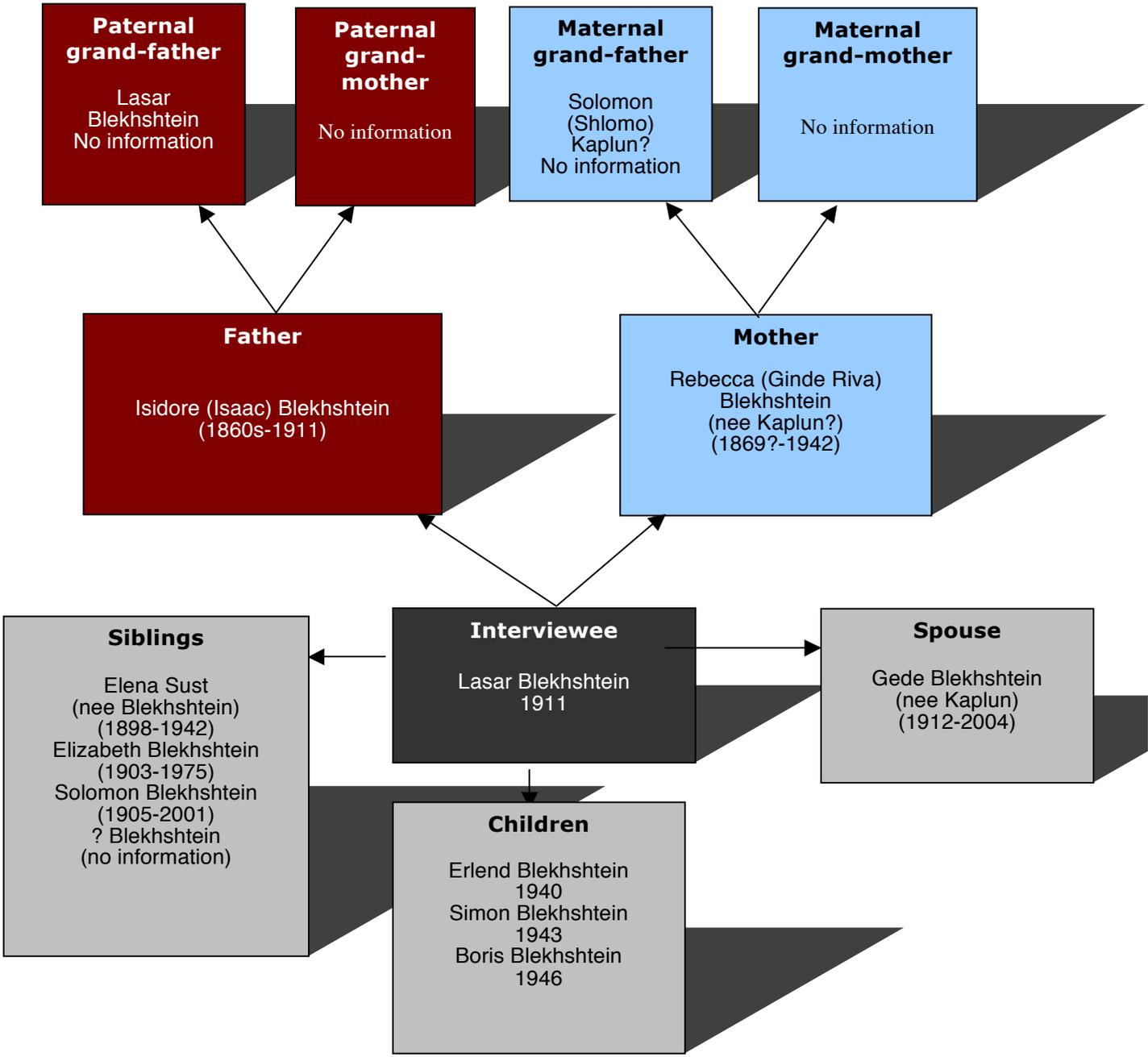


Family Tree



The interviewee and his family

Full name

Lasar Blekhshtein

Where and when were you born?

St. Petersburg, 1911

Where else did you live?

Leningrad, Ufa, Tashkent (now Uzbekistan)

Your educational level?

The Leningrad Polytechnical College

What sort of work do/did you do?

An engineer

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

My Mom was religious: attended synagogue on holidays. I do not know whether Daddy did it: he died in the year of my birth and Mom told nothing about it). My Mom attended the Misnagdim Synagogue, and I used to bring her something to eat while she was praying. My brother and my sisters never visited the synagogue, and I attended the Great Choral (for me it was more interesting). Once in my life (I was a 12 years old boy) they trusted me to carry Torah, though I was on crutches! I carried Torah, and people touched and kissed it. That was my affecting experience.

My mother forced me to go to cheder. It was here in Petersburg in 1926-1927. Mother wanted me to study Jewish Tradition, because she was a religious woman. But I haven't learnt much there: it was not very interesting for me. Later for some reason the cheder was closed. But Mom was very persistent: she invited rabbi from the cheder to come to our place (she paid him). He came, we read. We read in Hebrew, but I understood nothing! He read and translated. It was Humash or something of that kind: I do not remember. Rabbi visited us during a year. I appeared to be an underachiever and he stopped our studies. At that time I wore tzitzit (Mom forced me). At our school nobody did it, but in cheder there were boys with payes (their parents insisted).

My parents did not wear any special Jewish clothes.

What is your mother tongue?

Russian

How many languages do you speak?

English, German, Yiddish

Where were you during the Holocaust?

In the besieged Leningrad, in evacuation (Tashkent, now Uzbekistan)

Siblings

Their names

Elena Sust (nee Blekhshtein) (f)
Elizabeth Blekhshtein (f)
Solomon Blekhshtein (m)
? Blekhshtein (m)

Where and when were they born?

Elena: St. Petersburg, 1898
Elizabeth: St. Petersburg, 1903
Solomon: St. Petersburg, 1905
?: no information

What is their mother tongue?

Russian

Their educational level?

Elena: secondary school
Elizabeth: bookkeeping courses
Solomon: bookkeeping courses

Their occupations?

Elena: a housewife, a worker
Elizabeth: a bookkeeper
Solomon: a shop assistant, a bookkeeper

Where do/did they live?

Elena: Leningrad
Elizabeth: Leningrad
Solomon: Leningrad

Where else did they live?

Elizabeth: Ufa
Solomon: Ufa

Do they have children?

Elena: 3 children

Where and when did they die?

Elena: Leningrad, 1942

Elizabeth: Leningrad, 1975

Solomon: St. Petersburg, 2001

Spouse

Name?

Gede Blekhshtein (nee Kaplun)

Where and when was he/she born?

No information

Where else did he live?

Leningrad, Tashkent (now Uzbekistan)

Is he/she Jewish?

Yes

What is his/her mother tongue?

Russian

His/her educational level?

The Leningrad Electrotechnical College

Occupation?

An engineer

Where and when did they die?

St. Petersburg, 2004

Children

Their names?

Erlend Blekhshtein (m)

Simon Blekhshtein (m)

Boris Blekhshtein (m)

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

No / yes

Where and when were they born?

Erlend: Leningrad, 1940

Simon: Tashkent (now Uzbekistan), 1943

Boris: Leningrad, 1946

Where else did they live?

Erlend: Tashkent (now Uzbekistan)

Simon: Leningrad, Kiryat Gat (Israel)

Their educational level?

Erlend: the Leningrad Conservatory

Simon: the Leningrad Electromechanical College

Boris: the Leningrad Polytechnical College

Their occupations?

Erlend: a chorister

Simon: an engineer

Boris: an engineer

How many grandchildren do you have?

Erlend: a son and a daughter

Simon: 2 daughters

Boris: a daughter

5 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren

Father

His name?

Isidore (Isaac) Blekhshtein

Where and when was he was born?

Vilno?, 1860s

Where else did he live?

St. Petersburg

Where and when did he die?

St. Petersburg, 1911

What sort of education did he have?

No information

What sort of work did he do?

A shoemaker

What was his level of religiosity?

My father died in the year of my birth and my mother never spoke about him. On the photographs my father is dressed ordinary.

What was his mother tongue?

No information

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.)

Tsilye, no more information

Where was he during the Holocaust?

Died before

Paternal grandfather

Your father's father name?

Lasar Blekhshtein

Where and when was he born?

No information

Where else did he live?

St. Petersburg

Where and when did he die?

No information

What sort of education did he have?

No information

What sort of work did he do?

Railway worker

What was his level of religiosity?

No information

What was his mother tongue?

No information

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

Paternal grandmother

Your father's mother's name?

No information

Where and when was she born?

No information

Where else did she live?

No information

Where and when did she die?

No information

What sort of education did she have?

No information

What sort of work did she do?

A housewife

What was her level of religiosity?

No information

What was her mother tongue?

No information

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?

Rebecca (Ginde Rive) Blekhshtein (nee Kaplun?)

Where and when was she was born?

Vilno?, 1869

Where else did she live?

St. Petersburg

Where and when did she die?

Leningrad, 1942

What sort of education did she have?

No information

What sort of work did she do?

A shop assistant, a handicrafts person

What was her level of religiosity?

My Mom was religious: attended synagogue on holidays. She attended the Misnagdlim Synagogue, and I used to bring her something to eat while she was praying.

My mother forced me to go to cheder. She wanted me to study Jewish Tradition, because she was a religious woman. Later for some reason the cheder was closed. But Mom was very persistent: she invited rabbi from the cheder to come to our place (she paid him). At that time I wore tzitzit (Mom forced me).

My mother did not wear any special Jewish clothes.

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?

In the besieged Leningrad

Maternal grandfather

Your mother's father's name?

Solomon (Shlomo) Kaplun

Where and when was he born?

No information

Where else did he live?

Vilno

Where and when did he die?

No information

What sort of education did he have?

No information

What sort of work did he do?

No information

What was his level of religiosity?

No information

What was his mother tongue?

No information

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?

No information

Where and when was she born?

No information

Where else did she live?

No information

Where and when did she die?

No information

What sort of education did she have?

No information

What sort of work did she do?

A housewife

What was her level of religiosity?

No information

What was her mother tongue?

No information

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