

The Rosenstrasse Protest: Interfaith Couples in Nazi Germany

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Background

The Rosenstrasse Protest was an act of civil disobedience in Germany during the Nazi Regime, a totalitarian movement led by Adolf Hitler. The protest occurred on Rosenstraße street in Berlin, Germany from February 1943 to March 1943. As the Gestapo, the secret police of Nazi Germany, began arresting the remaining Jewish population in Berlin, nearly 1,800 of this population was intermarried Jewish men. These men were detained at the Rosenstraße Center, an office within the Jewish community in the heart of Berlin, leading to protests from their non-Jewish wives. These demonstrations not only successfully procured the release of the men, but also played a significant role in the survival of the Jewish population who remained in Berlin throughout the Holocaust without being forced into hiding.

Methods

To trace back the lineage of individuals who engaged in the Rosenstrasse Protest:

- Genealogical databases such as Ancestry.com are used to sift through information with the aid of first names, last names, and approximate dates of birth.
- After identifying a protestor, public documents found in genealogy databases assist in piecing together aspects of their lives.
- On other occasions, family trees created by the protestor's living descendants are available, leading researchers to contact the protestor's possible relatives to obtain additional information.
- We then cross-referenced the information gathered with information that was already collected by previous researchers.



Results

Through our research we found thirteen birth, death, and marriage records and certificates of the women who were part of the protest. Twelve phone book records were found which indicated the location of the protestors before, during, and after the war. Moreover, eight immigration records suggested similar information. Finally, when identified, the living descendants of the women who were part of the protest were contacted for further information.



Figure 1: The Rosenstrasse Center, the site where Jewish men were detained from February to March 1943.

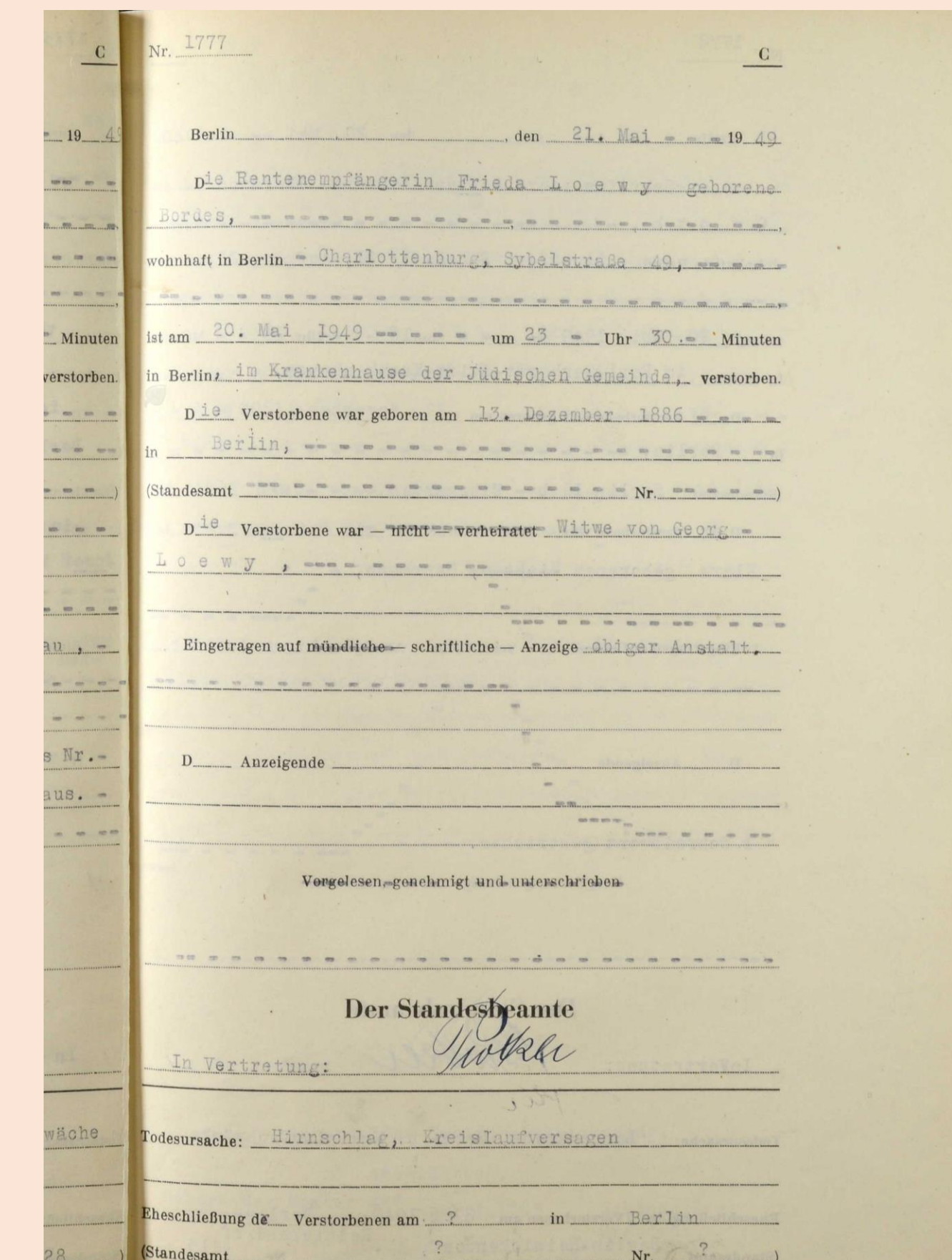


Figure 2: A document retrieved from Ancestry.com, serving as a source for protestor information retrieval.

All Birth, Marriage & Death results for F Lowey		
Filters	Clear all	
Birth, marriage & death	X	
> Birth, baptism & christening	20	
> Marriage & divorce	50	
> Death, burial, cemetery & obituaries	29	
> Record location		
> North America	82	
> Europe	18	
> Record date		
> 1800	20	
> 1900	72	

Search Results	Name
Indiana, U.S. Marriages, 1810-2001 Marriage & divorce	John F. Lowey Marriage 20 Nov 1943 Indiana, United States, Lake
England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1916-2007 Death, burial, cemetery & obituaries	William F. Lowey Birth abt 1864 Death Jan 1941 Manchester, Lancashire, England
U.S., Newspapers.com™ Obituary Index, 1800s-current Death, burial, cemetery & obituaries	F. P. Lowey [F. P. Brooks]
U.S., Newspapers.com™ Obituary Index, 1800s-current Death, burial, cemetery & obituaries	Madeline F. Lowey [Madeline F. Rcraft]
U.S., Obituary Collection, 1800-Current Death, burial, cemetery & obituaries	Jayne F. Lowey
U.S., Newspapers.com™ Obituary Index, 1800s-current	David F. Lowey

Figure 3: The results page on Ancestry.com, using filters these records are sorted and analyzed to verify if they match protestors.



Figure 4: Julius Israel and his non-Jewish wife Charlotte Israel, a protestor

Discussion

- While some data proved unfruitful, on other occasions we gained valuable insights on the protestors.
- We learned about the women in the protest, their lives, and how their place in German society shaped their mindset in the culmination of the protest.

We hope to celebrate the Resistance of Women and Jewish History by:

- The Rosenstrasse Foundation referencing our findings at events and conferences, such as events commemorating the protest at the Goethe Institute, a non-profit German cultural association with locations in the United States and Germany.
- To engage a diverse audience and foster meaningful conversation to heighten our understanding of societal functions and resistance against powerful forces.
- Develop extensive understanding of the efforts and sacrifices these women made to save their husbands' lives, motivates us to walk the path they paved, and take initiative in local and global communities.

Conclusion

As the 80th-anniversary of the Rosenstrasse protest approaches, it becomes important to remember this act of civil disobedience and to commemorate acts of resistance during the Nazi Regime that are often not discussed. Those enacted by people often overlooked, such as those in intermarriages between Jews and Aryans. The data collected functions as a data repository to construct the protestor's stories. We continue to conduct further research on the protestors and interviews with their descendants to inform the public of these acts of civil courage.

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References

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