



The Rosenstrasse Protest: Identifying The Aryan Woman Who Showed Civil Courage

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Introduction

World War II is a topic that has been recognized and popularized to raise awareness for the harsh discriminatory behavior that was led by Hitler in Nazi Germany. The atrocities committed during these times lead many to question how people allowed for such cruelty to occur. On February 27, 1943, a large group of Jewish men were taken from their jobs in Berlin to a local Jewish Community Center to be imprisoned at the hands of the Nazis. Some may attribute their release to the Aryan wives, whom upon finding out about their husband's imprisonment, decided to protest for various days. Intermarriage was one of the most powerful forms of resistance and solidarity. It presented the Nazi with a distinct challenge as going after any Jewish partner may cause fear and mistrust with their associated Aryan community. Approximately 6000 women protested until the release of their husbands on March 6th, 1943. The Rosenstrasse Foundation aims to shed light on this time in history and honor the heroic endeavors of the brave, Aryan women who sacrificed their safety and risked their lives. The Rosenstrasse project was created as a means to create a community within those associated with the Protest. Specifically, the genealogy utilizes sites such as Ancestry.com, Familysearch.com, and Jewishgen.com in order to deduce the correct profile for the person involved with the Rosenstrasse protest.

Abstract

In order to promote familial connections while simultaneously commemorating the civil courage of these Aryan wives, the Rosenstrasse Foundation has created a database. This repository is composed of information on the protestors such as marriage licenses, birth certificates, and/or overall family history. The completed database is intended to aid in the contribution of research, as it provides further context of civil courage in Nazi regime, and serves as a digital resource for descendants to connect with both their familial lineage and other descendants. Furthermore, the completed archive also serves as an educational tool. This tool provides a comprehensive and detailed guide on the available information on the protestors. This guide contains information on marriages, birth certificates, and other available information. Through this information, we can gain a greater knowledge of the Nazi Regime. It is also indicative of the impact that civil courage, specifically Intermarriages, severely threatened the Nazi regime.

Methods

- In order to trace the lineage of those involved with the Rosenstrasse Protest:
 - Attempt to locate protestors using Genealogical databases such as Ancestry.com, Familysearch.com, and Jewishgen.com
 - Find updated documentation such as birth, marriage or death certificates.
 - Ensure records match the Rosenstrasse project database
 - Update the database with relevant information

Figures

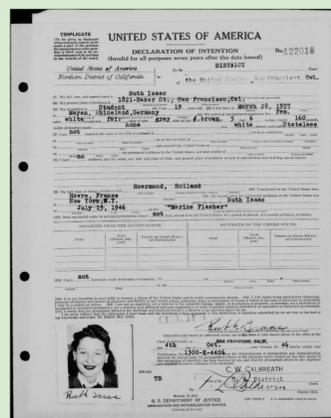


Figure 1.1 The following image shows the potential migration of Else Isaack (protestor) to the United States in 1946

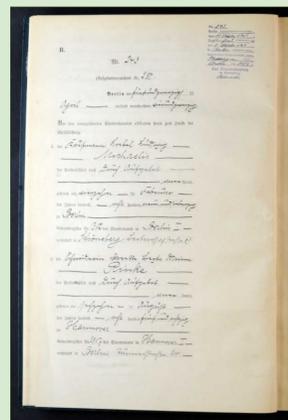


Figure 1.1 The following image the marriage license of a protestor under the name of Berta Michaelis

Results

The following results are preliminary as the Rosenstrasse foundation database is constantly updated. In the duration of this project, we have found marriage, death, and birth certificates that have matched the pre-existing database with protestor information. To clarify, 4 matches were attempted however 2 potential matches were identified, consisting of a birth and a marriage certificate. The results of our genealogical research is sent to the biography team of the Rosenstrasse foundation in order to provide and update the Rosenstrasse protest website and Wikipedia. Through this, the foundation hopes to connect and contact descendants successfully, creating a community and informing them on the civil courage of these Aryan women.

Conclusion

The mission of the Rosenstrasse Foundation is to commemorate, encourage, and educate about civil courage-- concrete acts in opposition to injustice and human rights violations that defend the values of a pluralistic society. Our project focused on locating matches for Protestors who participated in the courageous act, the Rosenstrasse Protest. Our Google Spreadsheet allows us to have a more comprehensive list of protestors in order to identify and get in contact with these families. It also allows for the education of civil courage in the face of injustice. Specifically, Intermarriage was one of the most powerful forms of resistance and solidarity, presenting a difficult circumstance for the Nazi regime. More information on the protestors is expected to be discovered and explored. While the limitations of this project are exclusive to World War II, its implications allow for a more thorough understanding of the Nazi Regime and how Civil Courage actually influenced the life of many.

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