

Interview conducted on August 18, 2004 in village Zhuravli, Saky raion, Crimea by Evgenia Kos'ianenko and Aishe Emirova
Language: Russian

Interview Summary:

Zdorov, Vladimir Gavrilovich, born in 1923 in village Dolinka, Saky raion, Crimea
He moved to the village of Zhuravli after the war. He was a cattle-breeder in the village until he retired. He studied and lived in Yevpatoriya from 1954.
The name of the Zhuravli was given after the war. Before the war this was kolkhoz Molotova (named after the revolutionary).

He is the eldest resident here. Jews used to live here.

In the war in a gorge there were three pits for water here. Jews were beaten and thrown into one of the pits. There is even a visible stain or an indentation left behind. In addition to Jews, partisans, German deserters, and Russians were also thrown into the pit. He was a boy at that time.

One Jewish girl lived with his family for about two years during the war.

His father was a stone cutter. The stones were brought here to build a Jewish settlement. It was financed by the Agro-Joint (the American Jewish Joint Agricultural Corporation). Another Jewish settlement was Mitiaevo. The Agro-Joint also built a hospital.

This was an exclusively Jewish settlement. The Jewish kolkhoz was built in 1938-39. At first Tiukayev was the director of the kolkhoz until he died. He was succeeded from 1948 to 1952 by Yakov Kapitanovskii. Jews worked at the kolkhoz as gardeners for the most part. These were four-apartment homes. Two families on one side and two on the other. There were no synagogues. There was a bathhouse - separate for men and women.

Jews used to speak both Russian and Yiddish. They were on friendly terms with Ukrainians and Russians. Jews used to bake matzo and share it with non-Jews. It's a lie that Jews added blood to matzo. Jews did not work on Saturday and Sunday.

Around 1949-50 Jews began to leave here; some left for Yevpatoriya, some for Saky, some for Simferopol; the last few Jews from here left for Simferopol. One of them is Yasha Shatkin. Another name is Mariia Berezovskaya.

There are no Jewish cemeteries left here. They were all leveled. Instead there is a new cemetery where Russians and Jews are buried on the right side, and Tatars on the left. There was a synagogue in Yevpatoriya.

Geographic Name:

Village Dolinka, Crimea
Village Zhuravli, Crimea
village Mitiaevo, Crimea
Yevpatoiriya
Simferopol