

Nuremberg, Bayern (FHL Microfilm 271380, 1935; AF; IGI; www.volksbund.de)

Gustav Emil Koenig b. Schöneck, Zwickau, Sachsen 1 Aug 1872; son of Friedrich August Koenig and Marie Louise Meyer; bp. 17 Jun 1910; ord. deacon 3 Sep 1914; m. Plauen, Zwickau, Sachsen 18 Jul 1896, Elisabeth Hirschmann; d. intestinal illness 21 or 27 Mar 1943 (L. C. Fassmann journal; IGI)

Reinhard Johannes Roeder b. Plauen, Zwickau, Sachsen 15 May 1919; son of Hans Fritz Roeder and Olga Selma Schmidt; bp. 25 Oct 1929; m. 22 Jan 1944; non-commissioned officer; k. in battle Monor, Romania 11 Nov 1944 (L. C. Fassmann journal; IGI; www.volksbund.de)

Gerhardt Paul Schieck b. Plauen, Zwickau, Sachsen 27 or 28 Oct 1910; son of Isidor Valentin Schieck and Johanna Georgine Spindler; bp. 19 Jan 1924; m. 27 Apr 1940, Elly Fischer; k. in battle 27 Jan 1945 (L. C. Fassmann journal; IGI)

Rosa Gertrud Schleicher b. Plauen, Zwickau, Sachsen 1 Dec 1900; dau. of Gotthardt Heinrich Schleicher and Anna Augusta Weiss; bp. 2 Sep 1911; m. 24 Dec 1924, — Gerstner; d. 6 Feb 1944 (L. C. Fassmann journal; IGI; FHL Microfilm 25773, 1930/35 Census)

Johanne Schleizer b. Plauen, Zwickau, Sachsen 23 Jan 1898; dau. of August Wartmann and Wilhelmine Schleizer; bp. 11 May 1911; m. 24 Feb 1923, — Wagner; k. in air raid 10 Apr 1945 (L. C. Fassmann journal; IGI; FHL Microfilm 245291, 1930/35 Census)

Wilhelmine Schleizer b. Pöhl, Zwickau, Sachsen 6 Feb 1870; dau. of August Schleizer and Wilhelmine; bp. 11 Mar 1911; m. 5 Apr 1895, — Wartmann; k. in air raid 10 Apr 1945 (L. C. Fassmann journal; FHL Microfilm 245294, 1930/35 Census; IGI)

Paul Werner Sorger b. Reichenbach, Zwickau, Sachsen 23 Dec 1911; son of Emil Otto Sorger and Martha Lina Keller; bp. 9 Jul 1930; k. in battle Eastern Front 1 Nov 1942 (L. C. Fassmann journal; IGI)

Anna Rosa Wolf b. Plauen, Zwickau, Sachsen 12 Aug 1909; dau. of Bruno Wolf and Martha Rosa Baumgaertel; bp. 31 Jul 1926; m. 25 Nov 1933, — Hölzel; k. air raid 6 Feb 1945 (L. C. Fassmann journal; FHL Microfilm 163788, 1935 Census)

NOTES

1. Presiding Bishopric, "Financial, Statistical, and Historical Reports of Wards, Stakes, and Missions, 1884–1955," CR 4 12, 257.
2. East German Mission History Quarterly Reports, 1938, no. 40, East German Mission History.
3. *Ibid.*, no. 47.
4. *Ibid.*, 1939, no. 53.

5. *Ibid.*, 1938, no. 43.
6. Louis Christian Fassmann, diary, 56; private collection.
7. Fritz Louis Fassmann, telephone interview with Jennifer Heckmann in German, May 2, 2008; unless otherwise noted, summarized in English by Judith Sartowski.
8. Ruth Pfund Adler, telephone interview with Judith Sartowski, March 5, 2008.
9. The SA (Sturmabteilung) was the arm of the Nazi Party for adult males.
10. Irmgard Fassmann Messina Schwarz, autobiography (unpublished); private collection.

SCHWARZENBERG BRANCH

The town of Schwarzenberg in Saxony is located eighteen miles southeast of Zwickau, seven miles north of the Czech border. In 1939, approximately seven thousand people lived in Schwarzenberg; fifty-one were members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Schwarzenberg Branch ¹	1939
Elders	2
Priests	1
Teachers	2
Deacons	1
Other Adult Males	11
Adult Females	33
Male Children	1
Female Children	0
<i>Total</i>	51

As of this writing, no eyewitnesses could be found, and thus no description of the branch, its meeting place, or its membership is available. The mission directory for September 1938 shows an address of Grünhainerstrasse 8, on the main floor of the first Hinterhaus of "Hecker's factory."

In the final months of the war, the rooms in which the Schwarzenberg Branch met were

confiscated; throngs of refugees pouring into the region needed housing, and the city government appropriated space wherever possible.²

No members of the Schwarzenberg Branch are known to have lost their lives in World War II.

NOTES

1. Presiding Bishopric, "Financial, Statistical, and Historical Reports of Wards, Stakes, and Missions, 1884–1955," CR 4 12, 257.
2. "Die Geschichte der Gemeinde Zwickau in Kurzfassung" (unpublished history); private collection.

WERDAU BRANCH

The city of Werdau, with its twenty-three thousand inhabitants, was home to a branch of the Latter-day Saints in 1939. The city is just six miles west of Zwickau.

Werdau Branch ¹	1939
Elders	4
Priests	3
Teachers	5
Deacons	5
Other Adult Males	10
Adult Females	52
Male Children	6
Female Children	5
<i>Total</i>	90

The Werdau Branch met throughout the war in rented rooms at Reichenbacherstrasse 22, rooms that were officially opened for Church use on March 5, 1939. On that occasion, seventy-six members of this and other branches in the district met for the celebration under the leadership of district president Walter Fassmann.²

Hannelore Ehrler (born 1930) recalled that the church location was right next to the railroad station and that the building had previously been used as a house of ill repute. As she explained years later, "We cleaned it up nicely, and to us it was our meetinghouse." Regarding the number of persons who attended, she said "When there were thirty, we thought we had a wonderful meeting."³

Marianne Suhrmann (born 1926) later described the Church facility as follows:

The rooms were on the ground floor in the main building. We had a really nice and large main room, and one or two classrooms. We had about 100 to 120 persons in attendance on a typical Sunday. Sunday School was at 10:00 A.M. and sacrament meeting at 4:00 P.M. [My family] walked about [two miles] one way to church. During the week, we had Beehives (Sister Sellner was our leader); all young women were Beehive Girls; the older ones were Golden Gleaners.⁴

The history of the East German Mission sheds significant light on the condition of the Werdau Branch when World War II approached:

Sunday, August 28, 1938: A very successful branch conference was held.⁵

Sunday, September 11, 1938: Recreation committees were formed in thirteen branches throughout the mission, including Werdau.⁶

Sunday, October 16, 1938: Members of the Zwickau, Werdau, and Wilkau[-Hasslau] branches made a trip by bus to Aschberg. A special meeting was held in Schwarzenberg in the morning and one in Plauen in the evening. Fifty percent of the members participated.⁷

Friday, March 3, 1939: A social was held in the Meerane Branch, Zwickau District. It was attended by members and friends of the Zwickau, Werdau, and Planitz branches. The sum of RM 10.00 was collected for the Meerane Branch Welfare Association.⁸