

STARKE (SZTARKE) Józef (1869–1942), merchant, industrial entrepreneur, social activist. He was born on 23rd July 1869 in Sieradz, the son of Adam and Anna née Monic.

He settled in Częstochowa at the beginning of the 20th century. Prior to 1914, in Częstochowa, he ran a brokerage house (at I Alej 6). He was also a co-owner of the “Lisinisc” Brickworks (at ul. Huculska 2/34). In 1913-1914, he belonged to the Council of the Mutual Loan Society.

In 1919, representing the United Jewish Electoral Committee, he ran for the City Council, but was unsuccessful. However, he became a deputy councillor. He supported charities and belonged to the “Dobroczytność” Charitable Society for Jews. From September 1914, he was subjected to a tax in the amount of 10 rubles, for activity on the committee of Emergency Aid.

In 1919, he took part in the Polish recruiting campaign and, during the war with the Bolsheviks, he supported the Committee to Aid the Polish Soldier (organised through the Częstochowa Jewish Community Council to which, in August 1920, he donated 1,800 Polish marks. He was a (supporting) member of the Volunteer Fire Brigade. During the 1927 elections to the City Council, he was appointed as a deputy member of the District Electoral Commission. At the end of the 1920s, he was a (supporting) member of the Częstochowa Anti-Tuberculosis Society.

From 1913-1935, he lived at ul. Strażacka 14 (later, it was ul. Katedralna 7), and then at al. Wolności 10.

In 1941, he was forced to live in the Częstochowa ghetto. During its liquidation (September-October 1942), together with his wife and children, he was transported to the Treblinka extermination camp.

Circa 1900, he married Salomea Sura née Engel (→ Salomea Starke).

Czech, *Kalendarium przemysłu*, p. 106; *Sienkiewiczacy*, p. 231. – Szwed, *Żydzi w samorządzie m. Częstochowy*, p. 159. – *Handlowiec. Kalendarz 1913*, p. 276; *Handlowiec. Kalendarz 1914*, p. 310; *Sprawozdanie Częstochowskiego Towarzystwa Przeciwgruźliczego 1926– 1929*, p. 28; *Sprawozdanie Tow. Dobroczytności dla Żydów 1913*, p. 5, *Sprawozdanie Straży Ogniowej w Częstochowie za 1931*, p. 28; *Spis abonentów sieci telefonicznych 1932/33*, p. 16, 1935, p. 52, 1939, p. 46, 53. – “*Goniec Częstochowski*” 1914, No. 268, p. 2, 1915, No. 128, p. 2, 1918, No. 78, p. 4 (also re wife), 1919, No. 88, p. 2, 1920, No. 204, p. 3. – Materials (birth record extracts) in the ODDC collections.

Andrzej Kuśnierczyk, Juliusz Sętowski