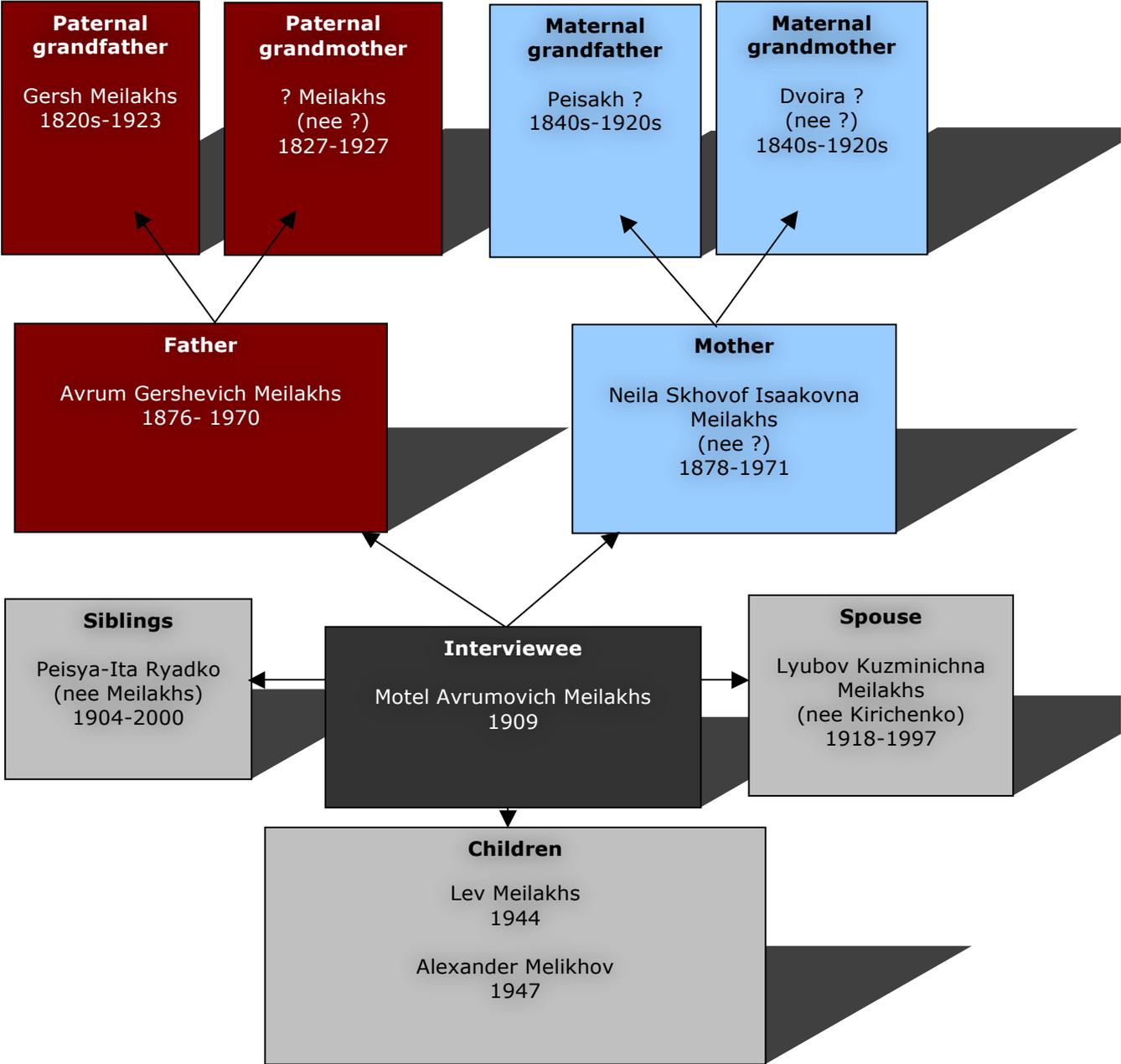


Family Tree



The interviewee and his family

Full name

Motel Avrumovich (Mark Abramovich) Meilakhs

Where and when were you born?

Tyrlitsa, Monastyrischi district, Lipovetski region, Kiev province (today Ukraine), 25th June 1909

Where else did you live?

Stepnyak, Kazakhstan, Kiev (today Ukraine), Vorkuta, German settlements in Volga region, Kustanai, Kazakhstan, Vsevolozhsk, Leningrad region, St. Petersburg

Your educational level?

1914-1917: Derek-cheder, Tyrlitsa (today Ukraine)
1917-1919: Gemara-cheder, Tyrlitsa (today Ukraine)
1922-1926: Dashev, Kalnik, Vinnitskaya area, National Ukrainian School
1927-1929: External courses to become teacher in elementary school, Uman
1929-1933: Jewish sector of the University, History and Economics Faculty, author's courses at the Institute of Jewish Culture of the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences, correspondence courses for interpreters from the German language, Kiev (today Ukraine)

What sort of work do/did you do?

1925: Dashev, Vinnitskaya region, unskilled worker at a mechanical plant
1925-1927: village of Kalnik (3 kilometers from Dashev), chopped wood, worked at uncle's mill
1927-1928: Teacher at the Jewish elementary school, Yustingrad
1932-1933: Teacher of social sciences in the Jewish technical school of communal services
1935-1941: Stalin labor camps, Kazakhstan, Vorkuta, Siberia (today Russia)
1941-1941: German settlements in Volga region (in between serving prison terms), teacher of History in a secondary school (today Russia)
1942-1945: In exile, Stepnyak (today Kazakhstan), loader and teacher of the

German language

1945-1949: Rossosh, teacher of History of the Ancient World and Middle Ages at the teachers institute. Thesis: 'Entry of Italy into the First World War'

1949-1958: Stepnyak, teacher of the German language in a secondary school

1958: Belaya Tserkov (90 kilometers from Kiev, today Ukraine)

1958-1969: Kustanai, teacher of History of the Ancient World and Middle Ages

What was the level of religiosity in your parent's home? How were you raised?

My parents knew and respected all religious traditions during their whole life, and were Orthodox Jews.

What is your mother tongue?

Yiddish

How many languages do you speak?

Russian, German

If you were in an army, tell us which army and the dates

None

Where were you during the Holocaust?

Political exile, Northern Kazakhstan

Siblings

Their names

Peisya-Ita (Sita) Ryadko (nee Meilakhs)

Where and when were they born?

Tyrlitsa, Monastyrishi district, Lipovetski region, Kiev province (today Ukraine), 1904

What is their mother tongue?

Yiddish

Their educational level?

Received no education due to poor health (very poor vision)

Their occupations?

Housewife

Where do/did they live?

1904-1925: Tyrlitsa

1925-1932: Jewish agricultural colony, Odessa region (today Ukraine)

1932-1941: Kiev (today Ukraine)

1941-1980: Alma-Ata (today Kazakhstan)

1980-2000: Rehovot (today Israel)

Do they have children?

Son Mika, 1925–1943, died at the front near the Dnieper River, Kirovograd region.

Daughter, born in 1930, lives in Israel, engineer in flour-milling industry

Where and when did they die?

Rehovot (today Israel), 2000

Spouse

Name?

Lyubov Kuzminichna Meilakhs (nee Kirichenko)

Where and when was he/she born?

Borovoye (today Kazakhstan), 1918

Where else did he live?

Moscow, Stepnyak (today Kazakhstan), Vsevolozhsk, Leningrad region

Is he/she Jewish?

No, Russian

What is his/her mother tongue?

Russian

His/her educational level?

1926-1936: Secondary schools

1936-1941: Pedagogical Institute, Physics Faculty, Moscow

Occupation?

1940-1943: Teacher of Physics at school

1945-1949: Rossosh, Teacher of Physics at Institute

Where and when did he/she die?

St. Petersburg, 1997

Children

Their names?

Lev Meilakhs
Alexander Melikhov

Were they raised Jewish/do they identify themselves as Jews?

Both my sons are Russian on their mother's side, but the destiny of the Jewish people is very close to them. Alexander has written a novel entitled 'Confession of a Jew' and is the author of many other well-known works, accessible on the Internet.

Where and when were they born?

Lev: Stepnyak (today Kazakhstan), 1944
Alexander: Rossosh, 1947

Where else did they live?

Lev: Leningrad
Alexander: Leningrad (today St. Petersburg)

Their educational level?

Lev: Leningrad Polytechnical Institute
Alexander: Leningrad State University

Their occupations?

Lev: engineer/designer
Alexander: writer

How many grandchildren do you have?

Lev: Stanislav (m), born in 1977 (programmer); Alya (f), born in 1980 (student)
Alexander: Pavel (m), born in 1970 (writer) and Pyotr (m), born in 1970 (PhD student, sociologist); grandson (Pavel's son), born in 1990, school-boy

Father

His name?

Avrum Gershevich Meilakhs

Where and when was he was born?

Tyrlitsa, Monastyrishi district, Lipovetski region, Kiev province (today Ukraine), 1876

Where else did he live?

1937-1939: in exile, the village of Chasha, Kurgan district, the Urals
1939-1941: Kiev (today Ukraine)
1941-1942: German settlements in Volga region
1942-1945: Stepnyak (today Kazakhstan)
1945-1949: Rossosh
1949-1970: Alma-Ata (today Kazakhstan)

Where and when did he die?

Alma-Ata (today Kazakhstan), 1970

What sort of education did he have?

Cheder

What sort of work did he do?

Sales person in a shop of a rich Jew, tailor, the warden of Tyrlitsa town

What was his level of religiosity?

An Orthodox Jew, knew the Torah by heart, observed the kashrut, prayed daily and taught his children Jewish traditions

What was his mother tongue?

Yiddish

Army service: Which army and what years?

Russian Imperial Army, 1897-1901, soldier

Tell me about his brothers and sisters. (name, date of birth and death, occupation, place of residence, family, etc.)

Gershim (1850s-1928), beer trader, was married, three sons, traded grain and owned quarries, sons had their own families, died of old age after the war, their children are scattered all over the world

Motel (1874-1919), expert in forestry matters, son Nukhem, militia officer, Kiev; daughter Genya, militia officer, Kiev; daughter Lyuba, teacher at school, all their descendants live in Israel

Akiva (1870s-1950s), emigrated to America in 1901

Where was he during the Holocaust?

In evacuation: Alma-Ata (today Kazakhstan)

If he survived, what did he do after?

Was retired, lived and died in Alma-Ata

Paternal grandfather

Your father's father name?

Gersh Meilakhs

Where and when was he born?

Tyrlitsa, Monastyrishi district, Lipovetski region, Cherkassk area, Kiev province (today Ukraine), 1820s

Where else did he live?

N/A

Where and when did he die?

Tyrlitsa, 1923

What sort of education did he have?

Cheder

What sort of work did he do?

Handicraftsman, owner of a hardware store

What was his level of religiosity?

Orthodox Jew, respected absolutely all Jewish customs, ate only kosher food and prayed every day

What was his mother tongue?

Yiddish

Army service: Which army and what years?

None

Tell me about his brothers and sisters. (name, date of birth and death, occupation, place of residence, family, etc.)

No information

Where was he during the Holocaust?

Died before

Paternal grandmother

Your father's mother's name?

? Meilakhs (nee ?)

Where and when was she born?

Tyrlitsa, Monastyrischi district, Lipovetski region, Kiev province (today Ukraine), 1827

Where else did she live?

-

Where and when did she die?

Tyrlitsa, Monastyrischi district, Lipovetski region, Kiev province, 1927

What sort of education did she have?

Illiterate

What sort of work did she do?

Housewife

What was her level of religiosity?

Orthodox Jew, respected absolutely all Jewish customs, ate only kosher food and prayed every day

What was her mother tongue?

Yiddish

Tell me about her brothers and sisters. (name, date of birth and death, occupation, place of residence, family, etc.)

No information

Where was she during the Holocaust?

Died before

Mother

Her name?

Neila Skhovof Isaakovna Meilakhs (nee ?)

Where and when was she was born?

The settlement of China-Town, Vinnitsa province, (today Ukraine) 1878

Where else did she live?

1937-1939: in exile, the village of Chasha, Kurgan district, the Urals
1939-1941: Kiev (today Ukraine)
1941-1942: German settlements in Volga region
1942-1945: Stepnyak (today Kazakhstan)
1945-1949: Rossosh
1949-1971: Alma-Ata (today Kazakhstan)

Where and when did she die?

Alma-Ata, 1971

What sort of education did she have?

Educated at home

What sort of work did she do?

Housewife

What was her level of religiosity?

Religious: prayed, knew prayers by heart, helped the poor, celebrated all holidays

What was her mother tongue?

Yiddish

Tell me about her brothers and sisters. (name, date of birth and death, occupation, place of residence, family, etc.)

Nukhom (1870s-1900s), a direct-sales representative, dispossessed by Bolsheviks, escaped to Odessa, further destiny unknown
Akiva (1870s-1920), accountant at fish farms, killed by the Red Army (Budenny soldiers)

Where was she during the Holocaust?

In evacuation: Alma-Ata (today Kazakhstan)

If she survived, what did she do after?

Pensioner, lived and died in Alma-Ata

Maternal grandfather

Your mother's father's name?

Peisakh (patronymic and surname unknown)

Where and when was he born?

Place unknown, 1840s

Where else did he live?

The settlement of China-Town, Vinnitsa region (today Ukraine)

Where and when did he die?

The settlement of China-Town, 1920s

What sort of education did he have?

Cheder

What sort of work did he do?

Trader of home-made wine

What was his level of religiosity?

Orthodox Jew, respected absolutely all Jewish customs, ate only kosher food and prayed every day.

What was his mother tongue?

Yiddish

Army service: Which army and what years?

No information

Tell me about his brothers and sisters. (name, date of birth and death, occupation, place of residence, family, etc.)

No information

Where was he during the Holocaust?

Died before

Maternal grandmother

Your mother's mother's name?

Dvoira (patronymic, surname and maiden name unknown)

Where and when was she born?

Place unknown, 1840s

Where else did she live?

The settlement of China-Town, Vinnitsa region (today Ukraine)

Where and when did she die?

The settlement of China-town, 1920s

What sort of education did she have?

Illiterate

What sort of work did she do?

Housewife

What was her level of religiosity?

Orthodox Jew, respected absolutely all Jewish customs, ate only kosher food and prayed every day.

What was her mother tongue?

Yiddish

Tell me about her brothers and sisters. (name, date of birth and death, occupation, place of residence, family, etc.)

No information

Where was she during the Holocaust?

Died before