

History of Bruckberg/Isar

People always appreciated the favourable settlements of Bruckberg and its surroundings on the fertile loess terraces. Thus, archaeologists found clear traces from all epochs. Numerous soil monuments such as fortifications, square ditched enclosures and cairns still today testify the great wealth of history.

Bruckberg is one of the oldest settlements in Bavaria. The oldest finds are about 7000 years old. This was once more proven during the construction of the town hall and the gymnasium by extensive prehistoric finds.

A large area with cairns as well as traces of square enclosures point towards the Celtic past during the following copper and bronze period (2000-1200 BC) or Hallstadt / Eisenzeit (800-500 BC). A large-scale archaeological excavation in 1985 inhibited very interesting finds and the so-called "Rich Bruckberger".

The Romans (15 BC – 500 AD) also left many traces in Bruckberg, two "villa rustica" and many other finds. Findings from about 150 AD and excavations of Roman foundations prove that Bruckberg had a special significance for the Romans, presumably related to the Isar river crossing. Traces of a Roman roads were found in Bruckberg, Eugenbach, Altdorf and Altheim / Essenbach.

After the retreat of Roman rule in Rhaetia around the year 500, new ethnic groups came to the region during migration period. The tribe of Bavarians emerged from native inhabitants and the tribe of Baiuvarii and established their fiefdom in the area between river Danube and the Alps.

The dedication of Thulbach church in 753 is a clear proof of Christianisation. It is legitimate to assume that the church of Bruckberg castle as well as the Pauliberg church and St. Michaels church in Tondorf also have been founded at this time. In the year 880, the later Emperor Arnulf made a donation to Count Sighart of Ebersberg in Bruckberg, Villa Berga. A larger manor was built in Bruckberg at this time. Bruckberg ancient nobility frequently emerges in documents from the 11th century onwards

The origin of Bruckberg castle is still shrouded in darkness. The foundations of a predecessor building from the Carolingian period were discovered during the archaeological investigation of the castle church. At the time of Henry the Lion (1156-1179), court proceedings were held in Bruckberg placita. A document of 1120 refers to a Meginhart of Bruckberg.

Around 1130 a Friedrich von Bruckberg is mentioned as attendant on the Wittelsbachs and counts of Moosburg. This nobility of "the Bruckbergs" can be proven until 1343. At that time, the Wittelsbacher Emperor Ludwig the Bavarian bought the feasts of Bruckberg in exchange, which was now managed by "castle administrators".

Around 1432, the castle was sold to the "Jud" of Bruckberg, an important aristocracy, which was also associated with the famous Landshut wedding. They remained owners of Bruckberg castle until 1558 . Many gravestones in and around the castle church as well as the parish church still testify today the successive noblemen and castle owners.

Since 1826, barons of Schacky's owned the castle. Nowadays, the castle and properties belong to the baron of Korff-Grimm.

In 1313, one of the last major knights-battles took place at Bruckberg, which ended with the victory of the Bavarian duke Ludwig over the Austrian army.

During the Thirty Years' War, Bruckberg was almost completely destroyed by the Swedes in 1632 and 1634. The castle fortunately survived this war. However,

viticulture suffered severely and never really recovered afterwards.

In the Spanish War of Succession (1701-1714) and in the Austrian Succession War (1741-1748), Bruckberg population suffered badly from the battles, looting, etc.

In March 1734 a great fire destroyed several houses and in the years between 1742 and 1743 many inhabitants died during an epidemic disease.

In 1767, 1778, 1781, and 1785, floods and crop failure caused great damage and distress for the population.

During the Napoleonic wars until 1809, Bruckberg area was often beset by various billeting.

After the construction of the railway and the station in 1858 Bruckberg village developed rapidly. The regular train connection brought new settlements and steady growth of the population.

Once more, most severe victims were claimed during the two devastating world wars of 1914/18 and 1939/45. The war memorial in the new cemetery list the names of those who never returned and always remind us of this sad period.

Bruckberg and Bruckbergerau became associated in 1972. The centralization of the municipalities continued in the administrative "area reform" in 1978 and resulted in the merger of the municipalities Gündlkofen, Tondorf, Attenhausen and Widdersdorf with Bruckberg. At the same time the municipality of Bruckberg changed from Oberbayern to Niederbayern county.

The citizens of Bruckberg can retrospect on a long and rich history of their home.