

BELINȚ

Local council office: Belinț no. 147, telephone 0256/327126

Coordinates:
45°45'10" N lat.;
21°45'57" E long.;

Historical landmarks:

-1369 - the commune is mentioned in historical documents under the name of **Belenche**, owned by the Beșan family;

-1482 - some documents mention the name **Belincz**;

-1488 - a mention of the **Babșa** village (Babșa de Jos, Babșa de Sus and Mal);

-1554 - an Ottoman registry records that the **Belencz** settlement had 34 houses;

-1786 - set up of the **Darva** hamlet (now, a street in Belinț) by the Romanians dislodged from Darova by German, Hungarian and Serbian colonists;

-20 February 1824 - **Constantin Rădulescu**, Head Engineer of Timișoara (1847), mayor of Lugoj, is born in Chizătău (d. 1895);

-12 September 1842 - **Nicolae Coșariu**, jurist, journalist, owner of "The People's Gazette" magazine, founder of the Timișeana Bank is born in Chizătău (d. 1903);

-1857 - set up of the mixed choir of Chizătău;

-1896 - the first testimony on the existence of the Belinț theatre company;

-1.12.1918 - Protopope **Gherasim Sârbu** is the leader of the Belinț delegation sent to Alba Iulia to vote in favour of the union of Banat and Romania;

-13 February 1922 - actor **Horia Căciulescu** is born in Belinț (d. 24.12.1989);

-1933 - set up of the "Avântul" sports association;

-23 April 1943 - **Simion Dănilă**, philologist, translator, literary historian, is born in Belinț;

-1962 - 1973 - Belinț has a theoretical high school;

-2002 - Belinț commune had 2,842 inhabitants;

- 2011 – over 200 natural and legal persons from Belinț re-

ceive government compensations following the compulsory purchases carried out for the construction of the Timișoara-Lugoj highway section;

Total population on 1 January 2010: 2,705 persons, of which:

- male = 1,280 persons

- female = 1,425 persons

Number of households on 1 January 2010: 1 382

Member villages: Belinț, Babșa (1489, Babșa de Jos, Babșa de Sus and Mal), Chizătău (1359 - Kyzikteu - "Tăul Mic"), Gruni (1453, Grwn);

Educational institutions: Elementary school (I-VIII): Belinț; Primary schools (I-IV): Chizătău; Kindergartens with normal hours: Belinț, Chizătău, Babșa-Gruni;

Health facilities: Medical practices: Belinț and Chizătău; Drugstores: Belinț and Chizătău; Sanitary-veterinary practices: Belinț and Chizătău;

Cultural institutions: Community centres: Belinț, Babșa, Gruni and Chizătău; Museum: Belinț; Library: Belinț (founded in 1960);

Fitness and sports facilities: Gymnasium Belinț;

Churches: Orthodox Churches: Belinț (1797-1798), Chizătău, Gruni and Babșa; Pentecostal Churches: Belinț and Chizătău; Baptist Church: Gruni;

Annual church festival and other cultural events: Belinț (Easter), Babșa (Pentecost), Chizătău and Gruni (8-9 September); The Days of Belinț (August);

Citizens of Honour: Albin Felbermaier, Livius Lipovan, Ioan Savu, Ioan Bot, Constantin Gruescu, Constantin Tufan Stan.



CITY HALL AND LOCAL COUNCIL OF BELINȚ COMMUNE

Laza Florin Gheorghe	Mayor	Stănescu Petru, LC member	SDP
Ardelean Marcel Eugen	Vice Mayor	Strîmbu Valentin, LC member	SDP
Vodă Vasile, LC member	DLP	Ștefănescu Petru, LC member	DLP
Laichici Ionel, LC member	DLP	Tîrziu Ionel, LC member	NLP
Pasculescu Petrică, LC member	DLP	Vlaiconi Romulus, LC member	SDP
Radu Ștefan, LC member	DLP	Zanfir Gabriel, LC member	NLP

BELIŢ

“BREDICENII
CHIZĂŢĂULUI”

The Chizăţău choir (photo, 1982, at the ASTRA celebrations, Sibiu) was set up around the local Romanian orthodox church, in 1840. It became famous all over the Banat



Trifu Şepeţian



area especially after 1857 and soon after it became a genuine model for peasants who admired music. Similar choirs and bands were set up in most settlements from Banat.

The founder and first conductor of the choir was the parish priest, **Trifu Şepeţian**. His cultural mission was supported and continued by Ioniţă Şepeţian, who had studied in Budapest, where he also gave violin concertos. After 1880, another member of this family (called by some “Brediceni Chizăţăului”), priest Lucian Şepeţian, organised each winter courses for conductors of peasant choirs. In their turn, those who graduated these courses mentored other talented villagers.

A large number of choirs from Banat were invited at Chizăţău in 1882. The guest of honour was the famous composer and violinist from Bucovina, **Ciprian Porumbescu**.

He was so impressed by the performance of the choirs from Banat that he wrote, in a letter to his sister: “**The winning choirs are so wonderful that our own musical society in Braşov pales in comparison to them. Moreover, they are composed solely of peasants, trained and coordinated. I looked at their serious faces with emotion, watching as they were taking their places in the semicircle while holding the notes in their hands. Meanwhile, the conductor, who was sitting in the middle, played the beat with his hand, a hand that we thought could only handle the plow and the axe**”.

In 1906, the Chizăţău choir became known in Romania, by participating to the national celebration, held in Bucharest at the Roman Arenas, with the occasion of the 40th anniversary of king’s Carol I rule. The choir of the Chizăţău peasants was one of the founders of the Association of Choirs and Bands from Banat, lead by the composers and teachers **Ion Vidu** and **Iosif Velceanu** from Banat. In 1924, at the “Festival of Romanian Songs”, the Chizăţău choir impressed the entire audience.

In December 2001, the Chizăţău choir gives a concert in the festivity hall of the Vienna Rathaus (City Hall), with the occasion of an international event. In 2010, the Chizăţău choir, the oldest peasant choir in Romania, celebrated its 170th anniversary.

STANDARD BEARER DIMITRIE LĂZĂREL -
LĂZĂRESCU

In the spring of 1917, the first Romanian volunteer unit was created in Darniţa, near Kiev, composed almost entirely of prisoners from Banat: Company 1, Battalion 1. The standard bearer is Dimitrie Lăzărel - Lăzărescu from BalaŢ, who later on became the literary hero of a book written by Cassian R. Munteanu, born in Vermeş, Banat. After participating to the great battle of Mărăşeşti, Muncelu and Panciu, the flag of Dimitrie Lăzărel - Lăzărescu was donated to the town church, then to the Banat Museum in Timișoara.



BELIŢ



THE ACTOR HORIA CĂCIULESCU – A HERO OF THE ROMANIAN REVOLUTION

He was born on 13 February 1922 in BeliŢ and died on 24 December 1989 in Bucharest. He was a great comedy actor and one of the first movie Romanian actors after World War II. He performed at the Variety Theatre “Constantin Tănase”. He was imprisoned for many years for political reasons, at the Danube-Black Sea Channel. He died by shotgun during the December 1989 Revolution. He was driving his car when he was hit by the bullets, because of an error of some soldiers. He was buried in the Heroes’ Cemetery in Bucharest. Although the death by shotgun of the great comedian occurred on 24 December 1989, in his death certificate – for unknown reasons – the day of his death is 27 December 1989. The artist’s filmography is very impressive: “**Totally Unprepared**” (“**Tufă de Veneția**”) (1976); “**A Fantastic Comedy**” (1974), “**The Judgement**” (1970); “**The Professor who Failed**” (1967); “**Titanic Waltz**” (1963); “**A Bomb Was Stolen**” (1961); “**Telegrams**” (1959); “**An Ordinary Tale...A Fairytale**” (1958); “**Carnival Stories**” (1958); “**On My Responsibility**” (1955); “**Ilie Is A Sportsman Too**”(1954).

He was one of the best singers of the Radio Drama, where he played “**The Fake III Woman**”, “**Café of the 1900’s**”, “**A Traveller is Always on the Road**”, “**Grandpa Teacă and the Epidemic Disease**”, “**The Nose**”, “**The Marriage of Figaro**” or “**The Pissed off One**”.

IRMA’S HOUSEHOLD

In 1972, the Banat Village Museum bought house no. 75 from Takács Irma in Babșa commune. The household was moved to the Banat Village Museum located in Green Forest (Pădurea Verde), preserving its initial aspect, as it represented the houses of Hungarian colonists in Banat, having the stable and the living area under the same roof, with a short plinth made of basalt, with the skeleton made of oak on top of which there were boards of pine tree. The roof is made of

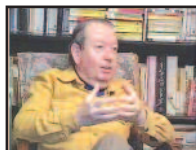


framings and covered in tiles – scales. The Hungarian household in the Babșa colony was dated 1903 and was built by Swabian craftsmen from Darova. Between 1903-1906, Hungarian colonists settled in Babșa village. Most of them came from Northern Hungary and nowadays Southern Slovakia. The purpose of the Hungarian authorities was to populate with Hungarians the quadrangle Timișoara-Lugoj-Făget-Lipova, which consisted mainly of Romanian villages. Out of the 55 houses built in the first decade of the XXth century in Babșa, there are very few inhabited nowadays; most of the population has moved to Lugoj or Timișoara.



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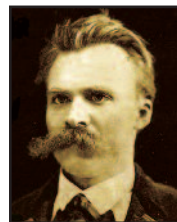
NIETZSCHE'S TRANSLATOR



Simion Dănilă (photo), translator, literary historian and philologist was born in BeliŢ on 23 April 1943. He attended the classes of the BeliŢ school (1950-1957), then the "Coriolan Brediceanu" High School in Lugoj (1957-1961). He graduated from the Faculty of Philology, Romanian-German specialisation, at the University of Timișoara (1961-1966). He taught German at the BeliŢ High School, (1966-1973), then at the village elementary school (1974-2000).

He was a collaborator for "The Annals of Banat", "Astra", "Linguistic Research", "The Contemporary", "Echinox", "The family", "The Morning Star", "The Romanian Language", "Language and Literature", "Horizon", "Neue Banater Zeitung", "Latin Orient", "Reflex" etc. He translates the volumes: **Friedrich Nietzsche, "Poems"**, 1980; **Frank Wedekind, "Theatre"**, 1982; **Andrei A. Lillin, "The Mask Merchant"**, 1991; **"Friederich Nietzsche, The Gay Science"**, 1994; **"Wanderers Nachtlied/The Traveller's Night Song. Anthology of German Lyric Poetry"**, 1996; **Friedrich Nietzsche, "Complete works"**, critical edition in 15 volumes, 1998-2005; **Peter Jung, "Du meine Heimat, mein Banat! Gedichte/ Oh, my home, my dear Banat! - Poems"**, in collaboration with **Nikolaus Horn**, 2001. When asked a few years ago by the publicists **Elvis Petrișor Dobrescu** if translating Nietzsche was a titanic task, Simion Dănilă answered honestly: **"I would say it's really an inferno. When I started the translation, under a contract with the Hestia Publishing House, I reached the performance of five pages a day. (...) However, by doing a lot of translation work, from one book to another, you prepare yourself for these works, which are more difficult to translate. In addition, Nietzsche is so hard to translate because he is a language creator. I came across words which are not even listed in the common German dictionaries."**

Simion Dănilă is the creator of the anthologies **"The most beautiful autumn ever"** 1978; **"When a pawn runs and fades away in the darkness"**, an anthology of Romanian poetry inspired by chess, published in the **"Literature and mind games. The Chess Planet"** almanac, 1986 and 1988; **"Prefaces, postfaces: Artur Schnitzler, Open Road"**, 1986; **Ștefan Pătruș, Ioan Fărcaș, "Intimate Talks"**, 1995. Member of the Writer's Union of Romania. He obtained the award of the Writer's Union of Romania - Timișoara Branch (1998, for the translation of volume I -Poetry- of Friedrich Nietzsche's **"Complete works"**), as well as the award of the Writer's Union of Romania - Timișoara Branch (2004).



*Friedrich
NIETZSCHE, the
philosopher who
fascinated Simion
Dănilă*

THE NATIONAL HOUSE

The National House from the Babșa village was built at the beginning of the XXth century. The foundation and the base of the house are made of basalt. The framework is made of evergreen oak wood, the masonry of unburnt brick. The house was initially covered with shingle then with profiled tiles. The main facade has a porch supported by sculpted oak pillars, the entrance to the town library and the official balcony, located in the auditorium. The festivity hall is still used, it has a relatively large stage, with a capacity of over 150 spectators. The hall has an arched roof, made of plastered wickerwork. The main facade bears the inscription: **"VIRTUS ROMANA REDIVIVA – NATIONAL HOUSE"** (for a while, the inscription was "Go brave ploughers. Virtus romana rediviva - National House". The house is topped by a small tower, decorated with a lyre, the symbol of the Banat cultural societies. An outdoor stage was built nearby, hosting artistic shows (which, according to tradition, take place on Sundays). The facade of the National House also holds a marble plate to remind us of the fact that the **Babșa Ploughers' Choir** celebrated 120 years of uninterrupted activity in 2003.

