

THE CHRONICLE

of

BEVILACQUA-BEVILAQUA family



This crest does not belong to our family. But it is Bevilaqua's lord crest, so why do not to use it officially...

Slovakia, 20.12.2008

How Italian stone-cutters arrived to Slovakia

Giuseppe MIGLIERINA, an Italian stone-cutter and owner of a MIGLIERINA company, obtained an order to build a railway-track from Košice(Slovakia) to Bohumin(Czech republic) at around 1885 year.

Giuseppe MIGLIERINA bought unused stone-pit from spa's owner in Gánovce^[1] near POPRAD^[1] city.

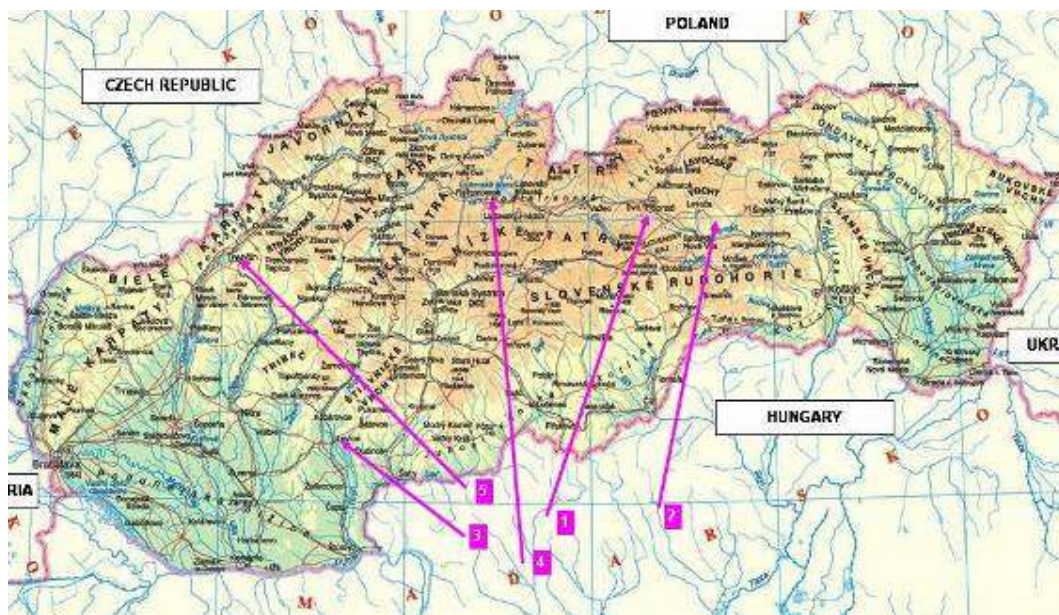


He and his family settled down in POPRAD, where he had built a house. GIUSEPPE took his nephews Marco, Carlo and Paolo MIGLIERINA and some another



Italian stone-cutters for seasonal jobs few years later. So, during years 1885 and 1888, **PIETRO BEVILACQUA** and other stone-cutters (Comisso, Fiorovanti, Dezorzo, Venturini, Guriziano and others) arrived to Slovakia.

*Pietro Bevilacqua (from year1902)
stirps of Bevilaqua family in Slovakia*



Several years later, while working on a tunnel rail-tracks expansion, Giuseppe began opening another stone-pits in DREVENÍK^[2] (under the castle Spišský hrad), in Besenova^[4] near Liptovský Mikuláš city and one near Levice city^[3].



View to Spiš castle from Drevník

Later on, Giuseppe MIGLIERINA made wedding of his daughter Alice and his nephew Marco.

Giuseppe entrusted Marco to manage the business in Drevník. After finishing the seasonal job, Italians returned back to Italy, but some of them had settled down in Slovakia. Marco MIGLIRINA had temporarily settled down with his family, his younger brother Paolo, Luigi VENTURINI, Vincenzo VALDO and GURIZIANO in a small village called Dobrá Vôľa^[2] (close to Drevník), **PIETRO BEVILACQUA** had settled down in Spišské Podhradie near Drevník, too.

After the World War first, majority of all Italians returned home, but some of them had decided to stay in Slovakia, included PIETRO BEVILACQUA. As 36 years old he got married with Maria REIF in 1891, probably a daughter of a house owner /German origin/, at whose house was PIETRO lodged.

Spišské Podhradie city with Spiš castle



– *beginning of 20th century*



- *today*

Trenčín city with castle



- *beginning of 20th century*

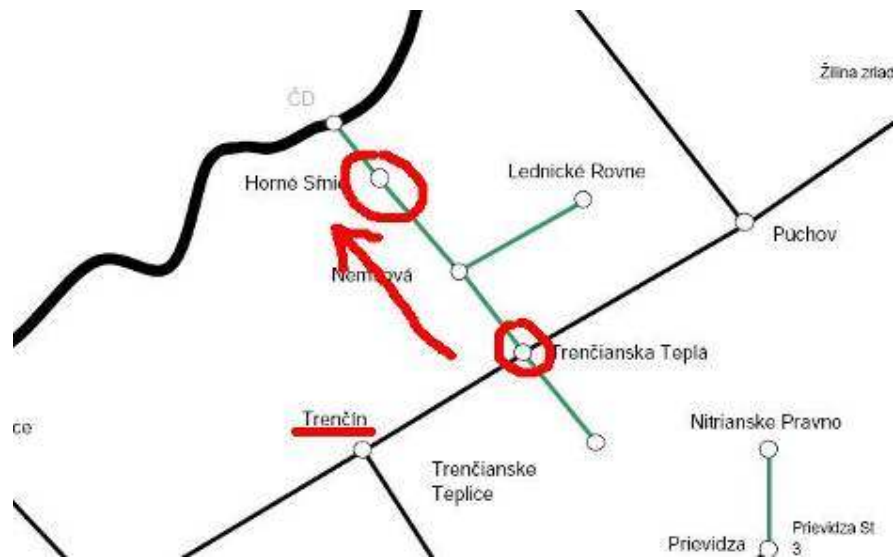


- *today*



Trenčín, side Dobrá

After the marriage, (due to the finishing of the job of the railway from Trenčianska Teplá to Horné Slnie)



Pietro and Maria lived for a period of time in Dobrá(5), close to Trenčín city, where John, August and Ernest were born.

Due to the business in the stone-pit in Spišské Podhradie (at about 1896) Pietro and Maria moved back to Spišské Podhradie, where Tobias and Anna were born.

Pietro Bevila(c)qua was surely very skilled stone cutter at all. Most probably one of his last jobs (leaded by Paolo Miglierina - nephew of Giuseppe Miglierina) was the order of Slovakian National Monument in Bradlo (Bradlo is a small mountain). All the stones were scappled in stone pit in Drevenik and Spišské Vlachy and after transported to Bradlo.



Where do we come from?

Family BEVILACQUA, originates in North Italy /village MEDUNO/, close to UDINE city.



Meduno is a commune (municipality) in the Province of Pordenone in the Italian region Friuli-Venezia Giulia, located about 100 km northwest of Trieste and about 30 km northeast of Pordenone. As of 31 December 2004, it had a population of 1,737 and an area of 31.2 km²



Church Santa Maria Maggiore



Piazza di Sotto a Meduno.

So far, we could not find any information about Bevilacqua family relatives in Italy.

The registration copies of my grand grandparents includes Pietro Bevilacqua from Italy were urgently taken from Italy 1941. It was the only evidence of the non-Jewish origin /according to law No. 198 in Slovak republic/.

We do not know too much about Pietro Bevilacqua, there is only a verbal information about him.

Supposedly, he was not a good father and husband, he beat his wife and he was quite jealous and selfish. Finally, he left his family. His children and their mother did everything to stay in proper life.

When his son, Ernest Bevilacqua was talking about Pietro, his personal odium to him was noticed.

Meduno today:

Peter Bevilaqua Senior(my father) and me (Peter Bevilaqua Junior) had visited Meduno in 2008 year independently, as a part of our vacations. Following are the actual pictures from Meduno. Anyway, it is a beautiful place located between the Alp mountains in Udinese city region:



Meduno – entrance to the village



Meduno – end of the village(from opposite direction)



Main street view - direction to the Church



vicolo Bevilacqua – small One- way street in Meduno



The One-Way street – vicolo Bevilacqua in Meduno





I had a chance to talk to some senior ladies about Bevilacqua's family and Pietro, or any other citizens of Meduno, that left to Czechoslovakia (at that time to Hungary - Austria), but I did not get any useful information.

The only connection I have is the local priest, Mr. de Toni, that published our family story in the local catholic bi-weekly magazine, but without any feedback from Meduno's people.

Anyway I did not give up, there is also a chance (as far as we have got born and marriage certificates of Pietro, his parents and old parents) to find some more connections in Pordenone region archive.

In Meduno's cemetery, there are a lot of Bevilacquas resting in peace:



Why Bevilaqua and not Bevilacqua?

A surname Bevilaqua, in origin Bevilacqua is one of the most expanded names in Italy, nowadays you can find lots of carriers of that name in all over the world. It is easy to find it in the internet, there is plenty of information, but there are not only those, that are really related to our family.

The name **Bevilacqua** was changed to **Bevilaqua** by incorrect transcribing. At the beginning of 20th century the literacy was not on a very high level, and going hand to hand with Italian surname, mistake finally happened. An evidence of the non-acquaintance is known from Pietro's personal signature in his work book /Bevilaqua/. The work book was necessary in that time, it was written in Hungarian /1902/ for **Bevilacqua Péter**.



Everyone has gone his own way... Slovakia – France - USA

Pietro Bevilaqua and Maria Reif had 5 children: Ján /John/, Augustín /August/, Ernest, Tobiáš /Tobias/ and Anna /Ann/. As it was already said, Pietro did not care about the family too much, so Maria took care of everything. The children had to help from the beginning of their childhood. It was very difficult for all of them, so it is obvious, that everyone went on their life path quite soon. We do not know much about the last days of Pietro Bevilaqua. Ernest /his son/ did not want to talk about him and his children /my father, aunt and uncle/ do not remember him, because he died before they were born. Pietro died in 1921 /we do not know it for sure./ and he was probably buried in a cemetery of Dobrá Vôľa. His wife Maria lived in Spišské Podhradie where she died in 1927.

Ján /John/ Bevilaqua



- was born on 27/01/1889 in Trenčín. In 1920 /around that year/ he left to USA. He had settled with his wife Maria Kondrat and her youngest brother Stefan in Johnstown, PS. They had four children: from left Mary, Frank, John and Rudy.



Augustín Bevilacqua



– was born in 1893 in Spišské Podhradie. After the end of the World War first he and his wife got settled in French town Lambersart /near Lille/. Their two sons and two daughters were born there.

Augustín and his oldest son Isidore had been in touch with my father's grand-father and uncle Dr. Ladislav Bevilaqua by letters /until the half of 60th/.

Augustin died in 1966 and is buried in Lambersart (close to Lille).

Unfortunately, after his death, written conversation was stopped for couple of years, but today we are in a touch with younger son and daughter of Isidore Bevilacqua (first from left).

French part of the family is the only one who is using correct surname BEVILACQUA.



Augustín's family : from left Isidore with his wife and son Daniel, Augustín with his wife, their older daughter with 3 children (above is her husband). Upper left son Pierre and younger daughter.

Ernest Bevilaqua



- was born in 24/01/1895 as a third son of their parents in Dobrá, close to Trenčín. As a chimneysweeper he became a master of chimneysweepers in Poprad. Ernest Bevilaqua got married on 20/09/1920 with Katarína /Cathrin/ Tatarkova from Spišské Podhradie. During the years 1921-1926 were born their four children: three boys /Ladislav, Ernest, Eugen/ and a girl /Marta/. They lived in Poprad their whole life. Ernest Bevilaqua died in 1975, his wife died in 1993 /as 92 years old/. They are buried in Poprad city -Veľká.



Ernest - the Chimneysweeper



Ernest's family in 1930 – from left: Eugen, Ladislav, Marta and Ernest

In the cellar of their family house in Poprad he had equipped everything for chimneysweeper craft. He had personally employing some future famous chimneysweepers.

Ernest Bevilaqua was extremely hardworking and amenable. He personally was working with big enthusiasm, and had great organizational skills. He did a lot of work for Poprad city itself, he founded and led the Voluntary fire brigade that personally equipped by himself. He was also long time member of the Folk's Bank. He was also great skittles player. Ernest was fluently speaking German and Hungarian language.

Family Miglierina (founder of stone pit company in Slovakia) impacted positively Bevilaqua's (Ernest's) family during World War two again.

The grandson of Giuseppe Miglierina arranged the confirmation, that Bevilaqua family is not Jewish.(during whole war Jewish origin families were fated and killed).

During the World War two he did also a heroic act, while he had personally transferred 100.000crowns (5.000 USD) from Folk's Bank to Slovakian rebels.

At this time he had interrupted the relationship(before it was very good relationship) with his brother Tobias. Tobias was involving himself to Slovak national Guards, that pander to fascists.

After the word War two, in year 1948, all his property was nationalized. He was never bewared up against this fact.

Due to his political thinking, he was persecuted and for two months send for compulsory work. Even so, his individual humor never left his person, and due to him our part of family was getting together for a years.

Ernest Bevilaqua died on 1.8.1975 after quick, but hard disease.

Tobiáš /Tobias/ Bevilaqua



– was born as a fourth child on 07/03/1898 in Spišské Podhradie. After his studies he became a master of chimneysweepers in Sobrance /the east of Slovakia/. He got married in 1923 with Mária Kukemezyová. They had three children: two boys /Ernest, Tibor/ and a girl /Klára/. After his wife's death in 1929 he got married again with Alžbeta Hutyrová, with whom he got two sons /Richard and Tobiáš/. During the World War second he was active on the politic scene, therefore he was persecuted by communism regime(as a war criminal) so he had to leave Czechoslovakia after the war. The latest years of his life he had lived in Austria, where he died in 1973 in Ried Im Inkreis. He was buried there too.



Tobias's family-.left Ernest, Klara, Tibor (with his first wife)



Tobias – the Politician, 1944

Tobias was graduated as a chimneysweeper together with his brother Ernest.

He was very adventurous nature.

He was extremely vehement tourist and was in loved motorbikes. In 1930 he had owned motorbikes of many brands, that he came through whole Slovakia.

Due to his sympathies to fascism during World War two he had to leave the country after the War.

Angela(Anna) Bevilaqua



was born in 1900 in Spišské Podhradie. She was the last one who was born there. Anna lived there whole her life. She got married with Štefan Wojczyk – Polish origin surname. They had four sons, but two of them died early (2y, 14y). The second oldest one /Štefan/ probably died in the Russian front. Other son Jozef lived in Spišské Podhradie.

Anna, 1918 (she had a wedding in 1918, most probably it is one of wedding album's pictures)



Anna's children, Picture with brother Ernest



Anna's children: left Pavol, Stefan, Jozef

Anna had worked her whole life as a local saleswoman.
She died in 1964 in Spišské Podhradie, where is also buried with her husband.

Bevilaqua family wrap up:

- Italian origin surname, coming from Meduno
- Latest(the oldest) evidence of the family is the birth certificate of Pietro's grand father – 1824
- Pietro Bevilaqua and Maria Reif had 5 children: Ján /John/- USA, Augustín /August/- France, Ernest - Slovakia, Tobiáš /Tobias/- Slovakia and Anna /Ann/-Slovakia.
- Family is coming from Slovakia (before as a part of Czechoslovakia, before Hungary Austria)
- Bevilacqua is the correct spelling of our surname(only French part of family is using it correctly).
- The surname was distorted by mistake in Pietro's work permission in 1902
- Family members are living in Slovakia, France and USA today