

Everday heroes – Let's write history!

Kápolnásfalu (Căpâlnița), the village of bottom of the mounains

Kápolnásfalu is a village in the eastern part of the Old Udvarhely County, today Harghita county. Located in the southwestern foothills of the Central Harghita Mountains at an altitude of 875 m above sea level, on the highlands of Oláhfalva, on a large plateau, which connects the Csíki Basin to Székelyudvarhely (Odorheiu Secuiesc). It's 30 km from Csíkszereda (Miercurea Ciuc), 22 km from Székelyudvarhely. Until 1968 it was natural-govermental administratively more connected to Székelyudvarhely, nowadays it administratively belongs to Miercurea Ciuc, but the village people still prefer arranging their clever troublesome things at Székelyudvarhely. Until 1968 Homoródfürdő (Băile Homorod) belonged administratively to the Kápolnásfalu too.

The village is a high mountain settlement, sometimes 900 m above sea level. Its streets are not steep, only slightly sloping, with a deeper position in the northern part of the village called the Lok. This part of the village is crossed by the Small-Homorod brook, whose fast flowing water has driven sawmills a long time ago. The Csonka brook flows through the village (also called Rákos-Homoród brook). In the past it was nicknamed "Rumor brook" because the women who washed clothes here exchanged news, discussed the current events that had happened in the village. Both brooks originate from the hill-side of Harghita and flow through the Homorod into the Olt. The area of the village is rich in mineral resources, and the locals still enjoy and prefer to drink the water of the Felszegi spring.

The story of the creation of Kápolnásfalu is closely related to the history of Szentegyházásfalu (today part of the town Szentegyháza / Vlăhița), which is 2 kms away, since it had been under common management for centuries in ecclesiastical and administrative terms.

We do not know the precise time of the town's birth. It is probable that its territory was already inhabited in the XII - XIII. century. The name of the settlement is authentic, having been found in written sources as old as from the 16th century.

The history of the village, past lives of the inhabitants could not be known today by the people of Kápolnás without BALÁZS Irén teacher's enthusiastic, persistent, careful collecting work. At the same time she had a long lasting influence on the spiritual and cultural life of the village. As a teacher, as a folk educator, she is highly appreciated in the village. The cultural life of Kápolnásfalu in the second half of the XX. century was also deeply influenced by a teacher BOTH Rákhel, who was born in Küsmöd (Cușmed). The village is one of the communities with specific traditional

clothing which was in use even during the communist years. The women, girls Szekler costumes were created for decades by a seamstress named BOTH Teréz.

The present-day intellectual image of the village Kápolnásfalu would be much poorer without BALÁZS Irénke teacher's folk art and folk crafts material collecting work (which material is now the property of the folk art museum), without her caring, without resignation. It would not be the same without BOTH Rákhel's work of preserving folk culture and culturally educating the youth for decades, nor would it be without BOTH Teréz having sewn national consciousness and humanity into the Szekler costumes made by her which have helped the proud wearers to relate to their ancestors.

The material of the thesis was collected by GYÖRGY Kamilla and DEÁK Csaba (class V.), BOTH Petra (class VI.) and BOTH Renáta (class VII.) students. The collecting work directed and wrote, supplemented and verified by professor BÁLINT Irma. The professional manager of the thesis is MIHÁLY János historian.