

Ostroh (Ostrog) Jewish Cemetery
Cemetery Description and Comments
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This Jewish cemetery in Ostroh is one of the oldest in Ukraine, with burials dating back to the 15th century, including notable figures like the Maharsha. Over the centuries, it became a vital historical site but was desecrated during the Soviet era, turned into a park, and its tombstones repurposed. Historian Menakhem Mendel Biber documented many of its inscriptions in his book "Mazkeret Legdoley Ostroha" from 1907, preserving invaluable details about the community's past. In recent years, Hryhoriy Arshynov led efforts to restore the cemetery, recovering tombstones, rebuilding the ohel over the Maharsha's grave, and transforming the site into a Jewish cultural and historical reserve.

The photos were taken and donated by Andrii Bryzhuk, Director of the Ostroh State Historical and Cultural Reserve. They were transcribed by Yoni Zinchin who did it in memory of Menakhem Mendel Biber and Hryhoriy Arshynov, as well as his ancestors from the Zusman, Halperson and Rappaport families, who lived in Ostroh and some of whom were laid to rest there.

Tombstone Information

1. Photos of 252 numbered tombstones, mostly taken in June 2020.
2. Images of 4 walls featuring fragments of tombstones that were put together and placed in the cemetery. Two walls are located near the entrance, and two others (with fragments on both sides) are located in the center of the cemetery. Here is a photo of these walls in full.



3. Fragments of tombstones that remain lying on the ground in piles, as documented in a video made by Vladimir Saenko about the Jewish Cemetery of Ostroh. The video can be found at this link: https://youtu.be/5XBa5SLNBHk?si=4H_YFBxwbzzjKGLb.
4. Inscriptions from the book "Mazkeret Legdoley Ostroha" (1907) by historian Menakhem Mendel Biber. Most of the tombstones referenced in the book have been lost over time. This book can be found at this link: <https://hebrewbooks.org/36814>
5. Old photos of tombstones from the cemetery taken in the 20th century and were found on several websites online.

Some Important Clarifications

1. It's possible that fragments of the same tombstone are dispersed in multiple locations throughout the cemetery.
2. Only sections of tombstones that contain readable information have been included in this database.
3. There may be small pieces of tombstones scattered across the cemetery that might contain information that is not recorded in this database.
4. The inscription on the tombstone was not translated word for word, but rather the key details were translated.
5. In the inscription images that are taken from the book "Mazkeret Legdoley Ostroha", when author could not identify the text written on the tombstone, he indicated that by using dots "•••••".
6. The mention of specific relatives in the notes buried in the cemetery does not necessarily mean there were no other relatives buried there also.
7. When a tombstone mentions someone as "the grandson of...", it may not always refer to a literal grandson-grandfather relationship but could also mean "the descendant of..."
8. It is recommended to also search for the first names of individuals you suspect were buried in this cemetery, as only around 200 out of the 700 tombstones include surnames. In most cases, only the deceased's name and father's name appeared on the tombstone.
9. There is a PDF file of a catalog of the indexed numbered tombstones that appear in the cemetery, which was prepared in the past but was not completed. The catalog includes depth scans of the tombstones, which greatly assist in reading the text written on them. It can be accessed through the following link. [Link to pdf catalogue]