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The Meefischli in Charons Cellar

At the beginning of the Bismarckstraße between the old hospital and the truck, the brothers of the injured chairman of the Jewish community Emanuel Katzmann lived with their families.

Moritz Katzmann lived with his family on the second floor of Julius Rossmann's house on Bismarckstraße 4 next to the city library. Born in Geroda in the Rhön in 1880, the wine merchant married the 25-year-old Kitzyger Laura Rosenbusch from Herrnstraße in 1910. The couple had three children. The oldest, born in 1911 son Martin, who has already met us on the class picture of the secondary school, was later nervenkrank. The disease inherited from the mother's side broke out in the thirties, and was probably also due to the terrible conditions of those years.

Martin later, like his mother, lived in the Jewish mental hospital Sayn near Koblenz, from where the two were deported to Izbica in 1942 and from there to Belzec extermination camp. The father Moritz was also deported in March 1942 with the second son Gerhard von Kitzyger from Izbica and murdered in Belzec. Gerhard fell ill as a teenager at polio. In the Gestapo Archive of the Würzburg State Archives, the record of his father states: "Gerhard Katzmann (as a result of the paralysis of both legs is unable to carry luggage."

"Jewish house"

The house No. 4 belonged to the cattle and horse dealer Julius Rossmann, a native Wiesenbronner, whose younger brother Jacob lived in the Moltkestraße. Julius went with his second wife Hermione, b. Stein from Messelhausen near Darmstadt, in 1940 to America. The first wife Julie, b. Einstein, died in 1927 and is buried in Rödelseer Jewish Cemetery.

Julius Rossmann had two children from his first wife, both of whom were able to leave Germany in good time and also emigrated to America. Karl, who later lived in Buffalo, New York, is mentioned in the American Who's Who, an anthology of well-known American personalities. His sister Lucie, married Kahn, lives in Riverdale (New York), in the same house as her childhood friend Ludwig Hahn from Bahnhofstrasse.

Next to Bismarckstraße 4, in Haus Hindenburgring Süd 1, lived the families Charon, Schlössinger and Katzmann. Max Katzmann, born in 1889, like his brothers in Geroda, was the spiritual and spiritual head of the Jewish community Kitzyger after the departure of Rabbi Wohlgemuth in the last years, since he was a trained religion teacher who had completed his education at the famous Israeli teacher training seminar in Würzburg.

His wife Bella, born Kellermann-Charon, was the adopted daughter of Emanuel Charon and his wife Clara, b. Friedlein, from Allersheim. Clara Charon was the best friend of Mrs. Rabbi Wohlgemuth and lived with her in a room of the Jewish community center, after the Charons were expelled from their home on Hindenburg South. Later, Mrs. Charon moved to Würzburg, where she died in the Jewish retirement home and was buried in the Würzburg Jewish cemetery on the Siemensstraße. She was a member of the funeral society of the Kitzing Jewish women and is on the group picture as fourth from the left in the back row next to her friend Luise Wohlgemuth, born Ichenhäuser.

For some it may be surprising that no one of the Katzmans family, who is so involved in community affairs, appears on the group picture of the funeral home of the Kitzingen Jewish women. But there is a reason for this: The Katzmans were Cohanim, meaning they were the descendants of Aron, the Aron of Biblical history, the brother of Moses, the first high priest of the Jewish people.

The Cohanim were the priests in the temple in Jerusalem, and when the Temple 70 was destroyed by the Romans today, the Cohanim became unemployed as it were, but their "official title" continues to be inherited in the male line to this day. Their "Cohenic" affiliation also includes certain privileges and prohibitions that were binding on religious Jews such as the Katzmans.

This meant that one was not allowed to ritual contaminate a dead body, that is, one went only at burials of the next of kin to the cemetery, and of course you could then not be a member of the funeral community, whose main purpose of the religious regulations and customs proper body washing and funeral of the dead. Other Kitzinger Cohanim families were the Kahners, the Kahns and the Bauers.

At the end of April 1938, the Schössinger family from Thüngen came to Kitzingen near Würzburg. Ms. Schössinger was a born Katzman, and married in 1923 Moses Schössinger from Neckarzimmern. Klara Schössinger, also born in Geroda in 1886, was born. Katzman had inherited a cottage from an aunt in Thüngen, and moved there with her four-year-younger husband Moses. Moses Schössinger owned a manufactured goods shop in Mosbach in Baden and after his marriage in Thüngen opened a trade in oils, fats and skins, which he ran until October 1938 in the village. During the "Kristallnacht" the Schössingers still lived in Thüngen, and the aggravation of the circumstances at that time may have led to the family moving to the relatives of the woman in Kitzingen.

The Schössingers were not rich people. Ms. Schössinger worked in various Kitzingen households in Kitzingen, as with Helene Klugmann in the Moltkestraße, the 1927-born son Günther is described in his graduation certificate of the Jewish elementary school in 1941 by the last Kitzingen Jewish teacher Siegbert Friedmann as a good student, whose helpfulness special recognition earned. Moses' father did not benefit from all his merits and also from the orders he received as a front warrior of the First World War, as this family was also deported from Kitzingen to Izbica near Lublin on 23 March 1942 and was a victim of the Shoah.

Cross of Honor

Also another inhabitant of the house Hindenburgring south no. 1 had paid much attention to his services to the German people during the First World War: The brother-in-law of Clara Charon, who was born 1878 in Rödelsee single Adolf Charon was with the military merit cross 3rd class with swords, with the Kriegsgedenkmünze 1914/18 of the Kyffhäuser federation and the honor cross for front fighters were distinguished. He wore a monocle and Stefan Rothstein said that Adolf Charon always laughed very loudly.

He seemed to have been a very martial phenomenon, and he probably did not, as did many other Kitzinger Jews, respond to the anti-Semitic cliché of the Nazis. This helped nothing. He too had to travel on March 23, 1942, the journey without return. The Kyffhäuser-Bund was a right-wing monarchist association, and today's youth would rather place it in a somewhat different context.

After 1938, the house of the Charons was "Aryanized" and the inhabitants were distributed to the various Kitzingen Jewish houses that had been set up at that time: Adolf Charon had to Landwehrstraße 21, Max Katzmann with his wife in the Landwehrstraße 23. Both house numbers belonged to the Jewish Municipal House, today's Museum of the City of Kitzingen, the family of Moses Schlössinger was quartered in the Luitpoldstraße 14, today's Volksbank.

"Meefischli"

Today in the estate Hindenburgring South No. 1 is a cellar in the former wine cellars of Emanuel and Adolf Charon. If the time of day and the circumstances allow it, I have been on tours through the Jewish Kitzingen also station in this local made to show the participants the wine cellar of a medium-sized Kitzinger wine shop. And some ate then Meefischli - Meefischli in Charons Keller, one of the last kosher meals possible for Kitzinger Jews before they were murdered in 1942.