

RG Number:

RG-50.632*0002

Interview conducted on July 15, 2005 in Tulchin by S. Stepanishchev, V. Chaplin.

Interview Summary:

Galina Ivanovna (family name not provided). Declined to give her last name. Said that shoemakers resided in settlement called Kaptsonivka. Not far above Kaptsonivka is the old Jewish cemetery. Jews were annihilated at Pechora.

Language:

Russian

Geographic Name:

Tulchin (Ukraine)

Vinnyts'ka oblast' (Ukraine)

Pechora camp

Kaptsonivka

Interview conducted on July 15, 2005 in Tulchin by S. Stepanishchev, V. Chaplin.

Interview Summary:

Klara Mikhailovna Kesselbrener, born in Bershadi. Her mother is from Bershadi; her father is from Golovalinsk (?). She came to Tulchin in 1974. There were many Jews in Bershadi. It was a Jewish town like a ghetto. They sat on stoops in the evening with their children and spoke Yiddish. There is a village called Piliponovka near Bershadi where the Russians lived.

She has lived in Tulchin for 30 years. She worked at a shoe factory for 26 years. Before the war there was a large number of Jews in Tulchin. Her grandmother did not eat pork or suet and observed Shabbat. Her husband said his grandmother was very religious and observed Shabbat. She did not eat pork. There is an old synagogue in Bershadi where men and women prayed separately. Before the war circumcisions were done there. After the war circumcisions were done in Chernovits. Her mother was married during the war by a rabbi in Bershadi. The groom stepped on a plate wrapped in kerchief to break it for good luck. As a child she saw funerals in Bershadi where the deceased covered by a white shroud were carried quickly on a stretcher to the cemetery. Floors had to be washed following a death. Shoes of the deceased had to be burned.

When a child is born he is given to something red to wear to ward off evil eye.

Before the war Jews and Ukrainians were on friendly terms. When the war started, Jews were exiled to the village of Pechora. Her mother-in-law Kira L'vovna Kesselbrener who died in 1978 used to tell her that Jews were herded toward Pechora and those who were old and could not walk fell down and were shot by the Germans. Children were also shot. Police waited with dogs. Her mother-in-law lost a daughter in Pechora camp. People were stacked in piles and died every day.

After the war her father-in-law and mother-in-law returned to Tulchin. Jewish homes had been looted by the Ukrainians.

Religious Jews visited from Israel looking for old Torahs. She had had a Torah and gave it to a young man Misha who is studying to become a rabbi. They celebrate Shabbat in Pototskom (?). There is a woman rabbi there.

In the fall the head of their community Rita Genikhovna conducts excursions to Pechora. Rita is deputy rabbi.

Language:

Russian

Geographic Name:

Tulchin (Ukraine)

Vinnyts'ka oblast' (Ukraine)

Pechora camp

Bershadi

Interview conducted on July 15, 2005 in Tulchin by S. Stepanishchev, V. Chaplin.

Interview Summary:

Ester Abramovna Braverman, born in 1925 in Tulchin. Her parents were born in Tulchin. She said that Jews lived throughout Tulchin. There were Jews in village of Nestervarka. Jews lived in Kaptsonivka. She and her mother were at the Pechora camp. Her father fought in the war.

After the war when she returned from the Pechora camp she had religious services conducted at her hut. She hung a mezuzah on the door which Jews kissed upon entering. 15 men came to pray on Saturdays in her hut and paid her for the use of her hut. Two rooms were rented – one for men, the other for women. They prayed on the Torah. They did not eat on Judgement Day. This arrangement ended when the old had died.

She said that they could not afford to buy matzo for Passover so they baked it themselves – with flour and water.

Weddings were held at home with Jewish musicians and Jewish music.

Circumcisions were performed at home for those Jews who wanted them by a shokhet (Yiddish for kosher slaughterer)/rabbi. He both slaughtered chickens and performed circumcisions. He circumcised her son with his razor, sucked blood from the baby's penis and spit it out. And on Shabbat he bandaged it.

In the past burials were on a wooden plank, with body covered by a black blanket. Burials were not allowed on Shabbat. Mourners sat on the floor and covered the mirrors. There were people who specialized in conducting burials; they are now all dead.

Language:

Russian

Geographic Name:

Tulchin (Ukraine)

Vinnyts'ka oblast' (Ukraine)

Nestervarka (Vinnyts'ka oblast') (Ukraine)

Kaptsonivka