

Perets Vasserman And Sore-Reyze Goldman



This is my elder brother Perets Vasserman and my elder sister Sore-Reyze Goldman, nee Vasserman. The picture was taken in Tallinn in 1923. My parents got married in 1914. In the same year, World War I was unleashed. When the Germans entered the territory of the Baltic countries, as per order of the Tsar in 1915 all Jews were to be exiled from here to the remote areas of Russia within 24 hours. My parents and Mother's family were not willing to go to the unfamiliar region. Nobody knew how long they would have to live far away from the vernacular place. Some distant relatives lived in Minsk and they decided to go to them. Military actions were being held in that direction and they couldn't cross the front line. Then they remembered that some of their relatives,

the Goldbergs, were living in Tallinn, so they went there as they had no choice. Thus, our family turned out to be in Tallinn. Grandfather Perets Gordon died in Tallinn in 1915. He was buried according to the Jewish rite in Jewish cemetery of Tallinn. Shortly after Grandfather's death in 1915 my parents had their first-born. My brother was named Perets after Grandfather. My sister was born in 1919. She was called Sore-Reyze. I was born in 1928, and I was named Mariasha. When my sister was born, Father had a store called 'Gold, Clocks, Crystal.' The building of that store is still there. Father was respected in town; he was thought to be an honest tradesman. Of course it attracted the customers, as they knew they wouldn't be swindled in Father's store. Mother was always being constantly busy. She helped Father in the store. A governess was hired for the children. She took care of my sister, who was a baby, and my brother. She was a very nice woman. When my brother and sister grew up, the governess stopped working for us and she resumed her work when I was born. She raised me since I was a baby. My governess was Estonian. She was a very educated woman, fluent in German and French. She was single and she was affectionate to me and our entire family.