

Alfred Löwenstein and Hedwig Löwenstein-Katz



Familie Löwenstein

Alfred Löwenstein was born in Ahaus, Germany, where he spent most of his life. His father Moses owned a leather store, which Alfred took over when he was 28 years old. Alfred married **Hedwig or Hannchen Löwenstein**, who was originally from East Germany. Their seven children, **six girls and one boy**, were born between 1899 and 1914. The Löwensteins were very engaged and progressive citizens of Ahaus. They were involved in various organizations, clubs, the Jewish community, city council as well as some of the first people to for example be connected to the telephone network.

Immediately after the Hitler came into power, the Löwensteins had to experience social ostracism and reprisals. During the **Night of Broken Glass** in 1938 the store of Alfred Löwenstein was vandalized and plundered. Alfred and Hannchen were both 68 at that time, they hid in the attic from the attackers and were not physically hurt but under **shock**. A few weeks after the Night of Broken Glass Alfred and Hannchen decided to **immigrate to the Netherlands**. They sold both their house and prosperous leather store and moved to Maastricht.

However, their escape from Germany did not provide them with the security they had hoped for. In **1943** they were first deported to Westerbork in the Netherlands and then to **Sobibor**, where it seems that they were **murdered** upon their arrival. It seems that all of their daughters survived the Holocaust, even though their fate is not fully known yet.

(Source: Ingeborg Höting)