

Lesser (known as Lothar) Conitzer also lived here at Tornquiststraße 9.

He was my grandfather's great-uncle.

He was the youngest of seven siblings.

Born in 1865 in Jeschewo, now in Poland. The family came from a poor background but they worked hard and helped each other. For example, Lothar lived with my great-great-grandfather Rudolf in Schwetz while he attended high school.

All of the siblings contributed significantly to the establishment and success of what later became the Conitzer Group.

In 1936, they proudly counted 22 department stores throughout Germany.

Lothar was the only son who did not become a businessman, but a doctor.

He became a respected doctor here in Hamburg, practicing general medicine and gynecology.

He married Frieda Vogel-Levy, who came from Bavaria and was 12 years younger than him.

Together they had three children

Their first son, Ludwig

A year later, their daughter Grete

And two years later, their son Manfred.

The first son also became a doctor. He was brilliant and started working as a doctor at an early age, but sadly died of a brain tumor at the age of 28. He is now buried in the Jewish cemetery in Hamburg Ohldorf.

His daughter Grete married Hans Jacoby in 1924 at the age of 22. Later they had a daughter, Annette Jacoby born in 1927.

And they had really made it big: the house they bought in 1908 had three floors and a huge garden, recalls Annette, their granddaughter, in her biography, when she visited her grandfather as a 10-year-old child. Lothar ran his practice on the ground floor and the family lived upstairs. Annette remembers that Dr. Conitzer had a big heart; if patients didn't have money, they were allowed to pay in other ways. For example, an artist paid with a painting that hung in the living room. They had a chauffeur and many servants who cooked for the family in the kitchen.

From today's perspective, one can say that they led a completely normal life and were citizens like you and me.

Today, the house would be located directly on the Doormannsweg.

Only because of racial policies that differentiates between Germans and Jews did he have to give up his profession as a doctor and sell his house for far less than its value for 28,000 Reichsmarks. But he did not have free access to the money. His money was confiscated, and since 1938 he was no longer allowed to practice his profession or use his doctorate title.

The couple had to flee to South Africa, where their son Manfred had been living since 1934. They had to pay 104,000 RM to emigrate. As many Jews they had to leave without financial means and build a new life abroad at an advanced age (72). He died in 1947 at the age of

82, his wife died four months later, both in Cape Town, South Africa. Their descendants now live in London, England. From two grandchildren became four great-grandchildren. One of them told me to say you: "May their memory be a blessing."

May the memory of the family be a blessing to us.

And from a quote from my grandfather: "Let us help our neighbors bear the heavy burden of the tormented life of our time."

We should be aware that our actions have far-reaching consequences. To this day, we bear the consequences of the decisions our ancestors made 87 years ago. Today, we are able to support each other and live together in peace. May this be an example to the whole world, and so long let's continue helping each other.