

SUMMARY

Laukuva environs by the crusaders' war roads descriptions data

/LAUKUVA I

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The paper deals with a historical geography aspect of Laukuva environment under research. There are analyzed 1384–1402 crusaders war routes („Wegeberichte“) segments that led to the southern part of former Medininkai country, i. e. through the surroundings of Laukuva by about 6–7 kilometers radius from the present town center. It was established that at least six Laukuva surroundings' names of places were mentioned in the descriptions: the settlements of Šiauduva and Vampialaukis, the rivers of Lokysta and Yžnė, the rivulet of Lokaušupis, the mound of Paršpilis. The mound of Treigiai is also mentioned though not called by its proper name. The disappeared at present settlement of Vampialaukis may be localized in the central part of Bilioniai village, at the southern foot of the mound, at the Rungis rivulet. The attempts to localize the mentioned in the source Giniotai manor in Treigiai have no foundation. This place name should be associated with the village of Giniotas at Kvédarna and the nearby mound of „Pavėžys“, Laukuva itself is not named in „Wegeberichte“.

The southern and south–west borders of Medininkai region by the sources data were going approximately 6–8 kilometers south and south–west from Laukuva. Šiauduva and Vampialaukis, the upper reaches of the rivers Lokysta and Yžnė, the Lokaušupis rivulet and the mound of Paršpilis were integral parts of Medininkai region.

The descriptions of the routes that led to the southern part of Medininkai region point mostly such land marks as the rivers and the former castle sites though other data show that in the end of the 14th cent. the environs of Laukuva were rather densely populated.