

Half the Jewish community of Ioannina would immigrate to the USA from 1902-1924. They came seeking a better life for themselves and their children. Initially, most settled on the Lower East Side of Manhattan. The Mosis family was typical of this immigration.



Mollie (Malka) Mosis and her husband Mordechai came to the USA from Greece in 1908. Their five children (Abraham, Sophie, Anita, Joseph and Rebecca) would join them the following year (1909). The family is listed as living at 39 Allen Street in the 1910 census. In addition to the 7 members of the Mosis (Moses) family, there were two female boarders (Louise and Esther David) living with them in the small apartment.

Mollie died in 1917/1918. Joseph would learn of his mother's death as he returned home from the Merchant Marines and found another family living in their apartment.



All of the Moses children would marry. Most of them took other Jews from the Balkans (Romaniote and Sephardic) as their spouses.

Rebecca (Becky) Moses married Sam Varon. In the 1930 census, the Varons are listed as living at 2082 Davidson Avenue in the Bronx where they are paying \$62 a week. Rebecca is listed as being born in Greece and Sam in Turkey. Sam is 39 and Rebecca 28. The census report states that Sam was

30 when they got married and Rebecca was 19. Sam is working as a waiter in a hotel. No one else in the family works. There are 4 children (Frances 14, Marco, 7, Rose 4 and Nelson 1½).

1940 census lists the Varon family as living at 2062 27th Street, Queens, stating that in 1935 they were living in the Bronx. Sam is listed as 49 and Rebecca as 38. Sam is listed as being born in Turkey and working as a head waiter in a restaurant. Rebecca does not work. Both are now naturalized citizens. They both list grad 8 as their last year of school. The census was taken during the week of March 24-30th and Sam worked 90 hours that week. Frances was also working as an electronic assistant, but only 16 hours that week.

In essence the story of the Moses family is the story of Greek-Jewish immigration to the United States. The families were poor in Greece, came to the United States to make a better life for themselves and their children, worked hard, and tried to pass on the traditions and customs of a culture that was certainly different from that of their surrounding Jewish and non-Jewish world.

As their children left to make lives for themselves, they found themselves spread throughout the United States.

Here, at Kehila Kedosha Janina, we believe that you cannot possibly know who you are if you do not know where you came from.

Here, at Kehila Kedosha Janina, we are proud to tell the story of the Moses family.