

## **The Synagoge at Niederzissen/ Germany**

- 1250      Entry in a MEMOR BOOK (contains notes of important events) –  
A Rabbi from Amsterdam visits the Jewish Community in Niederzissen  
(book considered lost)  
(Ref.: Letter by Richard Berger from New York, dated 1979, son of the  
Head of the last remaining Jewish Community of Niederzissen)
- 1577      Entry in documents belonging to leaders of the local aristocracy resid-  
ing at Wehr
- 1580      Entry in documents of the local aristocracy residing in Niederzissen  
(Ref.: Carl Bertram Hommen)  
The dating of the Niederzissen Geniza Find to a period of time between  
the 17<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century also made it possible to reconfirm some of the  
dates mentioned below. The Geniza Exhibition shown at the Synagoge  
Niederzissen includes pennants, Tora wraps, prayer books and other  
artefacts.
- 1653      Complete Tora Pennant belonging to Alexander Bar Jehuda  
(Ref.: Geniza Find Niederzissen)
- 1763      Synagoge and Jewish School located in the house of the Jewish citizen  
Isaac, residing near the Catholic Church in Niederzissen  
(Ref.: Citizens' Chronicle, Niederzissen)
- 1807      Letter written by Doderer Schmul, soldier in the Napoleonic Army  
(Ref.: Geniza Find Niederzissen)
- 1808      Renaming of the Jewish Community of Niederzissen (including its affili-  
ated villages). Equal rights by recognition of citizenship Number of citi-  
zens of Jewish faith rises to 181.(Ref.: Archive, City Hall Niederzissen)
- 1838      Purchase of property in Niederzissen to enable the construction of a  
Synagoge (Ref.: Harald Lüdemann, Land Registry Office, Sinzig)
- 1841      Official opening of the Synagoge in Niederzissen (Ref.: Citizens' Chron-  
icle, Niederzissen)
- 1847      Königsfeld leaves Association of Jewish Communities; rejoins Nie-  
derzissen in 1939 (Ref.: Citizens' Chronicle, Niederzissen)
- 1866      Wehr leaves the Association of Jewish Communities; rejoins Nie-  
derzissen at a later time (Ref.: Bruno Andre, Wehr)
- 1890      "Judengässchen" (The Jew's Lane): name appears in a map of the vil-  
lage owned by Pastor Volk, the Reverend of Niederzissen (Ref.: Ar-  
chive Parish Office Niederzissen, approx. 1890)

Jewish citizens were involved in merchandising and livestock trading

Niederzissen: Trading in wine, fish, cloth , paints, granary , butchery, tailor, shop for china and household goods, shoemaker and shop, general store, inn and money lending

Burgbrohl: Trading livestock, butchery, tailor and store for farm products

Oberzissen: Bakery, butchery and shoemaker

Wehr: Trading livestock, butchery, tailor and general store

The start of the 20<sup>th</sup> century marked the beginning of rural depopulation and the increase of migration to urban areas.

1914-1918 World War I Jewish soldier killed in action:  
Abraham Bär, Niederzissen  
Julius Berger, Niederzissen  
Albert Friesem, Burgbrohl  
Marx Gottschalk, Königsfeld

1928 Number of inhabitants of Jewish faith in Niederzissen alone rose to 77

1938 10 November: Desecration of Jewish Synagoge Niederzissen

1939 November: Sale of Synagoge and modification into a blacksmith shop

1939-1945 29 Jewish citizens from Niederzissen were killed or died of starvation in German concentration camps (figures updated February 2012)

1949-1951 In the process of reconciliation amendment of Synagoge sales contract and drafting of new contract; 60 years blacksmith shop

During the above mentioned period of time the Jewish community center and the house belonging to the Synagoge's attendant (left side of the road in front) were dismantled. A new extension behind the house was built close to the Synagoge building while the left wall of the Synagoge was demolished. The Mikwe (ritual bath) situated underground in the old part of the house, would be left intact in the new house but later covered up. In the mid Fifties the property of Karl Berger was sold by his two children Richard and Karoline who resided in the United States, to the blacksmith shop. By tearing down the wall, the stable, built close to the northern wall of the Synagoge, became part of the blacksmith building. The old timbered-house situated near the road was demolished in 1958.

For a period of 10 years work at the Blacksmith shop was suspended.

2009 Purchase of the Synagoge Building by the Parish of Niederzissen

2011 Deconstruction and restoration of the Synagoge building to be used as a public site

18 March, 2012 Opening Ceremony Synagoge Niederzissen  
A Place of Commemoration and Community Centre