

GHILAD

Local Council Office: Ghilad no. 972 A, telephone/fax 0256/418221;

Coordinates:

45°28'06" N lat.;

21°08'13" E long.;

Historical landmarks:

- the Xth century - a legend of the place says that on the place of the present-day village of Gad, there was a battle between the Romanian Voivode (duke) Glad and the Hungarian army and that the name of the village comes from Glad's name;

- the XIIth century - the locality of Ghilad was named **Gyad** and then **Galad**;

- in 1212 the commune was given to a certain count named **Sebus** by King Andrew II of Hungary;

- the XVIth century - the beglerbeg **Rami** of Timișoara brought several Romanian families from Transylvania to Ghilad;

- the XVIIth century - the village of Gad was plundered by the Ottomans;

- 1717 - the present-day Ghilad was mentioned under the name of **Gorni Gilad** (with 80 houses) and **Dolni Gilad** (with 100 houses);

- the settlement of Gad had 30 houses;

- in 1721 several German families settled in the area;

- 1842 - several Hungarian families settled in the area;

- 1851-1860 - Hungarian and German families settled in the area;

- 1900 - 35% of the inhabitants of the village of Gad were Serbian;

- 1926 - Ghilad had 3,589 inhabitants;

- 1936 - Ghilad had three churches, a primary school, a cultural centre, a historical monument, a military band, two town libraries, a men's choir, 850 houses, 3,539 inhabitants;

- Gad had a Serbian and German state school, a men's choir, a mixed choir, a sports club, a monument dedicated to heroes;

- 20 February 1942 - **Ioan (Ionel) Bogdan**



was born in Gad, instrumental performer and conductor;

- 1947 - **Viorel Cristea** was born in Ghilad, well-known naive painter (d. 15 May 1993);

- 2002 - Ghilad (plus Gad) had 1,849 inhabitants;

- 2004 - the commune of Ghilad was refounded by separating from the town of Ciacova;

- 2009 - the 12 kilometres of road between Ghilad and Gad (village with 185 inhabitants) were paved with stone;

Total population on 1 January 2010:

1,805 persons, of which:

- male = 857 persons

- female = 948 persons

Number of households on 1 January 2010: 817

Member villages: Ghilad, Gad (1332-1337, Guad, Guanad);

Educational institutions: Elementary Schools (I-VIII): Ghilad; Kindergartens with extended hours: Ghilad;

Health facilities: Sanitary practice: Ghilad;

Cultural institutions: Community centres: Ghilad; Library (founded in 2005);

Churches:

- Romanian Orthodox Churches: Ghilad (1762) and Gad (1928); Serbian Orthodox Churches: Gad (1777); Roman-Catholic Churches: Ghilad; Pentecostal Churches: Ghilad;

Annual Church Festivals: Romanian orthodox church festivals in: Ghilad (Easter) and Gad (Pentecost); annual Hungarian church festival: Ghilad (last Sunday of August); Kirchwei: Ghilad (9 November);

Citizens of Honour:

Costel Busuioc.

THE CITY HALL AND THE LOCAL COUNCIL OF GHILAD

Guran Cornel	Mayor	Jurchița Daniela-Cristina, LC member	NLP
Vitan Ovidiu Eugen	Vice Mayor	Malița Gheorghe, LC member	SDP
Adam Daniel-Doru, LC member	NLP	Miclău Ioan-Mircea, LC member	NLP
Coza Cornel, LC member	NLP	Neamțu Marcel-Florin, LC member	DLP
Ișfan Gheorghe, LC member	DLP	Ureche Constantin-Dănuț, LC member	DLP
Jurca Sorin, LC member	NLP	Vedinaș Maria, LC member	NLP

GHILAD

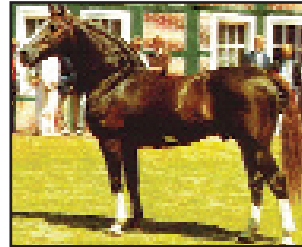


Joseph II, the emperor hosted by the peasant Petru Miloș in 1788.

A STALLION, GIFT FROM THE EMPEROR

In 1788, the Turks besieged Belgrade again, as they did many times before. The Austrian Imperial Army fought back, Emperor Joseph II himself - accompanied by Prince Francisc - defended the fortress of Belgrade. On the way to the besieged Belgrade, Emperor Joseph II stopped in the village of Gad. He was accommodated for the night by the villager **Petru Miloș** who offered to take the emperor in without charging him any money. The hospitality of Petru Miloș was greatly rewarded when the peasant from Gad received a breed stallion from the stud farm from Mezöhegyes as a gift from the Court of

Vienna. "The Imperial and Royal Stud Farm" from Mezöhegyes was created at the orders of Joseph II on 20 December 1784, as the first state stud farm of the Habsburg monarchy. The captain Josef Csekonic, the future landlord of the Hatzfeld domain (Jimbolia), was charged with the coordination of the necessary work (edification of constructions, purchase of stallions and mares, hiring the personnel). Here, at the stud farm from Mezöhegyes, the Furioso North-Star breed was created in the first half of the XIXth century, a very intelligent, resistant, stable, well-tempered horse which was excellent for riding and a good race horse. The stud farm still exists nowadays at 35 km from Orosháza, where medieval horseback riding, bow shooting or spear fighting activities are organised.



The Gudenus Manor

In the XIXth century, the village of Gad had several owners. The last ones were Hugo and Bela Gudenus. They left behind the Gudenus manor, built at the beginning of the XIXth century, now part of the national historical heritage. Locals say that the Gudenus family also had another smaller manor, but it was destroyed over time.



IONEL'S "SNOWDROP" (GHIOCELUL) ENSEMBLE

Ioan (Ionel) Bogdan was born in Gad on 20 February 1942. Passionate about folk music, he attended the Popular Arts School from Timișoara, studying instruments with teacher Ioan Odrobot, while he was still a pupil at the elementary school. At 14, he was an instrumental performer within the Romanian Railways Band from Timișoara, playing the clarinet. He studied with teacher Maxim Frunză. He was supported by **Giura Galetin** and **Ciprian Cipu** and he played in the Youth Ensemble, then in the orchestra of the "1 Mai" club, led by the conductor Odrobot, who taught him the art of conducting. He conducted the "Snowdrop" ("Ghiocelul") Ensemble of UMT. At 32 (1974), his talent won him the Gold Medal and the Diploma for the best conductor in the country at the Folk Orchestra category.

His performances on the saxophone and the duet with Nicolae Stoian from the '70s made him very famous. He went on tours with the "Snowdrop" ("Ghiocelul") Ensemble of songs and dances to Hungary (several times), to Austria. In 1976, he took part in the Folk Festival from Bremen, Germany, leading the top instrumental performers of Timișoara: Ion Peptenar, playing the tarogato, and Mircea Ardelean, playing the cymbal.

Ionel Bogdan and the "Snowdrop" orchestra, a hallmark of the conductor and performer from Gad, recorded at Radio Timișoara starting with 1975, and appeared on TV at TVR Timișoara (1976).

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THE NAIVE PAINTER

Viorel Cristea was born in Ghilad in 1947. He is considered to be one of the best representatives of naive art in Romania. He departed this life at the age of 47 (on 15 May 1993), leaving behind over 600 works exhibited in the country (part of them are



found at the museum from Ciacova) and abroad (USA, Canada, Portugal, Germany, Thailand, Italy, France, Greece, Switzerland). On 6 October 2006, at the same time with the inauguration of the new building of the City Hall from Ghilad, the bust dedicated to the naive painter Viorel Cristea was unveiled in the park from the centre of the locality.

THE TENOR FROM THE CHOIR

The story of the most famous Romanian of 2008, **Costel Busuioc**, is an example of how one can succeed in life through hard work and perseverance. Born in a small village near Iași, on 21 October 1974, in a family with 11 children, Costel had a very rough childhood, full of constraints. Thus, he left home when he was 14. He settled for a few years in the village of Reea, Hunedoara county, being sheltered by Nelu and Dorina Murg, members of the "Oastea Domnului" missionary association, becoming the shepherd of their sheep in the spring of 1992. Two years later he swore allegiance to "Oastea Domnului". In 1998, he married Daniela and the two spouses settled in the village of Ghilad from Banat, being kindly hosted by the



Costel Busuioc, together with his children (2009)

old lady Maria Tufariu. Being a religious person, he became a cantor in Ciacova, also singing in the church choir from Ghilad. He worked at the Romanian Railways, then as a masseur at the old people hospital from Ciacova. He could hardly support his four children, so he went to Spain in 2006, where he worked as a builder. He studied singing in Timișoara on and off for three years. Passionate about classical music, Costel entered the famous contest organised by the Spanish television, "**Babel's Sons**". On 25 January 2008 he made his debut in the qualification stage singing the aria "**Nessun dorma**" (from the Turandot opera by Puccini). He amazed the audience, while Romania was anxious and the people from Ghilad kept their fingers crossed, proud of their fellow villager! Other qualification stages took place between 30 January and 5 March, Busuioc singing arias and pieces by Verdi, di Capua, Sartori, Schubert, Lara. On 13 March 2008, he won the famous contest singing the same aria "**Nessun dorma**", and became famous all over Europe. The Sony Record Label became interested in him. Costel Busuioc, the tenor from Ghilad, is now famous as the "**Pavarotti from Banat**".

