
P A R A D I G M S

Boyar Families of Transylvanian Origin, Village Owners in Neamț District (15th–17th Centuries)

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In the present study, I aim to uncover the history of three boyar families with Hungarian-sounding names, which held villages in Neamț district until the middle of the 17th century.

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THE IDEA that certain boyar families in the Moldavian area were of Transylvanian, or even Hungarian, origin has been adopted in Romanian historiography since the beginning of the 20th century. The historian Radu Rosetti, in a study on the Csangos and Szeklers in Moldavia, showed that several boyars of Hungarian origin were present in Moldavia in the 14th–15th centuries, such as Levet Miclouș, Ghelebi Miclouș, Micluș Faur, Domoncuș, Toma Poșorca, Ianoș Izverețul or Șandru.¹ Maria Magdalena Székely has recently made important contributions to this subject in her study “Familii de boieri din Moldova de origine transilvăneană” (Transylvanian-origin boyar families in Moldavia), where she emphasized the multiethnic origin of the boyar families outside the Carpathian arch, which is illustrated by the names of some of the boyars (Toader Urdiugaș, Ștefan Leghetiș, Laslău, Giulea, Dieniș), but

also by place names (Fărcașeni, Fechetesti, Lăslăoani, Vereșesti, Verișani, Micșăușani, Balinți, Birăești, Corlăteni).² The other authors who suggested the possible Hungarian ancestry of some Moldavian boyar families are Gh. Ghibănescu³ and, more recently, Lucian Valeriu Lefter.⁴

At the 15th National Congress on Genealogy and Heraldry, which took place in Iași on 13–15 May 2010, I presented a paper entitled “Neamul Urdiugaș-Dumbravă din ținutul Neamț în secolele XV–XVII” (The Urdiugaș-Dumbravă family from Neamț district in the 15th–17th centuries),⁵ where I asserted the possible Hungarian origin of the founders of these families and I provided a genealogical analysis of the relevant boyar family. I found that in Neamț district, whose history represents the research subject of my Ph.D. thesis, there were other boyars with Hungarian-sounding names, which aroused my curiosity and made me look more thoroughly into this matter. I have thus tried to find out what these people’s status was in Neamț district, if the documents mention their origin, and who their descendants were until the middle of the 17th century.

In the present study, I aim to uncover the history of three boyar families with Hungarian-sounding names, which held villages in Neamț district until the middle of the 17th century. I also try to find out if these boyars and their descendants advanced both socially, by acquiring new lands, and politically, by serving in high offices in the administrative system of Moldavia. Finally, I shall compile their family trees.

As expected, at the basis of such research stood the land deeds published in the national document collections, but also those included in the Documents collection of the National Archives, Iași County Divison.

I. The Urdiugaș-Dumbravă Family

THE URDIUGAȘ-DUMBRAVĂ family was one of the petty boyar families that owned lands in Neamț district in the 15th century. The first surname—Urdiugaș—drew the attention of the document editors, but also that of the researchers of local history or of the history of Moldavian boyars.

Maria Magdalena Székely showed, in a study published in the magazine *Arhiva genealogică* (The Genealogical Archive) in 1994,⁶ that this name is of Hungarian origin, coming from “ördögös,” which means “devilish.” If this assertion is correct, then it means that the members of this family came from Transylvania, either from among the Romanians in this historic area or from among the Hungarians, since it is known that when the first state founder, Dragoș from Bedeu, crossed the Carpathians and settled to the east, both Romanian and Hungarian Transylvanians settled in Moldavia and received lands there.

The idea of the Hungarian ancestry of certain Romanian families is also found in the *Dicționarul limbii românești* (Dictionary of the Romanian language),⁷ published by August Scriban in 1939, where the author shows that Romanian names that end in “iș,” “uș” or “aș”—such as *Urdugaș*, in our case—are of Hungarian origin. However, the Tartar origin of this word cannot be ruled out, as “ordu” in Mongolian means “yard.”⁸ The fact that the boyar class was not closed to other classes or to foreigners has already been pointed out by historian Ștefan S. Gorovei.⁹

As to the other surname, Dumbravă, it is Romanian. Maria Magdalena Székely showed, in the study mentioned above, that during Alexander the Good’s reign there lived a boyar called Ștefan Leghetiș, whose name in Hungarian meant “grove” (“dumbravă”).¹⁰ Therefore a connection might be possible between him and the family we are considering. It is interesting, however, that the area of Neamț district where this family held land for more than four centuries, namely the valley of Pârâul Alb, with the villages of Ghigoești, Mălești, Obârșia and Dragomirești, was an area covered in oak woods, which was called “grove” (“dumbravă”).¹¹ Could this be a mere coincidence?!

In this section, I have tried to piece together the history of this family of petty boyars in the 15th–17th centuries, drawing on the land deeds published in the national document collections,¹² but also on the documents in the collection of the National Archives, Iași County Division.¹³ The research cannot claim to be exhaustive, as the genealogical bloodline I presented has gaps caused by the lack of documents in certain periods, but also because the descendants of this family did not keep their ancestors’ surnames, which makes it sometimes difficult to establish each member’s place in the family tree. I have also tried to discover if this family evolved economically, by acquiring new properties, as well as socially, by serving in high offices in the Moldavian administrative system.

1. THE FAMILY. The first document I studied which mentions this family dates from 1479; on 12 May 1479, Stephen the Great confirmed, among others, the sale of an inherited estate located in Mălești village by a boyar named Toader Urduigaș to another boyar, named Cozma, from Hlăpești.¹⁴ Toader Urduigaș sold to Cozma, as mentioned in the document, half of Mălești village, “the higher part” and 12 plots of land, for 60 Tartar zlotys.

Further information on Toader Urduigaș’s family comes from another document signed by Stephen the Great, of 23 September 1483.¹⁵ In this document, the Moldavian prince confirms the property rights of Toader Urduigaș and his brother, Ivan Dumbravă, over the villages of Obârșia and Mălești (Neamț district) and Ivănești (Iași district). The document contains additional important information. Thus, we learn that Toader Urduigaș’s home was in the village of Obârșia, “at the springs of the Pârâul Alb stream,” his wife’s name was Nastea

and her dowry was the village of Ghigoești, “at the springs of the Pârâul Negru stream.”¹⁶ Nowadays, the village of Obârșia no longer exists, as it merged with the village of Borniș in the past century. In 1938, there were three houses left in Obârșia, and they were located between the villages of Borniș and Negoești.¹⁷ Not long thereafter, Obârșia would be included in the village of Borniș.¹⁸ Gheorghe Mareș and Dumitru Mareș, in their monograph of the village of Ghigoești, when referring to the document mentioned above, state that, in their opinion, these villages were offered by Stephen the Great to Toader Urdiugaș and Ivan Dumbravă as a reward for their bravery in the battle against the Turks that took place at Războieni-Valea Albă on 26 July 1476.¹⁹ However, this statement is incorrect, first and foremost because there is no mention of the battle, although the document says that the two brothers had served the prince “justly and faithfully.” Second, their ownership over the villages was confirmed, not “granted.”

The brothers’ ages are unknown, but it can be assumed that they were at least in their forties, because we learn from a document dated 9 March 1490²⁰ that Toader Urdiugaș had adult children, who sold parts of a village located in the valley of Pârâul Alb. This document provides a few more pieces of information on the Urdiugaș-Dumbravă family. Thus, we find out that, on the date mentioned above, Iosip, Toader Urdiugaș’s son and Drăguș’s grandson, sold his part of the inherited land, namely a third of the village Ghigoești, to Sima and his brother, Avăr, for 80 Tartar zlotys. Seven years before, the village was entirely owned by Toader Urdiugaș, who had it from his wife Nastea; in 1490, it was divided into three parts, one of which was owned by Iosip; therefore one can infer that Toader Urdiugaș had three children and that he had divided the village in the meantime and offered it to them.

This is confirmed by a document issued half a century later by Prince Peter Rareș, on 28 May 1546.²¹ The document is practically a kind of family tree, since it presents the descendants of the two brothers, Ivan Dumbravă and Toader Urdiugaș, up to their great-grandchildren: “Before us came . . . Ghidion and his brother, Ionașco, and their sisters, Dușca, Angrișca and Ilca, Droț’s sons and their cousins, Nicoară and his sister, Greaca and their niece, Anesia, Gavril’s sons, and their cousins too, Buda and Berea’s brother, and their sisters Sorița, Fiica (Sofica), Dușca and Anisia, Ilisafra and Iosip’s sons, all Toader Urdugaș’s grandchildren”²²—this is an excerpt from Toader Urdiugaș’s line of descent. We learn therefore that Iosip, the son mentioned in 1490, was married to Ilisafra.

Another document from 28 June 1569, issued by Prince Bogdan Lăpușneanu, offers new information on the descendants of this family. At that date, One (Onea, Oană) and his sister Anușca, together with their grandsons, Luca and Ieremie, and their sister Măgdălina, Catrina’s children, all Costea’s grandchildren, received confirmation of their ownership over a third of the village of Obârșia located

on the Pârâul Alb stream, “where Toader [Urduigaș] dwelled.”²³ In this document there appears the first mention of a boyar who held offices in the Moldavian administrative system—namely Drăghici the *vătav* (administrator), who appears to have been Onea’s son, Catrina’s grandson and Costea’s great-grandson. But who was Costea, since he is not mentioned in the first documents providing information on the Urduigaș-Dumbravă family? The generational calculations show that he was a contemporary of Toader Urduigaș and Ivan Dumbravă. Since he owned parts of the village of Obârșia, I believe that he was closely related to the two brothers and that he was most probably their brother-in-law, married to their sister. This assumption is confirmed by a document issued much later, in 1765, in which the prince certifies the freeholders’ land in the village of Ghigoești. At the end of the document, we find an interesting statement: “These elders were Ion Hurdiugaș and Toader Hurdiugaș and their sister . . . and they are the ancestors of all the freeholders in Ghigoești...”²⁴

We notice that, with the passing of time, confusions occur: in the second half of the 18th century, the freeholders mistakenly call Ivan Dumbravă their ancestor, Ion “Hurdiugaș,” like his brother, Toader. However, it is important that their sister is also mentioned, even if not by name, and she is probably Costea’s wife, as mentioned above.

Prince Bogdan Lăpușneanu also certified, two years later, on 15 July 1571, that Hromșa, a former *urednic* (high official) in Ștefănești, owned half of the village of Mălești, located in the valley of Pârâul Alb and half of a third of the village of Obârșia. Reapede the *aprod* (bailiff) placed these properties as collateral for a loan of 70 Tartar zlotys and seemingly lost them because he was not able to pay back the loan. Consequently, Reapede the *aprod* was a descendent of the Urduigaș-Dumbravă family and, like Drăghici the *vătav*, whose contemporary he was, he held a lesser position in the country’s administration. Whereas for almost a century we have no information that the members of this family held offices in the country’s administration, in the second half of the 16th century such information starts to appear.

Some documents from the end of the 16th century and the beginning of the next century mention other descendents of this family, but also blood relations with other boyar families that owned lands in the valley of the Pârâul Alb stream. Thus, from a document issued by prince Peter the Lame on 2 July 1589,²⁵ we learn that Ionașco, Trifan’s son, bought from Ionașco, Droț’s son, a fifth of the villages of Ghigoești and Obârșia. This information confirms, in fact, the data in the document issued by Peter Rareș,²⁶ where there was a mention of Ionașco as Droț’s son. Who was the buyer, i.e. Ionașco, Trifan’s son? He was a relative who, based on priority rights,²⁷ bought these village parts. In subsequent documents, he is named “Ionașco *vătav de visternicei din Obârșia*” (Ionașco, administrator

of the treasury of Obârșia),²⁸ a descendant of the boyar Crăciun Belcescu,²⁹ and married to Sorița,³⁰ Toader Urdiugaș's granddaughter.

Ionașco, the *vătav de visterniceii* of Obârșia was an important person in the community, as he is on the witness list of various sales documents referring to villages in Neamț district.³¹ In 1610,³² Ionașco lost his position, and he is mentioned as a “former *administrator of the treasury*.” Later, in 1613, his name appears in a document³³ issued by Ștefan II Tomșa in connection to a lower office, *vistier-nicel* (a subordinate of the treasury administrator). It is very interesting that, when he is no longer mentioned as *vătav de visterniceii*, i.e. after 1610, he no longer buys village parts, and until 1619 he is mentioned as a witness or as a party in different trials. It can be concluded that his fortune was acquired based on the office he held, which provided him with the necessary means to extend his domain.

Consequently, the two important boyar families in the area, Belcescu and Urdiugaș-Dumbravă, became related by marriage in the 16th century, which explains why their members bought, sold or divided up their fortunes, consisting of village parts located in the relevant area of the Neamț district. For that matter, between 1596³⁴ and 1609,³⁵ Ionașco, the *vătav de visterniceii*, and his wife, Sorița, bought village parts from both the Urdiugaș-Dumbravă family inheritance³⁶ and the Belcescu family inheritance,³⁷ which confirms the hypothesis that these two families were related.

The sales documents point to further descendents of the Urdiugaș-Dumbravă family. Thus, a document dating from the period 1596–1600³⁸ refers to Toader Urdiugaș's descendents: “Mihăilă Babici, Sofiica's grandson, Toader Urdiugaș's great grandson” sold his parts of the villages of Obârșia and Mălești to Ionașco, the *vătav de visterniceii*. The latter bought parts of these villages from other relatives, such as: “Eremia and his brothers of Ghigoești and his cousins, Lazor and his brother, Ion of Popești, and their cousins, Istratie and Gheorghie's brother from Bilăești, and also Ion and his sister, Tudora from Bilăești.”³⁹ This information helps fill in the family tree of the Urdiugaș-Dumbravă family.

In the same period (1596–1600), Ionașco the *vătav de visterniceii* bought parts of the villages of Obârșia and Mălești from Toader Urdiugaș's great-great grandchildren: “Ursu and Gligorie's brother from Cosițeni, Voica's grandchildren, the great-grandchildren of Eremia Droț,”⁴⁰ who was mentioned in the 1546 document issued by Peter Rareș.⁴¹ He also bought from his “relatives,” Anastasia and Oniul, Andreica's children, parts of the village of Obârșia for 30 Tartar zlotys, as shown in a document dating from the beginning of the 17th century.⁴²

In the mid-17th century, a series of lawsuits and boundary-setting actions between the freeholders from the villages of Obârșia, Ghigoești and Mălești reveal new data on the descendents of the Urdiugaș-Dumbravă family. According to a document issued by Prince Vasile Lupu on 8 December 1638,⁴³ Andriian and

Radul Turcul, both from Obârșia, litigated over parts of the villages of Obârșia and Mălești.⁴⁴ In another document issued by the same prince on 30 July 1641⁴⁵ it is shown that Roșca's children from Obârșia were entitled to "to keep the hay orchards located on their estate and inherited land, on the boundary between Mălești and Obârșia."⁴⁶ A boundary-setting decision in the village of Dragomirești, issued by Prince Vasile Lupu on 15 September 1646,⁴⁷ features a witness list that includes Pătrășcan of Hlăpești, Vasile and Ionașcu, all of them the sons of Andriian the *pitar* (bread supplier to the court). From the existing information one cannot be certain that Andriian the *pitar* is the same person as the Andriian mentioned in the 1638 document.⁴⁸ If this is the case, we are able to add some links to the family tree of the Urdiugaș-Dumbravă family.

2. OFFICES HELD BY THE DESCENDENTS OF THE URDIUGAȘ-DUMBRĂVĂ FAMILY. The documents presented show that the descendents of the Urdiugaș-Dumbravă family did not hold offices in the 15th century. This would change in the 16th–17th centuries, when there appear descendents holding generally minor offices, such as Drăghici the *vătar*, Ionașco the *vătar de visterniceii* (related by marriage to the relevant family), Reapede the *aprod*, or Andriian the *pitar*, mentioned above. In the second half of the 17th century, the descendents of the family included Pătrășco the *pitar*, mentioned on 23 July 1676.⁴⁹

It is difficult to say if Dumbravă, a high magistrate of the Southern Country of Moldavia under Prince John the Brave, was related to this family, because the documents that refer to him give no such indication. In his *Dictionary*, Nicolae Stoicescu showed that he came from "a modest family"⁵⁰ and related him to Ivan Dumbravă's descendents. Historian Ilie Minea⁵¹ believes that this high official was a Wallachian boyar, who was not related to the Urdiugaș-Dumbravă family. It is known that Dumbravă, *marele-vornic al Țării de Jos* (high magistrate of the Southern Country), held this office between 13 December 1572⁵² and 10 May 1574,⁵³ during John the Brave's reign. When the latter was defeated and killed by the Turks, Dumbravă took refuge in Transylvania, but he was brought back by *marele-vornic* (the high magistrate) Ivașco Golescu and surrendered to the new Prince, Peter the Lame; he was found guilty of treason and executed in 1575.⁵⁴

3. LANDED ESTATES. The documents I was able to study show that the descendents of brothers Toader Urdiugaș and Ivan Dumbravă owned parts of the villages of Ghigoești (in the valley of Pârâul Negru), Mălești and Obârșia (in the valley of Pârâul Alb), in the eastern part of Neamț district. They did not add other villages to their estates because they did not enjoy a favorable financial situation and did not hold high offices in the administration of Moldavia. In time,

this led to the impoverishment of the family, particularly starting from the second half of the 16th century, when, by successive inheritance divisions and reassignments, each descendent received less, from one generation to another.

Thus, in the 17th century, most of these descendents were freeholders who jointly held parts of the villages mentioned and were aware that they belonged to the same family. The only exception is Ionașco the *vătav de visternicei* of the village of Obârșia, who, between 1596 and 1609, as mentioned above, bought many parts of the villages of Obârșia, Mălești, Ghigoești, Negoști, Corotchiești and Dragomirești.

4. FOUNDING ACTIVITIES. The documents I studied did not mention any churches founded by these boyars; however, they must have built such churches, but they were made of wood, a material which was abundant in that area, and therefore did not survive. We know that in the interwar period⁵⁵ there still existed a wooden church in the village of Ghigoești, built in the 18th century by the freeholders living there. One may conclude that it replaced another wooden church, since the existence of the village was certified in the 15th century.

2. Lașlău the *Globnic's* Family

A *GLOBNIC* WAS a civil servant whose main task was to collect fines in criminal matters owed by the persons who had been found guilty of different crimes (murder, assault, theft, rape, adultery, serious injury, etc.). Moreover, in civil matters, the *globnic* was in charge of enforcing the prince's orders and decisions, as well as private agreements between individuals.⁵⁶ Therefore, this activity was an important source of income for the prince's treasury, and the fines could be paid in cash, but also in kind (usually in oxen). The *globnic* could be employed by the prince, a monastery or a boyar.⁵⁷

1. THE FAMILY. Several documents from the 15th–16th centuries provide information on this boyar's family. An internal document issued on 22 January 1495⁵⁸ shows that he had three children, although only one name, Stana, is known. She, in her turn, had a daughter, Anușca. The other two children also had descendents. Thus, one of them—probably a daughter—gave birth to Toader Iucaș and Petru Iucaș. The latter had three children: Farco, who was a bailiff, Dolca, and Mărușca. It is very likely that Petru Iucaș is in fact that “Trișor” (a hypocorism of Petru), mentioned in a document issued by Prince Alexăndrel on 21 December 1452,⁵⁹ as Șandru of Iucaș's son (he owned the same villages in Tecuci district: Opișești, Cârna, Răchitiș, referred to as Petru Iucaș's properties in 1495!). In

this case, his mother, the daughter of Laslău the *globnic*, was Șandru of Iucaș's wife.

Laslău the *globnic*'s third child, most likely also a girl, had three children: Oană Mustea (Isaiu Mustea and Toader Mustea's father, who are mentioned in a document from 25 April 1481⁶⁰), Marușca (Giurgiu Vulpe's mother) and Ilca (Andreico, Ion Baico and Toader's mother).

Toader was identified by historian Alexandru I. Gonța as Toader the *vistier* (treasurer), Stanciul Stărostescul's son and the ancestor of the Prăjești boyars.⁶¹ The fact that Toader the *vistier* (who was Andrușco, Fedor, Mânzu, Ion and Marica's brother,⁶² but also Ion Prăjescu's father⁶³) and Toader, Ilca's son—referred to as holding the office of *cărnaraș de visterie* (treasury administrator) on 9 January 1519⁶⁴ and 8 January 1523⁶⁵—are one and the same is proved by the evolution of landed property in the village of Lăslăoani,⁶⁶ since Toader appears in both hypostases in the documents of the village.

Several documents from the mid-16th century highlight other descendents of Laslău the *globnic*: Isaiu Mustea had four children: Toader, Părasca, Tomina and Cârstea, mentioned as owning parts of Petrești and Drăgoești on 8 March 1533.⁶⁷ At the same time, we discover more relatives: Toader Mustea, Isaiu's brother, had three children: Crăstâna Mustoaie, Ileana and Măria; Ion Baico, the Mustea brothers' cousin, had four children: Simion the *vătav* (administrator), Lazăr, Petre and Mușca; one of Ion Baico's brothers, Andreico, had three children: Toader, Pântea and Anușca. All of them shared the two villages at the time.

Other descendents of the boyar are mentioned in two documents dating from 1555 (30 April⁶⁸ and 12 May⁶⁹): Toader Iucaș, the grandson of Laslău the *globnic*, had two children: Moga, Odochia's mother and Marica, married probably to Hasan, with whom she had Tüdora (Ion and Sile's mother) and Cozma.

Laslău's residence was probably in the village that bore his name, Lăslăoani, on the Cracău River, but the village has not survived.

2. CAREER. The period when the boyar Laslău performed the office of *globnic* is not known. However, if one takes into account the number of generations (in 1495, none of his children was still alive, only his grandchildren and great-grandchildren), I believe that he lived and held office in the administrative system of Moldavia at the end of the 14th century and in the first half of the 15th century.

3. LANDED ESTATES. The land patrimony of Laslău the *globnic*'s family was quite vast, including nine villages, out of which two in Neamț district (Lăslăoani and Șerbești, both on Cracău River) and seven in the northern part of Tecuci district,⁷⁰ on the Dobrotvor and Zeletin rivers (Cârna, Drăgoești, Mohorâți, Oprișești, Petrești, Plăcinteni and Răchitiș). In 1495, his grandchildren and great-grand-

children claimed their parts of the inheritance, claiming that they were descendents of Laslău the *globnic* and were entitled to the properties mentioned above. All these villages had been owned by Laslău the *globnic*; on 22 January 1495, Stephen the Great ordered that they should be divided in three parts and each part should be shared among the descendents of the three children of the boyar. Thus, Anuşca, the only child of Stana, Laslău's daughter, received a full part of each of the nine villages, while the descendents of Laslău's other children, who were much more numerous, had to share the areas they were entitled to.

Until the mid-16th century, Laslău the *globnic*'s descendants are mentioned in several documents⁷¹ as participating in the division of some of the villages mentioned above, but also as sellers and only once as buyers,⁷² which leads us to believe that the financial power of this family had diminished.

4. FOUNDING ACTIVITIES. From a document dated 11 July 1428,⁷³ which is in fact a fake from the second half of the 16th century and which was drawn up by a monk from Bistrița Monastery, we learn that, at that time, there was a church in the village of Lăslăoani and the monks were trying to include it, along with other churches, in the estate of their monastery. It is not known how old that church was or what it was made of or who had founded it, but it may have been founded by Laslău the *globnic*.

3. Seachil the *Pârcălab*'s Family

1. THE FAMILY. The origin of the Seachil family is Szekler, as it is also shown by its name.⁷⁴ Most likely, the father of Seachil the *pârcălab* (a *pârcălab* is the chief magistrate of a district), whose name is unknown, married a descendent of the boyars Oancea and Ilea, brothers who owned the village of Gocimani on the Orbic River in the first half of the 15th century. This assumption is justified by the information provided by a document dated 13 December 1585,⁷⁵ which shows that Seachil the *pârcălab*'s sons, Ionaşco and Simion, were Oancea and Ilea's descendants, the latter being their "great-grandfathers." These two brothers, Oancea and Ilea, are also the ancestors of the Popoţea family, as the Seachil and Popoţea family members were "cousins" at that time.⁷⁶

Consequently, Seachil the *pârcălab* had at least two sons: Simion Seachil, *cămăraş de ocne* (salt mine administrator), and Ionaşco, also a *cămăraş de ocne*.⁷⁷ His wife's name was Măgdălina, according to a document issued by Prince Peter the Lame on 25 February 1577⁷⁸ and to another document, issued by Jeremiah Movilă, dated 10 April 1598.⁷⁹

Simion Seachil had, it seems, one son, Ion,⁸⁰ who, in his turn, was the father of three children: Dumitrașco Seachil (*pitar*⁸¹ and then *ușer*⁸²), Tofan Seachil (*cămănar*⁸³) and Todasia.⁸⁴ The documents that refer to them or to their descendents, but also to Simion Seachil, lead us to believe that he was their grandfather,⁸⁵ and not their uncle, as it would have happened if they had been Ionașco Seachil's grandchildren; therefore it can be inferred that Ion, mentioned on 18 March 1606,⁸⁶ was Simion Seachil's son. His wife's name was Stanca,⁸⁷ probably one and the same with the woman mentioned on 4 May 1555⁸⁸ as a co-owner of the Arămești village, together with her relatives, Tăbuci Mititelul, Frăcea and Ana.

Dumitrașco Seachil the *pitar* married Nastasia, an uncle's adopted daughter,⁸⁹ and from this marriage resulted a child, Neculai Seachil, who was a *stolnic* (high steward) under Vasile Lupu's rule.⁹⁰ Neculai Seachil would marry Paraschiva,⁹¹ the daughter of Toader Boul the *vistier* (treasurer) (Safta's sister, who was the wife of the future Prince Gheorghe Ștefan) and thus entered a family whose members held high offices in Moldavia in the 17th century and which, in its turn, was related to other important boyar families, such as Prăjescu, Cantacuzino or Ciolpan.

Tofan Seachil was married to Dingana,⁹² Dinga's daughter, who was a *hatman* and *portar al Sucevei* (hetman and official in charge with the defense of the capital, Suceava) between 1571 and 1572.⁹³ They had six daughters together: Maria, Tudora, Anița, Nazaria, Porhira⁹⁴ and Alexandra.⁹⁵ Since they did not have any boys, the Seachil bloodline was carried on by his nephew, Neculai Seachil, who did not have any children either and who was thus the last male descendent of this family.

2. CAREER. Seachil was initially a *medelnicer* (an attendant to the ruling prince) and was referred to as holding this office under Alexandru Lăpușneanu, on 8 April 1560,⁹⁶ and Voivode John Despot, on 29 July 1562.⁹⁷ Under the latter's rule, he was promoted, as the internal documents mentioned him as *pârcălab de Neamț* (chief magistrate for Neamț district) and a member of the Council (16 March–17 June 1563),⁹⁸ next to Iațco⁹⁹ (March) and Ion Danciu¹⁰⁰ (May–June). After that, he is no longer mentioned as a high official and he may have been one of the boyars killed¹⁰¹ by Alexandru Lăpușneanu during his second reign, especially since he had held a high office under Despot, who had dethroned Lăpușneanu during his first reign. It is known for sure that on 25 February 1577¹⁰² Seachil was no longer alive, but it can be inferred from a document dated 15 July 1569, issued by Bogdan Lăpușneanu, that he was not alive at that time either, because it was his wife, Măgdalina, and not himself, who bought inherited plots in Bârjoveni.¹⁰³

During Alexandru Lăpușneanu's first reign, while he was a *medelnicer*, on 8 April 1560,¹⁰⁴ Seachil was charged by the prince with setting boundaries in the villages of Brebii and Hociungii, in Neamț district; these villages, owned by Oana Porcu's descendents, were located close to his landed estates.

3. LANDED ESTATES. Seachil the *pârcălab* held land in Neamț district, in the valley of the Orbic River. He owned half of the village of Bârjoveni, bought on 29 July 1562¹⁰⁵ from Vlaico and his family (Gligorie, Mihăilă, Ion, Grozav, Gaftona, Drăghici, Nastea and Stanca), who were all related to his wife, Magdalina (Măgdalina). The latter also owned a part of Bârjoveni, a quarter of the other half,¹⁰⁶ which she had bought from her "cousins," the brothers Herja, Sava and Berindei; the transaction was closed under Bogdan Lăpușneanu and it was confirmed by Prince John the Brave.¹⁰⁷

Seachil the *pârcălab* owned land in another village located in the Orbic Valley, named Gocimani, "both parts,"¹⁰⁸ but he lost the property (including the village of Bârjoveni) during the pillage carried out by Despot's army when he took the throne.

Seachil's descendents increased the family's lands. Thus, Tofan Seachil, in the third and fourth decades of the 17th century, owned in Neamț district parts of the villages of Arămești,¹⁰⁹ Bahna, Runcu, Țuțcani, Urzici,¹¹⁰ Gocimani, Seliștearomâni¹¹¹ and Durnești,¹¹² in Bacău district—parts of the villages of Fârloești, Dingani,¹¹³ Ungheni, Poiana cu Păcurile, Poiana Prelucilor, Poiana Săcăturilor and Frumoasa¹¹⁴—all of them in the Tazlău Valley, which he inherited from his father-in-law, Dinga the *hatman*, as his wife's dowry. In Hârlău district, he owned parts of the villages of Cobăceni and Hlipiceni, which he sold, together with his nephew, Neculai Seachil, to Lupu Prăjescu, *mare-medelnicer*¹¹⁵ (the land owned in Hlipiceni, taken over by his grandson, Constantin Buhuș, Todosia's son, would be sold on 11 September 1642 to the same Lupul Prăjescul).

In his turn, Neculai Seachil, besides parts of the villages of Bârjoveni,¹¹⁶ Seliștearuși¹¹⁷ (Neamț district), Cobăceni¹¹⁸ and Hlipiceni¹¹⁹ (Hârlău district), which he inherited from his parents, also owned parts of the villages of Nisiporeni¹²⁰ and Stejăreni¹²¹ in Suceava district, which came from the dowry brought by his wife, Paraschiva Boul. Consequently, the Seachil family's fortune increased in the first half of the 17th century in comparison with the parts of the two villages from Neamț owned by their ancestor, Seachil the *pârcălab*.

4. FOUNDING ACTIVITIES. There is no mention of any church founded by Seachil the *pârcălab* or his descendents. One of his sons may have contributed to the endowment of the Holy Trinity Monastery, located at the mouth of Orbic River, where it flows into the Bistrița (nowadays Ciolpani Monastery, Bacău coun-

ty), founded by Ciolpan the *sulițaș* (spearman), who became a monk under the name of Hariton.¹²² When the armies led by Michael the Brave invaded Moldavia in the spring of the year 1600, Simion Seachil hid his fortune inside the monastery, but was it plundered by a former servant, Dumitru Popoțea, to whom he was related and who had become an outlaw, as shown in a document dating from 1607–1611: “When Prince Michael came with his armies, Dumitru Popoțea, together with other outlaws, led them to the holy monastery harboring the holy and reviving triptych, as he knew that the people had taken refuge inside and hid the fortune of the faithful Seachil the *cămăraș*, because he had been the boyar’s servant; everything was taken away, to the value of up to 1,000 ducats.”¹²³

Conclusions

THIS STUDY, focusing on three boyar families, leads to several conclusions, the most important of which is that their members are mentioned in documents at least until the 17th century, which proves the continuity of the families over more than 200 years. Generally, these boyars held small offices in the state administration (except for Seachil, who was a *medelnicer*, then a *pârcălab*, under Prince Despot’s rule) or, most often, did not hold any office. As to their land patrimony, it ranged from two villages (Seachil the *pârcălab*’s case) to nine villages (for Laslău the *globnic* and his descendents, who owned land in two districts: Bacău and Neamț). While the fortune of the Urdiugaș and Laslău families was divided and significantly reduced beginning with the 16th century because it was shared among numerous descendents who did not hold important offices, the Seachil family’s fortune increased in the first half of the 17th century by purchases, inheritances and marriage into socially well-placed families (such as Boul or Dinga). Moreover, the members of the Seachil family held offices that, albeit not first-rank (except for Seachil the *pârcălab*), brought them in contact with powerful people and created the conditions necessary for increasing their wealth.

It is important to note that most of the descendants of the boyars who founded the three families did not keep their ancestors’ foreign-origin names or surnames and adopted Romanian names. This shows that they were fully integrated among the local boyars and were assimilated once they settled permanently to the east of the Carpathians.



Notes

1. Radu Rosetti, “Despre unguri și episcopiile catolice din Moldova,” *Analele Academiei Române, Memoriile Secțiunii Istorice* (Bucharest), 2nd ser., 27 (1905): 251–253.
2. Maria Magdalena Székely, “Familii de boieri din Moldova de origine transilvăneană,” *Arhiva genealogică* (Iași) 1 (6), 1–2 (1994): 97–100.
3. Gh. Ghibănescu, *Surete și izvoade*, vol. 20, *Documente slavo-române între 1587–1618* (Iași: Casa Școalelor, Tip. Viața Românească, 1928), 99.
4. Lucian Valeriu Lefter, “Boieri și ‘domenii’ în Țara Moldovei înainte și în vremea lui Ștefan cel Mare,” Ph.D. thesis (Iași, 2009). The manuscript of the paper can be found at the library of the Faculty of History, A. I. Cuza University of Iași.
5. Paul Daniel Nedeloiu, “Neamul Urdiugaș-Dumbravă din ținutul Neamț în secolele XV–XVII,” a paper presented at the 15th National Congress on Genealogy and Heraldry, Iași, 13–15 May 2010, at the Union Museum—see http://www.ghyka.com/IRGH/Doc_pdf/Program_congres_2010.pdf.
6. Székely, “Familii de boieri din Moldova,” 99.
7. August Scriban, *Dicționarul limbii românești* (Iași: Institutul de Arte Grafice Presa Bună, 1939), 39. See also Francisc Király, *Contacte lingvistice: adaptarea fonetică a împrumuturilor românești de origine maghiară* (Timișoara: Facla, 1990).
8. Victor Spinei, *Marile migrații din estul și sud-estul Europei în secolele IX–XIII* (Iași: Institutul European, 1999), 359.
9. Ștefan S. Gorovei, “Clanuri, familii, autorități, puteri (Moldova, secolele XV–XVII),” *Arhiva genealogică* 1 (6), 1–2 (1994): 88–89.
10. Székely, “Familii de boieri din Moldova,” 99.
11. Scriban, 453.
12. *Documente privind istoria României*, ser. A, *Moldova* (hereafter cited as *DIR, A*) and *Documenta Romaniae Historica*, ser. A, *Moldova* (hereafter cited as *DRH, A*).
13. National Archives, Iași County Division, coll. Documents, 108/114, 173/198, 174/6, 174/108, 179/4, 251/1, 284/11, 350/77, 350/117, 411/213, 412/67, 449/46, 464/10, 616/147, 672/10, 694/3.
14. *DRH, A*, vol. 2, drawn up by Leon Șimanschi et al. (Bucharest: Ed. Academiei, 1976), 330.
15. *Ibid.*, 388.
16. *Ibid.*
17. Gheorghe Mareș and Dumitru Mareș, *Monografia satului Ghigoești, județul Neamț, de la înființare și până în zilele noastre* (Bucharest: Ed. Casei Școalelor, 1938), 15 n. 1.
18. *Tezaurul toponimic al României. Moldova*, vol. 1, *Repertoriul istoric al unităților administrativ-teritoriale, 1772–1988*, pt. 1, A. *Unități simple (Localități și moșii)*, A–O (Bucharest: Ed. Academiei Române, 1991), 782.
19. G. Mareș and D. Mareș, 17.
20. *DRH, A*, 3: 126.
21. *DIR, A*, *Văcagul XVI*, 1: 528–529.
22. *Ibid.*, 528.

23. *Ibid.*, 2: 198.
24. G. Mareş and D. Mareş, 32.
25. *DIR, A, Veacul XVI*, 3: 437.
26. *Ibid.*, 1: 528.
27. Henri H. Stahl, *Contribuții la studiul satelor devălmașe românești*, 2nd rev. ed., vol. 2, *Structura internă a satelor devălmașe libere* (Bucharest: Cartea Românească, 1998), 66–67.
28. *Documente privind istoria României*, ser. A, *Moldova, Veacurile XIV–XVII, Indicele numelor de persoane*, author Alexandru I. Gonța, edition coordinated and foreword by I. Caproșu (Bucharest: Ed. Academiei Române, 1995), 342 (hereafter cited as *DIR, Indice*).
29. Paul Daniel Nedeloiu, “Neamul lui Crăciun Belcescu din ținutul Neamț (secolele XV–XVII),” communication presented at the National Board of Heraldry, Genealogy and Sigillography of the Romanian Academy, Iași Branch, on 8 December 2009; see also *DIR, A, Veacul XVI*, 3: 121–122.
30. *DIR, A, Veacul XVI*, 1: 528, and *ibid.*, 4: 134.
31. *Ibid.*, *Veacul XVI*, 2: 107 and 116.
32. *Ibid.*, 309.
33. *Ibid.*, 3: 133.
34. *Ibid.*, *Veacul XVI*, 4: 134.
35. *Ibid.*, *Veacul XVII*, 2: 253.
36. *Ibid.*, *Veacul XVI*, 4: 135; *Veacul XVII*, 1: 240–241; 2: 11–12.
37. *Ibid.*, *Veacul XVI*, 4: 252; *Veacul XVII*, 1: 10–11.
38. *Ibid.*, *Veacul XVI*, 4: 135.
39. *Ibid.*
40. *Ibid.*, 137.
41. *Ibid.*, 1: 528–529.
42. National Archives, Iași County Division, coll. Documents, 174/109.
43. *DRH, A*, vol. 24, drawn up by C. Cihodaru and I. Caproșu (Bucharest: Ed. Academiei Române, 1998), 482. The document is a Romanian original and is kept at the Iași County Division of the National Archives, coll. Documents, 154/29.
44. The original document erroneously mentions “Mănești” instead of “Mălești.” Since Obârșia and Mălești were neighboring villages, owned by the descendents of the Urdugaș-Dumbravă family, we believe that it should be Mălești and not Mănești.
45. *DRH, A*, vol. 26, drawn up by I. Caproșu (Bucharest: Ed. Academiei Române, 2003), 168.
46. *Ibid.*
47. *Ibid.*, vol. 28, drawn up by Petronel Zahariuc, Marius Chelcu, Silvia Văcaru, and Cătălina Chelcu (Bucharest: Ed. Academiei Române, 2006), 417–418. The document is a Romanian copy from the 19th century, kept in Bucharest, in the National Archives of Romania, coll. Historic Documents, CLX/160.
48. *Ibid.*, 24: 482.
49. Romanian Academy Library, *Creșterea Colecțiilor*, no. 14, January–March (Bucharest: Soccc, 1910), 47.

50. Nicolae Stoicescu, *Dicționar al marilor dregători din Țara Românească și Moldova: Sec. XIV–XVII* (Bucharest: Ed. Enciclopedică, 1971), 303. In footnote 1, the historian mentioned the 28 May 1546 document, which referred to the descendents of Toader Urdiugaș and of his brother, Ivan Dumbravă.
51. I. Minea, “Pomelnicul Mănăstirei Bistrița,” *Cercetări istorice* (Iași) 8–9, 1 (1932–1933): 30–88. In the final part of this work, in a section entitled “Câteva observațiuni,” 79, the author stated that he believed *Vornic* Dumbravă to be in fact a Wallachian boyar, “a wandering companion of Prince Vintilă I, from the time of Prince John the Armenian.”
52. *DIR, A, Veacul XVI*, 3: 10.
53. *Ibid.*, 36.
54. Stoicescu, 303.
55. G. Mareș and D. Mareș, 139.
56. Ovid Sachelarie and Nicolae Stoicescu, *Instituții feudale din Țările Române: Dicționar* (Bucharest: Ed. Academiei, 1988), 207.
57. *Ibid.*, 208.
58. *DRH, A*, 3: 315.
59. *Ibid.*, 2: 28.
60. *Ibid.*, 362.
61. *DIR, Indice*, 680.
62. *DIR, A, Veacul XVI*, 1: 58–59 (document from 1 March 1507).
63. I. C. Miclescu-Prăjescu, “Obârșia unei familii din Moldova,” *Revista istorică română* (Bucharest) 10 (1941): 211.
64. *DIR, A, Veacul XVI*, 1: 137.
65. *Ibid.*, 217.
66. *DRH, A*, 3: 315 and *DIR, A, Veacul XVI*, 1: 137; see also *DRH, A*, 6: 402.
67. *DIR, A, Veacul XVI*, 1: 351.
68. *DRH, A*, 6: 331.
69. *Ibid.*, 354.
70. See the map *Țara Moldovei în timpul domniei lui Ștefan cel Mare și Sfânt*, eds. Gheorghe Nicolaev and Sergiu Tabuncic (Chișinău: Terra Design, 2007).
71. *DIR, A, Veacul XVI*, 1: 137, 351; *DRH, A*, 6: 331, 354.
72. *DIR, A, Veacul XVI*, 1: 217–218. *Cămăraș* Toader bought a fourth of the village of Căndești, in Câmpul lui Dragoș (Dragoș’s Field), from boyar Căndea’s great-grandchildren, referred to for the first time on 4 April 1435 (when he was alive—see *DRH, A*, 1: 192).
73. *DRH, A*, 1: 424.
74. Maria Magdalena Székely, “O familie de secui în Moldova: Seachileștii,” *Arhiva genealogică* 2 (7), 3–4 (1995): 19.
75. *DIR, A, Veacul XVI*, 3: 297 (“Ionașco and his brother, Simion, Părcălab Seachil’s children”).
76. *Ibid.*
77. *Ibid.*, 4: 243, 245.
78. *Ibid.*, 3: 82 (“Măgdălina, the late Seachil’s wife”).

79. *Ibid.*, 4: 208 (“we gave our faithful servant, Cămăraș Simion Seachil, the inheritance he was entitled to, bought by his mother Magdalina, the wife of Seachil, the former medelnicer”) (the *medelnicer* was an attendant to the ruling prince).
80. *Ibid.*, *Véacul XVII*, 2: 13.
81. *Ibid.*, 7–8, 13.
82. *Ibid.*, 4: 404 (document from 20 October 1619).
83. *DRH, A*, 22: 312.
84. *DIR, A, Véacul XVII*, 5: 247.
85. *DRH, A*, 22: 275; see also *DIR, A, Véacul XVII*, 4: 69: “Dumitrașco and his brother, Tofan, Simion Seachil’s grandchildren.”
86. *DIR, A, Véacul XVII*, 2: 13.
87. *Ibid.*, *Véacul XVI*, 4: 189.
88. *DRH, A*, 6: 336.
89. Székely, “O familie de secui,” 20.
90. *DRH, A*, 28: 104 (10 July 1645).
91. *Ibid.*, 22.
92. Székely, “O familie de secui,” 21.
93. N. Stoicescu, “Lista marilor dregători ai Moldovei (sec. XIV–XVII),” *Anuarul Institutului de Istorie și Arheologie A. D. Xenopol, Iași* 8 (1971): 406.
94. Székely, “O familie de secui,” 21–22.
95. *Catalogul documentelor moldovenesti din Arhiva Istorică Centrală a Statului* (hereafter cited as *CDM*), vol. 5 (Bucharest, 1974), 420.
96. *DRH, A*, 6: 489.
97. *Ibid.*, 531.
98. *Ibid.*, 540, 553.
99. *Ibid.*, 540.
100. *Ibid.*, 544, 547, 553; Stoicescu, “Lista,” 410.
101. Grigore Ureche, *Letopisețul Țării Moldovei*, edition coordinated by P. P. Panaitescu, historic and literary references drawn up by Mircea Scarlat (Bucharest: Minerva, 1987), 134.
102. *DIR, A, Véacul XVI*, 3: 82.
103. *DRH, A*, 6: 678.
104. *Ibid.*, 489.
105. *Ibid.*, 531.
106. *DIR, A, Véacul XVI*, 3: 82.
107. *Ibid.*, 4: 208.
108. *Ibid.*, 3: 297.
109. *Ibid.*, *Véacul XVII*, 5: 247.
110. *CDM*, 5: 420.
111. *DIR, A, Véacul XVII*, 5: 247.
112. *DRH, A*, 21: 8.
113. *CDM*, 3: 318.
114. *DRH, A*, 22: 312.
115. *Ibid.*, 21: 86; 26: 475.

116. Ibid., 23: 236.
117. Ibid., 22: 275.
118. Ibid., 21: 86.
119. Ibid., 26: 475.
120. *CDM*, 3: 458.
121. *DRH, A*, 28: 104, 124.
122. Paul Daniel Nedeloiu, “Ciolpăneștii și ctitoria lor de pe Orbic (sec. XVI–XVII),” communication presented at the National Board of Heraldry, Genealogy and Sigillography of the Romanian Academy, Iași Branch, on 8 February 2011, published in *Ioan Neculce: Buletinul Muzeului de Istorie a Moldovei* (Iași) 13–15 (2011): 7–19.
123. *DIR, A, Veacul XVII*, vol. 2 (Bucharest: Ed. Academiei, 1953), 136–137.

Abstract

Boyar Families of Transylvanian Origin, Village Owners in Neamț District (15th–17th Centuries)

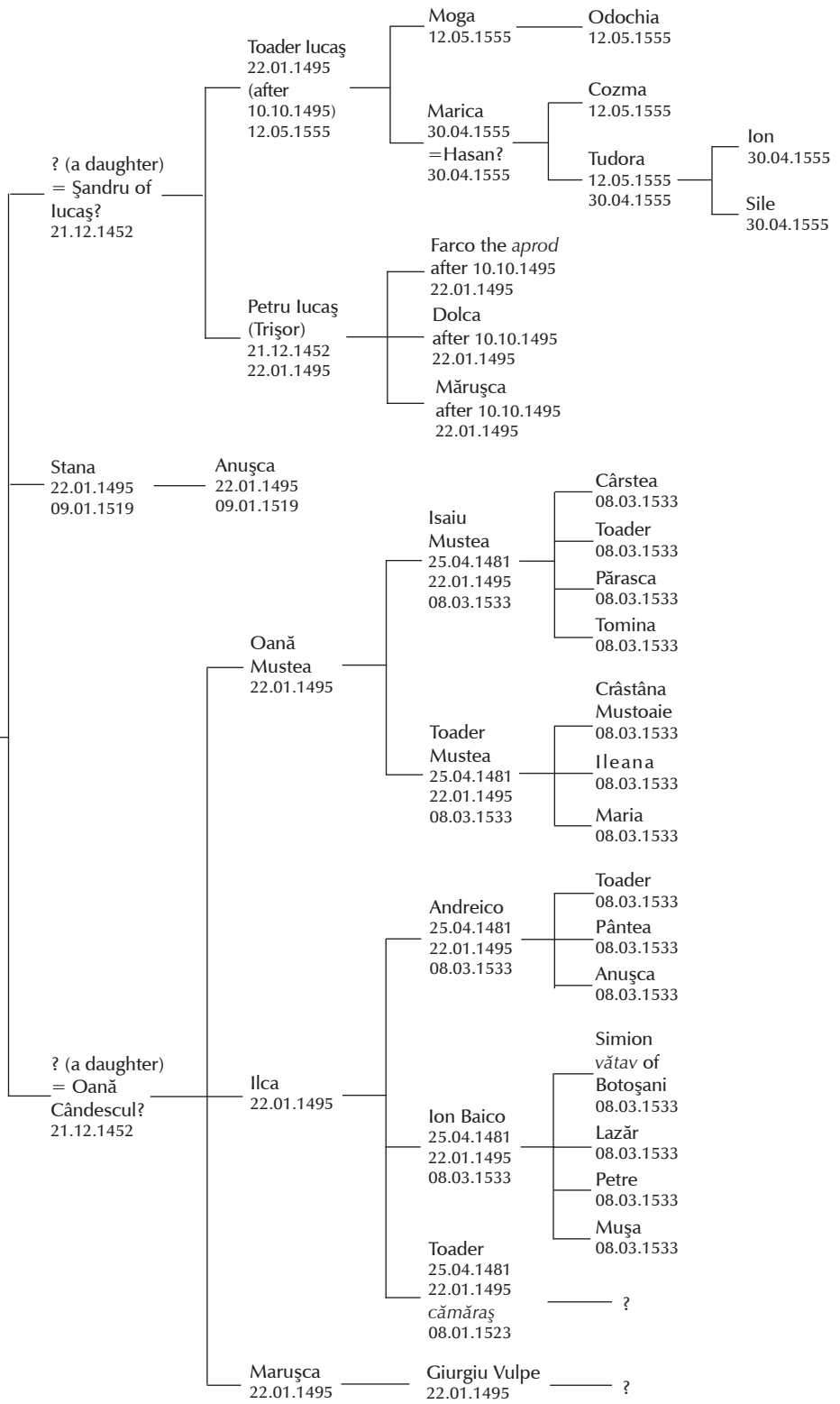
Besides the local boyar families, several villages in Neamț district were owned in the 15th–17th centuries by boyars whose names suggest a probable Transylvanian origin: Laslău, Levet Miclouș, Lațco, Ioaniș, Urdiugaș, Birău, Petru Ungureanul, etc. Their presence among the local landowners is due to the fact that their ancestors relocated east of the Carpathians in the second half of the 14th century, at the same time as the founders of Moldavia, and also later on. This study aims at highlighting, within a chronological approach, some aspects related to the families (ancestors and descendents), offices, landed estates and potential founding activities of three boyars from Neamț with Hungarian-sounding names: Urdiugaș, Laslău and Seachil.

Keywords

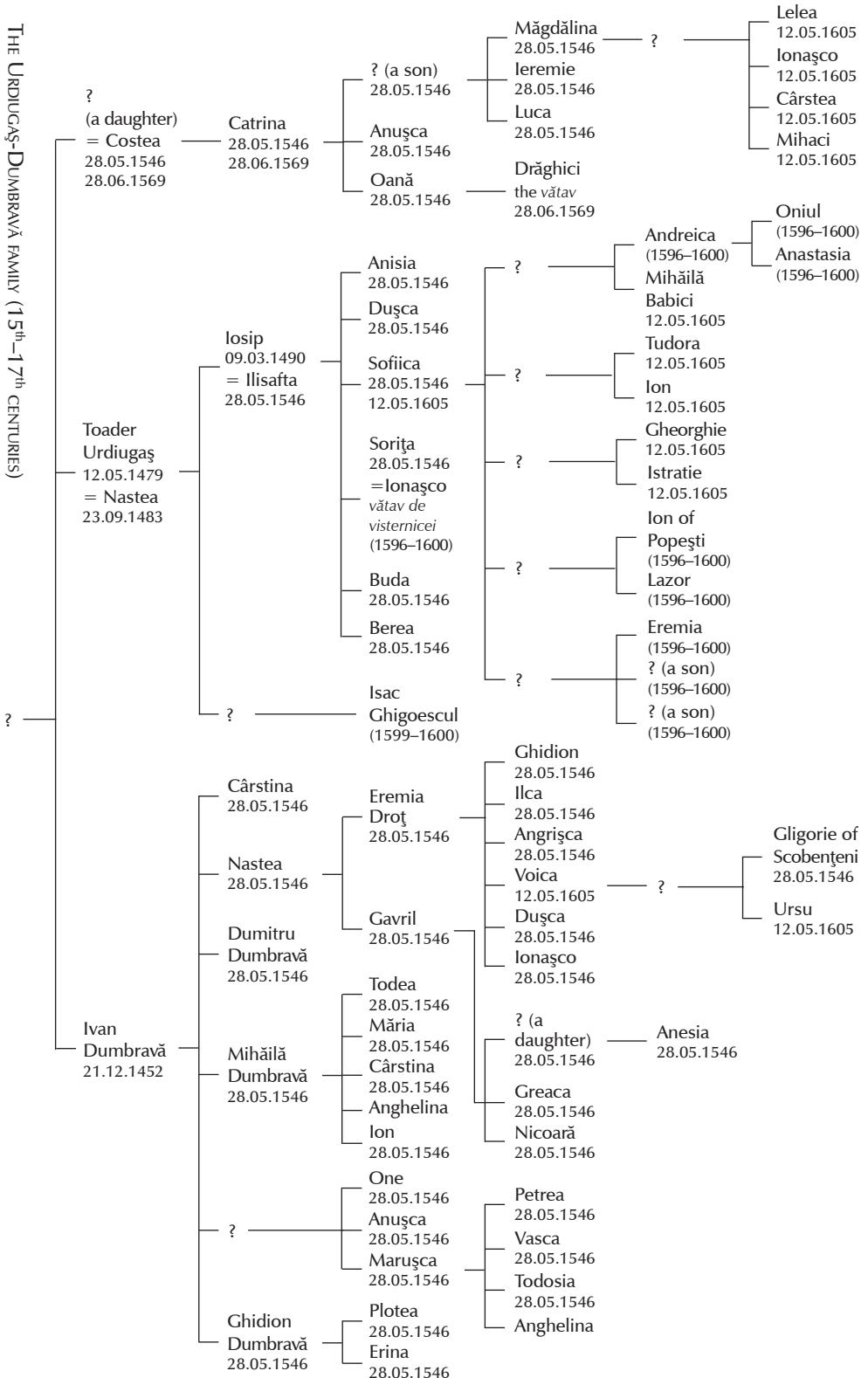
bloodline, boyar families, high officials, Moldavia, Transylvania

THE FAMILY OF LASLĂU THE GLOBNIC (15th–16th CENTURIES)

Laslău
the *globnic*
22.01.1495
09.01.1519



THE URDIUGAȘ-DUMBRĂVĂ FAMILY (15th-17th CENTURIES)



THE SEACHIL FAMILY (15th–17th CENTURIES)

