

Fanny Tseitlin With Her Elder Sister



This photo was taken in 1903 in Simferopol, the native town of my wife. This is my wife Fanny at the age of five, with her elder sister, holding hands in a touching manner. Both girls are wearing beautiful clothes and hats.

I got married in 1936. My wife, Fanny Mikhailovna Epstein, was a member of the Employees Board too. I became acquainted with her on March 3, 1933. She came to my office and said, 'I was advised to approach you. You are a member of the Employees Board, so will you please sign here to confirm that you do not object to hiring this new employee.' She worked at 'The Sickle and Hammer' factory as a secretary to the head of the trade-union organization. She worked at the

‘The Sickle and Hammer’ factory before she came to work in our organization.

My wife came to Moscow from Simferopol where she lived and studied and completed grammar school. Then she finished a music school and moved to Moscow hoping to enter the conservatory, she played piano. They had a piano at home, so she had a lot of practice. Her parents were religious people and observed all traditions at home. However, after her arrival in Moscow she lost all her religious upbringing. As a matter of fact, it was almost impossible for a young person at that time, especially in a big city, working or studying in a public institution – and there were no other – to remain religious. This concerned not only Jews, but people of other religions as well. It was simply not safe. A religious wedding was absolutely out of the question. In 1938 our daughter Stella was born.