

RG-50.633.0076

Interview conducted on August 20, 2004 in the village of Lesnovka, Saky, Crimea by Ivan Solomin, Anatolii Kerzhner and Tamara Zhuk

Language:
Russian

Interview Summary:

Lidiia Mikhailovna Molotkova, born in 1940 in village Lesnovka, Saky, Crimea

Her parents came to Crimea from Zaporozhye. They were the first residents of this Jewish village. Her grandfather Aaron (later Alexander) was Jewish; her grandmother Serafima was Russian. Her family came here in 1933 with the Agro-Joint (the American Jewish Joint Agricultural Corporation). They worked on the farm. They lived well. Subbotniks worked with them side by side.

Her family observed Jewish customs. They observed Jewish Passover. Her mother baked matzo. At first they baked matzo themselves; later they baked matzo at the synagogue in Simferopol. They attended the synagogue in Simferopol. They performed circumcisions. They spoke Yiddish. They had playing records of Jewish music and songs. Her father was much older than her mother. He was a good and honest worker at the kolkhoz (collective farm). The head of the village council was also a Jew; his name was Khatomlianskii.

Her great-grandmother was buried at a Jewish cemetery near the village, in accordance with Jewish traditions, without a casket in a white shroud.
Her great-grandfather's sister Sonia was shot here as a Jew in a mass grave. Some of the family evacuated; some remained.

Many families used to live here. Very few remain.

A museum in Saky collected data on the number of Jews from the village who perished in the war.

Her sister Raisa Mikhailovna Sliusarenko who now lives in Yevpatoria remembers a lot of the Jewish history in the area. Her father's side of the family is Levitt; her mother's is Litvinenko.

Geographic Name:
Village of Lesnovka, Saky, Crimea
Zaporozhye (Zaporizhzhia), Ukraine
Yevpatoriya, Crimea
Simferopol, Crimea