

SUMMARY

The German Order Castle of Dubysa

/SEREDŽIUS

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There is a very great probability that the German (Teutonic) Order castle of Dubysa was standing at the confluence of the rivers Dubysa and Nemunas, in the castle site of Seredžius.

The building of the castle Dubysa was going on by two stages. In the spring and at the beginning of summer of 1406 the first small castle was built.

While preparing for the second building stage, the castle site was inspected by a reconnaissance expedition of the Order functionaries. The confluence of the rivers Nemunas and Dubysa was estimated as an especially suitable site for building a castle and mills, as well.

The second Dubysa castle building stage began in April of 1407. During it the works of much greater volume were carried out than in 1406. A great part of materials necessary for building the castle were transported from Prussia. The castle was being built by the masters who came from the Order state, the carpenters sent by Vytautas also took part. The building of the castle was finished in July of 1407.

The professions of the masters that took part in the building and the materials that were used show that the castle of Dubysa was essentially a wooden one, though many metal parts were used for its equipment.

Since June of 1406 till August of 1409 the castle of Dubysa was the German (Teutonic) administration center in Samogitia, the residence of their administrative head „vaitas“ M. Kūchmeister. A priest almost constantly lived in the castle, a chapel most probably was there.

With the aim to ensure defensive and administrative functions of the castle, most of the necessary things—weapons and ammunition, clothes, forage, food and drinks—the crusaders were forced to carry to the castle by ships from Prussia.

The castle of Dubysa was developing as an economical center, too, it had a mill.

The castle of Dubysa ceased to exist in the end of August of 1409 when the crusaders evading direct action against the Lithuanian army burnt it themselves.