



Kim Jong-suk

Born: 24 December 1917, Hoeryong, North Hamgyong

Died: 22 December 1949, Pyongyang

Family: Kim Jong-suk is the daughter of poor subsistence farmers from Hoeryong, North Hamgyong Province. She was the first wife of the late DPRK President Kim Il-sung and mother of Kim Jong-il (born 1941) and Kim Kyong-hui (born 1946).

Background: The Sacred Mother of the Revolution, Mother of Paektu, one of the Three Generals of Mount Paektu: Kim Jong-suk has had many titles and many books written about her life. Much of Ms. Kim's biography is contrived, but makes for fascinating reading. What follows is a brief, accurate sketch of her life.

Kim Jong-suk was born in 1917 in Hoeryong, North Hamgyong to poor farming parents, the elder of two daughters. When her sister died she and her mother went to Yanji, China, to look for her father who had also passed away. She was orphaned when her mother passed away around 1934 and she joined Kim Il-sung's guerilla unit in 1935, performing odd tasks such as sewing and cooking. She was arrested by the Japanese in 1937 and incarcerated for about eighteen (18) months. Upon her release in 1939, she rejoined Kim Il-sung's Partisans and on one occasion saved his life.

She went to Siberia and married Kim Il-sung around 1940. On 6 February 1941 she gave birth to her first child, son Yura or Kim Jong-il. She had another son, Shura or Kim

Pyong-il in 1944. She returned to North Korea in late September 1945. She was quite popular with the Soviet authorities who installed Kim Il-sung as the leader in North Korea, and they called her Vera. She was known as having a kind-hearted, energetic and generous personality. She resided at the Japanese villa in central Pyongyang that is now the Party Founding Museum. For about three (3) years, Kim Jong-suk was the official first lady. She attended numerous events including Kim Il-sung's appearance in Samdung-ri (in present Kangdong County, Pyongyang), KPA and State ceremonies. On 30 May 1946, Kim Jong-suk gave birth to her first and only daughter, Kim Kyong-hui. Tragically, during the summer of 1947, Kim Pyong-il drowned in a swimming accident.*

On 22 September 1949, a pregnant Kim Jong-suk went to what was then Pyongyang Central Hospital to give birth. She died from complications related to delivering a still-born child. She is buried in the Revolutionary Martyrs' Cemetery on Mount Taesong in Pyongyang.

*N.B.: The fact of Kim Pyong-il's drowning, as he was swimming with older brother brother Jong-il, has been tortured into a deranged fantasy that blames a six-year old for killing his own brother. There is no documentary evidence for this, and this account of Pyong-il's death says more about people who would propagate such an account than about Kim Jong-il.