



The statue of Saint Anthony of Padua...



and the Hungarian common soldier

parish. The construction of the present day Roman Catholic Church (Title: Saint Anthony of Padua), which is a national monument, started in 1777 under the leadership of József Francz master mason from Eger. The one-nave baroque church still has the narrower sanctuary of the previous church built by Giovanni Battista Carlone in 1732. The construction was completed in 1779. The church was furnished by famous artists in and after 1781. In 1836 the building was renovated after damages caused by fire. The **statue of Saint Anthony of Padua**, carved from stone, can be found at the crossing of Petőfi Street and Kossuth Square.

The architectural culture of the village still follows the folk traditions of Heves county, including hipped roofs and long, narrow covered terraces. The **house at 73. Main street** is a nice example of this architectural tradition with double-pitched roof, sloping beam, collar beam, triple articulation and a richly ornate facade. The Albert farm from the 19<sup>th</sup> century – which used to be the home of the farm manager –, now private property, also belongs to the village.

120 meters from Demjén, towards Egerszalók, we can find the **Demjén Thermal valley**, which is a popular health resort thanks to its healing sulphurous thermal water gushing up from 690 m depth, at a temperature of 80°C.

Bükkalja Rock-way Information Point Eger, in the yard of the Fellner block

**bukkalja.info.hu**

Mayor's Office of Demjén, Kossuth square 1.  
Phone: 36/550-300 • [www.demjenkozseg.hu](http://www.demjenkozseg.hu)



Informational sketch map

Photo: **Havasi Norbert, Klein Dávid**

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Demjén



The village of Demjén is situated 7 km from Eger under the Bánya hill (meaning mine hill) by the Laskó stream. The first written record of the settlement is from 1331 by the name Demyen. After 1363 it was the property of the episcopate of Eger. According to the urbarium of 1486, in those days the village was owned by the bishop and belonged to the castle of Szarvaskő. There was also a deserted village nearby. This medieval settlement was called Kisdemjén (Little Demjén) by later documents and it was never inhabited again after 1486. During the siege of Eger in 1152 the Turkish have demolished Demjén and made it uninhabited. It was repopulated between 1558 and 1564. In 1687 its inhabitants still paid taxes to the castle of Szarvaskő, and thus to the bishop as their landlord, but they also had to pay high taxes to the Turkish landlord and the Turkish emperor. During the long-lasting siege for the reconquest of Eger the people of Demjén fled from the troubling by mercenaries of the Turkish emperor and the village was left uninhabited again for one and a half decades. The settlement was brought to life in 1701 mainly by people arriving from the historic county of Gömör.

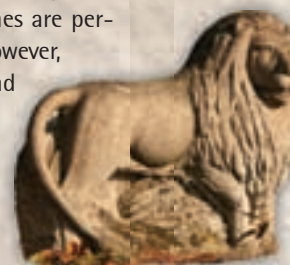
The houses of Demjén have always been built from stone. The mining of the rhyolite tuff rocks was launched by the bishop-landlord in the first decades of the 18<sup>th</sup> century in the Nagyeresztvényi mine at the lower parts of the Szőlő hill. His aim was to supply the



Rock hall in the slope of Hegyeskő Hill

construct sites in his land. However, the statues of the baroque Eger were also made from the rocks of Demjén, including the ornaments and statues of the Basilica, now an emblem of the city. In the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century there were more than 10 businesses dealing with the mining and carving of the stone, so it meant an important source of income for the local people. The rock mined here was very good raw material for statues as well as for buildings. Thus stones

from Demjén were also used in the villages of the Southern-Heves plains as far as the Tisza river. Around the village we can still find many of the now deserted hand mines and on their walls we can still see the marks left by the wedges. People of the Bükkalja region did not only build their homes from the rocks, but also into the rocks. The most spectacular evidences are the many (altogether 304) wine cellars of the village. The most beautiful ones are perhaps in the Bem and in the Szépasszonyvölgy streets. However, people of the area also carved their farm buildings and sometimes even their homes and daily living spaces into the rocks. Probably the huge rock hall in the north-eastern edge of the village, carved into the southern side of the Hegyeskő hill, is also a result of this process. The hall is held by several columns – carved out of the rock – and it occupies 200 m<sup>2</sup>. There is a nice example of a cave home on the north-western edge of the village. The hall called Remete-lak (meaning hermitage) is located in the rock in a side valley of the Laskó stream. According to the folk tradition the hall was used by hermits. If we enter the cellar we can still see remains of the fireplace and the doss carved out of the rock along



Remete-lak (hermitage)

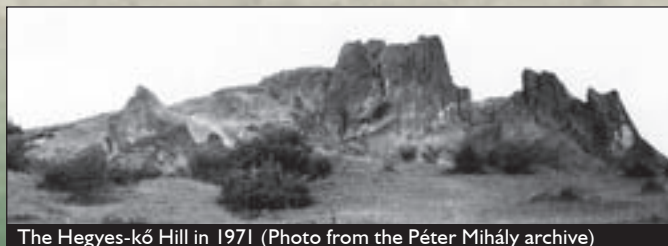
with the false windows that were used as shelves. On the walls outside we can see the remains of six beehive chambers. There is a more significant group of 23 beehive chambers in the rocks of the Bányaeél (Kő-tető) hill above the center of Demjén. In the artificial roof above the chambers there are some carved holes, caldron-like pits and ditches which cannot be related to rock mining.

There is a further important group of beehive rocks on the rocky ridge of the Hegyeskő Peak north of the village. In this area there are 5 separate beehive rocks with altogether 11 chambers. This area is also an important prehistoric quarry with tools, mainly from the Upper Paleolithic era, found during surface collections. East of the Hegyeskő Peak, on the three rocky ridges of Eresztvény valley, 25 beehive rocks have been recorded.

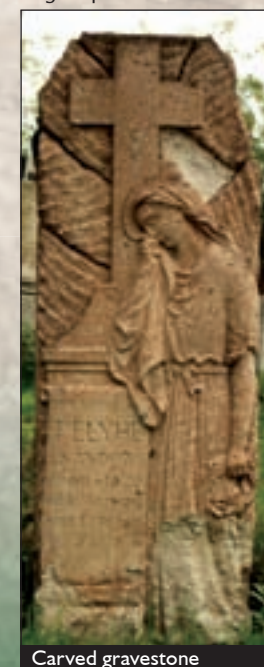
In 1363 Demjén already had a church, and it was already mentioned as Saint Anthony church in the Private Archives of the Chapter. The later history of the church is unknown, but it may have been demolished during the husit raid or the Turkish times, because it is not mentioned by the 1696 census of the



Inside of the Roman Catholic Church



The Hegyes-kő Hill in 1971 (Photo from the Péter Mihály archive)



Carved gravestone