

# Archaeological monuments and oral history

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- Oral history – one of the most interesting and questionable factors in archaeological monument exploration and verification
- Concept of archaeological monument oral history includes
  - folklore material ( legends, stories, fairytales)
  - toponyms (names of places used by local people)
- Oral history in regard to archaeological monument description has:
  - subjective nature
  - unknown origin
  - it is younger than the archaeological monument



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# Types of archaeological monuments in Latvia with suitable oral history

- settlements (hillforts, lake settlements, medieval castles)
- burial places (ancient burial field, medieval cemeteries)
- Cult sites (cult mountain, stones, trees, caves etc.)



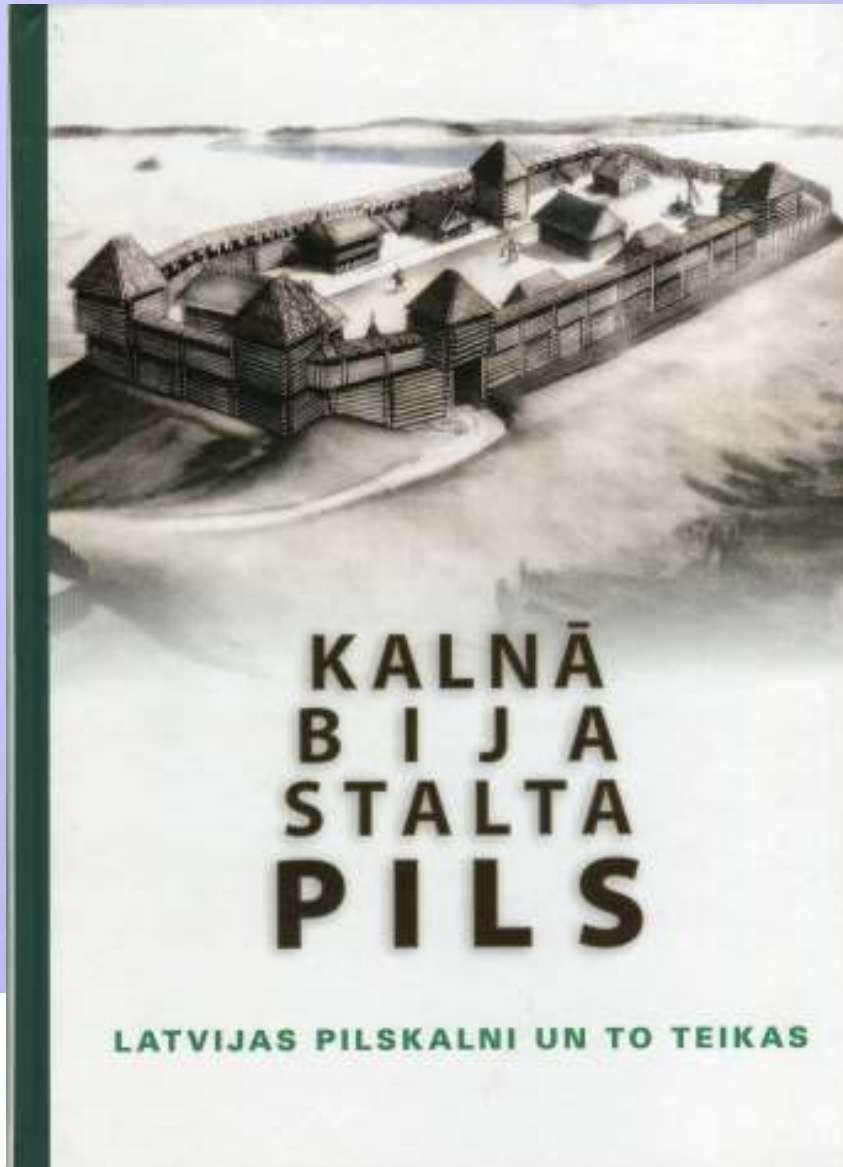
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# Latvija's hillforts

## SĒRENES hillfort



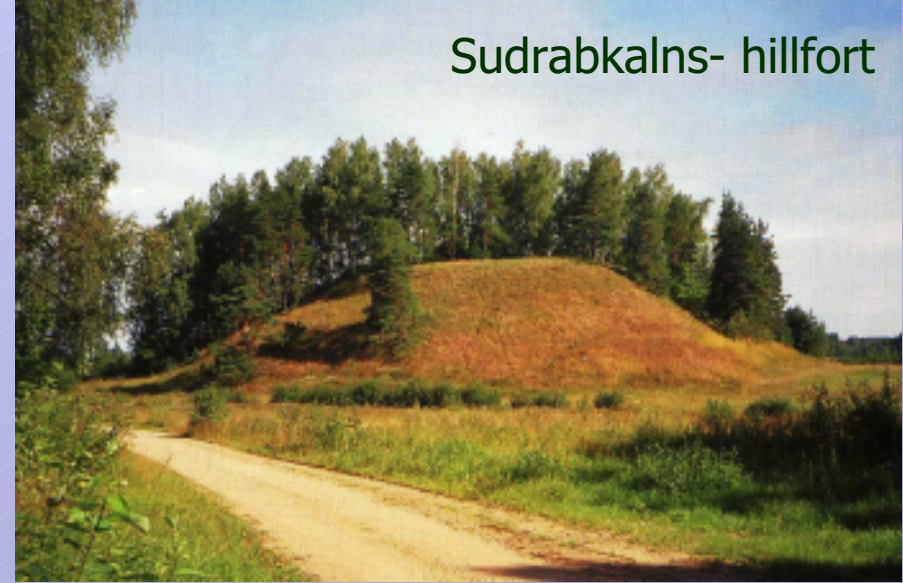


# Legends about sunken castles in hills with treasures

Tērvetes hillfort (Cukurkalns)



Sudrabkalns- hillfort



Stupeļu kalns- hillfort



Kūliņu hillfort





# Names of hilforts include message about castle

Arāju hillfort (Zamok)



Timšānu hillfort (Zamok)



Pilskalnes Zamečkas hillfort



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# Babrauščinas hillfort

Before digging



After searching for  
hidden treasure...



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# Tales about heaping of hillforts

Jersikas hillfort



Pilveru hillfort



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# Āraišu lake castle



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# Names of hillforts connected with geographical location or folk traditions

Piksteres Zilais hill - hillfort



Tiliku Jāņa hill



Panderu Offerring-hill



Aizkraukles hillfort (High hills)





# Alūksnes Temple hill – hillfort (name originates from granite rotunda – Glory temple, built on hillfort in year 1807)



# Raunas Tanīskalns- hillfort un Raunas medieval castle



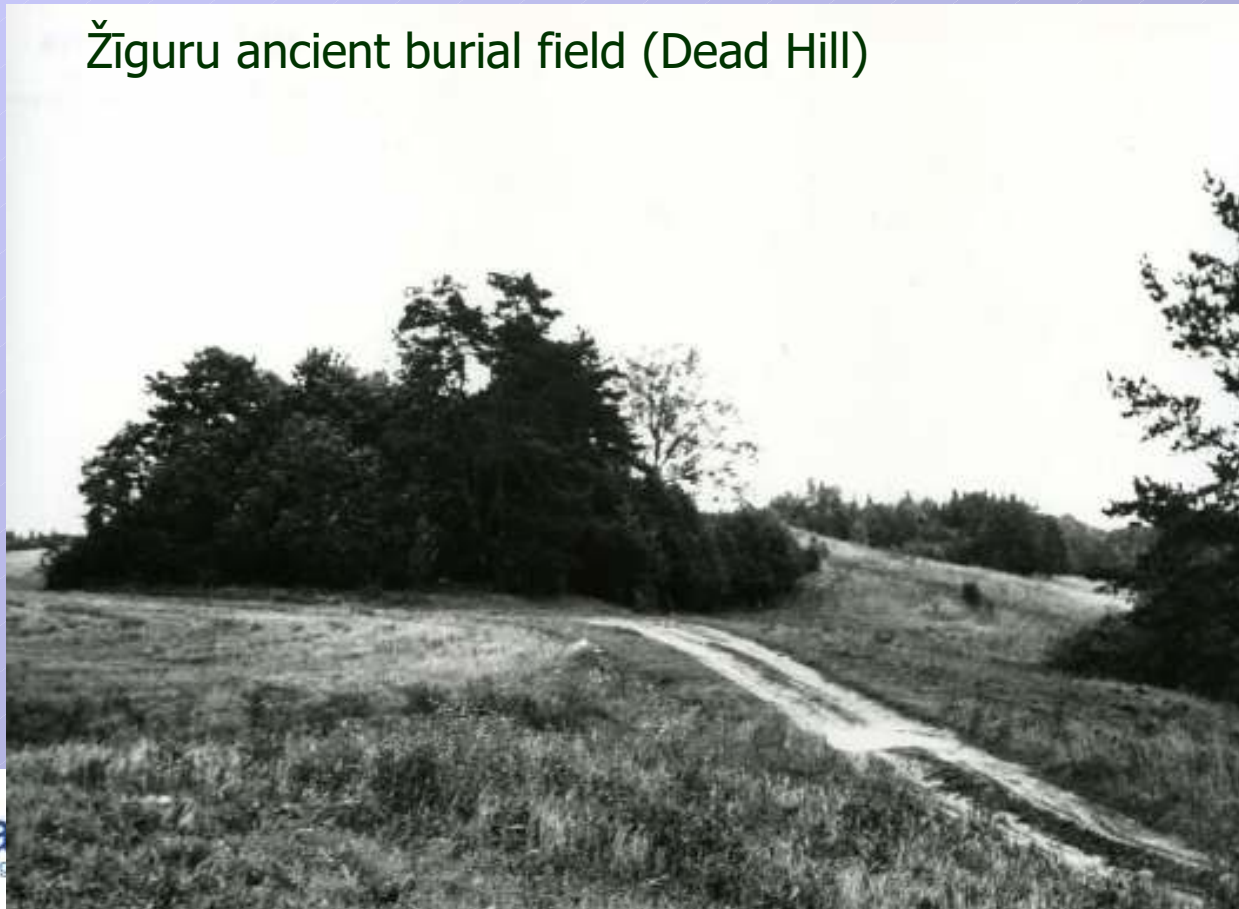
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# Toponyms indicate an obvious burial place - Burial hill, Dead hill, Plague cemetery etc.

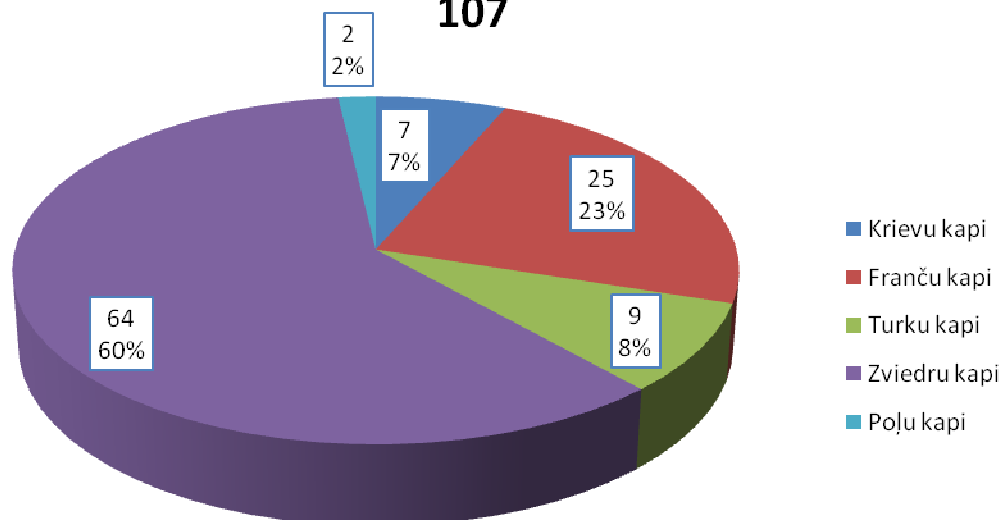
Žīguru ancient burial field (Dead Hill)



# Nationality included in cemetery name

Senkapu nosaukumos ietvertās tautības-

107



Swedish cemetery - 64  
French cemetery - 25  
Turkish cemetery - 9  
Russian cemetery - 7  
Polish cemetery - 2



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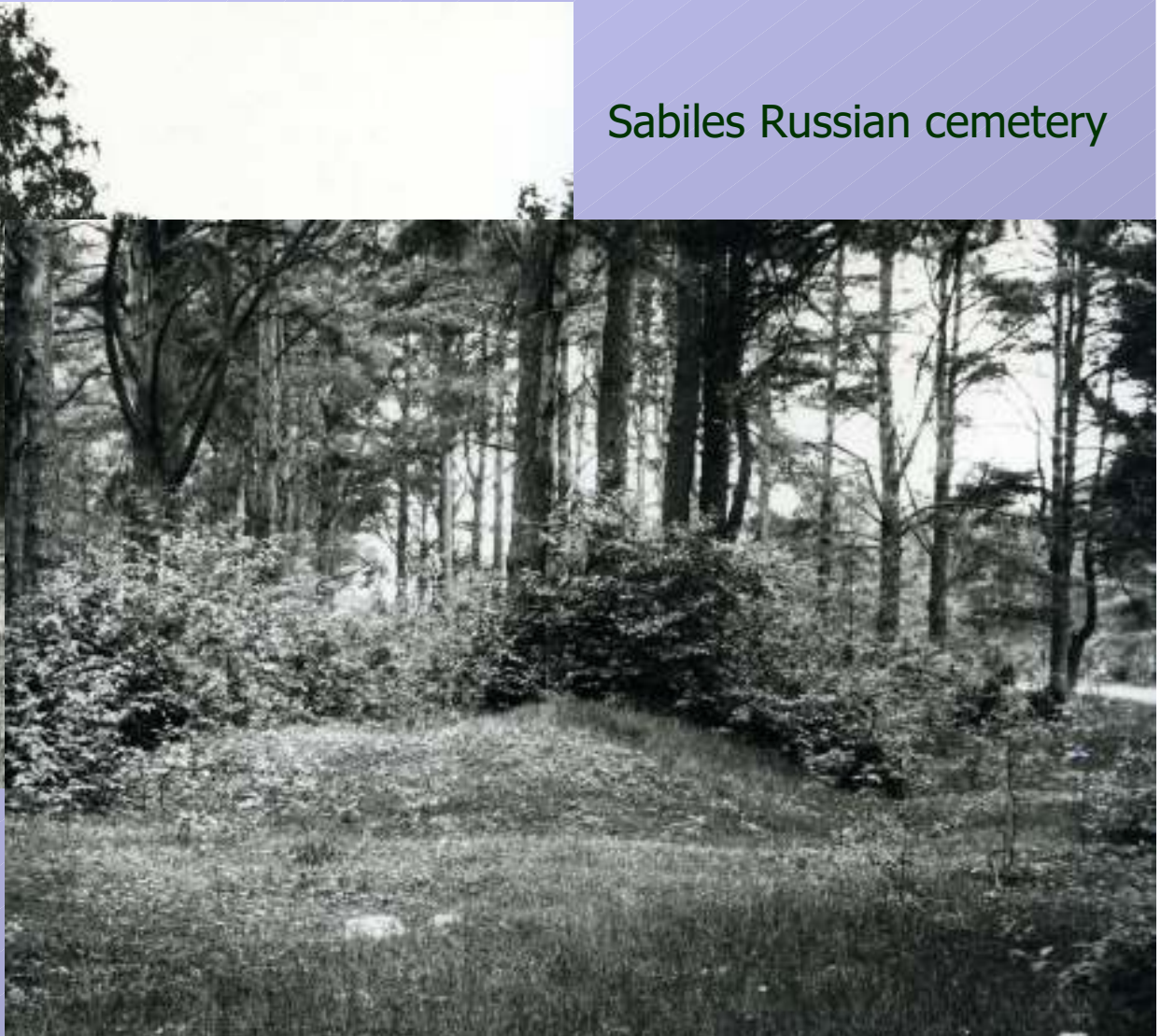
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# Burrial fields with nationality names

Tilamanu (Swedish cemetery)

Sabiles Russian cemetery



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## Latvian folk songs:

Be careful, wagtail,  
Swedish hawk will shoot you,  
Swedish hawk will shoot you  
With wax gloves.

Swedish horses neighed  
Cantering through Rēvele  
Oh, Estonian mothers,  
Save your maidens.

Swedish hill (Sainthill)- medieval castle



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# Latvian folk songs

My God, my God,  
Russians come in this land  
Some maidens  
Will be Russian brides

Sink or swim,  
I must cross the Daugava  
There awaits a Turkish border guard  
For me – a man from Vidzeme

Blue green shine break,  
Pink sun rise  
Or my brothers burn  
Russian (Polish, German, Rīga) castle



Sabiles Krievu kapi



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# Bīlavu Devil boat



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# Ancient cult places - mountains, stones, trees, caves u.c.



Basu Werewolf stone

Elku (Idol) lime Kurzemē

# Footprint stones on Māra Vosvu God hill-cult place



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*Thank you for your attention!*



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Livonian sacrificial places (caves) - cult site