

3 Mar 1940 (*Sonntagsstern*, no. 17, 26 May 1940 n.p.; FHL Microfilm 25776, 1935 Census; IGI)

Friedrich Richter b. Grimma, Sachsen 25 Mar 1875; bp. 13 Apr 1921; m. Marie Anna Friedericke Backhaus; d. heart attack Leipzig 25 Mar 1941 (*Sonntagsgruss*, no. 22, 1 Jun 1941, 88; FHL Microfilm 271402, 1930/35 Census; IGI)

Gertrud Berta Schroedter b. Gohlis, Leipzig, Sachsen 18 Sep 1908; dau. of Franz Heinrich Gustav Franz Heinrich Schroedter and Martha Jakob; d. stroke Leipzig, Sachsen 15 Mar 1940 (*Sonntagsstern*, no. 17, 26 May 1940, n.p.; IGI; AF)

Karl Alfred Schulz b. Leipzig, Leipzig, Sachsen 9 Apr 1914; son of Johann Karl Schulze and Anna Martha Zimmer; bp. 17 Jul 1924; k. in battle Eastern Front 1942 (*Sonntagsgruss*, no. 1, 3 Jan 1943, 4; E. Werner; IGI)

August Schwob b. Walddorf, Reinerz, Schlesien, Preußen 7 Apr 1862; son of Franz Schwob and Beate Rieger; bp. 9 Aug 1930; ord. deacon; d. old age Leipzig, Sachsen 24 Sep 1939 (*Stern*, no. 23, 1 Dec. 1939, 372; FHL Microfilm 245260, 1935 Census; IGI)

Karoline Franziska Swaboda b. Przlausch, Böhmen, Austria 4 or 6 May 1875; bp. 17 Sep 1921; m. 14 May 1901, Albert Franz Lippold; 1 child; d. Leipzig, Sachsen 7 Mar 1941 (*Sonntagsgruss*, no. 17, 27 Apr 1941, 68; FHL Microfilm 271388, 1935 Census; AF; IGI)

Emma Lina Troll b. Beutha, Zwickau, Sachsen 25 Jun or 26 Jul 1858; dau. of Christian F. Troll and Friedricke Schmidt; bp. 22 Apr 1914; m. Beutha 31 Oct 1886, Ernst Otto Sonntag; 8 children; d. Leipzig, Sachsen 24 Apr 1941 (*Sonntagsgruss*, no. 24, 15 Jun 1941, 96; FHL Microfilm 245270, 1935 Census; IGI)

NOTES

1. Presiding Bishopric, "Financial, Statistical, and Historical Reports of Wards, Stakes, and Missions, 1884–1955," CR 4 12, 257.
2. "Auf Spurensuche, Wo Seit 1920 in Leipzig Die Kirche Jesu Christi der Heiligen der Letzten Tage Ihr Domizil Hatte" (unpublished history); private collection.
3. Elfriede Waldammer Werner, interview by the author in German, Leipzig, Germany, June 1, 2007; unless otherwise noted, summarized in English by Judith Sartowski.
4. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, *Die Gemeinde in Leipzig* (Leipzig, Germany: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1988), 10; trans. the author.
5. *History of the Leipzig Branch* (unpublished), 179; private collection; trans. the author.
6. Siegfried Schmidt, telephone interview with Judith Sartowski in German, February 25, 2008.
7. *Die Gemeinde in Leipzig*, 10.

8. *History of the Leipzig Branch*, 179b.

9. Walter Gerd Schiele, interview by Matthew K. Heiss in German, Leipzig, Germany, October 11, 1991, OH 1144; The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Church History Library, Salt Lake City; trans. the author.

LEIPZIG WEST BRANCH

The Leipzig West Branch was a relatively young unit of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in 1939. The population was far smaller than that of the Leipzig Center Branch. The West Branch met in rented rooms at Angerstrasse 18 in the first Hinterhaus.

| Leipzig West Branch ¹ | 1939 |
|----------------------------------|------|
| Elders | 3 |
| Priests | 6 |
| Teachers | 0 |
| Deacons | 4 |
| Other Adult Males | 7 |
| Adult Females | 40 |
| Male Children | 2 |
| Female Children | 2 |
| <i>Total</i> | 64 |

The history of the East German Mission contains two entries regarding this branch, both from October 1938, one year before the war began. On October 19, Johannes Hurst was appointed branch president with Fritz Berndt as his first counselor.² Ten days later, a branch conference was held, including a social on Saturday night. The attendance was twenty-four members and forty-five friends.³

Very little is known about the members and activities of the Leipzig West Branch. A history of the Leipzig Branch written four decades after the war indicates that the West and Center Branches were merged in 1941. Johannes Hurst was the branch president thereafter, and

the meetings were held at Moritzstrasse 10 for the next two years.

Kurt Nägler and his family were members of the Leipzig West Branch when he was drafted into the army. His wife, Martha, was faced with the same challenges experienced by several hundred Latter-day Saint women in Germany—rearing their children alone. Whereas many of those women had to be employed to do so, Martha was blessed to be able to stay at home and make do with her husband's army pay.⁴

In 1944, Sister Nägler was informed that her husband was missing in action somewhere in Romania. According to their daughter, Gerda, "My mother never gave up hope that he would return until long after the war. She never doubted her testimony." However, Kurt was officially declared dead several years after the war. His two daughters became some of the many Latter-day Saint children who grew to adulthood with only one parent. The army pay Sister Nägler received from the government ended in May 1945, and she became the sole support of her daughters.

IN MEMORIAM

The following members of the Leipzig West Branch did not survive World War II:



Fig. 1. The family of Kurt Nägler in 1944, just before he was reported missing in action. (G. Nägler Fischer)

Gerolf Johannes Hurst b. Leipzig, Leipzig, Sachsen 16 Nov 1923; son of Johannes Georg Hurst and Klara Martha Koch; bp. 24 Nov 1931; k. in battle Saporohsja, Russia Sep 1943 (Werner Nägler; FHL Microfilm 162794, 1930/35 Census; AF)

Kurt Nägler b. Leipzig, Leipzig, Sachsen, Germany 4 Oct 1907; m. Martha Beyer; 2 children; MIA Romania 1944 (G. Nägler Fischer)

Amalie Selma Ulbricht b. Mittweida, Leipzig, Sachsen 22 or 23 Jul 1856; dau. of Karl Wilhelm Ulbricht and Christiane Rosine Eichhorn; bp. 6 Jun 1912; m. Chemnitz, Sachsen 3 Aug 1885, Gottlieb David Gustav Groeschke; 7 children; d. Leipzig, Sachsen 4 or 5 May 1940 (*Sonntagsstern*, no. 23, 7 Jul 1940, n.p.; FHL Microfilm 25778, 1930/35 Census; IGI)

NOTES

1. Presiding Bishopric, "Financial, Statistical, and Historical Reports of Wards, Stakes, and Missions, 1884–1955," CR 4 12, 257.
2. East German Mission Quarterly Reports, 1938, no. 41, East German Mission History.
3. Ibid., no. 43.
4. Gerda Nägler Fischer, telephone interview with the author, June 2, 2007.

MAGDEBURG BRANCH

One of the most important venues in the Thirty Years' War (1618–48), the city of Magdeburg is located on the west bank of the Elbe River. The city survived the ravages of that terrible war and eventually became the capital of the Prussian province of Saxony. With a population of nearly three hundred thousand, it was the largest city for many miles in any direction.

The LDS Church had only a small branch in this large city. According to the official records of the East German Mission, there were only forty-three members in this branch at the end of the year 1939. It is interesting to note that there were fourteen adult males (age twelve and up) who did not have the priest-