



Johannes Huber (1861–1941) was possibly the best-known member of the Church in Austria. From the time of his conversion at the turn of the century to his death in 1941, he and his family contributed greatly to the growth of the Church. Many of the Austrian Saints spent vacations and holidays on his farm near Haag.

WEIMAR DISTRICT

West German Mission



In the very center of 1939 Germany is what was known to Latter-day Saints as the Weimar District. Located as it was at the junction of the East and West German Missions, it was apparently the most convenient group of branches to move from the East German Mission to the West German Mission at the dawn of the year 1938. The following report is found in the history of the West German Mission: “Saturday, January 1, 1938: the entire Weimar District is transferred from the East German Mission to the West German Mission, including missionaries in Erfurt, Gotha, Weimar, Gera and Nordhausen.”¹

The reasons for the transfer are not provided in the mission history, but it is relatively certain that the move was made to bring the respective mission populations into closer balance. The district on the whole was also slightly closer geographically to Frankfurt than to Berlin.

The Weimar District consisted primarily of the territory of Thuringia in the south and a portion of Prussian Saxony to the north. The Church administrative units surrounding the Weimar District in 1939 were as follows: the Nuremberg District to the south, the Frankfurt District to the southwest, the Hanover District to the northwest, and the East German Mission to the northeast and east. Travel from Weimar to the other four branches

in the district was not difficult: Erfurt is thirteen miles to the west and Gotha twenty-six miles west; Nordhausen is forty-five miles to the northwest and Gera thirty-two miles directly east.

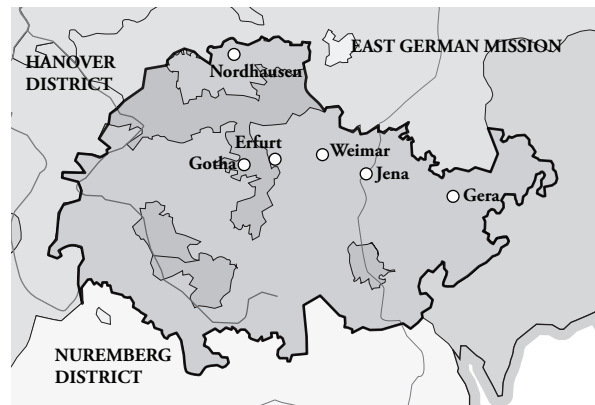


Fig. 1. The Weimar District was in the very heart of Germany.

That region of Germany was sparsely populated at the time. The largest city was Erfurt with 165,615, and no other city had more than one hundred thousand inhabitants.² The membership of the Weimar District at the end of the year 1939 was reported as 337, but no details are available for any of the five branches.³ Regarding the spiritual state of affairs among the members after the transfer, only one paragraph in the records of the West German Mission provides insight:

Sunday, October 9, 1938: On Saturday, October 8, and today the Weimar District conference was held in Gera under the direction of District President Elmer R. Tueller [US missionary]. The advance group of missionaries having just returned on October 4 [from Copenhagen], it was possible for President and Sister M. Douglas Wood and Elders Osmond L. Harline and J. Richard Barnes to be in attendance at this conference which was well attended and a most wonderful spirit prevailing.⁴

A similar report was filed five months later when the Saints of the Weimar District gathered in Erfurt for a conference: “Sunday, March 12, 1939: Weimar District conference in Erfurt. 515 attended. The meetings of this conference were especially interesting and the Saints received them in one of the most humble, eager and enthusiastic receptions of any conference for a long time.”⁵ The attendance of 515 is the equivalent of every member of every branch and one friend for every two members (153 percent of the official district membership). Because 100 percent attendance among members is not probable, the percentage of friends was high.

In the months just before the German invasion of Poland, most of the leaders of the Weimar District actually lived in Erfurt. American missionary Darrell Robins was the district president, and his counselors were Willy Brachmann and Karl Krummrich, both from Erfurt. Brother Brachmann was also responsible for the Sunday School, and Brother Krummrich for the YMMIA. Elly Schneider of Gera was the leader of the YWMIA, and Elsa Maiwald, also of Gera, guided the Primary organization. Elisabeth Köcher of the Weimar Branch was the president of the Relief Society.⁶

Willi Brachmann of Erfurt was asked to serve as district president after Elder Robins left Germany in August 1939. According to his own statement, Brachmann served in that capacity until the last months of the war. He did not explain why his tenure in that calling ceased at that time.⁷

Although the city of Weimar was the seat of the Church district, conferences were often held in

Erfurt. According to Ursula Schlevogt (born 1926), district gatherings were held in the Hinterhaus at Johannesstrasse 136 until too many of the leading men were drafted into military service.⁸

NOTES

1. West German Mission quarterly report, 1938, no. 4, CHL LR 10045 2.
2. Erfurt city archive.
3. Presiding Bishopric, “Financial, Statistical, and Historical Reports of Wards, Stakes, and Missions, 1884–1955,” 257, CR 4 12.
4. Weimar District quarterly report, 1938, no. 36, LR 9986, QR 1938:36.
5. West German Mission quarterly report, 1939, no.11, CHL LR 10045 2.
6. West German Mission branch directory, 1939, no. 11, CHL LR 10045.
7. Willi Brachmann to Walter E. Scoville, February 3, 1947, Walter E. Scoville, papers, CHL MS 18613.
8. Ursula Schlevogt Herold, interview by the author in German, Weimar, Germany, August 17, 2008; summarized in English by Judith Sartowski.

ERFURT BRANCH

Formerly a district capital in the Prussian province of Saxony, the city of Erfurt was the largest (165,615 inhabitants) and most important city in the region in 1939. Although no records regarding the population of the Erfurt Branch in that year have survived, the branch directory lists leaders for every organization but the Primary. It would appear that the branch had at least seventy-five members.

Karl Müller was the branch president, and his only counselor was Karl Krummrich. Willi Brachmann directed the Sunday School, Alexander Ludwig the YMMIA, and Ella Possner the YWMIA. Erna Brachmann was the Relief Society president, and Louis Trefflich was responsible for both *Der Stern* magazine and genealogical instruction in the branch.

Meetings of the Erfurt Branch were held in rented rooms in a Hinterhaus at Johannesstrasse 136. The

first meeting on Sunday was Sunday School at 10:00 a.m., and later a genealogy class began at 6:00 p.m. and sacrament meeting at 7:30 p.m. MIA met on Tuesdays at 8:00 p.m., and both the priesthood and Relief Society meetings took place on Thursdays at 8:00 p.m.

The daughter of the branch president, Margot Krummrich (born 1935), described the meeting rooms:

There was a large room on the main floor. On the [rostrum] stood the pump organ and the piano. The pulpit was also in the front. There were some pictures of Christ in the main room. There were also classrooms. During the war, we might have had four to ten people in the meetings. It was actually a large branch, but most of the members could not attend.¹

Just before the war began, Margot was hospitalized with diphtheria. At the point when she was almost paralyzed, a most remarkable thing occurred: her father wanted to give her a priesthood blessing but was not allowed to be in her room. He then stood outside the room and pronounced the blessing. She was healed by the next day.



Fig. 1. The Johannesstrasse in Erfurt as it looks today. (R. Freitag)

The history of the Erfurt Branch offers only one statement regarding the life of the Latter-day Saints in that city during World War II. Brigitte Loch explained, "During the war the members held meetings in various homes and taught and edified each other."²

Margot Krummrich had looked forward to being baptized in November 1944, but wartime conditions delayed the event until January 13, 1945. The baptism took place in a small pool in the local hospital. "It was cold," she recalled, but she was fortunate that her father, who was home on leave, could perform the ceremony.

The American army entered the region in April 1945. According to Margot, there was no fighting when they arrived. Shortly thereafter, the GIs left the region, and the Soviet occupation forces took over. She recalled that the Americans had conducted themselves fairly well among the locals, but the same could not be said of the Soviets later on: "They did not treat the women with any respect."

"My father was gone from home for about a year and a half, but he returned in May 1945," recalled Margot. The family had been evacuated to the town of Möbisburg (just five miles south of Erfurt) for a few months, but with Karl's return, they went home to their apartment at Johannesstrasse 131, just down the street from the branch rooms. The family's return was timely, because the branch was nearly evicted from the building. Margot explained the odd circumstances:

A family from the Cottbus Branch came to town and needed a place to stay. My father decided that they could live in one of the classrooms. But they wanted all the branch rooms, which we of course couldn't give them. The family then said that they would take our apartment if we moved somewhere else. We had a beautiful and large apartment. We then lived together for a while but that didn't work, so we left our apartment and moved into the Church meeting rooms. [The guest family] said that if we didn't give them our apartment, they would tell the housing authority that the branch rooms weren't being used and other people could move in. My father was quick to decide that we would move into the branch rooms.³

Thus the church meeting place was preserved, and the members of the branch began again to worship together. Their numbers increased as soldiers returned and evacuated members found their way

back to the city that had since lost many of its residential buildings to air raids.

Two years after the war, branch president Willi Brachmann wrote a letter to former missionary Walter E. Scoville, who was attempting to determine the status of LDS families in branches in which he had served just before the war. The following is an excerpt from that letter:

Well, the war is now over and it really took its toll. Even though we were never in favor of war, we too must pay the price. I lost my only son (Horst) in the last days of the war. He was 17½. Six young men of the Erfurt Branch were killed in battle. Alex Ludwig is still a POW of the French in Africa. Brother Wittmer spent 1½ years in prison. He had been sentenced to five years for helping American POWs to escape. I was assigned to be the president of the Weimar district and I served as such until just before the end of the war. All [*sic*] of our members made it through the war fairly well. After the war, we all began anew to do the work of the Lord.⁴

Brother Brachmann's letter was very optimistic. As a point of fact, the Erfurt Branch alone had lost six men in combat situations, and another eight members died at home.

IN MEMORIAM

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

Horst Brachmann b. Erfurt, Erfurt, Sachsen, 10 May 1927; son of Willi August Walter Brachmann and Erna Amalie Scharf; bp. 22 June 1935; conf. 23 June 1935; k. in battle 25 Mar 1945 (FHL microfilm 25728; 1930 census; FS)

Karl Eichler b. Erfurt, Erfurt, Sachsen, 15 Jul 1907; son of Wilhelm Wärtzburg and Elly Eichler; bp. 26 Jun 1920; conf. 26 Jun 1920; lance corporal; d. wounds at H. V. Pl. Sanko 432 at Friedland, Korfantow, Poland, 8 Feb 1945 (FHL microfilm 68808, no. 61; FHL microfilm 25760; 1935 census; www.volksbund.de; IGI)

Emma Therese Pauline Käferhaus b. Allstedt, Weimar, Sachsen-Coburg-Gotha 8 Oct 1874; dau. of Herrmann Käferhaus and Lütowine Reime; bp. 1 May 1924; conf. 1 May 1924; m. 24 Apr 1909, — Markhardt; d. old age 4 Dec 1941 (FHL microfilm

68808, no. 198; FHL microfilm 245226; 1930 and 1935 censuses)

Johannes Friedrich Koch b. Erfurt, Erfurt, Sachsen, 28 Apr 1916; son of Wilhelm Louis Koch and Anna Therese Hopfe; bp. 29 May 1925; conf. 29 May 1925; ord. deacon 7 Apr 1935; m. 19 Oct 1939, Ruth Tiehle; lance corporal; d. wounds in field hospital 161 at Babino 2 Jun 1942; bur. Sologubowka, St. Petersburg, Russia (FHL microfilm 68808, no. 129; FHL microfilm 271380; 1930 and 1935 censuses; www.volksbund.de; IGI)

Hulda Emilie Louise Krummrich b. Alach, Erfurt, Sachsen, 11 Mar 1869; dau. of Johann Friedrich Wilhelm Krummrich and Emilie Luise Eva Engelhardt; bp. 1 May 1924; conf. 1 May 1924; m. Hugo Weigand; 1 child; m. Alach 20 Aug 1893, Heinrich Friedrich Julius Gräfe; six children; d. old age Erfurt, Erfurt, Sachsen, 12 Mar 1945 (FHL microfilm 68808, no. 87; FHL microfilm 25776; 1930 and 1935 censuses; IGI; AF)

Therese Auguste Ortlepp b. Waltershausen, Gotha, Sachsen-Coburg-Gotha, 19 Apr 1862; dau. of Heinrich Wilhelm Ortlepp and Friederike Kutt or Cott; bp. 28 May 1927; conf. 28 May 1927; m. — Franz; d. old age 24 Nov 1942 (FHL microfilm 68808, no. 72; FHL microfilm 25769; 1935 census; IGI)

Adam Johann Reichert b. Erfurt, Erfurt, Sachsen, 27 Nov 1872; son of August Reichert and Mathilde Kühn; bp. 22 Sep 1920; conf. 22 Sep 1920; d. old age 16 Oct 1940 (FHL microfilm 68808, no. 421; FHL microfilm 271400; 1930 census)

Alfred Edmund Schumann b. Zorbau, Querfurt, Sachsen, 13 Mar 1871; son of Herrmann Schumann and Thekla Munkelt; bp. 1 May 1924; conf. 1 May 1924; d. bilious complaints 7 Dec 1941 (FHL microfilm 68808, no. 426; FHL microfilm 245260; 1930 and 1935 censuses)

Heinz Karl Stoll b. Erfurt, Erfurt, Sachsen, 18 Sep 1919; son of Karl Ernst Stoll and Minna Schröter; bp. 14 Jun 1930; conf. 14 Jun 1930; ord. deacon 3 Nov 1935; ord. teacher 23 Apr 1939; d. larynx cancer 9 Feb 1940 (FHL microfilm 68808, no. 365; FHL microfilm 245276; 1930 and 1935 censuses)

Walter Helmuth Stoll b. Erfurt, Erfurt, Sachsen, 1 Nov 1922; son of Karl Ernst Stoll and Minna Schröter; bp. 4 Jul 1931; conf. 5 Jul 1931; k. in battle Eastern Front 30 Jul 1943 (FHL microfilm 68808, no. 261; FHL microfilm 245276; 1930 and 1935 censuses)

Elsa Martha Stüllein b. Klosterfeldsdorf, Thüringen, 20 Jul 1883; dau. of Georg Stüllein and Emilie Braun; bp. 7 Sep 1908; conf. 7 Sep 1908; m. 19 Jan 1911, A. Ludwig; d. uterine cancer 6 Sep 1941 (FHL microfilm 68808, no. 174; FHL microfilm 271389, 1930 census)

Louis Hermann Trefflich b. Großhettstedt, Schwarzburg-Rudolstadt, 10 Aug 1870; son of Emma Treffliche; bp. 20 Feb 1934; conf. 20 Feb 1934; ord. deacon 9 Dec 1934; ord. teacher 3 Jan 1937; ord. priest 12 Dec 1937; ord. elder 13 Jul 1941; m. 23 Apr 1923, Friederike Christiane Sander; d. heart attack 7 Mar 1942 (FHL microfilm 68808, no. 431; FHL microfilm 245287; 1935 census)

Walter Paul Voigt b. Erfurt, Erfurt, Sachsen, 12 Nov 1920; son of Paul Karl Voigt and Frieda Verges; bp. 14 Jun 1930; conf. 14 Jun 1930; k. in battle 5 Jul 1944 (FHL microfilm 68808, no. 299; FHL microfilm 245291; 1930 and 1935 censuses)

Willi Carl Georg Voigt b. Erfurt, Erfurt, Sachsen, 28 Feb 1919; son of Paul Karl Voigt and Frieda Verges; bp. 2 Jan 1917; conf. 2 Jan 1917; m. 8 Jun 1942, Dorothea Schöne; k. in battle Eastern Front 28 Dec 1944 (FHL microfilm 68808, no. 297; FHL microfilm 245291; 1930 and 1935 censuses)

NOTES

1. Margot Krummrich Gurney, telephone interview by the author in German, July 10, 2007; summarized in English by Judith Sartowski.
2. *Jahre Gemeinde Erfurt* (2007), 23.
3. The name of the offending family is known, but there is no compelling reason to reveal that name here. Margot expressed no bitterness toward them. The incident simply serves as evidence that even Latter-day Saints can be selfish when under the stress of losing their homes. Margot stated that her family consisted of the parents and seven children at the time; it is not likely that the two branch rooms included a bath, so giving up their apartment to another family would have been a genuine sacrifice.
4. Willi Brachmann to Walter E. Scoville, February 3, 1947, Walter E. Scoville, papers, CHL MS 18613.

GERA BRANCH

The city of Gera is located on the main railroad route from Dresden in eastern Germany to Weimar, Erfurt, Eisenach, and Frankfurt to the west. In 1939, the city had a population of 81,931.¹ No report on the population and constitution of the Gera Branch of the Latter-day Saints was filed in the mission office at the end of 1939, but it can be assumed that the branch numbered fewer than fifty persons.

The branch president in July 1939 was American missionary Harold E. Kratzer. He was serving at the time without counselors. The Sunday School was directed by Hermann Kirst, and the YMMIA by Wilfred Wegener, also an American missionary. The YWMIA was not functioning then, but the Relief Society was led by Emma Zemisch, and the Primary by Else Maiwald. The *Stern* magazine representative was Lottie Sonntag, and the position of genealogical instructor was vacant.²

Sunday School was scheduled for 10:00 a.m., priesthood meeting for 11:30 p.m., and sacrament meeting for 8:00 p.m. The Relief Society members gathered on Tuesdays at 8:00 p.m. Both the Primary and MIA met on Thursdays, the former at 2:30 p.m. and the latter at 8:00 p.m. The meeting schedule shows an “entertainment” program scheduled for Saturdays at 8:00 p.m.

The branch meetings were held in rented rooms at Humboldtstrasse 25 in Gera. As of this writing, no description of the rooms is available. The only eyewitness report related to the Gera Branch comes from Elder Kratzer’s journal. He wrote that in August 1939, Elder Wegener was transferred and replaced by Elder Richard Glade.

On my birthday, August 23, 1939, the Kretchmar family invited my new companion, Elder Glade, and me to dinner. They lived in the outskirts of Gera. The family was more active than the father. He tolerated the missionaries, something was bothering him. He didn’t know how to cope with it. We couldn’t seem to help him. . . . We had a very delicious dinner. Most of all we had an interesting political discussion with Brother Kretchmar. He told us it was just a matter of time before Germany would be at war. He said a boy who has an overabundance of toys would start to play with them sooner or later. Hitler was that boy. When we left the Kretchmars, we were wondering when that would happen. As we stepped out of the door, we saw rows of double blue lights coming over the hill on the local Autobahn. Both lanes of the newly constructed super highways were full of war machines on their way to the Polish front. . . . It was sight to see. Something we had never seen before.³

Two days later, the missionaries received a telegram instructing them to leave immediately. According to Elder Kratzer, "We ordained Brother Kirst a priest the night before we left and made him the branch president. . . . There was no doubt in my mind that he was the right man for that responsibility. He accepted the call." The missionaries called a meeting of all members and did their best to contact every one of them personally.

The meeting took place on August 27 or 28. The missionaries ordained Hermann Kirst a priest in the presence of the entire branch, and then proposed that he be sustained as the branch president. (They had no authority to ordain him an elder.) There were no opposing votes, and as reported in Elder Kratzer's journal, "There wasn't a dry eye in those present. The die was cast. The Gera Branch had new leadership."

There is currently no way to know how well or how long Hermann Kirst carried out the duties of branch president in Gera. No eyewitness reports for the war years have been located. The city itself was subjected to punishment from the Allied forces. Twelve air raids were recorded during the war, and at least 548 civilians were killed. On April 14, 1945, when the American army arrived, 846 buildings with 1,118 apartments had been destroyed.⁴ It is likely that some Latter-day Saints of the Gera Branch were among those residents who lost their property.

IN MEMORIAM

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

Emilie Pauline Behr b. Crimla, Sachsen-Weimar-Eisenach, 13 Jun 1860; dau. of Karl Friedrich Behr and Emilie Augusta Thienemann; bp. 28 May 1907; conf. 28 May 1907; d. old age 7 Apr 1943 (FHL microfilm 68808, no. 47; FHL microfilm 25721; 1930 census; IGI)

Bertha Barbara Bernklau b. Regensburg, Oberpfalz, Bayern, 3 Sep 1864; dau. of Katherine Bernklau; bp. 25 Jul 1924; m. 11 Sep 1916; Ernst Timper; d. old

age 30 Apr 1940 (FHL microfilm 68808, no. 294; FHL microfilm 245286; 1930 and 1935 censuses)

Ernestine Böhme b. Falken, Mühlhausen, Sachsen, 16 Jan 1850; dau. of Franz Böhme and Erdmude Werbahn or Urban; bp. 6 May 1926; conf. 6 May 1926; m. 16 Jul 1872, Heinrich Böhme; d. old age 28 Jan 1940 (FHL microfilm 68808, no. 53; FHL microfilm 25726; 1930 census; IGI)

Pauline Karoline Boxhorn b. Lausnitz, Neustadt Orla, Sachsen-Weimar-Eisenach, 14 Nov 1865; dau. of Julius Boxhorn and Pauline Günther; bp. 8 Jun 1921; conf. 8 Jun 1921; m. 22 Dec 1904, Karl Kanis; d. old age 15 Mar 1944 (FHL microfilm 68808, no. 541; FHL microfilm 271376; 1930 and 1935 censuses)

Katharine Filbig b. Marktlegast, Bayern, 9 Oct 1866; dau. of Magerete Filbig; bp. 26 Jun 1926; conf. 26 Jun 1926; m. 4 Jan 1908, Hermann Schröder; d. old age 1944 (FHL microfilm 68808, no. 284; FHL microfilm 245258; 1930 and 1935 censuses; IGI)

Pauline Agnes Hempel b. Gera, Reuß, j. L., 6 Oct 1851; dau. of Karl Hempel and Emilie Dötz; bp. 25 Jul 1924; conf. 25 Jul 1924; m. 25 Aug 1874, Hermann Theilig; d. old age 21 Oct 1939 (FHL microfilm 68808, no. 295; FHL microfilm 245283; 1930 and 1935 censuses)

Erich Kütterer b. Leutzsch, Leipzig, Sachsen, 14 Mar 1910; son of Kurt Friedrich Kütterer and Wilhelmine Eggert; bp. 30 Oct 1920; conf. 30 Oct 1920; rifleman; k. near Cesena, Italy, 7 Nov 1944; bur. Futa-Pass, Italy (FHL microfilm 68808, no. 147; www.volksbund.de; CHL 2458, form 42 FP, pt. 37, 138–39; FHL microfilm 271382; 1935 census; IGI)

Minna Anna Schubert b. Roda, Sachsen-Altenburg, 2 Sep 1881; dau. of Friedrich Karl Schubert and Emilie Pfan; bp. 20 Feb 1926; conf. 20 Feb 1926; m. 24 Oct 1905, Otto Brauer; d. accident 8 Jun 1943 (FHL microfilm 68808, No. 52; FHL microfilm No. 25728 1930 census; IGI)

Sophie Henriette Süssengut b. Lobenstein, Reuß, i. L., 2 Mar 1864; dau. of Ernestine Süssengut; bp. 6 May 1926; conf. 6 May 1926; m. 24 Oct 1886, Adolf Schade; d. old age 1944 (FHL microfilm 68808, no. 282)

NOTES

1. Gera city archive.
2. West German Mission branch directory, 1939, CHL LR 10045 11.
3. Harold Eugene Kratzer, journal, 1937–39, CHL MS 19552.
4. Gera city archive.



Fig. 1. This photograph was taken when missionary Erma Rosenhan visited the Gotha Branch in June 1939. The adults in the back row are (from left) Sister Walter, Sister and Brother Meissinger, Sister Schindler, and Sister Rosenhan. (E. Rosenhan)

GOTHA BRANCH

The city of Gotha in the state of Thuringia had a population of 51,995 when World War II began in September 1939. It is not known how many of those inhabitants were Latter-day Saints, because the necessary reports were not submitted to the mission office at the end of that year.

Meetings were held in rented rooms at Hünerdorfstrasse 9 in Gotha. The Saints in that city met formally only on Sundays, holding Sunday School at 10:00 a.m. and sacrament meeting at 11:00. The branch directory for July 1939 lists only one leader: American missionary T. Frank Swallow as the branch president.¹

Karl Heimburg (born 1924) and his family were members of the Gotha Branch until they moved

to Frankfurt in 1938. He recalled the following about the meeting rooms in Gotha: “We met [in 1938] at Hünersdorfstrasse in a Hinterhaus. There was a big room which was our chapel, and we had some smaller rooms for the different classes of the Sunday School.”²

The only information available about the Gotha Branch at that time is taken from the missionary diary of Erma Rosenhan of Salt Lake City: “Sunday, June 4: Walked from Siebleben to Gotha to attend Sunday School. There were 4 grownups and about 4 children, Bro. Swallow from Erfurt and myself. Bro. and Sis. Meissinger knew father and Sis. Meissinger knew mother. . . . She seems to be a devout Mormon.”³

Because no eyewitnesses or eyewitness testimony could be found at the time of this writing, the fate of the members of the LDS Gotha Branch during World War II is not known.

IN MEMORIAM

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

Franz Stephan Gothe b. Mühlhausen, Sachsen, 10 Mar 1889; son of Christian Gothe and Johanne Genzel; d. 17 Aug 1944 (CHL CR 375 8, no. 2458, 856–57)

Frieda Rose Montag b. Wandersleben, Erfurt, Sachsen, 22 Dec 1903; dau. of Paul Montag and Therese Pachtner; bp. 2 Apr 1927; conf. 2 Apr 1927; m. 8 Jun 1927, Karl August Hering; d. tuberculosis 1 Dec 1940 (FHL microfilm 68808, no. 399; FHL microfilm no. 162782; 1930 and 1935 censuses)

NOTES

1. West German Mission branch directory, 1939, CHL CR 10045 11.
2. Karl Ernst Heimburg, interview by the author, Sacramento, California, October 24, 2006.
3. Erma Rosenhan, papers, CHL MS 16190. Sister Rosenhan had received permission from the mission president to visit the area in order to gather genealogical information about her ancestors. (Siebleben is only one mile east of Gotha.) Her parents had grown up there but had since immigrated to Salt Lake City.

NORDHAUSEN BRANCH

Perhaps the most isolated of the Latter-day Saint branches in the Weimar District was the branch in Nordhausen. The city is located in the Harz Mountains at a point almost as close to the Hanover District as to the Weimar District.

Clark Hillam, a missionary from Brigham City, Utah, was assigned to work in Nordhausen in early 1938. He had the following recollections:

On a given Sunday, we would have quite a few visitors and about twenty-five people total. Sister Kopp, who was a nonmember, played the organ for us. It was a pump organ. In this branch, we met in the mornings and then again in the evenings. Sunday School was held during the morning hours, and then everybody came back for sacrament meeting in the evening. I remember having Primary and Relief

Society during the week, but as I can recall we didn't have MIA. There were mostly adults in this branch but also a few children. During sacrament meeting, we usually only had adults attending.¹

A year later, the branch president was an American missionary, Louis J. Haws. The only other persons listed in the branch leadership directory in July 1939 were Maria Hoffmann as secretary of the Sunday School, and Maria Helene Schirmer and Augusta Ortlieb as the leaders of the Primary organization.² The meeting schedule showed only Sunday School at 10:30 a.m. and sacrament meeting at 7:00 p.m., with the Primary meeting on Thursdays at 3:00 p.m.

Agnes Fuchs (born 1928) recalled the branch in the early years of the war: "There would have been eight to ten adults in the meetings. We also had many children—sometimes even twenty (many of whom were not members). I liked that atmosphere. Brother [Karl] Brachmann from Erfurt was responsible for us. We really didn't have any [Nordhausen] men in the branch."³

In May 1938, the missionaries had been able to find a relatively nice place for the branch to hold its meetings. Clark Hillam and his companion had secured the new meeting rooms: "We moved from an older building to a newer one, essentially a pub. The missionaries were responsible to find the new building. I was so heartsick because I wanted to be there for the first meeting in the new meeting rooms. I had worked so hard to find those rooms, and they transferred me the day before the first meeting."

Regarding the meeting rooms, Agnes Fuchs recalled the following: "We also had a piano on which we could play some hymns. Most of the



Fig. 1. Clark Hillam took this picture of missionaries and a friend moving chairs into the new meeting rooms at Waisenstrasse 5 in May 1938. (C. Hillam)

members could not play, so we just sang without the accompaniment. We did not have any pictures or decoration on the wall. If we wanted to use some pictures, we would bring them and take them home after we were done.”



Fig. 2. Members of the Nordhausen Branch celebrating Easter in 1938. (C. Hillam)

Agnes recalled her fondness for Sisters Ortlieb and Schirmer, essentially the only adults who consistently attended church meetings during the war. They held gatherings in their homes on occasion and were always surrounded by numerous children.



Fig. 3. Missionaries and branch members cleaned the meeting rooms at Waisenstrasse 5 before the chairs were delivered in May 1938. The branch met there throughout the war years. (C. Hillam)

A young teenager during the war, Agnes was one of a generation of German historians would later call the *Jugend ohne Jugend* (youth without a youth). The typical activities common among children and

adolescents were simply not available very often under wartime conditions: “We could do things like going to the movies, but often those activities were interrupted by air raids, and we had to find the nearest shelter. That is what made it less fun for us, so we decided to stay home most of the time. We had our friends from school also, but most importantly we had each other as siblings.” Her siblings still at home during the war were Horst, Hermann, and Linda. The two boys were drafted in the later war years, as was their father, Emil Fuchs, who was not a member of the Church. He was employed in a local tobacco factory and was drafted despite his age (he was born in 1901). The family believed that his draft notice had come as a result of the fact that Emil had refused to join the Nazi Party.

Just two miles northwest of Nordhausen was a large underground aircraft factory called Dora.⁴ Once the Allies learned of its existence, they made many attempts to destroy it, and the resulting air raids caused great damage in nearby Nordhausen. As Agnes recalled:

Nordhausen suffered from three air raids, of which two were very severe. I was nearly killed during one of them. I was asked to go [from Dora] into the city to get some medical records, and then the sirens sounded. I knew that I had to go into the shelter whenever we heard the sirens. But because nothing had happened before when we heard them, I continued my walk toward the downtown. I thought I would be back by the time the alarm was over. On my way, the [air-raid wardens] grabbed me and told me to go back into the basement immediately. I did not want to listen and started walking another way. But they still found me and made sure that I went home to be in the basement with my mother and siblings. That was one of the two large attacks on Nordhausen. Had I not gone back into the basement, something serious might have happened to me. In order to get the medical records, I would have had to go to the city center, where the largest destruction took place. Nothing stood anymore at the end of that attack. That was in April 1944.

Agnes was indeed fortunate. Her family lived on the outskirts of town in a neighborhood that was

not seriously damaged. She recalled that bombs landed in front of and behind her home but left no more damage than broken windows. Her home was still standing when the war ended: “Our basement was officially designated an air-raid shelter, but it was not at all safe. It was not built especially for air raids in any way. It would have protected us against shrapnel at best. All in all, we were very blessed so many times.”

The city of Nordhausen was not as fortunate in general. According to official records, seventy-five percent of the structures were destroyed. At least 8,800 people (among a prewar population of 42,316) were killed during the night of April 3–4, 1945, alone. The city suffered a total of thirteen attacks.⁵

Emil Fuchs was killed in Hungary in 1944.⁶ Back at home, his widow, Gertrud, did her best to protect her daughters as Hitler’s Third Reich came crashing down around them. When the American army approached Nordhausen in April 1945, Frau Fuchs and her daughters joined many Nordhausen residents who heeded the recommendation of the mayor to take shelter in the underground facility called the *Felsenkeller*. There was no significant fighting when the city was invaded. Agnes recalled the day when the mayor of the city announced that it was safe to leave the shelter and return to their homes:

One day, we heard that we were able to go home, so we put my mom [who was a sickly woman] on the handcart again and went home. We found our home in a little bit of a mess because people had looked through everything, but we were so glad to finally be home again. Some of our things were gone, and that might have been because people tried to look for things to exchange for food.⁷

Although Emil Fuchs did not survive the war, his sons Horst and Hermann returned to their mother and their sisters unscathed. The family apartment was intact, and life could begin again for them and the other survivors of the Nordhausen Branch. The American invaders had been replaced by Soviet occupation forces, but even that would be

tolerated with time. Fortunately the meeting rooms at Waisenstrasse 5 had also survived the war and continued to serve as the home of this very small group of Saints.

No members of the Nordhausen Branch are known to have died during World War II.

NOTES

1. Clark Hiram, interview by the author, Brigham City, UT, August 20, 2006.
2. West German Mission branch directory, 1939, CHL LR 10045 11.
3. Agnes Fuchs Richter, telephone interview with the author in German, April 29, 2009; summarized in English by Judith Sartowski.
4. Readers may recognize the name by association with the concentration camp Dora-Mittelbau, which was established close to the factory. Many camp inmates worked in the aircraft factory, but of course they were not free to go to Nordhausen.
5. Nordhausen city archive.
6. Emil had not been baptized into the Church. His wife, Gertrud, joined the Church after the war.
7. Some of those people may have been inmates of the concentration camp at Dora-Mittelbau; they escaped or were released when the Americans entered the area.

WEIMAR BRANCH

Two of Germany’s greatest literary men, Johann Wolfgang von Goethe and Friedrich Schiller, once lived in Weimar, and their legacy has given this small Thuringian city the air of intellectual greatness since then. It was that sense of intellectual greatness that prompted the German government to move the parliament from Berlin to Weimar in 1920 when the capital was besieged by revolutionaries (hence the name “Weimar Republic” for the German state from 1920 to 1933).

The branch of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Weimar might have numbered one hundred members in 1939, but no records have survived to establish the population. It is known that the branch held its meetings in the building at Seminarstrasse 4 downtown.¹ Katharina Dietrich

(born 1922) recalled the setting as a Hinterhaus: “There was a factory on the bottom floor. It was fine inside [our rooms]. It looked well maintained, and there was a pump organ and French-style chairs. There were about thirty or forty persons in attendance—maybe even more if you counted all of the children.”²

Ruth Schlevogt (born 1926) added the following to the description of the branch rooms: “When we separated for class, we closed the curtain in the large hall and could hold two classes in the same room. There was another church congregation next door to us, but we never bothered each other.”³ Ruth’s twin sister, Ursula, recalled that the neighbors were Adventists and that the restrooms for the branch members were outside.⁴

The family of Fritz and Alma Schlevogt lived nearly three miles away on the eastern outskirts of Weimar. They walked to church in the morning, then home for lunch, then back to town for sacrament meeting. They carried a lantern while walking in the dark and made it to church “in all kinds of weather,” according to Ruth. “We did not miss our meetings.” Ursula stated that many of the branch members lived in the suburbs rather than the center of Weimar.

In the months immediately prior to the outbreak of war, the president of the Weimar Branch was missionary Ellis Rasmussen of Redmond, Utah. His counselors were Karl Wolff and Fritz Schlevogt. The former was also the leader of the Sunday School, and the latter the leader of the YMMIA. Klara Margarete Hess directed the YWMIA, and Elisabeth Köcher the Relief Society. There was no Primary organization at the time.

The Weimar Branch meeting schedule was a modest one, with only two meetings on Sunday: Sunday School at 10:00 a.m. and sacrament

meeting at 8:00 p.m. The Relief Society sisters met on Thursdays at 8:00, and the MIA met on Tuesdays at 8:00 p.m., after which an entertainment gathering was scheduled.

Whereas the number of persons attending meetings in 1939 can only be estimated, there is some information available about who attended. Elder Rasmussen recorded in his journal the names of families represented on a typical Sunday by at least two members each: Barth, Blietz, Dempe, Dietrich, Fernstädt, Hess, Hönig, Köcher, Köhler, Rauch, Schlevogt, Semmler, Steinbrück, Thiemann, and Wolff.⁵

Walter Horn, an elder in the Weimar Branch, had what his daughter Evelyn (born 1932) described as a “horrific experience” one evening as he walked home from a meeting:

It was dark, and he was walking home to where we lived, a little bit outside of Weimar, and he ran into a transport of Jews who were herded from the railway station and pushed and shoved onto big trucks. He said they were all ages—young, older children, older, really old people. And when he came home his face was as white as a sheet, and he was shaking. It was a horrible, horrible experience to see that, because outside of Weimar there was Buchenwald, the concentration camp. It was still secret, so they did their transports late at night so that nobody would see it.⁶

Ursula Schlevogt explained that while the people of Weimar knew of a prison camp at Buchenwald, they assumed that the inmates were average criminals who had committed offenses against the system. She noted, “We knew it was a place where nasty things happened. Sometimes we even saw workers [from the camp] in the streets, and people secretly gave them food. We never went to Buchenwald.”⁷

With a negative attitude toward the government, Walter Horn was not interested in joining the Nazi Party. When a high-ranking party member pressured him to do so in early 1939, he responded by finding employment in Goslar, a town some eighty miles to the northwest. He moved his family there



Fig. 1. The main meeting hall of the Weimar Branch decorated for Mother's Day 1938. (E. Horn Pruess)



Fig. 2. Members of the Weimar Branch on an outing in 1938. (E. Horn Pruess)

and survived the war in relative peace. He had successfully outrun the long arm of the party.⁸

When Elder Rasmussen was instructed to leave Weimar for Copenhagen, Denmark, on August 26, 1939, he may not have designated any of the local brethren as leader of the branch. According to Katharina Dietrich, the branch was not able to hold meetings for very long after the war started. The members were instructed to travel to Erfurt (twenty-five miles to the west) and attend meetings there. Initially, that was no major difficulty, but it became increasingly difficult as the war continued.

"We never had any disturbances while holding our meetings," recalled Helmut Wolff (born 1926). However, the same could not be said of the Jehovah's Witnesses who met upstairs. "We had seen how they were banned in 1937." Helmut also recalled that the meetings were discontinued just after the war began. He was fourteen by then and did not attend any more church meetings before leaving his hometown in 1943.⁹

Otto Dietrich, a veteran of the Great War, was a member of the Stahlhelm Party, a conservative group of veterans not appreciated by Adolf Hitler. Brother Dietrich was thus not free with his political opinions during the years of the Third Reich. He and others recognized that war was imminent when the American missionaries left Germany.

Katharina Dietrich said, "We had to be careful after the war started; you couldn't show your sympathies for America." The Dietrich family had maintained contact with a great aunt who had immigrated to Salt Lake City, but the correspondence between the two families ended when Germany and the United States exchanged declarations of war after Pearl Harbor in December 1941. The isolation from the Church increased with decreasing opportunities to travel to Erfurt for church meetings.

A dental office employee in 1939, Katharina was admitted to a dental school in Dresden and left home to study in that famous city. It was there that she met the brother of a classmate and fell in love



Fig. 3. Another outing of the Weimar Branch in the spring of 1938. (E. Horn Pruess)

with him. He had been wounded in Russia and was home on recuperative leave. Raised in the Lutheran Church, he was what she called “very religious,” and she married him. During the last years of the war, Katharina was a mother and was concerned both about her child and the status of her soldier husband.

Alma Schlevogt was not enthusiastic about Hitler’s government and staunchly refused to greet people with the expected “Heil Hitler!” Her daughter Ruth recalled that “people used to say that if she didn’t say ‘Heil Hitler!’ she would eventually be arrested.” When it came time for Ruth to join the Jungvolk, her parents declined to give her permission to attend the meetings. There were no negative repercussions. Regarding politics in church, Ursula Schlevogt recalled that whereas nobody prayed for Adolf Hitler in the meetings, they did pray for their branch members serving in the military.

After finishing public school, Ruth was employed as a salesperson at Hekra-Hepprich in downtown Weimar. She rode her bicycle to work every day. That was no challenge, except when air raids caused damage to the downtown and she was forced to make long detours on her way back home. When the sirens sounded, Ruth found her way to the basement of the company’s warehouse. In her recollection, the branch meeting rooms were not destroyed, nor was her home damaged, but the beautiful city theater was destroyed.

Regarding the life of the young people of the Weimar Branch, Ruth Schlevogt made the following comment:

I cannot say that all the things we did during the war were very serious. We found a way to have fun. There were many members who were willing to meet in the evenings so that we could play

games. I had my friend with whom I could do many things. I also had friends from outside the Church. We didn't always just think about the war—it was not always that serious in our area.

In 1943, Helmut Wolf was drafted into the Reichsarbeitsdienst. A veteran of the Jungvolk, he had managed to avoid joining the Hitler Youth, but service in the national labor force was inevitable. His father, Karl, was already away from home, serving in Lithuania with the construction corps known as the *Organisation Todt*. By the time Helmut finished with the labor force, he knew that a summons to the army would arrive soon. He chose to enlist in the Waffen-SS instead, preferring to exercise some degree of choice in his military assignment. He was to experience a nomadic career, being trained in Poland before serving in France, Belgium, Luxembourg, Germany, Austria, and Czechoslovakia. He recalled, "I traveled a lot but didn't fight much."

A call to the national labor force arrived in the Schlevogt mail box in March 1944, and Ursula soon found herself on a train bound for Czechoslovakia. For the next six months, she worked on a farm in Moravia: "In the morning, we went to the farm to help and usually spent the entire day there until we went back to our bedrooms at night. We slept in sheds and wore uniforms." In October, Ursula and her friends were transferred to Prague, the capital of occupied Czechoslovakia, where she was assigned to an office. Regarding her experiences there, she said:

We didn't have to wear a uniform this time and slept in a school. My job was to inspect all the armaments. We lived in the Mariankerschule, which was located a little on the border of the city. There were many young women with whom I could go to work and back to the school. I even had contact with the Church while I was in Prague. I wrote to Frankfurt, and they mailed me the address of a meetingplace in Prague. It was a small group, and I always went whenever I had my Sundays off. We met in the city center of Prague in the homes of members. The leader of the district there even gave me some books to

read. During the night, there were always men who protected us while we were sleeping. They stayed outside of the school and took care of us.

By the last year of the war, meetings at Seminarstrasse 4 apparently had been discontinued. Eyewitnesses were not able to explain the change, because the building was still standing. Some at least recalled holding meetings in the apartments of various branch members.

Helmut Wolff's Waffen-SS unit was sent from the Eastern Front to an area near Paris in 1944, but arrived too late to keep the Allies out of the French capital. A few months later, he participated in the Battle of the Bulge in Belgium and Luxembourg. Surviving a direct hit on his tank there, he was next sent toward Berlin to help save the Reich's capital city from the advancing Red Army. At the last moment, another transfer sent his unit to Austria and then on to Hungary. When the war ended for Helmut in April 1945, his unit was somewhere in Austria near the Czechoslovakian border—directly between the Soviets and the Americans. "Our only goal was to get home as soon as possible," Helmut explained. "We left everything behind and walked through fields. Soon we crossed paths with some American soldiers, and that was the end of our trip home." As a POW, Helmut was shipped to France and eventually "sold" by the Americans to the French government.

"At the end of March 1945, we were released [from the Reichsarbeitsdienst] just barely before the war ended," recalled Ursula Schlevogt. After a two-day trip back to Weimar through the ashes of firebombed Dresden, she found that just a few of the Saints were still meeting but only on Sundays. The sole priesthood holder left in the city was old Brother Köhler. Fritz Schlevogt had been away in military service but was transferred to Weimar, where he worked in a hospital in the final months of the war. He was not free on Sundays.

Ruth Schlevogt described the arrival of the Americans in Weimar:

I remember watching them when they walked down the street. We were so excited that the war was finally over and we were not afraid of the Americans. They were very nice to us, didn't take away our property, and even gave candy to the children. They had orders to not have contact with the Germans because all of us were considered to be Nazis. We didn't hang out anything white. They also didn't shoot at us.

As the American army approached Weimar from the west and the Red Army from the east, Elise Dietrich decided to take her youngest children and move west toward the Americans. Daughter Katharina joined the group with her own infant. They had wanted to travel with the last train headed in that direction but were too late and had to walk. Their destination was Kumberg, about twenty miles distant. Along the way, they encountered long lines of German soldiers retreating from the advancing GIs. Many were wounded, and some were trying hurriedly to exchange their uniforms for civilian clothing.

"About halfway to Kumbach, a wheel on my baby carriage broke. We couldn't fix it, so I continued on three wheels," explained Katharina. On several occasions, American fighter planes swooped down to attack the soldiers and civilians, and Katharina's party took refuge in the brush by the road. They escaped harm, but her youngest sister (approximately the age of Katharina's own daughter) contracted measles along the way. With no available medical assistance, the little girl died after two weeks. Katharina had additional reasons to be discouraged, for she had not heard from her own husband since January. As it turned out, he had been captured by the Americans in Italy.

Shortly after the end of the war, Katharina and her mother, Elise Dietrich, returned with their children to their home on the outskirts of Weimar and found that it had not been seriously damaged. To their surprise and delight, Katharina's husband soon showed up, having been released from an American POW camp.

In one of the countless tragedies of the long war, two boys of the Weimar Branch became some of

the last victims. On Mother's Day 1945, Karl Heinz Wolff (born 1931) and his brother Gerhard (born 1935) were searching for flowers for their mother in a forest near Weimar. One of them stepped on a mine hidden there by the invading American army, and both boys were killed instantly. According to Helmut Wolff, the death of his brothers was nearly too much for his mother to handle, coming as it did at a time when the whereabouts of Sister Wolff's husband and an older son were still a mystery. As far as she was concerned, they too might be dead.

On July 1, 1945, the Thuringian territory of eastern Germany was transferred from the Americans to the Soviets in accordance with Allied stipulations. The peaceful times of the American occupation were over, as Ruth Schlevogt recalled, "When the Russians came into Weimar, they came into our store and destroyed everything. It was horrible behavior." The residents of Weimar may have thought that the war was over by then. Regarding the revelations of Nazi atrocities in extermination camps in Poland and concentration camps in Germany, Ruth, like many other German civilians, claimed that she had no idea what was going on in camps such as Buchenwald.

Helmut Wolff had survived the war, but captivity among the French was no particular pleasure for him. However, with time, his existence there became more tolerable, and he eventually met and fell in love with a sweet French girl. He received permission to marry her in November 1948 and decided not to return to Germany. By then, he had established correspondence with his parents (his father had indeed survived) and told them that they would not see him again soon. Regarding his status as a member of the Church during the war, Helmut observed:

When I was a soldier, I never met another member of the Church, not even while I was a captive of the Americans. I was also not able to attend any meetings of the Church anywhere. As soon as I left home, I seemed to have danger around me constantly. I was so glad and grateful that I always made it through. Many things happened that cannot logically be explained, but I believe that Heavenly Father protected me in many situations.

According to Ursula Schlevogt, regular church meetings resumed in Weimar after her father Fritz came home in the early summer of 1945. The building used by the church at the beginning of the war still stood but was in very poor condition.

IN MEMORIAM:

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

Klara Margaretha —; m. — Hess; k. air raid Weimar, Thüringen, 1944 (Ursula Schlevogt)

Gertrude Dietrich b. about Jun 1944; dau. of Max Karl Otto Dietrich and Hewig Isa Else Stock; d. measles Thüringen, Apr 1945 (K. Dietrich Voigt)

Rolf Herbert Heinz Dietrich b. Weimar, Sachsen-Weimar-Eisenach, 1 Apr 1925; son of Max Karl Otto Dietrich and Hewig Isa Else Stock; bp.; conf.; ord. deacon; corporal; d. 10 April 1944; bur. Andilly, France (FHL microfilm no. 25755, 1930 census; www.volksbund.de; IGI)

Selma Bertha Anna Eberitsch b. Beutelsdorf, Sachsen-Altenburg, 8 May 1870; dau. of Johann Friedrich Eberitsch and Christiana Schrak; bp. 27 Aug 1929; conf. 27 Aug 1929; m. — Barth; d. pneumonia 18 Dec 1940 (FHL microfilm 68808, no. 465; FHL microfilm no. 25718, 1930 census)

Elisabeth Maria Magdalene Gäbler b. Leipzig, Sachsen, 27 Jul 1893; dau. of Gottlieb Bernhard Gäbler and Augusta Goldhorn; bp. 6 Dec 1931; conf. 6 Dec 1931; m. 5 Oct 1918, Karl Becker; k. in air raid 27 Nov 1944 (FHL microfilm 68808, no. 627)

Minne Else Hasse b. Weimar, Sachsen-Weimar-Eisenach, 21 Nov 1876; dau. of Anthon Hasse and Emma Mayberg; bp. 31 Mar 1927; conf. 31 Mar 1927; m. August or Gustav Bruno Rauch; d. heart condition 19 Feb 1941 (FHL microfilm 68808, no. 230; FHL microfilm 271399, 1930 and 1935 censuses)

Olga Friedricke Kirschner b. Hyn [?], Fieselbach [?], Germany, 18 Apr 1863; dau. of Theodor Kirschner and Louise Ginozel; bp. 25 May 1921; conf. 25 May 1921; m. — Schulze; d. old age 3 Dec 1941 (FHL microfilm 68808, no. 246)

Maria Emma Knopf b. Schönborn, Germany, 30 Jun 1863; dau. of Karl Knopf and Wilhelmine Bergner; bp. 27 Mar 1910; conf. 27 Mar 1910; m. 7 Jul 1889; Hermann Neudorf or Neundorf; d. old age 30 Mar 1943 (FHL microfilm 68808, no. 216)

Marie Helene Kolba b. Ohrdruf, Sachsen-Coburg-Gotha, 26 Apr 1889; dau. of Hugo Kolba and Helene Roth; bp. 11 Jul 1936; conf. 11 Jul 1936; m. — Walter;

d. gall stone surgery 8 Apr 1944 (FHL microfilm 68808, no. 454)

Maria Antonia Rumel or Rummel b. Hohenlaum [?], Weida, Sachsen-Weimar-Eisenach, 13 Feb or Mar 1855; dau. of Christian Rumel and Ernestine Diebler; bp. 25 Jul 1924; conf. 25 Jul 1924; m. 23 Sep 1915, Christian Friedrich Buchner; d. old age 10 Feb 1945 (FHL microfilm 68808, no. 48; IGI)

Werner Semmler b. Weimar, Sachsen-Weimar-Eisenach, 2 Jan 1924; son of Otto Semmler and Helene Spiegler; private; k. 10 Apr 1945 (CHL CR 375 8 #2459, 1146–47; volksbund.de)

Paul Peter Welzel b. Neustadt, Schlesien, 21 Sep 1919; son of Paul Peter Welzel and Hedwig Anna Krebs; bp. 15 Jun 1929; conf. 15 Jun 1929; k. in battle 27 Jun 1941 (FHL microfilm 68808, no. 553)

Gerhard Wolff b. Oberweimar, Sachsen-Weimar-Eisenach, Thüringen 6 August 1935; son of Karl Herman Wolff and Klara Marie Gumpert; k. by land mine Weimar, Thüringen, 21 May 1945 (H. Wolff; FS)

Karl Heinz Wolff b. Oberweimar, Sachsen-Weimar-Eisenach, 9 February 1931; son of Karl Herman Wolff and Klara Marie Gumpert; bp. 13 May 1940; conf. 13 May 1940; k. by land mine Weimar, Thüringen, 21 May 1945 (H. Wolff; FS)

NOTES

1. West German Mission branch directory, 1939, CHL LR 10045 11. The postwar address of the building was on Gropiusstrasse; the structure was razed in 1978, according to a report from the city office dated July 31, 2008.
2. Katie Dietrich Voigt, telephone interview with Jennifer Heckmann, October 24, 2008.
3. Ruth Schlevogt Bode, interview by the author in German, Erfurt, Germany, August 17, 2008; unless otherwise noted, summarized in English by Judith Sartowski.
4. Ursula Schlevogt Herold, interview by the author in German, Weimar, Germany, August 17, 2008.
5. Ellis T. Rasmussen, journal (unpublished); private collection.
6. Evelyn Horn Pruess, interview by the author, Salt Lake City, December 1, 2006. The Buchenwald concentration camp was located just four miles northwest of the city, but a small mountain stood between the two and helped conceal the former from the latter.
7. Apparently the Schlevogt family members were not among the Weimar residents forced by American soldiers to walk up the hill to Buchenwald to view the camp after its liberation and before many of the bodies of inmates had been removed.
8. The Goslar Group chapter features the interesting story of the Horn family.
9. Helmut Wolff, telephone interview with the author in German, January 14, 2009.