

Interview conducted on July 16, 17, 19, 2005 in Tulchin by K. Viktorova, and O. Zhironkina

RG-50.632.0034

Summary

Svetelik (or Sviatelik), Viktor Andreevich (VS), born in 1947, student of local lore; with participation of **Tiraspol'skii, Nikolai Naumovich (NT)**.

VS – He was born in Tulchin. His mother was Russian; his father was Ukrainian. He has written five books on history of Tulchin. He speaks Polish – a source of information on Ukrainian history. He has been a historian for twenty years.

Shows his book on history of Tulchin. It includes a map of the city including Kaptsonovka (Kaptsonivka) district where the poor Jews lived. Also points to an area where near a palace “the super rich” Jews lived.

There are many underground tunnels in Tulchin.

As a child he lived near Jews in the market district in Tulchin and heard a lot of Yiddish spoken by Jews. Jews baked their own matzo for Passover. He used to eat it too.

Jews used to bury their dead very quickly, often wrapped in a sheet without a casket.

Many Jews worked at a shoe factory or as tailors or seamstresses, also barbers and butchers.

He used to take lessons in Yiddish and had many books in Yiddish.

In 1930s there was a Jewish kolkhoz (collective farm) in the area.

Before the war, Jews comprised around sixty percent of population in Tulchin.

During the occupation, 90 percent of Tulchin Jews were exterminated in concentration camp Pechora. Jews who lived here felt themselves unwelcome guests. There was a lot of anti-Semitism.

He says that a local Jewish woman resident in Tulchin -- Galina Iosifovna Mogilevskaia – knows a lot about the history of Jews in Tulchin. She is a “walking reference book.”

During the Soviet times, 90 percent of Komsomol (Young Communist League) members in Ukraine were Jewish.

NT - Before the revolution there were Jewish gangs; many “balagulas” (persons of low standing). His grandfather was a “balagula.” He and his grandmother went to America during pogroms but returned to Tulchin in 1933.

Language:

Russian

Ukrainian

Geographic Name:

Tulchin (Ukraine)