



Our Family

by

Heinz and Thea Ruth Skyte, née Ephraim

Wallerstein



(photo: Heinz & Thea Skyte)

In the early 1780s Isaac Loew (Isaac Baer Rosenblatt) of Burghaslach married Esther, daughter of the Jewish schoolmaster of Wallerstein.

Wallerstein, a small town in Swabia some 5 km north of Noerdlingen on the road from Wuerzburg to Augsburg, was the seat of the Princes of Oettingen-Wallerstein.

Wallerstein had a very old Jewish community probably going back to 1348. Until 1787 Jews lived in a ghetto, the "Judenhof", which was demolished in that year. A school (and/or synagogue), situated near the "Judentor", the Jew's gate which was demolished in 1804, had accommodation for the Jewish teacher and the Rabbi of the town. Here the Jewish teacher of Wallerstein (name unknown), an ancestor of the Sahlmann/Scheidt/Skyte families, must have lived around that time. His daughter Esther married Isaac Baer Rosenblatt about 1783/84. After the demolition of the ghetto the Jews moved into the "Judengasse" (now Felsengasse). Eventually a synagogue with accommodation for the teacher and the Rabbi was built in the main street, Hauptstrasse, and stood on the site of the present Sparkasse (Saving Bank). Like other synagogues in Germany the synagogue in Wallerstein was damaged and its contents destroyed on 9/10 November 1938. After the war it was used as a cinema until its demolition in 1980.



The Jewish cemetery

(photo: Heinz & Thea Skyte)

There is also a fairly large old Jewish cemetery in Wallerstein. Records of the former Jewish communities in Ries and of Wallerstein are in the "Fuerstlich Oettingen-Wallersteinisches Archiv" in Schloss Harburg, but so far no research has been undertaken there. Who knows what may be found.

In 1937 the Community archive with Memorbuch of 1685 and register of the Chevra Kadisha of 1790 was handed over to VBIG in Munich.

Statistics

Year	Inhabitants	Jews	%
1910	1253	37	2.9
1925	1203	24	1.9
1933	1182	16	1.3
1.1.1939		10	
31.3.1942		5	
1.4.1942		2	

Thea Ruth Skyte

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