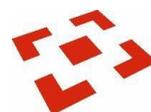


LITICE CASTLE



NÁRODNÍ
PAMÁTKOVÝ
ÚSTAV

HRAD
LITICE

Litice castle was founded during the Premysl Otakar II's reign in the end of 13th century. The area of the Divoka and Ticha Orlice rivers was settled by Puta family, coming from south-west Bohemia, that founded a castle of the same name in Pilsen many years ago as well. Although the castle was founded earlier, the first written mention of this building appears in 1316. The castle was owned by of Lipe family back then, that came into conflict with John of Luxembourg (Czech king). To reconcile with the king, of Lipe noblemen pawned him the castle.



Puta family



Charles IV.

When John's son, Charles IV, returned to the Bohemian kingdom from his study tour of Italy, he later bought the castle and thus it became the royal possession for the second time.

After Charles IV, Litice was owned by of Lichtenburg family just for a few years.

Of Kunstat and Podebrady Era



of Kunstat



of Minsterberg



George of Poděbrady Czech king

At the end of the 14th century Litice became a possession of noblemen of Kunstat and Poděbrady. These nobles were followers of the Hussite movement. Because of their faith they had problems with the Catholic Silesian knights who wanted to convert the House of Kunstat or destroy their castle. However the Silesian troops did not manage to conquer the castle. Actually, the castle has never been conquered in its history.

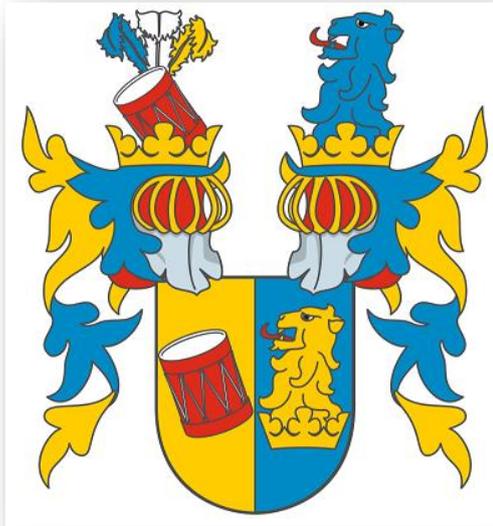
In 1427 the whole north-east domain was inherited by George of Poděbrady. We do not know exactly when or where this famous Bohemian ruler was born. He was born circa 1420 and his birthplace might have been Litice castle. He was a Czech ruler known for his idea and attempt to establish common European institutions. It is seen as the first historical vision of European unity. Some of his ideas can be compared to intentions of the United Nations nowadays.

George started the reconstruction of the whole complex. He also rebuilt the defensive walls around the castle. The castle was really unassailable. Legends say that George rebuilt the castle to keep the crown jewels and municipal records there. However, nothing of these was ever kept there.

The holdings of George of Poděbrady were enormous. He had no competitor among the Bohemian noblemen. However, he had also a lot of sons who were not able to keep all the property intact. So, in the end of the 15th century Henry (George's son) sold Litice estate to William of Pernstein. Litice was not enough for William so he also bought Potstein castle and moved his government seat to Potstein. This purchase was the beginning of Litice's downfall. Litice castle was run by a clerk and 20 other servants. As their payment was meager, they did not look after the castle well.

Of Buben Era

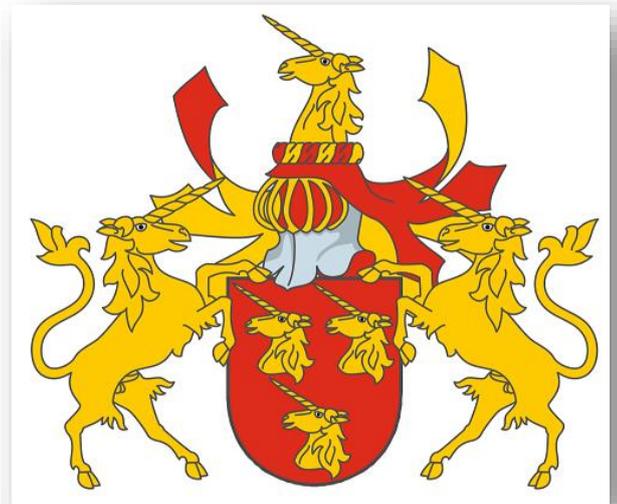
In 1562 Nicholas of Buben became the owner of the castle. He loved the place so much that he declared it his family estate and started to be known as Nicholas of Buben and Litice. However, in the 16th century noblemen started to live in chateaus and Nicholas had two of them built. One in Zamberk and the other in Doudleby. In that time, like many castles, Litice became an uninhabited ruin. They kept the castle for more than 250 years.



of Buben and Litice

Later, the John Parish family bought our castle in 1815. Nevertheless, the castle was still a ruin.

The Parish family came to the east of Bohemia from Scotland. John Parish's story is an interesting one of love triumphing over class. He was very rich. However, he married a common girl. This marriage was socially unacceptable, and the king recommended that John should hide his wife for some time abroad. John traveled a lot in Europe and he found a nice place in eastern Bohemia, in Zamberk estate (Litice was a part of it), which he bought. He loved his wife and in honor of her he built a hospital for sick and poor people at his estate. Unfortunately, John died childless.



Parish

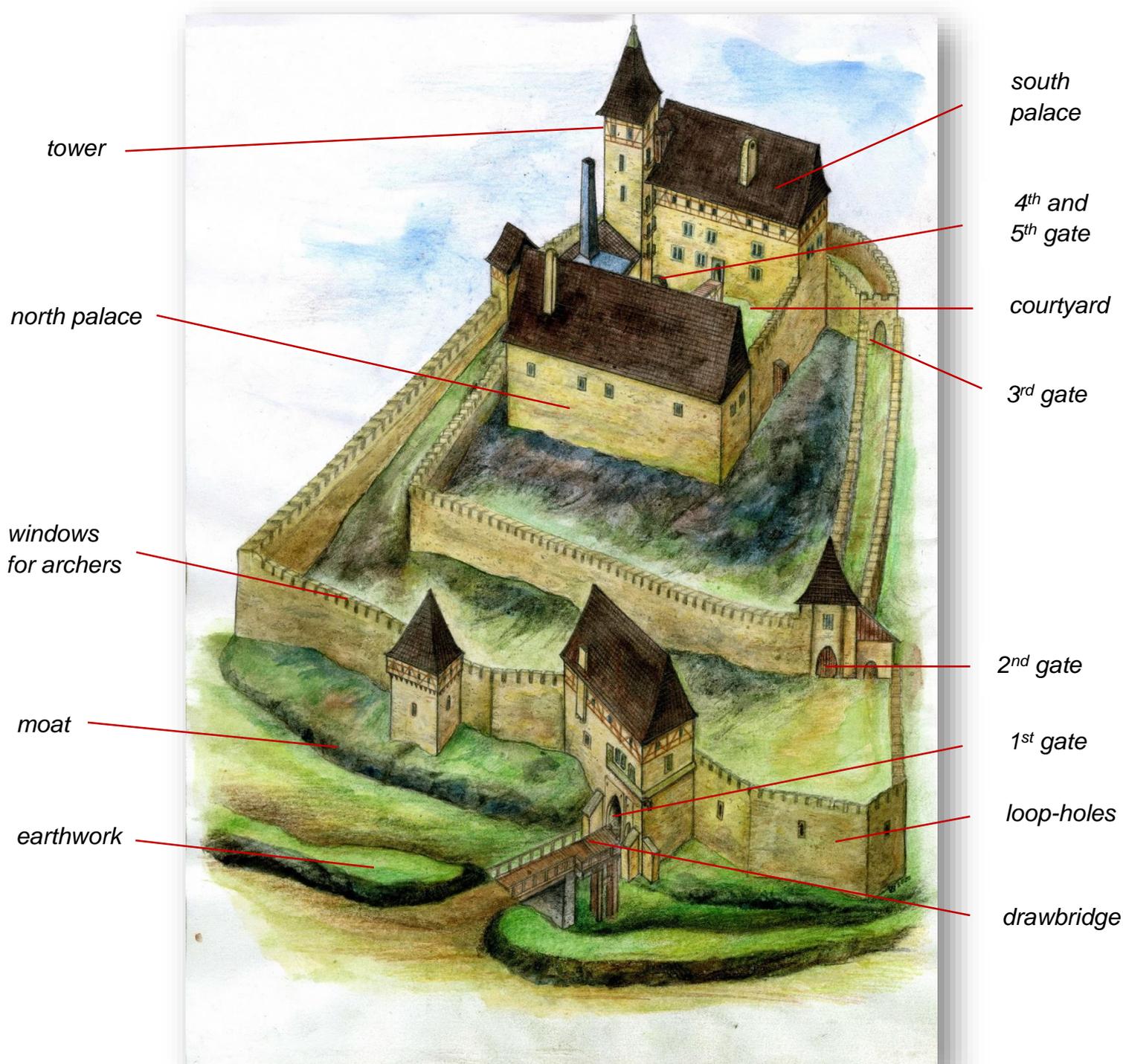
20th Century

In the of the 19th century, Oscar Parish started the extensive repairs of the castle. He began the restoration of the defensive walls, built up new wooden floors, covered the ruins with a roof, made the tower one floor higher, and brought the first tourist to the castle.

After WWII all Parish property was appropriated by the communist and the Parish family was forced to leave. They moved to Canada and did not return until 1993. At that time the castle was in ruins and the Parish family was no longer interested in preservation, so they sold the castle for one crown (single coin of crown) to the state of the Czech Republic. The castle remains a state property nowadays.

1468

The appearance of the castle after the reconstruction by George of Podebrady



THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE CASTLE

The inner part of the castle consisted of yard bordered by the south and the north palace.

The North Palace

The north palace was built for the servants and thus was very plain. There was a wooden floor and wooden ceilings.



The South Palace

It was home to the nobility. There were cross vault ceilings and two enormous fireplaces and tiled stoves.



The Tower

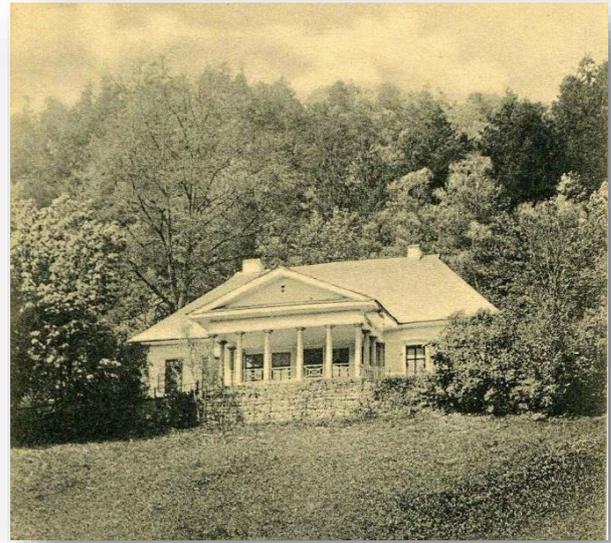
The tower is about 25 meters high. In the first room, there is a worth-seeing cross vault ceiling which preserved till nowadays. The room above was used as a chapel. Go upstairs to see beautiful landscapes.





Summer House

John Parish had this house built in 1820. It is built in imperial style and is used as a gamekeeper's house nowadays.



The Quarry

Oscar opened the granite quarry in 1882. He provided jobs to many people in this quarry. Today they still continue to mine the high quality Litice granite.

Water Power Station

This water power station was opened in the first half of the 20th century and was one of the most modern and innovative power plants in the whole country. Its power output is about 1 megawatt.



FURTHER INFORMATION

The Hussites

The Hussites were a pre-Protestant Christian movement that followed the teaching of Czech reformer Jan Hus who became the best known representative of the Bohemian Reformation. Their goals were: a) freedom to preach the word of God, b) celebration of the communion under both kinds (bread and wine to priests and laity alike), c) poverty of the clerge and expropriation of church property, d) punishment for mortal sins regardless of stature.

Life at a Castle

Toilet

Instead of modern toilets, "prevet" was used. It was a niche with a wooden or stone seat with a round-shaped hole. No flushing system was needed.

Our "prevet" is situated in the first room behind the wooden door on the second floor.



Bedroom

Bedrooms were usually equipped very simply. There was a chest (to store clothes inside) and a bed with canopy. Canopy was really important. It protected against ubiquitous cold and cockroaches falling from the ceiling as well.



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