

Juliet Saltiel With Her Aunt Berta Bokumska



In the picture I am walking on Slaveykov Square together with my mother's sister, auntie Berta. As it is obvious from the picture - we have already started wearing the disgraceful yellow stars. The picture was taken just before our family was interned to Asenovgrad in 1942.

My mother's brothers and sisters were Samuel (called also Bucco as first born son, since this was the tradition in the Jewish families then), Israel Baruh, Avram Israel Baruh, Isak Israel Baruh, Haim Israel Baruh, and Berta Baruh. Of course, the least information I have about my uncle Avram, who died of some illness as a child, that is - before the Law for Protection of the Nation was introduced in Bulgaria [1941]. I remember that uncle Bucco was a cobbler, Isak worked together with my father as a trades intermediary, uncle Haim made paper packaging for seeds which he sold at the market, and auntie Berta was a housewife. Except for Avram, who died very young and Haim, who died also of an illness relatively young in 1948, all other relatives emigrated to Israel at one time or another (I don't know exactly when, but it was most probably after 9th September 1944 [the day of the communist takeover in Bulgaria]) Avram and Haim died in Bulgaria, while all others - in Israel. The name of my uncle Haim's wife was Margarita, but they didn't have children and didn't manage to go to Israel. The names of uncle Bucco's and auntie Berta's children are Isidor, Dora, Lora, Josef, Jana, and Albert. They left for Israel and I don't know anything about them. Uncle Isak and auntie Rashel Baruh had children whose names were Tiko, Rozhe, and Jacque. I have no information about them and their families. Berta and Morits Bokumski's children were called Frida, Ani and Zhorl. I know nothing about them. However, as far as I know, Berta died in Israel in the early 1980s.

All I know about my mother's relatives is that she is a descendant of a Jewish family from the Sephardim branch. Her father, Israel Samuel Baruh, was born in Vidin and his father, Samuel Baruh

was an inn-keeper and had a total of four children. I know nothing at all about my maternal grandmother, Djamila Samuel Baruh, because she had died before I was born (that is before 1925) but I suppose she was also from Vidin and was most probably a housewife, staying at home and looking after her children, just like all the women of that time.