https://www.drmetablog.com/2012/04/where-sonia-slept.html

So one problem was solved, but the mantle-sleeping remained a mystery. However, just this past week the *New Yorker* featured an essay on traditional Russian cooking in which there was a paragraph on a long-ago-and-far-away kind of stove. Here's the pertinent section.

"A traditional Russian kitchen starts with a *pech*, a huge brick oven with many winding vents designed to retain the heat from a wood fire. A *pech* was once the centerpiece of traditional peasant homes; it took up about a quarter of the available living space. It heated and ventilated the house, it dried food; children and the elderly slept on ledges built into it."

Description of a pech stove: https://www.rbth.com/lifestyle/332747-russian-stove-pech

[The Russian stove: More than just heating - Russia Beyond (rbth.com)](https://www.rbth.com/lifestyle/332747-russian-stove-pech)