

# **Jewish Shtetl in Moldova without Jews:**

*How the Jewish Past can be remembered*

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Kaushany is a small town in South-Eastern Moldova. Despite its size Kaushany has a very rich history, a long history of ups and downs, of multiculturalism that lack many larger towns in North-Western Black Sea coastal area





Рис. 1. Город Каушан и ханский дворец в 1769 г. [29, к с. 67].

Kaushany became 'the capital' of Crimean Tatars in 17 century.  
'...it has become a tradition among crimean khans to have a personal residence in Budjac (South of Bessarabia).



## Jews in Kaushany

We know from different travelers that Jews lived in Kaushany at the beginning of 18 century (1720s) and most likely 100 years before that. The oldest synagogue was built in 1700s.

In 1812, Bessarabia became a part of the Russian Empire.

By 1817, 53 Jewish families lived in Kaushany. The community increased with a large Jewish immigration into Bessarabia in the 19th century.

In 1853 80 families of Jewish farmers were granted landholdings by the state, and were reclassified as "state farmers."

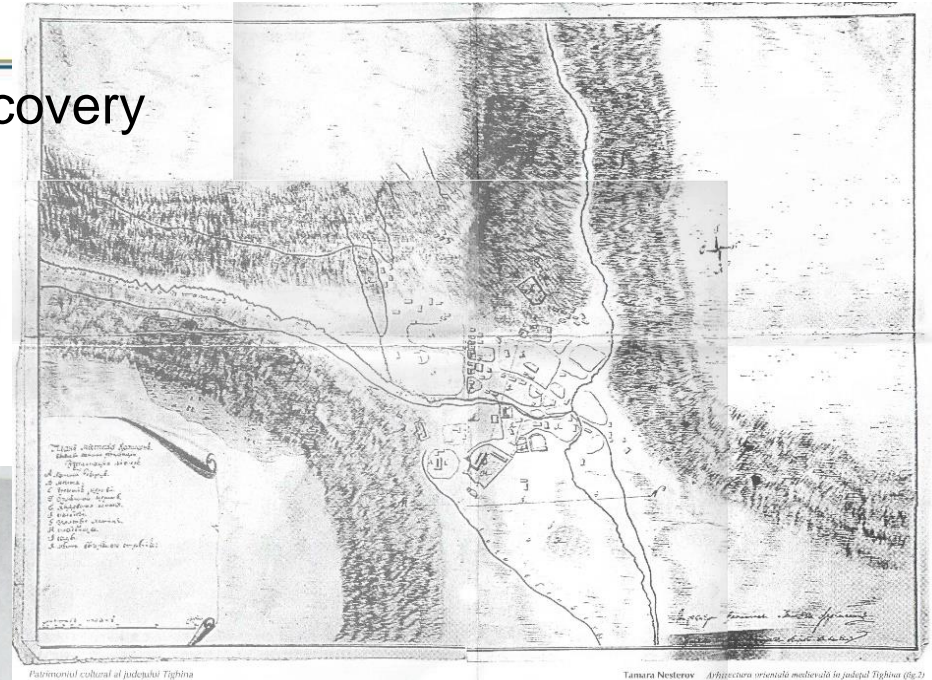




## Jewish Cemeteries – an important discovery

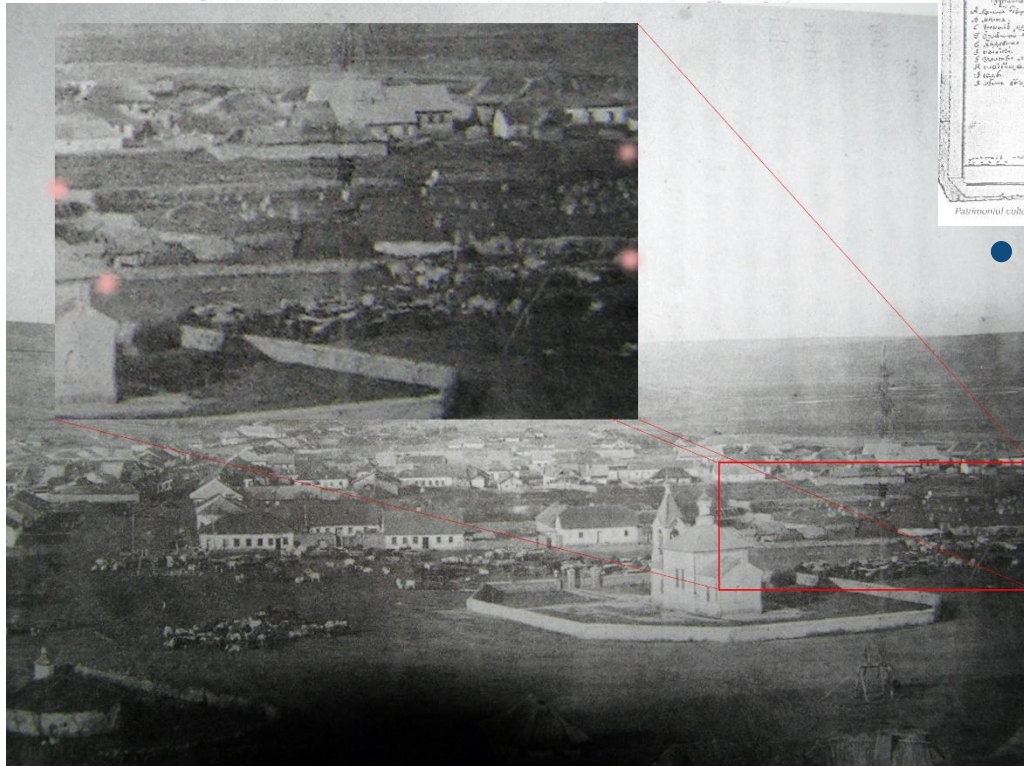
...дали бороды углемъ». Слѣды этого конунства сохранялись по настоящее время. Въ м. Каушаняхъ (по сообщенію мѣстнаго священника Петра Соломонова), кромѣ каменной Успенской церкви, есть еще слѣдующіе заслуживающіе вниманія остатки старины: 1) еврейское кладбище, находящееся въ самомъ центрѣ мѣстечка, обнесенное высокимъ каменнымъ заборомъ (въ немъ есть 400-лѣтніе памятники съ надписями, указывающими годъ постановки ихъ; 2) старое православное кладбище съ древними памятниками, но ни на одномъ не сохранилось надписи, которая бы свидѣтельствовала о годѣ постановки памятника.—

Такъ какъ о древней Успенской церкви была составлена въ 1887 году подробная метрика преподавателемъ Кишин...



Patrimoniul cultural al judecării Tighina

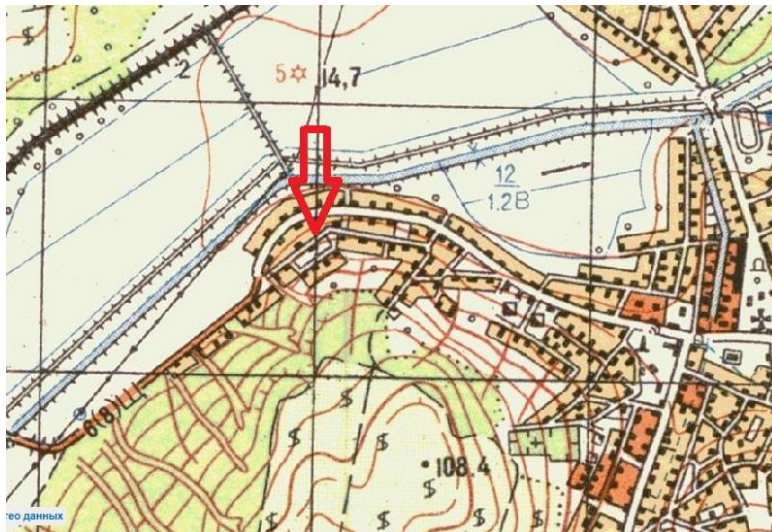
Tamara Nestorov Arhitectura oricândă materializată în județul Tighina (fig.2)



The old cemetery was located in the middle of the town and there's nothing left of it today. I was able to find some mentions of its existence. Also it can be seen on a late 19<sup>th</sup> century photo. There is a document written in 1910, with a quote about old Jewish Cemetery in Kaushany, with some stones 400 years old



The second new cemetery was located in another part of the town and apparently was newer than the first one. We can see its location on this topographic plan of late 1980s





Here lies  
an important old women

**Yenta-Riza**

[daughter of Reb] Eliezer-Yehuda



Woman

Daughter of Moshe

... יטכה ש...



(Name יטכה is Yudes, according to "A Dictionary of Ashkenzic Given Names", Alexander Beider).

...wife of Reb Meyer Dov

[...]akur

[Kisl]ev 5692 (1932),

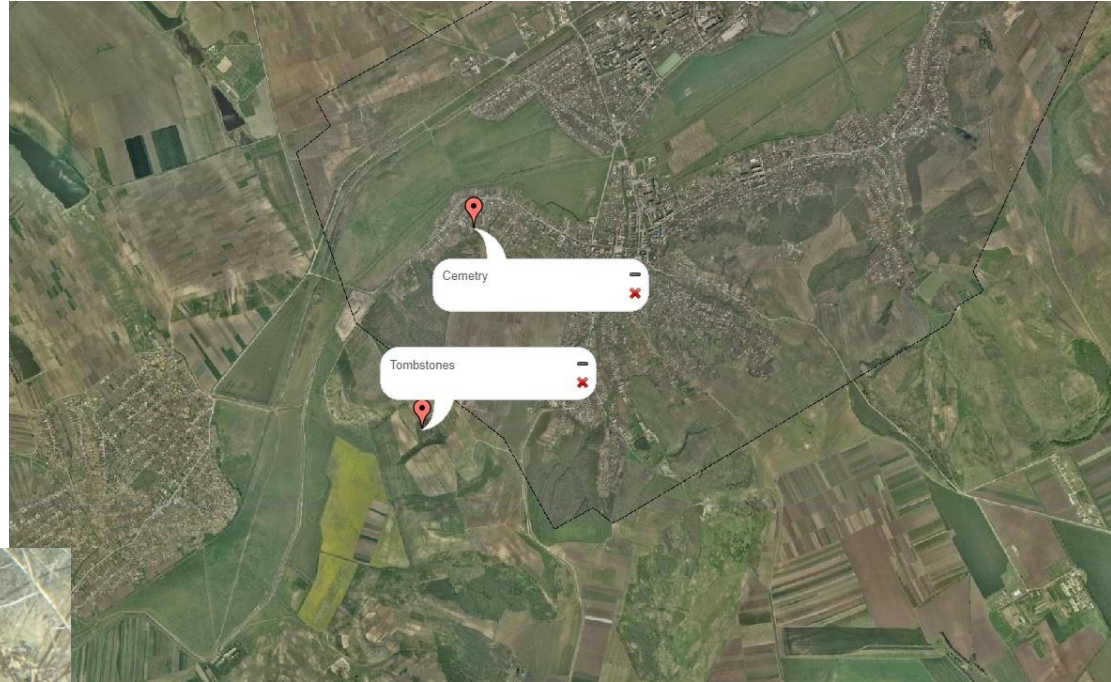
Second day

Died





After exploring nearby forests and ravines, several traces were found. First, a gravestone with the star of David was found in 2012



A stone found not far from Kaushant in a wooded area by Sergey D. in 2012



- Some time later during the investigation of a nearby ravine, a tombstone was discovered. It was found at the bottom of the ravine, buried in the ground.

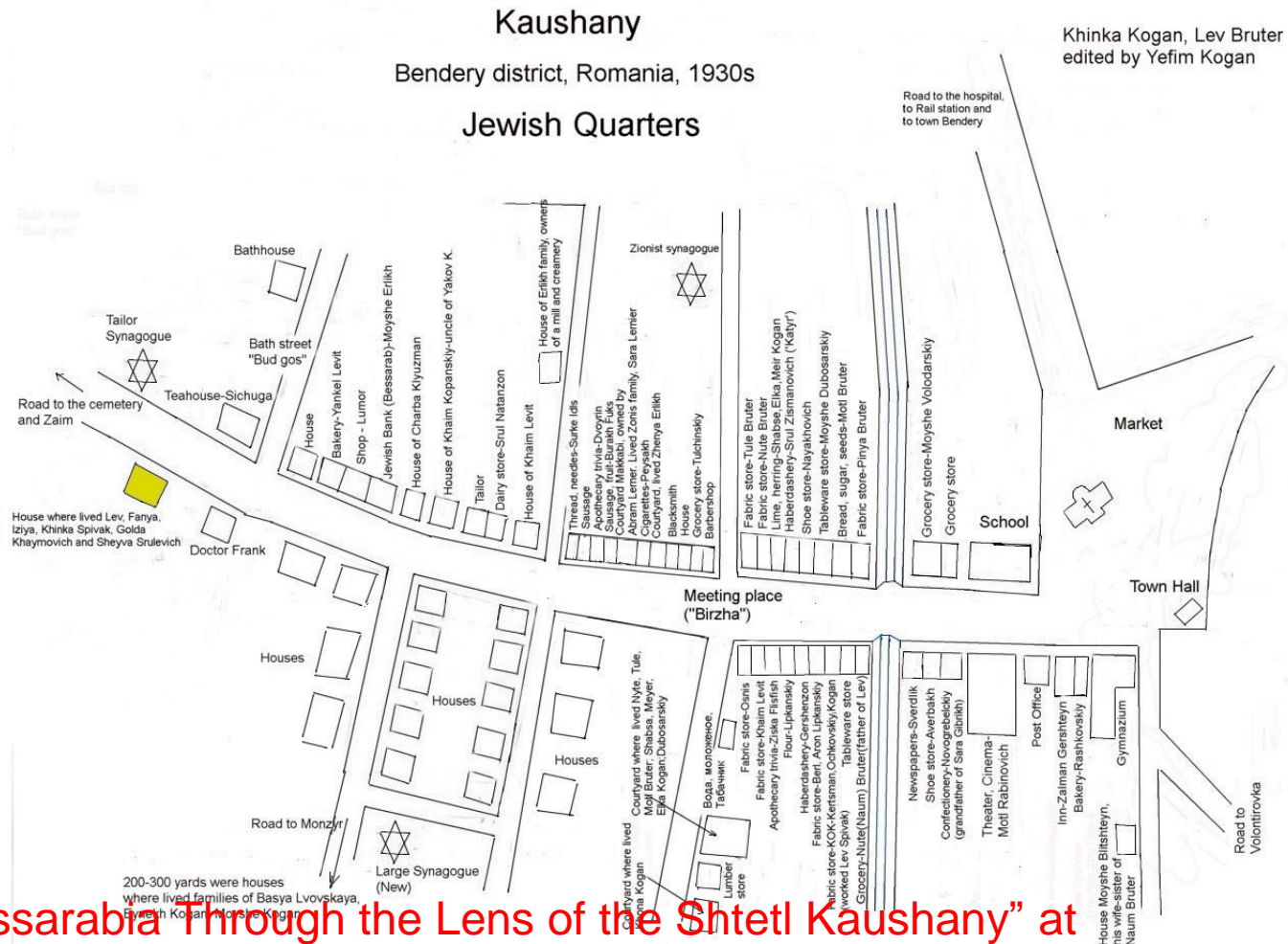




## Jewish Life in Kaushany before the war

In 1930s Kaushany was a shteitl (mestechko) with more than 2000 Jewish people, about 400+ families.

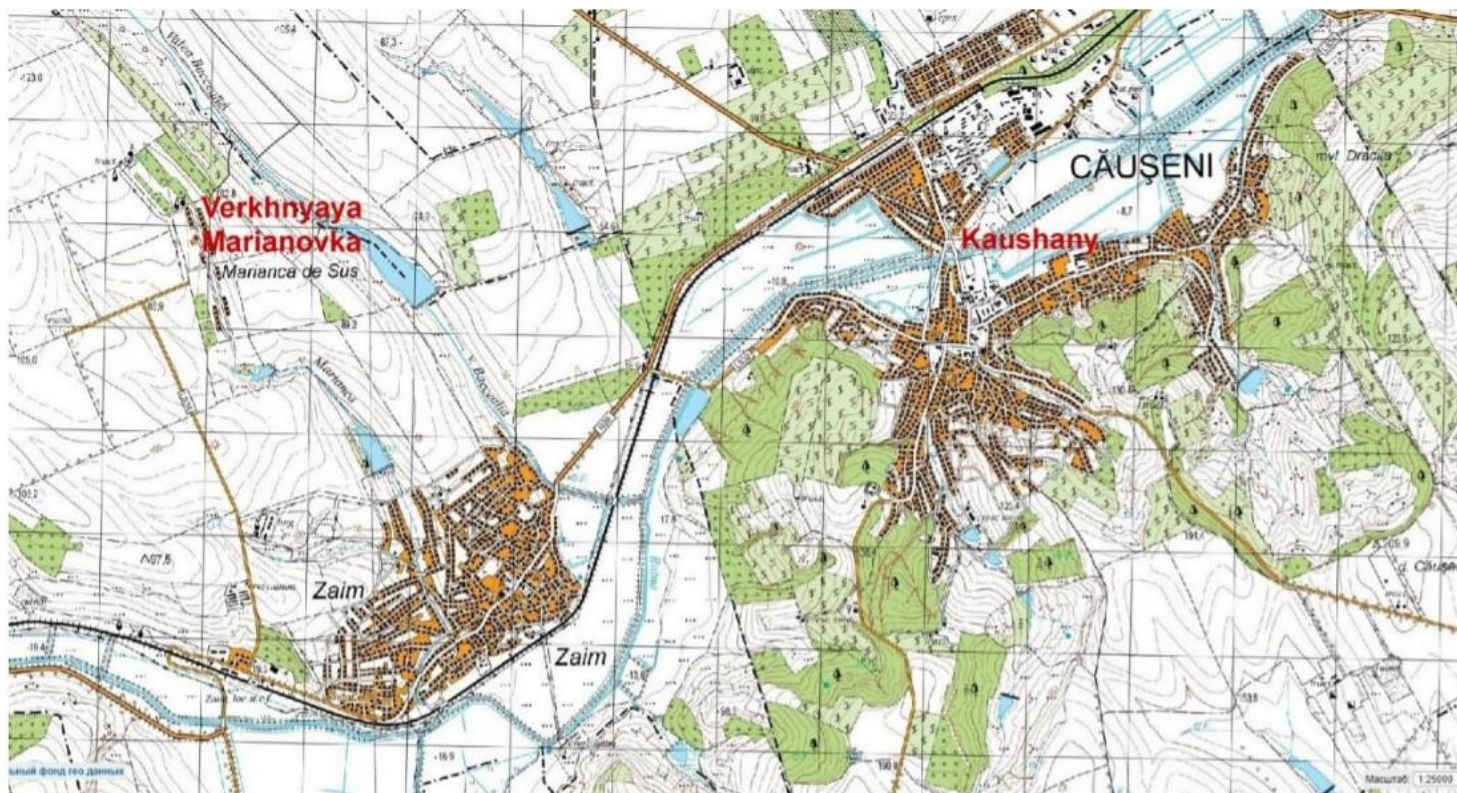
The map was created from the memory of Jewish residence of Kaushany, Khinka Kogan (Spivak) with help of her relatives, and children



From "Jewish Life in Bessarabia Through the Lens of the Shtetl Kaushany" at <https://www.jewishgen.org/Bessarabia/files/FinalPaper.pdf>.

# Holocaust

In July of 1941 Romanian Army entered Kaushany, and starting executing Jews. 100+ elderly, sick Jews could not leave town on time, and there are evidence that they were murdered with help or by locals.





## Verkhnyaya Marianovka

- Finding the exact place of the mass grave for several years.
- The task was complicated by the fact that there were no witnesses of those events. In one of the trips I was able to talk with the locals, who had a guest who knew the exact place.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=maN8FH6QH6k&feature=youtu.be>

- A few years later, with the help of the search group “August”, reconnaissance was conducted and the exact location of the mass grave was established precisely in this place. In the course of intelligence work, there were found the remains of many people and also the remains of lime.





More information on the Holocaust and Jews who were killed and survived in Kaushany, you can find at “Jewish Life in Bessarabia Through the Lens of the Shtetl Kaushany”.

<https://www.jewishgen.org/Bessarabia/files/FinalPaper.pdf>

# How Jewish Past can be remembered ?

- There is JewishGen KehilaLink website for Kaushany:  
<https://kehilalinks.jewishgen.org/Causeni/Kaushany.htm>. It includes a lot of person information for Jews who used to live there.
- There is also an extensive research on Kaushany, references several times already:  
<https://www.jewishgen.org/Bessarabia/files/FinalPaper.pdf>. These are all reminders of how our ancestors lived there for many centuries.



- Annually on the Holocaust Remembrance Day, lectures and talks devoted to this topic are held at Pushkin's Lyceum in the city of Kaushany.





## Sessions at High School and Middle School





*There is not a single  
monument,  
sign,  
tablet,  
or reminder*

*of a Jewish past for the Shtetl Kaushany.*

*Who will erect a monument to Jews who used to live in  
Kaushany?*

*Who will remember all who perished during the Holocaust?*

*Who will put stones and flowers to a monument of the Jewish  
residents of Kaushany?*

*WE will.*