



South Tyrol – Land of Myths and Legends

Horseshoes at the Chapel of Matsch Castle

Often at night, one can see and hear two ghostly knights galloping through Matsch Valley. One of these knights sits atop a large horse while the other rides a small, dark, wild horse.

These two knights were brothers, sons of a lord of Matsch who dwelt at Matsch Castle and was as wealthy and landed as a sovereign. The sons, however, were wild lads who were chasing about day and night, wiling away the time feasting and boozing, and – their favourite activity – seducing or abducting the good maidens and women of the area.

The old father, the admonitions of whom the sons always rejected with scorn, finally died of a broken heart; the two brothers did not return to the castle after his funeral. Instead, they met their death and their ghosts had to ride around in punishment for their misdeeds.

Some time ago, two horseshoes were found. One was larger and the other was smaller. It was assumed that they worn by the horses that the wild knights were forced to ride: the horseshoes were thus nailed to the door of a chapel located close by to the ruins of Matsch Castle, where they are now seen as a cautionary warning and have hung there right up to the present day.