

Bessarabia SIG

The meeting is open to anyone with roots or interest in the region historically known as Bessarabia, an area now comprising the Moldova Republic and parts of Ukraine. At the end of the 19th century and before the War, Bessarabia had significant Jewish presence. The Bessarabia SIG was organized at the end of 2011 to help people in their Bessarabian genealogical research.

- **Progress Report**
- **New Projects**
- **Projects proposed at Bessarabia SIG Survey**
- **Current connection to Bessarabia**
- **How you can help our Bessarabia SIG**

Progress report.

Research Projects from Bessarabia SIG website:

1. Bessarabia Vital Records. Project Manager – Bob Wascou

New 11,000 records were added for following towns:
Beltsy; Soroki, Izmail, Novoselitsa

2. Bessarabia Revision Lists, Project Manager – Yefim Kogan

New 19,251 records from following towns:
Brichany; Lipkany; Khotin (Merchants and Middle Class)

Need translators!

3. Bessarabia Geographical Dictionary. Project Manager - Harvey Kabaker.

4. The list of people in Bessarabia persecuted by the Soviets during 1940-41. Project Manager - Joel Waters

5. Bessarabia Business Directory, 1924-25. Project Manager - Harvey Kabaker.

COMPLETED! 13,056 Jewish businesses in nine districts and capital Chisinau (Kishinev).

Harvey Kabaker described the new Bessarabia Business Database and how it was extracted from a 1924 publication that surveyed businesses throughout Romania, including the former Bessarabian provinces. He showed where to find html and spreadsheet files on our Web site [<http://www.jewishgen.org/Bessarabia/Databases.html>] and how to use the search function on JewishGen [<http://www.jewishgen.org/databases/Romania/>].

6. Four town translation/transliteration of Cemetery lists

Lipkany, 1940-1992, done by Michael Glazer

Brichany, 1940-1990

Orgeev, 1992-1995

Kishinev, 1979-1988

Need translators!

7. Beltsy cemetery project - photographing and indexing graves.

Phase 1 of the project is **COMPLETED**. 422 graves indexed and photographed.

8. Unknown Photos. *Need a Project Manager!*

9. Create more KehilaLink Website for Bessarabian towns and shteitlakh.

Dubossary, Moldova/Transnistria – Alexandr Ukshteyn

will be ready in august-September, 2012

Camenca, Moldova/Transnistria – Marilyn Feingold

Gathered a lot of material, and will need help to compose a website

Dombroveni, Moldova – Peter Seltser

Brichany existing site *needs a Webmaster to take over and expand, update the site.*

10. Bring sites for the towns and shteitlakh outside of JewishGen to JewishGen

There are good websites outside of JewishGen and some of them are in Russian, which I hope to get translated and bring to JewishGen: Soroki, Beltsy.

Beltsy website is now in Development.

11. Write a guide on how to contact and use Moldavian National Archive.

Need a Project Manager. Hope to get help from Alla Chastina from Kishinev.

Many people at our survey asked to get more information about Moldovan Archive online!

12. Obtain from USC Shoah Foundation institute VIDEO TESTIMONIES OF HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS FROM Bessarabia.

There are about 1000 video testimonies records of holocaust survivors born in Bessarabia. We have obtained 6 such videos: 2 from town of Leova and 4 from town of Kaushany. The price is very high – we paid \$40/video, and now the price is even higher (\$60). *The project may need computer power to hold and manage the video testimonies.*

13. Social Estate of Jews in Bessarabia in 19th century. See text of the lecture from Paris Conference.

14. Migration of Jews to Bessarabia and from Bessarabia. *Need researchers.*

15. Make efforts from the group to translate Bessarabia towns Yizkor books.

Many people at the survey asked to work more on Yizkor Books... but we need your help. Two ways to work on Yizkor books, and we need to use both:

Translated by volunteers or professional (need donations).

Sokiryany – Table of Contents, Introduction and chapter – Milestones in the History of Sokiryany. Project Leader - **Carla Brauer-Lalezari**

Brichany – Table of Contents, Chapter – Personalities, List of Martyrs. Project Leader - **Carla Brauer-Lalezari**

Khotin - Table of Contents. *Need a Project Leader!*

Capresty (Kapreshty) – Table of Content, Map of the town, List of the victims, the Capresti martyrs. Project Leader – **Patricia Klindienst**.

Kiliya – Table of Contents. Project Leader – **Ronald Killian**.

Akkerman and the Towns of its District; Memorial Book – Table of Contents, Necrology. *Need a Project Leader!*

Bricheva, Memorial Book – Table of Contents, several chapters, List of Martyrs. *Need a Project Leader!*

Kalarash. The Book of Kalarash – Table of Contents, List of Figures (photos). The terrible bloody Kalarasher pogrom. Project Leader – **Jerrold Landau**.

Kishinev. The Jews of Kishinev – Table of Contents. *Need a Project Leader!*

Dubossary Memorial Book – the whole book was translated. Project Leader – **Sarah Faerman**.

Dombroveny. Dombroven Book - Table of Contents, Partial Residents’ List. Project Leader – **Dr. Arnold Davidson**

Dombraveny. There Once was a Town - Table of Contents. *Need a Project Leader!*

Edinets. Yad l’Yedinitz; memorial book – Table of Content, many chapters, Picture Index. Project Leader – **Eric Schwartzman**

Leova. Our House in Leova. All translated. Project Leader – **Joel D. Waters**.

Leova. A Town in Eastern Europe. All translated. Project Leader – **Joel D. Waters**.

Lipkany. To Survive and Tell. All translated. Project Leader – **Shalom Eitan** (z”l).

Lipkany. The Community of Lipkany. Table of Contents, several chapters. Project Leader – **Michael Miller**.

Lipkany. Lipkan of Old. Table of Contents. *Need a Project Leader!*

Markuleshty. Memorial to a Jewish Colony in Bessarabia. Table of Contents, Necrology. *Need a Project Leader!*

Novoselitsa. List of Martyrs from Novoseltsy. *Need a Project Leader!*

Novoselitsa. In Memory of Novoselitsa (Bessarabia). Table of Contents, a number of chapters translated. *Need a Project Leader!*

Otaci. Memorial for Ataky. Necrology. *Need a Project Leader!*

Rezina. My Memories and Thoughts. All translated. Project Manager – **Anne Barash**.

Teleneshty. Yizkor Book of the Jews of Teleneshty. Table of Contents, some chapters. Project Leader – **Joyce Field**.

Tighina (Bendery). Bendery Community Yizkor Book. Table of Contents, many chapters. Project Leader – **Gloria Green**.

The Jews in Bessarabia; Between the World Wars 1914-1940 – Table of Contents. *Need a Project Leader!*

Upon the Land of Bessarabia; Studies, Memoirs, Articles, Documents and Essays Depicting its Image. *Need a Project Leader!*

16. Translate sections of Encyclopedia of Jewish Communities in Romania, vol.1, vol.2

From **Encyclopaedia of Jewish Communities in Romania (Volume II)**. 32 towns in Bessarabia.

Leova. Translated by **Joel Waters**.

Kaushany – Noyu. Translated by **Ala Gamulka**.

Tighina (Bendery). Translated by **Ala Gamulka**.

Tarutino. Translated by **Ala Gamulka**.

Lyublin, Soroki uezd. Translated by **Ala Gamulka**.

Cepeleuti, Khotin uezd. Translated **Ala Gamulka**.

Cetatea Alba (Akkerman). Translated **Ala Gamulka**.

Chimishlia, Bendery uezd. Translated **Ala Gamulka**.

Parlita (Pyrlitsa), in progress by **Ala Gamulka**.

Vadu Rasku (Vadul Rashkov), in progress by **Ala Gamulka**.

(22 articles need to be translated!)

From **Encyclopaedia of Jewish Communities in Romania (Volume I)**. towns in

Transnistria, which are now in **Pridnestrovie**:

Dubossary, Project Leader – **Shula Laby, M.D.**

Tiraspol - *Need a translator!*

Rybnitsa - *Need a translator!*

17. Transliterate Landsmanshaften groups records for towns and districts in Bessarabia. Table was created of material available and put on Bessarabia SIG website. Project Leader - **Brooke Schreier Ganz**.

18. American Archives, Libraries. *Need a Project Leader*.

19. Translate graduation records from Kishinev Gymnasium 1872-1882.

Claire Stuart is going to translate records.

20. Yiddish Theatre biographies. Coordinated by **Steven Lasky**, founder and director of the Museum of Family History, and our members who helped with translations.

21. Translation/transcribing of Dubossary Mass Grave Records for almost 3000 Jews killed in 1941. Translated by **Janet Furba**. COMPLETED.

22. Bessarabia and Moldova: A Survey of research materials in libraries and archives in Israel. Project Manager - **Harriet Kasow**.

New projects (not yet added to Bessarabia SIG website):

30. Bessarabia Annual books, 1862-1914. It is a collection of very valuable information on Jews in Bessarabia. I have 23 such available for research and translation. The information include statistics of birth, death, marriages per year, list of Rabbies in towns and shteitlekh, list of people working in Jewish Hospitals, Jewish schools, and more.

31. Acquire other type of records from Moldovan Archive as well Saint Petersburg and Moscow Archives: student records, synagogue records, court records, etc.

32. Improve our Bessarabia SIG website.

Ukraine SIG Webmaster **Ariel Parkansky** offered us software he developed and now implemented at Ukraine SIG website. After initial setting it will allow easier maintenance and support of the website.

Pamela Lucas created a set of clickable maps for Bessarabia SIG, you can see now at <http://www.jewishgen.org/bessarabia/index3.html>

In order to do this, we need to initially set all available data for EVERY towns and sheitl. Need a Project Leader, webmasters.

33. Translate from Russian following articles:

- Jewish Theologians of Bessarabia/Moldova
- Jewish Writers from Bessarabia/Moldova
- Jewish Musicians, Composers from Bessarabia

Need a Project Leader.

34. Bessarabia Jews in Belgium, France, other European countries before the war, during the war

Projects proposed at Bessarabia Survey:

40. Description of day to day life around turn of the century (Did they have Starbucks?) Were there taxis, markets, etc. More descriptions of day to day routine activities on how people lived

41. Index of Jewish Cemeteries.

42. Marriage records

43. More info on "influential" Jewish families of Bessarabia

44. More information on various towns (several people asked that about their small towns).

45. Historic maps of about 20 towns cover various timespans.

46. Have Webinar/conference calls on various topics on Bessarabia.

Current Connections in Bessarabia

- **Jews in Bessarabia and Transnistria**

- Ozias Ukshteyn – director of Dybossary Jewish Community, read his article at Bessarabia SIG website

- Aleksandr Ukshteyn – webmaster for Dybossary website

- Iliya Freidkin – directory of Jewish Community in Rybnitsa

- Vladimir Igelnik - directory of Jewish Community in Bendery

After the conference I received lists of people buried in Bendery Cemetery, and hoping to get the stones photographed, that we could upload all to JOWBR at JewishGen.

- **Local non-Jewish population**

How you can help our Bessarabia SIG

Translate/transliterate records/articles from Russian, Yiddish, and Romanian

Become a webmaster of our site or webmaster assistant or just help to implement the new look of the Bessarabia SIG website

Lead a project

Bring any new ideas of how to help our group

Donate to a project or to the General fund of Bessarabia SIG

Bessarabia SIG needs a Webmaster!

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