

Familie Stern



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The Stern family

known as the "Hirne-Malches"

Address: 1 Unter der Linde / formerly: House #98

Bertha Stern, neé Rosenbusch

May 26, 1869 in Borken – May 18, 1944 in Auschwitz

was the daughter of Feist Rosenbusch and Gelle Strauss from Amoeneburg. In 1891 she married Mannes Stern (January 25, 1861 – January 29, 1933), who was himself the son of Bonfang Stern and Malchen Wetzstein and the brother of Herz Stern I.

They had three children, Louis, Hugo, and Toni. They first built their own home in 1929, when their children were already grown. Even at that time a village resident is said to have predicted that the family wouldn't remain in the village permanently. This prophecy was to come true in a terrible way.

Mannes died on January 29th, 1933, having little time to make use of his new home.



Bertha Stern



Unter der Linde 1

Hugo Stern

February 7, 1896 in Roth – May 18, 1944 in Auschwitz

The family ran a small fabric store in the house at 1 Unter der Linde. After the death of her husband, Bertha continued to run the store with her younger son, Hugo.

Hugo traveled with a box wagon and horse to sell his wares. Known as “Hugo of Roth”, he was a well-respected peddler.

Following the deportation of the community elder, Hermann Hoehster, in December 1941, Hugo Stern presided over the affairs of the Jewish Community, in particular overseeing the secularization of the Jewish cemetery and the sale of it to three village residents who owned land adjacent to the property. The sale was conducted via the Hesse-Nassau district office of the Reich's Association of the Jews in Germany (Reichsvereinigung der Juden in Deutschland.)



Louis Stern

May 31, 1894 in Roth – January 29, 1943 in Auschwitz

was Mannes and Bertha's oldest son. He worked in a large department store in Frankfurt and lived there during the week, coming home on weekends, the evening before the Sabbath. He registered himself with the authorities as having moved back to Roth on October 2nd, 1938, probably because the department store had been “arianized,” thus putting him out of a job.

Toni Stern, Mannes and Bertha's daughter, (see above) married the widower Markus Roth in 1936, and they emigrated to the US with their family in 1938.

Bertha, Hugo, and Louis Stern were the last Jews to be deported namely to Theresienstadt, which occurred on September 6th, 1942. They were later transferred to Auschwitz. Louis was murdered on January 29th, 1943. Bertha and Hugo on May 18th, 1944.



Excerpt of a letter from Bertha Stern to her daughter's family on the occasion of the birth of her granddaughter Helen.



Toni Roth, neé Stern

July 27, 1898 in Roth— January 28, 1998 in Chicago

was the daughter of Mannes and Bertha Stern. She long suffered from the knowledge that she had had to leave her mother and two brothers behind in Germany where they did not survive the Holocaust. She was the good soul of the family, who raised and cared for her stepchildren with all of the love that she had for her own biological daughter. She was deeply loved and respected by all of her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

She was a talented baker and cook, continuing to make food in the Hessian-Jewish village tradition in Chicago.

Toni Roth died on January 28th, 1998, nearly 100 years old.

Herbert Roth

October 17, 1923 in Roth

is the oldest son of Markus and Selma Roth. He was well-integrated with his village peers before 1933. He greatly enjoyed playing soccer on the fields near the Lahn river. After Hitler came to power, his boyhood friends all joined the Hitler Youth, and he was excluded from the games. The school-teacher Knott held diatribes against the Jews every morning, always ending with the sentence “with the exception of those present.” Of course, uttering this sentence brought attention to the boy, causing the most harm. In addition to his tragic and difficult family situation, he was isolated from those who were once his friends.



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Toni Roth