

Beila Shevalovich



This is my mother, Beila Shevalovich (nee Michel), the picture was taken in Kaunas in the 1930s.

I don't know anything about my maternal grandparents. They passed away long before I was born. The only thing I know is that my mother's maiden name was Michel. My mother had a sister. She was about five years younger than she. Her name was Rosa. She married a Jew called Katzenis. Rosa was a very beautiful, stately woman. She lived in Kaunas with her husband and two sons.

My mother, Beila Michel, was born in Kaunas in 1898. She finished a couple of grades of school, and knew how to read and write. My mother was brought up with a love for reading. Both her and my father's parents, simple craftsmen, were more worried about daily bread and earnings. My parents were wed in accordance with all the Jewish traditions- under a chuppah. Their marriage certificate was issued by a rabbi. I was born on 23rd February 1924. I, the first-born, was named Frida. Two years later my mother gave birth to a girl, Paya. In 1932, when my sister and I had grown up a little bit, my mother was expecting another child. She and my father wanted a boy, but wonderful and beautiful twin-girls were born – Chaya and Iyegudis.