

Magyar families in Transylvania are of Roumanian origin.

During the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, the Roumanian nobility of the Banate, the Crişana and the Maramureş was to a very large extent Magyarized through Catholicism.

The great landowners of the Maramureş and of the neighbouring lands were, in the fifteenth century, members of noble Roumanian families, as for example, the Dolha, who owned extensive lands. The Roumanian family of Dragfi owned the five towns of the county.

Other Magyarized noble Roumanian families in these districts were the Kőkényesi, Nemeş, Szaplonczay ('nobiles wolahay de Soponcza' in 1457), Szarvaszarai ('nobiles wolahay de Zarwazo' in 1457).

Among the most illustrious families the Bánfy, the Kendeffy and the Corvin of Hunyadé (with Matthias Corvinus, the King of whom the Hungarians are most proud) were of Roumanian origin.

Certain Roumanian Voivodes of the county of Central Solnoc in 1427-1428 were among the richest in the land.

Before leaving the Maramureş, let us note that, although the majority of serious Hungarian writers admit both for the Maramureş and for the county of Bereg, that the Roumanians were established there before the arrival of the Hungarians, certain writers have been led, by observing in the documents the existence of a Roumanian Voivode named Bogdan living on the border of the Banate in 1335, who asked to be admitted into Hungary, to suppose (without the least proof or presumption) that this Bogdan was the Bogdan of Maramureş (first mentioned in 1343) and to conclude that the whole Roumanian element of Maramureş, Transylvania and of Moldavia, was due to the arrival of this southern Bogdan with his retinue.

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²Pál Hunfalvy, *Az Oláhok* 1894. In connection with tl in the vicinity of the Banate the Danube and the Tisza, in the district of Crasna in 1 vocatam'.

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tained the authorization to enter into Hungary from the south of the Banate, is (by those writers) at times supposed to come from the Balkans (in which case the first Roumanian colonization of the Banate is attributed to him), at other times supposed to be a Bassarab, son of the leader who defeated Charles Robert. Whence a zig-zag trajectory ascribed to this Bogdan and his retinue¹: Fagaraş—Wallachia—Banate—Hungary—Maramureş—Moldavia.

Let us remember that the Voivode Bogdan of Maramureş is already mentioned in documents there in 1343, that his brother Juga is quoted in 1349 as possessing great domains, as 'Voyvoda Olacorum de Maramorisio', the two brothers appearing as mighty lords, firmly rooted in the province. The absurdity of this hypothesis of the identification of the two Bogdans is admitted even by Hunfalvy, who can scarcely be suspected of neglecting anti-Roumanian arguments; he admits that the Bogdan of 1335 indeed settled in Hungary, but that there is nothing to indicate his origin and nothing to show that he took with him a large number of his subjects² (an entire nation would be needed to satisfy the advocates of the theory of the identification of the two Bogdans).

As by an indirect route we have come back to Bogdan of Maramureş and to the foundation of the Moldavian state, let us now mention the contemporary texts confirming this event which the suzerain of the adventurous Voivode took so tragically. John of Târnava (Küküllői János, archdeacon of Kikullew=Kükülö=Târnava, biographer of King Louis the Great) wrote:

¹This Voivode Bogdan might quite well have belonged to the family of a contemporary Voivode from Severin.

²Pál Hunfalvy, *Az Oláhok története, History of the Roumanians*, Budapest, 1894. In connection with the possible settlement of Bogdan, son of Mykola, in the vicinity of the Banate, let us note that in 1337 could be found between the Danube and the Tisza, the villages of 'Villa Mykola et Bogdanfalva'; in the district of Crasna in 1341: 'quandam villam ollakalem Bogdanhayza vocatam'.