



The town of STARÁ TURÁ



Brief cultural and historical guide
or
a short journey through long centuries



STARÁ TURÁ



Stará Turá was awarded the status of town in September 1964. The town coat of arms was approved in December 1988. The population was 9698 to the date 1.1.2009. The flag has been used since March 1992 and insignia - gilt coat of arms with a chain since June 2000. The cadastral area of the town of Stará Turá is situated in the northeastern part of the Myjavská pahorkatina Hills. The cadastre stretches in the north-south direction in the length of approx. 11 km, while its max. width in the east-west direction is 6 km. Mathematical-geographical position of the cadastre can be marked off by the coordinates of 48°51' and 48°45' north latitude in the north-south direction and of 17°37' and 17°44' east longitude. in the east-west direction.

STARÁ TURÁ

Stará Turá is first referred to in the year 1392 when it is mentioned in the deed of gift of King Zigmund as the community belonging to the Cachtice Castle, which at that time was owned by Ctibor of Ctiborice and Beckov. Stará Turá was a part of Cachtice estate till the end of feudalism in the Hungarian Empire. The development of Stará Turá, however, started only in 1467 when King Matthew I raised it to the level of a small town (oppidum) for having caught Ján Švehla, the captain of the Brethren soldiers. On the basis of the Matthew's privilege the inhabitants of Stará Turá were exempted from the toll, taxation, and other duties to the royal treasury. The privileges, which helped to develop the business and trade activities of the town, were several times confirmed by other Hungarian rulers. In the surroundings of Stará Turá were bred a lot of cows whose milk was used for the production of melted butter. The inhabitants of Stará Turá became famous as the first founders of "bryndza" plants in Slovakia (bryndza - specially processed ewe's milk cheese). When the infertile soil, particularly on the cleared land, could not provide a living for all of them, they saw their opportunity in the production and sale of home-made wooden utensils.



Stará Turá took an important part in the Slovak National Uprising. Tragic events of the WWII marked mainly the isolated settlements of Hlavina and Nárcie.

The surroundings of Stará Turá offer rich possibilities for active use of spare time and for relax. There are a lot of hiking and cycling routes which bring the tourists to the places of natural and cultural interests: Veľká Javorína (970 m above sea level), Plešivec (484 m), (Inovec (1042 m), castles Čachtice, Beckov and Tematín. In the holiday resort called Dubník with a water reservoir with accomodation and catering services you can relax and enjoy fishing and water sports.

For those interested, INFOTUR, Town Information Office, has prepared a short journey through the past and present of Stará Turá. The said trip will take you from the Old Tower at the Town Cemetery through M.R.Štefánika street and SNP street, further along Hurbanova street and Družstevná street and it ends in the local part of Topolecká. The monuments and objects which can still be seen are marked with numbers. Those which do not exist any more are marked with letters.

So set off on a journey with us. We wish you a good time and if you would like to know more, please feel free to visit our office. You are welcome.

Sights and other places of interest

And in the lovely framing there lies a townlet quiet, above it two towers of churches as shepherds over the stock. On the hills - cemeteries - communities of the dead, silent, mute - on one of them stands an ancient witness of the Reformation: old, solemn, shabby it guards the bones of grandfathers, who used to pray beneath it, sing and honour the God; remains of a small church, called "old tower".
(Ján Rataj: Tabita, 1947)



1) Town Cemetery II Old Tower called Hussite

The oldest preserved building in the town is an old tower called Hussite situated at the Town Cemetery II. It is a square, three-floor stone building.

According To the regional historian Dr. Branislav Varsík it was added to the stone Holy Trinity Church from 1569 in the 17th century (1624). In the parish register from 1692 it is noted that the church of the community of Stará Turá has a church built on a hill above the town, made of stone, the building has an arch-shaped sacristy, one altar with the picture of the Holy Trinity and other two altars without pictures, a wooden choir and pews; there is also a tower and enclosed graveyard belonging to the church. According to other records also a vicarage and a school belonged to the church. These were situated at the beginning of the stairs which used to lead to the old tower. The Holy Trinity Church was burnt down in 1770 and has not been renovated since then. The tower has undergone several reconstructions, in 1975-78 it was secured from the static point of view, it was covered with copper roof and the exterior was painted. Legends say about the Hussite tower, however, this has never been proven. Nearby the old tower are the tombs of the Roys, an important patriotic family: Kristína Royová (1860-1936), her sister Mária (1858-1924), their parents: August Roy (1822-1884) - patriot, Františka, née Holuby (1833-1916); in addition, there are also the graves of the deaconesses who worked in the charity institutions in Stará Turá.

Symbolic Grave of J.M.Kirchhoff

On 20. 11. 1944 an American airplane crashed in the sparsely populated area of the community of Krajné near the town of Myjava. One of the members of the crew, J.M. Kirchhoff, was given a shelter by a teacher from Stará Turá, Stanislav Hlubocký, at that time he was already hiding his seriously ill brother-in-law, a partisan Ondrej Chorvát. Mrs Hlubocká writes in her letter of 26. 6. 1946 to the Kirchoff's family: "James has told us that the engine caught fire. 10 American soldiers had to make a parachute jump. One of the soldiers was killed, one was caught by Gestapo and eight were rescued by partisans. James fell far from the others and was rescued by a young partisan, who worked with my brother Ondrej Chorvát. The young partisan was Pavel Haruštiak. He brought James to the house in Podkozince, a local part of the community of Lubina, gave him a national costume with an embroidered shirt so as not to differ from others. When Pavel was afraid of being caught, he took James to the hamlet of Súš to Martin Kýška." From Súš James was taken to the family of the teacher Stanislav Hlubocký. There the tragedy not only of James but the whole Hlubocký family was rounded off. They were found (probably based on denouncement) at Hlubocký's by Gestapo and dragged away. After the war their bodies were found in the mass grave on Brezina near the town of Trenčín. J.M.Kirchhoff was temporarily buried at the cemetery in Stará Turá and a year later his mortal remains were transported to Washington by American soldiers. His symbolic grave has remained at our place.



2) House of Culture Javorina



It was ceremonially opened in 31. 8. 1962, then it served as a culture facility of Precious Mechanics, the predecessor of later company Chirana. On the travertine facade there are two sandstone reliefs representing Music and Work by B.Klouzek from 1961. The premises of the House of Culture accommodate also the town library named after Kristína Royová, town museum, auditorium with a stage which is also used as a cinema. The House of Culture creates opportunities for amateur clubs and organizes various courses and tours to attend cultural events in other towns.

3) Town Museum

It is situated in the House of Culture Javorina. Among the oldest exhibits in the museum there are the fossils of sea animals from the Mesozoic period, rare are also vessels and an axe from the Stone Age as well as a skeleton of aurochs. There are also photocopies of royal deeds, town seal, halberd, paper produced in a local paper mill, wooden utensils, exhibits from the 1848 revolution, WWI, construction of the railway, extensive documentation from the period of the Slovak National Uprising, period photos. Separate part is dedicated to the exposition of the products of former Chirana company.



4) Stone Cross in the hamlet of U Samkov

A stone cross from 1860 is preserved in the hamlet of U Samkov. It is said that it was built in memory of the fact that in the 19th century infectious diseases ceased to spread.

5) The Home of White Heads

Kristína Royová writes in *Večernica /Evening Star/* magazine the following: "Two ideals have been accompanying me through all my long life. The first was to do good for abandoned children, the second to sweeten the last days for abandoned old people. If it is nice to build a protective roof over small and weak children's heads, to strengthen them for lifelong work and fight, still it is the most festive to open home for the old, where they could die peacefully and leave for a new life nicely. And when we were able to build the "Cottage" for rosy-cheeked spring, then we will also build the "Home" for silver-haired



As the name almhouse sounded rather cold to Kristína Royová, she chose different one "The Home of White Heads". The building was built in 1932-1933 by the builder Růžička from Brno (The Czech Republic). On the wall there was an inscription: "If you belief, you will see the glory of God!" The Home was opened on 1 May 1933. More than 2000 people took part in the celebration. On the second day of May 1933 Kristína Royová came to live in the Home and there she also died on 27. 12. 1936.



6) Former Junior Secondary School of T.G. Masaryk



It is situated on SNP street at the place where originally stood the building of the municipal inn. The drawings for the school were made by the architect Pinkas. On date 23. 9. 1921 the president of the republic, T.G. Masaryk, travelled through Stará Turá to Bradlo monument. He gave his consent to the new town school bearing his name. It was opened on 17 September 1922 and on that occasion the bronze bust of the president was unveiled ceremonially. The name Masaryk's State Junior Secondary School could be found on the facade of the building until the year 1948.



7) The Building of the Former Credit Association

In 1902 Stará Turá's Credit Association was established. The commemorative plaque on the house No. 72 on SNP street informs us that after thirty years of activity the Credit Association moved to newly-built building in 1934.

After events in February 1948 all credit associations were incorporated by law into the State Savings Bank. The building of the former bank with characteristic symbol of bees bringing honey to the hive can be seen even at present.



8) Stone Bridge in front of the Roman-Catholic Church

Ancient bridges represent an important group of technical sights. In the year 1810 under the mayor Ján Horák two wooden bridges were built in the community, one of which in front of the church (at the place of the present stone bridge).



9) The Roman-Catholic Church of the Assumption of the Virgin

The foundation stone of the church was laid in 1748. The church is built in Baroque style. The main altar is formed by a stucco pillar construction with a canopy and Rococo ornaments. Under the vault is the allegory of the Holy Trinity with clouds and angels. On the sides are wooden life-sized statues of St Peter and Paul. In the middle is the picture of the Assumption of the Virgin bought in Vienna in 1761. It is a replica of marble relief by the famous Tuscan artist Lorenzo Bernini. The side altars with the pictures of St John of Nepomuk and St Joseph date also to the 18th century. In the front is a 30-metre high tower finished with a baroque copper dome-shaped roof with a two-armed cross. The southern part of the facade above the apse is decorated with a sundial. In the churchyard there are sandstone statues of saints: the statue of St John of Nepomuk from the 18th century, sculpture of St John and Paul on a high column with a latin text with chronogram 1756, statue of Virgin Mary from 1867 and statue of St Florian from 1867.

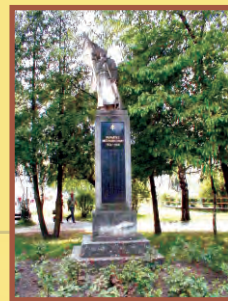


10) The Pillory

It is situated in the churchyard in front of the R.-C. Church. In his book *Pillories in Slovakia* (1937) Mr Richard Horna writes: "Stará Turá has a well-preserved pillory made of stone. It is a very nice piece of work from the second half of the 18th century as shown by vertical silhouette and decorative detail on the shank of its square pillar. Although the sockle is simple, it is rather high and the illusion is increased by two steps (one step was removed in moving the pillor to the present location) on which the pillory is rested. It is finished with a slender stone pyramid."

11) Memorial to the Fallen in WWI

The memorial is situated on Námestie slobody square in front of the Roman-Catholic Church and is made of sandstone, the plaques with the names of the fallen are made of Swedish granite. There are 191 names carved into it of those killed in the war. The memorial was unveiled on 4. 5. 1934. The statue of the soldier was created by the national artist Fraňo Štefunko, who attended the School of Art of Carving in Stará Turá during the years of 1922-1924.



12) Former Roman-Catholic School

Two-floor three-class building on Námestie slobody square (near the R.-C. Church) was built in 1861 by the builder Martin Lisal, who originally came from Uherský Brod in Moravia. Children were taught there until the WWII. After reconstruction in 1960s it served its purpose as state school until 1994, later there was the town museum. In 1994 the building was returned to its original owner, the roman-catholic church, within restitution and the museum was transferred.

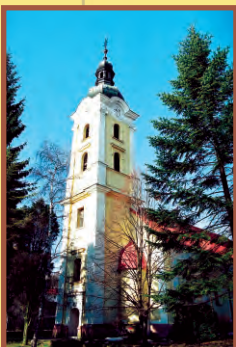


13) Memorial to the Liberators

The memorial to the liberators on Námestie slobody square is the work of the sculptor, graduate of the Academy of Art, Rudolf Pribiš from 1979.

14) Toleration Evangelic Church

The foundation stone was laid in 1784 and the construction was finished within 17 weeks. The church is built and modified in Classicist style with some Baroque elements. Originally, the church was without the tower which was added only in 1798 and overbuilt in 1897. The church has galleries with metal railings along its three sides. The massive pews are made of oak. The sacristy is made of bricks. The painted altar is wooden, with statues of Moses and Aron. The altar enclosure is hand-made metal with wrought rosettes. The stone Rococco baptismal font standing on a triple volute leg is probably from the 18th century. The organ by master Šaška from Brezová made in 1873 is alisted Monument. The pulpit, Baptismal font And altar were restored in 1999.



15) Fountain

The adaptation of the area in front of the evangelic church was proposed by the architects P. Zibrin and J. Dvorský. The work began in 1998. The adaptation included also the making of use of an old well which at that time had been out of order for many years. Based on the well the architect K. Božek drew the fountain which is formed by a body made of granite and decorative metal lattice. The fountain diameter is 3.2 m. The small green with the fountain on Námestie sestier Royových square was given for public use on 30. 4. 2000.



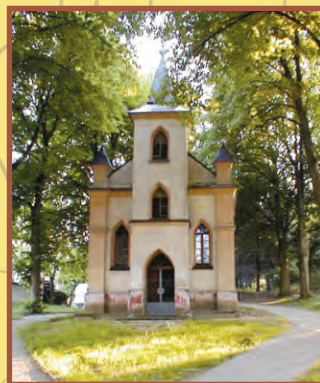
16) Former Evangelic School - Commemorative Room to Kristína Royová

It is situated on Hurbanova street near the evangelic rectory. The original evangelic school was built in 1787 from dobe material and was burnt down later. In records from 1854 the dean Trokan thanked the inhabitants of Stará Turá for building a new school. It is a two-storeyed building from hard material. It had two classes, flat for the schoolmaster and flats for the teachers of small children on the ground floor. The school records are kept in the Slovak language, in spite of the fact that then the official language was Hungarian. The school ceased to exist in 1923. At present it accomodates The Commemorative room to Kristína Royová. In 1903 a separate one-class building was built for small children, now the house of prayer.



17) Town Cemetery I

The cemetery was established on 15. 10. 1787. The avenue of linden trees to the chapel was planted in 1898, the other linden avenue was planted in 1941. Originally, there were three central stone crosses which back up the foundation and extension of the cemetery: 1787, 1846, 1902. The last one fell down due to a landslide.



The Calvary and the Chapel of the Holy Cross

The Calvary and the Chapel were built in 1863 to celebrate the millennium of the arrival of St Cyril and Method to the Great Moravian Empire. The chapel is one-naved Neo-Gothic building. The facades with arched windows are divided by the robust pilasters finished with small towers. The furnishing was paid by the three Vagač brothers - producers of bryndza cheese. In the interior there is a simple wooden altar table with a wooden tabernacle. Above the altar hangs the picture of the Crucifixion, probably from the turn of the 19th and the 20th century. Placed on the inside wall of the chapel is the commemorative plaque to the founder - the burgher Michal Valovič who contributed with the sum of 500 gold coins to the construction of the chapel. According to a preserved deed in 1855 Esztergom archbishop gave him in return a relic case which is now in the chapel. The Stations of the Cross are in the shape of a small column with a sockle and a moulding bearing a tent-like roof. In the front shallow niche are cast-iron chromium-plated reliefs. The Calvary and the Chapel of The Holy Cross were designed and built by the builder Martin Lisal. Behind the chapel is so-called Lourdes cave with the statue of the Virgin Mary.



Tombs of the Families of Bryndza Cheese Producers from Stará Turá

The motto of Ján Vagač, the founder of bryndza plant in Detva (1787), "Honesty is the best policy" was loyally guarded by his son Ján Vagač (1783-1856), his grandsons: Martin (1808-1878), Alexander (1821-1894) and Štefan (1828-1903), further Martin's son Michal (1844-1905) and Alexander's son Martin (1850-1933), later then Michal's son Alexander (1879-1934) and finally Alexander's son Štefan (1905 - 1991). There are also the graves of Juraj Vallo (1819-1901), the founder of bryndza plant in Zvolen, and his son Ján Nepomucký Alexander Wallo (1869-1959) - inspector of bryndza plants.

Memorial to the Romanian Soldiers

Next to the Memorial there are also the graves of 36 Romanian soldiers who died in the liberation of the town at the end of the Second World War. The whole complex was restored in 1995 on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the end of WWII.



18) Former Municipal House

The building was probably built at the beginning of the 18th century. From 1715 there was a branch of the Nové Mesto's tithe office in it. Later, military hospital and barracks were placed in the house. In 1772 the community of Stará Turá bought the frontier barracks and adjacent premises and converted them into office rooms. From that year the administration of the community was executed here and the building started to be called the Municipal House. From 1889 one room was the seat of the first cooperative saving company in Stará Turá, the "Pomocná pokladnica (Co-assistance Thrift)" established in 1871 by the r.c. chaplain A. Pulman. and evangelic parish priest A. Roy. In 1942 the building of "regal" - the former brewery - was pulled down and a new Town Hall (the present Municipal Office) was built instead of it, the old building ceased to be used for the administration purposes of the community. In 1949 Angora, company which processed the wool of angora rabbits, moved there. The building of the former Municipal House was declared a cultural monument on 13. 8. 1985, in 1995 the roof was reconstructed from the PRO SLOVAKIA fund. It is closed for public.





19) The House "On the cellar"

To the building of the one-time municipal brewery there belonged also about one hundred metres far cellar with cross-shaped ground plan. The cellar stood by the mill which was used for grinding the barley. The mill-race flowing above the cellar created cold environment in it, needed for the proper fermentation and maturation of beer. The house on Ul.Podjavorinskej street, which is still called "On the cellar" (which is a distortion from "the house with a cellar underneath"), was pulled down because of bad condition and at its place a new building was built in the original style. The cellars have been preserved and they can be seen upon request.

20) The Chapel of the Church of Brothers

The Chapel built in contemporary style was consecrated in August 1984. The ground plan of the building has the shape of an orthogonal equilateral triangle with 52 m hypotenuse. It has neither a tower nor bells. The pews in the main assembly hall are arranged in a semicircle. A simple cross, again in a semicircle niche, stands on the site of the altar. In front of the cross is a platform with a round-shaped masonry pulpit and a table to officiate sacraments. Under the platform is a covered font - a small pool for christening the adults. The ceiling above the pulpit has an annulus-shaped opening that admits day light into the room.



21) Memorial to the Slovak National Uprising in Nárčie

Nárčie - a hamlet that was burnt down during the Uprising. Standing here in commemoration of the event is a pylon with the following inscription in both Slovak and Russian languages:

" At this place during the SNP in 1945 German invaders burned nine partisans to death.

Slovak, Russian and Polish men laid down their lives for a new, better life. He who falls in the battle for his motherland does not die. "

At the places of houses that were burnt down are small stone monuments with plaques and names of those who lived in the houses.



22) Memorial to the Slovak National Uprising in Hlavina

On the memorial there is the following inscription:

"At this place

Kostelný Martin (62), his son Kostelný Pavel (28) and Medňanský Michal were killed on 3 March 1945 by fascists for the help they gave to partisans. To the honour of their memory!"



23) Bunker at the Vetešov Jarok Brook



The fighting between the partisans and the fascists in our region culminated in the battle of Cetuna on 27. 2. 1945. Eighteen partisans were killed, among them also the commander Miloš Uher and his deputy Anton Jakubík. Many of them were injured. Those with minor injuries were sent home, others needed to be hidden. Men from Topolecká and Súš came for the injured with carts and horses and said that the partisan bunker past the hamlet of Narcie was disclosed. However, the men knew that young

men from Topolecká had dug their own bunker to find a shelter against fascists in Vetešov jarok brook and that they would be willing to share it with injured partisans. The bunker became temporary partisan "hospital". In spite of very hard conditions, when there was virtually no instrumentation available and there were also difficulties with supplying the bunker with basic medical material and with food, almost all survived mainly due to the devoted care of their physician L. Minárik. In 1996 the local group of young tourists took the bunker into their care.

Commemorative Plaques

Commemorative plaque to the Staroturanský úverný spolok (Stará Turá's Credit Association), established in 1902,

on the building at No. 72 SNP street. **Commemorative plaque**

to the literary and charity workers **Mária and Kristína Roys** was unveiled on their parental home - the Evangelic rectory, on

Hurbanova street, in June 1969. It is a work of art of Jaroslava

Fabriciová-Đurišková. **Commemorative plaque to Ján Slezák**

on the building of the Municipal Office, unveiled on 18. 4. 1996.

Born in Stará Turá, he went to USA when he was young. He was

an industrialist, diplomat, bearer of high American awards. He is

buried at the Arlington military cemetery in Washington.

Commemorative plaque to the memory of partisans' raid

on the German garrison on the building of the former junior

secondary school on SNP street. There is also the

Commemorative plaque to the memory of teachers

tortured to death Stanislav Hlubocký and Ondrej Chorvát.

Commemorative plaque with the relief of the Commander I.D. Dibrov in the

small parkland opposite the LIPA Hotel was unveiled on 25. 8. 1996, on the occasion of

the 52th anniversary of the Slovak National Uprising. **Commemorative plaque to the**

fighters in the Slovak National Uprising on the ground floor of the House of State

Administration on Družstevná street. **Commemorative plaque, Grúnka**, to the

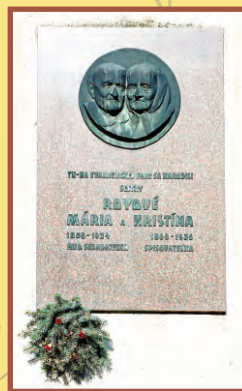
memory of the inhabitants of hamlets and isolated settlements for the help they gave to

partisans. **Commemorative plaque, Námestie slobody square**, in memory of the

liberation of Stará Turá. **Commemorative plaque is for remembrance of holocaust**

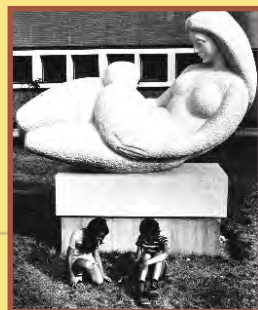
on the Námestie slobody square. **Commemorative plaque of Márii Rafayovej** is

situated on the ex-building The House of White Heads.



Small Works of Art

Large-area wall ceramic mosaic (1969) with abstract motif on a building in the industrial area Chirana on nám. Dr. A. Schweitzera square by the painter Miloš Šimurda (1924), graduate of the Academy of Art. He belongs to the foremost representational painters of the 1960s and 70s. Stone sculpture with the motif of motherhood near the health centre on Mýtna street by the sculptor Vladimír Farár (1935), graduate of the Academy of Art. Situated in the small parkland in front of the health centre on Mýtna street is a constructivist-kinetic object by the painter Rudolf Moška (1926,), graduate of the Academy of Art. At the corner of Mýtna and SNP streets is a double-sided mosaic signed by Moško.



Gone with the wind Charity Institutions

As in the word there is a lot of suffering, pain and tears and also poverty of those abandoned, the God's love found way how to heal the wounds, wipe the tears, to hug and make happy particularly the abandoned children in the blessed shelter. And for tormented bodies of those ill and dying they built a cosy tent.

(Ján Rataj: Tabita, 1947)



The Roy sisters were born and worked in Stará Turá. Kristína Royová (1860-1936) was a religious writer, editor, charity worker and important representative of anti-alcohol movement The Blue Cross. Her works are translated in more than thirty languages and are still published again and again. Mária Royová (1858-1924) is known as the composer of sacred songs. The Roy sisters' songs form the basis of the hymnbook "Songs of Zion", first published in 1906. Kristína Royová was well

aware of the poverty of the people who lived under Javorina Mt. and she did her best to help them. Through persistent endeavour she together with her co-workers succeeded in building a number of charity institutions for those in need. She was especially interested in the fate of the children of peddlars who were left by their parent in care of their relatives, often as long as ten months in a year. In 1880 a house was bought and after its reconstruction two couples and several children of peddlars moved there. This home for children was called "The Shelter" (F). Later the care of the children was taken over by deaconesses. In the next period the deaconesses took care mainly of orphans. In 1925 another house was bought. K. Royová says about its position the following: "The cottage stands at the end of the street, only a wide road separates it from our garden. A garden, flower one as well as vegetable one, can be built around, in which more than 30 fruit trees of various species can be planted. From the west there is a view of the gardens, from the north-east of the brook and a field, from the east also of vegetable gardens. We have our only neighbour on the south. Hence, our cheerful, small and bigger children will be able to sing and cry to their heart content and there will be no one to be disturbed. The children like brooks very much. Oh, it will be a pleasure to be".

Of course, the house had to be rebuilt. The building works were finished on 2 May 1926 and then a thanksgiving celebration was held on 5. 6. 1926, as "The Cottage" (A), for that was the name given to the orphanage, was built thank to charitable gifts of readers, both men and women, of *Večernica* (Evening Star), the magazine published by K.Royová. The cottage fulfilled its task in taking care of children until 1946.



Besides the orphanage and the house for old people K. Royová also initiated the construction of a small hospital (G) in Stará Turá. Consecration of the hospital took place on 26. 11. 1911. However, the building itself would not have brought much benefit without staff. Therefore K. Royová contacted Eva von Tiele-Winkler, mother superior of the deaconesses in Silesia. She sent Alwina Hesse, a skilled deaconess, to Stará Turá and under her assistance diaconate was established there. Later, after having accomplished nursing training the deaconesses worked as nurses also in hospital all over Slovakia. Upon request they also took care of private patients, e.g. the writer Terézia Vansová and the president of the Czechoslovak Republic T.G.Masaryk. After the end of WWII the injured partisans from the bunker in the Vetešov jarok brook stayed in the hospital for some time.

B) Synagogue

There are no documents preserved related to the establishment of the Jewish community in Stará Turá. However, according to the tombstones it was probably in the 18th century. We know that the community belonged to the rabbinate and register in the town of Nové Mesto nad Váhom. Former synagogue was a one-storeyed building. It was 20 m long and 8 m wide. Above the house of prayer there was a gallery for women.



Synagoga na Starej Turaj (stav pred demoláciou)

C) School of Art of Carving in Stará Turá

Carving school was established in Stará Turá in 1919 under the name State Training Workshop for Wood Processing. It was founded from the initiative of the then management of the townlet, particularly the Evangelic priest Ján Drobný. The school taught the trades of woodcurver, joiner, wheelwright. It did not manage to develop and it ceased to exist as early as 1926 because of lack of funds. Among the leavers of the school were Fraňo Štefunko, Peter Uhlík and Ján Hlubocký.

D) The House by the Road

The Roy sisters moved there in 1897. It consisted of four rooms, a kitchen, large flat yard enclosed with a high wall and one smaller flat consisting of a room and a kitchen. The woodshed was converted into an assembly hall. On the yard grew a pear tree, a linden tree and a walnut tree. Around the pear tree there were benches for discussions. Members of the Blue Cross Association as well as friends from all over the world used to come to their place.



E) Regal

In Stará Turá in the 18th and 19th centuries beer was brewed in the building called regal. On 4. 9. 1773 the community bought the right to brew and sell beer from the Čachtice landlords. In building the brewery the highest attention was given to the malthouse, where people obviously made use of experience from the construction of other breweries. The malthouse had vault ceiling and was made of travertine blocks with good thermal insulation properties, which maintained stable temperature at the production of malt. Beer was brewed in adjacent brewing room and beech wood was used for fire. The beer then fermented and matured in a nearby cellary. The brewery ceased to brew beer in 1873. The regal as a large municipal building served also to other purposes. On the large yard theatres were performed, May festivals were organized and towards the end also Sokol /gymnastics club/ festivals. From time to time soldiers stayed there, too. In the end it served as a shelter for poor homeless people. During 1942-45 a new building, at present the Town Office, was built on the site of the former regal.

F), G) - see the charity institutions

H) Trstie (Topolecký brook)

Topolecký potok brook has its main spring under the mountain called Príkra. From the left flows a stream about which old people said that even in winter the water in it had not freezed over and people used to go there and wash hemp laundry. That can explain data found in the deed from 1392 in which Stará Turá is first mentioned in writing as the community "lying by warm water".



I) Paper Mill in Stará Turá

The paper mill was founded on 4. 7. 1769 by Ján Ludwig in the local part of Stará Turá called Topolecká. It was established on a plot of land which has been up to now called "Under the paper mill". The most important period of the mill began in the year 1804, when it was purchased by well known printer Michal Ján Landerer from Bratislava (he also owned printing houses in Košice and Pešť). The ownership of the paper mill in Stará Turá and in particular the privilege to print textbooks and newspapers made Landerer literally a Hungarian magnate at the turn of the 18th and 19th century. The paper from Stará Turá's paper mill was marked with A TURA, Ó TURA and S TURA watermarks. Official paperworks (both ecclesiastical and secular) were written on that paper in the Nitra province in the 18th and 19th centuries.

Once upon a time

The Origin of the Name of the Community

Our community is first referred to in written in the year 1392 under the name of Tur. Also in the map of old Hungary from 1556 Stará Turá can be found as Tur. The name of the community is derived from an animal called tur (*Bos primigenius*), which used to live in the Carpathian primaveal forest under Javorina Mt. This view is supported also by the finding of aurochs skull in the cadastre of the town. The first name "stará" got by the end of 16th century, probably to make it different from the nearby community of Turá Lúka (Tur Meadow).

The Privilege of King Matthew

On February 3, 1467 King Matthew had privilege deed issued in Trnava by which the inhabitants of Stará Turá were exempted from toll, taxation, incomes, and other orderly and extraordinary duties to the royal treasury for all future time for having caught Ján Švehla, the commander of Brethrens. According to folk oral tradition, after the Brethrens had been beaten at Veľké Kostolany, Švehla went through Stará Turá riding a horse whose shoes were nailed in a reverse manner to lead his pursuers astray. The women who washed clothes in a brook saw a knight on a horse, riding from Čachtice towards Javorina Mountain. They were surprised that the horseshoe prints in fresh snow indicated as if the knight went towards Čachtice. It is said that they rouse their husbands, who caught up with Švehla in the forest, where he stopped to rest and succumbed to sleep. They disarmed him, bound his hands and feet and escorted him to Čachtice and then before the king. The king had Švehla with other captives executed.

Stará Turá's Treasure

In 1940 while widening the road called "Under the Toll", present Mýtna ulica (Toll street), an earthen pot was found, full of mainly silver coins of minor value, with years 1614 to 1698 embossed. We do not know from whom the owner of the modest little house with a straw roof hid his treasure and it is also not known what happened with the treasure later. Only two Hungarian coins have been preserved. At present they can be seen in the town museum.

Turks in Stará Turá No written evidence has been found that Turks came to our cadastre. But two legends preserved by word of mouth indicate that maybe Turks were here. **Černochovej vrch** hill is a local part of Stará Turá. The following legend is associated with its origin: Allegedly it happened in the times when the Turks plundered Hungary. One of their units wandered to our region. There was nothing but woods all around, they were tired and lost their way. Past the horses ran the slaves and on the horses was stolen property and tools to survive.

Among them was one Turk who dragged a slave, a beautiful girl, he stole somewhere. The girl ran barefooted and her feet were covered in blood because of stones and thorn-bushes. She was in such a sorry state that even the stone heart of the Turk took pity on her. He fell behind the others, mounted her on the horse and never came back to his people. He rambled about in the woods till he came to a well with an ample spring. He stopped and decided to settle there. He asked the girl to marry him, cleared the trees and built a wooden cottage. He was very clever. He cut the trees, dug the land and took care of his wife and 5 sons. He also brought them brides. It is not known whether he stole them or asked them for his sons. Nevertheless, it is important that they lived and worked together. The inhabitants of Černochovej vrch hill used to be very close. They protected their territory and maintained it. It is said that black eyes and brown skin are typical of the inhabitants of Černochovej vrch hill as evidence of the origin of their ancestor.

The inhabitants of Černochovej vrch hill used to be very close. They protected their territory and maintained it. It is said that black eyes and brown skin are typical of the inhabitants of Černochovej vrch hill as evidence of the origin of their ancestor. The Other legend says that there is a place called "**On Turkish tables**" in the mountains around Stará Turá. It is a small clearing. Allegedly when Turks went through the mountain region of the White Carpathians, they stopped at the clearing in the woods to rest. They ordered



the local inhabitants of the cottages to bring them food. The people brought boiled and roasted poultry. They put the food on tables made for it in a short time.

The commander of Turks set his eyes on a big well-done rooster and said: "When this rooster gets to its feet and makes cock-a-doodle-doo, we will leave the country." And a miracle happened. The rooster on the table stood up and made cock-a-doodle-doo.

The commander kept his word and the Turks left.

Chan's Mill

According to the memories of the oldest inhabitants 12 mills used to stand in the area near Dubník. They were built and added to the picturesque view of the valley with a brook. Mill races led from the brook to the mills. The last one belonged to a man called Chan. It used to stand on a lovely meadow, where at present Dubník lake is situated, and it has an interesting history. It is said that it was built by a strange man about whom nobody knew from where he had come. He told only his name to the local people, built a mill and lived there for several years. Then he packed his things and went away, nobody knew where. He did not bequeath the mill to anybody, so the building became dilapidated and fell into ruin.

Spring Alojz

In the records from 1858 there is a report drawn by Jozef František Krzisch about a new mineral spring in Stará Turá. According to the author the spring was about half hour walk far, west of the town on a marshy meadow. Having examined the spring he found out that the water had rare properties and high content of mineral substances.

Therefore state official Alojz Watzka, who took care of the wellness of the region and was also greatly interested in natural phenomena, ordered the town to buy the meadow together with the spring. Then he had the spring cleaned, caught and built a shelter above it. The spring was named after him - Spring Alojz. Having finished the alterations, a new detailed research of the mineral water was done. The result was as follows: "The spring is moving all the time because it liberates a lot of air bubbles. It is 2 fathoms (3,8 m) deep and the level rises 4 feet (1,2 m) above the adjacent terrain. According to the measurement it gives more than 300 buckets of mineral water per 24 hours. Freshly taken water is transparent, clean, with carbonic flavour. If it is mixed with water it fizzes but does not change the colour of the wine and it is very pleasant to drink. The temperature of the water is 9°R (11,25°C) and it has strong alkaline reaction. In 50 ounces (1,3644 kg) of the water there is 1493 mg of solid substances. According to the chemical analyses the water contains a lot of carbon dioxide, sodium hydrogen sulphate, sodium chloride, sodium carbonate, calcium sulphate, calcium chloride, calcium carbonate, magnesium sulphate and iron. Based on the result the water can be judged as strong ferrous acidulous spring water and can be classified next to the mineral waters of Bilina, Karlovy Vary, Luhačovice etc."

Later additional alterations were made and the spring disappeared.

Trade with melted butter

The inhabitants of Stará Turá were tradesmen for centuries and they sold home-made wooden kitchen utensils and melted butter for miles around. They purchased the butter in Stará Turá and its surroundings, later also in Trenčín, Liptov and Zvolen districts. The butter was loaded onto large rafts which carried it to Mnešice or Nové Mesto and from there to Stará Turá on carts drawn by horses. Here in butter plants in big kettles the butter was melted and boiled. The purged liquid butter was poured into drums and dispatched in solid state. The butter was purged as follows: the melted butter being boiled in the kettle formed froth on its surface. The froth was skimmed with big perforated cooking spoons and then the surface of boiling butter was scattered with barley grout. The grout settled down and all impurities were deposited at the bottom of the kettle. The froth called "penička" was a good spread on bread or cakes (penička kolache). The grounds of barley grout were called buttermilk. It was used for a good soup and as a good spread on bread, too.

Bryndza Production

According to the tradition living in old Slovak families of bryndza producers the first bryndza producers in Slovakia came from Stará Turá. The inhabitants of Stará Turá were clever tradesmen in the past. They used to go and buy cattle but mainly butter in Trenčín, Liptov and Zvolen districts. They often drove the cattle into foreign countries. The butter was melted, filled into drums and distributed on carts to almost all important towns of Austro-Hungarian monarchy and on rafts down the Váh, Hron and Danube rivers as far as Romania. In Romania they bought sheep in exchange for cattle. They saw also the production of cheese-bryndza in Romania and tried to make it themselves, namely in Liptov district for the first time. According to another version the first bryndza was made in dairy huts in Trenčín district and only after ruination of sheep flocks in Trenčín district the shepherd dairy farming and production of bryndza were transferred to Liptov district. And it flourished on hillsides there. The first trade bryndza plants in Slovakia were founded by the capable butcher and tradesman Ján Vagač from Stará Turá in the year 1787 in Detva. In 1797 the bryndza plant of the Molec family in Zvolenská Slatina was established and then that of the Wallo family in Zvolen. In his manuscript the famous bryndza producer Teodor Wallo mentions the following oldest families of bryndza producers coming from Stará Turá: Vagač, Molec, Roháček, Slezáček, Galbavý, Ďurkovič, Klimáček, Ježo -Párovský, Wallo, Valovič. The name of Teodor Wallo is connected with a new important period of development in the production of bryndza in Slovakia. In 1892 he invented the technological procedure how to make soft sticky bryndza as we know it at present.

Captains and Watchmen

Captains /hajtmans/ belonged inherently to the Municipal House. The name is of Czech origin and probably comes from the Hussite period. In order to arouse respect and importance captains wore uniforms. Captains acted as mediators between the office and the citizens. They invited the members of the town council for sessions. For public notices the captains used a small drum. They had a specially honourable and important task at Easter. As the men familiar with the effects of gun powder and associated dangers they were obliged to fire from three mortars nearby the catholic church.

Every night, in whatever weather, the same semireligious song echoed in the streets of Stará Turá from the rough throats of the **watchmen:**

It struck ten o' clock,
may everybody praise the Lord
and Jesus, his son;
take care of light, fire,
so as not to do damage to people.



One watchman went to the upper end and the other to the lower end of the town. Having sung the rhyme the watchmen called off the respective number of hours, using a trumpet made of bull horn. The watchman's duty started in the evening by lighting the oil lamps of street lights and finished in the morning by putting them out. The main task of the watchmen was to report a fire or other natural disasters in time. Besides wages they were also given watchmen equipment: trumpet, halberd, wooden candle lantern, long sheep furcoat and leather boots.



Pedlars Infertile soil at the foothills did not give enough food for our ancestors. On the other hand forests around Stará Turá created ideal possibilities for processing the wood. Virtually in every house under Javorina Mountain men made wooden spoons, saltcellars, rolling pins, oards and other kitchen utensils. Besides domestic production of wooden articles another important means of living developed in the region under Javorina Mountain - pedlary. They sold not only wooden articles but also haberdashery, embroideries and fruit. They distributed the goods to farms, isolated settlements and smaller villages where no fancy-goods shops were. The big amounts of goods were loaded onto a two-wheeled cart and got closer to the outlets. Then the goods were divided into lighter burdens and carried on backs up the steep roads and paths to the customers. In 1927 the pedlars from the region under Javorina Mountain established independent Association of Pedlars and Market Traders.



After the foundation of the Czechoslovak Republic pedlary was restricted to our territory only and gradually it ceased to exist after 1945 when it was forbidden by law. The pedlars used to leave their children with their relatives or in the "Cottage" for orphans for most of the year. Our writer Kristína Royová dealt with this serious problem of those times in her story The Children of Pedlars.



This is story about Stará Turá between 19th a 20th century.



Compiled by **INFOTUR**, information office of the town of Stará Turá, based on the data found in the book Ján Michálek: Stará Turá (Bratislava 1983), Dr. D. Úradníček: Chronicle of Stará Turá (in manuscript) and articles published in the local newspaper Staroturiansky spravodajca (Hargaš, Lukáčová, Novomestský, Slavka, Rumánek, Truhlíková, Ježo, Cibulková).

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INFOTUR, Peter Nikodém, Jozef Ukropec



INFOTUR, Town Information Office Husitská cesta
253/3 (Hotel LIPA- by the reception desk)
Tel/fax: 776 3893
e-mail: infotur@stonline.sk
Opening hours: Mo-Fr 8.00 - 16.00

Information about hiking and cycling routes, sights, the beauties of nature in the environs of Stará Turá, shops and business activities, train and bus time schedules. Sale of traditional souvenirs, maps, postcards, stamps, telephone cards, etc.