

Itzkovics Family Story

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My great-grandparents were Mihaly (Max) and Beile Malka (Betti) Itzkovics who lived in Ungvár, before immigrating to the USA, in 1888. They arrived with their son David and another unnamed son.

My grandfather, Morris Eskwitt, was born in New York City, NY as Moritz Itzkovics in 1890. His older brother died in New York City, NY and afterwards, his parents decided to return to Ungvár with their sons, David and Morris. Between 1893 and 1899, four more children were born in Ungvár: Benjamin (Morris's younger brother), and three younger sisters, Sylvia, Rose and Minnie (Margie).

Evidently, David returned to the US in 1903. Ellis Island records show the entire family of my great-grandparents (Max and Betty) and their 6 children, returned to the USA on 2 June 1904. According to their Ellis Island record, Mihaly (Max) was a farmer. Other than that, little is known about Ungvár. After the family arrived in the USA, they never returned. My grandfather always claimed that he was from Hungary. Ungvár, as it was known, is today Uzhhorod and part of the Ukraine.

My mother and father visited the town about 15 years ago. Interviewing them, I learned

A number of years ago there was an article in our local newspaper, The Desert Sun about a family from Uzhgorod, Hungary named Mor and Regina Stern. They were trying to collect on an insurance policy they purchased prior to the Holocaust. They hired an attorney, William M. Shernoff of Shernoff, Bidart and Dillon law firm of Palm Desert, CA. Alan (Mor's Grandson) and his wife, Lisa Stern, live in LA. On 20 June 1999, there was a 5 page article in the Los Angeles Times magazine about the Stern's and their story to recover on the insurance policy.

The article, written by Alan Abrahamson, Times staff writer, also talks about the Stern family and their life in Uzhgorod prior to the Holocaust.

<http://articles.latimes.com/1999/jun/20/magazine/tm-48415>