

## GĂTAIA

**Local Council Office:** Gătaia, 106 Carpați street, telephone/fax 0256/410001;

**Web page address:**

**Coordinates:**

45°25'38" N lat.;

21°25'44" E long.;

**Historical landmarks:**

**1018** - a document (hrisob, chrysob, "golden charter", "decree") issued by the Byzantine emperor **Basil II** mentions Șemlacul Mare (**Moraviskos**), a settlement inhabited by Wallachians (Romanians);

**XIII<sup>th</sup> century** - in order to defend the Banat region against the Tatar invasions, the Hungarian king Béla IV builds several fortresses: in Caransebeș, Lugoj and Somlyó-Șemlacu Mare;

- the fortress of Somlyó was of great strategic importance, given its location on the hill of Șumig - 205 metres altitude - which ensured a good surveillance of the surrounding territory, all the way to Vârșeț;

**1270** - **Săraca Monastery** from Șemlacu Mic is first mentioned in documents, known among the Franciscan monks as a "**nursery of schismatics**" (orthodox) militating against the intent to make the Banat population Catholic;

**1323** - Gătaia is mentioned in documents under the name of **Gataal**;

**1332** - the Vatican Codice (papal records) mentions for the first time the name of the village of Sculia under the variant **Sculd**, **Scoruld** or **Scalla**;

**1337** - the village of Butin (probably **Buitoni**, where the Buitu family lives) is first mentioned in documents;

- the village of Percosova is also mentioned; apparently, the residents of Percosova came from the neighbourhood of Cacova (Grădinari, Caraș-Severin county);



**1343** - the villages of upper Ghotal and lower Ghotal are first mentioned in documents as property of **Ladislau Omeri**, who gives them as present to his sister Clara;

**XV<sup>th</sup> century** - the documents issued during the reign of king Sigismund are the first to mention the name **Gatay** (probably a Turkish-Tatar patronymic - Geo-Gatay);

**1442** - Percosova is listed in documents as belonging to the Serbian despots;

**XV<sup>th</sup> century** - Șemlacu Mare has city privileges; as proven by several meetings of the Hungarian nobles which are held here;

**XVII<sup>th</sup> century** - the fortress of Somlyó - Șemlac is destroyed by the Turks;

**1717** - the village of Gătaia has 23 houses;

**1723-1725** - settlement of Sculia is mentioned under the name of **Sculla**, then **Szigetfalu** ("the island village");

**1738-1738** - hajduk troops from Banat (harambași) led by **Sava Harambașu**, **Adam Moharu** and **Florea from Bocșa** become blood brothers with **Pavel Dărăbanțu** from Gătaia and start a rebellion against the Austrians and attack the German colonies from Gătaia, Birda, Denta, Deta, Ciacova.

- the rebels are defeated by the Austrian troops led by general Lentulus, and the soldiers burn the houses and kill the women and children;

**1739** - the leaders of the rebellion from Gătaia are hanged near Deta;

### CITY HALL AND LOCAL COUNCIL OF GĂTAIA

**ȘARGAN IOSIF**

**SAS ȘTEFAN**

BĂNIAȘ LEON MARIAN, LC Member

BÎLC MIRCEA, LC Member

CIREȘAN CAMELIA, LC Member

CUREA RADU IOAN, LC Member

ENACHE ALEXANDRU, LC Member

GHEȚA PAUL COSMIN, LC Member

**Mayor**

**Vice Mayor**

CDNPP

DLP

DLP

DLP

DLP

DLP

GRĂBEANU GHEORGHE, LC Member

IUHASZ PETRU PAVEL, LC Member

MAZILU VASILE, LC Member

SCRIDON LUCIAN, LC Member

ȘIBISZKI VASILE, LC Member

TOMA ANA, LC Member

GH. URȘU, LC Member

URȘU IOAN, LC Member

DLP

DLP

DLP

SDP

DUHR

UDSCR

CDNPP

DLP

## GĂTAIA

*The mansion of Gorove family*

**1778** - by order of the future emperor **Joseph II**, the orthodox monastery Săraca is shut down and the monks are forced to leave;

**1779** - Gătaia is transferred from Caraș county to the administration of Timiș county;

**1794-1797** - the Greek-Orthodox Church (Serbian) is built, a sanctuary described in one of the works of Hungarian writer **Péterfy Jenő**;

**1802** - the village of Șemlacu Mic appears on the map, founded by the German colonists;

**beginning of XIX<sup>th</sup> century** - several Slovak families settle in the village;

**1823** - the Hungarian king donates the settlement to the Hungarian writer of Armenian nationality **Gorove László** and his brothers Ludovic and Carol;

- Gorove brings Hungarian colonists in Gătaia;

**1865** - the Roman-Catholic Church is built (benefactor: Gorove family);

**12 January 1881** - **Mihail Gașpar** is born in Gătaia; protopope, publicist and writer (d. 27.11.1929)

**1894** - **János Horváth** is born in Gătaia; writer and journalist, author of the poetry book "Images in a Mirror" (d. 1950);

**1909** - **Adalbert Dezső (Deșu)** is born in Gătaia, member of the national football team of Romania (striker), who played at the 1930 World Cup from Uruguay (d. 1937);

**1913** - a new wave of Slovaks arrives in Gătaia from Ostrava and Nitra;

**1.12.1918** - the Romanian people from Gătaia are represented in the Great National Assembly from Alba Iulia by five delegates led by young priest **Mihail Gașpar**, who, in order to hide from the enemies of the Union, travelled under the dis-

guise of a nomad gypsy;

**1923** - **Bukovinsky János** is born in Gătaia; physician, researcher and university professor (d. 2006);

**1924** - Gătaia is declared commune, having a population of 3,712, under the administration of Deta;

**1924** - the Gorove family is the wealthiest family from Gătaia, and they own 2,027 jochs (around 1000 hectares) of arable land;

**1932** - Săraca Monastery is purchased by the Caransebeș Diocese and becomes a monastic sanctuary again;

**1935** - Gătaia is the seat of the subdistrict (plasă).

**1936-1944** - the northern area of Gătaia is colonized by 190 families of "moți" and 25 families from the village of Igrîș, each receiving 16 jochs of land;

**12 March 1939** - **Csizmarik Ladislau** is born in Gătaia; a music teacher, killed on 17 December 1989 in Timișoara, **Hero-Martyr** of the Revolution from December 1989;

**7 March 1941** - **Dumitru Acea** is born in Sculia; a poet who writes in **Banat dialect**;

**1943** - **Petru Hațegan** is born in Gătaia; killed on the steps of the Metropolitan Cathedral from Timișoara on 17 December 1989, incinerated at the "Cenușa" crematorium in Bucharest. **Hero-Martyr** of the Revolution from December 1989;

**1951** - Gătaia, seat of the district bearing the same name, is a strategic point in the fortified defense line against Iosif Broz Tito, considering that a garrison is built in the village for the use of the Soviet troops;

- the project was abandoned in 1954, after Romania and Yugoslavia resumed their political relations;

**1963-1966** - under the guidance of physicians **Dan Arthur**, **Florin Găldău** and **Traian Lohan**, of univ. prof. dr. **Mircea Lăzărescu**, **Eduard Pamfil** and lecturer dr. **Ștefan Stössel**, the buildings for the future hospital are arranged and developed;

**1966** - The Psychiatric Hospital from Gătaia is opened in the former building of the garrison, which never got to be used by soldiers;

**11 July 1965** - **Ladislau Böcskei** is born in Gătaia; bishop of the Roman-Catholic Diocese of Oradea since April 2009;

**1966-1969** - dr. **Dan Arthur** promotes

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psychotherapy and psychodrama within the Psychiatric Hospital from Gătaia-Timiș;

**26 April 1968** - poet **Marinela Ilie** is born in Gătaia;

**5.11.1976** - the new church from the eparchy of Sculia-Colonie is consecrated in the presence of His Grace Nicolae, metropolitan of Banat;

**1993** - the factory S.C. "Mobila Gătaia" S.A. is established, with over 50 employees who manufacture double glazed, exotic wood windows and doors;

**1998** - the orthodox cemetery in Colonie offers eternal rest to the psychiatrist doctor **Radu Paul Ricman**, director of the Psychiatric Hospital from Gătaia between 1973 and August 1997;

**2003** - the former building of the C.A.P., abandoned for 13 years, is entirely renovated and turned into a gendarmerie;

**2004** - Gătaia is declared city, has a population of 6,110 and 5 villages under administration;

**04. 2005** - 40 households from Sculia are flooded after a dam on Bârzava river breaks due to extreme pressure and high flow;

**March 2006** - unveiling of the "Tabor" church, whose architectural style is similar to the Byzantine style;



*Heroes' Memorial*

(I-XII); Primary schools (I-IV): Butin, Percosova, Șemlacu Mare and Șemlacu Mic; Kindergartens with normal hours: Gătaia, Butin, Percosova, Sculia, Șemlacu Mare and Șemlacu Mic; All-Day Kindergartens: Gătaia.

**Health facilities:** Psychiatric Hospital from Gătaia; Medical clinic: Gătaia; Medical Practices: Șemlacu Mare; Human pharmacy: Gătaia; Veterinary practice: Gătaia; Veterinary Pharmacy: Gătaia;

**Cultural Institutions:** The National House from Gătaia; Community Centres: Butin, Percosova and Șemlacu Mare; Library: Gătaia (founded in 2004); Library of the Theoretical High School Gătaia;

**Fitness and sports facilities:** "Progresul" Stadium, the football field of the Theoretical High School, the gymnasium of the Theoretical High School - Gătaia;

**Churches and monasteries:** Romanian orthodox churches: Gătaia (1796), Sculia (1862), Percosova (1910), Butin (1925) and Șemlacu Mare (1886); Roman-Catholic churches: Gătaia (1870) and Percosova (); Evangelical Lutheran churches: Butin (1818) and Șemlacu Mare (1845); The Roman-Catholic church Butin; The Reformed church Sculia; Pentecostal churches: Gătaia and Butin; the Baptist church Gătaia; Seventh Day Adventist Church Gătaia; "Săraca" Monastery Șemlacu Mic (1270);

**Annual Church Festivals:** Gătaia (Easter), Colonia-Gătaia (Thomas Sunday), Șemlacu Mare (Pentecost), Șemlacu Mic (5 August.), Sculia and Percosova (15 August - Assumption of Mary), Butin (21 August).



*Gătaia, winter - 2006*

**Total population on 01.01.2010:**

6,226 persons, of which:

- male = 3,046 persons

- female = 3,180 persons

**Number of households on 01.01.2010:**

2,378

**Member villages:**

Butin (1337, Budwn), Percosova (1358, Berkez), Sculia (1334, Scalla, Scula), Șemlacu Mare (1270, Sumlo), Șemlacu Mic (1404, Kiss Somlyya);

**Schools:** Theoretical High School Gătaia

## GĂTAIA

## SĂRACA MONASTERY

It's a prayer place for monks, and its dedication day is "Transfiguration of Jesus" (6 August). Built in the village **Șemlacu Mic**, it was first mentioned in documents in the XIII<sup>th</sup> century, in 1270, as a monastery which had a mill in property, near "Șumig" ("Șumigu" hill). At the beginning of XIV<sup>th</sup> century the Franciscan monks used to call it "the nursery



and the courses were held by monks from Tismana, in Muntenia. The murals painted during those time have preserved their remarkable artistic poetry until today and are regarded as the most valuable murals of this kind in Timiș area of Banat.

By order of emperor Joseph II, the monastery was shut down in 1778, and the



*The Monastery church*

of schismatics", for being an endless source of Orthodoxy. The Turks burnt it to the ground around the middle of the XVI<sup>th</sup> century and plowed the land where the monastery used to stand. It was rebuilt in stone and



books, icons, religious objects are transferred to Mesici Monastery near Vârșeț (Serbian Banat). The buildings of the former monastery were put up for auction by the Austrian authorities in 1782 and are awarded to Ioan Ostoici, a rich clerk from Timișoara. The Ostoici families abandoned the monastery for one century and a half. The Diocese of Caransebeș bought back and revived the monastery in 1935. The communist authorities decreed the disestablishment of the monastery in 1959, but it operated as an eparchy. In 1993 the restoration of the church and the mural began.

brick by abbot Macarie from Tismana, improved and painted by Romanian George of Lazăr and his sons in 1730. At the beginning of XVIII<sup>th</sup> century the monastery was accommodating a school for icon painting,

In 1990 the monastic life was resumed. Săraca Monastery stores a piece of the oak bark from Mambre under which the face of the Lord showed itself to Abraham, therefore an altar had been raised.

Săraca Monastery is also the place that harbours a finger of Mary the Egyptian, who lived 47 years of prayers and penitence after a sinful youth.

## HERO TEACHER

**Csizmarik Ladislau** was born in Gătaia on 15 March 1939. He was a music teacher at the Folklore Creation Centre of Timiș County (today, Art and Cultural Center of Timiș County). He was shot in the abdomen on 17 December 1989 in front of the Metropolitan Cathedral from Timișoara. The communist authorities incinerated his body in secret, at the "Cenușa" crematorium from Bucharest. A marble plate mounted near the entry of the Art and Cultural Center of Timiș county, at 1 Emanuil Ungureanu street, reminds us of Csizmarik Ladislau, **Hero-Martyr**. The local authorities from Gătaia, have put on display a bust of the hero teacher, sculpted by an artist from Timișoara, Gheorghe Ardeleanu.



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## ȘUMIGU, THE LITTLE VOLCANO

Șumigu is the name of a hill from Șemlacu Mic, which is, in fact, an extinct volcano, an isolated volcanic cone. It is 200 m high, made of basaltic rocks, from the Cenozoic, an era which extends until our days. The extinct volcano is located on the Șano-vița - Denta fissure, in the middle of Morava field, part of the lowland hills of Gătaia, which belongs to the Tisa Field. Following the disintegration of the basaltic rock, Măgura Șumigului has been covered by a rich soil which allowed the inhabitants to plant the best type of grape vine on the volcanic hillside.

A legend says that 250 year ago, during the reign of Maria Theresa, the locals dug a tunnel under Șumig Hill to link the village to a wine storage place from Vârșeț. The natives believed a treasure was hidden inside, so they entered the tunnel. Unfortunately, they died from asphyxiation due to gas emanations.

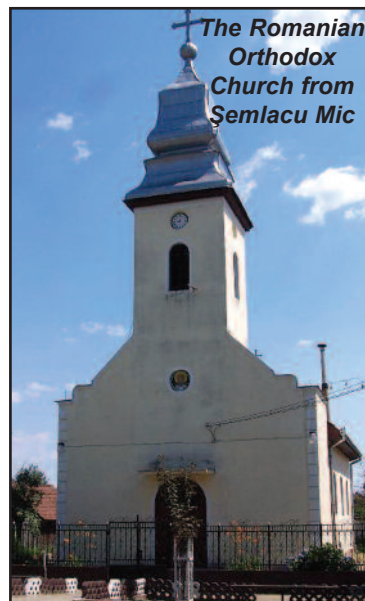
On the other hand, the age of Șumig was a point of reference for the locals, who used to reply proudly to any challenge: "I'm from Banat, my brother, since Adam was a boy, just like this hill, our dear Șumig..."

THE HOSPITAL, REFUGE  
AGAINST THE DICTATORSHIP

1977 was a year to remember for the communist authorities from Timiș county. Some of the members of the "Phoenix" rock band run abroad from the hospital in Gătaia, after a performance at the hospital club - their last performance in Ceaușescu's Romania. The following year - 1978 - the hospital offered shelter to the poet and graphic artist Gheorghe Bălan and to the philosopher and essayist **Gabriel Liiceanu**. Bălan showed his poetry notebook to Liiceanu, who was fascinated and helped the



**Photo document: 1977 - Nicu Covaci and Iosef Kappl "patients" in Gătaia, far from Ceaușescu's cultural promoters, or from their own amplifiers and decibels. To the left, a close-up of dr. Radu Ricman.**



**The Romanian Orthodox Church from Șemlacu Mic**

artist to launch his first exhibition in Bucharest and to publish his first poetry book, "Ferns". Gătaia was also the place where writer Ion Maxim wrote "Orpheus, the joy of knowledge", where Thomas Kleininger translated Heidegger, where Paul Caravia drafted "The