

RUTH FEIST

Ruth Feist was born in Mannheim, Germany in 1919. She had one brother and one sister. She lived with her parents, siblings, and her aunt (her father's sister). Her father was a grade school teacher, just like her mother, but she left it when she got married. All of them were Jews and they celebrated Sabbath, Hanukkah, and the males bar mitzvah, and usually went to synagogue. They were not rich but neither poor, they had all that they needed. They only spoke German, but her mother also spoke a little English because she lived for a short time in England in her childhood.

When she was 15 years old she left to Germany, and she comes directly to the U.S. She was in NYC with her aunt. She only spoke Germany at that time. After she arrived went to High School for about two years and she graduated in 1936. She worked as a babysitter and went to nursing school. In 1936 her father was forced to resign his job because Jewish teachers had not allowed teaching non-Jewish children. In this year her sister left for England and her brother went to Munich, he was working there and didn't leave until 1939. Her sister worked in England as a babysitter but when the things began to look bad, she came to the U.S in 1938 and also lived with her aunt until she found a job. In 1940 the situation was already terrible.

Her parents wanted to move to Berlin and then go to Sweden, where her mother's brother lived. However, her parents were denied a visa. Finally, they were allowed to go to Spain and Portugal, and from there move to NYC. Then, Ruth went to U.S army and after that, she went to college. Then she worked as a nurse in N.Y. Their parents moved to Omaha, Nebraska because her sister got married, had a small child there and opened a restaurant with her husband. Ruth got married in Iowa and her husband Robert, got a job in the Miami Valley and both moved in 1954. They had two daughters, Bette and Debbie. Her brother never moved to the U.S, he immigrated to Israel. It took them nine months to get from Germany to Israel. Usually, Ruth visited her brother in Israel. Finally, they moved to Dayton, OH and passed the rest of their life.

Unfortunately, Ruth Rosenthal Feist passed away in her sleep on January 15, 2011, in Dayton, OH.