

Family Abraham Levy

Schlossstrasse 4, today number 5 (newly built house)

The Levys were one of the long-established Jewish families in Burghaun. Abraham's parents, the couple Feist Levy, born 1845, and Sara née Gans, born 1845 in Rotenburg Fulda, also lived at Schlossstrasse 4. After Feist Levy, the family was known by the name Feiste in the village. In 1936, Sara Levy died at almost 93 years in Burghaun, her husband had passed away long before.

In his house Abraham Levy (born 1883) ran a store for manufactured goods and tinware. Probably already his father had founded it. His wife Jenny Levy née Goldschmidt, born 1887, was from Bischhausen near Eschwege. The couple had one son:

Manfred, born 1915 in Burghaun.

Manfred Levy moved to Göppingen around 1936, where he lived and worked with the Jewish family Fraenkl. He moved to Stuttgart by the end of 1937 and emigrated to the United States from there. In 1950, he lived in Ohio.

During the Night of Broken Glass, Abraham Levy was arrested and taken to the concentration camp Buchenwald. Weeks later he returned home. According to Karl B., who himself was present as a young man, the following story happened during Abraham's absence:

Shortly after the synagogue had been burnt to the ground, the head of the district authority came to Burghaun in his SS uniform. With a group of SS men from Burghaun he marched through the alleyways and asked in which houses Jews were living. When he was told that the house in Schlossstrasse on the other side of the road belonged to Abraham Levy's family, he pulled out his pistol, aimed and shot at the highest window in the house!

Due to the Nazi law on the "elimination of Jews from the economic life in Germany", Abraham Levy was forced to close shop on 1st January 1939. Soon after the Levys also had to sell their house. They were taken in by the Nussbaum family at Ringstrasse 5. They lived there until overnight both families were evicted in December 1939. They then moved into an empty house at Ringstrasse, whose last owners Martha and Bella Kleeblatt had moved away to Allgaeu.

In 1940, Abraham and Jenny Levy wanted to emigrate to the United States to join their son Manfred, but unfortunate circumstances made their escape impossible. The necessary formalities had been taken care of and even the passage had been paid to Hapag Lloyd, when Jenny Levy broke her leg. Now, departure was out of the question.

Thus, couple Levy stayed behind in Burghaun and had to meet up with the few other Jewish inhabitants for transportation to Ghetto Riga on 8th December 1941.

From there, Abraham Levy was transferred to the close-by labor and death camp Salaspils where he died due to the brutal living conditions in May 1942. - The Nazi concept "extermination through labor" was systematically applied at here.

Jenny Levy was deported to Auschwitz. She died on 2nd November 1943. Since this is the exact date of the liquidation of the Riga ghetto and transportation of many of its inhabitants to Auschwitz, it can be assumed that she died on the way to the concentration camp.