

Fanni Kann And Her Husband Julius Kann



These are my father's parents. Grandmother Fanni Kann is to the left standing. Grandfather Julius Kann is sitting. The picture was taken in Tartu in 1915.

My paternal grandfather was born in Moscow. There is nothing I know about his parents. When he was young, he came from Moscow to Tartu.

He became a student of the Medical Faculty of Tartu University. I think that I was very lucky to find

out about the adolescence of my grandpa, and not very many people can boast of that. The famous Russian writer Veresaev, who also studied in Tartu, left a very bright portrait of my grandfather during his student years. It was just a small fragment of his life, but very bright and extraordinary.

Grandfather got married in Tartu after he graduated from university. I do not know much about my grandmother Fanni Kann. I do not even remember her, though I have a picture where she is holding me in her arms. I cannot recall her maiden name. She was a pianist. She did not give concerts, but taught music. I knew a lot of Tartu Jews who were her students. Judging by their stories, she was a very good teacher. Grandfather practiced medicine. They had two children: daughter Nata and a son, my father-to-be, Alexander.

Grandfather had his own house on 20 Kalvi Street in Tartu. It is still there. Now the firefighters are based there. All Tartu inhabitants knew the house of the Kanns. It was always open for people who needed shelter and food. Poor students of Tartu University often lived in Grandfather's house. Of course, they felt like friends of the family. They did not pay anything for the accommodation.