Transnistria.
History, Population, and Resources

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From Tiraspol Uezd to Modern Day Transnistria

Tiraspol Uezd
1795

- ***Tiraspol***
- ***Dubossary***
- ***Grigoriopol***
- ***Slobodzeya***

Transnistria Governorate
1941-1944

- ***Tiraspol(incl. Slobodzeya)***
- ***Dubossary (inlcl. Grigoriopol)***
- Mogilyev
- Jugastru
- Tulchin
- Rybnitsa(Including Kamenka)
- Balta
- Ananiev
- Golta
- Ovidiopol
- Odessa
- Berezovka
- Ochakov

Modern Transnistria
1992- Present

- ***Tiraspol***
- Bendery
- ***Dubossary***
- ***Grigoriopol***
- Kamenka
- ***Slobodzeya***
- Rybnitsa
- Rashkov

Tiraspol Uezd

■ **History**

❖ 1792-1795: Tiraspol was a part of *Ochakovskiy region*

❖ 1795-1797: Tiraspol, along with the Balta and Olgopol Uezd, was a part of *Voznesensky Governorate*. Around this time, Tiraspol became the center of *Tiraspol Uezd*.

❖ 1797-1802: *Tiraspol Uezd* was a part of Novorossiyskiy Governorate that was created by Pavel the First. Included towns such as Odessa, Balta, Dubossary, Ovidiopol, and Grigoriopol

❖ 10.8.1802- 5.15.1803: *Tiraspol Uezd* was a part of *Nikolaevsky Governorate,* which was created by Alexander the First. In 1803, it changed from Nikolaevsky to *Khersonskiy Governorate*.

❖ It is unknown, however, what Gubernia the *Tiraspol Uezd* was under during 1802-1806.

❖ In 1806 the *Tiraspol Uezd* became part of the *Khersonskiy Governarate*.

Map of Voznessensky Namestnichestvo

Tiraspol Uezd *Continued*

- When Odessa Uezd was formed during the period of 1825 to 1827, it acquired *Tiraspol uezd territory*, while *Tiraspol Uezd* acquired portion of *Olviopolskiy Uezd* land.

- In the fall of 1834, the *Tiraspol Uezd* was again divided, and approximately half of its territory became the foundation for the newly established Ananevsky Uezd.

- In 1920, Tiraspol Uezd became a part of *Odessa Governorate* that was isolated from *Khersonskaya Gubernia*.

- In 1923, in connection with the administrative-territorial reform in the Ukrainian SSR, the Tiraspol Uezd was abolished. Its territory was included in the Odessa district, which included the formation of the Tiraspol district

- In 1924, a significant part of the former Tiraspol district, as well as the territory of the Baltsky district, a number of settlements of the Tulchin district of the Ukrainian SSR, were transferred to the newly created Moldavian Autonomous Socialist Soviet Republic (MASSR). MASSR existed until August 2, 1940.

Kvass Seller beginning of 1920s

Transnistria Governorate 1941-1944

- Transnistria Governorate was an administrative-territorial unit, formed by the Romanian authorities in some of the Ukrainian SSR regions and the left bank of the Moldavian SSR.

- By Antonescu's decree the administrative center of Transnistria was Tiraspol (before 10/16/1941) and then Odessa (after 10/16/1941)

- Transnistria was divided into 13 counties

- Established on August 19, 1941 and liquidated by Soviet troops on March 20, 1944 during Dnieper-Carpathian strategic offensive operation

- In total, about 93,000 Jews survived in Transnistria, including about 14,000 Bessarabian and 50,000 Romanian Jews. At least 220,000 Jews were exterminated on the territory of Transnistria.

AXIS EASTERN CAMPAIGN: TEMPORARY ROMANIAN GAINS IN 1941-44

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- Romanian territory regained from the USSR in 1941 and lost again in 1944
- Ukrainian territory assigned to Romania by Germany in 1941 and lost in 1944
- German-occupied Ukrainian territory (1941 - 1944)
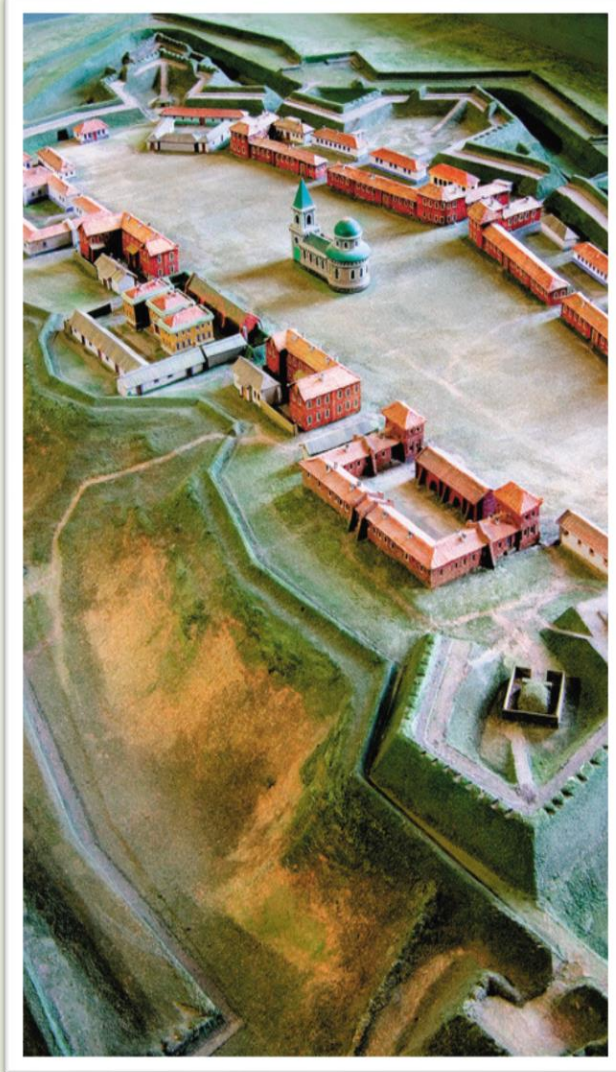
Modern Day Transnistria

- In the late 1960s - early 1970s, the policy of the Soviet Union towards repatriation to Israel softened and Jews started immigrating to Israel. From 1969 to 1975, about 100 thousand repatriates from the USSR arrived in Israel.

- In 1981-1986, there was a decline in Aliya due to the tightening of migration policies, as well as emigration

- When M. Gorbachev came to power in the USSR, the procedures for emigration from the USSR were eased. In October 1989, the US government imposed restrictions on the granting of refugee status to immigrants from the USSR.

- The sociopolitical conflict that began in Soviet times (1989) was aggravated after Moldavia gained independence and developed into an armed confrontation, which led to numerous casualties in 1992. Military operations were stopped after military intervention by Russia. During this conflict, the majority of the Jews remaining on the territory immigrated to Israel.
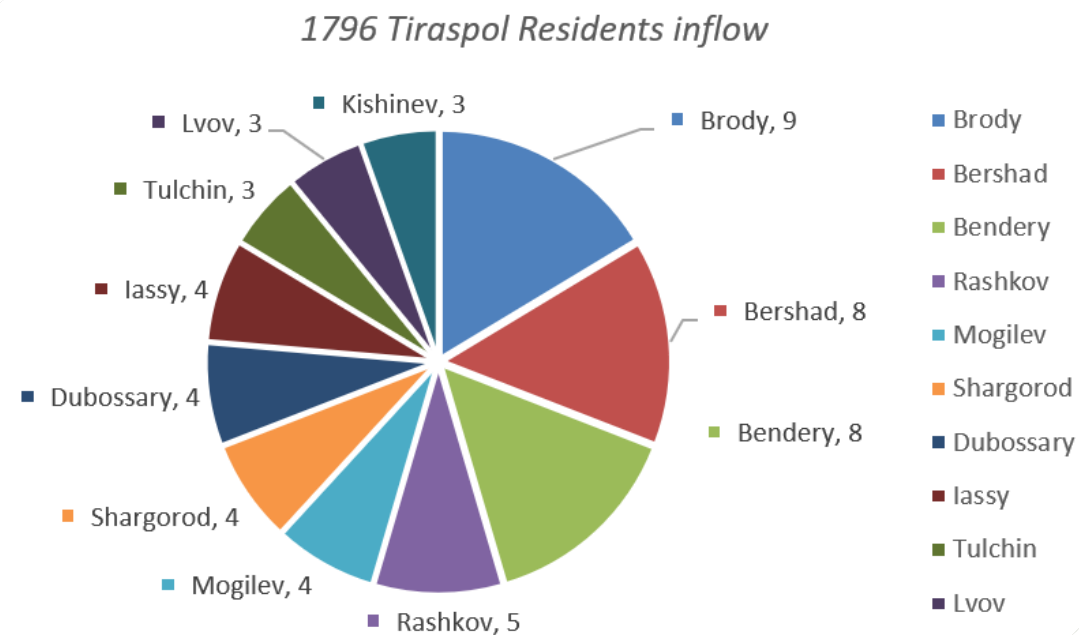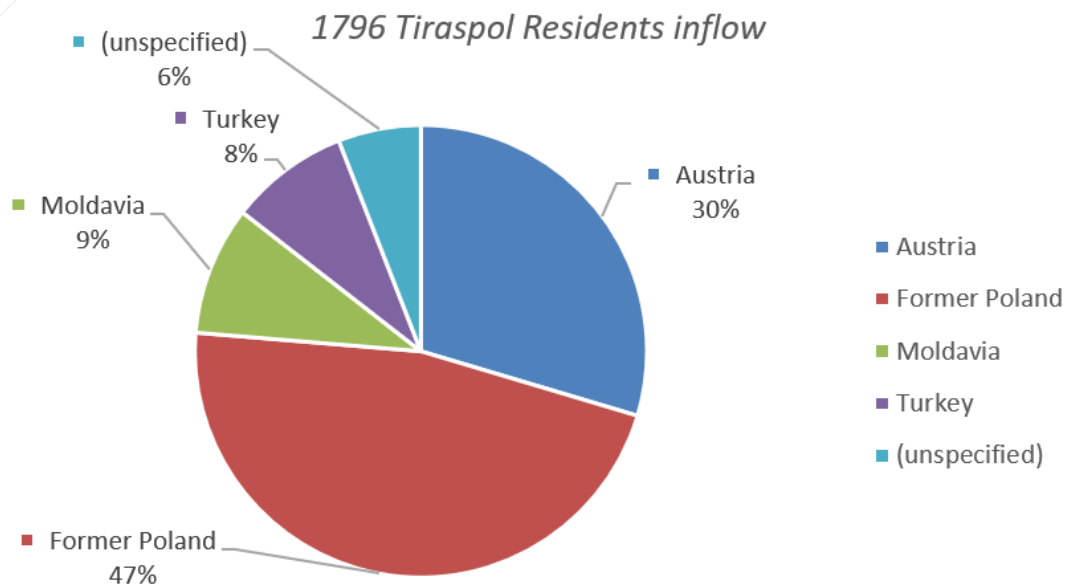
Tiraspol

History

❖ Built in 1973 by order of Catherine II . The Tiraspol fortress was raised on the left bank of the Dniester river. At the site of the present Tiraspol was a Moldovan farm of 6 small houses, whose residents were engaged in fishing.

❖ Since it was located on a large river and on the main route from Bessarabia, it was quite a significant city and a great strategical object allowing to defend the border of Russian Empire.

❖ Tiraspol had a significant grain trade, concentrated almost exclusively in the hands of the Jews. The city had several churches, a synagogue, musk and female gymnasia and more than a dozen other schools, two libraries, bookshops and several printing houses.

❖ In 1835, Tiraspol fortress was abolished, but the city continued to grow, now as a center of the Tiraspol Uezd, it was performing mainly administrative and commercial functions.

❖ City Tiraspol in 1849 was the town of Kherson Gubernia, on the left bank of the Dniester. Tiraspol had 6436 inhabitants, 740 houses, 2 synagogues, county government offices, etc.

❖ City Tiraspol in 1896: the county town on the left bank of the Dniester River had 2 synagogues, 4 Jewish prayer houses, 2 Jewish prayer schools, 1568 families, 19176 residents.

❖ In 1926, 6398 Jews lived in the city (29% of the population), there were several synagogues and two Jewish schools in the city.

Architectural Model of Tiraspol Fortress
Source: http://www.palamar-photo.com/
Author: A. Palamar

Jewish Migration to Tiraspol

1796 Tiraspol Residents inflow

- Austria — 30%
- Former Poland — 47%
- Moldavia — 9%
- Turkey — 8%
- (unspecified) — 6%

Legend:
- Austria
- Former Poland
- Moldavia
- Turkey
- (unspecified)

1796 Tiraspol Residents inflow

- Brody, 9
- Bershad, 8
- Bendery, 8
- Rashkov, 5
- Mogilev, 4
- Shargorod, 4
- Dubossary, 4
- Iassy, 4
- Tulchin, 3
- Lvov, 3
- Kishinev, 3

Legend:
- Brody
- Bershad
- Bendery
- Rashkov
- Mogilev
- Shargorod
- Dubossary
- Iassy
- Tulchin
- Lvov

Tiraspol *Continued*

- **Holocaust**
  - ❖ During the Nazi occupation, most Jews were killed or deported to death camps. After the war (1959), the only remaining synagogue was closed.
  - ❖ From the interrogation record of one of the residents of Tiraspol: since I lived in a house located near the road on which the Germans took Soviet citizens to the execution, I personally had to see that children from 3 to 5 years old were taken to the place of execution along with their mothers, teenagers and elderly. In total about 1,200 people were taken out and shot in the garden of the Agricultural Institute of Tiraspol. The execution was taking place during the day and night. We could hear the sounds of shootings. The territory of the Institute was cordoned off by the German guards, and no one was allowed to leave their houses even go to their own backyards.

- **Resources for Researchers:**
  - ❖ Tiraspol Jewish Cemetery and Dalnee Cemetery (Completed)
  - ❖ 1796 Revision List (Completed)
  - ❖ 1858 Additional Revision List (Completed)
  - ❖ Tiraspol Zionist (Completed)
  - ❖ Tiraspol KehilaLinks Website
  - ❖ TirasJew Website in Russian and English
  - ❖ Facebook Group for former and current Jewish Tiraspol Residents
  - ❖ Petitions of Tiraspol Jews to allow them to have a Synagogue in the town.

Jewish Children 19 century

Dubossary

- **History**

  ❖ Dubossary was first mentioned during the period of the Mongol-Tatar invasion (1260-1360). The city was founded in the XIV century as the "capital" of one of the Khan provinces. Dubossary translates from Turkic as "yellow hills".

  ❖ 1360 -1385, it was part of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania.

  ❖ 1385 - 1410, it was a part of Poland.

  ❖ 1410 - 1430 it was again a part of the Principality of Lithuania.

  ❖ In the second half of the XV century, the city was part of the possessions of the Crimean Tatars of the Golden Horde.

  ❖ In 1667 on the map of Poland it was marked under the name "Dobessary".

  ❖ From 1702-1774, according to Turkish, Moldovan, and Russian documents, Dubossary was known as the administrative district, trade and spiritual center of the Dubossary province. The population consisted of Slavic people, Moldovans, Jews, Greeks, and Poles.

  ❖ Dubossary became a part of Russian Empire in 1791 and on January 27, 1795 it was added to Tiraspol Uezd of the *Voznesenskiy Governorate*, and from 1806 to the Tiraspol Uezd of the Kherson Governorship as a provincial city.

Dubossary Yizkor Book

Dubossary *Continued*

- **Population**
  - ❖ The population was engaged in the cultivation of fruits and vegetables, tobacco, fishing, timber rafting. People lived in absolute poverty because of excessive taxes. There were frequent epidemics of cholera, plague, and typhoid with high mortality.
  - ❖ Only in the second half of the XIX century had the economic and social situation of the city's population improved. The economic development of the town was mainly dependent on the sale of grape wine and Dubossary tobacco.
  - ❖ The residents were quite pious. There were 4 Jewish prayer houses and 2 synagogues.
- **Holocaust**
  - ❖ From the end of July 1941, a specially created detachment of the SS men began to sweep Bessarabia, Transnistria and southern Ukraine from Jews. Women, old people and children were driven to Dubbossary. A ghetto was created in the city. Then the Nazis began the immediate elimination of people of undesirable nationality. From September 12 to September 28, according to various estimates, from 6 to 18.5 thousand people were shot.
- **Resources for Researchers**
  - ❖ Dubossary Jewish Cemetery, Old and New Section (Completed)
  - ❖ Dubossary Mass Grave Records (Completed)
  - ❖ Revision Lists and Household Books 1799 (Additional Revision Lists), 1816, 1850, 1858 (Completed)
  - ❖ Household Book of Dubossary residents (1945 - 1948)

Grigoriopol

History

- Grigoriopol was founded in 1792 by the Decree of Catherine II. Armenian settlers were the first inhabitants of the town.

- The Jewish population was 832 in 1897. During the Soviet period there were 796 Jews (about 10%) in 1926, and 562 in 1939.

- By the 1930s Grigoriopol became a significant trading center in the south of Russia. The main demographic of the city's inhabitants were farmers, but there were also traders (primarily tanneries).

- Soviet authority was established here in January 1918. On October 12, 1924 Grigoriopol district of the Moldavian ASSR (Autonomous Socialist Soviet Republic) was formed.

- In 1958, the district was disbanded and divided between the Dubossary and Tiraspol districts. By decree of the Presidium of the Supreme Council of the MSSR of June 21, 1971 Grigoriopolsky district was recreated.

- By the decision of the Supreme Council of the Transnistrian Moldavian Republic, on June 17, 2002 Grigoriopol was given the status of a city.

Holocaust

- Grigoriopol was captured by German and Romanian forces in the beginning of August 1941 during WWII. In September - October of 1941, the Jews were beaten and force-marched to neighboring Dubossary, where they were executed.

Resources for Researchers

- 1858 Revision List (Completed)
- JewishGen KehilaLInks Website
- Grigoriopol Jewish Cemetery

Kamenka

- **History**
  - ❖ First mention of Kamenka was in 1609 and it was called Kamenka of Dniester.
  - ❖ When the left bank of the Dniester was annexed to the Russian Empire in 1793, Kamenka and surrounding villages first were added to the Bratslav Gubernia.
  - ❖ From 1796 - to the Olgopolsky Uezd of the Podolskaya Gubernia.
  - ❖ In 1805, the Wittgenstein couple purchased Kamenka and turned the settlement into one of the most magnificent places in Podolia. There were industrial enterprises - wineries, distilleries and breweries, soap-making and wax-candle workshops, three large mills - all brought profit. Even before the 1917 revolution, the town wasn't provincial even despite its remoteness from cultural centers.
  - ❖ In 1857, trade was developing, in 1860 two new crossings across the Dniester were built and two three-day fairs were opened. Terraces of vineyards are being built. A climatic station was opened in the manor park and cottages were built, where many patients came for treatment during the bathing season and especially the grape season.
  - ❖ During the World War I, the owners of Kamenka resort opened a hospital for people who were injured in battle.
  - ❖ In 1923, the Moldavian Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic was formed and it included Kamenka.
  - ❖ In 1938 Kamenka was transformed into an urban-type settlement.

Kamenka *Continued*

- ❖ On August 2, 1940, Kamenka became a part of MSSR. In 1939-1997, there was a narrow-gauge railway from Kamenka to the Ukrainian Mine, which was then dismantled.

- ❖ Kamensky District was formed on January 10, 1969 by the Decree of the Presidium of the Supreme Council of the MSSR .

- ❖ In 2002, Kamenka received the status of a city and the administrative center of Kamensky District .

Holocaust

- ❖ In July 1941, shortly after the start of World War II, the district became part of Romania.

- ❖ After the war began the rapid restoration of the city and district. And by 1948, the collective and state farms on the left bank had surpassed the pre-war level in all respects. In 1958 Kamensky cannery was built.

Resources for Researchers

- ❖ 1921 List of Jewish refugees at Romanian border (In Progress)

- ❖ Camenca (Kamenka) Jewish Cemetery (Completed)

- ❖ JewishGen KehilaLinks

Rybnitsa

▶ *History:*

❖ The first information about the settlement in the city refers to the first half of the XV century.

❖ In 1793, this territory was transferred to Russia, and from 1797 until the October Revolution Rybnitsa was part of the *Molokish Volost* of the *Balta district* of the *Podolskaya Gubernia*.

❖ At the end of the XIX century, a railway was carried through the city. Since 1893, regular shipping has been established on the Dniester. In 1898, the first sugar factory in the Podolskaya Gubernia was built with the first generator set in the region.

❖ In 1924, Rybnitsa became an urban-type settlement and district center of the Moldavian Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic. In October 20, 1938, Rybnitsa acquired the status of a city.

❖ On December 19, 1962, the city of Rybnitsa was classified as a city of republican subordination of the Moldavian SSR.

Sarcophagus was put in place of mass grave of more than 500 Jews from Rybnitsa ghetto

Rybnitsa *Continued*

▶ *Holocaust*

  ❖ In 1941-42 the Romanian and German invaders brutally tortured the remaining Jewish population of Rybnitsa. A memorial sign was installed on the site of the 500 Rybnitsa residents' executions.

▶ *Population*

  ❖ In 1926, 9,400 inhabitants lived in Rybnitsa (38.0% were Jews, 33.8% were Ukrainians, 16.0% were Moldovans).
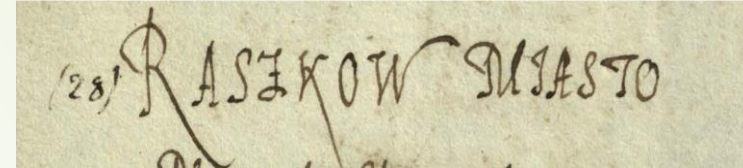
▶ *Resources for Researchers*:

  ❖ 1921 List of Jewish refugees at Romanian border (in progress)

  ❖ Rybnitsa Old Jewish Cemetery (completed)

  ❖ Rybnitsa New Jewish Cemetery, part of Town cemetery (completed)

  ❖ 1875 military census (In progress)

Rashkov

History

- Rashkov is one of the oldest cities, founded in early 1400s as a trading station by the Kalaur Fort on the Dniester River that later outgrew the fort.

- At the end of XVII century, the Polish prince Lyubomirsky who owned Rashkov had to settle his debts and sold the settlement. Eventually, it ended up in Catherine the Great's treasury. Later, Pavel I gave Rashkov as a gift to the Volyn governor Alexei Tutolmin.

- The northern left bank of the Dniester was annexed to Russia in 1793 and Rashkov, and its surroundings, joined the Olgopolsky district of the Podolskaya Gubernia. At the beginning of the XIX century, there were 50 shoemakers, 19 guards, 5 kushnirov (furriers), 4 bakers in the town.

- In the fire of June 12, 1847, the synagogue was seriously damaged, at the same time 93 Jewish houses, a brewery, a merchant's store with bread and Jewish shops burned down. Losses amounted to 40,000 rubles in silver.

- In 1901, there were about 1500 Jewish residents in the settlement. The main occupation of the inhabitants of the town was agriculture and viticulture; many were engaged in trade, crafts. Here they cultivated wheat, barley, millet, potatoes, sugar beets, grapes, tobacco, melons. Gardening was especially developed.

- In 1918, a demarcation line was established between the Soviet Ukraine and Romania along the Dniester river and a frontier post was placed in Rashkov. In 1924, Rashkov as a village became part of the Moldavian Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic.

Rashkov Jewish Cemetery

Rashkov *Continued*

- **Holocaust**
  - ❖ In July 1941, shortly after the start of World War II, the area was occupied by Romanian invaders and included in the governorship of Transnistria.
  - ❖ During the occupation, there were underground resistance groups in the village. In 1942, as a result of organized sabotage, they managed to delay harvesting and distribute part of the bread that was supposed to go to invaders, to local residents instead. In the autumn of 1943, several members of the underground were arrested and shot. The village was liberated in March 1944.
  - ❖ About half of the residents called to the front didn't come back.
- **The synagogue**
  - ❖ In the central part of the village, the walls of the synagogue, presumably built in the middle of the 18th century, are preserved. The rabbi of the Rashkov synagogue was Reb Yakov-Yosef, author of the first Hassidic book Toldos Yakov-Yosef (The Story of Jacob-Yosef), the closest student of Besht, the founder of the Hasidic movement in Judaism.
  - ❖ In the early 1930s. during the anti-religious campaign, the vaults of the synagogue in Rashkov were destroyed. The religious center was moved to the village of Vadul-Rashkov, located on the other side of the Dniester in Romanian Bessarabia.
- **Resources for Researchers**
  - ❖ Rashkov Jewish Cemetery (Completed)
  - ❖ Rashkov Old Jewish Cemetery (Completed)
  - ❖ Possibly some pre 1917 records exist (To be confirmed)

Rashkov synagogue built in 1749

Bendery

➡ ***History***:

❖ First, the town name was mentioned in 1408 in one of document issued by the Moldavian Ruler, Alexander the Good, to Lviv merchants.

❖ In August 1538, the Turkish Sultan, Suleiman the Magnificent, attacked the Moldavian principality. After fierce battles and as a result of betrayal of the boyars, the Turks occupied the whole territory of the country.

❖ During the Russian-Turkish war in 1768-1774, Russian army took the fortress. The fight between two sides happened again in 1787-1792, and Russian army won.

❖ In accordance with the Iasi peace treaty of 1791, the right-bank territory of the Moldavian Principality, together with Bender, again passed into the possession of Turkey. Only later in 1806, Bendery finally retired to the Russian Empire.

❖ On May 16, 1812, the Bucharest peace treaty was signed and Bessarabia, was ceded to the Russian Empire.

❖ By decree of April 29, 1818, it was declared a county town. At the end of 1917, Romanian troops started military invasion into the area and the town was under Romanian government for about 20 years.

❖ On June 28, 1940, Bessarabia became a part of the USSR and Tighina became a part of MSSR.

Bendery *Continued*

- *Holocaust*:

  - ❖ On June 22, 1941, residents of the town started evacuating away from the line of the front. Immediately after the beginning of the occupation, a ghetto was created in the city. At the same time, 58 Jews were shot in the ditch of the Bendery fortress.

  - ❖ On August 31, 1941, Germany and Romania signed an agreement in Bender on the deportation of Jews to concentration camps in Transnistria. For three years, the German-Romanian occupation of the city lasted. Bender were liberated on August 23, 1944 during the Yassy-Kishinev operation.

- *Population:*

  - ❖ In the 19th, early 20th century, the Jewish population of the city increased due to Jews from other parts of the Russian Empire moving to Bendery. In 1857, 3923 Jews lived in Bendery, in 1861 - 4612, in 1897 - 10,654 Jews (33.5% of the total population), in 1910 - 19,937 (34.5%). According to the census of 1930, the community consisted of 8,294 Jews (26.5% of the population).

  - ❖ The Bender Jewish community had a hospital, a nursing home, and a school. In 1910, ten synagogues and prayer houses functioned in Bender.

- *Resources for Researchers:*

  - ❖ Revision Lists (Partially Completed)

  - ❖ Divorce records for town of Bendery 1890 (Completed)

  - ❖ Marriage records for town of Bendery (Completed)

  - ❖ Yizkor book translation: Bendery Community Yizkor Book (Completed)

  - ❖ Bendery Jewish Cemetery (Completed)

  - ❖ Birth records for town of Bendery 1866, 1871, 1874, 1876-1881, 1883, 1884-1906, 1908, 1911 (Partially Submitted)

Questions?