

**Ilse Weinryb**

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**Abstract**

Ilse Weinryb was born November 2, 1921 in Marienburg, Germany (present day Malbork, Poland) near Danzig on the Baltic Sea. There were about 13,000 people in her town with 50 Jewish families. Her father was in horse trading before he lost a leg in World War I and then was on a pension. She had a sister, Hildegard who was older and died at 22 of pneumonia and a much older brother, Lanzee in the grain business in Frankfort. Her mother was Frieda Gutenberg from Una, Westphalia. They had a non-Jewish maid, Martha Schlack and were middle class and had a radio and electricity but no car. Ilse recalls her father attending synagogue on the High Holidays and the family eating in a sukkah. Their synagogue was burned down on Kristallnacht. When Hitler came, her teacher asked who was Jewish and she was thrown out of school. Her parents had non-Jewish friends in the town who gave them ration cards for food. Early in the morning, Ilse would get bread for the family from the bakery. In 1942 they were forced to leave. First they were taken to Thereisenstadt where her father died. She lived with other children and had lice and worked in the laundry where she earned 25 cents. Then Ilse and her mother were taken by cattle car to Auschwitz where her mother was gassed. After five weeks Ilse was sent to Fiecobruch, a Woman's Camp where she was liberated by the Americans. They met when her future husband, Rubin Weinryb from Lasik, Poland, was looking for his first wife at her camp. Her brother got an affidavit for the US through his boss. Ilse and her husband obtained affidavits from cousins on her mother's side and went to Baltimore, Maryland. They had a son in Munich and later had Miriam and two other daughters in the US. She has told her children about her life but does not share her memoirs with her grandchildren. She never returned to her hometown.