

THE CHURCH IN SOCIETY

THE LAND AREA OWNED BY THE MONASTERY OF SADOVA

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Abstract: A monastery from Oltenia, built by Matei Basarab, who decorated and endowed it with assets, Jitianu represents a place of worship and of Romanian culture. It was founded between 1632 and 1633, on the ground of an older wooden church, erected by the ban Barbu Craiovescu, at the end of the 15th century and the beginning of the 16th century. The first mention in the documents of the wooden church was the charter from the 20th of June 1530 of Vlad Înecatul, through which it is given to Sadova monastery the estates of Nedeia and Zăval, because they were given “by the ban Pârvul of Craiova”.

The reconstruction of the ownership of Sadova monastery over the estates and the villages, could be done after a thorough analysis of the numerous documents from the Monastery register, along with other documents too. The typology of the papers that refer to the estates is extremely varied due to the great number of documents, and the period of time in which they were issued. There can be met charters of the rulers from Wallachia, from the 15th-17th centuries, sell and purchasing acts, books with the neighbouring areas, legal, ransom and confessing documents.

Keywords: the monastery of Sadova, the estates, Matei Basarab, Wallachia, the Monastery register.

A monastery from Oltenia, built by Matei Basarab, who decorated and endowed it with assets, Jitianu represents a place of worship and of Romanian culture. It was founded between 1632 and 1633, on the ground of an older wooden church, erected by the ban Barbu Craiovescu, at the end of the 15th century and the beginning of the 16th century¹. The first mention in the documents of the wooden church was the charter from the 20th of June 1530 of Vlad Înecatul, through which it is given to Sadova monastery the estates of Nedeia and Zăval, because they were given “by the ban Pârvul of Craiova”².

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¹ Manole Neagoe, *Neagoe Basarab*, Bucharest, Scientific Publishing House, 1971, p. 31; Ștefan Ștefănescu, *Bănia în Țara Românească*, second edition, revised and completed, Craiova, Alma Publishing House, 2009, p. 72.

² *Documente privind istoria României, B, Țara Românească*, the 16th century, vol. II, Bucharest, The Romanian Academy Publishing House, 1951, p. 81 (further cited as *DIR, B*); *Documenta Romaniae Historica, B, Țara Românească*, vol. III, Bucharest, The Romanian Academy Publishing House, 1975, p. 156.

The involvement of Matei Basarab, in the founding of the monastery, is surrounded by legend. According to it, “Matei Basarab, returning from the exile in Banat, fought with the Turks at Schela Ciobanului and came with his soldiers to Sadova. Being defeated by the Turks, he had to retreat from the forest, into the church defended by mires and forests, where he would wait for help. After praying at the icon of St. Nicholas from there, he promised that, if he was a winner, he would erect a walled church, the old church being in a state of ruin. He managed to be victorious, on the 26th of August 1632, and the ruler ordered to start the building of the church at once, as he had promised to Saint Nicolas and God”³.

The legend is also mentioned on the inscription of the church: “with the will of Matei Băsărab, voivode, ruler of all Wallachia and duke over the country of Amlaş and Făgăraş, it was built this monastery, which is called Sadova, after defeating the Turks at Schela Ciobanului, where, being in a great danger twice, and managing to retreat with all his army into this holly place, where a small wooden church was standing, with few monks, and after the end of the war, they built this holly and heavenly monastery”⁴. This inscription also mentions the fact that, in 1633, the works were already finished: “they built this holly and heavenly monastery, as it can be seen in the year 7141 (1633) since the creation of the world, they endowed it with estates and income for the further remembering and for the gratitude showed to the holly fathers for giving them food and clothes, 1633, August, the 26th”⁵.

The veracity from the text of the inscription and the legend were contested by all the historians. By analysing the charters issued by the ruler, they concluded that there was not a battle that Matei Basarab fought against the Ottomans, in the area of Schela Calafatului, next to Bechet, at the beginning of his ruling.

The first document that mentions the monastery of Sadova, as a place founded by Matei Basarab, is the charter from the 2nd of January 1639, through which the ruler order to father Gavriil, “from the monastery of his highness in Sadova”, to take a gypsy woman, called Mişa, and her daughters, from the monastery of Glavacioc⁶. The quality of founder of Matei Basarab, for the monastery of Sadova, is also mentioned by other documents issued during his ruling: the 2nd of November 1640, the 26th of April 1644 and the 12th of May 1651.

After the death of Matei Basarab, the works at the monastery of Sadova were carried out by Preda Brâncoveanu and Constantin Brâncoveanu. Preda Brâncoveanu built the hermitages and the clock tower from the southern side, and Constantin Brâncoveanu built the church-infirmery with the patronage “the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary”, in 1693. New modifications at the

³ Florin Epure, *Ctitoriile lui Matei Basarab în Oltenia*, Bucharest, RAO Publishing House, 2014, p. 55.

⁴ *Ibidem*.

⁵ *Ibidem*.

⁶ *Ibidem*, p. 56.

monastery were done at the end of the 18th century, during the ruling of Mihail Șuțu. The Father Superior Paisie, the abbot of the monastery, repainted the altar and repaired the church-infirmery, which “had become, in time, a stable for the animals”⁷.

The reconstruction of the ownership of Sadova monastery over the estates and the villages, could be done after a thorough analysis of the numerous documents from the Monastery register, along with other documents too. The typology of the papers that refer to the estates is extremely varied due to the great number of documents, and the period of time in which they were issued. There can be met charters of the rulers from Wallachia, from the 15th-17th centuries, sell and purchasing acts, books with the neighbouring areas, legal, ransom and confessing documents.

It is mentioned in a charter issued in April 1543, through which Radu Paisie gave to boyar Chera the estate of Sadova, “good old hereditary estate”⁸. On the 17th of May 1589, Mihnea Turcitul confirmed to deputy court marshal Nica and to his lady, Maria, daughter of Anca from Coiani, the possession over several villages, among which it was also Sadova. This village used to belong to the court marshal Radu Craiovescu⁹. On the 29th of August, Michael the Brave confirmed to the monastery of Glavacioc the fourth part from the Sadova estate, which had been given to lady Marga, the daughter of Matei, the ban¹⁰. The ownership of the monastery over this part of the estate was reconfirmed on the 28th of September 1596, by Eftimie, the metropolitan of Wallachia¹¹. The other part of the Sadova estate remained in the possession the Craiovescu boyars. From these boyars, it entered in the possession of the rulers Neagoe Basarab, Michael the Brave, Radu Șerban and Matei Basarab. Matei Basarab gave the part of Sadova estate, which he had inherited from his forefathers, to the monastery of Sadova. On the 3rd of June 1658, Mihnea III reconfirmed to the monastery of Sadova, the right to the wine tax, over village of Sadova. It had been confirmed by the rulers Matei Basarab and Constantin Șerban¹². On the 8th of July 1731, there were established the boundaries of Sadova estate, near Călărași: “it is on the salt road near the fountain of Gineșu, and after the fountain of Gineșu, on a narrow road that goes upwards and moves away from the main road, the salt road, downwards, and the narrow road goes upwards and goes to the hillock of Cârnat, from the hillock of Cârnat it goes towards Ciobanul by the end of the pond, where the main salt road meets with the narrow road”¹³. The charters from 1828¹⁴, 1831¹⁵, 1838¹⁶ mentions the village of

⁷ *Ibidem*, p. 59.

⁸ DIR, B, the 16th century, vol. II, pp. 297-298.

⁹ *Idem*, vol. V, Bucharest, The Romanian Academy Publishing House, 1952, pp. 405-406.

¹⁰ *Idem*, vol. VI, Bucharest, The Romanian Academy Publishing House, 1953, p. 149.

¹¹ *Ibidem*, p. 253.

¹² *Catalogul documentelor Țării Românești din Arhivele Statului*, vol. IX, Bucharest, 2012, p. 266.

¹³ SJAN Dolj, Cărți de Hotârmicie Collection, file no. 773/1878-1879, f. 8.

¹⁴ Paul-Emanoil Barbu, Vladimir Osiac, *Catagrafia județului Dolj din anul 1828*, Craiova, Universitaria Publishing House, 2001, p. 93.

¹⁵ Ion Donat, Ion Pătroi, Dinică Ciobotea, *Catagrafia obștească a Țării Românești din 1831*, Craiova, Helios Publishing House, p. 46.

¹⁶ Dumitru Bălașa, *Mănăstirea Sadova*, in “Mitropolia Olteniei”, no. 10-11, 1971, p. 869.

Sadova as a property of Sadova Monastery. It was in its possession until December 1863, when through the law on the secularisation of the monastic estates, it entered into the proprietorship of the state.

Another village that entered into the possession of this monastery was Zăval. It is mentioned in a charter issued in the period June–20th of August 1530, when Vlad Înecatul confirmed to the monastery of Sadova the possession over the estate of Zăval, which had been given by Pârvu great ban of Craiova¹⁷. On the 1st of August 1608, Radu Șerban confirmed to Duma, Stoica, Radu and Nan the possession over the village of Zăval, which was stretching “from the hillock of Ostra, to the hillock of Ținta and to Padina Stoicii and Poiana Goii to Jiu, and from the bed of river Jiu to Poiana Ostrovului and to Crângul Frumos; and from Crângul Frumos la Jiu, to Berigata and to Coadele Șarcovului and by the water of Vulturul, and to the hillock of Ostra again”. They had bought the village during the ruling of Mircea Ciobanul, from lady Anucuța, the wife of the ban, and her brother Mircea Postelnicul, and from the mother of Radu Șerban with 26000 de aspri (old coins)¹⁸. On the 6th of July 1646, the cupbearer Ștefan, priest Albu, Neagoe and Stoica sold to the ruler Matei Basarab their part of the estate from Zăval, without the serfs¹⁹. On the 2nd of March 1647, Matei Basarab gave to the monastery of Sadova the part of the estate from Zăval that he had bought a year before²⁰. On the 22nd of December 1651, the same ruler reconfirmed to the monastery of Sadova the possession over the village of Zăvalul, with all the serfs²¹. In 1722, the village was in the possession of the monastery of Sadova. It is the same situation from “Catastihul de toate lucrurile mișcătoare, nemișcătoare și de sineși mișcătoare ale Mănăstirii Sadova”-the Register with all the mobile and immobile goods of the Monastery of Sadova, drawn up on the 25th of January 1825²² and in the registers from 1828²³, 1831²⁴, 1838²⁵ and 1845. It remained in its possession until December 1863, when through the law on the secularisation of the monastic estates, it entered into the proprietorship of the state.

In the componence of the land area of this church is Verbicioara. It is mentioned in a document from the 23rd of June 1649, when Călina, the wife Barbu Brădescu, along with her son, sold to Matei Basarab their part from the estate of Verbicioara with 40.000 de aspri²⁶. Later, Matei Basarab gave to the monastery of

¹⁷ DIR, B, the 16th century, vol. II, p. 81.

¹⁸ *Ibidem*, the 17th century, vol. I, Bucharest, The Romanian Academy Publishing House, 1951, pp. 331-332.

¹⁹ DRH, B, vol. XXXI, Bucharest, The Romanian Academy Publishing House, 2003, p. 241.

²⁰ SJAN Dolj, Cărți de Hotărnicie Collection, file 733/1848-1879, f. 3v.

²¹ DRH, B, vol. XXXVI, Bucharest, The Romanian Academy Publishing House, 2006, p. 273.

²² Dumitru Bălașa, *op. cit.*, p. 866.

²³ Paul-Emanoil Barbu, Vladimir Osiac, *op. cit.*, p. 74.

²⁴ Ion Donat, Ion Pătroi, Dinică Ciobotea, *op. cit.*, p. 47.

²⁵ Dumitru Bălașa, *op. cit.*, p. 869.

²⁶ DRH, B, vol. XXXIV, Bucharest, The Romanian Academy Publishing House, 2002, p. 118.

Sadova his part from the village of din Verbicioara that he had bought from Călina. The possession of the monastery over this part of the village was reconfirmed by the rulers Antonie Vodă from Popești on the 22nd of April 1669²⁷, Gheorghe Duca on the 17th of April 1677²⁸ and Șerban Cantacuzino on the 10th of April 1684²⁹. On the 30th of June 1783, 7 freeholders from Plenița were designated by the ruler's council to establish the boundary that was separating the estates of Verbicioara and Orodel. The new boundary started "next to the lake of Hodobesnița, where there is a milestone at the hillock with a willow-tree, where there is a milestone, from here to the wide valley, where there is a milestone, from here to the lake of Arsul, and from here to the milestone on the road of Bălvanul"³⁰. A year later, on the 18th of June, seven freeholders from Orodel confessed that the boundary between the two estates began from "the frontier of Hodobesnița, where there is the milestone, to the pit with the willow-tree from the valley, where there is the milestone, and from here to the road of Bălvanul to the fountain of Udrea"³¹. At the beginning of the 19th century, the misunderstandings between the freeholders from Orodel and the Father Superiors from the monastery of Sadova, on addressing the boundary of the estate of Verbicioara, increased. On the 30th of April 1803, Ioan Pleniceanu, Radu captain Zapciu and Stoica chancellor of Cerneți, were designated by sub-prefects of Mehedinți County to research the violation of the boundaries of the estate from Verbița, by the freeholders from Orodel. The three, going on the spot, requested the two parties to show the ownership papers that they had. The freeholders from Orodel claimed that they do not have any papers and that they respect the previously established boundaries. Ioan Pleniceanu, Radu captain Zapciu and Stoica chancellor of Cerneți, requested the Father Superior of the monastery to present the ownership papers, in which there were mentioned the two estates. After the Father Superior showed them the papers, the three asked if all the parties knew about the existence of all the boundary marks. The freeholders from Orodel answered that the only milestone that they knew was the lake of Arsul. The Father Superior of the monastery, supported by Ionașcu, former sub-prefect, declared that this milestone had been there for a long time. After that, Ioan Pleniceanu, Radu captain Zapciu and Stoica chancellor of Cerneți, asked the freeholders from Orodel if they agree that, among the milestones between the two estates to be also Arsului Lake. Even if the freeholders agreed with the position of this milestone, the Father Superior disagreed, sustaining that, by establishing this milestone, the monastery would suffer great loss³². The situation is similarly presented in "Catastihul de toate lucrurile mișcătoare, nemișcătoare și de sineși mișcătoare ale Mănăstirii Sadova,

²⁷ SJAN Dolj, Cărți de Hotărnicie Collection, file 770/1884, f. 1v.

²⁸ *Ibidem*.

²⁹ *Ibidem*.

³⁰ *Ibidem*.

³¹ *Ibidem*.

³² *Ibidem*, ff. 2v-3.

drawn up on the 25th of January 1825³³ and in the registers from 1828³⁴, 1831³⁵, 1838³⁶ and 1845. It remained in its possession until December 1863, when through the law on the secularisation of the monastic estates, it entered into the proprietorship of the state.

In the possession of the monastery of Sadova there was the village of Gârleni too. It is mentioned in a charter issued on the 30th of August 1580, through which Mihnea Turcitu confirmed to Stan and Mosorei the ownership over several parts of the estate from Gârleni bought from Radu, Voico and Școpan³⁷. On the 24th of January 1609, Radu Mihnea confirmed to treasurer Pană the village of Gârleni³⁸. On the 11th of May 1620, Gavriil Movilă confirmed to Stoia, Lepădat, Pătru, Barbu, Stoica, Necula the ownership over the village of Gârleni. In the charter, there were also mentioned the boundaries of the village: “from the middle of Jiu river, to the Salt Road it is neighbouring with Comoștenii and Hurezii, to the milestone and the brook, in the middle of the river next to Bojenești, to the milestone and to the place called the turning point”³⁹. On the 15th of August 1645, several freeholders from Gârleni sold themselves as serfs, along with their parts of estate, to Matei Basarab⁴⁰. Two years later, on the 2nd of March, the ruler gave to the monastery of Sadova the parts of the estate bought from the freeholders. On the 15th of August 1649 Matei Basarab bought other parts from the estate of Gârleni from Lupu and Rădivoi⁴¹ that on the 17th of May 1651 he gave to his foundation, the monastery of Sadova⁴². It is unknown how long he owned the monastery of Sadova, because the documents, starting with the 17th century, do not mention him anymore.

The village of Amărăști was also in the possession of the monastery of Sadova. It is mentioned in a charter issued on the 27th of May 1603, when the ruler Radu Mihnea confirmed to equerry Gheorghe the village of Căpreni, among the 24 witnessing boyars, brought to support the equerry Gheorghe, it also Gheorghe din Amărăști⁴³. On the 2nd of March 1647, Matei Basarab gave to the monastery of Sadova the part of the estate from Amărăști, bought from the freeholders, with a surface of 1.095 stanjens “from the field and the forest and the pasture of the village, from all the estate of Amărăști, from one end to the other” with 28.000 aspri. In the charter, there was mentioned that, initially, the village had belonged to

³³ Dumitru Bălașa, *op. cit.*, p. 866.

³⁴ Paul-Emanoil Barbu, Vladimir Osiac, *op. cit.*, p. 74.

³⁵ Ion Donat, Ion Pătroi, Dinică Ciobotea, *op. cit.*, p. 47.

³⁶ Dumitru Bălașa, *op. cit.*, p. 869.

³⁷ DIR, B, the 16th century, vol. IV, p. 482.

³⁸ *Ibidem*, the 17th century, vol. I, p. 360.

³⁹ *Idem*, vol. III, p. 524-525.

⁴⁰ DRH, B, vol. XXX, Bucharest, The Romanian Academy Publishing House, 1998, pp. 292-293.

⁴¹ *Ibidem*.

⁴² *Ibidem*, vol. XXXVI, pp. 101-102.

⁴³ DIR, B, the 17th century, vol. I, p. 90.

the family of Matei Basarab, but it had been bought back by the freeholders from the magistrate Danciu, the father of the ruler. On the 12th of May 1651, the same ruler reconfirmed the ownership to the monastery of Sadova, over the part of the estate of Sadova that he had given in 1647⁴⁴. On the 8th of July 1678, 6 boyars were designated, at the request of the Father Superior Daniil, to delimitate the part from the estate of Amărăști of the monastery of Sadova, to that owned by the freeholders⁴⁵. On the 7th of June 1742, Climent, the bishop of Râmnic, requested the freeholders from Amărăști to not trespass the part of the estate from Amărăști that is in the possession of the monastery of Sadova⁴⁶. In 1749, there were established the boundaries of the estate of Amărăști of the monastery of Sadova, along with the frontiers. On the 2nd of June 1752, 12 boyars were appointed by the great ban Barbu Văcărescu to research the correctness of the boundaries established on the 10th of March 1749 by Matei Bârzeanu and captain Matei Prejbeanu⁴⁷. This part of the estate from Amărăști remained in the possession of the monastery of Sadova, until the beginning of the 19th century, because “Catastihul de toate lucrurile mișcătoare, nemișcătoare și de sineși mișcătoare ale Mănăstirii Sadova, drawn up on the 25th of January 1825 does not mention it anymore⁴⁸.”

The village of Bârca was also in the possession of the monastery of Sadova. It is mentioned in a charter issued on the 31st of August 1596, in which the great ban Manta, confirmed to the monastery of Coșuna the possession over 2 funii (units of measure, one funie=around 25 metres long), bought from Nicola, son of Petco. Among the witnesses there is also mentioned priest Radu from Bârca⁴⁹. On the 24th of January 1609, Radu Mihnea confirmed to treasurer Pană the possession over the entire estate of Bârca. In the charter, there was also mentioned that the estate had belonged to the ruler⁵⁰. In November 1614, Radu Mihnea confirmed the buying back from serfdom of the village of Bârca for the sum of 150.000 aspri. On this occasion, there were mentioned the frontiers of the village: “next to Hurezi, to the hill with a milestone and to the hillock of Cioara, it goes to the Hillock Schiteșăi and to Măgurile to Săratele and to the end of Măgurile to the hillock of Boțoca; then to the road of Călugăreni and to the road of Diul and to the hillock of Cărvanul by the way of Diul to the road of Goicea to the elm tree that goes to Plosca, to the Caetilor lake, to the hillocks of Gema and the hillock of Ciuta”⁵¹. In the buying back document, it is noticed that village was one of the freeholders, until the ruling of Michael the Brave, who took it because “some people didn’t pay

⁴⁴ SJAN Dolj, Cărți de hotărnicie Collection, file no. 733/1878-1879, f. 3v.

⁴⁵ *Ibidem*, f. 4.

⁴⁶ *Ibidem*, f. 6.

⁴⁷ *Ibidem*.

⁴⁸ Dumitru Bălașa, *op. cit.*, p. 864.

⁴⁹ DIR, B, the 16th century, vol. VI, p. 244.

⁵⁰ *Ibidem*, the 17th century, vol. I, p. 306.

⁵¹ Idem, vol. II, Bucharest, The Romanian Academy Publishing House, 1952, pp. 228-229.

their taxes". The buying back from serfdom of the village of Bârca was reconfirmed by Alexandru Iliaş too, on the 9th of April 1617⁵². On the 12th of August 1671, 1617 Bălan along with Stoica al Miliu sold to Lupu the monk from Giurgîţa the fourth part of the estate of Bârca⁵³. On the 15th of May 1651, Stanciu the son of Magâda from Bârca sold to Raine the Serbian his part from the estate of Bârca⁵⁴. On the 3rd of January 1652, several servants from Bârca declared the boundaries of an estate from Bârca, of Sava the monk, which was stretching from "the Mill of Stegaru to the downwards part of the vineyard, to the milestone of Bărcuţa and from here to Gârla Cetăţii in the milestone, on the way of Calea Cornii"⁵⁵. On the 5th of May 1652, Matei Basarab confirmed to the monastery of Sadova the possession over a part of the estate of Bârca, given by Sava, the monk. In the charter, there were also mentioned the frontiers of the estate: "from the mill of Stegaru downwards to the vineyard, to the boundary of Bârca, and from here to Gârla Cetăţuiei in the milestone and from here to the road called Drumul Cârnevului". This part of the estate, Sava the monk had bought from Danciu from Bârca, during the ruling of Alexandru Iliaş⁵⁶. The second day, the ruler confirmed the freeholders their possession over the part of the estate of Bârca⁵⁷. On the 27th of August 1652, several freeholders sold their part from the estate of Bârca to Hrizea. Previously, they had sold their estate to Ion Lobodă, but they had bought it back from him⁵⁸. The village remained in the possession of the monastery of Sadova, until the 19th century. During the ruling of Ioan Caragea, the monastery ceased to Hagi Enuş the estate of Bârca, receiving in exchange the estate of Coteni

Another village in the possession of the monastery of Sadova was Ocolna. It is mentioned in a charter issued on the 17th of May 1589, through which Mihnea Turcitul, confirmed to Nica, the deputy court marshal and to lady Maria, the daughter of lady Anca, the village of Ocolna, after a legal sentence. In this document there was mentioned that the village had belonged to court marshal Radu, who had received from his brothers Barbu, great ban, the great magistrate Pârvu and the equerry Danciu⁵⁹. The fourth part from this estate was later given to the monastery of Glavacioc. On the 29th of August 1594, Michael the Brave confirmed to the monastery of Glavacioc the possession over this part of the estate, that it had received as donation⁶⁰. In the document of confirmation, there was mentioned that the part of estate donated to the monastery of Glavacioc had been seized by Danciu, great magistrate of Brâncoveni and Manta, great court marshal,

⁵² Idem, vol. III, Bucharest, The Romanian Academy Publishing House, 1952, pp. 116-117.

⁵³ *Ibidem*, p. 165.

⁵⁴ DRH, B, vol. XXXVI, p. 92.

⁵⁵ *Ibidem*, vol. XXXVII, Bucharest, The Romanian Academy Publishing House, 2006, p. 1.

⁵⁶ *Ibidem*, pp. 133-134.

⁵⁷ *Ibidem*, pp. 134-135.

⁵⁸ *Ibidem*, p. 259.

⁵⁹ DIR, B, the 16th century, vol. V, p. 403.

⁶⁰ *Ibidem*, vol. VI, p. 149.

but the ruler had interfered and put this injustice right. After the death of Michael the Brave, the great magistrate Danciu regain the control over the part of the estate from Ocolna, which had been donated to the monastery of Glavacioc. From the great magistrate Danciu, the entire estate of Ocolna entered into the possession of Matei Basarab, who gave it to the monastery of Sadova, “together with the boundary and the profit”. In 1692, at the request of Father Superior Dionisie, from the monastery of Sadova, it was established the boundary of the estate from Ocolna: “the upper end from the milestone, which is Siliștea Bojâneștilor and from the road of Dagu from Bojânești, next to Lăcusteni and Fărcășani and next to the frontier of Dobrești, from the road of Dagu to the road that goes towards east to Amărăști, which is next to the frontier with Amărăști and goes downwards to the east, through the lake of Munteni through the crossroads, next to Măgurice, and from the lake of Munteni it goes downwards and meets the oak that is on the field from the boundary of Propor, and from this tree on, it turns to the main road that goes to Obârșii and from the main road to the boundary with Sadova, to the milestone that is next to the road that goes to the pond and the road meets another road, which is near the milestone next to Dăbuleni and goes upwards to Vârtop, from Vârtop to the hill with a lime-tree, next to the vineyard of Cheroiu, from the top side of it, which is next to the road, and from here among the scattered hillocks and reaches the road of Sarineh to the stone cross and upwards to the milestone of Bojânești⁶¹”. It is unknown how long it remained in the possession of the monastery of Sadova, because the documents, starting with the 18th century, do not mention it anymore.

The last village that entered in the possession of the monastery was Nedeia. It is mentioned in a charter issued in the period June-the 20th of August 1530, when Vlad Înecatul confirmed to the monastery of Sadova the possession over a half of the estate of Nedeia, that had been given to Pârvu, great ban of Craiova and by the provost marshal Detco⁶². The other part of the village of Sadova remained in the possession of the family of the future ruler Constantin Brâncoveanu. On the 30th of June 1658, Mihnea III Radu confirmed to the magistrate Preda Brâncoveanu the possession over the half of the village of Nedeia⁶³. The part of the village donated by the great ban Pârvu to the monastery of Sadova remained in his possession until the ruling of Mihnea III when the villagers managed to buy them and the estate back⁶⁴.

In conclusion, we mention that the interest of the monastery of Jitianu for the villages and estates mentioned above was a significant one, being determined by several factors. The first reason that determined the monastery to purchase these

⁶¹ SJAN Dolj, Cărți de hotărnicie Collection, file no. 733/1878-1879, f. 5.

⁶² DIR, B, the 16th century, vol. II, p. 81.

⁶³ *Catalogul documentelor Țării Românești din Arhivele Statului*, vol. IX, p. 282.

⁶⁴ Iolanda Țighiliu, *Constantin Vodă Brâncoveanu împlinirea unui destin baroc*, in “Sfântul Constantin Vodă Brâncoveanu ocrotitorul Episcopiei Slatinei și Romanașilor”, vol. II, Slatina, Episcopia Slatinei și Romanașilor Publishing House, 2014, p. 356.

villages, was their positioning at the crossroads of several roads. The routes from and towards Nedeia, Amărăști, Bârca, Gârteni, Sadova, Zăval, connected to the old road to Craiova, called the Hill Road, were almost all of them connected to the main road that joined the large deposit towns from Transylvania, Brașov and Sibiu, with Slatina (crossing spot and customs over the river Olt), Craiova (the resident town of several important regional institutions: The Great Banat 1495-1761, the Caimacan Office of Oltenia 1761-1831), Vadul Diiului (Calafat) and Vidin (from the south of Danube). The neighbouring of the above mentioned villages with the important commercial road that crossed Oltenia, from Slatina-Balș-Craiova to Vadul Diiului (Vidin), generated special interests and exceptional efforts, for their possession, made by the monastery of Sadova.