

Biography Gustav and Charlotte Sollinger

Gustav Sollinger was born on July 25, 1871 in Wenzien near Einbeck in Lower Saxony. His parents were Isaac and Emilie Sollinger, née Rothenberg. Gustav was the eldest child and the only survivor of ten siblings, eight of whom were murdered in the Holocaust.

Gustav had been married since July 15, 1907 to Charlotte, née Halm, called Lottie, born on July 8, 1884 in Berlin.

They had two children. Edith, born on May 3, 1909 in Berlin, and Werner, born on September 12, 1910 in Berlin.



Both children emigrated to South Africa in 1934 and 1936, respectively. Gustav and Lottie managed to escape in 1939.

Since 1909 Gustav Sollinger had been a co-owner of the bank house Sollinger, Wasserzug & Co. in Charlottenstrasse 56 in Berlin.

At the time of their marriage in 1907, Gustav and Lottie lived at Berchtesgadener Str. 33 in Berlin Schoeneberg. From 1929 to 1931 in Neue Kantstr. 2 and then in Sybelstr. 67 in Charlottenburg. The bank was "aryanized" in July 1938 and deleted from the commercial register. The subsequent owners offset Sollinger's stock of securities against the statutory Reich flight tax and the Jewish property tax, which he was compelled to pay. After covering the costs for their tickets including the transport of their furniture the couple had no financial means left for making a fresh start in South Africa.

With the support of their daughter Edith, who must have taken care of the costs and the entry permit to South Africa, Gustav and Lottie were finally able to escape. Six months after they had to give up their home and live as lodgers in a flat in Grunewald, on March 16, 1939, the steamer "Windhuk" took them from Hamburg to Cape Town, South Africa.

Both Edith and Werner took care of their financial and health needs once they arrived in Cape Town. There they first stayed with their daughter, later in a Jewish retirement home. After Edith got married and left for England, Werner took responsibility for their parents' care.

Lottie was only granted a few more years, she passed away on March 15, 1952. Gustav, who had been very ill and frail for a long time, followed Lottie on August 20, 1964 at the age of 93.

Donor: Denis Sollinger, Gustav and Charlotte's grandson, USA

Sources: Tim Schmutzler, Family archive, compensation file at Landesarchiv Berlin

Photo: Family archive

Biography and translation into English: Gisela Just