

# Feiber Stern Family

**Burgstraße 7, today number 4, newly-built house**

In 1929 the wedding of the youngest daughter of Samuel Stuckhardt, born 1864 in Steinbach, was celebrated in the house in Burgstasse 7, commonly known as Viehhof, in English Cattle Yard. Jenny was born in 1899 and bridegroom Feiber Stern in 1892. He was from the big Stern family in Schlossstraße. Jenny and Feiber had three children, who were born in Fulda:

Marga, born 1931

Samuel, born 1934

Markus, born 1934

Marga is said to have been a beautiful girl. Because of kidney problems the family was especially worried for her. Samuel and Markus were twins and were called Semmi and Max. Semmi is said to have been deaf-mute.

Feiber Stern was well-known and respected in the village. All the Christians interviewed could remember him well. As his father-in-law, who died in 1931, before him, he traded cattle in his yard.

Jenny's mother Julchen (Judis) Stuckhardt née Wetterhahn, born 1869 in Rhina (daughter of Levi and Jette Wetterhahn), lived with the family.

During the Night of Broken Glass in November 1938, Feiber Stern was arrested together with all the other young Jewish men from Burghaun, but he was released the same afternoon because of a battlefield injury from First World War.

Until September 1942 the family lived in their house, at the end withdrawn and poor. Despite the almost complete isolation, according to statements by former neighbours the always friendly relationship with them was never disrupted. In secret they helped to alleviate the greatest hardship.

However, helpless and lost for words some of the neighbours stood by the road on 5<sup>th</sup> September 1942 in bright daylight and waved covertly when the Stern family was taken by the police and had to say good-bye to their ancestral home town forever.

Frieda Soll née Doll was there that day:

"I will never forget the day when the Sterns had to leave, Feiber with his family and old Julchen Stuckhardt. Jenny navigated the hand cart, walked erect and did not look right or left, the three children walking by her side. Old Julchen limped after them, and Feiber waved in all directions as if to say good-bye."

Together with family Strauss the old constable Seibel took the Sterns to the Burghaun train station. Here they had to board a special car on the four-o'clock train from Fulda, where they met the last Jews from Hünfeld and Fulda. Guarded by police the families traveled to Kassel where they spent two nights in a school building which had been

transformed into a collective point. Bereft of all their valuables and money, only with carry-on baggage and some provisions for the road, a Reichsbahn train finally carried them to the ghetto in Theresienstadt, today Terezin in the Czech Republic. Here the Stern family spent about two years until they had to begin their last journey. Mother Jenny and the three children Marga, Semmi and Max arrived with a transport from Theresienstadt at the concentration camp Auschwitz on 6<sup>th</sup> October 1944. Most probably they were selected for extermination at the ramp immediately after arrival and killed in the gas chambers. Father Feiber Stern, who had obviously been separated from his family already at Theresienstadt, was also murdered at Auschwitz.

Only old Grandma Julchen Stuckhardt miraculously survived at Theresienstadt. After being rescued she lived in Frankfurt for a while until she could emigrate to New York where she stayed with her daughter Malwine.