

## Belen Bridge

The Bridge on the Yantra River was built in 1865 - 1867 by order of Rousse Valley Midhat Pasha by master Kolyu Ficheto. Responding to the offer of the French engineers for the cost of construction of 2 million pennies, the self-taught Bulgarian master states: "Pasha Effendi, if the White Bridge does not build a 700,000 penny on my turret, take my head!" Betting on his honor and life, he keeps his promise and builds a limestone and mortar bridge for 2 years with the hard work and active involvement of the local population.

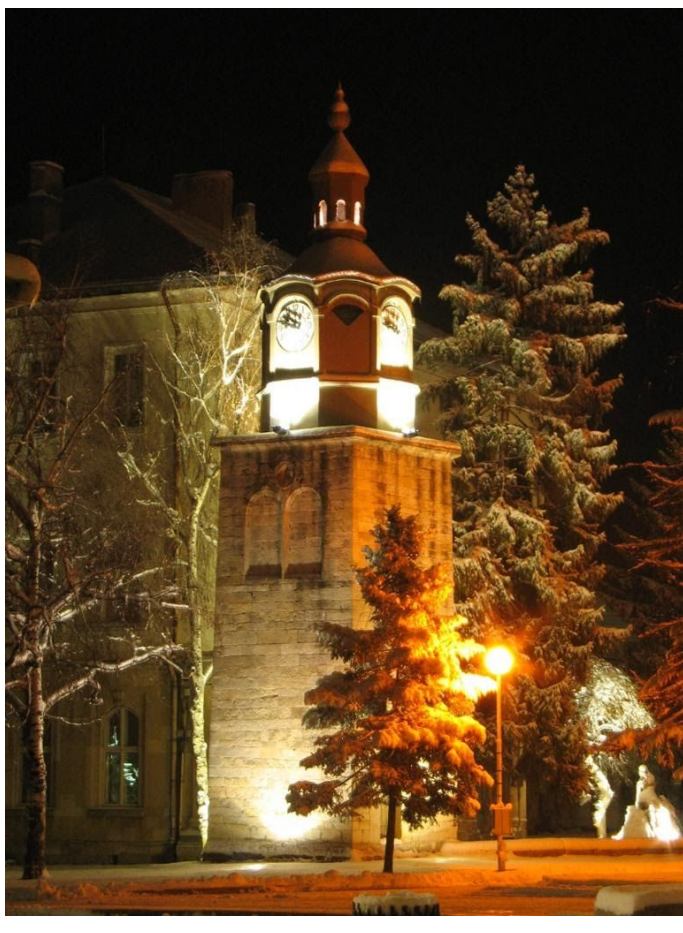


## Russian-Turkish War Liberation Museum

In August 1901 Stoyan Zaimov, accompanied by Nikola Obretenov - Regional Governor of Rousse, visited Byala to gather information about the death of Panayot Volov and his companions and to collect some things about the Museum of the Bulgarian revival and liberation. At lunch, MP Angel Krushkov discussed what to do with Mehmed Bay's former house, which served as his harem, and during the Liberation War, as the headquarters of Russian Emperor Alexander II. Some of the guests propose to become a classroom for "what was used earlier", others - to become an orphanage, others - to a shelter for mums, the blind, etc. Zaimov tells his interlocutors that the harem will become a "war museum, a house museum."

The building, so-called harem" was purchased by the state in 1879. It has served the municipality for 10 years. It is then abandoned and looted. In March 1904, a state commission for the alienation of the surrounding sites for the museum park came from Sofia. The Municipal Council gives to the Tsar Osvoboditel Committee the place where the well-known soot of the municipality was built. Later, the stones of the saithe, which formed part of the fence of the museum, were also abandoned.

The museum was opened in 1907 by Stoyan Zaimov. The grave of Baroness Yulia Vrevskaya and nurse Maria Neelova are also in his yard.



## City Clock

It was intended as a bell tower of the old Belen church, but it never fulfilled this role. During the Ottoman rule, it was forbidden to have houses and Christian churches higher than the house of the local bay. It was completed as a clock tower in 1872 and cost 13,000 pennies given by the Belensk esnaf. At the bottom it is 3.45 m, the height of the stone body is 9.50 m, with the tower above - a total of 15.25 m. In 1932 the upper wooden part was replaced with reinforced concrete. From 1906 to the present it has been used as a city clock.