

STARKE (SZTARKE) née ENGEL Salomea Sura (1876-1942), manager of a charitable institution, charity activist. She was born on 8th November 1876 in Bełchatówek, the daughter of Mojżesz and Fajga née Monic.

Following her marriage in 1901, she left Bełchatówek and settled in Częstochowa. Circa 1912, after the death of → Leopold Werde, she was entrusted with the management of the Home for the Aged and Orphans, the institution belonging to the “Dobroczytność” Charitable Society for Jews. Surviving accounts state that “with rare energy, almost alone, she bore the responsibility of running these institutions for around twenty years”.

In the 1920s, she received a monthly subsidy of 2,000 złotych from the Częstochowa municipal authority and from the Jewish Community Council. Thanks to this, it was possible to run a kitchen for the orphans and the elderly and, in 1928, to add a second storey to the premises of the Home for the Aged and Orphans. Presumably, prior to 1939, she left this care institution. At a special ceremony, in the name of the Jewish community, she was thanked for her efforts in running the Home.

Until the opening of the ghetto, together with her husband, she lived at al. Wolności 10. Starke was murdered by the Germans, in 1942, at the extermination camp in Treblinka.

Her husband was → Józef Starke (Sztarke), merchant. They had two children:

- Leontyna (27th August 1903 Częstochowa - 1942), who graduated from the Wacława Golczewska-Chranowska Girls Gimnazjum in Częstochowa, matriculating in 1920);
- Adam Mieczysław (6th August 1907 Częstochowa - 1942) who, in 1925, graduated from the H. Sienkiewicz No.1 State Gimnazjum in Częstochowa.

The children, like their parents, perished in Treblinka.

Paszkowski, *Na częstochowskim Cmentarzu Żydowskim*, pp. 290, 291. – *Czenstochower Yidn*, p. CXLIV; Kociołek, Zalewska, *Monografia Gimnazjum i Liceum im. J. Słowackiego*, p. 121 (re: daughter). – APCz, AmCz 5412, p. 226, unit No. 1, ref. 8843 (Register of conscripts 19–7), No. 1656/62 (re: son Adam).

Wiesław Paszkowski