

Summary

**The School in Miljkovac – Teaching Staff (1843-1964)**

In the first half of the 19th century, there were some solitary attempts at the organization of the first Serbian schools. On the basis of the data in the possession of the church, a monastery type school was founded in Miljkovac. The priest Miljko Randjelović, as a clergyman, and his brother Jovan Randjelović, as a teacher, lived in the village and were the only teachers at the time. In the annals from 1845, it was noted that they, alternatively, taught the children the alphabet, the book of psalms and geography.

Sotir Popović, the priest Miljko's son, finished the elementary school in the class of the teacher Tasa in Niš, and then he was brought back to Miljkovac, as a teacher, where he worked to 1869, when the Turks closed the school down.

After the liberation of these regions in 1878, The Ministry of Education and Religion of Serbia, made a Decree in 1893, for reopening the school in Miljkovac.

The teacher Raša organized the building of the school with the participation of the following villages: Gornja Toponica, Paljina, Gornja Trnava, Vele Polje, Miljkovac and Cerje. After the school building had been almost finished, the villages of Paligrace, Vrtište, Trupale and Čamurlija paid a certain amount of money, which helped finish the school building completely. The building of the school started in 1911, and was finished in 1912.

Very often it was the married couples who worked in the school, and some of them stood out as good teachers and pedagogues (Jelena and Slobodan Stefanovic, Radmila and Živojin Novaković, etc.)

In the post-war period, in 1949/50, the school grew into an incomplete grammar school, but later it again worked as an elementary school.

The number of pupils varied from year to year. The school got its kitchen and library, and the working conditions were improved.