

NEIGHBOURS WHO DISAPPEARED

The Jewish Settlement in Liteň, Mořina and Beroun



Thanks to the project "Neighbours Who Disappeared" I have created totally my own work, which I would probably never have made up my mind to do by myself. Unlike the works that one carries out by collecting pieces of second-hand information from books, I, in my work, only wrote about what I saw with my own eyes.

Our school is in Liteň. I began searching for the spot where the cemetery in Liteň used to be. But where it used to stand, some enterprise is standing now. A lady at the Education and Culture Centre of the Jewish Museum informed me of the Jewish cemetery in Mořina. It lies on the hill beyond the village and now it is under reconstruction.

MOŘINA



The Jews in Mořina. The Jewish community and the synagogue in Mořina were founded in 1760. There was a rabbi in Mořina who for some time even commuted to Beroun. After 1830 a lot of Jewish people moved to Beroun and Prague, so in 1908 the rabbi from Beroun started to commute to Mořina. Within the region of Beroun the Jewish cemetery in Mořina was the second most important after the cemetery in Liteň. In 1921 only five Jews were living in Mořina, therefore the synagogue was sold to the Sokol organization.

BEROUN

The Jews in Beroun. The first Jewish family came to Beroun in 1678. At that time Jews were mostly engaged in business, tanning and butchery. There was neither in Beroun nor in its vicinity anybody engaged in the tanning trade then and so the town councilors invited a Jew, called Mateš Fíša, who was very good at this trade. This case is most extraordinary for that time. The Jews usually lived in villages and in some towns they had their ghettos. After some time the Fíšas had themselves baptized for better assimilation in Beroun.

More Jews did not come to Beroun till 1849 (one year after abolishing the Familar Law). Then there were six families. As early as 1852 they founded a Jewish community in Beroun and built a synagogue containing a school too. The teaching language was



German and 80 students attended the school in 1870. In 1888 a Jewish cemetery was founded in Beroun and together with it a funeral fraternity as well. They were in charge of funerals but they also helped grieving relatives. The history of the Jews in Beroun finishes in the same way as in other Czech towns and villages with World War I. Nowadays allotment gardeners grow strawberries and fruit trees among the tombstones of the Jewish cemetery in Beroun.

LITENĚ

Jewish settlement in Liteň. The Jewish settlement in Liteň is the oldest one within the region. The first mention of Jews in Liteň is from the year 1630 when Kurfürst Jan Josef, Count of Bubna, permitted them to build a synagogue, school and cemetery.

During the period of the First Republic perhaps all the Jews in Liteň were tradesmen. The following families head the village: Roubíček, Zickendorf, Raiman, Fíša, Eisner and the Jewish party had one seat at the town hall. During the War all the Jews from Liteň were deported to Auschwitz from where nobody returned. The synagogue was changed into a storehouse. The priest in Liteň managed to save the Tables of the Law, which he hid at the presbytery. Nowadays the building of the synagogue serves as a fire station.

The privilege of establishing the Jewish cemetery has been preserved and it reads as follows:



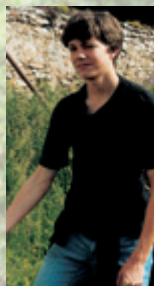
J. Kurfürst Jan Josef, the Count of Bubna, Lytitz, in Bítčovo, Skásov, Liteň, Srbsce and Ledeň a member of the great court, announce through this letter to all, and especially here, when read, for he who reads shall be heard, that have in submission come to me Adam Pátek, Jew in my district of Lyteli in residence, and others, namely Eliáš Gozl Lechovský, Abraham Vozovský, Wolf of Zbraslav, Jitka Mierodický, Marek Tmalický, Alexandr Stanhutský, Jitka Novotná and Marek Praskolecký, Jews who have their residence in this sub-Břev county, have told me how people leave this world day after day and especially remembering the year 1680, in which from the will of The Lord Almighty the plague has spread in many places, that, if anything such should pursue them (having no cemetery nearby), where they could lay their plague bodies and bury them, to me for Adam, my Jew from Lyteli and all those named above...



Thanks to the book "The Jewish Cemeteries in Bohemia" I got here, to the Jewish cemetery in Liteň. But my peregrination did not stop only at Jewish cemeteries. From local eyewitnesses I learned a lot of interesting things about the Jewish settlement in Liteň and also within the entire region of Beroun.



The first time I experienced such a place, I was really impressed with its ambience. I was totally fascinated by it. When I look around at the graves I think of all those people I have never seen, but who were living everywhere here. It is somehow interesting. A friend said, a little mysterious.



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