

## SUMMARY

### The most ancient times of Kvédarna

*/KVĒDARNA*

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Archaeological findings are abundant in the locality of Kvédarna. There are traces of the Neolithic Age (4<sup>th</sup>–2<sup>nd</sup> millennia B. C.) in the locality. More data are available from the old Iron Age (1<sup>st</sup>–2<sup>nd</sup> c.). Kvédarna's environs were rather densely populated at that period as can be judged from the findings at the burial sites of Paragaudis and Pajūralis and materials from the Kvédarna–Padievaitis piliakalnis (mound). The burial customs, shrouds, and beliefs of the 1<sup>st</sup>–4<sup>th</sup> c. are discussed in the article. Quite abundant are archaeological data from the 9<sup>th</sup>–13<sup>th</sup> c. The Kvédarna–Padievaitis hill with a wooden castle was the centre of the Kvédarna lands at this period and played an important role in the defence of Samogitia. The investigations of Kvédarna and Paragaudis burial sites provide evidence that the customs of burial were changing at the end of this period. The burials of horses are appearing, and a change to the burning of the dead takes place at this time. The communities of the Kvédarna's locality were maintaining close links with other Baltic tribes and more remote people, preserving numerous traits of spiritual and material culture characteristic of Samogitia.