

ROSENSTRASSE FOUNDATION

Building an Association to Honor Defiance and Rescue in Hitler's Germany

Nicole Shaked Nathan Stoltzfus and Liam Wirsansky

College of Arts and Sciences, Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida



Introduction

Dr. Nathan Stoltzfus founded the Rosenstrasse Foundation to encourage commemoration and education about civil courage. We research opposition to injustice and human rights violations focusing on the Rosenstrasse protest in Nazi Germany. Our goal as a foundation is to gather as much information about potential protestors and connect to the Jewish community. By gathering testimonials, we are building a database with the hopes of reuniting family members whose horrific circumstances of social injustice have separated.



Abstract

Civil courage is taking action against injustice and human rights violations that defend the values of a pluralistic society. Civil courage has been exhibited throughout history, especially in Nazi Germany. A display of civil courage in Nazi Germany is the actions of intermarried women in the Rosenstrasse Protest. Identifying these acts of bravery in an oppressive government helps discover that the compliance within Nazi Germany was not as unwavering as many believed. The misconception that societal defiance was unfound in Nazi Germany led to many drawbacks when identifying heroes that saved many lives. Research has been done to identify victims and how they were affected but has failed in many parts to honor the heroes in Nazi Germany that protested to save loved ones. The Rosenstrasse Foundation uses data from specific databases that to identify individuals with remarkable stories and how the impact of government oppression brought out heroism among ordinary citizens. Using databases like Ancestry, Jewish Gen, and many more, we identify names connected to the protest.

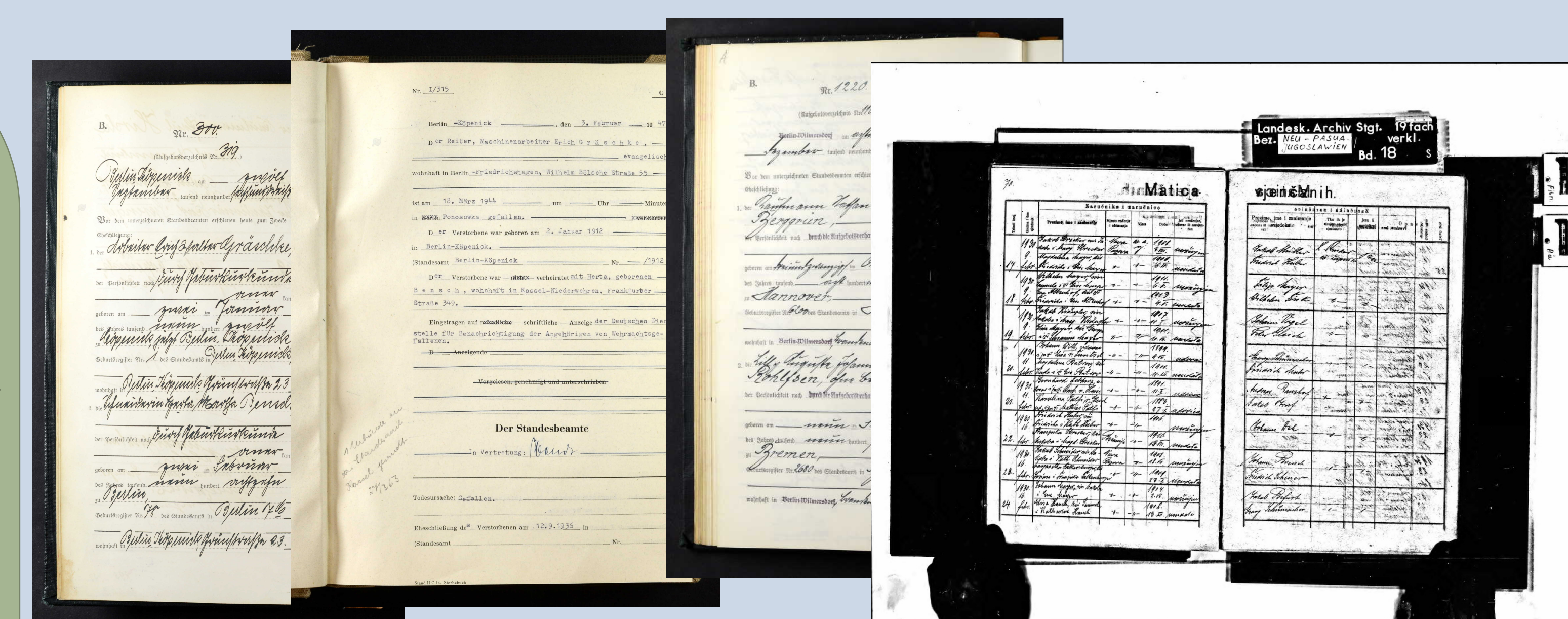
Contrary to what many assume, we have found vast information, the German citizens did have some semblance of outcry. Hitler's Germany was not as compliant as many have believed. Gathering testimonials of actual witnesses, we find that acts of defiance against threats of the Nazi State were prevalent under Germany's fascist rule.

Methods

The Foundation's ultimate goal is to gather testimonials from individuals who lived during the Rosenstrasse Protest and experienced it first-hand by gathering historical documents to identify lost family members by building a database. Specifically, the genealogy team is responsible for finding the documents that connect names to possible ancestors:

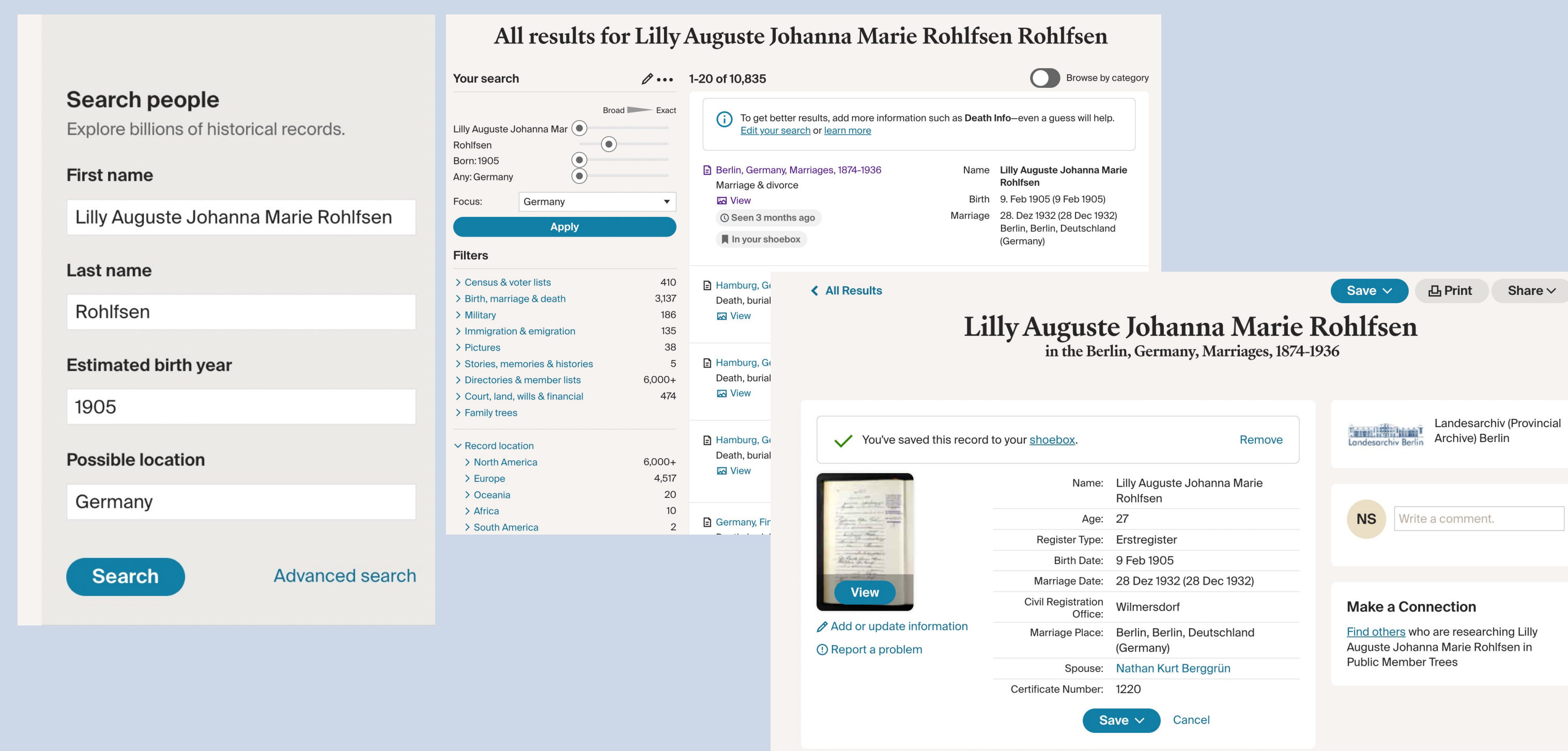
- Pick a name that needs an update from master list of names collected.
- Open relevant online databases of choice.
- Search phrases and words using research filters.
- Search documents, looking for Marriage and Death Certificates.
- Record all data, leads to finding women who protested at Rosenstrasse.

Using multiple platforms to search specific names and perspective names helps identify protestors and their existence.



Discussion

These results show that the defiance in Hitler's Germany was prevalent due to the events and participants in the Rosenstrasse Protest while highlighting the importance of discovering new facts about history we did not know before. Our findings concerning the names found through historical records may allow us to build a robust database, informing and educating the public. The fact that we've seen so many words and different testimonials already proves what many didn't know about resistance in Hitler's Germany concerning inter-married couples. The approach described allows for a systematic follow-up to continue updating our information based on databases that don't precisely represent the events of the Rosenstrasse protest. As the field of history is enriched with new findings every day, we aim to prove how sourcing these inter-married individuals may change how we once viewed Nazi Germany. We are developing a platform that will commemorate, honor, and represent defiance in Hitler's Germany by looking for individuals that impacted German authority from the inside.



Results

Using the methods discussed to gather data, we establish the existence of the women protestors we are looking for. Any related evidence or historical document that checks all the markers we look for (i.e., date of birth, age at the event, place of birth, Jewish relation, location during the event, marriage certificate) are added to a list to expand our association's database. Utilizing this research, the foundation hopes to use its findings to gain testimonials that lead to awareness of the existent defiance within Nazi Germany.

References

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