

The Innkeeper of Budkovce

Mendel (Israel Menachem) Fried · Yisrael Menachem

Brooke's great-grandfather · Fried line · 1874 – 1969



Innkeeper of his native Budkovce and a self-taught fiddler at weddings, Mendel Fried raised a large family in the village, crossed to New York in 1937 and lived to ninety-four.

Mendel Fried, Yisrael Menachem in Hebrew and Emanuel or Israel on civil papers, was born at Budkovce on 22 July 1874. He came late into a big household. The 1869 census of Butka, as the village was then called, already shows his father, **Eliezer Zvi Fried**, recorded as ‘Hersko Fried’, and his mother, née Jäger, with five children born between 1858 and 1869: **Hani**, **Linka**, **Marko**, **David** and **Haim**. His mother, **Ceva “Batsheva”**, died at Butka on 31 May 1908, aged 73; the civil death register names her parents as **Vilmos Jäger** and **Ema**, and that she is the ‘Cseva Jager’ of her son’s records is all but certain.

Mendel married **Malka Schönberger**, born 2 December 1881, daughter of **Leopold** and **Devorah “Dora” Schönberger** of the Beňatina and Szürte area of Ung county. The family dates the wedding to 18 December 1898; Mendel’s own Declaration of Intention gives Budkovce, 24 January 1899. He became the village innkeeper, running the tavern from his house, and the 1930 Czechoslovak census finds the household at house no. 212, Budkovce, with Mendel entered under his civil name Emanuel Fried, Malka as Malvína, his birth date of 22 July 1874 matching, six of the children still at home, and an elderly lodger. A 1937 resolution of the village council concerning the Fried tavern concession survives in its minutes. He is remembered as a warm, outgoing ‘people person’ who taught himself the violin and often played at weddings.

The children came across two decades. Those named in Mendel’s papers include **Sarah (Sadie)**, **Rose**, **Theresa**, **Esther**, **Armand (Armin)**, **Elaine (Ilona)**, **Cecilia**, **Martin** and **Irene**; the family tree

BORN	22 July 1874, Budkovce (Butka)
DIED	6 January 1969; buried Mount Hebron Cemetery, Flushing
HEBREW NAME	Yisrael Menachem
ALSO RECORDED AS	Emanuel Fried (1930 census); Izrael and Israel Fried (U.S. records)
OCCUPATION	Village innkeeper of Budkovce
MARRIED	Malka (Malvína) Schönberger, 18 Dec 1898 by family account; 24 Jan 1899 on his Declaration
PARENTS	Eliezer Zvi (Hersko) Fried and Ceva

	"Batsheva" née Jäger
EMIGRATED	Aquitania from Cherbourg, landed New York 12 October 1937

also counts **Lazer Hersh (Lajos)** and **Renee (Rosa)**, and two children who died young. Long afterwards, family members went looking for those two small graves in the Jewish cemetery at the end of the village, but most of the stones are gone, taken during the Holocaust for building material.

In September 1937 Mendel and Malka left. As Izrael and Malvine Fried of Budkovce they sailed from Cherbourg on the Aquitania and landed at New York on 12 October 1937. On 16 February 1938 he filed his Declaration of Intention in the Eastern District of New York, with his photograph, listing ten children and their birth dates; his Petition for Naturalization, no. 384191, describes him as retired, living at 5521 12th Avenue, Brooklyn, and notes that his son Armin was then serving in the U.S. Army. In 1948 the family gathered in New York for Mendel and Malka's fiftieth wedding anniversary, and the big group photograph of that party is one of the treasures of this line. Malka died in 1953.

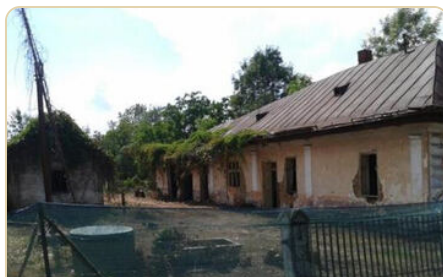
Mendel died on 6 January 1969. He lies at Mount Hebron Cemetery, Flushing, in the Chevra Bechur Bnei Menashe plot, registered as Israel Fried; Malka is beside him, and their son Armand next to her. Back in Budkovce, a Fried grandchild found at the Michalovce municipal office the deeds to two houses Mendel owned, with a map of the original house numbers. The one he lived in still stands, essentially original, with a large back yard; the well, wine cellar and kitchen were all outside, as was the custom. The other he sold to his nephew Elimelech, and it was later split in two.

We know his story from the 1869 and 1930 censuses, his mother's 1908 death register, the Aquitania manifest, his Declaration and Petition, the Mount Hebron interment register, the family's photographs, and the deeds and pictures brought back from Budkovce.

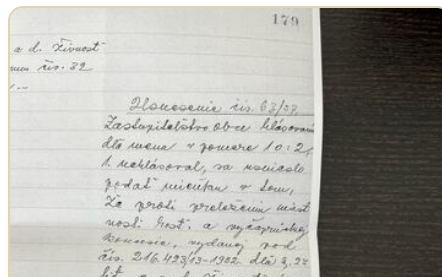
FROM THE ARCHIVE



1930 Czechoslovak census, Budkovce (Michalovce district), house no. 212, owner Emanuel Fried: Emanuel (b. 22 Jul 1874), Malvína née Schönbergerová, Etela (b. Dec 1908), Elena (16 Mar 1912), Cecília (31 Mar 1914), Martin (17 Mar 1918), Irena (10 Apr 1920), Regina (12 Apr 1922), and a lodger, Ján Gomboš (b. 1861)



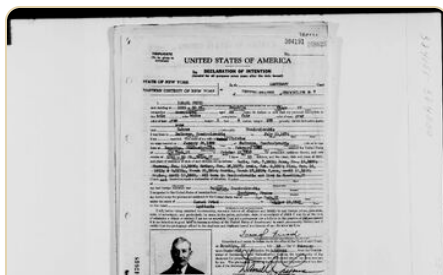
Mendel's house in Budkovce as it stands today (photo by a Fried grandchild who traced the deeds)



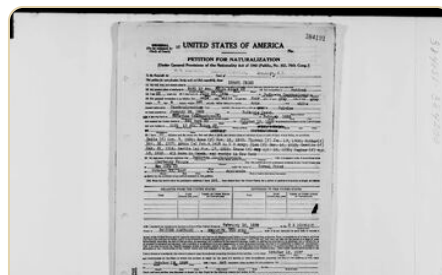
1937 tavern-concession minutes



Ellis Island manifest, S.S. Aquitania from Cherbourg, Oct 1937, list 20, lines 4-5: Izrael and Malvine Fried of Budkovce



His Declaration of Intention with photograph, EDNY, 16 Feb 1938: born Budkovce 22 Jul 1874; married Malvine 24 Jan 1899; arrived on the Aquitania 12 Oct 1937; lists all ten children



His Petition for Naturalization, EDNY no. 384191: retired, 5521 12th Ave, Brooklyn



50th-anniversary party, 1948 (all identified)



Mount Hebron Cemetery interment register (cemetery's own search): Israel Fried, grave 24-2-E-G-1-22, Chevra Bechur Bnei Menashe, d. 1/6/1969, beside Malvina (23), Armand (24) and Anne (25) Fried (screenshot)

Read online, with every record: https://ouryichus.com/featured.html#f_mendel · Family tree card:

https://ouryichus.com/tree.html#p/f_mendel

Ben Soffer (Goldberger) Family Archive · ouryichus.com