

BIRTH CERTIFICATE FOR KULENOVIC BEYS^[1]

ACCORDING TO THE KONSTANTIN HÖRMAN, AN ADVISOR TO THE EARTHLY GOVERNMENT OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, as published in "National Songs of Mohammedans" - second book, pages 603 to 607, from the National printing press year 1889, Sarajevo, National Library sign. I.11766-IIa.

According to the family traditions Kulenovics, or more correctly Kulinovics, originate from Mihajl(Micael) Kulin,^[foto 8] the brother of the great Venetian doge (Head of the Venetian Republic) "Kulin". However, Kulenovics know as much about Kulin-ban^[2]^[foto 1, 2] as the other Bosniacs, and consider him in general to be a mythic person, saying : "If he was our predecessor, he was not our great grandfather but the other Kulin, Mihajl Kulin from Venice". I will thus without any further research and historical reflections, and without correcting the historically incorrect facts, keep to what is being said to me by the Kulenovic begs about their family.

Mihajl Kulin converted to Islam in the year of 851 (1447 according to the Christian calendar) due to Sultan Murat II, who gave him the name Hidajet Pasha.^[3] Hidajet Pasha



(Kulin) fought with the Sultan on the Battle of Kosovo 1448 against Hungarians Hunyadi Johannes – (Sabinjanin Janko). He died several years later during the fight between the Turks and the state of Venice that was at that time runned by his brother. Hidajet Pasha was a great hero so Sultan Murat II appreciated him greatly. Accepting the Ottoman rule and Islam as religion enabled Hidajet Pasha to receive many precious gifts as well as a splendid Qur'an.

Ibrahim Pasha – Grand Visir

When he died he left behind him a son Halil Pasha, who himself died in 909 (1503 according to the Christian calendar) in a battle against the Venetian Republic. His son, the famous Ibrahim Pasha married Sultan Suleyman's daughter, who then exalted him to Sadr-azam^[4] year 929 (1523). His son, Tahvil Pasha, also called "Hrvat" (Croat) was also sadr-azam for both Sultan Selim II and Murat III. The son of Tahvil Pasha known as Ahmed Pasha died on the battle of Mohács field (29. Aug. 1526) leaving behind him a son, Salih Pasha, who in his turn left behind him Halil Bey.

The son of Halil Bey, known as Salih Pasha^[foto 6] is considered to be the founder of cities Kulen Vakuf, Ostrovica, Havalala and Petrovac. The Bosnian Vizier who run the city of Travnik at that time tried to force Salih Pasha to attest some kind of Manzar, which Salih Pasha refused. When Vizir tried to forcefully take Salih Pasha's seal from him, the latter fired a small gun towards him. Vizir's men then jumped Salih Pasha and stabbed him to death, this was on 13th of June 1111 (1669 according to the Christian calendar). He was buried in Travnik where his body lays until this day. The son of Salih Pasha, Mahmud Pasha died in Persia in the year 1157 (1744) during a fight with the Persians.

In Bosnia he left behind him six sons: Mehmed Pasha, Smail Bey, Muhamed Kaptain - Petrovacki, Murat Bey, Avdi Bey and Halil Bey.

Ad1. From Mehmed Pasha's side we have the Kulenovics, who were also known as Haraclijs (because they gathered taxes); Bajbuti - one of his grandfathers was Captain Bajbut, also known as Topalast; Covke from the village Covke above Kulen Vakuf; and Robinjici because one of their great grandfathers had a slave woman.

Ad2. Smail Bey's sons were Hafiz-bey and Hadzi-bey. Their descendants lived in Havali (close to Kulen Vakuf, in Petrovac).

Ad3. Muhamed Kapetain left behind him two sons: Ali Kaptain and Mustaj-bey. His descendants live today in Petrovac and Prijedor.

Ad4. Murat-bey inherited from his father Mahmut Pasha the city of Jajce. He died in Bolvara 1204 (1789) and left behind him three sons a) Salih-bey, b) Husein-bey, c) Sulejman-bey. Salih-beg died in 1230 (1814) in Serbia. Salih-beg had a son, Hasan-beg, who died in 1275 (1858) in Bijelajac. His sons - Ahmed-bey, Idriz-bey (lives in Sarajevo now) and Mustaj-bey. Husein-beg died in 1240 (1824) in Bijelajac and left behind him three sons: Murat-beg, Mahmut-bey and Halil-bey (all died). Sulejman-bey, also known as Dizdar^[5] from Jajce^[foto9], died in 1249 (1832) in Jajce, leaving behind the sons: Hadzi-Alaj-bey, Mehmed-bey, Muhamed-bey (alive).

Ad5. Avdi-bey was strangled in Havala in Kulen Vakuf by tsar's border guards. At that point a battle between ottoman and Austrian border guards broke out, and Avdi-bey was against to yield a meter of the land to the tsar. From Stambol (Istanbul) the border guards could not find any other way out but to strangle Avdi-bey in order to get rid of a powerful adversary. Avdi-bey lived in Petrovac. He left behind him Omer-bey who in his turn got three sons: Hadzi-Kadri-bey, Hadzi-Smail-bey, and Hadzi Muhamed-bey. Their descendants live in Petrovac and call themselves Hadzi Kadribegovic, Hadzi Smajlovic, and Sinikdzic.

Ad6. Halil-bey inherited, upon the death of his father, Klisevic, three hours walk from Kulen Vakuf. His sons Hrustan-bey, Halil-bey and Becir-bey all died on battlefields, and their sons are today called Klisevics.

The Kulinovic family is today one of the most wide-spread among the old Bosnian noble families. Jealously they guard antiquities from they predecessors'. I already talked about the Qur'an that Hidajet Pasha got from Sultan Murat. Apart from antiquities and other precious things Kulinovici also got BERAT from Sultan Selim II, which is granted to the oldest male member of the family amounting to 150 forint (Hungarian currency) monthly as a reward for the services Kulinovics conducted for the different Sultans. Also, among the many precious things up until recently one could find a sabre signed by the Turkish tsar Selim II. Unfortunately some years ago this sabre disappeared, as did many other antiquities that the old begs Kulinovic kept for there descendents.

There are many stories and legends about the descendents of this family. About one of them, known as "Vilen-bey" or the Long Omer-bey, it is told that: "Vilen-bey once left his castle in Bijelajac to go hunting. In the woods he saw a beautiful girl that fell to his liking. She was a fairy. When she saw the long Omer she started running, but our bey was fast and he caught the fairy and took her for his lover but he did not have easy time with her".

That Vilen-bey had a bad temperament, he drunk a lot and he liked to chase women. Once he went to the village Podricici and stopped by his serf Djuro Ponorac. Ponorac welcomed him kindly and Vilen-bey as always started drinking wine. He ordered Djuro's daughter in law to start pouring beer instead. Djuro then said "Let me pour the beer my dear bey". Djuro then went to the castle, but came back quickly with two small guns, and said to Vilen-bey: "Choose which one you want, if you open your mouth I will as well. Choose the gun that you want, but my daughter in law will not serve you". When Vilen-bey heard that he quickly became sober and started laughing and singing:
"All birds have their sparrow hawk,
and Vilen-bey has his serf Ponorac.
Djuro you are indeed a reall man,
but know that if you have allowed your daughter in law to pour me bear I would have cut you down". [**under construction**]

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¹Bey - *Ottoman empire Noblemen ; 1: prince, ruler of an independent principality, 2: governor of a district.*

² Kulin Ban - (1153-1204) was a powerful Bosnian monarch who ruled from 1180 to 1204, the second semi-independent Bosnian ban. His rule is often remembered as Bosnia's golden age, and he is a common hero of national folk tales. With the exception of a single military raid against the Byzantium in 1183, Bosnia was in peace throughout his rule. In Kulin's times, the term Bosnia encompassed roughly the lands of Vrhbosna, Usora, Soli, Donji Kraji and Rama, which is approximately equivalent to most of modern Bosnia.

Kulin was aligned with the Bosnian Church, so much that the duke of Zeta and Duklja Vukan Nemanjić reported him to the Pope in 1199 for the heresy. The Catholic Church had the Kingdom of Hungary pressure Kulin about this matter, and subsequently in 1203 he organized a congress in Bilino Polje where he officially declared his allegiance to the Catholic Church and denounced the heresy.

The Charter of Kulin is a symbolic "birth certificate" of Bosnian statehood, as it is the first written document that talks of Bosnian borders (between the rivers of Drina, Sava and Una) and of the elements of the Bosnian state: its ruler, throne and political organization. [foto.1, 2]

³ Pasha - *The title on a high ranking officer that are used in the Ottoman empire. It was placed after the name as an honorary title, the highest accolade in the empire. [foto]*

⁴ Sadr – azam - *Grand Vizier, in Turkish Sadr-Azam (Sadrazam), deriving from the Arabic word wazir 'vizier', was the greatest minister of the Sultan, with absolute power of attorney and, in principle, dismissable only by the Sultan himself. He held the imperial seal and could convene all other viziers to attend to affairs of the state; the*

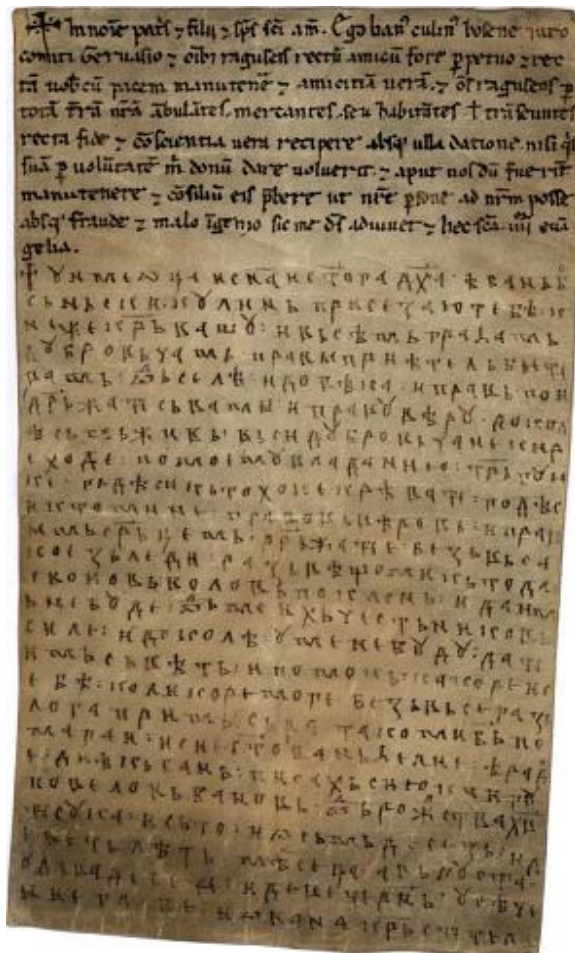
viziers in conference were called "Kubbealt viziers" in reference to their meeting place, the Kubbealt ('under the dome') in Topkapi Palace. His offices were located at the Sublime Porte. [foto]

⁵ Dizdar - was the commander of the fortified town, or fortress. Suleyman bey Kulenovic- from taun Jajce - [foto]

⁶ Jajce – Bosnian old town , *royal city*

PHOTO

1) The Charter of Kulin Ban 1189.



The charter of ban Kulin to the Republic of Ragusa from 29 August 1189 is oldest preserved Bosnian monument

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost. I, Kulin, ban of Bosnia, swear to be a true friend to you, o prince Kr'vash, and to all Dubrovnik citizens from now on and forever, and to keep true peace with you, and true faith, as long as I am alive. All Dubrovnik people who go through my domain trading, wherever anyone wants to move or wherever anyone passes, I will in true faith and with a true heart keep without any

damage, unless someone of his own will gives me a gift, and let there be no violence against them by my officers, and as long as they are in my lands I will give them advice and help as I would to myself, as much as I am able, without any evil intention, so help me God and this holy Gospel. I Radoje the ban's clerk wrote this document by the command of the ban, one thousand and one hundred and eighty and nine years from the birth of Christ, the month of August, the twenty-ninth day, [the day of] the beheading of John the Baptist.

In 1189 Kulin Ban (1163-1204) issued the first written Bosnian document, a trade agreement between Bosnia and the republic of Dubrovnik, known as Povelja Kulin Ban, the "Charter of Kulin Ban."

2) Stone panel of Kulin Ban **1193.**



Kulin Ban Plate from 1193.g., which contains the record Bosnian Cyrillic script to build a church

3) Rare portrait of Ibrahim Pasha



Ibrahim Pasha, Grand Vizier

(1493?-1536)

Ibrahim was "short, swarthy, intelligent and well-read. He knew Persian, Greek, Serbo-Croat, and Italian -- and he played the lute. When he entered the household of Suleyman I, the young prince was captivated."

Ibrahim could be charming. Once the Sultan asked him, "Whose celebration party was best, Ibrahim? The one I held for my son's circumcision or the one you held when you were married?" Ibrahim was quick with the "right" answer... "My party was best," he said, "because I had the Sultan as my guest!"

Or he could be a jealous adversary...

A European chronicler made note (in 1534) that Ibrahim discovered the Magnificent Suleyman getting advice from [the attractive] Rustem Pasha (who would be Ibrahim's successor). Ibrahim became quite agitated and, in a flash, Rustem found himself reassigned to duty in the remote province of Diyarbaksir. Suleyman did not intervene.

Suleyman and he quickly became very close friends -- too close in the eyes of many (Ali Kemal Meram suggests they were bisexual lovers.) After Suleyman became Sultan (1520), Ibrahim began a meteoric rise. Within 3 years, he was Grand Vizier, beating out Piri Mehmed, the last of the Grand Vizier's to come from the old Turkish aristocracy. From this point, members of the 'devsirme' began increasingly to take control of the principal positions of state in the Ottoman Empire.

Ibrahim had a fatal flaw -- he lacked modesty (outside the presence of the Sultan). He was once quoted as saying, "Though I am the Sultan's slave, whatsoever I declare is done. I can at a stroke make a pasha out of a stable-boy. I can give kingdoms and provinces to whomsoever I choose and my lord will say nothing against it. Even if he has ordered a thing himself, if I do not want it, it is not done. And if I order a thing to be done and he has ordered to the contrary, what I wish and not what he wishes is done."

4) The Grand Vizier giving an audience "under the dome"

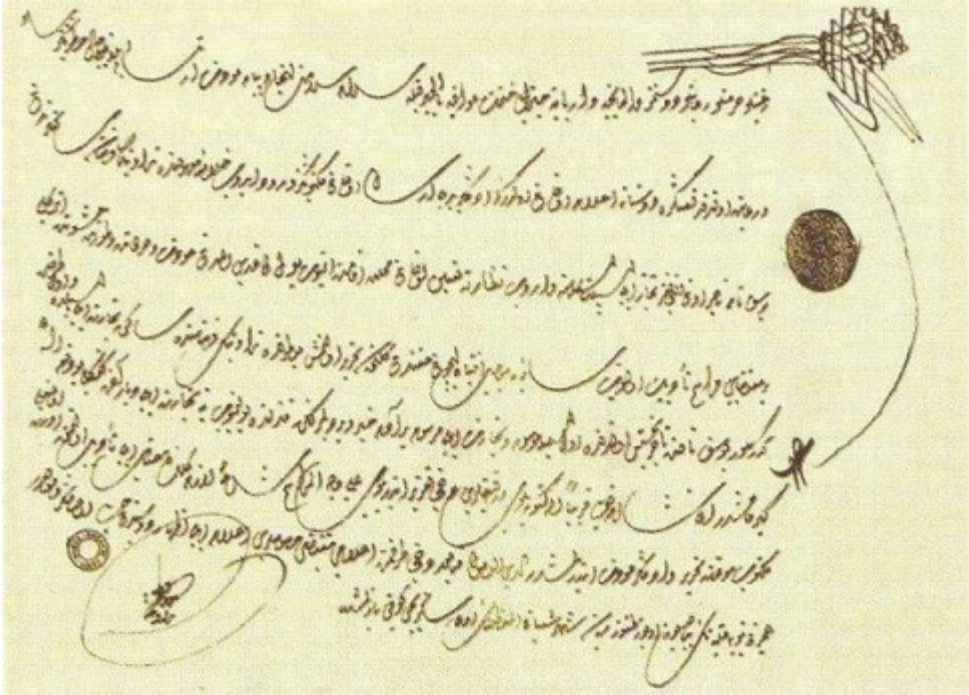


Vicomte d'Andrezel, French Ambassador to the Sublime Porte (Topkapı Palace)will be presented to the Grand Vizier Ibrahim Pasha

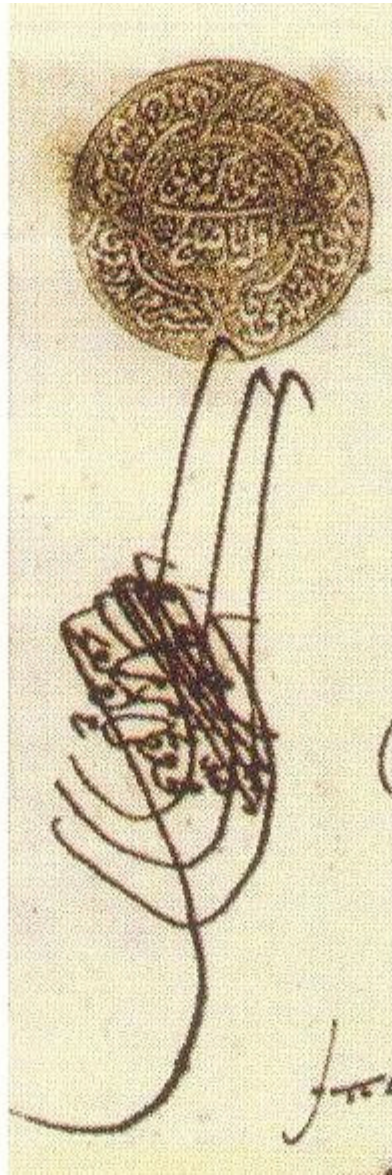
5) Seal of Kulenovic family from **1722**.



6) Letter Mahmud Pasha Kulenovic to the Governor of Dalmatia 1727.



7) Seal and tugra * of begs Kulenovic. circa 1700



* The Tughra were calligraphic monograms, or signatures

Written records and Tughra of Salih Pasha son, **Mahmud Pasha**, who died in Persia in the Battle over Hemdan 1774.

In Bosnia he left behind him six sons: Mehmed Pasha, Smail Bey, Muhamed Kaptain - Petrovacki, **Murat Bey**, Avdi Bey and Halil Bey.

Son of Murat bey, Suleyman Bey, who was Dizdar of city Jajce, died in 1249 (1832) in Jajce, leaving behind the son: Hadzi-Alaj-bey, **Mehmed-bey**, Muhamed-bey (alive).

This Mehmet Bey was the ancestor, grandfather of Rizah Kulenovic

Foto 9.)
Bosnian old town - Jajce

