

Leonid Dusman's Grandfather Isaac Dusman



This is a picture of my paternal grandfather Isaac Dusman. The photo was taken in Odessa in 1903. My grandfather Isaac was born in Odessa in the 1860s. He finished a commercial school and was a merchant of Guild II. The apartment in which I live now is in the house that was built by my grandfather and his partner Nisgoltz in 1892. There were stores on the first floor, and two of them belonged to my grandfather: a clothing store and a women's underwear store. There were also sewing shops that manufactured clothes and underwear in this building, which were also owned by my grandfather. They manufactured clothes for many people in Odessa. Apartments were on the second and third floors. My grandfather's family lived in an apartment on the third floor. The

building was very long and called 'Smaller Passage'. My grandfather also had a villa by the sea in Chubaevka near Odessa. The stores and villa were taken away from the family by the Soviet power after the October Revolution of 1917. It seems to me that my grandfather had a formal attitude towards religion, but I'm sure that he donated to the synagogue like all other Jews. My grandparents survived the Odessa pogrom of 1905. My grandmother told me that during the pogrom, when the thugs were in their street, Fedosey and all other Christian janitors from our neighborhood stood in front of our house with icons. It meant that there were no Jews in the house but only orthodox Christians. The Black Hundred went past this neighborhood and nobody suffered. When I was a boy, I knew Fedosey, who was the janitor of the house before the Revolution. My grandfather still owned one store until the end of the NEP period in the late 1920s, when the Soviet power confiscated all people's property and eliminated private entrepreneurship. Within two or three days my grandfather became a poor man. My grandfather died two weeks before I was born in 1930. He had a stroke sometime between the age of 60-65. However, in his last words he mentioned that my parents should conduct the ritual of circumcision after my birth. And they did. My grandpa was buried in a Jewish cemetery, but I don't know if they observed the Jewish ritual back then.