



The Stockelsdorf Jewish cemetery contains 36 headstones. Two of them bear the names of married couples. In total, 14 women, 14 men, five girls and four boys were buried here between 1812 and 1919. During the cemetery's 200-year history, several of the tombstones have been damaged, and of one only a fragment has survived. But thanks to old photographs, however, almost all the names of those buried here have been identified.

At the beginning of the 19th century, several Jewish families were living here in Fackenburg, which later became part of the municipality of Stockelsdorf. With a total of 75 residents, they comprised about a fifth of Fackenburg's population, and as of 1840, the Fackenburg Jewish community was granted official recognition. The community had a small school until its closure in 1849, when its students transferred to the nearby Schule zu Ravensbusch in Stockelsdorf. Juda Ben Joseph Möller (1805-1869) was a teacher there. His mother Esther and his sister Pess'che lie buried here.

Many of the graves were of members of the Horwitz family whose paternal line can be traced back to the tribe of Levi. In the Temple era in Jerusalem, the Levites poured water over the priests' hands for cleansing. Hence the water pitcher emblems which decorate many of the headstones in this cemetery. According to Jewish tradition, the cemetery would have had a water supply; there is no trace of one. It is also not known whether there was a building in which the dead were prepared for burial in accordance with Jewish rites.

It is unclear why there were no burials here after 1919. The children and grandchildren of those resting here were murdered during the Nazi rule – unless they managed to flee. Today, we know of their descendents living in Norway, the UK, Australia, New Zealand, the US and Israel.

The book "House of Eternity", published in 2019, documents the tombstones, translates their inscriptions and relates the burial site's history. The volume is illustrated with art photographs highlighting certain headstones.

In memory of  
the author of »House of Eternity«

ז"ל Prof. Dr. Rolf Verleger  
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תנצב"ה

