

Karoline Piterson is born as Karoline Rosenthal in Thuringian Geisa on 4 September 1851. The little we know about her life before 1938 sounds like an adventure story:

As a young woman, Karoline Rosenthal meets a Swedish skipper named Piterson and, without further ado, elopes with him to America. Years later, she returns "*penniless and completely devastated*" and is taken in by her younger sister in Rotenburg an der Fulda. At least that is how her great-nephew Heinz Meyerstein (1920-2009) describes it; she never spoke about her time in America or the reasons for her return.

In 1938, Karoline Piterson lives together with her sister Hedwig Gans and her daughter Johanna in Brotgasse 6 in Rotenburg an der Fulda. There, she has to experience most serious outrages against the Jewish citizens of Rotenburg during the night from 7 to 8 November 1938.

In December 1938, Karoline Piterson comes to Göttingen together with her sister and niece, where the three women are taken in by the family of Hedwig's eldest daughter, Rosa Meyerstein, in Rote Straße 16.

After the "Law on Tenancies with Jews" of 30 April 1939 has abolished the rights of Jewish tenants, Karoline Piterson is forcibly put up in the Jewish community house in Weender Landstraße 26 in May 1939. From 1939 to 1942, the three-storey building, one of six so-called "*Jewish houses*" in Göttingen, accommodates a number of residents varying between nine and 26, a total of 42.

For the people accommodated in the "*Jewish houses*", the forced movement alone involves great hardship since they have to sell most of their remaining belongings at lowest prices due to the acute lack of space. In addition, the living conditions there are deliberately made beneath human dignity by the National Socialists starting from the adverse hygienic and sanitary conditions right down to the lack of fuel and food supplies.

Supported by modest means from the Jewish Aid Association, Karoline Piterson remains in Weender Landstraße 26 for a total of three years. There, she must witness the deportation of her niece Johanna Gans on 26 March 1942 and the death of her sister Hedwig Gans less than two weeks later on 6 April 1942.

After having been deprived of the key persons most important to her for years, on 21 July 1942 Karoline Piterson, together with the other residents of the house, is deported to Hanover-Ahlem and two days later to the collection and transit camp Theresienstadt. She dies there at the age of 90 on 21 August 1942.