

## Bluma Lepiku And Her Sister Mena Shumiacher



This is me (on the right) and my older sister Mena Shumiacher. This photo was taken in Tallinn in 1927. My father was a violin player. My father earned all right and could provide well for his family. My mother didn't work after her wedding. My older sister Mena, their first child, was born in January 1922. I was born in October 1926. I was given the name of Bluma. Our father was not involved in raising the children or any household duties. My mother was responsible for raising the children and keeping the house. My father brought money home, and it was my mother's part to take good care of it. My mother was raised to strictly observe Jewish traditions. My father was not particularly religious, though his mother was a very religious woman. We followed the kashrut at home. My mother did the cooking herself, and all food was kosher. We never had pork at home: we only ate beef, veal and poultry. My father did not take part in raising his children, but we obeyed him

implicitly. He could shush us just frowning or looking at us with a definite expression. We were never beaten or told out. The most severe punishment for me and my sister was when our father told us to stand in the corner. Our parents treated us with strictness. I remember that I liked dangling my legs, when sitting at the table. When my father noticed this, he made me go to stand in the corner. When everybody else had finished eating, I was allowed to sit at the table to eat. It would have never occurred to my sister or me to disobey our parents, snarl at them or demonstrate disrespect. Things like that never happened.