

Zinaida Donets And Her Family



This is my mother's family. From left to right sitting: my grandfather Abram Donets, my grandmother Etta Donets, mother's sister Musya Burmistrovich, nee Donets, and my mother Zinaida Ferdmann, nee Donets, standing to the right. The picture was taken in Narva in 1926.

Mother's family lived in Narva. The name of my maternal grandfather was Abram Donets. He was born in Narva. The date is not known to me. I do not know what he did for a living. Grandmother Etta Donets was born in 1889. Grandmother was a seamstress. She was a gorgeous, cheerful lady.

Mother said she had a wonderful taste and she had rich customers.

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.

Of course, my mother's family was traditionally Jewish, rather religious. All of them probably went to the synagogue and marked holidays, and believed in God, but they were not such zealots as my paternal grandmother Yachna.

Grandmother Etta died young in 1932. She was only 43. She was buried in the Jewish cemetery in Narva. Grandfather Abram was buried in the Jewish cemetery in Tallinn. In 1940 he left for Tallinn on business and was run over by a car. Grandpa was not taken to Narva and was buried in Tallinn. I remember my mother and her sister Musya went to Grandfather's funeral in Tallinn. They did not take me with them.