

## Family Oeste

Huenfelder Strasse 12, today Ostbahnhof 8

Vera Oeste was the daughter of Katharina Frieda Oeste née Metz. Katharina, born 1868, came from Mahlertshof, a small settlement close to Burghaun. In 1894, she married the factory owner Wilhelm Daniel Edmund Oeste from Kassel in Burghaun. The couple lived in Kassel, where their daughter Vera was born in 1898.

After the early death of her husband, widow Oeste moved back to Burghaun with her daughter. At Huenfelder Strasse 12, they lived with Katharina's brother, pharmacist Georg Oscar Metz, who had never married. Their father was land owner Karl Werner Metz from Mahlertshof.

Unwed Vera Oeste must have suffered from a psychological or nervous illness which led to her being institutionalized at the mental hospital Landesheilanstalt Merxhausen in 1925. According to an entry in the church records, Vera died at sanatorium Hadamar on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 1941 and was cremated in Wiesbaden on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 1941. Her ashes were buried at the lutheran cemetery in Burghaun on 20<sup>th</sup> July 1941. In brackets, Pastor Siebert noted down "Euthanasia" behind his entry.

In February 2011, the memorial at Hadamar informed:

Vera Oeste was transferred from Merxhausen to the sanatorium in Herborn, which functioned as a transit institution for Hadamar, on 29<sup>th</sup> May 1941. From there she arrived with a transport of 118 other patients at Hadamar on 19<sup>th</sup> June 1941. At Hadamar the newly arrived patients used to be murdered in the gas chambers in the basement of the "sanatorium" the very same day. As there was a second transport with 41 patients arriving that day and the capacity of the gas chamber was "only" one hundred persons per day, it is possible that Vera Oeste died not on 19<sup>th</sup> but on 20<sup>th</sup> June 1941. The death date and cause in the official death certificate had been fabricated to deceive relatives and local officials. Another lie was the date and location of cremation since Hadamar had its own crematory. The urns that were sent to the relatives on their request did not contain the ashes of that person but some ashes from a huge pile of burned bodies from the ovens.

After the death of Katharina Frieda Oeste in October 1945, relatives of hers lived in the house until it was sold in the early 1980s.