

## Extract of the Westphalian History

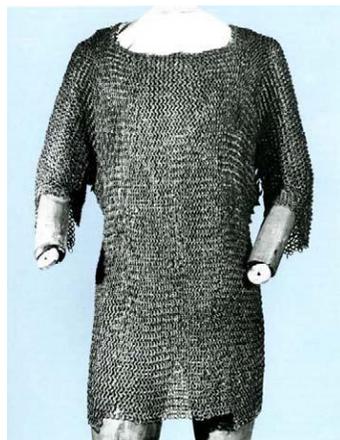
At the end of the 8th century Charlemagne, king of the Franks, integrated the region of present day Westphalia into his kingdom (during Saxon Wars) and had the inhabitants converted to Christianity. The everyday life of the people changed.

In the new monasteries and cathedral schools monks and nuns studied and taught people to read and write. Since then legal acts were recorded in documents. First coins were minted in Westphalia but it still took a few hundred years until the people living in more remote areas also only paid with money.

A number of places developed into fortified towns with elected councils. However, most people lived as before in the countryside. The individual farms had to pay taxes to their local liege lord as well as performing compulsory labour for him. Additionally the liege lords started to extend their own farms and to surround them with ditches or walls. Thus, particularly in the 12th century, numerous castles were built. Important rulers employed administrators who erected castles for themselves or at least residences built out of stone.

Farming and cattle-breeding were very likely not the reason why settlers entered this county. Copper and tin, the raw materials for bronze were not present here either. But already during Roman times miners found deposits of the metals lead and zinc (as dry bone) around Iserlohn and started trading with these. Later on iron got far more popular and craftsmen smelted iron mainly for military use but for some agricultural use as well. Many smelting places of iron ore have been found all over this county proving the strategic importance of the region in the Middle Ages.

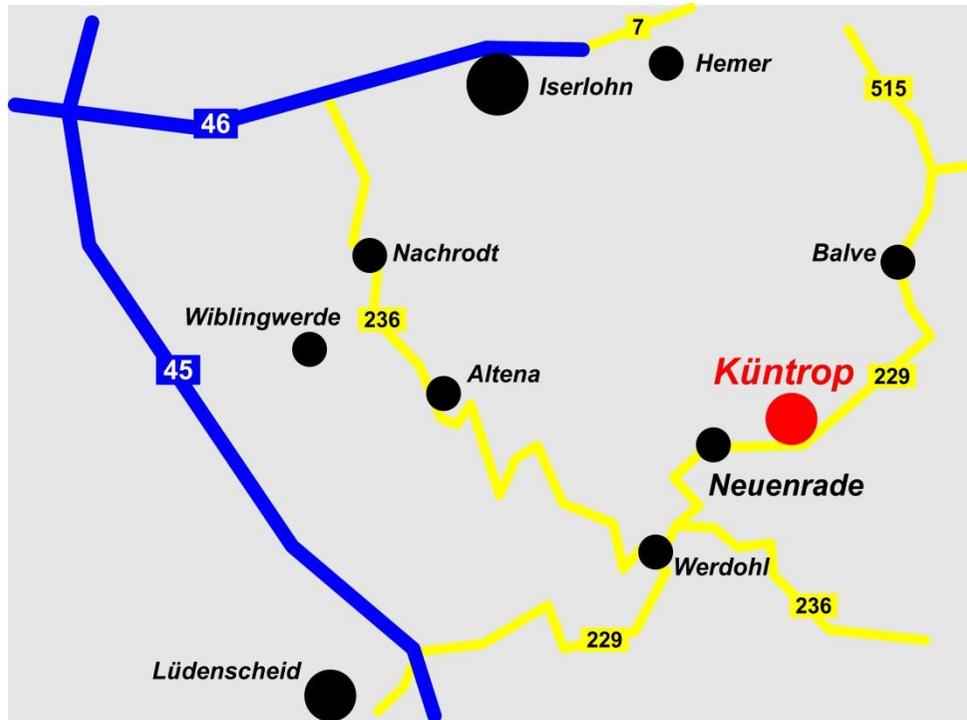
Wood was for a long time the most important energy source (for craftsmen as charcoal), with water taking second place. So the combination of ore, wood and water was the foundation of the development of this region e.g. the wire industry in Altena and Iserlohn; coats of mail were a medieval top seller from here. For example, one of these, made by “Bertold vor der Porten” in Iserlohn, can be found in the Royal Armouries Museum in Leeds.



## Selected data of the history of Gevern

- 1074 First documented occurrence, in Gevern 1 pound Denare is donated to the monastery St. Cunibert, Cologne
- ~1200 The “Villikation Blintrop“ belongs to the monastery St. Severin, Cologne having its administrative centre in Gevern.
- 1345 Count Adolf II. of the Mark acquires the bailiwick (Vogtei) Blintrop and the Vehmic court location (Freisitz) Freientrop from the knights of Altena and assigns the supervision and administration to the bailiff (Droste) of Neuenrade. The associated rights in 22 settlements weaken the position of the Gevern manor executed by the count of Arnsberg.
- 1354 To protect his recently fortified house Gevern during his conflict with count Engelbert III. of the Mark, count Gottfried IV. of Arnsberg gave it to the archbishop of Cologne who enfeoffed him in return with it.
- 1355 Count Engelbert III. of the Mark destroys castle Gevern between the end of the Geldric feud and granting city charter to Neuenrade.
- 1356 Count Engelbert III. of the Mark buys from priory Berentrop 1 farm (Hufe), 1 mill and 1 smallholding (Kotten) in Gevern (Kisse resp. Kibling property).
- ~1400 The Gevern common property usage rights list (Markenrolle) shows 11 farms in Gevern.
- 1552 As a relict of the destroyed castle Gevern the chain of the draw bridge, a candleholder and an aquamanile in the form of a lion are kept in Neuenrade. The candleholder and aquamanile are likely to have been made out of bronze and for liturgical use.
- 1561 According to the treaty between the county of the Mark and the Electorate of Cologne the location of Gevern castle is only just on the side of the Mark.
- 1573 Wilhelm von Neuhoff, bailiff (Droste) of Neuenrade, complains to the government in Cleve about people from Kuentrop reusing the stones from the old castle house for building a lime kiln nearby. This means at least parts of the old castle house must have been made of stone.
- ~1810 The land parcel of the old village Gevern with its manor (Haupt Hof) becomes part of the urban district Kuentrop.

## Visitors information:



Position:	51.2900, 7.8196
Address:	Gevener Weg 24, Neuenrade-Küntrop
Close to:	„Schützenhalle“ and sports field „Dinneike“
By train:	RB 54 „Hönnetal-Bahn“, station „Küntrop“
By plane:	airport Werdohl-Kuentrop (ICAO-Code EDKW)
Internet:	<a href="http://www.kuentrop.de">www.kuentrop.de</a>
Opening times:	between Easter and 31 October, Sun 12.00 am – 2.00 pm or by appointment on +49 2392 69321
Admission prices:	2 € - Children under sword length FREE
Eating out:	Gasthof zur Borke, Oberhof Str. 1, Blintrop Landgasthof Affelner-Mühle, Affelner Mühle 2, Affeln Restaurant & Pub Henblas, Hofstr. 17, Altenaffeln

**Impressum:** Gräfliche Allianz Arnsberg-Mark e.V.  
Rolf Klostermann, Friedrichstr. 39, 58636 Iserlohn, Tel. +49 172 2400231  
Last modified: October 2014

Our activities are funded by donations, contributions are always welcome.  
Donation accounts GRAL e.V.: IBAN DE04 4585 1020 0090 5456 66  
Bürgerstiftung Neuenrade: IBAN DE37 4585 1020 0093 0422 40



Gräfliche Allianz  
Arnsberg-Mark e.V.



Association for living history

## The Motte in Neuenrade-Kuentrop

One attraction of the exhibition “AufRuhr1225” at the LWL Museum for Archaeology in Herne was the carefully reconstructed medieval wooden tower house (“motte”) typical for castles on the rivers Rhein and Ruhr in the 13<sup>th</sup> century. Amongst other cities Neuenrade applied to give this tower a permanent home once the exhibition ended. The proposed location in Neuenrade-Kuentrop lies close to the historical moated castle “Gevern”. This is why the museum finally decided upon Neuenrade.

On short notice the deconstruction in Herne had to be organized, the final location details to be clarified and the building permit arranged before the reconstruction could start. This was quite a unique task for the carpenters and an impressively sized puzzle. Inaugurated in September 2013, the motte is a reminiscent of the former border between the medieval counties of Arnsberg and Mark and the moated castle “Gevern”.

Gevern is the old name of a manor (Haupt Hof) and its farmyards and a medieval administrative centre of impressive size covering parts of today’s municipal areas of Balve, Werdohl, Neuenrade and Altena. Gevern castle overlooked not only the county borderline but also the crossing of two medieval roads, the west-east one coming from Cologne and the north-south one leading to Frankfurt.

We hope our visitors have an enjoyable experience reminding us of our medieval history.