



Alternate names: Berdychiv / Бердичів [Ukr], Berdichev / Бердичев [Rus], Barditchev / ,Berditschew ,Berditchov ,Berditchev ,[Rom] Berdicev ,[Pol] Berdyczów ,[Yid] באַרדיטשע Berdytschiw, Berdyciv. Ukrainian: Бердичів. Russian: Бердичев. באַרדיטשע Yiddish [49° 54' N, 28° 35' E](#)

,  
24 miles S of Zhytomyr. 1900 Jewish population: 41,617. Yizkor:

[Geven amol a shtot Berditshev](#)

(, 1956).

[JewishGen Ukraine SIG](#)

. The administrative center of the Berdychiv Raion and a direct oblast subordination. The 2001 estimated population was around 88,000.

[Jewish history](#)

. and

[Jewish Community](#)

. [August 2009]

- [ShtetLink](#) . [October 2000]
- [Geven amol a shtot Berditshev](#) (1956)

- [KehilaLink](#)
- [JewishGen Ukraine SIG](#)
- [Photos](#) [January 2016]
- [Museum of the History of Polish Jews](#)
- *Shtetl Finder* (1989), p. 5: "Berditchev, Berditchov".
- *Encyclopedia of Jewish Life* (2001), pp. 112-113: "Berdichev".
- [Wikipedia](#) [Feb 2015]
- "The Bones of Berdichev" goes into great detail about this larger town. [Berdichev List](#)

[Manager](#)

, Jeanne

Gold

- "The [World of a Hasidic Master: Levi Yitzhak of Berdichev](#) ", Authored by Samuel H.

Dresner (

*Ch. 8, citation 5*), a

passage was cited from the book, "

*Siftei Tzadikim*

" Published in Lemberg (

*L'viv*

) in 1863, and republished in Brooklyn, N.Y. in 1996/1997. Author Pinhas of Dinovitz. A brief and unflattering description of

*Berdichev Jews*

- *Berdichev-D Digest*. [email](#)

- statistical review: "[Berditschew Artificers](#)" taken from an 1844 edition of "*Allgemeine Zeitung des Judentums*

,"  
mentions the number of participants in each of various trades of the then 30,000 Jewish inhabitants. "

*Berditschew Artificers*

" states: "I

*n Berditschew, a town containing about 30,000 Jewish inhabitants, there are nine merchants of the first, twelve of the second, and about 500 of the third rank. There are 274 corn handlers, 205 butchers, and a great many fish, fruit and vegetable salesmen. There are builders, dyers, three engravers, forty goldsmiths, six painters, seventeen watchmakers, thirty musicians.*

"

- The [war crimes trial files](#) from the *German Embassy in Washington, D.C.* concerning Engelbert Kreuzer, who was involved in the massacre of 1,000 Jews in

*Berdichev*

in 1941. He was tried in a

*German court*

in 1970/71 and sentenced to seven years for his role in the massacres of many

*Ukrainian Jewish communities.*

The files contain 10 pages in

*German*

with information on the atrocities in

*Berdechev*

. Paul W. Ginsburg, Webmaster of the

*Sudilkov On-line Landsmanshaft site*

offers to mail copies of these 10 pages to anyone who can translate German and disseminate to your group. An Index of 280 Jewish Persons mentioned in

"

*The*

**Town of Berdechev"**

which was edited by Baruch Kharu

*(Krupnick*

) in

*Tel Aviv*

in 1951 and indexed by Yael Driver. Contact

[Yael](#)

for a copy of the list.

- [Berdichev-L Archives Rootsweb](#)
- [Berdichev Discussion Group](#)
- [Regional Special Interest Groups](#) :Ukraine SIG, Galicia SIG and Hungary
- movie (*black and white with subtitles*):, "*Komissar*" symbolically speaks to Jewish past and future, depicted and banned in 1962 when produce according to [Diane Kriegman Claussen](#) [date?]

- Yad Vashem: "Jews were first mentioned in Berdichev in 1593. Towards the mid-eighteenth century, the city became one of the main Jewish centers of Ukraine, earning the esteemed title "Jerusalem of Volhynia." From 1785, Berdichev was home to Rabbi Levi Yitzhak of Berdichev, a prominent Hassidic leader, as well as Rabbi Yitzhak Ber Levinzon, a famous advocate of Jewish Enlightenment. In 1798, a Jewish typography was established in the city, one of the greatest in Russia. In the mid-nineteenth century, Berdichev's Jewish population rose to 50,000. At that time, a prominent Yiddish and Hebrew writer, Sholem Yankev Abramovitsh (Mendele Mokher Seforim), worked there. During the Russian Civil War (1918-1920), dozens of Jews were killed or wounded in pogroms carried out by the Ukrainian nationalist forces of Hetman Skoropadsky and Petlyura. During the Soviet period, many religious institutions in Berdichev were closed, and Zionist activity prohibited. At the same time, the regime supported Soviet Jewish secular identity and Soviet Yiddish culture. Yiddish became an official language of government bodies. In 1924, the first Ukrainian law-court with proceedings in Yiddish was established in the city, and later the police also worked in Yiddish. In 1928, a Historical-Cultural Reserve (museum) was opened in the former monastery of the Discalced (Barefooted) Carmelites, where a great part of the exposition dealt with Yiddish culture. However, towards the end of the 1930s, all Soviet Yiddish institutions were closed. By the end of the 1920s-1930s, the Jewish population of the city had significantly decreased, due to a mass migration that had begun in the early twentieth century: the 1939 census revealed that only 23,266 Jews remained in Berdichev, comprising 37.5 percent of the total population. " [Jewish history with photos](#) .

## MASS GRAVES:

- On July 7, 1941, the Germans occupied Berdichev. About one-third of the city's Jewish population, including refugees from Poland who had arrived there during first month of World War II, managed to evacuate or escape. The first days of the occupation witnessed wanton murders of Jews by German soldiers. By August 22, 1941, a ghetto had been established in Berdichev, in the Yatki area. From August 1941 to June 1942, the Jewish population of Berdichev was annihilated in a number of murder operations. In a separate operation on April

27, 1942, some seventy Jewish women from mixed families were shot together with their children. During every murder operation, the Germans separated Jewish "specialists" needed for labor. Thus, after the mass murder operation of September 14, 1941, about 400 men remained alive. After the next killing in early November, only 150 of the best craftsmen of Berdichev were spared. They resided at a camp in Lysaya Gora. When in May 1942 they were joined by the craftsmen and youth from Yanushpol, their numbers increased to between 400 and 700 men. Most of them were shot in the summer of 1942. The remaining sixty specialists were incarcerated in the city prison and killed along with the other inmates in November 1943 or early January 1944. Berdichev was liberated by the Red Army on January 5, 1944. Yad Vashem [with photos](#) .

- **Murder Sites:**
- [The Gnilyat River](#)
- [The Old Synagogue](#)
- [The Historical-Cultural Reserve](#)
- [Khazhin](#)
- [Shlemarka](#)
- [Sokulino](#)
- [Krasnaya Gora](#)
- **Commemoration:** [Commemoration of Jewish Victims](#)

## CEMETERY

- Berdichev Jewish cemetery boundaries: The extensive cemetery is bounded on the west by the major highway that leads N from the city; on the N by a road; on the S by the railroad right-of-way. Primarily on the eastern side of the cemetery, numerous garages have been built, desecrating the cemetery. While construction work on the garages is ostensibly frozen, work continues, without permission. Bones are still regularly unearthed. The cemetery urgently needs to be marked and fenced. Construction material and unfinished garages should be removed. Then, over time, the functioning garages could be relocated one by one and the cemetery returned. Source: [Samuel Gruber](#) in US Commission update report. [date?]
- Nonsectarian cemetery. There still is a small Jewish with a rabbi existing in this town. Site of the first major massacre conducted by the Nazis after entering Ukraine. [Source](#) .

[Restoration](#) project. [May 2010]

[US Commission restoration project](#) [Apr 2014]

[US Commission](#) No. UA.05020102

Alternative names: Yiddish-Berdichev, German-Bardichev, Polish-Berdichov, and Ukrainian-Berdycsow. Berdichev at 49°54' 28°35', 43 km from Zhitomir, 174 km from Kiev, and 32 km from Vinnitsa. Present town population is 25,000-100,000. The cemetery is located in the central part of the town at bottom part of Shevchenko Park in Zhitomirskaya Oblast .The present Jewish population is 100-1000.

- Town: town soviet, Oktyabrskaya Square, 1; Chairman. Khiluk Alexei Alexeevich, tel.: (04143) 2-01-58, 2-22-55. Town soviet, Center of Municipal Enterprises, Berdichev, Krasnin St., 3, tel. (243) 2-61-93.
- Berdichev Jewish Community, chairman: Ella Elgunovna Vainshelboim, tel.: 2-55-25 (home). Rabbi Shlomo Braier, Berdichev Jewish community, Vorovskiy St., 3, tel.: (04143) 2-39-38.
- Regional: Community of Historical Monuments Security, Zhitomir, Mikhailovskaya St., 10a; Chairman Borisuk N.E. tel.: (0412) 37-08-07.
- State Archive of Zhitomir Region, Zhitomir, 8 Marta St., 20, tel.: (8-22) 24-45-27.
- Morokova Nataliya Borisovna, secretary of "Books of the Memory", tel.: 2-47-42. State Archive of Zhitomir Region, Zhitomir, 8 Marta St., 20, tel.: (8-41) 24-45-27.

The 18th cemetery is unlocked with no caretaker. The earliest mention about Jewish community in the town is 1593. 1926 Jewish population was 30812. Struggles in 1919 effected community. Persons of note of the town: Rabbi Elnezer Liber 'Great' (died in 1771), Tzadik Levi Itskhak (died in 1809); cantor Abras legoshua; Khazan Pitsi (1829-1883); band-master David Novakevskiy (1848-1921; prose writer Iliya Severtsev Vaisfeld (born in 1912); writer Mendels Moikher-Sforim /Sholom-Yakov Abramovich (1836-1917); banker Izrail Galperin. Mendels Moikher-Sforim /Sholom-Yakov Abramovich (1836-1917); banker Izrail Galperin. Cantor Yakov Bakhman (1846-1905); composer Viktor Beli (1904-1983); literary man Neyakh Prilutskiy (died in 1941); violinist Avraam-Moishe Kholodenko Pedotser (1828-1902); Vladimir Horovits (1904-1989); Soviet Union Hero Polina Gelman (born in 1919); writer Grossman Vasilii (1905-1964). The last known Jewish burial in the Orthodox not land-marked cemetery was in 19th c. The cemetery location is urban, on a plain, and isolated with no sign or marker. It may

be reached by crossing Shevchenko Park. Access is open to all. There is only a general park fence with no gate and a fence around the Elnezer Liber's flat concrete grave). The cemetery size before the World War II was about 10,000 square meters. Now, its size is 16 square meters. There is only one gravestone on the cemetery, in its original location. Vegetation overgrowth is a seasonal problem that prevents access. Drainage in the cemetery is good year round. No known mass graves. Present owner of the cemetery property is municipality. The cemetery property at present is used as a park, bordered to residential area (Lenin St., Shevchenko St., 9 Yanvaryia St.), and is smaller than in 1939 because of building of Shevchenko Park in 1932. The cemetery is visited rarely by local citizens. The cemetery was vandalized before World War II. Jewish groups within the country and foreign Jewish groups are responsible for restoration in 1990s (reerecting stone). At present, occasionally persons clean the cemetery. Within the cemetery are pavilions and subsidiary structures of the park area. Very serious threat: vandalism and incompatibility with the present park. After the World War II, the different recreational entertainment things, pavilions and other structures, were built. The cemetery stones were took away. Slight threat: erosion, pollution and vegetation overgrowth.

Leonid Kogan, Novograd-Volynskiy, Lenin St 107, fl. 42, tel.: (04141) 5-42-59 completed the survey 18 August 1996. Documentation: Jewish Encyclopaedia and map of Evpatoria city (Simferopol, 1995). He visited the site on 15 August 1996 and interviewed Skoblitskiy Efim Gershkovich, Vorovskiy St, 15, fl.8, tel.: (8-243) 2-34-36.

**BERDICHEV II:** US Commission No. UA05020101.

The last known Jewish burial was in the 1990s. The Jewish community was Hasidic and Progressive/Reform. No other towns or villages used this isolated, urban, flat land with no sign or marker. Reached by turning directly off a Lenin St., access is open to all via a continuous fence with a non-locking gate. 501 to 5000 stones, most in original location and 50%-75% of the surviving stones toppled or broken date from the 18th century. Location of removed stones is unknown. Some tombstones have traces of painting on their surfaces, portraits on stones and/or metal fences around graves. The municipality owns the property used for Jewish cemetery only. Adjacent properties are commercial or industrial. The cemetery boundaries are unchanged since 1939. The cemetery is visited occasionally by organized Jewish group tours or pilgrimage groups and local residents. The cemetery was vandalized occasionally in the last 10 years. Now, there is occasional clearing or cleaning by individuals. Within the limits of the cemetery are other structures. Vegetation overgrowth is a constant problem, disturbing graves. Water drainage is a seasonal problem. Moderate threat: vegetation, existing and proposed nearby development. Slight threat: uncontrolled access, weather erosion, pollution and vandalism.

Hodorkovskiy Yuriy Isaakovich of Kiev, Vozduhoflotskiy prosp.,37a.apr.23 [ph: (044)2769505]

visited the site and completed the survey on 8/23/94. No interviews were conducted for this survey.

**BERDICHEV III:** US Commission No. UA.05020103

The unlocked 1972 cemetery is located in the SW part of the town at Voikov St. 98. The caretaker is Pukhanskiy Valerii Viktorovich. Work address and phone number: Berdichev, Voikov St, 98, tel.: (243) 2-50-70. The last known Orthodox Jewish burial was 1996. The unlandmarked isolated suburban site, part of municipal cemetery, has no sign or marker. It may be reached by turning directly off the road. Access is open to all. A continuous fence and gate with no lock surround the 108,000 square meters. There are 500-5000 gravestones on the cemetery. The oldest gravestone is dated 1973. The 20th century marble, granite, iron and labradorit gravestones are finely smoothed and inscribed stones, double graves, or sculptured monuments with traces of paint on their surfaces, portraits, and/or metal fences around graves. Inscriptions are in Yiddish and Russian. No known mass graves. The municipality owns the property. The cemetery property at present is a non-sectarian cemetery with mainly non-Jewish graves but with a separated Jewish part. Agricultural and residential areas and the highway to Zhitintsy border the cemetery. The cemetery is visited from occasionally by private visitors. The cemetery has never been vandalized. Stones re-erection and vegetation clearing by local municipal authorities and Jews who live within the country has been done since the 1970s. The government pays the caretaker. Within the cemetery are a well and other subsidiary structures. Slight threat: safety, pollution, vegetation overgrowth, and vandalism.

Leonid Kogan, Novograd-Volynskiy, Lenin St 107, fl. 42, tel.: (04141) 5-42-59 completed the survey 18 August 1996. Documentation: map of Evpatoria city (1990). He visited the site on 15 August 1996 and interviewed Skoblitskiy Efim Gershkovich, Vorovskiy St, 15, fl.8, tel.: (8-243) 2-34-36.

**BERDICHEV IV:** US Commission No. UA.05020501br> The 1941 mass gravesite is located in central part of the town in the area of the former Carmelite monastery. Access is open to all with no caretaker. The unlandmarked and isolated urban, hilltop has no sign or marker. It may be reached by entering the monastery area gate. There is continuous fence but no gate. Current size is 240 square meters. One 1950s granite finely smoothed and inscribed memorial with traces of paint on its surface and a metal fence around the memorial is on the mass burial site. The Ukrainian inscription reads "960 Soviet citizens-victims of German-fascist terror are buried here: 1941-1943". Some separate gravestones are dedicated to Holocaust victims. Present owner of the site is municipality, a non-sectarian cemetery with mainly Jewish graves, bordering a residential area and museum-reserve area (ex-monastery). The mass gravesite is visited occasionally by organized groups, private visitors, and local citizens. The site never was vandalized since its creation. The monument was created in the 1950's. At present, authorities sometimes clean the mass burial site with no structures. Slight threat: safety, erosion, pollution, vegetation overgrowth and vandalism. Leonid Kogan, Novograd-Volynskiy, Lenin St 107, fl. 42, tel.: (04141) 5-42-59 completed the survey 17 August 1996. Documentation: 1. Acts of

Commission on Investigation of German-fascist actions of April 1944 (State Archive of Zhitomir Region, Fond 2636, inventory 1, file 9); 2. Map of the town (Vinnitsa, 1990); and 3. S. Elisavetskiy "Berdichev Tragedy" (K., 1991). Leonid Kogan, Novograd-Volynskiy, Lenin St 107, fl. 42, tel.: (04141) 5-42-59 visited the site on 15 August 1996 and interviewed Elisavetskiy Ster Yakovlevich, Iskrevskaya St, 3, fl. 6.

**BERDICHEV V:** US Commission No. UA.05020502

Cemetery: Elling, 4 km S of the town and 1.5 km west of the highway to Vinnitsa. The unlocked Orthodox non-landmarked cemetery has no caretaker. The isolated rural (agricultural) plain has no sign or marker. Reached by crossing tank-training area, access is open to all. There is continuous fence and no gate. The cemetery did not exist before the World War II. Current size is 100 square meters. Only one memorial marker, in original location, exists with metal fence around it. The labradorit, finely smoothed and inscribed (Russian) gravestone dates from the 1980s, reading "Russian Soviet citizens who died because of Fascist executioners, 1941-1944". There are some separate graves dedicated to Holocaust victims. There are marked mass graves on the cemetery. Present owner of the non-sectarian but mainly non-Jewish cemetery property is municipality. The cemetery borders a residential area and a tank-training area. The cemetery is visited rarely by organized groups, private visitors and local citizens. The cemetery has never been vandalized. At present, authorities sometimes clean the cemetery. Within the cemetery are no structures. Moderate threat: safety and vegetation overgrowth. Slight threat: erosion, pollution, vandalism and incompatible planned building.

Leonid Kogan, Novograd-Volynskiy, Lenin St 107, fl. 42, tel.: (04141) 5-42-59 completed the survey 18 August 1996. Documentation: *Acts of the Commission on Investigation of Fascism Actions (April 1944)* -State Archive of Zhitomir Region; Fond 2636, inventory 1, file 9, S. Elisavetskiy 'Berdichev tragedy' (K. 1991). He visited the site on 16 August 1996 and interviewed Elisavetskiy Ster Yakovlevich, Iskrevskaya St, 3, fl. 6.

**BERDICHEV VI:** US Commission No. UA.05020503

The unlocked 1941 landmarked mass gravesite is located at W outskirts of the town, near the brick factory, 300 m N of highway to Khmelnik with no caretaker. The mass gravesite is listed in reference book "Monuments of History and Culture of USSR" (Kiev, 1987). The isolated suburban plain has no sign or marker. Reached by turning directly off the road, access is open to all with no wall, fence, or gate. Current size is 0.01 hectares. The 1983 granite memorial marker, inscribed in Ukrainian, is in original location. Present owner of the site is municipality. The mass grave property at present is used only as Jewish cemetery and is bordered by a field and brick factory. The site is visited rarely by organized groups and private visitors and never has been vandalized. Care includes erecting the stones and clearing the vegetation by local municipal authorities in 1983. No current care, caretaker, or structures. Moderate threat: safety, pollution and vandalism. Slight threat: erosion, vegetation overgrowth and incompatible building.

Leonid Kogan, Novograd-Volynskiy, Lenin St 107, fl. 42, tel.: (04141) 5-42-59 completed the survey 26 February 1997. Documentation: *Acts of the Commission on Investigation of Fascism Actions* (April 1944)-State Archive of Zhitomir Region-Fond 2636, inventory 1, file 9; S. Elisavetskiy "Berdichev Tragedy" (K. 1991). He visited the site on 20 February 1997 and interviewed Kozachuk Nikolai Mefodieovich, Berdichev, Uliyanovoi St, 59.