

RG-50.632*00022

Interview conducted by S. Egorova, Yu. Miagkova, and M. Treskunov

Language:

Russian

Yiddish

(In three transcripts)

Krupnik, Arkadii Gershevik, born in 1933 in Yampol (Yampil); lived in a Jewish village called Zubovka, 12 kilometers from Yampol. He left Yampol for Tulchin in 1956.

He left Yampol in 1956. There was a Jewish school in Yampol. He completed first grade at the Jewish school in Yampol. His father was a tinsmith; his mother was a seamstress. His father was elected as head of the Jewish artel. His mother's entire family had emigrated to Argentina in 1918, so she was left alone. He has one younger sister, Zhenia, three years younger than he. They all communicated only in Yiddish. This was a Jewish town before the war. Half the town was Jewish. They observed Jewish holidays but in secret. There were two kosher butchers in the town. Circumcisions were performed.

He remembers dreidels at Hanukkah made from clay or wood.

At Jewish funerals, all Jews attended. Stones were placed on the eyes of the deceased. After a funeral mirrors were covered.

There was a synagogue in Yampol where everyone attended. They blew the shofar on Yom Kippur. Women were outside and men inside. Eventually people stopped going to the synagogue due to persecution, and the synagogue fell to ruin. After the war everyone switched speaking from Yiddish to Russian.

He has lived in Tulchin since 1956. He worked in Tulchin as the head of a factory metal department. There was a Jewish school in Tulchin. During the Soviet time there was a secret fund to assist Jews in need. Jews worked as heads of sausage factories, bakeries and in other management positions.

They used to make their own wine and matzo for Passover. There was a house where matzo was baked by special bakers. Now matzo is shipped to them from Dnepropetrovsk. He traveled to Riga to buy matzo.

There was a Jewish grandmother from Romania who used to tell tales. She was small and a hunchback. She walked with a cane and they were afraid of her. She baked the best cookies for the holidays. His grandmother used to tell him tales.

He can sing Yiddish songs. He sings a song in Yiddish.

He describes a two-day Jewish wedding with a chuppah. Klezmer musicians performed after the ceremony. Describes two traditional sweet dishes ("flund" and "leikeh") served at weddings and gives the recipe.

He tells tales and jokes. "We Jews are all philosophers."

Rabbi Nachman is buried in Uman. His student Rabbi Natan Nosan is buried in Tulchin.