

## **CATHERINE'S WELL: LEGEND AND REALITY**

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Several wells were built in the Kherson Fortress. The wells were of different depths and for different purposes.

One of the wells, called "Yekaterininskiy", has survived. The construction of this well was entrusted to the builder of our city (the city of Kherson was built according to his project), the military engineer N. Korsakov in 1785. The size of the well was impressive: the depth was 80 meters, the width was 4 meters, and the walls were lined with Ingulets stone.

Fortunately, N. Korsakov's notes and memos have been preserved.

From his memos we know that the water in the well was very tasty. The lifting wheel mounted on the well was driven by a steam engine. Later the fortress was liquidated, and this steam engine was dismantled.

On the territory of St. Catherine's Cathedral there is a basement from which an underground passage goes directly to the well, but since it has been filled up with earth, it is very difficult to advance on it.

According to the stories of Kherson's old-timers, all the underground passages converged in this well. There is a rumor that several people were able to pass along an underground passage from Korabelnaya Square to the well.

Under Preobrazhenska Street there was also an underground passage that reached as far as the fortress well. There were many rumors about the fact that the pass went under the Arsenal building and further along the Dnieper, and went out between Oleshky (Tsyurupynsk) and Hola Pristan .

There is evidence that during the war, the well was fenced with poles and barbed wire, so that no one would fall into it. According to the stories of the residents, the Germans put three underground workers on the edge of the well during the inquiry and, threatening them, tried to make them give necessary information. But they did not shoot anyone there.

Now the depth of the well is 24.5 m. In 1975 the Society for the Protection of Monuments wanted to find out if there are passes or not. The executive secretary of the Society, Mikhail Volkov prepared a project for the restoration and cleaning of the well. But the leaders of the regional committee did not allow it. They imposed a ban, explaining that the well could have been mined.

Of course, the monument must be restored and we will finally get over with the legends and secrets of the Catherine Well.

There is an opportunity to make the renovation with the money of foreign restoration firms. And such proposals have already been made by France, Italy and other leading countries.

Now we are to wait for the approval and then the path of fruitful work will be opened.

Based on:

[http://artkavun.kherson.ua/ekaterininskij\\_kolodets\\_legenda\\_i\\_dejstvitenost.htm](http://artkavun.kherson.ua/ekaterininskij_kolodets_legenda_i_dejstvitenost.htm) (author: Makarov Serhii )

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