

BRESTOVĂȚ

Local Council Office: Brestovăț no. 20, telephone/fax 0256/231460;

Coordinates:

45°52'23" N lat.;

21°40'52" E long.

Historical landmarks:

-1440 - the first record of the locality under the name of **Brestowetz**, belonging to the Șoimoș fortress;

-1583 - Romanian families from Transylvania settled in Chizdia (Coșarii) and remained in the village location during the Ottoman invasion;

-the XVIIth century - the Brestovăț settlement was plundered under the Ottoman invasion; the village was then called **Aga**, and a hilly plateau in the west part of the village is still called **Aga**;

-1717 - Chizdia (Coșarii) had 16 inhabited houses;

-1717-1722 - Brestovățul was refounded on its current location, under the name of **Prestovaz**;

-1723-1725 - 113 Serbian families from Montenegro settled in the area;

-1797 - the first Hungarian and Slovak families settled in the area;

-1828 - new Hungarian families settled in the village;

-1828 - **Lukarecz** was mentioned as a Serbian locality with orthodox population;

-the middle of the XIXth century - Slovak families coming from the north of Hungary, around the area of the town of Pozsonj (the present-day Bratislava) came to the village of Teș;

-1870 - the post office from Brestovăț was founded upon the request of the land owner,

Alexandru Iancicaru;

-1926 - the mixed choir was founded in Brestovăț, led by priest **Andrei B. Andraș**;

-6 October 1951 - the folk music singer **Elena Jurjescu Todi** was born in Coșarii;

-1980 - **Remus Gh. Lazăr** defends in Cluj Napoca his graduation thesis entitled



“Ethnographic Monograph of Coșarii Village”

-2010 – the work “Chizdia-Coșarii – Monographic Landmarks” by **Liubomir Stepanov and Nicolae Ignea** is published in Timișoara;

Total population on 1 January 2010: 700 persons, of which:

- male = 363 persons

- female = 337 persons

Number of households on 1 January 2010: 466

Member villages = Brestovăț, Coșarii (the former Chizdia - 1440, Kis Gyal - “Gialu Mic”), Hodoș (1256), Lucareț, Teș (1337);

Educational institutions: Elementary Schools (I-VIII): Brestovăț; Primary Schools (I-IV): Teș; Kindergarten with normal hours: Brestovăț;

Health facilities: Local clinic: Brestovăț; Sanitary-veterinary practice: Brestovăț;

Cultural institutions: Community Centres: Brestovăț, Coșarii, Lucareț and Teș; Library: Brestovăț (founded in 1968);

Fitness and sports facilities: Sports ground in the locality of Teș;

Churches: Romanian Orthodox Churches: Brestovăț (1927), Lucareț (1925), Coșarii (1840), Teș (1760) and Hodoș (1897); Serbian Orthodox Churches: Lucareț (1779); Greek-Catholic Churches: Coșarii (1870); Roman-Catholic Church: Brestovăț (1923); Baptist Churches: Brestovăț (1995), Coșarii (1994), Teș (1997);

Annual Church Festivals: Lucareț (the Ascension of Christ); Teș (Pentecost); Brestovăț (8 September - the Nativity of Virgin Mary); Coșarii (8 September - the Nativity of Virgin Mary); Hodoș (26 October - Saint Demetrius).

THE CITY HALL AND THE LOCAL COUNCIL OF BRESTOVĂȚ

Dobra Eugen	Mayor	Jurjescu Dorin, LC member	DLP
Costescu Gheorghe	Vice Mayor	Pantea Doruț Ioan, LC member	SDP
Costescu Gheorghe, LC member		Soika Agneta, LC member	DLP
Gîngu Vasile, LC member		Triponescu Gheorghe, LC member	SDP
Grolmusz Ioan, LC member		Zăbălțan Dorin Mirel, LC member	CP
Ioschici Sandu, LC member			

BRESTOVĂȚ

“SAINT GEORGE” CHURCH

Around 1471, Serbian refugees settled in Lucareț besides the Romanians because of the ottoman invasion. The colonisation of the Serbian population was supported by King Mathias Corvinus and by Pavel the Knyaz. Towards the end of the XVIIIth century, the Lucareț estate was bought by one of the Aromanian brothers **Agora**, coming from Macedonia. They are considered - according to local tradition, but also according to a note written on a Gospel preserved in the church - the founders of the Serbian Orthodox Church, with the Patron “Saint George”. The church was built between 1790 and 1792 from oak beams, with the walls plastered with clay on the inside and outside. There is a wooden tower above the narthex. In the beginning, the tower’s roof was made of shingle, but it was replaced with profiled tiles (1945). It is also possible that the painting adorning the semicylindrical dome of the narthex was covered in those times. A separate small belfry is still preserved nowadays in the church yard.



ELENA JURJESCU TODI

She was born in Coșarii on 6 October 1951. She was a student of the Theoretical High School of Timișoara, and she was encouraged to sing by her teacher **Marius Țeicu**. She appeared on stages together with the “Banatul”, “Timișul”, “Semenicul” and the Radio Folk Orchestra, collaborating with conductors like George Vancu, Ion Odrobot, Gelu Stan or Radu Voinescu. She was admitted by competition to the “Banatul” Professional Dance Ensemble of Timișoara (September 1973). She recorded her first songs as a soloist at Radio Timișoara (1973). She also recorded at RTV Ljubliana (Slovenia - 1974), Radio Bucharest, “Electrecord” Bucharest etc. She went on numerous tours in France, Italy, Greece, Austria, Germany, Cehoslovakia, URSS, Bulgaria, Hungary, Basarabia etc. She won the special prize of the Creation Centre of the artistic movement from București - at the “Maria Tănase” Festival - Craiova, 1973, the “Ethnos” Prize, the diploma of member of the Traditional Arts Academy of Romania - August 2000. She recorded over 100 songs at Radio Bucharest, she had numerous disks recorded at “Electrecord”, five CDs with old and new songs. Between 1973 and 1981, she appeared in many shows at the Romanian Television Network. She was an editor of “The Awakening of Aromanians” from Bucharest, an editor at the “Europa Nova” Television (since 1995). The repertoire of Elena Jurjescu consists of songs collected from the people, from the folklore of Timiș county: “**In John’s garden**”, “**There, in the valley, near the Cherry Tree**”, “**John, oh, John**”, very special songs due to the musicality of Elena Jurjescu’s voice. The authenticity of the singer’s repertoire determined the eulogious chronicles dedicated by the great folklorist Hary Brauner (the founder of the Institute of Folklore from București and of the “Barbu Lăutaru” folk music orchestra - 1946) in the “How the grass grows” magazine. Starting with 2009, Elena Jurjescu Todi has organised the Folklore Festival entitled “**How Many Stars Does Banat Have**”.



COȘARII - CHIZDIA

In 1965, the Communist regime changed the names of some localities from Timiș county that seemed to have trivial or racist connotations. Hence, the Omoru Mic and Omoru Mare settlements from the commune of Denta were renamed to Rovinița Mare and Rovinița Mică. The village of Jadani, from the

commune of Orțișoara, was changed to Cornești. In the same period, the old settlement of Chizdia received the name of Coșarii, name preserved nowadays as well. Many local inhabitants tried after 1990 to determine the authorities to approve the old name again (in 1440, the village was named Felsókidzia, in 1661, Kisdia, in 1924, Chizdia), but without success.

BRESTOVĂȚ

SINA, THE AROMANIAN BARON
OF HODOȘ AND CHIZDIA

The family of the Aromanian barons Sina was very famous in Central Europe during the XVIIIth and XIXth centuries. The Sina family came from Moscopol (Albania) and left the city after its destruction by the Ottomans. At first, they settled in Croatia, and then they moved to Vienna, where they traded tobacco, cotton and food products.



The founder of the House of Sina, **Simon** (born in Moscopol in 1753, deceased in Vienna in 1822, see image, left) skilfully increased the family business and became the second financial power in Vienna (after Rothschild Bank). Simon Sina maintained relationships with **Ali Tebelin**, the pasha of Ioanina, and, as legend has it, part of the wealth of the Sina family comes from the funds deposited by the pasha in the safes of the Sina family and abandoned following his assassination by a French officer (event described by writer Alexandre Dumas in his novel "The Count of Monte Cristo").

Due to their close relationships in Sankt Petersburg, Sina was the keeper of the wealth of the Russian aristocracy – of the Kiseleff family as well - and represented an economic competitor to the Rothschild family. They also financed the tsarist propaganda in the Balkans.

Simon Sina was the consul and the minister of Greece in Vienna, München and Berlin, member of the Chamber of Magnates of Hungary, Austrian personal advisor, Knight of the Order of the Iron Crown, first class, member of the Senate. He was also responsible with the Imperial Academy of Sciences. Sina offered much money to the Greek state. He built the Academy of Athens and he was considered an "everget" - benefactor of the Hellenic Nation. Nowadays, a street in Athens bears his name.

Some of the buildings financed by Simon Sina were the first bridge built over the Danube in Budapest, the Institute of the Blind, the Palace of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, the Conservatory of Budapest. His son, Georg-Simon Sina (born in Vienna 1782 - died 1856) was as famous as his father (see image, up right). He received noble titles from Emperor Francis II in 1818. He became a baron after the purchase of the Hodoș and Chizdia (Kizdia) estates. The grandson, Simon-George (1810-1876), continued the work of his father and grandfather, increasing his family's wealth and international reputation.

The writer **Constanța Marcu** is currently involved in a very interesting project. She wishes to publish the history of a very famous Aromanian family, who marked Europe's civilisation during the XVIIIth and XIXth centuries, for the people of Hodoș and Coșarii.

HERITAGE:
THE MONUMENT FROM
THE METROPOLITANATE YARD

The wooden church from the village of Hodoș celebrates its Patron Saint on the day of "Saint Demetrius". It was predated by an inscription found on the iconostasis from 1774, but the year 1762 was engraved on the imperial icon. The small place of worship was made of oak wood beams covered with clay and the roof was made of shingle. The church was included in the list of historical monuments from Timiș county after it was moved from Hodoș to Timișoara in 1968, in the yard of the Metropolitanate of Banat at number 7 on C.D. Loga Boulevard.

