

Summary of Oral History: Vira Sadovs`ka

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Vira Sadovs`ka, born 1922, a resident of the village of Senkevychivka during 1941. She tells briefly that the Germans created a ghetto from a local store, where the Jews were taken to from the settlement and surrounding villages. She does not indicate the exact number, saying there were more than a dozen in Senkevychivka and 3-4 families in each surrounding village. The Jews were brought there at night and locked in the building. They were not held for a long time. The locals heard the hum of prayers of the Jews at night. In open trucks the Jews, standing up, were taken to a previously dug pit. The Jews got undressed and went into the pit, where they were shot with single shots by a German soldier dressed in a white robe. The perimeter of the pit was controlled by German soldiers. The Jews themselves entered the pit without resistance. Vira does not mention participation of the local police. The property of the Jews, their houses were used by the Germans. The orders were given by a local German leader. She cannot specify the exact year the executions took place, recalling only that it was autumn. She names several surviving Jews who left after the war. Regarding other ethnic groups, she mentions Poles, Germans, and Czechs who lived nearby. Roma did not live there. The attitude of the local population towards the Jews was good-neighborly. She refers to the cases when they were invited to each other's weddings. Local Ukrainians bought household items from them. Local Jews did not work the land. Among other things, she reports on the interethnic conflict between Ukrainians and Poles and their partisans during the war. She says that the Jews were killed by the Germans, but Poles and Ukrainians killed each other.

Location. At present Senkevychivka is an urban-type settlement of Horokhiv district of Volyn` region. Since 1939 it has been a district center of Volyn` region, formed as a result of joining the USSR.