

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-

hood; this constitutes thirty-three percent of the branch population.

Magdeburg Branch ¹	1939
Elders	2
Priests	2
Teachers	0
Deacons	1
Other Adult Males	14
Adult Females	22
Male Children	0
Female Children	2
<i>Total</i>	43

According to East German Mission records, the members of the Magdeburg Branch held their meetings in rooms rented at Blumenthalstrasse 11, about a half mile southeast of the city's main railroad station. It is not known just how many rooms were used by the branch or what they looked like.

Anton Larisch was working in Halberstadt (thirty miles to the southwest) and serving as the group leader there (the membership was not sufficient for branch status). In his diary entry of June 15, 1942, he mentioned that the group had acquired the pump organ "of the Magdeburger Branch, which has completely ceased to be."² There is no explanation regarding how the Magdeburg Branch population of forty-three in 1939 had decreased to zero four years later.

As of this writing, no eyewitnesses from the Magdeburg Branch could be located, nor could any biographical or autobiographical writings by members of that branch be found.

IN MEMORIAM

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

Minna Pauline Amalie — b. Sangerhausen, Sachsen, Preußen 3 Jul 1868; bp. 15 Sep 1936; m. Erdmann Adolf Hermann Koebel; d. Magdeburg

or Aschersleben, Sachsen, Preußen 7 Jun 1940 (*Sonntagsstern*, no. 23, 7 Jul 1940, n.p.)

Erdmann Adolf Hermann Koebel b. Benstedt, Halle, Sachsen, Preußen 1 Apr 1868; bp. 19 Dec 1932; m. Minna Pauline Amalie —; d. Aschersleben, Sachsen, Preußen 18 Sep 1942 (IGI)

NOTES

1. Presiding Bishopric, "Financial, Statistical, and Historical Reports of Wards, Stakes, and Missions, 1884–1955," CR 4 12, 257.
2. Anton Larisch, diary, June 15, 1942, 30; private collection; trans. Ruth Larisch Hinkel.

NAUMBURG BRANCH

Old, small, and historic, the city of Naumburg was the home to a very small branch of Latter-day Saints as World War II approached in 1939. With only twenty-seven members, the branch nevertheless had a place of its own at Grosse Marienstrasse 5–6. The rented rooms were located in the second Hinterhaus.

Naumburg Branch ¹	1939
Elders	0
Priests	0
Teachers	3
Deacons	1
Other Adult Males	3
Adult Females	17
Male Children	1
Female Children	2
<i>Total</i>	27

Gustav Mudrow was born in Kreuz in Pomerania. He was drafted and chose to serve in the German air force. Assigned to the central Luftwaffe headquarters on Wilhelmstrasse in Berlin, he became a member of the Schöneberg Branch. While in Berlin, he met and married Else Focker, a native of the capital city, in 1941.²