

Isidor Katzenstein Family Brief

Background information:

Isidor Katzenstein was born in Wehrda, Germany on December 10, 1899 to Jakob Katzenstein and Betti Wallach. He served as a Musketier in the 11. R. I. R. 71. He died on October 24, 1918 and is buried at St. Quentin cemetery in France. His grave is marked with a Latin cross.

Isidor Katzenstein was one of at least nine siblings, four of whom died in infancy or childhood. The details of his remaining four siblings who survived to adulthood are outlined below.

Isidor Katzenstein's older brother Julius was born in Wehrda on November 5, 1895. He married Bertha Stern in Wehrda on Mar 23, 1928. He emigrated from Germany to the US on March 18, 1938, along with his wife and two daughters, Ruth and Sylvia. He died in New York in 1967 and is buried alongside his wife at Beth-El Cemetery in Paramus, New Jersey.¹

Isidor Katzenstein's older sister Sara was born in Wehrda on March 20, 1898. She married Julius Siesel in Wehrda on July 11, 1921. The couple had three children: Sanna, Siegfried, and Karola. Sara Siesel nee Katzenstein appears on the Listenmaterial Westerbork with a death date of November 27, 1942. Her husband and two daughters died in 1941-1942, according to death records from the Netherlands. Her son Siegfried Peretz "Fritz" Siesel survived WWII and ultimately relocated to Israel.

Isidor Katzenstein's younger sister Regine (later Regina) was born in Wehrda on April 30, 1903. She married Samuel Coster in Hilversum, Netherlands on April 26, 1933. The couple had two children: Abraham (later Arthur) and Betty. Samuel Coster died in Europe in 1942,² but Regine and her two children survived WWII and emigrated from Rotterdam to New York in 1947. Regina Coster died in Queens, New York in 1997.

Isidor Katzenstein's younger sister Meta was born in Wehrda on July 25, 1904. She appears on the Listenmaterial Westerbork with a death date of September 30, 1942. The Netherlands death index lists her place of death as Oswiecim (Auschwitz). She is not known to have married or had any children.

Descendant information:

Isidor Katzenstein's niece Ruth Katzenstein (daughter of Julius) was born in Wehrda on February 19, 1929. She married Seymour Hefter, with a marriage license being issued for

¹ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/257412038/bertha-katzenstein>

² <https://www.tracesofwar.com/sights/83754/Stumbling-Stone-Hilvertsweg-62.htm>

the couple in Manhattan, New York, on September 14, 1951. Ruth Katzenstein and her husband Seymour had four children: Shoshana, David, Shais (Seth), and Jesse. Ruth passed away in 2023; her funeral services were conducted at Levine Chapels in Brookline, Massachusetts. The family sat shiva at the home of her son, Jesse Hefter.³ Donations in Ruth's memory were asked to be directed to Leket Israel or Yad Sarah.

Isidor Katzenstein's niece Sylvia Katzenstein was born in Germany on February 9, 1933. She married Hans Alexander, with a marriage license being issued for the couple in Manhattan, New York, in 1957. The couple appear to have had one daughter, Debra Jean Alexander. Sylvia is still alive and resides in the Bronx.

Isidor Katzenstein's nephew Siegfried "Fritz" Peretz Siesel (also, Sisel) was born in Altenstadt, Germany on February 17, 1925. He was interviewed for the USC Shoah Foundation Project in 1996, at which point he was living on Kibbutz Beit Itzchak in Israel.⁴ An online family tree⁵ indicates that he passed away in Israel on August 18, 2008 and that he was the father of a son and daughter.⁶

Isidor Katzenstein's nephew Abraham Arthur "Art" Coster was born in Hilversum on March 18, 1934. After arriving in the US with his mother and sister, he served in the US Air Force from 1953 to 1957. After leaving the military, he married Virginia Woodcock in Washington, District of Columbia (Congress Heights Baptist Church) on February 13, 1957. The couple appear to have had three children together, including sons Jeffrey and Mark, along with a daughter who married a man named Newman. Abraham Arthur Coster died in 1999 and is buried alongside his wife in Fairfax Memorial Park in Fairfax, Virginia.

Isidor Katzenstein's niece Betty Coster married Lutz "Lou" Wolff in Manhattan in 1958. Betty lives in Boca Raton, Florida; her husband died in 2025.⁷ They appear to have had two children together, Robert Wolff and Gary Wolff. Robert "Bobby" Wolff married Elizabeth Gross. They had one daughter and three sons. It appears that he and his wife divorced. Gary Wolff has at least one son, Steven.

³ <https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/brookline-ma/ruth-hefter-11503916> .

⁴ <https://vha.usc.edu/testimony/12408?from=search&seg=4>.

⁵ <https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/166430759/person/212423652109/facts>.

⁶ The names of these children are not known.

⁷ Funeral services were handled by Neshama Jewish Funeral Services, <https://www.sun-sentinel.com/obituaries/lou-wolff/>.