

Born in Fulda, Germany November 29, 1927, Ruth Stern discusses her experiences as a deaf child in Germany prior to WWII; her time at Germany's Israelite Institute for the Deaf (Israelitische Taubstumm-Anstalt) where she was in boarding school; her father Julius Oppenheimer, her mother Sylvia Oppenheimer (née Haas), and her brothers Norman and Martin Oppenheimer; her father's emigration from Germany to the United States in 1935 to establish himself and find work as a result of worsening circumstances for Jews in Germany; how her mother and brothers joined her father in New York City a year later; the fact that she was left behind in her boarding school because of her deafness and the difficulty for deaf people to obtain visas to the United States; her memories of the school's headmaster Felix Reich; staying with her grandparents in Germany during the summer months when the school was closed; the help her grandparents received from their gentile housekeeper; joining her family in the United States in 1938, sailing aboard the SS Deutschland in September 1938 to join her family in New York; her reunion with her mother; how many of her classmates who stayed behind were eventually deported to concentration camps; and the life she and her husband made in the United States.