

The interviewee and his family

Full name

Sonina Vera (Dobe-Dveyre) Markovna

Where and when were you born? Zaporozhye (now Ukraine), 1918

Where else did you live? Petrograd (Leningrad, St. Petersburg)

Your educational level?

Leningrad College of Physical Culture named after Lesgaft, Leningrad Theatrical College

What sort of work do/did you do? A nurse, an actress, a teacher

What was the level of religiosity in your parent's home? How were you raised? I think that my parents were not religious people. I do not remember from my early childhood any Jewish holidays or Sabbath celebrations. I do not know if Daddy visited synagogue. I guess he did, and probably he prayed at home. After mother's death we found tefillin in his things. I also remember a mezuzah at the door. I think that it was in Zaporozhye: at that time I was about 4 years old. Mum took me in her arms and said 'Vera, kiss the mezuzah.'

What is your mother tongue?

Russian

How many languages do you speak? French (a little) Where were you during the Holocaust?

Odessa (worked in a hospital), Samarkand (worked in a hospital), Tomsk (studied at the College), Novosibirsk (studied at the College)

Siblings

Their names Sonina Alexandra (Sara-Rose) (f) Sonina Slava (Sliva) (f) Sonina Zhenya (Genye) (f) Sonina Annette (Dane-Ite) (f)

Where and when were they born? Alexandra (Sara-Rose): Zaporozhye (now Ukraine), 1908 Slava (Sliva): Zaporozhye (now Ukraine), 1910 Zhenya (Genye): Zaporozhye (now Ukraine), 1912 Annette (Dane-Ite): Zaporozhye (now Ukraine), 1916

What is their mother tongue?

Russian

Their educational level? Alexandra (Sara-Rose): evening faculty of some economic college in Leningrad Slava (Sliva): Textile College Zhenya (Genye): no information Annette (Dane-Ite): Hydrological Technical School

Their occupations? Alexandra (Sara-Rose): no information Slava (Sliva): no information Zhenya (Genye): no information Annette (Dane-Ite): an engineer

Where do/did they live?

Alexandra (Sara-Rose): Petrograd (Leningrad) Slava (Sliva): Petrograd (Leningrad) Zhenya (Genye): Petrograd (Leningrad, St. Petersburg) Annette (Dane-Ite): Petrograd (Leningrad)

Where else did they live?

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Do they have children? Slava (Sliva): daughter Rita Zhenya (Genye): daughter Bela

Where and when did they die? Alexandra (Sara-Rose): Leningrad, 1943 Slava (Sliva): Leningrad, 1960s Zhenya (Genye): St. Petersburg, 2000 Annette (Dane-Ite): Leningrad, 1946

Father

His name? Mark (Meyer) Haimovich Sonin

Where and when was he was born? No information, 1880

Where else did he live? Zaporozhye (now Ukraine), Smolensk

Where and when did he die? Smolensk, 1922

What sort of education did he have? No information

What sort of work did he do? A clerk at a grain-collecting station

What was his level of religiosity?

I think that my parents were not religious people. I do not remember from my early childhood any Jewish holidays or Sabbath celebrations. I do not know if Daddy visited synagogue. I guess he did, and probably he prayed at home. After mother's death we found tefillin in his things. I also remember a mezuzah at the door.

What was his mother tongue?

Yiddish

Army service: Which army and what years? No information

Tell me about his brothers and sisters. (name, date of birth and death, occupation, place of residence, family, etc.) No information

Where was he during the Holocaust? Died before

Mother

Her name? Sonina Bela Aronovna (nee Gheller)

Where and when was she was born? Pochapy (now Ukraine), 1884

Where else did she live? Zaporozhye (now Ukraine), Smolensk, Petrograd (Leningrad)

Where and when did she die? Leningrad, 1936

What sort of education did she have? No information

What sort of work did she do?

A housewife

What was her level of religiosity?

I think that my parents were not religious people. I do not remember from my early childhood any Jewish holidays or Sabbath celebrations. I remember a mezuzah at the door. I think that it was in Zaporozhye: at that time I was about 4 years old. Mum took me in her arms and said 'Vera, kiss the mezuzah.'

What was her mother tongue? Yiddish Tell me about her brothers and sisters. (name, date of birth and death, occupation, place of residence, family, etc.)

No information

Where was she during the Holocaust? Died before