

# Gladsaxehus

**Gladsaxehus** (Swedish: *'Gladsax hus'*, earlier **Gladsaxehus**, also **Glathsax** or **Glatzsax**)<sup>[1]</sup> is a ruined castle in [Gladsax parish](#) in [Simrishamn Municipality](#) of [Skåne](#) in southeastern Sweden. The ruins lie immediately to the east of the church and cemetery of [Gladsax](#).



Ruins

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## History

The first written mention of the property is a charter issued in 1322 by Archbishop [Esger Juul](#) affirming the ruling by [Archbishop Eskil](#) in the 12th century that four churches were subordinate to the monastery at Tommarp, amongst which was "ecclesiam sancti Jacobi in Glathsysa".<sup>[2]</sup>

In her will dated 11 August 1398, [Ide Pedersdatter Falk](#), widow of [Torkil Nielsen Bing](#),<sup>[3]</sup> bequeathed her manor at Gladsax, together with a large fortune in property and cash, to be the endowment and seat of a planned [Dominican nunnery](#). She appointed her personal friend, [Queen Margaret](#), to be her executor. However, after Ide Falk's death in 1399, the queen and Bishop Peder of Roskilde realised the strategic importance of the location as a counterweight to the [archbishop's](#) castles at [Åhus](#), four miles to the north, and [Hammershus](#) on [Bornholm](#). They succeeded in obtaining the Pope's permission to transfer the monastic endowment to [Gavnø](#) on [Zealand](#).<sup>[2]</sup>

The manor then became the royal [fief](#) of Gladsaxehus, together with the parish of Gladsax, the settlement of Simrishamn and significant portions of [Albo Hundred](#) as the outlying land of the fief. Gladsax [county](#) came to be considered one of the primary counties of Skåne.<sup>[2]</sup>

For about 200 years, the lords of Gladsax resided at Gladsaxehus. They included [Eskil Mogensen Göye](#) (enfeoffed in 1471, died 1476), [Jens Holgersen Ulfstand](#)(probably enfeoffed 1476, died 1486) and [Sten Basse Bille](#) (enfeoffed 1490, died 1506). Gladsax was an independent fief until 1621, when it became part of [Kristianstad County](#), and the king endowed [Jacob Beck](#), priest of Gladsax, [Bosjökloster](#), and [Vapnö](#), with the castle and most of the land.<sup>[2][4]</sup>

In the 1770s, [C. G. Hilfeling](#) inventoried properties in Skåne on behalf of the king; at Gladsax he described the ruins of a stone walled castle with newer buildings to the west. (The "fishponds" he also mentions near the castle were probably part of a water-driven system for smelting silver from a local mine.)<sup>[2]</sup> In 1844, [C. G. Brunius](#), a professor at [Lund University](#), visited the site. He made a plan, measuring the ruined stone building at about 10.4 by 8 metres (34 ft × 26 ft), with walls approximately 1.1 metres (3.6 ft) thick. One storey remained standing to a height of a couple of metres, with an arched door opening on the west side and arrow slits at each end; all of these had brick framing. Defensive ditches could still be made out to the east and north.<sup>[2]</sup> According to local legend, the ruin had been revealed when a hill near the church was levelled.<sup>[2]</sup> Stone was probably taken from the ruin when the church was enlarged in 1857.<sup>[2]</sup>

# Excavation

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All that remains of the castle today are the foundations of the stone building.<sup>[2]</sup> A trial excavation at the site performed in 1954 by Gustaf Åberg found traces of a ditch or moat approximately 1.5 metres (4.9 ft) deep and a defensive wall approximately 0.9 to 1 metre (3.0 to 3.3 ft) thick. A second trial excavation in 1974 revealed a debris field 1 metre (3.3 ft) deep immediately east of the castle, which included both medieval building materials and finds from later periods, as well as excavated areas that may have been ponds.<sup>[2]</sup>

## References

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1. Nielsen, Riis & Andersen 2002 p. 566.
2. Lars Jönsson, Gladsaxehus - en medeltida länsborg(<http://www.gladsax.nu/gladsaxdagen/gladsaxeus.htm>), Gladsax By (in Swedish)
3. Stjernquist 1981, p. 30.
4. Kungliga Vtterhets Historie och Antikvitets Akademien 1955, p. 219.

## Bibliography

- Kungliga Vtterhets Historie och Antikvitets Akademien (1955).*Kungl. Vtterhets, Historie Och Antikvitets Akademiens Handlingar*(in Swedish). 64-65. Stockholm: Almqvist & Wiksell.
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- Stjernquist, Berta (1981). Humanitiska vetenskaps-samfundet, ed*Skrifter utgivna av Humanistiska vetenskapssamfundet; Lund* Lund: Gleerup.

## External links

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-  Media related to Gladsaxehus at Wikimedia Commons
- Gladsax castle ruinat Swedish National Heritage Board(in Swedish)

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