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Summary

Esther (Rosenfeld) Starobin was born April 3, 1937 in Adelsheim, Germany as the youngest of five to Adolf and Katie (née Lemberger) from Korb and Rexingen, respectively. Her father was a livestock dealer until losing his business in a dispute. Esther left alone on a 1939 Kindertransport and was placed with the Harrison family in Thorpe, England. In 1947, she went to the U.S. Her three older sisters had left on an earlier transport. Her brother remained behind with her parents until they were deported to France in 1940, after which he was then able to go to the U.S. Her parents were eventually deported to Auschwitz and were killed on arrival in 1942. Esther isn't sure why her parents were willing to take a chance of sending their children away other than their faith in God and people to ensure their safety.

Esther describes the different ways in which her siblings related to their family history and role as a survivor. She also relates her earliest memories, mostly of England.

Her brother, Herman, lived with an aunt and uncle, while Esther and her sisters lived with a different paternal uncle and aunt, Sigmund and Regina Rosenfeld, in Washington, DC. She then lived with her sister, Bertl and Edith, in Washington until attending University of Illinois in 1953, graduating in 1957 when she returned to Washington. Esther related to Judaism slowly and informally, but eventually joined a Reform congregation as an adult. She became a teacher and involved herself in many school and community activities. At retirement, she volunteered at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum. She is married to Fred Starobin.