

Tracing Jewish Roots



43rd IAJGS International Conference on

Jewish Genealogy

LONDON 2023

JewishGen Bessarabia SIG Research Meeting

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August 1, 2023

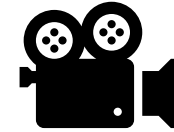
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JewishGen Bessarabia SIG Research

Leader and Coordinator

www.jewishgen.org/Bessarabia

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- Speaker will take questions at the conclusion of the Session.



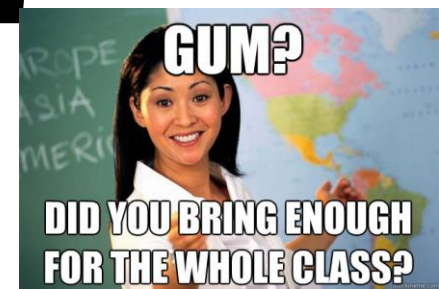
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- Gamification points will be deducted if your phone rings during the Session.



- The Hotel prohibits food or beverages in the Session Rooms.



Bessarabia SIG Meeting

Agenda of the opening session:

- **Where is Bessarabia**
- **Brief geography and history of the region**
- **Bessarabia Special Interest Group (SIG) – history and projects**
- **What data Bessarabia SIG have so far**
- **What are we working in 2023**
- **Our plans for 2023-2025**

Brief geography and history of the region

What is Bessarabia?

And where is it?

Bessarabia on a map of Europe



Bessarabia Special Interest Group (SIG) – history and projects



Bessarabia SIG explores historical region of Bessarabia and part of Moldova Republic which is on the left bank of Dniester River – Transnistria unrecognized territory.

Bessarabia is combination of **Yellow** and **Purple**

Republic of Moldova is combination of **Yellow** and **Green**

Pridnestrovie (Transnistria) is **Green**

Brief geography and history of the region

1812 – Russian Empire occupied this land after Russia-Turkey war and Bucharest agreement.

For more than 100 years it was part of the Russian Empire, and in December of 1917 the area established a national assembly which proclaimed the **Moldavian Democratic Republic**, but in April of 1918 legislative body voted for unification with Romania. It was under Romanian rule until 1940, when it was occupied by the Soviet Union, see Molotov-Ribbentrop pact of 1939.

1941 Romanian and German army invaded the region, until Soviets took it back in 1944. After that Bessarabia was under Soviet Union control, and South and North parts were added to Ukraine Soviet Republic and the rest to Moldova Soviet Republic.

Brief geography and history of the region

Brief history of Jews in Bessarabia

1812 – only 5,000 families or 20,000 Jews lived in Bessarabia. In less than 100 years, in **1897** Jewish population had grown to 225,000, 11.7% of total population.

1903 – pogrom in Kishinev. 47 Jews killed, 424-wounded. In 1903 and 1904 there were **20 pogroms** in Bessarabia towns.

More about Jewish history you may hear in sessions at the symposium or at many articles from the resource guide. Here is one of them:

<https://www.jewishgen.org/Bessarabia/files/HistoryOfJewsInBessarabia15-19c.pdf>

Bessarabia Special Interest Group (SIG) – history and projects

Bessarabia SIG was organized in 2011, at the IAJGS conference in Washington. Before 2011, Bessarabia was part of RomSIG.

About 15 years Bob Wascou (z"l) started and administered a large Bessarabia Vital Records project. We continue to work on this project.

We are receiving Vital records directly from Kishinev, and last batch we received in August of this year: Birth and Marriage records for 1920 and 1921 for Kishinev and Beltsy.

We started many other projects since 2011.

Bessarabian databases

Yefim Kogan
as of May 2023

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|--|---|------------|
| Bessarabia Vital Records | Bessarabia Birth Records | Bessarabia | 104,355 |
| | Bessarabia Marriage and Divorce Records | Bessarabia | 33,712 |
| | Bessarabia Death Records | Bessarabia | 42,639 |
| Revision Lists | Bessarabia Revision Lists | Bessarabia | 256,348 |
| | Tiraspol uezd Revision Lists | Moldova | 7,801 |
| Business Directories | Bessarabia Business Directory 1924 | Bessarabia | 13,144 |
| | Vsyā Rossiya Business Directory for Bessarabia | Bessarabia | 2,618 |
| | 1916 Kishinev Business Directory | Bessarabia | 651 |
| | 1940 Chisinau Commercial Yearbook | Bessarabia | 1,278 |
| | 1901 Klyachkin Business directory | Bessarabia, Moldova | 544 |
| | Jews Involved In Public Life In Bessarabia | Bessarabia | 1,948 |
| Holocaust | Surviving Jews in Bessarabia, After WWII | Bessarabia | 1,782 |
| | Book of Memory - Moldovan Victims of Soviet Oppression 1941-1951 | Bessarabia, Moldova | 3,847 |
| | Răutul Camp Listings | Bessarabia, Moldova | 2,070 |
| | Jews Killed in Dubossary, Moldova / Transnistria | Bessarabia, Moldova | 758 |
| | Leova Mayoral Election List 18 May 1937 | Bessarabia | 1,929 |
| | Mass Deportation from Moldova 13-16 June 1941 | Bessarabia, Moldova | 2,517 |
| | Lists of Romanian Jews from Bucovina and Bessarabia | Romania, Bessara bia, Moldova | 2,420 |
| | The JewishGen Yizkor Book Master Name Index - Bessarabia | Bessarabia | 1,512 |
| | The JewishGen Yizkor Book Necrology Database - Bessarabia | Bessarabia | 5,958 |
| | JOWBR | JewishGen Online Worldwide Burial Registry - Bessarabia | Bessarabia |
| Other databases | Russian Jewish Fallen Soldiers of WWI - Bessarabia | Bessarabia | 1,559 |
| | 1921 Jewish Refugees at Romanian Border | Bessarabia | 445 |
| | Bessarabia Duma Voters List | Bessarabia | 128,148 |
| | Miriam Weiner Routes to Roots Collection: Bessarabia Records | Bessarabia | 4,884 |

Here is a link to this list:

<https://www.jewishgen.org/bessarabia/files/databases/BessarabiaAsOfMay2023.pdf>

Every database has a link to its Introductory pages.

What we did from November 2022 to July 2023

(two uploads to JewishGen database)

Vital records: **2,111** records

Revision Lists: **20,674** records for **4,620** families

Business directory: **1,397** records were added to Vsyā Rossiya Business Directory for Bessarabia

500 records were added to **Jews in Public Life in Bessarabia**

Cemeteries: **Klishkivtsi (old cemetery)** - **77** burial records with **77** images

Kishinev, sector 7, continue working

Beltsy, continue working

Bessarabia Winter Symposium – History, Genealogy, Culture, 13-15 December 2022

[Please see abstracts, short bios of presenters, presentation slides and recordings.](#)

[Comments, Suggestions and feedback for the Bessarabia Winter Symposium.](#)

Thanks to all Volunteers of Bessarabia SIG

We have a terrific group of Volunteers - dedicated people who are working hard on our multiple projects.

Without Volunteers our research and progress would be very limited.

Thank you very much!

What is next for Bessarabia SIG

Revision Lists. Continue translations of Revision lists. We have received another 5 microfilms from FHL in September 2022; and we will receive more.

New records we started to work in July of 2023

- Akkerman
 - Bendery
 - Leovo
 - Kishinev (multiple sets)
 - Rezina
 - Tuzora (Kalarash)
 - Vadu-lui-Vlad
 - Alexandreny
- and more

What is next for Bessarabia SIG

Here is what we received in June of 2023:

1. Family lists of Merchants of Yassy (Beltsy) uezd, 1874... there records for Beltsy and Skulyany
2. Information about foreigners who live in Soroki uezd, 1881
3. List of Jews from Kishinev who did not receive Romanian citizenship, 1939

This one might be of interest to Ukraine SIG

4. Jewish census of out-of-town Jews registered in Bessarabia in 1875 and temporary lived in
 - Balta and Balta uezd of Podolia gubernia
 - Mogilev uezd
 - Tiraspol and Tiraspol uezd, Kherson gubernia
 - Ananiev uezd, Kherson gubernia
 - Odessa uezd,
 - Elisavetgrad uezd
 - Olgopol uezd
 - Taganrog
 - others

What is next for Bessarabia SIG

- **Vital Records.** Complete the translations of Vital records of several towns and districts of Bessarabia records acquired 3 years ago. Start working on a new set of Vital records received in August of 2022: Beltsy and Kishinev of 1919-1921. Find records for more towns in Bessarabia/Transnistria.
- **Archives.** Finding more Jewish records at the Kishinev, Soroki, Czernovits, Kherson archives, and acquire them.

What is next for Bessarabia SIG

- **Cemetery Projects.** Photograph gravestones and index of Kishinev Jewish cemetery, Kalarash Jewish cemetery, Klishkivtsy old Jewish cemetery, Beltsy Jewish cemetery-more sectors
- , and Vertuzheny Jewish Cemetery.
- **Clear Paths Projects** for several cemeteries. Get access to all graves previously could not be reached: Ataki, Alexandreny, Edinets, Zguritsa and others.
- **Destroyed Cemeteries.** Start working on a new initiative – collect names of Jews who were buried in DESTROYED Jewish Cemeteries.
- **Kaushany Destroyed Jewish Cemetery.** Create a list of Jews who were buried in Kaushany. Work is started already.

What is next for Bessarabia SIG

- **Yizkor Books.** Initiate more Yizkor Books translations:
 - **“The Jews in Bessarabia. Between the World Wars 1914-1940”** (Tel Aviv, 1973) – book is half translated! I believe that we have a person who is working on this book
 - **“Upon the Land of Bessarabia; Studies, Memoirs, Articles, Documents and Essays Depicting its Image”** Tel Aviv, 1959. Not translated!
 - Many more books waiting to be translated.
- To accomplish this project, we need to find more volunteer translators from Hebrew.

What is next for Bessarabia SIG

- **KehilaLinks websites.** We have KehilaLinks websites for 19 towns/shtetlakh in Moldova and 7 in Ukraine.
- For many large towns we do not have a KehilaLink website. For example: **Lipkany, Kagul, Rashkov, Vad Rashkov, Soroki, etc.**
- We need a person who will oversees all Bessarabia/Transnistria Kehila Links websites.
- Our Bessarabia/Transnistria region should have at least **100+** **KehilaLinks websites.** If anyone wants to help, please contact me.

What is next for Bessarabia SIG

- **Business Directories.** Find more Business directories for Bessarabia or excerpt information from All Russia Business directories for Bessarabia we did not have yet.
- **Expand Gallery of Famous Jews:**
 - 122 writers
 - 48 Painters, Sculptors, Architects
 - 93 Composers, Singers, Actors
 - 18 Scientists
 - 12 Religious leaders

Any volunteers to continue this work will be much appreciated!

What is next for Bessarabia SIG

- **People's stories.** I am sure that every Jewish family has a story to share. We have only 25 stories at our website. I believe it should be **250** or more.
- **Travel Reports.** We have only 10 such reports.
- **Family Trees.** Only 7 at our website.
- **Emigration from Bessarabia stories.** Only 4.

We need a **volunteer** who will publish such stories and encourage our members to send their stories, travel reports, and family trees to our website.

Thanks to all Volunteers of Bessarabia SIG

As you can see, we have many exciting projects in progress that cannot be accomplished without Volunteers.

If today I have convinced 2-3 new people to come forward to work with us on projects, the conference is a success for me.

Bessarabia SIG Meeting

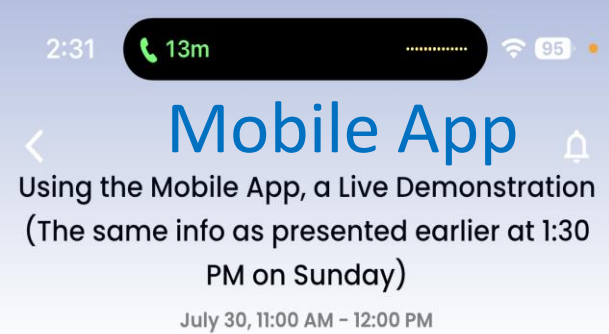
Resources

Main collection of Bessarabia Resources

<https://www.jewishgen.org/bessarabia/files/conferences/2022/BessarabianResources.pdf>

Slides and recordings from Bessarabia SIG Winter Symposium, December 2022

https://www.jewishgen.org/bessarabia/PTM_Article.asp?id=219



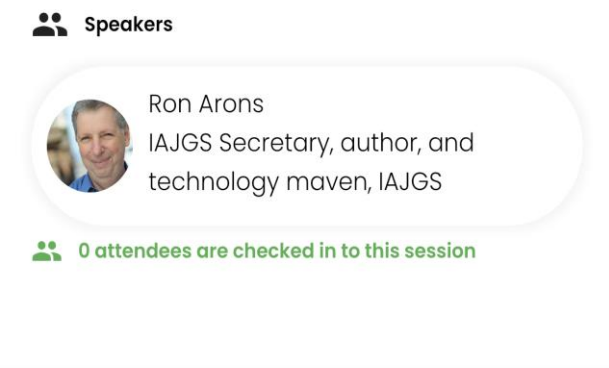
Bessarabia SIG Research Meeting

Q & A

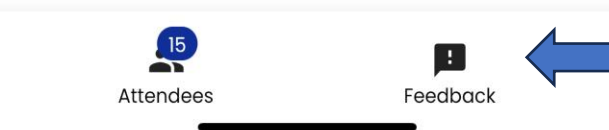
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Attendees Session Feedback Survey



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