

Josef Elazar's Family



This is a picture of my mother's family. My grandfather Josef Elazar and my grandmother Ester Elazar, nee Beraha, are sitting in the front. My aunts Buka Nisim, nee Elazar, Sofi Elazar and Zelma Avramov, nee Elazar, and my mother Victoria Angelova, nee Elazar, are standing from left to right behind their parents, and next to my mother are her other sisters Lunna Albelda, nee Elazar and Paola Gadol, nee Elazar. The photo was taken in the ?Kemilev? photo studio in Sofia in 1945. My grandfather Josef had a long beard and he used a walking stick. He was born in the village of Sovoleno near Kiustendil in 1875 and he traded with chick-peas. I've heard stories that the courtyard of his house was filled with sacks of chick-peas that my grandfather sold. My mother told me that once she stumbled over those sacks and twisted her knee badly. She recalled that a popular healer fixed the knee with just one touch. My grandparents' family lived quite poorly. They had seven children - six daughters and a son, Solomon, who went to France when he was only 19 years old and never returned to Bulgaria. My grandfather was the only one who provided for their living. My grandmother was a housewife. Later on my grandfather became a chazzan at the synagogue in Kiustendil until the whole family moved to Sofia. All my relatives from Kiustendil went to Israel after 1948. My grandfather was religious, but he wore civil clothes. He had many books in Hebrew, and he also had the Talmud and read prayers all the time.