Övedskloster was originally a monastery within the Premonstratensian order. The order originated in France and was introduced at Öved by Archbishop Eskil of Lund. He owned land in the area that he relinquished for the building of the monastery. This was in the mid-1100s, and during Eskil’s time monasteries in the Premonstratensian order were established in Vä and Lund.

Through private sales, the monastery became the owner of a large area of farmland, which was confiscated in the 1530s when the Reformation ravaged their activities, and land and buildings were taken by the Crown and then granted to nobles loyal to the king.

At the end of the 1500s, Tyge Krabbe was the county sheriff at Öved. During his time the old monastery was damaged by fire. The manor house itself was rebuilt, but the monastery church gradually became a ruin, until it was demolished at the end of the 1700s.

The first private owner, Otto Lindenov and his wife Anne Brahe, took over Öved in 1614. He died in 1618, but his son Henrik Lindenov survived Sweden’s takeover of Scania. He was not happy as a Swedish subject and therefore sold the estate in 1666 to the field marshal, Count Carl Mauritz Lewenhaupt.

The deal led to Övedskloster being owned for 90 years within the Lewenhaupt family. Both the first owner, Carl Maurits, and the following generations devoted themselves to military work with great success and spent long periods in the Swedish army’s campaigns or in service overseas. The last owner within the family, Adam Lewenhaupt, sold Övedskloster in 1753 to his brother-in-law, Baron Hans Ramel. Thus began the Ramel family’s ownership of the estate, which has continued to the present day.

Hans Ramel owned a large number of estates that he had inherited from his wealthy father, Malte Ramel. He gave them all a great deal of attention, particularly the buildings, which is why he got a builder nickname, “Bygge-Hans”. In the 1770s, Övedskloster was altered when the remaining monastery buildings were pulled down and a new castle was built on the foundations of the old stone house. The changes had been planned by Carl Hårleman, but he died the same year as the transaction was completed and was therefore succeeded by both architect Carl Frederick Adelcrantz, and surveyor to the royal household and architect Jean Eric Rehn. Adelcrantz concentrated on the main building’s exterior, and Rehn fulfilled Hårleman’s plan for the design of the courtyard pavilions and the interiors of the castle itself. Hårleman’s original overall plan and Adelcrantz’s and especially Rehn’s feeling for the rococo style made Övedskloster Castle one of Sweden’s most beautiful rococo buildings. Construction was carried out in the years 1763-1776. In 1768, Hans Ramel instituted an entailed estate covering Övedskloster and associated properties. This still applies today at Övedskloster and some 30 other estates in Sweden, despite the decision by parliament in 1963 to abolish entailed estates.

The present holder of the entailed estate is Baron Hans Ramel.

The general's fate
The last Danish owner of Övedskloster, Henrik Lindenow, like many lords of the manor in Kristianstad, could not reconcile himself with his new Swedish “masters” and sold Övedskloster in 1666 to field marshal Count Carl Mauritz Lewenhaupt. His ownership was short-lived, as he died the same year and the estate was inherited by his two sons, Carl Gustav and Sten Casimir Lewenhaupt. Both were involved in military affairs overseas and never lived at Övedskloster. Carl Gustav survived his unmarried brother and died in 1703 in dramatic circumstances. He had been in the service of Saxony and was called home by Charles XII to fight for the Swedish army, as a war against Saxony had broken out in 1700. For reasons unknown, Lewenhaupt was prevented from returning home by Elector August, which aroused suspicions in Sweden of treason and a Swedish court sentenced him to lose his life and honour. The court was saved from having to carry out the sentence as he died on the homeward journey to Sweden.
He was succeeded by his son, Charles Emil Lewenhaupt, who was an officer in Charles XII’s army and distinguished himself in several battles. He was rewarded with the title of general, became lord marshal and Swedish commander-in-chief in the Hats’ Russian War of 1741-1743. This war was a failure from the start when it became apparent that the Swedish army was neither equipped nor trained for a battle with the powerful Russia. The situation was not improved when the intended allies did not appear, and support was restricted to a modest financial contribution from France. After several ignominious defeats, a decisive battle was fought at Villmanstrand on 23 August 1741, which Sweden lost after a few hours of fighting. However, concentration of forces continued on both sides, but remarkably enough the Swedish commander-in-chief Lewenhaupt did not join up with the mauled Swedish army until early September. A temporary truce was in force at the start of December, but was broken by the Russians in January 1742. After continued fighting, with the Russians increasingly dominant, the Swedish army was forced to surrender on 24 August 1742. By that time the responsible commanders, General Charles Emil Levenhaupt and his deputy, General Henrik Magnus von Buddenbrock, had been called home on 19 August 1742 to Stockholm to be brought to account for the outcome of the campaign. Both were sentenced to death and “to lose life, honour and land”. They were beheaded in Stockholm in 1743 as scapegoats for failure in the war. After the execution, the bodies were buried in unconsecrated ground.

When news of the execution reached Övedskloster, two of the estate’s employees were sent with a horse and cart to Stockholm to bring home the estate owner’s body for a decent burial. After a time they returned, but regrettably with Lewenhaupt’s body and Buddenbrock’s head. They were sent back to Stockholm to get the right head, and this time returned with Lewenhaupt’s head and, to be on the safe side, the whole of Buddenbrock’s body. Thus Lewenhaupt could be buried in the family grave in Öved Church. A grave was also prepared in Öved churchyard for Buddenbrock.

Charles Emil Lewenhaupt’s son, Adam Lewenhaupt, later ensured that both his father’s and Buddenbrock’s honour were restored and that the estates were returned to the heirs.