

Feiga Lerner With Her Grandmother Haya And Niece Ida Lerner



This photo was taken at photographer's parlor 'Modern' owned by Veinstraub in Vad-Rashkov. My great-grandmother Haya is sitting in the center. My mother's sister Feiga is standing, my uncle Leib's daughter, Ida Lerner, is sitting on Haya's lap. The picture was taken in 1925.

My mother's parents, Moishe and Sura Lerner, born in Vad-Rashkov in the 1870s, had a modest living. Grandfather's creamery was the only source of income for the whole family. Grandmother Sura was a housewife. Her mother, my great-grandmother Haya was helping her out. She was born in a Moldovan village, and there were only two Jewish families there. She was equally fluent in Russian and Moldovan, but she preferred Yiddish. Great-grandmother lived to be almost a hundred years old, preserving a clear mind and a great sense of humor, being kind and benevolent. Haya had an ear for music and a melodic voice in spite of her age. She used to sing beautiful Jewish songs to her great-grandchildren and grandchildren. She was also good at knitting and embroidering. The ladies of our family looked very nice in her handmade laces. Haya had a calm death as if she just fell asleep. She passed away at night, on 8th May 1940.

Leib, born in 1901, owned a small bakery. Apart from the ordinary bread, Sabbath challah, Purim hamantashen and white loaves were baked there. Leib's family was so indigent that Reizl had to learn how to sew. It helped the family budget. Leib and Reizl had three children - the daughters Ida and Sonya and their son, Pinhus. During World War II all of them were in evacuation in Andijon. Leib died from typhus fever on 23rd March 1943. Reizl and her children came back to Moldova and

settled in Soroca. She worked very hard as a seamstress for her children to get a good education. She died in 1967. Her children left the town with their families. Ida is currently residing in Israel. She took back her maiden name of Lerner after her husband's death. Pinhus and two of his daughters are in Chicago. Sonya Vougsdorf [married name] also lived there. She died in 1998.

Mother's younger sister Feiga, born in 1907, was a very beautiful woman. She got elementary education. She was married to Shneer Kleiman, who worked as a steward in the store owned by his rich relatives from a small Jewish town, located not far from Vad-Rashkov. Unfortunately, I don't remember the name of the town. Feiga and Shneer had two children - Rimma, born in 1928, and David, born in 1930. Feiga was a housewife. She took care of the household and raised their children. Feiga's family was also evacuated to Andijon. When she returned to Moldova, she settled in Soroca, not far from Leib's children. Feiga didn't live a long life. She died in 1951 from liver disease. Her children got university education. Rimma was a therapist. She died a couple of years ago in Kishinev. David was an engineer. He lived in Moscow and died in 2000.