

PÉLI ÖRÖKSÉG ALAPÍTVÁNY

## NEWSLETTER

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## OUR LATEST NEWS

PÉLI ÖRÖKSÉG ALAPÍTVÁNY

**BUILDING THE FUTURE—TOGETHER!**

Join us for our first Foundation Event!  
Let's beautify the chapel grounds together—every helping hand makes a difference!

**MEETING**

- June 14, 2025
- 10am
- Alsópépuszta, Zichy chapel

**TASKS**

- Restore the cemetery fence
- Clear around the linden tree
- Install a new gate

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We are delighted to announce the launch of the Péli Heritage Foundation! Our team is working with great enthusiasm to plan and implement future projects – our goal is to build and preserve the legacy of our family and community together.

- Join us and become part of our noble mission!
- We gratefully welcome your support via the following bank account:  
HU93117220032248918600000000 (OTP Bank)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- **June 14 – Chapel Restoration Community Day**  
Come and help us tidy up the surroundings of the chapel in Alsópéll! Gardening, repair work, a great atmosphere, and the joy of working together await you – the more hands we have, the more beautiful the result will be. Please let us know if you'd like to join!

- **September 27 – Presentation on the Life of Countess Mária Széchényi**

A ceremonial reflection and captivating stories about one of the key figures of the Péli heritage.

Stay tuned – more details coming soon!

# HISTORY – IN SEARCH OF OUR HERITAGE

In this section, we aim to bring you closer to the stories of our ancestors: you'll discover the history of our families, their estates, coats of arms, and the personal tales that have shaped our heritage.

Each newsletter will expand this living treasury with new and fascinating insights – we hope you will read it with joy and curiosity!

## FAMILY

This year, we commemorate the 200th anniversary of the birth of Count Ferenc Szalvátor Zichy of Zich and Vásonkeő.



He was born on September 23, 1825, in Alsópél as the first child of Count László Zichy of Zich and Vásonkeő and Countess Mária Széchényi of Sárvár-Felsővidék.

At the age of 19, he fell in love with Emília Sárközy of Nádasd, the daughter of Deputy Lord Lieutenant Albert Sárközy. However, both families opposed their marriage, which strained his relationship with his mother.

His closest friend and confidant was Gusztáv Visolyi of Pap, who lived on the neighbouring estate in Gyöng. Gusztáv later married Ferenc's sister, Mária.

Heartbroken by his unfulfilled love, Ferenc travelled abroad extensively, often accompanied by his friend Gusztáv.

In 1848, Ferenc volunteered for military service in the Hungarian Revolutionary Army and died in or just before his first battle. His spirited horse – a gift from István Széchényi – broke formation and charged straight into enemy lines, where a single bullet ended his young life.

He was buried with his weapon beside his younger brother Lajos, who had died of scarlet fever at the age of 11, in the crypt of the chapel in Pél.

## COATS OF ARMS

The Zichy of Zich and Vásonkeő Coat of Arms:



The village of Zajk (or Szajk) in Zala County remains in the possession of the Count Zichy family to this day, as does the village of Zich in Somogy County, which is still held by the noble Zichy family of Zich. These two locations gave the Zichy family's founding ancestors their name.

The coat of arms features a blue shield with a pointed base. A silver Greek cross with equal arms rises in its centre, positioned between two stag antlers emerging from a three-pointed golden crown.

Above the shield sits a closed knight's helmet crowned with a count's golden coronet adorned with nine pearls. On top of the helmet, the same antlers and cross from the shield appear.

The mantling is gold and blue on both sides, and the shield is supported on either side by a golden stag standing upright on its hind legs, holding the shield with its front hooves.

## ESTATES

The Zichy-Széchényi Estate of Alsópél

The Alsópél estate was leased to László Zichy by his father in 1824, shortly after his marriage to Mária Széchényi, with the intention of founding a family home there.

The local steward's house was considered ideal for conversion due to its elevated position and sweeping views. By incorporating a neighbouring sheepfold, they created a long, single-storey residence, bisected by a spacious central living room. The level difference between the two original buildings was bridged by a step (between the small salon and the bedroom).

The house in Pél was the first in the region to feature parquet flooring in its rooms.

The young couple designed much of their furniture themselves, combining the popular Biedermeier style with personal taste. Soon, the rooms were filled with generous cherrywood pieces, and striped curtains adorned the windows.

The garden was laid out based on ideas from István Széchényi (Mária's uncle), inspired by the parks he had seen in England. He considered the varied, stream-cut landscape perfect for such a park.

The estate's chapel was also built during this period.

Although the estate later fell into debt due to László Zichy's passion for horse racing, his daughter Mária Zichy revived it, transforming it into an idyllic "paradise" for all who lived there. The 25 years leading up to World War I are often referred to as the "golden age" of Alsópél.

At Christmas in 1948, the estate was permanently taken from the family – as were so many others across Hungary.

Tragically, the house eventually fell into ruin and was completely demolished. However, the chapel was restored by the family in 2012 and continues to preserve the memory of the ancestral estate to this day.



# ANNIVERSARIES

This year, we lovingly and respectfully commemorate the following milestone anniversaries of members of the Zichy family and their descendants:

## Birth Anniversaries

- Ferenc Zichy – 200th anniversary of birth
- Marianne Visolyi – 100th anniversary of birth
- Mária Vértesy – 90th anniversary of birth
- Béla Huszár – 110th anniversary of birth
- Evelyne Somssich – 70th anniversary of birth
- József Visolyi – 70th anniversary of birth
- Rita Szabó – 50th anniversary of birth
- Tamás Stefán – 70th anniversary of birth
- Péter Vértesy – 50th anniversary of birth
- Joyce Viatekunes – 80th anniversary of birth
- Arthur Patay – 80th anniversary of birth
- András Kutasi – 70th anniversary of birth
- Sylvia Wüst – 80th anniversary of birth
- Viktor Sulkowski Jr. – 80th anniversary of birth
- Lynn Scarborough – 80th anniversary of birth
- Katalin Tóth – 50th anniversary of birth
- István Keszei – 50th anniversary of birth
- Erik Somssich – 40th anniversary of birth
- András Domokos – 50th anniversary of birth
- Anna Kaliszky – 20th anniversary of birth
- Kata Bodor – 50th anniversary of birth
- Gábor Takács – 40th anniversary of birth
- Adrienn Horváth – 40th anniversary of birth
- Sándor Szücs – 40th anniversary of birth
- Katalin Nagy – 30th anniversary of birth
- Otilia Makovecz – 40th anniversary of birth
- Erzsébet Sulkowski – 50th anniversary of birth
- Mihály Nényei – 20th anniversary of birth
- Sámuel Papp – 10th anniversary of birth

## Combined Birth and Death Anniversaries

- Béla Huszár – 110th anniversary of birth, 90th anniversary of death

## Death Anniversaries

- Ilona Karátsongyi – 80th anniversary of death
- Leokádia Puchner – 80th anniversary of death
- Aladár Huszár – 80th anniversary of death
- Paulina Szilassy – 50th anniversary of death
- Viktor Sulkowski – 80th anniversary of death
- László Jeszenszky – 110th anniversary of death
- György Somssich – 30th anniversary of death
- Antal Zichy – 10th anniversary of death
- Henriette Wenckheim – 40th anniversary of death
- Jerome Dzierczykray-Morawski – 40th anniversary of death

