

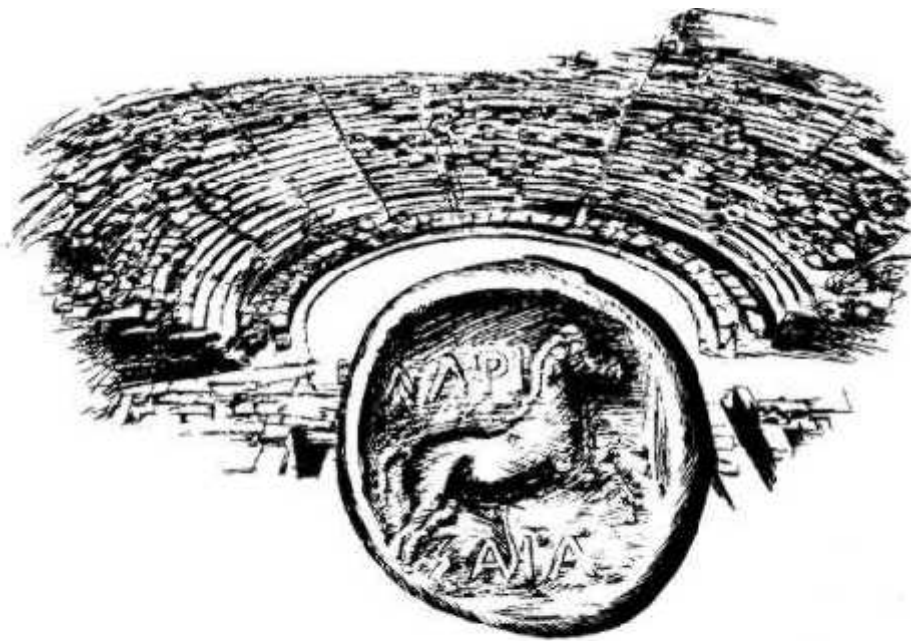
“Let’s share our culture”

Greek historical album

An album with historical places in our area...



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ΔΗΜΟΣ ΛΑΡΙΣΑΙΩΝ

MUNICIPALITY OF LARISSA

The city of Larissa is situated on both banks of Peneus River and is located in the eastern plain of Thessaly and which occupied almost entirely by the prefecture of Larissa.

The name Larissa has a prehellenic Pelasgian origin and it was most widespread in Greece, meaning hill or strongly fortified citadel, that name had the citadel of Argos. Also according to mythology, Larissa was built in Pelasgian period from Larissa, the son of Pelasgians.

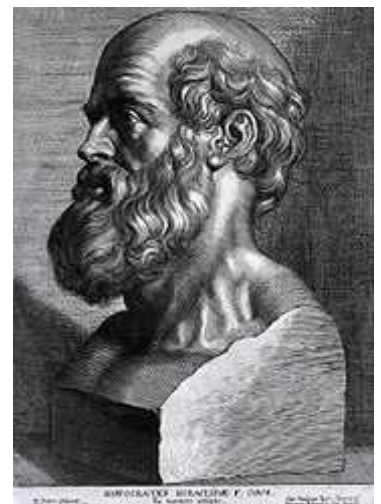
According to archaeological evidence, the capital of Thessaly, Larissa, lies atop a site that has been inhabited since the tenth millennium BCE. Larissa has a history going back thousands of years. Discoveries and findings have proven the existence of the area dating back to the Paleolithic period

Legend says that Hippocrates, the Father of Medicine, died here.

Mythology

The city is said in Greek mythology to have been founded By Acrisius, who was killed accidentally by his son, Perseus. There lived Peleus, the hero beloved by the gods and his son Achilles.

However, the city is not mentioned by Homer, unless it should be identified with Agrissa of the Iliad. In mythology, the nymph Larissa, was a daughter of the primordial man Pelasgus.



History

Antiquity

Traces of Paleolithic human settlement have been recovered from the area, but it was peripheral to areas of advanced culture. The area around Larissa was extremely fruitful. It was agriculturally important and in antiquity was known for its horses.

The name Larissa, inherited from the Pelasgian settlers— an alternative name for the district was Pelasgiotis— was common to many Pelasgian towns: the ancient Greek word *Larissa* means "stronghold". The horse was an appropriate symbol of Thessaly, a land of plains, which was well-known for its horses.

Hellenistic and Roman period

It was in Larissa that Philip V of Macedonia signed in 197 BC a treaty with the Romans after his defeat at Cynoscephalae, and it was there also that Antiochus III, the Great, won a great victory, 192 BC.

As the chief city of ancient Thessaly, Larissa was directly annexed by Philip II of Macedon in 344, and from then on Larissa was under Macedonian control; in 196 B.C. Larissa became an ally of Rome and was the headquarters of the Thessalian League..

Larissa is frequently mentioned in connection with the Roman civil wars which preceded the establishment of the empire and Pompey sought refuge there after the defeat of Pharsalus.

Middle Ages and Ottoman period

The town was taken from the Byzantine Empire by Bulgaria for a while in the later 10th century and later held by Serbia. It was Frankish until 1400.

In the 15th century, it came under the rule of the Ottoman Empire, who called it "Yenişehir-i Fenar" (new town of the Phanariots). Until 1881, Larissa was the seat of a pasha in the vilayet of Yanya.

In the 19th century, there was a small village in the outskirts of town very unusually inhabited by Africans from the Sudan a curious remnant of the forces collected by Ali Pasha. In the 19th Century, the town produced leather, cotton, silk and tobacco. Fevers and agues were prevalent River and the death-rate were higher than the birth rate.



Gravure of Larissa in 1820

It was also renowned for the minarets of its mosques (four of which were still in use in the early part of the 20th century) and the Muslims burial grounds. Larissa was the headquarters of Hursid Pasha during the Greek War of Independence. In 1881, the city, along with the rest of Thessaly, was incorporated into the Kingdom of Greece. A considerable portion of the Turkish population emigrated into the Ottoman Empire at that point. During the Greco-Turkish of 1897, the city was the headquarters of Greek Crown Prince Constantine. The flight of the Greek army from here to Farsala took place on April 23, 1897. Turkish troops entered the city two days later. After a treaty for peace was signed, they withdrew and Larissa remained permanently in Greece. During the Second World War (1941), the city was badly damaged by the bombing of the Italian aircrafts.



Museums of the city



Municipal gallery- G. Katsigras Museum



Historical and Folklore Museum

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Archeological sites of the city



The ancient theater of Larissa (known as Theater A or first theater) was built in the early of 3rd Century B.C. during the reign of Antigonos Gonatas, King of Macedonia. The concave part of the building (koilon) leaned on the foot slopes of the Frourio hill (hill of fortress) upon which the Acropolis of ancient Larissa once stood. The monument was atypical Greek theater of Hellenistic times, with three main parts: the rows of seats in a semicircular disposition, a circular stage for choirs and dancers (orchestra) and a backstage building that closed the monument (skene).

The main part of the theater was divided into eleven stands of twenty five rows of seats by ten ascending stairs. During the Roman period, in order to turn the theater into an arena for gladiators, the lowest four rows of seats were removed.

The spectators used a two meters wide paved with marble passage way into the koilon that divided it in two parts: the main theater and the upper theater. The upper theater was divided into 22 aisles of 15 rows of seats each by 20 stairs. The diameter of the orchestra was 25,5 meters. A marble drain, built around the orchestra and under the stage, collected and lead rainwaters towards the Pinios River. To come inside the monument, the spectators used side-walks (parodoi), bordered on their northern sides by strong white marble sustaining walls. At the western end of west wall, a monumental stair led the spectators directly to the upper theater. The stage,

a four rooms backstage building, was 37,7 meters long. In the middle of the second Century B.C., a 20 meters long and 2 meters wide portico, the proskenion, was built in front of the stage. Names of Thessalian cities that were part of the Thessalian League were carved on some of the seats. Later, during Roman times, the names of those who paid for permanent seats were added. The ancient theater of Larissa, in which more than 10.000 people could take place, was used until the end of the 3rd or the beginning of the 4th century A.D. since then the theater was buried under the earth and buildings were built above.

Nowadays the archeologists excavate it and became a very important point of our city.



Coins of ancient Larissa

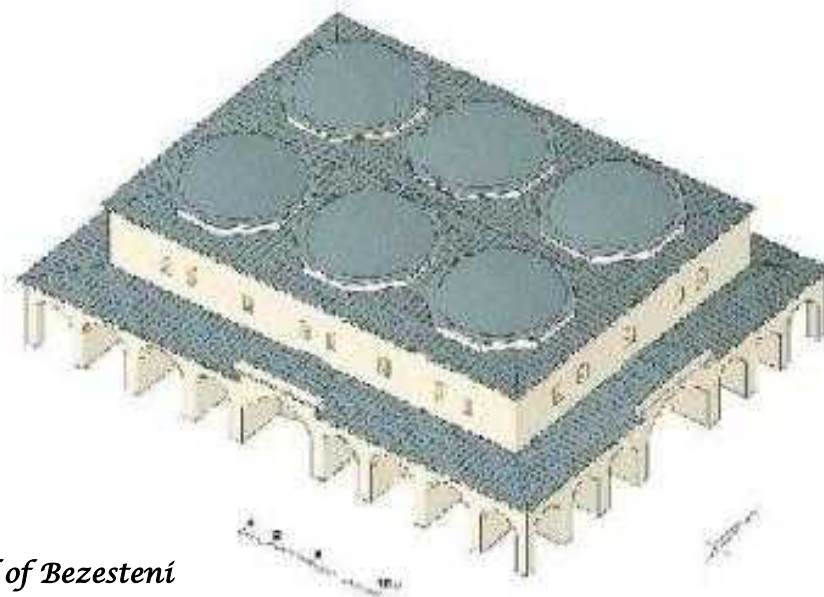


BEZESTENI- THE FORTRESS HILL



Fortress. This is the area where they found the first evidence of occupation of the city from the Neolithic period still later became the citadel of the ancient city on the south side is the first theater.

During the Byzantine period was the religious center, and the Ottoman defense and commercial center. Today the hill is saved Bezesteni or now known as Fort, built by the Ottomans in the late 15th century and was used as a covered market.



Model of Bezesteni

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Modern times in Larissa



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LARISSA is a big city and the capital of the Thessaly periphery of Greece and capital of the Larissa Prefecture). It is a principal agricultural centre and a national transportation hub, linked by road and rail with the port of Volos and with Thessaloniki and Athens. The population of the greater area is around 250,000, and takes in of Nikea, Terpsithea, Platykampos and other



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Great Bath and Bairakli Mosque. The Great Bath (Buyuk Hammam) in the 16th century, although it survives today is used by various shops.



Penaeus river is the famous river, which is inextricably linked with the town of Larissa for centuries and crosses the center of town. It lies on the north side of Fort Hill, under St. Achilles, and with the park of Alcazar, which is adjacent to the river, creating an oasis of greenery and calm in the city center just steps from the main square.



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Yeni Mosque.

This 19th century building, which temporarily housed the Archaeological Museum of Larissa. Information indicates that it was donated by Queen Olga to the remaining Muslims in the city. It is located in People's Square. The exhibition is housed in the only room of the mosque contains exhibits of the following periods: Paleolithic, Neolithic, Archaic, Classical, Hellenistic and Roman.



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Platykampos village

*Our school is located in Platykampos, suburb of Larissa.
Platykampos is a village which is 8 km. away from Larissa, with 2.525 inhabitants.*



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The first village founded on 980 A.C. In this area, as the people agriculture the fields find, even today, prehistoric objects. People's job here is cultivation of the fields. They product, mostly, cotton, wheat and garlic.



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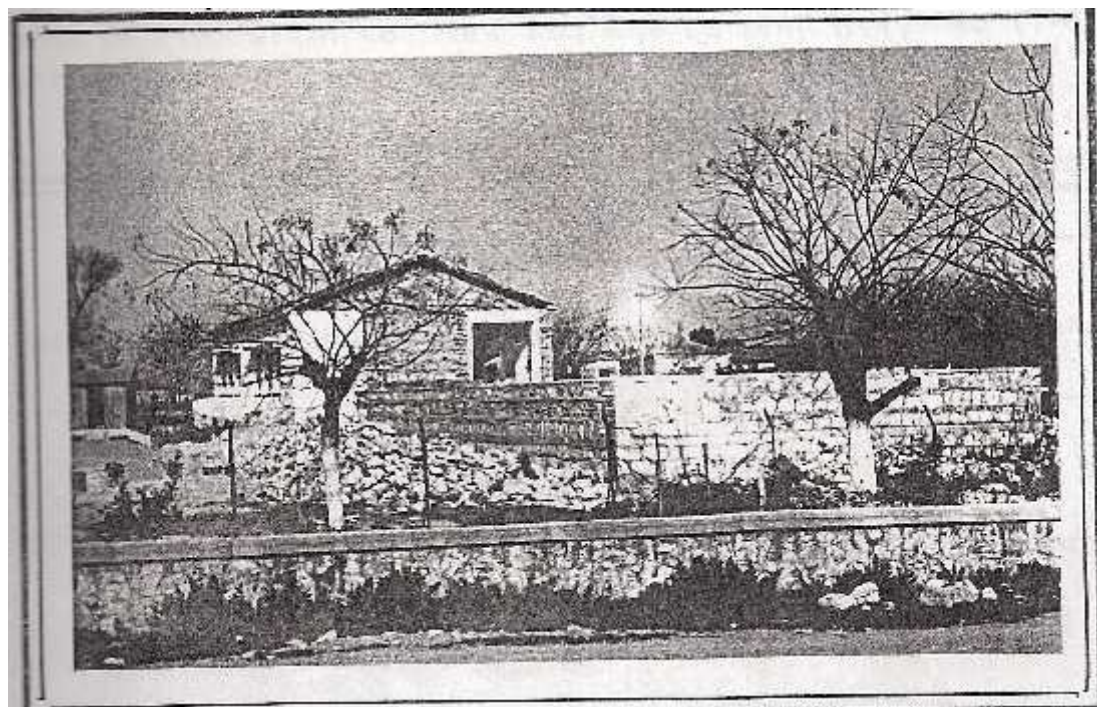


In our village are the ruins of a Hamam (bath). Built in the period that Greece was occupied of Ottoman and is a listed monument. It has a peculiar plan and most likely never been to men and when women. When working on a sex, then placed a cloth over the front entrance stating its use and prohibiting the attendance of the other sex. The steam is used by the Muslim inhabitants of the village until 1881 that liberated the area. Used for a short period of Greek villagers

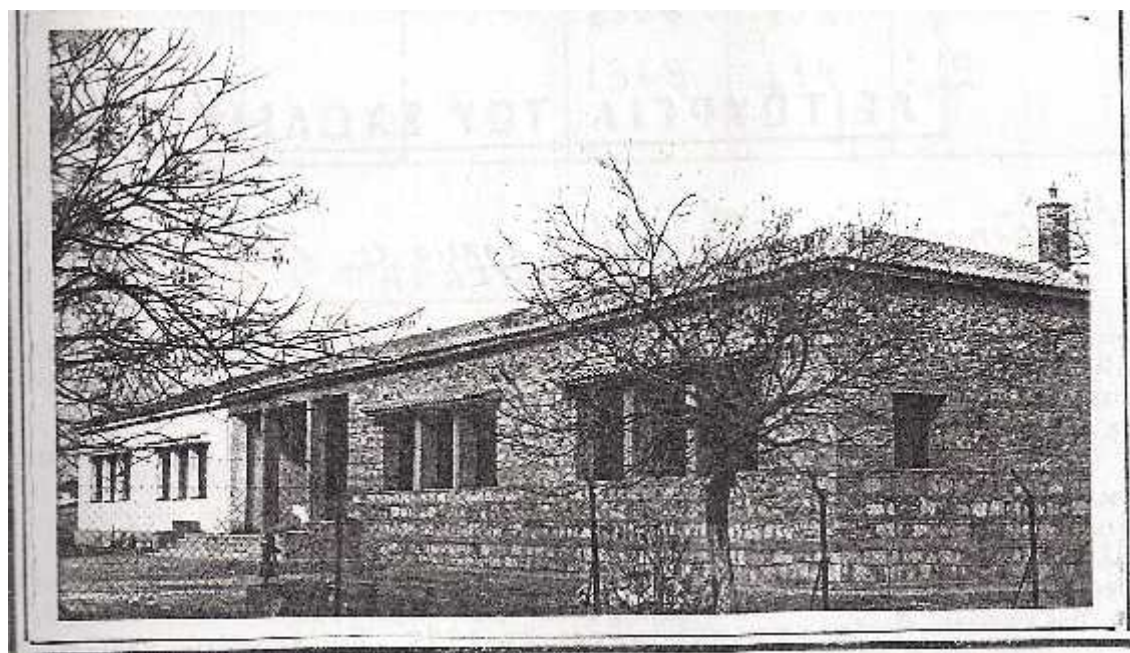


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The 1st primary school, our school, founded on 1885, after the liberation of the Ottomans. At first the building was made by wood. On 1919, the new building was made by stones in front of the village square.



PHOTOS OF THE OLD SCHOOL (1944)



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- *On 1934, people of the village decided to build a larger school in a new position, more suitable for the students. So, they made a modern building that exists till today.*



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Best regards form the teachers and students of the 1st primary school of Platykampos-Larissa- Greece!

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