

**1722** The citizens of Werdenberg surrender and the council of Glarus enforces its «rights». Many families are economically ruined and the relationship of trust between the bailiffs and the people of Werdenberg suffers sustained damage.

**1798** Claims for freedom are voiced upon the French invasion. The last bailiff of Glarus, Johann Heinrich Freitag, removes all furnishings from the castle and leaves the county. With the breakdown of the old Confederation 280 years of oppression come to an end.

#### SECOND PHASE OF MULTIPLE CHANGES IN OWNERSHIP (1798 TO 1835)

**1799** The Rhine valley is now a war zone. French soldiers are first received with joy in almost every home; but with the duration of the

war, their presence becomes burdensome and stressful.

**1803** The Canton St.Gallen is formed by combining the territories of the Abbey of St.Gallen and the confederate count's land. Castle and town become part of the political community of Grabs.

**1810** The Canton Glarus retains the castle and sells it in an auction.

#### PRIVATE POSSESSION OF THE HILTY FAMILY

**1835** Dr Johann Ulrich Hilty buys the neglected castle. He restores the rooms on the first and second floor and partially gives them stately splendour. As a child, Carl Hilty, a heir of the family, spends his summer holidays in the castle. He is a lawyer, a member of the national

council and the author of many important theological-philosophical works. Different branches of the Hilty family reside in the castle. They are deeply committed to welfare and health care of the local community.

**1925** Renovation and partial restoration of the Landvogtwappen on the first floor as well as the picture of the Saint Fridolin on the façade.

**1956** The last occupant of the castle is Frida Hilty. Except for the winter months she lives there in seclusion until an advanced age with her companion, Miss Hiller, and two employees. She bequeaths Castle Werdenberg as a gift to the Canton St.Gallen.

#### CANTON ST.GALLEN AS OWNER OF THE CASTLE

**1960** Foundation of the Pro Werdenberg Trust which initiates the restoration of the unique townhouses. The castle is open to the public during summer and the private rooms of the Hilty family are a museum.

**1977** Exterior renovation of the castle. The fresco of Saint Fridolin, which was painted on the front façade, is replaced by the coat of arms of the Counts of Werdenberg.

**1985** The opera «Der Wildschütz» (The Poacher) by Albert Lortzing is performed on the open-air stage under the direction of Florian Heeb. Since then, about 4 000 visitors attend the performances, which until 2015 were held every two to three years in the castle courtyard.

**2007** The Ministry of Culture initiates another renovation and invites to a conference for the «exchange of ideas». Werdenberg is intended to become a cultural castle.

**2009** Start of the first cultural season. The installations of Pipilotti Rist and the scenographical design of Niki Schawalder impress the public. The cultural project is managed by the Castle of Werdenberg Association. There are three groups who develop concepts and manage the events: the «International Opera Workshop», the «Forum Werdenberg» and the «Museum and History group».

**2010** The opera «The marriage of Figaro» is performed to great acclaim by the Werdenberger Schlossfestspiele. Werdenberg Castle itself is used as a stage for the first time: The «Fractal Summer Night» is performed by the International Opera Workshop under the direction of Martin Steinhoff.

**2012** Three major cultural events take place at the castle: The newly founded «Schlossmediale» an international festival for Early Music, Contemporary Music and Audiovisual Art under the

artistic direction of Mirella Weingarten, the opera «Der Wildschütz» performed by the Schlossfestspiele and the musical «Novecento» (music by Andi Loser, directed by Kuno Bont). The Association of Friends of Werdenberg Castle is founded, supporting the castle ideationally and financially.

**2015** After a one-year closure, the new exhibition at the castle is opened and complements the newly designed Museum Schlangenhäus. An information centre in the Städtli and a bistro in the castle courtyard are available to the public. The Schlossfestspiele celebrate their 30th anniversary with the performance of «The Bartered Bride». In the following year, the Schlossmediale Werdenberg celebrates its fifth anniversary.

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## MIDDLE AGES

**after 1200** Count Hugo I. orders the construction of a castle above the small village of Götzis and calls himself von Montfort (= strong mountain). He orders additional construction projects within his dominion, which includes Vorarlberg, Liechtenstein, Sarganserland and Werdenberg, i.e. the expansion of the Castle Sargans and new construction of Castle Werdenberg (= important mountain).

**1228** Construction of the keep and the inner ring wall.

**1232** Construction of the palace, the ward and the outer ring wall.

**around 1244** Rudolf von Montfort dies and leaves behind his widow, Clementa von Kyburg with two daughters and two sons. She takes up residence in Sargans, and marries a Count von Hohenberg in 1249.

The two sons become wards of the Kyburg family.

**1259** Hartmann I., one of Rudolf's sons, calls himself «von Werdenberg» for the first time. With him starts the line of the Counts of Werdenberg-Sargans.

**around 1261** Construction of the city wall around Werdenberg.

**before 1270** Death of Hartmann I. of Werdenberg-Sargans. Hugo I. von Werdenberg is the only heir and guardian of his nephews of Sargans.

**1277** Hugo I. buys the Castle Heiligenberg and thus is the founder of the line of Werdenberg-Heiligenberg. As a relative to the Habsburg dynasty, he maintains close ties to king Rudolf.

**1280** The County of Werdenberg now also owns Buchs, Grabs and Bludenz.

**from 1280** The relationship of the Montforts and their Habsburg

relatives is an unsteady one. Through marriage, war and pledging, the governance, but not the county itself, is constantly changing.

**1289** Werdenberg is mentioned for the first time as the place of issue of a document from Hugo II. von Werdenberg.

**1295** First documentary mention of the Litscher House as the place of trial of Hugo II. von Werdenberg.

**around 1305** The County of Freudenberg is acquired through inheritance.

**1305** Acquisition of Sevelen by way of a pledge from the bishopric of Chur.

**1317** Acquisition of the estate of Schellenberg through purchase.

**after 1369** Construction and expansion of the castle. A masonry wall connects the Great Hall with the keep.

**1399** The Castle Wartau is acquired through a process of arbitration.

**around 1402** Despite his marriage to Beatrix von Fürstenberg, Count Rudolf II. of Werdenberg-Heiligenberg needs to mortgage Castle Werdenberg, which is then taken over by the Counts of Montfort-Tettnang.

**1404** To regain possession of the castle, Rudolf II. of Werdenberg-Heiligenberg aligns with the people of Appenzell in the battle at the Stoss against the Habsburgs. The castle and the city do not suffer any major damage during the Appenzeller attack.

**1414** Rudolf II. of Werdenberg-Heiligenberg is forced to sell the castle and the County of Wartau to Count Friedrich von Toggenburg.

**1428** The line of Werdenberg-Heiligenberg ends with the death of the last count, Hugo V.

**around 1400 until 1483** The Counts of Montfort-Tettnang are now owners of the castle. Most of the time the castle

is under the administration of bailiffs. The last count, Wilhelm VIII. of Montfort-Tettnang, dies of leprosy.

**1478** The citizens of Werdenberg get the right to unite in a community and build the city hall at the upper city gate.

### FIRST PHASE OF MULTIPLE CHANGES IN OWNERSHIP

**around 1483** The widow of Count Willhelm VIII., Clementa von Hewen, marries Count Johann Peter von Sax-Misox. The people of Werdenberg initially refuse to swear an oath of allegiance.

**1486** The first printing of the «Schwäbischen Chronik» – Swabian Chronicle – by Thomas Lirer appears in Ulm. This literary text, a special kind of fiction mingled with historical names and facts, frequently mentions the Montforts and Werdenberg.

**after 1483** Johann Peter von Sax-Misox is forced to sell the castle and the county to the Confederation of Luzern. They, in turn, pass the county to the dukes of Castelwart who then sell the territory to the dukes von Hewen.

## THE PERIOD OF THE GLARNER BAILIFFS

**1517** The united citizens of Glarus buy the castle and count's land of Werdenberg to which belong also the villages Sevelen, Buchs, Grabs, the town of Werdenberg and parts of Wartau. Thereafter, Glarner estate bailiffs rule in Werdenberg, holding office for three years residing in Werdenberg Castle. At the beginning of the tenure of a new bailiff, the Werdenberger citizens, as non-Swiss subjects of the «third class», have to pledge an oath of allegiance.

**1525** The reformation is instituted under the administration of bailiff Jost Tschudi. Certain groups of the population stage a revolt, which is suppressed immediately. A document entitled «obey and regret» cuts into the rights of the people. The abbey of the Franciscan nuns in Grabs and the chapels in Werdenberg and Grabs lose their importance and fall into ruin.

**1611 until 1629** The plague claims many lives in Switzerland, also in the Werdenberg area.

**1667** In a special charter of the council of Glarus, the citizens of Werdenberg regain some of their rights which brings a certain relief to the poor, but many of them still live as beggars, others join foreign armies, often those of Venice.

**1695** A fire breaks out in the kitchen during the inauguration of the new

bailiff, Johannes Zweifel, and destroys large parts of the keep and the great hall. The immediate rebuilding produces the typical hip roof of the castle.

**1705** Based on assertions made by two young men at the parliament of Glarus in Schwanden, the council orders the return of documents from Werdenberg, among those also the special charter of 1667.

**1719** At the inauguration ceremony of the new bailiff, governor Johannes Hilty declares, that the subjects will only pledge the oath of allegiance if the documents and the charter of 1667 are definitively returned back to Werdenberg.

**1721** A dangerous escalation of conflict leads to the imprisonment of the delegates of Werdenberg in Glarus. Governor Johannes Hilty dies in prison. Troops from Glarus march into Werdenberg.