

## **RG-50.030.0976**

### **Summary**

Nathan Weinberger was born September 10, 1922 in Koromľa (currently in Eastern Slovakia) on a large wheat farm. His father, Theodor, was the oldest of three boys. His mother, Faga (Hirschkowitz?), was the oldest of nine; her father was a cattle dealer. Two of his mother's siblings, Frank and Nathan Hirsch, came to Franklin and Hamburg, New Jersey. At home, they spoke Yiddish and Slovak. The town had about 12 Jewish families who got on well with local non-Jews. His family was Orthodox and kept a kosher home. Nathan had two brothers, William and Alexander. He describes his early life and after age 14, when he left for Uzhhorod (now in Ukraine) to apprentice in a bicycle shop.

Shortly after the war started in 1939, Hungary occupied Uzhhorod. Oppression began quickly with confiscations of Jewish businesses and possessions. Rations were imposed on Jews but not against others. Nathan was assigned to report for slave labor in Hungary, and then onto Romania for three years. He describes the brutal living and working conditions. Nathan and other prisoners were taken with the Germans when they began to retreat from the Russians. During the retreat, he escaped a few times, returning to the group as needed to wait for better opportunities before finally reaching Uzhhorod. He was able to stay there as Russian troops were in the area. Nathan's brother, William, found him there after escaping from Auschwitz; his other brother, Alexander, died at the camp. His parents and other paternal relatives never returned. He describes how he was treated by his neighbors, both good and bad.

Nathan was in Uzhhorod when the war ended, surviving by operating within the black market and the assistance of a maternal uncle, Jankel. Jankel's sister, Esther, who survived Auschwitz and had returned to Prague, arranged papers through an uncle who was in the U.S. army. He came to the U.S. in 1946 via Denmark by ship. Nathan was aided by his uncles to settle in New York. He met his wife there, who lived in the same building, 31 Cannon Street. He never returned to Europe.