

SUMMARY

The history of Papilė since the 13th till the 16th cent.

/PAPILĖ I

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Papilė's written history traditionally begins since the treaty of division of the land Curonia on the 5th of April, 1253. The bishop of Curonia and the master of the Prussian Order divided Curonian lands: Ceclis, Duvzarė, Mėguva, Pilsotas and the land between Skrunda and Semigallia. *Pylene* in Ceclis land usually is linked with Papilė. However, historians and linguists doubt of this version.

Linguistic and archeological investigations show that Papilė belonged to the area of the southern Semigallians during the 6th–12th centuries. The land of Ceclis belonged to the Curonians. From the 12th century the process of their assimilation by the Samogitians began. It seems Papilė could be attached to the land between Skrunda and Semigallia. However, the written sources are too poor to confirm or to deny this version.

In the 14th century Papilė was one of the fortresses on the Lithuanian–Livonia border. The Livonian knights attacked it twice: in 1339 and in 1359. As many other fortresses alike after the devastations Papilė was not rebuilt.

In the second part of the 15th century the estate of Papilė was attached to Luokė parish's church. From the end of the 16th century it belonged to the manor of the bishop of Žemaitija. Probably at that time the church of Papilė was erected, later, the first school was built. It got the status of a little town.