



14 days **in** **41**

Jerry Holsopple

November 30

Riga. The Rumbula Forest is packed with gunshots, bodies are being pushed into pits on the first day of two required for clearing out the Riga Ghetto which housed more than 25,000 Jews. More were on their way from other German lands and the space was needed. In 2018, I slowly scanned the wall of names.

I had toured with students before and I was just reading the names like a slow meditation about the real people who came through this place, mostly on the way to death. Then it happened I noticed three women from Kassel Germany with my surname, **Holzapfel**. Later I would find three more at the Riga ghetto with the surname. This exhibit is the result of my search through archives, online repositories and lists to tell a fraction of their story.

November 30 was just one more bloody Sunday, where Christians were killing others who weren't like them.



remembrance wall in Vienna

Holzapfel

Vienna. Mann (Israel) and **Sara** Holzapfel, residents of Vienna receive emigration papers, dated December 1, with all the necessary stamps and permissions to go on a journey. **Mann** and **Sara** were both born in what is now Poland, **Mann** in Tarnow and **Sara** in Krakow. Vienna, where their three children were born, had been their home for most of their lives. Now they were being forced to leave.

With the enactment of the Ordinance on the Registration of Jewish Property in April 1938 all persons who were considered Jewish, pursuant to the Nuremberg Laws of 1935, had to individually register their domestic and foreign assets and that of their family members living in a shared household. This included even Jews who converted to Christianity along with non-Jewish spouses. All persons covered by this ordinance with gross assets exceeding 5,000 Reichsmark(RM), notwithstanding liabilities, were subject to

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this obligation. The property notices had to be submitted by June 30, 1938 under threat of punishment in the case of non-compliance.⁽¹⁾ There were also marriage laws, meant to protect the “pure” German blood.

After finding **Regina, Hedwig** and **Hermine** on the ghetto wall my search led to looking at DNA connections—not as the Nazis to consider purity—but to see if there were any personal connections. I haven't found that link but my search has brought my list of Holzapfel related victims of various death camps to more than seventy.

Mann, being retired listed an annual pension of 892 RM and a bank account of 1,400 RM. The form asks how long the pension lasts and lists the capital value of 6,249 RM.⁽²⁾ In today's dollars that is around ½ mil-

Holzapfel

lion dollars.⁽³⁾ The document was signed on July 15, 1938.



Rembrandtstrasse, Vienna



Mann Holzapfel, just shy of his 74th birthday, and his wife, **Sara Hilfstein Holzapfel**, who had just hit 71, were assembled by the SS and Jewish wardens at the school on Speergasse 2, which is five blocks from Westbahnhof, the train station. They handed over the keys to their homes and did the final signature assigning their property to the German government. Their property was then auctioned by the Gestapo. They were allowed to take 50 KGs of luggage and 100 Reichmarks.

Joining them on this trip were 998 other Jews. Surprisingly when I counted from the list, 410 currently lived on Rembrandtstrasse, in 142 different apartments. **Mann** and **Sara** lived in 36/17, which was on the upper floors and had a view of the Augarten, a lovely park although at that time of year it was mostly bare. They had applied to emigrate but it appears that they weren't able to get any sponsors.



December 3

Holz̄apfel

Holzapfel

Before we board this train let's step back a few years.

At the beginning of 1938, 176,034 Jews lived in Vienna and represented almost 10% of the population. Many of these Jews were wealthy owning businesses and were part of the thriving cultural and art scene.

Speaking of businesses, **Holzapfel Farbenfabrik** (Holzapfel paint factory) functioned on Renngasse just a few blocks away from Judenplatz where the old synagogue was. Many on the board of directors, were leading bankers and business men, who were part of the Jewish community. The factory specialized in marine paint, so there is no connection in their product to the art scene in Vienna, other than the money. Theodore Holzapfel Ward, who took his mother's surname—what did he hope to hide at this time of antisemitism—was a major art collector and you can find a portrait of him at the Ashmolean Museum of Art in Oxford, where he donated a major collection of Dutch and Flemish paint-

ings. His uncle, Max Holzapfel was the German consul in Newcastle before the First World War and became a naturalized British subject in 1887. In 1881 Max, his elder brother Albert and Charles Petrie established Holz-

apfel Ltd in a shipyard shed in Newcastle to produce marine anti-fouling coatings by hand in wooden casks for iron-clad ships. **Holzapfel Farbenfabrik** in Vienna was just one of the many subsidiary locations. (4,5)



Renngasse, Vienna

Holzapfel



Holzapfel

Judenplatz is dominated by a monument to the Jews who died and the various places the Jews from Vienna were taken.



Judenplatz, Vienna

Holzapfel

Back to 1938. The Anschluss on March 10, 1938, when Germany annexed Austria, changed everything for the Jews.

Gerald Holton (originally Holzapfel), who was a teenager describes the events. “Specifically, at about 7 p.m. [on] March 11, a Friday, 1938. I was just coming back from my last piano lesson, easy Chopin, and heard on the radio that the government was giving up and being replaced by Austrian Nazis selected by Hitler. Austria had let itself be taken over by radio. When the German troops came in their open lorries, they were told to put on their goggles because there were so many flowers thrown at them that their eyes might be damaged by the happy Austrians. On March 14 I was with my father in his office at the corner of the Ringstrasse, the big boulevard, and we looked out as Hitler and his cavalcade were entering Vienna. I saw him in the open car going to the Heldenplatz, where he was greeted by 200,000 wildly enthusiastic Austrians. So suddenly, everything changed. And as they say, it took five years in Germany but

only five hours in Vienna to let the bacchanalia begin. Any ‘Aryan’ could walk into a Jewish office or flat or any property and declare, simply, ‘You: Get out into the street. I take over, free’ – which they did with my father’s office, and he had to go into hiding. Nina, my wife, whom I hadn’t met by that time, of course – her father [was] arrested immediately for no particular reason. It was a free-for-all. This is where the children suddenly became adults. My younger brother and I had now to try to get our visas, our police certificates, our various permissions to work toward emigrating. You couldn’t do that so easily as adults, because when they were in these long lines outside the offices, including the American Embassy, the trucks of the SS would come in, load them all up, and they were never seen again. So the good thing about being very young was that you could run fast. Then the question was how to get out. It was extremely difficult to go to the United States, except by some kind of luck and constant push. Eventually, the Nazis in Europe had roughly 1,600,000 children targeted for various reasons, and

Holzapfel

only 7 percent of them came out alive. Ninety-three percent of them either died of starvation or were murdered. So I find myself in this small slice of 7 percent.” (6)



a nearby street and Rembrandtstrasse, Vienna



Moritz, Mann's brother, and **Sara** his wife, lived next door at 36/16, but they had left Vienna in March, sponsored by Arthur and Erwin Holt, to Astoria, NY in the Unites States. They deposited \$600, which was refunded in December. **Mann** and **Sara** boarded the train.

Consider this train, Transport 13. If every couple or family, let's say 300 family units on the train was worth what this retired couple was, then that train was worth 150 million in today's dollars and they had to leave almost all of it behind.

This wasn't the first disadvantageous financial arrangement that Jews had to make to survive. On the way from Rembrandtstrasse to the train station, you might consider what they passed. Near the city center is Karlskirche, an amazing Baroque church dedicated to Saint Charles. The

Holzapfel



church was built to honor St. Charles Borromeo, the patron saint of healing from plagues. In 1713 after a plague epidemic, Charles VI, pledged to build a church. Today for 10 Euros you can tour the amazing art. Surprisingly what the tour doesn't reveal is how Charles VI fulfilled this pledge. "KarlsKirche was co-financed by Jews. The brothers Marcus and Meier Hirshl raised the enormous sum of 150,000 guilders—their price for the privilege of residence" in Vienna. Schonbrunn Palace required a loan of 300,000 guilders, around 1750, from Diego d'Aguilar for his price of admission to the city. Poor Jews had to pay a personal toll to reside in the city even for a few days.(7) KarlsKirche was built to celebrate the end of a pandemic, but there would be no saint to intervene and stop the Nazi plague for Transport 13 to Riga.

Karlskirche, Vienna

Holzapfel

Gold

The **protest** in front of the Secessionist gallery with the gold ball the art movement the exciting new style...but the police respond quickly a chat with the organizer she responds people don't want to talk about when neighbors turned against the Jews or the environmental crisis it is easier to turn your eye pretend you can't do anything so just keep living buying and pretending

Gustav Klimt wrapped the women in gold, like a halo magnificent, beautiful now worth a fortune

Portrait of Adele Bloch-Bauer renamed by Nazi's 'the woman in gold'

get rid of the Jewish blood

Or Judith saved her nation just one more Jew Klimt painted that can't be saved by a halo or a conversion

The crowds come by the thousands see these Klimts snap photos take them home to admire

No one wants to remember the art loving Viennese turned their backs on those models left them be stripped of their wealth their jobs and homes often even their lives

Let the police carry them away back to our strawberries the art on our walls pretending we don't know





Transport 13 left Vienna passing through Katowice, Poland, where The Katowice Conference, the first public meeting of Zionists was held. The convention of Zionists groups from various countries was assembled to address the need of a Jewish state given the waves of pogroms in Russia and Europe.

On to Czestochowa where the shrine to Mary includes the Black Madonna of Częstochowa. The black Madonna is of the Hodegetria form where Mary points the way to her son. The legend suggests that Hussites stormed the Pauline monastery in 1430, stole the icon, but the horses pulling the wagon refused to move. They then threw the icon on the ground and one man struck it with his sword twice. When attempting a third slash he fell to ground and died.



There is disagreement about why she is black, but another black Madonna sits above the Gates of Dawn in Vilnius, Lithuania.

Holzapfel

This might be the time before we get too far from Vienna to mention a few other Holzapfel's in Vienna. **Emmanuel**, born in Krakow and **Regina**, born in Lviv, emigrated to the US via the UK. They went to England to get their two sons who had been part of the Kindertransport. The family left Liverpool on June 1941 aboard the Britanica. They were sponsored by a cousin Frances Steinberg. The family changed their name to Holton on arrival. **Regina** is listed as the sponsor of five more Jews coming from Vienna. (Siegmond and Dora Frankfurt, Walter and Hans Reich and Clara Rossman.) **Gerhard**, one of the sons, became Gerald a professor at Harvard and author of a research book on children who fled Nazi persecution. A plaque installed in 1998, at the school they attended at Gymnasiumstrasse 19 in Vienna, lists names and reads, "In memory of the 104 students who were expelled from this school under the Nazi tyranny on April 29, 1938. Yes, I hoped for good but evil came, I waited for light

but darkness came. Job 30:26"⁽⁸⁾

Helene Holzapfel, the sister of **Emmanuel**, received her visa on Oct. 18, 1939 and boarded the Saturnia in Genoa on Dec. 10. She arrived in New York City sponsored by her aunt. Her immigration papers list her race as Hebrew. She was the daughter of Berel and Frieda, born in Lviv, now in the Ukraine, but in 1901 at her birth it was part of Poland. Lviv missed much of the intentional starvation of the Ukranian kulaks by the Soviets in the 1930's by being across the border in Poland, but in 1939 Lviv was forced into the Soviet Union. Ironically it was a legal scholar from Lviv, Raphael Lemkin, who created the word genocide, "combining the Greek word 'genos,' meaning race or nation, with the Latin 'cide' meaning killing."⁽⁹⁾ In Axis Rule he defines it as "Generally speaking, genocide does not necessarily mean the immediate destruction of a nation, except when accomplished by mass killings of all

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members of a nation. It is intended rather to signify a coordinated plan of different actions aiming at the destruction of essential foundations of life of national groups, with the aim of annihilating the groups themselves. The objectives of such a plan would be disintegration of the political and social institutions, of culture, language, national feelings, religion, and the economic existence of national groups, and the destruction of the personal security, liberty, health, dignity, and even the lives of the individuals belonging to such groups. Genocide is directed against the national group as an entity, and the actions involved are directed against individuals, not in their individual capacity, but as members of the national group."⁽⁹⁾ By the time the UN adopted a definition of genocide

Holzapfel

the Soviets had managed to remove political groups as a way to protect them from genocide charges for the Holodomor, the deliberate starvation of 4.5 million or more Ukrainian kulaks. **Helene**, had no way to know what was to come to Jews living in Ukraine in 1941, when the Nazis invaded and staged mass killings just as they were doing in Lithuania and Latvia.



Votivkirche and vineyards, Vienna

You can see the tower of the Votivkirche from the corner of the **Holzapfel Farbenfabrik** and into wine country from the other corner. Leon Hekler, one of the bankers for the factory, according to testimony in claims court had his business taken by the Germans and he and his wife were sent to Riga on January 11, 1942, where they died. His son Johannes changed his surname to Sela in 1952, one of many name changers I noticed in this study as people tried to hide their Jewish roots, even if as in this case they ended up moving to Israel. His grandson in 2008 was awarded 49,375 Swiss Francs in Holocaust Victims Assets Litigation for money taken from a Swiss bank in a neutral Switzerland.

Emmanuel and **Helene** are listed on the restitution papers in the archives along with other Holzapfels; **Blanca, Andreas, Barbara, Franziska** and **Bettina**. **Bettina** Gomperez Holzapfel was the spouse of **Rudolph** the

Holzapfel

famous psychiatrist, and descended from the Cohen line of Rabbis.

But it is now 1941 and German plans have been adjusted to the Final Solution. It is too late to emigrate to a location of your choice. Now the Nazis choose and Transport 13 is headed toward Riga.

When looking at family records since the Jewish community was usually endogamous, the marriages within the Jewish community kept the wealth and DNA in the community. For instance **Sara's** aunt was married to a Herman Hirsch Holzapfel, which



happens to also be the name of **Mann's** father—but it isn't the same man.

The train continued through Warsaw and Bialystok.

Holzapfel

December 5

The transport passed through Kovno/Kaunas. It was here 10 days earlier that **Mann's** nephew, **Wilhelm** Kalter, son of his sister **Therese**, was executed. **Wilhelm**, his wife **Paula** and their two-year-old daughter, **Lillian**, transported from Berlin, then marched to the IX Fort, ordered to strip in the -18C temperatures, get into the pits dug by Russian prisoners and shot with machine guns with grenades thrown in to make sure. The pits were covered whether they were dead or alive. SS Nazis and Lithuanian collaborators did the shooting.

In a report from, Jäger, Commander of the Einsatzkommando 3 (EK3), their deaths that day were among 2,934 Jews, including 1159 Jews,

1600 Jewesses and 175 children, all "resettlers" from Berlin, Munich and Frankfurt am Main, shot down. He states that his command has achieved the objective of solving the Jewish problem for Lithuania in operations from August 4 to November 29, 1941. He claims that in Lithuania there are no more Jews, apart from Jewish workers and their families. He intended to kill these workers, but ran into protests from those who

still wanted their work. He brags about his organization and systematic approach to killing the Jews. The challenges of assembling them, of transportation, of digging the graves and finally of the stressful nature of the work. He plans to sterilize the men who are part of the Jewish work detail to prevent reproduction. The total killed by EK3 and its partisans in Lithuania was 133,346.⁽¹⁰⁾

IX Fort, Kaunas, Lithuania



After passing through Kovno, the train clatters by Siaulai, where the famous Hill of Crosses stands as a testimony to faith. Here Lithuanians would defy the Soviets for years. The irony of Transport 13 passing by these important religious sites can't be ignored since at the same time priests and pastors were blessing their soldiers on the way to kill defenseless Jewish children, woman and men. In fact they were claiming this as being God's will, to punish the Jews.



WHERE IS GOD?

Where is God?
the protector
the one who saves

Where is God?
Is God dying?
by the pit of dead bodies
against the shooting walls

in the gas vans
Is God slowly being killed?
By the Christians who believe
are his words
slowly turning to ash
burning in the chamber
The priest
says they deserve this death

"They killed Jesus"
Now Christian Germany
and collaborators
Catholic and Protestant
of Austria
and the Czech Republic
Belarus, Poland
Lithuania, Latvia
and Ukraine
have joined the effort
to kill God
The list is long
the train conductor, banker
station master, auctioneer
baker, neighbor
business owner, filing clerk
minute by minute
detail by detail
it wasn't just the guns

and the gas
it was
the eyes
the blind eyes
the hearts
the stone hard hearts
they are killing God

They tried to kill God
I can't say
if they succeeded



December 6

Transport 13 arrives at the Skirtova Station in Riga, Latvia. They arrive a few days too early for the master plan, so they are taken to Jungfernhof Camp. Any strong men were taken to build the camp at Salispils. **Mann** didn't qualify. Most were eventually shot in the Rumbula Forest.

What had this 74 year-old man and his love of almost 50 years done to cause their death under a storm of bullets in a once peaceful wood?

The records for **Mann** and **Sara's** son, **Arthur**, include arrest by the Gestapo and emigration papers. Their other two children, **Erwin** and **Nathan** don't appear on death records or on survivor lists. **Erwin** and his daughter, **Ingeborg**, are listed on emigration papers. **Mann** had two siblings who died in the Holocaust.

Rosa Sali Reichenberger died in Lodz-Voivodeship in 1941. Her children and a grandchild died at Auschwitz and Ravensbruck, except for **Julius** who made it to Israel. **Reisel Kalter**, born on January 22, 1866 in Tarnow. Her birth notice lists her mother as Ettel and father Hirsch, it even lists the midwives name. **Riesel** was first sent to Theresienstadt, where the Nazis made a propaganda film showing how happy Jews were living in the camps. From there in September of 1942 she was sent to Treblinka, where death happened upon arrival. Her husband **Pinkus** died in the Munich barracks in March 1942. Was he shot or beat to death? We don't know. Her daughter **Jette** made it to England via Rome.

Fifteen nieces, nephews, or their spouses or great-nieces and nephews of **Mann's** family were murdered in Holocaust. That is a total of twenty from this extended family.



Terezin, Czech Republic

Holzapfel

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as participation in the beatings, but they were able to disappear before the photos of the killings were taken.⁽¹⁰⁾ Antisemitic propaganda proved to be easy among the Lithuanians who had experienced thousands of their family and neighbors being arrested, sent to the gulags of Siberia or killed in the preceding year by the Soviets. Blaming the Jews, ignored the fact that Jews had been deported in equal proportions to the rest of the population. They were easy to scapegoat for the social and economic problems.

The second day of the killing spree occurs in Riga, where the Nazi's and collaborators killed around 25,000 Jews from the Ghetto. This was one of the largest two-day killing sprees in history. I can't list their names, but recognize that each one of them is part of a story.

In June of 1941, Heydrich wrote to Einsatzgruppen commanders, "The self-cleansing attempts of local anti-Communist and anti-Jewish circles within the newly occupied territories should in no way be hindered. On the contrary they must be encouraged, of course, without leaving a trace, and even intensified, and when necessary, directed onto the right path, but in such a way, that the local 'self-defense units' could not later refer to orders or openly proclaimed political goals."⁽¹⁰⁾. This is part of the challenging history of the June 27, 1941 massacre of Jewish men at the Lietukis garage in Kaunas. The killing was gruesome, and eyewitnesses place Germans

Holzapfel

TEREZIN

Make a film
showing happy Jews
living good lives
in concentration camps
show the world
we are helping them
to a better life

Why happier?
living in large building
with row after row
of bunk beds
after leaving their homes
their neighborhood
their family

And the Red Cross
believed the film
the prime minister
the president
the visitors
believed it
Why? did they
believe the Aryan myth
that life is better
if there is uniformity
rather than diversity

Terezin, Czech Republic



December 9

Transport DA 36, the first deportation from Kassel, Germany, carries Jews under 65 who are able to work.

Hermine Heilbronn Holzapfel, her 22-year-old daughter **Regine** and her sister-in-law, **Hedwig** Lehrberger Holzapfel, lived together at Schillerstrasse 7, Kassel. **Hermine** and her husband **Emanuel** (Max) Holzapfe, had lived at Mittelstrasse 15, where he had a shoe shop but he died in 1938 at the age of 56. **Hedwig's** husband **Sally** (Schlomo) had died earlier in 1941 at the Gurs Camp in France. Documents exist of **Hedwig** being sponsored along with money deposited by Ilse Meyer for her to emigrate to the US. but she was not successful in leaving.

They had been informed of their pending resettlement by November 20 so they had time to declare all of

their assets, pack their furniture and goods along with an inventory list and pack 21 days of food. At the station the Gestapo took their valuables and jewelry. After deducting the expenses of the auctions the profit was around 2 million RM from this transport.

So **Regine**, her mother and aunt boarded a third-class, mostly unheated train, destination Riga.

Riga

Cleared the small ghetto, with these killings happening in the Bikernieki Forest.

These early trains mark the beginning of changing from eliminating the Lithuanian and Latvian Jews to the final solution of transporting Jews from German lands, where they lost their citizenship and had no legal rights.



Holzapfel

The tracks led through Berlin, Breslau (Wroclaw), Posen, Königsberg, now Kalliningrad a small Russian enclave between Lithuania and Poland along the Baltic Sea. Tilsit along the Neuman River and Kovno.

Kovno, again. On October 6, 1941, the 2nd TDA, Lithuanian Auxiliary Police Battalion left Kovno headed toward Belarus. These men were the former Lithuanian 12th Battalion and it's leader Antanas Impulevicius, had been imprisoned by the Soviet Army. He was likely tortured and wanted to be helpful to the liberating Germans. The men who left Kovno had no idea what they were being sent to do. Their mission, to murder over 15,000 Jews in multiple locations. There are reports that some of the younger men in the battalion refused to shoot, but most followed orders. They had their own priest, Zenonas Ignatavicius, traveling with them giving sermons and listening to confessions. Like in oth-

er wars, the priest gave comfort, rather than suggesting that what they were doing was evil.

There were 1,022 Jews on the transport DA36 with 100 known survivors listed, which doesn't include any of these three women.

Regine's grandparents, **Meir** and **Rivka** Holzapfel had six children. The two we already mentioned; **Emanuel** and **Sally** both died under the hands of the Nazis. **David** and his wife **Elsbeth** Kornberg Holzapfel were on Transport 29 from Berlin to Auschwitz where they died on Feb. 19, 1943. Their daughter **Fredi** also perished along with four of **Elsbeth's** brothers and wives. Their deportation paper lists them as able to work, gives their ID numbers and notes the flats they are coming from. **Bernard** and **Hedwig** David Holzapfel, who lived at Slaakstraat 3 in Amsterdam were deported from Westerbork in

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Netherlands to Auschwitz along with their daughter **Gretel**, who lived at 11 down the street. **Hedwig** is listed as being Dutch. The three died on Feb. 28, 1943. Their daughter **Lotte** Salm emigrated to Brazil and I corresponded with a member of her family.

Daniel also died in Gurs Camp in 1940. I could find no records for **Johanna** Holzapfel Meir.

Holzapfel

There is always an excuse

I didn't have a choice
The commander told me to do it
I was just following orders
The president
Is ordained by God
I can't get in the way of God

They aren't Christians
Even the converted ones aren't really
So who cares
Since they aren't one of us

The economy needs it
it is perfectly legal
I was just filling out papers
I was just loading them on trains
I was just making them work
I was just buying their stuff
at the auction
I was just moving into
an empty apartment
I was just



Names on a list

Lists
remember
even when no one who knew
them is left
the lists
connect to places of pain
places of beginnings
but those places were sold
stolen
someone else lives in them
they don't even remember

The lists
have the name
of those gone
who didn't get to finish
who only exist on the wall
everyone who could remember
may also be names on a list

The remembrance lists
part of a long line of lists

Jerusalem Synagogue, Prague

property, apartments
Jews to move
Jews to liquidate
things to sell
things to allocate
money moved

No one keeps
lists of bargains they got
used clothing that appeared
or gold teeth now available
empty apartments
giving more space to families
lists of businesses
with new owners
at below market prices
no,
those lists
are....



December 11

Deportation from Düsseldorf,
Transport, Train DA 38

Berta Holzapfel Sonntag, came from Krefeld which has a history of Jews and Mennonites both living there. Her Husband **Moritz** (Simon) had died in 1932. The transport list includes her 18-year-old son **Daniel** born in Krefeld, but the list has a red line through his name. He appears on Displaced Persons reports, on a list of people at Auschwitz as forced laborer #105149 in 1943 and finally as being liberated at Buchenwald.

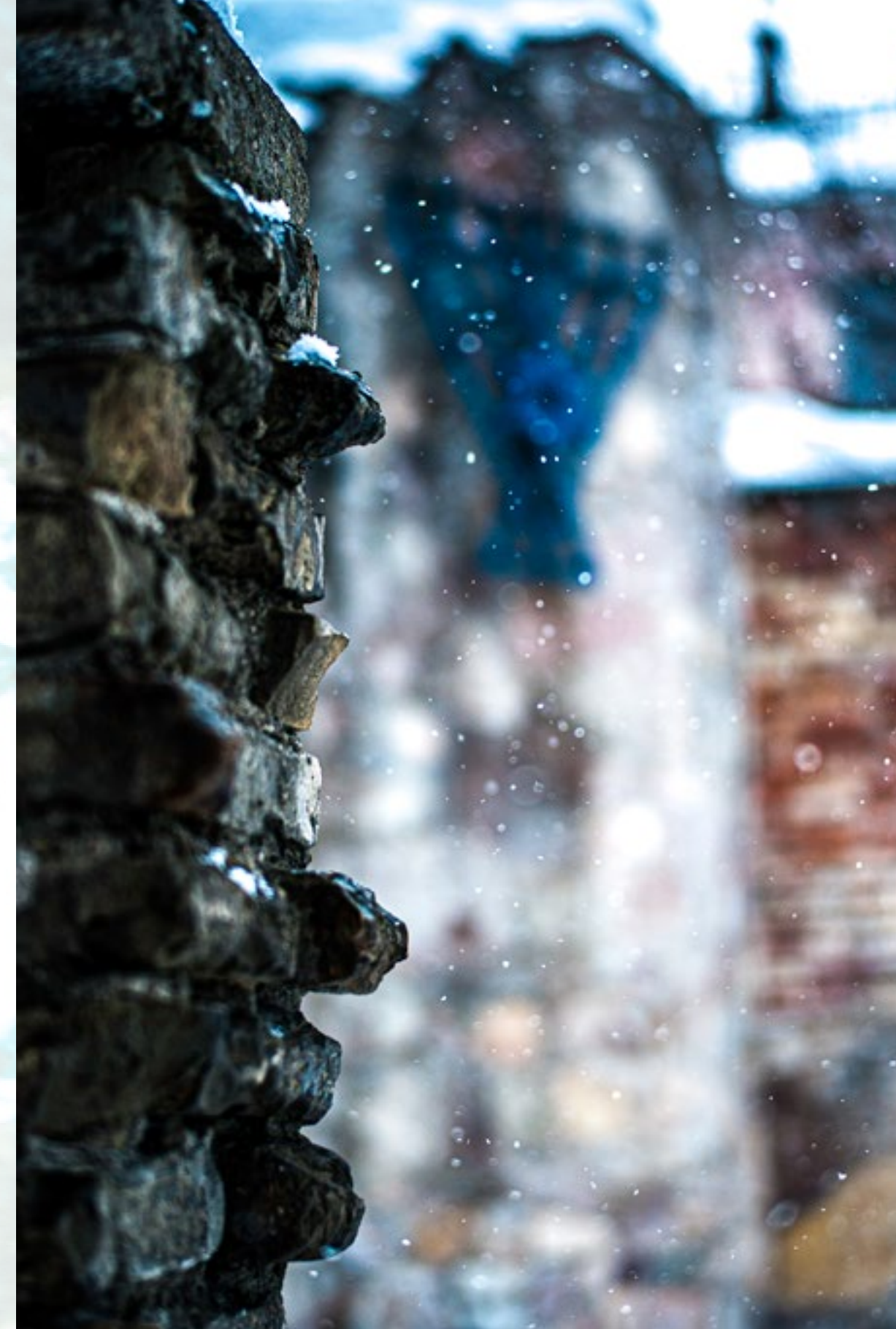
They were notified of their deportation 20 days in advance and told to bring 21 days of food. They assembled on the train platform at 4:00 in morning but because of delays didn't depart until 10:30.

Their ride went through Wuppertal, Hagen, Schwerte, which became a branch of Buchenwald in 1944. Bu-

chenwald was where **Heinrich** and **Sally** Holzapfel died. Hamm, Hanover-Linden, 18:00.

Could it already be three-years since Kristallnacht, swept the German lands. Hanover played a role in that pogrom. Hanover was home to many Jews. In October of 1938, over 400 were expelled to Poland by the Germans. Poland refused to take them so they were stranded at the border, without home or food. Herschel Grynszpan, who was in Paris, when he learned this fate of his parents, drove to the German embassy and shot the German diplomat, Ernst vom Rath. This was the kind of excuse the Nazis needed to unleash this chain of synagogue burning and killing in November.

Synagogue, near Riga Ghetto, that was burnt down full of Jews.



Holzapfel

Transport DA 38 from Dusseldorf
Berlin 3:30, Kuestrin, Kruez, Schneidemuehl, Firchau. A train breakdown from overloading. Konitz 12:10. Dirshau (Tczew in Poland) where the first attack by Germans at the start of WWII occurred. Marienberg, Elbing, where the Stutthof concentration camp was later built, Koenigsberg.

Transport DA36 from Kassel arrives in Riga. The forced labor from this transport is projected to be 5.5 million RM. Their meagre rations were 100 grams of bread, 75 grams of cereal products a day with occasional meat or butter. To avoid starvation they needed to barter and seek more food.

War is expensive and the Nazis used Jewish money to build the labor and death camps. Maybe nothing changes. Samuel Oppenheimer of Vienna, in 1683 financed the Emporer's war against the Ottoman Turks. Without his money the defense of Vienna likely would have failed. After his death in 1703, the imperial court re-

fused to repay the debt of five million guilders and simply declared Oppenheimer's estate to be bankrupt. After his entire assets were lost, his family was expelled from Vienna. ⁽⁷⁾ Jewish business owners and bankers were always dependent on the whims of the government leaders. They also faced the continued programs and the antisemitic myths and conspiracy theories, some spread by the church, about blood, children, rituals and sexual deviancy.

Matte Greene says in Jew(ish), "But benign or otherwise, all conspiracy theories have something significant in common: they are all inherently undisprovable. To those distrustful of deep states and professional journalist, any refutation can be dismissed as a diversion or as part of a cover up. The refutation becomes proof itself: of how close the theorist has come to uncovering the truth, of just how deep this thing goes. This is beyond confirmation bias into something more extreme. No matter the

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evidence presented, proponents can't be dissuaded and proof to the contrary only strengthens belief."

In the end it was more than money. It was about Aryan nationalistic supremacy and Jews were never white enough or Christian enough.

Holzapfel

December 13

Transport 38A from Dusseldorf
Tilsit 1:50.

This region, called Memelland, now in Lithuania, is where a group of Friesen Mennonites began to settle. After the great plague of 1709, Mennonite settlers were invited who had experience with farming and draining wetlands. When conscription became an issue they were expelled, but some returned. The legacy of Mennonite cheese remains in the Klaipeda market of today. Others of this group moved to areas that are now Ukraine joining the colonies of Chortiza and Molotschna which were next to those of Jews. The Bolshevik revolution brought killing, rape and persecution. Communism sent some to the gulag and work camps. Just like the collaborators in Latvia and Lithuania when the German Nazis arrived many Mennonites

who were considered pure Aryans willingly joined them. The Nazis pushed the anti-semitic myths of the Jews being responsible for the Bolshevik revolution and Soviet Communism, just as the Communists accused them of being capitalists. Few acknowledged that the Jews had also suffered greatly under the same systems. Painfully many of these Mennonites who had experienced exile and then trauma at the hands of the Soviets, joined the Nazis, and many collaborated in the rounding up and killing of Jews. There were way too few who helped their Jewish neighbors. (12)

Laugszargen 5:15, Tauroggen 5:30.

Zenonas Blynas, the general secretary of the Lithuanian Nationalist Party, wrote in his diary, "What's important to me is not the rescue of one or several Jews. I can't stand the fact that Lithuania is being turned into a cemetery-morgue, that we are being regularly forced to shoot Jews coming from Germany with visas, that we



Holzapfel



Lithuanians are doing the shooting, that we have become nothing more than paid executioners, that we are being filmed while the Germans are not filming themselves. I cannot stand this evil." (13)

Mitau (current Jelgava) 19:30, now in Latvia where the temperature is dropping along with falling snow.

Transport DA 38 arrives, at 1:30. German police were replaced by

Latvian police. The platform was iced over and it was -12C outside.

Holzapfel

Postscript

The Catholic calendar celebrated Saint John of the Cross on December 14, who said, "Those who do not love their neighbor abhor God." Apparently the Nazi soldiers forgot that word, or they had become accustomed to seeing the Jews as less than human.

The morning of the 14th, **Transport DA38** is unloaded with German SS and dogs who march them to the ghetto.

Hermine and **Hedwig** were most likely shot in the Biekernieki or Rumbala Forests, as was **Berta**.

That leaves us with only **Regine**. Did she survive? The Book of Remembrance doesn't list her as a survivor. However, she shows up on a transit card from the Soviet Union to Israel in December of 1955, with her correct birthday. That means

she lived without family for around 10 years under the Soviet system. Of course, most in the west knew nothing about these death camps in Lithuania and Latvia, while the Soviet history spoke only about the Soviet partisans that the Germans killed. She suffered along with the few who survived and knew the truth.

Her niece reports about her in Israel. "She suffered a lot during the Holocaust and had been severely tortured. She came to Israel during the 1960s. I remember her as a very strange woman. Our family members attributed that behavior to the severe conditions and tortures she suffered during the Holocaust. After WW 2 she had been transferred to Russia and then came to Israel. She lived alone in a small apartment in Tel Aviv."⁽¹⁴⁾

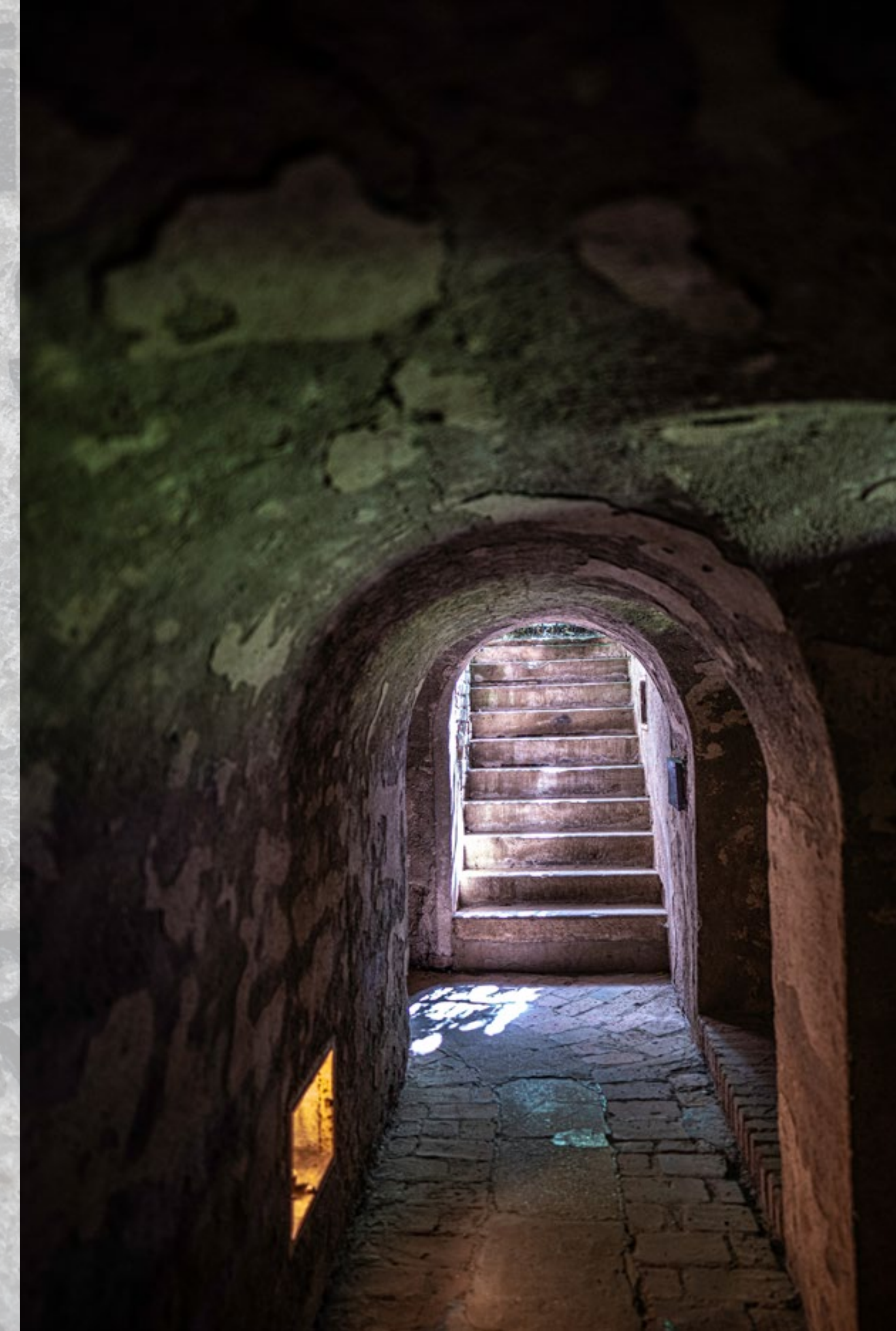
It would be another few weeks before, Abba Kovner in the Vilnius ghetto, on January 1, 1942, called for resistance, "Hitler has plotted to murder all the Jews of Europe. The

Jews of Lithuania are doomed to be first in line. Let us not go like lambs to the slaughter!...Brothers! Better to fail as free fighters than to live at our murderer's mercy! Resist! Resist to the last breath."⁽¹⁵⁾

Why did I start reading the list of names at the Riga ghetto? It was a small decision, without expectation, just to read a list of names.

Seeing the names, however has sent me on a quest into archives and into empathetic imagination that is far from finished.

Holzapfel



LDS family met at Terezin

Are you LDS?
the soldier asked the Jew
I thought I saw your papers
trust me
I'm also LDS
I will get you in the right line
you will survive

of course I'll do my job
and send the others
the ones who aren't LDS
to the other line
and they will not

The mother of the family
said this was her grandfather
that is how he survived
I'm glad he did
but his savior
kept sending
the others to their death
so.....

Holzapfel

the name

Surnames were formed:

- Occupational
- Designating qualities (based on moral or physical characteristics, social status, family situation, caste)
- Patronymics (based on male given names)
- Matronymics (based on female given names)
- **Surnames drawn from toponyms**
- Artificial surnames

While surnames were adapted by Jews widely in 18th century, many Jews were earlier espically in locations like Frankfurt-am-Main and Prague. (Menk and Beider)



Holzapfel (Holzappel) was a County under the Roman Empire. The **von Holzapfels** daughtered out when Peter Melander von Holzapfel had only daughters along with two sons with women who he was not married to but who still took the Holzapfel surname. They also died without sons. Melander's descendants include Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands and King Charles XVI of Sweeden. His widow Agness purchased Schaumburg Castle.

The **last Countess** of Holzapfel, Elisabeth **Charlotte** (1640-1701) married and became Princess of Naussau_Schaumburg. She welcomed Hugenots and Waldensians and founded the Waldnesian village of Charlottenberg (1699) near the city of Holzapfel.



Philipp Jakob Holzapfel
von Herxheim
1609-1663
(British
Museum)

Interesting Finds

David and Knobel chose surname when living in Guxhagen (1809/1811)

appel vs. apfel is a difference of dialect based on geography--the Speyer line

Heinz Holzapfel and his family ziplined from the GDR headquarters to West Berlin in 1965. See the graphic novel telling of this at https://www.bundesfinanzministerium.de/Content/EN/Bilderstrecken/Media_Centre/Pictures/holzapfel-family/holzapfel-family.html

Holzapfel Cafe in Stuttgart, now closed

Carl Holzapfel was involved in the birth of the twelve string guitar in America c.1900

Grube Holzappel, 18th-19th century lead silver and zinc mine

Knight Holzapfel von Herxheim requested his sister the Abbess of Heiligkreutzthal to come on a journey to meet him in Augsburg, 1728

Hans Jakob Holzapfel in 1615 lent 7,000 guilders, at a 5% interest rate. He was a lender.

Weingut Holzapfel serves excellent wine at the vineyard in the Wachau valley of Austria.

Holzapfelgasse in Bad Mergentheim, is the location of several brass plaques listing Jews (Rothschild, Strauss) who were taken in 1942. (commons wikimedia) In 1722 there was a dispute about renaming this street Jundengasse. (Landesarchiv)

Lists of Jewish Surnames

Germany

including town of Holzapfel

Galacia

Austria

Vienna, list of 500 Jewish surnames

Poland

Krakow and Tarnow lists

also found in **Prague** and **Holland**

Holzapfel was also a **Catholic** name and to a lesser degree **Lutheran**

Current Worldwide

Incidence of names

Holzapfel: 12,940

Holtzapfel: 243

Holsopple: 874

Holsapple: 1,694

Forebears.io

Name	Vorname	geboren
645-646	3. F. Connooh, Oldenburg	10.4.22
6	Nigleren	17.12.12
7	Nigleren	18.9.03
8	Nigleren	28.7.94
9	Nigleren	8.8.25
10	Nigleren	16.6.72
11	Nigleren	16.10.16
12	Nigleren	12.3.14
13	Nigleren	1.3.15
14	Nigleren	15.11.25
15	Nigleren	17.7.14
16	Nigleren	15.11.96
17	Nigleren	26.6.22
18	Nigleren	2.12.93
19	Nigleren	1.9.12
20	Nigleren	20.6.07
21	Nigleren	15.1.05
22	Nigleren	2.9.05
23	Nigleren	15.10.24
24	Nigleren	25.3.07
25	Nigleren	18.4.98
26	Nigleren	6.6.21
27	Nigleren	28.1.25
28	Nigleren	7.4.18
29	Nigleren	20.6.06
30	Nigleren	28.2.25
31	Nigleren	5.11.11
32	Nigleren	19.11.13
33	Nigleren	25.1.88
34	Nigleren	20.6.97
35	Nigleren	13.1.10
36	Nigleren	4.12.11
37	Nigleren	12.4.22
38	Nigleren	21.7.18
39	Nigleren	22.3.86
40	Nigleren	30.9.04
41	Nigleren	1.6.23

Holzapfel

my family

Before this search I thought my family tree was pretty straight forward and went back to Germany and 1641. Not so sure anymore. Start with Hans Jacob Holzapfel in the center. Many questions remain and I will keep circling this mystery.

Heinrich Henry Holzapfel 1641-1735
and Maria Magdalena Traudt
came to Germantown in 1719 with German Baptists from Krefeld, where Mennonites and Jews lived his will lists three brothers (still inGermany)
and two brother-in-laws
shoemaker in Germany, became a significant landowner
listed as the father in many family trees but seems doubtful no documents listed on any family trees/sites

If Hans Leonard is a grandson, or Erasmus a great-grandson, who are living nearby when the will is written (1735), why are they not mentioned? At least one writer states Erasmus is a nephew, which puts a 42 year spread between siblings.

Why does his execution appear on the same page, in the Michelfeld Church book, as his son's baptism which supposedly should be more than a year apart?

I couldn't find either of these births or a baptim in the church books for their town. Nor could I find Anna's parents records.

Hans Jacob Holzapfel

June 4, 1662-June 17, 1684

married June 4, 1682

Anna Maria Margaretha Klein

1658-May 5, 1684
?baptized June 19, 1662?

Beheaded and body burnt for practicing sodomy with a horse. The record suggests that he converted before his execution. He was turned in by the Hofbauer's wife.

Was this her way of getting rid of him? Was something else going on and she discovered he was a Jew? This charge is so offensive that it is an easy way to get rid of a Jew.

Why do some people in Austria when I mention this story, suggest it could be because he was a Jew? "Early Christian authors (such as Origen and John Chrysostom) often found ituseful to portray Jews and Judaizers as (male) aggressors who preyed upon innocent Christians (imagined here as victimized women). Sexual slander operated as a rhetorical weapon that early Christians utilized to assert Christian dominance and to justify violence against Jews." Slandering the Jew: Sexuality and Difference in Early Christian Texts, Susanna Drake

h̄olzapfel

An alternative parent option reported to be listed in Michelfeld town book. Godfather listed as Johann Leonard Beckh.

Jacob and Elizabeth (Bauern) Holzapfel

Was he baptized after his father's execution, instead of soon after his birth, which was the common practice? If so. Why? I can't find any geneologies that suggest documentation.

Hans Leonard Holzapfel

Feb. 21, 1682/83-

married

Anna Barbara Katterman

1671-1738

had 7 children

emigrated to Germantown area with son Erasmus and daughter Anna and Johann Ruppert

Erasmus Holzapfel 1710-1793

and Christina Rauscher born in France 1718-1793
had 15 or 16 children (in Germany and PA)
Bernard and Maria Barbara married Fackler siblings who I found on the Jewish Gen among family trees.

Henry Holzapfel 1742-1822

and Susannah Lefevre 1744

Charles Henry Holsopple 1803-1888

and Mary Martha Peterman
town of Holsopple, PA named after him

John Holsopple 1829-1915

and Elizabeth Blough

Samuel J Holsopple 1874- 1950

and Leah Hostetler

Emory Holsopple 1897-1945

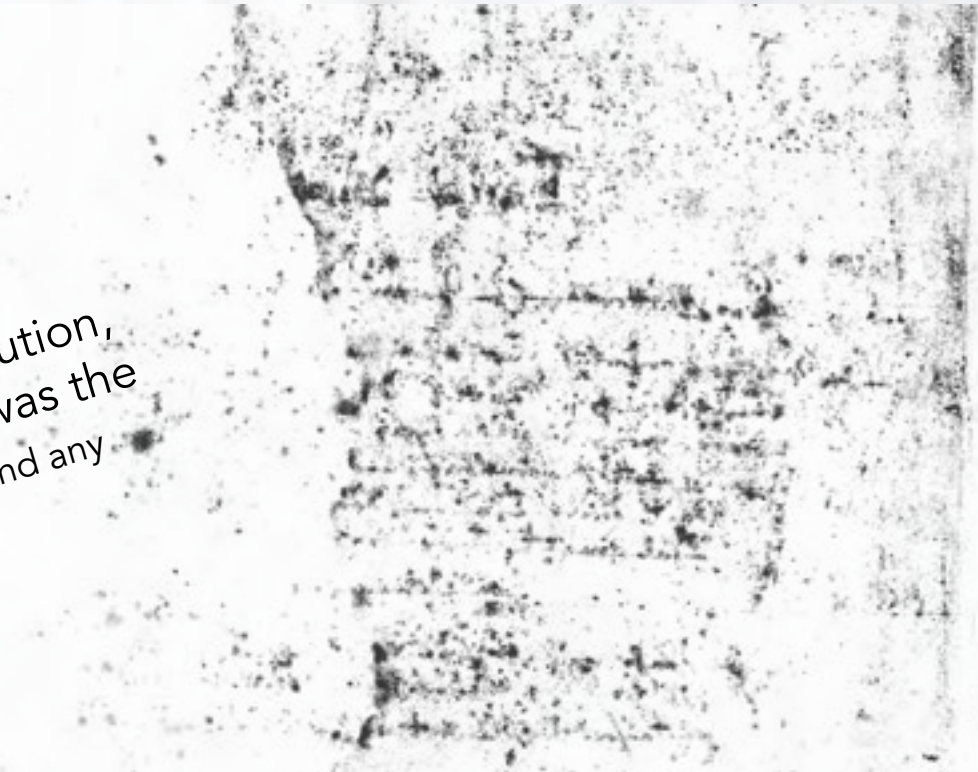
and Lucinda Lehman

Emery Holsopple 1929-2018

and Mary Miller

Jerry Holsopple

and Mary Litwiller



Nachfolgende Kinder sind getauft worden:				
Pastor: Ecclesia				
M. Johanne Wilhelm's Grickeles				
Diacon: Johanne Joachims Kefle				
Zeit.	ort.	Kind.	Eltern.	Bekannt.
1682.	1	6	8	5
Januar.	Jahrg.	Johann.	Jacob, Elisabeth, Maria, etc.	Elisabeth, Rigel, etc. etc.
1.				
2. us.	Barth.	Johannes.	Johanne Maria, etc.	Johanne, etc.
3.				

Who raised Hans after his mother died and then his father was executed? There is no suggestion his Holzapfel grandparents did and the Klein's were already passed on by this time.

He seems very close to the Kattermans in the town of Michelfeld. Did the Kattermans take him in? Anna would have been around 12 years old. Interesting possibility.

DNA

I have tested autosomal and Y-DNA but neither of these has led to any conclusions. It is imporant to note that I am the eighth generation in America, which is a considerable amount of time for specific close relations. Most of the testing sites have a bias based on who is being tested. As more people test this may improve the connections. Currently there is only one other person in my haplogroup R-BY71776. (This is part of R-M269, R-P312, R-DF19)

h̄olzapfel

Resources

Applebaum, Anne. Red Famine: Stalin’s War on Ukraine. Anchor Books. 2017. (9)

Austrian State Archives. Nottendorfer Gasse 2. visited June 2022. (5)

Battalion, Judy. The Light of Days. William Morrow. 2020 (The story of young Jewish women who fought in the resistance.)

Bonyhady, Tim. Good Living Street: Portrait of a Patron Family, Vienna 1900. Pantheon Books. 2011. (Jewish families who were part of the arts scene in Vienna and their experience after 1938.)

City of Vienna Archives. Guglgasse 14. Visited June 2022 (4, 8)

Dieckmann, Christoph. Sužiedėlis, Saulius. The Persecution and Mass Murder of Lithuanian Jews: during the Summer and Fall of 1941. Margi Rastai. Vilnius. 2006. (published by the The International Commision for the Evaluation of the Crimes of the Nazi and Soviet Occupation Regimes in Lithuania.) (10, 13)

Greene, Matt. Jew(ish). Little A. 2020.

Holton, Gerald (from Vienna, changed name from Holzapfel during emigration process), Sonnert, Gerhard. What Happened to the Children Who Fled Nazi Persecution. Palgrave. 2006.

Ireland, Corydon, Harvard Gazette (interview with Gerald Holton). 2015. (6)

Jewish Museum Vienna. Dorotheergasse and Judenplatz. visited June 2022. (7)

Passport Journal Vol.3: The Litvaks.

Preservings: The Magazine/Journal of the Hanover Steinbach Historical Society, No. 20, June 2002. (12)

Schirch, Lisa. Mennonite Life, Issue 2020, Vol. 74. Anabaptist-Mennonite Relations with Jews Across Five Centuries (12)

Vangaite, Ruta and Zuroff, Efraim. Our People: Discovering Lithuania’s Hidden Holocaust. Rowan and Littlefield. 2020.

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Kessel, Barbara. Suddenly Jewish: Jews Raised as Gentiles Discover Their Jewish Roots. Brandeis University Press. 2000.

Ostrer, Harr. Legacy: A Genetic History of the Jewish People. Oxford University Press. 2012

Pickholtz, Israel. Endogamy: One Family, One People. Colonial Roots. 2015.

Reich, David. Who We Are and How We Got Here: Ancient DNA and the New Science of the Human Past. Pantheon Books. 2018.

Naming Patterns

Menk, Lars. A Dictionary of German-Jewish Surnames. Avotaynu. 2005. (Holzapfel, & the town)

Beider, Alexander. A Dictionary of Jewish Surnames From Galacia. Avotaynu. 2001. Holzapel & Holzapfel) Weiss, Nelly. The Origin of Jewish Family Names: Morphology and History. Peter Lang. 2002.

Selected Research links in order of importance

JewishGen: The Global Home for Jewish Genealogy. <https://www.jewishgen.org/JewishGen/> has multiple archives and connections

Findbuch: For Victims of National Socialism (Austria), online: <https://www.findbuch.at/> (1)

Yad Vashem: The World Holocaust Remembrance Center. <https://yvng.yadvashem.org/index.html> archives and research

Arolsen Archives. <https://collections.arolsen-archives.org/> records of camps, deaths, displaced persons

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. <https://www.ushmm.org/> data bases of Survivors and Victims

Wien Geshichte Wiki, <https://www.geschichtewiki.wien.gv.at> Vienna historical

Avotaynu Online. <https://avotaynuonline.com/> the origins and migrations of the Jewish people

JRI-Poland. <https://www.jri-poland.org/search/> archive based on names and towns

Documentation Center of Austrian Resistance. <https://www.doew.at/english> includes databases

Landesarchiv Baden-Wurttemberg. <https://www2.landearchiv-bw.de/>

Kultur-Buro. <https://www.a-h-b.de/en/projects/genealogy/name-adoption-lists>

Yivo Institute for Jewish Research. <https://yivoencyclopedia.org/>

Historical Dollars-to-Marks Currency Conversion Page. <https://marcuse.faculty.history.ucsb.edu/projects/currency.htm> (2)

the sculptures

Ḥolẓapfel

Ḥolẓapfel

40:1 I waited and waited for Yah-
weh, now at last he has stooped
to me and heard my cry. (JB)

I waited patiently for the Lord;
he inclined to me and heard my
cry. (NRSV)

זָּזַבַּח וּמִנְחָה, לֹא-חִפְצָתָ-- אֲזַנִּים, כְּרִיתָ לִי;
עוֹלָה וַחֲטָאָה, לֹא שָׁאַלְתָּ.

6/7 **You, who wanted no sacrifice or oblation, opened my ear. You asked no holocaust or sacrifice for sin;** (JB)

12. For evils have encompassed me without number;
my iniquities have overtaken me, until I cannot see;
they are more than the hairs of my head, and my heart fails me. (NRSV)

For troubles without number surround me; my sins have overtaken me,
and I cannot see. They are more than the hairs of my head, and my
heart fails within me. (NIV)

17 To me poor wretch, come quickly Lord! My
helper, my savior, my God come and **do not
delay.** (JB)

As for me, I am poor and needy, but the Lord
takes thought for me. You are my help and my
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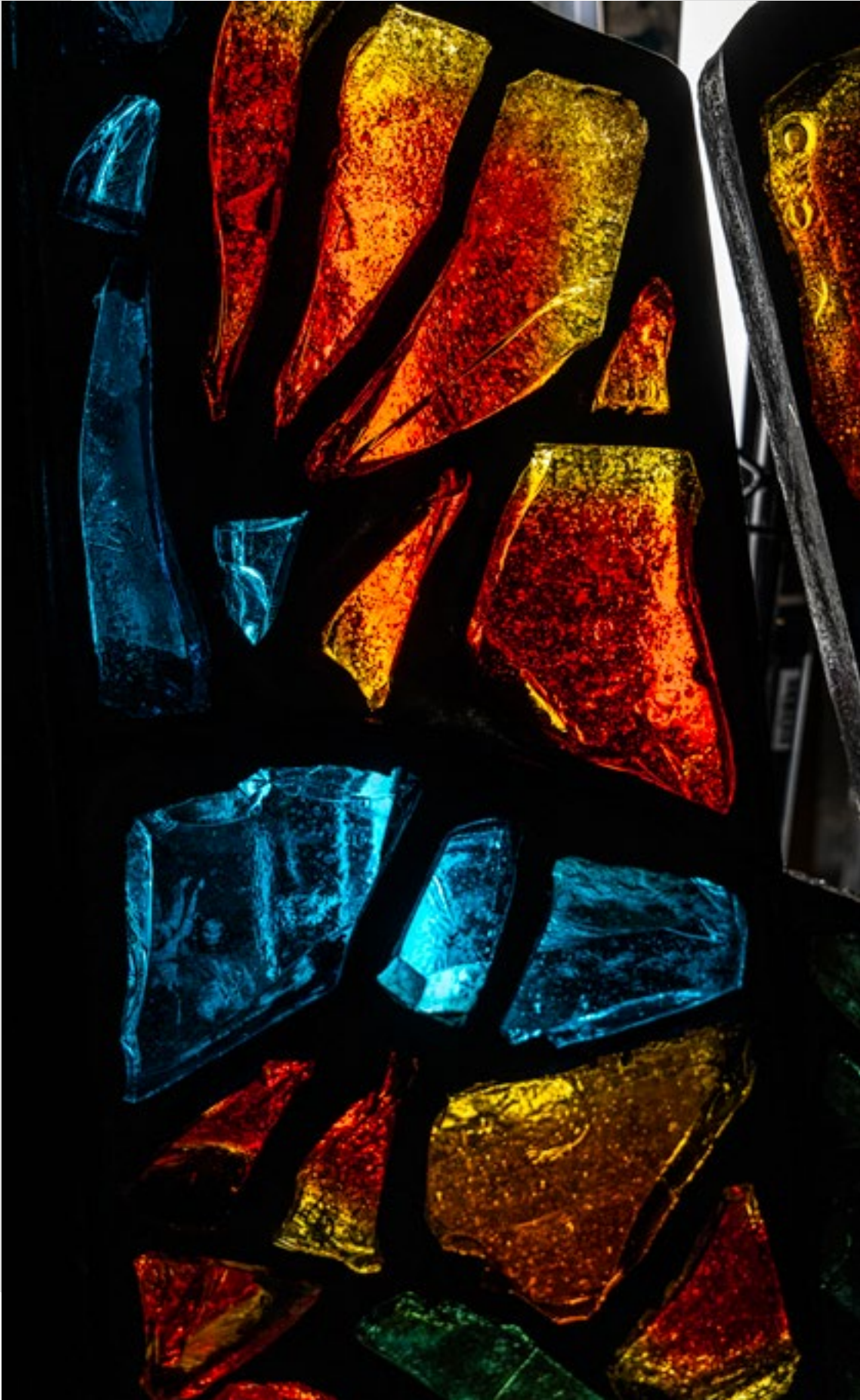
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deliverer; do not delay, O my God. (NRSV)



Mann (Israel)
and
Sara Hilfstein
Holzapfel



do not
delay



Regina Holzapfel,
Hermine Heilbrunn
Holzapfel
and
Hedwig Lehrberger
Holzapfel



my heart
fails within

40:1 **I waited and waited** for Yah-weh, now at last he has stooped to me and heard my cry. (JB)

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6/7 **You, who wanted no sacrifice or oblation, opened my ear. You asked no holocaust or sacrifice for sin;** (JB)



Berta Holzapfel
Sonntag

12. For **evils have encompassed me** without number; my iniquities have overtaken me, until I cannot see; they are more than the hairs of my head, and my heart fails me. (NRSV)

For **troubles without number surround me**; my sins have overtaken me, and I cannot see. They are more than the hairs of my head, and my heart fails within me. (NIV)

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As for me, I am poor and needy, but the Lord takes thought for me. You are my help and my deliverer; do not delay, O my God. (NRSV)

evil
surrounds

40:1 I waited and waited for Yah-weh, now at last he has stooped to me and heard my cry. (JB)

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6/7 **You, who wanted no sacrifice or oblation, opened my ear. You asked no holocaust or sacrifice for sin;** (JB)

Lodz, Litzmanstadt Rosa Holzapfel Rechenberg <small>H/J</small>	Treblinka Therese Holzapfel Kalter <small>H/J</small>
Auschwitz Siegfried Rechenberg <small>(son of Rosa) H/J</small> George Rechenberg <small>(son of Rosa) H/J</small> Karl Rothkirk <small>(grandson of Rosa) H/J</small>	Munich Barracks Pinkas Kalter <small>(husbad of Therese) H/J</small>
Bernard Holzapfel <small>M/R</small> Hedwig (David) Holzapfel Gretel Holzapfel	Kovno Wilhelm Kalter <small>(son of Therese) H/J</small> Paula Kalter Lillian Kalter
David Holzapfel. <small>M/R</small> Elsbeth (Kornberg) Holzapfel	Poland—Piaski Ghetto Hilde Weber <small>(granddaughter of Therese) H/J</small>
Ravensbruck Barbara Holzapfel	Yugoslavia Klara Holzapfel Sachsenhaus <small>H/J</small> Salomon Sachsenhaus <small>H/J</small> Herbert Sachsenhaus <small>H/J</small> Ruth Sachsenhaus <small>H/J</small>
Henriette Rothkirk <small>(daughter of Rosa) H/J</small>	Hartheim Euthansia Hermine Metzler Johanna Metzler <small>(granddaughters of Hermine Holzapfel Metzler). H/J</small>
Gurs Camp Shlomo Sally Holzapfel <small>M/R</small> Daniel Holzapfel <small>(brother of Sally) M/R</small>	Sobibor Liesel Mechlowitz <small>(granddaughter of Bernard Holzapfel). H/J</small>
Le Vernet Camp Daniel Holzapfel	Theriesenstadt Hedwig Heilbronn Holzapfel
Gut Winkel Regina Holzapfel	Hugo Holzapfel
Berlin Belia (Schipper) Holzapfel	Krakow Yitzkhak Holzapfel
Neuengamme Concentration Camp Walter Holzapfel <small>(?evangelical)</small>	Waldhiem Johannes Holzapfel
	Buchenwald

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Heinrich Holzapfel

Sally Holzapfel

Sachsenhausen Work Camp
Oskar Holzapfel

Flossenburg
Therese (Nowonik) Holzapfel

Catholic
Johann Holzapfel (Homosexual)
Wilhelm Holzapfel

Dachau – Mauthausen
Joseph Holzapfel (1916)

Ella Sara (Holzapfel) Rosenthal

Traudi Holzapfel
Josef Holzapfel (1925, brother of Traudi)

Catholic
Walter Holzapfel (Homosexual)
Georg Holzapfel (asocial)
Heinrich Holzapfel (asocial)
Peter Holzapfel (asocial, 13 year-old)

M/R--Meier and Rivka (Selig) Holzapfel
H/J--Herman and Jetty (Landman) Holzapfel



you
asked no



40:1 **I waited and waited** for Yahweh, now at last he has stooped to me and heard my cry. (JB)
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עוֹלָה וַחֲטָאָה, לֹא שָׁאַלְתָּ.

6/7 **You, who wanted no sacrifice or oblation, opened my ear. You asked no holocaust or sacrifice for sin;** (JB)

17 To me poor wretch, come quickly Lord! My helper, my savior, my God come and do not delay. (JB)

As for me, I am poor and needy, but the Lord takes thought for me. You are my help and my deliverer; do not delay, O my God. (NRSV)

I waited and waited

Holzapfel

the sculptures



Holzapfel



the sculptures

