

TOPONYMIC ANALYSIS OF THE SETTLEMENTS AND STREET NAMES OF MOHÁCS ISLAND

ANALIZA TOPONIMA NASELJA I NAZIVA ULICA MOHÁČKOG OTOKA

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SUMMARY

The Mohács Island is located in the southern part of Hungary near the border with Croatia and Serbia. Due to its location, it was one of the most ethnically diverse areas in the country. In the past, many nationalities inhabited the island, making a significant impact on its geographical names; however, the names of the settlements were not determined by this factor. In the 16th and 17th centuries, the majority of the Hungarian population left the region; in their place, Bosnians, Sokacs, and Serbs arrived. At the beginning of the 18th century, Germanic people also settled in the area. The names of the settlements on Mohács Island have been documented since the Early Middle Ages, allowing them to be easily traced even in the 21st century. Regarding the street names of the settlements, they were not shaped by the ethnicities but rather by the ruling political system of the time.

Key words: Mohács Island, toponymy, settlement names, street names

Ključne riječi: Moháčki otok, toponimija, nazivi naselja, nazivi ulica

INTRODUCTION AND OBJECTIVES

The island is located in southern Hungary, with most of it belonging to Hungary, while the smaller southern part is a disputed territory between Croatia and Serbia. There are currently three settlements with independent administrations on the Hungarian side of Mohács Island, with six additional settlements extending into its outskirts. In the area belonging to the South Slavic states, there are scattered farmsteads. The region has been inhabited since prehistoric times, but it gained significance in ancient times, primarily due to its defensive function. After the major waves of migration, the Hungarians settled on the island for a long time, and most of the geographical names used today are of Hungarian origin. The wars of the early modern period brought significant changes to the ethnic composition of the population, with most of the population leaving the area at that time. When the conflicts ended, not everyone returned, and other ethnic groups moved in to take their place. Croats and Serbs settled from

the Balkans, while Germans settled from the Holy Roman Empire (Herczeg & Moró, 2024). Unlike the geographical names, these people had little influence on the names of settlements and streets.¹

In our study, we aim to examine when and on what basis the settlements and streets of the island were named, as well as what villages once existed in the area under investigation.

LITERATURE REVIEW AND METHODOLOGY

Much of the literature used in the toponymic study of the natural environment of Mohács Island is identical to that used in this research (Herczeg & Moró, 2024). In this study, we also used the toponymic research of Norbert Pap, Máté Kitanics, Mariann Ács, and Péter Reményi on the Mohács Plain, as well as the works of János Pesti on the geographical names of Baranya County. In addition to these, we relied primarily on the work of István Pánya, Gergely Czuczor, János Fogarasi, and Frigyes Pesty (Czuczor & Fogarasi, 1862; Pesty, 1888; Pesti, 1982; Pánya, 2020; Pap et al., 2023).

When describing the historical context, we used Anonymus's *Gesta Hungarorum*, written in 1250, and Dezső Csánki's book, while for historical geographical descriptions, we used the works of György Györffy, Bertalan Andrásfalvy, and Sándor Frisnyák (Anonymus, 1250; Csánki, 1894; Györffy, 1963; Andrásfalvy, 1975; Frisnyák, 1999). In addition, we drew on the detailed historical changes concerning Bács-Bodrog County from the works of Bálint Tóth, Jakab Rapcsányi, and Ferenc Zimmer, as well as László Iván's work, which describes the middle villages of the Southern Great Plain and the Danube Valley (Tóth et al., 1934; Iván, 1994). Among the studies dealing with the history and origin of the names of the settlements on the island, we found the writings of Győző Bezerédy on Dunaszekcső, Nándor Kapocs and Mihály Kőszegi on Szeremle, and Sándor Konkoly on Zsembéc Castle to be particularly helpful (Bezerédy, 1975; Kapocs & Kőszegi, 1980; Konkoly, 2012).

In addition, we processed the documents found in the Hungarian database. The database and gazetteer of the Central Statistical Office provided further important data for our research.

Our primary sources were the Second and Third Military Surveys, the 1865 cadastral mapping, and the 1941, 1950, and 1968 military surveys of Hungary. In addition, we used Lázár's 16th-century depiction, Marsigli's map sections published in 1726, and the maps of Mihály Karpe (1760) and Ignác Müller (1769) for our research. These maps were provided by the Hungarian and Arcanum databases. During our investigations, we used intensive and extensive toponymic analysis methods (Tent, 2015).

THE SETTLEMENTS OF MOHÁCS ISLAND

Settlements are generally classified by type. In the area under study, we can speak of destroyed, temporary, and permanent settlements.

In Hungary, several villages were established during the conquest and the subsequent founding of the state, and the Hungarians further developed the settlements that had been left to them from earlier times. In the storms of history, some of these settlements disappeared, and there are several reasons for their destruction. In the area under study, it was characteristic of the Middle Ages that settlements were depopulated and destroyed due to periodic or permanent threats and attacks. There were also several cases where a village ceased to exist due to some natural disaster. On Mohács Island, it was mainly floods that prevented the population from establishing permanent settlements.

Temporary settlements exist for a "short period of time." Temporality refers to the group's temporary occupation of a specific place in space. The group of permanent settlements includes both isolated and clustered settlements (villages and towns). Those consisting of only a few residential units are called isolated settlements, which are created by some form of economic activity, most often as a result of agricultural production (Pirisi & Trócsányi, 2019). Examples include farms and lodgings, of which there were dozens on Mohács Island until the ice flood of 1956. Following the natural disaster, most residential units were rebuilt in a planned manner, resulting in the establishment of new settlements on the island.

¹ Our study is a revised version of a paper prepared for the National Scientific Student Conference held in 2023.

DESTROYED AND TEMPORARY SETTLEMENTS

The Árpád-era and medieval settlements on Mohács Island were destroyed. Figure 1 clearly shows that in the 14th–16th centuries, settlements were located in the northern part of the island. The southern part was mainly occupied by the outskirts of the surrounding settlements. In the Árpád era and the Middle Ages, these areas were owned by various secular figures and ecclesiastical landowners.

According to sources, several villages existed on the island during the Árpád era; however, due to the limited number of written records, it is challenging to pinpoint each settlement precisely. In the following section, we have compiled information on the owners of the settlements on the island, along with their locations. In addition to these, several other villages were established in the Middle Ages, alongside the settlements mentioned above. Between the 14th and 16th centuries, there were approximately eleven settlements and one praedium on the island of Mohács, namely: Töttös, Lak, Páliport, Felszekcső, Felcsele, Kengy, Szembécs, Pósteleke, Gerebece, Földvár (Mohács Island), Felmohács, and Kis-Mohács.

One of these settlements was Töttös, owned by the Abbey of St. Benedict in Pécsvárad. According to Györffy, it was located south of Felszekcső (Györffy, 1963), while Pány, based on his research, locates it north of this (Pány, 2020). In the 14th century, it was owned by the Herczeg family of Szekcső (Borovszky, 1909). On a map from 1884, northeast of Szekcső, on the island, we can read the name Töttös as the border of the settlement². Based on this, it is likely that Töttös was located north of Felszekcső.

Lak probably spread out to the east of Töttös. The village may have already existed in the 13th century, however it was not mentioned in documents until the 14th century, when it was recorded that in 1320, the sons of Jakab (Finta and Imre) shared the estate, which later became the property of Imre Becsei (Györffy, 1963). In a border dispute written in 1384, it is already described as the property of the abbot of Bátmonostor³.

Páliport was a ferry crossing of the Vajas River north of Bátmonostor. The crossing was donated by King Andrew II to the chapter of Hájszentlőrinc in 1226 (Györffy, 1963). In the 14th century, it belonged to the Töttös family of Bátmonostor (Csánki, 1894). From the 15th century, the ferry crossing was called Vajas (Györffy, 1963), which is the same settlement that Lázár depicted on Mohács Island in the 16th century.

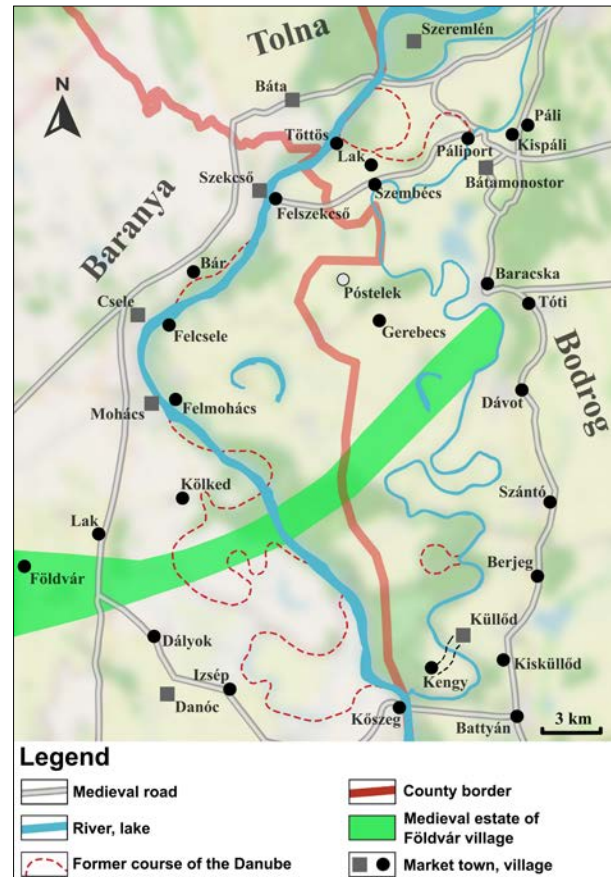


Figure 1: Settlements on Mohács Island in the Middle Ages (14th–16th centuries)

Source: Created by Alexandra Herczeg (2022) using data from Pány (2020) and Györffy (1963). Background: openstreetmap.org

² The Danube between Tolna and Szekcső: lapsz. 5 [TK 1232] –maps.hungaricana.hu/hu/OSZKTerkepetar/1228/view/?bbox=1563%2C-6646%2C2649%2C-6216

³ library.hungaricana.hu/hu/view/MEGY_BACS_bajaidolgozatok_04/?query=Lak%20Bodrug&pg=45&layout=s

Felszekcső was located at what is now Dunafalva. Until the 14th century, this village was also referred to as Szekcső, just like the settlement on the right bank of the Danube. Based on the sources, it can be assumed that St. Stephen donated the area to the chapter of Székesfehérvár (Györffy, 1963).

Felcsele was located on the left bank of the Danube and was part of the estate of the village of Csele, north of Mohács. In 1248, it was already owned by the Bor-Kalán family, and by 1279, it had become the property of the nuns of Nyúlsgiget (Györffy, 1963).

Although Pánya does not mention it in his study, Györffy mentions a village called Kengy, which he places near Bezdán, in the southern part of Mohács Island (now a disputed area between Croatia and Serbia). According to a source from 1198, the Archbishop of Kalocsa transferred the tithes of the village of Kengy (Keud) to the chapter (Györffy, 1963). According to Balla, several Hungarian settlements were established north of Bodrog(vár) in the 13th–14th centuries, including Kengy (Balla, 2004). The name of the settlement lives on in the name of Kengyia Island.

The castle of Zsembécs and the establishment of the estate date back to the Middle Ages. According to a documented source, the castellum built by László Töttös may have already been standing in 1400⁴. According to Györffy, it is located in the middle of the island, in line with the present-day settlement of Nagybaracska (Györffy, 1963). The localisation of Zsembéc was carried out in the early 2010s. The settlement is situated on the right bank of the Baracska Danube, near the Vári-Pusztá hills (Kitanics et al., 2025).

The praedium was called Póstelek, and its name only appears in the description of the border inspection carried out in 1438, which also mentions that it was the property of the Cikádor Abbey⁵. Based on Pánya's map, we can assume that it was located north of today's Sárhát (Pánya, 2020).

Several medieval records can be found about Gerebecs. In the Middle Ages, the area was owned by the Cikádor Abbey⁶. Based on the description of the border demarcation, it bordered the estates of Tóti and Dávot, and Csánki writes that it “*lay in the region of Baracska and Bátmonostor*” (Csánki, 1894). The name of the settlement is of South Slavic origin, derived from the word *greben*, which means “ridge.” This gave rise to the personal name Gerebi(e)cs, which may refer to the ridge of a mountain, in this case the higher terrain. Since the village was located on a flood-free, higher area of the island, the origin of the name can be logically explained.

On Mohács Island, west of Lake Földvár, there was also an estate called Földvár, which once belonged to the manor of the village of Földvár on the Mohács plain (Figure 1) (Pap et al., 2023). In 1327, this area was part of Imre Becsei's estate⁷. A document written in 1344 refers to it as Földvár Hill and mentions it as part of Dávod, which the Herczeg family of Szekcső then owned⁸. The fortification itself and the village associated with it can be dated to the 16th century, as according to one source, it was named Földvár because those fleeing from the Turks built a stronghold here to defend themselves against attacks (Pesti, 1982). The fortification also appears on maps of Baranya County⁹ from the 19th century, and it is depicted as lodging in the Second and Third Military Surveys.

Felmohács was part of the town of Mohács on the island, which was owned by the Bishopric of Pécs. The settlement is first mentioned in a document from 1478 as *Fel Mohach*¹⁰. It also appears on Lázár's 16th-century map, next to the settlement of Vajas, under the name Felmohatz. The settlement is also mentioned in the 1547 tahrir defter, located north of Mohács, “*on the other side of the Danube*” (Vass, 1976). On a map from 1575, the island is called “*Felmohocz ins.*”, meaning Felmohács Island. Based on this, we can assume that the island was named after the aforementioned settlement (Hogen-

⁴ library.hungaricana.hu/hu/view/KozMagyOkmanyarak_Zichy_okmanytar_05/?query=Zembech%201400&pg=180&layout=s

⁵ https://library.hungaricana.hu/hu/view/KozMagyOkmanyarak_Zichy_okmanytar_08/?pg=649&layout=s

⁶ https://library.hungaricana.hu/hu/view/KozMagyOkmanyarak_Zichy_okmanytar_04/?pg=290&layout=s

⁷ https://library.hungaricana.hu/hu/view/BARM_Evk_1976/?pg=374&layout=s

⁸ https://library.hungaricana.hu/hu/view/KozMagyOkmanyarak_anjou_uj_28/?pg=175&layout=s

⁹ <https://maps.hungaricana.hu/hu/OSZKTerkepar/2253/>

¹⁰ <https://archives.hungaricana.hu/hu/charters/208203/?list=eyJxdWVyeSI6ICJGZWxNb2hhY2gifQ>



Figure 2: Kiczin Moacs on Marsigli's map from around 1690
Source: <https://maps.hungaricana.hu/hu/MOLTerkeftar/29267/>

berg, 1575). Maximilian Brandstetter's 1608 depiction¹¹ shows a detail of the island next to Mohács and the Danube, where, in addition to the trees, buildings can also be seen, indicating the presence of a settlement.

During the Turkish rule, these settlements disappeared, became depopulated, or merged with other settlements as their border areas.

According to various written and cartographic sources, there was also a village called Kis-Mohács (Kismohács) on the island; the name's meaning is "Little Mohács." Szita mentions that in the 14th-15th centuries, a settlement named after Mohács already existed, but it became depopulated (presumably the aforementioned Felmoács). In the 17th century, the area was repopulated by Hungarian Reformed Christians from Mohács. At the end of the century, the village and the surrounding area (which at that time consisted of only 23 huts) belonged to Bishop Ferenc Jany of Szerém (Szita, 1976). In 1713, Charles III gifted Kismohács to the bishopric of Pécs. There are several written records and map representations of the settlement's location. According to Horváth, Hungarians settled in the area of today's Sáros dűlő (southwest of Lake Riha). However, Pesti mentions in his monograph that "based on the excavations of Ede Brand, he places Kismohács in the vicinity of Földvár Hill (today: Bács county)." (In our opinion, this refers to the settlement of Földvár on the island) (Pesti, 1982, p. 510). On Marsigli's

Table 1: The origin of the names of medieval settlements on Mohács Island

Settlement name	Meaning of the name
Felcsele	It was named after the village of Csele, located on the right bank of the Danube. Today, the Csele Forest preserves its memory (southern border of Dunafalva).
Felmoács/Kismohács	Named after the town of Mohács.
Felszekcső	Named after the town of Szekcső, it is now known as Dunafalva.
Földvár	According to some sources, there used to be an earthwork fortification and a village adjacent to the lake on the island estate of the village of Földvár in the Mohács Plain.
Gerebecs	Of Slavic origin. A personal name derived from the word Greben.
Lak	Populated place, derived from the Hungarian noun for settlement.
Pálipórt/Vajas	Páli was a crossing point on the Vajas River, which then became independent.
Póstelek	Composition of the personal name as possessor and the word for „plot”.
Szembécs	The Töttös family's castle stood on limestone outcrops. Today it is called Zsembéc. It is of Slavic origin.
Töttös	Family name.

Source: Csánki (1894); Pesti (1982); Konkoly (2012) Pány (2020)

¹¹ <https://mohacsvita.hu/felvetesek-es-valaszok/16-kerdes-4>

map, created around 1690, he indicates a settlement called “*Kiczin Moacs*” on Mohács Island (Marsigli, 1726) (Figure 2). The village is also marked as “*K. Mohács*”¹² on a map of Baranya County from 1769. From the 1750s onwards, the village gradually disappeared and scattered settlements developed in its place (Bezerédy, 1976). Since maps did not yet have a uniform projection system, their depictions are inaccurate, making it difficult to determine the exact location of the settlement based on them; however in our opinion, it may have been located west or southwest of Lake Riha.

The origins of the names of the villages listed above are summarised in the table 1.

The qualifiers “*fel*” and “*kis*” were used in the names of these smaller settlements. The prefix “*fel*” refers to the fact that the settlement was located north of the eponymous settlement (upstream), while “*kis*” refers to its relative size.

ISOLATED SETTLEMENTS

Lodgings and farmsteads are classified as permanent settlements, but they cannot be considered true settlements, as they do not display the functions characteristic of grouped settlements. The names belonging to this category were collected from the map sections of the Second and Third Military Surveys, the 1865 Cadastral Map of the Habsburg Empire, and the 1941 Hungarian military survey map. We also examined the basis on which the lodgings were named and, if their names had changed, what they had been changed to. Additionally, we were curious about the meanings of these names. We classified the names into groups, just as we did with the other geographical names we have examined in a previous study (Herczeg & Moró, 2024).

In the first category we established, the names can be traced back to nearby settlements or other geographical features located at a shorter distance. The estates of the settlements neighbouring the island also extended across the river, and the lodgings that were created were named after these places. Examples include the names of the *Mohácsi*, *Földvári*, and *Darázsi* lodgings (the *Darázsi* lodging only appears in the Second Military Survey, while the other two can be found in the Second and Third Military Surveys and the 1941 Military Survey). Some were named after nearby lakes, islands, or capes: *Riha*, *Kengya*, and *Lök* settlements (*Lök* and *Kengya* settlements were only marked on the map of the Second Military Survey, while *Riha* settlement is also marked on the Second and Third Military Surveys, the 1865 Cadastral Map, and the 1941 Military Survey). There are also some that were named after other geographical features. There may have once been a black-colored shoal (indicating a marsh) on the eastern shore of Lake Riha, which may be the origin of the name *Fekete Zátony-szállás* (Black Reef lodging).

On the map of the Second Military Survey, the name *Kladia-szállás* is visible, while on the Third Military Survey, the name *Kiskladia-szállás* is discernible. It probably got its name from the nearby island of the same name, which refers to a deserted, swampy place. The *Karapánca* settlement was named after the *Karapánca* forest. This name appears on all the maps we examined. It is of Turkish origin and means black claw (Turkish: *kara pençe*). The map section of the Second Military Survey shows the *Konyica* settlement, which was named after the nearby *Konyica Cape* (meaning “horse-pond” or “horse ford”). The name *Livida* settlement originates from the South Slavic word “*livada*,” meaning meadow. This map also shows the *Veliko Duna* settlement, *Veliko-Szelistye*, and *Male-Szelistye*. The names of these places originate from the South Slavic words *veliki* (meaning “big”) and *mali* (meaning “small”), as well as *selišće*, which translates to “*farmstead*” or “*village*”.

The *Hóduna* farmlands are located in the southern part of the island, north of the Croatian-Serbian border. Since the second half of the 20th century, they have belonged to the outskirts of Hercegszántó Island in Bács-Kiskun County, just like the *Budzsák* farmlands. On the map of the Third Military Survey and on earlier maps, the area was called *Debrina-szállás*, and in the 1941 military survey, it was called *Táltos-major*. Sometime in the second half of the 20th century, the place was given the name *Hóduna*. In the map section of the Third Military Survey, southeast of today’s farms, there is a former backwater

¹² <https://maps.hungaricana.hu/hu/OSZKTerkeptar/244/view/?bbox=3213%2C-2732%2C4826%2C-2039>

of the Danube, known as Hó-Duna. Presumably, *hó* is a simplified form of the word *holt* (old Hungarian: *hótt*), which means dead. *Budzsák* is a word of South Slavic origin, meaning a secluded, remote place.

Our second group consists of names derived from plant and animal names, including, for example: *Galónya-*, *Csé(e)be-*, *Csóka-(Magpie)*, *Farkas-(Wolf)* and *Bika-(Bull)* szállások (Second and Third Military Surveys), as well as *Kender-telep*, which appears in the 1941 military survey (Farkas-szállás may also be a personal name, but we classify it in this category). The name *Galónya* is a transformed form of the word *galagonya* (hawthorn), as, according to some assumptions, there used to be a lot of hawthorn and thorny bushes here (Andrásfalvy, 1975). *Csébe* or *csebe* can be traced back to an old Hungarian dialect word, which refers to a shrubby or bushy area (Szinyeyi, 1893). The name *Oraskovici-szállás* originates from the South Slavic word *orah*, meaning “walnut”, and *Oraskovica* means “walnut tree”. The name *Leszkovac-szállás* originates from the word “leskovac,” meaning “hazel tree,” and “*Verban*” comes from the word “*vrba*”, meaning “willow tree”, both of which are of South Slavic origin.

The third category comprises the group of personal names and proper names, which includes the settlements of *Pap*, *Horváth*, *Tatai*, *Gatti*, *Valkai*, *Róna*, *Csatai*, *Varga*, *Németh*, *Sirok*, *Rókus*, *Mojzes*, and *József*. The *Sirok* settlement is of South Slavic origin, meaning “wide”. This name may also have been given after its owner, as during the land distribution after World War II, a landowner named *Sirok* in Nagybaracska was asked to surrender his land (Faludi, 1969). All of the above-mentioned settlements are shown on the 1941 Military Survey map. We also found names of South Slavic origin, such as the *Kovačina (Smith)*, *Damjanović*, *Perovics*, *Gaics (Black)*, and *Gorjancev/Gorjanec* settlements, which were also named after their owners. The name of the *Kalkan* farmstead may originally come from a Turkish word meaning “shield”, which, according to several researchers, may have been named after its former owner (Pesty, 1888; Csáki, 1995). Two more can be found on the map sections of the Second and Third Military Surveys: *Kajtor/Kajtár* and *Dekasy*, later renamed *Panyszik*. These two places are no longer found on subsequent maps, likely because they were destroyed between surveys or became depopulated for some reason.

We also examined the consequences of the devastating ice flood that occurred in 1956 using map and name-based analysis.

We compared the map names from the 1950 and 1968 military surveys in Hungary and conducted several comparative studies. In line with the theme of our study, one of these analyses shows the development of the number of farms and farm groups (Figure 3). A significant decline can be observed between the two surveys, which began in parallel with the restoration work following the natural disaster. At the time, the centralising settlement policy of the political leadership called for the elimination of farmsteads and the concentration of the population in permanent settlements.

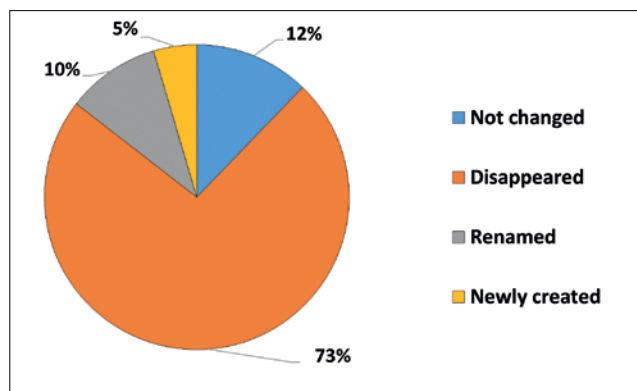


Figure 3: Changes in the names of farms and farm groups based on military surveys conducted in 1950 and 1968

Source: Herczeg Alexandra (2025)

The comparison clearly shows the rapid disappearance of the island’s farmstead system. Based on the geographical names on the maps, 73 % (96) of the farmsteads disappeared, meaning that these economic establishments were destroyed or depopulated between the two surveys. Only 12 % (16) remained unchanged in terms of their names, which clearly illustrates the extent of the transformation that the island’s settlement structure has undergone. A further 10 % (13) of the existing names were renamed, which means that the areas came under new ownership or were transferred to the Collective Farms (TSZ). In addition, 5 %

(6) of the names were newly created. The two surveys reveal Hungarian and South Slavic surnames among the farm names, as well as names related to geographical features, indicating that naming customs have not changed over the centuries.

Based on the results, it can be said that political and administrative decisions accelerated the elimination of farmsteads following the natural disaster. One of the primary goals of socialist Hungary's settlement policy was to concentrate the rural population in centers, which was implemented during the reconstruction of the island.

This process resulted in the disappearance of the centuries-old traditional settlement structure on Mohács Island and the creation of new, centralised settlements (such as Homorúd, Újmohács, and Sárhát) in their place.

GROUPED/NEWLY ESTABLISHED SETTLEMENTS

As mentioned in previous chapters, there were a few settlements on Mohács Island, and there still are today, although new ones were established in the 20th century. In the following, we will discuss the origins of the names of these settlements.

Homorúd, which was declared an independent settlement in 1952, is located southeast of Lake Riha. The village was formed from several groups of farms and lodgings located far from each other: *Riha*, *Csebe*, *Csóka*, *Fekete Zátony*, *Homorut*, *Leszkovác*, and *Balázs*. According to informants, the settlement was built on a ridge that formed on the old floodplain of the Danube, and the inner part of this ridge was hollow. There is another explanation for the origin of its name: the island was flooded several times, which always caused severe damage, so it was called *Nyomorúd* or *Nyomorút*. The name may have originated from a distortion of the Hungarian words “nyomor”, meaning “misery”, and “út”, meaning “road” (Pesti, 1982). We consider the first statement to be more likely to be correct regarding the origin of the settlement's name.

One of the significant changes in the island's life occurred in 1954, when the part of Dunaszekcső on the left bank of the Danube became an independent settlement called Dunafalva. The village belonged to Baranya County until 1996, after which it became part of Bács-Kiskun County. The word “*falva*” in its name refers to the third person singular, meaning “*the village of the Danube*”.

Several parts of the island belong to the administrative area of Mohács: Újmohács and Sárhát. The 1956 ice flood caused enormous damage to Mohács Island, most of the farms and lodgings were washed away by the water. In the spring of 1956, the Council of Ministers ordered the systematic reconstruction of the destroyed farm systems. As the island was not administratively organised, smaller settlement centers were created, one of which was Újmohács. This village is located opposite Mohács, on the left bank of the Danube. We can assume that this is the area where the destroyed settlements of *Fel* and *Kismohács* were once located. The government of the time gave the village the name Újmohács, which belongs to the administrative area of Mohács (Béke és Szabadság, 1956). Its name was derived from Mohács, with the word “*új*” meaning new, indicating that it did not exist previously.

Sárhát is located northeast of Lake Riha and is one of the youngest settlements on the island. Like Újmohács, Sárhát was also rebuilt in a planned manner after the 1956 flood. Before that, houses were built on higher ground, but the flood still washed them away (László, 1968). In its name, the word “*hát*” refers to the upper part of the elevation, while “*sár*” means muddy or marshy.

Püspökpuszta is located on the eastern side of Mohács Island, in the immediate vicinity of Lake Földvár. The area was owned by the Diocese of Pécs and belonged to Mohács, but in 1951 it was annexed to Dávod. Its name derives from the fact that the bishopric had a livestock farm in this area, as in Hungarian, the word “*püspök*” means bishop and “*puszta*” means plain (Magyar Közlöny, 1951; Iván, 1994).

From the end of the 19th century, with the change in the boundaries of Mohács Island, Szeremle became part of the island. In the Middle Ages, it belonged to Bodrog County and was owned by the abbot of Bába. It later became part of Pest-Pilis-Solt-Kiskun County, and subsequently, of Bács-Bodrog County. Since the mid-20th century, it has been part of Bács-Kiskun County. According to Tóth and his colleagues, the geographical location of the village has not been constant over the centuries, as evi-

denced by maps. The first settlement was located slightly north of the present one, which was destroyed after the Battle of Mohács. The inhabitants fled to Pandúr Island and stayed there until 1704. The third settlement was established in the forest near Báticasék, but in 1711 they relocated to Pandúr Island. Due to flooding, they were forced to leave this place as well, and in 1773 the population of Szeremle finally moved to its present location (Tóth et al., 1934). Lázár refers to the village as *Zeremlen* (Lázár, 1528). Karpe Mihály depicts the settlement on Pandúr Island with the inscription *Szeremlye* (Karpe, 1760). Müller already uses the name *Szeremle*, which is still known today, and still places it on Pandúr Island (Müller, 1769). On the map section of the First Military Survey and on maps made after that time, it is already located north of the island.

The name of the settlement has appeared in various forms in documents relating to medieval border disputes, for example, as *Zeremlyan* or *Seremlyen*, but there was also a variant form, *Szeremlyén* (Csánki, 1894; Kapocs & Kőszegi, 1980). Based on the sources, its name is of South Slavic origin, derived from the words *Sremljane* and *Sremljani*, which mean “people from Szerém” in Hungarian (Kniezsa, 1955). Its name therefore probably originates from the fact that its first inhabitants moved there from Szerém.

CHANGES IN THE ISLAND’S STREET NAMES

After analysing the names of lodgings and permanent settlements, we examined the street names on the island. The names and changes in the road network of settlements in the country have provided a picture of the political changes that have occurred in the state’s territory since the second half of the 19th century, as they reflect the directions of change that have also appeared in naming policy. In earlier times, streets were mainly named after their characteristics, the nationalities living there, buildings, or possibly occupations (Szívós, 2019; Pap et al., 2023). As mentioned earlier, until the middle of the 20th century, Mohács Island was primarily home to lodgings, farms, and the outskirts of surrounding settlements, which lacked streets or, if they did exist, were unnamed or not recorded.

According to our research, we can distinguish five separate periods in naming related to politics:

- At the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries, the process of Hungarianization and the names of the royal family, the nobility, and prominent politicians of the time appeared in the names of public spaces.
- The period of the Communist Council Republic in 1919 (this period had no impact on the area under study, as it coincided with the Serbian occupation of our territory).
- In the interwar period, the use of personal names in street names increased. During this period, streets were primarily named after famous figures in Hungarian history, political leaders, and individuals who reflected the prevailing worldviews of the era (Birk, 1996).
- After World War II, Soviet influence appeared, and several public spaces were named after minor and major figures of communism.
- Name changes in the early 1990s and after 2012.

Following the change of regime, two waves of street name changes occurred. In the 1990s, a significant number of names associated with the former communist regime were replaced with new ones, typically those of prominent figures in Hungarian history. The themes of these new names were also grouped around a few specific topics:

- names associated with the Hungarian conquest and the Árpád dynasty;
- names of heroes from the wars against the Turks in the 15th–17th centuries;
- famous figures from the 19th-century reform era;
- names of prominent figures from the 1848–1849 revolution and war of independence;
- famous writers, poets, and artists of the 20th century.

The names found on Mohács Island also belong mainly to these groups. Additionally, some names can be linked to animals or plants. We have categorised the names of the settlements examined according to their origin (Table 2). In contrast to the previous chapters, ethnicity did not play a role in the names here (i.e., we only encounter Hungarian names); instead, it was the prevailing political system that influenced them.

Settlements	Street name categories					
	Historical person	Poet, writer, artist	Animal and plant	Geographical features	Related to socialism	Female name
Dunafalva	Árpád u., Bem u., Dózsa György u., Hunyadi u., Kinizsi Pál u., Kossuth Lajos u., Rákóczi u.	Ady Endre u., Arany János u., József Attila u., Jókai u., Petőfi u., Tompa Mihály u., Vörösmarty u.	-	Alsó Duna sor, Felső Duna sor, Park u.	Ságvári út	Anna u.
Hóduna	-	-	-	Budzsák tanya, Hóduna tanya	-	-
Homorúd	Árpád u., Dózsa u., Kossuth u., Rákóczi u., Táncsics u.	Petőfi u., Zalka Máté u.	Hársfa tér	-	Felszabadulás u., Május 1. u., Sallai Imre u., Szabadság u.	-
Püspökpuszta	Rákóczi Ferenc u.	Erkel Ferenc u., Gárdonyi Géza u., Madách Imre u.	Harcsa u., Kárász u., Keszeg u., Nefelejcs u., Rózsa u., Sugér u., Varsa u., Virág u.	-	Béke tér	-
Sárhát	-	-	Hársfasor u.	Baracscai út, Ipolykőz u.	Tulbanov u.	-
Szeremle	Bercsényi Miklós u., Dózsa György u., Hunyadi János u., Kinizsi Pál u., Kossuth Lajos u., Rákóczi Ferenc u., Széchenyi István u., Táncsics Mihály u., Wessekényi Miklós u., Zrínyi Miklós u.	Ady Endre u., József Attila u., Móricz Zsigmond u., Petőfi Sándor u., Radnóti Miklós u.	Rózsa u.	Dunaszél u., Határ u., Mező u.	Békesor u., Köztársaság u., Ságvári Endre u.	-
Újmohács	II. Rákóczi Ferenc u.	Horváth Sándor u., Radnóti Miklós u.	Csillagvirág u., Fenyő u.	Alsókanda dűlő, Felsőkanda dűlő, Malomvölgyi út, Pataksor u., Papkert dűlő, Sáros dűlő, Szegedi út, Sziget u., Zátony u.	Úttörő u.	-

Table 2: Some of the street names on Mohács Island, categorised (2024)

Source: Our findings using Google Maps

The most notable historical figures in the group are *Árpád*, *Ferenc Rákóczi II*, *Lajos Kossuth*, and *György Dózsa*. These historical figures have become symbols of the Hungarian nation through their deeds throughout history. In the category of poets, writers, and artists, the name *Sándor Petőfi* appears most frequently, and we find it in the following settlements: Dunafalva, Homorúd, and Szeremle. In addition, the names *Miklós Radnóti*, *Attila József*, and *Endre Ady* appear in several other settlements. However, we did not find a direct connection between these names and Mohács Island; it is much more likely that, as with the names of historical figures, their inclusion here symbolises Hungarian identity and national unity.

Among the animals and plants, the names of *hársfa* (*linden*), *nyár* (*poplar*), *nefelejcs* (*forget-me-not*), *fenyő* (*pine*), *rózsa* (*rose*), and *napraforgó* (*sunflower*) appear, while among the animals, without exception, only the names of fish species appear: *compó* (*tench*), *csuka* (*pike*), *harcsa* (*catfish*), *sügér* (*perch*), *kárász* (*crucian carp*), and *keszeg* (*breem*). These are politically neutral in content, but are logically related to the “island lifestyle”. The name *varsa*, which is a fishing tool, also appears. Activities carried out on the Danube and on the island (e.g., fishing, cooking fish dishes) have played a vital role in the identity of the people of Mohács for centuries.

The group related to geographical features includes names that can be linked to some natural geographical phenomenon or cultural landscape element. These include, for example, *Sziget Street* (*island*), *Zátony Street* (*reef*), *Gát Street* (*dam*), *Mező Street* (*meadow*), *Dunaszél Street* (*Danube side*), and *Felső- and Alsó Duna Street* (*upper and lower*). As mentioned earlier, names like these were often used during regime changes to replace symbols of the previous system. These names do not carry any political connotations, making them suitable for any era (Birk, 1996).

Names evoking memories of socialism are a much more interesting category, as there were two periods of name changes in the country after the regime change, during which names associated with socialism were replaced, most recently in 2012. One example is the case of Homorúd on the island, where four street names were changed: Felszabadulás street became Árok street, Ságvári¹³ street

¹³ Endre Ságvári (1913-1944): Hungarian lawyer, member of the Hungarian Social Democratic Party in 1936, member of communist and anti-fascist movements in Budapest in the 1930s and 1940s. On July 27, 1944,

became Gát street, Sallai street became Mező street, and Zalka Máté¹⁴ street became Szállás street. In this case, the renaming process resulted in names with neutral meanings that cannot be linked to any ideology or ruling political system. At the same time, there are names from this group that have survived to this day. These include Május 1. Street in Homorúd, Úttörő Street in Újmohács, Békesor Street in Szeremle, and Tulbanov Street in Sárhát. The latter, named after Pyotr A. Tulbanov, was preserved because he risked his life to rescue several people during the devastating floods of 1956 in Nagybaracska and drowned in the water. The street was named after him in his honor (Pesti, 1982). Despite his Russian origins, the street name commemorating his human sacrifice was thus preserved.

In addition to the memories of the socialist era, another interesting fact is that the only street named after a woman, Anna Street, is located in Dunafalva. This is remarkable because female names are rarely found in geographical names, and those that do are typically associated with saints or aristocrats; however, this is not the case here. This street was created after the ice flood of 1956, and according to local sources, Anna Baráth was the first resident of the street, which is why it was named after her¹⁵.

During our research, we found that different online map services, specifically Google Maps and OpenStreetMap, display different names for public spaces. While the former service still shows the status quo prior to 2012 in most cases, the latter already shows the renamed public spaces.

CONCLUSION

Mohács Island became more populated after the Hungarian conquest, so the ancient names of the settlements reflect the Hungarian language. The vast majority of settlements established during the Árpád era and the Middle Ages were destroyed or depopulated for various reasons (e.g., floods or war). From the time of the Turkish occupation, South Slavs gradually moved into the area and transformed the names of existing and destroyed settlements into their own language. Among the aforementioned settlements, some were repopulated at certain intervals throughout history, and their ethnic composition changed continuously. Examples include Felszekecső (Dunafalva) and Fel/Kis/Újmohács.

In addition to permanent settlements, isolated settlements (lodgings, farms) were most characteristic of the island. We classified the names of the lodgings into three main categories, within which we observed South Slavic, Hungarian, and, to a lesser extent, German and Turkish linguistic influences based on maps dating from the 18th century. At the same time, most of them were named after their owners, who had Hungarian and South Slavic surnames.

During the resettlement period following the expulsion of the Ottoman Empire in the 18th and 19th centuries, Germanization processes were characteristic of the country. However, they did not have a significant impact on the region. At the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries, Hungarian ethnic homogenization efforts began, the effects of which were fully realised by the middle of the 20th century, by which time all geographical names had been Hungarianized. From the 1950s onwards, mainly after the destruction caused by the 1956 ice flood, the farmstead system was abolished in the area under study, and permanent settlements were established on the island, which became new, planned settlements, thus giving rise to new place names. Subsequently, significant changes in street names can be observed, influenced by the communist, anti-fascist politics of the 20th century. After the change of regime, the names associated with this era largely disappeared. Instead, ideologically neutral street names appeared, mostly using the names of important Hungarian historical figures or plants and animals. There are still

he wounded three gendarmes in a shootout at the Nagy Cukrászda in Budakeszi, and he himself suffered serious injuries that led to his death (Svéd, 2008).

¹⁴ Máté Zalka (1896-1937): writer and soldier of Hungarian origin, taken prisoner by the Russians during World War I, escaped and joined the Red Army, and became a member of the Communist Party of Russia in 1920. In 1936, under the name General Pál Lukács, he voluntarily joined the anti-fascist movement in Spain. He died in 1937 in the battles near Huesca. He wrote his published works in Moscow, focusing primarily on World War I and the Russian Civil War (Kenyeres, 1969).

¹⁵ The information was provided by the Dunafalva Local Government.

street names on the island that refer to the socialist period, but these have their own history as to why they were not renamed.

During our analysis of geographical names, we found few female names. Apart from the islands of Szent-Brigitta, Margitta, and Gabriella, there is only one street in Dunafalva that bears a female name: Anna Street.

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SAŽETAK

Moháčki otok nalazi se u južnom dijelu Mađarske, u blizini granice s Hrvatskom i Srbijom. Zbog svoga položaja bio je jedno od etnički najraznolikijih područja u zemlji. U prošlosti su otok nastanjivale brojne narodnosti, što je ostavilo značajan trag u njegovu toponimiju; međutim, nazivi naselja nisu bili presudno oblikovani tim čimbenikom. U 16. i 17. stoljeću većina mađarskog stanovništva napustila je to područje, a na njihovo mjesto doselili su se Bošnjaci, Slovaci i Srbi. Početkom 18. stoljeća na područje su se doselili i pripadnici germanskih skupina. Nazivi naselja na Moháčkom otoku dokumentirani su još od ranoga srednjeg vijeka, što omogućuje njihovo relativno jednostavno praćenje i u 21. stoljeću. Kada je riječ o nazivima ulica u naseljima, njihovo oblikovanje nije bilo uvjetovano etničkim sastavom stanovništva, nego prije svega vladajućim političkim sustavom određenoga razdoblja.