

# Valais Libre

**April 27, 2016**

## History of Valais – April 27

Filed under: [c. Valais historical calendar](#) — vslibre @ 3 h 00 min  
Tags: [Crevola](#), [Jost von Silenen](#)

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Battle of Crevola

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**February 25, 2016**

## History of Valais – February 25

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D. Ducus de Sicilie



**August 2, 2014**

**Valais historical calendar: August 2 – 1482 – Jost von Silenen**

Filed under: [c. Valais historical calendar](#) — vslibre @ 1 h 42 min

Tags: [Crevola](#), [Duke of Milan](#), [Georges Supersaxo](#), [Wars of Ossola](#), [Jost von Silenen](#), [Sixtus IV](#)

belligerent bishop



Jost von Silenen

*Full of energy and without consideration, associating a sharp intelligence with a strong penchant for the arts, he was the soul of the wars of Ossola.. .* Jost von Silenen was confirmed on August 2, 1482 as Bishop of Sion by Pope Sixtus IV. Elected in July shortly after the death of Walter Supersaxo, the new bishop was recommended to the Diet and to the Chapter of Zion by the Confederates. Prince of the Renaissance, Jost von Silenen will however have a difficult and unhappy episcopate in Valais.

Born in Küssnacht in the canton of Zurich around 1445, he studied law at the University of Pavia, then studied foreign languages in Rome. After various services in Switzerland, we find him in 1472 at the court of the King of France Louis XI as ambassador of the Confederates. He will contribute to the perpetual peace of 1474 between the Confederation and Duke Sigismund of Habsburg. This peace intrigued by Louis XI will cause the loss of the Duke of Burgundy Charles the Bold.

He will be bishop of Grenoble in 1477 before ascending to the episcopal see of Valais. Belligerent, he will involve the Were worth in the wars of Ossola and the defeat of Crèvola in 1487. The peace concluded with the duke of Milan in 1495 precipitated his loss. He was expelled from Valais in April 1496 by Georges Supersaxo and ended his life in 1498 in France. Apart from the wars, he contributed to the development of the arts in Valais, in particular by continuing the reconstruction of the cathedral.

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**April 27, 2014**

**Valais historical calendar: April 27 – 1487 – Battle eve at Crevola**

Filed under: [c. Valais historical calendar](#) — vslibre @ 1 h 40 min

Tags: [Albin von Silenen](#), [Beura](#), [Crevola](#), [Domodossola](#), [Duke of Milan](#), [Jost von Silenen](#), [Simplon](#), [Val d'Ossola](#), [Val Vigezzo](#)

Premises of defeat



Albin von Silenen, the brother of the bishop of Sion is at the head of nearly 6000 Valaisans. On April 27, 1487, he was joined by 1,000 Swiss when suddenly they found themselves facing the troops of the Duke of Milan. A violent skirmish takes place in Beura, very close to Domodossola. Prudent, Albin von Silenen gives the order to his men to go up the valley towards the Simplon with the booty amassed during the looting of Val Vigezzo.

The next morning at dawn, the Valaisans found themselves surrounded between the Orco bridge and the Crevola bridge. The fight will be stubborn, but disastrous for the troops of the Bishop of Sion. Between 1000 and 2000 Valaisans, the number varies according to the sources, will die there. Both leaders will be injured. Bishop Jost von Silenen's dream of extending his influence to the Ossola Valley seems to be coming to an end.

A treaty was signed with the Duke of Milan on July 23, 1487. Despite this, the situation remained tense and pastures in the Gondo region were frequently a source of local conflict. War nearly broke out again in 1494, but arbitrators were called in. A convention was signed in January 1495 and after a last attempt by the bishop in March, the limit was definitively fixed on June 26, 1495. The defeat of Bishop Jost von Silenen in the Val d'Ossola weakened his position in Valais and the leader of the patriots Georges Supersaxo took the opportunity to drive him out of Valais in 1496.

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**April 20, 2014**

## Valais historical calendar: April 20 – 1496 – Nicolas Schiner

Filed under: [c. historical calendar of Valais](#) — vslibre @ 1 h 11 min

Tags: [Diebold Schilling](#), [Georges Supersaxo](#), [Jost von Silenen](#), [Mathieu Schiner](#), [Nicolas Schiner](#), [Walter Supersaxo](#)

new bishop



*He knew neither literature nor the world, but was otherwise quite pious...* The famous Lucerne chronicler Diebold Schilling has a very clear opinion of his contemporary. When he was elected bishop of Sion by the Diet and the Chapter on April 20, 1496, Nicolas Schiner was already quite old. If the priest of Ernen accedes to this function, it is because he is the protege of Georges Supersaxo.

The leader of the Valais patriots has just succeeded in driving out his enemy, Bishop Jost von Silenen. The failure of the latter in the Val d'Ossola will have been fatal to him. A close friend of Georges Supersaxo's father, Bishop Walter Supersaxo, Nicolas Schiner is also the uncle of Mathieu Schiner whom Georges Supersaxo is preparing for a great future. At that time the two men were still friends, they would later tear each other apart.

Nicolas Schiner's episcopate, which will be confirmed by the pope in August 1496, will be short since he will retire in favor of his nephew in 1499. During these years, he continued the restoration of the cathedral. Nicolas Schiner died in 1510 and was buried under the Saint-Théodule church. Found in 1960, his tomb also contained another body which could not be identified.

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## February 24, 2014

### Valais historical calendar: February 24 – 1483 – VII Tens dominate Lower Valais

Filed under: [c. historical calendar of Valais](#) — vslibre @ 1 h 12 min

Tags: [Battle of La Planta](#), [Jean de Platea](#), [Jost von Silenen](#), [Morge de Saint-Gingolph](#), [Treaty of Friborg](#), [Treaty of Thonon](#), [VII Dizains](#), [Walter Supersaxo](#)

Aftermath of the Battle of La Planta



After the victory of La Planta on November 13, 1475, the VII Dizains pushed back the Savoyards. By the Treaty of Fribourg, they annexed the Valais up to Saint-Maurice in 1476. But the rivalry between patriots and bishops muted during the episcopate of Walter Supersaxo will resume vigorously after the death of this one and the advent of his successor Jost von Silenen in 1482.

On February 24, 1483, the VII Dizains asserted their claims to Bas-Valais. Each decade requires the bishop to pay an annual payment of 200 florins, as a reward for the war against Savoy. On May 30, 1490, an agreement between the patriots and the bishop will come about for the division of Bas-Valais. Jean de Platea, appointed in 1488, will be the first governor of Bas-Valais.

In 1536, when Bern invaded the Vaud region, Valais took possession of Chablais as far as Thonon. In 1569, the Treaty of Thonon fixed the border with Savoy at Morge de Saint-Gingolph. The VII Dizains will dominate Bas-Valais until February 22, 1798 when they will grant freedom to the region under pressure from Bonaparte's France.

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## January 7, 2014

### Valais historical calendar: January 7 – 1495 – Treaty of Milan

Filed under: [c. historical calendar of Valais](#) — vslibre @ 2 h 04 min

Tags: [Crevola](#), [Gondo](#), [War of Ossola](#), [Jost von Silenen](#), [Milan](#), [Simplon](#)

Valais Gondo



Ludovico the Moor

The possession of mountain pastures is a frequent source of quarrels, those of the Gondo region are no exception to this rule. Valais' claims to the Ossola valley were revived by Bishop Jost von Silenen. He sent his brother to invade the valley in 1484, but the defeat of Crémola in 1487 limited his ambitions.

The warrior bishop, perhaps secretly encouraged by the Pope, wanted to take advantage of the weakening of the Duchy of Milan after the Burgundian Wars where the Duchy of Milan had been an ally of Charles the Bold. The affair did not succeed as well as hoped and after the defeat of 1487 there were regular skirmishes between the two communities.

In 1494, the Valaisans made a punitive expedition where they killed 80 people and seized 1000 head of cattle. The war almost started again, but arbitration was preferred. On January 7, 1495, a treaty was signed which delimited the region: the southern slope of the Simplon to Gondo was incorporated into Valais. This treaty will be confirmed two days later in Milan.

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## December 14, 2013

### [Valais historical calendar: December 14 – 1498 – Jost von Silenen](#)

Filed under: [c. Valais historical calendar](#) — vslibre @ 2 h 40 min

Tags: [Crevola](#), [Georges Supersaxo](#), [Ossola wars](#), [Jost von Silenen](#), [Louis XI](#)

#### An art-loving bishop



The prelate who died in December 1498 was far from Valais, which he left his mark on. Jost von Silenen was born between 1435 and 1445 in Küssnacht in the canton of Schwyz. His father, Joseph, had been lieutenant of the grand bailiff and castellan of Sierre. The young Silenen will study law in Pavia and languages in Rome.

After having been part of the court of the King of France Louis XI, he will help the latter to conclude the perpetual peace between the Confederate cantons and the Habsburgs. His sense of diplomacy will lead him to the bishopric of Grenoble in 1476, then to that of Sion in 1482 thanks to the support of the Diet. Unfortunately for him, his plans for the Val d'Ossola ended in failure and the defeats of Masera and Crevola.

Its weakening awakened the inclinations of the patriots against the bishop. Georges Supersaxo will rise against him and, in 1496 he had to take refuge in Lyon after the occupation of Sion by the dozens of Conches, Brigue and Viège. In 1497 the pope deposed him and appointed him bishop of Hierapolis in Asia Minor. In 1498, he tried in vain to regain his episcopal see.

Jost von Silenen, a great art lover and patron will have enabled the completion of many churches, contributed to the development of the baths of Leuk and the exploitation of the silver mines of Bagnes.

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## October 19, 2013

### [Valais Historical Calendar: October 19 – 1484 – Ossola War](#)

Filed under: [c. historical calendar of Valais](#) — vslibre @ 2 h 38 min

Tags: [19 October 1484](#), [Albin von Silenen](#), [Crevola](#), [Duchy of Milan](#), [Georges Supersaxo](#), [Gondo](#), [War of Ossola](#), [Jost von Silenen](#), [Nicola Schiner](#), [Ossola Valley](#)

#### Jost von Silenen wants war.

In 1482, the accession to the episcopal throne of Sion by Jost von Silenen opened a tense period between the Valais and the Ossola valley on the Italian side of the Simplon. Old territorial claims on mountain pastures and ancestral seigniory rights suddenly returned to strain relations between Sion and Milan. The Bishop of Sion has an expedition secretly prepared against Ossola.

On October 19, 1484, an Episcopal army crossed the Simplon despite the opposition of four decades. This army, commanded by Albin von Silenen, the bishop's brother, met the troops of the Duke of Milan at San Giovanni di Crevola. The intervention of Confederate soldiers in the pay of the Duke of Milan made it possible to negotiate a truce which led to an arbitration brought to Zurich in September 1486. This arbitration remained without effect.

The conflict did not stop there, Jost von Silenen prepared a new expedition which was defeated at the battle of Crevola on April 28, 1487 where nearly 2000 Valaisans remained on the battlefield. A peace treaty was signed with the support of France in 1495. The southern slope of the Simplon to Gondo is given to the Valais.

The internal tensions caused by the warmongering of the bishop brought his deposition in 1496 and his replacement by Nicolas Schiner who had the support of Georges Supersaxo who, in the name of the patriots, strongly opposed the episcopal policy.

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## September 29, 2013

### [Valais historical calendar: September 29 – 1891 – Water concessions](#)

Filed under: [c. historical calendar of Valais](#) — vslibre @ 2 h 18 min

Tags: [hydraulic concessions](#), [Council of State](#), [Jost von Silenen](#), [law of May 27, 1898](#), [Oerlikon](#)

**water force**



*1. The concession must present obvious advantages for the municipality (...)*

*2. The concession request must first be submitted to the primary assembly.*

*3. It should not be granted in perpetuity, but for a limited period of 99 years at most.*

These are the first articles of the Directives of the Council of State addressed to the municipalities concerning concessions of water rights enacted on September 29, 1891.

If this first legislation on hydraulic concessions arrived at the end of the 19th century, it was not by chance. Valais becomes an important target in the electricity rush. The management of aquatic resources is much older. In 1490, Bishop Jost von Silenen settled a dispute over the allocation of water. Later, it was the secular authorities who managed the water.

But industrial development would revolutionize this management. The discovery of electricity and, especially from 1891 and the feat of the Oerlikon company which succeeded in transporting electricity over several hundred kilometres, its remote use caused a very strong demand. The hydraulic riches of the Valais were coveted. A first concession granted on the Rhône in Bois-Noir on May 2, 1891 preceded the Council of State's directive by a few months.

A first cantonal law arrived on May 27, 1898. The industrial era imposed itself in Valais and opened the way to the construction of alpine dams.

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