

HUMAN COMMUNITIES IN VÂLCEA VOICEȘTI COMMUNE – IDENTITY LANDMARKS*

Eugen PETRESCU^{†**}

ORCID: 0009-0007-9727-3302

Abstract: This article is a micromonography of Voicești commune, Vâlcea county and covers in its structure a data series on the natural landscape (location, relief, climate, soil, hydrographic network, flora and fauna), the history, demographic development and administrative territorial organization over time, economic life and community growth, education, culture, religious life, health sports, tourism and local personalities.

Keywords: Voicești, Vâlcea, location, past, present.

Natural environment. Voicești commune is located in the South-East of Vâlcea county, Oltet Piedmont (its eastern extremity) at the confluence of Getic Plateau with Romanian Plain, on the right-side terrace of Olt river (North-West of Strejești artificial lakeside)¹, at 61 km South of Ramnicu Vâlcea town, the county-seat of Vâlcea county, at 7 km South of Drăgășani and 29 km North-West of Slatina town, the county-seat of Olt County. It is located on the coordinates 44°36'21" northern latitude and 24°17'29" eastern longitude².

The commune is composed of three villages: Tighina, Voicești (village-seat) and Voiceștii din Vale³. These are located along DJ 648B, Voicești-Tighina and DC 52, Voicești-Petculești. Its neighbors are: Drăgășani town (North) and Ștefănești commune (North-West), Vâlcea county and the communes: Grădinari (South, South-West), Verguleasa (North-East) and Teslui (South-East), Olt county⁴.

* This study is the revised and complete version of the micromonography published as Comuna Voicești (author Eugen Petrescu) in Enciclopedia Județului Valcea, vol. III (Rural Settlements), Ramnicu-Valcea, 2022, Fantana lui Manole Press, pp.1.031–1.040, coord. Ion Soare.

** Manager/Researcher at the Center for Historical Research “Pr. Dumitru Bălașa” of the National Association of Heroes' Cult “Regina Maria”; E-mail: petrescu1959@yahoo.com.

¹ Eliza Ghinea, Dan Ghinea, *Localitățile din România. Dicționar*, Bucharest, Encyclopedic Press, 2000, p. 1.421.

² See https://ro.wikipedia.org/wiki/Comuna_Voice%C8%99ti,_V%C3%A2lcea, accessed on 23.11.2023.

³ *Valcea County Development Strategy 2018*.

⁴ Daniel Bărbulescu, *Harta Județului Vâlcea*, Râmnicu-Vâlcea, Fortuna Press, 2011; Commune Voicești, Valcea County, General Urban Plan, 11.06.2018, p. 5.

The relief of Voicești commune lies in the region of the platform with horizontal layers, being depicted, entirely, by the low plain of Olt (meadow). Layers of marine shells situated beneath the hill that borders river Olt on the East side, prove that once was here the bottom of the Sarmatic Sea. Being situated in a meadow area, the territory of the commune is not exposed to landslides⁵.

The climate is temperate continental with high rainfall during May-June with influences from Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea, with frequent droughts in summer and maximum of rainfall during fall-winter. The average annual temperature is 10° and the average annual precipitation is 600 mm. Dominant winds are from the North and South-West. On Olt Pass it is channeled the cold air during wintertime⁶. There are *alluvial* meadow soils and silts with high fertility⁷.

The hydrographic network from Voicești comprises Olt river and right-wing tributaries – Dâlga and Putreda streams. In Voicești area, Olt river is between the piers of the hydro-energetic artificial lake Strejești. In this area the water level is higher than the level of the villages from the commune. Until the hydro-energetic fitting from 1970–1980, the Olt river overflowed causing damages to the agricultural fields from the territory of localities where it flows, but with this significant investment the danger is gone. Although the villages of the commune are set in Olt meadow, the inhabited areas were never flooded except some farmlands near the river. An example of this there are the days 11–12 of July 1920, when waters of the river Olt, Pesceana and Putreda flowed flooding and destroying the crops, and the pasture of the commune was washed away by the flood-wave⁸.

In the evidence of the Major Civil Defense State of Vâlcea county, the chapter on risk area included also villages Tighina and Voicești worst-cases of catastrophe (breaking Vidra dam in a ratio of 50% situated in the North-West of Vâlcea on Lotru river. In this particular case of extremely dangerous catastrophe, in Tighina the flood wave could reach 2,50m⁹.

Flora and Fauna are specific to relief. Besides the cultivated plants (wheat, corn, barley, sun-flower, vegetables, tobacco, fodder plants), that occupy most of the commune surface, on small surfaces, constituted in pastures, they're growing a number of wild fauna as bead, nettle etc. Before arranging the hydropower station on Olt river, the commune possessed large surfaces of water meadow made up of

⁵ Comuna Voicești, județul Vâlcea, *Plan Urbanistic General*, 11.06.2018, p. 5 (further quoted as: *PUG, Voicesti commune*).

⁶ *Ibidem*.

⁷ *Ibidem*.

⁸ *Dicționarul istoric al localităților din județul Vâlcea (A–M)*, Cezar Gabriel Avram, Dinică Ciobotea (coord.), Craiova, Alma Press, 2012, pp. 289–290 (further quoted as: *Dicționarul istoric... Vâlcea*). For more details, see Anca Ceașescu, *Aspecte geografice ale Municipiului Drăgășani și ale perimetrului înconjurător*, in Georgeta Ghionea (coord.), *Monografia turistică a regiunii Drăgășani*, Verguleasa, KITCOM Press, 2023, pp. 10–58.

⁹ *PUG, Voicesti commune*, p. 5.

poplar tree, alder, wicker and nowadays a large part of these surfaces are included in agricultural use. Local fauna is represented by a series of animals like: rabbit, fox, wild boar, deer, badger, hedgehog, field mouse etc, reptiles, sand lizard, house snake, gecko. As well the birds' species are well represented by sparrow, crow, magpie, pigeons, partridge, racket-tail etc. In the reeds that edges Olt river it lives the teal, wild duck and other migratory birds. In Olt also live lots of fish species like: roach, perch, crucian carp, carp, tench, barbell, bleak, bream, redfin, cobbler, catfish etc.

History. Human living in this area, from the Eastern edge of Olteț Piedmont edge, goes down in history of Romanian people, as evidenced by Neolithic traces and Geto-Dacian (Bronze Age) discovered years back in Voicești village (former Middle Voicești)¹⁰. Moreover, due to the fact that the locality was near the Dacian fortress from Gardești and Rusidava Roman fort from Momotești, both situated around Drăgășani town, proves a continuous human living within this space, the inhabitants of the three villages being the result of the Dacian-Roman symbiosis from the first half of Ist milenium D.H.

Tighina – <top.: originated in *tighina*=green glade, where the plough never lodged¹¹, or in the antroponym with feminine form *Tighiana* (male form is *Tigu-Tighin*)¹². Since 26th of march 1811 is dated a “Mandate to Nicolae Râmnicăneanu from Tighina signed by Ana Slaviteasca and Măcsim (captain Slăviteșcu) from Slăvitești saying the following: Don't miss to acknowledge. My mother-in-law said that she owns at Dumitrești border a patch of estate called Ghimbășești, she and my mother-in-law promised Tudor (Cizmaru) from Drăgășani to sell it and she took 150 thalers. The day before yesterday Tudor told me that he will give me the rest of the money. For your border I didn't want to receive money without telling you. If you want to take the land, send me 200 thalers in order to send Tudor back. If you don't need it, I need a reply from you. If you want it, let's measure it after Easter”¹³.

In 1831 Tighina is mentioned on Petcănești estate, owned by Nicu Râmnicăneanu and Nicu Radu the polkovnik; in the village there were 59 families with 7 sons able to work¹⁴. Between 1831–1833 the estate was leased to Andrei the polkovnik. After 1933, the owners Gheorghe Dobrescu, as well as the house of the deceased Ghiță Râmnicăneanu. Through the land reform from 1864, on Tighina estate there were granted 23 leading corvees, 85 from the middle and 43 scruffs. By Decree-Law no. 3.697/1918, from Tighina estate there were expropriated 6 ha and 50 acres¹⁵.

¹⁰ *Dicționarul istoric... Vâlcea*, p. 290.

¹¹ *Ibidem*, p. 289.

¹² Ion Soare, *Considerații etimologice privind toponimia majoră a județului Vâlcea*, in “Studii vâlcene”, vol. VII, Râmnicu Vâlcea, 1985, p. 183.

¹³ Corneliu Tamaș, I. C. Vasile, *Acte documentare vâlcene*, Râmnicu-Vâlcea, Conphys Press, 1999, p. 96.

¹⁴ Ion Donat, Ion Pătroiu, Dinică Ciobotea, *Catagrafia obștească a Țării Românești din 1831*, Craiova, Helios Press, 1999, p. 37.

¹⁵ *Dicționarul istoric... Vâlcea*, p. 289.

Voicești – <n. group and < village, commune, the term is based on the anthroponym Voicu, the name of the founder of Voicești village, the ancestor of the inhabitants from that village. Voicești is documentary mentioned for the first time on 16th of September 1519, when Neagoe Basarab gives a book by showing “that Sir Manea the clucer bought half of Criva from Radul for Voicești and Balaria for Neajov; because Voicești and balaria were changed by Sir Manea the clucer with Sir Dobrin and Petroșani but half of Voicești and Balaria, and the other half was bought by sir Manea from Radu of Matil from Buicești, for a gypsy woman and her children and from Dumitru from Bănești for 1500 of aspri”¹⁶. The following paper that mentions Voicești village is a charter issued at 6th of June 1578 from the office of the voivode Mihnea Turcitu through which it strengthens to Ducu and to Neagoe’s sons from Voicești, the ocynes in Calinet: “... Neagul from Voicești bought an ocyne at Calinet from lady Vladae from Drăgășani the fourth part from calinet ocyne, from everywhere, for 500 of aspri. And these sellers sold willingly the above-mentioned ocynes with informing the upper and lower “megieși” in front of my lordship. This is why I offered it to Ducu land Neagul in order to be ocyne, for them, for their sons and grandsons and by no one unmoved by the command of my lordship....”¹⁷.

At 25th of May 1725 the bishop Damaschin of Râmnic gives a curse book on Stan Udrescu, Mihai the chancellor from Voicești, Stan Punga, Vasile Borosescu, Voicu Gâlcă and his son Ion, Ion the gypsy and Dumitrașcu the tailor to swear and to restore the boundary of Fulași the estate of Cozia Monastery, which had been surrounded by Mihai the chancellor “at the lower head of the border without any ground, and the upper border had been surrounded by Voicu Galca”¹⁸.

At 13th of April 1794, “Radu, Dinu Popescu’s son-in-law and Ioana, Dumitru Cojocarul aunt from Drăgășani, having before 40 stj estate in Voicești pledge to Duta (Voicescu) in 80 lei, needing more money, I sell this estate to control it in good peace”¹⁹.

Public cartography from 1831, confirms that Voicești estate from Voicești village, Plasa Oltului de Jos, was a property randomly controlled on three estates; the village was made of 144 families with 31 workforce young men²⁰.

Voiceștii din Vale – <n. group and < top.; sat; the name of Voiceștii din Vale has the same origin as Voicești, the term “vale” pointing directions one for another. The Great Peasant Uprising from 1907 did not bypassed Voiceștii. “In the evening of 13th of March, the French Alexis Boulay, the tenant farmer was pushed and forced to enter in Ilie Budica’s pub. There was forced to offer drinks to the ones who

¹⁶ Emil Istocescu, Teodor Barbu, Constantin Șerban, *Monografia Municipiului Drăgășani*, Constanța, Ex Ponto Press, 2004, p. 376.

¹⁷ *Ibidem*, p. 481.

¹⁸ *Ibidem*, p. 376.

¹⁹ Corneliu Tamaș, I. C. Vasile, *Monumente arhivistice vâlcene*, Râmnicu Vâlcea, Conphys Press, 1998.

²⁰ Ion Donat, Ion Pătroi, Dinică Ciobotea, *op. cit.*, p. 37.

impounded him. Seizing a moment of distraction, he escaped and stopped in Drăgășani, at Gendarmerie headquarter from where he sent a telegram to the commissioner. There were arrested 29 people and handed over to Civil Parquet²¹. Two days after the incident (15th of March), another group of peasants “beat the trustee of Tighina estate” and moved towards Forest Administration Lunca-Stănești with the intention to burn down the mansion. Their route was interrupted by the Gendarmers’ gunfire and 24 of them were arrested²¹. At 14th of March 1907, the peasants from Tighina together with those from Voicești and Stănești burned down captain Melinescu’s mansion. There were arrested 24 peasants²².

In the Independence War 1877–1878 fell on the battlefield the artillery soldiers Ionescu Marin and Mateescu Florea, both from Voicești²³. During the First World War (1916–1919), from the villages of Voicești 68 soldiers fell on the battlefield; 1 Lt and 67 soldiers. In their memory, in 1921, in Voicești was built a monument²⁴. The human sacrifice in Voicești was big also in The Second World War, the list being incomplete, reason for which it is not presented.

Demographic evolution and administrative division. On the map of Țara Românească from 1700—drawn up by high-steward Constantin Cantacuzino, on Oltenia map drawn up at 1720 during Austriac occupation (1718–1739) and on the map drawn up by Friederic Schwantz at 1721–1722, Voicești is mentioned²⁵. Likewise in *Conscriptia virmondiana* from 1722, the first census of localities and people made up on Romanian land, we find Voicești with 135 families²⁶. At 1831 are mentioned in Vâlcea, Oltul de Jos net, Tighina (Petcăești, owned by Nicu Râmnicăneanu and polkovnik Nicu Radu, 59 families, 7 workforce young men) and Voicești (megiesesc property controlled on three properties, 144 families, 31 workforce young men)²⁷. In 1861 Tighina belonged to Stănești village and Voicești had 169 houses and 176 families. Both villages belonged to Oltu net²⁸.

After the institutionalization of rural and urban communes by Communal Law issued at 1864 and published in 1865, among the communes from Oltu net, Vâlcea county there is also Voicești (made up of 164 houses, 172 families, 3 churches) Tighina village belonged to Stănești commune²⁹. At 1867 and 1869 the number of communes from Olt net was reduced to 23, among them Voicești³⁰, abd at 1st of

²¹ Emil Istocescu, Teodor Barbu, Constantin Șerban, *op. cit.*, p. 130.

²² *Dicționarul istoric... Vâlcea*, p. 290.

²³ Gheorghe Dumitrașcu, *Epopeea independenței României în conștiința vâlcenilor*, Râmnicu Vâlcea, Almarom Press, 2003, p. 376.

²⁴ Historical Research Center “Pr. Dumitru Bălașa” (Râmnicu-Vâlcea) of the National Association of the Cult of Heroes “Regina Maria”.

²⁵ Nicolae Daneș, *Județul Vâlcea. Așezările, populația și împărțirile administrativ-teritoriale. Atestări documentare, istoric, evoluție*, Râmnicu-Vâlcea, Conphys Press, 2013, pp. 27, 29, 32.

²⁶ *Ibidem*, p. 34.

²⁷ Ion Donat, Ion Pătroi, Dinică Ciobotea, *op. cit.*, p. 37.

²⁸ Nicolae Daneș, *op. cit.*, p. 63.

²⁹ *Ibidem*, p. 70.

³⁰ *Ibidem*, pp. 74–76.

January 1871 Voicești used to have 860 inhabitants and belonged to Oltu net (with residence in Drăgășani)³¹. In the index of the commune during 1876–1881 Voicești is no longer a commune. The villages Voiceștii din Deal and Voiceștii de la Olt (Voiceștii din Vale) belonged to Commune Ștefănești. Tighina belonged to Lungești³².

In 1887 Voicești returns to its initial status among the 48 rural communes from Oltu – Oltețu de Jos net. Likewise Ștefăneștii becomes again a commune and Tighina is one of its components³³.

In 1893 according to the Geographic dictionary of Vâlcea county located in Oltu de Jos net, was made up of two villages: Voiceștii din Deal and Voiceștii din vale with 743 inhabitants, 4 gypsy-coppersmiths families, 180 households, 3 churches (founded in 1800, 1893, 1859). The inhabitants were some of them freeholders and some got owners in 1864 on Deleanca and Străchineasca estate. The school used to be there since 1883, 180 men and 7 women were schooled. The surface of the commune was 650 ha. Tighina was part of Ștefănești commune³⁴.

At the people' census from 1899, Voicești was part of Oltu – Oltețu de Jos net and it was set up of 2 villages, 233 families, 999 inhabitants³⁵.

By the Administrative Law from 12 of March 1906 Voicești and Ștefănești from Oltu net were merging forming the rural commune Voicești – Ștefănești, made up of Voiceștii de Mijloc, Voiceștii din Vale, Petculești – residence, Runcu and Tighina³⁶, then according to the new administrative law from 28th of April 1908 the commune Voicești – Ștefănești comes off, making up the communes Voicești and Ștefănești. Thus, Voicești is made up of Petculești – residence, Runcu, Tighina, Voiceștii de Mijloc and Voiceștii din Vale³⁷.

At the census from 19th of December 1912 the situation of people from Voicești, Drăgășani net was the following; Petculești, 441 loc.; Runcu, 279 loc.; Tighina, 315 loc.; Voiceștii de Mijloc, 1.094 loc, Voiceștii din Vale, 244 loc.³⁸. On the basis of Law for organizing the local administration from 29th of July 1929 are set up the rural communes: Voicești (with the villages Petculești, Runcu, Tighina, Voiceștii de Mijloc – residence, Voiceștii de Vale), being subordinated to the rural commune Ștefănești – Mamu³⁹. At the census from 29th of December there were registered the following data concerning the number of households and inhabitants and inhabitants on villages: Petculești, 118 homes, 461 inhabitants; Runcu, 67 homes, 278 inhabitants; Tighina, 76 homes, 341 inhabitants, Voiceștii de Mijloc, 262 homes, 1.161 inhabitants, Voiceștii din Vale, 48 homes, 198 inhabitants⁴⁰ and at the

³¹ *Ibidem*, p. 81.

³² *Ibidem*, p. 86.

³³ *Ibidem*, p. 90.

³⁴ *Ibidem*, pp. 108–109.

³⁵ *Ibidem*, p. 118.

³⁶ *Ibidem*, p. 122.

³⁷ *Ibidem*, pp. 126, 129, 136.

³⁸ *Ibidem*, p. 141.

³⁹ *Ibidem*, p. 156.

⁴⁰ *Ibidem*, p. 159.

census from 6th of April 1941, Voicеști commune, Drăgășani registered the following data regarding the number of buildings and inhabitants: Petculești – Santu, 133 homes, 628 inhabitants; Runcu 95 homes, 356 inhabitants, Tighina 103 buildings, 435 inhabitants; Voicеștii de Mijloc – residence, 297 buildings, 1209 inhabitants; Voicеștii din Vale, 70 buildings, 281 inhabitants⁴¹.

Beginning with 1950 the national administrative system was replaced with the Soviet system. Thus, the counties were abolished and Romania was split into regions and districts, towns and communes, Vâlcea being one of the 28 country regions. It was structured on 6 districts: Bălcești, Drăgășani, Horezu, Lădești, Loviștea, and Râmnicu Vâlcea. Voicеști commune was part of Vâlcea Region, Drăgășani district with residence in Drăgășani and had the following villages: Petculești, Runcu Mare (belonged to Streieștii de Sus, Romanați county), Tighina, Voicеștii de Mijloc – residence and Voicеștii din Vale⁴².

In 1952 there are 18 districts, the territory of the former Vâlcea being administered by Pitesti and Craiova, thus at the census since 21st of February 1956, Voicеști was part of Drăgășani, region Pitesti was made up of 3 villages and had 2008 inhabitants: Tighina 500, Voicеștii de Mijloc 1.188, Voicеștii din Vale, 320⁴³. In 1960 Craiova gets the historical name Oltenia, and Pitesti gets Argeș, thus at the census from 15th of march 1966, Voicеști from Drăgășani district, Argeș region had 2.132 inhabitants: Tighiba, 503; Voicеștii de Mijloc, 1.236, Voicеștii din Vale, 393 inhabitants⁴⁴.

In 1968 it reverts to traditional administrative-territorial organization-county, town, commune and village. However, there are dispersed a series of communes and village as a result of merging with others or they receive a new denomination. Thus Voicеștii de Mijloc gets Voicеști and its made up of Tighina, Voicеști and Voicеștii din Vale⁴⁵.

At the census of people and households from 5th of January 1977, Voicеști had 2.168 inhabitants: Tighina 483, Voicеști – residence; 1.319 inhabitants, Voicеștii din Vale, 366 inhabitants⁴⁶. By Law no. 2 from 18th of April 1989, regarding the improvement of administrative organization, in Vâlcea county are disbanded 11 communes among which Voicеști, this being merged with Ștefănești, but it is re-founded on the ground of Law – Decree no. 38, from 22 of January 1990, of the national Salvation Front, that repeals the Law no. 2/1989⁴⁷.

At the people's census from 10th of January 1992 Voicеști had the following indicators: surface 24 Km, 622 households, 1.805 inhabitants (Tighina: 134 houses, 372 inhabitants; Voicеști 390 houses, 1.165 inhabitants; Voicеștii din Vale 98

⁴¹ *Ibidem*, p. 187.

⁴² *Ibidem*, p. 247.

⁴³ *Ibidem*, p. 264.

⁴⁴ *Ibidem*, p. 271.

⁴⁵ *Ibidem*, pp. 282, 285.

⁴⁶ *Ibidem*, p. 292.

⁴⁷ *Ibidem*, pp. 298, 308.

houses, 268 inhabitants⁴⁸ and at the census from 18th March 2002 the number of people there was 1.780 (896 men and 884 women), among which: 104 people up to 6 years (51 b. and 53 g.), 150 between 7 and 14 years (60 b. and 90 g.), 75 people between 15 și 18 years old (40 b. and 35 g.), 116 people between 19 and 23 years old (57 m. and 59 w.), 320 people between 24 and 35 years old (140 m. and 180 w.), 290 people between 36 and 50 years old (167 m. and 123 w.), 222 people between 51 and 60 years old (110 m. and 112 w.), 503 people above 60 years old (271 m. and 232 w.)⁴⁹.

At 1st of January 2006 the people in the commune was 1.772 inhabitants, from which 879 male and 893 female⁵⁰, and at the census of people and houses from 2011 resulted that the inhabitants of Voicesti are 93% Romanians, 3,22% Roms and 3,78% ethnicity unknown⁵¹.

Economic life. Voicesti has agriculture as the dominant economic profile, mainly farming (the most important farming center from Vâlcea and one of the most important from Oltenia), entered into local tradition with establishing in Tighina and same of some groups of Bulgarians, Serbians and at the end of the 17th century – the beginning of the 18th⁵² the growing animals (swine, cattle, sheep, caprine) and birds. In Voicesti there was an important center of folk pottery that lasted till nowadays, occupation gone today⁵³.

As a traditional occupation of the inhabitants, there is tobacco culture, brought in the commune in the 19th century. Special climate and soil conditions have turned Voicesti one of the most important in the area, here being since 1950 an experimental field for Romanian research. This field is patronized by the Central Research Resort for Culture and Industrialization of Tobacco Bucharest of SC Galaxi Tabacco SA⁵⁴.

Going on the thread of history, we discover that in 1832 in Voicesti were made 3.960 measures of wheat, 21.600 measures of corn and the number of animals was 310 cattle, 150 horses, 400 sheep, 120 goats and in 1833 obtained 12.000 measures of wheat (from 8 acres), 201.720 (from 148 acres) measures of corn and the livestock counted 284 cattle, 29 horses, 475 sheep, 43 goats, 131 swines. In 1854 there were seeded 324 acres of maize, 36,5 acres with wheat, and half of acre with millet. At 1894 were obtained 100 haystacks and 2.20l of plum brandy. That year on Olt were functioning 3 mills⁵⁵.

At 1864 hence the land reform, in Voicesti were granted 9 leading workers, 33 scruffs. In 1906 Virgiliu G.Voicescu owned 150 acres of land, and 239 inhabitants

⁴⁸ *Ibidem*, p. 325.

⁴⁹ *PUG, Voicesti commune*, p. 11.

⁵⁰ Information taken from the Valcea County Department of Statistics in February 2007.

⁵¹ For more details, see https://ro.wikipedia.org/wiki/Comuna_Voice%C8%99ti,_V%C3%A2lcea, website accessed on 23.11.2023.

⁵² *PUG, Voicesti commune*, p. 11.

⁵³ Eugen Petrescu, *Vâlcea – țara lupilor getici sau ținutul vâlcilor*, vol. II, Râmnicu-Vâlcea, Conphys Press, 2007, p. 178.

⁵⁴ *PUG, Voicesti commune*, p. 11.

⁵⁵ *Dicționarul istoric... Vâlcea*, pp. 289–290.

owned 669 ha. On the occasion of implementing the land reform from 1921. More inhabitants from Voicęști have reported to Vâlcea prefecture the fact that teachers Mihai Lazar and Gheorghe Voiculescu when parceled Eforia Spitalelor estate have wronged some of them “giving some more, and to others less”. Investigating the case Gheorghe Rădulescu the regional agronomist found differences between 3 and 25 acres. In 1926 were set up two pastures, one of 147 ha on Cirligu estate and other with a surface of 39,50 ha upon the hearth of Șerbănești monastery, both in the property of the Ministry of Domains⁵⁶. In 1912 in Voicęști there was a popular bank, a mill on gas and 3 pubs, in 1939 there were 4 mills on Olt, each one with a wheel. Also in 1912 in the village there was a city hall, gendarmery post, telephone, infirmary⁵⁷.

In 1894 in Voicęști the livestock counted 460 cattle, 1.500 sheep and 10 goats⁵⁸, and in 1898 there were: 80 horses, 380 cows, 40 goats, 1.500 sheep⁵⁹. Also in 1898 in the commune there were 3 mills and one school, in 1912 the commune had a city hall, gendarmery post, telephone, a popular bank, an engine mill with gas and one hydraulic (on water force) an estate mansion, 5 pubs, 3 churches, a school, a nursery, in 1948 there were 3 mills, a wool shed and 1 cooperative⁶⁰.

In 1832 in Tighina were obtained 960 measures of wheat and 12.000 measures of maize, and the livestock 140 cattle, 11 horses, 600 sheep and 60 goats; in 1833 were obtained 12.000 measures of wheat from 14 acres and 81.600 measures of maize from 39 acres and the livestock counted 131 cows, 11 horses, 265 sheep, 28 goats and 86 swines; in 1854 were seeded 74 acres with maize and 2 acres with wheat⁶¹.

Between the end of 1950 and the beginning 1960 the farm lands, animals, means of transportation with animal drawbar, tools for agriculture, buildings and other goods were abusively collectivised, being managed by Cooperativa Agricolă de Productie Voicęști. That lasted till after 1989, when it was passed to reenactment of property right action yet completed⁶².

In 1985 the commune surface was 2.403 ha, from which 1.432 ha farm land and the farm produce registered 906 t wheat, 581 t potatoes, 1.698 t vegetables, 90 t grapes, 688 t fruits. The livestock counted: 937 cows, 1.136 swines, 1.205 sheep and goats. In the commune there were 664 members able to work and 170 workers (6 in industry, 92 in agriculture, 1 in transportation, 7 in circulation of goods, 20 in education and culture, 5 in health care, 6 in administration). As well, there were functioning 6 sections of cooperative industry (tailoring, carpentry, knitwear, foreman, doughnut shop, renting objects of domestic use) with 17 workers, 5 commercial units, food stores and universal stores⁶³.

⁵⁶ *Ibidem*, p. 290.

⁵⁷ *Ibidem*, pp. 289–290.

⁵⁸ *Ibidem*, p. 291.

⁵⁹ *Ibidem*, pp. 288–289.

⁶⁰ *Ibidem*.

⁶¹ *Ibidem*, p. 289.

⁶² *PUG, Voicęsti commune*, p. 11.

⁶³ *Dicționarul istoric... Vâlcea*, p. 288.

In 1985, the commune was running a unit of Mail Telephone Telegraph and Radio with 134 subscribers to radio and broadcasting, 227 subscribers to television, 8 subscribers to phone service⁶⁴. At 1st of January 2006 the area of the commune was 2.300 ha of which 1.282 ha farm land, pastures 38 ha, 13 ha vine, 64 ha forests, 769 ha waters, 23 ha roads, 89 ha of yards and constructions and 22 ha infertile land⁶⁵.

A minor role in the economy of the locality was taken by commerce and supply of services. The polarizing center of Voicești is Drăgășani. That explains the fact that many of the employees are employed in firms from Drăgășani and a smaller number in Râmnicu-Vâlcea and Slatina.

In Voicești there is a factory of curd, sponsored by SC Voc Cheag SRL, a complex of greenhouses and a firm of supply services in agriculture.

In 2018 the area of Voicești was of 2358.07 ha, of which 1.368,82 ha arable; forests 109,04 ha, waters 745.97 ha, roads 28,25; yards and constructions 71,68 ha, unproductive 34,31 ha. At that time in the commune there were 150 cars, 43 tractors, 102 bikes and 143 carts and habitable fund was below the national average: 753 residential houses, grouped according to the age of the building: till 5 years, 77 houses; between 5–10 years, 33 houses; between 10–20 years, 38 houses; between 20 and 30 years, 120 houses; between 30 and 50 years old, 400 houses; over 50 years old, 85 houses⁶⁶.

The land owners structure is as follows: total holders 1.045 from which: till 1 ha – 566, between 1–3 ha – 398; between 3–5 ha – 6a; over 5 ha – 21; 827 owners were residents in the commune and 218 were living in different places⁶⁷.

In 2018 at Voicești were registered 30 job seekers: 18 men and 12 women and 918 people were busy in different activities. Also, then there were 73 employees; 41 in industry, 5 in oil industry and natural gas, 30 in manufacturing industry – leather and footwear, 6 metal structures and products from metal, 10 agricultures, 2 in transport and telecommunication, 9 in education and culture, 7 in administration, 4 in health care⁶⁸.

The water supply of the people from Voicești are the drilled wells. For agriculture crops there is a functional irrigation system. The locality is electrified, except 3 new households, situated outside the low voltage network, supplying customers being made by the national energy system, through PTA 20/0,4 KV connected to LEA 20 kv Drăgășani Mamura and LEA KV Drăgășani – Mădulari, the yearly average intake per person being 539 KWh. Since 2001 the locality is equipped with digital telephone directory that 160 subscribers benefit of. The locality also

⁶⁴ *Ibidem*, p. 289.

⁶⁵ Information taken from the Valcea County Department of Statistics in February 2007.

⁶⁶ *PUG, Voicesti commune*, p. 11.

⁶⁷ *Ibidem*, pp. 10–11.

⁶⁸ *Ibidem*.

dispose of signal for wireless carrier. Radio-television services have 160 subscribers. The locality benefits of signal for mobile telephony. For radio-television services are subscribed 397 inhabitants (187 for tv and 210 for radio)⁶⁹.

Road infrastructure is made up of: DJ648B, Voicești-Tighina, 7,785 km, which crosses locality North to South and assures the connection with Drăgășani (by DN64); DC 52 Voicești–Petculești of 1,197 km, connects the villages with the center of the commune and DN64 on West, connecting Petculești (com Grădinari, Olt county) county roads that connects the main roads with properties situated within the locality⁷⁰.

Voicești is part of “Ținutul vinului” the Local Action Group the biggest from Vâlcea along with the communes Crețeni, Sutești, Mitrofani, Mădulari, Ștefănești, Prudeni, Orlești, Măciuca, Șușani, Valea Mare, Diculești, Făurești, Laloșu, Ghioroiu, Lăcusteni and Bălcești. The purpose of the setting up is to attract European funds for uniform development of the member localities.

Education. There is the possibility that education in Voicești is older than 1838. It is certain that in November 1838 among the 23 candidates for teachers from Olt net who frequented the Normal School from Vâlcea, was Radu Diaconescu with 110 families⁷¹. On the list with teachers and schools in the villages from Vâlcea during 1838–1843 we find Ioan Mihăescu, 22 years old a candidate teacher from Voicești at 16.08.1939 and Dumitru Ivănescu, 18 years old from Runcu, a candidate teacher in Tighina at 16.08.1939⁷². We found Ioan Mihăescu as a teacher at Voicești school and in 1862/1863, and in 1859/1860 Ioan Mihăilă was a teacher⁷³. In 1858–1859 there were 36 students from Voicești and Tighina enrolled in courses the degree of teaching was Good; during the year 6 students dropped school⁷⁴. The school in 1865 Constantin Costăcescu was a teacher at Voicești school; had 5 desks, a chair, 7 semicircles, an icon 2 tables of arithmetic, 9 tables of lectures, 4 tables of prayer, 5 spelling bees and a stove⁷⁵.

The public instruction law from 1864 – the first school law of the national Romanian state imposes, starting with 1865–1866, for children with ages between 8–12 to go to school. According to the law, the parents who do not comply will be penalized. Voicești had that year 154 families with 29 children, 21 boys and 8 girls, forced to go to school⁷⁶.

⁶⁹ *Ibidem*, pp. 14, 15.

⁷⁰ *Ibidem*, p. 12.

⁷¹ Gheorghe Dumitrașcu, *Istoria învățământului din Vâlcea în anii României moderne, 1821–1918*, Râmnicu-Vâlcea, Fantana lui Manole Press, 2018, p. 38.

⁷² *Ibidem*, p. 782.

⁷³ *Ibidem*, pp. 154, 160.

⁷⁴ *Ibidem*, p. 169.

⁷⁵ *Ibidem*, p. 184.

⁷⁶ *Ibidem*, p. 210.

In 1868 in Voicești there was only one school with 42 students (all boys) who attended classes, and at 11th of May 1873, the classes were attended by 6 students, all boys⁷⁷. Two years later at 1st of September 1875, the school from Voicești was classed as II degree and had the seminary student G. Popescu as a teacher⁷⁸.

After the inspection from March 1876, the school inspector gr. Constantinescu were noticed the following: “The mayor with the teacher keep the school closed. The school building transformed into a place for growing animals it doesn’t belong to the commune and it’s not good for school. The report prepared requested to get free the capital of the commune that until 8th of August, to make a new place for school with all the furniture needed”⁷⁹.

In 1891, “for the qualities of being good teachers gifted and skilled that have proven to be missionaries of teaching in Vâlcea, as a reward from Instruction Ministry Al Popilian (school inspector), and Grigore Mihăescu, Ion Didicescu and N. Diaconescu (Gănești)⁸⁰ received the honour. Ion Didicescu (whose name will be associated with the school from Voicești nowadays), is considered an excellent teacher and during 1st of July 1898–1st of April 1899, with the approval of Instruction Ministry benefitted together with other 6 teachers of 10% at salary⁸¹. At the yearly exhibition from April 1899 organized in Zăvoi Park from Rm Vâlcea with the objects made by students, Voicești School ranks no 1, a reason for Ion Didicescu and other 15 teachers to receive 10% at the salary⁸². Ion Didicescu published a lot of articles in Oltenia Magazine published in Craiova, Targu Jiu and Rm. Vâlcea after 1891⁸³.

In 1901 at Voicești there was a school made of wood, built by the community a year before in 1900⁸⁴. In 1912 in the locality there was a school⁸⁵. Due to the outbreak of measles, scarlet fever and mumps that engulfed the county between 1914–1915; the classes were suspended in many schools, among Voicești⁸⁶. Among the called up in the First World War there were also the teachers Gh. Nițulescu and P. Didicescu from Voicești⁸⁷. In 1919–1920 in Voicești taught Ion Didicescu, Gh. Niculescu and P. Didicescu⁸⁸. In 1933 in Tighina there was a school with a teacher in service and attended by 41 students. As well in Voicești the school had 4 teachers and 203 pupils⁸⁹.

⁷⁷ *Ibidem*, pp. 272, 274.

⁷⁸ *Ibidem*, p. 285.

⁷⁹ *Ibidem*, p. 318.

⁸⁰ *Ibidem*, p. 398.

⁸¹ *Ibidem*, p. 462.

⁸² *Ibidem*, pp. 466, 467.

⁸³ *Ibidem*, 566.

⁸⁴ *Ibidem*, p. 490.

⁸⁵ *Dicționarul istoric... Vâlcea*, p. 289.

⁸⁶ Gheorghe Dumitrașcu, *op. cit.*, p. 519.

⁸⁷ *Ibidem*, p. 746.

⁸⁸ *Ibidem*, p. 792.

⁸⁹ *Dicționarul istoric... Vâlcea*, pp. 290–291.

One of the teachers who made his mark in education on many generations from Voicestu was Ilie Zugrăvescu from Creteni. He worked in Voicestu as a teacher but also as a maths and music teacher during 1948–1973; in 1959–1960 he was the manager of the school helping to the construction of the new structure. In 1952 was the spokesman of Vâlcea at the teachers congress (Bucharest)⁹⁰.

In 1985 in Voicestu there were two kindergartens with 92 preschoolers, 3 teachers, 2 secondary schools, 12 class rooms, a laboratory and a workshop, where attended classes 232 pupils, 14 teachers. In 2008 in the commune there were two kindergartens and a school⁹¹. In 1994–1996 “Ion Didicescu” Secondary School took I prize at the county contest being declared the most representative school from Vâlcea⁹².

In 2018 in Voicestu the school had 9 classrooms, 2 kindergartens with 4 class rooms, one in Voicestu, the other in Tighina; Voicestu kindergarten was built in 1930. In the same year was functioning “Dascalul Vâlcean” Voicestu Foundation⁹³.

Culture. Voicestu Commune, the old and full of culture hearth, situated at the border of Oltenia, it is a part of ethnofolcloric area of Drăgășani. From here gathered folk songs Aurelian Didicescu hoarded in the volume *Folclor din Voicestu*, edited by Gheorghe Deaconu in 1981. Ilie Zugrăvescu also gathered from here and from other hearths from Drăgășani in the volume *Lume, eu cânt pentru tine*, collection taken care of Marian Brănară and Gheorghe Deaconu who sigh together also the introduction; editor Gheorghe Deaconu, musical transcription Marin Brănară. Râmnicu-Vâlcea County Center for Conservation and Valorization of Tradition and Popular Tradition Vâlcea, 1996. Ilie Zugrăvescu, folk singer and cultural entertainer, turns Voicestu, during 1948–1982, into a cultural core « the cultural life of villages during 1950–1960 was written by Zugrăvescu who sent to villagers the cultural animation blowing, reaching the performance of gathering under his lead hundreds of voices⁹⁴ ».

In 1948 he set up two choirs in Voicestu – school choir and the dorm choire – a band of whistles, one of harmonicas and a women choire which he led until 1973. Ilie Zugrăvescu was considered the trainer and the conductor of the biggest village choire from our country. As manager of school and community center for a short period of time, 1959–1960, he assists in the new building and of the community center from Voicestu. Between 1950–1967 he participated with the band and as a singer in the regional and republican artistic contest and he got lots of awards. During

⁹⁰ *Izvoare. Caiete etnoculturale: Ilie Zugrăvescu*, documentar de Gheorghe Deaconu, Râmnicu Vâlcea, Centrul Județean de Conservare și Valorificare a Tradiției și Creației Populare Vâlcea, 1992.

⁹¹ *Ibidem*, pp. 289, 291.

⁹² *PUG, Voicesti commune*, p. 9.

⁹³ *Ibidem*, pp. 8–9.

⁹⁴ Gheorghe Deaconu, *Serialul publicistic „Contemporanii mei” (17)*, in „Curierul de Vâlcea”, an. II, no. 516, 29 iulie 2008.

1968–1989 he participated with the choirs and as a singer in plenty of contests and artistic county and national festivals⁹⁵.

With due care of the distinguished Gheorghe Deaconu in the parish house was founded the cultural establishment Ilie Zugrăvescu Memorial. Also in his memory in 2000 under the coordination of prof. Elena Stoica, the manager of the County Center for Preserving and Promoting Traditional Culture, Vâlcea in Voicestu set up the National Festival of Folk Music “Ilie Zugrăvescu”. In 1985 in the locality there were 2 libraries: a public and a school library⁹⁶, and in 2018 it was functioning a community center and a public library with 8.726 volumes⁹⁷. The annual traditional cultural events are organized at 8th of March (Woman’s day), 28th of May and 26th of October (fair).

Religious Life. In religious terms the inhabitants from the commune are Orthodox (96,22%) and 3,78 are other confessions⁹⁸. In 1976 the local territory was comprised in a single administrative unit, parishes Voicesti and Tighina were subordinated to Drăgășani Protoierey⁹⁹. Voicesti Parish made up of Voicesti, Văleni, Cârlișu and Petculești had two churches Adormirea Maicii Domnului located in Voicesti, established in 1923, repaired in 1930, 1937 and 1955–1970¹⁰⁰ and 2003, the filial church Sfântul Nicolae architectural monument (list from 2004, code VL-II-m-B-09973), Voicesti (Văleni) dated in 1839, founders Radu Stâna, Matei Caplea, Vasile¹⁰¹ etc. it was restored in 2005, parish priest being Marin Chivulescu¹⁰². The abode keeps its original paintings¹⁰³. Tighina parish Sfântul Ioan Botezătorul (Joan the Baptist), founded in 2006, parish priest being Marin Șerban¹⁰⁴.

Health Care. In 1912 in the locality there was a nursery served by a sanitary agent. In 1985, Voicesti used to have a clinic served by a doctor and 6 secondary persons¹⁰⁵. In 2018 there was a human dispensary, 2 doctors and 2 secondary persons¹⁰⁶.

⁹⁵ *Dicționarul istoric... Vâlcea*, p. 289.

⁹⁶ *PUG, Voicesti commune*, p. 8.

⁹⁷ For more details, see https://ro.wikipedia.org/wiki/Comuna_Voice%C8%99ti,V%C3%A2lcea, website accessed on 23.11.2023.

⁹⁸ Dumitru Sandu, *Eparhia Râmnicului și Argeșului – monografie*, Râmnicu-Vâlcea, 1976, p. 1339; Gherasim Cristea, *Istoria Eparhiei Râmnicului*, Râmnicu-Vâlcea, Conphys Press, 2009, pp. 420–421.

⁹⁹ Dumitru Sandu, *op. cit.*, p. 878.

¹⁰⁰ Gherasim Cristea, *op. cit.*, p. 421.

¹⁰¹ Ligia Elena Rizea, Ioana Ene, *Monumente istorice din județul Vâlcea. Repertoriu și cronologie*, Râmnicu-Vâlcea, Conphys Press, 2007, p. 152.

¹⁰² Gherasim Cristea, *op. cit.*, p. 421.

¹⁰³ E. Ghinea, D. Ghinea, *op. cit.*, p. 1.421.

¹⁰⁴ Gherasim Cristea, *op. cit.*, pp. 420–421. For more details, see Ileana Cioarec, Georgeta Ghionea, *Evaluarea ofertei turistice a comunelor aflate în vecinătatea Municipiului Drăgășani*, in Georgeta Ghionea (coord.), *op. cit.*, pp. 210–212.

¹⁰⁵ *Dicționarul istoric... Vâlcea*, p. 289.

¹⁰⁶ *PUG, Voicesti commune*, p. 10.

Tourism in Voicești there are only 2 tourist attractions with the status of hystorical monuments: Sfântul Nicolae Church and Casa I Popescu – architecture monument (@004, Code: VL-II-m-B-09942), situated in Tighina, 1924–1926, architect Alfred Cernea¹⁰⁷. In the future it is envisaged building new farms with utilities dedicated to agro-tourism and developing fishing tourism.

Sports. Sport activity is organized by Clubul Sportiv “Viitorul” Voicești, affiliated to “Asociația Județeană de Fotbal”, Vâlcea.

Local Figures. *Teodor Barbu* (14th Oct. 1938, Voicești, Vâlcea) poet, publisher, cultural entertainer with Aurelian Dragusin of the Magazine “Convorbiri drăgușenene” (1984–1995), chief-editor at “Rusidava culturală” 2003–224, editor at “Actualitatea drăgășeană” 1992–1997, president of the literary circle “Gib Mihăescu” (1994–2004) founding member of Gib. Mihăescu Foundation Drăgășani 1990. *Aurelian Didicescu* (20 feb. 1912, Voicești, Vâlcea), teacher, prof. folklorist. Published as coauthor “Doine și cântece din Oltenia și Muntenia”, vol. III, 1968 and as an author “Folclorul din Voicești”, collection prefaced by Costea Marinoiu and published by Gheorghe Deaconu, Râmnicu Vâlcea, the County Committee of Culture and Socialist Education Vâlcea, County Centre for Guiding Folk Creation and Artistic Movement Vâlcea, 198¹⁰⁸. *Georgel Nuca* (11 March 1977, Râmnicu Vâlcea grew up in Voicești, folk singer, presenter, collector of folk, radio and tv producer, promoter of young artist, graduated Școala Populară de Artă, Vâlcea and the Faculty of Music, at Spiru Haret University, Bucharest, Master at the Faculty of Letters at Bucharest University. Ilie Zugrăvescu was his mentor, followed by univ. prof. Gheorghe Oprea. In Tv he was guided by great masters as Ion Filip, Emilia Comișel, Simona Patraulea, Marioara Murărescu. He is the author of *Mă duc și eu la Ilinca, L-am visat pe Dumnezeu, Azi s-a dus dragostea noastră*, and producer of some shows: *Radio Oltenia – Craiova, Radio România Actualități, Televiziunea Română, Televiziunea Românie de Mâine, Televiziunea Transilvania* (Oradea), *Etno TV, Favorit TV, Kanal D, TV H2.0*. During time he won over 100 awards as folk singer and tv folk producer. *Ioan N. Popescu* (8 Feb. 1887 Voicești–2 Aug. 1945, Ștefănești, Vâlcea) was a teacher and folklorist. He founded the society “Tovărășia Focloriștilor Olteni” (Ian 1927), he coworked with folk magazines “Șezătoarea”, “Albina”, “Izvorașul” and he also had an abundant correspondence with important folklorists and important people of hi stime from our country and abroad. His personal library encompassed over 4000 folk works, he owned the biggest folk library from Oltenia. He published the volumes as co-author: *De la frații noștri din Muntenia. Snoave, glume, ghicitori* (1932); *Hore cu strigări și strigături; De haz și necaz. Vorbe de clacă; Nume proprii porecle la femei și bărbați* etc. During 1901–1902

¹⁰⁷ Ligia Elena Rizea, Ioana Ene, *op. cit.*, pp. 152–153.

¹⁰⁸ Petre Petria, Cristina Tănăsioiu, *Vâlcea – oameni de știință, cultură și artă. Dicționar*, vol. II, Râmnicu Vâlcea, Conphys Press, 2004, p. 118.

he accomplished the folk compendium *Doine și Căntece din Oltenia și Muntenia*, published posthumously in 1968¹⁰⁹. **Virgil Voicescu** (Boier Gile): poet, descendant of Voicești nobles¹¹⁰.

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PUG, comuna Voicești (PUG, Voicești commune).

¹⁰⁹ Petre Petria, *Vâlcea – oameni de știință, cultură și artă. Dicționar*, Râmnicu-Vâlcea, Conphys Press, 1997, p. 313; *Dicționarul istoric... Vâlcea*, p. 289.

¹¹⁰ *Dicționarul istoric... Vâlcea*, p. 289.