

# Family Benjamin Stern and Berta Levi

Ringstrasse 6, today number 7

In Ringstrasse 6 lived widow Lina Stern née Kahnlein, born 30th May 1867 in Reyersbach, Lower Franconia. Her husband Benjamin Stern, who came to Burghaun with his family from Rothenkirchen around 1895 / 1896, died in 1916. The inscription on his tombstone has almost completely weathered away, only the name can still be read.

Except for the oldest daughter Selma who was born in Rothenkirchen, the other four siblings were born in Burghaun:

Selma, born 1894, victim of the Holocaust  
Bella, born 1896, victim of the Holocaust,  
Moritz, born 1898  
Irma, born 1900  
Kaethe, born 1903

Selma married Albert Sander, born 1883 in Oberbieber. Their daughter Edith, born 1921, emigrated to the Netherlands but still could not evade deportation there. Selma and Albert were deported to ghetto Theresienstadt from Trier / Cologne on 27<sup>th</sup> July 1942. On 29<sup>th</sup> January 1943 they were transported to Auschwitz. The couple and their daughter Edith as well died in Auschwitz.

Bella married Hugo Simon. The couple had two children, Benno and Brunhilde. The family's last place of residence was Elberfeld. From there they were deported to Poland, to the ghetto Izbica in the Lublin area. There they became victims of extermination.

Moritz lived in Burghaun longest of the siblings. He is said to have been an excellent gymnast. He was very active in the gymnastic club in Burghaun as well as in the Jewish sports club. Moritz Stern married Hanna Braunschweiger, born 1911 to Salomon and Adele Braunschweiger, on 29<sup>th</sup> June 1934 in Burghaun. In January 1936 he lived with his wife in a rented apartment in Schlosstrasse 7.

Supposedly, the couple moved to Frankfurt Main at the beginning of 1938, before the Night of Broken Glass. They were able to flee to the United States in time.

Irma married Max Friedmann from Elberfeld. They, too, managed to escape to the United States.

Kaethe married Markus Stern from Zimmersrode on 17<sup>th</sup> February 1933 in Burghaun. Later the couple lived in Kassel. In 1937 their daughter Lore was born in Marburg. The family were able to emigrate to New York around 1941.

Mother Lina Stern still lived in Burghaun at Ringstrasse 6 in November 1939 together with her sister-in-law Bertha Levi née Stern. Most probably they rented there since Moritz Stern had been forced to sell the house in 1938 / 1939. Widow Stern must have witnessed the first deportation from Burghaun on 8<sup>th</sup> December 1941. On 2<sup>nd</sup> July 1942 she left Burghaun and moved to the Jewish home for the elderly at

Schildeckstrasse 10 in Fulda. On 5<sup>th</sup> September 1942 she was deported to Theresienstadt via Kassel together with the other inhabitants of the retirement home.. On 13<sup>th</sup> June 1944 she died due to the inhumane conditions in the ghetto.

Berta Levi née Stern, born on 6<sup>th</sup> April 1860 in Rothenkirchen, was Benjamin Stern's sister. She had lived with her brother's family for a long time already and was still there in November 1939. Later she must have moved to Frankfurt Main. There she lived in a home for the elderly at Hermesweg 5 / 7. From there the old woman was deported to Theresienstadt on 18<sup>th</sup> August 1942. She died due to the inhumane living conditions there on 19<sup>th</sup> September 1942.