

Jewish burial site Roos

Smallpox, Solidarity and Propaganda

In spring of 1871 also in Lichtenau a multi-week smallpox epidemic erupted and leads to the death of some city dwellers. Of which also members of a Jewish family.

Due to the high risk of infection, the deceased ones may not bring out of town as usual and buried on the Israelite cemetery in Freistett. Instead for them, here at this place a burial site has been created. The preservation of this Jewish burial site testifies respect for the Jewish burial rites, according to which a grave is not cleared.

The fact that in 1871 a Christian family in solidarity is willing to sell a part of their garden property to create an Jewish burial ground, testifies to the good-neighbourly cooperation of Protestant and Jewish inhabitants of Lichtenau.

The absence of the original tombstones, on the other hand, is expression of the National Socialist racial madness, which led to the extinguishment of the former Jewish community of Lichtenau.

1871 – creation of the burial ground

On February 23, 1871 died the 35-year-old Jewish Elias Roos and not much later on March 12, 1871 his 62-year-old mother Friederika Roos née Cahn because of a smallpox infection. Because of the high risk of contagion, both must not be buried as usual outside the city in the Israelite cemetery in Freistett.

Therefore, the Jewish community of Lichtenau buys from an Christian family a small part from their garden property to construct a burial site, where the two deceased members of the Jewish community are buried.

1939 – Forced sale and removal of tombstones

During the Nazi regime the Jewish Community was forced to sell the place with the Jewish burial site to a non-Jewish inhabitant. Money has not been paid. The purchase price is paid by removing the two tombstones.

1950 – Return in the context of reparation

The forced sale under the Nazi regime is ruled by the regional court Offenburg was declared null and void and the land was returned to the Israelite rural community of the South Baden district, as the legal successor to the Jewish Community of Lichtenau.

1992 – erected memorial stone

A new memorial stone is placed at the tomb with the inscription “Here is a Jewish burial place”. At this time, it is not known who has been buried here.



The B. L. Cahn manufactory shop in Hauptstraße 27 is the parents' home by Friedericke Roos née Cahn. Left side the house of Isaak Roos her husband. Photographed around 1924.