

HISTORY OF OUR VILLAGES DATES

BACK TO THE MIDDLE AGE

Evidence about early history of both villages, Sulkovec and Polom, is not voluminous. Based on preserved data, the history of these places was described by then-living chroniclers and historian. More recently, these archival materials and editions were studied and eloquently written about by a Brno historian Jan Tenora, who published his essays in volumes of “Vlastivěda moravská“. An article about Sulkovec can be located in the volume dedicated to the estate Kunštát, published in Brno in 1903. Tenora’s source for the essay was a very detailed and thorough report written by Josef Kovářík, teacher in Sulkovec.

Based on the writings, Sulkovec belonged to the estate of Skály Castle, which was owned by the House of Noblemen of Kunštát. In 1459, Žofka of Kunštát and Skály sold the village of Sulkovec, together with her other property, Jimramov, to Jan from Pernštejn. From that time on, Sulkovec was owned by the Noblemen of Pernštejn until late 16th century, when it reverted back to Kunštát’s holdings.

Thirty Years War brought difficult times to Sulkovec, especially toward the latter part of this period. In late June 1643, the emperor’s army drove to Moravia via nearby Bystré to fight the Swedish. In the process the army destroyed all corn fields and meadows, stole the cattle, clothes and hidden personal effects of the locals. Moreover, the passing troops destroyed or set fire to farmhouses in their path. Few cottages survived.

In 1645, as the Swedish army, led by their commander Torstenson, retreated after their unsuccessful siege of Brno, the area was pillaged once again. More precisely, on October 16th 1645 as the retreating Swedes marched from Olešnice to Jimramov they razed the village of Sulkovec.

The ensuing period entailed recovery from damage that had been caused by the war and re-cultivation of the area began. From 1658 to 1672, Count Ferdinand Leopold from Náchod, owner of Kunštát, took steps to revive the decimated hamlet. Apparently the efforts were successful. By 1690, Sulkovec comprised fifteen wooden cottages. Soon thereafter however, all of the structures burnt down in a fire. Nonetheless, the stubborn inhabitants of Sulkovec did not quit; and by 1720,

twenty cottages were rebuilt. By this time, however, most of all the residents learned from their misfortune, and no longer built cottages close to each other, but instead separated the structures with gardens and orchards. The village layout has retained this design until the present.

The history of nearby village of Polom was depicted by Jan Tenora in “Vlastivěda moravská“, in a volume dedicated to the region of Bystřice nad Pernštejnem. This book was published in Brno in 1907. Based on the entries, Polom was first mentioned in 1348, in connection with Zubří, to which it belonged. Only five years later, in 1353, Jimram of Kámen sold Polom, together with one hide, a cottage and forests in Rovečín to a butler from Brno, Jan from Boskovice for 85 talers. The village is mentioned once again in 1415, when Vaněk from Boskovice bought six hides from Vilém Rys from Rohatec.

Before that, in 1358, Ješek from Boskovice exchanged his property, situated in nearby Pyšolec, for property near Pivín with margrave Jan. Although Polom was not explicitly mentioned in the volume, it was at this time when it became property of this Moravian margrave. In 1384, his son, Margrave Jošt, lent Polom, together with property from Bystřice to Heralt from Kunštát for his services, but only for duration his life. In the 15th century, Jan from Pernštejn obtained the property which then remained in their ownership until mid 16th century, when it passed as a part of property Louky, together with nearby Hluboké, to the estate of Kunštát.

Clearly, both Sulkovec and Polom have a rich history, dating back deep into middle ages. With their location, set deep in the outback of the Czech Country, on the border of Bohemia and Moravia, the people from Sulkovec and Polom were predetermined to share the common fate of the inhabitants of Central Europe as a whole, including the forthcoming centuries of relative stability under the Hapsburg monarchy. A lot changed in the restless 20th century. In the late thirties, Sulkovec became a frontier village, as villages situated to the south – Jedlová and Bystré, became part of so called Sudetten. Only several years later, during the Second World War, the surrounding areas of both villages became sites of partisan fighting. The wartime resistance is in many cases inconsistent with the villages’ roles as is described in the Chronicle of Polom. During this period, inhabitants of both villages went again through difficult times in which their lives were endangered. Indeed, a number of the inhabitants did not survive the war years, especially due to

the brutal repressions of the fascist commandos. The fallen remain in living memories of their former neighbors as well as and in the hearts of their descendants.