

Silkina Olga Samuilovna, born in 1933.  
She had a stroke, but remembers many facts.

Her parents: mother Sofia Aronovna Ilyenshtat. Her's was the first Jewish family that moved from Belarus to Crimea. They started Jewish settlements, there were no Russians at all in 1925. They started this settlement because it was close to the train station: Kerman Komelchi. Their father wasn't with them, the young people came to get some land. Her father Gaydanov Samuel Zalmovich, also came in 1925. He had no profession, he came he was 18; poor people were coming to Crimea. There was nothing here just snakes and mosquitoes, they were promised good Jewish life, but got nothing.

Her grandfather on mother's side was a well-known tailor, he was making uniforms for generals. When he came to Crimea he had to live in the huts at the ground level. He had gold and furs and they sold everything and built a house. He died in 1930. The grandmother moved away to her daughter.

Her father was from a wealthy family when he came he built a house. There were no roads, no schools, no doctors. This place was full of insects. First year they had a good harvest, and started living better and on the fifth year in 1930 they had to give their products to the local Government. Individual families were joining collective farms because, they couldn't buy agricultural equipment. Now we see opposite process.

There was only one Tatar family. Electricity was brought in 1940. Her mother gave birth in the hospital. They had Jewish doctor; the president of regional organization was also Jewish. The "Sunrise" collective farm was managed by Jews.

She heard that there was an organization that helped families, may be it was American organization. Her family didn't take anything from it. People spoke both Russian and Jewish languages.

Her mother had a very clean house, once a professor stayed in their house and he liked it very much.

Her parents were not religious, although her mother only had 6 classes of school, she loved to read, she read classics. They didn't keep kosher, they ate pork.

She remembered that her father died in 194, and her mother with children traveled from Kazaxstan to Caucasus, to Middle Asia during evacuation. She remembered people denying them place to stay because they were Jewish.

Her mother loved to watch opera, and she knew the words of Pushkin's poems. When Olga was a child her mother took her to all Jewish events./She remembered that Jewish people dressed dead people in white cloth.

Her cousin, who was a doctor had circumcision.

Before the war they didn't have a synagogue, but after the war there was one prayer house.

Olga's sons didn't want to be Jewish. One son lives in Simferopol. One son looks more like her he is Jewish. Her daughters in law are both Ukrainians. One of her sons converted into Christianity.

She likes Jewish music, she likes Tatar music.

Olga was raised as a Soviet child, but now she started to believe that there is a "higher power".