

# ЕВРЕЙСКОЕ КЛАДБИЩЕ

## Скуляны, Молдавия

### **The Jewish Cemetery of Sculeni** Beltsy district, Bessarabia, Russia, now in Republic of Moldova

Final report, Yefim Kogan, October 28, 2015  
The project was done by Bessarabia SIG members



Sculeni on the Google map

Sculeni had 1555 Jews in 1897 from a total population of 3375, 102 Jewish businesses were in the town in 1924-25 and 1207 Jews lived in the town in 1930.

It is hard to know how many graves were in the Skuleni cemetery pre-World War II. By looking into the size of the field which once was the Jewish Cemetery, it had about 300-500 graves.



The whole cemetery was destroyed during the Holocaust, and only recently by the efforts of **David Kahan**, the president of the Association of Jewish Romanian Americans and at the instructions of the Sculener Rebe, Rav Israel Abraham Portugal, the cemetery was discovered, the land bought from the local people and a monument erected in 2005 to the grandfather of Sculener Rebe – Rav Israel Avraham Portugal, and also to the several members of the family and community. A number of parts of inscriptions were found and put near the monument and several pieces of inscriptions were found near the Prut River and also brought near the monument.

There are total of **24** records derived from the inscriptions with **13** photos.

Here are our members of JewishGen/Bessarabia SIG who helped to translate the inscriptions:

**Nathen Gabriel, Cantor Aryeh Finklestein**

The photographs were contributed by

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**Israel Rotstein, Evgeniy Veretennikov, Avner Yonai**

Thank you to all of you very much! Without your help, we will not have Skuleni cemetery information and this report.



The Monument to the Rav Israel Avraham (Portugal) son of Chayim Yehudah and other members of the community. See translation below



*On the top stone:*

In this sacred ground was interred and here is located the resting place of  
the Rav, the Ga'on, the Chasid  
**Rav Israel Avraham (Portugal) son of Chayim Yehudah (of blessed memory),**  
**The Rav of this Holy Congregation of Skulyan,**

who passed away on Lag B'Omer 5675 (May 1-2, 1915).

He left behind many original commentaries on the Torah, which  
were published in the book **Shem VeShe'erit Yisra'el**  
by his son, the Rav, the Ga'on, the Chasid,  
**Rav Eliezer Zusya, (Portugal, 1898-1982), of blessed saintly memory,**  
who succeeded his father and served as the Rav of this Holy Community, and who became  
known to the world by the name **the Skulyaner Rebbe.**

When the Jews here were forced to leave and all of the Matzrvot (monuments) were destroyed, it  
became impossible to identify his precise place of internment. This spot is the best  
approximation that we can make as to the location of his final resting place. In his memory this  
Matzeva has been erected by his grandson the current Skulyaner Rebbe (Long Life to Him) with  
the assistance of members of his community.

May His Soul Be Bound Up in the Bundle of Life

*On the bottom stone:*

Erected in honor of the people of Skulyan who are interred in this sacred ground.  
Because the monuments were destroyed when the local Jewish population was  
rounded up, both their names and their precise place of burial could not be determined.

And among them the location of the grave of the righteous  
**Rebbetzin Mrs. Leah Reizel**, daughter of **the Holy Ga'on, Rav Chayim of Satanov**  
(of Blessed, Righteous Memory);  
a woman of valor and the crowning glory of her husband, the Ga'on and Chasid, Our Teacher  
**the Rabbi Israel Avraham**, head of the Beit Din of this Holy Community.  
She died on the 20th of Adar.

As an eternal memory are inscribed below the names of her descendants who were murdered  
during the years of rage, and whose place of burial is not known.

They are - **R. Yehudah; R. Yaakov; R. Chayim; R. Aryeh; R. Yeshaiah;**  
**Sarah; Batiah; Batsheva; Rivka; Eidel;** and their families.

May Their Souls Be Bound Up in the Bond of Life

*Translated by Nathen Gabriel and*  
*Cantor Ariel Finkelstein*



Field where the cemetery once stood.



The Monument





Parts of the monument:



Part of tombstone of Itskhak. See the ornamentation.





Several inscriptions put together...





Several pieces of inscriptions found near river Prut in Skulayni area













