

Ichacovich Family

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I spoke with my mother (2004), who is the only member of our family with any knowledge of the Sveksna ancestors.

My great grandfather's name was Jacob Ichacovich. The spelling of the name is my assumption, according to its pronunciation. Since my Mother's brother was born in 1920 and name Jacob, I assume that he died before 1920. I was told that he was over 100 years old when he died. It appears that my great-grandfather was at least 70 years old when my grandfather was born. My great-grandfather was married twice.

My great-grandfather (on my mother's side) was Avraham Bloch from Sveksna. He was the official tailor for the "graf" (duke/local prince). In the early 1900s, he joined my grandmother and great-grandmother in migrating to the USA. Unfortunately, my great-grandfather was told by the authorities at the Hamburg port that he had trachoma (an eye infection) and was refused passage. It was an agonized decision, but he returned to Sveksna alone and died alone. Something compelling must have been going on for them to make such a difficult decision.

My grandmother and grandfather met in the US through mutual friends in the Lithuanian Jewish Community.

My grandfather was born in a small village in the vicinity called "Pilyan". He was one of about ten children. His family was evidently very poor and unable to provide for my grandfather. Therefore he left home at about the age of 12-13 and went to live with relatives in Denmark. These relatives didn't actually help him, and he was sent out to take care of himself. He was a strong man and had a variety of jobs, including working on a whaling ship. When he was about 20, he came to the USA and changed his name to Gold. He had a number of small businesses and struggled financially. He died suddenly, in 1965, of a heart attack at the age of 75.