

Mimi-Matilda Petkova's Family



This is our family in Vidin photographed on 30th November 1928. Before I was born, my father lived with my mother in the village of Gradets, Vidin region. I was born there. We had some very good friends - Uncle Lozano and Uncle Rusko. When the Law for the Protection of the Nation was passed, they brought us pumpkins, maize, flour and other stuff. The Jews could go to the market, but they could shop only with special talons, called food coupons, and only at specific times of the day. My sister Veneta was born on 6th August 1925. She finished junior high school. She was a seamstress. Liza, my other sister, was born on 22nd January 1922. She finished her secondary education in

Vidin high school. She had a college education and was a pharmacist. Both my sisters spoke Ladino. Liza knew Italian. I didn't go to kindergarten; my mother took care of me. I studied in a Bulgarian secular school. I loved two subjects: history and Bulgarian language and literature, because history was related to my ancestry and I simply love Bulgarian poems. I wasn't sent to a Jewish school, because my father was an atheist and I had already begun my studies in the Bulgarian elementary school in the village of Gradets, where I was born.