

## THE OLD SYNAGOGUE

The old synagogue of Rixheim, built in 1763, was in the prolongation of the end wall of the house of the sixteenth century, at the N°10 of the Church Street (parcel n° 345, in blue on the map). Just before the French Revolution, the Jewish community was important and amounted to 243 people, 12% of the local population. From 1754 to 1802, a substitute rabbi for the Sundgau was established in Rixheim. The most famous one was Jacob Meyer, who was at this post from 1771 to 1802. He became in 1813 great rabbi of Strasbourg and president of the Consistoire of the Bas-Rhin until his death in 1830.

Plan cadastral de 1823  
(Archives municipales de Rixheim)



The rabbi Jacob Meyer

This community was still important in the first half of the nineteenth century (372 people in 1833) but then declined quickly, notably after 1870 (107 people in 1883, 69 in 1895, 46 in 1910, 10 in 1931).

Rixheim once held a Jewish school, a Mikvé (Jewish ritual bath) and a kosher butcher's shop. The street where you are, now known as street of the shepherd, was previously named « s'Judagassle », the street of the Jewish. A lot of Jewish families lived there. The rabbinate of Rixheim was vacant since 1882, before being attached to the one of Dornach in 1910. It is probable that the synagogue was

no longer used after this date, or even before, since the building was sold in 1873 to Joseph Grasser. In 1933, his owner, Leon Gissinger, decided to demolish it because it was too old.

The father of the captain Alfred Dreyfus, Raphaël, was born in Rixheim in 1818. This family lived there for five generations. The college of Rixheim was the first of French secondary school to be named College Captain Dreyfus.



The Willard family in front of their house, in the N°5 street of the shepherd.