



SAKA PĀVILOSTA

OSTA



JOHANS  
LĒBERGHS  
ESNIKA  
1874 - 1907



Text panels with historical information, including a large block of text on the right side of the gallery.

## PREHISTORY OF PĀVILOSTA TERRITORY: ARCHAEOLOGICAL FINDINGS

The territory of Pāvilosta has been inhabited for many thousands of years, as evidenced by archaeological findings. Several Stone Age sites are known, such as the lower reaches of the Užava River, Ploči Swamp near Medze, Pāvilosta, and Upesmuiža.

Where the Tebra and Durbe rivers converge, the Saka River is formed. At the confluence of these rivers, there was a Curonian castle along with an ancient city that occupied an area of 1.5 hectares.

In Pāvilosta, there is Baznīckalns—an archaeological monument of national significance. In the 1930s, local historian and teacher Ernests Šneiders discovered several Stone Age-related finds at Baznīckalns.

Consequently, in 1938 and 1939, archaeologist Pēteris Stepinš (1914–1999) conducted small-scale archaeological excavations there. Various Neolithic items (approximately 5500–1800 BCE) were found—flint tools and their fragments, shards and splinters, and a clay pot shard, indicating the presence of a settlement at this site. These findings and reports are stored at the Latvian National History Museum in Riga, and the settlement is included in the list of cultural monuments of national significance.

V. Bērziņš has noted: "The Pāvilosta settlement is significant as one of the very few Middle Stone Age settlements discovered in the coastal area of Latvia. People who settled in the Saka River estuary area were undoubtedly attracted by the diverse natural environment of the river mouth: there were ample opportunities for fishing, the river served as a transport route inland, seals may have been hunted along the coast, and the surrounding area offered flint pebbles necessary for making tools."



1st cube	Ancient history
1.	<b>Mesolithic or Middle Stone Age (10,000 BCE) tools – axes.</b> <i>Found in Sakas parish territory</i>
2.	<b>Flint cutter. Cretaceous period.</b> <i>Found at Pāvilosta settlement- Baznīckalns</i>
3.	<b>Flint shard. Cretaceous period.</b> <i>Found at Pāvilosta settlement- Baznīckalns</i>
4.	<b>Clay grooved pottery shards.</b> <i>Found at Pāvilosta settlement- Baznīckalns</i>

On the wall	On the left side of the exhibition
1.	<b>Mesolithic or Middle Stone Age tools – axes.</b> <i>Found in Saka parish territory.</i>
2.	<b>Flint cutter. Neolithic or New Stone Age.</b> <i>Found at Pāvilosta settlement- Baznīckalns.</i>
3.	<b>Flint shard. Neolithic or New Stone Age.</b> <i>Found at Pāvilosta settlement- Baznīckalns.</i>
4.	<b>Clay grooved pottery shards.</b> <i>Found at Pāvilosta settlement- Baznīckalns.</i>
	<b>Pāvilosta settlement site Baznīckalns.</b> <i>1927</i>



## SHIPPING, PĀVILOSTA PORT, AND THE SAKA RIVER

The earliest surviving written records of the current territory of Pāvilosta date back to the 17th century. At this time, the mouth of the Saka River was used as a port for Aizpute. Smaller ships traveled up and down the Saka River, delivering cargo closer to Aizpute or transporting goods to larger ships, which then carried the goods to other ports on the Baltic and North Seas. Most trade during this period was conducted with the Dutch. Timber, grain, and other goods were obtained and transported from the surrounding area. Around 50-150 ships stayed in the port, and a village of about 600 inhabitants developed around it. During the Second Polish-Swedish War (1655-1660), trade declined.

The port's prosperity in the late 19th century can be attributed to Otto von Liliensfeld (1827-1891). Around 1875, he acquired the territory of Upesmuiža and began the construction of the North and South piers a few years later. The initial port gates were made of rows of piles and stone mounds. Otto von Liliensfeld himself purchased several small flat-bottomed sailing ships intended for transporting the manor's produce and various goods for trade to Liepāja. Thus he made a good profit.



The port's importance increased when the Tsar of the Russian Empire, Alexander III, established the Liepaja Naval Port (Karosta) in 1893, which required a large quantity of stones for its construction. The most financially advantageous and nearest source of stones was the area around the Saka River. The stones were transported by horses along specially laid rail tracks to the loading site in what is now the Centennial Park. From there, they were loaded onto large boats and transported to Liepaja. The activity in the port promoted its development, and between 1893 and 1895, the North and South piers were extended by 90 meters. Due to the bustling activity in the port, various professionals—port builders, loaders, workers, carpenters, sailors, and others—arrived in Pāvilosta from nearby and distant areas. This was the time when a village began to develop in Pāvilosta.

Until the outbreak of World War I in 1914, there was intense shipping activity and rapid port development. Shipping and fishing were the main economic sectors of Pāvilosta. Ships began to be built locally, and three shipyards were established—at the mouth of the Orga River in Saka and in the Saka River estuary area. The most active shipbuilding period was from 1894 to 1901, during which 15 sailing ships were built. Mostly, single-masted sailing ships for timber transport and two-masted gaff schooners for longer journeys were built, but small two-deck gaff schooners were also constructed.



Local Pāvilosta residents, who had knowledge of shipbuilding, played a significant role in shipbuilding. Before World War I, Pāvilosta residents themselves owned 35 sailing ships, which transported timber, spirits, bricks, and other goods to destinations such as Saint Petersburg, Finland, Denmark, Spain, and others.

The closest place where one could obtain a sailor's education was the Feliksbērg-Jūrkalne 1st category maritime school, established in 1871 and operational until 1902. More than 350 people from the surrounding area were educated there.

A new chapter in the history of the Saka port began after World War I and the Latvian War of Independence. In 1920, the experienced captain Jānis Freimanis became the port manager. In 1891, the rescue team led by the experienced sailor Otto Butler (1845-1932) began operating in the port. In the 1920s and 1930s, rescue service workers repeatedly received state gratitude and cash bonuses for saving at least 197 lives at sea before the occupation of Latvia.



In the 1920s and 1930s, J. Freimanis, together with the Liepaja port board, to which the port was subordinate, and the Saka parish administration, managed to secure state funding for the port's reconstruction. The reconstruction took six years (1923-1929) and involved extending the North pier by 120 meters and the South pier by 170 meters. Women also participated in the construction of the piers.

The next significant works took place in the mid-1930s, when pole supports for mooring of large ships were installed on both banks of the Saka River, the right bank near the customs building was reinforced, a 60-meter-long wooden dock and a separate dock for lifting motorboats, operated with hand winches, were built. In total, the state invested 2.4 million lats in the port reconstruction works, which was a substantial sum at that time.

By the late 1930s, shortly before the occupation of Latvia, the port was considered the best among small ports.



Annotations – for exhibition objects

Showcase	Shipping, port
1.	<b>Small cask.</b> <i>1890</i>
2.	<b>Block, auxiliary device for hoisting sails on sailing ships.</b> <i>Early 20th century</i>
3.	<b>Cigarette box.</b> <i>Early 20th century</i>
4.	<b>Box, tobacco product packaging.</b> <i>1856</i>
5.	<b>Bottle.</b> <i>Early 20th century</i>
6.	<b>Tobacco box.</b> <i>Early 20th century</i>
7.	<b>Expense list of the sailing ship <i>Nikolai</i>.</b> <i>1901</i>

8.	<b>Trademark.</b> <i>Late 18th century</i>
9.	<b>Medicine bottle PAIN EXPELLER for pain relief.</b> <i>Early 20th century</i>
10.	<b>Promissory note paper.</b> <i>1913</i>
11.	<b>Insurance policy for the sailing ship <i>Nikolai</i>.</b> <i>1899</i>
12.	<b>Cigarette case.</b> <i>Early 20th century</i>
13.	<b>Pocket watch.</b> <i>1843</i>
14.	<b>Sextant for determining the ship's position by celestial bodies.</b> <i>Early 20th century</i>
15.	<b>Compass from the sailing ship <i>Nikolai</i>.</b> <i>Early 20th century</i>
16.	<b>Coins of Tsarist Russia.</b> <i>1868-1913</i>





2nd cube	Sailing ships, port
1.	<b>Needle for sewing sails.</b> <i>Late 19th century</i>
2.	<b>Sailing ship boatswain J. Ausmaņis's knife.</b> <i>Late 19th century</i>
3.	<b>Sailmaker's palm for sewing and repairing sails.</b> <i>Early 20th century</i>

3rd cube	Sailing ships, port
1.	<b>Cargo receipt document.</b> <i>1902</i>
2.	<b>Ship horn.</b> <i>Late 19th century</i>

On wall
<b>Barometer – an apparatus for measuring atmospheric pressure.</b> <i>Late 19th century</i>
<b>Sailing ship's horn – megaphone.</b> <i>Early 20th century</i>
<b>Pāvilosta pier structure.</b> <i>1929</i>
<b>Stone transshipment site by the Saka River.</b> <i>Early 20th century</i>
<b>Article Another Fisherman's Tragedy in Pāvilosta newspaper Jaunākās ziņas.</b> <i>1928</i>



## PĀVILOSTA IN THE 1920's-1930's

In 1920, at the end of the Latvian War of Independence, Pāvilosta had 174 residential buildings and slightly over 700 residents. Until World War II, the majority of the population were Latvians, with most being Baptists. At the beginning of the 1920s, Pāvilosta was a township, becoming a densely populated area in 1928 and a village in Saka in 1936.

In 1927, Pāvilosta was the only township in the Aizpute district without its own municipality. Consequently, in 1929, residents petitioned the Saeima (Latvian Parliament) to grant Pāvilosta city rights. In January of the following year, the Saeima's Municipal Commission held a meeting where, with five votes in favour and four abstentions, city rights were granted to Pāvilosta. However, due to internal disagreements among residents, the issue was not fully resolved, and until 1940, Pāvilosta remained a densely populated area within Saka Parish.

Among all the parishes in the Aizpute district, Saka, Ulmale, and Jūrkalne were the poorest—the coastal lands were not very fertile, and the parishes could not generate the necessary funds from the sale of agricultural products.



## Agrarian Reform

After the Latvian War of Independence (1918–1920), Latvia implemented agrarian reform (1920–1937) that completely changed the landscape of Latvian territory. Before World War I, about 10% of the land belonged to the state, less than 40% to peasant farms, and nearly half of the land was owned by more than a thousand private manors, whose owners were of Baltic German, Russian, Polish, or polonised Baltic German descent.

As a result of the reform, manor lands, buildings, equipment, and livestock were confiscated and included in the State Land Fund. Lands from this fund were distributed to landless and small farmers, with priority given to participants of World War I and the War of Independence —Latvian riflemen and soldiers of the Latvian Republic's armed forces who had fought for an independent Latvia.



## Transport and Communication

In 1926, the 600 mm narrow-gauge railway line Pāvilosta-Alsunga (built by the Germans during World War I) was closed. By 1929, two passenger transport lines were already operating between Liepaja and Pāvilosta. The establishment of the railway in Saka and Pāvilosta was also due to the activity of the residents.

In the 1920s, postal deliveries from Saka to Pāvilosta required a fee, so residents proposed establishing a post office in Pāvilosta. By February 1929, the post office was selling stamps and insuring mail, while the telephone central had 14 subscribers.



Showcase	Pāvilosta 1920–1930
1.	<b>Fire hose nozzle.</b> <i>1926</i>
2.	<b>Firefighter helmet.</b> <i>1930s</i>
3.	<b>Firefighter armband.</b> <i>1930s</i>
4.	<b>Latvian Firefighters Association medal.</b> <i>1930s</i>
5.	<b>Badge of the Latvian Firefighters' Societies and Organisations Association member.</b> <i>1930s</i>
6.	<b>Firefighter badge.</b> <i>1930s</i>
7.	<b>Hairdresser's undulation scissors.</b> <i>1922</i>
8.	<b>Beard razor "EXSTRA QUALITAT".</b> <i>1930s</i>
9.	<b>Latvian post office savings book.</b> <i>1937</i>

10.	<b>Measuring tape.</b> <i>1930s</i>
11.	<b>Levelling mark for geodetic measurements.</b> <i>1933</i>
12.	<b>Trophy cup for the best shooter.</b> <i>1933</i>
13.	<b>Trademark for industrial goods of Ž. Kūdiriņš.</b> <i>1926</i>
14.	<b>Photo plates.</b> <i>1930s</i>
15.	<b>Third-class half-ticket of the Latvian railway.</b> <i>1930s</i>
16.	<b>Railway locomotive depot in Pāvilosta.</b> <i>1933</i>
17.	<b>Telegram to Ž. Kūdiriņš.</b> <i>1934</i>
18.	<b>Typewriter Gundka (for writing dots or indexes).</b> <i>1924</i>
19.	<b>National currency notes of the Republic of Latvia from 1922 to 1940</b>



**On wall**

**Pāvilosta cooperative *Vārpa*.**

*1926*

**Book- *20 Ways to Serve Christ*.**

*1929*

**Membership sign of the Labrags Lutheran Church parish elder.**

*1900*

**Members of the Pāvilosta Lutheran Church choir, conductor A. Drafens.**

*December 25, 1930*

**Cash register of Pāvilosta pharmacy.**

*1930s*



## RELIGION, PUBLIC, AND CULTURAL LIFE

Until World War I, the main social life in Pāvilosta revolved around the churches. Before the war, Pāvilosta had a Baptist church and a Moravian Brethren prayer house, both built with funds and materials donated and provided by the residents. The Baptist parishes of Saka and Ulmale were established within the Riga Baptist Church, and in 1900, the construction of the church began. The first church service was held in 1906 under the guidance of Pastor Pēteris Veidemanis. Three years later, in 1909, the Moravian Brethren prayer house in Pāvilosta was consecrated. Approximately 400 members of the Sakasleja Lutheran parish lived in Pāvilosta, and the parish had its own choir.

In 1927, the Central Land Arrangement Committee allocated building plots to the Jewish community (congregation) in Pāvilosta, and a synagogue was built there. A total of 280 land plots in Pāvilosta were allocated to 239 individuals, 13 of whom were local Jews.



By the mid-1930s, Pāvilosta had seven grocery stores and one each of clothing, shoe, flower, and book stores, along with two barbershops, cobblers, and taverns. In 1930s, markets were held on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and autumn fairs took place in October. Market days often featured circus performances, music, and "quick photography," making these days especially popular among children.

On June 21, 1936, Pāvilosta hosted the first Saka farmers' and fishermen's festival, a pioneering event in Latvia.





## HEALTHCARE

In the 1920s and 1930s, there were no hospitals in the Aizpute district, and transporting patients to hospitals in Liepāja or Kuldīga was problematic. Since only the wealthier residents of the parish could afford such transportation, a local doctor was available in Pāvilosta.

In 1931, the Latvian Red Cross (LSK) association opened the first Health Care Point in Pāvilosta on Vītolu Street. In February 1935, a dental office was also established there.

In 1932, the residents of Pāvilosta addressed the issue of establishing a Children's Aid Society. This organisation provided assistance to children in need (clothing, food, infant layettes), set up a children's library, organised health care lectures, children's days, theater performances, and other activities to ensure children's welfare.

After World War I, the Pāvilosta pharmacy was located in the old Market Square. In 1930, L. Meitiņš purchased a two-story brick building and opened the pharmacy there.

5th cube	Healthcare
1.	<b>Pāvilosta pharmacy signatures.</b> <i>1917-1939</i>
2.	<b>Stethoscope.</b> <i>1930s</i>
3.	<b>Mortar with pestle - vessel for preparing medicines.</b> <i>1920s</i>




## THE REVOLUTION OF 1905

The Revolution of 1905 was one of the largest political upheavals in the history of the Russian Empire that significantly affected the future of both the entire empire and the territory of Latvia. It created the preconditions for important changes in the country's political and social development and marked the first struggle of the Latvian people against autocratic rule.

In the countryside, residents organised meetings where adult inhabitants elected parish action committees. These committees dismissed the existing parish councils and began implementing democratic freedoms: they elected new parish courts, determined the amount of taxes, provided for the poor, and established Latvian as the language of instruction in schools.

On November 21, 1905, a meeting of parish delegates decided to close taverns, monopoly stores, breweries, and vodka distilleries if the full parish gatherings also decided so, as it was believed that alcohol was the destroyer of the people's spirit. During a rally on December 3, the residents of Pāvilosta decided to close the local monopoly store (which was located in the current museum building) and immediately executed the decision.

Mass burning and destruction of manors and castles occurred in the countryside to eliminate the German nobility's and Tsar's army's bases and support points. On December 13, 1905, a group of revolutionaries from Jūrkalne burned down the Upesmuiža palace. Since Lilienfeld had not closed the spirit distillery, the rebels poured the spirit from the brewery into the ditch that day.



On December 16, the men of Pāvilosta and Saka went to the Aizpute War. According to historians, about 10,000 local peasants participated in it. This uprising was suppressed gruesomely.

Baron Liliensfeld demanded severe punishment for all involved. The punitive expedition rode from Upesmuiža, surrounded the village, and demanded the leaders of the movement. Many received corporal punishment at the manor, and some died from the beatings.

In the autumn, the movement declined, and in November, the conference of the Latvian Social Democratic Rural Organisation decided to dissolve the forest brothers' organisations. Its members legalised, emigrated, or moved to other places.

6th cube	Revolution of 1905
1.	Upesmuiža palace after the events of December 1905
2.	Upesmuiža palace after burning down. <i>1920s</i>



## **WORLD WAR I 1914–1918**

At the beginning of May 1915, the Germans captured Liepāja, and for about two months, the front line was situated along the Tebra River. The Germans were stationed in Ostbach (Saka) and Pāvilosta, while Russian forces were positioned at Strante Manor in Ulmale.

When the Germans occupied Saka and Pāvilosta, many residents fled as refugees. Sailing ships from Pāvilosta carried refugees to Petrograd.

The Germans settled in several buildings in Pāvilosta, establishing a commandant's office in the school (which was later burned down by the Germans, and the teachers were conscripted), housing soldiers in the Border Guard house Cordon and the Loči house, and setting up arrest cells. Several buildings housed camps for Russian military and civilian prisoners, while the fisherman Otto Butler's house was turned into an officers' club, furnished with items from the surrounding buildings. During the German occupation, church attendance was allowed, and the church in Saka remained active.

The war brought various restrictions, especially on movement, with a curfew in place. Both the Russians and the Germans engaged in requisitions—the Germans requisitioned medicines and equipment from the pharmacy in Pāvilosta, as well as copper and brass items for military use. Residents tried to hide metal items and handed over only part of them.

During this period, there was a shortage of food and essential goods.

The trading and fishing fleet of Pāvilosta was almost completely destroyed during World War I.



7th cube	World War I, Latvian Independence Battles
1.	<b>Bread card.</b> <i>1915</i>
2.	<b>Mārtiņš Vilinskis's letters from the front to his family in Pāvilosta 1916, 1918</b>
3.	<b>Passport.</b> <i>Issued in 1916</i>
4.	<b>Identity document.</b> <i>1918</i>
5.	<b>Glasses with a case.</b> <i>Early 20th century</i>



## WAR OF INDEPENDENCE 1918-1920

On November 4, 1919, the Western Russian Volunteer Army, led by Captain Karl von Plehwe of Pavel Bermond-Avalov's forces, launched an attack on Liepaja. However, the Latvian armed forces were expecting the attack, and the element of surprise was lost. The attack began in the direction of Kazdanga, and on November 5, after just a few hours of shelling, Aizpute was captured at 3:00 PM relatively effortlessly. The Latvian army garrison in Aizpute, lacking any heavy weapons and machine guns, retreated to Pāvilosta.

At that time, Latvian forces in Southern Kurzeme were commanded by Colonel (later General) Oskars Dankers (1883-1965), and a mobilisation acceptance commission was operating in Pāvilosta. However, as the enemy approached, the commission ceased its activities. On November 6, soldiers from the Aizpute district defense headquarters, the Aizpute district command, the Aizpute city and district police, and 25 newly mobilised soldiers from Pāvilosta arrived in Liepaja by ship.

On the evening of November 7, battles took place near the Middle Fort in Liepaja with German reconnaissance units, and the Germans left Pāvilosta as well. On Lāčplēsis Day, November 11, a 50-man detachment from the Latgale Division's supplementary battalion, equipped with two machine guns, went to Pāvilosta to fortify their position and prevent the enemy from returning after suffering defeat near Riga.



On November 14, heavy fighting occurred in and around Liepaja, but with the support of Allied ships, the Latvian armed forces managed to drive P. Bermond-Avalov's forces out of Liepaja and its surroundings, forcing them to retreat into Lithuanian territory.

In the 1920s and 1930s, the Latvian army conducted training exercises in Pāvilosta and the surrounding area, and each November, state holidays and Independence War commemorative events were held.

At the initiative of Ernests Erhards (1894-1941), on November 18, 1928, during the celebration of the tenth anniversary of the Latvian state, a monument was erected in Stembre Cemetery with funds donated by the locals. The monument was dedicated to the sons of Saka and Pāvilosta who had fallen for Latvia's freedom.



# ANDREJS STEFANS

**1898–1951**

Andrejs Stefans was a recipient of the Order of Lāčplēsis, a participant in the Latvian War of Independence, and a long-time employee of the Pāvilosta Border Guard.

Andrejs Stefans was a worker who voluntarily joined the Russian Empire's army in September 1915 and participated in World War I. He served until 1918 in the 4th Vidzeme Latvian Riflemen Battalion, participating in battles at Smārde Manor, Ložmetējkalns (Machine Gun Hill), Ķekava, and Ikšķile, as well as the heavy Christmas battles in the Tīrelis Swamp. He was awarded the 4th and 3rd Class Cross of St. George and reached the rank of senior non-commissioned officer.

Stefans was mobilised into the Latvian army on January 28, 1919, in Liepāja. In 1921, he was awarded the prestigious Order of Lāčplēsis. From March 1922, he served in border security forces in Ziemeļu Parish, and from 1934 at the border security post in Pāvilosta.

During 1942–1943, he served in the 16th Zemgale Police Battalion (16. Schutzmannschaft Bataillon), participating in the heavy battles for the capture of Nevel (Невель), for which he was awarded the Iron Cross 2nd Class.

After World War II, Stefans remained in Latvia. In 1950, he was arrested and sentenced to 20 years.

On June 27, 1951, Andrejs Stefans was shot in a staged incident in Tayshet, Novochunka.





# SAKA REGION FOLK COSTUME

The folk costume of the Saka region is unique and was nearly completely lost.

The work to restore the Saka region folk costume began with extensive research and collaboration between museum staff, historians from the Latvian National History Museum, and several specialists in various fields. A significant effort was made in researching and creating the Saka region folk costume.

The maiden's costume was showcased in 2003 at the XXIII Latvian Song and Dance Festival. The unique restoration process involved not only historical research but also the participation of nine different specialists, including weavers, seamstresses, and jewelers.

<b>Saka folk costume</b>
<b>Brooches (sakta).</b> <i>18th century</i>
<b>Belt (slengene) – a metal chain belt with a forged front plate.</b> <i>18th century</i>
<b>Saka region folk costume made in 2003</b>



## MANORS IN THE SAKA PARISH TERRITORY

The word "Saka" means a branch of a stream or a river. Until 1866, the modern territory of Saka included the parishes of Ulmale, Pilsmuiža, Saliēna, Ostbaka, Mācītāja, Stembre, Minde, and Sarkana Manor.

The first written records of settlements in the Saka River basin date back to the 13th century. Saka (Saccze or Sacese) is mentioned as early as 1229 and 1230 in the documents on division of the lands of the Curonians—these documents were signed by Baldwin of Alna (Baldwin von Alna; (?–1243), the legate of Pope Gregory IX to the Baltic Sea countries (Courland, Semigallia, Livonia, Estonia, Finland, and Gotland). Baldwin concluded a treaty with the Curonians of Bandava, Piemare, and Ventava lands, which were represented by the Curonian ruler Lamekins (Lammekinus rex de Curonia).



An inhabited place developed in the territory of the Saka stone castle, which was built on the right bank of the Tebra River. The castle could have been built shortly after 1386 when Bishop Otto of Courland (?-1398; in office 1371-1398) granted Saka to Arnold Lindal. The bishop likely chose this location for the castle to ensure unobstructed traffic along the Tebra River and protect the mouth of the Saka River. From the second half of the 13th century until the Livonian War (1558-1583), Saka was owned by the Bishop of Courland. From the mid-15th century to the mid-18th century, it was ruled by the von der Osten-Sacken family. During the reign of Duke Jacob of Courland and Semigallia (1642-1682), a trading port was located at the river confluence, visited by 50-150 ships annually. In 1660, during the Second Northern War (1655-1661), the castle was destroyed and never rebuilt afterwards. After the Treaty of Oliva in 1659, the Swedes also destroyed the port of Saka and blocked the river. Later, a nobleman's chapel was built on the castle site, which was demolished in 1940.



Showcase	Manors in Sakas parish territory
1.	<b>Building regulations.</b> <i>May 22, 1879</i>
2.	<b>Letter to Otto von Lilienfeld.</b> <i>April 22, 1887</i>
3.	<b>Barn door keys.</b> <i>1900</i>
4.	<b>Baron Alexander Friedrich von Lilienfeld of Upesmuiža with family by their car.</b> <i>Early 20th century</i>
5.	<b>Powder storage horn.</b> <i>1893</i>
6.	<b>Currency notes of the Russian Empire until the early 20th century</b>
7.	<b>Egg cutting scissors.</b> <i>Early 20th century</i>
8.	<b>Candlestick.</b> <i>19th century</i>

9.	<b>Egg dishes and tray SILESIA.</b> <i>Early 20th century</i>
10.	<b>Plate by BWM&amp;C.</b> <i>1879. England</i>
11.	<b>Pipe.</b> <i>Early 20th century</i>
12.	<b>Mug.</b> <i>1914</i>
13.	<b>Vase.</b> <i>Early 20th century</i>

8th cube	Manors
1.	<b>Vase from Strante manor.</b> <i>Late 19th century</i>



**Moulds of Upesmuiža palace.**

*1894*

**Coat of arms of Upesmuiža palace.**

*1894*

**Painting. Saka (Minde) mill.**

*Mid-20th century*

**Painting. Upesmuiža palace. By Agnes Veinberg.**

*2023*



## EDUCATION

The origins of education in Saka and the surrounding area date back to the second half of the 19th century. In 1862, there was a private school in Labrags, a Folk School in Ulmale, a primary school in Pievika, and three more schools in Sakasleja. It is known that in 1891, a teacher named Cīrulis taught children to read and write in Pāvilosta. The lessons took place intermittently and in various locations. In 1903, a state elementary school was opened on Vītolu Street. During World War I, the school was located in the Herbst building on Vītolu Street. There are reports that during this time, Russian prisoners used the school benches as fuel for fire. The school operated intermittently during the war and post-war periods. On August 28, 1922, the Sakas parish council decided to open a primary school in Pāvilosta and signed a purchase agreement for the building designated for the school, which was then located in the Market Square (now Ernests Šneiders Square).

In 1939, just before the start of World War II, there were about 350 students in the three schools of Sakas parish, with about 200 in Pāvilosta, 100 in Saka, and 50 in Saliēna. None of the three schools had "satisfactory premises" at that time. The Saka school, built in 1874, was too small for the large number of students and lacked even a kitchen, so the school principal allowed food for the communal table to be prepared in his apartment kitchen.

The Pāvilosta school was housed in two buildings, one rented and the other owned by the municipality. Both buildings were originally constructed for other purposes, and no renovations had been made. The issues were similar to those at the Saka school—cramped spaces, some classrooms lacked even a teacher's desk, and there was no dormitory or kitchen for preparing student meals. Saliēna school faced similar problems. The school administrators attributed this situation to the fact that Saka parish was one of the poorest in the Aizpute district at that time due to a lack of arable land suitable for agriculture.



Showcase	Education
1.	<b>Suitcase. Made in Ventspils by E. Lindenberg's carpentry factory.</b> <i>1930</i>
2.	<b>Notebooks of 2nd grade and 6th grade student L. Freimanis.</b> <i>1920s</i>
3.	<b>Birch bark container. Made by the principal of Saka school E. Erhards in exile in Krasnoyarsk region.</b> <i>1941</i>
4.	<b>Russian language spelling notebook.</b> <i>1907</i>
5.	<b>Student's slate.</b> <i>Early 20th century</i>
6.	<b>Pencil case.</b> <i>1920s</i>
7.	<b>Saka parish schools.</b> <i>1939</i>

8.	<b>Teaching aid storage of Pāvilosta II degree primary school.</b> <i>1925</i>
9.	<b>Members of the student crafts club, led by teacher I. Schneider.</b> <i>1937</i>
10.	<b>Pāvilosta school drama club, play Sun and Flowers.</b> <i>1934</i>
11.	<b>Pāvilosta school mandolin orchestra members led by teacher E. Schneider.</b> <i>1926</i>
12.	<b>Amber processing club members of Pāvilosta II degree primary school led by E. Schneider.</b> <i>1929</i>
<b>9th cube</b>	<b>Education</b>
1.	<b>Notes calendar School Friend.</b> <i>1923/24 academic year</i>
2.	<b>Textbook. K. Bormans Earth.</b> <i>1921</i>
3.	<b>School bell.</b> <i>Early 20th century</i>



# **JOHANS LĒBEREHTS EGINK**

## **(JOHANN LEBERECHT EGGINK)**

### **1784–1867**

Johann Leberecht Eggink is known as the first Latvian-born painter to be awarded the title of academician. Over 70 of his works are exhibited in the Hermitage Museum of Art and Culture in Saint Petersburg, Russia.

J. L. Eggink was born at the end of November in Pievika (Powicken) Manor, now located in Saka Parish. He was an illegitimate child of Lavīze Brīviņa (Lowisa Briwin), an estate manager, and Friedrich Dietrich von Knigge (Fridrich Dietrich von Knigge; 1748–1803), the owner of Priežu Manor (Predenhof), who was the son of the owner of Pievika Manor.

The artist's surname, Eggink, was derived by reversing his father's surname, Knigge, a common practice for aristocratic illegitimate children at that time. J. L. Eggink never used his father's surname, von Knigge.

The future painter studied at Jelgava Gymnasium. In the fall of 1811, J. L. Eggink enrolled in the Faculty of Philosophy at the University of Tartu. Following the invitation of J. F. Tielker, he moved to Moscow and Saint Petersburg to gain broader knowledge in painting and drawing. From 1813 to 1814, he studied in the drawing class of the Saint Petersburg Academy of Arts. He continued his art studies in Berlin, Dresden, Prague, and finally at the Vienna Academy of Arts.

In early 1817, the artist traveled to Italy with friends, spending ten of the most vibrant and creative years of his life in Rome. During this time, he actively studied the old masters and painted portraits and miniatures. Parallel to the studies, he also created works featuring mythological and historical scenes.

One of his most famous works is *The Deposition* (a copy of Raphael's original), which was purchased by Tsar Alexander I and gifted to the Saint Petersburg Academy of Arts, from where it later ended up in the Hermitage Museum. In 1822, he painted *Prince Vladimir Choosing Religion in 988*. For this work, J. L. Eggink received a grant from Alexander I, allowing him to continue living in Italy for several more years. One of his most productive years was 1824, during which he painted works such as *Odysseus and Nausicaä*, *The Landing of Julius Caesar in Albion*, and others. His work most closely related to Latvian history is *Alexander I Grants Freedom to the Peasants of the Baltic Provinces*.

He actively painted various commissioned works, including more than 10 altarpieces.

J. L. Eggink spent the last years of his life in Jelgava. He died on March 7, 1867, from heart disease and was buried in the Jelgava Literati Cemetery, which was destroyed after World War II.





# OTTO FRIEDRICH VON LILIENFELD-TOAL

## (OTTO FRIEDRICH HEINRICH AUGUST VON LILIENFELD-TOAL)

### 1827-1891

Otto Friedrich von Lilienfeld-Toal is the creator of the name "Pāvilosta," the owner of several estates in the Courland Governorate, the initiator of the construction of the North and South Pāvilosta piers, and the founder of the port as it is seen today.

The Lilienfeld family roots trace back to the 17th century in the territory of Sweden. Over time, the family branched into several lineages. Otto's grandfather, Jakob Heinrich von Lilienfeld (1774-1827), came from the Halinga area (Estonian: Hallik) in present-day Estonia and formed one of the four separate branches of the family known as Hallik-Toal. In 1863, Otto, along with his younger brother Paul, received permission from the Senate of the Russian Empire to add the name of their ancestral estate, Toal (Estonian: Tuhala), to their surname, becoming von Lilienfeld-Toal.

In 1847, Otto became an artillery officer specialising in weapons technology and equipment.

Around 1875, Otto acquired the Upesmuiža estate (Bächhof) from the General-Adjutant Prince Illarion Vorontsov-Dashkov. In the following years, he built a spirit distillery and a brick kiln. In 1894, according to a project by the chief architect of Liepāja (1871-1902), Paul Max Bertschy (1840-1911), the Upesmuiža palace was built, but it did not survive due to the events of the 1905 revolution.

The owner of Upesmuiža wanted to restore the ancient port at the mouth of the Saka River. In the winter of 1878, he began constructing the North and South piers in Pāvilosta. May 16, 1879, was a festive day, and it is recorded that Otto, together with guests, rowed down the river in a lavishly decorated boat owned by a local fisherman, accompanied by music, to the new port where several small Ventspils sailing ships were anchored. During the solemn ceremony, the estate's master mason laid the foundation stone of the Loči House, and in the planned market square (now Ernests Šneiders Square), Otto announced that the port would be named Paulshafen (German), Pavlovskij port (Russian), or Paul's port (Paula osta—Latvian) after his brother, Paul von Lilienfeld-Toal, who was the Vice Governor of St. Petersburg (1867-1868) and Governor of Courland (1868-1885).

At the beginning of the 20th century, the Lilienfeld family moved to Liepāja, to Liepu Street, while the estate was managed by a steward. Otto Friedrich von Lilienfeld died on February 10, 1891, at the age of 63.

10th cube	Baron Otto von Lilienfeld
1.	<b>Decorative plate with the Lilienfeld family crest.</b> 1999



# ERNESTS KĀRLIS ŠNEIDERS

1892–1948

Ernestis Šneiders was a teacher, public figure, and Pāvilosta landscaper, famous in the city for his dedication to educating society and maintaining the environment. In a way, he became a symbol of education in Pāvilosta.

At the age of 22, when World War I began, Šneiders joined the military. However, he was soon captured and spent four years as a prisoner of war in Germany. Upon his return, he found himself in a democratic Latvia and contributed to the foundation of the state and rebuilding the war-torn nation. After passing the external minimum requirements for teaching qualifications, Šneiders began working as the school administrator of the newly opened Pāvilosta School in September 1922.

His love for history inspired him to write the Pāvilosta Chronicle, several thick notebooks filled with descriptions of life in Pāvilosta during the 1920s and 1930s. This chronicle was written over nearly 20 years. Šneiders also established a museum in the school attic to preserve historical evidence for future generations.

People like E. Šneiders helped shape and nurture Latvian culture and recognised the importance of preserving history. His contributions to Latvian society's education were acknowledged with the Order of the Three Stars, awarded to him in 1929. However, his greatest recognition came from former students and residents who respected and valued his selflessness and love for his country and people.

World War II had a profound impact on the Latvian people and on Šneiders' life. After the war, the Soviet authorities saw Šneiders, an intellectual, as a threat and deported him to Karelia, where he worked under harsh conditions on the White Sea–Baltic Canal reconstruction. The teacher spent several years in poor conditions during his exile. When he returned to Pāvilosta, he was sick and worn out but continued to lead the school until 1948, when he was dismissed from his position for ideological reasons. That same year, at the age of 56, Šneiders passed away, leaving behind a rich intellectual legacy.

11th cube	Ernestis Šneiders
1.	E. Šneider's notebook from World War I

# ŽANIS KŪDRIŅŠ

**1893–1964**

Žanis Kūdriņš was a multifaceted individual, an active public figure and cultural organiser in Pāvilosta. He was a firefighter, photographer, owner of a photo studio and barbershop, and head of the Pāvilosta post-telephone auxiliary branch.

In 1906, seeking better land and a better life, the Kūdriņš family emigrated to Brazil, settling in Nova Odessa. Žanis was about 12-13 years old at the time. He learned Portuguese and attended the local school.

Throughout his life, Žanis remained active and energetic. At around 25 years old, on November 24, 1918, in Brazil, he founded the Latvian National Relief Society for the Restoration of Latvia, which collected donations for the war-torn Latvian state. He was a member of the youth association Auseklītis for seven years and, from 1919, a seller of Singer sewing machines. He also participated in a string orchestra and was the editor, typesetter, printer, and proofreader of the magazine Grauds, published in Brazil from 1919 to 1920.

In 1924, at the age of 30, Ž. Kūdriņš returned to Latvia with his family—mother, sisters, and brothers.

He established a branch of the Latvian Red Cross Society and the Voluntary Firefighters Society in Pāvilosta. He became the head of the newly opened Pāvilosta post-telephone auxiliary branch, founded a choir, and organised theater performances for children and adults.

Seeing Kūdriņš's energy and work capacity, local residents elected him as the secretary of the Saka Parish Council.

On March 25, 1949, Žanis Kūdriņš was deported from Latvia to a place of exile in the Drobiševo district of the Omsk region.

The exile severely damaged Kūdriņš's health. Žanis Kūdriņš is buried in the Pāvilosta cemetery.

12th cube	Žanis Kūdriņš
1.	<b>Latvian Youth Union, Membership card for Žanis Kūdriņš.</b> 1926
2.	<b>Latvian Children's Aid Society, Pāvilosta branch, Member badge No 16, issued to Mr Ž. Kūdriņš.</b> 1938

3.	<b>Newspaper Grauds No 8. Published in Nova Odessa colony, Brazil, edited by Ž. Kūdriņš.</b> <i>December 31, 1919</i>
4.	<b>Photograph. In the first row from the left are brothers Žanis and Teodors Kūdriņš in Brazil.</b> 1923