

DUDEȘTII VECHI

Local Council Office: Dudeștii Vechi no. 254, telephone/fax 0256/384104;

Coordinates:

46°02'46" N lat.;

20°28'44" E long.;

Historical landmarks:

-1238 - there was a settlement which belonged to the fortress of Cenad and which did not pay a papal tithe;

-1717 - recorded in the Austrian Census (the census of villages) under the name of **Beshenova**;

-1738 - Bulgarian families from **Nikopole** settled in the area;

-1742 - other 20 Bulgarian families from **Lovrin** settled in the area;

- after 1850 - -1904 - a Roman cemetery was found at the outskirts of Besenova Veche, towards Valcani;

-9 April 1934 - **Carol Ivanciov** was born in Dudeștii Vechi, professor, poet, folklorist, journalist, former deputy (1990-1992 and 1992-1996);

-1936 - Dudeștii Vechi (Beșenova Veche) had 6 116 inhabitants, 1034 houses, primary school, kindergarten, male choir, reading society, volunteer firemen society, heroes' monument;

-15 July 1941 - **Ioan Văcariu** was born in Dudeștii Vechi, poet who wrote in the Banat idiom;

-25 February 1946 - **Petru Mirciov** was born in Dudeștii Vechi, engineer, former deputy of Timiș (2000 -2004);

-1 January 1950 - **Nicolae Mircovici** was born in Cheglevici, Ph.D. in law, officer, deputy (2004-2008 and 2008 - present);

-1968 - the commune received the name of **Dudeștii Vechi** (Star Bîsnov);

-2002 - the commune of Dudeștii Vechi had 5,786 inhabitants;

-2008 - the "**The Dudești Pages**" newspaper was first published;

-29 April 2011 - the mayor **Gh. Nacov** is named Honorary Consul of the Republic of Bulgaria for Arad, Caraș-Severin, Hunedo-

ra and Timiș County;

Total population on 1

January

2010: 4,316

persons, of

which:

- male = 2,101 persons

- female = 2,215 persons

Number of households on 1

January

2010: 1,719

Member villages: Dudeștii Vechi, Chegle-

vici (1842, Keglevic), Colonia Bulgară

(1845); **Educational institutions:** "Saints

Cyril and Methodius" Theoretical High

School Dudeștii Vechi; Primary Schools (I-

IV): Cheglevici; Kindergartens with extended

hours: Dudeștii Vechi; Kindergartens

with normal hours: Cheglevici;

Health facilities: Medical practices:

Dudeștii Vechi (two); Drugstores: Dudeștii

Vechi; Dentist practices: Dudeștii Vechi;

Sanitary working points: Dudeștii Vechi;

Cultural institutions: Community centres:

Dudeștii Vechi and Cheglevici; The Museum

of the Bulgarian Ethnicity: Dudeștii

Vechi; Town Library: Dudeștii Vechi (1962);

Fitness and sports facilities: High School

gym and sports ground, sports ground with

night lighting: Dudeștii Vechi;

Churches: Roman-Catholic Churches:

Dudeștii Vechi (1804), Cheglevici (1907)

and Colonia Bulgară (1852, chapel; church,

1912); Orthodox Churches: Cheglevici

(1965) and Dudeștii Vechi (2003); House of

prayers, the Church of the Nazarene:

Dudeștii Vechi (1996); House of prayers,

Pentecostal church: Dudeștii Vechi (2003);

Annual church festivals: Catholic church

festival: Dudeștii Vechi (15 August), Che-

glevici (21 September) and Colonia Bulgară

(18 October); Orthodox church festival: Du-

dăștii Vechi (29 June - Saints Apostles Peter

and Paul) and Cheglevici (26 October -

Saint Demetrius).



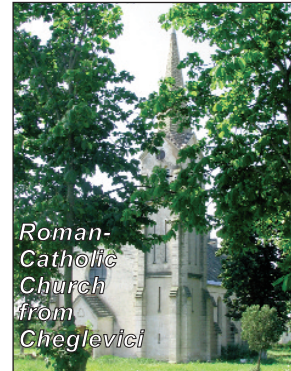
THE CITY HALL AND THE LOCAL COUNCIL OF DUDEȘTII VECHI

Nacov Gheorghe	Mayor	Kalcsov Constantin, LC member	CDNPP
Budur Pavel	Vice Mayor	Petcov Ana, LC member	BUBR
Augustinov Petru, LC member	NLP	Petcov Antoniu, LC member	NLP
Berceanu Iancu Constantin, LC member	SDP	Sofran Marcu, LC member	BUBR
Boboiciov Nicolae, LC member	BUBR	Velciov Petru, LC member	BUBR
Boboiciov Petru, LC member	NLP	Velciov Stanca, LC member	BUBR
Ganciov Ecaterina, LC member	NLP	Viruzab Sebastian, LC member	BUBR

DUDEȘTII VECHI

“NOBLES’ NEST”

Mentioned in documents ever since the first half of the XIIIth century, Bessenova belonged to the Fortress of Cenad. This brought about several privileges, like the exemption from civil jurisdiction and papal tithes, but also the permission to hold weekly fairs (1331). The privileges were strengthened by King Sigismund of Hungary in 1390, because Bessenova was considered a true “nobles’ nest”, where Hungarian nobles of smaller ranks had their origins. Moreover, there are later documents, from 1647, which mention the names of such noble families that owned the settlement, like Petre Szél and Gáspár Tar or Ștefan Dóry or Andrei Török. The near-by Cheglevici settlement (named in the beginning Kókényár, then Vaffaules), was also owned by a series of Hungarian noble families, like Vaffafi (1256) and Tamás (1285), then the family of Ștefan Telegdy. The settlement was plundered by the Ottomans in the XVIth century. In 1844, the village of Cheglevici was founded in the area by Germans brought from Teremia, Tomnatic, Cenadul Vechi, Beba or Sânnicolau German (with origins in Alsace and Württemberg). The name of the village was given after the name of the Count Gavril Kegelevich, the owner of the place, the one who gave the Swabian settlers a land surface of 3,181 cadastral jochs.



THE PAULICIAN PEOPLE

The Bulgarian community from Dudeștii Vechi is formed of Bulgarians who are still speaking the archaic dialect, the Paulician



Bulgarian, which uses the Latin alphabet instead of the Cyrillic one, common for the Slavic languages from the Balkans. The origin of the first inhabitants of the commune of Dudeștii Vechi is found in the documents of the time, such as “**Historia domus**” mentioning the Paulician Bulgarians’ place of origin: “as the old people say, this people has its origins in the localities surrounding Nicopole (Belene, Oreș Trančevica and others)”. Governor Neupert of Banat, at the request of the bishop Nicola Stanislávič, helped the Catholic Bulgarian settlers in 1738 by “giving them land, seeds to cultivate it and the permission to cut trees from the forest of Cenad and build houses using the wood.” Later on, after a century, the Bulgarian families from

Dudeștii Vechi headed for the current border between Romania and Serbia and founded the settlement of Breștea (1842), in the commune of Denta.

The features and the age of the Bulgarian community from Star Bisnov drew the attention of the Academy from Sofia, but also of several political personalities who visited the commune, such as the Bulgarian Vice-president Angel Marin - who visited the settlement on the school’s 260-year anniversary. **King Simeon II** visited the commune in 2008, on the 270-year anniversary of the locality founded by the Paulician Bulgarian settlers. If the number of the Bulgarians from Star Bisnov exceeded 6,000 50 years ago,



King Simeon II, greeted by Mayor Gheorghe Nacov

nowadays the commune of Dudeștii Vechi (together with the villages of Cheglevici and Colonia Bulgară - Telepa) has a population of almost 4,500 inhabitants.

DUDEȘTII VECHI

HERITAGE:
A UNIQUE SCHOOL

The “**Saints Cyril and Methodius**” High School from Dudeștii Vechi is considered the oldest Bulgarian school outside the borders of Bulgaria. According to tradition, ever since its creation in 1745, the educational institution has taught the Bulgarian language from the first to the twelfth grades, a unique case in contemporary Romania.



“STAR BÎSNOV – PLAIN AIR”

For several years, Dudeștii Vechi has been the host of the meetings of artists from the locality and guests from the area and the country. Between 1 and 8 September 2008, eleven artists took part to the Plain Air from Star Bîsnov: Ana Maria Anton (Bucharest), Petronela Szofran (Dudeștii Vechi), Amalia Todorov (Sânnicolau Mare), Valentin Tanasă (Bucharest), Ioan Vasilcin (Dudeștii Vechi), but also talented young artists like Maria Calapis (Dudeștii Vechi), Elena Gui (Timișoara), Emi Munteanu (Dudeștii Vechi), Mița Vasilcin (Dudeștii Vechi), Petru Pencov (Dudeștii Vechi), Luca Valcov (Dudeștii Vechi).



“**Plain Air 2008**” is described as follows by one of the event’s sponsors, artist Ioan (Jani) Vasilcin: **“For seven days, the participants stepped out on the streets of this old Bulgarian village and painted on their canvases different aspects related to the daily life and the original landscape. Besides the architectural elements and the scenery, one can also find picturesque local people. (...) For a few days, a village almost dissolved by the tides of the last fifty years, Colonia Bulgară, was revived when the artists walked its alleys. For some of the visitors of the exhibition, the images**

lit the flame of childhood memories, when the alleys of the village from the steppe were full of people, and the church park was full of flowers...”

Painters from Romania and Bulgaria participated to “Plener u Star Bîsnov” 2009 event from Dudeștii Vechi: Raina Teneva - Sofia; Vladimir Iosifov - Sofia; Nicolai Gheorghiev - Etropole; Volodea Kazakov - Botevgrad, Bulgaria; Valentin Tanasă - Bucharest, Radu Cotișel - Turda, Iolanda Forgacs - Baia Mare, Maria Calapis - Dudeștii Vechi, Ioan Vasilcin - Dudeștii Vechi.

