

Excerpt from Woolf Marmot's Memoirs  
How Dora Kritser and Alec Marmot Married

1901 : DORA KRITZ was 18 years old. A pretty, vivacious young girl. She had left school at 13 and, to contribute to her own and her family's upkeep had gone to work in a drapery shop as a salesgirl. At school she had learned Russian and had learned Yiddish and Hebrew at home as the then Russian government encouraged schooling but forbade Jewish or Hebrew education.

Meanwhile in VISNEVEC, 20 kms away, our father ALEC MARMOT aged 25 and 2 years out of the Army, was preparing a sales trip to the neighbouring "big city". His brother-in-law, NAHUM FISHMAN (married to his sister CHAYA) told him that his nephew, ZEIDER FISHMAN, was getting married in KREMENEC. (ZEIDER was the son of MISHKET, mother's oldest sister, and was therefore mother's first cousin).

NAHUM suggested that ALEC pick up in KREMENEC his niece DORA (NAHUM being the brother of BRINA, our grandmother) and take her to the wedding party.

Although he was not too keen he none the less agreed and some days later he presented himself at the door of the PESACH KRITZ household (4.30 in the morning I was told) and said "I'm Alec Marmot, Nahum's brother-in-law, and I've been invited to Zeider's wedding. Nahum suggested we go together".

In those days wedding celebrations were long lasting and it must have been quite a party with the young ones dancing for hours.

ANNEX 12

\* DORA KRITZ young and pretty ("... and I suppose I had a nice figure !") was very popular and danced with many of the boys. Alec, when he was not dancing with her watched this "big town girl" with admiration. His mother, SARAH, already a widow for 12 years was also at the party and zealously looking after, and at, her son... and was looking out for a good match for him. She didn't appreciate her son's interest in this KREME-NITZER big town-girl and said "... why are you looking so much at that little one over there ? She's sitting there like a little cat. What's so interesting about her ?".

"Mother" says he : "Please don't say anything against her ... this is the woman I want ... if she will have me !".

This "love at first sight" decision of her son Alec upset her. Alec was a fine, tall, handsome man and she pointed out to him, very strongly, that it wasn't wise to marry a poor girl with no dowry when he could have" any woman he wanted with big fat rosy cheeks and a dowry of at least 2.000 roubles besides ! ...".

To which Alec replied " ... I don't want money, I don't want nice fat rosy cheeks. I want this woman ... if she'll have me."

1902 : MARCH ! PURIM ! ALEC MARMOT and DORA KRITZ were engaged. An engagement contract was drawn up and 9 months later :

1903 Jan. : (ROSH HODESH TEVES). ALEC and DORA MARMOT were married. They lived for a very short while in KREMENEC and then went to live in RADZOWIL where father went into partnership in the wholesales provision business with his brother-in-law NAHUM FISHMAN.

It is here worth noting that SARAH MARMOT (mum's mother-in-law) was still not convinced that her son Alec had done the right thing in marrying DORA. After 3 months marriage, with her daughter-in-law still not pregnant, she turned to her son and said "See, what did I tell you ? You've married a barren woman !."

Time ..... and us ..... proved her wrong !.

1904 : JANUARY, Moishe was born in RADOWIL. (The story goes that the MOHEL made a poor job of the circumcision and Moishe was quite ill for some time).

1905 : 2 AUGUST ROSH HODESH OV (I'll check the real date, one day, NAT ... and will probably find you are either a week older or a week younger !). Nat was born - also in RADOWIL. But before that ... many important things had happened in the life of the Marmots and Kritzes. So let's look at them :