

## Nisim And Matilda Kalef In Serbian Dress



This is a picture of my grandparents, Nisim and Matilda Kalef, in Serbian national clothing. They loved Serbia and they had pictures taken when wearing their national costumes. The photo was taken in the S. Alkalaj studio in Belgrade. I don't know how my grandparents met and where they lived when Nisim was still alive. I know that they already lived on Gospodar Jovanova when my mother married. We lived until the end with Matilda. I don't know what Nisim did, but he was probably a merchant. Matilda was the pillar of our house. Imagine she was widowed when she was 25 with three children. Her husband died a banal death. He had a perforation to the caecum and died. My grandmother remained to struggle with the three kids. Then two sons died and only one

remained, my father Avram. Grandmother always opened the store at four and was there until seven. On her way home she went by Pelivan, a pastry shop on Kralja Petra Street, right near the Jewish community building, close to Gospodar Jovanova Street, on the left side where the Jewish community is. There she always bought us some sweets. She never came home without something for her granddaughters. She ate her dinner. Then her friends from the neighborhood came to play cards. They stayed until ten. It was a mixed group of men and women. Then she got things ready for the next day's lunch until midnight or one in the morning. Her work day was about 20 hours long. Maybe she slept for four hours. She was a phenomenal woman.