



34TH IAJGS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON JEWISH GENEALOGY
Co-hosted by the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies and the Utah Jewish Genealogical Society

SALT LAKE CITY 2014 JULY 27-AUGUST 1

Jewish Cemeteries in Bessarabia and Moldova: History, Current state, Indexing, Photographing

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July 30, 2014

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www.jewishgen.org/Bessarabia

Bessarabia on a map of Europe



Jewish Cemeteries in Bessarabia and Moldova: History, Current state, Indexing, Photographing

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Introduction – why to do cemetery projects?

- Cemeteries are disappearing
 - Weather conditions;
 - Desecration of the cemeteries, tombstones;
 - Kishinev existing ruling (Jan, 2014), tells that they can remove a grave in a cemetery if people did not paid annual fee, and they can put instead bury another person;
 - Fires (Lipkani Jewish Cemetery);
- We can preserve the memory of people who were buried in the cemetery!

Sources of information

- [Partial List of Cemeteries from Moldova, 1990s List](#)
- Jewish Memory, website: www.jewishmemory.md
- [Jewish Heritage Sites and Monuments in Moldova](#)
- [Maps of Russian Empire from 1846-1863](#)
- [International Jewish Cemetery Project](#)
- Other sources: Books, burial registry
- Google... for example:
<https://www.google.com/maps/place/Jewish+Cemetery/@46.0081497,29.4065249,12z/data=!4m2!3m1!1s0x0:0xab8d3fd3082c5706>

4 cemeteries on Google in Moldova

Jewish Cemeteries in Kishinev

- 15 thousand Jews live today, from presentation of Natalia Alhazov, Chicago, 2008
(from Natalia Alhazov. **Where Kishinev Pogrom of 1903 Was: Past and Present of Jewish Moldova.** Presented at the International Jewish Genealogical conference in Chicago in 2008)
- Cemetery records in the book-registry: “House of Eternity”, Kishinev, “Dor le Dor”, 2004, in Russian, published by charity foundation “Dor le Dor” www.dorledor.info
- JewishGen / Bessarabia SIG signed a contract with “Dor le Dor” to translate all records into English

Jewish cemetery (“New” cemetery or “Skulyanka” cemetery), contained about 40.000 burials on the territory of 11 hectares. The cemetery is one of the oldest in Kishinev; the older gravestones have stela or sarcophagus shape, some combining both. The inscriptions are in Hebrew, Yiddish, Russian and Romanian; among graphical signs predominant are menorah, shofar, palm branch, lion or bird and pitcher. The size of the graveyard was drastically reduced in 1959 when on the decision of the City Council its oldest part was turned into a park.

Besides the majority who died their natural death - doctors, lawyers, merchants, manufacturers, craftsmen and common people, here are entombed the victims of 1903 and 1905 pogroms, those killed by bombings during World War II, 400 Jews executed by shooting during the occupation and Jews who died in Kishinev ghetto.

Jewish Cemetery in Kishinev



Jewish Cemeteries in Kishinev

- Town Cemetery – “Doyna”, where there are many Jewish sectors. There are about 10-11 thousand burials of Jews on that cemetery. A team of translators was working to translate and check the index against the photos.
- There are also about 1,000 graves in mixed sectors, and the photos will be made in the fall of those.
- [KishinevDoynaDetails.pdf](#) – schema, photos, etc.



Photo from Doyna Cemetery in Kishinev



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אנחנו חברה יהודית בקהילה יהודית ואנחנו עובדים בשבילכם

Осуществляем уход за местами захоронений в г. Кишиневе и г. Оргееве.

Производим ремонт памятников любой сложности!

Мы гарантируем:

- Широкий спектр услуг!
- Индивидуальный подход!
- Официальный контракт!
- Ежемесячную отчетность!
- Постоянную связь с клиентом!
- Доступные цены!
- Лучшее качество услуг!

Мы предлагаем годовой пакет:

1. Представление интересов в Комбинате Ритуальных Услуг, перед любыми иными государственными органами и частными лицами
2. Уборка могилы и прилегающей территории (грязь, трава, ветки, листья) производится 2 раза в месяц в течении года с даты заключения контракта
3. Влажная уборка
4. Расчистка дикорастущей зелени (подрезка кустарника)
5. Обновление надписи
6. Зажигание поминальной свечи (день смерти)
7. Возложение (цветов, камней)
8. Электронная рассылка фотографий могилы (производится 1 раз в месяц)

Цена 50 USD в год

При заключении контракта на уход за 5-ю и более могилами предоставляются скидки!

Бесплатно осуществляем физический поиск захоронений.



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Мы поможем Вам позаботиться о памяти Ваших близких!

Service provided in Kishinev and Orgeev cemeteries by PAVETEX, Pavel Tuev, pavel.tuev@gmail.com

17 Cemeteries where some work was done

- In **17** cemeteries in Bessarabia / Moldova some work was done to index and photograph graves
 - JewishGen (JOWBR) has records from 13 cemeteries in Moldova
 - 11 cemeteries from Bessarabia Gubernia
 - 2 cemeteries from Kherson Gubernia
 - 4 cemeteries in Ukraine
 - 2 from Chernivtsi region
 - 2 from Odessa region

17 Cemeteries where some work was done

- How to find the list of these towns:

Go to JewishGen / [JOWBR](#).

Click on the [Contents of the Database](#). Our cemeteries are in TWO countries: Moldova and Ukraine.

- Country: Moldova (13 cemeteries, 20358 burials)
 - Region: Bessarabia (11 cemeteries, 17654 burials)
 - Region: Kherson (2 cemeteries, 2704 burials)
- Country: Ukraine (96 cemeteries, 67563 burials)
 - Region: Bessarabia (4 cemeteries, 3270 burials)
 - City: [Khotyn](#) (1 cemetery, 2693 burials) (data online 7 January 2010)
 - City: [Kilia](#) (1 cemetery, 22 burials) (data online 14 June 2007)
 - City: Sokiryany (1 cemetery, 446 burials)
 - City: [Tarutino](#) (1 cemetery, 109 burials) (data online 6 March 2007)

17 Cemeteries where some work was done

- You can click on every town / cemetery and get cemetery information. It includes some statistics and also photos. For all new projects our Bessarabia SIG did, I put also a Project Report. Example: cemetery information for [Chimishliya Cemetery](#).
- Many gravestones do not have writings, are broken, cannot be identified. For 4 cemeteries: Bendery, Chimishliya, Dubossary (New) and Tiraspol the unknown graves photos are available at Bessarabia SIG website.

17 Cemeteries where some work was done

- To see set of unknown graves, go to Bessarabia SIG / Jewish Cemetery section.
 - Click for example on [Photos of the Unknown graves from Tiraspol Jewish Cemetery.](#)

In some unknown graves there are photos without writings, or just part of the monument.

There are 4 cemeteries with these “Unknown graves”: Bendery, Chimishliya, Dubossary (New), Tiraspol.

Jewish Cemeteries in Bessarabia/Moldova

Existing cemeteries - **68**

- An inventory was done for all available sources and there are now 68 cemeteries on the list:

[List of All Cemeteries](#)

This is not a finished List yet. Hope to get more cemeteries to the list.

There is a cemetery – in Dombroveni, where is only ONE monument is standing... [Photo1](#) , [Photo2](#)

Jewish Cemeteries in Bessarabia/Moldova

Project in Progress

- Jewish cemeteries where indexing and photographing are in progress now:
 - Brichani
 - Lipkani
 - Dubossary, Old Section
 - Kishinev, Doyna
 - Beltsy, Phase 3
 - Tiraspol, second cemetery
 - Soroki, New and Old cemetery

Jewish Cemeteries in Bessarabia/Moldova

Near future projects

In order to start a new project, we need to get at least 25-30% of money needed to pay to photographer:

- Kiliya, Ukraine
- Izmail, Ukraine
- Rybnitsa, Moldova, Transnistria
- Kishinev Jewish Cemetery (16,000 graves to index and photograph)
- Four small cemeteries: Tarakliya, Baymakliya, Chedyr Lunga and Kagul

Jewish Cemeteries In Bessarabia/Moldova

How to start new Cemetery project?

- If you would like a cemetery project to be done (indexing and photographing), you need to do following:
 - Find out as much as possible about the cemetery, especially approximate number of graves. I can help you with that task;
 - That will give some sense of the cost for the photographs... (the cost include \$/photo + if necessary travel expenses;
 - In order to start a project, you need to get about 25-30% of cost as donations to Bessarabia-Moldova Cemetery Project;

Jewish Cemeteries In Bessarabia/Moldova

How to start new Cemetery project?

- After the donations are made, contact me (yefimk@verizon.net) and I will communicate with the photographers to get this cemetery photographed at some point in 3-9 months, depending on progress in other cemeteries;
- Next we need to get a team of people to translate writings, usually from Russian or/and Hebrew;
- Also need to have a Project Leader with knowledge of Hebrew or/and Russian to help the team and coordinate the distribution of photos.

How to help in Cemetery projects

- We need constantly people who can translate from Hebrew and/or Russian into English.
Need volunteers for Soroki, Kishinev, Brichany, Kiliya, Rybnitsa, other projects...
- Make a donation to Bessarabia-Moldova Cemetery project or to a specific cemetery project you see on the list.

Destroyed Jewish Cemeteries ... in Bessarabia / Moldova

Town	Name of the Cemetery	When it was destroyed, what is now in place	More information	Re-burial places
Bender, Moldova	Old Jewish Cemetery - KAVKAZ - Caucasus	Destroyed in 1960s. Cooperative Garages were built on that place.	BenderyDestroyedCemetery.pdf	There is a a reburial place at Bendery Jewish Cemetery with a monument
Causani (Kaushany), Bendery region	Jewish Cemetery	1960-1970s. Farmer houses were built and crop fields cultivated.	KaushanyDestroyedCemetery.pdf	
Causani (Kaushany), Bendery region	"Old" Jewish Cemetery	Was not in existence in 1930s. Encyclopedia Judaica mentions that the burials were from 16 century.		
Dubossary, Transnistria region	"Old" Jewish Cemetery	1950-1955 was destroyed during construction of hydropower plant on the Dniester River. Now there is a DOSAAF (autoclub) building in the place.	DubossaryDestroyedCemetery.pdf	There are five graves reburied at Dubossary Jewish Cemetery
Ungheni, Moldova	Old Jewish Cemetery	Was demolished in late 1950s.		
Kishinev	Old Jewish Cemetery near circus	Demolished probably in 1930s and now is a parking lot in place.	KishinevDestroyedCemeteries.pdf	
Kishinev	"New" Jewish Cemetery	Partly demolished. Park, tennis courts and houses were build on top of it. The remaining part is not the only Jewish Cemetery standing.		
Kishinev	Cemetery of 17-18 centuries	On Izmail street. Now in this place there is a consulat of Romania.		

Destroyed Jewish Cemeteries ... in Bessarabia / Moldova

- There are probably many other Jewish cemeteries destroyed in Bessarabia / Moldova
- All information discovered in this session will be included at the Bessarabia SIG website
- Please help to find other cemeteries. There are might be a small cemetery not yet on our list, or a destroyed cemetery I did not know about

PLEASE, PLEASE be part of this ongoing project!

Internet resources on Jewish Bessarabia

- Bessarabia SIG website: www.jewishgen.org/bessarabia
- Bessarabia Annual Books: [Annual Books / Bessarabia](#)
- Aaron Shneer Gallery: <http://picasaweb.google.com/106995678358404531836>
- Jewish News portal : www.dorledor.info (Russian)
- My town Kishinev: <http://oldchisinau.com/> (Russian)
- Centrul Istoric al Chisinaului: <http://www.monument.sit.md/> (Romanian)
- Jewish Memory: <http://www.jewishmemory.md/eng/> (English, Russian)
- All about Bessarabia: <http://www.bessarabia.ru/> (English, Russian)
- Jewish Encyclopedia: <http://www.jewishencyclopedia.com/articles/3185-bessarabia>
- Historical Maps of Moldova:
http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Category:Maps_of_the_history_of_Moldova
- Jewish Cemeteries of Kishinev and Orgeev: <http://www.pavetex.md/>
- Bessarabian Jews: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:Bessarabian_Jews
- Preserving Jewish memory Centropa: <http://www.centropa.org/>
- Bessarabian Maps: <http://www.wwii-photos-maps.com/bessarabianmaps/index.html>
- Memorial: <http://www.obd-memorial.ru/html/index.html> (Russian)
- Memory Book: <http://www.nekropol.com/Holokost.htm> (Russian)

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Questions?