## **Family Tree**



### The interviewee and his family

Full name Boris Lesman (m)

Where and when were you born? Kerch (Crimea, Russia, now Ukraine), 1923

Where else did you live? Petropavlovsk-Kamchatskiy Kherson (now Ukraine) Leningrad (St. Petersburg)

Your educational level? Graduated from the Naval School named after Frunze

#### What sort of work do/did you do?

Kerch, research hydrographic group, specialist in hydrography (engineer) Danube Military River Flotilla, postwar creeping, naval officer Kamchatka, specialist in hydrography (engineer) Leningrad, Central Navy Cartographic Department, chief editor

What was the level of religiosity in your parent's home? How were you raised? The family was assimilated, Boris Lesman got only secular education. He never visited synagogue. He knew nothing about his Jewish origin. Boris got to know that his father's name was Moissey (not Mikhail) only when they exchanged Komsomol-membership cards. His grandmother knew Yiddish and talked to her daughter in Yiddish. But neither Boris, nor his father knew Yiddish. Their family was absolutely not religious, because they lived among Russians. Abram, uncle of Boris, whom he often visited observed Jewish traditions, but wore ordinary (secular) clothes (a suit of clothes and a tie); he had no payes; Uncle Abram celebrated all Jewish holidays; he could read Hebrew well; he was religious. Russian tsar Nicolas II held him in high respect and offered him a post of minister (sure, in case he denied his faith and accepted Christianity), but Abram refused.

What is your mother tongue? Russian

How many languages do you speak? Russian

Where were you during the Holocaust?

Served in the Red Army in Leningrad; was in evacuation in Astrakhan and in Baku; fought against fascists at Stalingrad and Ukraine front-lines

#### Siblings

Their names

Vitaliy Ghin (m) - stepbrother (son of the second father's wife)

Where and when were they born? Kerch (Ukraine), 1932

What is their mother tongue? Russian

*Their educational level?* Building College in Moscow

Their occupations? Engineer in New York. In 1989 he received a special certificate of The Best Engineer of New York

Where do/did they live? New York, the USA

Where else did they live? Kerch (now Ukraine) Chapaevsk since 1941 Chelyabinsk? in 1950s

Do they have children? Andrew (m) – son of his wife Vadim Ghin (m)

### **Spouse** Name?

Serafima Lesman (nee Rabinovich)

Where and when was he/she born? Mogilev (now Belarus), 1928

Where else did he live? Sevastopol (now Ukraine) Tuapse Simferopol (now Ukraine) Izmail (now Ukraine) Petropavlovsk-Kamchatskiy Kherson (now Ukraine) Leningrad

*Is he/she Jewish?* Yes

What is his/her mother tongue? Russian

His/her educational level? Graduated from the Leningrad College of Soviet Trade and Economy

Occupation? A financier

#### Children

Their names?

Vitaliy Lesman (m)

Were they raised Jewish/do they identify themselves as Jews? He was brought up not as a Jewish child, but he knows that he is a Jew

Where and when were they born? Sevastopol, 1949

Where else did they live? Kherson (now Ukraine) Petropavlovsk-Kamchatskiy Leningrad

Their educational level? Graduated from the Leningrad Electrotechnical College

Their occupations?

A chief of computer center, a lieutenant on board a rocket warship After that he became a civilian engineer

How many grandchildren do you have? Mikhail Lesman (m)

### Father

*His name?* Moissey Lesman

Where and when was he was born? Melitopol (now Ukraine), 1899

Where else did he live? Kherson (now Ukraine) Kerch (now Ukraine) Chapaevsk Simferopol (now Ukraine) Leningrad

Where and when did he die? St. Petersburg, 1995

What sort of education did he have? Finished secondary school Finished juridical courses

What sort of work did he do? An investigator in OGPU [Joint State Political Directorate] A civilian legal adviser at a military training ground A lawyer in Simferopol (Crimea) in regional consumers union

What was his level of religiosity? He was absolutely assimilated. He did not observe tradition, did not speak Yiddish What was his mother tongue?

Russian

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### Army service: Which army and what years?

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

	<i>,</i> ,				
Name	place and date of	occupation	biographical data	biographical data	describe how religious
	birth/death		and origins of	of children	they were
			spouse		
Samuil	No information,	Before 1917:	Maria Lesman (f)	Adelaida ? (f) (nee	They were assimilated
Lesman (m)	1897?	served in the	(nee ?),	Lesman)	
	/	tsarist army	a Jewess,	Born in 1922, died	
	Leningrad, 1970s	After the	a physician.	in St. Petersburg in	
		Revolution of	During the WWII	2002	
		1917: worked at	medical service		
		a photo studio	major and chief		
			of a hospital		
			train		
Emanuil	No information,	Worked at	Antonina (f)	Irina ? (f)	They were assimilated
Lesman (m)	1901?	Electrossila	(nee ?),	(nee Lesman)	
	/	factory	Russian	Marina Sadikova	
	Leningrad, 1941			(f)	
				(nee Lesman)	
Vitalia	No information /	An architect,	Not married		They were assimilated
Lesman (f)	Leningrad, 1970s	worked in			
		Sverdlovsk,			
		Leningrad			
Deborah	No information /	A pianist	Not married		They were assimilated
Lesman (f)	Leningrad, 1970s				
Isaac Lesman	No information /	Head of	Valentina	Vladimir Lesman	They were assimilated
(m)	Leningrad, 1970s	department in	Lesman	(m)	
		the tram depot	(nee Vostryak),		
		named after	a physician		
		Leonov			

Where was he during the Holocaust?

In evacuation he worked at a military training ground in Chapaevsk

# Paternal grandfather

*Your father's father name?* Boris Lesman

Where and when was he born? No information

Where else did he live? No information

Where and when did he die? No information

What sort of education did he have? No information

What sort of work did he do?

There is no information about places of his work: he was a poet. One of books of his poems was issued in 1890.

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.)

Abram Lesman (m); no information about the date of his birth; died in Leningrad in 1937; he lived in Petrograd (later Leningrad); his wife was Polina Lesman (nee ?); they had no children

Semen Lesman (m); no information about the date of his birth; died in Leningrad in 1950s; he lived in Petrograd (later Leningrad); was evacuated during the war; he had a son Moissey Lesman

Where was he during the Holocaust? Died before

## Paternal grandmother

Your father's mother's name? Rebecca Lesman (nee ?)

Where and when was she born? No information

Where else did she live? Kerch (now Ukraine)

Where and when did she die? Kerch, 1910s

What sort of education did she have? No information

What sort of work did she do? She was an owner of a bookstore in Kerch (now Ukraine)

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?

Anna Lesman (nee Millerman)

Where and when was she was born? Place is unknown, 1901

Where else did she live? Kerch (now Ukraine) Kherson (now Ukraine)

Where and when did she die? Kerch (now Ukraine), 1934

What sort of education did she have? Finished primary school

What sort of work did she do? A typist (after the Revolution of 1917) A house wife (after marriage)

What was her level of religiosity? She was assimilated, did not observe Tradition, but knew Yiddish

What was her mother tongue? Yiddish? Russian?

## Tell me about her brothers and sisters. (name, date of birth and death,

## occupation, place of residence, family, etc.)

,	<i>,</i> ,	, ,			
Name	place and date of	occupation	biographical data	biographical data	describe how religious
	birth/death		and origins of	of children	they were
			spouse		
Semen	Place and date of	Director of a	No information	No information	No information
Millerman (m)	birth are unknown	fish-factory on			
	/ place of death is	Sakhalin			
	unknown, 1970s				
Lev Millerman	Place and date of	A bookkeeper,	Galina Millerman	Valentina ? (f)	They were
(m)	birth are unknown	a financier.	(f) (nee	(nee Millerman)	assimilated: did not
	/ Leningrad, 1952	During the war	Simkina),	Anna ? (f) (nee	wear traditional
		at the front he	a Jewess	Millerman)	clothes, did not
		was a chief of			observe Tradition
		financial			
		department at a			
		division (a			
		captain, later a			
		major)			
Vera	Place and date of	No information	Yanya Moukomel	Leonid Moukomel	They were assimilated
Moukomel (f)	birth are unknown		(m),	(m)	
(nee	/ Odessa, date of		a Jew		
Millerman)	death is unknown				
Elizaveta? (f)	Place and date of	No information	No information	No information	No information
(nee	birth are unknown				
Millerman)	/ Tashkent, 1980s				
Sofia ? (f)	Place and date of	No information	No information	Naum ? Place of	They were assimilated
(nee	birth are unknown			birth is unknown,	
Millerman)	/ fascists hanged			1923?	
	her during the			/ fascists hanged	
	WWII in			him during the	
	Pervomaysk (now			WWII in	
	Ukraine)			Pervomaysk (now	
				Ukraine)	

Where was she during the Holocaust?

Died before

## Maternal grandfather

*Your mother's father's name?* Naum Millerman

Where and when was he born? No information

Where else did he live? Kherson (now Ukraine)

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? No information

### **Maternal grandmother**

Your mother's mother's name? Velya Millerman (nee ?)

Where and when was she born? No information

Where else did she live? Kherson (now Ukraine) Kerch (now Ukraine) Pervomaysk (now Ukraine)

Where and when did she die? Pervomaysk (now Ukraine), 1940s

What sort of education did she have? No information

What sort of work did she do? A house wife

#### What was her level of religiosity?

She did not observe Tradition, but her mother tongue was Yiddish and she spoke very poor Russian. When Mother cooked very good pork, she used to say 'Mum, eat it, it is beef.' And my grandmother ate it with pleasure, though she knew it all along (we used to laugh at her, on the sly). *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? Fascists hanged her during the WWII in Pervomaysk (now Ukraine), where she lived