

The Jewish Cemetery of Briceni

Before 1917 Briceni was part of Khotin district of Bessarabia gubernia of Russian Empire.

Now it is part of Republic of Moldova.

Еврейское Кладбище, Бричаны, Молдова

Final report, Yefim Kogan, June 30, 2019



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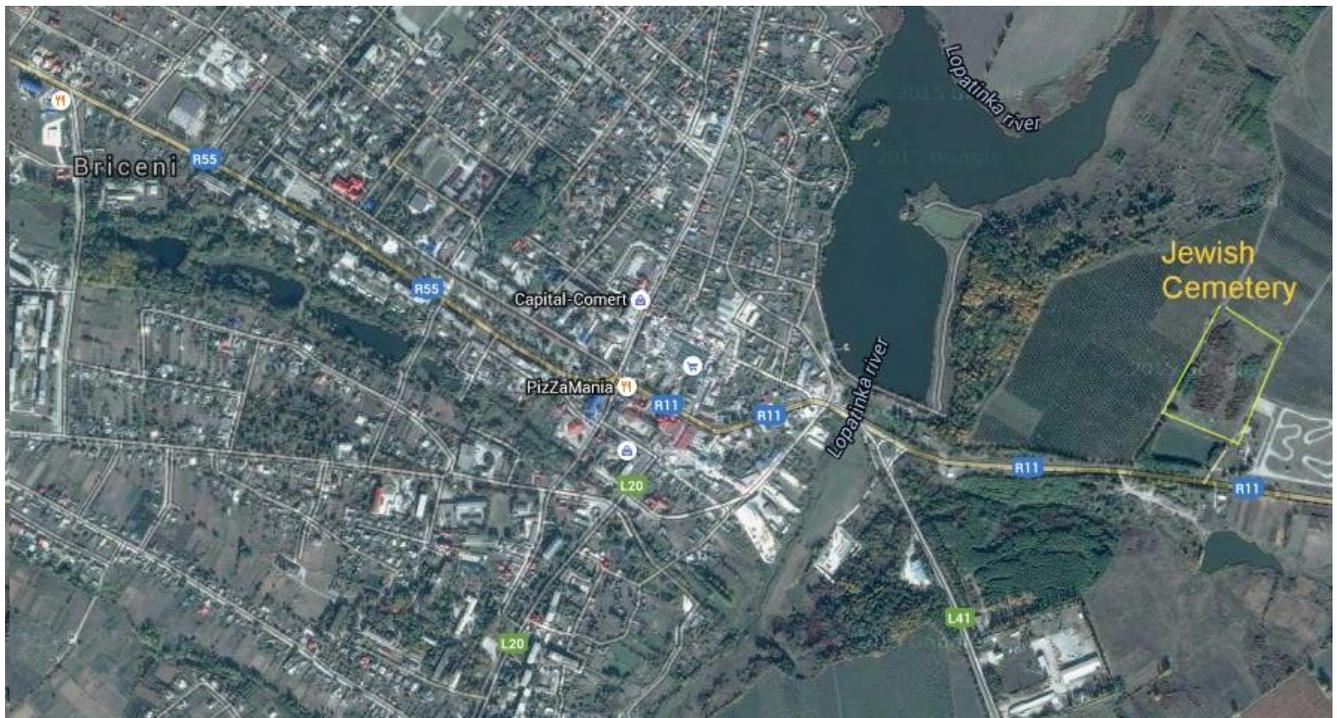
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Introduction

This is a three Phase Briceni Cemetery project. The last final Phase 3 was completed in June of 2019. All the tombstone were photographed by **Serghey Daniliuk**, a resident of Kaushany, Moldova who photographed many Jewish cemeteries in Bessarabia and Moldova for Bessarabia SIG. The details of each phase, see below.

Location, address, maps

Address of the cemetery: East from the town, not far from Rt.11. See it on the Google map below:



The Jewish Cemetery of Brichany at the Russian Map of 1846-1863



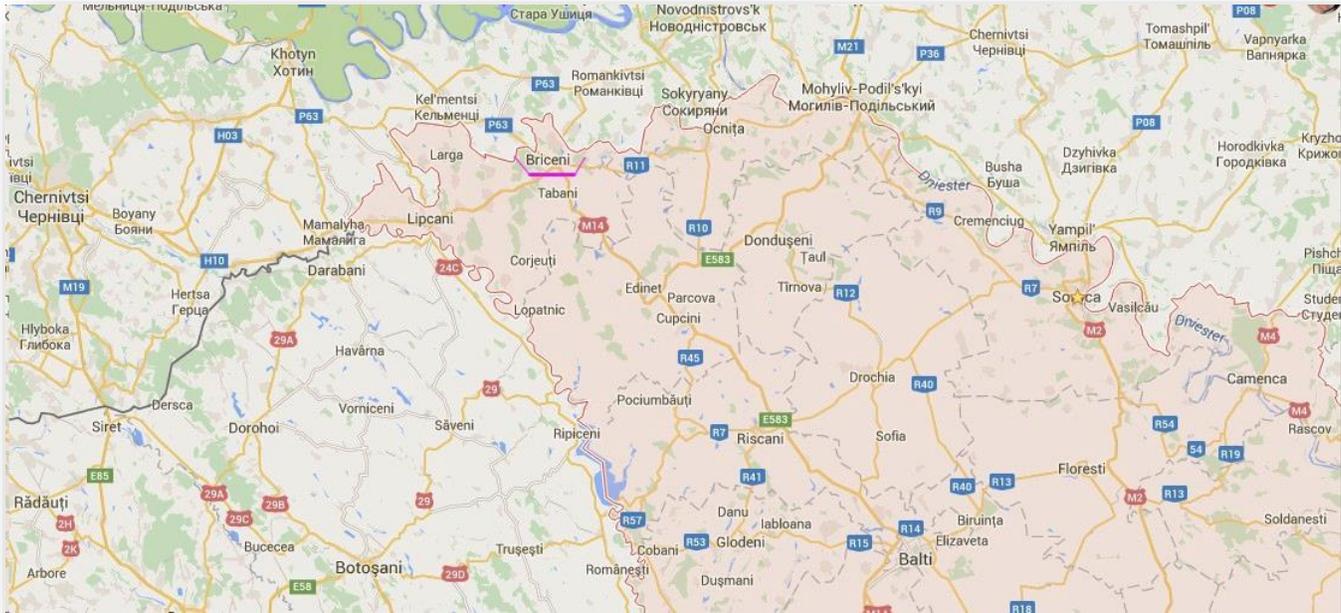
See the whole map at

[http://www.jewishgen.org/Bessarabia/files/maps/NewMaps/26-5%20-%20Khotin%20Ataki%20\(near%20Khotin\)%20%20Brichany.png](http://www.jewishgen.org/Bessarabia/files/maps/NewMaps/26-5%20-%20Khotin%20Ataki%20(near%20Khotin)%20%20Brichany.png)



Sections of the Brichani Jewish cemetery after Phase 2.

These sections were cleared of trees and bushes and photographed in Phase 3.



See the North section of Moldova at the Google Map. Briceni is on the border with Ukraine. Close by town at the border with Romania - Lipcani (15 miles), Chernivtsi is to the West of Briceni, Mogiliv-Podoski (33 miles) at the East, Edinets (17 miles), Balti is to the South-East of Briceni.

7,184 Jews lived in Rezina in 1897 from total of 3652 residents, 179 Jewish businesses were in town in 1924 and 2889 Jews lived in Rezina in 1930.

[From the United States Commission for the Preservation of America's Heritage Abroad](#)

According to the report "[Jewish Heritage Sites and Monuments in Moldova](#)", created by United States Commission for the Preservation of America's Heritage Abroad, 2010, *The cemetery, which occupies an area of about 5,000 square meters, is still in use, but it is poorly maintained. There are more than 500 extant gravestones, some dating from the 18th century. The cemetery is surrounded by a broken fence that needs to be restored. More than a quarter of the stones are toppled or broken, and significant amounts of vegetation cover the site.*

Phase 1

Phase 1 of the project was a translation of cemetery registry pages from Briceni cemetery and was done by **Claire Stuart** and myself and completed in 2013. **286 burial records** from 1941-1987 were sent to JOWBR. After Phase 2 was completed 165 records from 286 were connected to the photos, but 121 burials were not and these names are remaining in the burial database without photo. For them the Plot # is 60 (we do not know exactly where they were buried).

Phase 2

Phase 2 – the current project was started in 2014, the photographs were taken by **Serghey Daniliuk**.

2537 burial records with 2360 photos of the tombstones uploaded to JOWBR. Also there are **143** Unknown graves, which can be accessed at the Bessarabia SIG / Cemetery section or directly at [Unknown Brichani Cemetery graves](#).

Language of the inscriptions: Russian and Hebrew, about 70% of inscriptions are only in Hebrew.

Dates: Burials in this cemetery are from **1745**. There are 10 burials from 18 century and many hundreds from 19 century. The last burial is from 2011.

Phase 3 – Clearing paths, cleaning and photographing remaining tombstones

The Phase 3 was organized by **Serghey Daniliuk** and accomplished with several people from Kaushany who travelled to Brichany two times to cut the trees and bushes, unearth some of the stones. The project was not to clean each stone or straighten the fallen stones. Such effort will take many hours for each stone, and we can do it later.

A set of tools, chainsaws, cutters were bought for this project, and are going to be used in other Bessarabia Clearing paths projects for Lipkany (already done), Ataki and many more places.

1439 burial records with 1430 photos were uploaded to JOWBR after Phase 3. There are also **237** images added to Briceni Unknown graves. The earliest grave was from 1831, and only a few stone inscriptions were written in Russian, all are in Hebrew.

Total burial records: **3976** burial records with **3790** images now exist for Briceni Jewish Cemetery with **380** images of Unknown graves.

Volunteers

Many **volunteers** worked on the Brichani Cemetery project, translating from Hebrew, Russian, proofreading, deciphering the names which are almost unreadable.

The main HEBREW translator on the project was **Michoel Ronn(?????)**, who spent a lot of time and efforts on the project. **Michoel**, you did a great job, and without you this project could not be finished, our gratitude to you.

Thanks a lot to all translators and proofreaders:

Ala Gamulka
Gary Khusidman
Hershel
Nathen Gabriel

Semion Sukholutskiy

Yoav Kliger

We also grateful from many translators from ViewMate at JewishGen who deciphered some of the unreadable inscriptions:

Avraham Jean-Fraincoise Malthete

David Rosen

Emma Karabelnik

Jo Mintz Seligman

Mageleine Isenberg

Sara Mages

Sheindle Cohen

Shneur Morosow

Thanks a lot to **Ariel Parkansky** for continues help with Hebrew dates conversion, and also to **Debra Storch** for editing the Cemetery Report and finding errors I missed. Many thanks to **Joyce Field** for the set of photos she donated.



Aerial photo of the section cleared and photographed in Phase 3 (2019) by **Serghey Daniliuk**

Photos stitched together

Some graves had inscriptions on two sides of the stones; one in Hebrew and another side in Russian. For these we had to stitch two photos together, like this:



One of the oldest graves



**Z'ev Volf ben
Shimon
HaKohen**

Adar II 5531

**(Feb/Mar-
1771)**

**What's a nice
engraving at
the stone!**

The newest grave



**MIRETSKAYA
Raisa daughter of
Oskar**

**3-Jun-1928 - 4-
Sep-2011**

Graves in the forest

Here is the view on a part of the cemetery



Before using the photo camera, our photographer had to use knife and a chainsaw:







Many stones are toppled or inclined



One of the inclined stones

To see the inscription one need to lying on the ground



Beautiful and clear inscriptions and engravings



Tsvi Arye
ben Khaim

died
26 Sivan,
5672

(11-Jun-
1912)



Khana bat
Yisrael
Mordekhay,
a shokhet

1 Shvat,
5662
(9-Jan-1902)

Amazing engravings



Fragments of a tombstones of a Cohain.



Fragments of a tombstones of a Levite.





Tombstones of the Jews from the tribe of Judah ('Leon')



More Lions at the tombstones





Jews representing the tribe of Naphtali ('deers')





Images from the cemetery



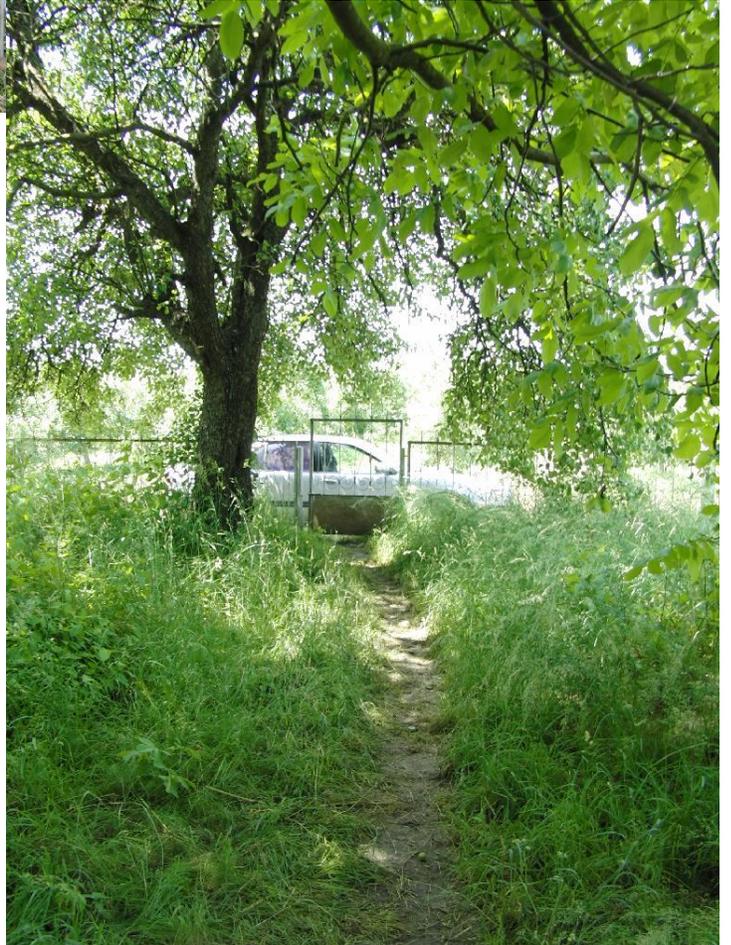






Gate

Path from the gate





Fence for
the part
of the
cemetery



Joyce Field's photos of Brichani cemetery made in 2001





Phase 3 images

Sector before clearing and cleaning paths



And after the paths were cleared

