

RG-50.632.0025

Interview conducted on July 16, 2005 in Tulchin by O. Gabe, Stepanishchev, and V. Chaplin

Language:

Russian

Ukrainian

Yiddish

**Nikolaevskii, Abram Moiseevich**, born in 1932.

He had worked as a photographer.

He is hurt when Ukrainians refer to Jews as “zhidy” and say that all “zhids” are leaving for America and Israel.

His grandfather was a teacher of Jewish students. They called him “a lerer.” There were many Hebrew books in the family. His father could read and write in Yiddish. But he himself never learned the Hebrew alphabet. He understands Yiddish and can speak a few words.

He was circumcised.

Jews name their children after deceased relatives. He named his daughter Nisa after his deceased sister.

His parents said that Jews were buried in white sheets, and those who were especially religious were buried in a sitting position without a casket. Burials were conducted quickly, the day after death. They covered the mirror with a cloth. The family sat in the room for a week.

His sister had a Jewish wedding with a chuppah and was married by a local rabbi. There was a klezmer band. There was a musician by name of Mashevskii who played the violin.

For Passover they baked matzo in secret. The main baker was named Makar.

He remembers that children received Hanukkah gelt money for Hanukkah. His mother lit candles for the holiday. They ate gefilte fish and varnishkes, chicken soup.

He went to a Ukrainian school even though there was also a Jewish school. It was closed 5-6 years before the war.

They used to make cherry wine.

There was a neighborhood towards Jewish cemetery -- called Kaptsonivka which had a large and poor Jewish population.

During the war there were cases where Ukrainians saved Jews. His friend’s family escaped from Pechora camp and was hidden by Ukrainians. The friend later visited from Israel to see the Ukrainians who saved his family and provide testimony so that the woman who saved him was declared righteous.

His own father was sent to the front and his family was evacuated.

Under the Soviet system Jews changed their names to Russian names.

His daughter and her husband are now in Israel.

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