

## Stolpersteine Einbeck

Speech before saying Kaddish at Altendorfferstrasse 27, Einbeck  
February 12, 2016

Being here today to remember and commemorate our father, our aunts and our grandparents/great-grandparents, who greatly suffered during the time of the Nazi regime; is a very special moment.

It gives us, as family, the chance to say Kaddish for them-to say out loud that they are not forgotten nor were their lives in vain.

Until now it has been silent. The plight of their parents and sisters was so painful for my father and aunt that it was never talked about. As children we would question our parents about their childhood and what happened to the family-but all we got were short answers, that they died in the war. With tears in his eyes my father would show us pictures of his younger sisters....and then silence.

I was here in 1971 with my father and mother, they visited Germany again for first time since they fled in 1938. It was too emotional for my father and also for the few people he saw that he knew from his time in Einbeck. There were tears and an urge to flee again.

Since the late 1980's when the generation in power during the Nazi years had passed on, society has admitted the atrocities and taken the social responsibility to show compassion and understanding...And to watch out that discrimination is prevented and genocide does not happen again.

The placing of Stolpersteine has created a channel to remember, to be able to stand silently and contemplate on the plight of those chastized by others. We can tell the story of their lives, giving their suffering a meaning.

I would like to give a short history of the family here in Einbeck and close with saying of the Kaddish.

The Bernstein family lived in Einbeck since 1867, David and Fannie Bernstein established a *schlachtereie und producten-geschäft* almost 150 years ago! This was located at Altendorfferstrasse 27. Fannie died in 1883 and David in 1907. Their only daughter Meta married Louis Adler from Schotmaar a/d Lippe and they lived in Springe. Louis died around 1900 and Meta moved back to Einbeck with her four children in 1901: Rudolf born on Nov 4, 1888 in Springe, followed by Alfred, Hermann and Irmgard. Meta started a Textile store at Altendorfferstrasse 23 in 1901. After her father's death in 1907 she continued running her father's business. All 3 sons were soldiers during WWI, Hermann was killed in Flanders in 1917, at just 23 years of age. Alfred was an English prisoner of war at that time. Rudolf was an officer stationed in Rumania after first being at the Russian front near Kurland. Here he met Berta Aronsohn, born in 1894 in Hasenpoth. They became engaged in 1916 and married in December, 1918.

At this same time his mother Meta died and Rudolf and Berta came back to Einbeck.

Rudolf took over the business.

They had four children: my father Kurt was born in Einbeck in 1920, Tamara in 1922, Margot in 1926 and Edith in 1928.

We know very little about their life in Einbeck. There are some family pictures of them in the woods, at friends in Dassel, in Hasenpoth, Kurland visiting the Aronsohn family. My father told about picking berries in the woods and that his mother would make lots of preserves and jams! It was all overshadowed by the events taking place from 1933 on; when the Nazis gained more influence. My

father was sent to school in Hamburg and Tamara was in Berlin perhaps because Jews were not allowed to go to school in Einbeck.

In 1934 it was Edith's first day of school, and a photo shows her by the synagogue, which had broken windows.

Not quite believing that a good German citizen as they were would be maltreated, Rudolf did send my father in August 1938 and Tamara in October 1938 to the United States. Researching all the passenger list we did find out that Rudolf had tickets for he, his wife and Margot and Edith in July 1939 to go to New York. But they were not on the boat. At this time it was too late; they probably could not get the necessary visas. They tried to go to Amsterdam but then fled further to Lipeije, Latvia in 1939 where Berta came from. We have pictures from that time, that they must have sent by mail to Tamara and my father.

With the invasion of the Russians and then Germans in June 1941, Rudolf was taken prisoner by the Russians and sent the same day to the Lager in Novibirisk and then to Karanga in Kazakhstan, where he died of diphtheria and starvation on November 22, 1942. He never knew what happened to his wife and daughters. Berta, Margot and Edith were murdered in the massacres at Lipeije in December 1941 or early 1942.

My father and Tamara did not know what had happened to their parents and sisters until 1947. I think we know more now than they ever did, since the information has come online after my father's death in 2002 and Tamara's in 2009. We are most grateful for all the research done by Susanne Gerdes, Elke Heege and other members of the historical society.

Their work had brought them in contact with other historians in Hannover who had met a third cousin doing research on Max Adler, a brother of my father's grandfather....and so

Here we are at Altendorfferstrasse 27, now a food store. Its walls have been witness to a wonderful time of flourishing business from the 19th century on, to a happy family life for the Adlers, shattered by political harassment and banishment in 1939. It has maintained as has the Adler family..and by saying Kaddish may we not forget.

Following the death of a family member it is customary to recite the Mourner's Kaddish daily for thirty days, or eleven months in the case of a parent, and then at every anniversary of the death. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kaddish> - cite note-19 The yahrtzeit for my father was just 2 weeks ago on January 25-in the Jewish calendar the 8th day of the month Shevat. And her now we express the magnification and sanctification of God's name for Rudolf, Berta, Kurt, Tamara, Margot and Edith Adler. Also in our prayers we hold dear our mother/grandmother Marianne Adler and our sister/mother/aunt Debbie Adler Grinberg.

## Kaddish

יְתִגְדַּל וְיִתְקַדַּשׁ שְׁמֵהּ רַבָּא (אָמֵן)

*Yit'gadal v'yit'kadash sh'mei raba (Cong: Amein).*

May His great Name grow exalted and sanctified (Cong: Amen.)

בְּעֲלָמָא דִּי בְרָא כְרַעוּתָהּ

*b'al'ma di v'ra khir'utei*

in the world that He created as He willed.

וַיְמַלִּיךְ מַלְכוּתָהּ בְּתַיִּיכוֹן וּבְיוֹמֵיכוֹן

*v'yam'likh mal'khutei b'chayeikhon uv'yomeikhon*

May He give reign to His kingship in your lifetimes and in your days,

וּבְתַיִי דְכָל בֵּית יִשְׂרָאֵל

*uv'chayei d'khol beit yis'ra'eil*

and in the lifetimes of the entire Family of Israel,

בְּעֲגָלָא וּבְזַמַּן קָרִיב וְאָמְרוּ

*ba'agala uviz'man kariv v'im'ru:*

swiftly and soon. Now say:

(Mourners and Congregation:)

אָמֵן: יְהֵא שְׁמֵהּ רַבָּא מְבָרַךְ לְעַלְמִי וּלְעַלְמֵי עַלְמַיָּא

*Amein. Y'hei sh'mei raba m'varakh l'alam ul'al'mei al'maya*

(Amen. May His great Name be blessed forever and ever.)

יִתְבָּרַךְ וְיִשְׁתַּבַּח וְיִתְפָּאֵר וְיִתְרוֹמַם וְיִתְנַשֵּׂא

*Yit'barakh v'yish'tabach v'yit'pa'ar v'yit'romam v'yit'nasei*

Blessed, praised, glorified, exalted, extolled,

וְיִתְהַדָּר וְיִתְעַלֶּה וְיִתְהַלָּל שְׁמֵהּ דְקֻדְשָׁא

*v'yit'hadar v'yit'aleh v'yit'halal sh'mei d'kud'sha*

mighty, upraised, and lauded be the Name of the Holy One

(Mourners and Congregation:)

בְּרִיךְ הוּא

*B'rikh hu.*

Blessed is He.

לְעֵלָא מִן כָּל בִּרְכָתָא וְשִׁירָתָא

*l'eila min kol bir'khata v'shirata*

beyond any blessing and song,

תְּשַׁבְּחָתָא וְנַחֲמָתָא דְאֲמִירָן בְּעַלְמָא וְאָמְרוּ

*toosh'b'chatah v'nechematah, da'ameeran b'al'mah, v'eemru:*

praise and consolation that are uttered in the world. Now say:

(Mourners and Congregation:)

אָמֵן

*Amein*

Amen

יְהֵא שְׁלָמָא רַבָּא מִן שְׁמַיָּא

*Y'hei sh'lama raba min sh'maya*

May there be abundant peace from Heaven

וְחַיִּים עָלֵינוּ וְעַל כָּל יִשְׂרָאֵל וְאָמְרוּ

*v'chayim aleinu v'al kol yis'ra'eil v'im'ru*

and life upon us and upon all Israel. Now say:

(Mourners and Congregation:)

אָמֵן

*Amein*

Amen

עֲשֵׂה שְׁלוֹם בְּמִרוֹמָיו הוּא יַעֲשֶׂה שְׁלוֹם

*Oseh shalom bim'romav hu ya'aseh shalom*

He Who makes peace in His heights, may He make peace,

עָלֵינוּ וְעַל כָּל יִשְׂרָאֵל וְאָמְרוּ

*aleinu v'al kol Yis'ra'eil v'im'ru*

upon us and upon all Israel. Now say:

(Mourners and Congregation:)

אָמֵן

*Amein*

Amen