

Blanch Robin (born Bluma Rubinstein, née Katz) was born in 1926 in Prażmów near Warsaw. Her parents' names were Leah (née Ganstalk) and Jedidiah (?) and she had two brothers and two sisters. Her older sister was killed by Polish police, and her father and younger brother were killed by Poles, whom they had trusted to protect them. Her father was a successful tailor, often of bespoke clothes, with many employees.

A ghetto was formed in her town. Her father's childhood friend, who was a local fire department chief, warned of an impending evacuation. Blanch and her sister hid with a farmer they had paid to allow it. Her mother chose not to hide and was sent to perish in Treblinka. The farmer eventually forced them to leave in January (1943) when Blanch wouldn't leave on her own and was unable to meet continual demands for more money. She secreted herself in a wagon and made her way to her father's house. Her father feared for her safety and sent her to the town of Staszów (?); her brother soon joined her. To make space, she said she would go to another village, but hid in the barn.

Without explaining the method of deception, Blanch and her sister were each able to get jobs in town (though the sister was in Warsaw). Blanch changed her name to Helena Nizhinska (?) and was able to get along until the Russians drew close in fall, 1944 and fighting commenced. With other "citizens", she was evacuated to a farm outside town, working on a farm. Russian troops arrived on January 25, 1945. They allowed her to return to find her family near Warsaw. She found one of her brothers and other friends. While resting (in unnamed town), they were attacked by Polish Underground, who killed many Jews, saying "they would kill those Jews that the Germans had not".

She escaped, found her sister, Sonia, and they both went to Łódź. They then went to the American sector in Germany in October, 1945 stopping at the [Föhrenwald](#) DP camp. There she met her husband, Simcha Rubinstein, who had lost all of his family. She described many of his family's persecutions.

Their first son was born in May, 1947, named Jedidiah. In 1949, they emigrated to Israel. In Haifa, they had their second son in 1949. They lived there for ten years but longing for her brother and sister, Blanch and her family went to America in August, 1958. When confirming her citizenship five years later, she chose to shorten her name. Her family lived in Chicago for thirty years, ultimately having three sons. In 1961, they discovered that her brother was alive in the USSR, and they arranged his transit to the U.S. in 1963.

Note: The interviewer accepted Blanch's notes from which she read her story, offering to store them with the videotape at the Museum.