

Gherda Kagan's Great Grandfather Abram Kagan With His Sons Samuel Kagan, But I Don't Know The Name Of The Second Son, The Boy Is Grigoriy Kagan, Samuel's Son



This is my grandfather Samuel Kagan (from the left) with his father-in-law Abram Spivak (sitting), Samuel's son Grigoriy Kagan and a stranger. Thi photo was made in Odessa in 1900. My paternal grandfather Samuel Kagan was born in Mogilyov town in 1860. In Odessa he was a clerk in a store. My father said that grandfather was a member of Odessa society of support of clerks. On Friday, when grandfather's working week came to an end he looked into his son's sins in a past week. His children waited for this moment with trepidation and tried to delay it as far as they could. They knew that as punished they might not be allowed to have their favorite delicacy: khalva. Their trick was in asking mother for another cup of tea and them she added some more khalva in their saucers. From what my father told me I know that grandfather Samuel, like many Jews who had come up in life from its very bottom didn't admire the tsarist regime and supported revolutionaries with money. Grandfather Samuel died of cholera during an epidemic in Odessa in 1920. He was buried in the Jewish cemetery. Grigoriy Kagan, my father's older brother, was born in Odessa in 1897. Before the revolution he finished Odessa Commercial School. After grandfather died in 1920, he went to work in Nikolaev where he married Isabella Lisogor. He worked as an accountant in 'Soyuzpechat'. I remember that before the war, when it was a problem to subscribe to children's magazines, my uncle Grigoriy arranged it for me in Nikolaev and then relayed them to Odessa. Grigoriy's daughter Tusia was born in the late 1930s ad in 1940 his son Samuel was born. Grigoriy

was at the front at the age of over forty. He was a soldier and perished in late 1944 near Mogilyov in Byelorussia. During the war his wife and children evacuated to Frunze [Kirghizia]. My parents sent her money and parcels whenever they could. After the war it became known that besides parcels from my parents Isabella also received parcels for starved families. My parents thought it extremely indecent of her to behave so and terminated their relationships with her.