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INTERVIEWER: This is a recording of the Oral History Department of the University of Delaware, and we're interviewing Mrs. Statnekov, and this is Myron Lazarus doing the interviewing. Now, where did you say you were born Mrs. Statnekov?

Statnekov: In Odessa

INTERVIEWER: In Odessa. And, uh...

Statnekov: (unintelligible)

INTERVIEWER: Uh huh. And your, your parents were tailors?

Statnekov: Yes. (unintelligible) My father was a tailor, and sometime he (unintelligible).

INTERVIEWER: Uh huh. And you were also telling me before about the (unintelligible) in Russia.

Statnekov: Yes. (unintelligible) and the janitor used to help us out to hide in. He had a (unintelligible) for his children. And he had (unintelligible) that he could throw out and (unintelligible) any holiday we couldn't go out. We never could go to school because we were Jewish people. And it was a very bad place to be in (unintelligible) Russia. We were glad to come to this country.

INTERVIEWER: You had mentioned that you had seen and actually...

Statnekov: Oh yes. I did see...

INTERVIEWER: (unintelligible) the University.

Statnekov: Yes, they welcomed boys (unintelligible), put them in a big truck, and put a big, like a block, hold, and they bear them all naked, all together, everything. And that was the time that my sister left this country. And we couldn't wait til we leave Europe. To see such a thing, as little as we are. And we didn't understand what was going on.

INTERVIEWER: Your father... You mentioned that your father had died early.

Statnekov: Yes. He had died... My mother used to tell us he had died at fifty-nine years old.

INTERVIEWER: And your mother took care of him.

Statnekov: Yes, she did. She couldn't do very much because she had so many children. But the older ones kept the same vision. And we started to learn the same place, so they keep us away to save us.

INTERVIEWER: (unintelligible)

Statnekov: Yes. Because we, she couldn't keep us. She didn't have enough money to keep us. So she gave us away to learn the trade better and (unintelligible) and that was the time was bad, and my sister come to this country. She sent us lots of money. We came to this country. America. And each one to (unintelligible) the other. (unintelligible).

INTERVIEWER: And you were a tailor in this country.

Statnekov: Oh, yes. We were all tailors. Every one of them. But the boys had an opportunity to go and live in, not in Russian school, but (unintelligible).

INTERVIEWER: You don't mean in Russia. You mean in here...?

Statnekov: No, no, no. Russia. Russia. When they came, there was one in (unintelligible), and the other was in Paris. And she came back here, and she was married. And her brother was married. The last time I'd seen them they had eight children. Three were married. Five I haven't even seen.

INTERVIEWER: I see. And you and your brother, who were both tailors...

Statnekov: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: And you were the one who helped out your brother.

Statnekov: Yeah, yeah.

INTERVIEWER: You managed to save up enough money to bring over your mother...

Statnekov: Yes. A year...(unintelligible) We brought over my mother and two children. They were younger.

INTERVIEWER: And then you set up...

Statnekov: And then we tried (unintelligible) we rent a house for seven dollars that was on Conner (?) Street, Fourth and Conner Street. And we (unintelligible), fixed up a beautiful home, and we were very happy to be all together.

INTERVIEWER: And then you married...

Statnekov: I married my husband when my mother came. And he wasn't a sailor, he was a cabinet maker. And then he went into real estate business...

INTERVIEWER: Well, first he worked at Fullman's.

Statnekov: Oh yes. He did work for a couple of years there. But he got tired of that. He had too many farmers, and they took advantage of them because they didn't pay them enough. And things were so, at the time, (unintelligible), and there was really not enough.

INTERVIEWER: And then he went into the real estate business.

Statnekov: And then he learned how to speak and he got acquainted with (unintelligible), and they offered a night school. And he started to go himself to night school and all these things.

[End]