## GRANHOLM GENEALOGY

# BRITISH ROYAL ANCESTRY, BOOK 6 Kings of England

#### INTRODUCTION

The British ancestry is very much a patchwork of various beginnings. Until King Alfred the Great established England various Kings ruled separate parts. In most cases the initial ruler came from the mainland. That time of the history is shrouded in myths, which turn into legends and subsequent into history.

Alfred the Great (849-901) was a very learned man and studied all available past history and especially biblical information. He came up with the concept that he was the 72<sup>nd</sup> generation descendant of Adam and Eve. Moreover he was a 17<sup>th</sup> generation descendant of Woden (Odin). Proponents of one theory claim that he was the descendant of Noah's son Sem (Shem) because he claimed to descend from Sceaf, a marooned man who came to Britain on a boat after a flood. (See the *Biblical Ancestry* and *Early Mythology Ancestry* books).

The book *British Mythical Royal Ancestry from King Brutus* shows the mythical kings including Shakespeare's King Lair. The lineages are from a common ancestor, Priam King of Troy. His one daughter Troana leads to us via Sceaf, the descendants from his other daughter Creusa lead to the British linage. No attempt has been made to connect these rulers with the historical ones.

Before Alfred the Great formed a unified England several Royal Houses ruled the various parts. Not all of them have any clear lineages to the present times, i.e. our ancestors, but some do. I have collected information which shows these. They include;

British Royal Ancestry Book 1, Legendary Kings from Brutus of Troy to including King Leir.

*British Royal Ancestry Book 2, Kings of Mercia*, from a mythical grandson of Woden (Odin) to Lady Godiva's granddaughter, who married King Harold II of England.

*British Royal Ancestry Book 3, Kings of Wessex*, from Cerdic, who came to Brittany in 495 to Harold II of England, my 27<sup>th</sup> great grandfather.

British Royal Ancestry Book 4, Kings of Kent from Hengest, who came from the mainland to Britain to King Alfred the Great and his sons.

British Royal Ancestry Book 5, Kings of Anglo-Saxons from Hengest's son, Hartwaker of Saxony to Henry the Fowler, the Duke of Saxony who became the first German King of the Ottoman Dynasty.

British Royal Ancestry Book 6, Kings of England from King Alfred the great to present time.

The books include ancestral lineage list with names highlighted for which text has been included.

Lars Granholm, August 2010

#### Descendants of: Alfred "The Great" King Of England As Related to: Lars Erik Granholm

- 1 Alfred "The Great" King Of England b. 849 Bershire, England d. 901 Winchester, England (34th great grandfather) m. Ealhswith Oueen Of England b. abt 852 d. 5 Dec 905
- 2 Edward I "The Elder" King of England b. 871 Wessex, d. 17 Jul 924 Berkshire, England (33rd great grandfather) m. Edgiva Queen of England
- 3 Edmund I the Magnificent King of England b. 922 d. May 26, 946 (33rd great uncle) m. Elgiva
- 4 Edgar the Peaceful King of England (first cousin, 33 times removed) m. Elfthryth, Queen of England b. 945 d. 1000
- 5 Ethelred II the Unready King of England b. 968 d. 23 April 1016 (second cousin, 32 times removed) m. Aelfgifu b. 963 d. 1002 m. Emma Queen of Normandy

[son of Ethelred II the Unready King of England and Emma Queen of Normandy]

**6.** Saint Edward the Confessor King of England b. 1003 (third cousin, 31 times removed)

m. Edith Queen of England (28th great aunt)

[Daughter of Godwin, Earl of Wessex and Gytha Thorkelsdottir, Countess] (28th great grandparents) (See Book 3)

[son of Ethelred II the Unready King of England and Aegifu]

- 6 Edmund Ironside King of England b. abt 990 d. 30 November 1016. (third cousin, 31 times removed) m. Ealdgyth (Edith) Queen of England
- 7 Edward the Exile King of England b. 1016 d. February 1057 (4th cousin, 30 times removed) m. Agatha Princess of Kiev [daughter of Yaroslav I the Wise Grand Duke of Kiew and Ingegerd Olofsdotter Princess of Sweden]
- 8 Saint Margaret Queen of England b. 1045 d. 16 November 1093 (5th cousin, 29 times removed) m. Malcolm III King of Scotland b. 1031 d. 13 November 1093
- 9 Matilda of Scotland (Edith), Queen of England b. 1080 d. 1118 Westminster (6th cousin, 28 times removed) m. Henry I, King of England b. 1068 d. 1 December 1135 (See below) [son of William I the Conqueror King of England and Matilda of Flanders Queen of England]

#### Descendants of: Torkel (Thorgil) Styrbjörnsson As Related to: Lars Erik Granholm

- 1 Torkel (Thorgil) Styrbjörnsson (32nd great grandfather)
- 2 Fulbert De Falaise b. 985 France (31st great grandfather) m. Duxia
- 3 Herleva of Falaise b. 1003 d. 1050 (30th great grandmother) m. Robert the Magnificent Duke of Normandy b. June 22, 1000 d. 3 July 1035 [son of Richard II the Good Duke of Normandy and Judith Countess of Brittany]
- 4 William I the Conqueror King of England b. 1027 Normandy d. 1087 (30th great uncle) m. Matilda of Flanders Queen of England b. 1031 d. 2 Nov 1083 [daughter of Baldwin V Count of Flanders and Adele Alix Princess of France]
- 5 Henry I, King of England b. 1068 d. 1 December 1135 (first cousin, 30 times removed) m. Matilda of Scotland (Edith), Queen of England b. 1080 d. 1118 Westminster [daughter of Malcolm III King of Scotland and Saint Margaret Queen of England]
- 6 Matilda (Maud) Empress of the Holy Roman Empire b. 1102 d. 1167 (second cousin, 29 times removed) m. Geoffrey V Plantagenet Archbishop Count of Anjou b. 1113 d. 1151 Château-du-Loir

- 7 Henry II Curtmantle King of England b. 5 March 1133 d. 6 July 1189 (third cousin, 28 times removed) m. Eleanor, Duchess of Aquitaine b. 1122 d. 1 April 1204
- 8 Richard I the Lionheart King of England b. 8 September 1157 d. 6 April 1199 (4th cousin, 27 times removed)
- 8 John King of England b. 24 December 1166 d. 19 October 1216 (4th cousin, 27 times removed) m. Isabel, Countess of Gloucester
- 9 Henry III King of England b. 1 October 1207 d. 16 November 1272 (5th cousin, 26 times removed) m. Eleanor of Provence Queen of England b. 1233 d. 26 June 1291
- 10 Edward I Longshanks King of England b. 17 June 1239 d. 7 July 1307 (6th cousin, 25 times removed) m. Eleanor de Montfort, Princess of Wales b. 1252 d. 19 June 1282
- 11 Edward II King of England b. 25 April 1284 d. 21 September 1327 (7th cousin, 24 times removed) m. Isabella of France Queen of England b. 1295 d. 22 August 1358 [daughter of Philip IV King of France and Joan I of Navarre]
- 12 Edward III King of England b. 13 November 1312 d. 21 June 1377 (8th cousin, 23 times removed) m. **Philippa of Hainault Queen of England** b. June 24, 1311 d. August 15, 1369
- 13 Edward, the Black Prince of Wales b. 15 June 1330 d. 8 June 1376 (9th cousin, 22 times removed) m. **Joan, Countess of Kent** b. September 29, 1328 d. August 7, 1385
- 14 Richard II King of England b. 6 January 1367 d. 14 February 1400 (10th cousin, 21 times removed) m. Isabella of Valois Princess of France b. 9 November 1389 d. 13 September 1409
- 13 John of Gaunt I Duke of Lancaster b. 6 March 1340 d. 3 February 1399 (9th cousin, 22 times removed) m. Blanche Duchess of Lancaster b. 25 March 1345 d. 12 September 1369
- m. Catherine Swynford Roet

[Children of John of Gaunt I Duke of Lancaster and Blanche Duchess of Lancaster]

- 14 Henry IV King of England b. 3 April 1366 d. 20 March 1413 (10th cousin, 21 times removed)
- m. Mary de Bohun b. 1394 d. 4 June 1394
- 15 Henry V King of England b. 16 September 1386 d. 31 August 1422 (11th cousin, 20 times removed) m. Catherine of Valois Queen of England b. 27 October 1401 d. 3 January 1437
- 16 Henry VI King of England b. 6 December 1421 d. 21 May 1471 (12th cousin, 19 times removed) m. Margaret of Anjou Oueen of England b. 23 March 1430 d. 25 August 1482

[Children of John of Gaunt I Duke of Lancaster and Catherine Swynford Roet]

- 14 Joan de Beaufort b. 1375 d. 1440 (10th cousin, 21 times removed)
- m. Ralph, Earl of Westmoreland
- 15 Cecily Neville, Duchess of York b. 3 May 1415 d. 31 May 1495 (11th cousin, 20 times removed) m. Richard Plantagenet, 3rd Duke of York b. 21 September 1411 d. 30 December 1460

[--- -f Dishard of Carishards Ford of Carchaides and Anna de Martineau]

- [son of Richard of Conisburgh, Earl of Cambridge and Anne de Mortimer]
- 16 Richard III King of England b. 2 October 1452 d. 22 August 1485 (12th cousin, 19 times removed)
- m. Anne Neville Princess of Wales b. 11 June 1456 d. 16 March 1485
- 16 Edward IV King of England b. 28 April 1442 d. 9 April 1483 (12th cousin, 19 times removed)
- m. Elizabeth Woodville Queen of England b. 3 February 1437 d. 8 June 1492
- 17 Edward V King of England b. 2 November 1470 d. 1483 (13th cousin, 18 times removed)
- 17 Elizabeth of York Queen of England b. 1466 d. 1503 (13th cousin, 18 times removed)
- m. Henry VII King of England

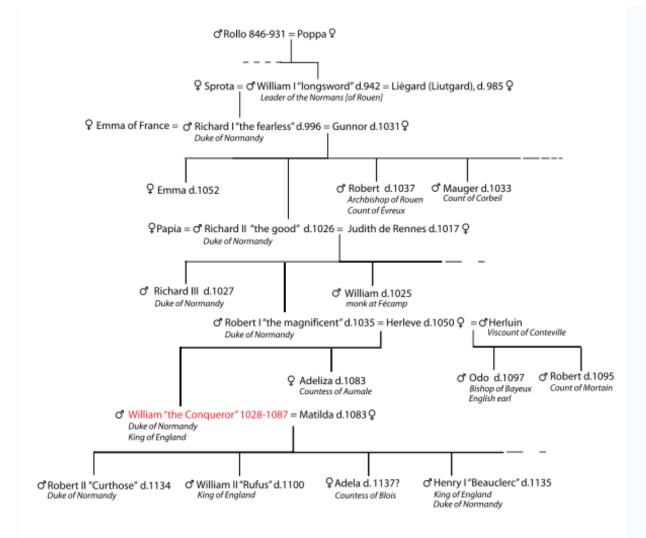
- 18 Henry VIII King of England b. 1491 d. 1547 (14th cousin, 17 times removed)
- m. Jane Seymour Queen Consort of England b. 1508 d. 1537
- m. Catherine of Aragon Queen of England b. 1485 d. 1536

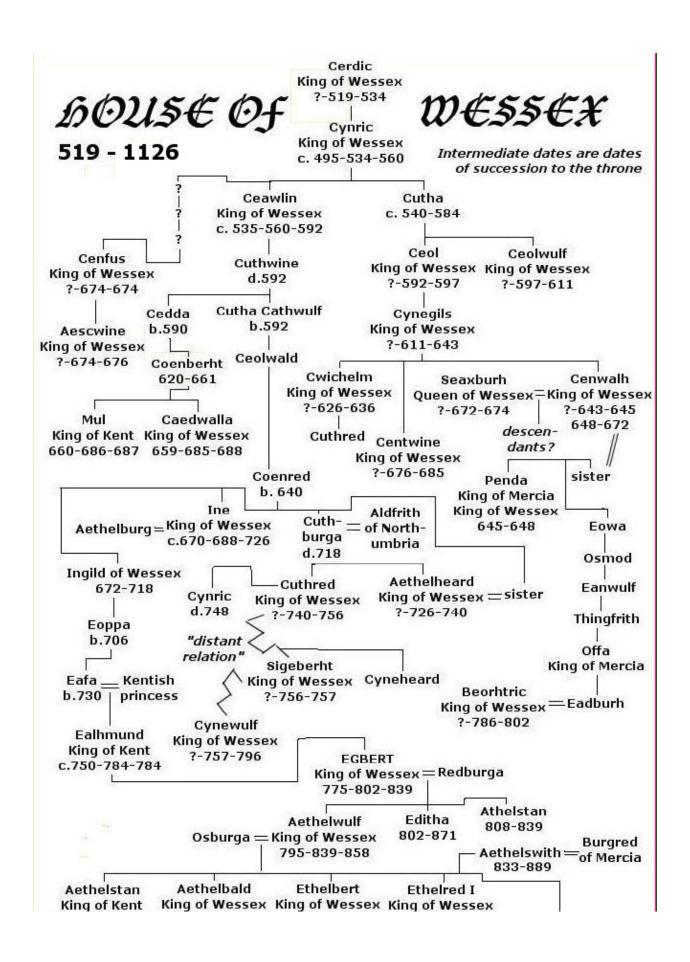
[Children of Henry VIII King of England and Jane Seymour Queen Consort of England] 19 Edward VI King of England and Ireland b. 1537 d. 1553 (15<sup>th</sup> cousin, 16 times removed)

[Children of Henry VIII King of England and Catherine of Aragon Queen of England] 19 Mary I Queen of Englan d b. 1516 d. 1558 (15<sup>th</sup> cousin, 16 times removed)

m. Philip II King of Spain

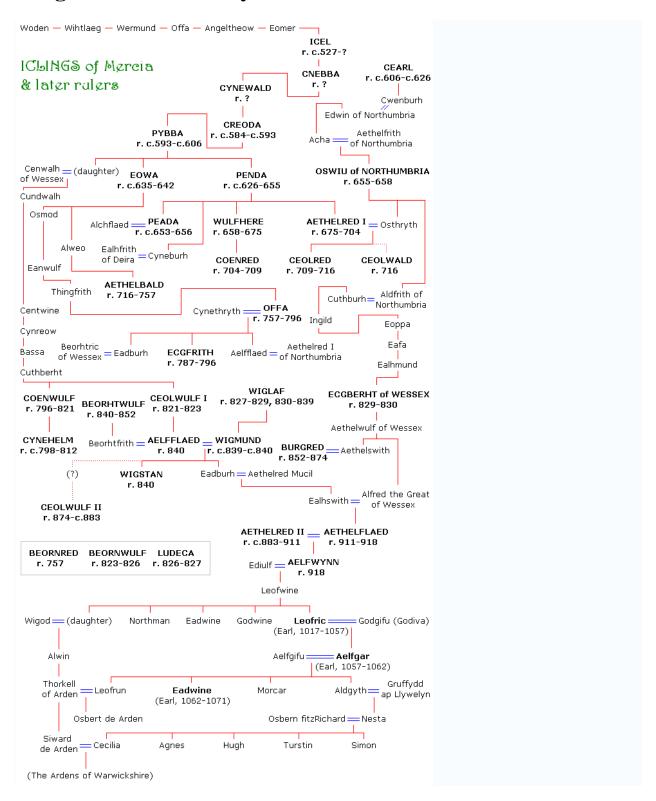
- 18 Margaret Tudor Queen Consort of Scots b. 1489 d. 1541 (14th cousin, 17 times removed) m. James IV King of Scots b. 17 March 1473 d. 9 September 1513 [son of James III King of Scotland and Margaret Princess of Denmark]
- 19 James V King of Scots b. 10 April 1512 d. 14 December 1542 (15<sup>th</sup> cousin, 16 times removed) m. **Mary of Guise Queen of Scotland** b. November 22, 1515 d. June 11, 1560
- 20 Mary, Queen of Scots b. 8 December 1542 d. 8 February 1587 (16<sup>th</sup> cousin, 15 times removed) m. **Henry Stuart, Duke of Albany**
- 21 James I King of England b. 19 June 1566 d. 27 March 1625 (17<sup>th</sup> cousin, 14 times removed) m. **Anne of Denmark Queen of England** b. 12 December 1574 d. 2 March 1619
- 22 Elizabeth Stuart Princess of Scotland b. 1596 d. 1662 (18<sup>th</sup> cousin, 13 times removed)
- m. Frederick V, Elector of the Palatinate
- 23 Sophia Dorothea Duchess of Hanover b. 1666 d. 1726 (19th cousin, 12 times removed)
- m. Ernest Augustus Elector of Hanover b. 1629 d. 1698
- 24 George I King of Great Britain b. 1660 d. 11 June 1727 (20<sup>th</sup> cousin, 11 times removed) m. **Sophia Dorothea of Celle**
- 25 George II King of Great Britain b. 1683 d. 25 October 1760 (21st cousin, 10 times removed) m. **Princess Caroline of Ansbach**
- 26 Frederick, Prince of Wales b. 1 February 1707 d. 31 March 1751 (22<sup>nd</sup> cousin, 9 times removed) m. **Augusta Princess of Saxe-Gotha** b. 30 November 1719 d. 8 February 1772
- 27 George III King of the United Kingdom b. d. 29 January 1820 (23<sup>rd</sup> cousin, 8 times removed) m. **Sophia Charlotte Queen of the United Kingdom** b. 19 May 1744 d. 17 November 1818
- 28 Prince Edward, Duke of Kent b. 2 November 1767 d. 23 January 1820 (24<sup>th</sup> cousin, 7 times removed) m. Princess Victoria of Saxe-Coburg-Saalfeld b. 17 August 1786 d. 16 March 1861
- 29 Victoria Queen of the United Kingdom b. 1819 d. 22 January 1901 (25<sup>th</sup> cousin, 6 times removed) m. **Prince Albert of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha**
- 30 Edward VII King of the United Kingdom b. d. 6 May 1910 (26<sup>th</sup> cousin, 5 times removed) m. Alexandra Princess of Denmark b. 1 Dec 1844 d. 20 Nov 1925
- 31 George V King of the United Kingdom b. 1865 d. 1936 (27<sup>th</sup> cousin, 4 times removed)
- m. Mary of Teck Queen of the United Kingdom b. 26 May 1867 d. 24 Mar 1953
- 32George VI (Albert) King of the United Kingdom b. 1895 d. 1952 (28<sup>th</sup> cousin, 3 times removed) m. Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon Queen Mother b. 4 August 1900 d. 30 March 2002
- 33 Elizabeth II Queen of the United Kingdom b. 21 April 1926 (29<sup>th</sup> cousin, twice removed) m. **Prince Philip. Duke of Edinburgh** b. 10 June 1921
- 34 **Prince Charles, Prince of Wales** b. 14 November 1948 (30<sup>th</sup> cousin, once removed)





#### http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/King\_of\_Mercia

### Kings of Mercia family tree



#### Descendants of Adam from abt. 4000 BC

#### 81. Generation

201. Alfred "The Great" King of England (King of Wessex Ethelwulf, King of Wessex Egbert, under King Kent Ealhmund, Eba, Eoppa, Ingild of Cendred, Prince of Wessex Cendred, Pr of Wessex Ceolwald, (Cuthwulf) Cutha, Pr of Wessex Cuthwine, King of Wessex Ceawlin, King of Wessex Cynric, Pr of Wessex Crioda, King of Wessex Cedric, of ancient Saxony Elesa, Esla, Gewis, Wig, Frewine, Frithogar, of Scandinavia Brand, (Balder) Beldeg, (Woden) (Woutan) Odin, Frithuwald, Freothalf, Frithuwulf, Finn, Flocwald Flocwald, Godwulf Godwulf, Geata, Tecti, Beowa, Scealdea, Sceaf, Heremod, Itormon, Athra, Hwala, Bedweg, Seskef, Magi, Moda, Vingener, Vingethorr, Eiaridi, Ridi Hloritha, Vingener, Thor, Daughter of Priam Sobil, King of Troy Priam, Laomedon, King of Troy Ilus, Tros, King of Troy Erichthonius, Founder of Troy Dardanus, Zerah, (Judah), King of Goshen Judas, Jacob, Isaac, Abraham, (Terah), King of Agade Thara, (Nahor) Nachor, (Serug), King of Ur and Agade Saruch, (Reu) Ragau, (Peleg), King of Babylon Phalec, (Eber) Heber, Salah(Shelah), Cainan, Arphaxad, (Sceaf) Shem, Titea Emzara, Rakeel, Methuselah, (His Ist cousin) Edna, Daniel, Mahalalel, Cainan, Enosh, (His Sister) Azura

was born about 848 in Wantage, England. He died on 26 Oct 901.

[Notes] See Wikipedia: <a href="http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Priam">http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Priam</a> Greek mythology

See also: http://wc.rootsweb.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/igm.cgi?op=AHN&db=bevangenealogy&id=I19868

See: http://fabpedigree.com/s028/f972385.htm to Adam and Eve

"The married (**Alswitha**) **Queen of England Ethelswida** in 868. (Alswitha) was born about 852 in Mercia England. She died on 5 Dec 905.

They had the following children:

+ 202 M i Edward I "The Elder" King of England was born about 871. He died in 924.

### **Alfred the Great**

Alfred the Great (847 – October 26, 899), also spelt Aelfred, was king of the southern Anglo-Saxon kingdom of Wessex from 871 to 899. Alfred is noted for his defence of the kingdom against the Danish Vikings, becoming the only English King to be awarded the epithet "the Great". Alfred was the first King of the West Saxons to style himself "King of the English". Alfred was a learned man, and encouraged education and improved his kingdom's law system as well as its military structure.

Statue of Alfred the Great, Winchester



Alfred was born in 847 at <u>Wantage</u> in the present-day <u>ceremonial county</u> of <u>Oxfordshire</u>. He was the youngest son of King <u>Aethelwulf of Wessex</u>, by his first wife, <u>Osburga</u>. In 868 Alfred married Ealhswith, daughter of Ethelred Mucil.

Asser tells the story about how as a child Alfred won a prize of a volume of poetry in English, offered by his mother to the first of her children able to memorise it. This story may be true, or it may be a myth intended to illustrate the young Alfred's love of learning.

In 868, Alfred is recorded fighting beside his brother Ethelred, in an unsuccessful attempt to keep the invading Danes out of the adjoining Kingdom of Mercia. For nearly two years, Wessex was spared attacks because Alfred paid the Vikings to leave him alone. However, at the end of 870, the Danes arrived in his homeland. The year that followed has been called "Alfred's year of battles". Nine martial engagements were fought with varying fortunes, though the place and date of two of the battles have not been recorded. In Berkshire, a successful skirmish at the Battle of Englefield, on 31 December 870, was followed by a severe defeat at the Siege

and Battle of Reading, on 5 January 871, and then, four days later, a brilliant victory at the <u>Battle of Ashdown</u> on the <u>Berkshire Downs</u>. Alfred is particularly credited with the success of this latter conflict. However, later that month, on 22 January, the English were again defeated at <u>Basing</u> and, on the following 22 March at the <u>Battle of Merton</u> in which Ethelred was killed.

#### King at war

In April 871, King Ethelred died, and Alfred succeeded to the throne of Wessex and the burden of its defence, despite the fact that Ethelred left two young sons. Although contemporary turmoil meant the accession of Alfred, an adult with military experience and patronage resources, over his nephews went unchallenged, he remained obliged to secure their property rights. While he

was busy with the burial ceremonies for his brother, the Danes defeated the English in his absence at an unnamed spot, and then again in his presence at Wilton in May. Following this, peace was made and, for the next five years, the Danes occupied other parts of England. However, in 876, under their new leader, Guthrum, the Danes slipped past the English army and attacked Wareham in Dorset. From there, early in 877, and under the pretext of talks, they moved westwards and took Exeter in Devon. There, Alfred blockaded them, and with a relief fleet having been scattered by a storm, the Danes were forced to submit. They withdrew to Mercia but, in January 878, made a sudden attack on Chippenham, a royal stronghold in which Alfred had been staying over Christmas, "and most of the people they reduced, except the King Alfred, and he with a little band made his way by wood and swamp, and after Easter he made a fort at Athelney, and from that fort kept fighting against the foe."

A popular legend originating from early twelfth century chronicles, tells how when he first fled to the <u>Somerset Levels</u>, Alfred was given shelter by a peasant woman who, unaware of his identity, left him to watch some cakes she had left cooking on the fire. Preoccupied with the



Alfred watching the cakes

problems of his kingdom, Alfred accidentally let the cakes burn and was taken to task by the woman upon her return. Upon realising the king's identity, the woman apologised profusely, but Alfred insisted that he was the one who needed to apologise. From his fort at Athelney, a marshy island near North Petherton, Alfred was able to mount an effective resistance movement while rallying the local militia from Somerset, Wiltshire and Hampshire.

For the next few years there was peace, with the Danes being kept busy in Europe. A landing in Kent in 884 or 885 close to Plucks Gutter, though successfully repelled, encouraged the East Anglian Danes to rise up. The measures taken by Alfred to repress this uprising culminated in the taking of London in 885 or 886, and an agreement was reached between Alfred and Guthrum, known as the Treaty of Alfred and Guthrum. Once more, for a time, there was a lull, but in the autumn of 892 or 893, the Danes attacked again. Finding their position in Europe somewhat precarious, they crossed to England in 330 ships in two divisions. They entrenched themselves, the larger body at Appledore, Kent, and the lesser, under Haesten, at Milton also in Kent. The invaders brought their wives and children with them, indicating a meaningful attempt at conquest and colonisation. Alfred, in 893 or 894, took up a position from whence he could observe both forces. While he was in talks with Haesten, the Danes at Appledore broke out and struck northwestwards. They were overtaken by Alfred's oldest son, Edward, and were defeated in a general engagement at Farnham in Surrey. They were obliged to take refuge on an island in the Hertfordshire Colne, where they were blockaded and were ultimately compelled to submit. The force fell back on Essex and, after suffering another defeat at Benfleet, coalesced with Haesten's force at Shoebury.

#### **Family**

In 868, Alfred married <u>Ealhswith</u>, daughter of <u>Ealdorman</u> of the <u>Gaini</u> of <u>Lincolnshire</u>. She appears to have been the maternal granddaughter of a <u>King of Mercia</u>. They had five or six children together, including <u>Edward the Elder</u>, who succeeded his father as king.



## **Edward the Elder**

**Edward the Elder** (c. 870 – 17 July 924) was <u>King of England</u> (899 – 924). He was the son of <u>Alfred the Great</u> and Alfred's wife, <u>Ealhswith</u>, and became King upon his father's death in 899.

He was king at a time when the Kingdom of <u>Wessex</u> was becoming transformed into the <u>Kingdom of England</u>. The title he normally used was "King of the Anglo-Saxons"; most authorities do regard him as a king of England, although the territory he ruled over was significantly smaller than the present borders of England.

#### **Aetheling**

Of the five children born to Alfred and Eahlswith who survived infancy, Edward was the second-born and the elder son. Edward's name was a new one among the West Saxon ruling family. His siblings were named for their father and other previous kings, but Edward was perhaps named for his maternal grandmother Eadburh, of Mercian origin and possibly a kinswoman of Mercian kings Coenwulf and Ceolwulf. Edward's birth cannot be certainly dated. His parents married in 868 and his eldest sibling Aethelflæd was born soon afterwards as she was herself married in 883. Edward was probably born rather later, in the 870s, and probably between 874 and 877.

#### **Family**

Edward married a young woman of low birth called <u>Ecgwynn</u> around 893, and they became the parents of the future King <u>Athelstan</u> and a daughter who married <u>Sihtric</u>, King of Dublin and York in 926.

When he became king in 899, Edward set Ecgwynn aside and married <u>Aelfflæd</u>, a daughter of Aethelhelm, the <u>ealdorman</u> of <u>Wiltshire</u>. Edward and Aelfflæd had six daughters: <u>Eadgyth</u> who married <u>Otto I, Holy Roman Emperor</u>; <u>Edgiva</u> aka Edgifu, whose first marriage was to <u>Charles the Simple</u>; Eadhild, who married <u>Hugh the Great</u>, Duke of Paris;

Edward married for a third time, about 919, to <u>Edgiva</u>, aka Eadgifu, the daughter of Sigehelm, the ealdorman of <u>Kent</u>. They had two sons who survived infancy, <u>Edmund</u> and <u>Edred</u>, and two daughters, one of whom was Saint <u>Edburga of Winchester</u> the other daughter, Eadgifu, married <u>Louis l'Aveugle</u>.

## **Edmund I of England**

**Edmund I** (922 – 26 May 946), called *the Elder*, *the Deed-doer*, *the Just*, or *the Magnificent*, was <u>King of England</u> from 939 until his death. He was a son of <u>Edward the Elder</u> and half-brother of <u>Athelstan</u>. Athelstan died on 27 October 939, and Edmund succeeded him as king.

King of the English



Shortly after his proclamation as king he had to face several military threats. King Olaf III Guthfrithson conquered Northumbria and invaded the Midlands. When Olaf died in 942 Edmund reconquered the Midlands. In 943 he became the god-father of King Olaf of York. In 944, Edmund was successful in reconquering Northumbria. In the same year his ally Olaf of York lost his throne and left for Dublin in Ireland. Olaf became the king of Dublin as Olaf Cuaran and continued to be allied to his god-father. In 945 Edmund conquered Strathclyde but ceded the territory to King Malcolm I of Scotland in exchange for a treaty of mutual military support. Edmund thus established a policy of safe borders and peaceful relationships with Scotland. During his reign, the revival of monasteries in England began.

#### **Death and succession**

On 26 May, 946, Edmund was murdered by Leofa, an exiled thief, while celebrating St Augustine's Mass Day in <u>Pucklechurch</u>. Edmund had been feasting with his nobles, when he spotted Leofa in the crowd. He attacked the intruder in person, but in the event, Edmund and Leofa were both killed.

Edmund's sister Eadgyth, wife to Otto I, died the same year.

Edmund was succeeded as king by his brother <u>Edred</u>, king from 946 until 955. Edmund's sons later ruled England as:

- <u>Eadwig of England</u>, King from 955 until 957, king of only <u>Wessex</u> and <u>Kingdom of Kent</u> from 957 until his death on 1 October 959.
- <u>Edgar of England</u>, king of only <u>Mercia</u> and <u>Northumbria</u> from 957 until his brother's death in 959, then king of England from 959 until 975.

## **Edgar the Peaceful**

Edgar I the Peaceful (7 August 943 – 8 July 975), also called the Peaceable, was a king of

England (r. 959–75). Edgar was the younger son of Edmund I of England.



#### Government

Though Edgar was not a particularly peaceable man, his reign was a peaceful one. The kingdom of England was at its height. Edgar consolidated the political unity achieved by his predecessors. By the end of Edgar's reign, England was sufficiently unified that it was unlikely to regress back to a state of division among rival kingships, like it had to an extent under Eadred's reign.

#### **Coronation at Bath (AD 973)**

Edgar was crowned at <u>Bath</u>, but not until 973, in an imperial ceremony planned not as the initiation, but as the culmination of his reign (a move that must have taken a great deal of preliminary diplomacy). This service, devised by Dunstan himself and celebrated with a poem in the <u>Anglo-Saxon Chronicle</u>, forms the basis of the present-day British coronation ceremony. The symbolic coronation was an important step; other kings of Britain came and gave their allegiance to Edgar shortly afterwards at <u>Chester</u>. Six kings in Britain, including the kings of <u>Scotland</u> and of <u>Strathclyde</u>, pledged their faith that they would be the king's liege-men on sea and land. Later chroniclers made the kings into eight, all plying the oars of Edgar's state barge on the <u>River Dee</u>. Such embellishments may not be factual, but the main outlines of the "submission at Chester" appear true. (See <u>History of Chester</u>.)

#### **Death (AD 975)**

Edgar died on 8 July 975 at <u>Winchester</u>, and was buried at <u>Glastonbury Abbey</u>. He left two sons, the elder named <u>Edward</u>, who was probably his illegitimate son by Aethelflæd, and <u>Aethelred</u>, the younger, the child of his wife <u>Aelfthryth</u>. He was succeeded by Edward.

## **Aethelred the Unready**

**Aethelred the Unready**, or **Aethelred II**, (c. 968 – 23 April 1016), was a king of the English (978–1013 and 1014–1016). He was a son of King Edgar and Queen Aelfthryth. His reign was much troubled by Danish Viking raiders. Aethelred was only about 10 when his half-brother Edward was murdered and was not personally suspected of participation. But as the deed occurred at Corfe Castle by the attendants of Aethelred's mother, it made it more difficult for the new king to rally the nation against the invader, especially as a legend of St Edward the Martyr soon grew. Later, Aethelred ordered a massacre of Danish settlers in 1002 and also paid tribute, or Danegeld, to Danish leaders from 991 onwards. In 1013, Aethelred fled to Normandy and was replaced by Sweyn, who was also king of Denmark. However, Aethelred returned as king after Sweyn died the following year. "Unready" is a mistranslation of Old English *unræd* (meaning bad-council) - a pun on his name "Aethelred" (meaning noble-council).

#### Early life

Gold mancus of Aethelred wearing armour, 1003-1006.



Aethelred's father, King Edgar, had died suddenly in July of 975, leaving two young sons behind him. The elder, Edward (later Edward the Martyr), was Edgar's son by his first wife, Aethelflæd, and was "still a youth on the verge of manhood" in 975. The younger son was Aethelred, whose mother, Aelfthryth, Edgar had married in 964. Aelfthryth was the daughter of Ordgar, ealdorman of Devon, and widow of Aethelwold, Ealdorman of East Anglia. At the time of his father's death, Aethelred could have been no more than 10 years old. As the elder of Edgar's sons, Edward -

reportedly a young man given to frequent violent outbursts - probably would have naturally succeeded to the throne of England despite his young age, had not he "offended many important persons by his intolerable violence of speech and behaviour." In any case, a number of English nobles took to opposing Edward's succession and to defending Aethelred's claim to the throne; Aethelred was, after all, the son of Edgar's last, living wife, and no rumour of illegitimacy is known to have plagued Aethelred's birth, as it might his elder brother's. In the end, Edward's supporters proved the more powerful and persuasive, and he was crowned king before the year was out.

Edward reigned for only three years before he was murdered by his brother's household. Though we know little about Edward's short reign, we do know that it was marked by political turmoil. On the surface his [Edward's] relations with Aethelred his half-brother and Aelfthryth his stepmother were friendly, and he was visiting them informally when he was killed. [Aethelred's] retainers came out to meet him with ostentatious signs of respect, and then, before he had dismounted, surrounded him, seized his hands, and stabbed him.

#### **Edward the Confessor**

**Edward the Confessor** (c. 1003 – 5 January 1066), son of <u>Æthelred the Unready</u> and <u>Emma of Normandy</u>, was one of the last <u>Anglo-Saxon kings of England</u> and is usually regarded as the last king of the <u>House of Wessex</u>, ruling from 1042 to 1066 (technically the last being <u>Edgar the Ætheling</u> who was proclaimed king briefly in late 1066, but was deposed after about eight weeks.) His reign marked the continuing disintegration of royal power in England and the advancement in power of the earls. It foreshadowed the country's domination by the <u>Normans</u>, whose Duke <u>William of Normandy</u> was to defeat Edward's successor, <u>Harold II</u>, and seize the crown.

Edward had succeeded <u>Cnut</u>'s son <u>Harthacnut</u>, restoring the rule of the House of Wessex after the period of Danish rule since Cnut had conquered England in 1016. When Edward died in 1066 he had no son to take over the throne so a conflict arose as three men claimed the throne of England.

Edward was born c. 1003 in <u>Islip</u>, Oxfordshire. Edward and his brother <u>Alfred</u> were sent to



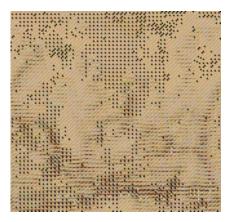
Normandy for exile by their mother. Æthelred died in April 1016, and he was succeeded by Edward's older half brother Edmund Ironside, who carried on the fight against the Danes until his own death seven months later at the hand of Canute, who next became king and married Edward and Alfred's mother, Emma. According to Scandinavian tradition, Edward, by then back in England, fought alongside his brother, and distinguished himself by almost cutting Canute in two, although as Edward was at most thirteen years old at the time, the story is highly unlikely.

Historically, Edward's reign marked a transition between the 10th century West Saxon kingship of England and the Norman monarchy which followed Harold's death. Edward's allegiances were split between England and his mother's Norman ties. The great earldoms established under <u>Cnut</u> grew in power, while Norman influence became a powerful factor in government and in the leadership of the <u>Church</u>.

The left panel of the Wilton Diptych, where Edward (centre), with Edmund the Martyr (left) and John the Baptist, are depicted presenting Richard II to the heavenly host.

#### **Edith of Wessex**

**Edith of Wessex**, (c. 1029 – 19 December 1075), married King <u>Edward the Confessor</u> of <u>England</u> in 1045. The marriage produced no children. Later ecclesiastical writers claimed that this was either because Edward took a vow of <u>celibacy</u>, or because he refused to consummate the marriage because of his antipathy to Edith's family, the Godwins. However, in the view of Edward's biographer, <u>Frank Barlow</u>, "The theory that Edward's childlessness was due to deliberate abstention from sexual relations lacks authority, plausibility and diagnostic value."



Edith was the daughter of <u>Godwin, Earl of Wessex</u>, one of the most powerful men in England at the time of King Edward's rule. Her mother <u>Gytha Thorkelsdóttir</u> was sister of <u>Ulf Jarl</u>, and by tradition descended from saga hero <u>Styrbjörn Starke</u> and king <u>Harold I of Denmark</u>.

When Godwin and his family were expelled from the country in 1051, Edith was put aside by Edward and sent to a nunnery. When the Godwins effected their return through force in 1052, Edith was reinstated. In later years, she became one of Edward's inner group of advisers. [2] In the contemporary *Life of King Edward who rests at Westminster*, according to

Barlow, "although she is always placed modestly behind the throne, the author does not minimize her power or completely conceal her will. Whenever we catch sight of her elsewhere, we see a determined woman, interfering, hard, probably bad-tempered". [3]

Upon Edward's death, on 4 January 1066, he was succeeded by Edith's brother, <u>Harold Godwinson</u>. At the <u>Battle of Stamford Bridge</u> (25 September 1066) and the <u>Battle of Hastings</u> (14 October 1066), Edith lost four of her remaining brothers (<u>Tostig</u>, Harold, <u>Gyrth</u> and <u>Leofwine</u>). Her brother <u>Wulfnoth</u>, who had been given to Edward the Confessor as a hostage in 1051 and soon afterwards became a prisoner of <u>William the Conqueror</u>, remained in captivity in Normandy. Edith was therefore the only senior member of the Godwin family to survive the <u>Norman conquest</u> on English soil, the sons of Harold having fled to Ireland.

Carola Hicks, an art historian, has recently put her forward as a candidate for the author of the Bayeux Tapestry.

Edith died at Winchester 1075. The northern author of the *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle* reports:

"Edith the Lady died seven nights before Christmas in Winchester, she was King Edward's wife, and the king had her brought to Westminster with great honour and laid her near King Edward, her lord." [

## **Edmund Ironside**

**Edmund Ironside** or **Edmund II** (c. 988/993 – 30 November 1016) was king of the English from 23 April to 30 November 1016. "Ironside" refers to his efforts to fend off a <u>Danish</u> invasion led by <u>King Cnut</u>. His authority was limited to Wessex, or the area south of <u>Thames</u>. The north was controlled by Cnut, who became "king of all England" upon Edmund's death.



Matthew Paris's (early 13th-century) impression of the Battle of Assandun, depicting Edmund Ironside (left) and Cnut (right)

Edmund was the second son of King <u>Aethelred the Unready</u> (also known as Aethelred II) and his first wife, <u>Aelfgifu of York</u>. He had three brothers, the elder <u>Aethelstan</u>, and the younger two Eadred and Ecgbert. His mother was dead by

996, after which his father remarried, this time to Emma of Normandy.

Aethelstan died in 1014, leaving Edmund as heir. A power struggle began between Edmund and his father, and in 1015 King Aethelred had two of Edmund's allies, <u>Sigeferth</u> and <u>Morcar</u>, executed. Edmund then took Sigeferth's widow <u>Ealdgyth</u> from <u>Malmesbury Abbey</u>, where she had been imprisoned, and married her in defiance of his father. During this time, <u>Cnut the Great</u> attacked England with his forces. In 1016 Edmund staged a rebellion in conjunction with Earl <u>Uhtred</u> of <u>Northumbria</u>, but after Uhtred deserted him and submitted to Cnut, Edmund was reconciled with his father.

Aethelred, who had earlier taken ill, died on 23 April 1016. Edmund succeeded to the throne and mounted a last-ditch effort to revive the defence of England. While the Danes laid siege to London, Edmund headed for Wessex, where he gathered an army. When the Danes pursued him, he fought them to a standstill. He raised a renewed Danish siege of London and won repeated victories over Cnut. But, on 18 October, Cnut decisively defeated him at the Battle of Ashingdon in Essex. After the battle, the two kings negotiated a peace in which Edmund kept Wessex while Cnut held the lands north of the River Thames. In addition, they agreed that if one of them should die, territories belonging to the deceased would be ceded to the living.

#### Death

On 30 November 1016, King Edmund died in Oxford or London. His territories were ceded to Cnut, who then became king of England.

#### Heirs

Edmund had two children by Ealdgyth: <u>Edward the Exile</u> and Edmund. <u>Cnut the Great</u> ordered them both sent to <u>Sweden</u>, to be murdered, but they were sent on to <u>Kiev</u> and ended up in <u>Hungary</u>.

#### **Edward the Exile**

**Edward the Exile** (1016 – February 1057), also called *Edward Aetheling*, son of <u>King Edmund Ironside</u> and of <u>Ealdgyth</u>, gained the name of "Exile" from his life spent mostly far from the <u>England</u> of his forefathers. After the <u>Danish conquest of England</u> in 1016 <u>Canute</u> had him and his brother, Edmund, exiled to the Continent. Edward was only a few months old when he was brought to the court of <u>Olof Skötkonung</u>, (who was either Canute's half-brother or stepbrother), with instructions to have the child murdered. Instead, Edmund was secretly sent to <u>Kiev</u>, where Olof's daughter <u>Ingigerd</u> was the Queen, and then made his way to <u>Hungary</u>, probably in the retinue of Ingigerd's son-in-law, King <u>András</u>.

On hearing the news of his being alive, <u>Edward the Confessor</u> recalled him to England and made him his <u>heir</u>. Edward offered the last chance of an undisputed succession within the <u>Saxon royal house</u>. News of Edward's existence came at time when the old Anglo-Saxon Monarchy, restored after a long period of Danish domination, was heading for catastrophe. The Confessor, personally devout but politically weak, was unable to make an effective stand against the steady advance of the powerful and ambitious sons of <u>Earl Godwin</u>. From across the Channel <u>William</u>, <u>Duke of Normandy</u> also had an eye on the succession. Edward the Exile appeared at just the right time. Approved by both king and by the <u>Witan</u>, the Council of the Realm, he offered a way out of the impasse, a counter both to the Godwins and to William, and one with a legitimacy that could not be readily challenged.

Edward, who had been in the custody of Henry III, the Holy Roman Emperor, finally came back to England at the end of August 1057. But he died within two days of his arrival. The exact cause of Edward's death remains unclear, but he had many powerful enemies, and there is a strong possibility that he was murdered, although by whom it is not known with any certainty. It is known, though, that his access to the king was blocked soon after his arrival in England for some unexplained reason, at a time when the Godwins, in the person of Harold Godwinson, were once again in the ascendant. This turn of events left the throne of England to be disputed by Earl Harold and Duke William, ultimately leading to the Norman Conquest of England.

Edward's wife was a woman named <u>Agatha</u>, whose origins are disputed. Their children were <u>Edgar Aetheling</u>, <u>Saint Margaret of Scotland</u> and <u>Cristina</u>. <u>Edgar</u> was nominated as heir apparent, but was too young to count for much, and was eventually swept aside by Harold Godwinson.

## Saint Margaret of Scotland

**Saint Margaret** (c. 1045 – 16 November 1093), was the sister of <u>Edgar Aetheling</u>, the short-ruling and uncrowned <u>Anglo-Saxon</u> King of <u>England</u>. She married <u>Malcolm III</u>, <u>King of Scots</u>, becoming his <u>Queen consort</u>.

#### Early life

Saint Margaret was the daughter of the English prince <u>Edward the Exile</u>, son of <u>Edmund Ironside</u>. When her uncle, Saint <u>Edward the Confessor</u>, the French-speaking Anglo-Saxon <u>King of England</u>, died in 1066, she was living in <u>England</u> where her brother, <u>Edgar Aetheling</u>, had decided to make a claim to the vacant throne.

According to tradition, after the conquest of the <u>Kingdom of England</u> by the <u>Normans</u>, the widowed Agatha decided to leave <u>Northumberland</u> with her children and return to the Continent. A storm drove their ship to <u>Scotland</u>, where they sought the protection of <u>King Malcolm III</u>. The spot where she is said to have landed is known today as St. Margaret's Hope, near the village of <u>North Queensferry</u>.

Malcolm was probably a <u>widower</u>, and was no doubt attracted by the prospect of marrying one of the few remaining members of the <u>Anglo-Saxon</u> royal family. The marriage of Malcolm and Margaret soon took place. Malcolm followed it with several invasions of <u>Northumberland</u> by the Scottish king, probably in support of the claims of his brother-in-law Edgar. These, however, had little result beyond the devastation of the province.

Margaret and Malcolm had eight children, six sons and two daughters:

- 1. Edward, killed 1093.
- 2. Edmund of Scotland
- 3. Ethelred, abbot of Dunkeld
- 4. King Edgar of Scotland
- 5. King Alexander I of Scotland
- 6. King David I of Scotland
- 7. Edith of Scotland, also called Matilda, married King Henry L of England
- 8. Mary of Scotland, married Eustace III of Boulogne



Her husband, Malcolm III, and their eldest son, Edward, were killed in a fight against the English at <u>Alnwick Castle</u> on 13 November 1093.

St Margaret's Church in Dunfermline dedicated to her memory

#### Matilda of Scotland

**Matilda of Scotland** (born Edith; c. 1080 – 1 May 1118) was the first wife and <u>queen consort</u> of Henry I of England.

Queen consort of the English



Matilda was born around 1080 in <u>Dunfermline</u>, the daughter of <u>Malcolm III of Scotland</u> and <u>Saint Margaret</u>.

When she was about six years old, Matilda (or Edith as she was then probably still called) and her sister Mary were sent to Romsey, where their aunt Cristina was abbess. The Scottish princess was much sought-after as a bride; she turned down proposals from both William de Warenne, 2nd Earl of Surrey, and Alan Rufus, Lord of Richmond. Hermann of Tournai even claims that William II Rufus considered marrying her.

#### **Marriage**

After the death of William II Rufus in August 1100, his brother Henry quickly seized the royal treasury and the royal crown. His next task was to marry, and Henry's choice fell on Matilda. Because Matilda had spent most of her life in a

nunnery, there was some controversy over whether or not she had been veiled as a nun and would thus be ineligible for marriage. Henry sought permission for the marriage from Archbishop Anselm of Canterbury, who returned to England in September 1100 after a long exile. Professing himself unwilling to decide so weighty a matter on his own, Anselm called a council of bishops in order to determine the legality of the proposed marriage. Matilda testified to the archbishop and the assembled bishops of the realm that she had never taken holy vows. She insisted that her parents had sent her and her sister to England for educational purposes, and that her aunt Cristina had veiled her only to protect her "from the lust of the Normans." Matilda claimed she had pulled the veil off and stamped on it, and her aunt beat and scolded her most horribly for this. The council concluded that Matilda had never been a nun, nor had her parents intended that she become one, and gave their permission for the marriage.

After Matilda and Henry were married on 11 November 1100 at <u>Westminster Abbey</u> by Archbishop <u>Anselm of Canterbury</u>, she was crowned as "Matilda", a fashionable Norman name. She gave birth to a daughter, Matilda, in February 1102, and a son, William, in November 1103. She was an active queen, and like her mother was renowned for her devotion to religion and the poor. <u>William of Malmesbury</u> describes her as attending church barefoot at <u>Lent</u>, and washing the feet and kissing the hands of the sick. She also administered extensive dower properties and was known as a patron of the arts, especially music.

## William the Conqueror

William the Conqueror (circa 1028 – 9 September 1087), also known as William I of England was the King of England from Christmas, 1066 until his death. He was also Duke of Normandy from 3 July 1035 until his death. Before his conquest of England, he was known as William the Bastard because of the illegitimacy of his birth.

To press his claim to the English crown, William invaded England in 1066, leading an army of Normans, Bretons, Flemish people, and Frenchmen to victory over the English forces of King Harold Godwinson at the Battle of Hastings, and suppressed subsequent English revolts in what has become known as the Norman Conquest. His reign, which brought Norman-French culture to England, had an impact on the subsequent course of England in the Middle Ages.

Upon the death of the childless <u>Edward the Confessor</u>, the English throne was fiercely disputed by three claimants—William; <u>Harold Godwinson</u>, the powerful Earl of <u>Wessex</u>; and the <u>Viking King Harald III of Norway</u>, known as Harald Hardrada. William had a tenuous blood claim through his great aunt <u>Emma</u> (wife of Ethelred and mother of Edward). William also contended that Edward, who had spent much of his life in exile in Normandy during the Danish occupation of England, had promised him the throne when he visited Edward in London in 1052. Further, William claimed that Harold had pledged allegiance to him in 1064: William had rescued the shipwrecked Harold from the count of <u>Ponthieu</u>, and together they had defeated <u>Conan II</u>, <u>Duke of Brittany</u>. On that occasion, William had knighted Harold; he had also, however, deceived Harold by having him swear loyalty to William himself over the concealed bones of a saint.

Meanwhile, William submitted his claim to the English throne to Pope Alexander II, who sent



organised a council of war at <u>Lillebonne</u> and in January openly began assembling an army in Normandy. Offering promises of English lands and titles, he amassed at <u>Dives-sur-Mer</u> a huge invasion fleet, supposedly of 696 ships. This carried an invasion force which included, in addition to troops from William's own territories of Normandy and Maine, large numbers of mercenaries, allies and volunteers from <u>Brittany</u>, north-eastern France and <u>Flanders</u>, together with smaller numbers from other parts of France and from the Norman colonies in southern Italy. In England, Harold assembled a large army on the south coast and a fleet of ships to guard the English Channel.

him a consecrated banner in support. Then, William

William the Conqueror invades England

Harold consolidated his ships in London, leaving the <u>English Channel</u> unguarded. Then came the news that the other contender for the throne, <u>Harald III of Norway</u>, allied with <u>Tostig Godwinson</u>, had landed ten miles from <u>York</u>. Harold again raised his army and after a four-day forced march defeated Harald and Tostig on 25 September.

On 12 September the wind direction turned and William's fleet sailed. A storm blew up and the fleet was forced to take shelter at <u>Saint-Valery-sur-Somme</u> and again wait for the wind to change. On 27 September the Norman fleet finally set sail, landing in England at <u>Pevensey Bay</u> (<u>Sussex</u>) on 28 September. Thence William moved to <u>Hastings</u>, a few miles to the east, where he built a prefabricated wooden castle for a base of operations. From there, he ravaged the hinterland and waited for Harold's return from the north.

William chose Hastings as it was at the end of a long peninsula flanked by impassable marshes. The battle was on the isthmus. William at once built a fort at Hastings to guard his rear against potential arrival of Harold's fleet from London. Having landed his army, William was less concerned about desertion and could have waited out the winter storms, raided the surrounding area for horses and started a campaign in the spring. Harold had been reconnoitering the south of England for some time and well appreciated the need to occupy this isthmus at once.

Harold, after defeating his brother Tostig and Harald Hardrada in the north, marched his army 241 mi (388 km) in 5 days to meet the invading William in the south. On 13 October, William received news of Harold's march from London.

The Battle of Hastings lasted all day. Although the numbers on each side were about equal, William had both cavalry and infantry, including many archers, while Harold had only foot soldiers and few if any archers. Along the ridge's border, formed as a wall of shields, the English soldiers at first stood so effectively that William's army was thrown back with heavy casualties. Then William rallied his troops reportedly raising his helmet, as shown in the Bayeux Tapestry, to quell rumors of his death. Meanwhile, many of the English had pursued the fleeing Normans on foot, allowing the Norman cavalry to attack them repeatedly from the rear as his infantry pretended to retreat further. Norman arrows also took their toll, progressively weakening the English wall of shields. At dusk, the English army made their last stand. A final Norman cavalry attack decided the battle irrevocably when it resulted in the death of Harold who, legend says, was killed by an arrow in the eye, beheaded & bodily dismembered. Two of his brothers, Gyrth and Leofwine Godwinson, were killed as well. By nightfall, the Norman victory was complete and the remaining English soldiers fled in fear.

Battles of the time rarely lasted more than two hours before the weaker side capitulated; that Hastings lasted nine hours indicates the determination of both William's and Harold's armies. Battles also ended at sundown regardless of who was winning. Harold was killed shortly before sunset and, as he would have received fresh reinforcements before the battle recommenced in the morning, he was assured of victory had he survived William's final cavalry attack.

## **Henry I of England**

**Henry I** (c. 1068/1069 – 1 December 1135) was the fourth son of <u>William I of England</u>. He succeeded his elder brother <u>William II</u> as <u>King of England</u> in 1100 and defeated his eldest brother, <u>Robert Curthose</u>, to become <u>Duke of Normandy</u> in 1106. He was called **Beauclerc** for his scholarly interests and **Lion of Justice** for refinements which he brought about in the administrative and legislative machinery of the time.

Miniature from illuminated Chronicle of Matthew



Henry's reign is noted for its political opportunism. His succession was confirmed while his brother Robert was away on the <u>First Crusade</u> and the beginning of his reign was occupied by wars with Robert for control of England and Normandy. He successfully reunited the two realms again after their separation on his father's death in 1087. Upon his succession he granted the baronage a <u>Charter of Liberties</u>, which formed a basis for subsequent challenges to rights of kings and presaged <u>Magna Carta</u>, which subjected the King to law.

The rest of Henry's reign was filled with judicial and financial reforms. He established the biannual Exchequer to reform the treasury. He used itinerant officials to curb abuses of power at the local and regional level, garnering the praise of the people. The differences between the English and Norman populations began to break down during his reign and he himself married a daughter of the old English royal house. He made peace with the church

after the disputes of his brother's reign, but he could not smooth out his succession after the disastrous loss of his eldest son <u>William</u> in the wreck of the <u>White Ship</u>. His will stipulated that he was to be succeeded by his daughter, the <u>Empress Matilda</u>, but his stern rule was followed by a period of civil war known as <u>the Anarchy</u>

## **Empress Matilda**

Empress Matilda, also known as Matilda of England or Maude (c. 7 February 1102 – 10 September 1167) was the daughter and <u>heir</u> of King <u>Henry I of England</u>. Matilda and her younger brother, <u>William Adelin</u>, were the only legitimate children of King Henry. Her brother died young in the <u>White ship disaster</u>, leaving Matilda as the last heir from the paternal line of her grandfather <u>William the Conqueror</u>.

Empress consort of the Holy Roman Empire



She was married to the much younger <u>Geoffrey of Anjou</u>, by whom she became the mother of three sons, the eldest of whom became King <u>Henry II of England</u>. Matilda was the firstborn of two children to <u>Henry I of England</u> and his wife <u>Matilda of Scotland</u>.

When her father died in Normandy, on 1 December 1135, Matilda was with her husband, in <u>Anjou</u>, and, crucially, too far away from events rapidly unfolding in England and Normandy. Stephen of Blois rushed to England upon learning of Henry's death; in London he moved quickly to sieze the crown of England from its appointed heir.

On the death of her father, Henry I, in 1135, Matilda expected to succeed to the throne of <u>England</u>, but her cousin, <u>Stephen of Blois</u>, a nephew of Henry I, usurped the throne with the support

of most of the barons, breaking the oath he had previously made to defend her rights. The <u>civil</u> <u>war which followed</u> was bitter and prolonged, with neither side gaining the ascendancy for long, but it was not until 1139 that Matilda could command the military strength necessary to challenge Stephen within his own realm. Matilda's greatest triumph came in April 1141, when her forces defeated and captured King Stephen at the <u>Battle of Lincoln</u>. He was made a prisoner and effectively deposed.

Her advantage lasted only a few months. When she marched on London, the city was ready to welcome her and support her coronation. She used the title of Lady of the English and planned to assume the title of queen upon coronation (the custom which was followed by her grandsons, Richard and John). However, she refused the citizens' request to have their taxes halved and, because of her own arrogance, she found the gates of London shut and the civil war reignited on 24 June 1141. By November, Stephen was free, having been exchanged for the captured Robert of Gloucester, and a year later, the tables were turned when Matilda was besieged at Oxford but escaped to Wallingford, supposedly by fleeing across the snow-covered land in a white cape. In 1141 she had escaped Devizes in a similarly clever manner, by disguising herself as a corpse and being carried out for burial.

## **Henry II of England**

**Henry II**, called *Curtmantle* (5 March 1133 – 6 July 1189) ruled as <u>King of England</u> (1154–1189), Henry, the great-grandson of <u>William the Conqueror</u>, was the first of the <u>House of Plantagenet</u> to rule England. Henry was the first to use the title "King of England" (as opposed to "King of the English").

Henry II Curtmantle



Henry II was born in <u>Le Mans</u>, France, on 5 March 1133. His father was <u>Geoffrey V of Anjou</u>

On 18 May 1152, at <u>Poitiers</u>, at the age of 19, Henry married <u>Eleanor of Aquitaine</u>. The wedding was "without the pomp or ceremony that befitted their rank," partly because only two months previously Eleanor's marriage to <u>Louis VII of France</u> had been annulled. Their relationship, always stormy, eventually died: after Eleanor encouraged her children to rebel against their father in 1173, Henry had her placed under <u>house arrest</u>, where she remained for fifteen years.

In 1174, a rebellion spearheaded by his own sons was not Henry's biggest problem. An invasion force from Scotland, led by their King, William the Lion, was advancing from the North. To make

matters worse, a Flemish armada was sailing for England, just days from landing. It seemed likely that the King's rapid growth was to be checked.

The hostile armada dispersed in the <u>English Channel</u> and headed back for the continent. Henry had avoided a Flemish invasion, but Scottish invaders were still raiding in the North. Henry sent his troops to meet the Scots at <u>Alnwick</u>, where the English scored a devastating victory.



Artist's impression of Henry II, circa 1620

The final thorn in Henry's side would be an alliance between his eldest surviving son, Richard, and his greatest rival, <a href="Philip Augustus">Philip Augustus</a>. John had become Henry's favourite son and Richard had begun to fear he was being written out of the King's inheritance. In summer 1189, Richard and Philip invaded Henry's heartland of power, <a href="Anjou">Anjou</a>.

The Prince, Henry's eldest surviving son and conqueror, was crowned "by the grace of God, <u>King Richard I of England</u>" at Westminster on 1 September 1189.

## Richard I of England

**Richard I** (8 September 1157 – 6 April 1199) was <u>King of England</u> from 6 July 1189 until his death in 1199.



He also ruled as <u>Duke of Normandy</u>, <u>Duke of Aquitaine</u>, <u>Duke of Gascony</u>, <u>Lord of Ireland</u>, Lord of <u>Cyprus</u>, <u>Count of Anjou</u>, <u>Count of Maine</u>, <u>Count of Nantes</u> and Overlord of <u>Brittany</u> at various times during the same period. He was known as **Cœur de Lion**, or **Richard the Lionheart**, even before his accession, because of his reputation as a great military leader and warrior.

By age 16, Richard was commanding his own army, putting down rebellions in <u>Poitou</u> against his father, <u>King Henry II</u>. Richard was a central <u>Christian</u> commander during the <u>Third Crusade</u>, effectively leading the campaign after the departure of <u>Philip Augustus</u> and scoring considerable victories against his Muslim counterpart, <u>Saladin</u>.

While he spoke very little English and spent very little time in <u>England</u> he was seen as a pious hero by his subjects.

In 1188 Henry II planned to concede Aquitaine to his youngest son John. The following year, Richard attempted to take the throne of England for himself by joining Philip's expedition against his father. On 4 July 1189, Richard and Philip's forces defeated Henry's army at Ballans. Henry, with John's consent, agreed to name Richard his heir. Two days later Henry II died in Chinon, and Richard succeeded him as King of England, Duke of Normandy and Count of Anjou. Roger of Hoveden claimed that Henry's corpse bled from the nose in Richard's presence, which was taken as a sign that Richard had caused his death. He was officially crowned duke on 20 July 1189 and king in Westminster Abbey on 13 September 1189. [15]

#### **Anti-Jewish violence**

When Richard I was crowned King of England, he barred all Jews and women from the ceremony but some Jewish leaders arrived to present gifts for the new king. According to Ralph of Diceto, Richard's courtiers stripped and flogged the Jews, then flung them out of court. When a rumour spread that Richard had ordered all Jews to be killed, the people of London began a massacre. Many Jews were beaten to death, robbed, and burned alive. Many Jewish homes were burned down, and several Jews were forcibly baptised. Some sought sanctuary in the Tower of London, and others managed to escape. Among those killed was Jacob of Orléans, one of the most learned of the age. Roger of Howeden, in his Gesta Regis Ricardi, claimed that the rioting was started by the jealous and bigoted citizens, and that Richard punished the perpetrators, allowing a forcibly converted Jew to return to his native religion. Archbishop of Canterbury Baldwin of Exeter reacted by remarking, "If the King is not God's man, he had better be the devil's," a reference to the supposedly infernal blood in the House of Anjou.

## John of England

**John** (24 December 1166 – 19 October 1216), <u>King of England</u>, reigned from 6 April 1199 until his death. He acceded to the throne as the younger brother of King <u>Richard I</u>, who died without issue. John was the youngest of five sons of King <u>Henry II of England</u> and <u>Eleanor</u>, <u>Duchess of Aquitaine</u>, and was their second surviving son to ascend the throne; thus, he continued the line of



John on a stag hunt, from De Rege Johanne.

<u>Plantagenet</u> or <u>Angevin</u> kings of England. Prior to his coronation, he was <u>Earl of Cornwall</u> and <u>Gloucester</u>, but this title reverted to the Crown once he became King.

Apart from entering popular legend as the enemy of Robin Hood, he is perhaps best-known for having acquiesced —to the barons of English nobility— to seal Magna Carta, a document which limited kingly power in England and which is popularly thought as an early step in the evolution of limited government.

During Richard's absence on the <u>Third Crusade</u> from 1190 to 1194, John attempted to overthrow <u>William Longchamp</u>, the Bishop of Ely and Richard's designated <u>justiciar</u>. This was one of the events that inspired later writers to cast John as the villain in their reworking of the legend of <u>Robin Hood</u>.

He was buried in Worcester Cathedral in the city of Worcester.

His nine-year-old son succeeded him and became King <u>Henry III of England</u> (1216–72), and although Louis continued to claim the English throne, the barons switched their allegiance to the new king, forcing Louis to give up his claim and sign the <u>Treaty of Lambeth</u> in 1217.

In 2006, he was selected by the BBC History Magazine as the 13th century's worst Briton

## **Henry III of England**

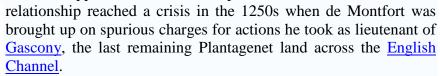
**Henry III** (1 October 1207 - 16 November 1272) was the son and successor of <u>John</u> as <u>King of England</u>, reigning for fifty-six years from 1216 to his death.

Oil painting of Henry III by unknown artist, c. 1620.



Henry III was born in 1207 at <u>Winchester Castle</u>. He was the son of King John and <u>Isabella of Angoulême</u>.

Henry's reign came to be marked by civil strife as the English barons, led by <u>Simon de Montfort</u>, demanded more say in the running of the kingdom. French-born de Montfort had originally been one of the foreign upstarts so loathed by many as Henry's foreign counsellors. Henry, in an outburst of anger, accused Simon of seducing his sister and forcing him to give her to Simon to avoid a scandal. When confronted by the Barons about the secret marriage that Henry had allowed to happen, a feud developed between the two. Their





But only fifteen months later Prince Edward had escaped captivity (having been freed by his cousin Roger Mortimer) to lead the royalists into battle again and he turned the tables on de Montfort at the <u>Battle of Evesham</u> in 1265. Following this victory savage retribution was exacted on the rebels.

Henry III lands in Aquitaine, from a later (15th century) illumination. (Bibliothèque Nationale)

Married on 14 January 1236, <u>Canterbury Cathedral</u>, <u>Canterbury</u>, <u>Kent</u>, to <u>Eleanor of Provence</u>, with at least five children born:

- 1. Edward I (b. 17 January 1239 d. 8 July 1307)
- 2. Margaret (b. 29 September 1240 d. 26 February 1275), married King Alexander III of Scotland
- 3. Beatrice (b. 25 June 1242 d. 24 March 1275), married to John II, Duke of Brittany
- 4. Edmund (16 January 1245 d. 5 June 1296)
- 5. Katharine (b. 25 November 1253 d. 3 May 1257), deafness was discovered at age 2. [1]

## **Edward I of England**

Edward I (17/18 June 1239 – 7 July 1307), also known as Edward Longshanks, was King of England from 1272 to 1307. The first son of Henry III, Edward was involved early in the political intrigues of his father's reign, which included an outright rebellion by the English Barons. In 1259 he briefly sided with a baronial reform movement, supporting the Provisions of Oxford. After reconciliation with his father, however, he remained loyal throughout the subsequent armed conflict, known as the Barons' War. After the Battle of Lewes, Edward was hostage to the rebellious barons, but escaped after a few months and joined the fight against Simon de Montfort. Montfort was defeated at the Battle of Evesham in 1265, and within two years the rebellion was extinguished. With England pacified, Edward left on crusade to the Holy Land. Making a slow return, he reached England in 1274 and he was crowned king..

Portrait in Westminster Abbey



Edward I was a tall man for his age, hence the nickname "Longshanks". He was also temperamental and this, along with his height, made him an intimidating man and he often instilled fear in his contemporaries. At the same time, he is also often criticised for other actions, such as his brutal conduct towards the Scots, and the expulsion of the <u>Jews</u> from England in 1290.

The years 1264–1267 saw the conflict known as the <u>Barons' War</u>, where baronial forces led by Simon de Montfort fought against those who remained loyal to the king. The first scene of battle was the city of <u>Gloucester</u>, which Edward managed to retake from the enemy. When <u>Robert de Ferrers</u>, <u>earl of Derby</u>, came to the assistance of the rebels, Edward negotiated a truce with the earl, the terms of which he later broke. Edward then proceeded to capture <u>Northampton</u> from Montfort's

son <u>Simon</u>, before embarking on a retaliatory campaign against Derby's lands. The baronial and royalist forces finally met at the <u>Battle of Lewes</u>, on 14 May 1264. Edward, commanding the right wing, performed well, and soon defeated the London contingent of Montfort's forces. Unwisely, however, he followed the scattered enemy in pursuit, and on his return found the rest of the royal army defeated. By the agreement known as the <u>Mise of Lewes</u>, Edward and his cousin Henry of Almain were given up as a prisoners to Montfort.

Medieval manuscript showing Simon de Montfort's mutilated body at the field of Evesham



Edward remained in captivity until March and even after his release he was kept under strict surveillance. Then, on 28 May, he managed to escape his custodians, and retook <u>Worcester</u> and Gloucester with relatively little effort. The two forces then met at the second great encounter of

the Barons' War – the <u>Battle of Evesham</u>, on 4 August 1265. Montfort stood little chance against the superior royal forces, and after his defeat he was killed and mutilated on the field.

## **Edward II of England**

Edward II, (25 April 1284 – 21 September 1327?) called *Edward of Carnarvon*, was <u>King of England</u> from 1307 until he was <u>deposed</u> in January 1327. He was the seventh <u>Plantagenet</u> king, in a line that began with the reign of <u>Henry II</u>. Interspersed between the strong reigns of his father <u>Edward I</u> and son <u>Edward III</u>, the reign of Edward II was disastrous for England, marked by incompetence, political squabbling, and military defeats. Whereas Edward I had conquered all of Wales and the Scottish lowlands, and ruled them with an iron hand, the army of Edward II was devastatingly <u>defeated at Bannockburn</u>, freeing Scotland from English control and allowing Scottish forces to raid unchecked throughout the north of England.

In addition to these disasters, Edward II is remembered for his death in Berkeley Castle, apparently by murder, and more positively for being the first monarch to establish colleges in the universities of Oxford and Cambridge.

Edward I died on 7 July 1307 en route to another campaign against the Scots, a war that became the hallmark of his reign. One chronicler relates that Edward had requested his son "boil his body, extract the bones and carry them with the army until the Scots had been subdued." But his son ignored the request and had his father buried in Westminster Abbey.

On 25 January 1308, Edward married <u>Isabella of France</u> in Boulogne, the daughter of King <u>Philip IV of France</u>, "Philip the Fair," and sister to three <u>French</u> kings in an attempt to bolster an alliance with France.

Execution of Hugh Despenser the Younger



Reprisals against Edward's allies began immediately thereafter. The <u>Earl of Arundel</u>, Sir <u>Edmund Fitz Alan</u>, an old enemy of Roger Mortimer, was beheaded on 17 November, together with two of the earl's retainers, John Daniel and Thomas de Micheldever. This was followed by the trial and execution of Despenser on 24 November.

Hugh Despenser the younger was brutally executed and a huge crowd gathered in anticipation at seeing him die—a public spectacle for public entertainment. They dragged him from his horse, stripped him, and scrawled Biblical verses against corruption and arrogance on his skin. They then dragged him into the city, presenting him (in the market square) to Queen Isabella, Roger Mortimer, and the Lancastrians. He was then condemned to hang as a thief, be <u>castrated</u>, and then to be <u>drawn and quartered</u> as a traitor, his quarters to be dispersed throughout England. Despenser's vassal Simon of Reading was also hanged next to him, on charges of insulting Queen Isabella.

## **Edward III of England**

**Edward III** (13 November 1312 – 21 June 1377) was one of the most successful <u>English monarchs</u> of the <u>Middle Ages</u>. Restoring royal authority after the disastrous reign of his father, <u>Edward II</u>, Edward III went on to transform the <u>Kingdom of England</u> into the most efficient military power in Europe. His reign saw vital developments in legislature and government—in particular the evolution of the English parliament—as well as the ravages of the <u>Black Death</u>. He remained on the throne for 50 years; no English monarch had reigned for as long since <u>Henry III</u>, and none would again until <u>George III</u>, as King of the <u>United Kingdom</u>.



Edward was crowned at the age of fourteen, following the <u>deposition</u> of his father. When he was only seventeen years old, he led a coup against his <u>regent</u>, <u>Roger Mortimer</u>, and began his personal reign. After defeating, but not subjugating, the <u>Kingdom of Scotland</u>, he declared himself rightful heir to the French throne in 1338, starting what would be known as the <u>Hundred Years' War</u>.

Edward was born at <u>Windsor</u> on 13 November 1312, and was called "Edward of Windsor" in his early years. The reign of his father, <u>Edward II</u>, was fraught with military defeat, rebellious barons and corrupt courtiers, but the birth of a male heir in 1312 temporarily strengthened Edward II's position on the throne.

On 20 January 1327, when the young Edward was fourteen years old his mother the queen <u>Isabella</u>, and her lover <u>Roger Mortimer deposed</u> the king. Edward, now Edward III, was crowned on 1 February, with Isabella and Mortimer as <u>regents</u>. Mortimer, the <u>de facto</u> ruler of England, subjected the young king to constant disrespect and humiliation. On 24 January 1328 the fifteen year old king married sixteen year old <u>Philippa</u> of <u>Hainault</u> at <u>York Minster</u>.

Mortimer knew his position was precarious, especially after Philippa had a son on 15 June The young, headstrong King had never forgotten the fate of his father, or how he himself had been treated as a child. At almost 18 years old, Edward was ready to take his revenge. On the 19 October 1330, Mortimer and Isabella were sleeping at Nottingham Castle. Under the cover of night, a group loyal to Edward entered the fortress through a secret passageway and burst into Mortimer's quarters. Those conducting the coup arrested Mortimer in the name of the King and he was taken to the Tower of London. Stripped of his land and titles, he was hauled before the 17 year-old King and accused of assuming royal authority over England. Edward's mother—presumably pregnant with Mortimer's child—begged her son for mercy to no avail. Without trial, Edward sentenced Mortimer to death one month after the coup. As Mortimer was executed, Edward's mother was exiled in Castle Rising where she reportedly miscarried. By his 18th birthday, Edward's vengeance was complete and he became de facto ruler of England.

## **Edward, the Black Prince**

**Edward**, Prince of Wales, (15 June 1330 – 8 June 1376) was the eldest son of King Edward III of England and Philippa of Hainault, and father to King Richard II of England. He was called Edward of Woodstock in his early life, after his birthplace, and has more recently been popularly known as The Black Prince after the distinct plate armour he would wear during campaigns. An exceptional military leader and popular during his life, Edward died one year before his father and thus never ruled as king (becoming the first English Prince of Wales to suffer that fate). The throne passed, instead, to his son Richard, a minor, upon the death of Edward III.

Edward III and the Edward, the Black Prince



Edward was born on 15 June 1330 at <u>Woodstock Palace</u> in <u>Oxfordshire</u>. He was created <u>Earl of Chester</u> in 1333, <u>Duke of Cornwall</u> in 1337 (the first creation of an English <u>duke</u>) and finally invested as <u>Prince of Wales</u> in 1343. In England,

Edward had been raised with his cousin <u>Joan</u>, "<u>The Fair Maid of Kent</u>." He married Joan, prompting some controversy, mainly because of <u>Joan's chequered marital history</u> and the fact that marriage to an Englishwoman wasted <u>an opportunity</u> to form an alliance with a foreign power.

He served as the king's representative in <u>Aquitaine</u>, where he and Joan kept a court which was considered among the most brilliant of the time. It was the resort of exiled kings, like <u>James of Majorca</u> and <u>Pedro of Castile</u>.

Pedro, thrust from his throne by his illegitimate brother, <u>Henry of Trastámara</u>, offered Edward the lordship of <u>Biscay</u> in 1367, in return for the Black Prince's aid in recovering his throne. Edward was successful in the <u>Battle of Nájera</u> in which he soundly defeated the combined French and Spanish forces led by <u>Bertrand du Guesclin</u>.



During this period, he fathered two sons: Edward (27 January 1365 – 1372), who died at the age of 6; and Richard, born in 1367 and often called Richard of Bordeaux for his place of birth, who would later rule as Richard II of England.

Tomb effigy

## Richard II of England

**Richard II** (6 January 1367 – c. 14 February 1400) was the eighth <u>King of England</u> of the <u>House of Plantagenet</u>. He ruled from 1377 until he was deposed in 1399. Richard was a son of <u>Edward</u>, the <u>Black Prince</u> and was born during the reign of his grandfather, <u>Edward III</u>. At the age of four, Richard became second in line to the throne when his older brother Edward of Angoulême died, and <u>heir apparent</u> when his father died in 1376. With Edward III's death the following year, Richard succeeded to the throne at the age of ten.

Portrait at Westminster Abbey, mid-1390s



During Richard's first years as king, government was in the hands of a series of councils. The political community preferred this to a regency led by the king's uncle, John of Gaunt, yet Gaunt remained highly influential. The first major challenge of the reign was the Peasants' Revolt in 1381, which the young king handled well, playing a major part in suppressing the rebellion.

As an individual, Richard was tall, good-looking and intelligent. Though probably not insane, as earlier historians used to believe, he seems to have suffered from certain <u>personality disorders</u>, especially towards the end of his reign. Less of a warrior than either his father or grandfather, he sought to bring an end to the <u>Hundred Years</u>' War that Edward III had started. He was a firm believer in

the <u>royal prerogative</u>, something which led him to restrain the power of his nobility, and rely on a private <u>retinue</u> for military protection instead. He also cultivated a courtly atmosphere where the king was an elevated figure, and art and culture were at the centre, in contrast to the fraternal, martial court of his grandfather. Richard's posthumous reputation has to a large extent been shaped by <u>Shakespeare</u>, whose play <u>Richard II</u> portrayed Richard's misrule and Bolingbroke's deposition as responsible for the fifteenth-century <u>Wars of the Roses</u>.

Richard's father was <u>Edward</u>, the <u>Black Prince</u>, and his mother was <u>Joan "The Fair Maid of Kent"</u>. Edward, who was <u>Prince of Wales</u> and heir to the throne, had distinguished himself as a military commander in the early phases of the <u>Hundred Years' War</u>, particularly in the <u>Battle of Poitiers</u> in 1356. His elder brother Edward of Angoulême died in 1371, and Richard became his father's heir. The Black Prince finally succumbed to his long illness in 1376. The <u>Commons</u> in <u>parliament</u> genuinely feared that Richard's uncle, <u>John of Gaunt</u>, would <u>usurp</u> the throne. For this reason, the prince was quickly invested with the princedom of Wales and his father's other titles. On 22 June the next year Richard's grandfather, <u>Edward III</u>, also died, and at the age of ten Richard was crowned king on 16 July 1377. Again, fears of John of Gaunt's ambitions influenced political decisions, and a regency led by the King's uncles was avoided. Instead the king was nominally to exercise kingship, with the help of a series of "continual councils", from which John of Gaunt was excluded. Together with his younger brother <u>Thomas of Woodstock</u>, <u>Earl of</u>

Buckingham, Gaunt still held great informal influence over the business of government. However, the king's councillors and friends, particularly Simon de Burley and Aubrey de Vere, increasingly gained control of royal affairs, and earned the mistrust of the Commons to the point where the councils were discontinued in 1380. An increasingly heavy and more wide-ranging burden of taxation, through three poll taxes levied between 1377 and 1381 that were spent on unsuccessful military expeditions on the continent, contributed to discontent, and by 1381, there was a deep-felt resentment against the governing classes in the lower levels of English society.



Richard II watches Wat Tyler's death and addresses the peasants in the background: taken from the Gruuthuse manuscript (c. 1475).

Although the poll tax of 1381 was the immediate cause of the Peasants' Revolt, the root of the conflict lay in deeper tensions between peasants and landowners. These tensions were in turn caused by the demographic consequences of the Black Death, and subsequent outbreaks of the plague. The rebellion started in Kent and Essex in late May, and on 12 June bands of peasants gathered at Blackheath near London under the leaders Wat Tyler, John Ball and Jack Straw.

John of Gaunt's <u>Savoy Palace</u> was burnt down. The <u>Archbishop of Canterbury Simon Sudbury</u>, who was also <u>Lord Chancellor</u>, and the king's <u>Lord High Treasurer</u>, <u>Robert Hales</u>, were both killed by the rebels who were demanding the complete abolition of <u>serfdom</u>. The king, while sheltering within the <u>Tower of London</u> with his councillors, agreed that the <u>The Crown</u> did not have the forces to disperse the rebels, and that the only feasible option was to negotiate.

It is only with the Peasants' Revolt that Richard starts to emerge clearly in the <u>annals</u>. One of his first significant acts after the rebellion was to marry <u>Anne of Bohemia</u>, daughter of <u>Charles IV</u>, <u>King of Bohemia</u>, <u>Holy Roman Emperor</u> and <u>Elisabeth of Pomerania</u>, on 20 January 1382. The marriage had diplomatic significance; in the division of Europe caused by the <u>Great Schism</u>, Bohemia and the Empire were seen as potential allies against France in the ongoing <u>Hundred Years'</u>

## John of Gaunt, 1st Duke of Lancaster

**John of Gaunt, 1st Duke of Lancaster, Duke of Aquitaine** (6 March 1340 – 1399) was a member of the <u>House of Plantagenet</u>, the third surviving son of King <u>Edward III</u> of <u>England</u> and <u>Philippa of Hainault</u>. He got his name "John of Gaunt" because he was born in <u>Ghent</u>..

Duke of Lancaster; Duke of Aquitaine



John of Gaunt's legitimate male heirs, the <u>Lancasters</u>, included Kings <u>Henry IV</u>, <u>Henry V</u>, and <u>Henry VI</u>.

Descendants of the marriage to Katherine Swynford included their son <u>Henry Beaufort</u>, Bishop of Winchester and eventually Cardinal; their granddaughter <u>Cecily Neville</u>, mother to Kings <u>Edward IV</u> and <u>Richard III</u>; and their great-grandson <u>Henry Tudor</u>, who became King of England after the <u>Battle of Bosworth Field</u> in 1485 and established the <u>House of Tudor</u>.

When John of Gaunt died in 1399, his estates were declared forfeit to the crown, as King Richard II had exiled John's son and heir, Henry Bolingbroke, in 1398. John of Gaunt was buried alongside his first wife, Blanche of Lancaster, in the nave of Old St. Paul's Cathedral in an alabaster tomb designed

by Henry Yevele (similar to that of his son in Canterbury Cathedral).

On his marriage to <u>Infanta Constance of Castile</u> in 1371, John assumed the title of King of Castile and Leon, and insisted that his fellow English nobles henceforth address him as 'my lord of Spain.'

When King Edward III died in 1377 and John's ten-year-old nephew succeeded to the throne as Richard II of England, John's influence strengthened further. However, mistrust remained, and some suspected him of wanting to seize the throne for himself. John took pains to ensure that he never became associated with the opposition to Richard's kingship. As the virtual ruler of England during Richard's minority, he made some unwise decisions on taxation that led to the Peasants' Revolt in 1381, during which the rebels destroyed his Savoy Palace in London.

In 1386, John of Gaunt left England to make good his claim to the throne of <u>Castile</u>. However, crisis ensued almost immediately, and in 1387, Richard's misrule brought England to the brink of civil war. Only John of Gaunt, upon his return to England in 1389, was able to bring about a compromise between the <u>Lords Appellant</u> and King Richard, ushering in a period of relative stability and harmony. During the 1390s, John of Gaunt's reputation of devotion to the well-being of the kingdom was much restored. John of Gaunt died of natural causes on 3 February 1399 at <u>Leicester Castle</u>, with his third wife Katherine by his side.

## **Henry IV of England**

**Henry IV** (15 April 1367 – 20 March 1413) was <u>King of England</u> and <u>Lord of Ireland</u> (1399–1413). Like other kings of England, at that time, he also claimed the title of <u>King of France</u>. He was born at <u>Bolingbroke Castle</u> in <u>Lincolnshire</u>, hence the other name by which he was known, **Henry (of) Bolingbroke**. His father, <u>John of Gaunt</u>, was the third son of <u>Edward III</u>, and enjoyed a position of considerable influence during much of the reign of <u>Richard II</u>.

The Coronation of Henry IV of England. From 15th century manuscript of Jean Froissart's Chronicles



Henry spent a full year of 1390 supporting the unsuccessful siege of Vilnius (capital of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania) by Teutonic Knights with his 300 fellow knights. During this campaign Henry Bolingbroke also bought captured Lithuanian princes and then apparently took them back to England. Henry's second expedition to Lithuania in 1392 illustrates the financial benefits to the Order of these guest crusaders. His small army consisted of over 100 men, including longbow archers and six minstrels, at a total cost to the Lancastrian purse of £4,360. Much of this sum benefited the local economy through the purchase of silverware and the hiring of boats and equipment. Despite the efforts of Henry and his English crusaders, two years of attacks on Vilnius proved fruitless. In 1392/93 Henry undertook a journey to Jerusalem where he gained a reputation of a seasoned warrior and courtier.

However, the relationship between Henry Bolingbroke and the King encountered a second crisis in 1398, when Richard banished Henry from the kingdom for ten years after a duel of honour was called by Richard II at Gosford Green near Coventry. Before the duel could take place, Richard II banished Henry from the kingdom (with the approval of Henry's father, John of Gaunt) to avoid further bloodshed between Henry and Thomas de Mowbray, 1st Duke of Norfolk, who was exiled for life.

John of Gaunt died in 1399. Without explanation, Richard cancelled the legal documents that would have allowed Henry to inherit Gaunt's land automatically. Instead, Henry would be required to ask for the lands from Richard. After some hesitation, Henry met with the exiled Thomas Arundel, former Archbishop of Canterbury, who had lost his position because of his involvement with the Lords Appellant. Henry and Arundel returned to England while Richard was on a military campaign in Ireland. With Arundel as his advisor, Henry began a military campaign, confiscating land from those who opposed him and ordering his soldiers to destroy much of Cheshire. Henry quickly gained enough power and support to have himself declared King Henry IV, to imprison King Richard, who died in prison under mysterious circumstances, and to bypass Richard's seven-year-old heir-presumptive, Edmund de Mortimer.

## Henry V of England

**Henry V** (16 September 1386 – 31 August 1422) was <u>King of England</u> from 1413 until his death. From an unassuming start, his military successes in the <u>Hundred Years' War</u>, culminating with his famous victory at the <u>Battle of Agincourt</u>, saw him come close to uniting the realms of England and France under his rule.



Upon the exile of <u>Henry's father</u> in 1398, <u>Richard II</u> took the boy into his own charge and treated him kindly. The young Henry accompanied King Richard to Ireland, and while in the royal service, he visited the castle at Trim in Meath, the ancient meeting place of the Irish Parliament. In 1399, the <u>Lancastrian</u> usurpation brought Henry's father to the throne and Henry was recalled from Ireland into prominence as heir to the kingdom of England. He was created <u>Prince of Wales</u> at his father's coronation.

On 11 August 1415 Henry sailed for France, where his forces besieged the fortress at <u>Harfleur</u>, capturing it on 22 September. Afterwards, Henry decided to march with his army across the French countryside towards <u>Calais</u>, despite the warnings of his council. On

the 25 October 1415, on the plains near the village of <u>Agincourt</u>, a French army intercepted his route. Despite his men-at-arms being exhausted, outnumbered and malnourished, Henry led his men into battle, decisively defeating the French who suffered severe losses.

So, with those two potential enemies gone, and after two years of patient preparation following Agincourt, Henry renewed the war on a larger scale in 1417. Lower Normandy was quickly conquered, and Rouen cut off from Paris and besieged. The French were paralysed by the disputes between Burgundians and Armagnacs. Henry skilfully played them off one against the other, without relaxing his warlike approach. In January 1419, Rouen fell. Those Norman French who had resisted were severely punished: Alan Blanchard, who had hanged English prisoners from the walls, was summarily executed.

By August, the English were outside the walls of <u>Paris</u>. After six months of negotiation, the <u>Treaty of Troyes</u> recognised Henry as the heir and regent of France, and on 2 June 1420, he married <u>Catherine of Valois</u>, the French king's daughter. From June to July, Henry's army besieged and took the castle at Montereau. On 10 June 1421, Henry sailed back to France for what would be his last military campaign. From July to August, Henry's forces besieged and captured Dreux, thus relieving allied forces at Chartres. That October, his forces lay siege to <u>Meaux</u>, capturing it on 2 May 1422. Henry V died suddenly on 31 August 1422 at the <u>Château de Vincennes</u> near <u>Paris</u>, apparently from <u>dysentery</u> which he had contracted during the siege of Meaux. He was 35 years old. Before his death, Henry V named his brother <u>John</u>, <u>Duke of Bedford</u> regent of France in the name of his son Henry VI, then only a few months old.

## **Henry VI of England**

**Henry VI** (6 December 1421 – 21 May 1471) was <u>King of England 1422–1461</u> and again from 1470 to 1471, and <u>King of France</u> from 1422 to 1453. Until 1437, his realms were governed by regents. Contemporaneously, he was described as a peaceful and pious man, not suited for the harsh nature of the <u>struggles</u> facing him. His periods of insanity and his inherent benevolence eventually led to his own downfall, the collapse of the <u>House of Lancaster</u>, and the rise of the House of York.

King Henry VI



Henry was the only child and heir of King Henry V of England. He was born on 6 December 1421 at Windsor, and succeeded to the throne at the age of nine months as King of England on 31 August 1422, when his father died, and King of France on 21 October 1422 upon his grandfather Charles VI's death in agreement with the Treaty of Troyes in 1420. His mother, Catherine of Valois, was then 20 years old and, as Charles VI's daughter, was viewed with considerable suspicion and prevented from having a full role in her son's upbringing.

Cardinal Beaufort and the Earl of Suffolk persuaded the king that the best way of pursuing peace with France was through a marriage with Margaret of Anjou, the niece of the Valois King Charles VII's wife. Henry agreed, especially when he heard

reports of Margaret's stunning beauty, and sent Suffolk to negotiate with Charles, who agreed to the marriage on condition that he would not have to provide the customary <u>dowry</u> and instead would receive the lands of <u>Maine</u> and <u>Anjou</u> from the English. These conditions were agreed to in the <u>Treaty of Tours</u>, but the cession of Maine and Anjou was kept secret from parliament. It was known that this would be hugely unpopular with the English populace. The marriage went ahead in 1445.

However, on hearing of the final loss of Bordeaux in August 1453, Henry slipped into a <u>mental</u> <u>breakdown</u> and became completely unaware of everything that was going on around him.

#### Joan Beaufort, Countess of Westmorland

**Joan Beaufort, Countess of Westmorland** (c. 1379 – 13 November 1440), was the third or fourth child (and only daughter) of <u>John of Gaunt, 1st Duke of Lancaster</u> and his mistress, later wife, <u>Katherine Swynford</u>. She was born at the <u>Château de Beaufort</u> in <u>Champagne, France</u> (whence the Beaufort children derive their surname). In 1391, at the age of twelve, Joan married <u>Robert Ferrers, 3rd Baron Ferrers of Wemme</u>, and they had two daughters before he died about 1395. Along with her three brothers, Joan had been privately declared legitimate by their cousin <u>Richard II of England</u> in 1390, but for various reasons their father secured another such declaration from <u>Parliament</u> in January 1397. Joan married <u>Ralph de Neville, 1st Earl of Westmorland</u>, who had also been married once before.

When Ralph de Neville died in 1425, his lands and titles should, by law of rights, have passed on to his eldest surviving son from his first marriage, another Ralph de Neville. Instead, while the title of Earl of Westmorland and several manors were passed to Ralph, the bulk of his rich estate went to his wife, Joan Beaufort. Although this may have been done to ensure that his widow was well provided for; by doing this, Ralph essentially split his family into two, and the result was years of bitter conflict between Joan and her stepchildren, who fiercely contested her acquisition of their father's lands. Joan however, with her royal blood and connections, was far too powerful to be called to account, and the senior branch of the Nevilles received little redress for their grievances. Inevitably, when Joan died, the lands would be inherited by her own children.

Joan died on 13 November 1440 at <u>Howden</u> in <u>Yorkshire</u>. Rather than be buried with her husband Ralph (who was buried with his first wife) she was entombed next to her mother in the magnificent sanctuary of <u>Lincoln Cathedral</u>. Joan's is the smaller of the two tombs; both were decorated with brass plates — full-length representations of them on the tops, and small shields bearing coats of arms around the sides — but those were damaged or destroyed in 1644 during the <u>English Civil War</u>. A 1640 drawing of them survives, showing what the tombs looked like when they were intact, and side-by-side instead of end-to-end, as they are now.

Joan's tomb



Joan Beaufort was the grandmother of <u>Edward IV of England</u> and <u>Richard III of England</u>, whom <u>Henry VII</u> defeated to take the throne. (Henry then married <u>Elizabeth of York</u>, daughter of Edward IV, and their son became <u>Henry VIII of England</u>).

## Cecily Neville, Duchess of York

Cecily Neville, Duchess of York (3 May 1415 – 1495) was the wife of Richard Plantagenet, 3rd Duke of York, and the mother of two Kings of England: Edward IV and Richard III.

At the age of ten in 1425, Cecily's father betrothed her to Richard Plantagenet, 3rd Duke of York



the leader of the <u>House of York</u> in the <u>Wars of the Roses</u>, who was 14 at the time. Soon afterwards, Earl Neville} died in battle. The future King Edward was born in Rouen in 28 April 1442 and immediately privately baptised in a small side chapel. He would later be accused of illegitimacy directly by his cousin, <u>Richard Neville</u>, 16th Earl of Warwick, and by his own brother, George; but this was probably because George, teamed with Richard were in dispute with Edward. The claims would later be dismissed. Some modern historians use Edward's date of birth as an evidence of <u>bastardy</u>: the Duke had been away in the calculated days of <u>conception</u> and the baby's <u>baptism</u> was a simple and private affair.

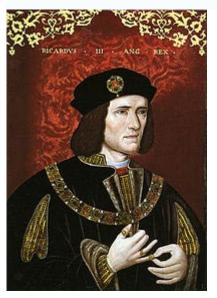
When a parliament began to debate the fate of the lords of York in November 1459, Cecily travelled to <u>London</u> to plead for her husband. One contemporary commentator stated that she had reputedly convinced the king to promise a pardon if the Duke would appear in the parliament in eight days. This failed and Richard's lands were confiscated, but Cecily managed to gain an annual grant of £600 to support her and her children.

In the <u>Battle of Wakefield</u> (30 December 1460), Lancastrians won a decisive victory. The Duke of York, their second son <u>Edmund</u>, <u>Earl of Rutland</u> and her brother <u>Richard Neville</u>, <u>5th Earl of Salisbury</u> were among the casualties.

Her children with Richard Plantagenet, 3rd Duke of York include:

- 1. Edward IV of England (28 April 1442 9 April 1483).
- 2. Richard III of England (2 October 1452 22 August 1485).

## Richard III of England



**Richard III** (2 October 1452 – 22 August 1485) was <u>King</u> of <u>England</u> from 1483 until his death. He was the last king of the <u>House of York</u> and the <u>Plantagenet dynasty</u>. His defeat at the <u>Battle of Bosworth Field</u> was the decisive battle of the <u>Wars of the Roses</u>, and is sometimes regarded as the end of the <u>Middle Ages</u> in England. He is the central character of a well-known play by <u>William Shakespeare</u>.

Two large-scale rebellions rose against Richard. The first, in 1483, was led by staunch opponents of Edward IV and, most notably, Richard's own 'kingmaker', Henry Stafford, 2nd Duke of Buckingham. The revolt collapsed and Buckingham was executed at Salisbury, near the Bull's Head Inn. However, in 1485, another rebellion arose against Richard, headed by Henry Tudor, 2nd Earl of Richmond (later King Henry VII) and his uncle Jasper. The rebels landed troops and Richard fell in the

Battle of Bosworth Field, the last English king to die in battle.

On 22 August 1485, Richard met the outnumbered <u>Lancastrian</u> forces of <u>Henry Tudor</u> at the <u>Battle of Bosworth Field</u>. He was astride his white courser. The size of Richard's army has been estimated at 8,000, Henry's at 5,000, but exact numbers cannot be known. During the battle Richard was abandoned by Lord <u>Thomas Stanley</u>, 1st <u>Earl of Derby</u>, Sir <u>William Stanley</u>, and <u>Henry Percy</u>, 4th <u>Earl of Northumberland</u>. The switching of sides by the Stanleys severely depleted the strength of Richard's army and had a material effect on the outcome of the battle. Also the death of <u>John Howard</u>, <u>Duke of Norfolk</u>, his close companion, appears to have had a demoralising effect on Richard and his men. Accounts note that Richard fought bravely and ably during the battle, unhorsing Sir John Cheney, a well-known champion, killing Henry's standard bearer Sir <u>William Brandon</u> and nearly reaching Henry himself before being finally surrounded and killed. Tradition holds that his final words were "<u>treason</u>, treason, treason, treason, treason". Richard was the last English king to be killed in battle. (Only one other was so killed, <u>Harold Godwinson</u>.)

Henry Tudor succeeded Richard to become Henry VII, and sought to cement the succession by marrying the Yorkist heiress, <u>Elizabeth of York</u>, <u>Edward IV</u>'s daughter and Richard III's niece.

Richard III was found not guilty in a mock trial presided over by three justices of the <u>United States Supreme Court</u> in 1997. Chief Justice <u>William H. Rehnquist</u> and Associate Justices <u>Ruth Bader Ginsberg</u> and <u>Stephen G. Breyer</u>, in a 3-0 decision, ruled that the prosecution had not met the <u>burden of proof</u> that "it was more likely than not" that the Princes in the Tower had been murdered; that the bones found in 1674 in the Tower were those of the princes; or that Richard III had ordered or was complicit in their deaths.

#### **Edward IV of England**



Edward IV (28 April 1442 – 9 April 1483) was King of England from 4 March 1461 until 2 October 1470, and again from 11 April 1471 until his death. He was the first Yorkist King of England. He was the eldest of the four sons who survived to adulthood. The Duke of York's assertion of his claim to the crown in 1460 was the key escalation of the conflict known as the Wars of the Roses. When his father was killed at the Battle of Wakefield, Edward inherited his claim.

Edward defeated the <u>Lancastrians</u> in a succession of battles. Edward strengthened his claim with a decisive victory at the <u>Battle of Towton</u> in the same year, in the course of which the Lancastrian army was virtually wiped out. Even at the age of nineteen, he had remarkable military acumen and a notable physique. His height is estimated at 6'4", making him the tallest British monarch to date.

The main part of the king's army (without Edward) was defeated at the <u>Battle of Edgecote Moor</u> in 1469, and Edward was subsequently captured at <u>Olney</u>. Warwick then attempted to rule in Edward's name, but the nobility, many of whom owed their preferments to the king, were restive and with the emergence of a counter-rebellion Warwick was forced to release Edward. At this point Edward did not seek to destroy either Warwick or Clarence but instead sought reconciliation with them.

Edward did not face any further rebellions after his restoration, as the Lancastrian line had virtually been extinguished, and the only rival left was <u>Henry Tudor</u>, who was living in exile.

Edward's health began to fail and he became subject to an increasing number of ailments. Edward fell fatally ill at Easter 1483, but lingered on long enough to add some codicils to his will, the most important being his naming of his brother Richard, Duke of Gloucester, as Protector after his death. He died on 9 April 1483 and is buried in <u>St George's Chapel</u>, <u>Windsor Castle</u>. He was succeeded by his twelve-year-old son, <u>Edward V of England</u>.

## **Edward V of England**

**Edward V** (4 November 1470 – probably 1483) was <u>King of England</u> from 9 April 1483 until his deposition two months later. His reign was dominated by the influence of his uncle Richard, Duke of Gloucester, who succeeded him as <u>Richard III</u>. Along with his younger brother <u>Richard of Shrewsbury</u>, <u>Duke of York</u>, Edward was one of the <u>Princes in the Tower</u>, who disappeared after being sent (ostensibly for their own safety) to the <u>Tower of London</u>. Richard III has been widely blamed for their deaths, but what actually happened remains controversial.

It was at <u>Ludlow</u> that the 12-year-old prince received news of his father's sudden death, on 9 April 1483. Edward IV's will, which has not survived, nominated his trusted brother <u>Richard</u>, <u>Duke of Gloucester</u>, as Protector during the minority of his son. Both the new king and his party from the west, and Richard from the north, set out for <u>London</u>, converging in <u>Northamptonshire</u>. On the night of 29 April Richard met and dined with Earl Rivers and Edward's half-brother, <u>Richard Grey</u>, but the following morning Rivers and Grey, along with the king's chamberlain, <u>Thomas Vaughan</u>, were arrested and sent north. They were all subsequently executed.

#### **Disappearance**

King Edward V and the Duke of York in the Tower of London by Paul Delaroche.



After Richard III's accession, the princes were gradually seen less and less within the Tower, and by the end of the summer of 1483 they had disappeared from public view altogether. Their fate remains unknown, but it is generally believed that they were killed. The three principal suspects are King Richard; his one-time ally Henry Stafford, Duke of Buckingham; and Henry Tudor, who defeated Richard at Bosworth Field and took the throne as Henry VII. Bones were discovered in 1674 by workmen rebuilding a stairway in the Tower, and these were subsequently placed in Westminster Abbey, in an urn bearing the names of Edward and

Richard. However it has never been proven that the bones belonged to the princes, so there remains a possibility that Edward survived the Tower.

In 1486 Edward's sister, <u>Elizabeth</u>, married Henry VII, thereby uniting the Houses of York and Lancaster.

#### Elizabeth of York

Elizabeth of York (11 February 1466 – 11 February 1503) was the <u>daughter</u>, <u>sister</u>, <u>niece</u>, <u>mother</u>, <u>grandmother</u> and <u>wife</u> of <u>Kings of England</u>. She was <u>Queen of England</u> as spouse of King <u>Henry VII</u>, whom she married in 1486.

Elizabeth's mother, <u>Elizabeth Woodville</u>, made an alliance with <u>Lady Margaret Beaufort</u>, mother of <u>Henry Tudor</u>, who was the closest thing to Royalty the Lancastrian party possessed. Although Henry was the great-great-great-grandson of <u>King Edward III</u>, his claim to the throne was weak due to the clause barring ascension to the throne by any heirs of the legitimized offspring of his great-great-grandparents, <u>John of Gaunt</u> (son of King Edward III) and Katherine Swynford. Despite this, his mother and Elizabeth Woodville agreed Henry should move to claim the throne, and once he had taken it, he would marry Woodville's daughter, Elizabeth of York, uniting the two rival Houses. In December 1483, in the cathedral in Rennes, Henry swore an oath promising to marry her, and then began planning an invasion.

However, on 7 August 1485, Henry and his forces landed in Wales and began marching toward England. On 22 August 1485, Elizabeth's fiance and uncle fought the <u>Battle of Bosworth Field</u>. Richard, despite having the largest army, was betrayed by some of his most powerful retainers and died in battle. Henry took the crown by <u>right of conquest</u> as <u>Henry VII</u>.

Elizabeth of York with her husband, son and daughter-in-law



Her second son <u>Henry VIII of England</u> followed his father as king, her daughters <u>Margaret</u> married <u>James IV of Scotland</u>, and <u>Mary married Louis XII of France</u>. Margaret was the mother of <u>James V</u> of Scotland, the grandmother of <u>Mary I, Queen of Scots</u>, and thus the great-grandmother of <u>James VI of Scotland</u> and I of England, from whom all subsequent British monarchs are descended.

Elizabeth of York is the only English queen to have been a wife, daughter, sister, niece, mother and grandmother to English kings.

# **Henry VIII of England**

**Henry VIII** (28 June 1491 – 28 January 1547) was <u>King of England</u> from 21 April 1509 until his death. He was also <u>Lord of Ireland</u> (later <u>King of Ireland</u>) and claimant to the <u>Kingdom of France</u>. Henry was the second monarch of the <u>House of Tudor</u>, succeeding his father, <u>Henry VII</u>.



Henry VIII was a significant figure in the history of the English monarchy. He is also noted for his <u>six wives</u>, two of whom were <u>beheaded</u>. He was also an avid gambler and <u>dice</u> player, and excelled at sports, especially <u>jousting</u>, <u>hunting</u>, and <u>real tennis</u>. He was also known for his strong dedication to <u>Christianity</u>.

In 1511, Pope Julius II proclaimed a Holy League against France. This new alliance rapidly grew to include not only Spain and the Holy Roman Empire, but also England. Henry decided to use the occasion as an excuse to expand his holdings in northern France. He concluded the Treaty of Westminster, a pledge of mutual aid with Spain against France, in November 1511 and prepared for involvement in the War of the League of Cambrai. In 1513, Henry invaded France and his troops defeated a French army at the Battle of the Spurs. His brother-in-law James IV of Scotland invaded England at the behest of Louis XII of France, but failed to draw Henry's attention from France. The Scots were disastrously defeated at the Battle of Flodden Field on 9 September 1513. Among the

dead were the Scottish King and the battle ended Scotland's brief involvement in the war.

On 18 February 1516, Queen Catherine bore Henry his first child to survive infancy, Princess Mary of England, who later reigned as <u>Mary I of England</u>. (A son, <u>Henry, Duke of Cornwall</u>, was born in 1511 but lived only a few weeks).

Contrary to his popular image, Henry may not have had many affairs outside marriage and, apart from women he later married, the identities of only two mistresses are completely undisputed: Bessie Blount and Mary Boleyn.

Blount gave birth to Henry's illegitimate son, <u>Henry FitzRoy</u>. The young boy was made Duke of Richmond in June 1525 in what some thought was one step on the path to legitimatising him. In 1533, FitzRoy married <u>Mary Howard</u>, Anne Boleyn's first cousin, but died three years later without any successors. At the time of FitzRoy's death the king was trying to pass a law that would allow his otherwise illegitimate son to become king.

Mary Boleyn was the sister of Anne Boleyn who later married Henry. She is thought to have been Catherine's "lady in waiting" at some point between 1519 and 1526. There has been

speculation that Mary's two children, <u>Catherine</u> and <u>Henry</u>, were fathered by Henry, but this has never been proven and the King never acknowledged them, as he did Henry FitzRoy.

In 1510 it was reported that Henry was conducting an affair with one of the sisters of <u>Edward Stafford</u>, <u>3rd Duke of Buckingham</u>, either Elizabeth or <u>Anne Hastings</u>, <u>Countess of Huntingdon</u>. <u>Chapuys</u> wrote that: *the husband of that lady went away, carried her off and placed her in a convent sixty miles from here, that no one may see her*.

#### The King's Great Matter: 1525-1533

Henry became impatient with what he perceived as Catherine's inability to produce the heir he desired. All of Catherine's children died in infancy except his daughter Mary. Henry wanted a male heir, to avoid rival claims to the crown like those which had caused the Wars of the Roses before Henry's father, Henry VII, became king. The disastrous reign of Matilda, England's only ruling Queen to that point, may also have weighed on Henry's mind.

In 1525, as Henry grew more impatient, he became enamoured of a charismatic young woman in the Queen's entourage, Anne Boleyn. Anne at first resisted his attempts to seduce her, and refused to become his mistress as her sister Mary Boleyn had. She said "I beseech your highness most earnestly to desist, and to this my answer in good part. I would rather lose my life than my honesty." This refusal made Henry even more attracted, and he pursued her relentlessly.

Eventually, Anne saw her opportunity in Henry's infatuation and determined that she would only yield to his embraces as his acknowledged queen. It soon became the King's absorbing desire to annul his marriage to Catherine. It is possible that the idea of annulment had suggested itself to the King much before he noticed Anne, and it was most probably motivated by his desire for a male heir.

The Six Wives of Henry VIII

Catherine of Aragon

Anne Boleyn

Jane Seymour

Anne of Cleves

Catherine Howard

Catherine Parr

Late in life, Henry became obese (with a waist measurement of 54 inches/137 cm) and had to be moved about with the help of mechanical inventions. He was covered with painful, suppurating boils and possibly suffered from <u>gout</u>. It undoubtedly hastened his death at the age of 55, which occurred in1547 in the <u>Palace of Whitehall</u>, on what would have been his father's 90th birthday. He expired soon after allegedly uttering these last words: "Monks! Monks! Monks!"

Within a little more than a decade after his death, all three of his royal heirs sat on the English throne, and all three left no descendants.

## **Edward VI of England**

**Edward VI** (12 October 1537 – 6 July 1553) became <u>King of England</u> and <u>Ireland</u> on 28 January 1547 and was crowned on 20 February at the age of nine. The son of <u>Henry VIII</u> and <u>Jane Seymour</u>, Edward was the third monarch of the <u>Tudor dynasty</u> and England's first <u>Protestant</u> ruler. When Edward fell terminally ill in 1553, he and his Council drew up a "Devise for the Succession" in an attempt to prevent a Catholic backlash against the Protestant Reformation. Edward named his cousin <u>Lady Jane Grey</u> as his heir and excluded his two half sisters, the Catholic <u>Mary</u> and Protestant <u>Elizabeth</u>.



Prince Edward was born on 12 October 1537 at Hampton Court Palace, to the west of London. He was the son of King Henry VIII by his third wife, Jane Seymour. Throughout the realm, the people greeted the birth of a male heir, "whom we hungered for so long" with joy and relief. Te Deums were sung in churches, bonfires lit, and "their was shott at the Tower that night above two thousand gonnes". Jane, who appeared to recover quickly from a prolonged labour, sent out pre-signed letters announcing the birth of "a Prince, conceived in most lawful matrimony between my Lord the King's Majesty and us". Edward was christened on 15 October, with Princess Mary as godmother and Princess Elizabeth carrying the chrism, or baptismal cloth and the Garter King of Arms proclaimed him as Duke of Cornwall and Earl of Chester. Jane Seymour, however, suddenly fell ill on 23 October from presumed postnatal complications, and she died the following night. Henry VIII wrote to Francis I of France that "Divine Providence ... hath mingled my joy with bitterness of the death of her who brought me this happiness".

## Mary I of England

Mary I (18 February 1516 – 1558), was Queen of England and Queen of Ireland from 19 July 1553 until her death. She was the eldest daughter of Henry VIII and only child of Catherine of Aragon. The fourth crowned monarch of the Tudor dynasty, she is remembered for restoring England to Roman Catholicism. In the process, she had almost 300 religious dissenters burned at the stake in the Marian Persecutions, earning her the sobriquet of "Bloody Mary". Her reestablishment of Roman Catholicism was reversed by her successor and half-sister, Elizabeth I.

When Anne Boleyn was beheaded in 1536, Elizabeth was downgraded to the status of Lady and removed from the line of succession. Within two weeks of Anne Boleyn's execution, Henry married Jane Seymour, who died shortly after giving birth to a son, the future Edward VI.



Painting depicting the family of Henry VIII of England, ca. 1545, currently on display at Hampton Court Palace. Left to Right: 'Mother Jak', Princess Mary, Prince Edward, Henry VIII, Jane Seymour, Princess Elizabeth and William Sommers.

Numerous Protestant leaders were executed (typically by burning) in the Marian Persecutions. Many rich Protestants chose exile, and around 800 left the country. The first to die were John Rogers (4 February 1555), Laurence Saunders (8 February 1555), Rowland Taylor (9 February 1555), and John Hooper, the Bishop of Gloucester (9 February 1555). The persecution lasted for almost four years. It is not known exactly how many died. John Foxe estimates in his Book of Martyr that 274 were executed for their faith. The Marian persecutions are commemorated especially by bonfires in the town of Lewes in Sussex: there is a prominent martyrs' memorial outside St John's church at Stratford, London, to those Protestants burnt in Essex, and others in Christchurch Park Ipswich and the abbey grounds, Bury St Edmunds, to those executed in East and West Suffolk respectively.

## **Margaret Tudor**

Margaret Tudor (28 November 1489 – 18 October 1541) was the elder of the two surviving daughters of Henry VII of England and Elizabeth of York, and the elder sister of Henry VIII. In 1503, she married James IV, King of Scots, thus becoming the mother of James V and grandmother of Mary, Queen of Scots.

Painting of Queen Margaret by Daniel Mytens



The treaty of 1502, far from being perpetual, barely survived the death of Henry VII in 1509. His successor, the young and aggressive Henry VIII, had little time for his father's cautious diplomacy, and was soon heading towards a war with <a href="France">France</a>, Scotland's ancient ally. In 1513, James invaded England to honour his commitment to the <a href="Auld Alliance">Auld Alliance</a>, only to meet death and disaster at the <a href="Battle of Flodden">Battle of Flodden</a>. Margaret had opposed the war, but was still named in the royal will as <a href="regent">regent</a> for the infant king, for as long as she remained a widow.

Margaret was well-received by Henry and, to confirm her status, was lodged in <u>Scotland Yard</u>, the ancient palace of the Scottish kings. In 1517, having spent a year in England, she returned north, after a treaty of reconciliation had been worked out by Albany, Henry and <u>Cardinal Wolsey</u>. Albany finally arrived back in Scotland in November 1521.

Warmly received by Margaret, it was soon rumoured that their cordial relations embraced more than politics. Angus went into exile as the Regent — with the full co-operation of the Queen-Dowager — set about restoring order to a country riven by three years of intense factional conflict. Albany was useful to Margaret: he was known to have influence in Rome, which would help ease her application for a divorce.

In June 1528, James finally freed himself from the tutelage of Angus – who once more fled into exile – and began to rule in his own right. Margaret was an early beneficiary of the royal coup, she and her husband emerging as the leading advisors to the King. James created Stewart Lord Methven "for the great love he bore to his dearest mother." It was rumoured – falsely – that the Queen favoured a marriage between her son and her niece, <u>Princess Mary</u>, but she was instrumental in bringing about the Anglo-Scottish peace agreement of May 1534.

Margaret died of a severe stroke at Methven Castle, in Perthshire on 18 October 1541 and was buried at the Carthusian Priory of St John in Perth. Her brother's dynasty ended with the childless Elizabeth I, and the line of succession to the English throne was passed through Margaret's heirs. Her great-grandson, James VI of Scotland, became James I of England, thus uniting the crowns of the two countries and conferring on Margaret something of a posthumous triumph.

#### James V of Scotland

**James V** (c. 10 April 1512 – 14 December 1542) was <u>King of Scots</u> from 9 September 1513 until his premature death at the age of thirty, which followed the Scottish defeat at the <u>Battle of Solway Moss</u>. His only surviving legitimate child, <u>Mary I, Queen of Scots</u>, who succeeded him to the throne was just six days old at the time.

James V did not tolerate <u>heresy</u> and during his reign, a number of outspoken supporters of church reform were executed. The most famous of these was <u>Patrick Hamilton</u> who was <u>burned</u> at the <u>stake</u> as a heretic at St Andrews in 1528.

Portrait of James V, c. 1536, by Corneille de Lyon.



The death of his mother in 1541 removed any incentive for peace with England, and war broke out. Initially the Scots won a victory at the <u>Battle of Haddon Rig</u> in 1542, but later that year, they suffered a defeat at the <u>Battle of Solway Moss</u>. Although this is now disputed by some historians, by some accounts he experienced a nervous collapse after the defeat, and was on his deathbed at <u>Falkland Palace</u> on 8 December when his only living heir, a girl, was born.

Before he died, he is reported to have said, "it came wi a lass, it'll gang wi a lass" ("It began with a girl and it will end with a girl"). This was a reference to the <u>Stewart dynasty</u>, and how it came to the throne through <u>Marjorie</u>, daughter of <u>Robert the Bruce</u>. As it happened, his words came true, although not with

his daughter <u>Mary I</u> but with the last monarch of the House of Stewart, <u>Queen Anne</u>, who was James V's great-great-great-granddaughter.

James was succeeded by his infant daughter, <u>Mary, Queen of Scots</u>. He was buried at <u>Holyrood Abbey</u> alongside <u>Madeleine</u> and his sons by <u>Mary of Guise</u>.

#### Mary I of Scotland

Mary I (popularly known in the English-speaking world as Mary, Queen of Scots and, in France, as Marie Stuart) (8 December 1542 – 8 February 1587) was Queen of Scots from 14 December 1542 to 24 July 1567. She was the only surviving legitimate child of King James V. She was six days old when her father died, which event made her Queen of Scots. Her mother, Mary of Guise, assumed regency and her daughter was crowned nine months later.



In 1558, she married <u>Francis</u>, <u>Dauphin of France</u>, who ascended the French throne as Francis II in 1559. However, Mary was not <u>Queen of France</u> for long; she was widowed on 5 December 1560. After her husband's death, Mary returned to <u>Scotland</u>, arriving in <u>Leith</u> on 19 August 1561. Four years later, she married her first cousin, <u>Henry Stuart</u>, <u>Lord Darnley</u>. Their union was unhappy and in February 1567, Darnley was found dead in the garden at Kirk o'Field, after a huge explosion in the house.

She soon married <u>James Hepburn</u>, 4th <u>Earl of Bothwell</u>, who was generally believed to be Darnley's murderer. Following an uprising against the couple, Mary was imprisoned in <u>Loch Leven Castle</u> on 15 June and forced to <u>abdicate</u> the throne in favour of her one-year-old son, <u>James VI</u>. After an unsuccessful attempt to regain the throne, Mary fled to <u>England</u> seeking protection from her first cousin, <u>Queen</u>

<u>Elizabeth I</u>, whose kingdom she hoped to inherit. Elizabeth, however, ordered her arrest, because of the threat presented by Mary, who was considered the legitimate sovereign of England by many English <u>Catholics</u> (including participants in the <u>Rising of the North</u>). After a long period of custody in England, she was tried and executed for <u>treason</u> following her involvement in three plots to <u>assassinate</u> Elizabeth.

There are several stories told about the execution. One already mentioned and thought to be true is that, when the executioner picked up the severed head to show it to those present, it was discovered that Mary was wearing a wig. The headsman was left holding the wig, while the late queen's head rolled on the floor. She was 24 when first imprisoned by Protestants in Scotland, and she was only 44 years of age at the time of her execution. Another well-known execution story related in Robert Wynkfield's first-hand account concerns a small dog owned by the queen, which is said to have been hiding among her skirts, unseen by the spectators. Her dress and layers of clothing were so immensely regal, it would have been easy for the tiny pet to have hidden there as she slowly made her way to the scaffold. Following the beheading, the dog refused to be parted from its owner and was covered in blood. It was finally taken away by her ladies-in-waiting and washed.

## James I of England

**James VI & I** (19 June 1566 – 27 March 1625) was <u>King of Scots</u> as **James VI** from 1567 to 1625, and <u>King of England</u> and <u>Ireland</u> as **James I** from 1603 to 1625.

He became King of Scots as James VI on 24 July 1567, when he was just thirteen months old, succeeding his mother Mary, Queen of Scots. Regents governed during his minority, which ended officially in 1578, though he did not gain full control of his government until 1581. On 24 March 1603, as James I, he succeeded the last Tudor monarch of England and Ireland, Elizabeth I, who died without issue. He then ruled the Kingdom of England, Scotland, and Ireland for 22 years, often using the title King of Great Britain, until his death at the age of 58.

1568 painting by Lieven de Vogeleer depicting a two-year-old James praying for vengeance for the murder of his father, Henry Stuart, Lord Darnley



James Charles Stuart was the son of <u>Mary, Queen of Scots</u>, and her second husband, <u>Henry Stuart</u>, <u>Lord Darnley</u>.

James's father, Henry, was murdered on 10 February 1567 at the Hamiltons' house, <u>Kirk o' Field</u>, Edinburgh, perhaps in revenge for Rizzio's death. Mary was already an unpopular queen, and her marriage on 15 May 1567 to <u>James Hepburn</u>, <u>4th Earl of Bothwell</u>, who was widely suspected of murdering Henry, heightened

widespread bad feeling towards her. In June 1567, Protestant rebels arrested Mary and imprisoned her in <u>Loch Leven Castle</u>; she never saw her son again. She was forced to <u>abdicate</u> on 24 July in favour of the infant James and to appoint her illegitimate half-brother, <u>James Stewart</u>, <u>Earl of Moray</u>, as <u>regent</u>. James was known to be <u>superstitious</u>.

Throughout his youth, James was praised for his chastity, since he showed little interest in women; after the loss of Lennox, he continued to prefer male company. A suitable marriage, however, was necessary to reinforce his monarchy, and the choice fell on the fourteen-year-old Anne of Denmark younger daughter of the Protestant Frederick II. Shortly after a proxy marriage in August 1589, Anne sailed for Scotland but was forced by storms to the coast of Norway. On hearing the crossing had been abandoned, James, in what Willson calls "the one romantic episode of his life" sailed from Leith with a three-hundred-strong retinue to fetch Anne personally. The couple were married formally at the Old Bishop's Palace in Oslo.

The <u>King James Version</u> ("KJV") of the <u>Bible</u> was dedicated to him, being published in 1611 as a result of the <u>Hampton Court Conference</u> which he had convened to resolve issues with translations then being used. This translation of the Bible is still in widespread use today.

Also during the reign of James, the colonization of North America and the beginning of English dominance in the Americas started its course. In 1607 Jamestown was founded in Virginia and in 1620 Plymouth in Massachusetts Bay Colony. During the next 150 years, England would fight with Spain, the Dutch, and France for control of the continent.

#### Elizabeth of Bohemia

Elizabeth, Electress Palatine and Queen of Bohemia (born Elizabeth of Scotland; 19 August 1596 – 13 February 1662) was the eldest daughter of <u>James VI and I</u>, <u>King of England</u>, <u>Scotland</u>, and <u>Ireland</u>, and <u>Anne of Denmark</u>. She was thus sister to <u>King Charles I</u> and cousin to King Frederick III of Denmark.

Princess Elizabeth Stuart, 1606, by Robert Peake the Elder.



Elizabeth was born at Falkland Palace, Fife. At the time of her birth, her father was still the King of Scots only. She was named in honor of the Queen of England, in an attempt by her father to flatter the old queen, whose kingdom he hoped to inherit. During her early life in Scotland, Elizabeth's governess was the Countess of Kildare. When Elizabeth was six years old, in 1603, Elizabeth I of England died and James succeeded to the thrones of England and Ireland. When she came to England, she was consigned to the care of Lord Harington, with whom she spent the years of her happy childhood at Combe Abbey in Warwickshire.

On 14 February 1613, she married <u>Frederick V</u>, then <u>Elector</u> of the <u>Palatinate</u> in <u>Germany</u>, and took up her place in the court at <u>Heidelberg</u>. Frederick was the leader of the association of Protestant princes in the <u>Holy Roman Empire</u> known as the <u>Evangelical Union</u>, and Elizabeth was married to him in an effort to increase James's ties to these princes. In 1619, Frederick was offered and accepted the crown of <u>Bohemia</u>.

Elizabeth was crowned Queen of Bohemia on 7 November 1619, three days after her husband was crowned <u>King of Bohemia</u>. Frederick's rule was extremely brief, and thus Elizabeth became known as the "<u>Winter Queen</u>".

Elizabeth's youngest daughter, <u>Sophia of Hanover</u>, had in 1658 married <u>Ernest Augustus</u>, the future <u>Elector of Hanover</u>. The Electress Sophia became the nearest Protestant relative to the English, Scottish and Irish crowns (later British crown). Under the English <u>Act of Settlement</u>, the succession was settled on Sophia and her issue, so that all monarchs of Great Britain from <u>George I</u> are descendants of Elizabeth.

Of Elizabeth's sixteen great-great-grandparents, five were German, four were Scottish, two were English, two were French, two were Danish, and one was <u>Polish</u>, giving her a thoroughly cosmopolitan background which was typical of royals at that time due to constant intermarriage among the European royal families.

The <u>Elizabeth River</u> in Southeastern Virginia was named in honor of the princess, as was <u>Cape Elizabeth</u>, a peninsula and today a town in the U.S. state of <u>Maine</u>.

## Sophia of Hanover

**Sophia of the Palatinate** (commonly referred to as **Sophia of Hanover**; 14 October 1630 – 8 June 1714) was the youngest daughter of <u>Frederick V, Elector Palatine</u>, of the <u>House of Wittelsbach</u>, the "Winter King" of <u>Bohemia</u>, and <u>Elizabeth Stuart</u>.

Sophie in 1644, by her sister Louise Marie



Sophia was born in <u>The Hague</u>, where her parents were in exile after being defeated at the <u>Battle of White Mountain</u>. She was the youngest of the five daughters of <u>Frederick V</u>, <u>Elector Palatine</u>, and <u>Elizabeth of Scotland and England</u>.

On 30 September 1658, Sophia married <u>Ernest Augustus</u>, at <u>Heidelberg</u>, who in 1692 became the first <u>Elector</u> of <u>Brunswick-Lüneburg</u>. Ernst August was a second cousin of Sophia's mother <u>Elizabeth Stuart</u>, as they were both great grandchildren of <u>Christian III of Denmark</u>.

She was well read in the works of <u>Rene Descartes</u> and <u>Baruch Spinoza</u>. She encouraged her husband, brother and sons to read Spinoza and popularized his works at court.

Upon Sophia's death, her eldest son <u>Elector Georg Ludwig of Hanover</u> (1660–1727) became <u>heir presumptive</u> in her place, and weeks later, succeeded Queen Anne as <u>George I</u>. Sophia's daughter <u>Sophia Charlotte of Hanover</u> (1668-1705) married <u>Frederick I of Prussia</u>, from whom the later Prussian kings and German emperors descend. The connection between the German emperors and the British royal family, which was renewed by several marriages in future generations, would become an issue during <u>World War I</u>.

## George I of Great Britain

George I (George Louis; German: Georg Ludwig; 28 May 1660 – 11 June 1727) was King of Great Britain and Ireland from 1 August 1714 until his death, and ruler of Hanover in the Holy Roman Empire from 1698.



George was born in <u>Lower Saxony</u>, in what is now Germany, and eventually inherited the title and lands of the <u>Duke of Brunswick-Lüneburg</u>. A succession of European wars expanded his German domains during his lifetime, and in 1708 he was ratified as <u>prince-elector</u> of Hanover. At the age of 54, after the death of <u>Queen Anne</u>, he ascended the British throne as the first monarch of the <u>House of Hanover</u>.

George was born on 28 May 1660 in <u>Osnabrück</u>, then part of the <u>Holy Roman Empire</u>. He was the oldest son of <u>Ernest Augustus</u>, Duke of <u>Brunswick-Lüneburg</u>, and his wife, <u>Sophia</u>. Sophia was the granddaughter of <u>King James I</u> of England through her mother, <u>Elizabeth of Bohemia</u>.

For the first year of his life, George was the only heir to his father's and three childless uncles' German territories. In 1661 George's brother, Frederick Augustus, was born and

the two boys (known as Görgen and Gustchen within the family) were brought up together. Their mother was absent for almost a year (1664–5) during a long convalescent holiday in Italy, but she corresponded regularly with her sons' governess and took a great interest in her sons' upbringing, even more so on her return. After Sophia's tour she bore Ernest Augustus another four sons and a daughter. In her letters Sophia describes George as a responsible, conscientious child who set an example to his younger brothers and sisters.

George married his first cousin, <u>Sophia Dorothea of Celle</u>, thereby securing additional incomes that would have been outside Salic laws requiring male inheritance. George's marriage to Sophia Dorothea was dissolved, not on the grounds that either of them had committed adultery, but on the grounds that Sophia Dorothea had abandoned her husband. With the concurrence of her father, George had Sophia Dorothea imprisoned in the <u>Castle of Ahlden</u> in her native <u>Celle</u>, where she stayed until she died more than thirty years later.

George was succeeded by his son, George Augustus, who took the throne as George II.

George was ridiculed by his British subjects who thought him unintelligent on the flimsy grounds that he was wooden in public. Though he was unpopular due to his supposed inability to speak English, such an inability may not have existed later in his reign as documents from that time show that he understood, spoke and wrote English. He certainly spoke fluent German and French, good Latin, and some Italian and Dutch.

# George II of Great Britain

**George II** (George Augustus; <u>German</u>: *Georg II*. *August*; 10 November 1683 – 25 October 1760) was <u>King of Great Britain</u> and <u>Ireland</u>, <u>Duke of Brunswick-Lüneburg</u> (<u>Hanover</u>) and <u>Archtreasurer</u> and <u>Prince-elector</u> of the <u>Holy Roman Empire</u> from 11 June 1727 until his death.



He was the last British monarch to have been born outside Great Britain, and was famous for his numerous conflicts with his father and, subsequently, with his son. As king, he exercised little control over policy in his early reign, the government instead being controlled by Great Britain's parliament. Before that, most kings possessed great power over their parliaments. He was also the last British monarch to lead an army in battle (at <u>Dettingen</u>, in 1743).

On 22 August 1705 in Hanover, George married <u>Margravine</u> <u>Caroline of Brandenburg-Ansbach</u>. An intelligent and attractive woman, she had been a much sought-after bride. Caroline was one of the Princesses considered for the Spanish crown, but had refused because it would have meant giving up her Protestant faith for <u>Catholicism</u>.

The Prince of Wales had an extremely poor relationship with his father. When the Princess of Wales gave birth to <u>Prince George</u>

<u>William</u> in 1717, a family quarrel ensued; at the <u>baptism</u>, the Prince of Wales insisted on having the <u>Duke of Newcastle</u> (whom the king detested) as a <u>godfather</u>, whilst the King chose his brother, the <u>Duke of York and Albany</u>. When he publicly vituperated his father, the Prince of Wales was temporarily put under <u>arrest</u>. Afterwards, the King banished his son from <u>St. James's Palace</u>, the King's residence, and excluded him from all public ceremonies.

George II succeeded to the throne on his father's death on 11 June 1727, but a battle of wills continued with his son and heir apparent, <u>Prince Frederick</u>. The King may have planned to exile his son to the British colonies, but, in any event, did not actually do so. George was crowned at <u>Westminster Abbey</u> on 4 October. The Hanoverian composer <u>Handel</u> was commissioned to write four new anthems for the coronation; one of which, <u>Zadok the Priest</u>, has been sung at every coronation since.

After banishing his son, George also lost his wife, who died on 20 November 1737. Reputedly, when she asked her husband to remarry, he replied, "Non, j'aurai des maîtresses!" (French for "No, I will have mistresses!"). Reputedly, she replied "Ah, mon Dieu, cela n'empeche pas." ("My God, that doesn't prevent it.")

#### Frederick, Prince of Wales

**Frederick, Prince of Wales** (Frederick Louis; 1 February 1707 – 31 March 1751) was a member of the <u>House of Hanover</u> and therefore of the <u>Hanoverian</u> and later <u>British Royal Family</u>, the eldest son of <u>George II</u> and father of <u>George III</u> as well as the Great-Grandfather of <u>Victoria of the United Kingdom</u>. Under the <u>Act of Settlement passed by the <u>English Parliament</u> in 1701, Frederick was in the direct <u>line of succession to the British throne</u>. He moved to Great Britain following the accession of his father, and was appointed the <u>Prince of Wales</u>. He predeceased his father George II, however, and upon the latter's death on 25 October 1760, the throne passed to Prince Frederick's eldest son, <u>George, Prince of Wales</u>, who reigned as King George III from 1760 until 1820.</u>

The Prince of Wales, ca. 1733, with his sisters, Anne, Caroline, and Amelia.



Frederick was a genuine lover of music who played the cello; he is depicted as a cellist in an oil portrait by <a href="Philip Mercier">Philip Mercier</a> of Frederick and his sisters, now part of the <a href="National Portrait Gallery">National Portrait Gallery</a> collection.

A masque linking the Prince with both the ancient hero-king <u>Alfred the Great</u>'s victories over the <u>Vikings</u> and with the contemporary issue of building up the British <u>sea power</u> obviously went well with Frederick's political plans and aspirations.

## **George III of the United Kingdom**

**George III** (George William Frederick; 4 June 1738 – 29 January 1820) was <u>King of Great Britain</u> and <u>King of Ireland</u> from 25 October 1760 until the union of these two countries on 1 January 1801, after which he was King of the <u>United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland</u> until his death. He was concurrently Duke of <u>Brunswick-Lüneburg</u> and <u>prince-elector</u> of <u>Hanover</u> in the <u>Holy Roman Empire</u> until his promotion to <u>King of Hanover</u> on 12 October 1814. He was the third British monarch of the <u>House of Hanover</u>, but unlike his two predecessors he was born in Britain and spoke <u>English</u> as his first language. Despite his long life, he never visited Hanover.



George III's long reign was marked by a series of military conflicts involving his kingdoms, much of the rest of Europe, and places farther afield in Africa, the Americas and Asia. Early in his reign, Great Britain defeated France in the Seven Years' War, becoming the dominant European power in North America and India. However, many of its American colonies were soon lost in the American Revolutionary War, which led to the establishment of the United States of America. A series of wars against revolutionary and Napoleonic France, over a 20-year period, finally concluded in the defeat of Napoleon in 1815.

Lord North's government was chiefly concerned with discontent in America. To assuage American opinion most of the custom duties were withdrawn, with the exception of the tea duty, which in George's words was "one tax to keep up the right [to levy taxes]". In 1773, the tea ships moored in <u>Boston</u>

<u>Harbor</u> were boarded by colonists and the tea thrown overboard, an event that became known as the <u>Boston Tea Party</u>.

The American Revolutionary War began when armed conflict between British regulars and colonial militiamen broke out in New England in April 1775. After a year of fighting, the colonies declared their independence from the Crown as "free and independent States" in July 1776, and listed grievances against the British King, legislature, and populace. Among George's other offences, the Declaration charged, "He has abdicated Government here ... He has plundered our seas, ravaged our Coasts, burnt our towns, and destroyed the lives of our people." The gilded equestrian statue of George III in New York was pulled down.

George was succeeded by two of his sons <u>George IV</u> and <u>William IV</u>, who both died without surviving legitimate children, leaving the throne to their niece, <u>Victoria</u>, the last monarch of the House of Hanover and the only legitimate child of the Duke of Kent.

#### Prince Edward, Duke of Kent and Strathearn

The Prince Edward, Duke of Kent and Strathearn (Edward Augustus; 2 November 1767 – 23 January 1820) was a member of the <u>British Royal Family</u>, the fourth son of <u>King George III</u> and the father of <u>Queen Victoria</u>. He was created <u>Duke of Kent and Strathearn</u> and <u>Earl of Dublin</u> on 23 April 1799, the same year he became commander-in-chief in North America.

Prince Edward was born on the 2nd of November, 1767. His father was the reigning British



monarch, George III, the eldest son of The Prince Frederick, Prince of Wales and Augusta of Saxe-Gotha. His mother was Queen Charlotte. As a son of the British monarch, he was styled His Royal Highness The Prince Edward from birth, and was fourth in the line of succession to the throne.

On 24 May 1802, the Duke began an appointment as <u>Governor of Gibraltar</u>, with express orders by the government to restore discipline among the troops. However, the Duke's harsh discipline precipitated a mutiny by soldiers in the Royal Fusiliers and the 25th Regiment on Christmas Eve 1802.

The Duke of Kent became engaged to <u>Princess Victoria of Saxe-Coburg-Saalfeld</u> (17 August 1786 – 16 March 1861), the

daughter of <u>Duke Franz Friedrich of Saxe-Coburg-Saalfeld</u> and the widow of Emich Karl, <u>Prince of Leiningen</u>. She was also the sister of <u>Prince Leopold of Saxe-Coburg-Saalfeld</u>, the widower of Princess Charlotte Augusta. The couple married on 29 May 1818 at Schloss Ehrenburg, Coburg and again on 11 July 1818 at Kew Palace, Richmond Park, Surrey. They had one child, <u>Princess Alexandrina Victoria of Kent</u>.

The Duke of Kent died on 23 January 1820 at Woodbrook Cottage, Sidmouth, Devon, after a brief illness apparently brought on by a long walk on a cold, wet day with insufficient footwear. He was buried at <u>St. George's Chapel</u>, <u>Windsor Castle</u>. He died only six days before his father, George III, and less than a year after his daughter's birth.

The Duke of Kent predeceased his father and his three elder brothers, but, since none of his elder brothers had any surviving legitimate children, his daughter, <u>Victoria</u>, succeeded to the throne on the death of <u>King William IV</u> in 1837.

Victoria reigned until 1901, and her grandchildren eventually married into almost all of Europe's royal families. They included the Queens Consort of Norway, Greece, Romania and Spain, the Crown Princess of Sweden, The Empress of all the Russias, the King of the United Kingdom, and the German Emperor. Victoria was given a military funeral, as she had requested, as the daughter of a soldier.

## Victoria of the United Kingdom

**Victoria** (Alexandrina Victoria; 24 May 1819 – 22 January 1901) was the <u>Queen</u> of the <u>United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland</u> from 20 June 1837, and the first <u>Empress of India</u> of the <u>British Raj</u> from 1 May 1876, until her death. Her reign as the Queen lasted <u>63 years and 7 months</u>, longer than that of any other <u>British monarch</u> before or since, and her reign is the longest of any female monarch in history. The time of her reign is known as the <u>Victorian era</u>, a period of industrial, political, scientific and military progress within the <u>United Kingdom</u>.



Of mostly <u>German</u> descent, Victoria was the daughter of <u>Prince Edward</u>, <u>Duke of Kent and Strathearn</u> and <u>Princess Victoria of Saxe-Coburg-Saalfeld</u>. She <u>arranged marriages</u> for her nine children and forty-two grandchildren across the continent, tying <u>Europe</u> together and earning her the nickname "the grandmother of Europe".

During Victoria's first pregnancy, eighteen-year-old <u>Edward Oxford</u> attempted to assassinate the Queen while she was riding in a carriage with Prince Albert in London. Oxford fired twice, but both bullets missed. He was tried for <u>high treason</u>, but was acquitted on the grounds of <u>insanity</u>. The first of the royal couple's nine children, named <u>Victoria</u>, was born on 21 November 1840. [19]

Further attempts to assassinate Queen Victoria occurred between May and July 1842. First, on 29 May at St. James's

Park, John Francis fired a pistol at the Queen while she was in a carriage but was immediately seized by Police Constable William Trounce. Francis was convicted of high treason. The death sentence was commuted to transportation for life. Then, on 3 July, just days after Francis's sentence was commuted, another boy, John William Bean attempted to shoot the Queen. Prince Albert felt that the attempts were encouraged by Oxford's acquittal in 1840. Although his gun was loaded only with paper and tobacco, his crime was still punishable by death. Feeling that such a penalty would be too harsh, Prince Albert encouraged Parliament to pass the Treason Act 1842. Under the new law, an assault with a dangerous weapon in the monarch's presence with the intent of alarming her was made punishable by seven years' imprisonment and flogging. Bean was thus sentenced to 18 months' imprisonment; however, neither he, nor any person who violated the act in the future, was flogged.

The Prince Consort died of <u>typhoid fever</u> on 14 December 1861 due to the primitive sanitary conditions at Windsor Castle. His death devastated Victoria, who was still affected by the death of her mother in March of that year. She entered a state of <u>mourning</u> and wore black for the remainder of her life. She avoided public appearances and rarely set foot in London in the following years. Her seclusion earned her the name "Widow of Windsor."

#### **Edward VII of the United Kingdom**

**Edward VII** (Albert Edward; 9 November 1841 – 6 May 1910) was <u>King</u> of the <u>United Kingdom</u> and the British <u>Dominions</u> and <u>Emperor of India</u> from 22 January 1901 until his death on 6 May 1910. He was the first <u>British monarch</u> of the <u>House of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha</u>, which was renamed the <u>House of Windsor</u> by his son, <u>George V</u>.

Once widowed, Queen Victoria effectively withdrew from public life. Shortly after Prince Albert's death, she arranged for Edward to embark on an extensive tour of the Middle East, visiting Egypt, Jerusalem, Damascus, Beirut and Constantinople. As soon as he returned to Britain, preparations were made for his engagement, which was sealed at Laeken in Belgium on 9 September 1862. Edward and Alexandra married at St. George's Chapel, Windsor, on 10 March 1863. Edward was 21; Alexandra was 18.

The story that Queen Alexandra invited Edward's last mistress, society beauty <u>Alice Keppel</u>, to the King's death-bed in 1910 is a myth that Alice herself propagated. In reality Alice was, most reluctantly, asked at the King's request and, in a wild fit of hysterics, she was ejected shrieking, "I never did any harm, there was nothing wrong between us. What is to become of me?" One of Alice Keppel's great-granddaughters, <u>Camilla Parker Bowles</u>, became the wife of <u>Charles</u>, <u>Prince of Wales</u>, one of Edward's great-great grandsons.

King Edward VII in coronation robes.



When Queen Victoria died on 22 January 1901, Edward became King of the United Kingdom, Emperor of India and, in an innovation, King of the British Dominions. He chose to reign under the name Edward VII, instead of Albert Edward—the name his mother had intended for him to use, declaring that he did not wish to "undervalue the name of Albert" and diminish the status of his father with whom among royalty the name Albert should stand alone. The number VII was occasionally omitted in Scotland, even by the national church, in deference to protests that the previous Edwards were English kings who had "been excluded from Scotland by battle". J. B. Priestley recalled, "I was only a child when he succeeded Victoria in 1901, but I can testify to his extraordinary popularity. He was in fact the most popular king England had known since the earlier 1660's." [57]

Edward had been afraid that his nephew, the German Emperor Wilhelm II, would tip Europe into war. Four years after Edward's death, World War I broke out. The naval reforms and the Anglo-French alliance he had supported, as well as the relationships between his extended royal family, were put to the test. The war marked the end of the Edwardian way of life.

# **George V of the United Kingdom**

**George V** (George Frederick Ernest Albert; 3 June 1865 – 20 January 1936) was <u>King</u> of the <u>United Kingdom</u> and the British <u>Dominions</u>, and <u>Emperor of India</u>, from 1910 through <u>World War I</u> (1914–1918) until his death in 1936. He was the first <u>British monarch</u> of the <u>House of Windsor</u>, which he created from the British branch of the German <u>House of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha</u>.

From 1914 to 1918 Britain was at <u>war</u> with <u>Germany</u>. The German Kaiser <u>Wilhelm II</u>, who for the British public came to symbolise all the horrors of the war, was the King's first cousin. Queen Mary, although British like her mother, was the daughter of the <u>Duke of Teck</u>, a descendant of the German <u>Royal House of Württemberg</u>.

King George V (right) with his first cousin Tsar Nicholas II, Berlin, 1913. Note the close physical resemblance between the two monarchs.



When Tsar Nicholas II of Russia, George's first cousin (their mothers were sisters), was overthrown in the Russian Revolution of 1917, the British Government offered asylum to the Tsar and his family, but worsening conditions for the British people, and fears that revolution might come to the British Isles, led George to think that the presence of the Romanovs might seem inappropriate under the circumstances. The Tsar and his immediate family thus remained in Russia and were murdered bv **Bolshevik** revolutionaries in 1918. The following year, Nicholas's mother (George's aunt) Maria Feodorovna (Dagmar of Denmark) and other members of the extended Russian imperial family were rescued from the Crimea by British ships.

In 1928, he fell seriously ill, and for the next two years his son Edward took over many of his duties. George never fully recovered. In his final year, he was

occasionally administered oxygen. On the evening of 15 January 1936, the King took to his bedroom at <u>Sandringham House</u> complaining of a cold; he would never again leave the room alive.

# George VI of the United Kingdom

**George VI** (Albert Frederick Arthur George; 14 December 1895 – 6 February 1952) was <u>King of the United Kingdom</u> and the British <u>Dominions</u> from 11 December 1936 until his death. He was the last <u>Emperor of India</u> (until 1947), the last <u>King of Ireland</u> (until 1949), and the first <u>Head of the Commonwealth</u>.



As the second son of <u>King George V</u>, he was not expected to inherit the throne and spent his early life in the shadow of his elder brother, <u>Edward</u>. He served in the <u>Royal Navy</u> during <u>World War I</u>, and after the war took on the usual round of public engagements. He married Lady <u>Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon</u> in 1923, and they had two daughters, <u>Elizabeth</u> (who succeeded him as Queen Elizabeth II) and <u>Margaret</u>.

Within twenty-four hours of his accession the Irish parliament, the <u>Oireachtas</u>, passed the <u>External Relations Act</u>, which essentially removed the power of the monarch in <u>Ireland</u>. Further events greatly altered the position of the monarchy during his reign: three years after his accession, his realms, except Ireland, were at <u>war</u> with <u>Nazi Germany</u>. In the next two years, war with <u>Italy</u> and the <u>Empire of Japan</u> followed. Though <u>Britain and its allies</u> were ultimately

victorious, the United States and the <u>Soviet Union</u> rose as pre-eminent <u>world powers</u> and the <u>British Empire</u> declined. With the <u>independence of India and Pakistan</u> in 1947, and the <u>foundation of the Republic of Ireland</u> in 1949, George's reign saw the acceleration of the breakup of the Empire and its transition into the <u>Commonwealth of Nations</u>.

Four kings: King Edward VII (far right), his son George, Prince of Wales, later George V (far left), and grandsons Edward, later Edward VIII (rear), and Albert, later George VI (foreground), c. 1908.

Queen Victoria died on 22 January 1901, and the Prince of Wales succeeded her as King Edward VII. The Duke of York became the new Prince of Wales. Prince Edward moved up to second in line to the throne, and Prince Albert was third.

After war broke out in September 1939, George VI and his wife resolved to stay in London, despite German <u>bombing raids</u>. The first German raid on London, on 7 September 1940, killed about one thousand civilians, mostly in the <u>East End</u>. On 13 September, the King and Queen narrowly avoided death when two German



bombs exploded in a courtyard at Buckingham Palace while they were there. In defiance, the Queen famously declared: "I am glad we have been bombed. We can now look the East End in the face". In August 1942, the King's brother, <u>Prince George, Duke of Kent</u>, was killed on active service.

#### Elizabeth II of the United Kingdom

Elizabeth II (Elizabeth Alexandra Mary; born 21 April 1926) is the <u>queen regnant</u> of sixteen independent states known informally as the <u>Commonwealth realms</u>: the <u>United Kingdom</u>, <u>Canada</u>, <u>Australia</u>, <u>New Zealand</u>, <u>Jamaica</u>, <u>Barbados</u>, <u>the Bahamas</u>, <u>Grenada</u>, <u>Papua New Guinea</u>, the <u>Solomon Islands</u>, <u>Tuvalu</u>, <u>Saint Lucia</u>, <u>Saint Vincent and the Grenadines</u>, <u>Belize</u>, <u>Antigua and Barbuda</u>, and <u>Saint Kitts and Nevis</u>. She holds each <u>crown</u> separately and equally in a shared monarchy, and carries out duties for each state of which she is sovereign, as well as acting as <u>Head of the Commonwealth</u>, <u>Supreme Governor of the Church of England</u>, <u>Duke of Normandy</u>, <u>Lord of Mann</u>, and <u>Paramount Chief of Fiji</u>. In theory her powers are vast; however, in practice, and in accordance with convention, she rarely intervenes in political matters.



Elizabeth II in 2007

Elizabeth became Queen of the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Pakistan, and Ceylon upon the death of her father, George VI, on 6 February 1952. Her reign of 57 years has seen sweeping changes, including the continued evolution of the British Empire into the modern Commonwealth of Nations. As colonies gained independence from the United Kingdom, she became queen of 25 newly independent countries. She is one of the longest-reigning British monarchs, and has been the sovereign of 32 individual nations, but half of them later became republics.

Elizabeth married <u>Prince Philip</u>, <u>Duke of Edinburgh</u> in 1947. The couple have four children and eight grandchildren