

The Jewish Cemetery of Otaci (Ataki, Otachi)

Before 1917 Ataki was part of the Soroki district
of Bessarabia gubernia of Russian Empire.
Now it is part of the Republic of Moldova

Еврейское Кладбище,
Атаки, Молдова

Final report, Yefim Kogan, October 30, 2017, updated June 4, 2018



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Introduction

This project is a result of a large effort of Bessarabia SIG to preserve the memory of Jews once living in Ataki, Bessarabia. The main part of the project was to Photograph and Index all remaining tombstones at the cemetery. It also incorporated the Burial Written Registry of Ataki cemetery donated to Bessarabia SIG by **Miriam Weiner** and Routes to Roots Foundation as part of our agreement, see <https://www.jewishgen.org/Bessarabia/MiriamW.html>

The tombstones were photographed by **Serghey Daniliuk**, a resident of Kaushany, Moldova who photographed many Jewish cemeteries in Bessarabia and Moldova for Bessarabia SIG. The project started in 2015.

There are several large sections of the cemetery not yet photographed, because of no access to the graves. To complete this work, the paths will have to be cleared in these sections, and some tombstones cleaned. According to our photographer there are almost another 1000-1200! graves not photographed yet.

Location, address, maps

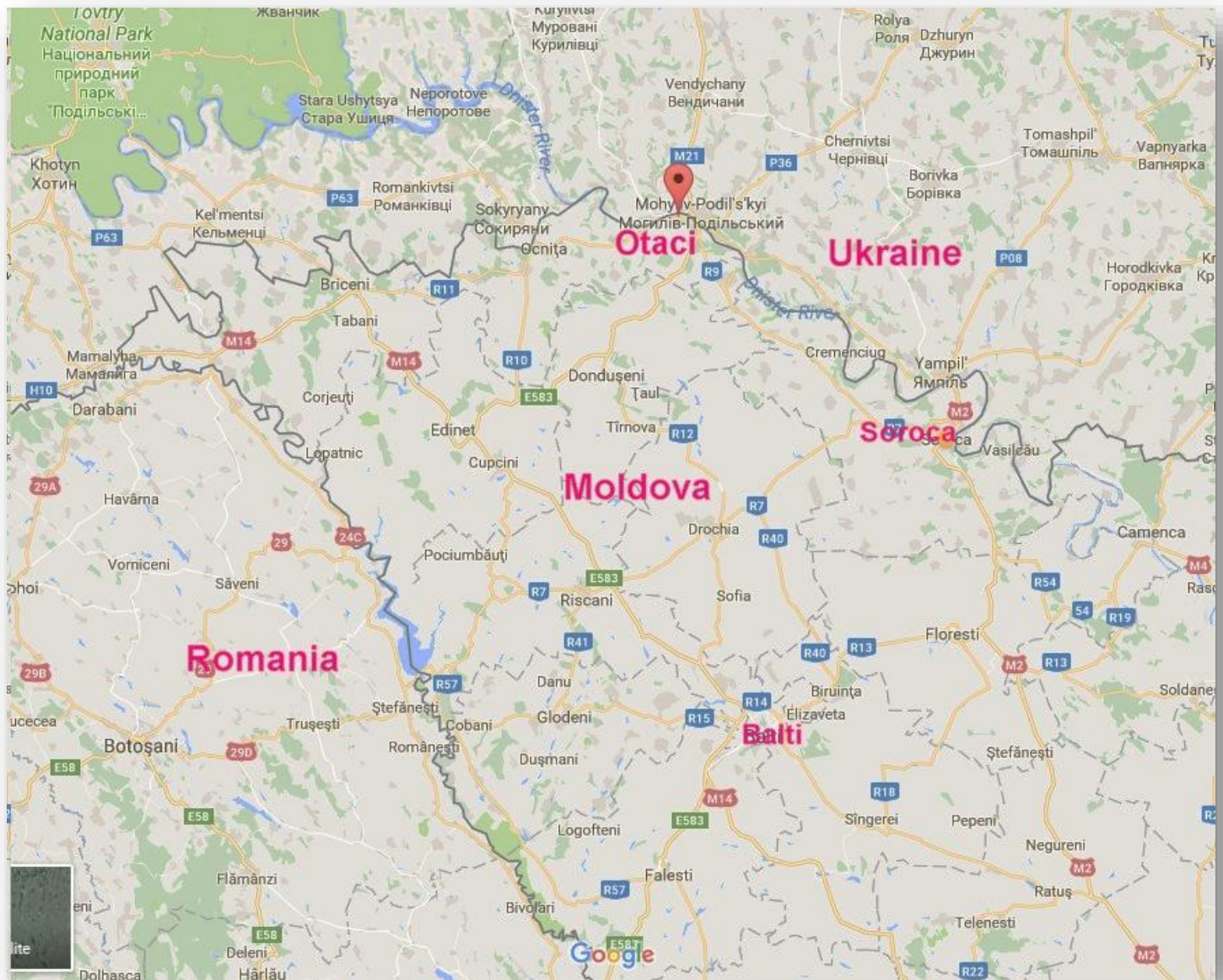
Address of the cemetery: village Valcinet, East of Ataki (Otaci).



Otaci on the Google Map. Valcinet is to the West, and Jewish Cemetery is on the south of Valcinet.

Jews in Otaci (Ataki)

4,690 Jews lived in Otaci in 1897 from a total of 6,976 residents, 65 Jewish businesses were in town in 1924 with total residents of 5,017, and 2,781 Jews lived in Otaci in 1930 from a total of 3,503 residents.



See the North section of Moldova at the Google Map. Otaci is on the River Dniestr, which is the border between Moldova and Ukraine. Across the border is a large and famous town of Mohyliv-Podolski, Ukraine (1 mile). Main district (Uezd) town of Soroca is on the South-East (30 miles), Balti is to the south (55 miles). To the west of Otaci, you see Ocnitsa (17 miles), Sokiryany (18 miles), Briceni (40 miles).

Schematic of the Cemetery



There are six quarters which have been photographed and two large quarters not photographed yet.

Every record and image name has 5-digit Plot Number. The first digit is the quarter, the two next digits are the row number and last 2 digits are the plot number in the row. There are also a number of burial records with plot number starting with 9. These are from the burial written registry, and they had their own numbering as in the written registry.

The project of photographing, indexing

The first part of the project was to translate the Burial Written Registry of Otaki cemetery, received from Miriam Weiner and Routes to Roots Foundation as part of our agreement. There were 773 records in the Registry, and 40 of them did not have any names. The Written Registry is compiled by local people hand written in Russian and typed in Hebrew.

The second part of the project was to Photograph tombstones, and index them. After indexing the photos, we got 1745 records with names, dates. Also 258 images are of Unknown tombstones.

The third part of the project was to reconcile the Burial Registry with Index from the photos. 269 records from the written burial registry were found among the photo/index. The duplicates were removed from the final registry, the other about 500 records from the Written Registry were added to the index without photos.

Total number of burial records submitted to JOWBR is 2203 with 1733 photos. Also there are **258** images of Unknown graves, which can be accessed at the Bessarabia SIG / Cemetery section or directly at [Unknown Otaci Cemetery graves](#).

Language of the inscriptions: the written registry is done in handwritten Russian and typed Hebrew. The inscriptions on about half of tombstones are written in only Hebrew. One third is written in Russian only, and a small number in both languages.

Dates: The Burial Written Registry has records from **1767**, total of 14 records from **18 century**. The last record from the Written Registry is from **1997**. The records with photos are from the beginning of **19 century** and up to **2002**.



Structure at the cemetery

From the report “Jewish Heritage Sites and Monuments in Moldova”

According to the report “[Jewish Heritage Sites and Monuments in Moldova](#)”, created by United States Commission for the Preservation of America’s Heritage Abroad, 2010, *The Jewish cemetery in Otachi is 160,000 square meters and contains more than 500 gravestones, as well as a monument dedicated to the victims of the Holocaust. The oldest gravestones are from the nineteenth century. The cemetery is surrounded by a broken masonry wall; fewer than 25% of the stones are toppled and broken. The site has a regular caretaker, but the vegetation overgrowth is a constant problem. Restoration work to patch the broken stones and clear the vegetation was carried out between the years 2000 and 2004.*



Ataki Jewish Cemetery

From the “[Jewish Heritage Sites and Monuments in Moldova](#)”.

Volunteers

Terry Lasky translated all records from the Burial Written Registry.

The photo images translation was done by **Robin Meltzer**, and mostly by a person who prefers to stay **anonymous**. That person did a terrific job of deciphering numerous almost unreadable inscriptions. The third person who did a great job to translate the most unreadable writings was **Nathen Gabriel**. Thanks to all for the incredible hard job you performed.



Photos stitched together



Several graves had inscriptions on two sides of the stones; one in Hebrew and another side in Russian. For these we had to stitch two photos together, like this:

Three burials under one roof



Buried:

HESHEL Avraham Yehoshua ben Itzhak Chanina Lipa, 12 Nisan 5698, Grandson of Harav from Aft known as Ohev Yashar

Yaakov ben Avraham Dov, 2 Adar Alef 5681, Teacher and Tsadik from old Koshitze

Moshe Tzvi ben Yechiel Baruch, 4 Cheshvan 5687, slaughterer from MEZEVICH, son in law of Arye Avraham SHOV

The oldest graves



**Devora bat
Yekutiel**

**17 Adar Bet
5589**

(22 March, 1829)

What a terrific
engraving!



TCHEKHEVER

**Favel ben
Itzhak**

20 Iyar 5585

(8 May, 1925)

This is a typical
stone with
beautiful
inscription

The newest grave



**GIRINA Raisa bat
Gerts**

15-Jun-1920 –

16-Feb-2002

Graves in the forest

Here is the view on a part of the cemetery, mostly not photographed!







Beautiful and clear inscriptions and engravings



Another type of the
Gravestones

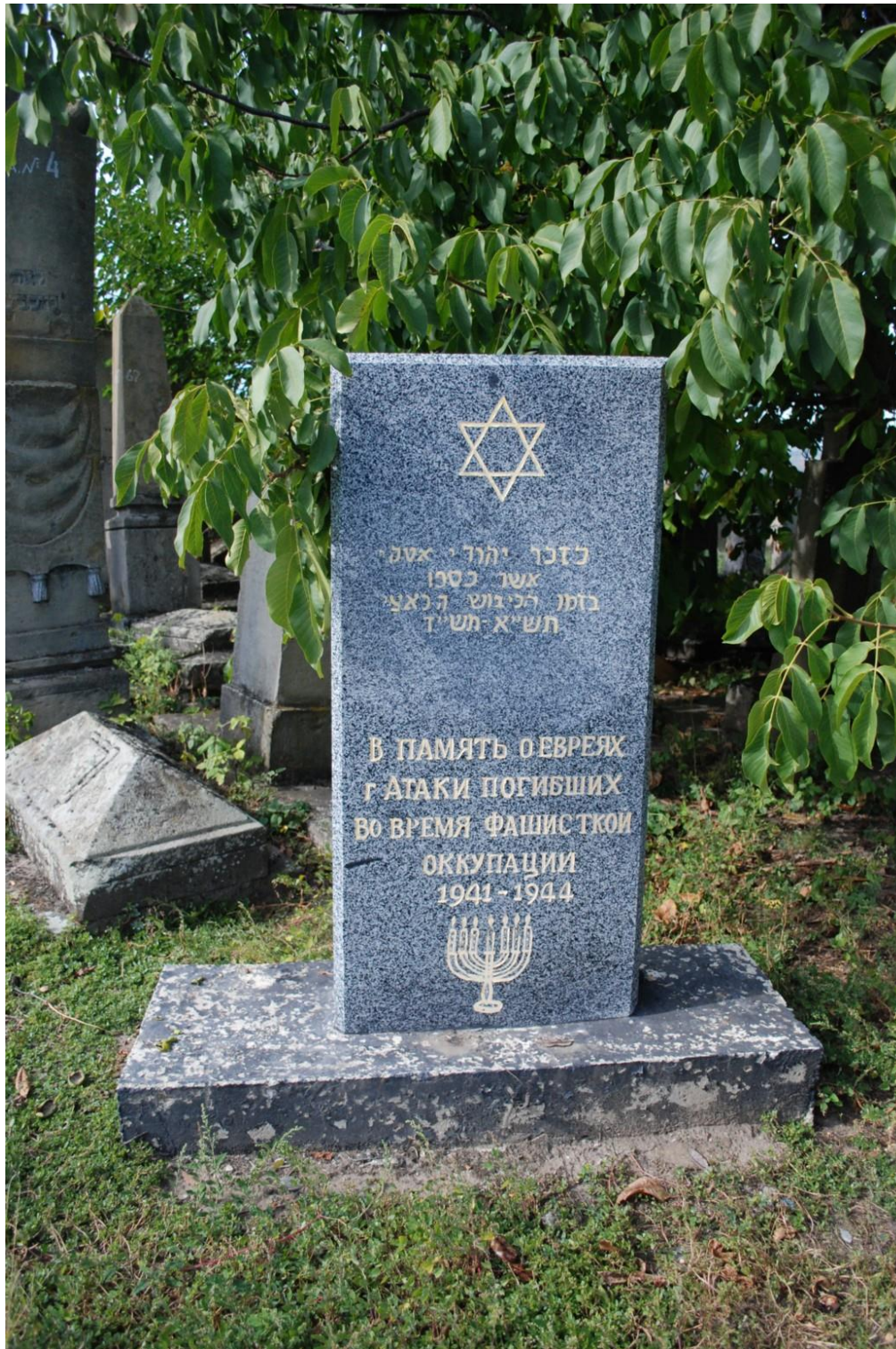
KHAYAT

**Avraham ben
Khanokh
haKohen**

6 Shvat 5689

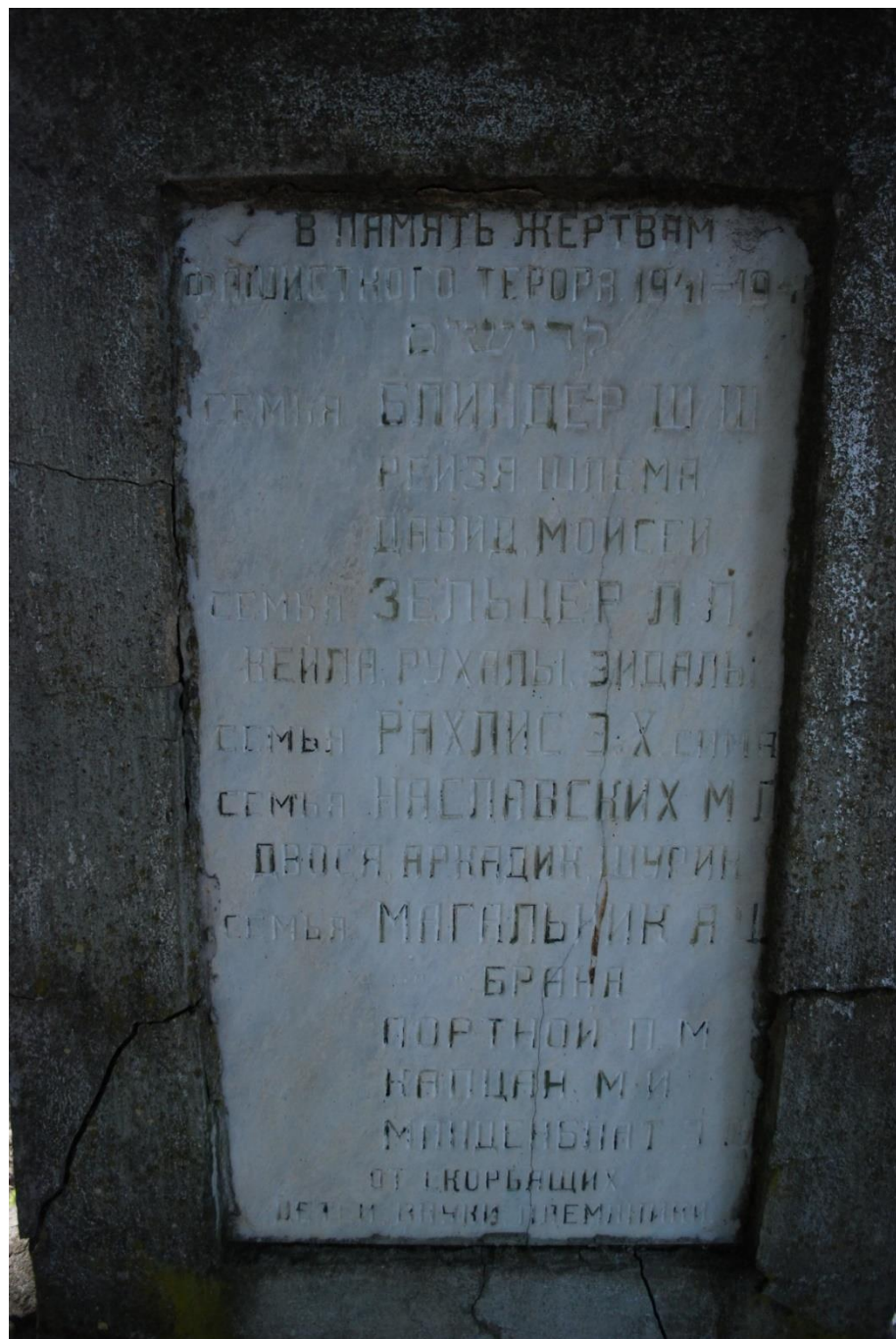
(10 January, 1829)

Holocaust monuments



In the memory of Jews from town of Ataki perished during the fascist occupation of 1941-1944

In the memory of victims of fascist terror of 1941-1944



Family BLINDER Sh.
Sh., Reyzya, Shlema,
David, Moisey

Family ZELTSER L.L.,
Keyla, Rukhaly, Eydaly

Family RAKHLIS E.,
Kh, Sima

Family NASLAVSKIY
M.L., Dvosya, Arkadik,
Shurik

Family MAGALNIK
Ya., Sh., Brana

PORTNOY L. M.

KAPTSAN M.I.

MANDENBLAT Z. Sh.

from grieving children,
grandchildren, nephews

Images from the cemetery



Vanished World, Otaci's Jewish Cemetery

Posted on May 29, 2018 by Christian Herrmann under Bessarabia, Jewish Cemeteries

From travel to Moldova on May 23, 2018 by Christian Herrman:

<https://vanishedworld.blog/2018/05/29/otacis-jewish-cemetery/>