

Encyclopedia of the Jewish Communities
From their Foundation until after the WWII Holocaust

ROMANIA

Volume I – Moldavia

Negresti

(Pages 181 – 182)

Map Coordinates: 46° 50' North - 27° 26' East

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N.B. Kehillah will be used where reference is to the organized Jewish community. Kehillah is the name given to Jewish communal organizations in Eastern Europe. The role and authority of the Kehillah varied greatly, depending on location and historical period. At times a Kehillah would have quasi-governmental authority over both the Jewish community and its relationship with the Gentile community.

NEGREST (Negresti) a village in the province of Moldavia region, county of Vaslui. On the Birlad river.

Author: Theodore Lavi, Ph.D., Coordinator of Pinkas ha-Kehilot in Yad Vashem/Transnistria, Hargat

Jewish population

Year	No.	Percentage of Jews in the general population
1838	72 (families)	
1930	527 (persons)	24.4
1910	785	17.1
1941	408	
1947	195	

Until the breakout of WWII

In 1803, Negresti, which at the time was a rural hamlet, had two Jews listed as taxpayers. The village was founded in 1836, during the reign of the prince Mihail Sturza. By 1838 there were 72 Jewish families, who had been exempted from taxation as a result of special privileges offered to them as founders of the village. In 1845, the property's owner, Eufrosina Rosetti, entered a contract with the Jews, stipulating the taxes that they owed her, and which gave them permission to build houses. The Jews had the right to choose a representative to the village council.

The Burial Society's (Chevrah Kadishah) notebook of 1849 is in existence. The Kehillah included a synagogue, a ritual mikveh and a cemetery.

In 1899 most of the population was Jewish, including merchants and craftsmen.

In 1910, there were 88 merchants, 11 tailors, 13 shoemakers, 6 tinsmiths, 3 carpenters and 84 in other occupations.

A branch of the Zionist movement was active in the village, known as "Neveh Tziyon" (founded in 1902).

In 1856, M. H. Schein, was born in Negresti. He became the chairman of the Zionist Organization of Romania, between the years 1908 and 1919. He died in 1932 in Galatz (Galati).

In 1907, during the "peasant's rebellion" the local rebellion became violent and wild.

On the 7th and 8th of March the peasant's broke into the village and plundered and destroyed Jewish homes. The rioters beat a number of Jews, who organized to defend their houses, and one Jewess died of her injuries. 173 families were left bereft of

anything.

In 1914, the harassment resumed. The person in charge of the area incited the peasants to not buy from the Jewish merchants and during fairs he himself saw to it that his orders would be enforced. The “Center of the Native Jews in Bucharest” turned to the Interior Ministry, and as a result of this a discussion took place in the Romanian Parliament relating to the persecutions in Negresti.

During the Holocaust

With the outbreak of war between Romania and the Soviet Union, in June 1941, the Jews of Negresti were exiled to Vaslui, capital of the County.

After the war about half of the original inhabitants returned to the village.

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The General Archive of The History of the Jewish People.

RM 160.

Yad Vashem Archive
IM 1220; 0--11/18--1; 157/24.

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