

The Weinlich Family – A Sinti Family from Halle During the Nazi Era

Josef Weinlich was born on February 4, 1850, and worked as a horse dealer. He was an Austro-Hungarian citizen and died on October 9, 1915. His wife, Anna Weinlich, was born on May 1, 1855; she worked as a merchant and was a Prussian citizen. She died in Magdeburg in 1940.

The family belonged to the German Sinti community and had lived in Halle-Osendorf for several generations. The fact that Josef Weinlich chose Osendorf as his final resting place and had a mausoleum built there speaks to his deep connection to this place. The members of the Weinlich family earned their living primarily through trade and the transportation business. Preserved documents provide information about their origins, their family relationships, and their life stories.

During the Nazi regime, members of the family were registered and persecuted by the authorities because of their ancestry. An identification certificate issued by the Magdeburg Criminal Investigation Department in 1933 shows Anna Weinlich. The document makes it clear that official registration began even before the later deportations. The personal information collected could then be used to monitor and persecute the family.

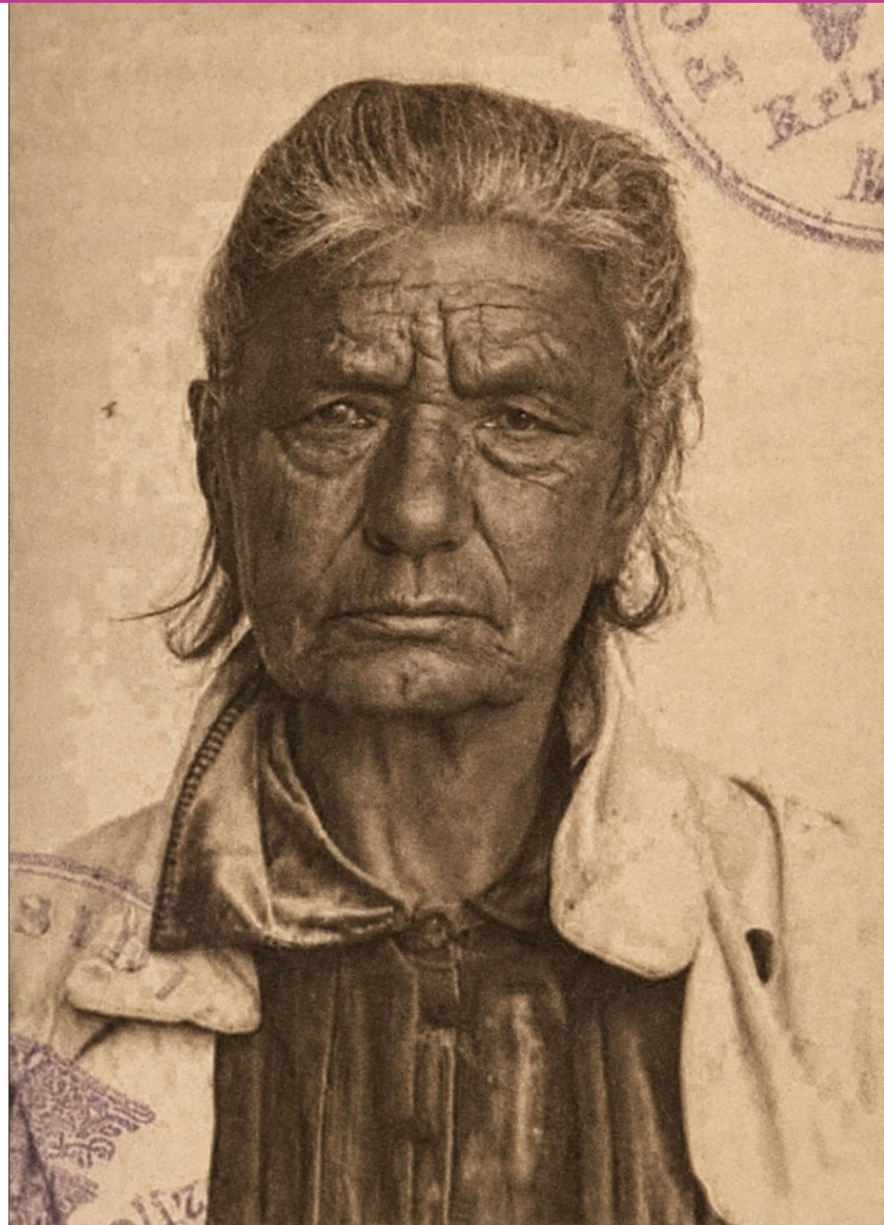


Photo of Anna Weinlich on an “Certificate of Identification” issued by the Magdeburg Criminal Investigation Department, 1933

Persecution and Deportation of the Weinlich Family

During the Nazi regime, Sinti and Roma were increasingly marginalized from society. Government agencies collected their personal data and compiled files on their origins. This bureaucratic documentation laid the groundwork for the subsequent deportations.

The Weinlich family was also affected by this persecution. In 1943, Grete Weinlich and her daughter Anna were deported to Auschwitz-Birkenau. Grete Weinlich died there. Anna survived Auschwitz and other concentration camps and was liberated in Bergen-Belsen in 1945. She later lived in the Netherlands. A preserved dossier on Anna van Iterson, née Weinlich, documents her experience of persecution. The files show how meticulously the authorities recorded the life stories of those affected. At the same time they provide insight today into the fate of a family whose lives were violently torn apart by Nazi persecution.

Lu ALLIED HIGH COMMISSION FOR GERMANY
INTERNATIONAL TRACING SERVICE
HEADQUARTERS
APO 171 U.S. ARMY

Subject: ILE D 136
To: Reg. File 327 973

C -

REQUEST FOR CERTIFICATE OF INCARCERTION
ANTRAG AUF INHAFTIERUNGSBESCHEINIGUNG

(Please answer every question very clearly and write in Block Letters)
(Bitte jede Frage genau beantworten und in Blockschrift ausfüllen)

DATE 25.Sept.1953
Datum

INFORMATION ABOUT THE FORMER INMATE.
Angaben über den ehemaligen Häftling

1. NAME van Iterson Nachn	1. MADIEN NAME solaiich Mädchenname
2. FIRST NAME Aria Vorname	8. BEX seihiäos Generalpreis
3. PRESENT NATIONALITY niederländ. Jetzige Staatsangehörigkeit	4. PRESTOES NATIONALITY steatenios Jetzige Staatsangehörigkeit
4. BIRTHDATE 11.2.1922 Geburtsdatum	5. BIRTHPLACE Treeden Geburtsort
5. FATHER'S NAME unbekannt Name des Vaters	6. FATHER'S NAME ADD MAIDEN NAME Gertrude Rairion Name und Geburtsname des Vaters
6. LAST PERMANENT RESIDENCE BEFORE ENTERING THE CONCENTRATION CAMP Letzter ständiger Aufenthaltsort vor Eintritt in das Konzentrationslager	
7. LOCALITY Berlin Ort	b) STREET Bulset No 2 Strasse Nr
8) COUNTRY Deutschland Land	c) COUNTY Kreis
10. MARITAL STATUS IN CONC CAMP verheiratet. Familienstand im Konz.-Lager ledig	1) DEPENDENS IN CONC CAMP unbekannt Kinder im Konz.-Lager
12. INFORMATION ABOUT THE VARIOUS STAYS IN CONCENTRATION CAMPS Angaben über die verschiedenen Aufenthalte in Konzentrationslagern	
1) Above mentioned entered the Conc camp Auschwitz Prison No 546392 Obengenannter wurde eingeliefert in das Konz.-Lager Häftl.Nr	
on Ende März 1943 released from Berlin, Salzedeler. 9 am ent.	
2) Transferred to Conc.Camp Marienburg on 1.August 1944 Prison No. 546420/5945 Überstellt zum Konz.-Lager (Aussendc.v. am Häftl.Nr Auschwitz)	

Form 5/47 6.8.47/100M 5110335/53
M-1579 (CC) L 773 9199

See overleaf
Siehe umseitig

Excerpt from the "Application for a Certificate of Detention" for Anna van Iterson, née Weinlich, Arolsen Archives, 1959

The Auschwitz Decree and the Racial Foundations of Persecution

On December 16, 1942, Heinrich Himmler ordered the deportation of the Sinti and Roma living in the German Reich to Auschwitz-Birkenau. An urgent letter from the Reich Security Main Office dated January 29, 1943, set forth the practical implementation of this so-called Auschwitz Decree. It was addressed to the criminal police headquarters, which were responsible for registering and deporting those affected.

In the letter, Sinti and Roma were identified using racist, pejorative terms and divided into various groups. Only a few individuals were initially to be exempted from deportation. These exemptions, too, were based on the racist categories used by the Nazi persecution authorities. The preparations were to be carried out in secret so that those affected could not flee. The persecution was based on fabricated stereotypes. Sinti and Roma were portrayed as allegedly criminal, “alien to society,” or subversive. There was no evidence to support these claims. The racist characterizations served to justify surveillance, exclusion, and deportation. The Auschwitz Decree ultimately led this policy to the systematic deportation and murder of Roma, including members of the Weinlich family.

Betrifft: Einweisung von Zigeunermischlingen, Röm-Zigeunern und balkanischen Zigeunern in ein Konzentrationslager.

Anlagen: 3

- I. Auf Befehl des Reichsführers-SS vom 16.12.1942 - Tgb. Nr. I 2652/42 Ad./RF/V. - sind Zigeunermischlinge, Röm-Zigeuner und nicht deutschblütige Angehörige zigeunerischer Sippen balkanischer Herkunft nach bestimmten Richtlinien auszuwählen und in einer Aktion von wenigen Wochen in ein Konzentrationslager einzuweisen. Dieser Personenkreis wird im Nachstehenden kurz als "zigeunerische Personen" bezeichnet.

Die Einweisung erfolgt ohne Rücksicht auf den Mischlingsgrad familienweise in das Konzentrationslager (Zigeunerlager) Auschwitz.

Excerpt from the urgent letter from the Reich Security Main Office regarding the implementation of the so-called Auschwitz Decree, 1943



Sinti Mausoleum: From a Family Grave to a Historic Memorial Site

Josef Weinlich had the mausoleum built in the cemetery in Halle-Osendorf as a burial place for his family. The structure is a surviving testament to the Weinlich family's longstanding ties to the town. At the same time, it documents the history of a Sinti family that lived in the region for many years.



The Sinti Mausoleum in Halle-Osendorf Before Renovation and Restoration, Henrik Wagner, 2024

Thanks to the renovation and restoration carried out in accordance with historic preservation guidelines, the mausoleum has been preserved and has once again gained greater recognition in the public consciousness as a historic site. Today, it not only commemorates the members of the Weinlich family buried there, but also highlights the long-neglected history of the Sinti and Roma in Halle.



As a local memorial site, the mausoleum complements written documents and personal life stories with a visible, on-site testament. It helps to permanently preserve the family's history and share it with a wider public.

The Sinti Mausoleum in Halle-Osendorf after renovation and restoration, Louisa Tiede, 2026

