

13. Ibid., 17.
14. Klopfer, "Childhood," 5.
15. Bendler, autobiography, 25.
16. Ibid., 27.
17. Ibid., 26.
18. Ibid., 33.
19. Klopfer, "Childhood," 6. Part of the remarkable report was that the soldier had gone first to Berlin, where by coincidence he had learned that the family was living in Werdau.
20. Bendler, autobiography, 33.

BRANDENBURG-POTSDAM BRANCH

On Sunday, August 14, 1938, a special meeting was held in Potsdam, Germany, to open a branch of the LDS Church there. Mission president Alfred C. Rees presided, and Richard Ranglack, president of the Berlin District, was also in attendance. Edward B. Wimmer, a missionary from the United States, was called to be

the branch president. The attendees included thirty-two members and friends.¹

Potsdam-Brandenburg Branch ²	1939
Elders	2
Priests	2
Teachers	0
Deacons	1
Other Adult Males	14
Adult Females	29
Male Children	5
Female Children	0
<i>Total</i>	54

The establishment of the Potsdam Branch is evidence of the growth that characterized the Church in Germany in the late 1930s. Potsdam lies just twenty miles southwest of the Reich capital at Berlin. Approximately 113,000 residents called Potsdam their home in 1939.

The new branch prospered in Potsdam; the records of the East German Mission show the following entry for Sunday, October 16, 1938:



Fig. 1. The Brandenburg-Potsdam Branch members posed for this photograph in 1941. (I. Bendler-Broughton)

“At the opening meeting of the new Potsdam Branch hall, twenty-five Saints and fourteen friends were present. The new hall was located at Kaiser Wilhelm Strasse 28.”³

Friedrich Fischer, first counselor in the Berlin District presidency, and two sister missionaries also attended. No description of the meeting rooms is available.

While the Potsdam Branch members were striving to maintain and improve their presence in that city, things were not going as well in the city of Brandenburg, fifteen miles to the west. The mission presidency found it necessary to take the following action on Sunday, December 10, 1938: “The Brandenburg Branch, Berlin District, was dissolved. The members were transferred to the Potsdam Branch books, bringing the total membership in Potsdam to fifty-four.”⁴

As of this writing, no survivors of the Potsdam Branch could be located for interviews.

IN MEMORIAM

One member of the Brandenburg-Potsdam Branch did not survive World War II:

August Adolf Liedtke b. Mahnsfeld Ostpreußen, Preußen Apr 1859; son of Karl Ludwig Liedtke and Caroline Wilhelmine Buchholz; bp. 4 Apr 1904; ord. elder; m. Mansfeld, Ostpreußen, Preußen 8 Oct 1882, Auguste Koesling; 7 children; d. stroke Potsdam, Brandenburg, Preußen 17 Nov 1939 (*Stern*, 1 Jan 1940, no. 1, 15; IGI)

NOTES

1. East German Mission Quarterly Reports, 1938, no. 35, East German Mission History.
2. Presiding Bishopric, “Financial, Statistical, and Historical Reports of Wards, Stakes, and Missions, 1884–1955,” CR 4 12, 257.
3. East German Mission Quarterly Reports, 1938, no. 44.
4. Ibid., 10.

EBERSWALDE BRANCH

Located forty-five miles northeast of Berlin, Eberswalde was a city of approximately thirty thousand inhabitants in 1939. It was the home to a very small branch of the LDS Church, established in 1934. Ursula Jawureck moved with her parents, Johannes and Herta Jawureck, from Pomerania to Eberswalde in 1932, where they became acquainted with the Church through the Zaar family. Years later, Ursula recalled the rented meeting rooms used by the Church at Schicklerstrasse 11:

From the street, we went through a portal of the main building, across the courtyard, then into the Hinterhaus. We went up a spiral staircase outside, into the foyer that was about fifteen by twenty feet in size. There was a space for leadership meetings behind the table that we used for a pulpit. It was just a table with chairs and a tablecloth. The children’s class was in the foyer—all of the children together. There were only a few of us. We met there from 1934 through the end of the war.¹

Sunday School was held in the morning and sacrament meeting in the evening. The members went home between the meetings. Approximately twenty persons were in attendance on a typical Sunday during the first few years of the war.

A prominent family in the Eberswalde Branch was that of the branch president, Hermann Bünger, a letter carrier by trade. He went to church early every Sunday morning in order to heat the rooms. “Somehow he always came up with enough coal to do that,” recalled Ursula Jawureck. “His family always cleaned the rooms but never took credit for it. The children had piano lessons so that they could play the pump organ for us. Brother Bünger