

Etta Ferdmann And Her Family



The picture was taken during a walk in the park in Narva in 1938. Grandfather Abram Donets is in the center, my mother Zinaida Ferdmann, nee Donets, is behind him on the left, I am standing to the left, my aunt Musya Burmistrovich, nee Donets, is to the right sitting on the arm of Grandfather's chair.

My grandparents had two daughters. Mother was the elder one, born in 1912. Her Jewish name was Zelda, but she was always called Zinaida. Mother's sister Maria was born in 1913. She was called Musya in the family. Mother's family was rather well-off. Mother and Musya graduated from the Russian lyceum in Narva. At that time it was considered to be a good education. Mother was very beautiful. She had a very beautiful, feminine shape with a small waist. In 1933 she was even elected the beauty queen of Narva.

I do not know how my parents met. Narva was a small town and Jews always met in the synagogue at charity events. There are a lot of places where two young people can meet each other. All I know is that it was not a prearranged marriage. In spite of the fact that Grandmother Yachna was an ardent follower of traditions, prearranged marriages were not common in our family. All her children had a love wedlock. My parents got married in 1933. They had a traditional Jewish wedding with a rabbi and chuppah.

I was born in 1934 and named Etta after my grandmother. My grandmother Yachna lived in a large, six-room apartment with her numerous children. The family was clustered together - all my grandmother's children were living there with their spouses and children. My parents also settled in that apartment after their wedding.