

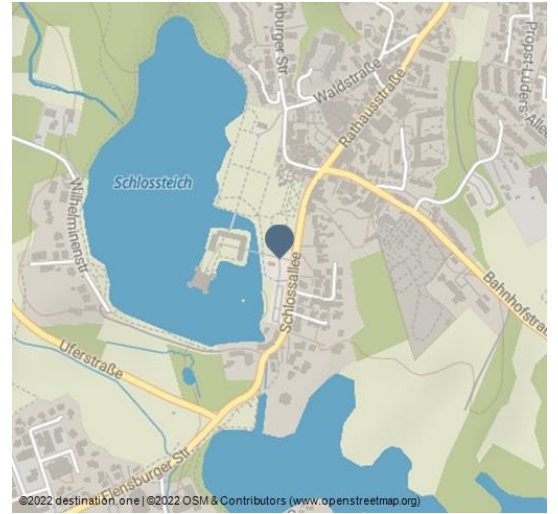


Duke Hans the Younger - Builder of Glücksburg Castle

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"God grant happiness with peace" was the motto of Duke Hans the Younger (also called John II.). That is why he named the castle he built from 1582 to 1587 Glücksburg (the name could loosely be translated to "Happiness Castle"). Hans was the youngest son of the Danish King Christian III. He received parts of Schleswig and Holstein from his brother and thus ruled over his own small independent duchy. Certainly, he was proud of his 23 children - from two wives. According to legend, he dedicated a ceiling painting in the Red Hall to them - portraying them in the form of angels' faces. However, the preferred residence of Hans the Younger was Sønderborg Castle, the place of his upbringing and today his last resting place.

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