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Mr. Albert Raivy

[0:00:00]

Interviewer: This is a recording of the history program of the University of Delaware. We're interviewing Albert Raivy and the interview is Myron Lazarus.

Mr. Raivy: Well, I was born on a little town called Ryagarut *[phonetic]* [0:00:15] Tiyuva Province.

Interviewer: This is Russia.

Mr. Raivy: Russia. Two and a half miles from a Aruyalot *[phonetic]* [0:00:27]. It's a prospect – the prosperity in that time is named by name Russian Jew Manimbrutsky *[phonetic]* [0:00:38] have a...

Interviewer: That was your name?

Mr. Raivy: No, no. The name of a name that owns – make from beet sugar. A sugar factory whatever it is.

Interviewer: In this town where you're from.

Mr. Raivy: In this town. The population of this town including everybody, at one of the time, at this side of river is about 75, 80 families including the wall and it's about 18, 20 Jewish people. We're about one-third while the 18 business have stores, where they do business with their people. They occupy it in that sugar plant.

Interviewer: What kinds of stores they have.

Mr. Raivy: Well, most of them have everything that the farmers demand even *[inaudible]* [0:01:29] or the spin of the wheels, wax is what it is. There's one blacksmith, one shoemaker and the rest of them have stores where they have from dry goods and food, candies and lots *[inaudible]* [0:01:47].

Interviewer: Was this town near any larger city?

Mr. Raivy: It's nearest is – the next town is about 12 miles called Kuminkim *[phonetic]* [0:01:58].

Interviewer: What part of Russia is this now?

Mr. Raivy: Well, it's more Ukraine – Ukraine.

Interviewer: Ukraine.

Mr. Raivy: Ukraine, but they speak Russia – Ukrainian and – not exactly – it's Russian not Ukrainian language. Another larger town is about 18 miles where we buy our providence for the stores, further equipments like clothes and...

Interviewer: Most are wholesalers?

Mr. Raivy: Yes. Wholesalers and retailers. It's a larger city. This town was located to this side of the river which provides water for that sugar beets. Then there's another part of the town about 30 to 40 people have meant families, at least all together, and a few Jewish people where a few of them are employed *[inaudible]* **[0:02:53]** factory.

Interviewer: What's that on – what's wrong?

Mr. Raivy: It is like the farmers bring the beets, the sugar beets to the factory where they employ – that's when the harvesting comes, they've taken off the beets from the field. They maybe on *[inaudible]* **[0:03:13]**. A number of our people – these people are employed as clerks *[inaudible]* **[0:03:21]** then and also property of mechanical works that it requires in the factory.

After the season is over, the farmers, everybody goes to their own fields and a long ago and do their own work. Now, the Jewish people have their synagogue and a rabbi, a *[inaudible]* **[0:03:47]** and everything. We have to teach our children, the Jewish – we befriend our teachers, especially for our Hebrew teaching until they come to the Bar Mitzvah – a full Bar Mitzvah...

Interviewer: Well, did you have a school or did they come in to the house?

Mr. Raivy: Well, there are certain – in the house, there's maybe 20, 25 the most in part. Well, we spend from 8 o'clock in the morning till sunset, all day in that Hebrew school. Well they have a city school where they teach Russians, we're not – our Jewish people do not permit to go there because they have to split us in Sabbath.

So to be observant – but we have our private teachers if you are not able to pay – of course, my father they own a big store and they hired someone from the teachers to come in to our house and teach Russian.

[0:05:00]

Interviewer: Teach you Russian.

Mr. Raivy: Russian, yes. We were small and five in our family.

Interviewer: Was your natural language Yiddish?

Mr. Raivy: Natural language is Yiddish. Oh yeah, natural language is Yiddish.

Interviewer: You know, you say your father owned a department store.

Mr. Raivy: It's a general store. What – our mother ran it.

Interviewer: Your mother ran it?

Mr. Raivy: My mother did run the place and my father have other business. Of course, during the summer we rented the *[inaudible]* **[0:05:32]** where they bees and you made the honey from the bees of the wax. We have the – he made the honey then rented it. He rented *[inaudible]* **[0:05:43]** then you put out bee traps like that.

And then this bee – a special place where they heat it. The honey will go down in one place and then...

Interviewer: You mean he – oh, actually, he himself rented this.

Mr. Raivy: He himself, yes. He didn't...

Interviewer: He didn't own it?

Mr. Raivy: He didn't own it because Jewish people did not allow to have land, own land or *[inaudible]* **[0:06:07]**.

Interviewer: A what?

Mr. Raivy: You know, the type *[inaudible]* **[0:06:10]**? The cell – these people, they're not allowed to have it. It's under the government.

Interviewer: I see.

Mr. Raivy: They didn't allow that at all. This has became, from the generation – from my grandfather, he is the one that have the house and the stores and everything. And father married and then he established to go with the

store. My grandfather died young. He was still 59 or 60. *[inaudible]* **[0:06:36]** from a heart attack naturally but the grandmother left over. We had the big house, big lot of land, a lot to – garages like. We had one for cattle, four horses and for – even for *[inaudible]* **[0:06:54]**. His stores are – is going through the winter and they have this for all year around. And in our town of course, we have a big garden, we have one side of me from the apples we got there, from my own tomatoes and cucumbers and even from prunes that made – what's it called? We called it *[inaudible]* **[0:07:19]**. The certain wine from prune.

It was always filled cider. This is the used...

Interviewer: Wine from prunes you say?

Mr. Raivy: From prunes, yeah, yeah. Something like that.

[Cross talk]

Mr. Raivy: Now, this has been going on in our lives. But when we begin to grow older, I was going to say that my father made that form honey from wax. He made candles for the churches. Kiev is about – almost 75, 80 miles. It's a long distance from a small town. And he made these big candles, maybe a foot high and maybe some of them as high as foot and a half from the *[inaudible]* **[0:08:08]** is not for a real Christian like Rome. And he is – he had take orders from them and he used to sell these wax candles, maybe an inch and a half in diameter, about two inches. Such...

Interviewer: Large.

Mr. Raivy: ...the white big ones. Well, considering that among the other people, my father was more intellectual because he knows Russian goods. Even the Marshall if he want to have – if someone have a claim against another man, he came for my father to write his letter to the higher bureau, to the judge. At the same time, he have Hebrew magazines coming to the house which is not everybody can do that.

Interviewer: His relationship with the government and the gentile community was rather good, you say.

Mr. Raivy: Well, we were good with some people who are good because they have to pay *[inaudible]* **[0:09:12]** raft.

Interviewer: Raft. Hmm-mm.

Mr. Raivy: See the chief, the Marshall called Rodney.

Interviewer: Why do you have the raft?

Mr. Raivy: Oh, otherwise effective, you see, because certain things the Jewish people would sell make their own cigarettes from their bare hands. They didn't have an outhouse to do – is that good or anything?

Interviewer: That's all right. Go ahead.

Mr. Raivy: And they would not allow but then she paid me, she was *[inaudible]* **[0:09:41]**. He won the right to say we'll take it *[inaudible]* **[0:09:45]** it was. But my father – in our house where we live – where I live, it was known as a guest because besides his business – father was also doing all kinds of business – he supplied the railroads with the stones for the road. Now this...

[0:10:00]

Interviewer: It sounds like he was in a lot of things.

Mr. Raivy: Oh yeah. The mother runs one of the store and my older – I'm the third on the family. If I was 10 and 11 years old, my sister was 14, 15 and she used to help her on the store and she already know Russian very well because she had a private teacher. For the younger one, the next to mine, when he was 12 years, this year – this teacher wasn't big enough or educated enough to go and hire for more *[inaudible]* **[0:10:37]**. So he goes to the next town. When he came back to the next town...

Interviewer: He's a brother of yours, right?

Mr. Raivy: Yeah, I have an older brother of mine. He's still in California. He's in his 80s. I'm close to 80 myself. Finally – and here's what I want to bring up. Now this is – he had a lot of business, see, because he was connected with the Russian people because he knew Russian real well. In the small town, they won't find many people that have enough education to do that because he did. That's why he wanted us – also he had private teachers. That's because the Russian language was not the grammar language. He spoke like they spoke – the northernmost states, you know, it's like – more like the Ukrainian. But he wanted to more – he was able to write and we did. Plus, I was – I left this town when I was 13 years old going to *[inaudible]* **[0:11:40]** and I've come to it.

[Cross talk]

Interviewer: Yeah. Let me ask you another question though.

Mr. Raivy: Before I go further, I want to say about this factory. This factory, when they make...

Interviewer: Turn off that.

Mr. Raivy: This here – I was going to say my mother ran the business and my father has other business that. This sugar plant, when they squeeze the juice and to make sugar out of it – loose sugar, it's left – we call it jam. I don't know what they call it. It's left the – from the beets. They flow down like a swimming pool, placed in big holes like that like it's made and this **[inaudible] [0:12:26]** the access. So the people, they handle with the cattle dealers. They bring oxen while they ship them in 12 days and to maybe to – I know they ship sometimes to Argentina. My father takes their authority. They send him a **[inaudible] [0:12:44]** access and they put them away for five, six weeks to feed them. They give them **[inaudible] [0:12:51]** feed to fatten them. And he was in charged of this kind of business because he had people to do it in all those **[inaudible] [0:13:00]**. And they give them a lot of water and the soil. They feed them after they fatten it. They kind of load them into cars, into ships and they send them away all over the part of the world. He had that kind of business during the winter.

Somebody had to **[inaudible] [0:13:18]**. He had the, I say, stones for the railroad, for the railroad track, that kind of a business **[inaudible] [0:13:28]** all kind. Now...

Interviewer: Did you use to help in his businesses or were you strictly going to school?

Mr. Raivy: I went a little **[inaudible] [0:13:37]** than that. I was on the – when I left, I was on maybe seven, eight, nine, ten years old. I was the third one. The other one was two years older and there were small children there. Of course, we have our grandmother there. She used to help my mother run the business. But he was traveling a lot of times then too. Of course, he had to go buy merchandise. You heard about **[inaudible] [0:14:03]** where they're making your own goods, has to place **[inaudible] [0:14:07]** to go on all those buying **[inaudible] [0:14:10]** many times the books. My mother loved those things. Now...

Interviewer: Why did you move to the second town?

Mr. Raivy: Now this is – the time when all those changed. They began to do activity on the democratic – the young government began to preaching down to the czar. And they used to come with students from other people and to organize in space for the Russian farmer, people get together. They are rich. Take away the rich or down to the czar, establish a revolution of the government.

Interviewer: These students were coming in to the farms and encouraging them to...

Mr. Raivy: And during the holiday and yes and they preach it.

[Cross talk]

[0:15:00]

Interviewer: Yeah. Where were these students from, you know? Where were they from? Were they...?

Mr. Raivy: In small town. They come everywhere. They have – from the largest farm, they get together the people from this small town, they have to begin to a higher *[inaudible]* **[0:15:13]**.

Interviewer: About what date was this now?

Mr. Raivy: It's *[inaudible]* **[0:15:15]** Province.

Interviewer: Yeah. But what was the date, approximately when this activity was going on?

Mr. Raivy: Well, this has happened, well, 1890 – well, 1901, 1902. I did have **[0:15:29]** *[inaudible]* 1902 or 1903 because I left 1905. The timing was so that the people bought goods and didn't pay. And he had another contract for providing these stones that people came in, he didn't get the money yet from the railroad that they told him – they demanded another land. So he couldn't work it out. He says, "Well, let's go. What's the use staying here?" And so he cannot give them the higher education and things have changed. We will go to the next town *[inaudible]* **[0:16:04]**. That's Kursuna *[inaudible]* **[0:16:06]** province.

Interviewer: But what are the effects – what affect do these students have on you?

Mr. Raivy: The students – is to change the --- to have a revolution, to take the government in their own hands, divide it. This is – they call it the social democratin. There was a group – these groups have *[inaudible]* **[0:16:24]**

the Jewish people. They're called Budistin *[phonetic]* [0:16:27]. That old people should be like *[inaudible]* [0:16:29].

Interviewer: But why that didn't affect you really because that's not why you moved?

Mr. Raivy: Well, in fact the business – yeah, in fact the business.

Interviewer: Oh I see.

Mr. Raivy: In fact the business is sold that I think the exchange that it's going on. They've taken the store and they don't want to pay. You have to wait for it and you're not allowed because your father says – well, there's no use for it if you can't get any higher education in your own town. And so you'll go to another town. We'll go to *[inaudible]* [0:17:03]. The next town we have our relatives. Our mother had brother and sisters and we moved to the -- *[inaudible]* [0:17:11] is big town that had gimnazi *[phonetic]* [0:17:15] you know the high school, college. You have to – the way I know it where they study to be officers in the army and the navy. So he rented and then bought the store close to that center.

All this time, through the years, my older brother was in the *[inaudible]* [0:17:35]. So he was maybe 15 then and there he also got along with the *[inaudible]* [0:17:49] in the tunnel and they have hidden *[inaudible]* [0:17:53] over there.

Interviewer: I see.

Mr. Raivy: Well, he came back. Of course, he didn't know it and he got organized and he got in with a group who lived in a certain location that have a park for recreation. They have meetings here. He used to be there to *[inaudible]* [0:18:15]. He gave him – he taught him to learn the trade where they print the papers. Lithographic, that kind of machine that have to do with the printing thing. He took there. I think he was about 16 – 15, 16 years old. He used to learn their trade. He notified *[inaudible]* [0:18:38] it's getting too bad. We want to take him out of the way before and we already moved over here. I was 13 years when we moved in the big city. There – I said, "Well, I've been thinking about going to America." So you have to learn a trade.

So he took me over a trade school to learn a machine, as a machinist. I was only 13 years old – 14 because I came back from Bar Mitzvah and then moved back here in my little small town. You know, father, mother, Samuel is already here but Vi and I stayed.

Interviewer: You mean in this country, right?

Mr. Raivy: Yeah – no, no. In *[inaudible]* **[0:19:21]** see. I was there. So I figured the way he's going on, we don't want him being put away in jail.

Interviewer: You think he might have gone to jail because of his revolutionary activity?

Mr. Raivy: Because he was organizing – he was with the group, revolutionary group.

Interviewer: Okay.

Mr. Raivy: So the way it was he says – well, I think that we have relatives here. He said, "Let's go to America because the teens are going on a very pleasant – that was *[inaudible]* **[0:19:51]** revolutionary. It was 1905, 1906 – there was a revolution, I think before – by the turn of 1905, 1906, they tore down the czar and all the clothes, all the government along.

[0:20:06]

So we brought – I like the – before my father came here in 1905, he did send for me and for my other cousins. He was brother, my older brother first of all in 1904.

Interviewer: Your father and brother – an older brother.

Mr. Raivy: Yeah. They came here before.

Interviewer: Well, let me ask you something. I want to get this straight. Why did this revolutionary activity force you here? I mean why not just live there?

Mr. Raivy: Well the revolutionary activity is this. When the czar in existence, there is a number of *[inaudible]* **[0:20:41]** they call the police. They have lands, thousands of acres of land and the farmer that owned them, they have little house. The old houses from lane, from wood frames and you call it like *[inaudible]* **[0:21:01]** something like that. And then work during harvest time. They work for about 25, 30 cents a day *[inaudible]* **[0:21:09]** the meals and didn't have nothing and the taxes. This is what they came to the revolution to try *[inaudible]* **[0:21:17]**. And there was wide corruption in the government. You heard about Rasputin? You know about Rasputin...

Interviewer: I was asking why your family thought they had to leave?

Mr. Raivy: They had to leave because the time has changed. It become a male revolutionary and we haven't hide – when it come to holiday – now, I'll come to this. Before the time, when – let's say Sabbaths, we Sabbaths. The whole week everybody was working different things, like once a week they have a bazaar and everybody working on everything. There was no rich people and that's a small town. In the big town, it's the same thing.

But when it comes to Sabbath, 4 o'clock, 5 o'clock right before sunset everything is closed before the synagogue and everybody, see, except the girls but even the women, they go to synagogues Friday night. The shop, everything is closed, nothing is going. Then you were out of the mental **[inaudible] [0:22:23]**. They don't believe on that. They came to all the people of the light and they begin to go away all the way in not to observe on it. It's another reason why that for religious people that the young people that begin to go to college is not going to believe on religious things. They're called Budisti.

They've been organize a group called budistin that all the people are alike. They think the revolution then all the people will be alive, rich and poor and there will be no religion, see.

Interviewer: And you don't want any part of that?

Mr. Raivy: We don't want it, as with the hiding the elderly people.

Interviewer: Hold it a second. Hold it.

Mr. Raivy: They had small synagogue also built by Brotsky, the rich man where he owns that mail partly. It's – although its not really a great place but a small place but everybody had to go. That's a habit for the – they have no place else. And then they feel themselves like that. At the Sabbath, everybody feels like at this Sabbath, you're not allowed to do anything except o call the gentile to care over the lock up or when it's cold to make the **[inaudible] [0:23:50]**.

Them days, there was no cold in that part. They put away wool or straw. A special oven is made for winter – or a big old winter – you only for and to heat it up underneath the house. And for the cooking, you put a little fire, you know – I mean, the Friday before, the women have to clean up the house. They do the house. There was enough wooden floor but the earth. This earth is covered – a certain **[inaudible] [0:24:23]** is it? And they even put the red – or the sand – buy certain sand with some **[inaudible] [0:24:34]** stays that way.

The women bake their own bread, their own cake or cookies for the whole week and this is not stale. It doesn't get *[inaudible]* [0:24:45]. And they put away their chores. They *[inaudible]* [0:24:48] that oven until the – till they have fillet the fish and *[inaudible]* [0:24:56] call it, a dessert.

[0:25:00]

It feels like it's the Sabbath. In the morning, everybody had to go to the garden. Before – I was going to say, he prepares the kavas and so one and it seems *[inaudible]* [0:25:15] between certain meals.

Interviewer: Were there any other...

Mr. Raivy: No. This is the custom where they enjoy that. And it's Saturday, when they get together, they see one another *[inaudible]* [0:25:31] one another. It's still happiness until Saturday night. Then they have to *[inaudible]* [0:25:38] Saturday night with *[inaudible]* [0:25:41]. There's a certain woven – you see the Beth Shalom? They have it under. It's Hav Dola *[phonetic]* [0:25:52]. It means the poraben *[phonetic]* [0:25:54], the weekend. Friday, the *[inaudible]* [0:25:57] the Sabbath. The Hav Dola is the end of the Sabbath, then they're off open their stores again. Everybody goes to their business. They feel like they overcome the Sabbath.

And it becomes so that beyond the element that make the [0:26:13] *[inaudible]*, a lot of them didn't approve in quite another way in their appearance. A number of times, they see they're going to be happiness in...

Interviewer: No religion anymore.

Mr. Raivy: No religion. Now after we went...

Interviewer: Now were there any other reasons for leaving Russia other than that?

Mr. Raivy: Of course this was after *[inaudible]* [0:26:41] for leaving is because the business was – the children were going all there. They have no ways. Also you couldn't get in, you know, the percentages in colleges. You want to give a higher education to the children, there's only 10 percent will get in. And then if you want to go for a higher doctoral or so, it's *[inaudible]* [0:27:12], you know worth itself. You couldn't do it *[inaudible]* [0:27:18] straight on and straight through and the revolution began, the democratic revolution. Other people doing to have them sentenced to

Siberia. If they want those crops, anything doing against the government, they send them to Siberia and some of them never come back. And this makes a lot of people to leave Russia. We have to go other countries to look for better living. They could not own land to give away. They could not sell...

Interviewer: Well, they could own land after the revolution though.

Mr. Raivy: No. After the revolution? No. They're going to divided to the amounts – for most of the farmers. They gave each farmer...

Interviewer: The Jews are permitted to own land, then.

Mr. Raivy: But I left already. Before the *[inaudible] [0:28:10]* have in 1905, the end of 1905, 1906. I think that this the time of the revolution. Then this was the end of the war they have with...

Interviewer: Did you see any results of violence with the Revolution or – anything like that?

Mr. Raivy: No. I left already. There was some violence. Even before when we lived in that small town, when it comes to the holiday Passover, Christmas and so on, and a number of young people have to come in, knock the door, to knock the windows, they'll *[inaudible] [0:28:51]* of course for a couple of days. There's a lot of disturbance that happened then. We have to close our shops, bolt the doors, from coming out and going out. But the youngest people to make disturbance, they as for – we give them certain things for drinking, for the long – that's another – there was lot of *[inaudible] [0:29:13]* during that time.

Interviewer: But this *[inaudible] [0:29:16]* ...

Mr. Raivy: Is it catching *[inaudible] [0:29:18]*. It's the young people that they robbed.

Interviewer: This wasn't the soldiers or anything by the way, was it?

Mr. Raivy: The soldiers was after the revolution had been turn from – it's going from one – from *[inaudible] [0:29:35]* see a lot of the *[inaudible] [0:29:40]* that were just a bump for – or they come in and rob.

[Cross talk]

After this revolution was there was Karisky. And then from Karisky to another one – a change. From one change to another.

[0:30:00]

Then there was the robbery. They rob all the – but *[inaudible]* **[0:30:05]**. They kill a lot of people. This is after – from changing from one revolution to the other is – what's the name? Trotsky. Trotsky, he had to run away. He left to Mexico. I think it's *[inaudible]* **[0:30:19]** Mexico.

Interviewer: Well, this is after Lenin.

Mr. Raivy: After – first was Trotsky and Lenin. And they couldn't agree to have some *[inaudible]* **[0:30:29]** ideas. But there was a lot...

[Cross-Talk]

Mr. Raivy: ...during that time. The biggest one was *[inaudible]* **[0:30:38]**. Well, a lot of people got killed.

Interviewer: This was by the communist?

Mr. Raivy: By the...

Interviewer: By the communist?

Mr. Raivy: Then they didn't call themselves communists.

Interviewer: Or was this just the revolutionaries.

Mr. Raivy: Revolutionaries. Yeah.

Interviewer: As against the czar.

Mr. Raivy: We call them high democracy *[inaudible]* **[0:30:56]** you see. They allow to go ahead and take away from the people, from the Jewish people all they can. But after that, they took away the land from the ranches and they divide that and they are received by the government. And then from something like the kabutz, but it wasn't the right one *[inaudible]* **[0:31:20]**, they have to give the government percentage.

Interviewer: Well, this was after the communist revolution.

Mr. Raivy: Yeah, after that. Yes. And if the *[inaudible]* [0:31:31], there was nothing left. So it didn't work out, see. They didn't want – because they didn't work. They didn't produce. And why they have to give away was not the right form.

Interviewer: How did you manage to get to this country?

Mr. Raivy: Well, I have here my father. He came first, my two brothers. He worked. And then he started I guess about \$7 a week. They have a factory like the *[inaudible]* [0:32:04].

Interviewer: A leather factory?

Mr. Raivy: Yeah. He had to work.

Interviewer: Where?

Mr. Raivy: In Philadelphia.

Interviewer: He worked for them?

Mr. Raivy: He worked, provided that most of him didn't *[inaudible]* [0:32:16] they'd come in. They worked cheap. And they *[inaudible]* [0:32:19] label ones. And then you have sale you up. Of course, I think my – send the shift *[inaudible]* [0:32:27] whatever the money, I take it.

Interviewer: Oh, it's all right.

[Cross talk]

Interviewer: He saved the money to finance you.

Mr. Raivy: Yeah. He saved the money. They buy *[inaudible]* [0:32:41]. They have to pay so much a week until I came over.

You know first I came here...

Interviewer: Well, did you have a passport to get here or did you steal your way?

Mr. Raivy: No. We have to steal the border.

Interviewer: Steal the border?

Mr. Raivy: After Pam and we steal the border...

Interviewer: Can you remember how you managed to go through Europe? How did you – did you go from Russia...

Mr. Raivy: They have agents for that *[inaudible]* [0:33:13]. The agents, you write to the agents as they come in town [0:33:20] *[inaudible]* little Mitchell. It was in Kalezi *[phonetic]* [0:33:22]. Somehow I'll never get exactly name of the town. And they have agents. They have a group and we used to stay before the border but I don't remember the name. But anyway, it's a few miles before the border but to stay a day or two until we're ready.

Then they furnish for us a passport. You pay him – I remember so much for going across. They furnished us a false passport.

Interviewer: Which country did you go into? Was it Romania?

Mr. Raivy: No, no. Gwavetzi *[phonetic]* [0:34:00].

Interviewer: Gwavetzi.

Mr. Raivy: Gwavetzi. We went to Berlin. Then Berlin, we then *[inaudible]* [0:34:08] in Berlin and we have to stay and wait in Berlin as in two or three days. We get to stay – yeah, something like beerhouse until we got to over there. There was 100 people until veer from the group and we went to – before the border, it's in Gwavetzi. It's close to Germany border. And we stayed there for a while. We were furnished a false passport. So we paid the agent so much. And then *[inaudible]* [0:34:47], maybe 30 people. We passed through the border with the Russian officers. We show him our passport. This passport was a false passport, see. They only count one, two, three and how much it is and pass through. And they pay so much for every person.

[0:35:27]

Half a mile, we went in Germany. Let me see – what – yeah, from there, they took us to Brahman. And from Brahman to Liverpool. Liverpool – no, no, we went to London. From Brahman, we went to London. From London we went to Liverpool and from Liverpool, we came here to the United States 14 days. Oh, what a mess.

Interviewer: What kind of a trip was it?

Mr. Raivy: Terrible.

Interviewer: What kind of a boat was it?

Mr. Raivy: The boat's name was Haggerford. I remember that too.

Interviewer: Haggerford.

Mr. Raivy: Haggerford. But there was a pact. There was sickness.

Interviewer: Was it an American boat?

Mr. Raivy: No. I think it was Italian boat, if I'm not mistaken. Well, when we came here...

Interviewer: Was it a regular passenger boat?

[Cross talk]

Mr. Raivy: Because it was very much about a big convenience. We'd be glad to get over on any kind. While here for a few days rest, I went to work at the tin factory.

Interviewer: Where did you land? In New York or Philadelphia?

Mr. Raivy: Philadelphia. For \$3 the first couple of weeks at 10 hours a day even Saturday. Finally...

Interviewer: And now, you're up on Saturday.

Mr. Raivy: ...officers. I was very healthy and active. So he gave me another dollar for \$4. I worked several months. But I said, well, I work in the machine shop. I have to look for that space. Of course, right away we went to night school to learn – of course, I carry a dictionary when I was – oh, on the other side, I think there's in Germany a ring that I brought.

Interviewer: In English?

Mr. Raivy: In England. Either way, it was a Jewish neighbor. We went to night school. And somehow I picked a little bit of language. I went to look for a job for my work in Iowa. I got \$6 to start with. And every six months, I've got a raise. I worked there for some time.

Interviewer: Where was this?

Mr. Raivy: In Philadelphia?

Interviewer: Did you remember the name of the company?

Mr. Raivy: Yeah. Harks Iowa *[inaudible]* **[0:37:34]**. Right in the back of that hospital, bottom, there's a hospital on 15th and Race and this was on Broad Street but it's not there no more. Oh, I worked there for quite a while. I worked myself up to 11, 12 hours.

Well, finally – oh, I went to different places. I went to *[inaudible]* **[0:37:57]** in 19 – when was that? There was no work. Everybody was laid low often *[inaudible]* **[0:38:03]** and others. I have a cousin Glinnie *[phonetic]* **[0:38:06]**. So I went on that same night. Got acquainted with the man. He works for a locomotive [0:38:15] *[inaudible]* well, am going up my place, I will give you a job. He gave me a job in that locomotive shop. Certain machines to cut bows.

Interviewer: This is in Virginia now.

Mr. Raivy: I was in Richmond, Virginia. I think it was in 1918 – 19. This was pretty slack to get a job them days. Well, I worked there for a while.

Interviewer: Where did you live in Richmond? Did you live with relatives?

Mr. Raivy: *[inaudible]* **[0:38:50]**.

Interviewer: No.

Mr. Raivy: No? Well, I think 1706 or 17 Street – one part is a market, in the middle of that. And then I came back home and I went to *[inaudible]* **[0:39:06]**.

Interviewer: You came back to Philadelphia after Richmond?

Mr. Raivy: Yeah, I came back.

Interviewer: How long have you worked in Richmond?

Mr. Raivy: About a year and a half or was it two years? I have my cousin.

Interviewer: Why did you leave Richmond?

Mr. Raivy: Well, I want to get home. I tell you my family that time, they couldn't get a job any place here, they moved to Bordentown, New Jersey. And they worked a *[inaudible]* **[0:39:29]**.

Interviewer: Cotton mills?

Mr. Raivy: Cotton mills and it's not the cotton. They make it from wool. They make the wool between spinners and then they make *[inaudible]* [0:39:42]. This is a time, a hard time then and whatever *[inaudible]* [0:39:46]. The girls, the two girls were working. My father was working. And my older brother, he's steady. He worked as like – he didn't stay with us most of the time. He worked by overhaul daytime and then the nighttime, he goes to school and he finished his pharma – chemistry. Does that *[inaudible]* [0:40:09]. He is the kind of person, you know, his own way. He works until he got himself another one.

[0:40:16]

Then I come, I went to New York.

Interviewer: You mean travelling.

Mr. Raivy: I thought I'll get more money there. I got \$12 a week. So I stayed there. Then the boom came in from the war that was going on in 1911, '12, the first war – '13? Let's see – well, fortunately we got it. So we began to be busy in the clothing trade and all the needle trade. We worked for the armies. About that time, *[inaudible]* [0:41:02] make buttonholes on a machine. He gave up that job. There was a friend of his who took him in. And he opened up a shop. He says, why do you want to work that kind of work? He needs help. He had to hire a couple of people from – they're doing the clothes. They have to come in work and come out. And they'll take it to a pair of machine and so on, they know that I would hem it.

In 1914, we got on – the United States got in on that war, isn't it? 1914. Because 1917, I got in. I was drafted to this a bit. So I worked for him for a while but there's a season. I may just have *[inaudible]* [0:41:51].

Interviewer: That's a lot of different than working in the iron works, isn't it?

Mr. Raivy: In the iron work, it *[inaudible]* [0:41:56] and it's a hard work. So I took it. See, I could make twice as much in here.

Interviewer: In the needle trade.

Mr. Raivy: In this trade and buying a button machine. There and you can rent it. Otherwise the machine that he's bought a couple of them that every stitch is not – they're going to make so many stitches *[inaudible]* [0:42:18].

Interviewer: You say you were drafted into the army.

Mr. Raivy: Yeah. And I have – my brother was then in Wisconsin. He had received – this brother that I told you. He was against it. They organized a group going farming – go into – I think they went to Utah. You see, they were Zionist but the **[inaudible] [0:42:48]**. Make a totalitarian. In Philadelphia they organized.

v Interviewer: Now, this was your brother.

Mr. Raivy: My brother.

Interviewer: Older brother.

Mr. Raivy: Yeah. The one he studied, he was already a chemist. He worked for the Mount Sinai Hospital in Philadelphia where he's girl then – oh, he married her and then his girl, they worked – no. They were also in Mount Sinai Hospital in Philadelphia as a pharmacist. But there was a group – the pharmacist worked until 12 o'clock at night. Long hours and he had in him, he's a Zionist territory. The one with the Jewish territory.

Interviewer: Where did they go?

Mr. Raivy: They go in Utah.

Interviewer: Utah.

Mr. Raivy: Yeah. They bought land.

Interviewer: For farming.

Mr. Raivy: And the pharmacy everybody have been listed **[inaudible] [0:43:36]** a few hundred hours. Of course, I don't want to this **[inaudible] [0:43:41]**.

Interviewer: Oh, that's all right. This is fine.

Mr. Raivy: And he stayed there with his wife and the wife didn't want to stay there. It was too cold out there during the night. Well, he came back to Wisconsin. Let me tell you, Melrose – I believe the name of the town, Black River **[phonetic] [0:44:05]** is the name of the town here in Wisconsin and they have – they gave land to...

Interviewer: He went from Utah to Wisconsin.

Mr. Raivy: From Utah, he came here to Wisconsin.

[Cross talk]

Mr. Raivy: It was the war time. He came to Wisconsin, the Black River. Now, from Melrose, Wisconsin.

Interviewer: And Black River, Utah.

Mr. Raivy: And then they also land on the Tomahawk. Tomahawk is the name of the town where he went and he got land, I think 60 acres of land, woodland. And he cleared the land and he established himself a trade there. And he wrote to me that I should come with him. The workmen on the farm. **[inaudible] [0:44:55]** so you won't go to the army too soon.

[0:45:00]

And from the farm, he won't go – even drafted **[inaudible] [0:45:02]**. So I went there just for curiosity to see what that is and I stayed there and I worked in the farm until I was drafted anyway, some time. But I got quite a bit of experience. I used to work with the farmers harvesting. They are big farmers out in Wisconsin.

Interviewer: Yeah. Was this Zionist community successful? What happened to it?

Mr. Raivy: Well, he had to give up over there. The woman didn't want to stay there. During the night time the wolf used to be around the house **[inaudible] [0:45:34]**. So she didn't want to come back.

Interviewer: How about the rest of the – were there many Jews in the Zionist community?

Mr. Raivy: I think a few of them was left and the others didn't want to stay there. But he wanted to do farming and he did. He went to Wisconsin and then at Wisconsin, he bought that land, he cleared the land, he stayed there. I went to – I was called by the service. I went to the First World War, the **[inaudible] [0:46:03]**.

Interviewer: What's that?

Mr. Raivy: Grant – Kevin Grant **[phonetic] [0:46:06]**. Be a nice thrill there for four six then it's coming up on **[inaudible] [0:46:12]**. Of course from there I went to Jersey. And from Jersey, I went to Newport and then I went overseas. I

stayed there a year until the war was over. The war was over in November and I got discharged in July. I stayed there after that. But...

Interviewer: Did you see any action over there?

Mr. Raivy: Yeah. I was in two battles. I written on my own this *[inaudible]* [0:46:37]. I've gone down to main *[inaudible]* [0:46:41] in the words where there's seven hill – I was seven hills *[inaudible]* [0:46:47]. I was in the army, delivered ammunitions to the frontline. I was in *[inaudible]* [0:46:54] here. That's when I went to cross the *[inaudible]* [0:46:57] department at the ammunition. What I was going to say that he moved away too. He still practices farming. It was very cold and long winter on Wisconsin where he was. He used to be snowed.

Although he was – above his house. So she – they moved to – where is it? Michigan? Michigan. They go for *[inaudible]* [0:47:26] places down there. He bought the bought and then they practice on poultry but he had this poultry where he used to sell for hatching. They have – some of the chicken have a record – high records. So many eggs a year and so warm. He's doing good.

Interviewer: He had a hatchery, otherwise.

Mr. Raivy: Hatchery, yeah. Until they go [0:47:50] *[inaudible]*. So then he gave them a good education. One is a social worker in Chicago. She had a married daughter now already not long ago. And the other one is a chemical engineer. Also married an engineer. I think the boy is doing – I think he was a little *[inaudible]* [0:48:17] some of kind of...

Also in the – in California – what was the name of – different places there. They have this – so when I came home, I started working at the place. He goes *[inaudible]* [0:48:32].

Interviewer: In Philadelphia?

Mr. Raivy: In Philadelphia. This was *[inaudible]* [0:48:36] marking certain place. A man offered me right away \$50 a week.

Interviewer: How come so much?

Mr. Raivy: I tell you it was responsible because this man here, he had a contract for buttonholes and if you don't do the right one *[inaudible]* [0:48:54]. And he had that several times already. He wants someone that's willing to do

[inaudible] [0:49:02] correct. It's not very much. In fact I made a little more that. I got married there.

[Cross talk]

Interviewer: What did you do now? You said you received goods.

Mr. Raivy: No. I received the goods, they have to mark them the sufficient styles. Some of them one buttonhole, some of them two, some of them double breasted. And if you make a mistake...

Interviewer: But did you...

Mr. Raivy: No. I just marked it. Receiving and marking.

Interviewer: I see.

Mr. Raivy: I didn't have to work them, you see. I was still **[inaudible] [0:49:35]** about it. We're going to have – and we're not on strike **[inaudible] [0:49:40]**. There's no business say you're going to stay in the shop in here in the strike and he was a slack and this and that. It hasn't go. So he happened to know a man who says let me fly up here from **[inaudible] [0:49:53]** he used to be.

Are you getting everything **[inaudible] [0:49:56]**?

Interviewer: Yeah.

Mr. Raivy: You know, went with some provision on **[inaudible] [0:49:58]**. Well, he says, he bought me a **[inaudible] [0:50:02]**.

Interviewer: Bought you what?

[0:50:06]

Mr. Raivy: He bought a **[inaudible] [0:50:06]** for the stores. I was then – here's where I raised my family and make my living and with – my wife died 1951 and I'm still living along.

[Cross-Talk]

Interviewer: Which occupation was this now? You're a meat...

Mr. Raivy: Yeah. I get the meat from *[inaudible]* **[0:50:31]**. You know the loins, the pork chops, the...

Interviewer: Right. You're a butcher.

Mr. Raivy: Well, I'm not a butcher. I don't butcher anything. I got it from him and sell it for the store.

Interviewer: Oh, you're a wholesaler.

Mr. Raivy: Wholesaler. This is my business for 26, 27 years. But after 12 years, 65 of 1890, I'll be 80 next January.

Interviewer: Okay.

Mr. Raivy: I have seen my daughters get their education. They then finished college and go married. But the *[inaudible]* **[0:51:06]** from the Levens family – Mr. Charlie Solomon.

Interviewer: Let me ask you something. What was the date when you came to Wilmington?

Mr. Raivy: I don't know. I didn't know. I got here some place. Well, November 19...

Interviewer: Quite possibly.

Mr. Raivy: November 1926.

Interviewer: Hmm-mm. Do you have any memories about Wilmington 1926?

Mr. Raivy: Well, I have to work. That's every in a week. Of course, it was in my own hook. And I sold it and I have charged. This is my own trouble. I had to collect and pay the bills. And many times, I had to go out in all kinds of weather. I had plenty of hardship. I take of the truck, the car, the family. My wife was one of a kind. She wanted the children to be up to day around the music. The first one played the trumpet and the other one played the piano. She'll still a piano – of course, she's married now. She's lived a very nice life. She got a little foreign. He's a working man who works for Chrysler in North Delaware. She was there in an event but since – she already visited her family.

Now the younger one was very particular. I paid \$10 a lesson for her piano and go to Philadelphia. Her mother she's going to be a genius but I knew she was not. But she wanted to be high class. Well, it didn't work

out. She got sick with cancer and she passed away when she was 53 and a half years old, 1951. And just the time when she finished school, high school, there was a war. And she couldn't – she get it and she had to quit because I had a woman take care of her. She won't stay there for 24 hours a day. So I said *[inaudible]* **[0:53:26]**.

[0:53:26]

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