

Castle ruins of Käggleholm

The ruined castle of Käggleholm is located on the Käggleholm Island in Lake Väringen. There was connection all the way to the Baltic Sea for transportation of iron from Bergslagen, but also for import of exclusive goods.

The original farm was established already in the Iron Age. Several burial grounds and other relics from this period are found in the surrounding area and inside the ruins. An early owner was Ulf Gudmarsson, husband of St. Birgitta. Later owners were, among others, Sten Sture and the king Gustav Vasa.

In the late 1600s, Marshal Magnus Gabriel De la Gardie, who also owned Läckö and Karlberg Castles, owned Käggleholm. De la Gardie transformed Käggleholm into a great castle which had several floors, terraces, courtyard and grand side wings. The castle had magnificent stucco ceilings, sculptures and murals, Turkish wallpapers, precious furniture and canopies. Just a few years later, the castle was demanded by the crown when riches were taken from the noblesse in the reduction. The castle was later repurchased by the family. Another few years later, in 1712, a big fire took it all. The castle was never rebuilt.

In the 1900s, an archeological dig was done and a roof was built in 1942 to protect the remains of the wall. In 1956, the Order of the Black Eagle raised a cross "for rest and relaxation" outside the ruins, along the road where the iron was transported from Bergslagen to the port in Arboga and further out into the world. The property is now owned by the state. A part of the north wing is still standing and is now a private residence.