

Warrant Of Galina Shkolnikova's **Grandfather Mordekhay Farber**



This is a warrant issued to my grandfather Mordekhay Farber in April 1918 at the Nikopol District Workers', Peasants' and Soldiers' Deputies office. The warrant states that the apartment and property owned by him shall not be subject to search and confiscation. My grandfather was born in 1868 in the town of Alushta, Tavricheskaya province. I only know that he had a sister and a brother. He had a serious quarrel with his brother early in life and didn't keep in touch with him after that. None of the relatives knew the reason for that quarrel. They assumed that it was about the difference in their material status. I don't know what education my grandfather had either. His job was related to forestry. He worked in Nikopol, Southern Ukraine, as a log storage manager and had a house with a big garden on the bank of the Dnepr river. During the NEP he organized a swimming pool and a boat-house in the garden, where his younger sons Isaac and Abram worked as boatmen. My grandparents' mother tongue was Yiddish, but they spoke Russian in the family. They switched to Yiddish when they wanted to conceal something from the children or the maids. The boys studied Hebrew, probably in cheder. I don't know if the girls studied Hebrew. They all -

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grandfather, grandmother and their children - spoke very good Ukrainian. My grandparents were religious people. All Jewish traditions were observed and all holidays were celebrated in the family. They attended the synagogue. Grandfather Mordekhay solemnly trampled on the New Testament on Sabbath, which was specially kept at home for that purpose, showing his belonging to Judaism and his denial of Russian Orthodoxy. My grandfather died in Nikopol in 1931, and, obviously, as a pious man, was buried according to the Jewish tradition.