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Summary

Ida Borenstein, born in Węgrów, Poland describes her large family; her father's work in the leather industry; the death of her father in the 1920s; becoming a dressmaker when she was thirteen or fourteen; marrying in 1937 against her family's wishes; moving to Pinsk to be with her husband; the bombing of Pinsk in 1939 and not knowing if her husband was dead or alive; returning to Węgrów in 1939 to be with family; Germans taking groups of Jews out of Węgrów for labor; the death of Rabbi Jaakov Mendel Morgernsten; separation from her family and their deportation to Treblinka; her shoes being stolen while she slept; Polish neighbors betraying Jews; hiding in many different places during the war; going to Łódź after the war in June or July of 1945; learning her husband was alive after running into an acquaintance; meeting up with a group of Jews, including Samuel Rajzman, who gave her a room in Łódź; reuniting with her husband; wanting to kill herself before she knew her husband was alive; feeling ashamed and depressed because of how people were behaving; finding out she was pregnant and considering abortion; finding a new reason to live because of her pregnancy; moving with her husband to Germany in 1945; moving from zone to zone until settling in Lampertheim displaced person camp in the American Zone; unfair food distribution; giving birth to her daughter in 1946 in Germany; immigrating to the United States in 1949; having another daughter; tailoring and cleaning for work; her husband's longterm illness and death; her greatest wish to tell these stories and for friends to not be forgotten.