

How Did the Rosenstrasse Protest Affect the Families Involved?

Jaylyn Burnside , Dr. Nathan Stoltzfus and Liam Wirsansky

Katrin Balaban's Parents

[Curtsey of the Rosenstrasse Foundation]



The Kuhn Family, Including Rita Kuhn.



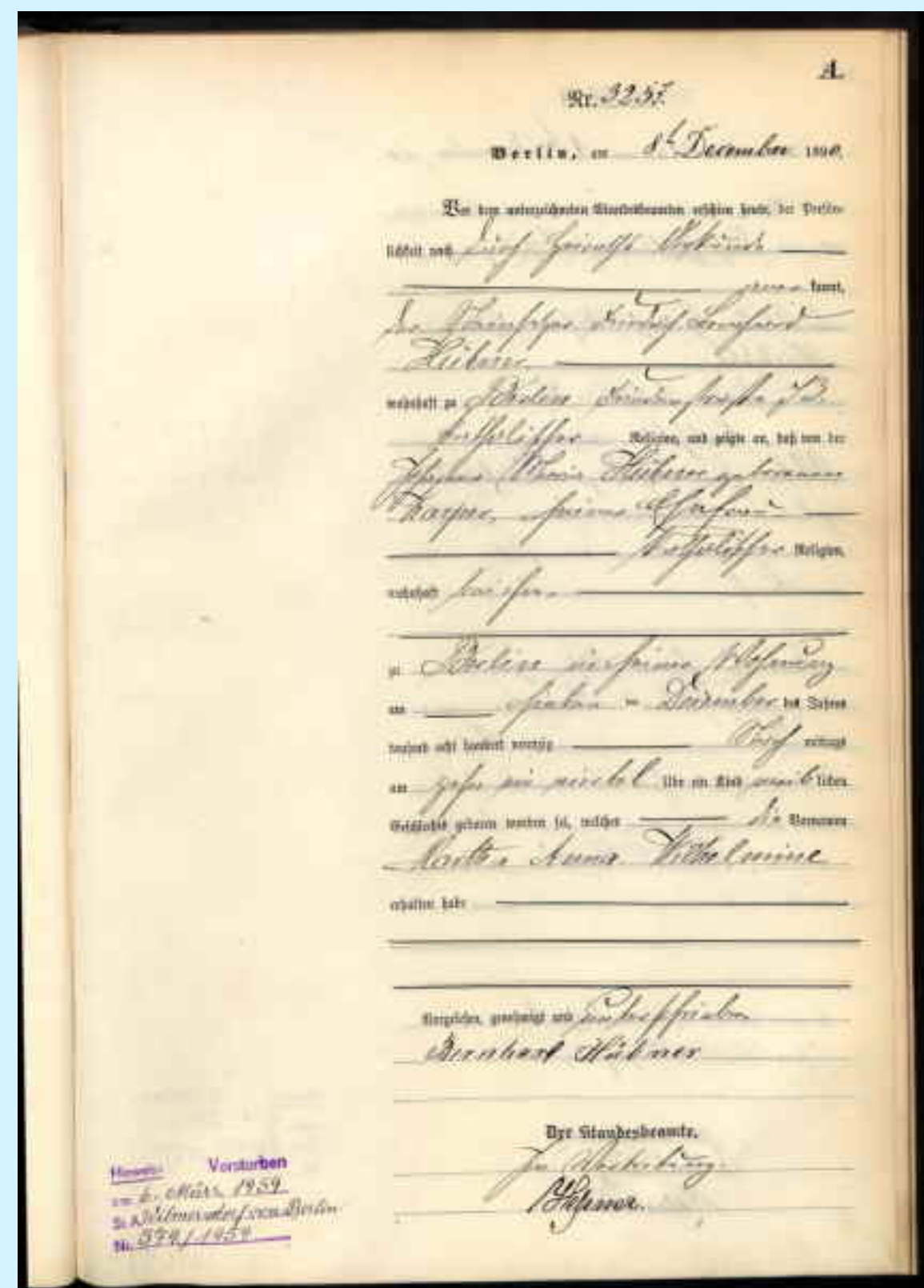
Abstract:

The Holocaust is an event most student learns about in grade school. What we don't learn about is the bravery of the women who participated in the Rosenstrasse protest. When you think about the Holocaust, you do not think about the Rosenstrasse Protest. While under the Nazi regime Nuremberg Laws were put into place. These laws prohibited intermarriage between Jews and non-Jews to prevent mixed marriage. Under the laws Jewish Germans were not able to gain German citizenship. Despite these laws being put into place many non-Jewish spouses stuck by the side of their Jewish spouses. In the "final roundup" in Berlin around 2,000 Jews in mixed marriages were arrested and brought to Rosenstrasse, where they were supposed to be deported. Some of the Jews that were taken into custody were children at least 15 years old. Women filled the streets and protested to free their husbands. The protest was an act of defiance to the strong Nazi forces. These women bound together in order to save their husbands and their families. This was so impactful because not only was it unheard of, but these women liberated their families and many others. During my research I used online sites such as ancestry.com to investigate how the lives of the women who were apart of the Rosenstrasse Protest were impacted after the protest. I utilized the Rosenstrasse Foundation website to compile more information.

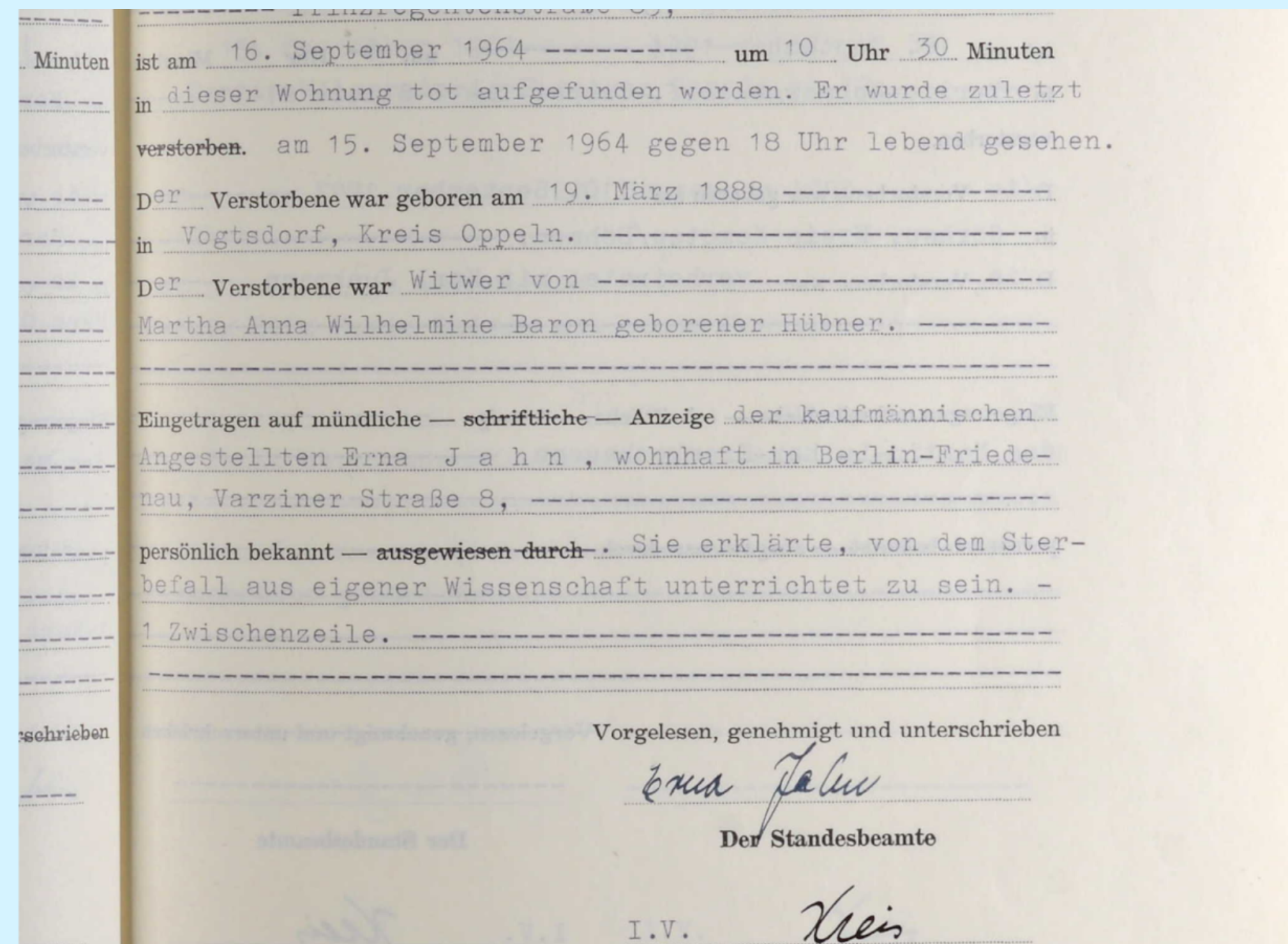
Methods:

- When deciding on which women to research, search through the Rosenstrasse database to see which women do not have information on them. One of the candidates being Martha Baron.
- Once deciding who to research start to look through websites such as, [ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com) and JewishGen.com.
- Birth, death, and marriage records may be found.
- After compiling information a biography should be written on the candidate chosen and be sent for review by fellow Rosenstrasse members.
- For more information read personal testimonies and biographies on the Rosenstrasse Foundation website.

Martha Baron's Birth Certificate



Martha Baron's Death Certificate



[Curtsey of [ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com)]

Introduction:

In 1933 the Nazi Party rose to power. While in power the Nazi party participated in mass genocide of millions of Jews. In this time period it was illegal to be intermarried (marriage between a Jew and a non-Jew). 2,000 men and children (at least 15 years of age) were taken into custody. In 1943 the Rosenstrasse protest took place. Non-Jewish women protested outside of Rosenstrasse in order to have their Jewish husbands and children released. After countless days of fighting and protesting their families were released. The Rosenstrasse Foundation was created to tell the testimonies of these brave women and provide biographies on their lives. During research the way lives of the women and families involved in Rosenstrasse changed after the protester investigated. During research biographies on the women involved to get a better understanding on how their lives were affected by the protest were written.

Results:

Life after the war looked different for each family. Some stayed in Berlin, such as the Holzer family. After the war the Holzer family moved to East Berlin. Others immigrated to places such as the United States. The Heyman family immigrated to the United States in 1946. Fred Heyman attended the University of Wisconsin and got his degree in electrical engineering. He is on the board of the Holocaust Advisory Committee of the Jewish Family Service. Heyman continued to share his testimony and bring awareness. For Katrin Balaban, her and her family left Berlin September 1949 and moved to Brooklyn, New York. Her parents bought a grocery store while her and her brother got their education at a local high school. She then met her Jewish American husband. They had three children together. Rita Kuhn was arrested and taken to Rosenstrasse. After the protest she had the ability to go to the United States with a friend. In 1951 she got married and got her master's degree at Cornell University in 1963. She then got her doctorate at the University of California, Berkley in 1984. Before passing she continued to share her testimony to schools and wrote her personal memoir. Birth and death records were found for Martha Baron. It showed that she was born and died in Berlin, Germany. That leads me to assume she stayed in Germany after the war. Research is still ongoing to finalize the biographies of the remaining women that participated in the protest. Some limitations were finding the stories of the women. Birth and death dates were much more accessible. The strength of this research was having access to the Rosenstrasse Foundation's personal testimonies. There is more research to be done in attempting to fill the biographies for the rest of the women.

Resources:

