

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:00,990

2

00:00:00,990 --> 00:00:05,790

My name is Julie Kopel, and I
am interviewing Susan Feingold.

3

00:00:05,790 --> 00:00:09,690

The date is May 15,
2015, and the interview

4

00:00:09,690 --> 00:00:12,030

is being conducted for the
United States Holocaust

5

00:00:12,030 --> 00:00:13,170

Memorial Museum.

6

00:00:13,170 --> 00:00:16,270

We are in New York City.

7

00:00:16,270 --> 00:00:17,110

Hi, Susan.

8

00:00:17,110 --> 00:00:20,140

Thank you so much for
meeting today and agreeing

9

00:00:20,140 --> 00:00:21,370

to tell us your story.

10

00:00:21,370 --> 00:00:23,210

It's a pleasure.

11

00:00:23,210 --> 00:00:25,120

It's very nice to meet you.

12

00:00:25,120 --> 00:00:28,840

Can you please tell me what
was your name at birth?

13

00:00:28,840 --> 00:00:29,500

When what?

14

00:00:29,500 --> 00:00:31,350

What was your name at birth?

15

00:00:31,350 --> 00:00:34,410

16

00:00:34,410 --> 00:00:38,190

[?Sosanna?] Frank.

17

00:00:38,190 --> 00:00:38,847

Frank.

18

00:00:38,847 --> 00:00:39,930

Can you spell that please?

19

00:00:39,930 --> 00:00:41,430

Like Anne Frank.

20

00:00:41,430 --> 00:00:43,710

But F, r, a, n, k.

21

00:00:43,710 --> 00:00:47,080

OK, and where were you born?

22

00:00:47,080 --> 00:00:55,597

In a large town called Krefeld
in the Rhineland in Germany.

23

00:00:55,597 --> 00:00:57,555

And would you mind spelling
that for me please?

24

00:00:57,555 --> 00:00:58,055

Krefeld?

25

00:00:58,055 --> 00:00:58,740

Sure.

26

00:00:58,740 --> 00:01:04,345

K, r, e, f, e, l, d.

27

00:01:04,345 --> 00:01:09,990

Great, and what was
the date of your birth?

28

00:01:09,990 --> 00:01:14,160

December 17, 1924.

29

00:01:14,160 --> 00:01:20,070

OK, and Susan, can you tell me
a little bit about your family?

30

00:01:20,070 --> 00:01:21,840

Where were they from?

31

00:01:21,840 --> 00:01:24,390

What were your parents
roles in the household?

32

00:01:24,390 --> 00:01:25,350

Did you have siblings?

33

00:01:25,350 --> 00:01:28,960

Anything you want to
share about your family.

34

00:01:28,960 --> 00:01:35,370

Well, my father was born in
a small town called Wittlich

35

00:01:35,370 --> 00:01:38,130

on the Moselle,
and my mother was

36

00:01:38,130 --> 00:01:42,390

born in Krefeld in the
house that we lived in,

37

00:01:42,390 --> 00:01:44,130

except the house

was pulled down,

38

00:01:44,130 --> 00:01:48,740

and a new one was built
when I was three years old.

39

00:01:48,740 --> 00:01:56,620

And my father, we
had a ladies' garment

40

00:01:56,620 --> 00:02:01,480

store, and a very large one.

41

00:02:01,480 --> 00:02:06,890

And so my father ran that,
and my mother was a singer.

42

00:02:06,890 --> 00:02:10,139

43

00:02:10,139 --> 00:02:16,890

So in my young years, I went to
concerts when she was singing,

44

00:02:16,890 --> 00:02:20,100

and she was a wonderful singer.

45

00:02:20,100 --> 00:02:23,000

Mainly Mozart, Beethoven.

46

00:02:23,000 --> 00:02:29,070

And so I grew up in a very
large house with 48 rooms.

47

00:02:29,070 --> 00:02:31,770

If you could imagine that, yes.

48

00:02:31,770 --> 00:02:36,660

And in the house lived my
parents, my grandparents,

49

00:02:36,660 --> 00:02:41,865

my mother's parents, my brother
and I, and a number of maids.

50
00:02:41,865 --> 00:02:45,840

51
00:02:45,840 --> 00:02:46,950
So where were we?

52
00:02:46,950 --> 00:02:48,000
Where should we go?

53
00:02:48,000 --> 00:02:51,270
So your brother is
younger or older than you?

54
00:02:51,270 --> 00:02:52,570
Three years older.

55
00:02:52,570 --> 00:02:53,880
Three years older, OK.

56
00:02:53,880 --> 00:02:56,910
And he's not alive.

57
00:02:56,910 --> 00:03:00,840
And what was the nature
of religious life

58
00:03:00,840 --> 00:03:03,490
within your family?

59
00:03:03,490 --> 00:03:09,200
My father was fairly orthodox.

60
00:03:09,200 --> 00:03:10,700
My mother was not at all.

61
00:03:10,700 --> 00:03:15,320

62

00:03:15,320 --> 00:03:19,160

She was an atheist,
really, my mother.

63

00:03:19,160 --> 00:03:22,400

64

00:03:22,400 --> 00:03:26,120

But we grew up with
Jewish tradition.

65

00:03:26,120 --> 00:03:34,300

I went to Hebrew school
and so did my brother

66

00:03:34,300 --> 00:03:37,630

and that's about
it for that one.

67

00:03:37,630 --> 00:03:43,280

OK, so you went to secular
school and Hebrew school?

68

00:03:43,280 --> 00:03:43,820

Yeah.

69

00:03:43,820 --> 00:03:48,500

No, I mean, Hebrew school
was sort of after school.

70

00:03:48,500 --> 00:03:51,170

They were not-- it was a
couple of hours a week.

71

00:03:51,170 --> 00:03:55,350

OK, so your regular school was
a secular school with Germans

72

00:03:55,350 --> 00:03:55,850

as well.

73

00:03:55,850 --> 00:03:57,800

I went into an

elementary school.

74

00:03:57,800 --> 00:04:00,170

That's what happened in Germany.

75

00:04:00,170 --> 00:04:04,140

The first four years you
go to an elementary school,

76

00:04:04,140 --> 00:04:07,320

then you can go to high
school if you wanted to.

77

00:04:07,320 --> 00:04:17,709

So at 10, I went to high school,
and when I was not quite 13,

78

00:04:17,709 --> 00:04:19,930

I was kicked out.

79

00:04:19,930 --> 00:04:22,990

Hitler was in full swing.

80

00:04:22,990 --> 00:04:25,750

And they threw me out
of school one morning,

81

00:04:25,750 --> 00:04:27,820

the 9th of November--

82

00:04:27,820 --> 00:04:31,690

yeah, Kristallnacht.

83

00:04:31,690 --> 00:04:33,100

Let's back up a little bit.

84

00:04:33,100 --> 00:04:35,230

Do you remember if your
family had any sort

85

00:04:35,230 --> 00:04:38,650

of political affiliations?

86

00:04:38,650 --> 00:04:44,840

Well, my mother was quite radical to the left.

87

00:04:44,840 --> 00:04:47,140

And my father--

88

00:04:47,140 --> 00:04:48,650

I don't really know.

89

00:04:48,650 --> 00:04:52,720

My father was not very active politically.

90

00:04:52,720 --> 00:04:55,390

And did you keep a kosher home?

91

00:04:55,390 --> 00:04:56,260

Did I what?

92

00:04:56,260 --> 00:04:59,430

Keep a kosher home?

93

00:04:59,430 --> 00:05:02,130

Sort of a pretend kosher home.

94

00:05:02,130 --> 00:05:04,020

[LAUGHS]

95

00:05:04,020 --> 00:05:05,580

And what about Shabbat?

96

00:05:05,580 --> 00:05:08,570

Did you participate in Shabbat rituals and synagogue?

97

00:05:08,570 --> 00:05:11,430

Yes, I went to synagogue.

98

00:05:11,430 --> 00:05:13,110

And did you go only
with your father

99

00:05:13,110 --> 00:05:15,480

since your mother was
more of an atheist?

100

00:05:15,480 --> 00:05:18,270

Yeah, but my mother,
she was a singer

101

00:05:18,270 --> 00:05:24,600

so she sang solos in the choir,
and she did all the solos

102

00:05:24,600 --> 00:05:26,680

in the holidays, yes.

103

00:05:26,680 --> 00:05:32,370

OK, and you had mentioned
that your grandparents also

104

00:05:32,370 --> 00:05:34,530

lived in your house.

105

00:05:34,530 --> 00:05:37,260

Were there other members of
your extended family who lived--

106

00:05:37,260 --> 00:05:38,405

There was an aunt.

107

00:05:38,405 --> 00:05:40,950

A sister of my mother's.

108

00:05:40,950 --> 00:05:46,095

And with 48 rooms, there
was quite a lot of space.

109

00:05:46,095 --> 00:05:49,580

110

00:05:49,580 --> 00:05:53,870

Yes, so my grandparents,
they had one floor.

111

00:05:53,870 --> 00:05:59,310

And my aunt, who
had several rooms.

112

00:05:59,310 --> 00:06:01,380

And were there any
other members living

113

00:06:01,380 --> 00:06:04,690

in the same town of
your extended family?

114

00:06:04,690 --> 00:06:05,190

No.

115

00:06:05,190 --> 00:06:08,160

No, so everyone in your
family was living there?

116

00:06:08,160 --> 00:06:09,250

Fairly close some of them.

117

00:06:09,250 --> 00:06:10,570

Yes, not far.

118

00:06:10,570 --> 00:06:15,210

OK, and can you tell me a
little bit about your childhood

119

00:06:15,210 --> 00:06:15,990

before the war?

120

00:06:15,990 --> 00:06:19,350

121

00:06:19,350 --> 00:06:23,000

My childhood, yes.

122

00:06:23,000 --> 00:06:26,000

When I was very little, my
mother did a lot of singing.

123

00:06:26,000 --> 00:06:29,070

She gave a lot of
concerts so she travelled.

124

00:06:29,070 --> 00:06:34,140

So there were a number of
maids in my early years,

125

00:06:34,140 --> 00:06:35,420

but all lovely.

126

00:06:35,420 --> 00:06:37,320

Very, very good.

127

00:06:37,320 --> 00:06:42,600

And my brother and
I were very close.

128

00:06:42,600 --> 00:06:47,730

We fought like mad together,
but we loved each other.

129

00:06:47,730 --> 00:06:53,332

And my parents were, I
would say, model parents.

130

00:06:53,332 --> 00:06:57,440

I had a lovely childhood
in that sense, yes.

131

00:06:57,440 --> 00:07:00,930

132

00:07:00,930 --> 00:07:07,570

And my father, he
was a businessman.

133

00:07:07,570 --> 00:07:13,870

We had a very large

store which he took over

134

00:07:13,870 --> 00:07:16,210
from my mother's father.

135

00:07:16,210 --> 00:07:31,540
Yeah, and my father was a very
quiet man, very accommodating.

136

00:07:31,540 --> 00:07:36,610
My mother was extremely
temperamental but wonderful.

137

00:07:36,610 --> 00:07:42,520
She was wonderful, and so
I grew up in a household

138

00:07:42,520 --> 00:07:47,260
with a very calm,
calm male presence,

139

00:07:47,260 --> 00:07:50,170
and my brother was
very temperamental.

140

00:07:50,170 --> 00:07:51,850
I was more like my father.

141

00:07:51,850 --> 00:07:53,023
Not quite as--

142

00:07:53,023 --> 00:07:54,690
Right, and he was
more like your mother.

143

00:07:54,690 --> 00:07:59,180
Yeah, yeah, and he was
more like my mother, yes.

144

00:07:59,180 --> 00:08:02,230
But we were very close.

145

00:08:02,230 --> 00:08:02,875

Very close.

146

00:08:02,875 --> 00:08:05,440

Do you want to get some water?

147

00:08:05,440 --> 00:08:07,010

Coffee, I want.

148

00:08:07,010 --> 00:08:09,430

Sure, we could stop if you want.

149

00:08:09,430 --> 00:08:10,240

Are you sure?

150

00:08:10,240 --> 00:08:11,460

Yes, it's OK.

151

00:08:11,460 --> 00:08:12,920

Would you like some coffee?

152

00:08:12,920 --> 00:08:13,570

No, I'm OK.

153

00:08:13,570 --> 00:08:15,190

Thank you, but I'm
going to just-- let

154

00:08:15,190 --> 00:08:17,320

me take microphone off.