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## Bessarabia/Moldova Questions and Answers session

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# Bessarabia on the map of Europe



## Bessarabia/Moldova Q&A Session

1. My great grandmother was born in Belz, but the Yad Vashem entry submitted by her son her place of birth appears to be Bessarabia.

- Is Belz in Bessarabia?
- My great grandmother was a follower of the Belzer Rebbe, was he from Bessarabia?

This is all very mysterious and I don't have a clear understanding. I thought Belz was in the Ukraine.



# Answer

- Locate Town Finder section on the home page
- Enter the name of the town you are searching information about



### JewishGen Communities Database

**Communities Database**  
1,000 Jewish communities in Africa, and the Middle East

Community's name in various languages during different time periods

Mouse over a town name for the icon next to a page of information — a figure, and links to community.

Localities in Europe, search the

Search for Jewish community:

Narrow the search by **modern country**?:

Narrow the search by **inter-war country**?:

Narrow the search by **pre-WWI country**?:

Show the distance and direction in  from:

☒ The capital city of the relevant country

☐ Latitude: ° ' N  Longitude: ° ' E

☐ Selected City:

Search method:

# Answer - Continued

The search will return results that are phonetically similar to the town searched

# JewishGen Communities Database

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## Searching for Town (Phonetically like) : **BELZ**

Run on Thu, 03 Aug 2017 07:01:09 -0600

Modern Town & Country	Other Names	c. 1950 After WWII Town / Country	c. 1930 Between Wars Town / District / Province / Country	c. 1900 Before WWI Town / District / Province / Country	# of JGFF Entries
 <b>Bălți</b> , Moldova 47°46' N 27°56' E 68 miles NW of Chișinău	Bălți [Mold, Rom], Bel'tsy [Rus], Belz [Yid, Ger], Bel'tsi [Ukr], Bielce [Pol], Belts', Beltz, Bieltsi, Belzy, Beltsy, Byelcy, Baltsy	Bel'tsy  Soviet Union	Bălți <u>Bălți</u> <u>Basarabia</u> Romania	Bieltsy <u>Bieltsy</u> <u>Bessarabia</u> Russian Empire	<u>374</u>
 <b>Belz</b> , Ukraine 50°23' N 24°01' E 286 miles W of Kyiv	Belz [Rus, Ukr, Yid], Belz [Pol], Bels [Ger], Belsk, Beltz, Belzec	Belz  Soviet Union	Belz <u>Sokal</u> <u>Lwów</u> Poland	Belz <u>Sokal</u> <u>Galicia</u> Austrian Empire	<u>174</u>

Number of matches = 2

## Here are some useful details pertaining to these two towns

### 1) Belz is located in Lviv oblast, Galicia, now Ukraine

- ✓ <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Belz>
- ✓ Jews lived here from 17 century
- ✓ First Belzer Rebbe from 1817 to 1855
- ✓ There is terrific Yizkor Book for Belz that can be found here <http://www.jewishgen.org/Yizkor/belz/belz.html>

### 2) Beltsy is a district center in Bessarabia, now in Moldova

- ✓ <http://kehilalinks.jewishgen.org/balti/Home.htm>
- ✓ Jews lived here from 18 century

#### Interesting fact

There is a famous Yiddish song: Main Shteitele Beltz, music Olshanetsy, Alexander, 1892-1946... each town claims that this is about their shteitle... Most likely it is not about Bessarabia Beltz, but in Bessarabia Beltsy website it is as for their town: <http://shtetlbelts.ru/>

[http://shtetlbelts.ru/cemetery/eng\\_cemet.html](http://shtetlbelts.ru/cemetery/eng_cemet.html)

## Bessarabia/Moldova Q&A Session

2. Is it possible to find photos of the towns, such as Dumbraveni? My father's family owned an inn/tavern documented since 1785. The last mention I find after he left is that it was owned by his cousin Peisikh Harast in 1924, in the Bessarabia Business Directory.

# Answer

When searching for information about location where your ancestors lived, a good strategy would be to search in multiple languages using Google Chrome. Chrome automatically translates webpages to various languages. So if you are looking for information about Dombroveni and you know that Dombroveni residents spoke Russian, Yiddish, and Romanian you may want to google using the following words:

- Домбровены
- Dombroveni
- Dumbrăveni
- דומברעוועני

There are a number of websites with information on Dombroveni (Dumbroveni) (Russian and English):

<http://kehilalinks.jewishgen.org/dumbraveni/>

<http://www.jewishgen.org/Bessarabia/files/cemetery/dombroveni/DombroveniCemetery.pdf>

[http://www.jewage.org/wiki/en/Profile:Dombroveny\\_Russian\\_Empire](http://www.jewage.org/wiki/en/Profile:Dombroveny_Russian_Empire)

<http://www.soroki.com>

[http://www.soroki.com/photo2/main.php?g2\\_itemId=73](http://www.soroki.com/photo2/main.php?g2_itemId=73)



## Bessarabia/Moldova Q&A Session

3. I am curious: I was raised in Brooklyn New York. My parents were both Jewish culturally but not at all religious. I was raised without much religion or cultural identity.

Now that I'm old, I wish I knew more, particularly about my mother's family. My mother came to the US via Canada as a baby. I always understood her to be Romanian. My sister believed her to be Russian. So now I'm thinking maybe it was Bessarabia. She died when we were fairly young and there was little communication with her relatives. And now, anyone who knew anything is dead.

## Answer

If a person or family thought to be Romanian and also Russian, it is most likely that the family lived in Bessarabia.

There is no other place which was Russia at one point and also Romania in other... It must be Bessarabia.

What you need to continue your research is to explore Bessarabia SIG website <http://www.jewishgen.org/Bessarabia/> and also JewishGen databases <http://www.jewishgen.org/databases/Romania/> – Romania (Bessarabia) Database which holds our records. You need to collect names, dates, maiden names, parents names, etc. whatever you know and search – that can bring you to discoveries of your ancestors!

# Bessarabia/Moldova Q&A Session

4. Was there a town in Bessarabia called Yedernitz? Was it Romanian, Moldavian or Russian?

# Answer

Prco Alb Bel Be: X Uk: W Bel BEL G Bel Kel G do Ma

Not secure | www.jewishgen.org/Communities/community.php?usbgn=-2277636

## Edineț, Moldova

Alternate names: Edineț [Rom], Edinets [Mold], Edintsy [Rus], Yedinets [Yid], Jedeńcy [Pol], Edineti, Edinița, Edinita Targ, Edinița-Târg, Jedyńce, Jedincy, Yedintsy, Yedinits, Yedintzi, Yedinitz, Yedintsy-Tyrg

Region: Bessarabia

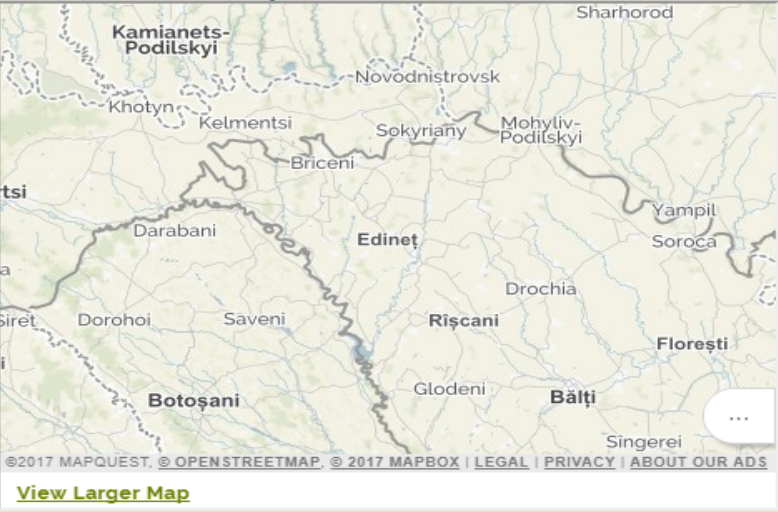
- JGFF Town Search (240 Matches)
- Yizkor Books (1)
  - Yad le-Yedints: sefer zikaron le-yehudei Yedints-Bessarabia (Tel Aviv, 1973)
- JOWBR: Jewish Cemetery

Town	District	Province	Country
Before WWI (c. 1900): Yedintsy	Khotin	Bessarabia	Russian Empire
Between the wars (c. 1930): Edineți	Hotin	Basarabia	Romania
After WWII (c. 1950): Yedintsy			Soviet Union
Today (c. 2000): Edineț			Moldova

Jewish Population in 1900: 7,379 (in 1897), 5,341 (in 1930)

Notes: Russian: Единцы. Moldovan: Единец. Yiddish: יעדינצן Hebrew: יעדינץ  
In NW Moldova, 46 miles W of Soroca (Soroki), 43 miles ESE of Khotin (Hotin), 17 miles SE of Briceni (Britshan).

Edineț, Moldova: 48°10' N, 27°18' E



Nearby Jewish Communities:

- Ruseni 6 miles ENE
- Rujnita 8 miles NE
- Cepeleuți 9 miles N
- Pociumbăuți 12 miles S
- Corjeuți 12 miles WNW
- Donduşeni 14 miles ENE
- Bulboacă 15 miles NNW
- Ocnita 16 miles NNE
- Briceva 17 miles ESE
- Briceni 17 miles NW
- Grimăncăuți 18 miles NW
- Rişcani 19 miles SE
- Lipnic 19 miles NNE
- Sokyryany, Ukraine 20 miles NNE
- Hăneşti, Romania 23 miles SW
- Rădăuți, Romania 23 miles W
- Voloshkova, Ukraine 24 miles NNE
- Lipcani 24 miles WNW
- Săveni, Romania 25 miles SW
- Stefăneşti, Romania 26 miles S
- Chetrosu 28 miles ESE
- Otaci 29 miles NE
- Yaryshiv, Ukraine 30 miles NNE
- Staraya Ushitsa, Ukraine 30 miles NNW
- Rudi 30 miles ENE
- Nenorotovo, Ukraine 20 miles N

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First, go to JewishGen Town Finder. It will bring you to following page:  
<http://www.jewishgen.org/Communities/community.php?usbgn=-2277636>

As you can see from the Town Finder search results, there are various spellings of the town name - Edinet, Edinets, Yedinets, etc.

The town is now in Republic of Moldova. During the years of 1940-1941 and 1944-1990 it was part of the Soviet Union, in 1941-1944 – occupied by Germany and Romania in the WWII 1918-1940 – part of Kingdom of Romania 1812-1918 – Russian Empire Before 1812 for about 400 years it was part of Moldova Principality under Ottoman control. It always helps to read articles on History of Bessarabia, the Governments, etc.



## Answer - continued

As you can see from the Town Finder search results, there are various spellings of the town name - Edinet, Edinets, Yedinets, etc

The town is now in Republic of Moldova. During the years of 1940-1941 and 1944-1990 it was part of the Soviet Union, in

1941-1944 – occupied by Germany and Romania in the WWII

1918-1940 – part of Kingdom of Romania

1812-1918 – Russian Empire

Before 1812 for about 400 years it was part of Moldova Principality under Ottoman control.

It always helps to read articles on History of Bessarabia, the Governments, etc.

## Bessarabia/Moldova Q&A Session

5. If my relative was born in 1872 through 1892 in Skolan or Sculeni Romania is that also Called Iasi Romania?

# Answer



Skulyani, Skolan, etc. is a town in Moldova that is located on the Prut river.

There is also Skuleni across the river in Romania.

See Sculeni Cemetery report:

<http://www.jewishgen.org/Bessarabia/files/cemetery/Sculeni/SculeniCemeteryReport.pdf>

The distance between the centers of the two towns is less than 3 miles. The road crosses Moldova – Romania border.

## Bessarabia/Moldova Q&A Session

6. Regarding Sukaran, as I found it from a draft card for my great grandmother's brother. Where is this place?



# Answer

Pr | G | Be | Je | X | Je | Uk | W | Be | BE | G | Be | Ke | G | dc | M | Sc

Not secure | www.jewishgen.org/Communities/community.php?usbgn=-1054565

## Sokyrany, Ukraine

Alternate names: Sokyrany [Ukr], Secureni [Rom], Sekuryany [Rus], Sekurian [Yid], Sekurjany [Pol], Sokiriany, Sekiryani, Sikuran, Sokorone, Secureni Târg, Sekureni Targ, Târgu Secureni, Sekuren, Sekureni, Sekuryani, Sokyrjany

Region: Bessarabia


- [JGFF Town Search](#) (126 Matches)
- [Yizkor Books](#) (1)
  - [Sekurian \(Bessarabia\): be-vinyana u-ve-hurbana](#) (Tel Aviv, 1954)
- [KehilaLinks](#)
  - <http://kehilalinks.jewishgen.org/Sokiryany/index.html>
- [JOWBR: Jewish Cemetery](#)
- [JewishGen-erosity Projects](#) (1):
  - [Sokyrany, Ukraine - Yizkor Book](#)

	Town	District	Province	Country
Before WWI (c. 1900):	Sekuryany	<a href="#">Khotin</a>	<a href="#">Bessarabia</a>	Russian Empire
Between the wars (c. 1930):	Secureni	<a href="#">Hotin</a>	<a href="#">Basarabia</a>	Romania
After WWII (c. 1950):	Sokiryany			Soviet Union
Today (c. 2000):	Sokyrany			Ukraine

Jewish Population in 1900: 5,042 (in 1897)

Notes: Ukrainian: Сокиряни. Russian: Секуряны / Сокиряны. Yiddish: סוקיראני. Hebrew: סוקיראני  
In N Bessarabia, 42 miles E of Khotyn (Hotin), 18 miles W of Mohyliv-Podilskyy, 16 miles ENE of Briceni (Brichany).

**Sokyrany, Ukraine: 48°27' N, 27°25' E**



**Nearby Jewish Communities:**

- [Voloshkova](#) 4 miles ENE
- [Ocnita, Moldova](#) 5 miles S
- [Lipnic, Moldova](#) 6 miles SE
- [Yarvshiv](#) 11 miles ENE
- [Bulboaca, Moldova](#) 11 miles WSW
- [Neporotovo](#) 12 miles NNW
- [Cepeleuti, Moldova](#) 12 miles SSW
- [Kalvus](#) 13 miles NNW
- [Rujnita, Moldova](#) 14 miles S
- [Izrailovka](#) 16 miles ENE
- [Staraya Ushitsa](#) 16 miles NW
- [Grimăncăuți, Moldova](#) 16 miles WSW
- [Briceni, Moldova](#) 16 miles WSW
- [Ruseni, Moldova](#) 17 miles S
- [Ol'khovets](#) 17 miles N
- [Mohyliv-Podilskyy](#) 18 miles E
- [Otaci, Moldova](#) 18 miles E
- [Donduseni, Moldova](#) 18 miles SSE
- [Ozaryntsi](#) 18 miles ENE
- [Verbovets](#) 20 miles N
- [Murovani Kurylivtsi](#) 20 miles NNE
- [Edinet, Moldova](#) 20 miles SSW
- [Corjeuti, Moldova](#) 23 miles SW
- [Rudi, Moldova](#) 24 miles ESE

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Sukaran has many different spellings, but as in previous cases, you need to go to JewishGen Town Finder.

The most used names are Sekureni and Securyany.

Now, the town is located in Czernovits oblast of Ukraine, but it used to be part of Bessarabia.

You will be able to find KehilaLinks website, cemetery, yizkor book, etc. if you search Jewishgen.org pages.

## Bessarabia/Moldova Q&A Session

7. My grandfather and his family were from Faleshty. I was wondering where I can find or where I can retrieve Faleshty records from.

# Answer

## 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 160,000 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~~

More than 158,000 records from *Revizka Skazka* — 19th century Czarist tax censuses - for 45 towns, including: Akkerman (Cetatea Albă), Alexandreny (Alexandreni), Beltsy (Bălţi), Bendery (Tighina), Brichany (Briceni), Khotyn (Hotin), Kishinev (Chişinău), Lipkany (Lipcani), Orgeev (Orhei), Soroki (Soroca), Teleneshty (Teleneshti), 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, 1862-1912 ~~Updated~~

Records of 1,382 Jews listed in the Czarist government's annual "Bessarabia Reference Calendar", 1862-1912.



### Vsja Rossiia 1895 Business Directory

1,500 Jewish businesses in Bessarabia, from this 1895 Russian business directory.



### Jewish Religious Personnel in the Russian Empire, 1853-1854

281 Jewish religious personnel in Bessarabia Gubernia.

JewishGen Bessarabia SIG translated many sets of records from Moldovan archives. Records are part of Romania (Bessarabia) database

<http://www.jewishgen.org/databases/Romania/>.

You need to check the Introductory pages in this database (click the link above and scroll down), i.e. Bessarabia Vital Records, Bessarabia Revision List records, and find out if Faleshty is among the town records we have already translated.

Also there are a records in a number of Business directories. They are at JewishGen, as well as at Bessarabia SIG website.

There are two cemeteries in Faleshti where the tombstones photographed and indexed, find the cemetery reports at <http://www.jewishgen.org/Bessarabia/Cemetery.html>

You may find Family stories, family trees related to your place.

<http://www.jewishgen.org/Bessarabia/FamilyMemoirs.html>

<http://www.jewishgen.org/Bessarabia/FamilyTrees.html>



## Bessarabia/Moldova Q&A Session

8. Several questions were about how our ancestors traveled from Bessarabia to Odessa and Bessarabia to the West.



# Answer

The **railway** Chişinău (Kishinev)-Iaşi was opened on June 1, 1875 in preparation for the Russo-Turkish War (1877–1878) . From Iasi there were railways to Western Europe.

Also Kishinev was connected to Reni and Galati from 1877. You can see information about Railroads in Bessarabia and Transnistria at [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Transnistrian\\_Railway](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Transnistrian_Railway)

Here is another article about Odessa – Kishinev Railroad: <http://encyclopedia2.thefreedictionary.com/Odessa-Kishinev+Railroad>

# Internet resources on Jewish Bessarabia

- Bessarabia SIG website: [www.jewishgen.org/bessarabia](http://www.jewishgen.org/bessarabia)
- Aaron Shneer Gallery: <http://picasaweb.google.com/106995678358404531836>
- Jewish News portal : [www.dorledor.info](http://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](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](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)

# Bessarabia/Moldova Q&A Session

More Questions?

Find us at

<http://www.jewishgen.org/Bessarabia>



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