



The photo shows the Rotenburg Jewish children staging a Purim play in 1931. Amongst them Siegbert Kaufmann (12 years), Heinz Kaufmann (9) und Theo Werthan (4).

Breitenstraße 35: When Karl Kaufmann (born 1876) was one year old, his family moved from Rengshausen to Rotenburg. He married Bertha Stern from Geisa. Karl Kaufmann died on June 17th, 1942 in transit camp Cologne-Müngersdorf, to which he had been transported two weeks earlier from the Jewish hospital despite serious illness. At that point he had two painful years at the KZ Buchenwald behind him. Bertha Kaufmann and her sons Fritz (born 1913) and Hans (born 1921) fled in December 1938 to Cologne. From there, the three of them were deported on July 20th, 1942 to ghetto Minsk, where we lose all traces of them.

Brotgasse 19: Jeanette Werthan's maiden name was Goldschmidt. She was born on November 7th, 1885 in Flieden. She married the Synagogue service man from Rotenburg named Isaak Werthan, who died in February of 1938. The son Norbert (born 1922) migrated in 1939 to the U.S.A., where he could start a family in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Jeanette fled in December 1938 to Kassel with her son Theo. In January 1939, he was transported as a thirteen-year-old to Holland. This, however, did not spare him from being murdered at Auschwitz on September 2nd, 1942. Jeanette Werthan was deported on December 9th, 1941 to ghetto Riga, and died there.



Neustadtstraße 1: Margarete Gretel Goldschmidt (born September 12th, 1905) was the oldest daughter of Moses Max and Johanna Brandes. Her father was the last chairman of the Jewish congregation in Rotenburg. They called him the "Jewish mayor". Gretel married Hans Goldschmidt, who occupied a leading position at department store TIETZ in Oberhausen until 1935. Daughter Margit (born 1931) can be found in the archives of Rotenburg, where her mother spent most of her life. The three Goldschmidts found a place to stay at Gretel's uncle Siegfried Strauß in Krefeld, until they were deported to ghetto Riga on December 11th, 1941. Gretel and Margit arrived at the concentration camp Stutthof in October of 1944; from there, we lose all traces of them. Hans Goldschmidt suffered a violent death in Salaspils near Riga.

Brotgasse 21: Honet Levi Kaufmann (born 1870) came from Rengshausen. Starting in 1890, the family ran a livestock and merchandise business in Rotenburg and took residence there. Honet had three children with Sarah (born Katz) from Guxhagen. Son Siegbert (born 1919) managed to migrate to Canada in 1939. The daughter Toni (born 1907) lived in separation from her husband Herbert Bierhoff in Kassel since 1939. She was deported to ghetto Theresienstadt on September 7th, 1942, as well as her father Honet Kaufmann, who died there after two months of imprisonment. Toni's path led her in January of 1943 to the gas chambers of Auschwitz. The eldest son Max (born in 1904) lived from 1939 in Mainz, his last sign of life came from the (transit) ghetto Piaski in the district of Lublin (eastern Poland) in March of 1942.

STOLPERSTEINE

"Stumbling Stones"

for Rotenburg an der Fulda

One Person – One Name – One Stone



The Planting of Eleven Stones
Memorial on November 7th, 2013

Stumbling Stones for Rotenburg

One stone – one name – one person

On **November 7th, 2013**, for the third time, so-called "stumbling stones" shall be planted to commemorate the murdered Jews of Rotenburg. The stones keep the memories alive of the people who lived in our town and had to suffer such cruelty.

There will be **eleven stones** planted in 2013. Private donations financed a total of 43 memorial signs in 2010 and 2011.

As in the past, relatives of the murdered will visit us in Rotenburg.

The "Aktion Stolpersteine", brought to life by artist Gunter Demnig, is especially effective as a memorial, by allowing the neighbours of the past, who had been brutally torn from their environment, to return to the place where they used to live, to warn us not to forget them.

In order to give these honoured Jews a face, we developed a **website** with dates, documents, and photographs of the Holocaust victims of our city, describing their lives and fates.

<http://stolpersteine.rotenburg.hassia-judaica.de>

The making and planting of a "stumbling stone" cost 120 € Smaller donations are also welcome.

Please make donations payable to
STOLPERSTEINE-ROTEBURG

Sparkasse Hersfeld-Rotenburg

Int. Bank Account Number:

DE41532500000050062043

SWIFT-BIC: HELADEF1HER

Jakob Grimm School participates

The students of the Jakob Grimm School participate 2013 again in the action, e.g. by polishing the stones to a high shine.

Headlines in the local newspaper:

**Now they shine again—A memorial in bronze
Memories in the sidewalk**



The date for our **third planting ceremony**, November 7th, 2013, was chosen because it is the **75th anniversary** of the anti-Jewish riots in Rotenburg that happened, like in Kassel and Bebra, two days before the "Kristallnacht" of November 9th, 1938, immediately following the attack on the diplomat vom Rath in Paris. The unimaginable level of destruction of Jewish property in November 1938 in Rotenburg has only now become known to this extent through the stunning and detailed report of Henny Rothschild (resided at Marktplatz 9 until Nov. 1938), written after her escape from Germany on Oct. 18th, 1939: *"In those days many things were happening everywhere, but what happened in Rotenburg could not be topped. I can tell you, no matter where you went, you were greeted with an extra amount of sympathy, being a Jew from Rotenburg."*



Following the planting of the stones on **November 7th, 2013, at five P. M.**, there will be a public memorial service in front of the Jewish Museum to commemorate the events that took place 75 years ago.

You are sincerely invited by
The Mayor of the town of Rotenburg
The Dean of the Protestant Congregations of the Rotenburg County
The Club of Sponsors of the Jewish Museum
in Rotenburg an der Fulda