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Fathers and Sons on Separate Path. The Rise and Fall of the Kajdacsy Family in Baranya

Abstract

The purpose of the study. To present in detail the lives and career paths of the male members of the Kajdacsy family, and to correct the errors in the literature so far, to shade their conclusions, and at the same time examine the causes of the rise and fall of the family.

Applied methods. Preparation of the collective biography of the Kajdacsys. The examined persons belonged to the Baranya branch of the family, any additional branches were only supplementary. Four generations were investigated, from their appearance in Baranya until their extinction. The research relied on archival sources and private correspondence. In addition to all this, the examination of the church registers and the press is of particular importance.

Outcomes. The Kajdacsy family can rightly be called one of the most successful families in Baranya during the 18–19th centuries. The success of the family can be measured not in the acquisition of property, but in the attainment of various offices. Two factors were necessary for this: good personal qualities and a usable network of contacts. These can be detected in all family members, so we must find a different reason for the personal rise and the beginning of the downfall. Generational differences also played a role in the decline of the family, but the main reasons for this are found in the personalities of the individuals and their own desires.

Keywords: Kajdacsys, Baranya County, local elite, generational differences, officer corps

Introduction

The Kajdacsy family from Baranya is not unknown to researchers dealing with the 18th and 19th centuries. The members of the family were key figures in several counties and regularly appeared in parliaments. Despite this, the entire life history of the family members is less well known, and in several cases incorrect data is provided. In the first part of my essay, I attempted to present the lives of the family members in detail. The Tolna branch appears in my research, but I tried to concentrate on the Baranya branch.³⁶⁶ The main field of activity of the family members of the Baranya branch was the County officer corps. The offices of the officer corps could be obtained in two ways: either they were elected at the renewal of the office (restoration), or they were appointed to some office by the leader of the County, the *supremus comes*. As a result, in the second part of my thesis, I focused on the reasons for the rise of the family and the winning of offices, examining the marriages of the family and the relationship of the family members with the current *supremus comes*. In the last part of my work, I looked

³⁶⁶ See the origin and other branches of the family: Madarász, K. Á. (2016): 103–109.

for the reasons for the fall of the family, where I tried to find a point of view that I think appears relatively rarely in similar research: the relationship between family members, fathers and sons.

The return to Baranya County: the first generation

The Kajdacsy de Kajdacs family probably came from South Transdanubia, as it took its name from the Kajdacs settlement in Tolna County. After the expulsion of the Turks and the re-establishment of the counties, Sigismund Kajdacsy's name can be found for the first time in the assemblies of Tolna County in the 1730s, who moved from Ebergőc in Moson County to the southern part of the country.³⁶⁷

Béla Pálmány placed the birth of Sigismund Kajdacsy on February 26, 1710 (to Pálmány, his name was Alexander Sigismund Kajdacsy), who was born in Keszöcés/Vojka as the son of Stephan Kajdacsy and Elisabeth Nagy.³⁶⁸ Stephan Kajdacsy and Elisabeth Nagy indeed had a son at the indicated time, but he only bore the name Alexander,³⁶⁹ so we do not know the exact date of Sigismund's birth.

Sigismund Kajdacsy already performed at the restauration of Tolna held on the 15th September, 1732: he tried to win the post of judex nobilium of the Simontornya district (no one voted for him), and he also ran for the post of judex nobilium in the Völgység district (here he received 10 votes, but the post was won by Sigismund Daróczy with 12 votes).³⁷⁰ The results of the restauration show that Sigismund Kajdacsy may have had a serious presence in Tolna County as early as 1732, so he must have been in the area for some time. On the occasion of the 1736 Baranya County restauration, he was elected judex nobilium of Siklós, and from 1742 he is already among the Baranya table judices.³⁷¹

The reason for Sigismund Kajdacsy's move to Baranya has remained in question until now. The most obvious idea might be his marriage: according to Henrik Kéri, Sigismund Kajdacsy and Eva Julianna Rizáts married in 1733,³⁷² however, this does not explain why he had such support at the restauration of Tolna already in 1732.

Sigismund Kajdacsy married³⁷³ Eva Julianna Rizáts (Pápa, March 8, 1716.³⁷⁴ – Börsöny-Bonyhád, May 22, 1780.³⁷⁵), who was the daughter of John Rizáts and Anna Maria Somogyi. Anna Maria Somogyi survived John Rizáts, her second husband was Francis Kun (1692 – Bonyhád, 1730³⁷⁶) the landlord of Hidas, and from this marriage four more daughters (Clara, Theresia, Agnes and Rosalia) were born. After the death of Anna Maria Somogyi (around 1728),

³⁶⁷ Horváth, Á. (1974): 149.

³⁶⁸ Pálmány, B. (2019): 720.

³⁶⁹ The register can be seen in the *Familysearch* database: <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:KS5N-F2W>. (last visited: January 22, 2023.)

³⁷⁰ Horváth, Á. (1974): 149.

³⁷¹ Videcz, F. (1999): 40.

³⁷² Kéri, H. (2000): 338.

³⁷³ According to Pálmány, his wife is Katalin Anna Worth. Pálmány, B. (2019): 720. It is certainly incorrect data.

³⁷⁴ The register can be seen in the *Familysearch* database: <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:X2ZS-P7G> (last visited: January 22, 2023.)

³⁷⁵ The register can be seen in the *Familysearch* database: <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CS64-ZST6-B?i=77&cat=434136> (last visited: January 22, 2023.)

³⁷⁶ Kéri, H. (2000): 338.

Francis Kun, as the guardian of the orphans, managed the affairs of the estate in Hidas until his death in 1730, then the guardianship duties fell to the grandfather, Adam Somogyi.³⁷⁷

However, Adam Somogyi was the vice comes of the County of Veszprém, so he resigned from the guardianship in 1734 and entrusted the fate of the Kun orphans (the four girls) and the fortune to the husband of his eldest granddaughter, Eva Julianna Rizáts. Sigismund Kajdacsy proved to be a 'bad manager': from 1738, Emerick Pinczés, the official of the Szekszárd Abbey, became the guardian of the Kun orphans, '*since Kajdacsy treated the orphans property as his own and did not account for the income*'.³⁷⁸

The time of Sigismund Kajdacsy's death is unknown,³⁷⁹ but we do know that he was no longer alive in 1761, it was then that the will of Eva Julianna Rizáts, who was already a widow, was written. The will lists their three children: Francis, Antony (I.) and Theresia.³⁸⁰ Apart from them, Pál Angyal wrote about four other minor children in 1767, but did not write down their names,³⁸¹ and they are not listed in Eva Julianna Rizáts' will. We know that there was a Theresia Kajdacsy, born around 1748 (died as a widow in Pécs, October 1, 1827³⁸²). She was still a minor when the will was written, so she may be one of the 4 children mentioned by Angyal.

The second generation: at the top of the counties

The second generation of the family was already born in Southern Transdanubia and, like Sigismund Kajdacsy, became a defining part of the County's elites. Stephan Francis Kajdacsy (Bonyhád, August 21, 1733³⁸³ – Bonyhád, October 29, 1798³⁸⁴) was the first-born son of Sigismund Kajdacsy and Eva Julianna Rizáts, and the founder of the Tolna branch of the family. In 1749, he enrolled in the first liberal arts class of the Buda Jesuit Academy.³⁸⁵ After his studies, he returned to Tolna, where he was later elected vice comes in 1775, and parliamentary

³⁷⁷ Adam Somogyi was the captain of Pápa, in 1699 he was a judex nobilium, and from 1713 he was vicecomes of Veszprém. In the Parliament of 1715, he was an envoy of Veszprém County. Kéri, H. (2000): 324–325.

³⁷⁸ Kéri, H. (2000): 329.

³⁷⁹ According to Ferenc Videcz, Sigismund Kajdacsy died on October 1, 1757: Videcz, F. (1999): 40.; Henrik Kéri questioned this and dated it to 1751. Kéri, H. (2000): 338.

³⁸⁰ For the will see: Ódor, I. (1991): 183–184.

³⁸¹ Angyal, P. (1911a): 101.

³⁸² The register can be seen in the *Familysearch* database: <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-C33S-SSTV-4?i=51&cat=427391> (last visited: January 22, 2023)

³⁸³ The register can be seen in the *Familysearch* database: <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:939J-6G9M-W?i=28&cc=1743180> (last visited: January 22, 2023)

³⁸⁴ The register can be seen in the *Familysearch* database: <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CS64-ZSY7-Q?i=139&cat=434136> (last visited: January 22, 2023)

³⁸⁵ Varga, J. (2022): 137.

envoy in 1792. His first wife was Catharina Perczel,³⁸⁶ his second wife was Judith Cséfalvay.³⁸⁷ Among their children, Francis (II.) returned to the County of Moson, while their daughters, Elisabeth and Josepha, married into families with considerable authority and influence in the region, the Perczel and Somssich families.

Francis' sister, Theresia Kajdacsy (Bonyhád, January 13, 1736³⁸⁸ – around 1768), married John Kardos, chief notary of Baranya on July 11, 1756, in Bonyhád.³⁸⁹ John Kardos was elected as the vice comes of Baranya in 1776,³⁹⁰ and later he also became a royal advisor.³⁹¹

The Baranya branch of the family, as well as its authority and tradition, was continued by the third child, Antony (I.) Kajdacsy (Domolospusztá, around 1745 – Szigetvár, July 19, 1811³⁹²) in the Baranya County office. Like his brother, he continued his studies at the Buda Jesuit Academy (from 1759),³⁹³ then, at the restoration held on the 5th January, 1773, he was elected *judex nobilium* of the Hegyhát district,³⁹⁴ from 1777, he was placed in the Mohács district.³⁹⁵ On January 2, 1787, baron Joseph Splényi appointed him substitute vice comes,³⁹⁶ and at the renewal held on the 7th April, 1790, he was elected vice comes.³⁹⁷ He held the County's first office until his death on July 19, 1811,³⁹⁸ making him the third-longest-serving vice comes in the County.³⁹⁹ He was elected as an envoy of the Baranya County to the parliament of 1790/91, and then became the commander of the crown guard banner of Baranya County. On the occasion of the parliament, emperor Leopold II. inaugurated him as 'a knight with the golden spur.'⁴⁰⁰ His exceptional talent and unwavering trust of the County nobility is indicated by the fact that he was elected a parliamentary envoy a total of 7 times,⁴⁰¹ which was an unprecedented

³⁸⁶ Catharina Perczel de Bonyhád born in Tamási, on 17th November, 1743., as the daughter of Joseph and Catharina Gaál: The register can be seen in the *Familysearch* database: <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:XCYP-5DT> (last visited: January 22, 2023.). She died in Cíkó at the age of 26 on 12th March, 1769.: The register can be seen in the *Familysearch* database: <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CS64-ZST6-G?i=36&cat=434136> (last visited: January 22, 2023.). She married to Francis Kajdacsy at Bonyhád, on 28th December 1765.: The register can be seen in the *Familysearch* database: <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSVW-MSTN-G?i=32&cat=434136> (last visited: January 22, 2023.) They had two daughters, but both died in childhood.

³⁸⁷ Judith Cséfalvay de Cséfalva born in Simontornya, on 23rd April, 1751. as the daughter of Francis and Theresia Posgay: The register can be seen in the *Familysearch* database: <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:XCYP-LS7> (last visited: January 22, 2023.). She died in Börsöny, on 11th April, 1804.: The register can be seen in the *Familysearch* database: <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CS64-ZSYQ-J?i=150&cat=434136> (last visited: January 22, 2023.). She married to Francis Kajdacsy at Pincehely, on 3rd February, 1771: The register can be seen in the *Familysearch* database: <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:939J-FKXD-2?i=342&cc=1743180&cat=438248> (last visited: January 22, 2023.)

³⁸⁸ The register can be seen in the *Familysearch* database: <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:V4JY-336> (last visited: January 22, 2023)

³⁸⁹ The register can be seen in the *Familysearch* database: <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSVW-MSY6-C?i=15&cat=434136> (last visited: January 22, 2023)

³⁹⁰ Angyal, P. (1911b): 139.

³⁹¹ Angyal, P. (1913b): 115.

³⁹² HU-MNL-BaVL IV. 1. a. 1336/1811.

³⁹³ Varga, J. (2022): 170.

³⁹⁴ Angyal, P. (1911b): 136–137.

³⁹⁵ Ódor, I. (1995): 27.

³⁹⁶ Angyal, P. (1913a): 71.

³⁹⁷ HU-MNL-BaVL IV. 1. a. 167/1790.

³⁹⁸ HU-MNL-BaVL IV. 1. a. 1336/1811.

³⁹⁹ Borsy, J. (2014): 114.

⁴⁰⁰ Ódor, I. (2014): 75.

⁴⁰¹ He was one of the envoys of Baranya at the Parliaments of 1790/91.; 1792.; 1796.; 1802.; 1805.; 1807. and 1808.

achievement in the pre-reform-era Baranya County. He married Josepha Hojcsy (Pécs, May 20, 1748⁴⁰²– Pécs, October 1, 1827⁴⁰³) in Pécs, July 25, 1768,⁴⁰⁴ the daughter of Michael Hojcsy, who was vice comes of Baranya between 1761 and 1786.⁴⁰⁵

The third generation, the beginning of the decline?

The sons of Antony (I.) Kajdacsy and Josepha Hojcsy, Michael and Antony (II.) represent the third generation of the family in the Baranya officer corps.

There are many contradictions regarding Michael Kajdacsy. It is certain that a Michael Kajdacsy was born in 1769, as the son of Antony (I.) Kajdacsy and Josepha Hojcsy, brother of Antony (II.) Kajdacsy. This date of birth suggests that he is the Michael who enrolled in the first liberal arts class of the Pécs Royal Academy of Law in 1785, the second liberal arts class in 1786, the first law class in 1787, and the second law class in 1788.⁴⁰⁶

In the sources, a Michael Kajdacsy appears, who entered the ecclesiastical field. According to the Pécs Episcopal Seminary, he was born in 1774 and began his theological training in 1792. He was consecrated in 1797. According to the Bonyhád death registers, he died on the 5th May, 1843, at the age of 69, which corresponds to his birth in 1774. Iván Nagy declared a clear match between the brother of Antony (II.) Kajdacsy and the later priest, and this is also confirmed by archival sources: a noble census of 1809 clearly stated that Antony (I.)'s elder son Michael, his younger brother Antony (II.). This is further confirmed by Michael Kajdacsy's letter addressed to Antony (III.) Kajdacsy on February 15, 1834, in which he addresses him as 'My brother Antony' and notes that Antony 'never comes to me, he doesn't tell me anything, as if I'm not his relative'. The letter also provides evidence that Antony (III.) handed over a part of the Domolos estate to Michael after his father's death. The fraternal relationship is also strengthened by the fact that in 1838, after the death of Antony (II.) Kajdacsy, his younger sister's appointed guardian, Imre Spies advocated the sale of a house in Hidas, however, this was not possible without the permission of Michael Kajdacsy as: 'half of it belongs to the ordained priest Michael Kajdacsy'.

So when did Michael born? As we can see, according to sources Antony (II.)'s brother Michael was born in 1769, while the ordained priest was born in 1774. Considering the children of Antony (I.) Kajdacsy and Josepha Hojcsy, there is a mathematical chance that a boy named Michael was born between September 1773 and May 1775, however, such an entry is not found in the Pécs or Hidas (and Bonyhád) registers. The children to be born on the Tolna branch of the Kajdacsy family (from the marriage of Francis and Judith Cséfalvay): Anna Maria Clara Kajdacsy (Pincehely, January 16, 1774⁴⁰⁷ – Bonyhád, March 22, 1858) and Francis Georg

⁴⁰² The register can be seen in the *Familysearch* database: <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:9Q97-YSY6-828?i=480&cc=1743180> (last visited: January 22, 2023)

⁴⁰³ The register can be seen in the *Familysearch* database: <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-C33S-SSTV-4?i=51&cat=427391> (last visited: January 22, 2023)

⁴⁰⁴ PEL III. 102. Pécs-Central, register of married persons (1757–1787), year 1768, page 78.

⁴⁰⁵ Andreczky, J. (1909): 36.

⁴⁰⁶ Szögi, L. (2016): 75.

⁴⁰⁷ The register can be seen in the *Familysearch* database: <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:XCYZ-J4X> (last visited: January 22, 2023)

Kajdacsy (Görbő, March 12, 1775⁴⁰⁸ – Pincehely, August 17, 1777⁴⁰⁹) excluded the birth of a person named Michael in the period between 1774 and 1775. Since I have not been able to find a birth certificate for a Michael Kajdacsy born between 1774 and 1775, I have accepted the 1769 birth.

Michael Kajdacsy had a relatively short career in the officer corps. On January 16, 1792, the supremus comes appointed him secondary subnotary, but he declined the office with gratitude.⁴¹⁰ At the same time, he agreed to be appointed as an honorary jurassor by the supremus comes on April 28, 1794,⁴¹¹ and then as a jurassor of the Pécs district on February 27, 1795.⁴¹² It is not known exactly how long he held this position, what is certain, however, is that on April 28, 1796, the supremus comes appointed a new jurassor of Pécs, so by then he had already resigned from his office.⁴¹³ He was ordained a priest in 1797.⁴¹⁴ Michael Kajdacsy finally died in Bonyhád, on May 5, 1843, according to the registers, at the age of 69.⁴¹⁵ Due to his profession, he did not start a family.

Antony (II.) Kajdacsy is clearly the most successful member of the third generation (Pécs, May 27, 1779⁴¹⁶ – Pest, December 1, 1830⁴¹⁷). He began his higher education studies in Pécs from 1794, then on December 10, 1798 he became a jurat of the Royal Board. He passed the bar exam on March 21, 1800, and became a lawyer when he was almost 21 years old.⁴¹⁸ On the 24th September of the same year, Peter Végh supremus comes appointed him to secondary subnotary,⁴¹⁹ then on the 6th April, 1802, to first subnotary.⁴²⁰ At the renewal held on the 13th June, 1803, he was elected judex nobilium of the Hegyhát district.⁴²¹ On September 12, 1810, he was defeated in the substitutus vice comes election, but he was able to keep his office as judex nobilium.⁴²² After his father's death, the election of the County fell to him, so he became one of Baranya's envoy to the parliament in 1811/12. At the restauration held on the 20th May, 1813, he was elected substitutus vice comes.⁴²³ He held the office of substitutus vice comes for 17 years until his death, but it is part of the overall picture that between 1813 and 1832 no restauration was held in Baranya (where he could have been replaced), so it was solely the decision of the supremus comes that he remained in office for such a long time. In 1815, a royal

⁴⁰⁸ The register can be seen in the *Familysearch* database: <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:XCY8-83R> (last visited: January 22, 2023)

⁴⁰⁹ The register can be seen in the *Familysearch* database: <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:6N33-1JQT> (last visited: January 22, 2023)

⁴¹⁰ HU-MNL-BaVL IV. 1. a. 49/1792.

⁴¹¹ HU-MNL-BaVL IV. 1. a. 392/1794.

⁴¹² HU-MNL-BaVL IV. 1. a. 181,182,183/1795.

⁴¹³ HU-MNL-BaVL IV. 1. a. 534/1796.

⁴¹⁴ Szögi, L. (2016): 53.

⁴¹⁵ The register can be seen in the *Familysearch* database: <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CS64-ZST1-N?i=288&cat=434136> (last visited: January 22, 2023)

⁴¹⁶ PEL III. 102. Pécs-Central, baptism registers (1778–1787) year 1779, page 28.

⁴¹⁷ The report of his co-envoy, Leopold Répás about the death of Antony (II.) Kajdacsy: HU-MNL-BaVL IV. 1. a. 144/1831.

⁴¹⁸ Szögi, L. (2016): 93. és Pálmány, B. (2011): 972.

⁴¹⁹ HU-MNL-BaVL IV. 1. a. 1197/1800.

⁴²⁰ HU-MNL-BaVL IV. 1. a. 507/1802.

⁴²¹ HU-MNL-BaVL IV. 1. a. 946/1803.

⁴²² HU-MNL-BaVL IV. 1. a. 2146._{1/2}/1810.

⁴²³ HU-MNL-BaVL IV. 1. a. 1017/1813.

commissioner came to Baranya to put an end to official abuses,⁴²⁴ who suspended him from office in 1818 due to the complaints against him.⁴²⁵ In 1824, the County finally reinstated him in his seat as *substitutus vice comes*, although the investigation against him has not yet been concluded.⁴²⁶ In 1825, he was again elected as a parliamentary envoy,⁴²⁷ his activities were described as such in a secret police report: *'A very good-natured man, [...] One of the most excellent individuals'*.⁴²⁸

Of course, those opposed to the government did not appreciate his functioning in such a positive way. In October 1825, Antony Deák stated that the opposition did not really fear Kajdacsy: *'he has less sense than the others, and he's also under commission [investigation – P. T.], maybe he's afraid of what he might have been told, that if he tries too hard, he might have problems'*.⁴²⁹ The nobles of Somogy County expressed their frustration regarding the fact that Kajdacsy *'exposes himself for the sake of the government'* and they directly told Baranya to call back the *'unpatriotic envoys'*.⁴³⁰ According to the words of Stephan Széchenyi *'Der ist servil'* and *'Spricht matt gegen Nagy – Sagt Dummheiten'*,⁴³¹ Francis Kölcsey called him *'mean-spirited'*.⁴³² The government of Wien certainly appreciated the work of Antony (II.) Kajdacsy on the diet, because in April 1829 he was appointed a councilor of the Council of Governors, so he left Baranya.⁴³³ Despite all of this, in August 1830, in his absence, he was again elected Baranya's envoy to the Parliament.⁴³⁴

Antony (II.) Kajdacsy died in Bratislava during the parliament, he suffered a stroke on the 1st December, 1830.⁴³⁵ The circumstances of his death caused quite a stir, because (according to Kazinczy) he died in the company of a *'pretty éταίρα'* [prostitute – P. T.].⁴³⁶ The inheritance of Antony (II.) Kajdacsy (in addition to the scandal) was a large amount of debt, which eventually led to the financial decline of the family. The division between his heirs was probably completed

⁴²⁴ The first royal commissioner was Peter Balogh de Ócsa, *supremus comes* of Zólyom. HU-MNL-BaVL IV. 1. a. 1553/1815. Balogh died soon after the suspension of Kajdacsy (October 16, 1818), and Antony Adamovich took his place as the new royal commissioner (January 28, 1819): HU-MNL-BaVL IV. 1. a. 57/1819.; At the same time, Adamovich was related to the Kajdacsy family (and probably didn't want to get involved in such a delicate case either), so he asked the County to set up a committee to investigate the case, and Adamovich withdrew himself from the committee's work. HU-MNL-BaVL IV. 1. a. 463/1819.; Adamovich was finally released at his own request, and in 1820, Baron John Malonyai took his place: HU-MNL-BaVL IV. 1. a. 770/1820.

⁴²⁵ HU-MNL-BaVL IV. 1. a. 2/1818.

⁴²⁶ The investigation was concluded in 1834, by which time Antony (II.) Kajdacsy had already passed away. According to the Council of Governors's letter dated March 14, 1834 under number 6900. (6900/1834), Antony Kajdacsy, the *substitutus vicecomes* at that time *'arbitrarily threw the price of a total of 780 banknotes around the bridges into only seven localities'*, therefore, *'the nobles of Baranya are ordered to pay this sum from the house treasury to the audiences of the seven localities in question'*. HU-MNL-BaVL IV. 1. a. 1294/1836. From the results of the investigation, it can be seen that the accusation related to a rather "minor" case, and its suspension only served as a deterrent.

⁴²⁷ HU-MNL-BaVL IV. 1. a. 1678/1825.

⁴²⁸ Pálmány, B. (2011): 972.

⁴²⁹ Antony Deák's letter to Joseph Ozterhueber, Bratislava, December 6, 1830. Cited by: Molnár, A. (2019): 67.

⁴³⁰ Balázs Kovács, S. (2014): 426.

⁴³¹ „He is servile" and "answered bluntly, telling nonsense to [Paul – P. T.] Nagy". Viszota, Gy. (1926): 627–628.

⁴³² Fenyő, I. (1975): 783.

⁴³³ HU-MNL-BaVL IV. 1. a. 1655/1830.

⁴³⁴ Pálmány, B. (2011): 972.

⁴³⁵ The report of his co-envoy, Leopold Répás about the death of Antony (II.) Kajdacsy: HU-MNL-BaVL IV. 1. a. 144/1831.

⁴³⁶ Francis Kazinczy's letter to John Somosy. 14 January 1831. See: Váczy, J. (1911): 452.

by the end of the 1830s,⁴³⁷ but the County made a decision even in 1844 regarding the bankruptcy proceedings of the late Antony (II.) Kajdacsy.⁴³⁸

The fourth generation, the disappearance of the family

Antony (II.) Kajdacsy had two recognized sons: Antony (III.) and Sigismund (around 1808 – Pécs, August 22, 1819).⁴³⁹ Taking into account the official careers of the two previous Antonies, relatively high expectations were born of Antony (III.) Kajdacsy, in his later story, Sándor Baksay simply called him *'the morning star of Baranya'*.⁴⁴⁰

Antony (III.) Kajdacsy was born in Sásd on March 20, 1807, as the natural son of Antony (II.) Kajdacsy and Theresia Vészits out of wedlock.⁴⁴¹ His brother, Sigismund, was also born out of wedlock, but later the children were recognized as legitimate by the parents.⁴⁴²

We have little reliable information about the schools of Antony (III.): according to Pálmány, he attended the first liberal arts class of the Royal Academy of Law in Győr in the academic year 1823/24, then he was a volunteer with the 1st hussar regiment for a year (1823).⁴⁴³ On the other hand, his name can indeed be found among the students of the Royal Academy of Law in Győr, but it is indicated in 1822 in the first-year liberal arts class.⁴⁴⁴ We can also find him in the 1821 rosters of the Royal Academy of Law in Zagreb as a student of the first humanities class.⁴⁴⁵

In relation to his career in the office, the professional works that elaborate on his life are rather narrow. According to Béla Németh, he was chosen to replace Joseph Siskovics as an envoy (who resigned in 1834), because of his father and grandfathers. In 1840, he left his office as chief notary, then he *'entered the acting career and, losing his fortune due to his father's debt, he completely disappeared and the family also died out.'*⁴⁴⁶ The Pálmány-collection took over Bona's data, according to which: *'From 1839, he was the chief notary, and from 1845, the police commissioner of Baranya County.'*⁴⁴⁷ Based on research by Imre Ódor, Kajdacsy began his career as a jurassor in Siklós (1829–31), in 1832, he was an envoy of the Parliament, and from 1836 he was the judex nobilium of Szentlőrinc, then from 1840 he was the chief notary of the County.⁴⁴⁸ After that, he left his office and became an actor.⁴⁴⁹

According to the regestas of the noble general assembly of Baranya County, the official career of Antony (III.) Kajdacsy can be outlined as follows: supremus comes Stephan Végh appointed

⁴³⁷ Julianna Kajdacsy received property on Hidas, while Antony (III.) ceded a part of the Domolosi estate to Michael Kajdacsy HU-MNL-BaVL IV. 19. e. Papers of Antony Kajdacsy, jurassor of Siklós, then judex nobilium of Szentlőrinc (1794–1839). Note 8. Miscellaneous letters of Antony Kajdacsy judex nobilium of Szentlőrinc, 1832–1837.

⁴³⁸ HU-MNL-BaVL IV. 1. a. 1859 és 1865/1844.

⁴³⁹ The register can be seen in the *Familysearch* database: <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-C33S-SST6-S?i=41&cat=427391> (last visited: January 22, 2023)

⁴⁴⁰ Budapesti Hírlap December 25, 1890, Vol. 10, No. 353, 19–20.

⁴⁴¹ PEL III. 114. Sásd, mixed registry (baptized, married 1799–1832), year 1807, page 45.

⁴⁴² PEL III. 107. Pécs Cathedral, register of married persons (1782–1832), year 1811, page 79.

⁴⁴³ Pálmány, B. (2011): 973.

⁴⁴⁴ Juhász, R. I. (2017): 334.

⁴⁴⁵ Durovics, A. – Szögi, L. (2019): 301.

⁴⁴⁶ Németh, B. (1897): 665. and 669.

⁴⁴⁷ Bona, G. (1999): 146. and Pálmány, B. (2011): 973.

⁴⁴⁸ Ódor, I. (1997): 100.

⁴⁴⁹ Ódor, I. (1991): 178.

him honorary subnotary in 1828,⁴⁵⁰ then on January 8, 1829, at the age of 22, he got the office jurassor of Siklós, also with the appointment of Végh,⁴⁵¹ which he held until 1832. At the restauration on the 7th May, 1832, he was elected vice judex nobilium of Szentlőrinc,⁴⁵² and at the restauration of 1836, his office was confirmed.⁴⁵³ In the meantime, in 1835 he took the place of Joseph Siskovics, who resigned⁴⁵⁴ as Baranya's envoy to the Parliament. Regarding his envoy's operation, most literature notes that the County chose him because of his father's work, saying that he will also take a stand with the government: but the young Antony (III.) became a follower of Luise Kossuth.⁴⁵⁵ On November 14, 1837, Pankratz Somssich appointed him judex nobilium of Szentlőrinc,⁴⁵⁶ then, at the restauration held on 21st May, 1839, he became the chief notary (also with the appointment of Somssich).⁴⁵⁷ On November 24, 1840, his office was declared vacant, saying that he had not been contacted for half a year.⁴⁵⁸ In 1842, we can meet him as a tabule judex, while in 1843 he was already a police commissioner.⁴⁵⁹ He worked as police commissioner until 1848, and on May 5, 1848, he was appointed honorary vicejudex nobilium.⁴⁶⁰ On June 12, 1848, the County recommended him to the ranks of the volunteer army as a lieutenant.⁴⁶¹

As we can see, most historians agree that Antony (III.) abandoned the family tradition, became an actor, and the family died out with him. Regarding his marriage, we can see that, like his ancestors, he chose a partner from among the local elite families: on the 13th March 1831, in Bükkösd,⁴⁶² he married Clementin Jeszenszky [in full name: Clementin Anna Aloysia Sophia] (Ibafa, August 7, 1814⁴⁶³ – Pécs, August 9, 1900⁴⁶⁴). They had two children: Joseph Ladislau John Kajdacsy (Pécs, February 5, 1832⁴⁶⁵ – Hidas, October 2, 1832) and Angelica Theresia Kajdacsy (born Pécs, March 13, 1836⁴⁶⁶), however, both died young.

There is again a consensus regarding the death of Antony (III.) Kajdacsy: he was forced to emigrate after the War of Independence and died in Sulina, Romania, in 1860.⁴⁶⁷ Later on, however, we will see that the biography of Antony (III.) Kajdacsy needs further clarification,

⁴⁵⁰ HU-MNL-BaVL IV. 1. a. 1744/1828.

⁴⁵¹ HU-MNL-BaVL IV. 1. a. 79/1829.

⁴⁵² HU-MNL-BaVL IV. 1. a. 1002/1832.

⁴⁵³ HU-MNL-BaVL IV. 1. a. 1806/1836.

⁴⁵⁴ HU-MNL-BaVL IV. 1. a. 441/1835.

⁴⁵⁵ Antony (III.) Kajdacsy about Kossuth: *"Also for that successful man who, by spreading the word of our country and the public with manly steadfastness, made such a gap in prejudices that the advancing age will widen with haste, but arbitrary power cannot close."* Quotes: Kosáry, D. (1946): 127.

⁴⁵⁶ HU-MNL-BaVL IV. 1. a. 2711/1837.

⁴⁵⁷ HU-MNL-BaVL IV. 1. a. 1751/1839.

⁴⁵⁸ HU-MNL-BaVL IV. 1. a. 3794/1840.

⁴⁵⁹ HU-MNL-BaVL IV. 1. a. 1217/1843.

⁴⁶⁰ Jelenkor January 27, 1848, Vol. 17, No. 12, 47.

⁴⁶¹ HU-MNL-BaVL IV. 1. a. 1327/1848.

⁴⁶² The register can be seen in the *Familysearch* database: <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-C33S-SSXR-7?i=99&cat=424765> (last visited: January 22, 2023)

⁴⁶³ The register can be seen in the *Familysearch* database: <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:V4VW-75Z> (last visited: January 22, 2023)

⁴⁶⁴ Pécsi Közlöny August 12, 1900, Vol. 8, No. 65, 3.

⁴⁶⁵ PEL III. 107. Pécs-Cathedral, baptism registers (1782–1832) year 1832, page 258.

⁴⁶⁶ The register can be seen in the *Familysearch* database: <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:X8HD-XBS> (last visited: January 22, 2023)

⁴⁶⁷ Bona, G. (1999): 146. and Pálmány, B. (2011): 973.

and the findings in the literature so far do not fully cover and distort reality, and in some cases absolutely false information was provided.

As we noted earlier, Antony (III.) Kajdacsy participated in the War of Independence of 1848–1849, and by the summer of 1849, he had become Richard Guyon's assistant officer at the Báčka corps.⁴⁶⁸ On June 23, 1849, the later martyr, Joseph Nagysándor promoted him to the 3rd class of the military merit badge. After the fall of the War of Independence, he was conscripted into the 4th Imperial Hussar Regiment in November 1849, and was dismissed in July 1850. He later emigrated to Turkey.⁴⁶⁹

It should be noted that in 1851 a police officer named Antony Kajdacsy was appointed in Csongrád County to reduce the exponentially increasing number of outlaw attacks, but the manhunts yielded few results.⁴⁷⁰ Although there is no proof of a match, due to the previous office match and the fact that we do not know exactly when he emigrated, we cannot rule out that he tried to return to the police commissioner's office.

What we can know for sure is that on December 10, 1854, Kajdacsy was elected as a member of the five-member permanent committee (presbytery) of the Eastern Hungarian Protestant congregation,⁴⁷¹ which is somewhat surprising, because Kajdacsy was a Roman Catholic until this point. György Csorba noted that during his emigration *'he often visits Paris as well'*⁴⁷². The letter Emerick Henszlmann sent to Francis Pulszky from Paris to London (June 2, 1854) could have been written during one of these stays in Paris.⁴⁷³ According to a letter sent on November 2, 1854, Kajdacsy had already been in Istanbul (Galata) for 10 days, and from the word 'again' we can conclude that he could commute between the two cities. According to the report from Istanbul, Kajdacsy had already spoken French and Turkish.⁴⁷⁴

During his emigration, Antony Kajdacsy also participated in battles of the *Risorgimento*. In March 1861, he set out from Galac (Galați, Romania) as the commander of a 150-man standing volunteer corps.⁴⁷⁵ His superiors must have been satisfied with his work,⁴⁷⁶ since his name came up in the list of rewarding officers who *'proved themselves worthy'*.⁴⁷⁷

After the fighting in Italy, Kajdacsy returned to the Balkans, but few sources remain about his activities and places of residence. From his letters to Stephan Türr, we know that he was in Istanbul (Pera) on August 6, 1862, and in Galac again on November 13, 1863.⁴⁷⁸ The general amnesty in 1867 gave the opportunity for him to return home. According to the coverage of the Pécsi Lapok on July 18, 1867, *'Kajdacsy turkish basa'* from Vidin arrived at the Nádor hotel in Pécs.⁴⁷⁹ He did not stay in Baranya at that time, he returned again to Pécs from Vidin on November 10.⁴⁸⁰ It can be assumed that after this he settled again in the County, on December

⁴⁶⁸ Albert, G. (1999): 277.

⁴⁶⁹ Bona, G. (1999): 146.

⁴⁷⁰ Szabó, F. (1959): 61–62.

⁴⁷¹ Protestáns egyházi és iskolai lapok November 28, 1866, Vol. 9, No. 43, 1373–1374.

⁴⁷² Csorba, Gy. (1999): 375.

⁴⁷³ Szentesi, E. (2016): 313.

⁴⁷⁴ Szentesi, E. (2016): 326–329.

⁴⁷⁵ Szegedi Híradó, April 7, 1861, Vol. 3, No. 27, 3.

⁴⁷⁶ Kajdacsy himself reports on their activities: Hölgyfutár July 30, 1861, Vol. 12, No. 91, 727.

⁴⁷⁷ Lukács, L. (1986): 100. Note 8.

⁴⁷⁸ Borsi-K, B. (1993), 302–303. Note 157.

⁴⁷⁹ Pécsi Lapok July 18, 1867, Vol. 1, No. 32, 128.

⁴⁸⁰ Pécsi Lapok October 10, 1867, Vol. 1, No. 56, 224.

30, 1867, as a resident of Siklós, he donated to the construction of a memorial column designed for the martyrs of Arad.⁴⁸¹

All signs indicate that Kajdacsy made an attempt to return to his life before emigration, he even spoke at the County assembly held on January 7, 1868.⁴⁸² Although he did not return to the officer corps, he was able to take up his former office of police commissioner again. This is confirmed by Paul Osváth's reminiscences, perhaps the most important of my sources after 1849: *'In 1868, all legal authorities were invited to send a representative to a meeting of police officers to be held in Budapest'* and they elected *'former envoy of the parliament Antony Kajdacsy'* [emphasis from me – P.T.] *our fellow police commissioner* as deputy chairman of the meeting.⁴⁸³ This is the only contemporary record that shows a clear match between Antony (III.) Kajdacsy who emigrated after 1849 and who returned in 1867. After that, Kajdacsy's career plunged into obscurity again, I found another mention of him from 1878, when he was awarded the title of honorary vicejudex nobilium.⁴⁸⁴

As I alluded to earlier, the erroneous claim that Antony (III.) Kajdacsy died in 1860 in Sulina, Romania, appeared in some of the literature.⁴⁸⁵ This suggestion started from the work of Sándor Szalczer, who actually stated it based on the notes of John Pap: *'Captain Kajdacsy; died in Sulina.'*⁴⁸⁶ However, in Szalczer's work, he did not refer to Antony (III.) Kajdacsy, but to a certain Joseph Kajdacsy in several places,⁴⁸⁷ therefore, referring his data as the death of Antony Kajdacsy is a clear mistake.

But when did the last Baranya descendant of the family actually die? To get closer to the exact date of death, it may be worth examining contemporary references to his wife. In relation to Clementine Jeszenszky, the relevant question in this case is when did they start referring to her as a widow, when can the date be set when her husband's death was already public knowledge. It is certain that she died as a widow in 1900.⁴⁸⁸ It was possible to identify notes about Clementine Jeszenszky in the contemporary press from 1859,⁴⁸⁹ 1866,⁴⁹⁰ 1867,⁴⁹¹ and from 1879.⁴⁹² In none of the listed cases was she referred to as a widow, so her husband was either still alive or they were unaware of his death.

In 1881, the Pécsi Figyelő reported that Antony Kajdacsy died at the age of 80 on March 7, 1881 in Vajszló, Baranya.⁴⁹³ The same death, according to the reformed death registers of Vajszló, the district police commissioner Antony Kajdacsy died on March 7, 1881, at the age of 82 in terminal illness, and was buried on March 10.⁴⁹⁴ According to Sándor Baksay, Antony

481 A Honvéd December 30, 1867, Vol. 1, No. 22, 7.

482 Pécsi Lapok January 9, 1868, Vol. 2, No. 3, 10.

483 Osváth, P. (1905): 130.

484 Pécsi Figyelő January 5, 1878, Vol. 6, No. 1. 2.

485 Bona, G. (1999): 146. and Pálmány, B. (2011): 973.

486 Szalczer, S. (1893): 354.

487 Szalczer, S. (1893): 340–341., 387. és 390.

488 Pécsi Közlöny August 12, 1900, Vol. 8, No. 65, 3.

489 Budapesti Hírlap July 13, 1859, No. 167, 4.

490 The obituary of the widow of Stephan Tallián de vizek: <https://dspace.oszk.hu/handle/20.500.12346/509841> (last visited: January 22, 2023)

491 Kalauz May 27, 1867, Vol. 3, No. 34, 271.

492 Pécsi Figyelő December 13, 1879, Vol. 7, No. 50, 3.

493 Pécsi Figyelő March 12, 1881, Vol. 9, No. 11, 3.

494 BREL C, 119. a. Vajszló mixed registers (1856–1994), register of the dead: 1858–1887, year 1881, page 18.

Kajdacsy died at old age, he lived more than 80 years.⁴⁹⁵ All three sources contradict Kajdacsy's official birth certificate, since Antony (III.) was born in 1807, therefore he was only 74 years old in 1881. It is important to note, however, that Baksay was unable to determine the time of Antony (III.)'s birth and indicated 1800 or 1807 as a possible date of birth, so it can be assumed that the contemporary Baksay did not know the exact date of birth. With the death of Antony (III.) Kajdacsy, the Kajdacsy family became extinct. His wife died 9 years later, on August 9, 1900, in Pécs, thus the previously influential family disappeared from the history of Baranya.

Factors of the rise of the family

Examining the life histories of the family members, it can be stated that the first generation, Sigismund Kajdacsy, was able to achieve serious results in acquiring property: from his marriage with Eva Julianna Risács came the property, which, when distributed among their children, ensured a stable background for the Tolna and Baranya branches of the family, both in terms of property, residence, and prestige. The later generations of the family did not excel in this field, instead they considered a different path, the acquisition of positions in the County officer corps (and the prestige and salaries that came with them) as their first priority.

The individual ambitions of the family members certainly played a role in the acquisition of officer corps, and it cannot be denied that they all had outstanding talent. It should also be noted that each family member made excellent use of the positions of power and inheritance of the generations before them: both Michael and Antony (II.) entered the officer corps when their father was at his prime. Antony (II.) won the election for the office of *judex nobilium* at the age of 24 (which is incredibly young) at the exact same restoration (1803), when his father confirmed his office of *vice comes* for the second time. We can see the exact same method in case of the entrance of Antony (III.), who got his first office, when his father was the second most important officer (*substitutus vice comes*) of the County.

The attainment of an office due to the merits of the fathers is best seen in the acquisition of the parliamentary envoy's office: between 1790–1836, the Kajdacsy dynasty always gave one of the envoys of Baranya. Antony (I.) represented the County seven times, after his death Antony (II.) took over this position. Even the scandalous death of Antony (II.) was not enough of a loss of prestige to prevent his son Antony (III.) from winning this commission, in fact, he was elected precisely because the nobles of the County hoped that he would follow his father's policies,⁴⁹⁶ as it happened anno with Antony (II.) after his father's death.⁴⁹⁷

Relationship building

In addition to the inherited symbolic capital, the ambition of the family members, and the individual abilities, it is clear that the family's relationship system also contributed significantly to the rise and the winning of various offices. Among the family's relationship-building strategies, we can distinguish formal and informal relationship systems. Both forms functioned

⁴⁹⁵ Budapesti Hírlap December 25, 1890, Vol.10, No. 353, 19–20.

⁴⁹⁶ HU-MNL-BaVL IV. 1. a. 441/1835.

⁴⁹⁷ Németh, B. (1897): 650.

as extremely complicated and complex systems, and as a result, I would only explain one aspect of them in this thesis. One of the most important points of the informal contact system used to obtain office was the relationship with the current supremus comes. The reason for this is clear: the authority of the supremus comes was to appoint certain offices, while the most important vice comes office was chosen by the orders from among the persons nominated by the supremus comes. In the election of representatives to the Parliament, although the orders elect independently in principle, the opinion of the supremus comes proved to be a decisive factor in this matter as well.

The relationship between Antony (I.) and Peter Végh (supremus comes between 1790 and 1807) was fruitful for the Kajdacsy family. Peter Végh only visited the County once a year, therefore he needed a vice comes, who reliably directed the officers in his absence. The result of mutual reliance was that the sons of Antony (I.) all won official ranks with the appointment of Peter Végh, which Antony (I.) reciprocated with loud voices and a stable County.⁴⁹⁸

After the death of Peter Végh (1807) and Antony (I.) Kajdacsy (1811), their sons came to the fore. The son of Peter Végh, Stephan became supremus comes of Baranya in 1807, and Antony (II.) Kajdacsy became substitutus vice comes in 1813. We can clearly see in the regestas, that Stephan he did not choose Kajdacsy as his main confidant, but another influential noble, Joseph Mihálovich. Mihálovich became vice comes in 1813, and he had the trust of Stephan Végh to such an extent that the supremus comes did not call for another restauration for almost 20 years, until 1832 – where he could have been replaced. Mihálovich's favoritism against Kajdacsy was also visible during election to the parliamentary envoy in 1825, when Stephan Végh asked personally Mihálovich to be the envoy, because he ‘has great confidence’ in him. However, Mihálovich did not accept the assignment, instead he recommended Kajdacsy, who was finally accepted by both of the nobles and Stephan Végh.⁴⁹⁹ However, we cannot say that Antony (II.) had lost the trust of Stephan Végh, since when Kajdacsy was suspended from office in 1818,⁵⁰⁰ in the end, he was not removed, even though the supremus comes would have had the opportunity to do so. In the end, Antony (II.) remained in office, even he was elected envoy, when he had already moved to Buda a year ago.

The relationship with the supremus comes was finally ‘neutralized’ by the time of Antony (III.), in 1836, a new supremus comes of Baranya was installed, Pankratz Somssich. The following year, Antony (III.) moved up the ranks with the appointment of Somssich,⁵⁰¹ then in 1839 he also won the office of chief notary with the appointment of the supremus comes.⁵⁰² At the same time, we must also note that when Antony (III.) (like his father) did not stay at his ‘workplace’, he was deprived of his office because of this.⁵⁰³ In the case of Pankratz Somssich, we can no longer perceive favoritism similar to previous generations, and his relationship with Antony (III.) can be said to be average.

The family's formal relationship system is represented by the marriages of family members. In the case of Sigismund Kajdacsy, we have already mentioned that through his marriage he acquired property in the counties of Tolna and Baranya, while almost all members of the second

⁴⁹⁸ Németh, B. (1897): 628.

⁴⁹⁹ HU-MNL-BaVL IV. 1. a. 1678/1825.

⁵⁰⁰ HU-MNL-BaVL IV. 1. a. 2/1818.

⁵⁰¹ HU-MNL-BaVL IV. 1. a. 2711/1837.

⁵⁰² HU-MNL-BaVL IV. 1. a. 1751/1839.

⁵⁰³ HU-MNL-BaVL IV. 1. a. 3794/1840.

generation were able to marry into the local County elite families: in both of Francis's marriages, the daughters of Tolna landowner families, Antony (I.) married the daughter of the current vice comes of Baranya, Theresia married the chief notary of the County, who later also won the office of vice comes. In the case of marriages organized by the second generation, serious differences can already be observed between the two branches of the family. Francis's daughters (Elisabeth and Josepha) married into two influential families, the Perczel family from Tolna and the Somssich family from Somogy. On the contrary, a completely different way can be seen in the cases of Antony (I.)'s children. The firstborn son, Michael became a priest, Julianna stayed maiden until her death. As we will see, the marriages of Antony (II.) were a bit problematic, we will examine these later. Antony (III.) married Clementin Jeszenszky, also a daughter of a local elite family. Overall, it can be stated that the family was able to develop a successful and fruitful marriage-based alliance system.

About the Somssich – Kajdacsy double-marriage

The literature dealing with the family almost always highlights the Kajdacsy-Somssich double-marriage as one of the cornerstones of cross-County relationship building, which was aimed at securing and consolidating already acquired positions.

According to Imre Ódor: *'Antony Kajdacsy and Joseph Siskovics both married the daughters of Joseph Somssich, Anna, and Barbara, while Nicolaus Somssich with Josepha Kajdacsy's hand, ensured the "reciprocity".'*⁵⁰⁴ *The same can be read in the paper written by Zoltán Kaposi: 'The marriage relationship between the two middle-class families is interesting. The sister of Nicolaus, Anna Somssich (1785-1807) was the wife of Antony (I.) Kajdacsy, the son of the vice comes of Baranya County. At the same time, Nicolaus Somssich's wife was Josepha Kajdacsy (1789-1860), the sister of Antony (II.) Kajdacsy.'*⁵⁰⁵

Several contradictions can be discovered regarding the marriages. In the work of Márton Szluha, Anna Somssich was the wife of Antony (III.) Kajdacsy,⁵⁰⁶ while one of Imre Ódor's contradictions is that in one study he wrote that Antony (II.) wed Clementine Jeszenszky, then in the same study, Anna Somssich was considered to be the wife of Antony (II.).⁵⁰⁷

But did such a double-marriage really happen? Certainly not in the form that the two quotes suggest. Josepha Kajdacsy and Antony (II.) Kajdacsy were not siblings, but cousins: Josepha belonged to the Tolna branch of the family (also, she was born in Börsöny, not in 1789, but on the 8th March 1790, as the daughter of Francis Kajdacsy and Judith Cséfalvay).⁵⁰⁸ This did not negate the bilateral relationship, it only highlighted its strength.

The other half of the double marriage is related to the wedding of Antony (II.) Kajdacsy and Anna Somssich. It is certain that Antony (II.) Kajdacsy married Theresia Vészits in 1811, with whom they already had two children. The registers make it clear that this was already the second marriage of Antony Kajdacsy, his children were born after the death of his first legal wife, but

⁵⁰⁴ Ódor, I. (2014): 78.

⁵⁰⁵ Kaposi, Z. (2014): 21. Note 28.

⁵⁰⁶ Szluha, M. (2003): 573.

⁵⁰⁷ Ódor, I. (2014): 77–78.

⁵⁰⁸ The register can be seen in the *Familysearch* database: <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:V4JY-WHY> (last visited: January 22, 2023)

the first wife's name was not recorded.⁵⁰⁹ Some of the literature identified Anna Somssich as the mother of Antony (III.) Kajdacsy,⁵¹⁰ but as we saw earlier, Antony (III.) was already born from Theresia Vészits. However, the Antony Kajdacsy - Anna Somssich marriage was not disproved by this. During my research, I tried to look through the registers of the locations connected to Antony (II.) Kajdacsy (Pécs, Hidas, Börsöny, Szigetvár, Bükkösd, from 1803 Sásd and Mágocs), but I was unable to find a source regarding the marriage or his first wife. As a result, I focused my research on the person of Anna Somssich.

A significant part of the literature is tight-lipped about Anna Somssich, as we will see later, in most cases they do not even give her a year, or if they do, they put her life between 1785 and 1807. However, before we move on to the examination of these two years, I see it as appropriate to examine the historiography of the double-marriage. Iván Nagy wrote down his data in '*Following a family communication*',⁵¹¹ while Béla Kempelen only gave his sources in general terms.⁵¹² Like them, the *Siebmacher Wappenbuch* only contains names.⁵¹³ Lajosné Véssey also described the fact of the marriage,⁵¹⁴ and in the family trees of Somssich Pongrácz, only the name of Antony Kajdacsy can be read.⁵¹⁵ Imre Ódor also wrote about a double-marriage without a specific data.⁵¹⁶

In my literature collection, the *Pálmány-collection* was the first to provide the years 1785-1807 in 2011, referring to Iván Nagy and Márton Szluha.⁵¹⁷ This is interesting because neither Nagy nor Szluha gave a year, in fact, Szluha directly considered Anna Somssich to be the wife of Antony (III.) and not Antony (II.).⁵¹⁸ It also raises questions that the *Pálmány-collection* designates Anna Somssich as the mother of Antony (III.) Kajdacsy, but gives the exact date of birth: however, if this source had really been used, it would have become clear that the mother of Antony (III.) was Theresia Vészits. I believe that Pálmány's dates come from the database of the *genealogy.euweb* website, which was referred to in several cases in the volume.⁵¹⁹ The only problem with this is that this website does not provide its sources either.

The same years were given by Gábor Imre Nagy (referring to Iván Nagy and János Gudenus)⁵²⁰ and also by Zoltán Kaposi (referring to Ódor).⁵²¹ However, it is also worth noting that in Zoltán

⁵⁰⁹ „Sua occasione coram proactactis Testibus Idem Dominus Antonius Kajdacsy eam quoque declarationem fecit: quod duas proles masculas Antonium nempe, et Sigismundum, quos post decessum legitimae Uxoris suae, extra matrimonium cum praedicta Theresia Vészits susceperat, atque progenuerat, pro veris, naturalibus, atque indubitatis suis filiis recognoseat, ac per nunc celebratum cum Theresia Vészits matrimonium legitimet ac cohonestet: imo pro legitimis, ac veris suis successoribus agnoscat, indubitanter teneat, atque declaret.” PEL III. 107. Pécs-Cathedral, register of married persons (1782–1832) year 1811, page 79.; The register can be seen in the Familysearch database: <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSV4-RZMX?i=45&cat=427391> (last visited: January 22, 2023)

⁵¹⁰ Bona, G. (1999): 146.; Pálmány, B. (2011): 973. és Kaposi, Z. (2014): 21.

⁵¹¹ Nagy, I. (1868): 302. Note 1.

⁵¹² Kempelen, B. (1915): 416.

⁵¹³ Witting, J. B. (1918): 160.

⁵¹⁴ Véssey, L. (1944): 26.

⁵¹⁵ Somssich, P. (1991): 175.

⁵¹⁶ Ódor, I. (1997): 105. and Ódor, I. (2014): 77–78.

⁵¹⁷ Pálmány, B. (2011): 973.

⁵¹⁸ Szluha, M. (2003): 573.

⁵¹⁹ Genealogy.euweb's database: <http://genealogy.euweb.cz/hung/somssich.html> (last visited: January 22, 2023)

⁵²⁰ Nagy, I. G. (2007): 148.: We have already talked about Iván Nagy, and Anna Somssich does not appear in the cited work of János Gudenus either. Gudenus, J. J. (1998): 331., 337., 339–342.

⁵²¹ Kaposi, Z. (2014): 21. Note 28.

Kaposi's early studies,⁵²² in which he examined the rise of the Somssich family, neither Anna Somssich nor the double-marriage appeared: although Anna is supposed to be the younger sister of Nicolaus and Pankratz (whose lives he presented in detail), he only described the marriage of Nicolaus Somssich and Josepha Kajdacsy.⁵²³

As I have already mentioned, the two years provided earlier probably need to be clarified. In connection with his date of birth, there is a chance that the date 1785 corresponds to reality: among the children of Joseph Somssich and Maria Ürményi, Nicolaus Somssich was born on the 13th December 1784,⁵²⁴ while Benjamin Somssich on the 20th July 1786.⁵²⁵ So if Anna Somssich was born in 1785, there was only a mathematical chance of this happening in September 1785. The birth certificate is not listed in the registers of Sárd (where all her siblings were born), but this does not mean that it was not recorded elsewhere. Regarding her death, we must certainly clarify the date of 1807, because we know from the marriage of Antony (II.) that he fathered Antony (III.) after the death of his legal wife, so his first wife died before the summer of 1806.

In relation to Anna Somssich, there is a lack of resources. We do not know exactly when and where she was born, when she married, and when, where and why she died. The 'deadlock' is clear: on the one hand, we cannot prove that Anna Somssich never lived – that would be impossible. On the other hand, no one had shown any primary source as to when she was born, died and married to Kajdacsy – there is only the literature and secondary sources, and as we have seen, these contain contradictions and errors.

It is therefore certain that there was one marriage between the Kajdacsy-Somssich families (between Nicolaus Somssich and Josepha Kajdacsy), but the other one has so far been neither proven nor disproved. We still have a chance, to prove that Antony (II.) and Anna Somssich were married indeed – in this case, the thesis of the double marriage is real, and the literature was right – but for this, we must find source. At the same time, we also have a chance to prove that they were never married: if we could find the register of Antony (II.)'s first marriage. In summary, I think that until we find a reliable, primary source on the marriage of Antony (II.) Kajdacsy and Anna Somssich, it is worth talking about the bilateral relationship between the families with caution.

Causes of the downfall

The literature traditionally linked the cause of the family's decline to Antony (III.)'s behavior. However, in my opinion, this judgment is one-sided and unfair. It is a fact that the Baranya branch of the family died out with Antony (III.), and he was the only one excluded from the officer corps. However, this does not mean that he alone was responsible for the 'downfall' of the family. I think we have to look for the reasons for this in the relationship between the generations.

⁵²² Kaposi, Z. (1999) and Kaposi, Z. (2002)

⁵²³ Kaposi, Z. (1999): 209. and Kaposi, Z. (2002): 77.

⁵²⁴ The register can be seen in the *Familysearch* database: <https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:X8YZ-5MN> (last visited: January 22, 2023)

⁵²⁵ The register can be seen in the *Familysearch* database: <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:X8YZ-TVY> (last visited: January 22, 2023)

The relationship between the generations: Antony (I.) and his sons

We do not know for sure whether the Antony (I.) ‘forced’ his sons to follow the family traditions and build a future for themselves in the County service. However, we can draw conclusions from the events of the regestas. In the absence of sources, we cannot know what the personal relationship between Antony (I.) and Michael was like. However, it is certain that Michael did not ask for these appointments – because he himself rejected them almost immediately. It also seems improbable that the supremus comes ‘just’ appointed him, without consulting Antony (I.).

Antony (I.)'s relationship with his other son, Antony (II.) could not have been smooth either. I mentioned earlier that there is an ‘exception’ among the family's marriages: the marriage of Antony Kajdacsy and Theresia Vészits. This marriage did not bring property, political capital, or votes in elections. We know that they had two children before their marriage, so we can conclude that it was a love marriage. But why didn't they get married earlier? We know that at the time of the birth of their first son, Antony (II.) was already a widower, 28 years old, and held one of the County's esteemed, serious offices. It is revealing that Antony (II.) and Theresia Vészits got married (on the 23rd July 1811) 4 days after Antony (I.)'s death (19th July 1811). It can be assumed that Antony (I.) was against this marriage of his son, so they ‘had to wait’ for Antony (I.)'s death. It is also revealing that Antony (II.) mourned his father for such a short time, and how big a role fathers had in the lives of adults.

The preferences of Antony (III.)

In the absence of sources, we do not know in detail what Antony (III.)'s relationship with the third generation and its members was like. We know that Antony (III.) and his uncle Michael were on rather bad terms.⁵²⁶ We also know what Antony (III.) inherited from his father: financial difficulties and a huge loss of prestige. Despite all of this, we see that Antony (III.)'s career was not hindered by these, he moved higher and higher. His rise lasted until he was expelled from the officer corps. I mentioned earlier that the literature explains this by saying that Antony (III.) wanted to be an actor, and he became one.

The basis of the suggestion that Antony (III.) Kajdacsy became an actor can be formed by a document from 1854, in which County chief Eduard Cseh informed the mayor of Pécs about the arrest of an actor named Antony Kajdacsy.⁵²⁷ The ‘actor’ line was further strengthened by examining the history of Pécs theater before 1840. On July 20, 1839, the County assembly adopted a resolution according to which ‘we decided to support the National Actors' Society, which exists in Pécs and is under the wings of the nobility.’⁵²⁸ The nobility of Baranya decided to organize the first Hungarian Theater in Pécs, and a committee was formed to carry out the preparations, which also took care of the funds received from public donations. Chief notary

⁵²⁶ Michael Kajdacsy's letter to Antony (III.) Kajdacsy, February 15, 1834. Location: HU-MNL-BaVL IV. 19. e. Papers of Antony Kajdacsy, jurassor of Siklós, then judex nobilium of Szentlőrinc (1794–1839). Note 8. Miscellaneous letters of Antony Kajdacsy judex nobilium of Szentlőrinc, 1832–1837.

⁵²⁷ “The comedian of noble birth who deserved a better fate was arrested in December 1853. His offense was that he did not declare his debt of 1,000. forints”. Quotes: Kerényi, F. (1992): 102.

⁵²⁸ Márfi, A. (1995): 439.

Kajdacsy and board judge became the chairman of the permanent committee managing the monetary fund. The board of the National Casino in Pécs undertook the management of the contracted theater company: the board consisted of 7 people, its presidents were Emerick Mihálovich and Antony (III.) Kajdacsy.⁵²⁹ Thus, Antony (III.) Kajdacsy undoubtedly had a connection to theater in Pécs, although we cannot prove whether he personally acted as an actor in specific plays.

In the case of Antony (III.), it can be seen that he did not wish to continue the family tradition: it is important to emphasize that he left the office of chief notary 'voluntarily', since he could 'thank' it solely to his own behavior that he was deprived of the position. He is somewhat similar to Michael in this. We also know that in the next part of Antony's life he worked as a police commissioner. He achieved serious success in this and gained great popularity: his work was surrounded by public satisfaction, his figure often appeared in the columns of contemporary press products.⁵³⁰ However, we must emphasize that whether he was an actor or not, and in vain he was 'just' a police commissioner, he never lost so much authority and respect that his figure would have been 'unacceptable' for the office corps, since he was appointed as an honorary vice *judex nobilium*.

It can also be a telling fact, that he did not want to return there even after his return from emigration. He was 60 years old at this time, former member of parliament, respected police commissioner, hero of the War of Independence of 1848–1849, the emigration and the Italian wars – everything would have been given to return to the officer corps, if he wanted to. Instead, he resumed his former position as police commissioner.

Based on all of this, I believe that Antony (III.) did not leave the officer corps due to a lack of ability or opportunity, but of his own free will, due to his own preferences – simply, like Michael, he wanted to do something else. The only difference is that, while in the case of Michael, the generation that followed him was able to continue the family tradition, after Antony (III.) there was no new generation.

Conclusion

The primary reasons for the rise of the family were the good relationship networks (both formal and informal) and the individual qualities of the family members. With regard to their relationship capital, it can be seen that they were well used to obtain office, and through their

⁵²⁹ Márfi, A. (1995): 25.

⁵³⁰ In the *Nemzeti Ujság* (National Gazette) the following story can be read from 1844: "Personal and property security has been restored in our County since our new police commissioner Antony Kajdacsy managed to capture the 4 individuals of the group of robbers I mentioned last time after an armed confrontation." *Nemzeti Ujság* December 21, 1844, Vol. 39, No. 100, 413.; Another story from 1845: "This way we take the opportunity to report some other news to the worthy audience. In our border, not so long ago, the noble Baranya County police officer Antony Kajdacsi captured four famous robbers who escaped through us. The upright official encouraged these evildoers day and night - sacrificing his life for several days - until his amazing skill managed to capture them [...]. We have to admit that we have not known such a precise and skillful official; that's why we salute this worthy champion of public security, who earned the gratitude of many thousands by saving them from the terrors of these evildoers." *Nemzeti Ujság* March 14, 1845, Vol. 40, No. 42, 167.; and also the *Nemzeti Ujság* reports on the bandits settling in the Bács County, when it notes: "For some time, the vagabonds of Baranya believe they can invent a safer haven in our County; it seems they know that the famous Kajdacsy does not live in our County". *Nemzeti Ujság* November 30, 1845, Vol. 40, No. 172, 691.

marriages they came into close contact with significant families in the region – even the Somssich family of Somogy, but the details of this require further research. However, these marriages were present in every generation, so we cannot say that their absence caused the downfall of the family.

In my opinion, the downfall was caused by the differences between generations and the individual desires of family members. So far, this is not a new finding, as previous literature also came to this conclusion: the downfall of the family was caused by the fault of Antony (III). As we have seen, there is some truth in this. Antony (III.) really left the officer corps voluntarily and did not want to return there, although we can see from his life that he had the chance to do so – he defied family tradition, if you will.

However, it can create a false impression if we only blame one generation for the reasons for the downfall of the entire family: on the one hand, Michael arbitrarily withdrew from the officer corps, did not produce offspring and did not continue the family tradition; on the other hand, Antony (II.)'s financial and women's affairs meant a huge blow to the family both in terms of material and symbolic power and prestige. Therefore, not only Antony (III), but also the generation before him can be 'blamed' for the downfall of the family.

I hope that my research contributed to getting to know a family that had a significant impact on the life of an entire County for more than a century. However, the work is far from finished, and the history of the Kajdacsy family needs nuance in several cases.

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