



The castle ruin *Rosenstein*

Early recycling of a status symbol

A lot of speculation and a few facts: this roughly describes the state of information about the medieval castle on the massif of the western mountain. The legends and myths that entwine around this ruin mostly originate from the 19th century. Stones of the ruin have early been recycled for new buildings in the town of *Heubach*.

The castle is built on a hill (686 m above sea level) with an artificial ditch for the protection towards the plateau and dates from the first half of the 13th century. The castle has been a ruin at least since the 16th century. In the years 1887 and 1981/82, restorations of the remaining walls were conducted by the forestry office of *Baden-Württemberg*. Mainly the hall with its western wall made of *Buckelquader* and windows typical of the late *Staufer* era under *Friedrich II.*, the northern and southern wall, the outer ward and the cistern are preserved.

Among others the *Herren von Rosenstein* (Lords of Rosenstein) and the counts of *Öttingen* were owners of the castle. After a defeat against imperial troops near *Schorndorf* anno 1360, the distrainor *Eberhard II.* of *Württemberg* had to assign castle and the town of *Heubach* to the emperor *Karl IV.* Thereby *Heubach* gained the status of a free imperial town. The *Lauterburg*, the *Burg Rosenstein* and *Aalen* and *Heubach*, however, were impawned again to *Württemberg* for 20.000 Gulden in 1377. After the investiture of 1413, the count *Eberhard* the Younger of *Württemberg* pawned the castle to the *Herren von Woellwarth* in 1480 but did reserve the right to rebuy it. Probably before 1524, this *Woellwarth* family left the increasingly uncomfortable castle and built the well- preserved castle of *Heubach* at the foot of the *Rosenstein*. The castle upon the *Rosenstein* quickly fell into ruin while workable material was being transported down to the valley as building material. A map from 1572 – not even 50 years later – already shows the *Burg Rosenstein* as a ruin.

ground plan castle *Rosenstein* (K.A. Koch – 1938)

- 1 hall
- 2 dungeon
- 3 cellar
- 4 court
- 5 building
- 6 outer bailey
- 7 house
- 8 cistern
- 9 outer ward
- 10 main ditch



reconstruction drawings

Those are interpretations of the former castle. Since there are no historic plans or illustrations of the castle, it is neither certain how tall the building was nor if the upper storeys were built with a framework nor which roof construction was chosen.

1. reconstruction drawing by *Wolfgang Braun*
2. romantic illustration by *Eugen Felle*, 1921
3. reconstruction drawing from a southern perspective by *Paul Mangold*