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The legend of Mrs. Neaga

530 years ago ...

Mrs. Neaga was the mistress of the townships of Rusavat, Cislău, Lapoș, Tisău, Grăjdana, Magura, Sarate, Valea Scheilor. The fact that the people of Lapoș township gave its name to numerous places such as the Church of Mrs. Neaga, the well of Mrs. Neaga, the Poiana of Mrs. Neaga, the wall of Mrs. Neaga, shows that they respected her and kept her memory and legend alive.

In 1591, her husband, Mihnea, gave in to the Turks (becomes "Turkish"). But Mrs. Neaga did not want to follow his example. Totally opposed to her husband, dedicated to charitable actions and aware of her possibilities and position in society, Mrs. Neaga retreats to the Lapoș region, feeling safe here.

Local legends claim that Mrs. Neaga built a fortress here where she retired in case of danger. When the threat arose in these places as well, it is said that she shod a horse by placing her horseshoes the other way round to confuse the pursuers, who thus lost track of her, having time to find help.

Mrs. Neaga also had descendants. After fleeing Bucharest because of the Turks, Mrs. Neaga and her two daughters, Ileana and Cristina, took refuge on their way to the Buda Monastery (founded by their family) at the mansion in Lapos. Here they were reached by the pursuers. It is said that in a moment of despair, to save their honor and purity, the two girls threw themselves into a well, under the eyes of their mother. This well still exists today and is located near some ruins that are called "Mrs. Neaga's Wall".

There are some women who mark the history of our country. Just a few. And the legends are transmitted from precisely those who live them.



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Nowadays...

On the way to the Citadel, nothing makes you feel the light specific to a wonderful holiday, spring. Nothing. Only the soul of an old woman coming out of the church, squeezing under her arm a bag with a round piece of bread, an apple, a candle and a cookie.

"I saw Mrs. Neaga herself. It's been about 10 years since then. I was going here, to our forest, as we say, to Măgureanca. And I walked through that forest, I walked through it, it must have been a whole night. To the Citadel. I stopped there and went up to that observatory. From there I was looking over the water of Buzău. I was saying to myself - well, how do I get out of here? And as I was so worried, suddenly a big bird came and told me to get on its wings as she took me down. I wasn't scared that a bird could talk. I knew even before she said a word that she was not an ordinary bird. I went upstairs and she brought me here, to the Church of Mrs. Neaga and left me slowly on the ground, in front of the church. The bird sat down next to me and turned into a tall, thin woman with long black hair caught in a thick tail. I had seen no clothes like hers except in my childhood story books. She told me to come here and pray to the Lady. Then she turned back into a bird and took flight. I could have died from that dream. The next Sunday I went to church again and prayed, but I never saw Mrs. Neaga again. I'm sure she was both the bird and the lady from other times. Since then, there isn't a Sunday that I shouldn't come here and pray to God. "

It's the dream of old Anica Dinu from Izvoranu. She collects the alms bag and the stick by which she rests her body. Mrs. Neaga marked her life and she says she saved her from death. Shortly after she dreamed that, she came and gave alms to the lady who took refuge in Izvoranu in 1591, when her husband, Mihnea the Turkish, got into trouble. She fled from the invaders and built fortresses in seven townships in Buzău County. The ruins of one of them are at the entrance to Izvoranu. Impressively, the locals remember from old stories about the lady in whose footsteps historians and analysts of the modern world still follow. They still look for fortified churches and legends about her, such as the one with the horseshoe backwards on horse hoofs, to fool the Turks. So, say the locals, Mrs. Neaga escaped and stayed in the forests in this area.



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"This area belongs to the Queen of Buzau. She left us a monastery, a church and a place where there are no more walls. It is known where she stayed. It is a stone one meter wide. "Serious walls – it strengthens my conviction", one of the elders of the village confesses. Six hundred years ago, history was written by a woman who was driven by the need to find her place of defense.

Mrs. Neaga is really known as the Queen of Buzau, for what she built in our area, such as Bradu Monastery, or the Citadel of Mrs. Neaga. In times of hardship, the monastery was a place of defense for those in the Brancoveanu family, and the princely house at the monastery was built following the order of the hardworking ruler.

It is said that Mrs. Neaga still shows up in these lands today. And, to tell people that she cares about them and doesn't leave them in difficult times, she comes from time to time and leaves a mark. That's always been the case. This was also the case in 2016 when the only statue out of the 265 of the open-air museum in Ciolanu was lying on the ground. It was the statue erected by the master Gheorghe Coman in her honor. She wanted to show people that she is still alive and defends the land as she always did.





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