

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

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**Translation from *Pinkas Hakehillot  
Romania***

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## **Pungest, Romania (Pungesti)**

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JHB 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.

**Pungest (Pungesti)** is a village in the province of Moldovia,  
county  
of Vaslui.

### **Jewish Population**

Year	No.	Percentage in the general population
1838	20	(families)
1859	429	(persons) 30.7
1899	538	
1910	348	
1930	255	20.7
1941	107	12.7
1947	50	

Pungest (Pungesti) was founded during the reign of Mihail Sturza (1834-1849). Towards the end of the 19th century, Pungest had a population of more than 500 Jews. A majority were craftsmen and 12 were merchants.

During the peasant's rebellion of 1907, 87 Jewish families were robbed, and the rioters destroyed many Jewish homes.

In 1910, there were among the Jews of Pungest 46 traders, 45 tailors, 12 shoemakers, 11 tinsmiths, 2 carpenters and 25 with various other occupations. At that time there were 11 students in the government schools.

### **During the Holocaust**

On November 22, 1940, members of the “Iron Guard” forced a few wealthy Jewish merchants to turn over their merchandise and to “willingly” leave the village. At the same time all the Jews – men, women, elderly people and children – were sent to work in forced labor. They swept streets, cleaned chimneys, paved roads and some worked on the land of the provincial landlords, the chiefs of the “Iron Guard.” In July 1941 all the Jews were exiled to the city of Vaslui, capital of Vaslui County. After the war only a portion of the Jews returned to Pungest.

### **TL**

The General Archive of The History of The Jewish People RM  
160.

Yad Vashem Archive IM 1220: 0—11/7—1 (53): 0—11/6—5. W.  
Filderman Archive **18** (84-84); **19** (45).

P. Karp Archive **I**, p. 23; **III**, p.421; **VI**, p. 126.

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