

Jews and Christians next-door neighbors and under one roof

JOSEPH AND BERTHA WOLF

“...in memory of quality time...”

Former house of the Wolf family, Hauptstr. 34

Erlanger Family, Basel

In 1875 Joseph Wolf took over one-half of the house at Hauptstr. 34 in Creglingen from his father, Loew Wolf. The Wolf family shared the house with the Christian family of the blacksmith Eichhorn. In Creglingen, Christians and Jews often lived as next-door neighbors, quite literally under one roof. The house, with its massive base from stone and timber-framed top floor, was characteristic of the older houses in the heart of Creglingen. Joseph's widow Bertha later inhabited the small part of the house at the left side. The Wolf family, as many other Jewish families, lived in modest and cramped conditions.

Joseph Wolf and his wife Bertha, nee Fechenbach

Erlanger Family, Basel

Cattle trader Joseph Wolf and his wife Bertha, nee Fechenbach, from Igersheim moved in 1877 with six children from Craintal to Creglingen, particularly to improve the educational opportunities of their offspring. Two sons, Siegmund and Seligmund, later emigrated to the United States.

Seal of Joseph Wolf's father Loew Wolf

1860

Creglingen City Archive

Foto Behr

Friendship book of Kaethe Wolf

Erlanger Family, Basel

Don't give away your heart for a crown

Give it to one who loves you

Just reward the single one

Who also does his part, too

In memory of lovely

Hours in the adjoining room

By your friend Kaethe Wolf

Entry by Kaethe Wolf in Else Fuchs' friendship book

Beer stein of Emil Wolf

Erlanger Family, Basel

In contrast to many places with a Jewish population, there was no Jewish restaurant in Creglingen. Christians and Jews met in the Krone, opposite the town hall. There, Emil Wolf met with a regular group until 1933.

Gidel Wolf, Mother of Joseph Wolf

Erlanger Family, Basel

Joseph Wolf was the son of the tailor Loew Wolf. His mother Karoline Gidel Wolf, born Oliva , was the daughter of the merchant Joseph Oliva and came from Aub. She died of dropsy and was buried in the Creglingen graveyard.

Gravestone of Joseph Wolf at the Jewish cemetery of Creglingen

The blessing hands on the headstone indicate that Joseph Wolf was one of the Cohanim priestly family, who are derived from the tribe of Levi, or the descendants of Aaron. The Cohan enjoyed certain privileges. For him, however, there were therefore very strict cleanliness rules.

JETTE and ARON SINSHEIMER

“...she already was something of a modern woman for then...”

The Sinsheimer shop, Hauptstr.

about 1925

In the house with its beautifully jointed façade, Jette Sinsheimer and son Rudolph had a factory and wicker shop.

“...my grandmother already had electricity... At the dam someone constructed a turbine on the Tauber River. He has told that everyone who takes a share and pays will get electric current. My grandmother accepted - she already was a modern woman back then. And in this way we got electricity...”

Erna Stein nee Sinsheimer

According to Naser 2002

Jette and Aaron Sinsheimer

about 1868

Marion Kornstein, USA

Jette Blumenfeld is the oldest daughter of the traveling salesman Blumenfeld, who owns the house at Hauptstr. 25. In 1868 she marries the young merchant Aaron Sinsheimer from Hardheim. Although the bride usually leaves her home, in this case it is the groom who moves to Creglingen and takes over the shop of his father-in-law. Aaron, however, dies on November 19, 1886 at age of only 43.

Excerpt from the register of the Sinsheimer family

December 1, 1886

Stadtarchiv Creglingen

In the second half of the 19th century there is still a high infant mortality rate. Only three out of eight children to whom Jette Sinsheimer gives birth will survive infancy: the sons Josef and Rudolph and the tiny Rosa.

company register notice

Tauberzeitung 1889

As a widow Jette Sinsheimer has to take care how to make ends meet. On March 29, 1889 the determined young businesswoman entered into a trade.

Pillow with the initials of Jette and Aron Sinsheimer

1868

Obermayer Collection, Philadelphia

This special pillow (a wedding gift) was used cushioning the chair of the man of the house at the family Passover table. The four cups refer to the wine consumed at the seder, the Hebrew words „le’shana ha’baa be’yerushalayim” cite the concluding phrase of the Passover Seder: “next year in Jerusalem” .

**Announcement of the sale of personal property, the widow Jette Sinsheimer
sells by auction household goods and clothes of her late husband**

Tauberzeitung, May 1887

KAROLINE AND JOSEF PRESSBURGER

“...he lacked nothing in his unworldly Creglingen...”

The house of the Oberndoerfer family at Hauptstr.

Photo by Schaffert

Karoline Pressburger, nee Oberndoerfer, was the daughter of the Jewish businessman Salomon Oberndoerfer. She grew up in the house at Hauptstr. 41, which since has been demolished and replaced by a newly-built community savings bank (Sparkasse). Since 1860, several generations of the Oberndoerfer family lived there. The family name goes back to the ancestor Amson Salomon, who in 1773 moved from Oberndorf to Creglingen. He married Zerla Lucas, the widow of Lazar Jacob. Jacob Oberndoerfer, a son of Amson Salomon's second marriage with Gibson Simon, married Gutrath, the daughter of Raphael Blumenfeld. She brought the house to the marriage.

The teacher and cantor Josef Pressburger

Hartwig Behr, Merckelsheim

In 1855, 23 year old Karoline Oberndoerfer married 27 year old Josef Pressburger from Rexingen, who had been teaching for eight years at the Jewish private school in Creglingen. He gained a good reputation and acted in Creglingen for decades as teacher, cantor, kosher butcher, and in the administration of the community.

Acknowledgement by Josef Pressburger for the honors at the 25th anniversary of service

Tauberzeitung 1902

Pressburger also taught outside of Creglingen. As a member of the Wuerttemberg Society of elementary school teachers and in the Association of Israelite teachers in Wuerttemberg, he espoused the financial improvement of his colleagues.

Max and Pauline Oberndoerfer

about 1925

Karoline's brother Max married Pauline, a niece of Joseph Pressburger from Rexingen, in 1897.

Details from financial statement of Josef Pressburger and Karoline Oberndoerfer on the occasion of their wedding

December 1885

Creglingen City Archive

Karoline was a suitable girl. She brought 10,568 Marks into the marriage, a number of precious pieces of jewelry, but also several prayer and devotional books. The assets of the young teacher were more modest. Beside a number of books, he owned a butcher knife worth 40 Marks. The activity as *shochet* (kosher butcher) was honorary, but also a small secondary income. Altogether the couple had 16,557 Marks at the outset of their marriage.

Horse auction at the Tauber bridge

In the background is the house where the Pressburger family lived in a rented accommodation for some 40 years

1920s

Elisabeth Wagner, Creglingen

KARL AND NANNY GUTMANN

“...because they were good friends before...”

The Gutmann dowry shop on its own postcard

about 1913

Klaus Berge, Bieberehren

In 1909, Isak Gutmann established a textile and dowry shop on the first floor of the brick house at the corner of Neue Str. and Kreuz Str. Later Isak's children, Karl Gutmann and Friederike, mar. Landauer, with their families, both lived on the two upper floors. At the beginning of the 1930s Karl's sister Johanna Gutmann, called “Moppen”, and grandmother Lina Gutmann, nee Reif also lived there. In 1920 a balcony was constructed in addition to the house. It was used by the family as sukkah during the Feast of Tabernacles.

Members of the families Gutmann and Landauer in a photograph by Karl Gutmann

1928

Naser 2002

The couple Nanny and Karl Gutmann with their daughters Ruth and Ilse

About 1930

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Babushka's doll sewing school

Gift to a Christian child

Else Klenk, Creglingen

Ruth and Ilse, daughters of the affluent Gutmann family, owned more toys than most other children in Creglingen. Else Dietrich, whose father had a sideline farming and worked as a cowhand for Jewish traders, delivered fresh eggs every week to the Gutmann family. Often she received gifts from Mrs. Gutmann, for instance, second-hand clothes or toys.

Ilse Strauss-Gutmann and other Jewish visitors in Creglingen

September 6, 1987

On the occasion of the visit in 1987 of former Taubertal Jews, Wilhemine Oppelt and Ilse Strauss, nee Gutmann met again.

The house of the Oppelt family

with the cooperage

Kitty-corner to the house of Gutmann & Landauer, the Oppelt family had a cooperage. The Christian and Jewish families were friends. When the Gutmanns were forced to emigrate they left a splendid buffet cabinet. The daughter Wilhemine Oppelt bequeathed it in 2001 to the Jewish Museum.