Workshop: Researching Your Bessarabian and Transnistria Jewish Roots with JewishGen.org

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Every attendee will use their computer/tablet so they can follow along what we do and try themselves to use JewishGen in various ways.

1. **JewishGen: Login in** *by going to* www.jewishgen.org *and clicking Login to JewishGen in upper right corner.   I hope that everyone is registered with JewishGen.*

Why do you need to register with JewishGen? Jewishgen provides a big advantage for all researchers who are interested in Jewish genealogy; not only does it have a large database for various regions of Eastern Europe, but also its feature known as Family Finder allows you to find and connect with other researchers looking for the same families in the same towns.

*JG Family Finder is the reason I discovered a **large branch of my family**. We were not sure if anyone has survived from this branch. One day **I got a call** from a person in **NY** who said that we might be related - that he saw that I am also researching the same surname in same town, he was interested in. It was almost clear that we are related after our first phone conversation. Our assumption was confirmed when this person came to Boston with a large box contained family photos. Here is how we were related: **my great grandmother's two sisters** left Bessarabia for United States in **1906**! And next 30 years my grandparents were in touch with them and exchanging letters and photographs. In 1940 all communication with Soviet Union stopped, and after the WWII there was no possibility to reconnect. The person who reached out to me in 2006*

suspecting that we are relatives was a grandson of one of these two sisters who immigrated to the United States in 1906. And you can imagine what was in his box full of photos and letters...
So, we are reconnected after 100 years*!*

When registered for JewishGen you need to fill out fields: Surname and/or Town you are researching. You can always update that list... it is part of your Profile, you can find at the upper right corner, at Jewishgen.org.

Here is a partial list of what I put in JGFF

JewishGen Family Finder Surnames/Towns for Yefim A Kogan (#116135)				
Entry	**Surname**	**Town**	**Country**	**Last Updated**
1	Khaimovich	Tarutyne	Ukraine	17 Oct 2010
2	Khaimovich	Causeni	Moldova	14 Sep 2007
3	Khaimovich	Galati	Romania	17 Oct 2010
4	Kogan	Chisinau	Moldova	14 Sep 2007

And more....

2. Searching Family Finder: Steps to follow:
      1) Choose Databases in the menu while you are on the Home Page
      2) Under Databases choose Family Finder (JGFF)
      3) Search the Database
Examples: 1) Search for SRULEVICH in Moldova or 2)town of Bendery or 3)Kogan in town of Kishinev..

2)

JewishGen Family Finder Search

The JGFF search form provides you with several options: search-by-surname, search-by-town, search-by-surname-and-town; and variations of those basic searches using exact spelling, starts-with, contains, and sounds-like matching.

	Surname (phonetic)	▼	:			
	Town (exact)	▼	:	Bendery		
	COUNTRY			Any Country	▼	

Results:

JewishGen Family Finder

Searching for Town (DM soundex) : BENDERY in Moldova

Run on Sat, 12 Dec 2020 13:38:00 -0700

Number of hits: 268
(141 Researchers)

Surname	Town	Country	Last Updated	Researcher (JGID Code)
Abramowitz	Bender	Moldova	Before 1997	Click HERE to contact Debra Abrams Feldman (#1063) Last logged in: November 2004
Kozak	Bender	Moldova	Before 1997	Barry Silver (#1292) Post Office Box 1445 Culver City, CA
Kosick	Bender	Moldova	Before 1997	902321445 United States Click HERE to contact Barry Silver (#1292) Last logged in: April 2020
Gibreych	Bender	Moldova	Before 1997	Laverne Fefferman (#1446) 4433 Granger Street San Diego, CA
Gibrick	Bender	Moldova	Before 1997	92107 United States Click HERE to contact Laverne Fefferman (#1446) Last logged in: before 2004

JewishGen Family Finder

Searching for Surname (phonetically like) : Goldman in Moldova

Run on Sat, 12 Dec 2020 19:23:03 -0700

				Number of hits: 21 (21 Researchers)

Surname	Town	Country	Last Updated	Researcher (JGID Code)
Goldman	Balti	Moldova	Before 1997	Barry Silver (#1292) Post Office Box 1445 Culver City, CA 902321445 United States Click HERE to contact Barry Silver (#1292) Last logged in: April 2020
Goldman	Bender	Moldova	2 Dec 2001	Click HERE to contact Researcher #3955 Last logged in: August 2020
Goldman	Bender	Moldova	18 Mar 1998	Click HERE to contact Paul Eric Rosen (#11719) Last logged in: November 2020

3. What's available at JewishGen?

Before searching for a name, let us find out what information exists at JewishGen! The JewishGen database contains various sources of information about Jews who lived around the world. There is a number of databases that make up one large JewishGen database. In order to find out what

towns and years have been digitized in various databases; one would need to get to the Introductory pages.

Steps to follow:
1. When at the Home Page, click Databases in the menu bar
2. Choose Complete List of Databases
3. Choose Romania/Bessarabia Database

Component Databases:

All Romania:

1942 Census of Jewish Males
Tabele Barbatilor Census of more than 20,000 Jewish men, 1942.

U.S. Consular Post, Bucharest, Romania
Emergency Passport Applications and other items - nearly 1,000 records from the U.S. State Department, 1860-1941.

Jewish Names in Selected U.S. State Department Files, 1910-1929
More than 2,000 entries for Romania and Bessarabia from the Central Decimal Files of the U.S. Department of State, Record Group 59.

JewishGen Family Finder
More than 26,000 entries by Jewish genealogists researching families in Romania and Moldova.

JewishGen Online Worldwide Burial Registry
230,000 burial records in Romania and Moldova, as well as in Romanian landsmanshaft cemeteries.

JewishGen Holocaust Database
325,000 names from various datasets with information about Holocaust victims and survivors.

Yizkor Book Necrologies
30,000 entries from lists of Holocaust martyrs in Yizkor Books for towns in Romania and Moldova.

Yizkor Book Master Name Index
8,000 names indexed from Yizkor Books for towns in Romania and Moldova.

Bucovina (Bukovina):

Basarabia (Bessarabia):

Duma Voters Lists, Bessarabia, 1906-07
128,000 voters in Bessarabia, who were eligible to vote in the Russian Duma elections in 1906 and 1907.

Bessarabia Vital Records
More than 163,500 Jewish birth, marriage, divorce and death records for Bessarabia – primarily for Kishinev (now Chişinău, Moldova), but also for Beltsy (Bălţi), Novoselitsa (Novoselytsia), and other places.

Bessarabia Revision Lists UPDATED
As of July 2020, this collection contains 222,126 records records from *Reviska Skazka* — 19th century Czarist tax censuses - for more than 100 towns, shtetles and colonies, including: Akkerman (Cetatea Albă), Alexandreny (Alexăndreni), Beltsy (Bălţi), Bendery (Tighina), Brichany (Briceni), Khotyn (Hotin), Kishinev (Chişinău), Lipkany (Lipcani), Orgeev (Orhei), Soroki (Soroca), Teleneshty (Teleneşti), and many villages and agricultural colonies.

Bessarabia Business Directory, 1924
More than 13,000 entries for Jewish businesses, in 705 localities in Bessarabia, from a 1924 Romanian business directory.

Chişinău Commercial Directory, 1940
Nearly 1,300 apparently Jewish names among government officials, professionals and owners, listed in a 1940 Chişinău commercial yearbook.

Russian-Jewish Fallen Soldiers of WWI
Data about 1,559 Jewish soldiers in the Russian army from Bessarabia, who were killed or wounded in the First World War.

Jews in Public Life of Bessarabia, 1862-1914 UPDATED
Records of 1,874 Jews listed in the Czarist government's annual "Bessarabia Reference Calendar", "Akkerman Calendar" and "Kherson Calendar", 1862-1914.

Example: 1) let's go to Bessarabia Revision List into Introduction pages... Find out if we have Revision lists for Middle Class Brichany 1854, 1824; Merchants Bendery 1854; 1835?

Bendery - villages	Bendery	1875	From villages. Only men.	#2,377,235	114	42	
Bolotina	Yassy/Beltsy	1835	Baptized Jews	#2,377,251	6	2	
Brichany (kehila)	Khotin	1824	Only Heads of Household	#2,377,247	615	615	
Brichany	Khotin	1848	Middle Class	#2,361,561	5,837	599	
Brichany	Khotin	1849	Additional	#2,361,561			In progress
Brichany	Khotin	1850	Additional	#2,361,561	9	2	
Brichany	Khotin	1851-53	Additional	#2,377,248	8	1	
Brichany	Khotin	1854	Middle Class	#2,373,296	5590	582	
Brichany	Khotin	1854	Merchants	#2,373,296	68	15	
Brichany	Khotin	1859	Middle Class	#2,375,782	6,165	656	
Bricheva	Soroki	1854	Colonists	#2,377,241	457	45	

4. JOWBR (JewishGen Online Worldwide Burial Registry)

This database contains burial records. In order to find out if records exist for a specific cemetery in Bessarabia, **here are steps we need to do: (check cemetery in Bendery and Izmail)**

1. Click on Databases in the menu
2. Choose Burial Registry (JOWBR)
3. Click on Content of the Database. (JOWBR Cemetery Inventory)

Here is direct link: https://www.jewishgen.org/databases/Cemetery/tree/CemList.htm Keep in mind that Bessarabia cemeteries could be found in TWO current countries: Moldova as well as Ukraine!

4. Click on Country: Moldova
5. Region – Bessarabia
6. Town - Bender. This cemetery is one of the best-preserved Jewish cemeteries in Bessarabia.
7. Ukraine -> Bessarabia -> Izmail.

You can find these cemeteries reports, where you get information if the whole cemetery was photographed or only part of it, or if not, the whole cemetery was indexed, etc.

Kishinev Jewish Cemetery is only partially photographed and indexed.

Comments:

Specifics for the Burial records: *Before 1940 many of the tombstone inscriptions did not have Surnames!! You need to search by First name, possible father's name, and year of death.*

Exercise: Search for Mordekhai in Bendery Cemetery, Moldova, using JOWBR at JewishGen. If you search for Mordekhai in any cemeteries in Bessarabia, you get 1,617 hits, but if you know a town person was buried, like Bendery, you get only 103 hits.

5. Simple Search – find all records with the Surname SRULEVICH in BessarabiaDB

1) Go to Databases / Complete List of databases / Romania/Moldova /
2) The JewishGen Romania Database
3) Type Surname you want to research – SRULEVICH
4) Search Type should be "Sounds Like" most of the time
5) Region - choose Bessarabia
6) Press Search the JewishGen Romania Database

Here are the results of this search:

The JewishGen Romania Database

198 total matches found

Surname (phonetically like) : SRULEVICH in Bessarabia Run on Tue, 08 Dec 2020 06:41:58 -0700	
Description	**Press the Button to view the matches**
JewishGen Family Finder →	List 1 record
Bessarabia Business Directory 1924 →	List 3 records
Bessarabia Revision Lists →	List 52 records
Bessarabia Duma Voters List →	List 22 records
Bessarabia Birth Records →	List 52 records
1940 Chisinau Commercial Yearbook →	List 1 record
Bessarabia Death Records →	List 32 records
Bessarabia Marriage and Divorce Records →	List 28 records
JewishGen Online Worldwide Burial Registry - Bessarabia →	List 7 records

If you click on the left side you will be taken to the Introductory pages of that database, on the right side you will find all relevant hits. You can narrow down search if you include the town or given name.

In order for a researcher to search using multiple filters, i.e. Given name, Town, etc. you need to use "Advanced Database Search" and such search is only available for contributors to JewishGen or any Bessarabia projects of total of $100.

Let's do a JewishGen Unified Search for SRULEVICH...

Example: Show a search for a surname SPIVAK in town of Kishinev

6. ==Try Simple Search:== find any one of the surnames you are researching. Ask questions if you have...

7. ==Advance Search==:
   Find records in Lithuania DB where people lived, registered or were born in Kishinev.
   Lookup **Revision Lists**, **Marriage/Divorce registry**, Tax and Voters Lists, Burial Registry and **Lithuanian Internal Passport**

   Find all records in ANY database with "Any field" **ORGEEV**

8. ==How to find copies of the original records at familysearch.org.== Not all records that are contained in the Jewishgen databases have been microfilmed. You would find out whether your record was microfilmed by checking the far-right column. Some records have a link attached to the microfilm number and all you need to do is to click that link. Others unfortunately, won't take you to the right place so you will need to do some legwork in order to locate the right record.

Searching for Surname (phonetically like) : STUDINOVSKY AND
Givenname (phonetically like) : GERSH-LEYB
3 matching records found.
Run on Tue, 08 Dec 2020 20:27:26 -0700

Marriage Place (Town / Uyezd / Gubernia)	Marriage Date (D/M/Y) Hebrew Date	Groom Name BrideName	Groom Father Groom Mother Place Bride Father BrideMother Place	Groom Age Bride Age	Comments	Rabbi Witness1 Witness2	Place Recorded Year Recorded	Record Type #	Microfilm # Item # Frame# Image # Fond
Kishinev / Kishenev / Bessarabia	15/1/1903 29 Tevet	**STUDINOVSKIY**, Gersh-Leyb / Tzvi Leib **SHEYNFELD**, Khana	Gamsha (?) / Yehoshua (-) Tiraspol Khana Kishinev	25 22	Bachelor, townsman, dismission card of Bendery 132-nd detachment , # 126. Maiden, townswoman. Dowry- 48 silver rubles paid.	KHASILEV Sh. KHAYKIN S.	Kishinev 1903	Marriage 26	2292611 5 8 8 NARM 211/11/403

9. Bessarabia SIG Website

The website can be accessed at www.jewishgen.org/bessarabia
You need to register at the JewishGen Discussion group in order to get emails on the area of interest. It might be all emails or only related to Bessarabia, or only Ukraine, or both.

The site has a ton of information about towns and shtetls, each of the town pages has invaluable information. The site has a number of databases, which are not part of main JewishGen databases; it contains a lot of photographs, memoirs, family trees, etc.

Most important places at the Bessarabia site:

  i.   Articles on History of Jews in Bessarabia
  ii.   People's memoirs, People / People stories, Travel reports, etc.
  iii. Maps
  iv.   Bessarabia Geographical Dictionary
  v.   List of towns and shtetls, where Jews used to live and conduct business
  vi.   Miriam Weiner Collection
            1. Get an alphabetical list of all Surnames in this collection
            2. Search for a surname and or town

KehilaLinks

Questions?

All about Bessarabia towns, people, records, etc.