 1. 14. 39. 1. 14.</p> <p>40. 1. 14. 40. 1. 14.</p> <p>41. 1. 14. 41. 1. 14.</p> <p>42. 1. 14. 42. 1. 14.</p> <p>43. 1. 14. 43. 1. 14.</p> <p>44. 1. 14. 44. 1. 14.</p> <p>45. 1. 14. 45. 1. 14.</p> <p>46. 1. 14. 46. 1. 14.</p> <p>47. 1. 14. 47. 1. 14.</p> <p>48. 1. 14. 48. 1. 14.</p> <p>49. 1. 14. 49. 1. 14.</p> <p>50. 1. 14. 50. 1. 14.</p>	<p>1. 12. 14. 1. 12. 14.</p> <p>2. 5. 14. 2. 5. 14.</p> <p>3. 1. 14. 3. 1. 14.</p> <p>4. 1. 14. 4. 1. 14.</p> <p>5. 1. 14. 5. 1. 14.</p> <p>6. 1. 14. 6. 1. 14.</p> <p>7. 1. 14. 7. 1. 14.</p> <p>8. 1. 14. 8. 1. 14.</p> <p>9. 1. 14. 9. 1. 14.</p> <p>10. 1. 14. 10. 1. 14.</p> <p>11. 1. 14. 11. 1. 14.</p> <p>12. 1. 14. 12. 1. 14.</p> <p>13. 1. 14. 13. 1. 14.</p> <p>14. 1. 14. 14. 1. 14.</p> <p>15. 1. 14. 15. 1. 14.</p> <p>16. 1. 14. 16. 1. 14.</p> <p>17. 1. 14. 17. 1. 14.</p> <p>18. 1. 14. 18. 1. 14.</p> <p>19. 1. 14. 19. 1. 14.</p> <p>20. 1. 14. 20. 1. 14.</p> <p>21. 1. 14. 21. 1. 14.</p> <p>22. 1. 14. 22. 1. 14.</p> <p>23. 1. 14. 23. 1. 14.</p> <p>24. 1. 14. 24. 1. 14.</p> <p>25. 1. 14. 25. 1. 14.</p> <p>26. 1. 14. 26. 1. 14.</p> <p>27. 1. 14. 27. 1. 14.</p> <p>28. 1. 14. 28. 1. 14.</p> <p>29. 1. 14. 29. 1. 14.</p> <p>30. 1. 14. 30. 1. 14.</p> <p>31. 1. 14. 31. 1. 14.</p> <p>32. 1. 14. 32. 1. 14.</p> <p>33. 1. 14. 33. 1. 14.</p> <p>34. 1. 14. 34. 1. 14.</p> <p>35. 1. 14. 35. 1. 14.</p> <p>36. 1. 14. 36. 1. 14.</p> <p>37. 1. 14. 37. 1. 14.</p> <p>38. 1. 14. 38. 1. 14.</p> <p>39. 1. 14. 39. 1. 14.</p> <p>40. 1. 14. 40. 1. 14.</p> <p>41. 1. 14. 41. 1. 14.</p> <p>42. 1. 14. 42. 1. 14.</p> <p>43. 1. 14. 43. 1. 14.</p> <p>44. 1. 14. 44. 1. 14.</p> <p>45. 1. 14. 45. 1. 14.</p> <p>46. 1. 14. 46. 1. 14.</p> <p>47. 1. 14. 47. 1. 14.</p> <p>48. 1. 14. 48. 1. 14.</p> <p>49. 1. 14. 49. 1. 14.</p> <p>50. 1. 14. 50. 1. 14.</p>	<p>1. 12. 14. 1. 12. 14.</p> <p>2. 5. 14. 2. 5. 14.</p> <p>3. 1. 14. 3. 1. 14.</p> <p>4. 1. 14. 4. 1. 14.</p> <p>5. 1. 14. 5. 1. 14.</p> <p>6. 1. 14. 6. 1. 14.</p> <p>7. 1. 14. 7. 1. 14.</p> <p>8. 1. 14. 8. 1. 14.</p> <p>9. 1. 14. 9. 1. 14.</p> <p>10. 1. 14. 10. 1. 14.</p> <p>11. 1. 14. 11. 1. 14.</p> <p>12. 1. 14. 12. 1. 14.</p> <p>13. 1. 14. 13. 1. 14.</p> <p>14. 1. 14. 14. 1. 14.</p> <p>15. 1. 14. 15. 1. 14.</p> <p>16. 1. 14. 16. 1. 14.</p> <p>17. 1. 14. 17. 1. 14.</p> <p>18. 1. 14. 18. 1. 14.</p> <p>19. 1. 14. 19. 1. 14.</p> <p>20. 1. 14. 20. 1. 14.</p> <p>21. 1. 14. 21. 1. 14.</p> <p>22. 1. 14. 22. 1. 14.</p> <p>23. 1. 14. 23. 1. 14.</p> <p>24. 1. 14. 24. 1. 14.</p> <p>25. 1. 14. 25. 1. 14.</p> <p>26. 1. 14. 26. 1. 14.</p> <p>27. 1. 14. 27. 1. 14.</p> <p>28. 1. 14. 28. 1. 14.</p> <p>29. 1. 14. 29. 1. 14.</p> <p>30. 1. 14. 30. 1. 14.</p> <p>31. 1. 14. 31. 1. 14.</p> <p>32. 1. 14. 32. 1. 14.</p> <p>33. 1. 14. 33. 1. 14.</p> <p>34. 1. 14. 34. 1. 14.</p> <p>35. 1. 14. 35. 1. 14.</p> <p>36. 1. 14. 36. 1. 14.</p> <p>37. 1. 14. 37. 1. 14.</p> <p>38. 1. 14. 38. 1. 14.</p> <p>39. 1. 14. 39. 1. 14.</p> <p>40. 1. 14. 40. 1. 14.</p> <p>41. 1. 14. 41. 1. 14.</p> <p>42. 1. 14. 42. 1. 14.</p> <p>43. 1. 14. 43. 1. 14.</p> <p>44. 1. 14. 44. 1. 14.</p> <p>45. 1. 14. 45. 1. 14.</p> <p>46. 1. 14. 46. 1. 14.</p> <p>47. 1. 14. 47. 1. 14.</p> <p>48. 1. 14. 48. 1. 14.</p> <p>49. 1. 14. 49. 1. 14.</p> <p>50. 1. 14. 50. 1. 14.</p>

Tear from Leo Wolf's military roll.

First column: "Medals of honor, decorations and other awards";
second column: "Engaged in combat. Remarkable achievements"

Margarete Milz about Leo Wolf and his family

Much of what we know about him comes from a long interview with Margot Wolf's contemporary witness and childhood friend Ms. Margarete Milz, who was the same age. Mrs. Goebel also arranged this interview for us.



Helene and Leo Wolf at a carnival celebration around 1930

According to Margarete's stories, Leo Wolf was a respected businessman with an elegant appearance. Nevertheless, she describes him as child-loving, generous and indulgent: He never scolded when the children had once again trampled on the flower beds, and he often took the two children on business trips by car - a special experience in those days. "And, at the end, there was always an ice cream."

Leo and Helene Wolf seemed relieved to have found a playmate for their only daughter Margot, because Margarete was accepted into the family like a second child - when Margot got roller skates and the two girls had to take turns skating, Margarete's parents immediately bought her a pair (they were green, as Ms. Milz still remembered, and she was still beaming all over her face in 2018).

She also remembers that Mrs. Helene Wolf gave the children mattresses when they asked her for them.

On trips to the Franconian Switzerland (in northern Bavaria) or weekend trips to the farm of the grandparents Brüll in Seubelsdorf, Margarete was always included. She was even taken to joint meetings of the Jewish communities in Altenkunstadt and Burgkunstadt in the Cafe Besold and to some Jewish festivals. Here she got her first "Schlotfeger" (a cream roll).

But, Margarete's family also warmly welcomed Margot and invited her, for example, to their daughter's communion - where Margot was so sad that she was the only one not to sit so smartly in her white dress that the hosts finally simply put the eldest daughter's



Mrs. Margarete Milz in front of a picture of Margot Wolf at the commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the deportation of the Altenkunstadter Jews in April 2012.

To her right Mr. Josef Motschmann, chairman of the Interest Group of the Synagogue in Altenkunstadt and mentor of the historical research on the Altenkunstadt Jews (died 2016) .

Mrs. Margarete Milz died in April 2020.

Reprinted with kind permission of Mr. Andreas Welz

communion dress on her. A beautiful anecdote that shows what everyday life was like between the two families: There were hardly any differences, just because one of the two girls was Jewish and the other Christian. They shared, ate and celebrated together.

In the last years of the family in Altenkunstadt, however, Mrs. Milz hardly saw her friend anymore - she had been forced to go to a special school in Fürth for Jewish children.



Margot Wolf, probably photographed by Leo Wolf



Margot Wolf

All pictures from legacy of Josef Motschmann



Kennort:	Lichtenfels
Kennnummer:	A 00023
Gültig bis:	25. Juni 1944
Name:	Wolf
Vornamen:	Margot, Kurt
Geburtsdag:	4. Dezember 1928
Geburtsort:	Lichtenfels
Beruf:	Wirtin
Unveränderliche Kennzeichen:	Fußball
Veränderliche Kennzeichen:	Fußball
Bemerkungen:	Wirtin



Rechter Zeigefinger



Linker Zeigefinger



Margot Kurt Wolf
(Unterschrift des Kennarteninhabers)

Lichtenfels, den 25. Juni 1939
Dec Landrat:
(Ausfertigungsbüro)
(Unterschrift des ausfertigenden Beamten)

Military roll of Leo Wolf

[illegible]

The fate of the Wolf family after 1938

At the end of 1938 all Jewish businesses and companies were forced to close down. The family had to sell their property to a non-Jew far below its value.

Officially, Leo and his brother Benno and their families had the right to continue living in their forcibly sold house, but the new owners simply ignored this. The Wolf family was forced to move to the top floor of the dilapidated Schuster House (today Langheimer Strasse 1). This house was located exactly opposite the party headquarters of the NSDAP. The Jewish neighbors often suffered from the nightly harassment of drunken Nazis; the Schusters had even lost their son Emil, who sought suicide shortly after the night of the pogrom. (November 9)

Lina Wolf, Leo's mother, was taken to a Jewish nursing home in Regensburg in 1941; we know nothing about her further fate.

Benno Wolf had married a Christian woman, a relationship that saved him from deportation. The two had a daughter who also survived the Holocaust. But the family still had to fight against the sanctions of the National Socialists and had to live in the Judenhaus. In addition, Benno's brother-in-law, a staunch Nazi, harassed him.

After the Second World War, Benno tried to buy back the property which had been taken from him and the house on it, but a conflict arose - the decisive American occupying forces decided that Benno must buy back the house or have the community assign him a plot of land of similar value. Finally, after years

of harassment, they were allowed to move back into their old house, and Benno was even offered the post of mayor of Altenkunstadter, which he declined. He died in 1973. Fanny Brüll, Leo Wolf's sister-in-law, also tried to recover property that had been taken from her sister Helene. An exchange of letters from Pontypridd, England had been received in which she tried to find out what happened to her sister's household, first with the request to the town hall of Altenkunstadt, then to the tax office in Lichtenfels. We do not know whether she was successful with this or whether she, at least, received compensation. Fanny Brüll died, probably unwed, in 1965 in England, where she worked as a housekeeper and a cook.

Leo, Helene and their only 13-year-old daughter Margot were deported to the East on April 24, 1942 with the other remaining Jews of Altenkunstadt. In the deportation list, Leo Wolf is described as unemployed, because his former profession as a merchant had been forbidden to him.

On the morning of the day they were picked up from their village, people stood behind closed curtains and look through the slits. They saw Leo Wolf “going to his death” with his head held high and a military decoration on his chest. The transport led first together with the Jews of Burgkunstadt Jews to Bamberg, then via Nuremberg to Belzec or - more likely - Sobibor. Where exactly they died is not known.

The country for which he had fought and bled had betrayed and killed him.

- 54 -		GeStaPo - Deportation List of Train DA 49, April 1942			
Id.Nr. d. Fr. d. ZS-Nr. d. Vermerks	Geburtsdatum u. Ort	Relig.	Beruf	Geburtsort	
880 / 879	Liebermann Rosa, geb. Lindberg,	15.3.1875	Neumarkt, D.R.	ohne	Altenkunstadt,
881 / 880	Liebermann Johanna,	18.9.98	Altenkunstadt, D.R.	ohne	Altenkunstadt,
882 / 881	Liebermann Theodor,	6.7.33	Altenkunstadt, D.R.	Landwirt,	Altenkunstadt,
883 / 882	Liebermann Hedwig, geb. Seilberger,	11.5.92	Barnhagen, D.R.	ohne	Altenkunstadt,
884 / 883	Liebermann Ernst,	6.7.26	Altenkunstadt, D.R.	ohne	Altenkunstadt,
885 / 884	Liebermann Ruth,	4.7.28	Altenkunstadt, D.R.	ohne	Altenkunstadt,
886 / 885	Nordhäuser Theodor,	27.3.82	Altenkunstadt, D.R.	ohne	Altenkunstadt,
887 / 886	Nordhäuser, Mathilde,	4.4.78	Redwitz a.d., D.R.	ohne	Altenkunstadt,
888 / 887	Schuster Max,	25.11.76	Gerdshausen a.d., D.R.	Kaufmann	Altenkunstadt,
889 / 888	Schuster Julie, geb. Schwemthal,	9.5.76	Altenkunstadt, D.R.	ohne	Altenkunstadt,
890 / 889	Wolf Leo,	15.4.92	Pappenhain, D.R.	ohne	Altenkunstadt,
891 / 890	Wolf Helene, geb. Brill,	4.12.06	Seubelsdorf, D.R.	ohne	Altenkunstadt,
892 / 891	Wolf Margot,	4.12.28	Lauterbach, D.R.	ohne	Altenkunstadt,



Berta Zinn

Lichtenfels

Berta Zinn was born on March 9th 1904 as the youngest of three children of Max Steinhäuser and his wife Mina in Bayreuth. Max was a successful salesman for cattle and miscellaneous goods from Burgkunstadt.

Berta had a sheltered childhood; after elementary school she attended the exclusive Höhere Mädchenschule Bayreuth (today's Richard-Wagner-Gymnasium) and graduated in 1920.



Graduating class at Höhere Mädchenschule in 1920

The Wife of the Director of a Company

On February 1st 1925 21-year-old Berta married Stefan Zinn, who was 14 years her senior and had managed the family's a renowned, internationally active trading company for baskets in Lichtenfels together with his brother since 1921.



The Zinn family was one of the wealthiest in the region, its members were socially engaged and accepted. Berta getting her driving license in 1935 also shows their social status.

Five years later, on February 5th 1930, their first child and only daughter Liselotte was born.



Nazi-Terror from 1933

Their social and economic status did not protect the family from the ever-increasing Nazi-terror. During the „Night of Broken Glass“, Nazi-rioters entered the living area and work space and vandalized the place. Liselotte hid in the attic that night. Berta's brother in law died, three days after taking poison. Stefan was taken into „protective custody“ for three weeks.

First, Berta and her husband took their daughter to safety: Liselotte was sent to a relative in New York. Her parents followed her in April 1939.

Berta's parents tried to emigrate as well, but were not able to do so anymore. In 1942 both of them were first taken to a Jewish retirement home and then deported to Theresienstadt. Her father's trace ends there, her mother Mina is transported to Auschwitz in 1944.

New York: Berta becomes Bertl

Being completely without means the family was glad to be able to live free of rent in the house of Jerome Calin, a widower, and his daughter Janet in Brooklyn, New York; in return, Berta worked as his housekeeper and brought up young Janet, who found a life-long friend in Liselotte.

Berta started to adjust. She changed her name to „Bertl“ and started working as a chauffeur in New York.

After years of temping her husband, now called Stephen, managed to use his know-how of basketry making and started his own basketry business. After difficult years the family acquired wealth again.



Berta (holding dog) with Lilo and her children, around 1953

As an adult daughter Lilo married Daniel Webster Brown around 1949 and moved to New Jersey. In 1950 Bertl became a grandmother for the first time, 1952 for a second time. After her husband's death in 1954 she moved to a retirement home close to her daughter.



Her granddaughter Linda Pfeiffer describes Bertl as a woman with a strong personality, as is to be expected from a person with her fate. She also remembers Bertl's great love for dogs. You would never see Bertl without a dog.

Bertl and Lilo returned to their old home in Germany only once. However the journey was straining and disturbing for them that they refrained from further visits.

In 1990, Bertl passed away at the age of 86.



Frau Berta Zinn



Berta Zinn

born 09. 03. 1904 in Bayreuth
died 16. 01. 1997 in New Jersey

The Search for Berta Zinn

At the beginning of this special project and at the beginning of the research on Berta Zinn we first tried to find out something about the person through the internet, but at first, we did not find anything useful.

Therefore, after this less successful online research, we contacted the Lichtenfels city archivist Mrs. Wittenbauer to ask her for information about Berta Zinn. Fortunately, she had old index cards from the city archive, on which we found many details about the life of the whole Zinn family. Unfortunately, there were very few or no notes about Berta Zinn on the cards.

Up to this point we only knew about Berta what the Lichtenfels district curator, Prof. Dr. Dippold, could tell us about her. He knew that Berta was married to Stefan Zinn and that they must have emigrated to the USA after the November pogroms in 1938. Therefore, our next contact point was the State Archive in Bamberg. There were a few documents of the Zinn family. Interesting for us was a letter from Stefan Zinn from New York, in which he demanded the estate of his deceased brother Paul Zinn.

From then on, we knew for sure that Stefan must have emigrated with Berta to America, more precisely Kings County (Brooklyn) in New York City. After a few more or less successful weeks of research we came across the website www.familysearch.com by chance. On this internet portal we got access to passenger lists and a census list from Kings County in New York City. On these lists were the names of Stefan, Berta and the daughter Lilo Zinn, who was not known to us before.

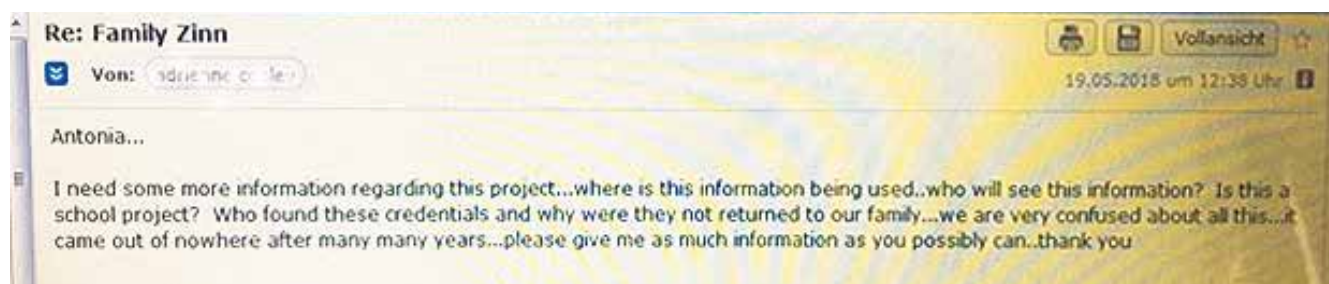
After this find we were motivated again and continued our search for traces of the Zinn family who had emigrated to America. We contacted the archives in

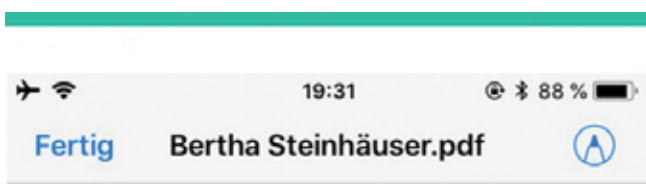
New York to obtain documents or the like of the Zinn family. After a few weeks of waiting, we received the confirmation of Stefan Zinn's naturalization. With their help, we were even able to find out where the family lived at that time and the exact date of their arrival in New York. After further online research, we were able to establish contact with Lilo Zinn's children through the website www.ancestry.com, various online telephone books and an acquaintance of the descendants.

Unfortunately, it turned out that they were not interested in contact with us due to the unfortunate experience of their mother and grandparents. Nevertheless we did not give up. Carol Kashan and her cousin Evelyn Held (she had visited Altenkunstadt in June and had met Mrs. Goebel and Mr. Brösamle-Lambrecht) contacted the Zinn descendants for us by phone and in writing and after many pleasant questions and explanations of our project, we even received many interesting pictures of Berta, Stefan and Lilo. Lilo's daughter, Mrs. Pfeifer, told us about the personalities and a lot personal information about her ancestors. Of course we were very happy about that.

Shortly before the end of the project we noticed that we still knew almost nothing about Berta Zinn's childhood. From Mrs. Wittenbauer we learned that she came from Bayreuth and her maiden name was Steinhäuser. So, we contacted the city archive of Bayreuth and got an answer very quickly. Through the Bayreuth City Archive we were able to reconstruct almost Berta's complete childhood up to her wedding to Stefan Zinn.

Julia Mehrmann
Antonia Voll





1 von 1

Bertha Steinhäuser, verh. Zinn

geboren 09.03.1904 Bayreuth (Geburtsregister Bayreuth 1904 Nr.149)
Tochter von Max Steinhäuser (1863 Burgkunstadt - KZ Theresienstadt, Viehhändler)
und Mina geb. Heumann (1871 Rothenburg ob der Tauber - KZ Auschwitz);
Schwester von Justin Steinhäuser (1891 Burgkunstadt-1966 Bayreuth, ab 1946
Stadtrat in Bayreuth) und Marie Steinhäuser (1893 Burgkunstadt-1940 Berlin,
verwitwete Forchheimer, verheiratete Cohn)

Die Familie Steinhäuser lebte ab 1896 in Bayreuth, der Vater Max Steinhäuser war
Vieh- und Güterhändler, ab 1906 bewohnte sie ein eigenes Haus in der Friedrich-
von-Schiller-Str. 14.

Bertha Steinhäuser besuchte ab 1.Mai 1910 die Bayreuther Volksschule, ab 16.
September 1914 die Städtische Höhere Mädchenschule (= heute Richard-Wagner-
Gymnasium Bayreuth), vom Schuljahr 1914/15 1. Kl. (die damalige 1. Kl. entspricht
der 5. Klasse heute etc.) bis zum Schuljahr 1919/20 6. Kl. (= Abschlussklasse)
(Jahresberichte Städt. Höhere Mädchenschule 1914/15 - 1919/20).

Am 12. Januar 1925 heiratete sie in Bayreuth Stefan Zinn (geboren 13. September
1890 Lichtenfels), der als Fabrikdirektor in Lichtenfels, Bahnhofstr. 61 wohnte
(Heiratsregister Bayreuth 1925 Nr. 10).

Soweit hier bekannt ist, sind Bertha und Stefan Zinn nach Amerika ausgewandert.
Die Eltern von Bertha verkauften im April 1939 das Haus und Grundstück Friedrich-
von-Schiller-Str. 14 in Bayreuth und planten, über Holland ebenfalls nach Amerika
auszuwandern. Dies gelang ihnen aber nicht mehr. Sie wurden am 16. Januar 1942
zuerst von Bayreuth nach Bamberg ins jüdische Altersheim "Weiße Taube", am 10.
September 1942 von Bamberg nach Nürnberg, mit Transport II/25 am 11. September
1942 von Nürnberg nach Theresienstadt deportiert, Mina wurde mit Transport Eb am
18. Mai 1944 noch von Theresienstadt nach Auschwitz deportiert. Beide wurden auf
Antrag ihres Sohnes Justin Steinhäuser für tot erklärt, ein Gedenkstein für sie
befindet sich auf dem jüdischen Friedhof Bayreuth.

(s. u.a. Einträge Gedenkbuch der Opfer

<http://www.bundesarchiv.de/gedenkbuch/intro.html.de>

Max Steinhäuser <http://www.bundesarchiv.de/gedenkbuch/de974182>

Mina Steinhäuser <http://www.bundesarchiv.de/gedenkbuch/de974183>

Literatur: Ekkehard Hübschmann/Helmut Paulus/Siegfried Pokorny: Physische und
behördliche Gewalt. Die "Reichskristallnacht" und die Verfolgung der Juden in
Bayreuth, Hrsg. von der Geschichtswerkstatt Bayreuth e.V., Bayreuth 2000, S. 149ff.
und Juden in Bayreuth 1933-2003. Verfolgung, Vertreibung - und das Danach. -
Hrsg. für die Neue Bayreuther Geschichtswerkstatt von Norbert Aas, Bayreuth 2.,
überarb. Aufl. 2008)

Stadtarchiv Bayreuth, 31. Juli 2018
Christine Bartholomäus M.A.



Stefan Zinn, Berta Zinn with grandchild (1953)



Berta Zinn with dog, daughter Lilo Braun with her children (1953)

Mail from the City Archive of Bayreuth

Translation:

Bertha Steinhäuser, married name Zinn.

Born 09.03.1904 Bayreuth (birth register Bayreuth 1904 No. 149) daughter of Max Steinhäuser (1863 Burgkunstadt - KZ Theresienstadt, cattle dealer)

and Mina née Heumann (1871 Rothenburg ob der Tauber - KZ Auschwitz; sister of Justin Steinhäuser (1891 Burgkunstadt - 1966 Bayreuth, from 1946 city councilor in Bayreuth) and Marie Steinhäuser (1893 Burgkunstadt - 1940 Berlin, widowed Forchheimer, married Cohn)

The Steinhäuser family lived in Bayreuth from 1896, the father Max Steinhäuser was a cattle and goods trader, from 1906 they lived in their own house at Friedrich-von-Schiller-Str. 14.

Bertha Steinhäuser attended the Bayreuth elementary school from May 1, 1910, and from September 16, 1914, the Städtische Höhere Mädchenschule (today's Richard-Wagner-Gymnasium Bayreuth) from the school year 1914/1915 1st class (the 1st class at that time corresponds to today's 5th class etc. until the school year 1919/20 6th class (final class (Jahresberichte Städt. Secondary School for Girls 1914/15-1919/20

On January 12, 1925, she married Stefan Zinn (born September 13, 1890 in Lichtenfels), who lived as factory director in Lichtenfels, Bahnhofstraße 61 (Heiratsregister Bayreuth 1925 No. 10)

As far as is known here, Bertha and Stefan Zinn emigrated to America. Bertha's parents sold the house and property at Friedrich-von-Schiller-Str. 14 in April 1939 and planned to emigrate to America via Holland as well. But they did not succeed. On January 16, 1942 they were deported from Bayreuth to Bamberg to the Jewish nursing home „Weiße Taube“, on September 10, 1942 from Bamberg to Nuremberg, on September 11, 1942 from Nuremberg to Theresienstadt with Transport II/25. On May 18, 1944 they were deported from Theresienstadt to Auschwitz. Both were declared dead at the request of their son Justin Steinhäuser, and a memorial stone to them can be found at the Bayreuth Jewish Cemetery.

(see also entries in the memorial book of the victims

<http://bundesarchiv.de/gedenkbuch/intro.html.de> ;

Max Steinhäuser: <http://bundesarchiv.de/gedenkbuch/de974182>

Mina Steinhäuser: <http://bundesarchiv.de/gedenkbuch/de974183>

Literature:

Ekkehard Hübschmann/Helmut Paulus/Siegfried Pokorny: Physische und behördliche Gewalt. Die „Reichskristallnacht“ und Verfolgung der Juden in Bayreuth 1933-2003, Hrsg. Geschichtswerkstatt Bayreuth e.V. Bayreuth 2000 p. 149 ff Verfolgung, Vertreibung - und das Danach Ed. for the Neue Bayreuther Geschichtswerkstatt by Norbert Aas. 2. revised edition 2008

City Archive Bayreuth, 31 July 2018

Christine Bartholomäus, M.A.



Berta Zinn



Daughter Lilo



Typical house at Thornhill Court, Berta's last residence

Passenger's List of "Nieuw Amsterdam" from Southampton to New York, 04/22/1939

1000-100000-1000-100000

P.M. 25.

Name of Ship "NIEUW AMSTERDAM"

Date of Departure 22nd April 1939.

Steamship Line HOLLAND AMERICA LINE.

Where Bound NEW YORK.

NAMES AND DESCRIPTIONS OF ALIEN PASSENGERS EMBARKED AT THE PORT OF SOUTHAMPTON.

B.—NON-TRANSMIGRANTS, that is Alien Passengers other than those included under A.

(1) Crew Number	(2) Port at which Passengers have contracted to land	(3) NAMES OF PASSENGERS	(4) CLASS (Whether 1st, 2nd, Tourist or 3rd)	(5) AGE OF PASSENGERS					(6) Last Address in the United Kingdom	(7) Profession, Occupation, or Calling of Passengers	(8) Country of last Permanent Residence*					(9) Country of Introduced Former Permanent Residence*	(10) Country of which Citizen or Subject
				Males Under 18 years and upwards	Males 18 years and over	Females Under 18 years and upwards	Females 18 years and over	Infants			England	Wales	Scotland	London	Other		
41	New York.	FRANK, LUDWIG	TOURIST	22					67, ALEXANDER, LONDON.	HOUSEWIFE.						HOLLAND	HOLLAND
543		GOTTHOLD, EDGAR		16					3, STRATHAY GONS, LONDON, N.W.3.	STUDENT.						U.S.A.	GERMANY
		GOTTFALD, INGEBORG		14					67, ALEXANDER, LONDON.	STUDENT.						DO	DO
2350		MAYERFELD, ARTHUR		46					17, ABERCROMBIE PLACE, LON. N.W.3.	MERCHANT.						DO	DO
2350		MAYERFELD, IDA		49					DO	HOUSEWIFE.						DO	DO
2350		MAYERFELD, ERNEST		13					DO	SCHOOLBOY.						DO	DO
55060		MORGAN-SCHWEIS, LIBARUS		42					47, ASHLEY LANE, LONDON, N.W.3.	PRIEST.						DO	DO
2412		RADL-RADLOVA, LUCIE		39					11, GERRARD STREET, LONDON, W.1.	HOUSEWIFE.	1	65A				DO	CZECHOSLOVAKIA
3506		ROTH, HANS		38					67, ALEXANDER, LONDON.	REPORTER.						DO	GERMANY
2453		RUGEN, ERNA		43					95, THE AVE, LONDON.	HOUSEWIFE.						DO	DO
2453		RUGEN, ERST		15					11, GERRARD STREET, LONDON, W.1.	STUDENT.						DO	DO
		SCHIPPER, JAROS		52					67, ALEXANDER, LONDON.	MERCHANT.						DO	DO
		SCHIPPER, HECHT		5					DO	HOUSEWIFE.						DO	DO
2191		SCHLEIN, ERNST		35	22				2, HABLEMEYER AVE, LON.	MERCHANT.	1	45A				DO	DO
2192		SCHLEIN, HILDE		27					67, ALEXANDER, LONDON.	HOUSEWIFE.						DO	DO
540		SUSSMAN, HILDE		14					80A, BELLORE PARK GOS, LONDON, N.W.3.	SCHOOLGIRL.						DO	DO
540		SUSSMAN, GEORGE		21	31				DO	NURSE.						DO	DO
7217		TOOG, CORNELIUS		39					104, HIGHLAND HEATH, LONDON, S.W.15.	DIRECTOR.						ENGLAND	DO
7217		TOOG, MIRA		27					DO	HOUSEWIFE.						DO	DO
541		ZINN, STEFAR		48					42, ABERCROMBIE RD, LON. HIGHBURY, N.5.	MERCHANT.						U.S.A.	DO
541		ZINN, BERTA		35					DO	HOUSEWIFE.						DO	DO
541		ZINN, LIEBELOTTE		8	9				DO	SCHOOLGIRL.						DO	DO
38404		BEDI, JOHANNA THIRD		19					40, GLOUCESTER PLACE, LONDON, W.1.	STUDENT.						DO	U.S.A.
		GRAY, GENEVIEVE		43					108, BEDFORD COURT HTL, LONDON, W.1.	HOUSEWIFE.						DO	DO
		GRAY, NANCY			9				DO	SCHOOLGIRL.						DO	DO
		FARMER, JOHN		78					DO	NONE.						DO	DO
2054		KAPLAN, ABRAHAM		50					67, ALEXANDER, LONDON.	MERCHANT.						DO	DO
2054		KAPLAN, ANNA		55					DO	HOUSEWIFE.						DO	DO
		KAPLAN, ANNA		23					DO	STUDENT.						DO	DO
		KAPLAN, CHALOM V.		20					DO	STUDENT.						DO	DO
		KAPLAN, MIRIAM		18					DO	STUDENT.						DO	DO
847		SAMSON, ABRAHAM		35					RAGLAN HTL, BADFORD	TEXTILES.						DO	HOLLAND
7216		BROTHLEE, JEAN CARIE		16					12, MOORFIELD RD, EALING, M.D.	STUDENT.						DO	U.S.A.
7216		BROTHLEE, HAROLD		15					DO	STUDENT.						DO	DO
3832		BECKER, ARTHUR		46					67, ALEXANDER, LONDON.	MERCHANT.						HOLLAND	GERMANY
3832		BECKER, CHARLOTTE		38					DO	HOUSEWIFE.						DO	DO
3833		BECKER, FRITS		16					DO	STUDENT.						DO	DO
3833		BECKER, LIESEL		13					DO	STUDENT.						DO	DO
		SLUGG, MORRIS TOURIST		23					DO	STUDENT.						U.S.A.	U.S.A.
550		FRAENCKEL, ELARA		48					7, AVE, LODGE, AVE. RD, LON. N.W.3.	HOUSEWIFE.						DO	GERMANY
2413		de VRIES, Caroline		40					108, BEDFORD COURT HTL, LONDON.	Independent	1					BRASIL	BRASIL

C. No. 480C.

Sec. 1000

*By permission reference is to be understood evidence for a year or more.

33

27/11/54



Stefan Zinn

Lichtenfels

Growing up the Heir of a Company

Stefan Zinn was born the second son of basket salesman Sigmund Zinn and his wife Doris, née Hoffmann, on September 23rd 1890 in Lichtenfels.

Stefan's grandfather Samuel was one of the co-founders of the basket trade in Lichtenfels, which made the Zinn family rich. The basketry business, which was famous even outside the region, had its headquarters in Bahnhofstraße 5 in Lichtenfels.



Business premises "Samuel Zinn & Co." in Bahnhofstraße in Lichtenfels; the building was demolished in the 1950s to erect the Staßfurtpark.

Samuel Zinn's son Sigmund was socially very active in his hometown. He was in a leading position both as a fire fighter and an athlete in the sports club and was widely admired.

Stefan Zinn received a good tuition, learning English and French before starting to work in his parents' company as a merchant. In



World War One he was drafted in April 1915. After some time in the infantry at the front line, he worked as a clerk and later as a translator in a prisoner-of-war camp in Würzburg.

Head of the Company

Around 1920 Stefan and his three-year older brother Paul took on the management of the family's company.

On February 1st 1925 Stefan married Berta Steinhauser, the daughter of a wealthy Jewish salesman from Bayreuth, who was 14 years his junior. Five years later, on February 5th 1930, their first child and only daughter Liselotte was born.

The family lived in a representative mansion close to the company's headquarters together with Paul's family.



The first family's residence (house with tower in the middle of the picture)

Nazi Terror beginning in 1933

Their social and economic status did not protect the family from the ever-increasing Nazi terror.

During the „Night of Broken Glass“, Nazi-rioters entered the living area and work space and vandalized the place. Liselotte hid in the attic that night. Stefan was arrested for no reason and taken into „protective custody“ in the concentration camp in Dachau for three weeks. Stefan's brother Paul committed suicide affected by the progressing Nazi-harassment on November 16th and died several days later in hospital in Hochstadt.

The company had to be closed under the pressure of the Nazis and Stefan Zinn was forced to liquidate the family's real estate under value.

Stefan and Berta took necessary measures: First they took their child to safety, sending Liselotte to personally unknown relatives to New York. On April 22nd 1939 Stefan and Berta Zinn were able to board the ship „Nieuw Amsterdam“. They reunited with their daughter again in May in New York.

New York: "Baskets of all Descriptions"

Finding foot in the new world was hard for both Stefan Zinn (now calling himself Stephen) and Berta (now Bert). Being out of funds, the family first lived free of rent, but doing housekeeping jobs in return, with Jerome Kahn, a widower, and his daughter Janet in Brooklyn, Kings.

Bert earned her money as a chauffeur; Stephen first worked as a temp until he successfully tried to use his experience in the basket trade. He opened a basketry business in Brooklyn, New York - „Baskets of all descriptions“. Over time, the family became wealthy again.



Stephen and Bert Zinn with grandchild, early 1950s

Their daughter Liselotte (now Lilo) married Daniel Webster Braun and moved to New Jersey.

In 1950 and 1952 respectively her children Ronald and Linda were born. Linda describes her grandfather as a quiet and reserved person. Visiting his daughter and her family in New Jersey, Stephen would always bring chocolate bars for his grandchildren. One of his friends owned a candy shop which Stephen often visited with his grandchildren, who were treated to whatever they wanted there. He was a loving and generous grandfather.

In June of 1974 Stephen Zinn died in Brooklyn, Kings at the age of 84.



Stefan Zinn receives his passport in Lichtenfels in 1904.
Source: KZ „THE BASKETS SINCE 1821“

Eigenhändige Namensunterschrift des Inhabers:

Stefan Zinn



Stefan Zinn

born 13. 09. 1890 in Lichtenfels
died June 1974 in Brooklyn, NY

The search for Stefan Zinn

When we began our research, our first path led us to Christine Wittenbauer, a city archivist from Lichtenfels. She had important information about Stefan's family, who ran one of the largest basket shops in the region. With the help of a newspaper article by Prof. Dr. Günter Dippold, which Mrs. Wittenbauer recommended to us, we were able to find out details about Stefan's grandfather Samuel Zinn, who has been involved in many ways with the local community.

In order to learn more about this basket trade, we contacted the State Archive in Bamberg and discovered a document there which proved that in 1951, from New York, Stefan had claimed his inheritance, namely the basket company which his brother Paul and his father Sigmund had left after their deaths.

Now that we had a rough idea of Stefan's life before the Nazi regime, we tried to find out more about his subsequent flight to the USA. However, at first, this

turned out to be unsuccessful, until we discovered several lists of transatlantic ships between 1937 and 1938 on the internet page www.familysearch.org. On one Stefan was alone, once together with Alfred Marx and also together with his wife Berta and his daughter Lieselotte, born in 1930. Since we finally had a "hot lead" regarding emigration to America, we could continue our search on the website www.ancestry.com. After some initial difficulties we finally found out that the family members had Americanized their names to Stephen, Bertys and Lilo.

Through this website we were not only able to re-search further in the direction of America, but there were also various entries in war records, which stated that Stefan was active during the First World War, as both a soldier and an interpreter in the prisoner of war camp in Würzburg from 1915 to the end of 1916



Company premises of the Zinn' basket trade in the Bahnhofstraße in Lichtenfels (today Striwa), (c) Lichtenfels City Archive



The Zinn's two residential and office buildings in Bahnhofstrasse. The house in the front right was sold and torn down. Stefan and Berta Zinn lived in the house with tower (today: Herold's) until 1938.

(c) Lichtenfels City Archive

With the help of an archive employee of the Dachau concentration camp, we found out that Stefan Zinn was imprisoned there for three weeks as a result of the Pogrom Night (Kristallnacht) in 1938.

However, in order to get a proper understanding of Stefan as a human being, it was our goal to get in contact with possible descendants. For this purpose it was necessary that we continued our research with his only daughter Lilo. Through an obituary on the website www.legacy.com we then came across her husband Daniel Webster Braun.

Now that we knew how to classify this name, we realized that on www.ancestry.com a man named Matt Berger had added these two spouses to a family tree he had created himself. Although Matt turned out to be only a distant relative of Daniel, he sent us first pictures of Lilo and passed us on to Daniel's second wife Gloria Braun.

We contacted her several times in the hope of receiving pictures of Stefan, his wife and daughter and information about their future life. However, she seemed to be averse to contact with Germans and reacted quite dismissively. This was a disappointing, but in a certain way understandable behavior for us. Nevertheless, it seemed as if this was the end of our research, as Gloria wrote that the family was reluctant to disclose further information.

After reviewing the obituary of Daniel Webster Braun again, we noticed that he had with Lilo. a son, Ron, and a daughter, Linda. After looking at www.ancestry.com with the help of the names of the other family members, we found the then address of Lilo and her husband in New Jersey and finally via www.ancestry.com.

whitepages.com we also found the current address and telephone number of Linda (married name Pfeifer). Evelyn Held, an American descendant of the Liebermanns from Altenkunstadt, kindly offered to get in contact with Linda "from American to American" and to convince her of our good intentions. Evelyn had only visited Lichtenfels and Altenkunstadt in June 2018 and got to know us there - she is the cousin of Carol Kashan, the granddaughter of Leo Banemann.

In the end, Linda helped us at our request and sent us not only pictures and information about the professions of Stefan, Berta and Lilo, but she could even tell us about Stefan's personality and a little anecdote. This was a big step for us, because we could finally imagine Stefan as a living person with his peculiarities and characteristics and not only as a historical person.

In order to get more information about Stefan's life in New York, we wrote to the city archive there, whereupon they sent us a certificate of naturalization. To fill the last gaps we contacted the city archive in Bayreuth, which is the hometown of Stefan's wife Berta. The answer was friendly and was also very useful. Thus we were able to complete the curriculum vitae of Stefan Zinn.

Julia Mehrmann
Antonia Voll

Document on P. 91:

On 14th of November 1951, Stephan Zinn reclaims the legacy of his family in Lichtenfels as the sole heir. His father had died in a Jewish retirement home in Würzburg where he was forced to go to. His brother had died some days after "crystal night" in a nearby hospital. He had taken poison after he had experienced the Nazi thugs ravaging and plundering his house.

Stephan's enterprise is called

STEPHEN ZINN
BASKETS OF EVERY DESCRIPTION
1867 EAST 34TH STREET
BROOKLYN 34, N.Y.

Military Log for Stefan Zinn

[illegible]

8

ABSCHEID

PHONES MURRAY HILL 2-2668
ESPLANADE 5-5299

ZINN BASKETS SINCE 1923

STEPHEN ZINN
BASKETS OF EVERY DESCRIPTION
1867 EAST 34TH STREET
BROOKLYN 34, N.Y.
14. Nov. 1951

An das Amtsgericht Lichtenfels
Lichtenfels a/M Bayern Germany

Betr. Nachweisebringung, daß ich der einzige alleinige Überlebende
der Familie Sigmund Zinn bin und dadurch der Erbe der ursprüng-
lich Berechtigten
Samuel Zinn & Co A.G. bzw.
S. Zinn & Co Lichtenfels.

Mein Vater Sigmund Zinn starb im Altersheim Würzburg und mein
Bruder Paul Zinn im Krankenhaus Hochstadt a/M, was ich hiermit
an Eides statt erkläre.
Obengenannte und ich waren die Alleininhaber der Fa
S. Zinn & Co Lichtenfels, die die Samuel Zinn & Co A.G.
s. Z. übernommen haben.

Ich benötige diese Nachweisebringung für das Headquarter JRSC
Nürnberg Fürther Str 110 und bitte ich Sie die Bescheinigung in
Zwischschrift sobald wie möglich mir zuzusenden und danke für Ihre
Mühewaltung. Da diese Papiere für Rückerstattungsansprüche be-
nötigt werden beantrage ich Gebührenfreiheit.

Hochachtungsvoll
Stephen Zinn.
gez. Stephan Zinn.

Staat New York } SS
Stadt New York }

Die vor mir persönlich vollzogene Unterschrift des Herrn
Stephan Zinn wird hierdurch notariell beglaubigt.
(Siegel) gez. Henry Bartels
Notary Public Öffentlicher Notar

27. Nov. 1951 ✓
1. Abschrift des Erbscheins für Paul Zinn wurde heute erteilt und
dem Antragsteller Stephen Zinn übersandt. m.d. Beifügen, dass Erb-
schein für Sigmund Zinn vom Amtsgericht Würzburg erteilt und über-
sandt wird. Gestellter Antrag wurde dem AG. Würzburg zugeleitet.
3. Zum Akt.
Lichtenfels, den 27. November 1951.
Amtsgericht.

Klaus



Driver's License

and Car in the 1930s



Cars as Items of Luxury

An everyday setting on Coburger Straße in the middle of Lichtenfels. People stroll in the street, nobody seems to be afraid of cars approaching, as only few cars could be found in the 1930s.

In the 1930s there was only person out of 100 who had a car in Germany. Only one person out of 80 had taken a driver's test. Today, there are more cars registered in Lichtenfels than there are inhabitants.

Normal people could not afford to buy a car in the 1930s. It would have taken 15 monthly wages for a skilled worker to be able to buy a little Opel 1,2 L car – at that time people needed most of their wages to cover their everyday expenses.



Street in Lichtenfels (1930s) and Koblenz (1930s) (Lichtenfels: 1930s, Koblenz: 1930s)

Sigmond Marx presents himself and his wife Frieda in a proud and self-assured way on their car's running board, they owned a luxurious car. His brother Alfred also drove a Mercedes.

It is not astonishing that a higher-than-average number of Jewish citizens owned cars in Lichtenfels. Many of them were successful businessmen, came from the middle class and need to be mobile for work.

Manfred Goldmeier's tax declaration shows that he drove more than 60,000 kilometers in his Fiat 905 in 1930. In 1931 he owned two cars, a Hanomag and a DKW. Jenny Kraus probably took the driver's test to support her husband due to his heart condition. He was a cattle dealer and they owned an Opel 1,2 L.

Conformity, Envy and Racism

The terms "conformity, envy and racism" are used by historian Götz Aly to explain why antisemitism was widely spread in Germany.



This also shows when looking at the measures taken by the Nazis against Jewish car owners. Cars were among the first items Nazi hooligans took away from Jewish families in the November pogroms in 1938. The chairman of NSKK, "Nationalsozialistisches Kraftfahrer-Korps" (which translates as National Socialist Motorists Corps) said triumphantly:

"We have not been happy for a very long time about Jews steering vehicles through German streets and using the Führer's streets built by German workers' hands. This Jewish clique of motorists now had to return the last steering wheels once and for all. [...] From now on, when we drive our cars on German streets we will not be disturbed by Jews anymore. The German community of motorists is finally with its own kind. And that is good."

Implementation in Lichtenfels

Name	Geburtsdatum	Geburtsort	Eintragungsdatum	Eintragungsnummer
Arvid Schneider	18.01.1878	Wien	25.12.1938	12345
Arvid Schneider	18.01.1878	Wien	25.12.1938	12345
Arvid Schneider	18.01.1878	Wien	25.12.1938	12345
Arvid Schneider	18.01.1878	Wien	25.12.1938	12345
Arvid Schneider	18.01.1878	Wien	25.12.1938	12345
Arvid Schneider	18.01.1878	Wien	25.12.1938	12345
Arvid Schneider	18.01.1878	Wien	25.12.1938	12345
Arvid Schneider	18.01.1878	Wien	25.12.1938	12345
Arvid Schneider	18.01.1878	Wien	25.12.1938	12345
Arvid Schneider	18.01.1878	Wien	25.12.1938	12345



30. Dez. 1938

Lichtenfels,
Bezirksamt
J. R.
Kulsh

Jan Höppel
Manfred Brösamle-Lambrecht

List of Jews who have a driving license
(issued by the Lichtenfels District Office)

Verzeichnis der Juden, die einen Führerschein besitzen.

(ausgestellt vom Bezirksamt Lichtenfels)

Bamberger Alfred, 21.8.90 Lichtenfels	1 u. 2	113
" Arno, 18.2.1900	1, 3 b	283
" Henriette, 14.7.91	3b	271
" Ludwig, 5.9.93	3b	272
✓ Goldmeier Arthur, 17.4.79	3	1919
" Ludwig, 16.7.08	3a ub, 1	317/445
✓ Goldmeier Manfred, 17.4.79	3	572 1129
✓ Hellmann Max, 24.11.89	4	1780
✓ Kraus Josef, 21.3.96	3a	
Kraus Justin,	3b	693
✓ Kraus Henny, 19.8.79	3	1470
Nass Max, 16.2.1905	3	1343
✓ Oppenheimer Alfred, 23.1.03	3a	767
Oppenheimer Ernst, 23.3.04	3a	
Oppenheimer Max, 21.2.12	3	1160
Pauson Emilie, 2.4.01	3b	
Pauson Robert, 15.11.97	1, 3b	
✓ Zinn Berta, 9.3.04	3a, b	260/480
✓ Zinn Stephan, 13.9.90	1, 3a, b	
Nordhäuser Theodor, 27.3.82 Altenkunt.	3, a u. b.	327
✓ Banemann Leonhard, 30.4.96 Burgkunststadt	3a	291
Thurnauer Arthur, 10.9.90	1, 3	1447

30. Dez. 1938

Lichtenfels, _____

Bezirksamt

J. R.

Handwritten signature

List of Jewish car owners, compiled by the district office at the end of 1938

(KFZ is an abbreviation for „Kraftfahrzeug“, bureaucratic term for motor vehicle)

Vor- u. Familienname u. Wohnort des dama- ligen jüdischen Kfz. Besitzers	Kfz. Art	Kenn- zeichen	Tag d. Verkaufs oder der Beschlag- nahme	Erwerber, bzw. Kenn- Besitznach- folger	Kenn- zeichen	Bemerkungen
Jette Bamberger Lichtenfels	Pkw. Daimler Benz	IIH- 25699	13.6.1939	Dr. Elisabeth Kranz, Stuttgart Ameisenstr. 39	IIIA- 48357	Es ist nicht bekannt, ob Beschlagnahme oder freiwill- iger Verkauf vorliegt.
Manfred Goldmeter Viehändler Lichtenfels	Pkw. Hanomag	IIH- 26718	-	-	-	kein Fahrzeugakt mehr vor- handen, Besitznachfolger ist nicht bekannt
Manfred Goldmeter Viehändler Lichtenfels	Pkw. D.K.W.	IIH- 31727	-	-	-	Fahrzeugakt nicht mehr vor- handen, Besitznachfolger un- bekannt
Samuel Kraus Viehändler Lichtenfels	Pkw. Opel	IIH- 30730	-	-	-	Fahrzeugakt nicht mehr vor- handen, Besitznachfolger un- bekannt
Fa. N. Oppenheimer Manufakturwaren Lichtenfels	Pkw. Opel	IIH- 29698	23.12.1938	Bernhard Olsoh Lichtenfels Kleinau 2	AB- 724-441	Nicht bekannt, ob Beschlag- nahme oder freiwilliger Ver- kauf
Fa. Gebr. Pauson Lichtenfels	Pkw. Hansa	IIH- 25695	6.1.1939	Anton Werner Korbfabrik, Schney	unbekannt	ob Beschlagnahme oder freiwilliger Verkauf. Pkw. wurde am 5.8.1940 von der Wehrmacht übernommen.
Fa. Gebr. Pauson Lichtenfels	Pkw. Fiat	IIH- 23718	-	-	-	Fahrzeugakt nicht mehr vor- handen, Besitznachfolger un- bekannt
Fa. Gebr. Pauson Lichtenfels	Pkw. Opel	IIH- 22718	-	Kannst du mir, Jürgen	-	Fahrzeugakt nicht mehr vor- handen, Besitznachfolger un- bekannt
Stefan Zinn Lichtenfels	Pkw. Ford	IIH- 32696	19.12.1938	Ulrich Bauder Stuttgart-Canstadt	IIIA- 48357	Nicht bekannt, ob Beschlag- nahme oder freiwilliger Ver- kauf

(c) Landratsamt Lichtenfels

Blatt 2

Vor- u. Familienname u. Wohnort des dama- ligen jüdischen Kfz. Besitzers	Kfz. Art	Kenn- zeichen	Tag d. Verkaufs oder der Beschlag- nahme	Erwerber, bzw. Kenn- Besitznachfolger	Kenn- zeichen	Bemerkungen
Fa. Marx u. Büdel Hüte u. Felle Lichtenfels	Pkw. Daimler- Benz	IIH- 22726	-	-	-	Fahrzeugakt nicht mehr vor- handen, Besitznachfolger un- bekannt.
Fa. D. Bamberger Lichtenfels	Pkw. Daimler- Benz	IIH- 29715	6.3.1939	Fa. Knorr, Friedrich u. Co. Lichtenfels	BY-672 662	Fahrzeug verkauft an Landes- regierung Schleswig-Holstein Kennz. BS 2-3021
Fa. D. Bamberger Lichtenfels	Pkw. Daimler- Benz	IIH- 31712	14.3.1939	Fa. Knorr, Friedrich u. Co. Lichtenfels	BY-672 663	Fahrzeug verkauft an Fa. Striegel u. Wagner, Lichten- fels. Kennz. AB-725-334
Fa. D. Bamberger Lichtenfels	Pkw. Daimler- Benz	IIH- 29707	21.2.1939	Fa. Knorr, Friedrich u. Co. Lichtenfels	BY- 672 661	Die Fa. Bamberger wurde mit dem gesamten Inven- tar, einschließlich der damals vorhandenen Kraft- fahrzeuge von der Fa. Knorr, Friedrich u. Co. Lichtenfels käuflich übernommen.
Fa. D. Bamberger Lichtenfels	Pkw. Daimler- Benz	IIH- 29724	24.2.1939	Fa. Knorr, Friedrich u. Co. Lichtenfels	AB- 723 - 483	

(c) Landratsamt Lichtenfels

Lichtenfels, den 17. Januar 1939.

Bestätigung.

Es wird hiermit bestätigt, dass Herr Stefan P a u s o n
seinen ^{Israhel} sofort nach Rückkehr von Dachau hier abgelie-
fert hat.

17. Jan. 1939

Lichtenfels,

Der Landrat:

[Signature]

Diese Bestätigung wurde an Stefan Pauson Lichtenfels
ausgehändigt.

Lichtenfels, January 17th, 1939

Confirmation .

Herewith it is confirmed that Mr. Stefan
P a u s o n delivered his driving license here
immediately after his return from Dachau.

[...] This confirmation was handed over to Ste-
fan Pauson.

*This is a somewhat strange document in several
aspects:*

*We know that Stefan Pauson, a wealthy Jewish
merchant from Lichtenfels, was arrested in the
November pogroms and imprisoned in the Dachau
concentration camp under terrible circumstances
until mid-December 1938. Despite serious health
problems, however, one of his first steps after the
dismissal from Dachau led him to the district
office to hand in his driving license. This shows what
pressure he was exposed to.*

*At the same time, it is surprising that he is not na-
med as a Jew in the document, but "Herr", and that
his discriminatory forename "Israhel", which was for-
cibly added from 1939 on, is not mentioned either.*

*The confirmation itself can only be intended to pro-
tect Pauson against further reprisals in this item.*

(c) Landratsamt Lichtenfels

S. PAUSON

TEL. GIFFNOCK 1920
Hillcrest
29 Eastwood Avenue
Giffnock, nr. Glasgow.

24/3/52



Stadtrat
Lichtenfels.

Ausser vielen andren ist mir in der Nazizeit auch
mein Führerschein abgenommen worden.
Ich ersuche Sie, denselben zurück zu erstatten.

Resachtungsvoll

[Signature]

- I. Der Stadtverwaltung ist von Vorstehendem nichts bekannt.
- II. U. zuständigkeitshalber weitergeleitet an das

Landratsamt

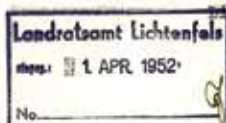
L i c h t e n f e l s

mit der Bitte um direkte Erledigung.

Lichtenfels, den 29. März 1952.

Stadtrat

[Signature]



Stefan Pauson reclaims his driver's license
in 1952:

Apart from many other things, my
driving licence was taken away from me during the
Nazi era.

I ask you to return the same.

Sincerely

*The Town Administration handed this letter to the
District Administration and they obviously returned
the driver's license - otherwise we would have found
it in that old brown envelope.*

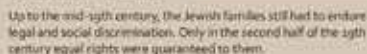


Development of the Jewish communities

Jews in the Upper Main Valley in the 20th c.

2.4% of the population. This seems to be a small amount of people who were Jewish in Lichtenfels around the year 1900. These 111 people were part of the Jewish community. But the number was reduced even further: At the beginning of Nazi dictatorship in 1933 their number had fallen to 41 (6% citizens) of the population. The Jewish population in Burgkunstadt experienced a similar decline (from 150 people to 53), as did the population in Althauskündt (from 65 to 29). How can this development be explained?

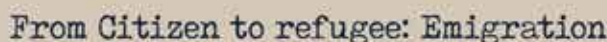
Jahr	Anzahl
1900	111
1933	41
2018	0



Having been given freedom of establishment meant for many merchants that they were able to move from the Upper Main Valley into the larger towns and finally, if financially possible, emigrate. The United States were among the most popular destinations, as they promised a life without discrimination and with better professional chances.



The Nazis' measures to deprive Jews of their rights and expel them from public life and Nazi terror from 1933 onward made an impact on the number of Jewish citizens. In 1933 69 Jews had lived in Lichtenfels, in 1939 only 17 were left. Of course, wealthy families tried to stay as long as possible, fearing to lose their wealth.



Harassment and Expropriation: The NS Regime

Until a travel ban was imposed in October 1941, nearly 300,000 people fled from the escalating discrimination and persecution. For many, however, this path remained closed.

Although the expulsion of the Jews was the official aim of the Nazis up to 1941, their flight from Germany was made as hard as possible. The ones willing to leave had to go through a protracted process full of harassment. 14-year-old Walter S. G. Kohn for example had to bring a certificate that he, as a Jew, was not a member of the Hitler Youth.

The so-called "Reich Flight Tax" forced Jews who had already been expropriated to turn the biggest part of their property over to the state. In addition, it was forbidden for them to take any private property of value abroad. The exemption limit for cash amounted to 10 Reichsmark, approximately 3.50 Dollars.

Apart from the fact the Jews now had no money anymore to start a new life abroad, many countries asked for a certain amount of

landing money in order to immigrate. Due to expropriation foreign relatives were needed to help.



"Nobody wants them": Barriers of Emigration

The boat is full.

After the world economic crisis, the refugees often faced a hostile atmosphere: The domestic population was afraid of foreign infiltration, excessive demands on the local economy and the loss of jobs, all of which they blamed on the immigrants.

In July 1938 the USA called a conference in Évian (France). Only two of the attending 32 countries were willing to take Jewish Refugees in - The USA and Venezuela. The USA as the main receiving country limited the number of refugees to 22,500 people p.a.

"Nobody wants them", was the scornful remark of German Nazi-newspaper "Der Volkische Beobachter".

Entry into the USA

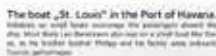
An "affidavit" was necessary to enter the USA; it assured that an American sponsor was willing to come up for all of the refugee's expenses. Additionally, the refugees had to wait up to one year after receiving their visa, before they could actually enter the USA, due to the upper limit. Many stayed in Great Britain to bridge the time span (e.g. the Marx Family) or made a detour via Cuba (such as the Barensham Family) or Shanghai, where they found shelter after they had paid a large sum of money.

The Boat „St. Louis“ - „Ship of the Doomed“

The letter was about the plan of 937 Jews aboard the St. Louis, which set sail to Cuba in May 1939. On board: Philip Banmiller, Ben Banmiller's brother, who had just arrived in Cuba. Shortly before the St. Louis's arrival in Cuba, the visa regulations had been changed, which meant that the ship did not receive clearance to land. An odyssey started, taking him and the rest of the people aboard around half of the globe, because no land was willing to take the passengers of the St. Louis. In July, Captain Schröder had to return to Europe, but he refused to bring the Jews back to Nazi Germany. One of Schröder's desperate plans was to beach the ship in British waters, in order to save the passengers. But finally he received a clearance to land in Belgium.

Philipp Baneremann made it from there to Great Britain and survived. He escaped the tragic fate of those who stayed in Belgium. One year later the country was conquered by the German Wehrmacht and 400 former passengers were murdered by the Nazis.

They were part of the 156,000 murdered German Jews, who were not allowed to emigrate.



Clara Aumüller
Luise Aumüller
Luise Birkner
Manfred Brösamle-Lambrecht
Lukas Franke
Victoria Thiel



Da 49

Deportation and Murder

955 people on their way to death



Secret instructions of the Lichtenfels District administration to the mayor of Altenkunstadt announcing the "Evacuation of Jews into the Generalgouvernement" (Poland)

Da 49 was the name of the deportation train leaving Würzburg on April 25th 1942. *Da* was an abbreviation for "David". During a stop in Bamberg, 32 inhabitants of the Lichtenfels district had to board. No one knows their feelings when they passed their home a last time when the train went through Lichtenfels and Burgkunstadt again on its way to Poland.

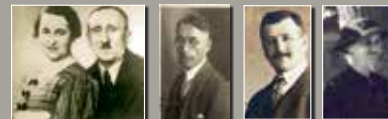
955 Jews from Franconia traveled four days over 570 miles to Krasnystaw in south eastern Poland. From there they were forced to march 10 miles to the Ghetto in Krásný. The SS had cleared it

one day before by deporting all inhabitants to Bełżec extermination camp where all were immediately killed.

The further fate of the women, men and children of **Da 49** is not exactly known. With high probability all of them were murdered on June 6th 1942 in the gas chambers of Sobibór.

Among them were 32 inhabitants of the Lichtenfels district, five of them owners of driver's licenses: Max Hellmann, Josef Kraus, Theodor Nordhäuser, Alfred Oppenheimer and Leo Wolf. No passenger of **Da 49** survived.

The Victims of Da 49 from Lichtenfels District



Max Hellmann



Josef Kraus



Theodor Nordhäuser



Alfred Oppenheimer



Leo Wolf



Max Hellmann



Josef Kraus



Theodor Nordhäuser



Alfred Oppenheimer

From Altenkunstadt:

Liebermann Rosa, geb. Rindberg, *15.3.1875
Liebermann Johanna, *10.9.98
Liebermann Theodor, *6.7.83
Liebermann Hedwig, geb. Zillmerger, *15.9.92
Liebermann Ernst, *6.7.26
Liebermann Ruth, *7.2.28
Nordhäuser Theodor, *7.3.82
Nordhäuser Mathilde, *4.7.78
Schuster Max, *25.1.76 *
Schuster Julie, geb. Löwenthal, *9.5.76
Wolf Leo, *10.4.92
Wolf Helene, geb. Brüll, *12.12.906
Wolf Margot, *12.12.908

From Burgkunstadt:

Beyer Irma, *1.2.99
Kraus Max, *7.3.74
Kraus Minn, geb. Bayer, *25.12.82
Kraus Eva, *11.1.23

Posselt Bella, *18.8.83
Posselt Jette, *24.7.88
Steinbock Agnes, *18.0.7
Steinbock Elisabeth, *15.6.02
Thurnauer Stefan, *23.2.37

From Lichtenfels:

Blum Ferdinand, *20.11.89
Blum Louis, *27.11.87
Blum Rosa, *5.9.94
Hellmann Max, *24.11.89
Hellmann Estelika, geb. Erlangen, *6.3.93
Kraus Josef, *23.3.96
Oppenheimer Alfred, *23.1.03
Oppenheimer Anni, geb. Kraus, *21.9.08
Oppenheimer Betty, geb. Kallen, *19.2.77

"Aktion Reinhardt" 1942-1943



Bełżec, Sobibór, Treblinka - these camps had only one purpose: to kill a maximum number of human beings in the most efficient way. SS-boss Heinrich Himmler had given the order to kill all Jews of Poland until 12/31/1942. The code name for this monstrous plan was "Aktion Reinhardt".

Odlilo Globocnik, Higher SS- and Police Führer of the Lublin district, manager of the genocide in Poland, boasted in 1945: "Two millions we took care of" - Polish Jews, Sinti and Roma and Jews from central/western Europe, among them 20,000 German Jews.

The women, men and children of deportation train **Da 49** were among them.

The victims arrived at the railway ramp and had to jump down from the wagons about three foot. People who were not able to do this or got hurt were immediately carried away and shot nearby. To calm down the panic of the others they were promised to get new clothes and to go to work after having showered.

They had to take off all clothes, men and women were separated. Then groups of about 100 persons were driven to the gas chambers via a camp road enclosed by barbed wire ("Road to Heaven"). These chambers were camouflaged as shower rooms.

At the time of **Da 49** there were three gas chambers in Sobibór, sized about 4x4 meters. Up to 300 people at once were pushed in there, that means it was approximately 16 square meters for 100 people. Then the SS pumped the fumes of a huge gas engine into the overcrowded rooms. The process of suffocation lasted up to 15 minutes. Alexandr Petscherski, a Jewish prisoner in Sobibór, describes:

"From the ceiling through thick metal tubes dark and dense swaths of gas were creeping down, pumped in by an electric engine. It became clear that they were all ordained to a painful death. Desperate weeping, frightened cries of children unified into a single scream. Mothers hugged their children or laid them on the ground to cover them with their bodies. Dying, in spite of the torments they suffered, the women instinctively tried to save their children and at least for a short while delay their deaths. Many people threw themselves back and forth like shot birds trying to find a corner where they hoped to survive. But the gas inexorably crept lower and lower. Terrible was the agony of these people who were slowly suffocating."

Quoted from: Bruch, Francisca, Handbuch der Juden. Der Aufstieg jüdischer Gefangener in NS Vernichtungslager Sobibór. Berlin, Reichenbach und Angewandte, Hamburg 2003, S. 107. Translation by the author.

Culprits



Odlilo Globocnik, Higher SS- and Police Führer of the Lublin district, with Heinrich Himmler, Commander of SS

The holocaust arose from a process of disinhibition and brutalization since the invasion of the Soviet Union, a broad consensus of racism "to solve the Jewish problem" and radical local initiatives that were then consented by Berlin. It wasn't just some criminals on the top of a command chain responsible for the killings—we have to go out of at least 200,000 direct culprits of ten with substantial personal leeway.

Odlilo Globocnik, Higher SS- and Police Führer of the district of Lublin, was a fanatic for a radical germanisation of eastern Europe, full of personal ambitions and initiating many measures against Jews. Himmler ordered him to organize and realize the genocide of Polish Jews in 1942.

Globocnik ordered three extermination camps be built and recruited "experts" of "Aktion T4" to oversee the mass murder: Christian Wirth and his men had already suffocated 70.000 handicapped Germans with carbon monoxide.



Christian Wirth, SS Sturmbannführer, Camp Commander of Bełżec

Christian Wirth had already commanded the "Aktion T4" and designed the three camps Bełżec, Sobibór and Treblinka. He was very proud of the construction and the gas chambers and loved to demonstrate how they worked to visitors. He was the commander of Bełżec and supervisor for Sobibór and Treblinka.

Even among his subordinates he was notorious for his cruelty and ruthlessness.



Gustav Wagner, SS Oberscharführer, Deputy Commander of Sobibór

Gustav Wagner was a SS - Staff Sergeant.

He called himself "The Gas Master". The camp's inmates called him "The Beast", "Hangman", "Welfel" or "The Butcher". As the Deputy Commander of Sobibór he could easily live out his sadistic bloodlust. He reportedly killed Jewish inmates, even children, with his bare hands.

After the war he managed to escape to Brazil where he died in 1980. He never showed any remorse. In an interview he stated in 1979:

"I had no feelings. ... It just became another job. In the evening we never discussed our work, but just drank and played cards."



The "Bezirksamt"

The Role of Local Administration

A Cog in the Machine of Dictatorship

The District Administration in Lichtenfels as a government agency was a cog in the enormous machine of oppression. One can assume that the major part of everyday activities in the District Administration remained unchanged after the Nazi dictatorship had been established. The orders concerning Jewish citizens had to be followed and were followed, often through orders to the local mayors.

Whether this happened willingly or with reluctance probably differed from person to person – we do not know. In a totalitarian dictatorship the leeway for own decisions is small, the risk of suffering personal disadvantages is high.



Street in Lichtenfels (today: Straße des 9. Novembers) in Lichtenfels



- Left: List of Jewish people with driving licenses for the enforcement of the order to not let the documents and books influence the collection.
- Middle: The District Office as an official stamp of the 1938 year.
- Right: Signature in support of Jews from Lichtenfels, to be presented by the mayor to the large assembly of the Reich of the German Reich.

A Spanner in the works of dictatorship: Wilhelm Aumer



"I am not allowed to do that, but a lot of things are not allowed nowadays."

Wilhelm Aumer had been a civil servant in the District Administration since 1914, and had climbed up the ladder to become superintendent of the District Administration by 1933. As he refused to join the Nazi party, he was passed over in future promotions and put under a lot of pressure, until he finally joined in 1937 to avoid his dismissal. In the District Administration he was responsible for passports.

His impact on others was described by Prof. Dr. Walter S. G. Kohn, a contemporary witness. He was born in 1913 in Lichtenfels and became the last Jewish student of "Hans-Schemm-Oberrealschule" (today: Merian-Gymnasium). In 1938 he was able to emigrate to the USA with his mother via England.

"The new people who still went to Jewish shops in November 1938, who crossed the streets to come to our side to greet us, were heroes in those times. [...] There was a handful of people in Lichtenfels who stuck by us to the end, not many, and not in big demonstrations. Nobody dared to do that anymore. But a few people let us know that they were there with us – and many, many became victims of their own cowardice."

Mr. Aumer set in the District Administration and was responsible for passports. [...] Being able to go to a government agency without being arrested at was rare. [...] I did not know to which foreign country I would go to, so we asked Mr. Aumer to give us entries in the passports for two countries, England and North America. "I am not allowed to do that, but a lot of things are not allowed nowadays", he said and did it anyway. All of these were hardly heroic actions.



Viewed in this light, Wilhelm Aumer's other signatures in passports become signs of his determination to help. We found the note "The passport is also valid for France" in the passport of Frieda Marx, née Oppenheimer.



Claude (Klaus) Bamberger described another one of Wilhelm Aumer's brave actions in his essay "Art". In October 1938 he warned Henrietta Bamberger, a widow, of the imminent confiscation of her passport, thus probably saving her life. Abandoning all of her belongings, she was able to flee to the United States before her passport could be taken away from her.

With Wilhelm Aumer we have found an honorable individual case, in which humanity surpasses the forces of Nazi dictatorship. This is not meant to relativize the situation as a whole: The District Administration as a government agency probably worked in the best interest of those in power.

Wilhelm Aumer was an honorable exception.

Manfred Brösamle-Lambrecht

The question of the responsibility of a lower authority such as the district or district administration office in the implementation of anti-Semitic measures up to and including deportation is of course particularly sensitive:

On the one hand, the Lichtenfels District Office functioned just as securely, rule-oriented and mercilessly in the spirit of the Nazi dictatorship as hundreds of others in Germany. As the lowest executive authority, it also acted on behalf of party organs (such as the "District Economic Advisor of the NSDAP", who was based in the local savings bank) and the SS (orders of the "Reichsführer SS" Heinrich Himmler).

In search for Wilhelm Aumer



Wilhelm Aumer was an exception. If his behavior is given such wide range here, it is because it was exemplary - and not the rule.

I first came across Wilhelm Aumer in 1994, when Susanne Troche wrote a very unusual paper in my history course:

"Resistance to Hitler in the Lichtenfels area". She had written to a contemporary witness, Prof. Dr. Walter S. G. Kohn, in the USA, who described Wilhelm Aumer's fair conduct (see next page). Through him we came across the essay "Art" by Claude P. Bamberger (Tenaflly N.J., 1988). Right at the beginning he describes in dramatic words how Wilhelm Aumer advised his mother to leave the country.

And it took some time until I realized who actually signed all the travel documents that were presented to us on behalf of the District Administrator: Said Wilhelm Aumer! Several of these documents had the handwritten note by Wilhelm Aumer that they were valid for more than one country - a deliberate violation of the regulations that could help the passport holders to escape.

Unfortunately, we did not find any more Aumers in Lichtenfels, so the search for descendants became exciting. A glance at Aumer's personnel file revealed the birth dates of his three sons, and an address book from 1950 listed Walter Aumer as living with his father - profession: civil engineer. So we searched thorough genealogical sites in Germany and found a Walter Aumer in Munich. He had a construction business! We actually found the obituary of a Walter Aumer, whose date of birth was identical to that of our target person - match! The list of surviving dependents led

On the other hand, the room for maneuver must have been small, the possibilities of repression against insubordinate employees high. And, of course, the leading representatives were system-compliant.

According to Walter S. G. Kohn (see p. 100), (professor of political science at Illinois State University) a great many civil servants probably also lived governmental anti-Semitism in everyday reality: "*Going to an authority without getting snarled at was a rarity.*"

But we cannot make a balanced overall assessment of the role of the Lichtenfels district office beyond these general statements.

to his son Reiner or Reinhard. He was very surprised about this background of his grandfather's activity - this was not known in the family until then.

Reinhard Aumer attended the ceremony with his mother on November 5, 2018. It was moving to see him talking to the grandchildren of Frieda Marx, who his grandfather had helped to escape.

Manfred Brösamle-Lambrecht

Claude P. Bamberger describes Wilhelm Aumer's commitment to Henrietta Bamberger

Claude P. Bamberger: Art. A Biographical Essay, Tenaflly N.J. 1989, S. 5f.

It was just before midnight when there was a loud knock at the back door of our home in Lichtenfels, a small town located in South Germany near the Czech border. The time was late October 1938 when the Nazi movement was in its ascendancy. A nocturnal knock on doors of Jewish homes during this period was sufficient cause to frighten its residents.

Kunni, our loyal cook who has been with us for 25 years, furtively opened the door a crack to inquire as to the identity of the intruder. It turned out to be our neighbor, Mr. Aumer, whose son and I had been classmates in elementary school.

Mr. Aumer, who was an official in the Lichtenfels city administration, looked disconcerted and uncomfortable, as Kunni let him in.

"I must see Mrs. Bamberger," he said nervously. "You understand I had to come at this hour as I do not want to be seen."

Kunni led him into the foyer and asked him to wait a moment until she called my mother.

"Ah, Mr. Aumer," my mother said, as she hastily tightened the belt of her housecoat, "what brings you here at this hour?"

Mr. Aumer, who was working in the Department of Records at the town hall said:

"Mrs. Bamberger, we have known each other for a very long time. You know what is happening in this town and all over Germany. I don't really agree, but I have a job and a family to feed."

He hesitated a moment, and shifted his weight from one leg to the other.

"I hope you understand that I cannot be seen to communicate with you in an official capacity. I came to tell you that orders have come from Berlin today, that within the next two weeks we will have to confiscate the passports of all Jewish families living in our district. I know you still have a valid passport and I urge you to leave as quickly as possible."

"How much time do I have?," my mother asked, obviously shaken by this sudden news.

"I can hold up the order on my desk for two or three days, not longer", Mr. Aumer replied, "it would, therefore, be best that you do not delay your departure longer than a day after tomorrow."

Mr. Aumer looked miserable. "Perhaps, you can visit some relatives in another part of the country, but it would be best if you could leave the country altogether", he added in an effort to be of further help.



Prof. Dr. Walter Samuel Gerst Kohn (1923-1998), recording approx. 1950

Walter S. G. Kohn was born in Lichtenfels and lived there until he emigrated to Great Britain and later to the U.S. in 1938. His grandfather Samuel Kohn was one of the five founders of the private secondary school in Lichtenfels, which later became the Meranier-Gymnasium - our school.

In 1936 Walter S. G. Kohn was the last Jewish student to be expelled from the school that his grandfather had helped to found. Pastor Friedrich had clearly stated this in the teachers' conference. In 1993 he kindly answered the (then) student Susanne Troche's questions about his experiences during the Nazi period in Lichtenfels.

7703 Dartmouth Road
Indianapolis, Indiana
46268

den 14. Sept. 1993

Fr. Susanne Troche
Obere Sandstrasse 3
96215 Lichtenfels

Sehr geehrte Fr. Troche,

Ihren Brief vom 24.8. habe ich dankend erhalten und ich freue mich, dass Sie sich fuer die Geschichte der Hitlerzeit interessieren. Ich bin Ihnen gern dabei behilflich, moechte Sie aber dabei auch auf zwei Gefaelligkeiten bitten: erstens, was war der Quickborner Kreis und wie wirkte er sich in Lichtenfels aus? Und zweitens waere ich Ihnen sehr dankbar, wenn Sie mir nach Vollendung Ihres Werkes eine Kopie zukommen lassen wuerden.

Wenn man von Widerstand in Lichtenfels spricht, so darf man nicht an den 20. Juli 1944 oder an die Weisse Rose denken. Die paar Leute, die bis zum November 1938 noch in juedische Laeden gingen, die auf unsere Strassenseiten kamen um uns zu gruessen, das waren Helden in der damaligen Zeit. Die Bemerkung des Herrn Stadtpfarrers Friedrich bei meiner "Verweisung" aus der Realschule 1936 habe ich wiederholt erwaeht. Im Kaesegeschaeft einen Leckerbissen zugesteckt zu bekommen war eine Heldentat, ebenso der woechentliche Besuch am Samstag abend von Herrn Bahnbeamten (ich weiss seinen genauen Titel nicht mehr) Kaemmerer und seiner Tochter. Es gab eine Handvoll Lichtenfelser, die bis zuletzt zu uns gehalten haben, nicht viele und nicht durch grosse Demonstrationen. Die getraute sich keiner mehr. Aber ein paar wenige Leute liessen uns wissen, dass sie bei uns standen -- und viele, viele fielen ihrer eigenen Feigheit zum Opfer.

Herr Aumer sass im Bezirksamt und hatte die Paesse unter sich. Seine Frau war mit meiner Mutter in die Schule gegangen; die Familien kannten sich gut. An eine Behoerde gehen zu koennen ohne angeschnauzt zu werden, war eine Seltenheit. Claude (Klaus) Bamberger hat beschrieben, wie Herr Aumer eines Nachts zu seiner Mutter kam, um sie zu warnen, dass ihr Pass in ein paar Tagen eingezogen werden wuerde und um ihr zu raten, so bald wie moeglich zu verreisen. Ich wusste nicht, wohin ich ins Ausland gehen wuerde und so baten wir Herrn Aumer, den Pass fuer zwei Laender, England und Nordamerika auszustellen. "Darf ich zwar nicht, aber man darf heute viel nicht", sagte er und tat es. All das waren kaum Heldentaten, aber solche kleinen Episoden taten aeusserst wohl und erleichterten das Leben sehr.

Was Herrn Amtsrichter Reck anbetrifft, so hielt er sich ans alte Recht wo er nur konnte. Als der Staatsanwalt bei einer juedischen Angklagten deren Religion wissen wollte, sagte Herr Reck sofort, dass dies bisher nicht ueblich war. Sein spoettisches "No klor" als Bestaetigung auf Naziausserungen ist in unserer Familie spruechwoertlich geworden.

Ich hoffe, dass Ihnen obiges etwas hilft und wuerde mich freuen, bald wieder von Ihnen zu hoeren. Mit besten Gruessen

Walter Kohn

September 14, 1993

Dear Miss Troche,

I received your letter of August 24 with thanks, and I am pleased that you are interested in the history of the Hitler era. I am happy to help you with this, but I would also like to ask of you two favors: firstly, what was the Quickborn Circle and what was its effect in Lichtenfels? And secondly, I would be very grateful if you would send me a copy when your paper is completed.

When one speaks of resistance in Lichtenfels, one must not think of July 20, 1944 or of the White Rose. The few people who went to Jewish shops until November 1938, who came to our streets to greet us, were heroes in those days. I have repeatedly mentioned the remark made by the town priest Friedrich during my "expulsion" from the school in 1936. Getting a treat at the cheese shop was a heroic action, as was the weekly visit on Saturday evening by the railway official (I can't remember his exact title) and his daughter. There were a handful of people from Lichtenfels who stood by us to the very end, not many and not through large demonstrations. Nobody dared come anymore. But a few less people let us know that they were with us, but many, many fell victim to their own cowardice.

Mr. Aumer was sitting in the district office and had the passports under him. His wife had gone to the school with my mother: the families knew each other well. To be able to go to an authority without getting snarled at was a rarity. Claude (Klaus) Bamberger described how Mr. Aumer came to his mother one night to warn her that her passport would be confiscated in a few days and to advise her to travel as soon as possible. I didn't know where I would go abroad, so we asked Mr. Aumer to issue the passport for two countries, England and North America.

"I'm not allowed to do so, but there are a lot of things I'm not allowed to do today," he said and did it. All these were hardly heroic deeds, but such small episodes did very well and made life much easier.

As far as the District Court Judge Reck is concerned, he kept to the old law wherever he could. When the public prosecutor asked a Jewish defendant about her religion, Mr. Reck immediately said that this was not usual so far. His mocking "No klor" as a confirmation of Nazi amendments has become a rallying cry in our family.

I hope that the above will help you and I would be happy to hear from you again soon. With best regards: Walter Kohn

Reactions



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Brian and Carol Kashan with her grandfather's driver's license and other artifacts. Behind them is the Banemans' china cabinet that was cut in half to make the trip from Germany.

« Cover Story



13 DRIVER'S LICENSES

The discovery of 80-year-old documents in Germany changes lives in Baltimore

By Susan C. Ingram

This story starts with "a very strange phone call." Someone from Germany was trying to contact Carol Kashan of Owings Mills. He had her grandfather's driver's license. A license that had been confiscated from her grandfather, Leo Baneman, when he was arrested 80 years ago on Kristallnacht, Nov. 9, 1938.

The stranger, who wouldn't remain a stranger for long, was Manfred Brösamle-Lambrecht, a high school history teacher in Lichtenfels, Germany. Baneman's license, along with a dozen others, had been discovered in late 2017 in a tattered envelope, yellowed with age, deep in the bowels of a government building in Lichtenfels. The licenses were turned over to district administrator Christian Meissner, who decided that instead of burying them in another file, he wanted the stories of the 13 to be told. So he walked the papers a few hundred yards from his office to his former school and asked the headmaster if he might be interested in a research project.

He was, and a few months later in January, Carol's phone rang.

"Baltimore Hebrew called me and said

would it be OK if they contacted me," Carol said. Brösamle-Lambrecht had found her grandfather's name on one of BHC's online memorial lists. "That was a very strange phone call, but I was really excited."

From that point, Carol and her husband Brian said there was a flurry of emails, photos and documents flying back and forth, including an image of her grandfather's driver's license.

"When I first saw the picture of my grandfather on the internet, I started to cry and I felt so excited and happy to see it," Carol remembered. "But then it was like a mix of emotions. I was so happy to be able to get it, but so angry at why I had to get it."

THE BANEMANS

A decorated German army veteran, by 1938 Leo Baneman was a successful middle-class Jewish businessman in Burgkundstadt, a town about 10 miles from Lichtenfels, east of Frankfurt and north of Nuremberg. He and his wife Martha and their 12-year-old

daughter, Edith, lived in a comfortable home and were able to take family vacations around Germany and to Italy and Czechoslovakia.

In 1937, before the Nazis tightened the noose, Leo and his sister visited the U.S. to see her children. There they met Martin Kohn of Baltimore's Hochschild, Kohn & Co. department stores, who would later help sponsor the family's escape. Kohn urged Baneman to stay in Baltimore.

"My father said, 'I still have my wife and my daughter over there, I'm going back,'" recalled Leo's daughter Edith, years later. "But after the situation in 1938, well, he was ready to go."

Carol, who is Edith's daughter, still has a letter her grandfather wrote from jail wishing Edith happy birthday. "I don't think he was in jail long because he had an army medal," Carol said. "If you had the medal, you got out early. And if you had a sponsor, they let you out."

Kristallnacht convinced Baneman the time had come. After his release from jail, Baneman immediately began making

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plans to emigrate. But the U.S. was not accepting refugees, so the family took a ship to Cuba in 1939, where they lived for about six months before heading to Baltimore. Here, they settled on the west side in a Jewish neighborhood near Callow Avenue and Whitelock Street. The couple first got odd jobs at hat factories to try to make ends meet and took in boarders.

"It wasn't easy to start, we had to start from scratch, we didn't have the money," Edith recalled.

After setting up a clothing business, the family was able to buy a home and moved to Park Heights Terrace around 1942.

Edith went to Western High School and married Larry Goldschmitt in 1947. He was a German refugee who had escaped at 16 and came to the U.S. alone. His brother also managed to get out, but his parents and sister did not.

Larry was successful in the drapery business and the couple had two children, Norman and Carol.

13 FUHRERSCHNEINE

Carol emailed and scanned as much family information as she could find to send to Brösamle-Lambrecht and his students, who eventually mounted an exhibit of the project called "13 Fuhrerscheine" (13 Driver's Licenses) and published a book.

"Once he started to get information from me, he asked would I come [to Lichtenfels] to get this driver's license," Carol recalled. "And I said yes, I would. And I was the first and the only for quite a while."

Some family members of the license holders were initially suspicious of the effort by the German students, but last month, in addition to Carol and her husband Brian, eight other family members traveled to Lichtenfels for a ceremony and the opening of the exhibit.

As Carol and Brian traveled from Baltimore, seven descendants of Arthur and Sigmund Marx traveled from New Jersey, New York, Boston, Florida and Texas and one descendant of Jenny and Josef

Kraus flew in from Argentina.

The exhibit includes 13 large vertically displayed banners with enlargements of the driver's license photos and photos of the homes people left behind, as well as pictures of the families and their descendants. Leo Baneman's banner includes a photo of Martha and Edith aboard a ship, pictures of their Baltimore home, their car and photos of Carol and Norman and their families — the lineage made possible by the Banemans' escape from Germany.

"These people, the crazy part of it was, they were German citizens," Brian Kashan said. "Forget that they were Jewish. They were German citizens. They fought in the German wars. They got medals of honor and they were persecuted nonetheless. It didn't matter. Being Jewish [eliminated] any good that you had ever done."

In an interview for German television, Meissner, the town administrator, said it was clear as soon as the licenses were found that young people should be

involved. "It meant taking a closer look. It was quite astonishing that in some cases, only the names of the owners were known," he said. "For some, it was the first time that we got to see photos. It is yet another contribution to research. But more and continual research is necessary."

Francesca Schuetz, 17, the student assigned to Leo Baneman, was excited to be a part of the family research project from the start.

"I was more than just interested in searching and finding out about the individual stories the Jews had to endure," she said via email. "Of course I knew that it can be possible to find out very sad content, too. The Second World War is a terrible part of human history."

Francesca said that reading the first response from Carol about her grandfather was very emotional.

"That was the point where I realized that we were touching people and really discovering Leo Baneman's story," she said. "During the project, we used a lot the word 'goosebumps,' as it describes well how we felt the whole time."

Francesca said that she and her classmates hope that the book and the

exhibit reach as many people as possible.

"This is a part of human history everybody should know about and everybody should know that the Jews were not just a mass of people but individuals with individual lives and stories," she said. "This is a part of our history we can never forget, but we can make sure it never happens again."

For Brösamle-Lambrecht, the rise of right-wing extremism and anti-Semitism in Germany was a motivating factor, as well as the lack of public knowledge of the 750-year history of Lichtenfels' Jewish community.

"We wanted to teach the public about the lives of these citizens. We only knew their birth dates — nothing else. An exhibition was first choice because it offered the chance to spread this topic," he said via email. "We planned it to be a traveling exhibit. And it is — eight high schools in our region have ordered it to be presented for one week to their students."

As a teacher, Brösamle-Lambrecht said it was a "gift" to see his 17-year-old students take to the task with engagement and interest and become experts in investigation and presentation.

"The first reactions of descendants we found — we won't forget that," he said. "For me it was and still is an incredible experience to meet those 10 descendants here in Germany and still have the intensive contact with them. This was an emotional avalanche for everybody involved in it. We made friends from the first moment on."

Three hundred people were invited to the exhibit's private opening ceremony in Lichtenfels, which the Kashans and the other descendants attended. The first public exhibition, in Lichtenfels' former synagogue, ran for 13 hours and saw about 600 visitors. The show was covered by local media and shared on social media. Meanwhile, Betina Kraus, the descendant of Jenny and Josef Kraus, is making a radio report in Buenos Aires, where she lives.

'THEY'RE LISTENING'

Back in Baltimore, the Kashans are still in frequent contact with Brösamle-Lambrecht, Francesca and many of the descendants they met and befriended on their trip to Germany. They said they were treated like "royalty" in Lichtenfels, getting tours of the city and given the

"That was the point where I realized that we were touching people and really discovering Leo Baneman's story."

— Francesca Schuetz, student



Above, from left: Carol and Brian Kashan in Lichtenfels with student Francesca Schuetz; Carol and Brian with Manfred Brösamle-Lambrecht; and Carol in front of her great-grandfather's home holding a photo of him in the same spot 100 years ago.



Brian and Carol look at a program from the "13 Fuhrerscheine" exhibit. Carol speaks German from growing up in a household that spoke the language. Eight of the 13 escaped Germany, while five were murdered in the Holocaust. Top: Leo's driver's license. Above: Martha's Jewish ID.

honor of signing Lichtenfels' "Golden Book," a ceremonial task reserved only for important visiting dignitaries.

They were impressed with the German people who attended the event, who were serious and engaged by the exhibit.

"There were a lot of people," Carol said. "And they were all very, very nice. You could tell were really interested in these lives."

"They didn't just show up because it was the politically correct thing to do," Brian said. "They were looking, they were reading. But everyone, I think, were surprised that the kids did so much, so well. It looked professional. They just did it beautifully."

During the visit, they also found the Banemans' home, now a pharmacy, and took photos in front of Carol's great-grandfather's house. They also wanted to visit a concentration camp, so Francesca's parents drove them to Buchenwald, about 100 miles away.

Since that "strange" phone call in January, Carol said the entire experience has affected her deeply.

"It changed my whole life. But I didn't want people to see what we did as a

'you're going to forgive and forget' kind of thing. I'm happy that this generation is going to remember," she said. "Those are 14 students that maybe have changed their minds about Jewish people, or any people, that are different than them."

"When I first saw the picture of my grandfather on the internet, I started to cry and I felt so excited and happy to see it."
—Carol Káshan

Brian is as emotional as Carol about the experience, which he agrees "changed so many lives."

"It gave you hope to see young people

that are going to fight your fight," he said. "I think reassurance is a good word. It's not forgiveness. It's not forgetting. It's reassurance that there are some people that do good in the world. And these young kids picked up the baton and ran with it."

"It's more than about Carol's family," he added. "It's about the families whose driver's licenses weren't found and it's about the families that didn't have driver's licenses and all the other things that developed. I just want the story to be told."

Carol, who was never much of a history fan prior to this, is now immersed in a family history she never paid much attention to before. Her mother, Edith, 92, is helping Carol identify family in the many old photos she unearthed for the project. And the Kashans' two children, Lauren and David, although no longer living at home, are hearing the stories, too.

"I'm visual. I have to see it," Carol said. "When we went there and we saw all these things, I learned so much. And now when I tell people the stories, they are tuned in, and they're listening."

singram@midatlanticmedia.com

INVITADO

BETINA KRAUS. 13 REGISTROS DE CONDUCIR. 13 DESTINOS JUDÍOS.



puntoseguido

Lo que supe contestar por whatsapp fue un simple: Buenas tardes. Llárame. Gracias.

Andrés procedió a llamarme inmediatamente y me contó que lo contrató Manfred Brösamle-Lambrecht, en realidad no un “chico” sino el director de estudios del Meranier Gymnasium de la ciudad de Lichtenfels, Alemania. Manfred y su grupo de estudiantes estaban buscando la descendencia de Jenny, mi abuela. Llegaron con sus propios medios hasta La Tablada, donde está la tumba de mi abuela, mi tío y mi padre. Se contactaron con la AMIA infructuosamente. Finalmente jugaron su última carta y contrataron a Andrés quien supo encontrarme en 3 días por ser ex alumna del Pestalozzi.

El 20 de junio de 2018, día de la bandera, no fue un día normal. Hubo un antes y un después en mi vida. Después de almorzar recibo un whatsapp con el siguiente texto: Hola Betina, mi nombre es Andrés Rondenstein, soy genealogista y papá del Pestalozzi. Me contactó Manfred Brösamle de Lichtenfels. Es un chico del Meranier Gymnasium de ahí. Ellos encontraron documentación de tu abuela, Jenny Dannenbaum Kraus, y me encargaron encontrar a sus descendientes. Están haciendo una muestra de desagravio a los ciudadanos judíos de su pueblo.

Estaba temblando. No comprendía lo que estaba sucediendo. Mi hijo y yo mirábamos la foto de Jenny y su firmeza en la mirada, como si nos quisiese decir algo. Fue el comienzo de una historia fabulosa que me acercó a mis orígenes y me ayudó a comprender parte de mi historia familiar.



Así comenzó esta hermosa historia. En 10 minutos ya tenía en la bandeja de entrada el primer correo de decenas que prosiguieron... Con los ojos nublados de lágrimas de emoción y el pecho apretando fuerte leía el primer mail de Manfred donde me explicaba que estaban tratando de reconstruir la vida de Jenny Dannenbaum Kraus. En el año 2017 encontraron una carpeta en las oficinas del distrito de Lichtenfels. Su contenido eran 13 registros de conducir de ciudadanos judíos que fueron expropiados durante el Progam de Noviembre de 1938, el cual comenzó en la noche de los “cristales rotos”. Sus dueños eran 11 hombres y 2 mujeres. 5 de los hombres fueron asesinados en el campo de concentración de Sobibor, los 6 restantes y las 2 mujeres pudieron emigrar a tiempo.

Lo que nos conmovió de mi abuela Jenny fue que hizo su licencia de conducir a los 57 años en una época tan difícil. Suponemos que la razón fue que Semi Kraus, mi abuelo, estaba enfermo del corazón y Jenny como mujer fuerte de la familia, tomó las riendas. Semi murió en septiembre de 1938 y Jenny se quedó sola. Sus dos hijos ya estaban en Argentina y esperaban el momento de reencontrarse nuevamente con sus padres. Voy a transcribir unas líneas que escribió mi padre en su diario de viaje el 30 de julio de 1934. “Hoy hace 3 semanas me fui de Lichtenfels. Temo que se desvanezcan de mi mente algunos detalles. Quiero evitar hablar del tema. Fue tan difícil separarme de la gente que amo y valoro. Fue un gran esfuerzo no ablandarme demasiado. Agradezco que pocos me vieron llorar. El lunes fue el último almuerzo preparado por mi querida madre que me preparó mis comidas preferidas. Los minutos en

la estación hasta la llegada del tren fueron interminables. El llanto de mi padre cuando el tren empezó a marchar va a replicar en mis oídos toda mi vida. Cada vez que lo recuerdo tengo una piedra en el corazón. Vi por última vez el hermoso paisaje de Franconia, que será por siempre mi hogar.” Entre lágrimas se prometieron reencontrarse todos en 5 años lo que no se pudo concretar. Jenny y sus 2 hijos se volvieron a ver en el año 1939 cuando Jenny logró llegar a bordo del barco “Cap Arcona”.

Christian Meißner, gobernador del distrito de Lichtenfels, decidió trabajar históricamente con los registros de conducir y le dio la tarea al Meranier Gymnasium. 14 estudiantes del último año de bachiller eligieron involucrarse con esta historia como trabajo final “Tesis” de sus estudios. La finalidad era rearmar la vida y los destinos de los 13 propietarios de los registros de conducir. El primer objetivo histórico fue relatar los destinos de estos protagonistas y crear conciencia de lo acontecido en su ciudad natal, especialmente en estos tiempos de Alemania con el resurgimiento de la derecha.

La finalidad, una exposición el 5 de noviembre, con 16 Roll-Ups de 85x200 cm (uno por cada persona) acompañado del relato. Conceptuada como una exposición itinerante, primero por la región de Franconia y luego intentar que se propague por otras regiones de Alemania.

La resonancia de este evento fue y sigue siendo mucho más fuerte de lo imaginable. De las 8 familias sobrevivientes, 6 colaboraron y empezaron a invadir internet con material enriquecedor, cartas, fotos, documentos de los protagonistas y sus familias lo que fue dándole vida a esta historia tan movilizante. El grupo de estudiantes y Manfred se volcaron de lleno a la ardua tarea del armado y pasaron momentos emotivos con cada hallazgo y paso a paso fueron cerrando las historias.

Jan Höppel y Manfred Brösamle-Lambrecht se hicieron cargo de Jenny y nuestra familia. Fui la última que encontraron cuando ya casi habían agotado todas las vías posibles y el encuentro fue muy fuerte de ambos lados y selló un lazo similar al sentimiento de familia que no se va a cortar nunca.

Los “no sobrevivientes” fueron trabajados de la misma manera y los detalles de sus vidas nos conmovieron a todos hasta las lágrimas.

Meses pasaron con algunas noches de insomnio pensando y descubriendo las vidas de mis antepasados tan cercanos y reviviendo anécdotas y transmitiendo todo hasta los detalles a Alemania. Abrí cajas de la baulera, escaneé fotos, algunas con 100 años de vida. Cada carta que iba leyendo me emocionaba, lloraba y me movilizaba pensando lo que había sentido mi papá y mi abuela en esos momentos.

Se acercaba la fecha de mi partida con una mezcla de tensión, emoción y felicidad difícil de transmitir. Sabía que iba a haber un antes y un después en mi vida. De los 13 propietarios de los registros de conducir acudimos a Alemania 9 personas integrantes de 4 familias. La noche del sábado 3 de noviembre nos conocimos los familiares y los

que escribieron nuestras historias y nos unieron. Abrazos, lágrimas, anécdotas, y un vínculo que no se va a romper jamás.

Llegó la gran noche del 5 de noviembre en el salón de actos del Meranier Gymnasium, colegio al que fue mi padre.



Ahí estábamos nosotros sentados en primera fila y empezaron los discursos de figuras del gobierno y estudiantil. Me prometí a mí misma no volver a llorar hasta que la presentación de la familia Wolf me quebró en llanto. Fue una noche muy fuerte para las 300 personas que estábamos ahí. La profesionalidad y dedicación de estos 14 estudiantes de 17 y 18 años nos conmovió. Sentimos mucho agradecimiento por el reconocimiento y compromiso hacia nuestros familiares tan cercanos. El acto culminó con la entrega de los registros de conducir a cada familia. Al tener ese documento finalmente en mis manos sentí que me devolvían parte del honor e integridad de mi abuela.

Por Betina Kraus

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We would like to thank puntoseguido, Buenos Aires, Argentina, for their kind and willing permission to reprint.

Translation:

June 20, 2018, Day of the Flag [Argentine National Day] was not a normal day. There was a before and an after in my life. After lunch I received a Whatsapp message saying: „Hello Betina, my name is Andrés Rodenstein, I am a family researcher and father of Pestalozzi [father of a student at the Pestalozzi School in Buenos Aires, which I also attended]. Manfred Brösamle from Lichtenfels wrote to me. He is a boy of the Meranier-Gymnasium there. They found documents about your grandmother, Jenny Dannenbaum Kraus, and hired me to look for her descendants. They want to make a gesture of reparation for the Jewish citizens of their village.“ I was trembling. I didn't understand what was going on. My son and I admired the photo of Jenny and her driver's license on the screen and her power in our eyes, as if she wanted to tell us something. It was the beginning of an almost fairytale story that brought me closer to my roots and helped me to understand parts of my family history. The only thing I could answer in WhatsApp was a simple „Good afternoon. Give me a call. Thanks.“

Andrés called me immediately and told me that Manfred Brösamle-Lambrecht who had hired him, in reality was not a „boy“ but director of studies of the Meranier-Gymnasium of the city of Lichtenfels, Germany. Manfred and his group of students were looking for the descendants of Jenny, my grandmother. With their own means they had come as far as La Tablada [very famous cemetery in Buenos Aires], where the graves of my grandmother, my uncle and my father are. You had unsuccessfully contacted the AMIA [Jewish umbrella organization in Argentina]. Finally, they played their last trump card and hired Andrés, who found me within three days because I, like him, am a graduate of the Pestalozzi school.

This is how this beautiful story began. Within ten minutes I had the first of dozens of e-mails in my mailbox. With eyes full of tears of emotion and a tightness in my chest, I read Manfred's first e-mail, in which he explained that they were working to reconstruct the life of Jenny Dannenbaum Kraus. In 2017 an envelope was found in the archives of the Lichtenfels district. Its contents were 13 driver's licenses of Jewish citizens, which had been confiscated from them in the November pogroms of 1938, which had begun with the „Kristallnacht“. Their owners were eleven men and two women; five of the men were murdered in the Sobibór extermination camp, the six others and the two women were able to emigrate in time. What particularly moved me was the fact that my grandmother got her driver's license in 1936 at the age of 57 during such a difficult time. We assume she did so because Semi Kraus, my grandfather, had a heart condition and Jenny, the strong woman in the family, took the reins in her hand. Semi died in September 1938, and Jenny was left alone. Her two sons were already in Argentina and longed for the moment of reunion with their parents. Here are some lines my father wrote in his travel diary on July 30, 1934:

„Exactly three weeks ago today, possibly even to the minute, I left Lichtenfels. I still think of all the goodbyes. I fear that none of the many details will ever vanish from my memory. I would like to avoid talking about it too much. It was so difficult for me to separate from the people I love and cherish so much. It took a lot of strength not to go soft. I was glad that there were not many people who saw me crying. Monday at noon there was the last meal at my dear mother's house, who had prepared my favorite dishes - probably for the last time for some time. The minutes on the platform until the train came were an eternity. And my father's crying as the train started to move will be in my ear forever. Every time I think about it, it weighs heavy on my heart. I saw for the last time my beautiful Franconia, the landscape that will probably be my home forever.“

Tearfully they promised themselves a reunion for five years - this was not to happen. Only Jenny and her sons met again in 1939 when she disembarked from the „Cap Arcona“ in Buenos Aires.

Christian Meissner, District Administrator of Lichtenfels, had decided to have the driver's licenses historically processed and handed over this task to the Meranier-Gymnasium. 14 high school graduates dealt with this history in a P-seminar. The aim was to reconstruct the lives and fates of the 13 driver's license holders. The first historical purpose was to tell the story of the protagonists and to recall the events in the consciousness of their home town, especially in view of the again growing right-wing extremism in Germany. The result was an exhibition on November 5, 2018, with 16 roll-ups of 85×200 cm (one per person). Planned as a touring exhibition, it will first be shown in Franconia, and then attempts will be made to present it in other regions of Germany.

The response to this project was and is much stronger than imagined. Six of the eight surviving families contributed material and help and sent a wealth of enriching information, letters, pictures, documents from the protagonists and their families via the Internet, and this has brought this so moving story to life. The seminar participants and Manfred threw themselves into the difficult process of coming to terms with the stories and made them accessible step by step. Each new discovery was a special, emotional moment.

Jan Höppel and Manfred Brösamle-Lambrecht took care of Jenny and our family. I was the last one they found. They exhausted almost all possibilities, and the encounter was very moving for both sides. This connection, which has an almost family character, will never leave us. The life stories of those murdered by the Nazis were worked out with the same zeal, and the details of their lives moved us all to tears.

For months there were many a sleepless night with thoughts of my ancestors so close to me and the attempt to bring the old stories back to life and to pass on all the details to Germany. I opened boxes from my memory, scanned pictures, some of them already 100 years old. Every letter I read grabbed me emotionally, I cried and got upset at the thought of what my father and grandmother had experienced and felt during this period.

The date for my departure for Lichtenfels was getting closer and closer and filled me with an emotional mixture of excitement, emotion and happiness that is hard to describe. I was aware that there would be a before and an after in my life. Of the 13 driver's license holders, nine other descendants of four families had also travelled to Germany. On November 3rd, Saturday evening, we, „the family members,“ saw each other for the first time and got to know those who had written our stories and brought us together. Hugs, tears, anecdotes - and a connection developed that will never be broken.

The great night of November 5th took place in the decorated gymnasium of the Meranier Gymnasium, the school where my father was a student. There we, the family members, sat in the front row and the speeches of representatives of the government and the school administration began. I promised myself that I would not cry again, and I almost made it until the fate of the Wolf family was portrayed, which moved me to tears. It was a very moving night for the 300 people who were present. We were moved by the professionalism and commitment of these 14 high school graduates of 17 and 18 years.

We felt great gratitude for the recognition and care for our so close family members. The exhibition ended with the handing over of the driver's licenses to each family. When I finally had the document in my hands, I was overwhelmed by the feeling that I had been given back something of my grandmother's honor and dignity.

Betina Kraus

It all started with a cache of 13 driver's licenses. Confiscated from Jewish citizens of Germany in 1938, they were found in an envelope in a government office in the Bavarian town of Lichtenfels in February 2017.

After discovering the licenses, district administrator Christian Meissner could have simply archived them, in accordance with German law. Instead, he gave them to the headmaster of the local high school, thinking it might provide a research opportunity for the students.

And it did. For nine months, starting in January 2018, 14 students at the Meraner-Gymnasium Lichtenfels meticulously researched the names on the licenses, digging through archives, conferring with experts, trying to find and contact any possible descendants. The students worked under the tutelage of Manfred Brösamle-Lambrecht, the school's director of studies, who wrote in an e-mail to NJJN that he saw it as the "perfect" undertaking for the teens.

Their research led some of the students to New Jersey. Three of the licenses belonged to relatives of Livingston resident Inge Stanton, a native of Lichtenfels who escaped in 1939 at the age of 9 with her parents, younger sister, and grandmother, first to England and eventually to the U.S. The licenses belonged to her father, Alfred Marx; his brother and business partner, Sigmund Marx, who also escaped; and Sigmund's wife's brother, Alfred Oppenheimer, who was murdered with his wife and his mother.

On Nov. 5, Stanton, her two daughters, a granddaughter, and Sigmund Marx's three granddaughters (who grew up in Verona) were in Lichtenfels among an estimated 300 people who attended the opening of "13 Driver's Licenses: Thirteen Jewish Lives," the exhibit that resulted from the project. Stanton was among the speakers at the event, held in the high school and captured by local and national print and TV media outlets. It later moved to what was once the town's synagogue — with no Jews left in Lichtenfels, it now serves as a community center. (Following Kristallnacht, it was confiscated by the Nazis and used as a warehouse; the building was restored in 2010.)

The exhibit, and the information it displays, has helped the town's inhabitants confront its past and chart a way to move forward; for Stanton and her extended family, it was an opportunity to forge a new relationship with her hometown.

On this trip, Stanton, who had been back to Lichtenfels before, said she gained something new — a sense of

Research on '13 Driver's Licenses' in Germany leads to New Jersey

Descendants of Bavarian town return for opening of exhibit

By JOHANNA H. GINSBERG | January 23, 2019, 11:52 am | 2



Documents from the exhibit "13 Driver's Licenses: Thirteen Jewish Lives" Photo by Johanna Ginsberg

connection and comfort. "When we got there," she told NJJN in a phone interview from her winter home in Sarasota, Fla., "we had an instant feeling that these were, what shall I say, sympathetic people who were willing to look at what happened and are still upset at what their country did to humanity during those years." By the end of their week-long visit, she added, "I think it was a much warmer relationship than I expected."

The discovered descendants and the students and teachers are now staying connected through WhatsApp.



Students with Marx family descendants in front of the family home in Lichtenfels, from left, Victoria Thiel, Lisa Salko, Clara Aumüller, Linda November Tutin, Suzanne Schlesinger, Nancy Stanton-Tuckman, Inge Stanton, Debbie November-Rider, and Ellie Schlesinger. (Photos courtesy Nancy Stanton-Tuckman)

Just like the UN

Stanton and her family members were stunned by the size, seriousness, and reception of the student project.

"We thought we were just walking into a high school presentation," said Lisa Salko of Elmsford, N.Y., Sigmund Marx's granddaughter.

When they arrived, they were invited to sign the town's "Golden Book," reserved for dignitaries, and then headed to the exhibit. "We walked into hundreds of people, with cameras set up, a sound boom," said Salko. "It was like 'Wow, the media here, photographers there.' We were ushered to the front row and given headsets, like at the UN. Already our heads were spinning," she recalled.

Descendants of five of the original license holders came from the United States, Israel, and Argentina. At the end of the evening, Meissner invited each set of family members up to the podium. He then returned the licenses to them, a gesture, said Salko, that was "so powerful and moving."

The exhibit features floor-to-ceiling banners with information about each person whose license was taken: full



Sisters, from left, Debra November-Rider, Lisa Salko, and Linda Tutin on Judengasse, where the synagogue in Lichtenfels was built in 1757. (Photo courtesy Lisa Salko)

biographies, including details of how they had lived in Lichtenfels — their livelihoods, their homes, their respective lifestyles and social circles, and what happened to them. A catalogue contains additional details, photographs, and explanations. For those who survived the Holocaust, details of the rest of their lives are also included: how they escaped, where they landed, how they rebuilt their lives.

For the five who were murdered, the material includes dates and locations of arrests, deportations, internment in concentration camps, and death.

The attendees were closely reading the information on display, according to Stanton. "They weren't just glancing at items. They were questioning: Why? Where?" She found herself busy answering people's questions. "Really, they were interested in knowing what I remembered," she said.

I owed them nothing

Stanton was impressed by the level of detail the students captured. Her daughter, Nancy Stanton-Tuckman of Towaco, acknowledged that by the time they were contacted, the student assigned to her grandfather's license had already amassed quite a bit of information. Stanton provided a bio of her father and other information. In her talk, Stanton acknowledged her pleasure in developing a "pen-pal" relationship with Clara Aumüller, the student assigned to research Alfred Marx. Stanton said she viewed the project as an opportunity to educate the townspeople. "They should know about what is a very small part of all



Christian Meissner returns the license of Alfred Marx to Marx's daughter, Inge Stanton (holding folder), with, from left, Stanton's granddaughter Ellie Schlesinger and daughters Suzanne Schlesinger and Nancy Stanton-Tuckman.

the misery that occurred in Germany," she said.

"I'm one more person in history who can vouch for some of the things that happened in my little town of Lichtenfels."

But she is clear that she isn't indebted to Germany. "They threw us out; they killed so many Jews. I did not owe them anything," Stanton said. "Whatever I do is because I want to clear up as much of history, my little piece of it, that I was aware of."

Aumüller was deeply affected by the experience. "I have always been aware of the horror of the Shoah," she told NJJN in an email interview conducted in English. "However, doing research on a family and finding out about their fates made this terrible topic far more personal to me."

She continued, "Actually meeting Alfred Marx's descendants after almost a year of research was incredible and felt almost unreal. Their kindness and their gratitude

toward the small things we've done is the biggest honor for me."

Teacher Manfred Brösamle-Lambrecht said the project was compelling for students for many reasons, including the detective work involved, the personal connections made, and the "ethical implications and dimensions, the feeling for what is right and what is wrong," that he believes both "fascinates and motivates."

But the most important lesson the students learned from the project?

"Victims are never numbers and figures, but always individuals," he said.

The trip left Stanton full of optimism. "Oh, it definitely gave me hope for the future," she said, though she acknowledged the troubling resurgence of anti-Semitism in Europe.

A strange message

The adventure began when Lisa Salko's sister Debbie November-Rider received a "strange message" via Facebook Messenger in May 2018, while the three sisters happened to be in Florida together. "This girl, a high school student, was researching our family," Salko told NJN in a phone interview. The sisters were skeptical. "This is a little weird" is what they thought, according to Salko. "We were dumbstruck. It came out of the blue."

By that time, student Victoria Thiel had already spent six months researching the family. "It was really unbelievable how much information they were able to figure out before even making contact with us descendants," said Salko. Ultimately, Victoria won over the sisters, who shared information and documents freely, including a series of letters written in German they had never managed to get translated.

Those letters provided critical information about what happened to another of the license holders, Alfred Oppenheimer, Sigmund's brother-in-law, who was murdered in either Sobibor or Belzec.

The letters revealed that Sigmund was trying desperately to get Oppenheimer out, along with his wife and mother. But a fatal mistake occurred when family in the United States had furs sent to Oppenheimer to sell upon arriving in America. The idea was to give him a means of getting some money to start with, but someone who knew about the furs tipped off the Nazis. They raided the home, confiscated the furs, and arrested Oppenheimer and his family.

A sense of peace

The opening of the exhibition was timed to coincide with the week marking 80 years since Kristallnacht, and the family stayed through the week. As part of the town's Kristallnacht memorial, "Stolpersteine" were laid in front of five of the homes where Jews had lived. Literally "stumble stones," Stolpersteine were first conceived of and designed by artist Gunter Demnig in 1993 and installed on a Berlin street in 1996 as a commemoration of the destruction of Jewish communities in Germany. The brass plaques are placed in the pavement in front of the last known residence of Jews who were deported and murdered by Nazis, or



Inge Stanton lays flowers on the Stolpersteine laid in front of her childhood home. (Courtesy Nancy Stanton-Tuckman)

who escaped their hometowns. Each one, made and laid by hand, is inscribed with the words, "Here lived..." and the name of the person or family being remembered. Demnig has laid more than 70,000 across Europe.

"Knowing those stones are there gives me such a sense of peace," said Salko. "They can't be erased."

Brösamle-Lambrecht hopes the exhibit, and the stones, have cast a permanent light on the town's Jewish history. "Lichtenfels, a town of approximately 20,000 inhabitants, has a Jewish history since 750 years, and you don't see anything of it when you take a walk in the city, except the now-restored former synagogue in a little street called 'Judengasse' and a shy little monument in a narrow street where Jews used to live," he told NJN. "So, we wanted to teach the public about the lives of these citizens."

He said he's pleased with another important outcome of the project, the connections forged: "We reached so many descendants in such an emotional way, [and] that there are friendships made and roots revealed 80 years after the biggest crime in the history of mankind."

The exhibition is now traveling throughout Germany.

By Johanna R. Ginsberg, January 23, 2019

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Community News & Features

Austin Family Helps Build Peaceful Future Through 13 Driver's Licenses

By Tonyia Cone

An Austin family recently traveled to Germany to connect with their past while helping a younger generation forge an open-minded future.

While digitizing records in 2017, a staff member of the district offices of the town of Lichtenfels, Germany, came across an envelope containing 13 driver's licenses the Nazis took from Jewish citizens in 1938.

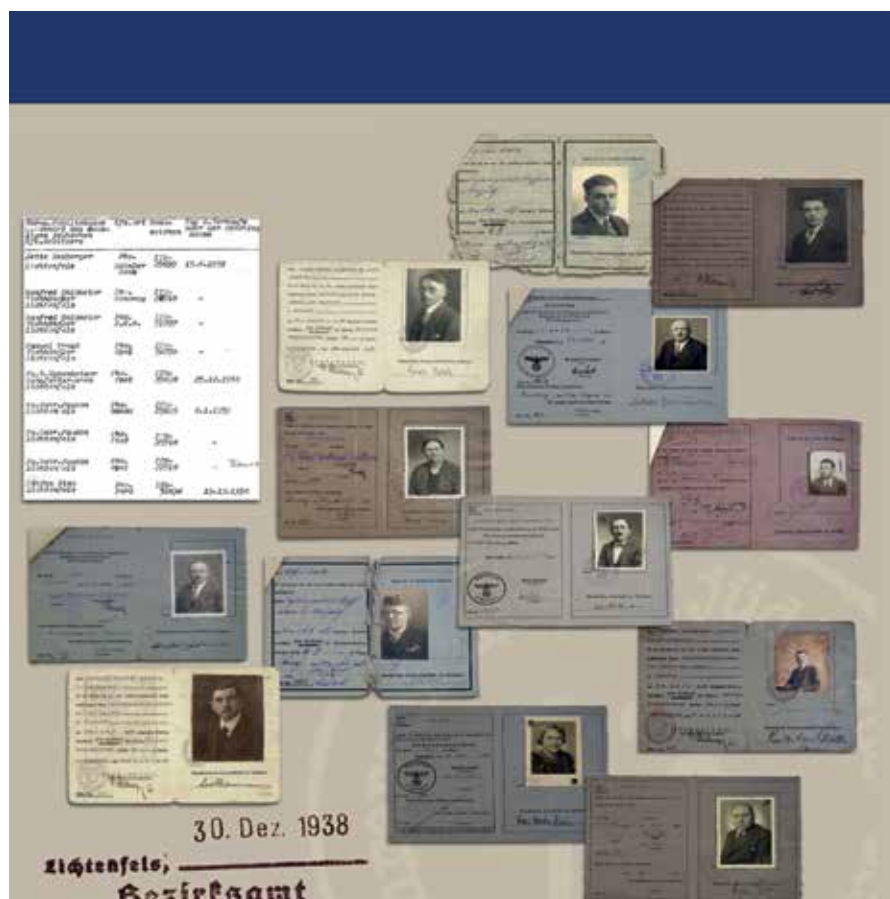
Instead of turning over the licenses to the state archives, District Administrator Christian Meißner forwarded them to the local high school headmaster, asking for students to document what happened to the licenses' owners.

High school history teacher Manfred Brösamle-Lambrecht took over the project, thinking it would be a perfect fit for his students at Meraner-Gymnasium, "for the detective work of investigating, for the personal connection they would feel with the people they investigated, and for the ethical implications and dimensions of the project," wrote Austinite Suzanne Schlesinger in a photo book she created.

When he assigned the project, Brösamle-Lambrecht placed the licenses on a table and each student selected to participate chose one person to research. Clara Aumüller picked Suzanne's grandfather, Alfred Marx, and Victoria Thiel chose Alfred's brother, Sigmund Marx. Alfred Oppenheimer, Sigmund's brother-in-law, was also included in the project.

The Schlesinger family learned of the project when the students and Brösamle-Lambrecht tracked them down through cousins via Facebook and asked for help with their research in May 2018.

After months of corresponding via email, the class invited the Schlesinger family to visit Lichtenfels for a special opening presentation of their "13 Driver's Licences: Thirteen Jewish Lives" (sic) project Nov. 5. The exhibit opening was followed by a ceremony in the former



Thirteen driver's licenses, confiscated by Nazis in 1938, were returned to descendants in 2018. Courtesy of the Schlesinger family.

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Lichtenfels' synagogue, now a community center, on November 9, the anniversary of the November 9 pogroms, also called the Night of Broken Glass.

"At first, we were not sure if we should go since we had visited there just two years ago," said Suzanne, who in 2016 had visited the town where her mother, Inge Stanton, was born in 1930.

Alfred Marx's daughter and the remaining member of her family who witnessed the Night of Broken Glass, Stanton still remembers the sound of glass breaking that night. Her family left behind everything they owned in Germany and went to England, then the United States.

When Stanton, who now lives in New Jersey, agreed she would return to Germany to take part in the 2018 exhibit ceremony, her daughters, Nancy Stanton-Tuckman and Suzanne Schlesinger, and her granddaughter, Ellie Schlesinger, decided to accompany her to Lichtenfels.

"It was the best decision and we cannot imagine what we would have missed if we had not gone," said Suzanne, who formed

close personal connections with those involved with the project.

While in Germany, the family spent time with Brösamle-Lambrecht and the students, and toured Lichtenfels with local historian Guenter Dippold, Brösamle-Lambrecht, the students, and the other descendants who were there for the "13 Driver's Licences" ceremony.

The group also went to the town hall where they signed the Golden Book, a ceremonial task reserved for special dignitaries and special events. That night, they viewed the project exhibition at the Meraner-Gymnasium, which included large banners with the research on each of the license holders. Information included their biographies, details of their lives in Germany, what became of them and photographs.

Many people, including Stanton, gave speeches at the ceremony.

"My personal memories are still very strong of our departure from Germany to the safety of England. I was eight years old when I experienced | Continued on Page 14



Inge Stanton stands with her daughters, Nancy Stanton-Tuckman and Suzanne Schlesinger, in front of her father's banner at the "13 Licences: Thirteen Jewish Lives" exhibit opening. Courtesy of the Schlesinger family.

Driver's Licenses from Page 13 | Kristallnacht and was unable to remain in the second grade because of the mistreatment by a Nazi teacher. I observed and understood what was happening in Germany in spite of my youth," Stanton said in her speech.

Stanton explained that she was honored to be part of the celebration of Germany's examination of its history and "its commitment to build an open, safe and potentially satisfying life for all its people."

"I applaud the present generations for their open-hearted actions to aid so many from around the world," she told the audience of about 300 people.

After the students presented biographies of those they had studied, the driver's licenses were returned to license holders' descendants, who came from Argentina, Israel and the United States. Five of the licenses were returned at the ceremony.

Suzanne's daughter, Rachel, was unable to make the trip, but a film she made, "Inge," about the family's previous trip to Germany, was shown on a loop throughout the evening. The film has been screened at SXSW in 2017 and some Jewish Film Festivals, including the Austin Jewish Film Festival. Rachel also received Scholastic Art Awards for the film in 2017.

The only descendant at the ceremony who had lived in Lichtenfels in 1938, Stanton was interviewed by multiple television stations and newspapers.

"Everyone wanted to meet her and talk with her," Suzanne said.

After a few days of sightseeing, the family returned to Lichtenfels for a Nov. 9 event, a Stolpersteine ceremony the 80th anniversary of Kristallnacht in front of the Marx home and several other Jewish family homes.

Stolpersteine, or "stumbling blocks," is a project created by artist Gunter Demnig in 1992. Stolpersteine are commemorative brass plates installed in the pavement in front of the last address of Holocaust victims' choice. More than 70,000 Stolpersteine have been installed in more than 610 places throughout Europe.

On his website, Demnig cites the Talmud, "A person is only forgotten when his or her name is forgotten." He explains that the Stolpersteine keep alive the memory of those who once lived there.



Above: Alfred Marx's driver's license, confiscated by Nazis in 1938, was returned to his daughter, granddaughter and great-granddaughter in November.

Left: The home the Marx family fled, pictured in 2018.

Photos courtesy of the Schlesinger family.



Suzanne said that the stones, each stating "Here lived," are placed in the ground so those reading the stones must bend over as a show of respect to the victims.

That evening, their last in Lichtenfels, the family went to a remembrance in front of the town's old synagogue, attended by many local citizens and clergy members. The event included music, prayers, and a candle lighting ceremony.

"Candles were lit and extinguished to remember the atrocities of November 9, and then relit to symbolize peace and hope for the future," Suzanne wrote. "The sight of all the candles lit in the cold, dark evening was overpowering. We were overwhelmed with emotion. The people showed us so much love, acceptance and respect."

Stanton told the Jewish Outlook, "What

was important was to see the big changes in the population of Germany from when I was a child and to the generation of today."

"My feeling on the trip was I was ready to go forward with Germany. I haven't forgiven them. I haven't forgotten them. But I'm open and ready to accept them as they are today," she added. "The other thing is that I was able to take my family to Germany. Here I am, the mother and grandmother of a thriving family, when all Hitler wanted to do was to stamp us out. He didn't succeed."

Suzanne explained that the family left Germany with feelings of love.

"It was an emotional journey filled with incredible memories but also remembering the sadness of past times. Mostly it will be a trip remembered for the people



Inna Stanton as an infant with her parents, Ellen and Alfred Marx. Courtesy of the Schlesinger family.

we met, the reuniting with our cousins and the special time the four of us had together," she said.

Rachel explained that as the first generation that will have to tell the story of the Holocaust without the survivors, the students clearly felt an obligation to keep the dialogue going.

"Yes, Jewish people are the victims. We also have to give people the opportunity to be forgiven. That's why I felt we needed to go. We need to show them that there can be peace. Even from the most horrible parts of history, we can overcome that," said Rachel, who convinced her mother that it was important to make the trip.

Her sister Ellie added that the project gave those involved an important opportunity to connect and try to make sense of the tragedy together.

"We both were just so desperate to connect. Something like this doesn't make any sense but it's such a harsh, brutal part of reality and it seems so surreal. You just want to connect to have some ground in this mess," she said. "It was so emotional. It was just a relief."

The exhibition is now traveling throughout Germany, and Brösamle-Lambrecht explained efforts are being made to transfer it to the United States and Argentina. ■

By Tonya Cone, January 23, 2019

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Awards

Upper Franconian P-Seminar Award 2019



Front row from left: Patrick Püttner, Ltd. OStD Dr. Harald Vorleuter, Sophie Rauh, Laura Kolenda, Antonia Voll, Julia Mehrmann, Luise Aumüller, Jan Höppel. Back row from left: Lukas Franke, Manfred Brösamle-Lambrecht, Francesca Schütz, Luise Birkner, Clara Aumüller, Victoria Thiel, Markus Betz, Dennis Brosig, Simon Bornschlegel

Bavarian P-Seminar Award 2019

Minister of Education and Cultural Affairs Prof. Dr. Michael Piazzolo personally gave the laudatory speech for the P-Seminar "13 Driver's Licenses - Thirteen Jewish Lives" at the award ceremony on 25 March 2019 in Munich. Together with three other P-Seminars it was awarded as the best of over 3,000 in all of Bavaria in the course double year 2017/19.



Prof. Dr. Michael Piazzolo personally helped to set up the panels in Munich

A special honor for the students was that **Dr. Charlotte Knobloch**, President of the Jewish Community of Munich and Upper Bavaria, former Vice President of the World Jewish Congress, now its Commissioner for Holocaust Memory, insisted on appearing in person to thank the students for their work:

"... This P-Seminar shows that memory remains an empty word when the individual cannot make a personal connection to it: The intensive research work, but also the deep respect of the Lichtenfels students for the people whose fates they dealt with, make the seminar, in my opinion, one of several highly deserving award winners and moreover a model for sustainable remembrance work throughout Germany."

Dr. Ludwig Spänle, the Bavarian State Government Commissioner for Jewish Life and Against Anti-Semitism, for Remembrance Work and Historical Heritage, also honored the seminar with his presence.

BCJ.Bayern-Studienpreis 2019

The Association for the Promotion of Christian-Jewish Dialogue in the ELKB (Lutheran Church of Bavaria) (BCJ.Bayern) awarded the seminar with a first prize for student research projects from schools that dealt with Jewish life in Germany in the past and present.

"Active for Tolerance and Democracy 2019"

The "Alliance for democracy and tolerance against extremism and violence", founded by Bundeszentrale für Politische Bildung (Federal Agency for Civic Education, part of Federal Ministry of the Interior) awarded the project as „exemplary“.

Awards for Media Reports about "13 DL"

Susan Ingram was awarded with the

2018 American Jewish Press Association Simon Rockower National Award, 1st Place in Division Award of Excellence in Writing about Jewish Heritage and Jewish Peoplehood in Europe, and the

2018 MDDC Press Association Award, Feature Story: Non-Profile, 1st Place, for "13 Driver's Licenses"; Baltimore Jewish Times, December 2018 (see pp. 101)

Andreas Heuberger, TV Oberfranken, won the 2019 **BLM** (Bavarian State Agency for New Media) **Award for Local TV**, Category "Current Reporting and Information" for his report from november 7th 2018: „Besonderer Fund in Lichtenfels: Schüler auf Spurensuche. Kulturplatz.“

“13 Drivers’ Licenses” in the USA

In November 2018, nine Descendants from the United States and one from Argentina embarked on a life changing journey to Lichtenfels, Bavaria, Germany to reclaim their ancestor’s driver’s license which had been confiscated by the Nazis 80 years earlier, shortly after Kristallnacht.

Our time there was spent listening and learning. Through the “13 Jewish Drivers’ Licenses” project, we witnessed a town coming to terms with its darkest past. “13 Jewish Drivers’ Licenses” is a story about discovery, exploration, reflection and reconciliation. It’s a story about human connection. It’s a story about doing the right thing. And it’s a story about hope.

Inspired by our experience, the Descendants returned home determined to tell this remarkable story; especially to students learning about the Holocaust. We connected with the Holocaust & Human Rights Education Center (see right column). The H&HREC reproduced the Banner Exhibit from German into English and translated the “Scrapbook” for an English-speaking audience.

Lisa Salko (refer to Sigmund Marx & Alfred Oppenheimer) is a proud member of their GenerationsForward program where, as a “memory keeper” she has shared this story and exhibit with numerous synagogues, civic groups and educational institutions.



Lisa Salko, Jewish Fed. of Greater MetroWest NJ

“13 Jewish Drivers’ Licenses” resonates! In February 2020, it was presented at the Museum of Jewish Heritage in New York City, introduced by Inge Stanton (refer to Alfred Marx) and Lisa Salko.



Inge Stanton at MJH-
NYC, 02/05/2020

In Boston initiated by Debra November-Rider and Linda Tutin (refer to Sigmund Marx & Alfred Oppenheimer), it has caught the attention of the Israeli Consulate and Israeli-American Council. In Maryland, Carol Kashan (refer to Leo Bannemann) made connections with Towson



**Holocaust &
Human Rights
Education Center
New York**



Our Mission is to enhance the teaching and learning of the lessons of the Holocaust and the right of all people to be treated with dignity and respect. We encourage students to speak up and act against all forms of bigotry and prejudice.

The Holocaust & Human Rights Education Center is a not-for-profit organization, serving Westchester, Fairfield and Putnam counties. Our Mission is to enhance the teaching and learning of the lessons of the Holocaust and the right of all people to be treated with dignity and respect. We encourage students to speak up and act against all forms of bigotry and prejudice.

Our work with students and teachers helps schools fulfill the New York State mandate that the Holocaust and other human rights abuses be included in their curriculum.

Since 1994, we have brought the lessons of the Holocaust, genocide and human rights crimes to more than 1750 teachers, and through them to thousands of middle and high school students. Our programs are compelling and enlightening, making the past personally relevant to today's children and tomorrow's leaders while encouraging them to be rescuers and resisters in the face of prejudice and hate.

For More Information Call 914.696.0738 Email info@hhrecny.org

University and The Jewish Museum of Maryland.

In New Jersey, thanks to Nancy Stanton-Tuckman's efforts (refer to Alfred Marx) it was presented at the Jewish Federation of Greater MetroWest NJ.



Local media (Fox5News, see QR-Code below) covered the event.

The Banner Exhibit will travel to Texas where Suzanne Schlesinger (refer to Alfred Marx) arranged for it be on display at the Georgetown Public Library.



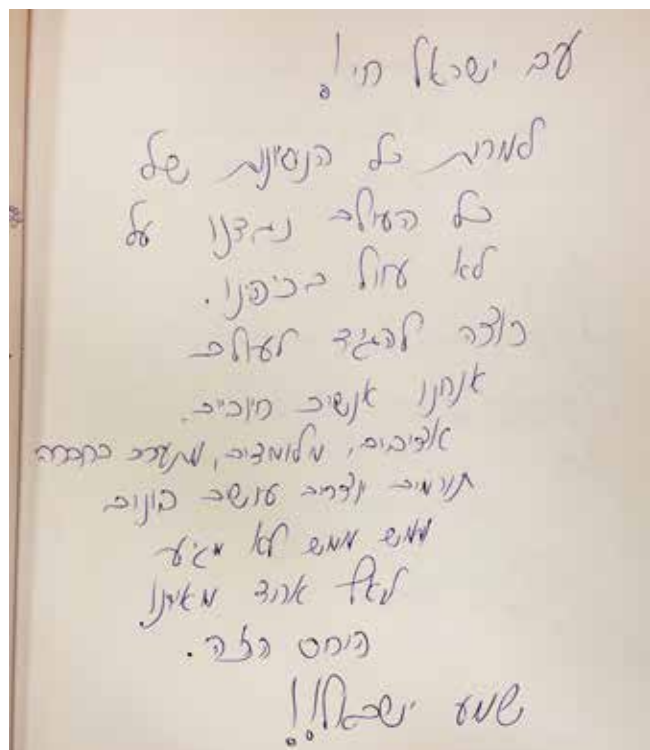
There is additional interest in “13 Jewish Drivers’ Licenses” and accompanying Banner Exhibit from the German Consulate in New York, Yad Vashem USA and Yad Vashem (Israel).

We live in a world where words of hatred have become commonplace and acceptable. It was words of hatred that ignited the Holocaust - a chapter in world history that is quickly fading into memory.

The “13 Jewish Drivers’ Licenses” Project, Story, Banner Exhibit and “Scrapbook” helps us continue telling the stories and bear witness, so that we never forget.

Lisa Salko

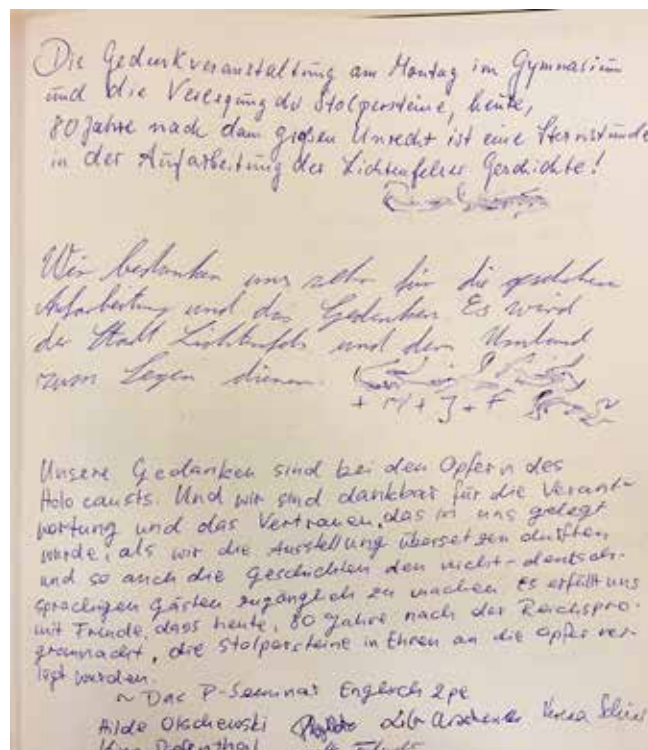
From the Guestbook of the Exhibition



Israel lives!

Despite all the evils and endless attempts to turn the world against us, even though we are not to blame: I would like to tell the world: We are positive people, polite, educated, and contribute to society, we make our contribution, creatively, actively and constructively. None of us deserves this treatment! Smah Israel

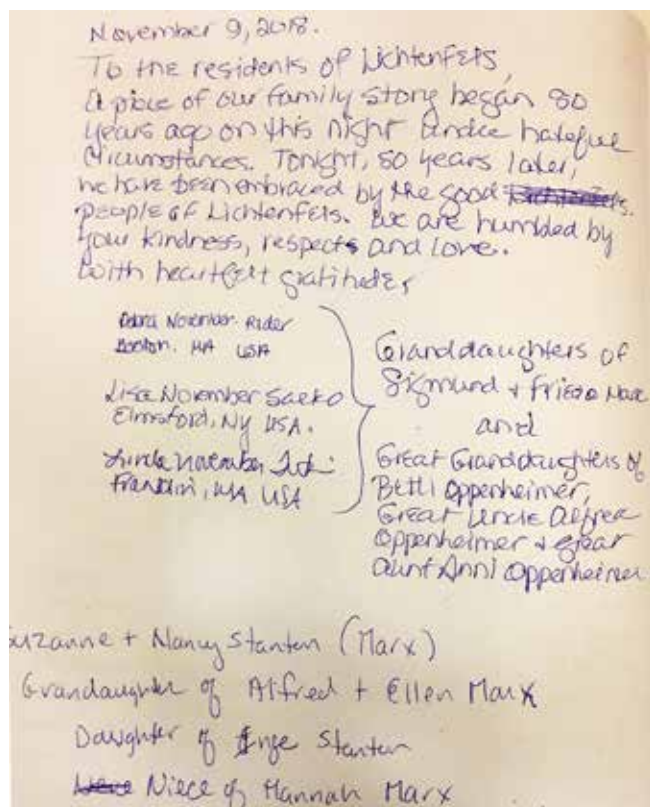
Anonymous Visitor



Entry of the course 2pe, who did the translation of the exhibition materials. (Other signatures made illegible)

Our thoughts are with the victims of the Holocaust. And we are grateful for the responsibility and trust that was placed in us when we were allowed to translate the exhibition and thus make the stories accessible to non-German speaking guests. It fills us with joy that today, 80 years after the Reichspogromnacht, the Stolpersteine [Stumbling Stones] have been laid in honor of the victims.

The P-Seminar English 2pe



Entry of the descendants of Sigmund and Alfred Marx



Photo from 13.11.2018:

After four days, the roses that the Marx family laid down at the Stolpersteine are still untouched.



Opening of the exhibition on 5.11.2018 in the auditorium of Meranier-Gymnasium

Proof of the illustrations

Order after first appearance of the rights holder in the text

Obermain Tagblatt: p. 3

Prof. Dr. Günter Dippold: p. 4

Lichtenfels District Office: 7 above and all other driving license pictures; pp. 99-101

Mrs. Carol Kashan; Family Baneman/Goldschmitt/Kashan: p. 8 above, p. 10, 11 above and below, 12, 13; 66 bottom right

Seminar 2pg: p. 8 bottom right, p. 16 middle, p. 116, 117; 119

www.ancestry.de: p. 9, p. 30, p. 65 bottom, p. 82, p. 91 top (origin: Bayer. Hauptstaatsarchiv), p. 42 middle; p. 51; p. 87 bottom

Mr Rudi Fetzer: Page 9 middle and bottom

Jewish Museum of Maryland, Baltimore: p. 10; p. 15 left, p. 50 top; p. 69 middle and bottom; p. 70 top, p. 71, p. 75, p. 76, p. 77 top

Getty images: p. 12 Center

www.findagrave.com: p. 15 below

Mrs Lori Gallo: P. 19 - 21

Stadtarchiv Lichtenfels: p. 21 bottom, p. 43, p. 70 middle; p. 89 bottom, p. 90

Lukas Franke, Laura Kolenda: p. 22 - p. 24

North Shore Towers Courier: p. 25

Estate of Josef Motschmann: p. 28, 29, 31 bottom, p. 66, p.

71 top, p. 80 left and bottom, p. 81

Gemeindearchiv Altenkunstadt p. 66, p.67 above

Mrs. Betina Kraus: P. 34-39, 42 up, 42 down

Mrs Inge Stanton, Mrs Suzanne Schlesinger, Mrs Rachel Schlesinger: pp. 46, 47, 48, 49

Mr Christian Porzelt: p. 51 top, p. 55 bottom

Mrs Debra November Rider, Mrs Linda Tutin, Mrs Lisa Salko: pp. 54-65, p. 71 bottom

Mr Udo Baumann, Oberlangenstadt: p. 55 above

State Archives Bamberg: p. 13, p. 74,

Mr Andreas Welz: p. 80 top right

Mrs Linda Pfeifer: p. 86, p. 87 up

Mr Reinhard Aumer, Munich: p. 99 bottom left

Mrs Susanne Troche: p. 100 bottom

Lichtenfels District Office / Mrs. Heidi Bauer: pp. 114, 115 above

Acknowledgements

Mr. Christian Meissner, District Administrator, for his manifold, willing and generous support (material and moral) and especially for the fact that he trusted us to shoulder this task, his employees Mr. Andreas Grosch and Mrs. Heidi Bauer-Vetter, who have taken a lot off our hands, kept our backs free, organized the celebration and put the financing on its feet,

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the management of the Meranier-Gymnasium, Mr. OStD Stefan Völker, Mr. StD Hubert Gehrlich and Mr. StD Paul Endres, for many organizational aids [*and for keeping my back free in the hot phase. You didn't say anything, but I noticed and enjoyed it! MBL*]

Mrs. StDin Verena Schier for her invaluable, willing and highly competent support in everything to do with the English language, and that was a lot,

her seminar 1pe (later 2pe), who translated a large number of materials into English

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Professor Dr. Günter Dippold, curator of Upper Franconia, for his manifold professional and moral support as well as his inspiring keynote speech on the occasion of the exhibition opening,

Mrs. Dipl.-Hist. Christine Wittenbauer from the Lichtenfels City Archive for materials and relevant advice, also for the fact that the exhibition is being shown in the Lichtenfels Synagogue under her direction, and for involving the pupils in the ceremony to mark the laying of the Stumbling Stones,

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Mr. Michael Ebert for the masterful musical accompaniment of the opening ceremony, and

Mr. Thomas Fugmann for translations into Spanish.

And of course - last but not least - in a very special way the descendants of the thirteen driving licence holders, without whose help our exhibition would not have been possible:

Mrs. Lori Gallo, Sparkill, New York
Mrs. Evelyn Held, Baltimore, Maryland
Mr. Gavriel Hellmann, Tel Aviv,
Mrs. Carol Kashan, Baltimore, Maryland
Frau Betina Kraus, Buenos Aires,
Mr. Werner Nass, Queens, New York
Mrs. Debra November-Rider, Boston, MA

Mrs. Ruth Oppler, Boynton Beach, Florida
Mrs. Linda Pfeifer, New Jersey
Mrs. Lisa Salko, Elmsford, New York
Mrs. Suzanne Schlesinger, Austin, Texas
Mrs. Inge Stanton, Sarasota, Florida
Mrs. Nancy Stanton-Tuckman, New Jersey
Mrs. Linda Tutin, Franklin, MA



The P-Seminar History 2pg 2017/18:

From left: Francesca Schütz, Julia Mehrmann, Antonia Voll, Laura Kolenda, Luise Birkner, Victoria Thiel, Clara Aumüller, Sophie Rauh, Luise Aumüller, Simon Bornschlegel, Lukas Franke, Manfred Brösamle-Lambrecht, Markus Betz, Dennis Brosig, Jan Höppel

Course participants and descendants in the first public presentation in the former synagogue Lichtenfels



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Vor- u. Familienname u. Wohnort des dazugehörigen jüdischen Kfz-Besitzers	Kfz.-Art	Kenn- zeichen	Tag d. Verkaufs oder der Beschlagnahme
Jette Ruxberger Lichtenfels	Pkw. Daimler Benz	III- 25699	13.6.1939
Maxfred Goldmeier Fiehdändler Lichtenfels	Pkw. Benz	III- 26718	-
Maxfred Goldmeier Fiehdändler Lichtenfels	Pkw. D.F.W.	III- 21227	-
Samuel Krauß Fiehdändler Lichtenfels	Pkw. Opel	III- 30730	-
Pa. V. Oppenheimer Kaufmann Lichtenfels	Pkw. Opel	III- 29638	23.12.1938
Pa. Geor. Pauson Lichtenfels	Pkw. König	III- 25695	6.1.1939
Pa. Geor. Pauson Lichtenfels	Pkw. Fiat	III- 25718	-
Pa. Geor. Pauson Lichtenfels	Pkw. Opel	III- 25718	-
Stefan Elin Lichtenfels	Pkw. Ford	III- 30696	19.12.1938

Auszug aus einem Verzeichnis der jüdischen Kfz-Besitzer



30. Dez. 1938

Lichtenfels,
Bezirksamt
J. A.
H. H. H.