



אנגלית



גרמנית








Blessing hands of the Kohanim on a tombstone in Baisingen

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Rohrbach (City of Büdingen, Wetteraukreis) Jewish history / synagogue

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The history of the Jewish community ([Deutsche Version](#))

A Jewish community existed in Rohrbach until 1938. Its origins date back to the 18th century. In 1721 there were 15 Jewish residents on site (out of a total of 161 residents).

In the 19th century the number of Jewish residents developed as follows: 1828 36 Jewish residents, 1861 58 (15.3% of a total of 380 residents), 1880 86 (21.9% of 393), 1900 58 (13.6% of 425), 1910 48 (12.2% of 392). **Facilities**

consisted of a synagogue (see below), a Jewish school (religious school, classroom in the synagogue building), a ritual bath (in the courtyard of the synagogue) and [a graveyard](#) . A teacher was temporarily employed to take care of the religious tasks of the congregation , who also acted as prayer leader and schochet (cf. job advertisements below). The congregation belonged to the orthodox provincial rabbinate in Giessen.

During the **First World War**, Adolf Oppenheimer (born September 28, 1886 in Rohrbach, died May 26, 1915) fell out of the Jewish community.

Around 1924 , when there were still 45 people in the community (9.8% of a total of 457), the community leaders were Josef Oppenheimer I, Simon Grünebaum II and Levi Grünebaum. The Jewish community no longer had its own teacher. Since 1906, religious instruction has taken place in the joint school association of [Düdelnheim](#), Glauberg and Rohrbach. [In 1924, for example, teacher Samuel Hess from Düdelnheim](#) taught religion to nine school-age Jewish children in the community . **In 1932** the community leaders continued to be Joseph Oppenheimer (1st Chairman), Simon Grünebaum (2nd Chairman) and Levi Grünebaum (3rd Chairman). Teacher Hess from Düdelnheim also continued to teach in the community. In the school year 1931/32 five children were to be taught religion by him.

In 1933 there were still 37 Jews living in Rohrbach (8.3% of a total of 443; in eight families). In the years that followed, some of the Jewish community members moved away or emigrated due to the

[Left](#)

consequences of the economic boycott, increasing disenfranchisement and reprisals. From January to March 1939, 15 Jewish community members (members of the Oppenheimer and Grünebaum families) moved to Frankfurt. In 1939 only one Jewish resident was registered. Somewhat later, Samuel and Jeanette Oppenheimer of those who moved to Frankfurt emigrated to South Africa.

The Jewish people who were born in Rohrbach and/or who lived there for a longer period of time **perished during the Nazi period** (information according to the lists of [Yad Vashem](#), [Jerusalem](#) and the information in the " [Memorial Book - Victims of the Persecution of the Jews under the National Socialist tyranny in Germany 1933-1945](#)"): Johanna Frenkel née Oppenheimer (1883), Julius Grünebaum (1892), Levi Grünebaum (1872), Lothar Grünebaum (1929), Simon Grünebaum (1859), Sofie Grünebaum (1898), Walter Grünebaum (1923), Fanny Meier née Oppenheimer (1851), Kathinka Rothschild née Oppenheimer (1870), Johanna Seligmann née Grünebaum (1885), Hedwig Sonneberg née Grünebaum (1896).
: Surnames Grünebaum and Oppenheimer +Rohrbach), since the lists do not sufficiently distinguish between the three places "Rohrbach" with former Jewish communities; there were also Jewish communities in [Heidelberg-Rohrbach](#) and in [Sinsheim-Rohrbach](#) .

A commemorative **plaque** has been attached to the old town hall in Rohrbach (Klostergasse) since 1990 to commemorate the fate of the former Jewish community members. The inscription reads: "In memory of the former synagogue of the Rohrbach Jewish community. Built in 1884 and destroyed during the National Socialist dictatorship on November 9, 1938 and in memory of our persecuted and murdered Jewish fellow citizens."

Reports from the history of the Jewish community

From the history of the Jewish teachers

[Advertisements for the position of religion teacher / prayer leader / Schochet 1891 / 1892](#)



Advertisement in the magazine "Der Israelit" of December 17, 1891: " **Vacancy** .

The position of religion teacher, prayer leader and slaughterer is to be filled as of January 1. A fine living room and free fire are associated with a fixed fee of 600 marks per year. Additional earnings, including schechita, amount to around 200 marks. The applicant is also given the opportunity to teach in a branch about 30 minutes away, which brings in 150-200 marks. Qualified, seminary-trained teachers want their certificates along with them

Send biography to the undersigned.

Rohrbach near Büdingen (Upper Hesse). **Abraham Oppenheimer** , Head of Culture."



Advertisement in the magazine "Der Israelit" of June 16, 1892: " **Vacancy** .

The local community is looking for a seminary-trained religion teacher as of September 1. The income is 850 to 900 marks plus a free apartment. Applicants want to send their certificates to the

Abraham board Oppenheimer , Rohrbach near Büdingen (Upper Hesse)."

The history of the synagogue

At first there was a prayer room or a first synagogue of unknown year of construction.

In 1884 the house of the previous prayer room was completely rebuilt. While the men's and women's room was previously in two rooms on the ground floor of this building, a women's gallery was installed on the upper floor in 1884; the previous area of the men's and women's room became the "new men's room". After the reconstruction, the synagogue hall had 54 places for men; on the gallery there were 26 places for the women. Community and school rooms as well as the teacher's apartment were also accommodated in the building. In the yard was the ritual bathhouse.

At the **November pogrom of 1938** the interior of the synagogue was destroyed. The three Torah scrolls and cult objects have disappeared. After that, the property was sold to a non-Jewish private individual for 560 marks, although it is said to have been worth around 3,000 marks. It is not known whether the extremely low price was paid at all.

The building was converted into a "village school" **in the 1950s** after the restitution process had been clarified. After the end of the "school days" the synagogue building was converted into a two-family house with a butcher's shop on the ground floor.

Address/location of the synagogue :

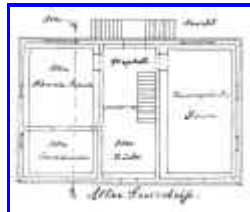
Beundagasse 21

Photos (Source: Altaras see lit.)

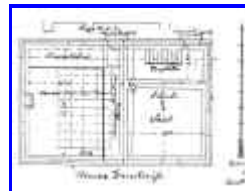
Site plan from 1883 : the synagogue is entered in the center with "A", courtyard rooms with "B" and the teacher's house of the Israelite religious community with "C"



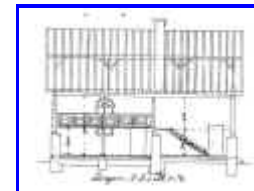
Plans for the conversion of the synagogue from 1883, drawn by geometer Eberhard from Büdingen



Above: the "old floor plan" of the synagogue before 1884 with men's and women's rooms on the ground floor



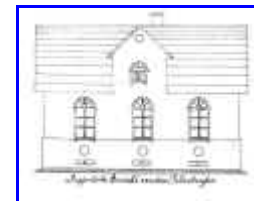
The "new floor plan" with the synagogue after 1884; a women's gallery is installed at the level of the upper floor



Longitudinal section (drawn on the floor plan on the left with access to the women's gallery from the women's entrance; the men's entrance can also be seen



"Alte Ansicht" des Gebäudes vor 1884
- von der Ortsstraße gesehen



"Projektierte Ansicht" von der Ortsstraße

Die zur Dorfschule umgebaute Synagoge in den 1960er-Jahren
(Quelle: private Website zu Rohrbach, siehe Link unten)



Das ehemalige
Synagogengebäude -
umgebaut zum
Ladengeschäft mit
Wohnung im Juni 1985



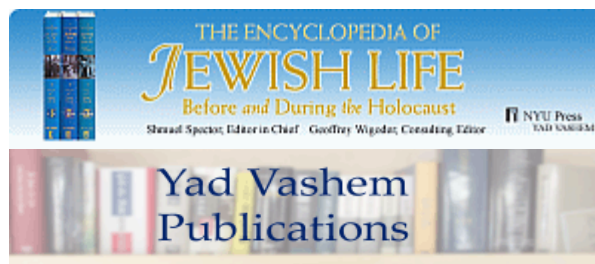
Links und Literatur

Links:

- [Website der Stadt Büdingen](#)
- [Private Website zu Rohrbach](#)

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- **Studienkreis Deutscher Widerstand** (Hg.): Heimatgeschichtlicher Wegweiser zu Stätten des Widerstandes und der Verfolgung 1933-1945. Hessen I Regierungsbezirk Darmstadt. 1995 S. 314-315.
- **Pinkas Hakehillot**: Encyclopedia of Jewish Communities from their foundation till after the Holocaust. Germany Volume III: Hesse - Hesse-Nassau - Frankfurt. Hg. von Yad Vashem 1992 (hebräisch) S. 299-300.



Article from "The Encyclopedia of Jewish life Before and During the Holocaust".
First published in 2001 by [NEW YORK UNIVERSITY PRESS](#); Copyright © 2001 by [Yad Vashem Jerusalem, Israel](#).

Rohrbach Hesse. The community numbered 86 (22 % of the total) in 1880 and 37 in 1933. On *Kristallnacht* (9-10 November 1938), the synagogue's interior was destroyed and by December 1939 no Jews remained, at least 31 having emigrated (mostly to the United States).



previous synagogue to the first synagogue next synagogue

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