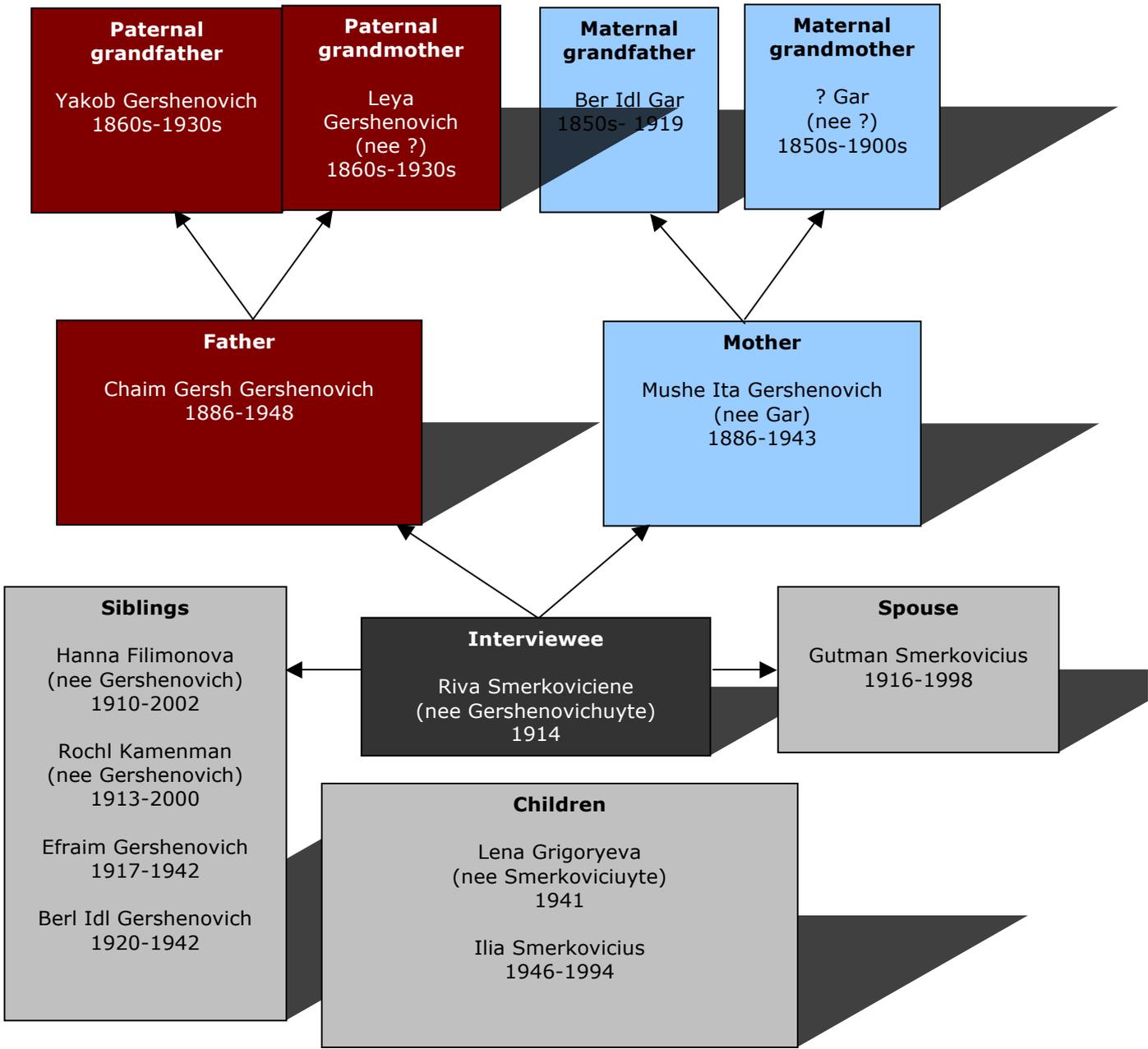


Family Tree



The interviewee and his family

Full name

Riva Smerkoviene (nee Gersanovichuyte) (Jewish name: Toybe-Rivke)

Where and when were you born?

Kaunas, 14th December 1914

Where else did you live?

Shimciache, Nagorsk of Kirov oblast, Konstantinovo, Kirov oblast (both today Russia)

Your educational level?

Four grades of Jewish school

What sort of work do/did you do?

Before the war was a tailor's apprentice; employed at the editor's department of Jewish Party paper; was a mentor at an orphanage during the Great Patriotic War; was in charge of a kindergarten; librarian after the war

How religious was your parents' home? How were you raised?

My parents were very religious, covered their heads, went to the synagogue, observed traditions and celebrated Jewish holidays.

What is your mother tongue?

Yiddish

What other languages do you speak?

Lithuanian, Russian

Where were you during the Holocaust?

Evacuation in Nagorsk, Konstantinovo (both today Russia)

What did you do after the Holocaust?

Came back to Kaunas, worked, raised children

Siblings

Their names

Hanna Filimonova (nee Gershenovich)
Rochl Kamenman (nee Gershenovich)
Efraim Gershenovich
Berl Idl Gershenovich

Where and when were they born?

All were born in Kaunas.
Hanna: 1910
Rochl: 1913
Efraim: 1917
Berl Idl: 1920

What is their mother tongue?

Yiddish for all

Their educational level?

All-elementary Jewish school

Their occupations?

Hanna: Party activist
Rochl: Housewife
Efraim: Worker
Berl Idl: Worker

Where do/did they live?

Hanna: Vilnius
Rochl: Kazan (Tatarstan, today Russia)
Efraim: N/A
Berl Idl: N/A

Where else did they live?

Hanna: Nagorsk, Konstantinovo (both today Russia)
Rochl: Israel
Efraim: N/A

Berl Idl: N/A

Do they have children?

Rochl: daughter Zelda, 1939, lives in Israel

Efraim: N/A

Berl Idl: N/A

Where and when did they die?

Hanna: Kaunas, 2002

Rochl: Israel, 2000

Efraim: was killed in action in the vicinity of Orel (today Russia), 1942

Berl Idl: was killed in action in the vicinity of Orel, 1942

Spouse

Name?

Gutman Smerkovicus

Where and when was he/she born?

Kaunas, 1916

Where else did he/she live?

Nagorsk (today Russia)

Is he/she Jewish?

Yes

What is his/her mother tongue?

Yiddish

His/her educational level?

Jewish school

Occupation?

Journalist

Where and when did he/she die?

Kaunas, 1998

Tell me anything you know about his/her siblings (Name, date of birth and death, occupation, place of residence, name of wife and children, whether their family is Jewish and whether it is religious).

Elder brother Ilia Shmerkovich lived in Argentina, two daughters: Kunya and Catalina.

Sister Chaya was repressed in the USSR, lived in Kyrgyzstan, daughter Maria

Sister Riva and brother Itshak perished in Kaunas ghetto

Children

Their names?

Lena Grigorieva (nee Smerkovicuyte)
Ilia Smerkovicus

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

Both identify themselves as Jews, though they were raised in an international family and never observed Jewish traditions.

Where and when were they born?

Lena: Nagorsk (today Russia), 1941
Ilia: Kaunas, 1946

Where else did they live?

Lena: Odessa, Nikolayev (both today Ukraine), Blagoveschensk (today Russia)

Their educational level?

Lena: Leningrad Biology Institute
Ilia: Kaunas Polytechnic Institute, sanitary department

Their occupations?

Lena: librarian
Ilia: engineer

How many grandchildren do you have?

Lena: Daughter Natalia, born in 1975, lives in Blagoveschensk, has children Vadim, 1995, Maxim, 1996
Ilia: daughter Diana, born in 1970, lives in Germany, has children Karolis and Camilla, daughter Laura, born in 1986, student

Father

His name?

Chaim Gersh Gershenovich

Where and when was he born?

Kaunas, 1886

Where else did he live?

Konstantinovo, Kazan (today Russia)

Where and when did he die?

Kaunas, 1948

What sort of education did he have?

Cheder

What sort of work did he do?

Cabman

How religious was he?

My father was very religious, always covered his head, went to the synagogue, observed all Jewish traditions – Sabbath and the kashrut, every week and on holidays went to the synagogue, celebrated holidays.

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.)

name	place and date of birth/death	occupation	biographical data and origins of spouse	biographical data of children	describe how religious they were
Chaya Feige Grobman (nee Gershenovich)	Kaunas, 1888-1938	Housewife	Itshak Grobman 1880s-1941 Jew	Hanna ? (nee Grobman) 1910s-? Taube ? (nee Grobman) 1920s-? Bunya Grobman 1920s-1939 Dvoyre Grobman 1930s-1941 Sarah ? (nee Grobman) 1930s	She was very religious, always covered her head, went to the synagogue, observed all Jewish traditions, celebrated holidays.
Sarah Shteintlef (nee Gershenovich)	Kaunas, 1889 - 1938	Housewife	Gersh Shteintlef 1880s-1940s Jew, painter	Toybl Shteintlef 1920s-1940s Esther Shteintlef 1920s-1940s Chaim Shteintlef 1930s-1940s	She was very religious, always covered her head, went to the synagogue, observed all Jewish traditions, celebrated holidays
Reizl Alexandrovich (nee Gershenovich)	Kaunas, 1895-1940s	Housewife	? Alexandrovich 1890s-1940s Jew	? Alexandrovich (m) 1920s-1940s Ruvim Alexandrovich 1920s-1940s Leya Alexandrovich 1930s-1940s	She was very religious, always covered her head, went to the synagogue, observed all Jewish traditions, celebrated holidays.
Michl Gershenovich	Kaunas, 1900- Israel, 1970s	No information	Jewish wife, 1900s-?	Two daughters and a son, son died in 1960s	He was very religious, always covered his

				in Israel, no further information	head, observed all Jewish traditions, celebrated holidays.
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Where was he during the Holocaust?

Evacuation in Konstantinovo, Kazan (today Russia)

If he survived, what did he do after?

Lived in Kaunas

Paternal grandfather

Your paternal grandfather's name?

Yakob Gershenovich

Where and when was he born?

Kaunas, 1860s

Where and when did he die?

Kaunas, 1930s

What sort of education did he have?

Cheder

What sort of work did he do?

Security guard at brewery

How religious was he?

Grandfather was religious, wore a kippah, observed Jewish traditions, celebrated holidays.

What was his mother tongue?

Yiddish

Army service: which army and what years?

None

Tell me about his brothers and sisters.

name	place and date of birth/death	occupation	biographical data and origins of spouse	biographical data of children	describe how religious they were
No information					

Where was he during the Holocaust?

Died before

Paternal grandmother

Your paternal grandmother's name?

Leya Gershenovich (nee ?)

Where and when was she born?

Kaunas, 1860s

Where and when did she die?

Kaunas, 1930s

What sort of education did she have?

Jewish education at home

What sort of work did she do?

Housewife

How religious was she?

Grandmother was very religious, wore a head kerchief, celebrated Sabbath, observed the kashrut, celebrated Jewish holidays.

What was her mother tongue?

Yiddish

Tell me about his brothers and sisters.

name	place and date of birth/death	occupation	biographical data and origins of spouse	biographical data of children	describe how religious they were
No information					

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Where was she during the Holocaust?

Died before

Mother

Her name?

Mushe Ita Gershenovich (nee Gar)

Where and when was she born?

Zarasai, 1886

Where else did she live?

Kaunas, Konstantinovo (today Russia)

Where and when did she die?

Konstantinovo, 1943

What sort of education did she have?

Jewish education at home

What sort of work did she do?

Housewife

How religious was she?

Mother was very religious, covered her head with a kerchief, celebrated holidays, observed all Jewish traditions and the kashrut.

What was her mother tongue?

Yiddish

Tell me about his brothers and sisters.

name	place and date of	occupation	biographical data	biographical data	describe how religious
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	birth/death		and origins of spouse	of children	they were
Motle (Max) Gar	Zarasai, 1880-USA, date unknown	Businessman	Jewish wife (No further information)	Had daughters, whose names are unknown	He was very religious, always covered his head, observed all Jewish traditions, celebrated holidays.
Dovid Gar	Zarasai, 1880s-Krone, 1930s	Baker	Jewish wife 1890s-1940s	Chaya Kaplan (nee Gar), 1910s-?, Israel Joseph Gar, 1910s-2003, USA Yankle Gar, perished in occupation in 1940s	He was very religious, always covered his head, observed all Jewish traditions, celebrated holidays.

Where was she during the Holocaust?

Evacuation in Konstantinovo (today Russia), where she died in 1943

Maternal grandfather

Your maternal grandfather's name?

Berl Idl Gar

Where and when was he born?

Zarasai, 1850s

Where else did he live?

Kaunas

Where and when did he die?

Kaunas, 1919

What sort of education did he have?

Cheder

What sort of work did he do?

Farmer

How religious was he?

Grandfather was religious, covered his head, prayed, celebrated Jewish holidays.

What was his mother tongue?

Yiddish

Army service: which army and what years?

None

Tell me about his brothers and sisters.

name	place and date of birth/death	occupation	biographical data and origins of spouse	biographical data of children	describe how religious they were
No information					

Where was he during the Holocaust?

Died before

Maternal grandmother

Your maternal grandmother's name?

? Gar (nee ?)

Where and when was she born?

Place unknown, 1850s

Where else did she live?

Zarasai

Where and when did she die?

Zhasliai, 1900s

What sort of education did she have?

Jewish education at home

What sort of work did she do?

Housewife

How religious was she?

As I was told Grandmother was very religious. (no further information)

What was her mother tongue?

Yiddish

Tell me about his brothers and sisters.

name	place and date of birth/death	occupation	biographical data and origins of spouse	biographical data of children	describe how religious they were
No information					

Where was she during the Holocaust?

Died before