

# *The medieval village of Laudun Sancta-Fé on the hill of Sainte Foy.*

*Ruin of the<sup>1st</sup>  
castle Ruined castellas*



*In the Middle Ages, the town was the only island built in the middle of the countryside.*

## *THE NAME OF SAINTE FOY*

*The cult of Sainte Foy was very popular in the Middle Ages. This young Christian woman, the daughter of a high-ranking civil servant, was martyred in Agen in the 3rd century for remaining faithful to her faith.*

*The church of Sainte Foy was located next to the old castle and the town walls, on the north-east side of the hill. It must have been oriented east/west like all the other churches and not north/south like the chapel of the Pénitents Blancs.*

*This church, built at the birth of the medieval village, gave its name to the entire hill.*

*The villagers also celebrated Saint Catherine here.*

*Religious services were shared between the church of Saint Génès (cemetery) and Sainte Foy (1357/1383).*



*Château féodal, Maison de François de Laudun, Maison de Blaise Blaine sergent, L'église Sainte-Foy*  
Emplacement probable de l'ancienne église de Sainte-Foy d'après les actes notariés.

*The original castle on the hill of Ste Foy consisted of a keep and at least one storey accessed by a stone staircase. It was probably used as a dwelling and a watchtower.*

*2 cisterns in the lower courtyard collected rainwater; the castle was supplied with water by the Rayol stream and the Crotte fountain.*

*The gateway was located on the north side, at the top of the 'Laudun wall', now rue Jean Mermoz. Later, a more sumptuous main building was built for the Lords of Laudun.*

*A chapel had certainly been built before the construction of the church of Sainte Foy in 1347.*

*The town of Laudun was protected by an initial enclosure or vintain (named after the tax of 1/20th of revenues).*

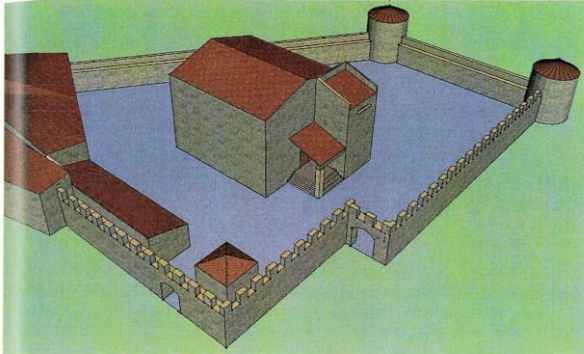
*This enclosure evolved from the 11th to the 14th century to become a real protection for the village.*

*The castle was probably destroyed before 1453, at the end of the Hundred Years' War, at the same time as Lascours castle.*

## LE CASTELLAS

*In 1469, François de Laudun, Lord of Laudun, had the original castle*

LE SECOND CHATEAU DE LAUDUN « LE CASTELLAS »



Vue du château de Laudun en 1558 (sans tenir compte de la pente de la colline).

*completely demolished in order to salvage the stones that would be used to build the new Castellat castle, as well as the walls and houses in the village of Ste Foy, which stood on the site of the Planchon garden.*

*In 1497, Guillaume de Laudun, son of François, obtained permission from King Charles VIII to build the new castle, but construction had begun much earlier. He continued the work and lived in the château. The Castellat consisted of several rooms:*

- *the Upper Hall of the castle,*
- *the guard robe of the said room*
- *the upper room adjoining a dovecote*
- *guard robe of said room*
- *attic passage room*
- *attic of wheat*
- *attic adjoining the other on the upper room*
- *kitchen formerly lower room*
- *room adjoining said kitchen and below the dovecote*
- *the poo behind the kitchen*
- *the old kitchen*
- *the tynals cellar*
- *the cellar called the carnier below the upper room*
- *a well in the lower courtyard*
- *a stable for the castle horses*
- *a hayloft above the stable*



*The walls, the remains of cellars, staircases, doors, loopholes and wells still visible in the Jardin Planchon are the remains of the 16th century dwellings of the Lords of Laudun.*

*The current main gate of the Jardin Planchon was the main*

*gate of the Castellias.*

*We know from inventories that the château was still well preserved in 1771, as furniture and archives are noted inside.*

## **THE REMPARTS**



Les Remparts, les 8 tours, les 3 portes et le ravelin du bourg de Sainte-Foy.  
Au centre, le second château « le Castellias » avec ses deux tours

*The ramparts around the town consisted of 8 towers.*

*At the foot of the castle, on three hillsides, there are a number of districts criss-crossed by a dozen narrow, winding streets of beaten earth and wedged stones. At the corner of each street, a large stone is used to keep cart hubs at bay.*

*As soon as a street has a steep slope (which is often the case in Laudun), it is necessary to pave it with chunks of limestone and pebbles to prevent the road from being washed away by rainwater.*



## **COMMUNITY ORGANISATION OF THE VILLAGE**

*Every year, on 25 March, before the general meeting of the inhabitants, the consuls are created.*

*4 'old' consuls present a list of 12 people, the first 4 are chosen to be modern consuls for the year, to which are added 12 councillors. This continued until the 18th century.*

*The first consul is chosen from among the bourgeois  
the second from among the householders and large landowners  
the third from among the ploughmen and artisans  
the fourth from among the day labourers*

*The list of consuls from 1532 to 1789 can be found in the archives and compoix.*

*The jurisdictional procurator: a doctor of law, he governed the seigneurie in the absence of the seigneur.*

*The fiscal procurator or clavaire: an officer responsible for defending the interests of the community. He represented the seigneur and private individuals*

*The sergeant: A public address announcer, he also posted the decrees issued by the seigneur or the community. He guards and watches over the village.*

*The viguier: Man-at-arms, police officer, commanded the village guard and ensured security.*

*Land guards and fruit guards: Role of rural guard*

*The pillars of justice :*

*The patibular pillars were located on the road from Bagnols to Avignon, at a place called Le Clavelet, but no longer existed in 1651 as the condemned were hanged on the public square in Laudun.*

## **HISTORICAL CHRONOLOGY OF THE MEDIEVAL VILLAGE**

*In 1570, an act of pacification was signed between the Catholic and Calvinist inhabitants.*

*In 1575, on the orders of King Henry III, 50 soldiers were garrisoned at the Château de Bord.*

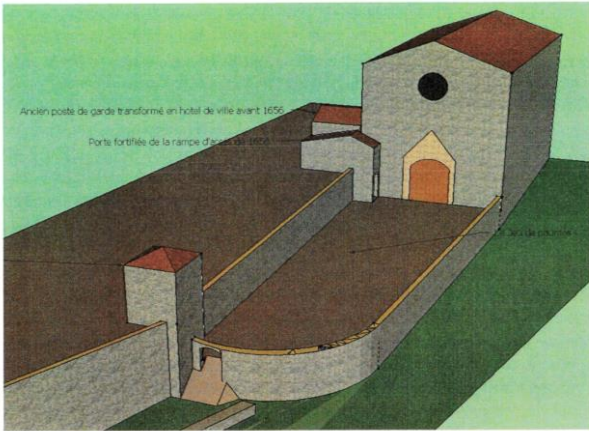
*In 1585, during the Wars of Religion, the town was attacked once again. Soldiers arrived in 1586 to protect the town and were reinforced in 1588.*

*In 1588, Laudun was besieged by Sieur Chambaud on the orders of the Duke of Montmorency, who fired cannons from the top of Puech Velin. The inhabitants resisted.*

*In 1590, the same Marshal de Montmorency, having reconciled with King Henry III, was commissioned to rebuild the citadel of Laudun.....*

*1599, Abbot Jean Fraisse, former chaplain to King Henry IV, was appointed perpetual vicar and prior of the Church of Notre Dame la Neuve, assisted by three priests. Laudun was one of the largest parishes in the diocese of Uzès. He died in 1632 and was buried in a vault beneath the high altar of the church.*

## **EGLISE NOTRE DAME LA NEUVE - FORTRESS CHURCH**



*Between 1345 and 1352, Guillaume de Laudun, former archbishop of Toulouse, had the church of Notre Dame la Neuve built (replacing the destroyed church of Sainte Foy).*

*The church's large size and northern facade, built against the ramparts of the medieval*

*town, made it a defensive structure. The lauze roof and the covered walkway at the level of the current bell tower still existed in 1495. A turret on the bell tower served as a watchtower.*

*A door to the north-east (now rue de la république) provided access to the church via a staircase.*

*In 1412, Guillaume de Laudun made a donation to the community, and the income from the moat was used to repair the ramparts, the town gates and the church of Notre Dame la Neuve.*

*A few years later, the church of Saint Génies (cemetery) was definitively abandoned, partly ruined by successive attacks between 1357 and 1383,*

*A great deal of work was carried out on Notre Dame la Neuve over the decades.*

# **AFTER THE MIDDLE AGES ...**

## **WHERE THE CHURCH STANDS TODAY**

*1658-1662: Demolition of the large western portal, a double walnut door is placed at the entrance with a small door on each side, A wall was built from the south-west corner of the church to the foot of the rampart tower. This is the current church square.*

## **1628 THE PLAGUE IN LAUDUN**

*From November 1629 to July 1629, a plague epidemic swept through the town. Following violent headaches and stomach aches, a person died within 24 hours.*

*900 inhabitants died, i.e. half of the population.*

*There was no more room in the cemetery around the church of Saint Génès to bury the infected bodies,*

*3 new burial sites were opened*

*1 under the church*

*1 near the church of Ste Foy*

*1 in the Roques district*

*30 December 1628, four volunteer inhabitants hired by the consuls of the city of Avignon serve the sick.*

*7 January 1629: An apothecary is appointed to supply medicines and drugs.*

*The inhabitants were also supplied with bread.*

*There were guards at the gates of Laudun and barriers to prevent people from entering the town.*



*Pledges were paid (ratified contracts and receipts)*

- to volunteer inhabitants to serve as « crows » to bury the bodies of plague victims,*
- wages for perfumers to disinfect houses,*
- wages for monks to treat the sick,*
- wages for the inhabitants to serve as consuls, as the appointment in March 1629 had not taken place.*

*16 August 1629, Saint Roch's day, is the official date for the end of the pandemic.*



## **TODAY'S TOWN HALL**

*Between 1646 and 1650, Maître François Issoire, doctor of law and ordinary judge, had his house built, with a spiral staircase, which is now the Town Hall.*

## **THE BROTHERHOODS OF LAUDUN**

*1535 - Visitation of Our Lady*

*1538 - Benoît Holy Spirit*

*1550 - Feast of God*

*1601 - Saint Elizabeth*

*1648 - Our Lady of the Rosary*

*1648 - Saint Saviour*

*1661 - Saint Joseph*

*1668 - Vignerons Saint Vincent*

*1647 - les Pénitents Blancs (the chapel of the Pénitents Blancs was built after 1659 because the deed notifying the purchase of the houses in 1659)*

*Today, virtually nothing remains of the old centre, the medieval village of Sancta Fé on the hill of Sainte Foy.*

*In the 1960s, for health and safety reasons, the local council decided to raze the ruins to the ground to avoid any risk of accidents.*

*Subsequent town councils undertook to restore the White Penitents' chapel and terrace, the Madonna, the Jardin Planchon, create a walking area and covered market...*

*In the 19th century, the buildings in the town centre were abandoned. To avoid paying taxes, the owners destroyed the roofs, which led to the ruin of these remains in a very short space of time.*