

## **Maria Katchmar**

**MK** - There were no wheat sheaves where I was. Nobody sowed; people didn't even plant vegetables because they didn't have anything to plant. You had to turn over the soil in the garden, but there wasn't anything to do it with. There were no horses or cattle or anything there. So what could you work with? So the garden overgrew with weeds and that's how it stood. They took everything from us. We had some pots, so they broke them so that we wouldn't be able to cook anything to eat. We had a small mill for grinding wheat; they took that and broke it so that we couldn't grind wheat to make pancakes or something. I'm telling you, they were so cruel to us - I don't wish on anyone what they did to us. We had some chickens; they caught them and ate them. They took our cattle, what were we supposed to eat? There was nothing in the garden. I remember, there were still cherries. I went and picked some cherries for my brother, he ate them, and then [he died]. So I helped my father make a coffin from some boards from a fence, so that we wouldn't have to throw him on the wagon. Others were just thrown on a wagon, and taken to a pit.

**Interviewer** - *You helped make a coffin?*

**MK**- I helped my father take the boards down and nail them together to bury my brother. My oldest brother. Others were just thrown on the wagon like hay. They didn't make coffins for them or anything. They were just thrown in the pit, and they fell there.