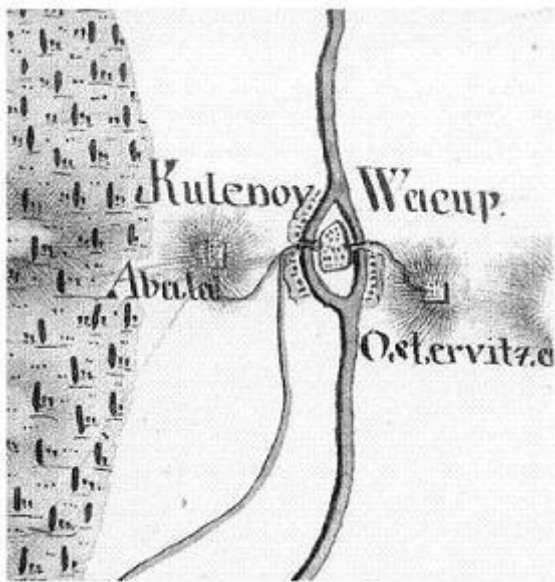


HAVALA - Fortress and the cemetery of Kulenovic beys

At the right shore of the river Una, through a paved way to Kulen Vakuf, one can by foot in ten minutes arrive at village Havala, that lays at a hill with the same name. Until the last war the village, together with Havalski Cojluci, had around 30 houses. The walls from the old turkish fortress here are 300 years old. The fortress was according to the stories built during the sultan Ahmed III's time when the Ottoman empire also built many other smaller fortresses in Krajina because of the fear that Ugar people may try to take them over. The walls are as thick as one meter and high up to five meters. Above the entrance to the fortress lay a mosque and you can still see its mihrab^[1] above the entrance. On the left wall there were two towers. The fortress itself was 15 meters wide and 30 meters long.

Together with Kulen Vakuf, Ostrovica and Havala was strategically very important due to the merchandise road and the crossing over the river Una as well as the road towards Lika, Dalmatia and other parts of Europe. Dizdar from the Kulenovic family ran the fortress, and their houses were also placed inside the fortress.



Close to Havala fortress there was also a cemetery for the beys where all the members of the Kulenovic family that were, during that period, the Captains of the nearby fortresses. The cemeteries are in a bad condition today and need to be conserved, but on the remaining parts one can see results of flourishing imagination, with lots of details, flower patterns, religious symbols, and traditional Turkish sabers and turbans at the top of the male gravestones.

The cemeteries were built like big sarcophagus with two gravestones. Sarcophagus was about 150 cm tall and the gravestones were about a meter. The letters on the gravestones were Arabic but the language used was Turkish. The main building material was the stone, but the stone used was one that could easily be processed but was at the same time resistant to the weather conditions, as even today we can still see many details on them without anybody taking care of them.

Close to the cemetery is the mausoleum of the Dizdar Smail-beg Kulenovic from Havala (the son of the famous Ostrovica captain Mahmut Pasha Kulenovic) who died on a mount Covki above Kulen Vakuf during a fight with an outlaw. The mausoleum was destroyed during the Second World War. From what is left, one can see that this mausoleum was built on 6 pillars, about 3 meters high.

^[1] Mihrab - a niche in the wall of a mosque that indicates the qibla, that is, the direction of the Kaaba in Mecca

PHOTO:

Fragments from the tombstones family Kulenovic at the Havala.



[2]



[3]



[4]



[5]



[6]



[7]



<http://almirhrajic.wordpress.com>