

Vava Polyak With Her Schoolmates And Teachers



This picture was taken in Tallinn in 1928 during the period of time when my elder siblings went to the Tallinn Jewish lyceum. Of course, I do not know all teachers and students in the pictures. Some of them had already finished lyceum when I was enrolled there. Besides, I cannot recognize some of them in the old picture. The headmaster of the lyceum, Samuel Gourin, is in the center of the picture. The dark-haired man in a dark suit to his right is the teacher of natural studies, Kosotskiy. He was loved by all students. His classes were always interesting. To his right is a teacher of junior grades, Khatskin. To the left from Gourin with a bow-tie is inspector Sauerbrei. I do not know the two teachers, sitting next to him. The 3rd from the inspector is a teacher called Pasova. Next to her is the mathematics teacher Motle Zhytomirskiy. I don't know the rest of the teachers. They were not working in the lyceum in the period of my studies. Students: The 3rd to the right in the 1st row is Natan Osnovich. He survived the Holocaust, then lived in Tallinn. He died a couple of years ago. The tallest from the senior students, the 9th in the top row is Zalman Leerman. He lived in Moscow after the war and died there. The 6th to the left in the first row is Rita Herzenberg. She is currently living in Tallinn. The 8th to the left in the same row is Evgenia Gurina, daughter of the headmaster of the lyceum. She passed away in Tallinn in 2002. To her right, the 8th in the 1st row is Benno Soh. He died in the Holocaust. The 12th to the left in the first row is Aronovich. He lived in Tallinn after the war. The 8th to the right in the 4th row is Vava (Valentina) Polyak (married name Klompus), elder sister of my wife. Valentina and her husband died during the Holocaust in 1941. The 11th to the right in the same row is nee Tsitron, married name Shein; I don't remember her first name. Right behind Gourin in the 3rd row is Sara Borus. She was born in Tallinn in 1914 and recently died in Tallinn. The 4th to the right in the last row is Sarah Rybka. I don't remember the rest, or maybe I cannot recognize them.