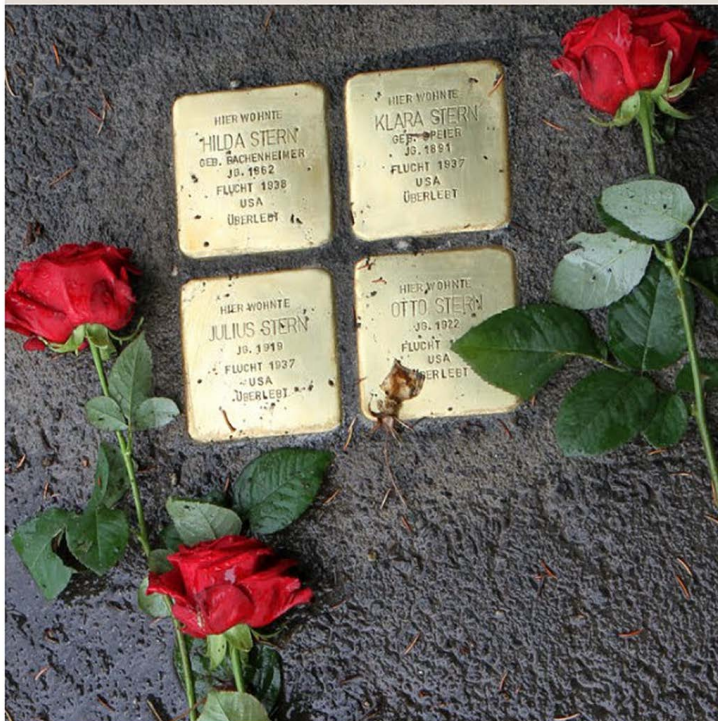


# Familie Stern



24

25

26

27

# The Stern family

known as the "Vorne-Malches"

Address: 14 Lahntal Street / formerly: House#98

*The Stern family in the Lahntal Street was the only Jewish family in Roth of which all members escaped the Holocaust.*

## Hilda Stern, neé Bachenheimer

December 19, 1862 in Fronhausen – 1964 in Chicago

was the firstborn of eight to Isaac Bachenheimer and Johanna Langsdorf. Four of her siblings and her father emigrated to the US at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Hilda married the merchant, Herz Stern I of Roth (April 1, 1858), the oldest son of Bonfang Stern and Malchen Wetzstein. The name of the house "the Malches" stems from his mother's name.

The couple had two children, Berthold born in 1886, and Paula born in 1887. Herz Stern died on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 1932, at the age of 74.



24

Hilda Stern



25

Klara Stern

## Klara Stern, neé Speier

November 9, 1891 in Hoof near Kassel – January 16, 1972 in Chicago

was the daughter of Julius and Jettchen Speier. She married Berthold Stern (February 12, 1886), the son of Herz and Hilda Stern. Berthold Stern was awarded the second class Iron Cross for his part in World War I, and he was left with a bad wound from his time in battle. He sang Tenor II in the men's choral club Liederkrantz. Berthold dealt in cattle and had a dry goods store. After he died of leukemia in 1929, Klara continued to run the store on her own. Thus, when the Nazis came to power, she was a widow, living with her widowed mother-in-law and her two sons, Julius and Otto.

The family recognized the signs of the times relatively early and applied for visas at the American consulate in Stuttgart at the end of 1936. These were immediately granted because Hilda's well-off siblings in the US vouched for her. Klara and her sons boarded the ship Manhattan in 1937.

One year later Hilda emigrated with her daughter Paula's family. Paula was married to the cattle dealer Hermann Wertheim in Kirchhain. All of them settled in Chicago.

Hilda Stern died there in 1964 at the ripe old age of nearly 102 years. Klara Stern passed away on January 16<sup>th</sup>, 1972.



The Stern family  
ca. 1921

Left to right: Back row, Klara & Berthold Stern, Herman & Paula Wertheim  
Front row: Max Wertheim, Hilda & Julius Stern, Marga Wertheim, Herz Stern I

# Julius Stern

November 14, 1919 in Roth – January 8, 2005 in Chicago

was the oldest son of Berthold and Klara Stern. Shortly after the Nazis came to power he finished his time at the school in Roth and began attending a higher level school in Kirchhain. He lived with his Aunt Paula. Following his emigration to the US, he was able to get a job working in the textile factory Hart, Schaffner & Marks in Chicago, where he worked his way up to a supervising position. He joined the American army around 1941-42, and was stationed on the Aleutian islands in the Pacific. After returning from the war, he married Renée in 1946, who was also a Jewish-German emigrant. She was from Mannheim. They had two daughters, one of which died as a young bride, and four grandchildren. Julius Stern died on January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2005, in Chicago.



26

Julius Stern



27

Otto Stern

# Otto Stern

July 5, 1922 in Roth – May 22, 2013 in Florence, Kentucky

ended his schooling in Roth in 1936. He moved to Kirchhain the end of April, where he began an apprenticeship as a merchant. He registered his notice of departure with the authorities in Kirchhain on April 27<sup>th</sup>, 1937, and emigrated to the US with his mother and older brother. He joined the American army in 1942, and served in France, where he saw many battles. He was awarded the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star for bravery in battle. After the end of the war he was stationed in Diez on the Lahn River. Being relatively close to Roth, he seized the opportunity to visit the place of his birth. He was appalled to find the cemetery desolated and the graves of his ancestors defiled. He ordered the village mayor to have the cemetery restored, and it was.

He was horrified to learn that none of his relatives and no Jewish neighbors remained in the village. They had all been deported. The only familiar faces to be found were those of Jenny and Trude Loewenstein in Fronhausen, who had survived the concentration camp.

When he returned to the US, Otto Stern married Ilse Libmann from Weinheim on October 6<sup>th</sup>, 1946. He worked for companies that produced material for shoe repair. At times he filled an executive position, and for some years he ran his own business. He had two sons and five grandchildren. One of his grandchildren died in the war in Iraq.

Otto Stern died on May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2013, in Florence, Kentucky.

Otto Stern's return to Roth as a G.I.

