

Revekka Epshteyn



This is my mother Revekka Epshteyn, nee Levin. The picture was taken in Tallinn in the 1920s before she got married. Mother's family lived in the town of Korotkovo of Mogilev province. It was a truly Jewish town. Grandfather dealt with timbering, and Grandmother was a housewife. My grandparents had six children, who were born in Korotkovo. The eldest was a son, Shmuel-Sakhne, then Haim and Bentsion were born. Then three daughters were born: Rahil, Sarah, who was called Sonya in the family and my mother Revekka. Her Jewish name was Riva-Breine. Mother was born in 1900. I do not know when exactly and for what reason my mother's family moved to the Estonian town of Narva bordering on Russian. All I know is that Mother finished a Russian lyceum in Narva. All her siblings were educated. Though, I do not recall if Mother's sisters studied anywhere beside the lyceum. My parents met at charity ball in Tallinn. Such charity balls were held annually. They were arranged by the Jewish community of Tallinn, and numerous students' and Zionist organizations. Auctions and raffles were held there, and some things, like flowers, pastries were

sold. Rich families contributed vases, jewelry and all kinds of things. They were sold at a much more expensive price and the earnings were donated for charity. At that time mother's siblings lived in Tallinn and she often came from Narva to see them. Mother was a beauty. Grandmother said, when they were living in Narva, the infantry regiment of his Majesty Emperor was positioned there. All officers of the regiment came to have a look at Mother. Once, Mother was selling flowers at some charity event in Tallinn. Usually the most beautiful girls from Jewish families were invited to sell flowers and pastries. Father saw Mother and fell in love with her at first sight. Mother liked him, too. I do not know how their relationship went, but they got married in 1924 in Tallinn.