

Sara Kessler (1881-1942)



Born on 27.12.1881 in Boryslaw

Sara Czipe Schleier married Isaak Kessler, who died in 1918 as a result of a war wound from the First World War. The family lived in Cologne, Karthäuserhof 8

The couple had four daughters and four sons, among them the merchant and successful amateur boxer Jonas Kessler.

Sara Kessler was murdered in Auschwitz in 1942.

Hilde Langen writes about Sara Kessler:

»Sara raised her eight children on her own - she was a typical Jewish mother, the soul and haven of peace of the whole family. She was always warm-hearted and understanding. Everyone called her "Mam". The family lived in Cologne in Karthäuserhof 8. Sara ran a buying and selling business there. In 1938 the family was expelled and fled first to Belgium, from there to the Warsaw Ghetto. Their son Jonas Kessler stayed with his mother until they were separated. Jonas was deported to the Plaszow labour camp near Krakow and shot in August 1944. Sara Kessler and her daughters Ethel Sylberstein, Eva Sylberstein and Sophie Bloemendaal were deported to the Auschwitz extermination camp. Sara Kessler died there in 1942/43. As a granddaughter - daughter of Jonas - I would like to share with you these memories of how I experienced my grandmother - as a brave woman who tried to master her life until the violent end.«

(<https://museenkoeln.de/ns-dokumentationszentrum/default.aspx?s=2523&sfom=1196&stid=536&buchstabe=K>)

/ translated by Klaus Hasbron-Blume

Sources: NS-Dokumentationszentrum der Stadt Köln (NS-DOK), Online documentation on stumbling blocks (Stolpersteine)- here: stumbling block Sara Kessler;

https://www.wikiwand.com/de/Liste_der_Stolpersteine_im_K%C3%B6lner_Stadtteil_Altstadt-S%C3%BCd

About the Stolpersteine project: <http://www.stolpersteine.eu/en/home/>