

# The Cemetery of Volontirovka (Volintiri)

Before 1917 **Volontirovka** was a shteitle in Akkerman Uezd in Bessarabia gubernia of the Russian Empire. Now it is part of the Ștefan Vodă District of Moldova

Волонтировка кладбище,  
Волонтировка, Молдова

Final report, Yefim Kogan, Апрель 30, 2019

Translation was done by members of Bessarabia SIG.



Introduction ..... 2

Address and coordinates: west side of the town, coordinates: 46°25'56.8"N 29°35'45.3"E ..... 2

Jews in Volontirovka ..... 2

Submitted to JOWBR..... 3

Fragments of tombstones at the cemetery ..... 5

Story from 1938 written by my mother Khinka Kogan (Spivak). ..... 6

A little genealogy for the place Volontirovka ..... 7

**Introduction**

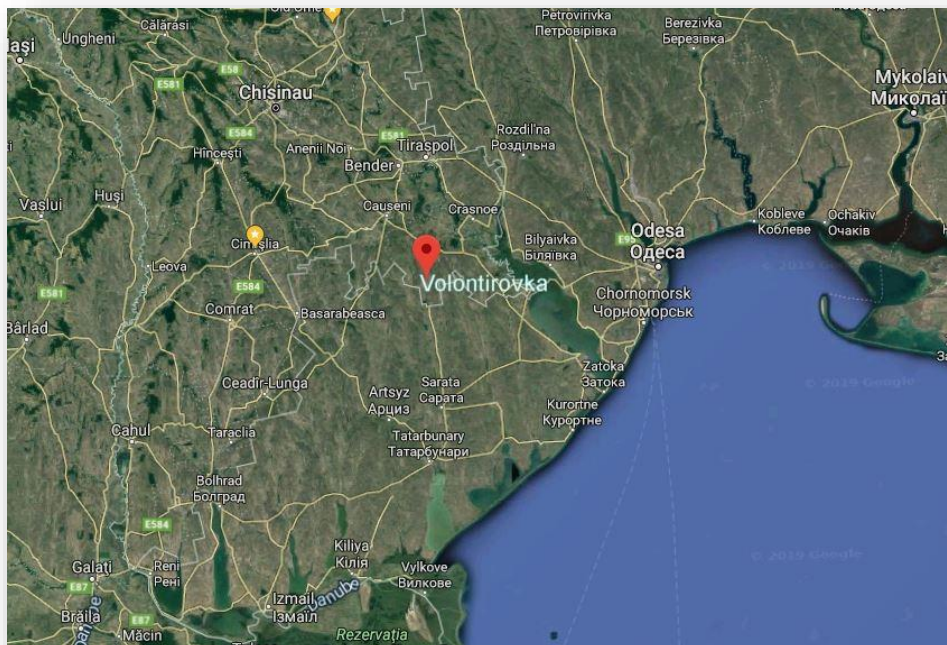
This cemetery was not known to our group until 2019, when Serghei Daniliuk, our researcher and photographer from the town of Causeni, Moldova found this cemetery. The cemetery is practicall destroyed.

**Address and coordinates:** west side of the town, coordinates: 46°25'56.8"N 29°35'45.3"E

**Jews in Volontirovka**

Volontirovka was established between 1824 and 1828 by veterans of the Russo-Turkish war (1806-1812). For more about the town see wikipedia at <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Volintiri>.

30 Jewish businesses were in town in 1924 with total of 10,050 population and 420 Jews lived in Volontirovka in 1930 from total of 6,370.



**Submitted to JOWBR**

There are only 4 records with 4 photos submitted to JOWBR, and from that only one gravestone can be identified.



One stone with a partially remaining inscription:

Azril TOBESH, died in 1930

Unknown grave





Two more unknown graves



Field which used to be the Jewish Cemetery

**Fragments of tombstones at the cemetery**





**Story from 1938 written by my mother Khinka Kogan (Spivak).**

There is no KehilaLink website for Volontirovka, but I have a story. It appears that my mother studied in Volontirovka for part of a year. Excerpt from our Family Book (Yefim Kogan)

**1938**

This happened in 1938. I was in 4th class of the gymnasium (8th grade). Fascism had already been in many countries in Europe, and had come to us. Fascists came to power in Romania, and the director of our school became one of them. The gymnasium back then was part government, part private, so you had to pay twice as much as before. In our class, only 12 students remained - two Moldavians and the rest were Jews.

Once, one boy did something wrong, and they had him stay after for two hours. Out of solidarity, we stayed with him. When the director came by and saw us, he asked "why are you here?" We answered that we just stayed with him. So the directory turned that act into a political one. He yelled "Ah, so you're communists! You'll be expelled." We got really scared, and changed our answers, saying that the

boy asked us to stay because he had a headache. The director still expelled us for a week, first questioning all of us separately, like criminals. The chairman of Parents' Committee, doctor Feldman stood up for us - he's the father of Ozia Fledman, the professor from Moscow, whom you know. After that, we were taken back, but soon the school was closed due to financial troubles, and we were left overboard. Everyone went their separate ways, and some stopped studying altogether. I moved to another township - Volontirovka, near Kaushan. Right around Purim, fascism was overthrown - the Soviet Union put forth an ultimatum that if Romania didn't get rid of the fascist party, the Soviet Union would move into Bessarabia.

Thus it continued until June 29, 1940, at which point we were "freed." That's the sort of uneasy youth we had, and it was great.

### **A little genealogy for the place Volontirovka**

Searching the JewishGen database (Romanian/Bessarabia) I found 6 foreign Jewish families living in that town. The Special List of Foreigners (only men) of 1875 listed families from Austria, Turkey, Moldova Principality (Romania) and Persia in Volontirovka. If you do a search at the Romania (Bessarabia) database and search by "Any field" put "VOLONTIR" (that would be better, because of difference in spellings) you will see all these 6 foreign families, as well as 30 Jewish businesses in 1924 and more.

If you know Jews who lived and died in Volontirovka, please let me know and their names will be added to the burial registry.

Yefim Kogan

[yefimk@verizon.net](mailto:yefimk@verizon.net)