

Survey of Jewish History and Holocaust-Related Sites in Moldova
 Initiated by Stuart Saffer, JDC Country Director for Moldova and Ukraine, in 2004.
 Donated to CJA in 2021.

Berlintsy

Date of visit: October 15, 2003,
 October 23, 2003

Berlintsy is a small Ukrainian village in Brichany district that is on the Vilia River, not far from Kishinev-Chernovtsy highway, 14 km from Brichany. First mentioned in the middle of the 18 century, now it has a population of 2000 people. There is a high school, village club, library, barber’s and hairdresser’s shop, first-aid station, post office, stadium, and food and consumer goods store.

At present there are no Jews living in the village.

In May 1952, a modest obelisk was erected outside the village of Berlintsy, next to a cornfield to commemorate those who had been killed by the Romanian occupants. On July 7, 1941 on this place all the Jewish population of the village was executed by shooting.



Semion Katerberg, a citizen of Brichany and former head of the *Frontier Guard* collective farm in the village of Larga, whose relatives had been among the victims made a search and step by step managed to create a list of those perished.

	Last, first and middle name	Year of birth/age
1.	Katerber Enta Aronovna	1899
2.	Katerberg Maria Shmilovna	1930
3.	Shekhtman Ostryka Fraevna	1904
4.	Shekhtman Isaak Meerovich	1930
5.	Shatir Sheila	1889
6.	Shatir Reizla Aliukovna	1891
7.	Vaisman Alter Aronovich	1888
8.	Vaisman Shenglea	1889
9.	Vaisman Volko Alterovich	1912
10.	Shekhtman Gersh	1884
11.	Shekhtman Rivka	1886
12.	Vaisman Frima	1883
13.	Vaisman Khaia Khaimovna	1914

14.	Akkerman Sheiva Sheftovna	1877
15.	Freedman Berk Khaimovich	1902
16.	Freedman Feiga Khaimovna	1902
17.	Freedman Khamil Berkovich	1930
18.	Zaitzman Aliuka	1864
19.	Zaltzman Rakhilya Froimovna	44
20.	Zaltzman Semion Favolovich	10
21.	Gurvich Aba Sukhorovich	43
22.	Gurvich Rivka	40
23.	Gurvich Sioma Abovich	12
24.	Gurvich Khaim Abovich	14
25.	Gurvich Urn	44
26.	Gurvich Leika	38
27.	Gurvich (no name), their child	6
28.	Eteles (no name)	No date
29.	Eteles (no name) his child	No date

“...Gendarmes drove all the Jewish people together and out of the village. They made the Jews dig two ditches, then lined them up along the edge of the ready graves and shot them. My mother and ten-year-old sister were there too...”

From Semion Katerberg’s story

Semion Katerberg last saw his mother and sister on July 3, 1941. He was a Komsomol (Young Communist League) member and on the order of the district Communist Party Committee participated in driving the cattle from the collective farms in Brichany district to Chernovtsy region. On bringing the cattle to the destination he volunteered for the Soviet Army. During World War II, he was in Tiraspol, Stalingrad, and Kubani and only in 1948 came back to the native village to learn about the tragedy.



At present Semion Katerberg visits the monument on a regular basis to take care of it. The memory of his mother and sister is very dear to him. He hopes to find a necessary financing to restore the obelisk and later erect a modern memorial that will cover not only the spot of the present obelisk, but also the nearby graves. Assisted by his friends, Semion has made a

sketch design of the future monument.

Unfortunately, after the above-described tragedy Jewish homes were plundered and houses destroyed. No Jews came back to the village. The obelisk is the only reminder of the Jewish presence in the village.

However, old-timers remember it when Jews were living in Berlintsy. They say that as children they used to go to Jewish houses on Saturday and light a fire, as Jews were religious and could not light a fire on Saturday. Thankful Jewish women used to give them new gorgeous shirts. The old residents also state that, as a rule, Jewish houses consisted of two parts, one was for living and the other was a workshop. Besides, local people add that Jews had a possibility to escape and Ukrainians suggested that they should do it, but Jews, being very religious and pious, said: "If we are doomed to die, let it be that way."

Bibliography:

- « Antiudaizm, or Cave World », Efim Tkach, Kishinev 1998
- «Light a candle at Day of the Victory...», Michael Bekker, Kishinev 2002
- Moldavian Soviet Encyclopedia, Kishinev 1976
- "Localitatile Republicii Moldova", Agentia Nationala de Presa "MoldPres", Chisinau 1999

Appendix I

National Archive of Moldova.
Fund 1026. Inventory №2. Case 17.
Copy

Conclusion

While excavating the grave at the site of shooting Soviet citizens by Romanian occupants in 1941 in the village of Berlintsy, Lipkany district, Beltsy region, MSSR it proved that in 3 years the corpses had decomposed; therefore, it was the remained skeletons that were subjected to medical examination.

Among the skeletons extracted from the grave there were 3 skeletons of children of 3 to 14 years of age. The investigation yielded traces of damage in the area of scull caused by firearms.

Some skeletons had traces of damage caused by firearms in the spine area and other parts of the skeleton.

Altogether 20 human skeletons were examined lying in the grave chaotically and among which animal bones were also found.

Expert Doctor

/signature/ Palatnik

March 26, 1945