

Sima Libman And Her Relatives On Vormsi Island



The photograph was taken during our holiday on Vormsi island. Pictured sitting are Uncle Joseph Rogovski and Grandma Beile, standing behind them are my father Elhanon Rogovski, myself, and my mother Sofia Rogovski. Out of all of my father's relatives, his brother Joseph was my favorite person. He was very talented. When he was young he strove to get as much education as he could. My grandfather couldn't afford to help him so Uncle Joseph had to make his own way. He studied, and worked, and then studied again. During the Estonian War of Liberation, Uncle Joseph volunteered to the Estonian Army, and wounded his leg. He limped for the rest of his life. In the late 1920s, he graduated from Tartu University and became a certified pharmacist. After that, he and his wife, Pesya, lived on the small Estonian island of Vormsi for two years where Uncle Joseph worked as a pharmacist. Later, they went back to Rakvere, and Uncle Joseph opened his own drugstore with Pesya's father's help. In 1931, they had a daughter, Leah, and in 1935, a son, Benjamin. In 1940, the drugstore was nationalized, and Uncle Joseph was appointed the sanitary inspector for Narva. During the war, Uncle Joseph was evacuated to Chuvashia. After the war they returned to Estonia and lived in Parnu where Uncle Joseph worked as a sanitary inspector until he retired. He died in the late 1970s. His son, Benjamin, now lives in Israel with his family, and his daughter, Leah, lives in Tallinn. She worked as an engineer at a large factory for many years and is now retired. Unfortunately, she is very ill now. Our whole family spent two wonderful summers on Vormsi island when Uncle Joseph worked there as a pharmacist. That was in 1929 and 1930. There was a Swedish hotel on the island where we lived, but we visited Uncle Joseph and Aunt Pesya every day. There were amazing surroundings untouched by civilization, and beautiful forests full of mushrooms and berries.