

Herz Stern / Familie Roth



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The Stern family

known as the "Herze"

Address: 20 Lahntal Street / formerly: House#7

Herz Stern II

March 27, 1866 in Roth – January 15, 1943 in Theresienstadt

was the son of Haune Stern and Adelheid Wetzstein. He married Emma Rothschild from Angenrod near Alsfeld in 1895. They had two children, Hermann and Selma born in 1897 and 1899, respectively. He earned his living as a butcher and cattle dealer, later also working as a peddler. Herz's son Hermann died at the young age of twenty while serving as a soldier in Macedonia during World War I.

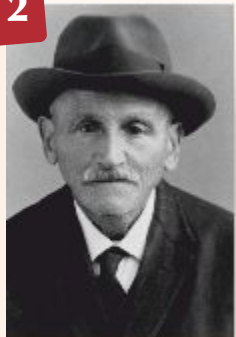
Herz's daughter married Markus Roth from Nieder-Ohmen and bore three children, but she also died young, in 1934. His wife Emma passed away three years later in 1937. When his son-in-law managed to emigrate to the US in 1938, Herz moved to Frankfurt, Gwinner Street 20, where the sister of his son-in-law, Jenny Frank, lived.

Jenny Frank's family of four lived there with two other people in a ghetto house. After 1940, Herz was forced to move into the nursing home at the address Handwerk Street 30 (currently Lange Street). The Jewish community had been forced to establish this home, which more closely resembled a collective point. Herz was deported from this address on August 18th, 1942, and taken to Theresienstadt where he died on January 15th, 1943.



Selma Roth
and her three children

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Herz Stern II

The Roth family

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Markus Roth

September 5, 1893 in Nieder-Ohmen – 1967 in Chicago

was the son of Jonas and Lina Roth. He first learned the trade of a butcher. During World War I he participated in many battles and was awarded both the second class Iron Cross and the Hessian Medal of Bravery. He married Selma, the daughter of Herz and Emma Stern in 1922, and moved into their house. A dealer in feed and fertilizer in Roth, he was in close contact with his customers and well-respected by all. He and Selma had three children, Leo Herbert, Adelheid Irene, and Jakob Walter.

His wife Selma died suddenly of an infection on February 28th, 1934. In 1936, he married his wife's relative, Toni Stern.

The Oberhessian Newspaper (Oberhessische Zeitung) published an article in 1935, denouncing Markus Roth for unfair business practices. This was a common Nazi tactic for ruining Jewish businesses. Markus Roth's business effectively collapsed, and he and his family had to live on their savings and their own meager farming.



Markus Roth

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Order of Merit:
The Hessian Medal of Bravery

With no prospect of being able to care for his family in Germany, Markus Roth decided to emigrate to the US. On June 16th, 1938, he gave the proper authorities notice of his family's departure, and they boarded the ship New York in Bremerhaven, on which they reached safer shores.

The Roth family settled in Chicago, where some relatives from Roth had already moved in 1937. They now had to build a new life for themselves, which wasn't easy for Markus Roth and his three half-grown children. Another baby, Helen, was born in January 1939, which didn't make things any easier. The once independent businessman had to work as a hired hand in a slaughterhouse. The work was hard, and the family's economic situation was not easy. In time the work affected his heart. He died in 1967 in Chicago.

Roth, den _____ 1938

MARKUS ROTH Futter- u. Düngemittel
Partenberger Str. 100 München - Luitz Pl. 42

RECHNUNG
 an Herrn Heinz Weisbrod Wölfskamm

1. Jan	41 Rechnung	332, 78
15. Mai	per cassa	15 "
28. Juli	"	27 "
28. Okt	"	38 "
23. Dez	"	217 "
28. März	"	35 "
28. März	Kartbetrag	37 78
Betrag dankend erhalten		
Jan 1939	Herbert [Signature]	

Diese sind in guten Zahlung innerhalb 14 Tagen zurückzugeben

The last bill calculated for Markus Roth's business

Toni Roth, neé Stern

July 27, 1898 in Roth— January 28, 1998 in Chicago

was the daughter of Mannes and Bertha Stern. She long suffered from the knowledge that she had had to leave her mother and two brothers behind in Germany where they did not survive the Holocaust. She was the good soul of the family, who raised and cared for her stepchildren with all of the love that she had for her own biological daughter. She was deeply loved and respected by all of her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

She was a talented baker and cook, continuing to make food in the Hessian-Jewish village tradition in Chicago.

Toni Roth died on January 28th, 1998, nearly 100 years old.

Herbert Roth

October 17, 1923 in Roth

is the oldest son of Markus and Selma Roth. He was well-integrated with his village peers before 1933. He greatly enjoyed playing soccer on the fields near the Lahn river. After Hitler came to power, his boyhood friends all joined the Hitler Youth, and he was excluded from the games. The school-teacher Knott held diatribes against the Jews every morning, always ending with the sentence “with the exception of those present.” Of course, uttering this sentence brought attention to the boy, causing the most harm. In addition to his tragic and difficult family situation, he was isolated from those who were once his friends.



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Toni Roth



In October 1936 Herbert Roth became the last Jewish boy to celebrate his bar mitzvah in the synagogue in Roth. In preparation for their emigration, Markus Roth sent his eldest son to Marburg for English classes. When they first arrived in the US, he did the translating for the family. Herbert did all he could to integrate himself in his new country and to leave the difficult years of his childhood behind him.

Soon he only spoke English. At first he went to high school, but he left after two years without graduating. He worked in the pants store owned by his uncle, Mr. Hammerschlag, to bring in some money for the family. He joined the army in 1943, but had to withdraw after only a few months for health reasons.

After a short interim working for an insurance company, he got a scholarship to study accounting at a college in Chicago in 1944. He graduated in 1946, and first began to work for a small company. He started his own business as a certified public accountant with great success in 1950.

Herbert Roth was also very active in his community and served twelve years as director, later as president of the Jewish Children's Bureau. He then served 16 years as president of a Jewish nursing home. He met his wife Elsa in Chicago. She came from Bad Duerkheim. They married in 1948, and have two daughters, five grandchildren, and one great-grandchild. Elsa Roth died on June 25th, 2013, after nearly 65 years of marriage.



Herbert Roth, on the left in the second row, at morning roll call



Herbert Roth

Irene Roth

January 22, 1925 in Roth – September 15, 1969

was the daughter of Markus and Selma Roth. She attended the school in Roth and graduated from a school in Chicago. She then began working various jobs, one being at a book-binding shop. She also helped care for her nephews and nieces. She died on September 15, 1969, at only 44 years of age.

Walter Roth

April 18, 1929 in Roth

is the youngest son of Markus and Selma Roth. He was also the last child born to a Jewish family in Roth. His mother passed away when he was only five. He never played with the other boys from the village in his childhood, his only playmates were the older Jewish boys, Kurt Bergenstein and Helmut Hoechster. One instance of being ostracized at school has particularly stayed with him over the years. The school-teacher Knott had had a prize for the student who could solve a math problem the fastest. Walter was the fastest and wanted to claim his prize, but the teacher said that this prize could not be won by a Jew.

When Walter arrived in the US he didn't yet speak any English, so he was put in the kindergarten class despite being nine years old.



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Irene Roth



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Walter Roth



He learned English quickly, however, and was accepted to the school proper. He skipped a grade and ended up finishing high school with honors.

Attending the University of Illinois in Chicago, then the Law School of the University of Chicago, he earned his law degree in 1952. After spending a year at a kibbutz in Israel, he settled down as a lawyer in Chicago.

He was very active in the community, serving as a member of the American Jewish Congress and the Chicago Jewish Historical Society, among other things. He was president of the latter for many years, writing books and countless articles about the history of Jews in Chicago.

He published his memoirs, *Departure and Return*, in 2013. It deals with his emigration from Roth and his reflections on later visits he made to the village.

He and his wife Chaya, who was born in Berlin and also survived the Holocaust, have a son, two daughters, and seven grandchildren.

