

Israel Fisch

by

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Israel Fisch and his wife Katalin lived in Újfehértó from at least 1852 to around 1857. Israel Fisch was born in Nagykallo, son of Aaron Shaje Fisch, who I'm told was right-hand man to the Kalever Rebbe. Katalin was born in Kiskallo.

Israel and Katalin returned to Nagykallo by 1858; they had another child that year, and more children after that. I suspect they returned to Nagykallo because Israel's father had died. Israel died there in 1892 and is buried next to Aaron Shaje Fisch.

Israel and Katalin had several children while they lived in Újfehértó. The only one to achieve any kind of fame was Moritz Halasi. All of the male children were named Halasi rather than Fisch, although Fisch was not dropped completely. Mor Halasi was a produce merchant and partner in Windt and Fisch in Kisvarda. His son Gyula (Halasy), born in Kisvarda, won a gold medal for skeet shooting in the 1924 Olympics in Paris. Mor was a community leader in Kisvarda and was a strong proponent of teaching Hungarian in the Jewish school.

Another of Israel and Katalin's sons, Simon, died young, but he also lived in Kisvarda and had a son before he died. Bela Aaron Shaje Halasi was teaching in Berlin in the 1930s and had to flee. He came to the New School for Social Research in New York and eventually came to Roosevelt University in Chicago.

(There is a short bio for Bela on web, but it's in Hungarian.)

My great grandfather, Lajos, was another of Israel and Katalin's sons born in Újfehértó. He was a grain merchant in Mateszalka, but he also died young.

I would be happy to compare notes with any interested researchers.

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