

NOTE ABOUT FRANZ BARON NOPCSA'S BIRTHPLACE

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In all of the papers and works about Franz Baron Nopcsa that I have studied (including Révai Nagy Lexicon, 1916), his birthplace that is mentioned is Săcel (Szacsalon) near Hațeg, Hunedoara County. Here still exists, although in very poor state of preservation, a castle that belong to the Nopcsa family.

In his paper entitled: Monuments of Hungarian explorers, geographes and outstanding persons of the related sciences in the Carpathian Basin, Transsylvania and Partium (In: Földrajzi múzeumi tanulmányok, 12. szám, 1993, Érd), Dr. János Kubassek suggested that Nopcsa's birtplace may not have been Săcel, but instead it may have been Deva , 20 km to the north in Hunedoara County. However, Kubassek did not make any further investigation of the matter.

Consequently, I started my research into Nopcsa's true birthplace at the District Branch of the State Archives in Deva. However, because such a state registry did not exist in 1877, the year of Nopcsa's birth, I searched instead in the Baptismal Register of the Deva Roman Catholic Church.

There I found matriculated in the 29th position of the Church Register, on 7 May, 1887m, the baptism of FRANCISCUS LADISLAU GEORGIUS, born on 3 May, 1877. Also indicated is Place of Residence (Deva, „in aula fisci regii" (in Royal Fisc coutyard), number 60), Father (Liber Baró ALEXIUS NOPCSA de Felsőszilvás c.r. (caesaro regius) Militiae resuprem locum tenens), Mother (Countess Mátilda Zelenszky), religion (both Roman Catholic), and godfathers (Liber Baró FRANCISCUS NOPCSA c.r. Camerarius Suae Sacratissimae Majestatis Reginae Supremus Magister Aulicus Vicegerens, Liber Baró LADISLAUS NOPCSA.

A copy of the Parish Register in Deva can also be found in the Alba Iulia Bishopdom. Im my possession is a photocopy of the 29th position of the baptismal register which clearly indicates Nopcsa's birth in Deva on 3 May, 1877.

I thank Mr. Vasile Ionaș (District Branch of the State Archives in Deva) for his help.

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