



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETIES
40TH IAJGS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON
JEWISH GENEALOGY
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JewishGen Bessarabia Research Group Meeting

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Bessarabia Research Division Meeting

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

We also include an area which is known as the **Transnistria Republic**, a breakaway region from the Republic of Moldova.

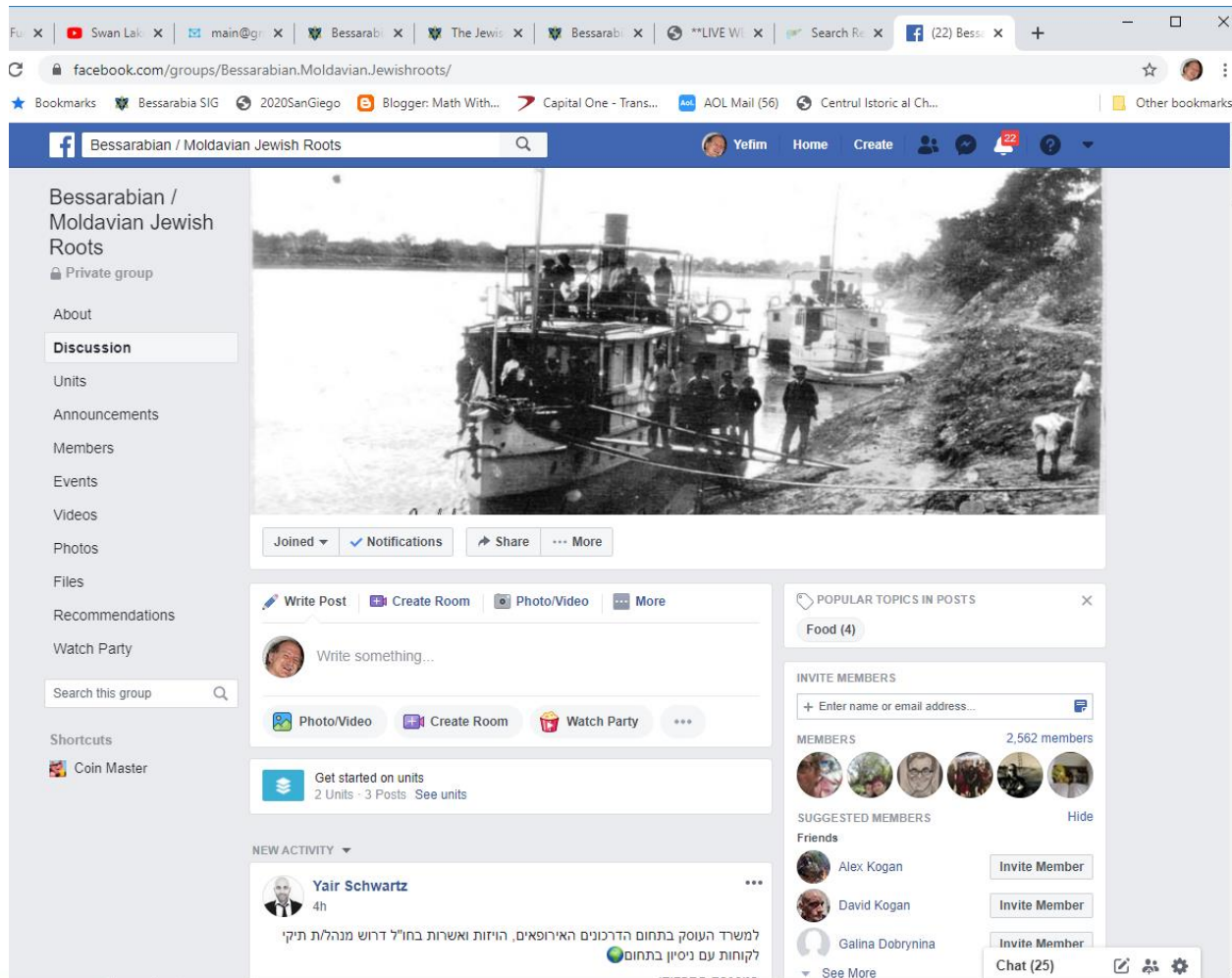
Bessarabia Research Meeting

Our **Bessarabia Research Discussion group** had **932** members from about **25** countries at the beginning of 2020.

Bessarabian/Moldavian Jewish Roots Facebook Group

Group was established in June 2, 2014. It has become a great dynamic addition to JewishGen Bessarabia group with discussions about culture, traditions, and food of Bessarabian Jews. Today the group accounts for **2,554** members who live all around the world. The language barrier is solved easily thanks to the auto translation feature that Facebook offers to its users. Thus, group members post questions in English, Portuguese, Spanish, Hebrew, and Russian and everyone is able to understand and respond in their native language.

Bessarabia Research Meeting



The screenshot shows the Facebook page for the "Bessarabian / Moldavian Jewish Roots" group. The page is viewed in a web browser with multiple tabs open. The group's cover photo is a black and white historical photograph of a group of people on a boat on a river. The left sidebar contains navigation links: About, Discussion (selected), Units, Announcements, Members, Events, Videos, Photos, Files, Recommendations, Watch Party, and a search bar. Below these are shortcuts for "Coin Master" and "Get started on units". The main content area shows a post by Yair Schwartz from 4 hours ago, with Hebrew text. The right sidebar features "POPULAR TOPICS IN POSTS" (Food 4), "INVITE MEMBERS" with a search bar, and a list of members including Alex Kogan, David Kogan, and Galina Dobrylina, each with an "Invite Member" button. A chat window for 25 members is visible at the bottom right.

Bessarabian/Moldavian Jewish Roots Facebook Group

Top Countries		Top Cities	
United States	1,448	New York, NY	238
Israel	419	Los Angeles, CA	77
Brazil	179	São Paulo, SP, Brazil	69
Canada	137	Toronto, ON, Canada	60
Argentina	45	Jerusalem	55
United Kingdom	37	Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brazil	54
Australia	31	Philadelphia, PA	43
Germany	30	Haifa, Israel	39
Peru	30	Tel Aviv, Israel	34
France	23	Miami, FL	33

Bessarabian/Moldavian Jewish Roots Facebook Group

To join that facebook group, you need to answer two questions:

- Why you would like to join this group?
- What are the family names and towns you are researching?

Everybody who has connection with Bessarabia/Moldova is going to become part of the group. If you are not answering these questions, your request to join the group is going to be declined.

Bessarabian/Moldavian Jewish Roots Facebook Group

Total Members

Jun 3, 2020 - Aug 1, 2020

2.5K Members



2,550

Total Members
+4%

Membership Requests



138

Approved



87

Declined



5

Blocked

0

Current Pending Requests

[See Pending Requests](#)

Progress report. Project completed from August 2019 to July 2020

1. Bessarabia Cemetery Projects

- **Kishinev Jewish Cemetery**, Sector 5, added 2,681, total of 5,297 burial records. Sector 1 photographing completed. Aerial view of the cemetery available at the Bessarabia website.
- **Beltsy Jewish Cemetery** - Phase 7, added 568 with total of 5,525 burial records
- **Valea-lui Vlad Jewish Cemetery**, added 44 burial records.
- **Lipkany Jewish Cemetery**, Phase 2 – clearing path, added 1,648 records, total 3,527 burial records.
- **Vila Mariana Jewish Cemetery**, San-Paulo, Brazil, added 503 records for Jews from Bessarabia, Moldova, Podolia;
- **Teleneshty New and Old cemeteries**. There are a number of photos to process and organize better these two cemeteries

Plan for 2020-2022

1. Bessarabia Cemetery projects

Do more work at

Kishinev Jewish Cemetery, complete Sector 1, 6 and 7.

Beltsy Jewish Cemetery (there are 900 graves plus a large very old section!)

Ataki Jewish Cemetery, Phase 2, clearing the paths and add more images and records

Complete **Teleneshty Old and New cemeteries**

Start to work on **Vertuzheny, Zguritsa Jewish Cemeteries**

If you have photos from the cemeteries in Bessarabia/Moldova, even a few photos, please consider to share with Bessarabia group.

Our plan, as it was 2 years ago, is to complete most of the cemeteries in the region in 2 years. After that we might go to some cemeteries second time, where sections of the cemeteries could not be accessed.

1. Bessarabia Cemetery projects

WHAT TO DO WITH CEMETERIES which do not exist anymore?! But we know their locations... and possible even know some people who were buried there...

I think we should write all available information; names of people buried there and send to JOWBR and Bessarabia website and make it available for everyone! If you have any photos of such cemeteries, or even photos of cemeteries which exist now, please send them to us and they will appear at JewishGen as records for people or at the Cemetery Reports we are writing for each cemetery.

Here is an example of the cemetery which does not exist anymore. It is a Jewish cemetery of shteitl Kaushany not far from Bendery. My family lived there, and my father was born there. I know at least half a dozen people, including my grandmother, great grandmother, and great great grandmother who were buried there. I am planning to connect to people whose ancestors lived in that place there and ask for names, dates. There is also a list of people who died in that place in one year in 19 century – another 50 names/dates. Also in my research of that town, with help of local historian, and a good friend, found several fragments of the graves, and some with inscriptions. Finally, that cemetery was on a map of 1970s before destruction.

Progress report. Project completed from August 2019 to July 2020.

2. Bessarabia Revision List Project

- December, 2019 - added 10,873 records
- July, 2020 - added 7,525 records
- ** added 18,398 records this year! Total of **222,000+** records translated.

Plans for Revision and other list Project:

- There are records left in our possession to work with, and also recently discovered sets of the Cheder's list, and also Lists of Jews from 1808-1811 in several towns.
- We also are working with FHL to broaden our agreement with FHL/NARM to get access to more archival material, not only Revision Lists, but also Education, Land, other documents.

Progress report. Project completed from August 2019 to July 2020.

2. Bessarabia Revision List Project

We started a new initiative for the Revision Lists project.

JewishGen.org Bessarabia Research Division: Inventory of Revision Lists								
Town	Uyezd	Year	Comments	FHL Microfilm #	# of Records	# of Families	More about the set of records: title, epilogue, signatures, etc.	Status
Akkerman	Akkerman	1835	Merchants	#2,377,242	120	16		
Akkerman	Akkerman	1848	Additional	#2,361,561	78	12		
Akkerman	Akkerman	1852-54	Additional	#2,361,561	30	7		
Akkerman	Akkerman	1854	Merchants	#2,373,291	188	13		
Akkerman	Akkerman	1854	Middle Class	#2,373,291	2,003	259		
Akkerman	Akkerman	1867	Citizens of Moldova/ Additional	#2,373,292	6	1		
Akkerman	Akkerman	1874	Middle Class, Common List	#2,377,544	432	215		
Akkerman - villages	Akkerman	1874	Middle Class, Common List	#2,377,544	619	310		
Akkerman	Akkerman	1875	Special Alpha Men's List	#2,377,245	421	233	Akkerman1875SpecialAlphaMen	
Akkerman and villages	Akkerman	1875	Special Men's List	#2,382,386	136	56	Akkerman1875SpecialMen	
Akkerman and villages	Akkerman	1875	Jews foreigners	#2,377,245	785	785	Akkerman1875Foreigners	
Akkerman	Akkerman	1888	Merchants	#2,377,544	424	39		
Alexandreny, colony	Beltsy	1852	Farmers/ colonists	#2,377,251	160	19		

Progress report. Project completed from August 2019 to July 2020.

2. Bessarabia Revision List Project

New column was added to the Inventory of Revision Lists, and that is

More about the set of records: title, epilogue, signatures, etc.

Right now there are only some of the cells entered, mostly for new sets of records. These cells have a link to a document describing the Revision List set.

<https://www.jewishgen.org/bessarabia/files/databases/SetArticles/Beltsy1835MiddleClass.pdf>

Example of such document for Beltsy, 1835, Middle Class. It has Title page, first page and ending page with several signatures of Jews from the community

Progress report. Project completed from August 2019 to July 2020.

3. Bessarabia Vital Records Project

163,000 records are already translated.

There is active project for all remaining Bendery district. There are 2 microfilms left to complete, and the records are from following towns, shteitl:

- Bendery
- Komrat
- Romanovka
- Kaushany
- Chimishliya
- Petrovka
- Monzyr
- a few smaller places

Progress report. Project completed from August 2019 to July 2020.

3. Bessarabia Vital Records Project (continuation)

New Acquisition (2020)

We received birth, marriage and death records for Beltsi, Bendery and nearby shtetls: Romanovka, Kaushany, Komrat, etc. and Kishinev for a period of 1905 through 1919.

As we are starting series of translation projects for these records, we are looking for volunteers - translators from Russian to English and from Yiddish/Hebrew to English.

Email Inna Vayner or Yefim Kogan

3. Bessarabia Vital Records Project (continuation)

New Acquisition (2020)

Here is an example of a good page from Beltsy, birth records

Part 1. OF BORN

No.	Who reported birth	Time and place of birth	Christian name	Hebrew name	Who reported birth	Time and place of birth	Christian name	Hebrew name
26	"	20. 5.			26	20. 5.		
27	"	20. 5.			27	20. 5.		
79	male	16. 1/8			79	16. 1/8		
80	male	20. 5/12			80	20. 5/12		
81	male	22. 7/14			81	22. 7/14		
28	"	22. 7.			28	22. 7.		

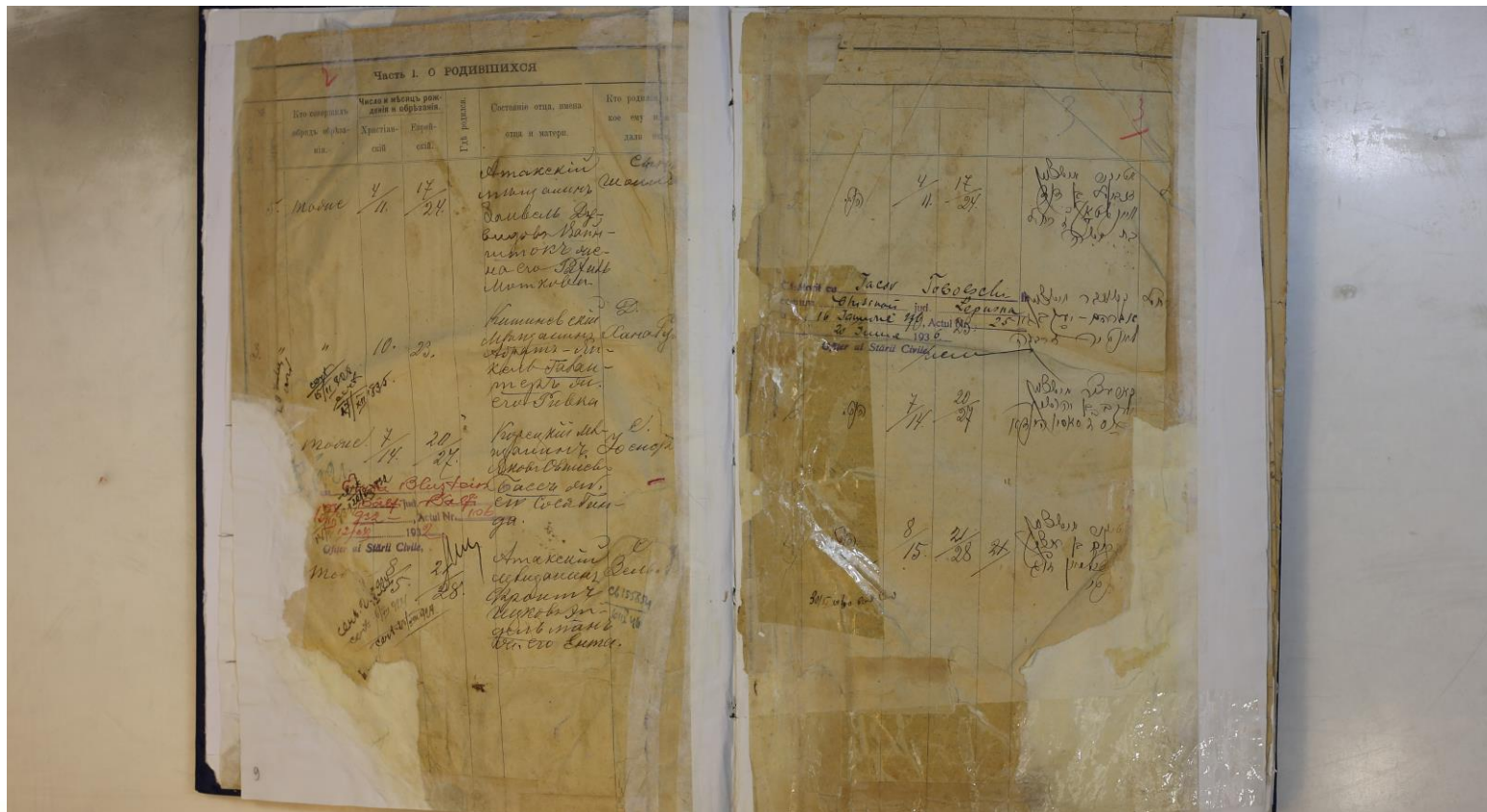
Beltsy, Bessarabia

23

3. Bessarabia Vital Records Project (continuation)

New Acquisition (2020)

Page, which is not so good



Progress report. Project completed from August 2017 to July 2018

4. Miriam Weiner collection :

430 new records were added the Miriam Weiner's collection. This information is available from Bessarabia website

5. Business Directories:

Work is on a way to translate all available Business Directories for Bessarabia as well as parts of Podolia and Kherson, which are in Transnistria: 1895, 1897, 1899, 1900, 1902 and 1912.

6. Genealogical Conferences:

Participated in 2019 conference in Cleveland. Several presentations, all is at the Bessarabia website

We will be participating in 2020 Virtual Jewish Genealogical conference.

7. Genealogical Articles, maps: Many articles were uploaded to Bessarabia website, also translated town maps and more

Progress report. Project completed from August 2019 to July 2020

8. Yizkor Books Translations:

We started working on **Bessarabia Yizkor Book: The Jews in Bessarabia; Between the World Wars 1914-1940**. 200 pages were recently completed and soon be uploaded to JewishGen.

Many Yizkor Books are waiting to be translated. You can browse the list of Yizkor Books and find one of interest. In many Yizkor Books only Table of Contents was translated. There are a number of Bessarabia Yizkor Books with vast information on our ancestors, with photos, family stories, etc.

9. KehillaLinks websites:

No new activity...

Progress report. Project completed from August 2019 to July 2020

Bessarabia Website – www.jewishgen.org/bessarabia is a great resource for you.

I am getting many questions from our members, but most of the time the answers are at our website.

For example, I was asked if we did any work on a cemetery in Bessarabia.

There are several places to get the answer. First at JOWBR at JewishGen main page, where all cemeteries are listed by country.

Also you can find it at Bessarabia website / Cemeteries section. At the very top there is a table with all cemeteries listed and what was done already.

Please explore our website!

Internet resources on Jewish Bessarabia

Bessarabia SIG website: www.jewishgen.org/bessarabia

Jewish Cemeteries in Bessarabia/Moldova:

https://www.jewishgen.org/bessarabia/RES_ProjectList.asp?doctype=14

Yizkor Books translation:

https://www.jewishgen.org/bessarabia/RES_ProjectList.asp?doctype=8&listtype=P

History of Jews in Bessarabia:

https://www.jewishgen.org/bessarabia/PTM_ArtAndLnk.asp?attid=8&lkgid=3

Jewish News portal : www.dorledor.info (Russian)

My town Kishinev: <http://oldchisinau.com/> (Russian)

Centrul Istoric al Chisinaului: <http://www.monument.sit.md/> (Romanian)

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

Bessarabian Jews: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:Bessarabian_Jews

Preserving Jewish memory Centropa: <http://www.centropa.org/>

Memory Book: <http://www.nekropol.com/Holokost.htm> (Russian)

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Questions?