

Becherov, Slovakia

The following information is from the Becherov website. The English translation has been rewritten for clarity.

[Http://www.becherov.host.sk/](http://www.becherov.host.sk/)

The village of Becherov is located in north-eastern Slovakia, Bardejov district near the border to the Poland. Nearby are the villages of Ondavka, Vyšná Polianka, Jedlinka, Smilno, Chmeľová, Regetovka and Konieczna (Poland).

Becherov is comprised of 1909 hectares and 278 citizens. There are two churches a Uniate (Greek Catholic) church (1847) and an orthodox church which was built with elements of old Russian Baroc. Near Becherov is the 24,13 ha National natural reserve—Becherovská tisina.

In Becherov one can find rare kinds of fauna and flora, a mineral water spring that contains a lot of sulphur, and a Second World War monument. Approximately 500 m west of Becherov boarder crossing is a First World War monument. The Becherov border crossing to Poland was opened in 1994.

The village has a hunting association, community forest associations, farmers' cooperative and a successful voluntary fire brigade, which has won many competitions. Every year in August the village hosts a folklore festival "Stretnutie pri vatre" (Meeting by bonfire).

The History

The first written mention of the village is dated back to the year 1414. At that time, the village was known as Kwberher and was in the Makovicky domain confirmed by King Sigmund to barons Cudarovci. It is believed that the village existed probably as early as 1241.

The village was built by peasant households lead by the magistrate. In various documents from 15.-18. century the village is mentioned as: "Kwbeher, Byharo, Biharo, Bicharo, Becharow". The name Becher was probably a surname of the first magistrate in an arising Becherov.

Becherov belonged to the Walachian villages in the Makovicky domain with a Rusin population

at the end of 15th century. We know that in the 15th century the village had a wooden church without a tower and a cemetery.

At the end of the 16th century, Becherov was a medium sized village with a Rusin population, magistrate, and the family of the orthodox rector. At this time the people of the village worked only on "panske" and in the large forest.

The population of Becherov was at its largest in 1828 when there were 971 residents. The number of residents fell to around 700 at the beginning of the Second World War. After the war the population dropped to 553. With more families moving to the cities the population continues to fall. The village would like to prevent further depopulation of the village.

During the First World War, many battles between the Austro-Hungarian and Russian militaries, occurred in the vicinity of Becherov. In memory of the battles a stone monument was built at the hill called "Dujava" by the border. Buried there are 168 Hungarian and 135 Russian soldiers. In the village of Becherov local cemetery there are another 74 tombs from First World War.

Between the world wars, the people of the village worked mainly in the forests and agriculture.

During the Second World War, 60 men from the village joined the partisans to fight against German occupation, 15 of them never came back home. A monument in their honor was built in the village. (see page 6)

Becherov was damaged during the wars. The historical buildings that remain are the Uniate church from year 1847 and the Orthodox church with the elements of old-Russian baroque from year 1929. (continued on page 7)

World War II War Memorial

Honoring 15 men from the village of Becherov who fought with the partisans and never returned home.



Parts of the names and dates are hidden by the wreath.

Listed on the monument are:

Grivna, Seman—1910-1944
 Fedorko, Petro—1919-1945
 Jurchisin, Petro—1921-1944
 Grivna, Ivan — 1923-1945
 Lazorik, Ivan—1921-1944
 Brinda, Joseph—1923-1945
 Cuper, Joseph—1925-1945
 Jaroschak, Joseph—1915-1945
 Jurchisin, Andrew
 Gmitterko, Ivan
 Roman
 Snyder
 Varchol
 Zbilyi
 Vados

In 1981, Mitro Jurchisin compiled a booklet, Carpathian Village People, which lists Rusins who immigrated to Minneapolis, Minnesota between 1880 to 1947 and their village of origin.

Following are the surnames of those families from the village of Becherov who immigrated to Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Banisky, Boris, Brinda, Cuper (Super), Dupay, Fedorko, Franko, Grivna, Gmitterko, Guzie, Hafich, Jazusko, Jaroschak, Jurchisin, Kohanik, Kohan, Kokosh, Kostik, Kotik, Krish, Kulkaya, Lazorik, Leschisin, Masley, Marcinak, Markovich, Mihalik, Miulak, Miterko, Panko, Petrichko, Plenka, Reshetar, Roman, Rozum, Rusinko, Rusinak, Semanko, Siroka, Sivanich, Snyder, Stenach, Tanchin, Taragos, Tutko, Vados, Vadotz, Varchol, Zbilyi, and Zurbey.

Editors Note: The Carpathian Village People Booklet is available through the Rusin Association for \$7.00

Some of the same surnames appear on the World War II monument in Becherov.