

Rosa Levina



This is my mother Rosa Levina. The picture was taken for her Latvian passport in Riga in 1929. After the Russian Revolution of 1917, Jews in Russia got a permit to live in any cities they chose, and my mother's family moved to Riga. My grandmother died in Krustpils and was buried in the Jewish cemetery. My grandfather settled in Riga with his daughters. My grandfather closed down his business in Riga. My mother began working as a pharmacist in a private apothecary. She was educated, but I don't know the details. My mother had worked for a year in the apothecary and in that time she met my father. I don't know how my parents met. I know for sure that it wasn't a pre-arranged marriage. They must have had a traditional Jewish wedding, as both my paternal and maternal grandparents were religious and wouldn't have agreed to a secular wedding. At that time my grandparents' opinion was of importance. After the wedding my parents rented an apartment. It was a big four-room apartment in downtown. My mother kept working after getting married. I was born in 1933. I was named Nina. When I was born, my mother didn't want to quit her job and

become a housewife. My parents hired a baby-sitter for me. My mother did all the work about the house.