

**RG Number: RG-50.632\*00014**

**Oral history interview with Faina Vladimirovna Oleinikova**

Interview conducted on July 19, 2005 in Tulchin by M. Treskunov and V. Fedchenko.

1<sup>st</sup> Transcript, Interview Summary:

Oleinikova, Faina Vladimirovna (Feiga Vol'kovna in Yiddish) born in 1919 (birth name Dvorkis).

Her deceased husband was Russian. They met in the army. He was a very good person. All people are the same. They had been married for fifty years.

She used to work as doctor's assistant/nurse.

As a child she lived in a small old house in Tulchin – two rooms and a kitchen. Her family was very religious. They spoke Yiddish at home. Her father prayed day and night; he used to take her to the synagogue, but she did not study at a Jewish school. Her mother lit candles on Friday night and made chicken soup. She cleaned the house to prepare for Passover. They also celebrated Roshashona, Yom Kippur, Sukkot, Purim, Hanukkah. They were very poor. A man named Moishe slaughtered chickens. There was a woman named Riva who baked matzo. She and her mother also baked matzo. There was a synagogue.

Her mother was a seamstress. Her mother sang Yiddish songs when she was sewing. There was a "meshugene" (crazy) man who walked the streets of Tulchin. She remembers many words in Yiddish. Her brother attended "cheder" (Jewish religious school) and could write in Yiddish. There was a neighborhood in Tulchin called Kaptsonivka where poor Jews lived. During the war she and her mother were at labor camp. They sang Yiddish songs at camp.

In 1933 there was famine. Everyone was swollen with starvation. She studied at a Ukrainian school for seven grades, and then at a medical technical school for three years. Then the war started. She had been in labor camps.

Interview conducted on July 21, 2005 in Tulchin by A. Sokolova and A. L'vov.

2<sup>nd</sup> Transcript:

Oleinikova, Faina Vladimirovna (Feiga Vol'kovna in Yiddish) born in 1919 (birth name Dvorkis).

Before the war there were two synagogues in Tulchin. A woman named Riva baked and sold matzo for Passover. Her family used to walk barefoot – too poor to buy shoes. For Passover her mother bought them new shoes and cleaned the house. Her mother bought a goose for Passover. It was slaughtered by Moishe-shoykhet (ritual kosher slaughterer). They had separate dishes for Passover. She asked questions at Passover table.

Saturday was a day of rest. Her father was very religious. He was from a village called Mikhailovka. Her mother was illiterate seamstress. Her mother wanted her to marry only a Jew with "yiches" (well off). In Tulchin even the better-off did not have wooden furniture. It was very difficult to obtain fabric for clothes.

She was at five death camps during the war – One was in Romania, and four in Vinnytsia region.

Everyone was shot at camp including her mother and her relatives from Bratslav. The ditches had been dug. She was blond and somehow remained alive and alone. She next joined the army.

She had one son in 1949 who now lives in Odessa with his family. He was not circumcised because her husband was Russian. He is named after her father Velvel.

She would like to be buried as a Jew.