

## THREADS OF MEMORY – LIFESTYLE AND CULTURE IN THE VILLAGE OF DRAGINOVO

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There, in the northern part of the Chepina Valley, 3 km north of Velingrad, surrounded by deciduous and coniferous forests, colorful fields and meadows, clear rivers, cold and warm mineral springs and clean air, is the village of Draginovo. The aim of this work is to present a small historical museum located in the “Methodiy Draginov” Community Center - the village of Draginovo. The creation of the museum has a nearly 10-year history. Its main goal is to preserve the authenticity of the village of Draginovo, to inform generations about the life, customs, clothing and traditions of the Velingrad village and the Chepino region. The ethnographic room exhibits typical village costumes, ceramic vessels, labor equipment, utensils, blankets and bedding, wool combs, a loom and others, provided entirely by the local population. We emphasize the Draginovo folk costume, which has shown its stable traditional forms that have survived to this day. This is due to the geographical location and long economic backwardness, which have reinforced domestic conservatism. The clothing of men



- “wanderers” - developed more rapidly and became closer to the national style. The distinguishing marks are more noticeable on the hats. Among women who led a secluded life, the costume had great variety and was preserved for a longer time, reaching the present day. We are looking at men’s clothing, which was in the black-robed type and has a great variety. According to the craft, material condition and age, it is: everyday, work, shepherd, craft, for the poor and the rich, for the old and the young, for children and babies. The shirt is a basic element, regardless of social, age and professional differences. It is used for outerwear and underwear. It is made from homemade white fabric without shoulder stitching. The pants are also made of homemade fabric. The leggings gradually narrow at the bottom, and are finished with a knitted drawstring at the top. An aba made of natural black or beige homespun cloth and long sleeves is worn over the shirt. The edges are decorated with braids. They wear “chikshire” (pants Turks), which are finished at the top with a “vorkozun” for tying at the waist. The feet are shod with black or white woolen socks, followed by cowhide boots. The cross is wrapped with a black belt. During cold winter days and in rainy weather, a yamorluk was worn made of rough homespun cloth, woven from fur mixed with a little wool and heavily quilted to make it thicker and protect against the rain. There is a great deal of variety in hat wearing. The most widely used is the knitted hat, also known as a shepherd’s hat. All parts are handmade: woven, knitted, embroidered, etc. The subject of this article is to make a comparison between the lives of people in the past and the present. The main task is to preserve the authenticity, traditions and customs of the local population. We emphasize the weaving loom, which played an important role in women’s lives. It was used to make both part of the bride’s clothing and her veil. It is important to make a comparison between the hand-made craftsmanship of the past and the current industrial craftsmanship with modern technological equipment in sewing production.