

The Old Jewish Cemetery of Raskov (Rashkov)

Before 1917 Rashkov was part of the Olgopol uezd, Podolia gubernia of the Russian Empire. Now it is part of the Republic of Moldova, Transnistria region.

Старое Еврейское Кладбище, Рашков, Молдова

Final report, Yefim Kogan, September 30, 2016
Translation and decipher by **Nathan Gabriel** and **Avi Bitron**

The project was started by JewishGen, Bessarabia SIG in 2017. The photography was taken by **Serghey Daniliuk**, a resident of Kaushany, Moldova who photographed many Jewish cemeteries in Bessarabia and Moldova for Bessarabia SIG



You can see TWO Jewish cemeteries in Rashov on this Google map

3,201 Jews lived in Rashkov in 1897 from a total population of 5,823. 4 Jewish businesses were found in the Klyachkin directory of 1901, and 13 Jewish businesses were in Rashkov in 1913.



Rashkov on the Google map of Moldova. See close by to the North – Camena, to the South Rybnita, to the West – Floresti, Beltsi, to the South – Orhei, Kishinev.



The gates to the Rashkov Old Jewish Cemetery

According to the report “[Jewish Heritage Sites and Monuments in Moldova](#)”, created by the United States Commission for the Preservation of America’s Heritage Abroad, 2010, Rashkov was one of the oldest Jewish settlement in Moldova. About 2,000 Jews (50% of the town’s population) lived there before the Second World War. Unfortunately, there is only ONE Jewish cemetery at the Jewish Heritage Sites report. *The following most likely is about the other, newer Jewish cemetery.*

The 20,000-square meter cemetery is surrounded by a ruined stone wall. The cemetery contains more than 5,000 extant gravestones that date from the 18th to the 20th centuries. The site is now deserted and overgrown and more than half of the stones are toppled or broken.

The oldest Jewish Cemetery in Bessarabia/Moldova

390 burial records with **384** photos were sent to JOWBR of JewishGen. More than half of all tombstones are dated 18 century, and the oldest we found from 1724! The latest burial is from middle of 19c. All inscriptions are written in Hebrew, and some with beautiful writings and ornamentation. There are also 308 images of [Unknown Graves at Rashkov Old Jewish cemetery](#).

Because of so old graves, some geo-history needs to be described here.

Rashkov was under **Poland** until 1793. This is not a mistake. The region of Podolia became part of Russian Empire after Second partition of Poland in 1793, see the map on next page.

That means that about half of the graves in that cemetery are from Poland period.



Partitions of Poland:

1772; 1793 and 1795

See Rashkov on the map in the far South.



From Samuel Gruber's Jewish Art & Monuments. Rashkov Jewish Cemetery

This photo is most likely taken from the Rashkov Old Jewish cemetery

<http://samgrubersjewishartmonuments.blogspot.com/2011/05/moldova-first-survey-of-moldova-jewish.html>

Thanks a lot, to **Nathen Gabriel and Avi Bitron** for translation work and deciphering many writings.



In Rashkov the impressive Baroque-style synagogue, built in 1749, is only a ruin with its outer walls and part of the Aron ha-Kodesh (Holy Ark) intact.



This synagogue – even in its ruinous state – is architecturally the most impressive Jewish building in Moldova.



Overview of Rashkov and Vad-Rashkov on two sides of Dniester River



Overview



Fence

Corner at the cemetery



Oldest graves at the cemetery



Zavdi? ben Ya'akov

Shabbat, 11th of
Kislev, 5496

(Saturday, November
1735)

(#1017)



Beila bat Ya'akov

11th of Tishrei,
5485

(September 28,
1724)

(#726)

Two beautiful tombstone writings



Beila bat Asher

Yom Kippur, (?)

(#424)



**Yitzchak ben
Alexander HaKohen**

21st of Tevet?, 555(4?)

(December 24, 1793)

(#558)

*Imagine how the stones
will look after cleaning
and restoration?!*