

COMLOȘU MARE

Local Council Office: Comloșu Mare no. 655, telephone/fax: 0256/ 364114

Coordinates:

45°53'42" N lat.;

20°37'53" E long.;

Historical landmarks:

-1446 - the village of Comloș was recorded in a Hungarian document under the name of **Komlós**;

-1529 - the Turkish invasion led by Bali-beg;

-1734 -1740 - the current locality was founded by families from Oltenia;

-1781 - German families from Luxemburg settled in the area;

-20 January 1839 - **Iulian Grozescu** was born in Comloșu Mare, poet (d.02.06.1872);

-1839 - 3,320 of orthodox Romanians and 1,206 catholic Germans and Slovaks lived in the village;

-1814 - **Meletie Drăghici** was born in Comloșu Mare, writer and lawyer (d. 23 May 1891);

-16 October 1985 - **Aurel Contrea** was born in Comloșu Mare, poet, sociologist, naturalist, mineralogist (d. 12 April 1968);

-23 February 1909 - **Hans Dieplich** was born in Comloșu Mare, German-speaking poet and writer (d. 2 July 1990);

-1931 - **Ion Iancu** was born in Comloșu Mare, conductor, (d. 2008);

-1936 - the commune had a primary school, a catholic confessional school, a cultural centre, "Saint George" Society, the "Comloșana" Sports Society, the "Romania's Hawks" Society, a choir, a military band, a post office, a train station;

-14 September 1947 - the birth of **Silviu Sarafoleanu**, Ph.D. chemist, member of local council;

-21 April 1951 - the birth of **William Totok**, writer;;

-10 August 1952 - the birth of **Livia Sârbu** (Vidoni), primary doctor, PhD in medical

sciences;

2002 - the commune had 4,861 inhabitants;

-2003 - **Walter**

Tonța and **Traian Galetaru** publish the study „Contributions to the history of Comloșu Mare Commune and Banat”;

Member villages: Comloșu Mare, Comloșu Mic (1770, Ostern) and Lunga (1824, Constanzia).

Total population on 1 January 2010: 5,145 persons, of which:

- male = 2,512 persons

- female = 2,633 persons

Number of households on 1 January 2010: 1,677

Educational institutions: Elementary Schools (I-VIII): Comloșu Mare and Comloșu Mic; Primary Schools (I-IV): Lunga; Kindergartens with normal hours: Comloșu Mare, Comloșu Mic and Lunga.

Health facilities: Medical practices: Comloșu Mare (two); Drugstore: Comloșu Mare; Sanitary-veterinary practice : Comloșu Mare; The “**Open gates**” House;

Cultural institutions: “Iulian Grozescu” Cultural Centre Comloșu Mare; Memorial Houses: Comloșu Mare; Community Centres: Comloșu Mic and Lunga; Libraries: Comloșu Mare (1962) and Comloșu Mic;

Fitness and sports facilities: Football pitches: Comloșu Mare, Comloșu Mic and Lunga;

Churches: Romanian Orthodox Churches: Comloșu Mare (1794-1796), Comloșu Mic (1806) and Lunga; Greek-Catholic Churches: Comloșu Mare (1868); Catholic Churches: Comloșu Mare and Comloșu Mic (1806); Baptist Chutecostal Churches: Comloșu Mare;

Annual Church Festivals: Comloșu Mare (15 August - the Assumption of Mary), Comloșu Mic (8 November - Saints Archangels Michael and Gabriel).



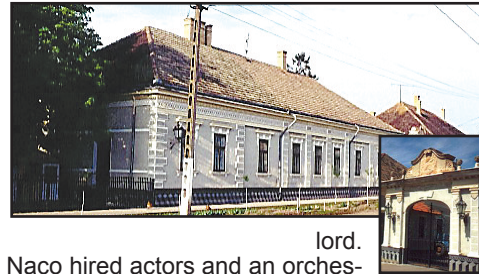
THE CITY HALL AND THE LOCAL COUNCIL OF COMLOȘU MARE

Ștefănescu Ovidiu Nicolae	Mayor	Lupșa Viorel, LC member	RP
Almăjan Cosmin Ion	Vice Mayor	Mândreci Tudor, LC member	SDP
Almăjan Florin, LC member	SDP	Mateș Cornel, LC member	DLP
Belu Simona-Adela, LC member	SDP	Merjan Remus, LC member	RP
Boran Ștefan Marius, LC member	NLP	Miclău Maria, LC member	SDP
Cojocaru Alexandru, LC member	SDP	Sneider Livia, LC member	DLP
Contrea Alexandru, LC member	SDP	Suciu Ionel, LC member	DLP
Lazăr Ioan, LC member	DLP	Tihoi Eleonora, LC member	SDP

COMLOȘU MARE

MILEVA'S MANOR

The San Marco Manor from Comloșu Mare has been declared a historical monument by the Ministry of Culture. The manor belonged to a famous Aromanian family settled in Banat: Naco (Magyarised Nakó). Comloșu was administered by the brothers Cristofor and Chiril Naco after its purchase at the end of the XVIIIth century. In 1801, the two brothers divided their fortune, Cristofor's heirs getting the town of Sănnicolau Mare, and Iosif Naco, son of Chiril, got Comloșu and Teremia. In 1840, Iosif Naco's son, Ioan, and his wife, Mileva, moved from Vienna to Comloș, in the manor, a building formed of two wings divided by a monumental gate, a theatre hall and other ancillary buildings. In 1857, the German traveller Franz Xaver Eckert described it as follows: **"There is a noble castle here, whose landlord is named Naco, but who has been absent for many years. The castle's park is very big and combines utility with pleasure. The largest building is the landlord's barn, having three floors and a length of 100 feet."** The park stretched on ten hectares, it was beautifully arranged, and the trees and the bushes were planted in 1851. Open-air shows were held in an especially designed area in the park. People say about Ioan Naco that **"he loved luxury, he tended to waste money, his passion for expensive games swallowed huge amounts of money"**. He built a show room behind the right wing of the manor, with a stage and a loge for the land-



lord.

Naco hired actors and an orchestra formed of bohemian musicians for permanent shows, but the ticket fee was quite expensive. Ioan Naco's passion for luxury left him a poor man, thus his estate from Teremia-Comloș was placed under fiscal supervision for debt recovery. Ioan Naco settled in his palace from Vienna, where he died in 1889. The beautiful Mileva Naco, Ioan's daughter (people say that she might have had a short affair with Emperor Franz Joseph), married the old Italian Duke Giulio Capece Zurlo di San Marco when she was 18, hence the name of the manor from Comloșu Mare. The prodigal Ioan Naco was buried in the family tomb of the Roman-Catholic Church from Comloșu Mare, together with his wife and his father, Iosif Naco. This church was built between 1889 and 1891 on a land in the village square offered to the community by Mileva. After the Agricultural reform between 1921 and 1922, the Countess of San Marco was left with only 500 hectares from her vast estate. Having no heirs, Mileva, aged 88, donated the manor to the Romanian state in 1926.

THE MANAGER OF THE ROMANIAN OPERA HOUSE

Born in Comloșu Mare in 1931, master **Ion Iancu** graduated the Conservatory of Cluj. He studied canto, choir conducting, pedagogy. He specialised in conducting art in Berlin with the famous German conductor Kurt Sanderling. Iancu was the soloist of the Musical theatre from Galați. He was an academic and he worked as a conductor in Cluj. In 1983, he returned to Banat as a conductor of the Romanian Opera from Timișoara. Between 1983 and 1990, 1992 and 2000, he was the general manager of the Opera House from Timișoara, and in parallel he worked as a professor in the opera department of the University of the West (1993-2000).



He was a conductor and an artistic consultant of the Opera House from Sarajevo for two seasons (1990-1992), but he was frequently invited at the Opera Houses from Chișinău, Skopje, Novi-Sad. In 2003 he took over the job as a conductor and as an artistic manager of the Opera House of the great city from the Serbian Banat. The musical critics appreciated the conductor Ion Iancu: "He was interested in the parts used for lyrical theatre, but he approached the symphonic repertoire and the vocal-symphonic one as well, being cheered over time, in shows given all over the country, but also in our philharmonics or on the stage of the Romanian Radio Orchestra, together with which he gave the extraordinary concert in the honour of Verdi upon his centennial

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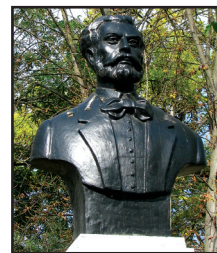
(2001). His artistic nature, his professional performances were unanimously appreciated, rewarded over the years with the order of "the Cultural Merit", the diploma "the Great Union - 80 years" in Timișoara or the "Lya Hubic" Trophy in Cluj, receiving in 2002, the Diploma of Honour of the Opera House of Timișoara, which he loved his entire life". Doru Murgu wrote in "Horizon" magazine from 5 June 1980, after the "Faust" Opera show: "...Ion Iancu is a performer who combines all the requirements of an opera conductor. (...) He breathes, plays, lives together with every performer in the show (...) The gesture is exact, the conclusions accurate (...) He was in a total communion with the orchestra". And Várnai Péter (in "Magyar Hírlap", 14 February 1990, Szeged), wrote in his article for the "Nabucco" Opera show by Giuseppe Verdi: "The obvious engine of the show was the conductor Ion Iancu, who achieved a wonderful rhythm tension; because rhythm lies at the centre of Verdi's music. The conductor also stood out through a rare quality: the special care for the strict compliance with the dynamic instructions of the performers". Ion Iancu departed this life on 1 September 2008.

THE FIRST PROFESSIONAL JOURNALIST

Poet and journalist, **Iulian Grozescu** was born in Comloșu Mare on 20 January 1839. He was considered to be the first professional journalist from Banat, and he was an editor and contributor to Romanian newspapers from Arad, Vienna, Pesta, Oradea, Bucharest. Due to his talent, he became the first editor of the "Family" magazine, in Pesta.

Here, together with Iosif Vulcan, on 25 February 1866, he published the first poem of Mihai Eminescu (moment considered to be the true debut of the National poet): the poem "If I had...". When the poem was published, Iosif Vulcan and Iulian Grozescu changed the name of the author, from Eminovici, in the famous one, Eminescu, accepted by the poet.

Iulian Grozescu was included in the "Dictionary of Romanian literature from the beginning until 1900" published in 1979. The journalist from Comloș is considered to be the first professional journalist from Banat. In his memory (d. 2 June 1872), the Community Centre from Comloșu Mare received the name of "Iulian Grozescu" Cultural Centre, and his bust was placed in the park of the former castle of Mileva de San Marco.



SILVIU SARAFOLEAN

He was born in Comloșu Mare, on 14 September 1947. He graduated the school of the village. As a child, he was deported with his family to Măzăreni, near Urleasca, in Bărağan, between 1951 and 1956. He attended the courses of the Sports High School from Timișoara (the present-day "Banatul" Sports High School). He was a professional athlete and rugby player until 1970,



when he gave up sports because of an injury. He graduated the Faculty of Industrial Chemistry of Timișoara (1973). He earned a Ph.D. in chemistry. He received the prize and the medal "A decade of fighting for democracy", in 2000. The president of the Former Deported to Bărağan Association, Timiș branch. He was elected member of the municipal council (1996-2000), re-elected in 2000, 2004, 2008 (the oldest member of the municipal council during his last mandate).

ANDREI ȘAGUNA'S



STUDENT

Protopope, writer and lawyer, **Meletie Drăghici** was born in Comloșu Mare in a family of priests, in 1814, and he died in Timișoara on 23 May 1891. He

attended the courses of the Piarist Grammar School of Timișoara, then of the school of Szeged. He studied law at the University of Pesta, then theology in Vârșeț and Karlovitz (1835 - when he had as teacher the future Metropolitan of Transylvania, Andrei Șaguna). He was the lawyer of the Baron Naco family from Sănnicolau Mare (1835-1841). He started his clerical carrier as a chaplain priest in Comloșu Mare in 1841, then he was

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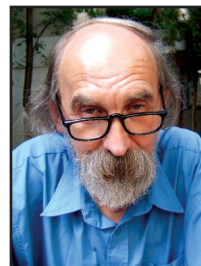
a Protopope in Jebel (1848-1849), and then he was a priest at the "Saint Elijah" church from Timișoara (1853-1890). He was a member of the Arad Eparchy Assembly, a member of the Church National Congress of the Transylvania Metropolitanate. He worked as an assessor in the "School Senate" of the Bishopry of Transylvania. He took part in the national and political movements of the Romanians, being a member of the board of the Romanian National Party from Banat. He was the founder of the "Romanian national boarding house" from Timișoara - a free of charge boarding house for the poor Romanian pupils going to high school (1868). He founded the "The Luminary" newspaper together with his son-in-law **Pavel Rotariu** (from Chevereșu Mare). He contributed to the "Pages for mind, heart and literature" and "The Transylvanian Gazette" from Brașov, at "The Bee" from Vienna and Pesta, then

he published many articles in "The Luminary". He was the author of many works: "**Which are the Roman letters?**" 1855, "**Let's disappoint ourselves, Timisoara**", 1856 (a historical and polemical study); "**Brief History of Hungary**", 1871; "**Short Excerpt from the Natural History and the Natural Science of national schools**", 1871, "**The Church Laws in a Short and Speculative Manner**", 1873, XLVII; "**The Description of Banat by Grisellini**", 1882 (this being the first partial translation of Francesco Grisellini's works - "**Attempt of a Political and Natural History of Timisoara's Banat**", Vienna, 1780, in German); "**The History of Church Meetings consisting of old church documents**", 1885.

Meletie Drăghici departed this life in Timișoara on 23 May 1891.

AKTIONGRUPPE BANAT

German poet, prose writer and essayist, **William Totok** was born in Comloșu Mare on 21 April 1951. Between 1973 and 1979, he studied German and Romance courses at the University of the West, working, during certain periods, as an unqualified worker at a brick factory. After graduating the University, he taught German and Romanian in the commune of Tomnatic. He made his debut in the "Neue Literatur" magazine in 1970. He was the cofounder of the Banat Action Group (Aktiongruppe Banat, 1972-1975), was monitored by the Secret Police and kept under preventive detention for eight months under the accusation of "propaganda against the socialist ruling" (1975-1976). Between 1982 and 1985, he was the editor-in-chief of the "Neue Banater Zeitung" newspaper from Timișoara. In 1987, he emigrated to the Federal Republic of Germany, settling in Berlin as a freelance writer and journalist. He was the author of many volumes - "**The Socialising of Feelings**" (Die Vergesellschaftung der Gefühle), (Bucharest, 1980); "**Brief Politeness**", (Timișoara, 1984); "**The prompt intervention of a dog catcher upon the dog's attempt to stand up**" /Das prompte Eingreifen des Fallmeisters beim Versuch eines Hundes sich eigenmächtig auf die Hinterbeine zu stellen") (Mainz, 1987); "**Frozen Time**" (Berlin-Ost, 1987). He published a series of historical, literary and political studies and essays, articles, analyses, chronicles and reviews in the European mass-media. After 1990, he published letters in "22", "The Free Romania" (1992-2000), "The Cultural Observer" (2000-2004), "The Time" (Timpul) (since 2000), "The Day" (2004-2005), "Altitudes" (from 2006) magazines etc. He was an active member in the Board for the Human Rights of Romania ("Heinrich Böll" foundation). He was a member of the "International Commission for Holocaust Studies" in Romania, presided by **Elie Wiesel** (laureate of the Nobel Peace Prize in 1986, coming from Sighetu Marmatei).



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THE PASSION
FOR HORSES

The famous Duchess Mileva of San Marco from Comloșu Mare loved breed horses. People say that Mileva had the most beautiful horses from Banat. In 1926, when she donated her estate to the Romanian state, at age 88, the Duchess of San Marco ordered the sale of the manor. Before her death, she wanted her beautiful horses - the four white riding horses, but also the ones used for the carriage and for strolling - to be shot and incinerated and their ashes scattered in the estate's park in Comloș.

Another horse lover was **Nicolae Pescaru** from Comloș (1904-1964), a member of an exclusivist club from Timișoara. Nicolae Pescaru had an affair with the notorious lover of the American gangster Jo Dillinger, **Anna Sage** (Ana Cumpănaș, from Comloșul Mare, see the article below). Anna Sage loved horses herself, she would practise horse rid-

ing in the USA for fitness purposes, thus when she returned to Timișoara, in Banat, in January 1936, she chose the cab with the most spectacular horses at the "Domnița Elena" Train Station (the present-day North Train Station) to amaze the people from Timișoara.

The passion for horses of the people from Comloș had another side as well. It was the year 1943, during World War II. Six people from Comloșu Mare used to smuggle horses, taking advantage of the fact that their village was close to the border of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes. They stole the horses from the neighbouring villages of Comloș, clandestinely crossed the border with them, at night, and sold the horses to the people from the Serbian Banat. They were caught by the customs workers and, on 5 September 1943, the six smugglers from Comloșu Mare, together with their leader **Simion Păcățan**, were tied up in chains in front of the Town Theatre from Timișoara and left there for the people to judge them...

GANGSTER JO'S MISTRESS

"Dark-haired, with a beautiful face and body, not too tall" was the description of **Anna Sage**, born in Comloșu Mare as **Ana Cumpănaș** in 1889, written by Gabriel Peneș in the "Libertatea" newspaper. She married young, at 20, in 1909, to Mihai Ciolac, with whom she had a son (b. 1911) named **Steve** in 1914, after the Ciolac (Ciolak) family emigrated to the USA. Ana Ciolac divorced Mihai (Michael). She worked as a prostitute and she managed to own two brothels until 1923. She remarried Alexandru Suciu, a Romanian lawyer, who took the name of Sage. His new wife added an "n" to her name, becoming **Anna Sage**. In 1932, Anna divorced Alex Suciu (Sage) and opened another brothel in Chicago, where she had a love affair with **John Dillinger**, the feared gangster, renowned for his bank robberies, the assassination of four police officers, but also the escape from "**Crown Point**" prison in April 1934.



A short time after Anna met Dillinger (14 years younger than her), her activity as a brothel owner reached the attention of the American authorities, who decided the expulsion of the woman back to Romania. For fear of the expulsion, Anna Sage accepted the proposal of the FBI agent, Melvin Purvis, leading the investigation in the Dillinger case: catching the gangster for the annulment of the expulsion decision plus a reward of 10,000 USD. Based on the FBI's collaboration with Anna, on 22 July 1934, Dillinger was killed by federal agents in front a cinema exit. Anna Sage received only 5,000 USD, the expulsion was not annulled, thus she returned to Banat, in January 1936, when she was 47 years old. She lived in Timișoara for 11 years, leading a luxurious social life in the beginning, because she had come back to the country with a significant amount of cash and jewellery. It seems that a younger lover, **Nicolae Pescaru**, from Comloș, spent her fortune at the horse races. Ana Cumpănaș died in poverty in Timișoara on 25 April 1947.

Anna Sage, Ana Cumpănaș from Comloșu Mare, became a novel ("**Woman in red**", by Adriana Babeți, Mircea Mihăieș, Mircea Nedelciu), and a film character (director Mircea Veroiu). The most recent film about Ana Cumpănaș and Jo Dillinger is "**Public enemies**", with actors **Johnny Depp**, as Jo Dillinger, and **Branka Katic**, as Anna Sage.

