

File 39

Record Type:
Oral History

In three transcripts.

Sviatelik, Viktor Andreevich, born in 1947 in Tulchin. (Last name also spelled **Svetelik**, and **Sviatek** on the website)

He is Ukrainian. As a child he lived on the street where only Jews lived. He was the only one who was not Jewish. His childhood friends were all Jewish. He ate matzo with them at Passover.

There was a kosher butcher in Tulchin.

Rosenfeld was the richest one in town. He owned a stocking factory. A man named Zaltsman from Tulchin was the creator of heavy tanks named "Joseph Stalin." Jews created Soviet power, held high positions, and were good organizers. Glikhlikh was a rich tradesman who owned four houses.

In 1980s he became professionally interested in local history. He understood some Yiddish. One old Jew told him that before the revolution there were 17 synagogues in Tulchin – one official one and many small prayer houses privately rented. The big synagogue had two stories – one for men, the other for women.

Jews worked as blacksmiths, tailors, balagulas (truck drivers).

Tulchin was the place for horse shows and trade.

Jews had a habit of strolling down the main street.

Of early Komsomol members, 90 percent were Jewish.

There are now two cemeteries in Tulchin. Jews are buried at both. But at the new cemetery – about twenty years old – Jews are buried at one plot only.

Jews began to leave Tulchin in 1970s – first to work in big cities. In the 1990s many Jews left for Germany and many have returned. Many Jews left for Israel and America.

He takes the interviewees on a tour of the Jewish cemetery. He tells Jewish jokes. They take photos.

On a tour of Tulchin, someone says that he saw a 1905-1906 document in an archive in Kamenets-Podolskii (Kamianets-Podilskyi) which refers to efforts by Tulchin's Jewish cabmen and regular residents to pave the roads to five synagogues in Tulchin.

He says that a book about Tulchin by Aleksei Yablok was just issued. Much of it is in Yiddish. He was born in Vapniarka and lived in Tulchin after 1945; his father was a rabbi in Tulchin. He now resides in Amerika.

Interviews conducted on July 17, 2005 in Tulchin by A. Sokolova and Aleksandr L'vov; July 10 and 12, 2006 in Tulchin by N. Evseenko, A. Kushkova, A. Sokolova, and M. Khakkarainen

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Tulchin (Ukraine)
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