

A Marriage At The Relatives'



This is somebody's wedding, but whose, I don't remember. I think the couple could be orthodox, judging from their clothes. I'm the little boy on the right, next to me is probably my older sister Lenke. From my age [in the picture], this was probably taken in the 1930s in Miskolc. There were twelve of us siblings, five sons and seven daughters. As I heard from my parents, my oldest sibling was called Pirike, I believe she was born around 1898. She died young from consumption. She was followed by Imre in 1900, who was the only one of us who graduated. He became a bank clerk, a good job in Satoraljaujhely, but he got sick. He had diphtheria or some similar disease, the poor guy passed away in the hospital at the age of twenty-four. They brought his corpse home because according to Jewish tradition his relatives have to take him for burial from his home. I was running

around as a child, and remember that they took him from the house. My next sibling was Rozsika. If I recall correctly, she was born in 1902. She didn't work. She had two children. She raised them at home. Then came Ilonka in 1904. She became a bookkeeper, she married a teacher from Kispest [now a suburb of south Budapest]. They always played with me at their house, in their apartment. She died in childbirth, I don't know the date. After her, came my older brother Zoltan in 1906, Miklos in 1910, Lili in 1917 and Lajcsika [from Lajos] around 1918. In the years between, my older sisters Sari [from Sarolta, in 1915], Bozsi [from Erzsebet = Elizabeth, in 1913] and Anci [from Anna, in 1908] were born, then after them, I came on April 24, 1919, the last living sibling of the many children. My sisters Bozsi and Sari made aliya in 1934 or 1935. Before that, they'd learned all kinds of agricultural work in a Zionist organisation on the Enying waste [Hakhsarah] [1](#). There they met their husbands. They came back to Hungary in 1938, because they didn't find what they'd counted on there, they couldn't make a living. They were here for a year and a half or two years, until they were sent ship's passage from America, from Montevideo [Capitol of Uruguay]. Later Lili also followed them with her husband and her child, Judit. In the end, they ended up in Israel anyway, many years later. Bozsi didn't have children, she went to Israel eventually, where she died in the 1990s. Sari was probably lost to cancer in Montevideo. One of her sons is still living, somewhere in Karmiel, in Israel. Lili's and Sari's children keep in touch, there are grandchildren everywhere. My older brothers Miklos and Zoli [from Zoltan] stayed here in Hungary. Zoli was deported to Mauthausen. When he came back, he married, and continued working in his trade. He was a furniture maker, he did very fine woodwork. He really respected the Social Democratic party at the time, and he was an activist. He never had children. My other older brother, Miklos was a textile merchant. He studied the fashion trade later, and then taught himself to become a window dresser. He could stand exhausting work, because he'd been a work serviceman in Arkhangelsk [According to estimates, the number of Jewish work servicemen who fell prisoner to the Soviets (including those who deserted their units to escape inhumane treatment, or the majority, who were captured after the Red Army broke through at Voronezh in 1943) ranged between 20-30 thousand people.] [Forced labor]. He ended up there, froze for five years, and got used to the worst conditions. On returning home, he also got married, but I don't know much about his daughter. He lived very long, he also probably had cancer, or died of old age. One of my older sisters, Anci sewed the prettiest. She never had children. She probably kept the religion the best. She lived on Szechenyi Street in Budapest, and died at the age of eighty-seven. After her husband's death, I was her guardian, I got her into the Jewish hospital. She laid there for a couple months because she had an accident, she broke her hip joint. Unfortunately, she never recovered from it.