

Управление по образованию, спорту и туризму  
Стародорожского районного исполнительного комитета

Государственное учреждение образования  
«Средняя школа № 2 г. Старые Дороги»

Конкурс исследовательских работ учащихся

Секция «Иностранный язык»

Исследовательская работа на тему:

«Haunted Belarusian and British castles»

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г. Старые Дороги, 2020

## **ANNOTATION**

This research work is devoted to the problem of the influence of national traditions on the development of tourism. The author tried to prove that myths and legends help people keep their national traditions and don't lose their cultural self-awareness.

Life changes because the modern world becomes more global and technology makes it go faster. People become more cosmopolitan nowadays because they travel round the world and can choose the country for living without keeping national traditions. Globalization makes people alike. Is it good or bad?

The author tries to find answers to these and some other questions. As a result we propose some alternative variants for the popularization of the Belarusian culture.

## CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION.....	4
CHAPTER 1 HAUNTED BRITISH AND BELARUSIAN CASTLES.....	6
1.1    Arundel .....	7
1.2    The Tower .....	7
1.3    Chillingham Castle.....	8
1.4    Nesvizh Castle.....	9
1.5    Mir Castle.....	9
1.6    Golshany Castle.....	9
CHAPTER 2 ANALYSIS OF THE MATERIAL.....	11
2.2. Belarusian and British Castles: similarities and differences.....	11
2.2 We propose the alternative.....	12
CONCLUSION.....	13
LIST OF SOURCES USED.....	14
APPENDIX.....	15

## INTRODUCTION

Traditions make the people closer and form the mentality of the nation. I think that every nation should protect its traditions and remember its identity.

The customs and traditions of this or that nation, even if they are mystical and difficult to explain, are a peculiar reflection of its history and psychology. Acquaintance with them will allow us better understand the soul of this nation, its art and literature.

People have always been interested in something unusual and frightening. They are attracted with things that are difficult to explain. Castles appeared in the Middle Ages. They were built to protect people from enemies. However often owners were scared because they saw ghosts in their castles. Is it true that castles are haunted? We have a lot of questions and we want to find answers to them. This theme is actual because people are interested in something mystical and want to explain the reason of strange things.

The object of our work is Belarusian and English medieval castles.

The subject of our work is history of medieval castles, traditions and customs of the Belarusian and English people connected with the castles and their ghosts.

The aim of the work is study of the history and development of Belarusian and English medieval castles, including history of well-known haunted castles, and also study of reasons haunted castle existence.

To achieve the aim we set the following objectives:

- to study the origin and development of medieval castles using different sources of information;
  
- to find out how the history of the *Belarusians* and the British people affected on appearance of myths about the ghosts living in the castles;
- to make up a questionnaire “Ghosts-for and against” and carry out a survey;

- to make up a guidebook “Haunted Belarusian castles”;

To fulfill the tasks we have used different methods: description, comparison and questionnaire.

The hypothesis of the work: travel agencies claim that castles are haunted to attract tourists to visit these buildings and the countries where they can be found.

The relevance of this research is determined by Belarusian Castles as a potential resource that can develop international tourism and attract interest not only among foreign guests, but also among our fellow citizens.

We collected the theoretical material from the following online resources: <https://www.belarus.by/en/travel/belarus-life/sightseeing/tourist-attraction-grodno> ;

<https://historicEuropeancastles.com/haunted-castles-in-ireland/>

This research work was carried out during the period of time from February to April 2020

## CHAPTER 1 HAUNTED BRITISH AND BELARUSIAN CASTLES

Since ancient times Great Britain has been among the most significant countries in the world for Magic, Myths, Ghosts and Legends. Almost every town, city and village in this country has its own secret history.

Castles are an integral part of the British history. They first appeared in the 11th century during the Norman Conquest and continued to be constructed well into the 18th century. Castles were built to keep enemies out and to protect people. Today, there are hundreds of castles in England in various stages of restoration or states of decay. Many have become popular tourist destinations, offering visitors the chance to see how life in a real castle compares with storybook tales of towers, turrets and untold treasure.

The word castle is derived from the Latin word *castellum*, meaning "fortified place".

The medieval castle criteria:

it was build in the middle ages ;

it provides a living space to a limited group of persons;

it provides a defence to a limited group of persons;

However, the history of the castles is both bloody and cruel full of executions and murders so no wonder why haunted castles dot the English landscape.

The English word *ghost* continues Old English *gást*. It is the spirit of a dead person, especially one believed to appear in bodily likeness to living persons or to haunt former habitats. The geographic directory of English ghosts says: "There are more ghosts in the British Isles than anywhere else." The English scientist Paul Lee remarked: "The number of ghosts depends on how acceptable this is for a given people. British ghosts are part of the culture. We had them at all times and under any government."

There are countless magnificent castles with ghosts in England. The most famous castles of England are:

- The Tower of London
- Rochester Castle
- Winsor Castle
- Dover Castle
- Bodiam Castle

## **1.1 Arundel**

Family castle of the Duke of Norfolk in Sussex (England) was built in the XIX century. It is believed that it was built on the same place where the castle of the XII century was located, and even earlier there was more ancient castle. The Duke of Norfolk has possessed the castle since 1580, when Catherine Howard's (Henry VIII fifth wife) uncle became its owner.

The most famous phantom of the Castle Arundel is so-called "Blue man". It is a gentleman, dressed in a silk blue suit, who visited the library, where he was looking for a necessary book for himself. The first facts about the appearance of phantom were related to a "Blue man" in the times of Carl II who reigned from 1660 to 1685.

The second ghost is a kitchen boy, who is said to have lived there 200 years ago and was tortured so brutally that he died very soon. It is told that the appearances of this ghost are accompanied by the sounds that remind washing up of pots and pans.

The third ghost is a girl dressed in white, who according to the legend, once threw out herself from the Highorn Tower because of unshared and unhappy love. Her figure in the white appears near the Tower on moonlit nights.

## **1.2 The Tower**

The Tower of London is one of the most interesting historic sights of London. It is situated in the centre of London on the north bank of the River Thames. The Tower was founded during the Norman Conquest of England at the end of 1066. It has 20 towers and the most important of all is the White Tower, which was built by William the Conqueror. The Tower has a long and rich history.

It has once been a royal palace, a fortress, a prison, a place of execution and even a zoo. Today, it's mainly a historical museum.

Hundreds of ghost sightings have been reported in and around the Tower over the years. One of the most famous ghosts is Queen Anne Boleyn. She was one of the wives of Henry the VIII, who was beheaded in the Tower of London in 1536. This ghost is quite a unique phenomenon. Unlike most ghosts who haunt a certain location, Queen Anne Boleyn's ghost is said to haunt a number of different locations throughout the UK. Among them: Hever Castle, The Tower of London, Hampton Court Palace and Windsor Castle.

### **1.3 Chillingham Castle**

The name of the castle is as cold as it is very dark place. Chillingham Castle was used for only one purpose - to kill. A certain John Sage worked here executioner-torturer for three years in the room of torture. As they say, he is tormented about fifty people a week. And today at night you can still hear John Sage drag the body around.

The Blue boy can be usually seen in the Pink room. It is a ghost of a boy in blue clothes. Tourists can see a blue light. The legend says that the boy and his mother were immured alive.

Mary Berkeley's ghost appears from the portrait. This woman learnt that her husband had adultery with her sister and committed a suicide.

Britain ranks the first place in the world in the number of ghosts per person. And the second place is Belarus.

In the middle ages Belarusian lands was called the «land of castles» not without a reason. There were more than a hundred of them in a small area. Medieval castles of Belarus are, without any doubt, a real jewelry of European past. Mir, Nesvizh, Grodno, and Lida castle complexes offer a great opportunity to feel the atmosphere of the times of brave knights and their fair ladies. You can walk through peaceful parks and even meet a ghost in creepy halls of ancient towers.

## **1.4 Nesvizh Castle**

One of the most legendary ghosts inhabit the Belarusian Nesvizh Castle. Dark nights of the ancient alleys of the park, through the deserted halls and corridors of the palace haunting black lady - the spirit of Barbara Radziwill, the wife of the King of Poland Zigmunt August. The body of the queen rests in Vilnius, but the soul is more than four centuries, forced to toil in Nesvizh.

The mother of king didn't like Barbara, that is why she ordered to kill her. After her death, Sigismund Augustus came to Nesvizh and decided to arrange a magic session in order to summon the spirit of his lady-love. The main condition was not to touch her. When the king saw the spirit of Barbara, he rushed to hug her, that break the magic. Since then, the spirit of Barbara Radzivill wanders around the castle, and people see her when she warns about the trouble.

## **1.5 Mir Castle**

Mir Castle, in contrast to its neighbor Nesvizh not too shrouded in a mystical aura. But occasionally someone mentions a local ghost named Sonia, who "lives" in a white tower. Perhaps we are talking about Sophia Sviatopolk-Worldly, buried in the early XX century in the family crypt next to the castle. The spirit of Sonia, apparently, very humble, do not worry about him not being told, in contrast to the large pond behind the castle. Once in its place was a beautiful apple orchard. But the owner of the castle Sviatopolk-Mir in May 1898 ordered the trees cut down at the very moment when they bloomed, and the place of the garden to dig a lake. Since then, the vindictive spirits apple revenge people - almost every year in this pond is drowning man.

## **1.6 Golshany Castle**

Golshany is perhaps the most mystical place in Belarus. Today this mysterious castle, which is steeped in legends and celebrated in literature, stands in ruins. Some time ago it was a magnificent residence of Deputy Chancellor of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania Pawel Stefan Sapieha, cousin of Lew Sapieha, a renowned author of the Third Statute of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania accepted in 1588. The stone castle, built about 1610, had an entrance gate and a chapel, was

surrounded by ramparts and bastions. They say that the castle was connected with a monastery by an underpass. Golshany Castle and its surroundings are reputed to be haunted by the ghosts of the Black Monk and the White Lady. The festival of medieval culture Golshany Castle is held every year near these ancient ruins. Local legends will be enough for a full-fledged horror film or even on the show. So here are equally willing visited by tourists, journalists, film crews, pundits, "Ghostbusters," the researchers of paranormal phenomena.

One film, famed Golshany already filmed - "The Black Castle Olshansky," the famous novel by Vladimir Korotkevich. In the legend, which describes Vladimir Korotkevich told that once upon a time rootless young man Gremislav Valyuzhinich loved beauty, illustrious Princess Hanna-Gordislavu Golshanskaya. The girl reciprocated. To meet with his mistress, dressed in a monk's Gremislav. When their secret meetings, learned her husband of Princess, honoring the tradition of the Middle Ages and the "dish" tribal honor, he killed them both. Since there is no rest the Black Monk (so nicknamed him the locals) and the White Lady. They now and then appear in the niches of the tower and induce death in the horror of bystanders.

There are Golshany and the other, no less fascinating legend about the appearance of a White Lady. Like, four centuries ago, Paul Stefan Sapieha, the owner of Golshany, gave money to build a Catholic church and monastery. The date of consecration was appointed to the August 6, 1618. Cope builders - will receive compensation, will not have time - waiting for their punishment. Masons worked hard, but one of the walls of the monastery all the time collapsed. What kind of attack? That means we need to bring a secret sacrifice, we decided to builders. And it will be the one of the wives of the builders, which will come first for her husband to dinner. Came the most beautiful and young, and it was bricked into the wall.

This is how the White Lady, by far - the most famous ghost in Belarus.

## CHAPTER 2 ANALYSIS OF THE MATERIAL

### **2.1 Belarusian and British Castles: similarities and differences**

We interviewed 100 people of different ages, social groups and professions. We had three age groups: 1. «Children»  
 2. «Teenagers»  
 3. «Parents»

They answered some questions. The survey showed that 55% «Teenagers» and almost 40% «Children» believe in ghosts, however only 20% of « Parents » believe in ghosts. We think these results mean that modern mass media has an influence on young generation, which is very trusting. Moreover, we are sure the young generation can't find easily the difference between the real life and imaginary world of films and computer games.

More than 65% of «Children» and 60% of «Teenagers» are interested in meeting something strange like a ghost, however, the same amount of « Parents » don't want to have such unusual experience.

58% of «Teenagers» and «Children» are not afraid of ghosts and would like to become friends with them. It is interesting to pay attention to the fact that more than 50% couldn't answer this question at all.

Only 40% answered that they are interested in the local traditions when travelling.

To conclude, children are keen on history and castles. They would like to visit a castle. Most of the children also want to see a ghost. Some of them believe that there are paranormal phenomena, others admire the beauty of medieval buildings and want to feel the atmosphere of the past.

The survey showed that the Belarusians think that castles are beautiful and they reflect the history and help to understand how people in the middle ages lived.

Having this results we decided to compare British and Belarussian medieval buildings. We compared some castles, their legends and myths. We came to the conclusion that the castles in Belarus and Britain have common similarities. These structures were built for the purpose of defensive protection from invaders. They

also have own ceremonies, symbols and ghosts. The buildings are historical cultural monuments and still accept tourists from different countries.

The difference between England and Belarus is that only in England ghosts are not only believed, they are looked for, counted up, classified, they are hunted. Only here in England it is possible to see traffic signs “Be careful, a ghost!” And only here ghosts are considered as national property. In England there are organizations such as “Hunters for ghosts” or “Club of ghost experts”.

## 2.2 We propose the alternative

Castles in Belarus are the eyewitnesses of a bygone era, symbols of history and architectural monuments. Dozens of castles were built all over of our country, but only few of them were saved. Many of them have already been reconstructed, some of them are waiting for their turn, but all of them deserve our attention.

Every year our country becomes more popular tourist destination for travelers from different countries, and our medieval buildings attracts them more and more. In our district we also have a mansion of Pan Dashkevich. It is situated in the village Polozhevichi. This building has own secrets and legends about a ghost. We suggest including this culture object in the tourist route.

So, I decided to analyze the most popular **castles** in Belarus and create the Guide Book « Haunted Belarusian castles» (see Appendix) and a short film for students «Myths of Golshany castle»

## **CONCLUSION**

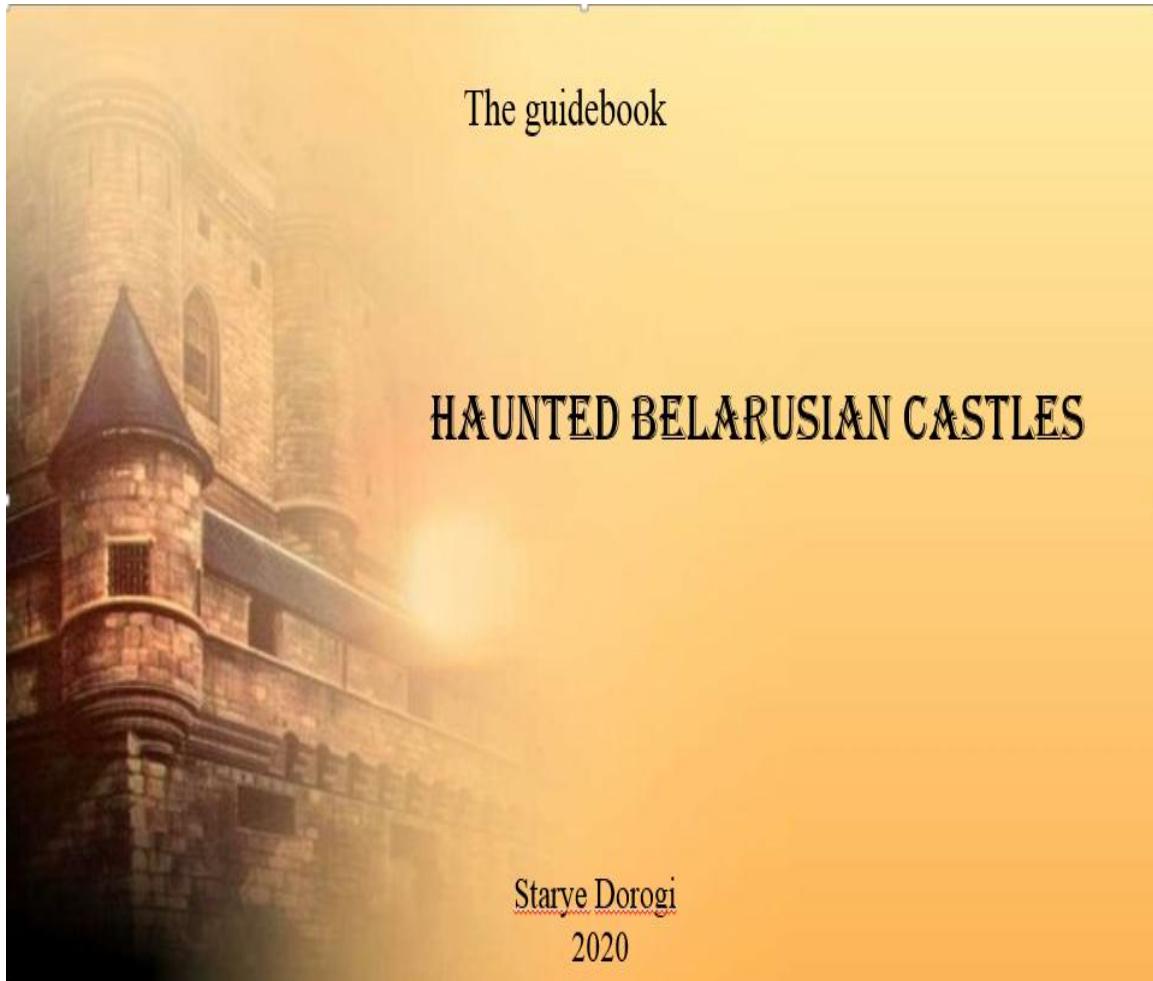
The survey showed us that our hypothesis was confirmed. People from almost every country in the world come to Belarus to visit castles. This is evidenced by various photographs presented by Yandex and Google sites, on which people of various nationalities are photographed next to these objects: Chinese, Germans, French, Italians and others.

Thus, we are convinced that the modern interest in medieval castles is growing. Proof of this are a huge number of books and films, as well as research in this area. On the one hand, globalization helps people in different countries to get closer, to understand each other better. On the other hand, people lose their national traditions: they forget their history and culture. I think it is bad! Traditions are our treasure and we must keep them carefully and pass them to the following generations.

I think we have to promote our medieval buildings, because it is good for the development of tourism. The medieval castles of Belarus are our historical and cultural heritage. This is the pride not only of Belarusians, but, perhaps, of all mankind. And the second reason is that people have to keep their national traditions so that not to lose their cultural self-awareness.

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**APPENDIX 1**

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2020

**APPENDIX 2**