

**“Negresti” - Encyclopedia of
Jewish
Communities in Romania,
Volume 1
(Negresti, Romania)**

46°50' / 27°26'

**Translation from *Pinkas Hakehillot
Romania***

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Acknowledgments

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(pages 181-182)

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, Romania (Negresti)

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Negrest (Negresti) is a village in the Moldavia region, Vaslui district.

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 established during the reign of Prince Mihail Sturza, in 1836. 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 owner of the estate, Eufrosina Rosetti, formulated a contract with the Jews, stipulating the amount of tax they had to pay 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 1848 is in existence.** The Kehillah included a synagogue, a ritual **mikvah** and a cemetery.

In 1899 the population of Negresti was mostly Jewish, **including merchants and craftsmen.**

In 1910, there were 88 traders, 11 tailors, 13 shoemakers, 6 tinsmiths and 84 **in other occupations.**

A Zionist branch was also active in the village, “Neve Zion” (founded in 1902).

In 1856, M. H. Schein was born in Negresti and became the

chairman of the Zionist organization in Romania between the years 1908-1919. He passed away 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 **peasants** broke into the village and destroyed and **plundered** the 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 sub-district insisted 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, Negresti Jews were exiled to **Vaslui, capital of the County**.

After the war about half of the previous **inhabitants** returned to Negresti.

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