

PÉLI ÖRÖKSÉG ALAPÍTVÁNY



NEWSLETTER

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OUR LATEST NEWS

With great enthusiasm and a number of new initiatives, we have launched our foundation's activities.

- In June, as part of a community day, we refurbished several sections of the chapel grounds; the day was marked by a warm atmosphere and a strong sense of community.
- In September, we took a closer look at the life and legacy of Countess Mária Széchenyi; the event was a great success and offered valuable insights for us all.

We thank everyone for their participation and support!

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **2 May 2026**

Our chapel will celebrate its 200th anniversary next year. We wish to mark this special occasion together with our foundation's community of supporters. We are preparing an all-day family celebration featuring a varied programme of cultural and community activities, music, and catering. Further information and the detailed schedule will be published shortly on our online channels.



HISTORY – IN SEARCH OF OUR HERITAGE

FAMILY

This year we commemorate the 80th anniversary of the death of Prince Viktor Sulkowski (Sulkowski).



Born in 1870 at the castle of Bielsko (today Bielsko-Biała, Poland), he belonged to the ducal Sulkowski line of Bielsko; his parents were Ludwik (Lajos) Sulkowski and Maria Antonia Gemperle. He began his military career with the 13th "Jazygier und Kumanier" Hussars; after graduating from the Cavalry Cadet School at Hranice he transferred to the "family" 6th Hussars. In the First World War he served at the front from August 1914, distinguished himself repeatedly for bravery, and on 1 November was promoted to Rittmeister (captain). For his combat merits he received, among others, the Bronze Signum Laudis, the Military Merit Cross, 3rd Class, the Karl Troop Cross, the Order of the Iron Crown, 3rd Class, and the German Iron Cross, 2nd Class. For his wartime service he was also admitted to the Order of Vitéz (receiving the title vitéz). His first wife was Aurelia Braumberger (they lived in Kamáháza/Kamovci); he was widowed in 1912. In 1915 he married Paulina Szilassy, with whom he had three children: Maria Antoinette (1918, Budapest), Alfred Viktor (1919, Debrecen) and Viktor (1921, Budapest). After the First World War he managed the approximately 1,140-hold estate at Gyöng, purchased from the Zichy family, where he died in 1945—his life evokes both the vanishing world of the Monarchy and the realities of the front.

His second wife was Paulina Eszter Ágnes Szilassy of Szilas and Pilis. Her mother was Mária Visolyi of Papi, sister of Ákos Visolyi, and daughter of Gusztáv Visolyi and Countess Mária Zichy, owners of the Pél estate. This year we also mark the 50th anniversary of Paulina's passing.

COATS OF ARMS

Princely Sulkowski coat of arms:

In 1752, when the estate of Bielsko was elevated to a duchy, the family received the princely title together with an augmentation of arms (the so-called Sulkowski II variant). In 1754, the style of Reichsfürst was extended to all descendants.

- Shield: quarterly; in I and IV, Sable a double-headed eagle Or (a Habsburg allusion); in II-III, per pale Argent and Gules two lions combatant, counterchanged (a Bohemian element).
- Inescutcheon: the modified Sulima—per fess Or and Gules; in chief a demi-eagle Sable surmounted by a crancelin Vert in bend (Saxon), in base three stones 2 and 1.
- Crest: a double-headed eagle Or; mantling dexter Sable-Or, sinister Gules-Argent.
- Supporters: two crowned, double-tailed lions Or, their heads turned outward.
- External ornaments: princely mantle and princely coronet/mitre.

ESTATES

Gyöng Visolyi-Sulkowski Castle



In the 1860s, the Visolyi family of Papi built the castle in Gyöng. In 1878, Mária Visolyi of Papi married Aladár Szilassy of Szilas and Pilis and moved into the house. A postcard from the late 19th century refers to the building as the "Szilassy Castle." Their daughter, Paulina Szilassy of Szilas and Pilis, married Viktor Sulkowski, a scion of a Polish ducal family. They moved into the Baroque-style mansion in 1920. The original building was likely remodeled by them into its present form. The family lived in the castle until the 1940s.

Baroque stylistic features are evident both in the exterior appearance and in the internal spatial layout. During the Second World War, the building served as a Russian military hospital, which helped preserve its condition.

The castle has been stripped of its ornaments; the coat of arms was removed from the façade. Nevertheless, together with its well-tended park, it remains one of Gyöng's oldest and most defining buildings—even in its present state.

Since the 1950s, the Hegyhát Integrated Social Institution—an elderly care home—has operated in the castle and the adjacent buildings. Despite exterior refurbishments, the complex has retained the form it acquired during the 1920s remodeling; the internal layout has been preserved, and it has been complemented by more modern structures.

