PHILIPPPOUPOLEIS
IN PAROBELIA

The only city of the same town founded by Philip II in Paeonia that existed in the past is one preserved in a fragment written by the geographer Strabo (64 BC - 34 AD). He tells us that alongside the country of Agrionis lies Pamebilia, a district of Macedonia, which has in its interior, along the valley that begins at Edoneia, the cities Callipolis, Orthopoleis, Philippopolis, Camarina. We are notified by Diod. 18, 29, 19, written during 60-30 BC, that Paeonians, after the death of Agis, king of the Paeonians, troubled the kings of Macedon with many disasters and harms. Consequently, Philip II sent Paeonia with the choice of all his forces and the enemy who marched out to meet them, were utterly defeated, and the whole nation of Paeonia obliged to submit implicitly to the conqueror, and to acknowledge an absolute dependence on Macedon. However, shortly after that in full secrecy, the king of Illyria, of Paeonia and Thessalonica joined in a strict confederacy, and meditated an invasion of Macedonia with all their powers. Then, Philip II surprised the Paeonians and reduced them to a state of subjection, as appears to have rendered them incapable of giving him any further opposition. After that, we assume that Paeonians must have been conquered by a strategem with seat in the city of Pe_phopolis, then renamed to Philippopolis, known in a city in Paeobelia.

The most evident proof of the Macedonian presence on the site of Kneze is the chamfered ruins of a Doric-style building, possibly a temple that must have been erected by order of the king Philip II for ceremonial purposes and the long lasting rule of Paeonia. Later, in 279-278 BC, Paeonia was invaded and thoroughly destroyed by the Celts on their way to plunder the Balkans. Philippopolis, unlike Philippopolis in Paeobelia was not spared since the city was abandoned and the temple cut to pieces.

ANTIGONIA
IN PAEONIA

Our written sources about Antigonia in Paeonia are quite obscure. In description of the greatness of former Macedonia, Pliny (23-79 AD) accounts a number of nations, races, and towns. He tells us that Stobi is a town with the rights of Roman citizens, followed by the meaning “next comes Antigonia, Europos upon the river Asiae” and so on. Thus, we know that Antigonia is located somewhere nearby Stobi and that Antigonia is not placed on the bank of the river Asiae, as Pliny said by Philippopolis.

In 272 BC Antigonus II Gnotias gained full control of Macedonia and we know that he founded at least three name-cities, an Antigonia on the mainland of Chalkidike near Kassandra, another in Antium, Iapetos as a useful barrier against the Thessalians and a third one as we assume in Paeonia, with aim to control the conquered province. Simply, Philippopolis in Paeonia, i.e. Philippopolis in Paeobelia was consequently renamed to Antigonia, located in Paeonia.

Livy (29 BC - 17 AD) who described the events of the war at Polyde Hypatias gives details of the formation of the Macedonian troops before the battle. On the right wing were Macedonian cavalry, and Catanae interspersed among their troops. Melden of Theban was in charge of the latter forces. Menon of Antigonia commanded the cavalry and the formation as a whole. Next to the wings were posted the royal cavalry and mixed units of the picked auxiliaries of many nations; Paeonians of Antigonia and Didus the governor of Paeonia were in command of these. At last we are informed that Paeonia was commanded by a Macedonian governor and the army of Antigonia in Paeonia played a central role for providing troops and cavalry to the Macedonian army. After the defeat of the battle at Polyde Hypatias Macedon was severely punished and reduced to Dacian Province. Alexander of Macedon, in turn, His Majesty assembled all the forces and to consolidate the scattered and to prevent the advancement of the Romans. We know that Antigonia in Paeonia existed as a city since Polyde Hypatias (90-168 AD) listed it in his work Geography. Nothing is known of Presidio in addition to the name listed in the Tabula Peutingeriana as one of the stations on the way from Stobi to Scupi. Judging by the distance given in the Tabula Peutingeriana, Presidio seems to conform to the site of the ancient city Paphara in Paeonia, Philippopolis in Paeobelia and Antigonia in Paeonia, all located at Kneze near Sveti Nikola.

It is assumed that Presidio must have got its name commemorating its past of some city of great importance. The city of Presidio shared the same fate as Stobi because all invaders from the north had to pass through it on the road to Stobi. In 479 Theodoric the Great invaded Stobi and left the city in ruins and probably Presidio shared the same fate. Later after the invasion of Balkans by the Slavs and Avars, Presidio must have been forgotten forever.

KNEZE
SVETI NIKOLE

An ongoing archaeological excavation of a large plateau at Kneze near Sveti Nikole in Republic of Macedonia unearthed the site of an ancient city that coincides in chronology and location of a Paphara in Paeonia, Philippopolis in Paeobelia, Antigonia in Paeonia and Presidio, all with historical past of existence on the exact same location. The ancient city at Kneze occupied the most strategic location of importance for defence and control of Paeonia as an independent country or administrative province.

PSAPHARA
IN PARAXIA

Panoxia is a region in Macedonia, i.e. Valley of the Axios River or Paeonia. Peneleus (90-168 AD) in his work "Geographia" has listed a town with the name "Psaphara", "serpent" Antigonia in Paeonia. Obviously, Psaphara existed an important Paeonian city but after the occupation of the country by Philip II it must have been renamed to Philippopolis and later to Antigonia when Antigonus Gnotias becomes the king of Macedonia.

At least two other towns in Paeonia are known with the names Tranuvara and Zapara, with "phara" or "para" meaning town or city. Herodoto (484-425 BC) in his work "The Histories" tells us that the Persian general Megabares on order by the king Darius invaded Paeonia 480 BC, when Paeonians, Stratoubar, Panepides and all the chief as far as Presidio were taken away from their homes and carried into Asia. Psaphara as an important town and situated at the time of Persian Invasion of Paeonia must have been targeted and destroyed.

Presidio, named after the Roman fort, is a modern settlement in the Republic of Macedonia, located on the site of the ancient town of Paphara. The site was once occupied by the Paeonians, who built a fortress there. The fortress is believed to have been attacked and destroyed by the Persians in the 5th century BC. The site is now a popular archaeological site and tourist attraction.

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VTERBROVCI
IN PHILIPPPOUPOLEIS

Riverbeds for drinking water, built with collapsed city stones.