

Bohorodczany (Brotchin) - Jews in the 19th and early 20th centuries

Community: Bohorodchany (Brotchin)

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In the 1870s, Jews constituted about a half of the town's population of 4,595 and were the largest ethno-religious group, counting 2,009 people. At the same time, Greek-Catholic Ukrainians numbered 1,788 and Roman Catholics, mostly Poles, 800 ([Słownik](#) 1:287). In 1870, there existed in Bohorodchany a pharmacy, a brewery, a distillery and three small tanning workshops ([Słownik](#) 1:287). The single class primary school was transformed into a two class school in 1868 ([Istoriia Bohorodchaniv](#), 82).

In the beginning of the twentieth century, there were two state schools for boys and for girls in Bohorodchany, as well as Polish and Jewish kindergartens ([Misto Bohorodytsi](#), 6). A school for Jews was established in Bohorodchany by the Baron Hirsch foundation in early 1897 ([Ha-magid](#), no. 28, 23 July 1899, p. 238; no. 30, 26 July 1900, p. 349; no. 22, 6 June 1901, p. 247). In 1906-1907 the Baron Hirsch school had 206 students under the direction of three teachers of general studies and one teacher of Jewish studies ([Pinkas Hakehilot](#), 72). A Hebrew school was opened in Bohorodchany in 1908 by "The Union of Hebrew Teachers of Austria." In 1911 it had fifty-five students and one teacher, I. Sparer ([Gelber, Toldot](#), 2:725). In 1909 there was also a Jewish school for girls with Hebrew as its language of instruction ([Pinkas Hakehilot](#), 72).

In 1910, there were 4,378 residents in Bohorodchany: 1,930 Jews, 1,647 Ukrainians, 795 Poles and 6 Germans ([Misto Bohorodytsi](#), 6). There were eight restaurants, two hotels, four tailors' workshops, two tin workshops, five blacksmiths, six furriers, and ten shoemakers. The only pharmacy in the town belonged to a Jew Y. Gertner ([Misto Bohorodytsi](#), 6, cf. 22-32).

In 1896, Rabbi [Schreier](#) established in Bohorodchany a local committee of the Tarnow based Association "[Ahavat Zion](#)" and became its chairman. His deputy was [Tzvi Hirsh Rapoport](#). Members of the committee included [Mendel Schumir](#), [Gabriel Shwalb](#), [Shmuel Meir Waldhorn](#) and [Josef Lautman](#) ([Gelber, Toldot](#), 1:337, n. 15).

Most probably, this committee was identical to the Palestino-centric society "[Ezrat Israel](#)," the establishment of which was announced in October 1896. It was set up as a branch of the "[Zion](#)" society in Lwow, with the purpose of taking part in the establishment of a Galician settlement in Palestine and included fifty members at its founding ([Ha-magid](#), no. 40, 15 October 1896, p. 320). Its delegates took part in the Fourth conference of the Galician Lovers of Zion ([Hovevei Zion](#)) Congress in October 1896 in Lwow ([Gelber, Toldot](#), 1:222; [Ha-magid](#), no. 42, 29 October 1896, p. 333). The existence of the society was also mentioned in 1899, a member of its board was Tzvi Rapoport ([Ha-magid](#), no. 23, 15 June 1899, p. 185). In 1898, [Josef Lautman](#) from Bohorodchany was elected to the regional Zionist Committee established by the conference of the Zionists of the Stanislawow region ([Gelber, Toldot](#), 1:399). In 1899, the Zionist association of Bohorodchany was one of the seventy-five Zionist associations of Galicia ([Gelber, Toldot](#), 2:432).

A branch of the religious Zionist movement [Mizrahi](#) also existed in Bohorodchany before World War I, one of thirteen [Mizrahi](#) branches in Galicia ([Gelber, Toldot](#), 2:799).

See: [Bohorodczany \(Brotchin\) - Jews in the interwar period](#)

Written on: 08.07.2009

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Source URL: <http://jgaliciabukovina.net/node/134263>