

INTRODUCTION

In our recurring visits to Israel, in summer of 1994, we came across some original documents written by my grandfather Mor (nicknamed Mona) Freund. They were written in Hungarian. Since this language has no future for the coming generations of our family, I decided that in order to preserve the information contained in documents I would translate them into English. Edits or short comments that I consider important for the reader to better understand the circumstances or any other information will be inserted in large brackets and in *italic*. [...]

Alex Freund Randolph, New Jersey October 1994

Mor Freund's Memoirs

FORWARD

I am at an age at which it is unknown how long I will be able to enjoy being with my children and grandchildren. Therefore, I hope that I am not doing this in vain to commit to writing the family genealogical background and my personal history. I am doing this for those closest to me: my dearest wife Szeren, our children Lulu, Ervin and Miska.

There are two reasons that made me take this decision. The first is to make my children acquainted with our past and how we managed to survive and how we lived. The second reason is to document my origin. I think this is important since the Second World War's (1939-1945) terrible experience shows that it is hard to know at what point one needs to bring evidence about one's past, where he/she originates from, who were the ancestors and what were their professions. For this reason, I made the effort to gather all the documents and put them together in chronological order.

Unfortunately, I do not know much about my father's early years. He spoke very little about his past and we, as little children, did not think of asking him about that period. On the other hand, my son Lulu used to question me quite often "Daddy, tell me about your past". About my grandfather I didn't know too much either, since he died when I was five years old. I vividly remembered him although my father never used to talk about his father either.

I was able to collect various documents related to the Freund family and I have no doubt about their authenticity. At the same time, I am writing my personal history filled with various interesting occurrences. The only reason for me writing this, in as much as my children are interested in it, is to document what I did during my life.

There were times when financial worries made our lives very tough; at no time did I lose the will to continue working. Now, since my dear children are able to earn their living, it is easier and more relaxing for me to carry on with my own work. The only wish I have is that for the years that I have still left, I will be able to continue working in order to secure my livelihood and be able to maintain my financial independence.

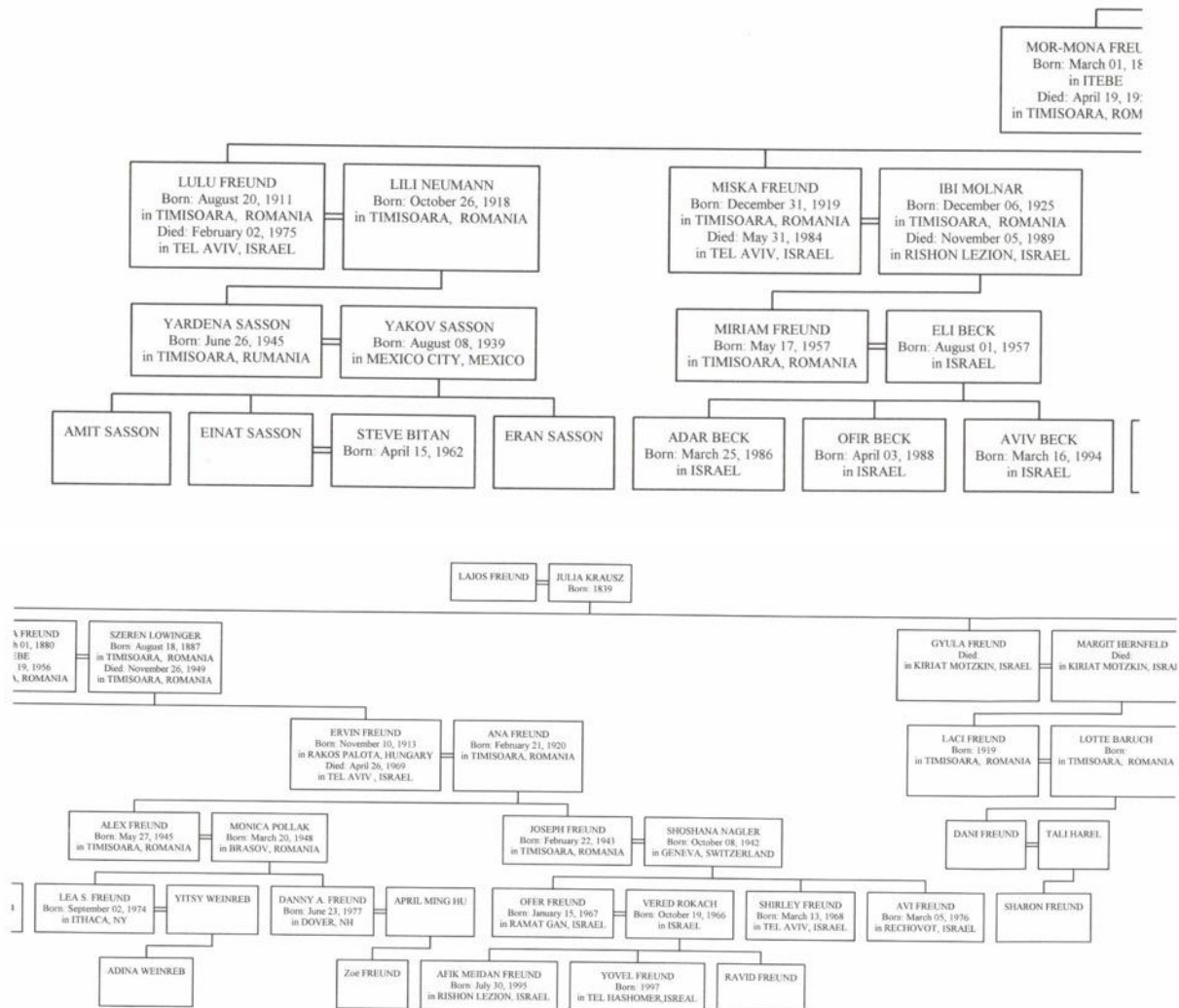
When the time comes, I intend to pass on these writings to my dear children with the desire that the genealogical history of the Freund family be continued for many many years and for many generations!

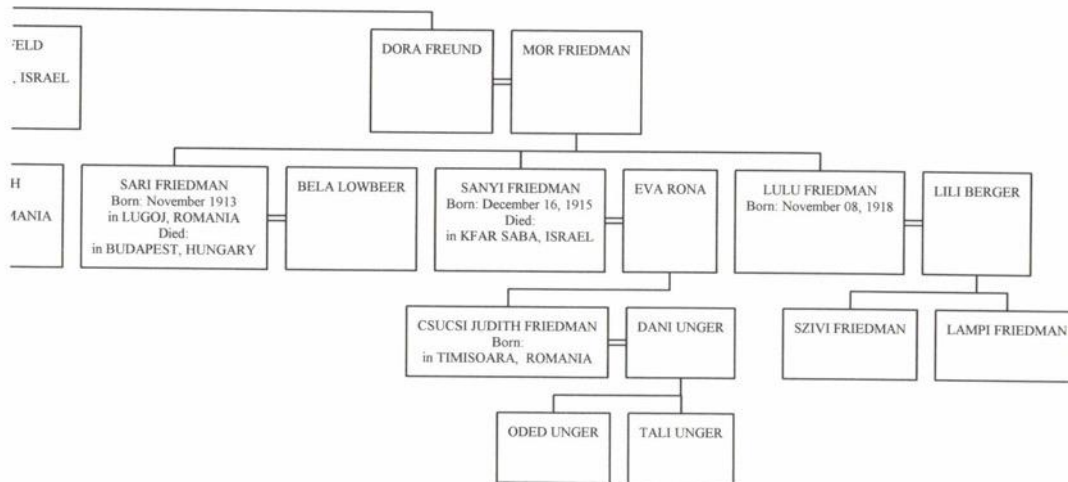
Timisoara, July 16, 1946

[signed] Freund Mor

It is my wish, if possible, that it will be always the eldest male of the family who maintains the genealogical continuity.

Following is a long list and details of family members:
 [would be best presented via the family tree attached]
 Descendants of Lajos and Julia, b. Krausz, Freund





Mor Freund (1880, Serbian Itebey-1956, Timisoara)

HOW THE FREUND FAMILY ARRIVED IN BANAT

[region of western Romania]

During the Hungarian war for freedom, there was a man called Schreyer Solomon. (In the Hungarian language it is customary writing first the last familyname and then the first name. For the sake of authenticity, I will maintain that order) Schreyer was a business owner as well as in the business of renting [rooms or apartments]. His wife's name was Deutsch Rosalia. The marriage was not good and after one or two years, they divorced.

Soon thereafter, Rosalia remarried to Weisner Salomon from Slovakia [part of the country, which then belonged to Hungary] who was a businessman. From his first marriage, he had a son Jakab [Jacob]. Rosalia brought to this marriage her son named Lipot who was brought up by Weisner Solomon.

Lipot happened to find out that his real father was Schreyer Solomon and not Weisner Solomon only later, about the time that he went to the army. While trying to look up his real father he came across Freund Solomon's house. Upon entering, he faced a young and unusually good-looking girl who was in the middle of mopping up the floor. This was Hanny, Freund Solomon's daughter. He fell in love with her "at first sight" during their conversation. Lipot was able to find his father's address, he met him but was very disappointed and finally he returned to the Freund's. Hanny was also enchanted with Lipot and soon they were engaged and later married. Soon thereafter he took his newly wed wife to Modos [likely a village in the same area] to meet his parents. However, the mother-in-law wished to continue to manage herself the household and apparently some disputes developed around the kitchen. Since Hanny was a strong-willed person, the young couple decided to relocate from Modos elsewhere to earn their livelihood. Both were hard-working and industrious. With one to two years of savings, they relocated to Hungarian-Ittebe. [trying to locate this village on the map, I came across a small village smack on the Serbian border with Romania, named Jtebej. Its location is about 28 miles or 40 km. south of Timisoara, also referred later by its Hungarian name Temesvar]. There they purchased a small house and opened a store. After two-three years, they had an occasion to move to Serbian-Itebey where again, they opened another store. [it sounds like this village across the border changed its name from Hungarian-Ittebe to Serbian-Itebey] Following is a drawing [describing the house]

It appears that the house was situated between two streets while on the third side was the river Bega. It is evident from the drawing that they had three rooms, a kitchen, and a place where supposedly they manufactured doughnuts. They also had chickens, horses, and a place where they stored ice. They also had a water well in the yard. The house bordered with another family also named Schreyer. Some time later Schreyer had an opportunity to purchase a steam-operated mill about 2

km. from his house. The mill was in Hungarian-Ittebe. This purchase was done jointly with a Hungarian farmer. Within a few years, Schreyer became the sole owner of the mill. At that time a businessperson [in this context a businessperson might be an individual who owned a small store or some other type of small business.] who originated from Debrecen [city in Hungary] or Nagyvarad [city in Romania called Oradea], called Schreyer Marton, married the second daughter of Freund Solomon from Szentes [in Hungary] named Roza. This marriage took place while both parties were not very young any more.

Hanny, Schreyer Lipot's wife made sure that her sister Roza's husband, that is her brother-in-law, had a decent livelihood and therefore they brought them down from Szentes to Ittebe. By then Schreyer Lipot was fairly well off and thus, he gave his brother-in-law a small business to manage. By now, there were two Freund sisters, Hanny and Roza, married in Serbian-Ittebe. Hanny wanted her parents as well as her four brothers to move closer, therefore, she tried to find possibilities to relocate them from Szentes to Ittebe. First, her oldest brother Jozsi [ioh-ji] moved to Ittebe. By profession, he was a glassier [with glass] but he also knew how to make window frames, doors and gaskets. Since there was nobody else locally who practised this profession, he found enough work to make a living. Later Ignac [Jgnatz] also moved to Ittebe. He was a carpenter and was considered among the best in the area. Slowly he moved into furniture manufacturing and was successful as well. The next brother moving to Ittebe was Aron. He opened a local bar as a business. However, after several years he moved to Begaszentgyörgy. Based on this, from the whole Freund family only the parents and the youngest kid Lajos [Lah-yosh], my father, remained in Szentes. After a while, they also moved to Ittebe. There are no papers to document when the last family members moved to Ittebe. Nevertheless, this must have happened before 1874, since my grandmother, the wife of Freund Solomon died in Ittebe in 1874.

This is how the whole Freund family moved to Banat.