

Alfred Liberman, His Father David Liberman ,And His Father's Brothers German Liberman And Yevsey Liberman



This is a family picture of my father, his two brothers, and myself. From left to right: my father, David Grigoryevich (Duvid Gershovich) Liberman, my uncle German Grigoryevich Liberman, my uncle Yevsey Grigoryevich and myself. The picture was taken by the 'Svetopis' photo studio in Kiev, in 1927, when I was 13 -- possibly my uncles came to Kiev to celebrate my bar mitzvah. I had a bar-mitzvah according to every rule. Our family lived together with my mother's parents ? Isaac Petrovich Berlatsky and Yulia Moiseyevna Berlatskaya, nee Knebelman, and Grandfather was the only deeply religious person in the family. For my bar mitzvah, Grandfather wrote four Hebrew lines in Russian letters for me to recite at the ceremony, because I had absolutely no knowledge of Hebrew. I learned the lines by heart and forgot them as soon as the ceremony was over. Immediately after the ceremony I ran off to my regular school. We were ashamed of following Jewish traditions. My father was born in 1885 in the small town of Sudilkov, Podolia. He was a lawyer. Uncle German was born in 1875. I can say that he followed in the footsteps of his father ? forestry economy. He moved from place to place; he worked both at the north of Russia and in the west of Ukraine. There was some sort of instability in his nature. Uncle Yevsey was born in 1897 and graduated from Kiev University. From 1923 he worked in Kharkov. He created an economic school famous all over the country. Later, his lectures, articles and speeches drew the attention of the highest Soviet leadership; he won support from prime ministers Khrushchev and then Kosygin. An article titled 'Plan, Profit, Prize' that he published in 'Pravda' [the main newspaper of the USSR] in 1962 touched off a whole discussion among economists, while his line of reforms, supported by the leadership of the USSR, was nicknamed 'Libermanization' in the West