

The study deals with the fiefs and vasalls of castle Karlštejn. Initially the fiefs were connected with the castle Kamýk nad Vltavou and came into being in the age of king Přemysl Otakar II. It was Karel IV. who attached them to the castle Karlštejn. Most of the fiefs survived until the end of beneficiary system in the year 1869. Because of absence any theoretical article to this question I dedicated this contribution to the essential problems of this system. Especially I focused on the period from the 14. century till the beginning of 17. century.

The colonization and landscape of this territory (Podbrdský and the north part of Vltavský region) - these two reasons - influenced the location of the fiefs, too far afield from the castle Karlštejn. At first the king himself and then his camera tried to maintain their position in this region. During the 14. century and at the beginning of 15. century besides the gentry were the officials and servants from the court proofed as the vasalls. The fiefs survived the Hussite wars but the beneficiary system as a whole or unit didn't exist. As late as the third period of the 16. century Jáchym Novohradský of Kolovraty, the burgrave of castle Karlštejn and prefect of czech camera, enabled the renovation not only of the castle, but also of beneficiary system at the beginning of the 17. century by Vilém Slavata from Chlum and Košumberk.

In the Kvatern manství Karlštejnských the first list of fiefs enregistered at the beginning of the 17. century I identified two important groups of vassals that influenced the character of system. The freeholders - free farmers - were independent from any private superior and belonged only under the authority of the king. These persons pressed and guarded by the czech camera are probably the reason why the fiefs survived till the 19. century. For the second group - poor gentry - the fiefs meant the possibility to improve their bad economical conditions.