

Interview conducted on July 15, 2005 in Tulchin by A. Kushkova, V. Fedchenko and Moisha Treskunov.

RG Number:
RG-50.632*00011

Interview Summary:

Ester Abramovna Braverman, born in 1921 in Tulchin. She spent her entire life in Tulchin. Her parents were also from Tulchin. Her entire family was sent to Pechora camp. She was at the camp for 3 and half years. Only she and her sister survived. She used to work at a sewing factory. Her father was a glassmaker. She had a civil marriage ceremony – no huppah. She is illiterate, having completed two grades at school. She can't write and can read poorly. Her family was very poor; there was no money to celebrate Jewish holidays. 10-15 Jews would come to her house occasionally on Saturdays to pray. They had prayer books and wore tallit and kippahs. She had a mezuzah on the door. Circumcisions were performed by a shoykhet (kosher slaughterer). He would suck the blood. She is old and sick now. Her pension from Germany is spent on medications.

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Frida Isaakovna Pecherskaia, born in 1927 in Bratslav. (also interviewed in files 5 and 6). Her parents were from Bratslav. There were five children in her family. When she was seven, she studied for half a year at a Jewish school in Bratslav. Then the Jewish school was burned down and was not rebuilt. She then studied at a Ukrainian school. Her parents were very poor. Her parents were married under a huppah at the cemetery to prevent illness. Her grandfather was also very poor. He was a water carrier. There was one synagogue. She carried a stool for her grandfather to sit at the synagogue. They baked bread for Shabbat. They also made tsimmes and fish. They baked their own matzo. Her grandfather made a Seder. They ate kosher chicken. For Yom Kippur they made fish and tsimmes. They also celebrated Sukkot. On Hanukkah children were given money or candy or cookies. They lit candles on Shabbat. Her father was taken into the army when the war started. Her seventeen-year old brother volunteered and was blown to pieces as a tankist. She and her family were taken on foot to Pechora camp. Her mother was killed at Pechora at age 34. She was married in civil ceremony and settled in Tulchin in 1945. She was working at a beer brewery. Her husband had returned from the war an invalid.

Language:
Russian
Ukrainian
Yiddish

Geographic Name:
Tulchin (Ukraine)