

New Bremke Cemetery Description

Bremke, Germany

By Lily Iskhakova

Cemetery Visit and Documentation

The Bremke cemetery is on private land. There are 44 stones there that survived WW2 (others were used for road construction). The family that owns the land gave me access to the cemetery and sent me pictures with permission to add them to the JOWBR. Of the 44 stones, I have 32 that I was able to obtain pictures, transcriptions, translations. (Some stones that were too damaged to read, one stone fell down face 1st and it was too heavy to pick up. And another was missing in the Schaller report, but was legible.) These 44 stones are the only surviving stones of the cemetery that had 110. Rolf Bergmann, whom I met during my visit, gave me a list of the other people that were buried at this cemetery and are included in this data set.

The gravestones are arranged in 4 rows (labeled A,B,C,D), A, being the front row. The stones in each row were numbered from left to right (1, 2, 3,...). Then each text was matched with the documentation performed by Prof. Schaller in the 1980's. This document was given to us by Mr. Rolf Bergmann, a resident of Bremke and a historian. An article on the history of the Bremke Jewish community was written by Mr. Bergmann (please see linked article).

For additional information and photos, please also see my blog article, "The Wrong Person for the Job: Finding Myself in a Forgotten Jewish Cemetery" at <https://blogs.timesofisrael.com/the-wrong-person-for-the-job-finding-myself-in-a-forgotten-jewish-cemetery/>

Bremke Death List

Death list for the Bremke Synagogue Community 1844-1893 (NLA / HStA Hannover, Photo 1 No. 118), including Gelliehausen and, until 1855, Wöllmarshausen
Beginning January 1, 1844, Maintained by Warden Simon Oppenheim.
Continued from January 1, 1849, by Warden Mendel Adler.
Continued from March 1, 1855, by Warden Salomon Adler.
Continued from June 22, 1859, by Warden L. J. Meierstein.
Warden Nathan H. Adler. June 1880
Continued by Hermann Neuhaus, Head of the Synagogue. Revision notes of the District Rabbi:

The death list maintained by the Bremke Synagogue Community from 1844 to 1893 lists 110 deaths, including individuals from Gelliehausen and Wöllmarshausen who were buried in the cemetery of their place of residence. Thus, if one excludes those who were buried in other cemeteries (besides those just mentioned, two in the old Bremke Cemetery, as well as one each

in Göttingen and Celle), there still remain 86 individuals who found their final resting place in the new cemetery in Bremke during this period.

Although the maintenance of the civil status lists by a list keeper from the ranks of the Jewish community was official (it was revised by the district rabbi and submitted to the Reinhausen office in annual extracts), it was amateurish and therefore not always reliable or complete – apart from errors in the statement of names, two gaps in the death records can be identified up to 1874: Schönchen Mendel (????) and Julius Adler (1866).

When the municipal registry offices were established in 1874/75 and took over the official recording of civil status cases, the synagogue congregations were no longer required to maintain the lists. It appears that it was initially discontinued and only resumed after a brief interruption, but only on a voluntary basis (presumably also in their own interest) and without any claim to completeness. - Fanny Adler

For the period from 1894 to 1935, we are entirely dependent on the death registers of the registry office, which, however, do not provide any information about the place of burial.

Those who died in Bremke were most likely buried there, and this can also be assumed for those who died in Gelliehausen. However, people from there may also have been buried in Bremke, for example, those who died in Reinhausen or Göttingen. A specific example of this is Selma Meyerstein, who died on December 30, 1935, in the Göttingen University Hospital and was the last person to be buried in the Bremke cemetery immediately after the beginning of 1936.