

STUMBLING STONES CEREMONY, 11 JULY 2019

HEINRICH-STAMME-STR. 3

**DAGOBERT 'DAVID'
MEYER**

LIVED HERE
BORN 1864
FLIGHT 1938
SOUTH AFRICA

**MINNA MEYER
NÉE THALHEIMER**

LIVED HERE
BORN 1877
FLIGHT 1938
SOUTH AFRICA

**EDITH GOTTSCHALK
NÉE MEYER**

BORN 1901

**FRIEDA 'FRIEDEL'
SCHORSCH
NÉE MEYER**

BORN 1903

ERWIN MEYER

LIVED HERE
BORN 1911
FLIGHT 1935
SOUTH AFRICA

LOCATION

The location of the stumbling stones at Heinrich-Stamme-Str. 3 is the historic address of Dagobert und Minna Meyer in Hannover. The stumbling stones were sponsored by Deborah and Lukas Thielen.

DAGOBERT MEYER

Dagobert "David" Meyer was born to Jewish parents in Enger (Westphalia) on 18 December 1864. He attended secondary school in Seesen, probably the famous Jacobson School, which was founded by a Jewish educational reformer. He then completed a commercial apprenticeship in Bielefeld at a factory producing rolling shutters. In 1884 he moved to Bad Salzflen, where he worked for Hoffmann's Starch Factory.



Minna and Dagobert Meyer with a grandchild. Photo: Family collection

MARRIAGE WITH MINNA THALHEIMER

In 1900 he married Minna Thalheimer, also from a Jewish family. His wife, who was 13 years younger than him, was born in Lehrensteinfeld in 1877. Their daughters Edith and Frieda, "Friedel", were born in Salzflen in 1901 and 1903. Their son Erwin was born in Hannover in March 1911.

Dagobert Meyer left Salzflen with his family in 1906. In January 1911 the family moved from Ludwigshafen (Rhineland) to Hannover, taking an apartment at Heinrich Stamme Strasse 3. Dagobert Meyer worked for Thalheimer Bros. in Hannover; Minna Meyer's brothers Isaak and Gustav Thalheimer were co-owners of the firm. The firm, a plywood wholesaler, opened its own plywood factory in Rheda-Wiedenbrück in 1926. In October 1934 Dagobert and Minna Meyer moved to an apartment at Wittekamp 57 (now 55), after their children had moved away.

THE CHILDREN EMIGRATE

When the Nazis came to power in 1933, the Meyers' son Erwin had to give up his domicile in France and return to Germany. He also began to work for Thalheimer Bros. at the factory in Rheda-Wiedenbrück. He emigrated to Cape Town in South Africa at the end of 1935.

The Meyers' oldest daughter Edith was married to Paul Gottschalk, a merchant. He ran the Hermann Helft drapery store in Halberstadt. After the pogrom in November 1938 they emigrated to Montevideo in Uruguay.

Their daughter Frieda, "Friedel", had married Joseph Schorsch, the brother of the well-known rabbi of Hannover, Emil Schorsch. Joseph Schorsch was also employed by Thalheim Bros. in Hannover. They emigrated from Hannover to the USA in 1938.

LOSS OF EMPLOYMENT

Because of the imminent "aryanization" of Thalheimer Bros., Dagobert Meyer left the business late in 1937. He was also part-owner of the firm D. Mayer & Co., Sheet Plywood, at Waldersee Str. 19, which appears to have existed since 1933. This business was dissolved in October 1937. The Meyers then had no further earnings but lived on their savings and pension payments.

EMIGRATION TO SOUTH AFRICA

In early December 1938, Dagobert and Minna Meyer emigrated to South Africa. They sailed on the steamship Wangoni from Bremen to Durban, arriving in January 1939. In South Africa they lived in the household of their son Erwin, who with the help of his wife had opened a haberdashery and lingerie store in Vereeniging/Transvaal. Dagobert Meyer used the remaining assets that he had had to leave in Germany to support his sister Paula Jülich in Cologne.



Minna and Dagobert Meyer on board ship on their way to South Africa, 1938. Photo: Family collection

Unser Heber, guter Gatte, Vater,
Schwiegervater und Grossvater
Dagobert Meyer
(früher Hannover)
ist am 25. Juni in seinem 78. Lebens-
jahre für immer von uns gegangen.
In tiefer Trauer:
Mina Meyer, geb. Thalheimer.,
12A Jasmine Mansions, Vereeniging, South Africa
Paul Gottschalk und Frau Edith,
geb. Meyer, Bulevar Artigas 567,
Montevideo, Uruguay
Joseph K. Schorsch und Frau
Friedel, geb. Meyer, 30 Reeser
Place, Louisville 8, Ky.
Erwin Meyer und Frau Rena,
geb. Hurwitz, Market Ave.,
Vereeniging, South Africa
und 3 Enkelkinder

Death notice for Dagobert Meyer.
"Aufbau", 02.07.1943

Dagobert Meyer died in June 1943. His wife Minna later emigrated to Louisville/Kentucky in the USA to join her daughter Frieda. She died in December 1948.

Florian Grumbles, 2019

