

A Rabbi from Orlova

Hirs (Chaim Tzvi) Lebovics · Chaim Tzvi

Ben's great-grandfather · Lebovics line · 1893 – 1962



Hirs (Chaim Tzvi) Lebovics, an Austro-Hungarian soldier turned rabbi, married in Satu Mare, crossed alone to New York in 1924, and served as a rabbi in Manhattan, Brooklyn and the Bronx.

BORN	18 Jan 1893 (June 1893 in his marriage record), probably Irlyava (Orlova), Ung county
DIED	9 Sep 1962, Manhattan, aged 70
HEBREW NAME	Chaim Tzvi ben Yaakov
OCCUPATION	Rabbi
MARRIED	Maria Gotlieb, Satu Mare, Feb 1921
ARRIVED	Ellis Island, S.S. Majestic, 24 Jun 1924
CHILDREN	Abigail, Yehoshafat, Sulamith (Sue), Ezra
BURIED	Beth Israel Cemetery, Woodbridge Township, NJ, beside Maria

Hirs Lebovics, Chaim Tzvi in Hebrew (Tzvi is Hersh), was born on 18 January 1893, the date on his American petition; his 1921 marriage register gives June 1893. He was the son of **Rabbi Yaakov (Jakab) Lebovics** and **Töbe (Toba) Lebovics née Welber**. His birthplace was long recorded as Orlov, in the Šariš region of Slovakia, but the primary records point instead to Orlyava, or Irlyava, in Ung county (today Zakarpattia, Ukraine), a village officially called Orlova in the Czechoslovak period: the ‘Orlova’ and ‘Orlawá’ of his US papers. His mother was born there, his parents married there on 15 March 1892, and his brother **Mózes** was born there about 1895. His own birth entry has not been found, so Irlyava remains probable rather than proven.

As a young man he served in the Austro-Hungarian army in the First World War; two portraits of him in uniform survive, one showing him seated beside a man in a sickbed. In February 1921, in Satu Mare, he married **Maria Gotlieb**, daughter of **Herman Gottlieb**. Their daughter **Abigail** was born there in January 1922, and a son, **Yehoshafat**, followed.

In 1924 the family left for America, Hirs going first and alone. He sailed from Cherbourg on the S.S. Majestic and landed at Ellis Island on 24 June 1924, listed as ‘Hirsh Liebovitz’, 31, rabbi, last residence Satu Mare, his nearest relative his father-in-law Herman Gottlieb. He was going to his father, ‘J. Leobovitz’, at 5 Goerck Street on the Lower East Side, with a note that he was to join a congregation at 135 Henry Street, and he gave his birthplace as ‘Czechoslovakia, Orlawa’. Nine days after landing he filed his declaration of

intention. Five weeks later Maria, Abigail, the baby Yehoshafat and his mother Toba followed on the S.S. Olympic, arriving on 29 July 1924.

The 1930 census finds the household at 385 East 3rd Street, Hirs a working rabbi, renting at \$45 a month, with a radio in the home; it records him and both his parents as born in Czechoslovakia. He was naturalized in New York on 10 February 1930. In the summer of 1935 the family made a journey to Europe, returning from Genoa on the S.S. Conte di Savoia on 20 July 1935: Hirs, Maria, Abigail, Sulamith and Ezra, all on the list of US citizens, of 394 Amboy Street, Brooklyn. His mother died in Brooklyn in 1938. The 1940 census finds him in the Bronx on East 177th Street, a salaried rabbi working 48 hours a week, with four years of college; curiously, it describes him as holding only 'first papers'. In 1944 he stood as a character witness at a Brooklyn naturalization, still giving his occupation as Rabbi and his address in the Bronx.

Hirs died on 9 September 1962, aged 70, in Manhattan. His death certificate, reported by his daughter Sulamith, calls him a widower and a Rabbi, of 162 South 8th Street, Brooklyn, and names both his parents, Jacob (Yaakov) and Töbe née Welber. He was buried the next day at Beth Israel Cemetery in Woodbridge Township, New Jersey, beside Maria; his matzevah reads "Chaim Tzvi son of R' Yaakov Lebovics". His path is traced through the 1921 Satu Mare marriage record, the Majestic and Conte di Savoia manifests, his citizenship petition, the 1930 and 1940 censuses, the 1944 witness record and the 1962 death certificate, which together carry the Orlov, or Orlova, Lebovics line from Ung county to New York.

FROM THE ARCHIVE

A házasság bejegyzése a helyi áll. napj.	A vőlegény		A menyasszony		Házasság bejegyzése a helyi áll. napj.
	születési helye, állása (egyként), vallása, előző házassága	anyjának születési helye, állása	születési helye, állása (egyként), vallása, előző házassága	apjának születési helye, állása	
1921. máj. 22.	Lebovitz Hirs párk. isp.	Lebovitz Jacob	Gottlieb Marion párk. isp. meg. v.	Gottlieb Rosa párk. isp.	1921. máj. 22.
	1892. január 1.	1892. január 1.	1892. január 1.	1892. január 1.	
	Lebovitz	Lebovitz	Lebovitz	Lebovitz	

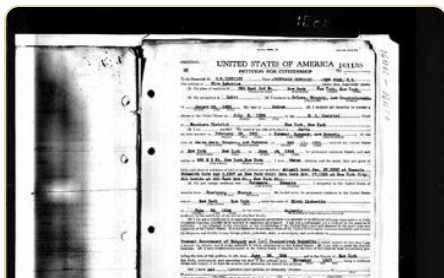
1921 Satu Mare marriage record

LIST OR MANIFEST OF ALIEN PASSENGERS FOR THE UNITED STATES	
Passenger	From
Hirs, Chaim	Czechoslovakia
Hirs, Maria	Czechoslovakia
Hirs, Abigail	Czechoslovakia
Hirs, Yehoshafat	Czechoslovakia
Hirs, Toba	Czechoslovakia

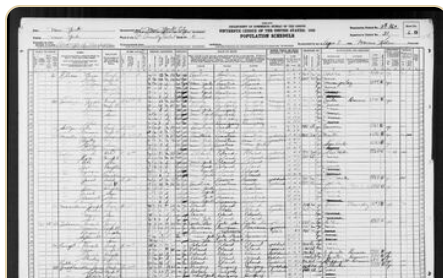
Ellis Island manifest, S.S. Majestic, 24 Jun 1924, list p.109, sheet 1 (line ~20: 'Hirsh Liebovitz,' rabbi, from Satu Mare)

STATES IMMIGRATION OFFICER AT PORT OF ARRIVAL	
Passenger	From
Hirs, Chaim	Czechoslovakia
Hirs, Maria	Czechoslovakia
Hirs, Abigail	Czechoslovakia
Hirs, Yehoshafat	Czechoslovakia
Hirs, Toba	Czechoslovakia

Same manifest, sheet 2: going to 'Father J. Leobovitz, 5 Goerck St.'; born 'Czechoslovakia, Orlawa'



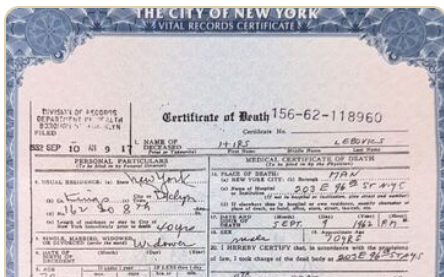
Petition for citizenship #161135



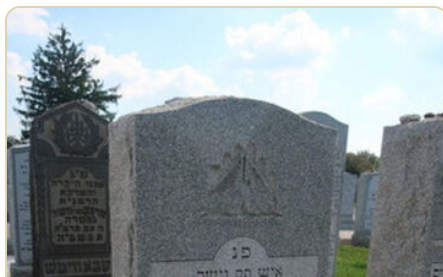
1930 US Census — the household in Manhattan



S.S. Conte di Savoia, Genoa → New York, 20 Jul 1935: the family on the U.S.-citizens list (lines 7-11)



Death certificate 1962 (#156-62-118960)



His matzevah — “Chaim Tzvi son of R' Yaakov Lebovics,” died Elul 5722 (1962)

Read online, with every record: https://ouryichus.com/featured.html#l_hirs · Family tree card: https://ouryichus.com/tree.html#p/l_hirs
Ben Soffer (Goldberger) Family Archive · ouryichus.com