

## THE FORTRESS OF FĂGET DURING THE OTTOMAN RULE (Summary)

Even though the fortress of Făget had a favorable emplacement under the hills once covered with forests situated at the crossroads that linked Banat with Ardeal, a place favorable for cohabitation, the written information accessible let us see that life started pulsating relatively late.

In 1548, Bekes Jacob is mentioned as owner of Fogyarth estate and fortress, but without any referring to the building and origin of the fortress.

Taking into account that he was the descendant of the castle owner from Hunedoara –Ioan Bekeş that held in his possessions the ownership of Mănăştiur and Margina estates, it is possible that the fortress of Făget has been built under direct dependence with the castle from Hunedoara estate.

The Turk occupation of Timișoara in the summer of 1552 after the campaign led by Soliman II and the transformation of the plain Banat into a pashalik, marks the beginning of a period of permanent conflicts between the Turks, Habsburgs and the principalities of Transylvania over occupation or liberation of Banat of Lugoj-Caransebeș.

In this turbulent atmosphere, characterized by violence and uncertainty, the fortress of Făget appears being situated in the middle of the events, alternating its ownership to the Turks, to the principalities of Transylvania or to the hands of General Gheorghe Basta.

After the fall of Timișoara, one by one all the fortresses situated on the Mureș Valley had fallen under Turk domination.

The glorious rulership of Mihai Viteazu raised the hope for liberty among the Romanians from the province of Banat.

On August 13, 1595 exactly on the day of Mihai Vitezu's victory over the Turks at Călugăreni, the fortress of Făget has been liberated.

The fortress of Făget, defended by a Romanian garrison became part of the Transylvanian Principate, and suffered a period of rebuilding under the rule of the new castle owner Ștefan Bekes, Gheorghe Borbely's son in law.

In the summer of 1602, Bektas, the pasha of Timișoara helped in his attempt by an important army came all the way from Anatolia went on the Mureș Valley from Transylvania. On the 7<sup>th</sup> of August he conquers the citadel of Lugoj and headed towards Făget. The Turk attack has been combined with the Tatar which without taking over any fortresses managed to destroy the castles and crops wherever they went through.