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## INVESTIGATIONS IN THE KERKA VALLEY: FIELD SURVEYS, AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY, ARCHIVAL DATA

### *The still visible remains of human impact on the landscape (Eszter Bánffy)*

A cursory glance at a given landscape shows a few villages, houses and church spires, with the gardens, ploughlands, grazing fields and meadows scattered between them. The parish church at Csesztreg (originally called Felsőcsesztreg), for example, dominates the view of the settlement from the north ever since the Middle Ages. At the same time, a closer inspection of many features that appear to be an organic part of the landscape reveals that they preserve traces of one-time human activity.

One of the most conspicuous features of the Kerka Valley is the unique architecture of the nobility's settlements in this borderland region.<sup>1</sup> A number of porticoed manor houses can still be seen in Szentgyörgyvölgy and Nemesnép, some rather dilapidated, some lovingly renovated by their new, usually Austrian owners. Beside the belfries, such as the one at Nemesnép, the old hamlet settlement pattern is the most distinctive feature of this region; its traces still survive in some places, either appearing as discrete settlement nuclei, as toponyms containing the word *szér* or in the identification and excavation of these hamlets that were abandoned sometime in the Middle Ages. Examples of still existing hamlets can be quoted from Szentgyörgyvölgy: Alsófarkasi, Asszonyfa, Kógyár (formerly known as Kolgyár) and Cilinkó. Destroyed and abandoned hamlets include Csekeszer near Alsófarkas and a settlement nucleus, whose name can no longer be identified, by the hill on which the Catholic church stands. Both of the latter were identified during the field surveys. Although Csekeszer is practically uninhabited, its name has been preserved by the locals. This, then, is a unique feature of the Kerka Valley landscape that has survived unchanged since the Middle Ages.

Countless other relics of medieval man's impact on the landscape have survived in the investigated area. We discovered the traces of ridge and furrow ploughing in several woods. Owing to the rather wet climate, it was customary in the western borderland region to repeatedly plough 2–5 m wide zones, and the ridges thus created enabled rain and melting snow to flow down into a wide furrow. The fact that many areas that in the Middle Ages had been ploughed in this manner have since been reclaimed by forests indicates that the acidic, poor quality soil was not always worth cultivating. Still, the surviving traces of ridge and furrow ploughing in forests contribute to our reconstruction of the one-time medieval landscape. Such longish ridges were identified north of Szentgyörgyfeld-Cilinkó towards Magyarföld, in the forest on the territory of the Szentgyörgyvölgy Nature Reserve, and east of Zalabaksa, near the medieval village of Szentandrás. It seems likely that we can detect the activity of the inhabitants of Szentandrás in the forests of the Medes clearance.

Medieval Szentandrás, one of the villages deserted during the Ottoman period, has remained deserted ever since,<sup>2</sup> this being the reason that its territory was never disturbed by subsequent building activity. Its fishpond can still be made out among the surviving embankments. The rectangular patches with sherds scattered over them indicate that the houses had been aligned perpendicular to the embankment. The location of the one-time church, indicated by a debris of bricks, has been identified on the highest point of the village, on a small hill. It seems likely that the graves of the villagers still lie undisturbed around the church.

<sup>1</sup> A. Filep: Őrség, in: O. Ortutay (gen. ed.): Magyar Néprajzi Lexikon IV. Budapest 1981, 135–137.

<sup>2</sup> Vándor 1996 44.

A few years ago, the burials of the cemetery around the medieval church of Csesztreg came to light during the construction of a canal. According to László Vándor, “the one-time medieval terrain and the line of the ditch encircling the cemetery can still be made out north of the church. Its width suggests that after Kanizsa had been occupied by the Turkish forces in the early 17th century, the short-lived Csesztreg fortress had been created by fortifying the church”,<sup>3</sup> providing yet another example for the impact of human activity on the landscape during the Middle Ages and the Turkish occupation period.

Moving backwards in time, it becomes clear that the landscape was shaped not only by medieval man. The centuries of the Migration period left few traces, most likely because at this time the area was practically uninhabited and functioned as a marchland separating the various peoples from each other. The preceding Roman period left two rather distinctive marks. The first, the remains of Roman roads, is less conspicuous. The cambered surface of the road is sometimes visible under good terrain and light conditions. Ferenc Redő was able to trace a section of the Amber Road passing through the Kerka Valley, as well as another road branching off to the west.<sup>4</sup>

The other characteristic feature cannot be missed and can be noted in several places. In the 2nd–3rd centuries AD, the Romanised population usually erected a small mound, a tumulus over the cremation burials. This burial practice became quite common in a fairly wide zone along the Amber Road throughout Transdanubia. In the Kerka Valley, the cemeteries containing these burial mounds were usually preserved in forested areas, where they were protected from natural erosion and destruction by agricultural cultivation. Some of these burial mounds, such as the ones near Kerkabarabás and Zalabaksa, have been known since the 19th century, and several tumuli have also been reported from Nemesnép.<sup>5</sup> A burial ground containing some sixty tumuli lies in the forest south of Szilvagy; most of these burials are undisturbed, implying that very few have been plundered and that the graves, as well as the grave goods, have remained untouched by grave robbers. Ferenc Redő investigated one of these early Roman period burial mounds near Nemesnép and found that the burial had been robbed in antiquity, probably sometime after the burial.<sup>6</sup>

One might think that prehistoric man did not have a lasting impact on the landscape, given the geographic conditions in Transdanubia. True enough, there are no Neolithic settlement mounds (tells) or Copper Age tumulus burials (kurgans) in Transdanubia. At the same time, we know that the forest clearance begun in the Early Neolithic had a lasting effect. In order to gain new arable land, early agriculturalists had to clear the forested hills in Transdanubia. It is uncertain how intensive this early agriculture was. Still, it is noteworthy that a few distinctive prehistoric radiolarite chipped stone blades were found in almost all of the cultivated fields that were included in the field surveys. Obviously, these scattered stone implements did not mark a settlement, but rather indicated that these fields had also been cultivated during prehistoric times; these implements had probably been lost during harvesting or other agricultural work, or had perhaps been deposited there, when manure from a nearby settlement was spread over the soil.

The transformation of the landscape began when man had taken one of the greatest steps in the history of mankind: instead of simply collecting what he needed, he began to acquire his food by transforming the natural environment, in other words, at the time when hunter-gatherers became food-producing peasants. This process can also be traced in the Kerka Valley: not only did ploughlands encroach on forested tracts, but the foundation of

<sup>3</sup> Vándor 1996 50; L. Vándor: Kanizsa története a honfoglaláskortól a város török alóli felszabadulásáig (The history of Kanizsa from the Hungarian Conquest period till the end of the Turkish rule), in: *Nagykanizsa 1994* 360. Cf. also his study in this volume.

<sup>4</sup> Cf. also his study in this volume.

<sup>5</sup> Although the tumulus graves of County Zala have been surveyed by László Tábori, the results have not been published for fear that the burials would

be looted. Tábori's map has been published in two studies, although without an indication of the exact findspots: L. Horváth: A magyarszerdahelyi kelta és római temető [The Celtic and Roman cemetery at Magyarszerdahely]. *ZGy* 14 (1979) fig. 19;

L. Horváth: Római halomsírok Zalában (Römische tumuli im Komitat Zala), in: *Völker an der Mur 1998* 31–40, map.

<sup>6</sup> See his study in the present volume.

small hamlets and villages, established on hilltops, was also preceded by forest clearance and thus triggered or contributed to the later erosion of these hills.

### *Systematic field surveys (Eszter Bánffy)*

The systematic field surveys conducted over the area were perhaps the most important part of the research project. Much has been written about the terminology, the theory and the types of surveys, as well as about the advantages and disadvantages of various surveying methods. The number of actual surveys has also increased. We may say that with the spread of processual archaeology, which advocated an analytical approach to archaeology and the inclusion of the natural sciences in fieldwork from the late 1960s, adequately funded, large-scale field survey projects equipped with the most up-to-date surveying instruments were launched one after the other.<sup>7</sup> There is also a vast literature on sampling techniques.<sup>8</sup> The most detailed study on the theory and practice of archaeological surveying was written by Dénes B. Jankovich.<sup>9</sup> In the following I shall briefly describe the disadvantageous and advantageous factors that influenced our survey work.

Two circumstances contributed to the difficulties of the survey. One was the extensive tracts of woodland in the surveyed area since even with the rather scanty shrub level in the area, we could only hope to identify and record traces that left a visible mark on the environment.

The other difficulty was more socio-economic, than environmental in nature. Before the political changes in Hungary, the arable land was usually managed by a local co-operative, and the two earlier investigated micro-regions were no exception. This meant that there were huge fields planted with the same crop. It also meant that in the case of archaeological fieldwork – a field survey, a sounding excavation or an excavation project lasting several years – one only had to reach an agreement with the director of the co-operative for obtaining permissions and usually one paid some symbolic compensation for damages.

This situation changed drastically in the early 1990s. Farming co-operatives disintegrated, their land was distributed or, better said, returned to their original owners. The earlier large fields were carved up into small plots. We had to come to an agreement with each and every owner of these plots individually, and we can call ourselves lucky that we were able to conduct our survey without any major conflicts on these lands. The greatest problem was that the earlier, usual order of field surveys had to be changed by necessity. It is a well known fact that surveys are best conducted in spring and autumn, when cultivated fields are no longer covered with snow or vegetation. When we began our micro-region project in 1995, we already had to face the problem that most of the fields were left fallow, in part owing to the worsening economic climate and the lack of agricultural machinery, as well as to the low profit from cultivation owing to the poor quality of the soil. As a result, our surveys in spring and autumn were not always successful. During our summer excavations, we often saw fields that had been ploughed, but had for some reason not been planted with any crops. We therefore also continued the field surveys in summer. In late summer afternoons, in the low light, we could also survey the meadows left fallow. Only a few plants survived in the weed infested fields that had formerly been ploughed. This is how we identified the Szentgyörgyvölgy-Haraszti erdő site, with its worn sherds and chipped stone implements and the remains of the medieval hamlet at Szentgyörgyvölgy-Katolikus templomdomb, as well as the remains of a small settlement of the Copper Age Balaton–Lasinja culture not far from the latter. We returned to these sites several times in order to gain as much information as possible.

The third difficulty that we faced during the field surveys was the presence of floodplains and floodplain soils. It is rather pointless to survey these low-lying, waterlogged areas since the deposits thicken from year to year after each flood, not to mention the fact that these areas could only have been settled in periods of dryer climate – however, there is no evidence for a substantially drier climate. These areas are almost without exception uncultivated and left fallow.

<sup>7</sup> Renfrew – Bahn 1996 Chapter 3.

<sup>9</sup> Jankovich 1993.

<sup>8</sup> G. Andrews – R. Thomas: Management of archaeological projects. English Heritage. London 1991.

It follows from the above that we could use these conditions to our best advantage if we primarily surveyed the low river terraces, hill ridges and the dry sections of the plainland, including the areas along the one-time watercourses. We were fully aware of the disadvantages of this procedure: most Anglo-Saxon archaeologists, who prefer to use block or gridded random sampling techniques, reject the practice of extensive sampling.<sup>10</sup> We nonetheless chose this sampling technique for two reasons. Firstly, if we had only surveyed a certain percentage of each landscape type, the number of known sites would only have been a fraction of what we actually identified. Secondly, it is worth quoting Colin Renfrew's opinion: "Surveys can be made more extensive by combining results from a series of individual projects in neighbouring regions to produce very large-scale views of change in landscape, land-use and settlement through time – though ... the accuracy and quality of different survey projects may vary widely. ... Alternatively survey can be made more intensive by aiming at total coverage of a single large site or site-cluster – what one might call micro-regional survey."<sup>11</sup>

Between 1995–98, the surveys in the Kerka Valley were conducted not only in spring and autumn, but also in summer. We surveyed individual sites several times and conducted a total of six excavations. On some sites, such as the Neolithic settlement at Szentgyörgyvölgy-Pityerdomb, we conducted an intensive survey, collecting each and every surface find and mapping these finds according to their find spot. We also paid special attention to so-called 'off-site' surveys for identifying traces indicating field use and crop cultivation; we could identify and register these from both the Neolithic and the late Middle Ages. As regards one-time road networks, we gathered new information for the Neolithic, the Roman period and the Middle Ages. We also made a number of aerial photos; in other words, the survey can truly be described as a systematic field survey.<sup>12</sup> We compared the results of the field surveys with the evidence from excavations, earlier archival data and, not least, with the results of similar surveys conducted in two micro-regions of Transdanubia, the Slovenian project in the Mura region and the Austrian project in the Rába region. It is our firm belief that the results wholly corroborate Colin Renfrew's opinion quoted in the above and, also, that they provide a reliable picture of the settlement history of this Transdanubian region over the past 7500 years.

### *Aerial photography (Zsuzsa Miklós)*

On July 3, 1998 I conducted an aerial reconnaissance and took a number of aerial photos in the Kerka Valley.<sup>13</sup> Eszter Bánffy selected the sites to be photographed and marked them on a 1 : 10,000 map, on the basis of which I determined the GPS co-ordinates in order to identify the sites as accurately as possible. Unfortunately, a part of this area was uncharted territory in terms of GPS and we therefore had to rely on 30–40 year old maps for navigation. This greatly hindered our work and we also had to take care not to violate the airspace of neighbouring Slovenia when flying over villages – such as Szentgyörgyvölgy – that lay close to the border.

The cloudy, rainy weather was not particularly favourable for aerial photography. However, we could not afford to be choosy owing to the proximity of the border.<sup>14</sup>

The vegetation cover was ripe wheat – already harvested in some areas – and maize, alternating with forested areas and meadowland, in which archaeological features and remains can rarely be observed. Most of the agricultural land had been carved up into small plots and this was hardly promising for making archaeological observations.

I took the aerial photos from a Cessna-172 airplane, using a Mamiya-645, Practica LTL and Minolta X-700 cameras, and 21 din Agfa optima professional film. I took colour infra photos with the Minolta and I also made a video film. The relative flying altitude was 300–400 m.

<sup>10</sup> A. Ammerman: Plow-zone experiments in Calabria, Italy. *JFA* 12 (1985) 33–40; J. Bintliff – A. Snodgrass: The Cambridge/Bradford Boetian expedition: the first four years. *JFA* 12 (1985) 123–161.

<sup>11</sup> Renfrew – Bahn 1996 75.

<sup>12</sup> Jankovich 1993.

<sup>13</sup> Licence number 2/4/98.

<sup>14</sup> We had to obtain a special licence for flying over areas lying close to the border and the dates had to be co-ordinated with the border guards of both Hungary and Slovenia.

The identification and documentation of archaeological features in the course of aerial reconnaissance and from aerial photographs is possible from various 'signs'. In our case, these 'signs' were provided by the vegetation. We know that cereals, and especially wheat, are highly sensitive to changes in the soil. These changes are indicated by colour, differing from its immediate environment, or by the negative or positive growth anomalies. Wheat has a deep green colour in spring if it grows over filled-in ditches and pits, owing to the higher humus content of the soil and its growth is also stronger (positive anomaly). In contrast, the humus content is lower compared to the environment over ploughed-up ramparts, brick and stone walls (negative growth anomaly), and the vegetation is usually sparser or stunted.

Although maize and root crops are usually less sensitive to soil changes, their colour and growth can, in fortunate cases, also indicate the location of buried features.

The best time for aerial reconnaissance and aerial photography is late June and early July in areas planted with cereals. The low light in the early morning and late afternoon is also helpful for the optimum observations. Even so, success is not guaranteed even under optimal circumstances.

Although the days chosen for the reconnaissance were ideal, other circumstances were less fortunate in the Kerka Valley. The cloudy, rainy weather was not favourable for making aerial photos in spite of the fact that we chose a time, when wheat was beginning to ripen, but we could not choose other dates owing to the proximity of the border. We observed very few discoloured patches indicating the possible presence of archaeological features. Only after analysing the photos with a computer could we detect a few discolorations and growth differences in the vegetation that possibly reflected archaeological features, even though this could only be ascertained by excavating the site. Interestingly enough, we also recoded a few such discoloured patches in areas where no archaeological sites had been identified during the field surveys.

The age of the features appearing on these aerial photos cannot be determined unambiguously. One should not rely solely on aerial photos and observations made from the air even in the case of very typical features. It is always necessary to conduct a traditional field survey and, if necessary, an excavation.

Possible archaeological features were observed at the following sites:

#### *Alsószenterzsébet-Faluhely*

The growth differences in the ripe wheat suggested various rectangular, straight and irregular archaeological features west of the village, on the hill overlooking the southern side of the Kerka Stream<sup>15</sup> (*fig. 1*).

#### *Baglad*

The outlines of two rectangular and a more irregular feature could be observed on the western outskirts of the village, on a slightly rising hill on the western bank of the Nagyvölgyi Stream. The rectangular features showed up as a dark stripe, while the irregular feature as a green patch.<sup>16</sup>

Two smaller, slightly irregular patches could also be observed on the edge of Site 38. In contrast, no features could be noted in the area to its north, similarly planted with wheat, on Site 37.<sup>17</sup> The growth anomalies in the maize covering the hill rising slightly above the floodplain in an area called Sötétes-dűlő on the western bank of the Sárberki Stream indicated archaeological features. These anomalies suggested filled-up pits<sup>18</sup> (*fig. 2*), even though no surface finds were detected during the field survey conducted in this area. Archaeological features were also indicated by the growth anomalies in the ripe wheat in the same area<sup>19</sup> (*fig. 3*).

<sup>15</sup> MTA RI Negative no. 179.472.

<sup>16</sup> MTA RI Negative no. 179.473.

<sup>17</sup> MTA RI Negative no. 179.474.

<sup>18</sup> MTA RI Negative no. 179.475.

<sup>19</sup> MTA RI Negative no. 179.476.



fig. 1. Alsószenterzsébet-Faluhely

*Nemesnép-Első-tag*

A roughly 300 m by 350 m large site with prehistoric and Roman Age finds was identified on an elevation rising above the floodplain and the waterlogged area east of the village on the bank of the Völgyi Stream (Site 35). A few irregular lines could be made out in the ripening wheat, although it is uncertain whether these indicate archaeological features.<sup>20</sup>

*Szentgyörgyvölgy-Temető; Szentgyörgyvölgy-Pityerdomb*

Dark green patches, perhaps indicating one-time pits, could be noted in the wheat on the top of the hill rising above the waterlogged area on the eastern outskirts of the village. This site is in fact the southern side of the Pityerdomb, the two are separated from each other by a road. The excavation surface is also visible<sup>21</sup> (fig. 4, with the excavated area marked by the arrow).

The photos described in the above indicate that archaeological features can be observed using aerial photography even under less than ideal circumstances. It seems likely that considerably more features would have showed up under more favourable circumstances. The general rule that an area should be investigated and photographed several times is also valid for the Kerka Valley since the observations made in different seasons and under different conditions can then be compared and the features in a certain area can be better evaluated.

***Archival and documentary evidence on the Kerka Valley (Mária Bondár)***

This section offers an overview of the archival and other documentary evidence concerning the villages in the Kerka Valley. Most of these are taken from the archaeological and historical studies discussing this region. As a result of the data and record collection conducted over the past four decades by researchers working in the Archives of the Archaeological Institute of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, there is an abundance of data concerning this region. The data pertaining to County Zala were collected in the 1980s in the course of this extensive project (covering the entire Carpathian Basin), as part of the work necessary for the publication of the County Zala volume of the Archaeological Topography of Hungary.

<sup>20</sup> MTA RI Negative no. 179.480.

<sup>21</sup> MTA RI Negative no. 179.485.



fig. 2. Baglad

The reference cards contain not only the data concerning a particular site culled from various archaeological and historical journals and monographs, but also data on the museums in which finds from sites in County Zala are housed, local history studies, the documentary evidence contained in charters and other records and the archaeological studies published in County Zala. This highly valuable archival material saved a lot of work for the present author, and I would here like to thank István Torma for his kind permission to make use of the records in the Archives.

The first archaeological find from this region, the fragment of an animal headed Celtic belt from Kissziget, was presented to the Hungarian National Museum in 1851.

The first archaeological report about this region dates from 1854: a description of the Roman Age tumulus burials of Kerkabarabás and Zalabaksa published in the yearbook of the Central Commission of National Monuments in Vienna.

Flóris Rómer visited County Zala in 1863. He surveyed the various historical monuments in the area and wrote an article about the church in Csesztreg for *Vasárnapi Újság*.

From 1866, Imre Gózon, a local teacher collected archaeological artefacts in the Szentgyörgyvölgy and Márokföld area, many of which he donated or sold to the Hungarian National Museum (1866, 1875, 1878, 1880). The parish priest of Szentgyörgyvölgy too was in the habit of surveying the area regularly and sending any finds he came across to the museum in Szombathely.

Stone artefacts and pottery fragments from Szentgyörgyvölgy were displayed at the exhibition in the Hungarian National Museum on the occasion of the Eighth International Prehistoric Congress in 1876.

Several medieval churches, such as the ones at Csesztreg, Felsőszenterzsébet, Resznek, Szentgyörgyvölgy and Zalabaksa, are mentioned in various sources.

The systematic archaeological investigation of this area was begun as part of the Kerka Valley Micro-Region Project. Earlier finds from the area were collected unsystematically: these were the artefacts brought to light during earth-moving operations or collected by enthusiastic locals. Preliminary reports of the work done during the micro-region project have



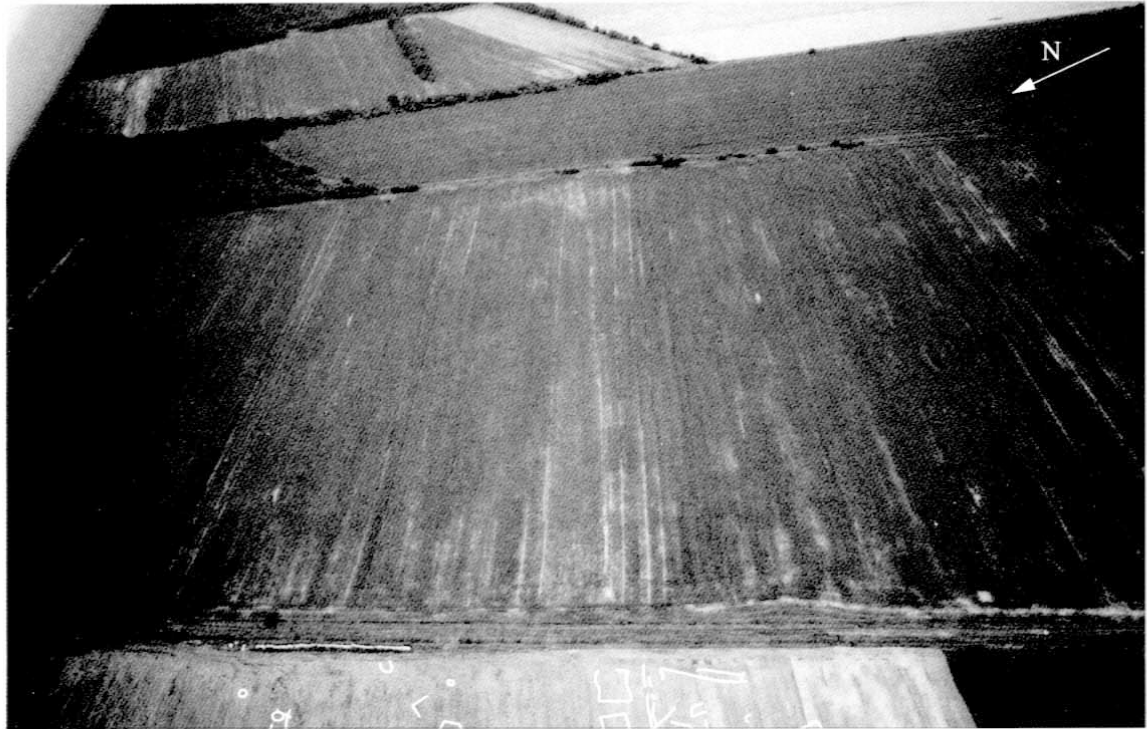


fig. 3. Baglad

been published by the archaeologists participating in the work.<sup>22</sup> László Vándor contributed an overview of the region's settlement history and of the data contained in the medieval sources.<sup>23</sup> The greater part of the relevant data comes from the Middle Ages, and we may say that there is a wealth of documentary evidence from this period. Seeing that the settlement history of each major period is discussed in a separate chapter, only the data taken from various studies and museum archives will be listed here. The secure identification of the findspot of a find or a find assemblage presented to a museum collection prior to our investigation is indicated in the chapters covering each period and in the chapter on the findings of the field surveys. In this chapter, the various categories of evidence are discussed according to settlements.

#### *Alsószenterzsébet*

The settlement is first mentioned in a document from 1334 (*Poss. Scenth elsebeth*).<sup>24</sup> The *dica* tax register for 1549 lists 7.5 tenant holdings (*porta*), 1 deserted tenant peasant (*iobagio*) plot, 1 newly established tenant peasant plot, one landowner (László Bánffy) and an individual in the service of the landowner for *Also Zent ersebet*.<sup>25</sup> However, the same register lists 9 tenant holdings, 3 newly established tenant peasant plots, four landowners (István Bánffy, István Sáfár, Mihály Soldos and Péter Bors), two cotters and three craftsmen (without the specification of their craft) for *Also Zent ersebet* and *Marok ffelde*.<sup>26</sup>

<sup>22</sup> E. Bánffy: Csesztreg és környékének őskora [The prehistory of Csesztreg and its broader area], in: *Csesztreg 1996* 7–20; E. Bánffy: A Kerka-völgyi mikrorégiós kutatási program első eredményei (Die ersten Ergebnisse des mikroregionalen Forschungsprogrammes im Kerkatal), in: *Völker an der Mur 1998* 9–18; M. Bondár: Rézkori és kora bronzkori kutatási problémák a Délnyugat-Dunántúlon (Probleme der Kupfer- und Frühbronzezeitforschung im südwestlichen Transdanubien), in: *Völker an der Mur 1998* 19–30; J. Kvassay: 15–16. századi ház a középkori Mihon falu területén [A 15th–16th century house in the medieval village of Mihon], in: *Csesztreg*

1996 69–95; B. M. Szőke: A Muravidék kora középkori története (The Mura-region in the Early Middle Age), in: *Völker an der Mur 1996* 65–82; B. M. Szőke: A Kerka völgye a Krisztus utáni első évezredben (Csesztreg és környékének településtörténeti kérdései a római megszállástól a magyar államalapításig) [The Kerka Valley in the 1st millennium AD. Settlement history from the Roman Age to the Hungarian Conquest period in the Csesztreg area], in: *Csesztreg 1996* 21–32.

<sup>23</sup> *Csesztreg 1996*.

<sup>24</sup> ZO I 278; *Csánki 1897* 105.

<sup>25</sup> *Maksay 1990* 934.

<sup>26</sup> *Maksay 1990* 934.



fig. 4. Szentgyörgyvölgy-Temető and Szentgyörgyvölgy-Pityerdomb

Frigyes Pesty's gazetteer contains several field names;<sup>27</sup> however, none of these suggests a possible archaeological site.

The volume *Zala megye földrajzi nevei* contains the following passage: "Faluhely [Faluhely; "village site"]: the previous site of the settlement" (p. 307).

There are no archaeological finds pre-dating the Middle Ages at Alsószenterzsébet.

#### *Baglad*

The *dica* tax conscription from 1549 lists 8.5 tenant holdings, 2 deserted tenant peasant plots, 1 newly established tenant peasant plot, six landowners (Mrs Bernát Csete, a widow, György Csete, Sandrin Bakacs, János Csépán, Bertalan Csépán, Ferenc Nagy) and three cotters.<sup>28</sup>

The volume *Zala megye földrajzi nevei* contains the following archaeological, historical and art historical information (p. 329): *Miheli tóka*: a former smithy, but now a depression covered with marshland (Site 329/2); *Képi út* [Képi road]: a cross at its end (site 329/37); *Képi föld* [Képi land]: a cross in one of the corners (Site 329/49).

There are no archaeological finds pre-dating the Middle Ages from Baglad.

#### *Csesztreg*

There were several medieval villages on the territory and outskirts of present-day Csesztreg: *Újfalu*, *Csesztreg*, *Mihó* or *Mihon*,<sup>29</sup> and a *villa* called *Karka* is mentioned in a perambulation charter drawn up in 1334.<sup>30</sup> *Újfalu* is identical with present-day Kerkaújfalu, which was administratively annexed to Csesztreg in 1942. Judit Kvassay conducted an excavation on the site of medieval Mihon in 1993.<sup>31</sup>

Csesztreg is first mentioned in a charter dating from 1275.<sup>32</sup> *Alsócsesztreg* and *Felsőcsesztreg* [Upper and Lower Csesztreg] appear in a charter dated 1381;<sup>33</sup> the settlement appears as *poss. Cheztereg* in 1405,<sup>34</sup> and as *opp. Chezteregh* from 1469.<sup>35</sup> The stone church

<sup>27</sup> Pesty 1864.

<sup>28</sup> Maksay 1990 935.

<sup>29</sup> Csánki 1897 119; Holub 1933 115, 446, 910.

<sup>30</sup> Holub 1933 365.

<sup>31</sup> J. Kvassay: Csesztreg-Mihomi erdő [Csesztreg-Mihomi wood]. Az 1993. év régészeti kutatásai.

RégFüz Ser I. 47 (Budapest 1996), 74–75; for a detailed report, cf. pp. 321–346 in this volume.

<sup>32</sup> Holub 1933 155.

<sup>33</sup> MOL DL 6802.

<sup>34</sup> MOL DL 9099.

<sup>35</sup> MOL DL 16853, 37006.

dedicated to St. Móric is mentioned in the 1334–1335 tax register.<sup>36</sup> Csesztreg was part of the Bánffy estate and belonged to Lendva Castle.

The *dica* tax register from 1549 mentions 20 tenant holdings, one landowner (László Bánffy), six cotters and three individuals in the service of the landowner.<sup>37</sup>

The volume *Zala megye földrajzi nevei* contains the following data (p. 307): *Ujfalú* (present-day Kerkaújfalú), *Falurész* (Site 307/1), *Fővég* [Upper end]: village part (Site 307/9), *Avég* [Lower end]: village part (Site 307/21) and *Mihomi erdő* [Mihom wood] (Site 307/50).

In a letter to Arnold Ipolyi describing his travels in County Zala, Rómer Flóris also refers to the church of Csesztreg, mentioned in 14th century charters: “The Csesztreg tower is Romanesque, with twin windows and arrow-loop openings. The bricks are quite old. In this region, the glittering gilt tin crosses have been replaced by more natural ones for kindling feelings of devotion. The depiction of St. Móric in the church is a rather fine painting. The births register of Csesztreg dates from 1665.”<sup>38</sup> Imre Henszlmán quotes Rómer in his description of the Csesztreg church in his study on the monuments of Hungary.<sup>39</sup> István Genthon provides a detailed description of the frescoes, including the depiction of St. Móric, painted by István Dorffmeister the Younger.<sup>40</sup> A good overview of the church’s architectural history was written by József Németh,<sup>41</sup> while László Kostyál has analysed its frescoes.<sup>42</sup>

The 1909 report on the activities of the Hungarian National Museum mentions a hoard of 95 coins found here;<sup>43</sup> another hoard of 242 coins from Csesztreg is described in *Numizmatikai Közlöny*, published the same year.<sup>44</sup>

There are no archaeological finds pre-dating the Middle Ages from Csesztreg.

#### *Felsőszenterzsébet*

The settlement first appears in a charter from 1334 (*Poss. Scenth elsebeth*),<sup>45</sup> and the document also mentions its church. It is next known as part of a nobleman’s name (*Felsewz enthersebeth*).<sup>46</sup>

The *dica* tax register from 1549 mentions 9 tenant holdings, 5 newly established tenant peasant plots, two landowners (Magdolna Székely, Miklós Salm), two cotters and one craftsman.<sup>47</sup>

Frigyes Pesty’s gazetteer contains several field names,<sup>48</sup> but none of them suggest the presence of an archaeological site.

The volume *Zala megye földrajzi nevei* lists the following data (p. 305): *Asuvég* [Lower end]: village part (medieval?; Site 305/3), *Kasté-mezzü* [Kastélyhelyi-dűlő, “Castle field”], to where a king once banished his unruly daughter (Site 305/42). At the time of the survey, this area was a hilly ploughland.

Imre Gózon, the teacher in Szentgyörgyvölgy, sold a stone macehead and a fragmentary stone axe found at Felsőszenterzsébet to the Hungarian National Museum in 1880,<sup>49</sup> together

<sup>36</sup> *Csánki 1897* 19.

<sup>37</sup> *Maksay 1990* 942.

<sup>38</sup> *F. Rómer*: Archaeologiai levél Zalamegyéből [Archaeological letter from County Zala]. XI. Vasárnapi Ujság 10 (1863) 450.

<sup>39</sup> *I. Henszlmán*: Magyarország ó-keresztény, román és átmeneti stílus mű- emlékeinek rövid ismertetése [A brief description of the Old Christian, Romanesque and transitional style monuments in Hungary]. Budapest 1867, 172.

<sup>40</sup> *Genthon 1959* 60, fig. 52.

<sup>41</sup> *J. Németh*: Zala megye műemlékei [The monuments of County Zala]. Zalaegerszeg 1979, 64.

<sup>42</sup> *L. Kostyál*: ‘Stephan Dorffmeister pinxit 1803’ (Ifjabb Dorffmeister István zalai tevékenységéről, különös tekintettel csesztregi freskóira) [‘Stephan

Dorffmeister pinxit 1803’. The activity of István Dorffmeister the Younger in County Zala, with emphasis on the frescoes in Csesztreg], in: *Csesztreg 1996* 96–114.

<sup>43</sup> Jelentés a MNM 1909. évi állapotáról. Régiségár – Éremtár [Report on the 1909 activities of the Hungarian National Museum. Collection of Antiquities and the Numismatic Collection]. Budapest 1910, 59, 69.

<sup>44</sup> *P. Harsányi*: Éremleletek [Coin finds]. NK 8 (1909) 58.

<sup>45</sup> ZO 1 278; *Valter 1985* 119.

<sup>46</sup> MOL DL 14539; *Csánki 1897* 105.

<sup>47</sup> *Maksay 1990* 972.

<sup>48</sup> *Pesty 1864*.

<sup>49</sup> HNM inv. no.1880.50.37–38.

with other prehistoric artefacts he had collected in several different places. The Hungarian National Museum paid 20 Forints for these artefacts.<sup>50</sup>

### *Kerkabarabás*

Several medieval villages are known from the present-day territory of Kerkabarabás: *Hegenfölda*,<sup>51</sup> whose name is preserved by Hégen, a settlement neighbouring Zalabaksa,<sup>52</sup> and *Petenye*,<sup>53</sup> whose location is indicated by the field name *Izsófölda*.<sup>54</sup>

Barabás is first mentioned as *poss. Barlabas* in a charter from 1333.<sup>55</sup> The settlement was in the possession of the Rezneki family. It changed owners several times: in 1541, a priest called Márton, the custodian of St. Katalin's altar of the church in Szentandrás received a plot of land here.<sup>56</sup>

In the *dica* tax register from 1549, the settlement is listed as being in the possession of György Segéd, Gáspár Szecsödy, Miklós Páris and János Páris. Listed under the name *Barobas*, the village is lumped together with *Szentandrás*, *Peternye*, *Iszófölda* and *Baksafalva*,<sup>57</sup> and it is unclear how many plots and how many inhabitants the settlement had at the time.

Remains from the Roman Age were identified in the Kerkabarabás area. In 1854, Johann Gabriel Seidl reported six Roman Age tumuli in the woods, lying some 15 minutes' walk away from the postal road.<sup>58</sup> The same tumuli were later mentioned by Arnold Ipolyi<sup>59</sup> and by Flóris Rómer in his *Műrégészeti Kalauz*.<sup>60</sup> In his study on the gravel roads (called *öttevény* in Hungarian) mentioned in medieval and post-medieval charters and depicted on maps, which in his opinion can only date from the Roman Age in view of their construction technique using mud and gravel, Endre Tóth mentions Elfin, Zetefin and Nagyetevény in the Kerkabarabás area,<sup>61</sup> names which have been preserved in various field names.<sup>62</sup>

A hoard of 11 coins from the 17th century was found in the village.<sup>63</sup>

### *Kerkafalva*

There were several medieval villages by Kerkafalva: *Németkutas* (Németfalu), *Péntekfalva* and *Szaza*.<sup>64</sup>

The *dica* tax register from 1549 lists *Nemet falu*, *Pentek falwa* and *Also Zatha* together with *Csőde*, *Kutas* and *Minhe* as being in the possession of László Bánffy and István Bánffy,<sup>65</sup> and it is therefore unclear how many tenant holdings and how many inhabitants there were to a particular village.

Frigyes Pesty's gazetteer mentions several field names,<sup>66</sup> but none of these suggests the presence of an archaeological site.

The volume *Zala megye földrajzi nevei* contains the following data: *Tusu rend*: village part (Site 295/1), *Németfalu*: village part (Site 295/5) and *Barátos*, the site of a former monastery (Site 295/19).

There are no archaeological finds pre-dating the Middle Ages from Kerkafalva.

### *Kerkaujfalu*

see Csesztreg

<sup>50</sup> Letters in the File of the Archaeological Department of HNM inv. nos 78/1880 and 190/1880.

<sup>51</sup> Csánki 1897 59.

<sup>52</sup> Csánki 1897 93.

<sup>53</sup> Csánki 1897 64.

<sup>54</sup> Csánki 1897 33.

<sup>55</sup> ZO I 272.

<sup>56</sup> Holub 1933 61–62.

<sup>57</sup> Maksay 1990 972.

<sup>58</sup> Seidl 1854 128.

<sup>59</sup> Ipolyi 1861 281.

<sup>60</sup> F. Rómer: *Műrégészeti Kalauz* [Guide to Archaeology] I. Pest 1866, 12, 36.

<sup>61</sup> E. Tóth: *Eötteven seu via antiqua Romanorum*. MNy 73 (1977) 195.

<sup>62</sup> *Zala megye földrajzi nevei* 331.

<sup>63</sup> P. Harsányi: *Éremleletek* [Coin finds]. NK 13 (1914) 24.

<sup>64</sup> Csánki 1897 93; Holub 1933 446, 622.

<sup>65</sup> Maksay 1990 962.

<sup>66</sup> Pesty 1864.

*Kerkakutas*

The village is first mentioned in 1389;<sup>67</sup> in 1469, it is described as an *oppidum* with a tolling station.<sup>68</sup> The settlement was one of the estates donated to the Bánfi family of Lendva.<sup>69</sup> In 1524, there was a separate *villicatus* (economic district) at Kutas, with 1 whole plot, 14 half-plots and 7 cotters forming part of János Bánffy's estate.

In the *dica* tax register from 1549, *Kwtos* was lumped together with *Németfalva*, *Péntekfalva*, *Minhe*, *Csőde* and *Alsószatta*, all part of László Bánffy and István Bánffy's estate,<sup>70</sup> and it is therefore unclear how many tenant holdings and how many inhabitants there were to a particular village.

Frigyes Pesty's gazetteer mentions several field names,<sup>71</sup> but none of these suggests the presence of an archaeological site. Neither does the volume *Zala megye földrajzi nevei* contain any toponyms indicating a possible site.

There are no archaeological finds pre-dating the Middle Ages from Kerkakutas.

*Kissziget*

The village is first mentioned in 1426 (*Pred. zygeth*),<sup>72</sup> appearing as *Poss. Zygeth et altera Zygeth* in a charter from 1496. It was the possession of the town of Páka; Dezső Csánki suggested that *Zygeth* can be identified with present-day Kissziget.<sup>73</sup>

In 1426, Péter Lendvai Herczeg's daughter was granted *ius regium* for her estates.<sup>74</sup>

The *dica* tax register from 1549 mentions 30.5 tenant holdings, 3 deserted tenant peasant plots, 5 newly established tenant peasant plots, two landowners (Péter Erdődy, László Bánffy), 16 cotters and one craftsman at *Karachon zygete*.<sup>75</sup>

According to Frigyes Pesty's gazetteer, the settlement was one of the oldest in the area, existing already during the Ottoman period (however, he does not cite any sources confirming this claim).<sup>76</sup>

The volume *Zala megye földrajzi nevei* does not contain any toponyms suggesting the presence of an archaeological site.

Several archaeological finds are known from this area. The archaeological holdings of the Göcsej Museum include Neolithic sherds collected by László Molnár in 1976 at Kissziget-Temető.<sup>77</sup> A Celtic belt fragment found in the village was presented to the Hungarian National Museum in 1851. The fragment is 35 cm long and is made up of animal-headed links and rings.<sup>78</sup> The belt was displayed at the exhibition of the Hungarian National Museum.<sup>79</sup>

*Márokföld*

The village is first mentioned in 1344 as *Poss. Markfeulde*;<sup>80</sup> its church is mentioned even earlier, in 1333.<sup>81</sup> The *dica* tax register from 1549 lists 9 tenant holdings, 3 newly established tenant peasant plots, four landowners (István Bánffy, István Sáfár, Mihály Soldos and Péter Bors), two cotters and three craftsmen for *Also Zent ersebet* and *Marok ffelde*,<sup>82</sup> and it is unclear how many of them lived at Márokföldre.

<sup>67</sup> MOL DL 7467.

<sup>68</sup> MOL DL 16853.

<sup>69</sup> Csánki 1897 75.

<sup>70</sup> Maksay 1990 962.

<sup>71</sup> Pesty 1864.

<sup>72</sup> MOL DL 11793, ZO II 451.

<sup>73</sup> Csánki 1897 111.

<sup>74</sup> ZO II 451; Holub 1933 825.

<sup>75</sup> Maksay 1990 984.

<sup>76</sup> Pesty 1864.

<sup>77</sup> GM 79.16.3–4; Simon 1990 49.

<sup>78</sup> HNM inv. no. 3/1851.3; O. Tischler: Zománcos ékszerek a vaskorból a Nemzeti Múzeumban [Enamelled jewellery articles of the Iron Age in

the Hungarian National Museum]. ArchÉrt 10 (1890) 224, fig. 4; I. Hunyady: Kelták a Kárpát-medencében. Tábla- és szövegkötet [The Celts in the Carpathian Basin]. DissPann II. 18. Budapest 1942; I. Hunyady: Kelták a Kárpát-medencében. Leletanyag [The Celts in the Hungarian Basin. The artefactual material]. RégFüz Ser II. Budapest 1957, 28.

<sup>79</sup> F. Tompa: Őskori gyűjtemény. Vezető a régészeti gyűjteményben [Prehistoric Collection. A guide to the archaeological exhibition]. Budapest 1938, 48.

<sup>80</sup> Csánki 1897 81.

<sup>81</sup> Valter 1985 177.

<sup>82</sup> Maksay 1990 934.

Frigyes Pesty's gazetteer mentions several field-names,<sup>83</sup> none of which suggests a possible archaeological site.

The volume *Zala megye földrajzi nevei* contains the following data (p. 315): *Középszer*: village part (Site 315/5) and *Avég*: village part (Site 315/6).

Evidence for prehistoric settlement is provided by the various artefacts collected by Imre Gózon, the local teacher, who sent the finds to the Hungarian National Museum, where they were inventoried in 1880. Some of these finds came to light in neighbouring Szentgyörgyvölgy. The finds inventoried under nos HNM 1880.50.1–22 came from Márokföld, most likely from Záporhegy [Zápor Hill]. József Korek does not specify their exact provenance,<sup>84</sup> and neither does Katalin H. Simon, quoting him.<sup>85</sup> Erzsébet Bácskay describes a few of these finds as having come to light at Szentgyörgyvölgy.<sup>86</sup> The rough pottery fragments made from red clay found on the slopes of the Rinyér Hill were inventoried under nos 1880.50.45–66 in the Hungarian National Museum. Nos 48, 50, 57, 61 and 62 were de-accessioned during the 1958 inventory of the museum's holdings.<sup>87</sup> The fragment of a pyramidal stone artefact was also found at Márokfölde.<sup>88</sup>

### *Nemesnép*

The village first appears as part of a nobleman's name in 1407.<sup>89</sup> The village was settled by so-called one-plot lesser nobles, and its landowners are more often mentioned in the surviving documents than their holdings. Most of the landowners stood in the king's service.<sup>90</sup> A document from 1441 mentions Nemesnépfalva and Felsőnemesnépfalva.<sup>91</sup> Alsónemesnépfalva is mentioned in a charter from 1493.<sup>92</sup> In 1513, a total of 16 one-plot lesser nobles are mentioned in connection with the settlement.<sup>93</sup>

The settlement is not mentioned in the 1549 *dica* tax register.

Frigyes Pesty's gazetteer mentions several field names,<sup>94</sup> some of which – such as Simonszer-dűlő and Németszer – may preserve the memory of medieval landowners. The toponym *Keréktói rét* [Keréktó meadow] too goes back to the Middle Ages: a charter of ennoblement from 1573 mentions “Alsó [Lower] and Felső [Upper] Nemesnép alias Keréktó”.

The volume *Zala megye földrajzi nevei* contains the following data (p. 321): *Németszer*: village part (Site 321/3), *Berek*: village part (Site 321/7); *Göde szőr*: village part (Site 321/8); *Urica*: village part (Site 321/9); *Simonszer*: village part (Site 321/10), *Harnak szőr*: village part (Site 321/12), *Göde-temetis* [by Göde's grave], where a ruffian called Göde was burnt at the stake some two hundred years ago (Site 321/28);<sup>95</sup> *Tatárdomb* [Mongolian Hill]: the alleged site of Mongolian campsites on a small, perhaps artificial hill (Site 321/78).

There are no archaeological finds pre-dating the Middle Ages from Nemesnép. The finds presented to the Numismatic Collection of the Hungarian National Museum in 1936 included a 17th–18th century hoard of 50 coins from Nemesnép.<sup>96</sup>

### *Ramocsa*

The village is first mentioned as *Poss. Ramacha* in 1378.<sup>97</sup> In the 14th century, the settlement was in the possession of the sons of Miklós Lendvai of the Hahót kindred,<sup>98</sup> but it later passed into the ownership of other landowners. In 1513, Jakab Prosznyák owned 3 tenant holdings and István Hegyi had 8.5 tenant holdings.<sup>99</sup>

<sup>83</sup> Pesty 1864.

<sup>84</sup> Korek 1960 72.

<sup>85</sup> Simon 1990 49.

<sup>86</sup> Bácskay 1976 33–34.

<sup>87</sup> File 290/917 in the Archives of the Hungarian National Museum.

<sup>88</sup> HNM inv. no. 1880.50.36.

<sup>89</sup> MOL DL 9374.

<sup>90</sup> Holub 1933 535.

<sup>91</sup> ZO II 511.

<sup>92</sup> Holub 1933 535.

<sup>93</sup> Csánki 1897 85.

<sup>94</sup> Pesty 1864.

<sup>95</sup> Cf. Degré 1963.

<sup>96</sup> L. H.: Éremleletek. A Magyar Történeti Múzeum Éremtárában kerültek feldolgozás alá [New coin finds in the Numismatic Collection of the Hungarian National Museum]. NK 34–35 (1935–1936) 79.

<sup>97</sup> Csánki 1897 97.

<sup>98</sup> Holub 1933 600.

<sup>99</sup> MOL DL 32206.

The *dica* tax register from 1549 lists 8 tenant holdings, 4 landowners (Benedek Hegyi, István Hegyi, Farkas Bucsay and Mátyás Prosznyák) and 2 craftsmen for Ramocsa.<sup>100</sup>

Frigyes Pesty's gazetteer mentions several field names, but none of these suggests the presence of an archaeological site.

The volume *Zala megye földrajzi nevei* contains the following data (p. 293): "*Pusztaramocsa*: the site of the settlement during the Ottoman period. Site 22 on the map."

There are no archaeological finds pre-dating the Middle Ages from Ramocsa.

### *Resznek*

The village is first mentioned in 1282 as *Poss. Reznuc*.<sup>101</sup> In 1426, it appears as *Castellum Reznek*,<sup>102</sup> and as *Castrum Reznek* in 1441.<sup>103</sup> The settlement was in the possession of the Egervári family.<sup>104</sup> Its church, dedicated to the Holy Cross, is mentioned in charters from 1360 and 1403.<sup>105</sup> There was a castle in the early 15th century, probably built by the sons of Balázs Egervári. The fortress was erected by Herbord in the 14th century; according to a document from 1326, Herbord lodged a complaint to King Charles I that Salamon Vörös had destroyed his fortress and the church. The date and the circumstance of the final destruction of the fortress remain unknown – it probably became ruined during the Ottoman period.<sup>106</sup> In accordance with a decree issued by the Vice-Regal Council in Buda in 1823, the officials of County Zala compiled a report containing a description of the county's hydrography, a map, together with a "guide-book" of the county's monuments, the latter containing a few scattered archaeological data. The section on Reznek mentions that "there was a castle here in olden times ... whose site and ditches can still be seen in the meadow".<sup>107</sup> Genthon mentions the castle ruins and the medieval wall remains based on Gerecze's description.<sup>108</sup>

The *dica* tax register from 1549 lists *Reznek* together with *Jakabjánosfalva* and *Lőkfalva*, and it is therefore unclear how many tenant holdings and landowners there were to Resznek.<sup>109</sup>

The volume *Zala megye földrajzi nevei* contains the following data (p. 333): *Várheli dombok* [Castle Hills]: the location of ancient castles from Turkish times according to local tradition (Site 333/61).

There are few finds pre-dating the Middle Ages from Resznek. In 1880, the Hungarian National Museum purchased a stone axe from Imre Gózon, the local teacher.<sup>110</sup> The holdings of the Göcsej Museum too include a stone axe from the village.<sup>111</sup>

### *Szentgyörgyvölgy*

The village is first mentioned in 1326 as *Poss. Scentgurgy*.<sup>112</sup> It was in the possession of lesser nobles and one-plot nobles. In 1513, there were 22 one-plot lesser nobles.<sup>113</sup> There is only indirect evidence for its church: a charter from 1437 mentions the chapter of the parish priest.<sup>114</sup> There were several medieval villages on the territory of present-day Szentgyörgyvölgy: *Farkasi*, *Kolgyár*, *Kertesiszentpéter* and *Lakos*.<sup>115</sup>

The *dica* tax register from 1549 lists 3.5 tenant holdings and the parish priest as the landowner for *Zentgerg welgen*.<sup>116</sup>

<sup>100</sup> Maksay 1990 968

<sup>101</sup> G. Wenczel (ed.): Árpádkori Új Okmánytár [Codex diplomaticus Arpadianus continuatus], Vol. IX (1272–1290). Pest 1871, 345.

<sup>102</sup> MOL DL 11798.

<sup>103</sup> ZO II 507.

<sup>104</sup> Csánki 1897 14.

<sup>105</sup> Csánki 1897 98; Holub 1933 677.

<sup>106</sup> G. Kiss: Várak, várkastélyok, várhelyek Magyarországon [Castles, manor houses and castle sites in Hungary]. Panoráma útikönyvek. Budapest 1984, 568.

<sup>107</sup> G. Bencze: Zala megye leírása a reformkorban. Két korabeli forrás alapján [Description of County Zala

in the Age of Reform, based on two contemporary sources]. ZGy 23 (1986) 104.

<sup>108</sup> P. Gerecze: Magyarország műemlékei [The monuments of Hungary]. Budapest 1906, 1038; Genthon 1959 280.

<sup>109</sup> Maksay 1990 969.

<sup>110</sup> HNM inv. no. 1880. 50.40.

<sup>111</sup> ZGM inv. no. 54.7.18; Korek 1960 72; Simon 1990 49.

<sup>112</sup> Csánki 1897 106.

<sup>113</sup> Csánki 1897 106.

<sup>114</sup> Holub 1933 766.

<sup>115</sup> Holub 1933 220, 416, 393, 464.

<sup>116</sup> Maksay 1990 973.

Frigyes Pesty's gazetteer mentions several field names, based on the reports sent by the community, which recorded that a part of the settlement was called Szentgyörgyszeg.<sup>117</sup> A painted plaque on the wall of the parish church in this settlement part is inscribed with the following text: "Erected in 1202. Destroyed by Protestantism, restored in 1717." The foundation date of 1202 was accepted by Ilona Valter, according to whom the settlement was mentioned in 1202 and there is also evidence for a church dedicated to St. George from 1273.<sup>118</sup> St. George was a Byzantine saint and the presence of a church dedicated to this saint probably reflects the spread of Byzantine culture in Transdanubia.<sup>119</sup> The bell of the church, made by Florentin Strecksfus in 1700, was published by Pál Patay.<sup>120</sup> István Genthon notes that the Reformed church was erected on the site of an earlier one.<sup>121</sup>

We know from Frigyes Pesty's gazetteer that the various parts of the settlement have preserved the names of medieval families: *Domjánszeg*, *Tiborszer*, *Asszonfa*, *Cséblak*, *Kolgyár*. The report sent by the community also mentions a certain Töröktemetési-dűlő, where – according to local lore – the straggling soldiers of the retreating Turkish armies were beaten to death and buried.

The volume *Zala megye földrajzi nevei* contains the following data (pp. 313–314): *Küsi Cséplak*: village part (Site 313/1), *Cilinku* [Cilinkó]: village part (Site 313/2), *Fösü Farkasi* [Upper Farkasi]: village part (Site 313/3), *Fösü Kógyár* [Upper Kógyár]: village part (Site 313/4), *Asu Kógyár* [Lower Kógyár]: village part (Site 313/5), *Asu Farkasi* [Lower Farkasi]: village part (Site 313/6), *Domgyán szög*, *Tipor szög*: village part (Site 313/12), *Szentgyörgyvölgy*: village part (Site 313/13), *Asszonfa*: *Ószonfa*: village part (Site 313/14), *Török temetis* [Turkish burial]: three Turks were buried here, when the Turks fled the area (Site 313/125), *Török temető* [Turkish graveyard] (Site 313/129).

A number of pre-medieval archaeological finds and assemblages have come to light at Szentgyörgyvölgy – most of these date from prehistoric periods.

Imre Gózon, a local teacher was the first to regularly collect and send archaeological finds to the Hungarian National Museum. The first report on his activity comes from 1866, when the Archaeological Committee of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences noted that Imre Gózon offered a bowl and several old documents to the Hungarian National Museum. Unfortunately, the exact date of the bowl remains unknown.<sup>122</sup> In 1875, the National Museum acquired twelve prehistoric and medieval finds from this area.<sup>123</sup> The prehistoric finds included stone axes, stone blades and flat adzes, while the medieval ones were weapons: a 15th century iron mace, a ball and chain mace and a *Hackenbüsche* (hook or hackbutt gun).

Stone tools and coarse pottery fragments from Szentgyörgyvölgy were among the objects displayed at the exhibition organised on the occasion of the Eighth Prehistoric Congress held in Budapest.<sup>124</sup> In his study on the European context of the lithic finds from Hungary, Tivadar Ortway also quoted the finds from Szentgyörgyvölgy.<sup>125</sup>

In March, 1878, the report of the Department of Antiquities of the Hungarian National Museum noted that Imre Gózon had donated four Roman bronze and silver coins, two Roman bricks and the fragments of two lead water-pipes to the department.<sup>126</sup>

<sup>117</sup> Pesty 1864.

<sup>118</sup> Valter 1985 251.

<sup>119</sup> K. Mesterházy: Adatok a bizánci kereszténység elterjedéséhez az Árpád-kori Magyarországon [The spread of Byzantine Christianity in the Árpadian Age in Hungary]. DMÉ 1968 (1970) 163.

<sup>120</sup> P. Patay: Corpus campanarum antiquarum Hungariae. Magyarország régi harangjai és harangöntői 1711 előtt [Old bells and bell casters of Hungary before 1711]. Budapest, n.d. [1989] 40, 52 and fig. 107.

<sup>121</sup> I. Genthon: Magyarország műemlékei [The monuments of Hungary]. Budapest 1951, 576.

<sup>122</sup> ArchKözl 6 (1866) 120.

<sup>123</sup> HNM inv. no. 1875.221.1–12.

<sup>124</sup> V. Lipp: Les temps préhistoriques dans le Comté de Vas. Compte-Rendu de la huitième session à Budapest. I. Budapest 1877, 664–667, 669.

<sup>125</sup> T. Ortway: Összehasonlító vizsgálatok a hazai és észak-európai prehistorikus kőeszközök eredete és régisége körül [Comparison of the origins and antiquity of Hungarian and North European prehistoric stone artefacts]. Vols I–II. ÉTtK XII. 7. Budapest 1885, 59; T. Ortway: Vergleichende Untersuchungen über den Ursprung der ungarischen und nordeuropäischen prähistorischen Steinwerkzeuge. MAGW 1887, 57.

<sup>126</sup> A MNM régiségtára [The Department of Antiquities of the Hungarian National Museum]. ArchÉrt 12 (1878) 156.



In May, 1880, Imre Gózon sold various objects to the Hungarian National Museum;<sup>127</sup> most of these originated from Szentgyörgyvölgy, with a few coming from Márokföld and Felsőszenterzsébet and one piece from Resznek. These included polished stone adzes, perforated stone axes, broken stone axes with traces of drilling, finely carved globular maceheads, stone flakes, stone blades and coarse pottery fragments,<sup>128</sup> as well as Roman pottery.<sup>129</sup> According to the inventory book of the Hungarian National Museum, these were found in an area called Szél-dűlő. These finds are mentioned by József Korek<sup>130</sup> and Katalin H. Simon,<sup>131</sup> who listed the site as the findspot of stone artefacts, whose cultural attribution was not possible. In her study on the chipped stone implements from Hungary, Erzsébet Bácskay noted that some of the lithics from the site can be assigned to the Transdanubian *Linearbandkeramik* (LBK) culture.<sup>132</sup>

Finds from Szentgyörgyvölgy can also be found in the collection of the Szombathely museum. A polished, perforated stone axe, a black stone adze and six axes made from hard limestone came to light in the garden of the Catholic priest in 1872.<sup>133</sup> Vilmos Lipp also mentions stone artefacts and pottery sherds found at Szentgyörgyvölgy in later years.<sup>134</sup>

The report of the Archaeological Society of County Vas mentions six stone adzes and other finds found in the village in 1884.<sup>135</sup>

Dr. Ignác Berger, the parish priest, also collected various finds which he presented to the museum in Szombathely. Most of these were stone artefacts.<sup>136</sup>

The single Roman period find known from Szentgyörgyvölgy is a Roman oil lamp.<sup>137</sup>

### Zalabaksa

There were several medieval villages on the territory of present-day Zalabaksa: *Cup*, *Baksafalva*, *Szentandrás* and *Györgyfalva*.

The settlement is first mentioned in 1341 as *Poss. Boxafolua*.<sup>138</sup> *Cup* first appears as *villa Chup* in 1334.<sup>139</sup> The chapel in the village of *Szentandrás* is first mentioned in 1287, the stone church dedicated to St. Andrew appears in a charter from 1344.<sup>140</sup> *Györgyfalva* is first mentioned in documents from the 15th century; its name is preserved by *Győrfa*.

The 1549 *dica* tax register lists *Szentandrás*, *Peternye*, *Iszófölde*, *Barabás* and *Baksafalva* together.<sup>141</sup>

The volume *Zala megye földrajzi nevei* contains the following data (p. 323): *Cup*: village part (Site 323/1), *Fösü Győrfa* [Upper Győrfa]: village part (Site 323/8), *Asu Győrfa* [Lower Győrfa]: village part (Site 323/11), *Szentandrás*: the site of the village of Szentandrás, destroyed by the Turks (Site 323/55).

Several archaeological finds and assemblages are known from this area. The 1854 yearbook of the Central Commission of National Monuments in Vienna published a report on the tumulus burials by the village.<sup>142</sup> These tumuli were also mentioned by Arnold Ipolyi.<sup>143</sup>

<sup>127</sup> HNM Inv. No. 1880.50.1–67.

<sup>128</sup> *J. Hampel*: A M.N.M. érem- és régiségosztályának gyarapodása május havában [New acquisitions of the Departments of Coins and Antiquities of the Hungarian National Museum in May]. *ArchÉrt* 14 (1880) 225.

<sup>129</sup> *Op. cit.*, 226.

<sup>130</sup> *Korek 1960* 72.

<sup>131</sup> *Simon 1990* 49.

<sup>132</sup> *Bácskay 1976* 33–34.

<sup>133</sup> *V. Lipp*: Szombathelyi közlemények 14 [Reports from Szombathely]. *ArchÉrt* 7 (1893) 96–100.

<sup>134</sup> *V. Lipp*: Lelhelyeink [Our sites]. *VREJ* 1875; *V. Lipp*: A történelem előtti kor Vas megyében [The prehistory of County Vas]. *VREJ* 4 (1876) 73;

*V. Lipp*: Hazai tudományos intézetek és leletek [Scholarly institutions in Hungary and their finds]. *ArchÉrt* 10 (1876) 95.

<sup>135</sup> *V. Lipp*: Keszthely és vidéke múltjából [The history of the Keszthely area]. *VREJ* 10–11 (1884) 7.

<sup>136</sup> *V. Lipp*: Vas megyei Régiségtár [The Department of Antiquities of County Vas]. *VREJ* 13 (1885) 7.

<sup>137</sup> *D. Iványi*: Die pannonischen Lampen. *DissPann* II. 2. Budapest 1935.

<sup>138</sup> *Csánki 1897* 32.

<sup>139</sup> *Csánki 1897* 45.

<sup>140</sup> *Holub 1933* 742.

<sup>141</sup> *Maksay 1990* 972.

<sup>142</sup> *Seidl 1854* 128.

<sup>143</sup> *Ipolyi 1861* 281.

According to the 1884 report of the Archaeological Society of County Vas, the Szombathely museum acquired a Roman brick fragment bearing the inscription QUENN M F, an oil lamp, two horseshoes, a sabre and pottery fragments from Zalabaksa.<sup>144</sup>

The best-known archaeological find from Zalabaksa is the Roman tombstone found during the construction of the Kerka bridge in 1952, now exhibited in the Zalalövő museum. The first report on this find was written by Tamás Pekáry, the archaeologist who surveyed the site after the find was reported.<sup>145</sup> The large tombstone lifted from the Kerka is one of the most magnificent stone carvings from Pannonia, decorated with dolphins in the corners, a medusa head in the pediment and a hunting scene in the main panel.<sup>146</sup> An iron artefact, found at the same time, was inventoried as dating from the Roman Age. However, Róbert Müller later demonstrated that this artefact was in fact a medieval reed cutter.<sup>147</sup>

The single prehistoric find known from Zalabaksa is a stone axe.<sup>148</sup>

***Breakdown of sites<sup>149</sup> according to archaeological and historic periods (Mária Bondár)***

*Prehistoric (without a more precise date)*

Site	Site no.	Period	Inv. no.
Baglad-Völgyi patak	55	Roman Age, Middle Ages	2000.18.1–15
Csesztreg-Lenti út	36		
Csesztreg-Petőfi tsz	37	Middle Ages	2000.31.1–2
Nemesnép-Első-tag	19	Roman Age, Middle Ages	2000.16.1–7
Ramocsa-Két út köze	21	Middle Ages	2000.21.1–62
Zalabaksa-Belterület	48	Late Bronze Age (?), Roman Age, Middle Ages	2000.43.1–14, 2000.46.1–5
Zalabaksa-Nagyréti-dűlő	38	Roman Age	2000.35.1–7

<sup>144</sup> Gy. Rezsőfy: Titkári jelentés. VREJ 10–11 (1884) 154; B. Lőrincz: Római kori bélyeges téglák Zala megyében (Gestempelte römische Ziegel im Komitat Zala). ZGy 12 (1979) 25.

<sup>145</sup> T. Pekáry: Értékes római lelet Zalabaksán [A remarkable Roman find from Zalabaksa]. Zala 8:288 (1952. dec. 9).

<sup>146</sup> A. Mócsy: Zala megye római-kori köemlékeiről (Steindenkmäler aus der Römerzeit im Komitat Zala). ZGy 6 (1976) 21–32; L. Barkóczi – A. Mócsy: Die Römischen Inschriften Ungarns (RIU) 2. Salla, Mogentiana, Mursella, Brigetio. Budapest 1976, 285.

<sup>147</sup> R. Müller: A mezőgazdasági vaseszközök fejlődése Magyarországon a késővaskortól a törökör végéig (Die Entwicklung der eisernen Agrargeräte in Ungarn von der Späteisenzeit bis Ende der Türkenherrschaft), vol. 1–2. ZGy 19 (1982) Vol. 1, 386.

<sup>148</sup> ZGM 54.7.13; Korek 1960 72; Simon 1990 50.

<sup>149</sup> Key to the Hungarian words: “domb, hegy” = hill, “erdő” = wood, “templom” = church, “út” = road, “telek, dűlő” = field, “kert” = garden, “rét, mező” = meadow, “patak” = stream, “part” = stream or river bank.

*Neolithic*

Site	Site no.	Period	Inv. no.
Csesztreg-Felsőerdei-dűlő	31		
Kerkabarabás-Barabási háromszög	54		2000.33.1–31
Kerkafalva-Agyag	25	Middle Ages	2000.25.1–10
Márokföld-Pityerdomb	10	Copper Age	2000.45.16–52
Nemesnép-Külső Micske	18	Roman Age, Middle Ages	2000.15.1–13
Ramocsa-Tölgyeserdei-dűlő	23		2000.23.1–8
Szentgyörgyvölgy-Haraszti erdő	6		2000.2.1–26
Szentgyörgyvölgy-Pityerdomb	2	Copper Age	2000.45.1–52
Zalabaksa-Cupi patakpart	40	Copper Age, Middle Ages	2000.35.1–9
Zalabaksa-Győrfa	46	Late Bronze Age (?), Roman Age, Middle Ages	2000.41.1–9

*Copper Age*

Site	Site no.	Period	Inv. no.
Csesztreg-Sarjas kertek, déli vég	34	Middle Ages	2000.32.16–25, 37–40
Kerkakutas-Cupi patak	27		2000.26.1–4
Márokföld-Pityerdomb	10	Neolithic	2000.45.16–52
Nemesnép-Harmadik-dűlő	20	Bronze Age, Roman Age	2000.17.1–4
Nemesnép-Kövecses-dűlő	12		2000.9.1–3
Ramocsa-Cikkelyes	24		2000.24.1–4
Szentgyörgyvölgy-Katolikus templomdomb I	4		2000.4.1–2, 13–16
Szentgyörgyvölgy-Pityerdomb	2	Neolithic	2000.45.1–52
Zalabaksa-Cupi patakpart	40	Neolithic Middle Ages	2000.35.1–9
Zalabaksa-Zsidótemető	44	Middle Ages	2000.37.1–14

*Bronze Age*

Site	Site no.	Period	Inv. no.
Kissziget-Temetődomb	59	Árpadian Age, Middle Ages	
Nemesnép-Harmadik-dűlő	20	Copper Age, Roman Age	2000.17.1–4
Ramocsa-Két út köze, betongyűrű	22		2000.22.1–5
Zalabaksa-Belterület	48	Prehistoric, Roman Age, Middle Ages	2000.43.1–14, 2000.46.1–5
Zalabaksa-Győrfa	46	Neolithic, Roman Age, Middle Ages	2000.41.1–9

*Celtic period*

Site	Site no.	Period	Inv. no.
Felsőszenterzsébet-Alsó nyároska	28	Middle Ages	2000.28.1
Kerkabarabás-Ótelki-dűlő I	52		2000.34.21–24

*Roman Age*

Site	Site no.	Period	Inv. no.
Baglad-Kis mező I	56	Middle Ages	2000.19.1–4
Baglad-Kis mező II	57		2000.20.1
Baglad-Völgyi patak	55	Prehistoric, Middle Ages	2000.18.1–15
Csesztreg-Berek melléki rét	35		2000.32.10–15, 26–36
Nemesnép-Alsó telek	16		2000.13.1–2
Nemesnép-Egresi út	15		2000.12.1–2
Nemesnép-Első-tag	19	Prehistoric, Middle Ages	2000.16.1–7
Nemesnép-Harmadik-dűlő	20	Copper Age, Bronze Age	2000.17.1–4
Nemesnép-Jakabfai erdő	14		2000.11.1
Nemesnép-Külső Micske	18	Neolithic, Middle Ages	2000.15.1-13
Nemesnép-Vágás	13		2000.10.1–4
Szentgyörgyvölgy-Cilinkó	7		2000.5.1–5
Zalabaksa-Belterület	48	Prehistoric, Late Bronze Age (?), Middle Ages	2000.43.1–14, 2000.46.1–5
Zalabaksa-Cupi patak, hídfő	41	Middle Ages	2000.39.1–5
Zalabaksa-Cseri-dűlő, víztorony	42	Middle Ages	2000.44.1–7
Zalabaksa-Győrfa	46	Neolithic, Late Bronze Age (?), Middle Ages	2000.41.1–9
Zalabaksa-Iskola udvar	47		
Zalabaksa-Kerka patakpart	45	Árpáadian Age, Middle Ages	2000.38.1–18
Zalabaksa-Nagyréti-dűlő	38	Prehistoric	2000.35.1–7
Zalabaksa-Szentandrás-Sáncvár	49		

*Árpáadian Age*

Site	Site no.	Period	Inv. no.
Csesztreg-Sarjas kertek	32		2000.32.1–9
Csesztreg-Kerkaujfalú határa	30	Middle Ages	2000.30.1–3
Kissziget-Temetődomb	59	Bronze Age, Middle Ages	
Zalabaksa-Kerka patakpart	45	Roman Age, Middle Ages	2000.38.1–18

*Middle Ages*

Site	Site no.	Period	Inv. no.
Alsőszenzerzsébet-Cser-hegy	29		2000.29.1–5
Baglad-Kis mező I	56	Roman Age,	2000.19.1–4
Baglad-Völgyi patak	55	Prehistoric, Roman Age	2000.18.1–15
Csesztreg-Mihomi erdő	33		
Csesztreg-Petőfi tsz	37	Prehistoric	2000.31.1–2
Csesztreg-Sarjas kertek, déli vég	34	Copper Age	2000.32.16–25, 37–40
Csesztreg – Kerkaujfalu határa	30	Árpadian Age	2000.30.1–3
Felsőszenzerzsébet-Alsó nyároska	28	Celtic period	2000.28.1
Kerkabarabás-Ótelki-dűlő II	53		2000.34.1–20
Kerkafálva-Agyag	25	Neolithic	2000.25.1–10
Kerkakutas-Patakpart	26		2000.27.1–10
Kissziget-Temetődomb	59	Bronze Age, Árpadian Age	
Nemesnép-Árkon belüli dűlő	11		2000.8.1–4
Nemesnép-Első-tag	19	Prehistoric, Roman Age	2000.16.1–7
Nemesnép-Külső Micske	18	Neolithic, Roman Age	2000.15.1–13
Nemesnép-Útkereszteződés	17		2000.14.1–2
Ramocsa-Két út köze	21	Prehistoric	2000.21.1–62
Resznek-Földvár	58		
Szentgyörgyvölgy-Alsófarkasi	9		2000.7.1–10
Szentgyörgyvölgy-Csekeszer	3		2000.1.1.–25, 2000.4.3–12
Szentgyörgyvölgy-Katolikus templomdomb II	5		2000.3.1–27
Szentgyörgyvölgy-Kógyár	1		
Szentgyörgyvölgy-Kógyár-Szentgyörgy patak	8		2000.6.1–3
Zalabaksa-Belterület	48	Prehistoric, Late Age?, Roman Age	2000.43.1–14, 2000.46.1–5
Zalabaksa-Cup-“Eichenhof”	39		2000.36.1–6
Zalabaksa-Cupi patakpart	40	Neolithic, Copper Age	2000.35.1–9
Zalabaksa-Cupi patak, hídfő	41	Roman Age	2000.39.1–5
Zalabaksa-Császártás	43		
Zalabaksa-Cseri-dűlő, víztorony	42	Roman Age	2000.44.1–7
Zalabaksa-Győrfa	46	Neolithic, Late Bronze Age (?), Roman Age	2000.41.1–9
Zalabaksa-Kerka patakpart	45	Roman Age, Árpadian Age	2000.38.1–18
Zalabaksa-Medesi patak, nyiladék	51		2000.42.1–5
Zalabaksa-Szentandrás-Templomdomb	50		2000.40.1–4
Zalabaksa-Zsidótemető	44	Copper Age	2000.37.1–14

***The excavated sites (Eszter Bánffy)***

We investigated a total of six sites during the micro-region project. These are the following:

Szentgyörgyvölgy-Pityerdomb. Neolithic, earliest LBK. The excavation was conducted over four seasons (1995–98), the investigated territory totalled roughly 1000 m<sup>2</sup>. Excavation director: Eszter Bánffy.

Zalabaksa-Zsidótemető. Middle Copper Age, Balaton–Lasinja culture. The excavation was conducted for two seasons (1996–97), the investigated territory totalled roughly 216 m<sup>2</sup>. Excavation director: Mária Bondár.

Nemesnép-Jakabfai erdő (Tatárdomb). Roman period, 2nd–3rd centuries. Cutting through the burial mound, 25 m<sup>2</sup>. The excavation was conducted for one season (1997). Excavation director: Ferenc Redő.

Zalabaksa-Iskola udvar. Roman period, 2nd–4th centuries. The excavations are still in progress (1997–2000). A total of 70 m<sup>2</sup> has been excavated to date. Only a preliminary report of the findings has been included in this volume. Excavation director: Ferenc Redő.

Resznek-Földvár. Late Middle Ages. The excavation was conducted for one season (1996) and the main goal was to cut through the medieval rampart. Excavation director: László Vándor.

Csesztreg-Mihomi erdő. Late Middle Ages. The excavation was conducted for one season (1995). Excavation director: Judit Kvassay.

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