

Sara Katalan



This is a picture of my mother, Sara Katalan, nee Bidjarano, taken in Kazanlak in 1921 or 1922. My mother was born on 24th May 1904 in Kazanlak. She finished the Girl's High School in Kazanlak - it was a rarity for a girl to graduate at that time. She married my father very young, in 1924, in the small synagogue in our town. After the wedding they went on a honeymoon trip to Vienna - as long as they lived they never stopped talking about this trip. My mother was a housewife all her life, a fastidious person: she sewed, knitted, cooked, did the shopping. She had a great sense of humor, she was a cheery and sociable person, people loved her and visited her to drink a cup of coffee, to have a talk, to exchange gossip. She was very beautiful - she had green eyes and copper-red hair that she sometimes wore in a great shining chignon; she also had red freckles to match her 'djindjita' - as her red hair was called. This was a great discomfort to her - she applied different creams to her freckles in hopes to remove them, but none of them worked. She loved reading and she liked to visit the chitalishte [cultural center].