

Basya-Mirra Sherman With Her Infant Grandson Adolf Landsman



This is my grandmother Basya-Mirra Sherman, my maternal grandmother, and me being three months old. The picture was taken in Nizhniy Novgorod in 1925.

My grandmother's name was Basya-Mirra. I barely remember her. There is only this one picture with her, where she holds me in her arms.

My grandfather was a painter. He was a window dresser. His kin lived in Nizhniy Novgorod. That was the reason why he was called there.

Besides, his profession was in demand. He moved to Nizhniy Novgorod in 1909, got his own shop and commenced his work successfully.

My grandparents were religious. My grandfather went to the synagogue on holidays. I think he went there on Sabbath as well. Jewish holidays and Sabbath were celebrated at home.

I don't know the details, as I only remember bits and pieces of my mother's tales from my childhood.

Both parents and children spoke good Russian, but Yiddish was spoken at home. The family was most likely well-off before the revolution.

I was born on 14th April 1924 in Nizhniy Novgorod. My parents called me Adolf. I don't have a Jewish name. My father still worked in his shop with his brother Pavel.

My mother was a housewife and took care of me. We were pretty well-off during the NEP times, and the Soviet regime encouraged entrepreneurship.

I remember hardly anything about my life in Nizhniy Novgorod. We left it for Moscow in 1928.