

FĂGET



Local Council Office: Făget, 25 Lugojului street, telephone 0256/320494, fax 0256/320611;

Web page address:
<http://faget.online.ro>

Coordinates:

- 22°10'30" N lat.;

- 45°51'30" E long.;

Historical landmarks:

1288 - Făget area is first mentioned in documents, in a reference to the **Bans of Severin, Mihai and Velici** and their domains in the area (the land named **Icuș**);

XVth century - Făget area is a part of the Hunedoara domain, the largest nobiliary domain in Transylvania, belonging to Iancu and John Hunyadi (Ioan de Hunedoara);

- "in return for the money spent on military equipment and anti-Ottoman expeditions, the two men receive a pledge in land: Icuș district, Marginea fair and the Walachian districts of the Timiș county: Swdya, Monostor, Bosar and Șupan, and the villages under their administration" - (says the historian **Patriciu Dragalina**);

1516 - the accounts of the Hunedoara domain show that the mills from Margina and Mănăștiur were more productive than the big mill from Hunedoara;

1548 - the fortress of Făget is first mentioned in documents by reference to a donation made by noble **Ioan of Bozwar** to his daughter Dorotheea, at the castle of noble **Iacob Bekes** from Făget (**Fagyath**);

1591 - the Ottoman garrison from Făget comprises 94 soldiers (ulufedji and asabi);

XVIIth century - the main occupation of the Romanians living in Făget area is pig and sheep breeding, while wheat crops are harvested mainly in the Bega valley;

1594 - Făget is liberated from the Ottoman rule by **George Palatici of Iliidia**, ban of Lugoj, descendent of the Romanian knyaz from Southern Banat;

1660 - the Ottoman traveller **Evlia Celebi** passes by Făget fortress, and describes it: "It was built by a woman by the name of Tilen... It is a beautiful, strong, square shaped construction. To the west there's a gate facing the field. It has a commander (dizdar, A/N), three hundred soldiers and enough war supplies; it is covered entirely by roof tiles, but there's no market or fair or anything. It's just a border fortress ("turn de serhat", A/N)";

1699 - the fortress of Făget was destroyed by the Ottomans, and its ruins are barely visible nowadays;

1727-1729 - Romanian families from Hațegului Valley settle in the Făget area;

1729 - the first German colonists are relocated in Făget; they receive material supplies, long term tax exemption and are supported to build their own school and church;

1736 - 16 families from Oltenia, who flee from the Ottomans, settle in Făget;

1774 - the first Romanian school is estab-

CITY HALL AND LOCAL COUNCIL OF FĂGET

AVRAM MARCEL	Mayor	LEUCA MARIOARA , LC Member	DLP
ARDELEAN REMUS CORNE	Vice Mayor	MARINCONI MARCU FLAVIA, LC Member	SDP
BOLDEA IOAN, LC Member	DLP	MUREȘAN IOAN, LC Member	SDP
AVRAMESCU CLAUDIU IONEL, LC Member	DLP	PALCONI IOAN, LC Member	DLP
CALIMAN IONEL, LC Member	SDP	PETRESCU GHEORGHE, LC Member	SDP
CIOROGARIU IOAN, LC Member	SDP	SITA VASILE, LC Member	NLP
DOBÂANDA TITUS, LC Member	NLP	STOIA GHEORGHE, LC Member	DLP
FRATUȚESCU DORINEL, LC Member	SDP	TOMONI DUMITRU TRAIAN, LC Member	DLP

FĂGET

lished in Făget ;

1777 - in his paper, "**Geography**", **Bel Mátyás** writes: "Făget is an old and famous town, a first hand power (castrum nobile) built on an elevation surrounded by a beautiful field";

1875 - Johann Lehmann writes in „Reise von Pressburg nach Hermannstadt in Siebenbürgen“: "Făget is a beautiful pastoral town. It's a rich place thanks to the animal fairs that take place here. It's a Romanian town of more than 200 houses and 2 churches. The inn from Făget is the most beautiful,

clean and spacious inn you can find between Timișoara and Sibiu and it's the property of Mrs. Soro. There are eight guest rooms and the customers are well taken care of, at a fair price";

1788 - around 50 Swabian families were already based in the village;

- a residential district, named "German Făget" is founded.

1815 - Florentine **Domenico Sestini** describes Făget as a "beautiful market town" with "200 Romanian houses, 2 churches and over 30 German houses, with a small but clean church, tended by the Franciscan monks from Lugoj". The "customs house for Transylvania and Hungary" is located here, which makes Făget an essential link between Banat and Ardeal;

- one could also get to Făget following a shortcut, along the river Bega, but only if the weather was good;

22.04.1849 - the Hungarian revolutionary army takes control of Făget; **Partenie Gruiescu**, a local witness confessed: "the Hungarian soldiers were robbing, breaking, shooting the cows, pigs walking on the road, just to bring havoc and ruin; shortly, a sad time for the Romanian people living in the Făget area";

6 January 1896 - baritone **Titus Olariu** is born in Făget (d. 30.08.1960, in Timișoara);

2 August 1898 - **Nagy Ernő** is born in Făget; Olympic champion in fencing at the

1932 Olympic Games from Los Angeles (d. 8.12.1977);

17.09.1898 - the railway Lugoj - Făget - Ilija becomes operational, linking the Valley of Timiș and the Valley of Făget;

1900 - Făget is colonized by Hungarians;

Bodó Antal, in a guide of Banat area, gives the following description: "Făget, a big village, the seat of the sub-district (plasă), spreads on the hilltop area near the Bega river. There's a 3-4 minute ride by hansom cab from the train station to downtown, at the church square park. As you walk down



Făget, beg. 20th century

the Big street (Strada Mare) you can see the City Hall on the right, the Hungarian Public School on the left, in the Church Square, the Roman-Catholic Church, The Court House, the "Hungarian King" Hotel;

1903 - the school from Bătești is built;

1904 - **András Szilágyi**, physician and literature, is born in Făget; author of the novel "The New Sheppard", published in Paris in 1930 (d. 1984);

1.12.1918 - the regional delegation of Banat attending the Union of Banat to Romania also included several men from Făget area:

Victor Feneșiu, **George Gârda**, **Vasile Iancu**, **Dănilă Ilițescu**, **Sebastian Olariu** from Făget, **Constantin Corunțiu** from Bichici, **Ioachim Florescu** from Povergina, **Petre Cernescu** from Bătești, **Iosif Capotescu** from Brănești;

8 May 1923 - writer **Traian Iancu** is born in Făget;

28.03.1928 - the meeting for setting up the Anonymous Electrical Company from Făget is held; by fall of the same year, 87 people were able to use electric lighting in Făget; - sewage works are executed on the main street, King Ferdinand street, known today as Lugojului street;

11.04.1937 - the cornerstone of the new bridge over Bega is laid, in the presence of bishop **Vasile Lăzărescu**, senator **Victor Feneșiu** from Făget electoral district, the minister of communications **Richard Fra-**

FĂGET

nasovici, and the mayor of Făget **Terente Răchițan**;

- the concrete bridge was deemed to be the best man made bridge in the interwar period within the former Severin county;

24 July 1937 - prose writer **Iosif Lupulescu** is born in Bighigi-Făget;

28 December 1939 - **Valeria Toader**, folklore singer, is born in Brănești-Făget;

21.03.1945 - the praetorium of Făget received a billet from the Severin Prefecture to shelter several famous cultural institutions from Iași, evicted for fear of the approaching Soviet Army: The Belle Arte Academy, The Music and Drama Academy and "Moldova" Philharmonic Orchestra. The three institutions operated in Făget until October 1944, and had around 80-100 students;

29 March 1948 - writer and publicist **Ion Căliman** is born in Bătești-Făget;

11.06.1948 - the communist regime nationalizes "the Country Mill Victor Feneșiu and Cons." (which has a capacity of 15 tones of flour per day), "Bumbu" Mill from Bichici, Electrical Plant from Făget, Apollo and Astra cinemas, lumber-mill, oil-mill etc.;

20 September 1950 - **Dorel Covaci** is born in Temerești, former mayor of Făget, deputy of Timiș (2008 - present);

28 April 1951 - intellectual **Ioan Gheorghe Oltean** is born in Povergina; mayor of Făget between 1983-1990;

1954 - the High School is inaugurated, and later on it receives the name of the inventor **Traian Vuia**, a significant event for the local intellectuals;

3 August 1955 - **Cornel Lera** is born in Făget; municipal counsellor of Lugoj, county counsellor (2004-2008), CEO of AJVPS Timiș (2001 - present);

1955 - The Cultural Centre is opened, under the administration of **Axente Brașovan** - director, and the artistic guidance of **Achim Penda**;

2 February 1956 - Povergina is the birthplace of **Dumitru Tomoni**, historian, scientific researcher, principal of the High School from Făget, deputy general school inspector of Timiș county;

8 June 1956 - **Petru Matusz** is born in Făget, univ. prof. dr., chief physician, specialized in surgery;

1964 - the village of Băsești is renamed Begheiu Mic;

1966 - Făget has a population of 3,840 and 1,133 households;

1973 - a new building is raised for the bus station from Făget;

January 1994 - the president of Romania, **Ion Iliescu**, visits Făget;

5 July 1994 - Făget is declared city;

1999 - prof. dr. **Dumitru Tomoni** publishes the book "**Făget, Historical Monography**";

2002 - the first edition of Făget City Days takes place, the same year in which were celebrated 130 years since Traian Vuia's birth;

2003 - the first national "Beekeeping Fair" is held in Făget, the best place to analyse the supply and demand in the industry;

Total population on 01.01.2010:

7,263 persons, of which:

- male = 3,567 persons

- female = 3,696 persons

Number of households on 01.01.2010:

2,387

Member villages:

Bătești (XVIth c. -Batest), Begheiu Mic (historical name Băsești - 1690 - Basiestj), Bichigi (Bikiz - 1717), Brănești (1514-1515, Branesth) Bunea Mare (1440, Buhnias; 1924, Bunea Română), Bunea Mică (1871, Bunyaszekszárd), Colonia Mică, Jupânești (Swapanesti - 1514-1515), Povergina (Poverszina-1761) and Temerești (Thyhomeresst - 1514-1515);

Educational institutions:

High School: Făget; Primary and Elementary School: Brănești; Primary schools: Bătești, Bichigi, Bunea Mare, Colonia Mică, Jupânești, Povergina; Kindergartens with normal hours: Făget, Bătești, Begheiu Mic, Bichigi, Bunea Mare, Brănești, Colonia Mică and Temerești; Kindergarten with extended hours: Făget;

Health facilities:

Hospital: Făget; Medical practices = Făget (four); Human pharmacies = Făget (three); Veterinary practices = Făget (two);
- Veterinary pharmacies = Făget (two);

Cultural Institutions:

Făget Cultural Centre; "Augusta" Cultural Centres: Făget; Community Centers: Begheiu Mic, Bătești, Bichigi, Brănești, Bunea Mare, Jupânești, Povergina and Temerești;

FĂGET

“Traian Iancu” Memorial House from Făget; “Traian Vuia” Museum from Făget; Contemporary Art Gallery from Făget; Library: Făget (founded in 1994);

Fitness and sports facilities:

- Gymnasiums: Făget (two); Swimming pools: Făget; Stadium: Făget;

Churches:

- Romanian orthodox churches: Făget (1889, one under construction), Bichigi



Făget Casino (1860)



(XVIIth century, demolished, replaced by another church in 1927), Povergina (two, the wooden churches dated in 1784), Bătești (1700), Brănești (1853), Jupânești (1990), Bunea Mare (the old church - 2nd half of the XIXth c., the new church in 1979), Begheiu Mic (1805) and Temerești (1803); The Roman-Catholic Church from Făget

(1849); The Reformed Church from Făget (1998); Baptist churches: Făget (1945), Jupânești (1909) and Bichigi; Seventh-day Adventist Churches: Făget (two). Pentecostal churches: Făget, Bătești, Bichigi, Povergina, Bunea Mare, Begheiu Mic and Temerești;

Annual Church Festivals:

- Făget and Brănești (15 August - Assumption of Mary); Temerești, Bătești and Bichigi (29 June - Saints Peter and Paul); Jupânești (29 August - the Beheading of St. John the Baptist); Povergina (20 July – Saint Elijah); Begheiu Mic (8 September – the Birth of Mary) and Bunea Mare (9 November).

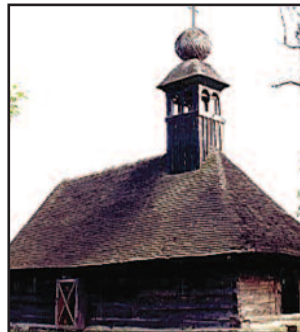
CITIZENS OF HONOUR

Ion Iliescu, Adrian Năstase, Mircea Ciumara, Oliviu Gherman, Ioan Ispas, Ion Ghica, Diodor Nicoară, Valeriu Tabără (1995); Nicolae Văcăroiu (1996); Metropolitan Nicolae Corneanu, Viorel Coifan, Emilia Comișel (1997); Dan V. Poenaru (2001); Traian Vuia (post-mortem), Dumitru Dorin Prunariu (2002); Traian Stănescu, Augusta Anca (2004); Romulus Zaharia (2006); Dumitru Popovici, Ilie Sârbu, Constantin Ostaficiuc, Patriarch Daniel (2008).

FĂGET

THE WOODEN CHURCH

The church is based in the middle of Bătești village and was moved here on rollers - pulled by several pairs of oxen - from Veța, a small lost village on the border of Făget. According to historians, the church dates back to the XVIIth century. The architecture of the building is simple, resembling the wooden houses from Ardeal, which gain a church-like appearance due to the addition of a tower. The steeple is not too tall, and the hipped roof shelters a small open balcony. The original royal doors are stored in the underground museum of the Metropolitan Cathedral in Timișoara. The inscription embedded on the wooden wall between the nave and the narthex says: **“This church has been painted during the days of emperor Joseph II, under the blessing of His Grace Sofronie of Timișoara, when protopresbyter was Petru Petrovici of Saraz and was adorned on the outlay of Mihai Vasiescu himself and his brother Ianăș Vasiescu, when the first knyaz was Pătru Ursulescu, then Pătru Drăghicioni, when the priest was Ivan Popovici. And the painters: Gheorghe Diaconovici and Ștefan Popovici from Vasiova, January, 1, 1783.”** The beauty and the uniqueness of this church also comes from the painting executed by **Gheorghe Diaconovici** (Georgie Diaconovici from Vârșeț or from Srediște). In 1853 the narthex was extended by 3 m, over one hundred years later the restoration of the paintings began, and the shingle roofing was replaced between 1979 -1980. Other repair works, on the inside and the outside, were performed between 2004-2005, under the blessing of His Grace **Lucian Lugojanu** on his canonical visit in June 2005. The patron saint of the church is Saint Parascheva (14 October).



“THE MONKS OF BANAT”

It was 1594 when Michael the Brave (Mihai Viteazul), finding out about the anti-Ottoman attitude of the ban of Lugoj, **George Palatici of Ilidia**, sent seneschal (postelnic) Toma on a mission to determine the ban of Lugoj to initiate a big anti-Ottoman rebellion, which was to be supported by the army of Sigismund Bathory, too. The rebellion of the people from Banat began, and the commander of the Transylvanian army, Moise Székely (Moise Secuiul), attacked the fortress of Făget in the fall of 1594. He was wounded by a cannon ball, so the attack was relinquished. No sooner than August 1595, the new ban of Lugoj, **Gheorghe Borbély**, attacked again the fortress of Făget, which was defended by 200 Ottoman soldiers. On the news of the attack, pasha of Timișoara, accompanied by 8,000 sipahis and janissaries, headed to Făget. The Romanian army faced the Ottomans about one kilometer West of the fortress, where the villages Begheuil Mic and Bichigi are located nowadays. The battle of Făget unfolded on the same day as the battle of Călugăreni between Michael the Brave (Mihai Viteazul) and Sinan Pasha - 13 August 1595 - and had a spectacular development. For a moment, the Romanians were outnumbered and the Ottomans were prevailing. But, Borbély came up with a strategy and sent **“The Black Legion”** into battle, on one flank. The legion, including 100 Transylvanian Saxons (sași) dressed in black, and the lancers started the attack together and succeeded to defeat the Ottoman army. The Turkish garrison was slaughtered by the winners. Ahmed Pasha was forced to hide shamefully in a nearby muddy forest. At the same time the bey of Jula and Cenad, died in battle and the beys of Ineu and Lipova were taken prisoners. Făget remained under the administration of the Transylvanian kingdom, and a Romanian garrison was located in the fortress.



Ottoman soldiers

The ruins of the
Făget Fortress

FĂGET

JUPÂNEȘTI - POTTERS' HOME

Sixty years ago, each household from Jupânești - a village administered by Făget - had one or two potters. The village of Jupânești, located in Vădanei Valley, was a famous pottery centre, given the local supply of quartz sand and adequate clay. Nowadays, the village, regarded as the last active pottery center in Timiș county, is harbouring only two elders, experts in the art of pottery: **Trandafir Velcu** and **Gheorghe Mestecănean**. The tradition may get the



chance to be continued thanks to the potter **Marin Barbos**, who manages the pottery center for children from Jupânești, Tomești and Coșevița. An annual fair is held in Jupânești, on a special plateau outside the village, surrounded by a spectacular scenery. The fair is a tourist attraction and is accompanied by performances of the Folklore Group "Făgețeană" from Făget and the famous "Dubășii" from Brănești.

The Museum of Banat Village from Timișoara owns a potter's house from Jupânești dating back to the XIXth century, a house made of short beams pasted with clay. The house has three rooms: living room, kitchen and potter's workshop, furnished according to the ethnographic style of Făget area. In the yard there is a stable and barn, a pigpen and the pottery kiln. The pottery kiln has been reconstructed inside the museum and is still operational. The household from Jupânești displayed in the Museum of Banat Village was an original building purchased by the Museum in 1973 from a resident **Ștefan Popovici** from Jupânești, no. 12, and was transferred to the Museum of Banat Village in 1975.

"SUCCESSORS OF TIHOMIR"

Less than 2 km away from Făget, the village of Temerești is "announced" from a distance by a big building based on an imposing hilltop. It's the Romanian Orthodox Church. The local people claim the church was raised in 1803 on the ruins of a fortress used by the nobles to survey the surrounding valleys. First mentioned in royal diplomas dated in 1514-1515, under the name of **Tyhomeresth** (property of noble Georg Brandeburg), the settlement was recorded as **Thihomearest** in a Turkish registry (defter) from 1617. According to the linguists who studied the toponymy of Banat area, Thihomearest means "**successors of Tihomir**"; Tihomir was a noble, land owner in that region. What strikes us the most, is the similarity between the name of that reputed Tihomer from Temerești and the name of the voivode Tihomir from Muntenia (1290-1310), father of prince Basarab I, Founder of Wallachia (1310-1352).



Photo: Raluca Radu

MAYOR AND DEPUTY

Born on 20 September 1950, in Temerești, **Dorel Covaci** attends the High School from Făget, then the Faculty of Administrative Law from Sibiu (graduated in 1980). Chief legal advisor of UJCAP Timiș (1981-1990). Mayor of the village of Făget, and then of the city of Făget from 1990 until the summer of 2008. In autumn 2008 he ran for a seat in the Roma-

nian Parliament and was elected deputy. Married with two children, one of them - Dorin - a priest in the home town, Temerești, tending on 118 families, including 447 orthodox followers. Dorel Covaci is passionate about beekeeping, and he was involved in the organization of the first Beekeeping Fair from Făget in 2003.



FĂGET

FENEȘIU'S CROSS

One of the great patriots of Banat, **Victor Feneșiu**, was born in Făget in 1890, and received a patriot specific education since an early age. He attended the Superior Trade School from Timișoara. As a young adult, he joined the Romanian national movement from Banat and was present at the Great National Assembly from Alba Iulia, on 1 December 1918.

He followed an outstanding political career, getting elected senator of Severin between 1933-1937. He facilitated sponsorships or used his own resources to sustain the restauration and endowment of the schools from Făget area (19 schools), churches and eparchies (12) or city halls (10).

Victor Feneșiu raised the famous Cross on Muntele Mic, in honour of the heroes from Banat, who fought for the unity of the country. The cross was made of 8 stems of fir, grouped in pairs, which formed the main body of the cross. The twenty-five meter Cross was anchored to the ground, on a metallic platform embedded in the mountain rock, at 1,670 m altitude. Powerful spotlights, connected to a nearby hydro-electrical plant were mounted on the cross. The cross was unveiled in July 1936. Some say that when

the sky is clear, the Cross is visible from certain places in Timișoara, especially from the dome under the cross of the Cathedral.



In 1946 Victor Feneșiu was elected deputy, representing NLP. He was a supporter of the local institutions, especially the Church - deemed as "an essential support in promoting the nation and cooperation between people". The communist authorities arrested him on 4 March 1948, charging him with "undermining the national state". He was imprisoned for one year and a half. Released from prison, he

remained under strict surveillance and was arrested again on 15 August 1952. He was sent to work for the Canal, in the Valea Neagră prisoner camp (together with dr. Bălu from Reșița and the former mayor of Timișoara, dr. Coriolan Băran). That was the place where he died in agony on 30 December 1952.

An initiative group, established on 1 Feb. 2002 under the patronage of the Metropolitanate of Banat, decided to build a new cross on Muntele Mic, considering that the old wooden cross was damaged. The new cross was unveiled on 14 September 2004 and blessed by His Grace Nicolae, Metropolitan of Banat and by his grace Laurențiu Streza, Bishop of Caransebeș.

THE CONDUCTOR

Diodor Nicoară was born in Bătești, on 2 September 1942, in the family of the priest Dimitrie Nicoară. He graduated "Eftimie Murgu" High School (Carmen Sylva) in Timișoara (1960). He graduated "George Enescu" Music University from Iași (1967). As a student, he got a job in the choir of Iași Philharmonic. After graduation he transferred to "Banatul" State Philharmonic Orchestra from Timișoara (1968). One year later he became the conductor of the Philharmonic Orchestra. Conductor of "Sabin Drăgoi" choir. Conductor of "**Menestrelle**" choir of the Music Faculty from Timișoara (1970-1977). Conductor of the old peasant choir from Chizătău. The ATM Award for his entire career (1985). Director of "Banatul" Philharmonic Orchestra (1987-1990). Nicoară founded the cultural and choral society "**Sursum Corda**", which won the bronze medal in the "Palestrina" contest - Vatican, 1994. He conducted over one thousand choral concerts. He



had several recording sessions on radio, television and Electrecord. He was a senator of Timiș (1990-1992). As a member of the Parliament he helped gather the funds for the Cardiology Center of the Municipal Hospital Timișoara, established the Music Faculty within the West University of Timișoara or transformed the village of Făget into a city.



1994 -Choral "**Sursum Corda**" in Vatican.
Conductor, maestro **Diodor Nicoară**.