

GRANHOLM GENEALOGY

DANISH ROYAL ANCESTRY

INTRODUCTION

Our Danish ancestry is quite comprehensive as it covers a broad range of the history. This presentation is laid out in three different parts. Three lists are included of our ancestors and of our distant cousins. The lists show just one of several paths between the earliest and the present generation. Additional biographical text is included regarding several ancestors; the lists are highlighted when these persons are referred to in the text. The text is mostly from the Internet Wikipedia source and edited for simplicity. The advantage of this is that this text has a language link so the reader can readily see the information in any other language.

The first part has our direct ancestors and begins by the Norse/Danish mythical ancestry from King Skjöldr, the son of Odin. That early Norse mythology is covered in the books about our Swedish and Norwegian ancestry. Odin gave Sweden to his son Yngvi and Denmark to his son Skjöldr. Since then the kings of Sweden were called Ynglings and those of Denmark Skjöldungs (Scyldings). This part blends from the mythical era into the Viking era. The distinction between the two eras cannot be clearly defined, in some cases it is obvious in others it must be left to the imagination. Ragnar Lodebrok was one of the important Vikings, he invaded even Paris. His son Sigurd is the forefather of the Danes, his son Björn of the Swedes.

The direct lineage with us ends at the time when the Christianity took hold and replaced the Viking era. King Sweyn II Estridsson (c. 1019 –1074) was considered the last Danish Viking.

The second part lists our Danish cousins beginning at the medieval era and ends at the present time. The first person listed in this era is King Sweyn's son King Erik I Ejegod of Denmark. A new list with two columns begins with him and his two sons. In one column are Prince Harald and his descendants, which also are our direct grandparents. In the other column are King Knud and his descendants down to the present Queen Margarethe II of Denmark, who all are our cousins. Queen Margarethe is my 27th cousin twice removed.

A third part is about descendants of King Christian IX with a list of how we are related to them. He was called "Europe's Father in Law" and most of the European royalties descend from him.

Lars Granholm
March 2011

From: <http://www.ancestryfootprints.com/>

Direct Lineage from: Odin of Nordic Mythology to: Erik I Ejegod King of Denmark

- 1 **Odin of Nordic Mythology** b. 215 m. **Frigg of Nordic Mythology** (54th great grandparents)
- 2 **Skjöldr King (legendary) of the Danes** b. ABT 237, m. **Gefjon Goddess of ploughing**
- 3 **Fridleif King (legendary) of the Danes** d. 280
- 4 **Frodi King (legendary) of the Danes** d. ABT 300
- 5 **Fridleif II King (legendary) of the Danes**, d. 320
- 6 **Havar King (legendary) of the Danes** d. ABT 340
- 7 **Frodi II King (legendary) of the Danes** d. ABT 360
- 8 **Vermund King (legendary) of the Danes** d. ABT 380
- 9 **Olaf King (legendary) of the Danes** d. ABT 400
- 10 **Dan King (legendary) of the Danes** d. ABT 430
- 11 **Frodi III King (legendary) of the Danes** d. ABT 450
- 12 **Fridleif III King (legendary) of the Danes** d. ABT 480
- 13 **Frodi IV King (legendary) of the Danes** d. ABT 479
- 14 **Halfdan King of the Danes (legendary)** d. 503
- 15 **Hrothgar King of the Danes** (legendary)
- 16 **Valdar Viceroy of Denmark**
- 17 **Harald the Old**
- 18 **Halfdan the Valiant** (myth)
- 19 **Ivar Vidfamne King of Scania** (myth)
- 20 **Audr the Deep-Minded (Alfhild) Princess** (myth)
m. Rathbarth King of Russia m. Hrorekr Ringslinger, King of Zealand
- [Child of Auor the Deep-Minded (Alfliild) Princess (myth) and Rathbarth King of Russia]
- 21 **Randver King of Roeskilde** (legendary) d. abt 770 m. Ingrid Princess of Sweden
- 22 **Sigurd Ring King of Denmark** b. 730 Denmark d. 812 Ruled 770-812

m. Alfild Gandolfsdotter Princess of Norway b. 735 Denmark
[daughter of Gandolf Alfgeirsson King of Norway]

23 Ragnar Lodbrok b. abt 765 Uppsala d. 845 England
m. Aslaug (Kraka)
[daughter of Sigurd Norse mythology and Brynhildr Norse mythology]
(Sigurd's father is Sigmund, his father is Völsung)

24 Sigurd Snake-in-the-Eye Viking chieftain m.
Blaeja Princess of Northumbria
[daughter of Aella King of Northumbria]

25 Harthacnut King of Denmark b. 890

26 Gorm den Gamle King of Denmark b. 875 d. 958
m. Tyra Danebot Queen of Denmark b. abt 844 d. ABT 935
[daughter of Edward I "The Elder" King of England and Edgiva Queen of England]

27 Harald Blåtand King of Denmark m. Tofa Mistivojsdotter

28 Svein Tveskægg King of Denmark and England b. ABT 960 d. 3 Mar 1014 Gainsborough,
England m. Sigrid (Gunhild) Storråde Princess of Poland [daughter of Mieszko I Duke of Poland
and Dobrawka Princess of Bohemia]

29 Estrid Svendsdotter Princess of Denmark b. 997 Denmark d. 9 May 1074 m. Ulf Jarl
Thorgilsson d. 25 Dec 1026
[son of Torkel (Thorgil) Styrbjörnsson]

30 Svend II Estridsen King of Denmark b. 1020 England d. 28 Apr 1074 Åbenrå,
Denmark m. Rannveig Tordsdotter b. 1026 Aurland, Sogn og Fjordane, Norway

31 Canute IV the Saint King of Denmark b. 1043 d. 10 Jul 1086
m. Adela Queen of Denmark [daughter of Robert I, Count of Flanders]

31 Erik I Ejegod King of Denmark b. 1060 Slangerup d. 10 Jul 1103 Baffa, Cypern
m. Bothild Thorgatsdotter Queen of Denmark b. ABT 1061 Denmark d. 1103 Olberg, Jerusalem
[daughter of Thorgaut "Fagrskinna" Ulfsson and Thorugnn Vognsen]

Odin

"Odin, the Wanderer" (1886) by [Georg von Rosen](#)



Odin, is considered the chief [god](#) in [Norse paganism](#). He is associated with [wisdom](#), [war](#), battle, and death, and also [magic](#), [poetry](#), [prophecy](#), victory, and the hunt.

Odin and his brothers, Vili and Ve, are attributed with slaying [Ymir](#), the Ancient Giant, to form [Midgard](#). From Ymir's flesh, the brothers made the earth, and from his shattered [bones](#) and [teeth](#) they made the [rocks](#) and stones. From [Ymir's blood](#), they made the [rivers](#) and [lakes](#). Ymir's [skull](#) was made into the sky, secured at four points by four dwarfs named [East](#), [West](#), [North](#), and [South](#). From Ymir's [brains](#), the three [Gods](#) shaped the [clouds](#), whereas Ymir's eye-brows became a barrier between Jotunheim (giant's home) and Midgard, the place where men now dwell. Odin and his brothers are also attributed with making humans.

After having made earth from Ymir's flesh, the three brothers came across two logs (or an [ash](#) and an [elm tree](#)). Odin gave them breath and [life](#); Vili gave them brains and feelings; and Ve gave them [hearing](#) and [sight](#). The first man was [Ask](#) and the first woman was [Embla](#).

Odin has fathered numerous children. With his wife, [Frigg](#), he fathered his doomed son [Baldr](#) and fathered the blind god [Hödr](#). By the personification of earth, [Fjörgyn](#), Odin was the father of his most famous son, [Thor](#). By the giantess [Grídr](#), Odin was the father of [Vidar](#), and by [Rinda](#) he was father of [Vali](#). Also, many royal families claimed descent from Odin through other sons.

The 7th century Tängelgarda stone shows Odin leading a troop of warriors all bearing rings. [Valknut](#) symbols are drawn beneath his horse, which is depicted with four legs.



[Worship](#) of Odin may date to [Proto-Germanic paganism](#). The [Roman](#) historian [Tacitus](#) may refer to Odin when he talks of [Mercury](#). The reason is that, like Mercury, Odin was regarded as [Psychopompos](#), "the leader of souls."

As Odin is closely connected with a horse and spear, and transformation/shape shifting into animal shapes, an alternative theory of origin contends that Odin, or at least some of his key characteristics, may have arisen just prior to the sixth century as a nightmareish horse god (Echwaz), later signified by the eight legged [Sleipnir](#). Some support for Odin as a late comer to the Scandinavian Norse pantheon can be found in the Sagas

where, for example, at one time he is thrown out of [Asgard](#) by the other gods - a seemingly unlikely tale for a well established "all father".

In the poem [Voluspa](#), a [Volva](#) tells Odin of numerous events reaching into the far past and into the future, including his own doom. The Volva describes creation, recounts the birth of Odin by his father [Borr](#) and his mother [Bestla](#) and how Odin and his brothers formed [Midgard](#) from the sea. She further describes the creation of the first human beings - [Ask and Embla](#) - by [Hœnir](#), [Lodurr](#) and Odin.

"Hœnir, Lóðurr and Odin create Askr and Embla" (1895) by [Lorenz Frølich](#).



Amongst various other events, the Volva mentions Odin's involvement in the [Aesir-Vanir War](#), the self-sacrifice of Odin's eye at [Mímir's Well](#), the death of his son [Baldr](#). She describes how Odin is slain by the wolf [Fenrir](#) at [Ragnarok](#), the subsequent avenging of Odin and death of Fenrir by his son [Vídarr](#), how the world disappears into flames and, yet, how the earth again rises from the sea.

"Ask och Embla" (1948) by Stig Blomberg. In [Sölvesborg](#), Sweden



Frigg



*"Frigga Spinning the Clouds" by J. C. Dollman.
A 19th century depiction of Frigg (seated) and [Fulla](#) (1874)*



Frigg (or **Frigga**) is a major goddess in [Norse paganism](#), a subset of [Germanic paganism](#). She is said to be the wife of [Odin](#), and is the "foremost among the goddesses". Frigg appears primarily in [Norse mythological stories](#) as a wife and a mother. She is also described as having the power of prophecy yet she does not reveal what she knows. Frigg is described as the only one other than Odin who is permitted to sit on his high seat [Hlidskjalf](#) and look out over the universe. The English term [Friday](#) derives from the [Anglo-Saxon](#) name for Frigg, Frigga.

Frigg's children are [Baldr](#) and [Hodr](#), her stepchildren are [Thor](#), [Hermodr](#), [Heimdall](#), [Tyr](#), [Vidar](#), [Vali](#), and [Skjoldr](#). Frigg's companion is [Eir](#), a goddess associated with medical skills. Frigg's attendants are [Hlín](#), [Gna](#), and [Fulla](#).



As the wife of Odin, Frigg is one of the foremost goddesses of Norse mythology. She is the patron of marriage and motherhood, and the goddess of love and fertility. In that aspect she shows many similarities with Freya, of whom she possibly is a different form.

She has a reputation of knowing every person's destiny, but never unveils it. As the mother of Balder, she tried to prevent his death by extracting oaths from every object in nature, but forgot the mistletoe. And by a fig made from mistletoe Balder died.

Her hall in Asgard is Fensalir (water halls).

Skjöldr, the first Danish king

Skjöld is proclaimed king.



Skjöldr (Latinized as **Skioldus**, sometimes Anglicized as **Skjold** or **Skiold**) was among the first [legendary Danish kings](#).

In the [Skjöldunga](#) and the [Ynglinga sagas](#), Odin came from Asia and conquered Northern Europe. He gave Sweden to his son Yngvi and Denmark to his son Skjöldr. Since then the kings of [Sweden](#) were called [Ynglings](#) and those of [Denmark](#) Skjöldungs ([Scyldings](#)).

This man was famous in his youth among the huntsmen of his father for his conquest of a monstrous beast: a marvellous incident, which augured his future prowess. For he chanced to obtain leave from his guardians, who were rearing him very carefully, to go and see the hunting. A bear of extraordinary size met him; he had no spear, but with the girdle that he commonly wore, he contrived to bind it, and gave it to his escort to kill. More than this, many champions of tried prowess were at the same time of his life vanquished by him singly; of these Attal and Skat were renowned and famous. While but fifteen years of age he was of unusual bodily size and displayed mortal strength in its perfection, and so mighty were the proofs of his powers that the rest of the kings of the Danes were called after him by a common title, the [Skjöldungs](#).



Skjöldr ties up the bear, illustration by [Louis Moe](#)

Gefjon

Gefjon and King Gylphi (1906) by Lorenz Frølich



In [Norse mythology](#), **Gefjon** or **Gefjun** is a goddess associated with [ploughing](#), the [Danish](#) island of [Zealand](#), the legendary early [Swedish](#) king [Gylfi](#), the king [Skjöldr](#), and [virginity](#).

The *Prose Edda* and *Heimskringla* both report that Gefjon plowed away what is now lake [Mälaren](#), [Sweden](#), and with this land formed the island of Zealand, Denmark. In addition, the *Prose Edda* describes that not only is Gefjon a virgin herself, but that all who die a virgin become her attendants. *Heimskringla* notes that Gefjon married king [Skjöldr](#).

The *Prose Edda* book [Gylfaginning](#) begins with a prose account stating that King [Gylfi](#) was once the ruler of "what is now called Sweden," and that he was said to have given "a certain vagrant woman, as reward for his entertainment, one plough-land in his kingdom, as much as four oxen could plow up in a day and night." This woman was "of the race of the Aesir" and her name was Gefjun. Gefjun took four oxen from [Jötunheimr](#) in the north. These oxen were her sons from an unnamed jötunn. Gefjun's plough "cut so hard and deep that it uprooted the land, and the oxen drew the land out into the sea to the west and halted in a certain sound. Where the land had been taken from a lake stands. The lake is now known as [Lake Mälär](#), located in Sweden, and the inlets in this lake parallel the headlands of Zealand.

The [Ynglinga saga](#) relates that Odin sent Gefjun from [Odense](#), [Funen](#) "north over the sound to seek for land." There, Gefjun encountered king Gylfi "and he gave her ploughland." Gefjun went to the land of Jötunheimr, and there bore four sons to a jötunn. Gefjun transformed these four sons into [oxen](#), attached them to a plough, and drew forth the land westward of the sea, opposite to Odense. The saga adds that this land is now called Zealand, and that Gefjun married [Skjöldr](#) (described here as "a son of Odin"). The two dwelled in [Lejre](#) thereafter.



The [Gefjon fountain](#) (1908) by [Anders Bundgård](#), the largest monument in Copenhagen and used as a [wishing well](#).

Gefjon ploughs the earth in Sweden by Lorenz Frølich



<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hro%C3%B0gar>

Hroðgar

Queen [Wealhþeow](#) serving Hroðgar (background, centre) and his men



Hroðgar, King Hroþgar, "Hrothgar", Hróarr, Hroar', Roar, Roas or Ro was a [legendary Danish king](#), living in the early 6th century.

A Danish king Hroðgar appears in the [Anglo-Saxon epics](#) *Beowulf* and *Widsith*, and also in [Norse sagas](#), Norse poems, and medieval Danish chronicles. In both Anglo-Saxon and Scandinavian tradition, Hroðgar is a [Scylding](#), the son of [Healfdene](#), the brother of [Halga](#), and the uncle of [Hroðulf](#). Moreover, in both traditions, the mentioned characters were the contemporaries of the Swedish king [Eadgils](#); and both traditions also mention a feud with men named [Froda](#) and [Ingeld](#). The consensus view is that Anglo-Saxon and Scandinavian traditions describe the same person

Beowulf

In the [epic poem](#) *Beowulf*, Hroðgar is mentioned as the builder of the great hall [Heorot](#), and ruler of [Denmark](#) when the [Geatish](#) hero [Beowulf](#) arrives to defeat the monster [Grendel](#).

When Hroðgar is first introduced in *Beowulf*, it is explained that he was the second of four children of King [Healfdene](#): he had an older brother, [Heorogar](#), who was king before him; a younger brother [Halga](#); and a sister, who was married to the king of Sweden. The sister is not named in the manuscript and most scholars agree this is a scribal error but suggested names are Signy and [Yrsa](#).

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Valdar>

Valdar

The *Hervarar saga* tells that [Ivar Vidfamne](#) made Valdar the viceroy of [Denmark](#) and gave him his daughter Alfhild. When Valdar died, his son [Randver](#) became the king of Denmark, while his son [Harald Wartooth](#) became the king of [Götaland](#) or [Gotland](#).

According to *Hversu Noregr byggdist*, a Valdar was the son of Roar ([Hroðgar](#)) of the house of Skjöldung ([Scylding](#)). This source makes Valdar the father of [Harald the Old](#), the father of [Halfdan the Valiant](#), the father of [Ivar Vidfamne](#). If he is of the same origin as the Valdar of *Hervarar saga*, this account adds four generations (Harald the Old, Halfdan the Valiant, Ivar Vidfamne and effectively Ivar's daughter Alfhild/Auðr who was Harald Wartooth's mother according to all accounts) between Valdar and [Harald Wartooth](#), who was Valdar's son according to the *Hervarar saga*.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ivar_Vidfamne

Ivar Vidfamne

Ivar Vidfamne (or *Ívarr inn víðfaðmi*; [English exonym](#) *Ivar Widefathom*) was a Danish and [Swedish](#) king hailing from Scania. He may have died c. 700. According to the [Heimskringla](#) and the [Hervarar saga](#), Ivar was also the king of [Norway](#), [Denmark](#), [Saxony](#) and parts of [England](#).

He began as king of [Scania](#) and conquered [Sweden](#) by defeating [Ingjald](#) Illråde. He is then said to have conquered all of Scandinavia and parts of [England](#). Because of his harsh rule, many Swedes fled west and populated [Värmland](#) under its king [Olof Trätälja](#). His last campaign was in North [Eastern Europe](#) where he died, defeated by [Odin](#) in disguise. (Another source claims he took his life by [drowning](#) himself in the [Gulf of Finland](#).)

The kingdom of Ivar Vidfamne (outlined in red) and the territories paying him tribute (outlined in purple), according to the sagas.



According to both [Ynglinga saga](#) and [Sögubrot](#), his homeland was [Scania](#), but according to the [Ynglinga saga](#), he had to flee Scania when his uncle [Guðröðr of Scania](#) had slain his father [Halfdan the Valiant](#). The [Ynglinga saga](#), [Historia Norvegiæ](#), [Hervarar saga](#) and [Upplendinga Konungum](#) tell that Ivar conquered [Sweden](#) after [Ingjald](#)'s suicide, and later returned to take Denmark.

According to [Hversu Noregr byggdist](#) and [Njal's Saga](#), he was the son of [Halfdan the Valiant](#) (also given as his father in the [Ynglinga saga](#) and the [Hervarar saga](#)), son of [Harald the Old](#), son of [Valdar](#), son of Roar ([Hroðgar](#)) of the house of Skjöldung ([Scylding](#)). According to [Hversu](#), [Njal's saga](#), the [Lay of Hyndla](#) and [Sögubrot](#), Ivar had a daughter named [Auðr the Deep-Minded](#).

[Sögubrot](#) relates that when Ivar was the king of Sweden, he gave his daughter [Auðr the Deep-Minded](#) to king [Hrørekr slöngvanbaugi](#) of [Zealand](#), in spite of the fact that she wanted to marry Hrørekr's brother [Helgi the Sharp](#). Hrørekr and Auðr had the son [Harald Wartooth](#). Ivar made Hrørekr kill his brother Helgi, and after this, he attacked and killed Hrørekr. However, Auðr arrived with the Zealand army and chased her father Ivar back to Sweden. The following year, Auðr went to [Gardariki](#) with her son Harald and many powerful men and married its king [Raðbarðr](#). This was the opportunity for Ivar to conquer Zealand.

The [Hervarar saga](#) does not mention any daughter named Auðr. Instead it mentions an Alfild. Ivar gave her to [Valdar](#) whom Ivar made subking of [Denmark](#).

However, when Ivar learnt that Auðr had married without his permission, he marshalled a great [leidang](#) from Denmark and Sweden and went to Gardariki. He was very old at the time. However, when they had arrived at the borders of Raðbarð's kingdom, [Karelia](#) (*Karjálabotnar*), he threw himself overboard. Harald then returned to [Scania](#) to become its ruler.

Auðr the Deep-Minded

Auðr the Deep-Minded ([Old Norse](#): *Auðr in djúpúðga*) was a [Norse](#) princess, the daughter of [Ivar Vidfamne](#), and the mother of [Harald Wartooth](#), who appears in *[Sögubrot](#)*, *[Hversu Noregr byggdist](#)* and in the *[Lay of Hyndla](#)*. She would have lived during the 7th or 8th century.

She was given to a [Hrærekr slöngvanbaugi](#), the king of [Zealand](#), but would rather have his brother [Helgi the Sharp](#). Ivar Vidfamne solved the problem by telling Hrærekr that Auðr was unfaithful with Helgi. The ruse was successful and Hrærekr slew his brother Helgi, after which it was easy for Ivar to attack Hrærekr and to kill him as well.

Auðr fled to [Garðaríki](#) with her son [Harald Wartooth](#), and married its king [Ráðbarðr](#) with whom she later had the son [Randver](#). Her father king Ivar was upset that his daughter had married without his consent. Although he was old, he departed to Garðaríki with a large [leidang](#). One night, as they were harboured in the [Gulf of Finland](#), he had a strange dream, and so he asked his foster-father Hörð. His foster-father was standing on a high cliff during the conversation and told Ivar that the dream foretold the death of Ivar and the end of his evil deeds. Ivar was so angry by these words that he threw himself down into the sea, whereupon also Hörð did the same thing.

As the throne of Sweden and Denmark was vacant, Auðr's son [Harald Wartooth](#) departed to [Scania](#) to claim his inheritance, with the help of his stepfather Ráðbarðr.

Völsung

In [Norse mythology](#), **Völsung** was murdered by the [Geatish king Siggeir](#) and avenged by one of his sons, [Sigmund](#) and his daughter [Signy](#) who was married to [Siggeir](#). Völsung was the common ancestor of the ill-fortuned clan of the Völsungs, including the greatest of Norse heroes, [Sigurd](#). Their legend is known in Norse myth through [Volsungasaga](#) and [Drap Niflunga](#) and in Old

Synopsis

Völsung was the great-grandson of [Odin](#) himself, and it was Odin who made sure that Völsung would be born. Völsung's parents, who were the king and queen of [Hunaland](#) could not have any children until Odin and his consort [Frigg](#) sent them a giantess named [Ljod](#) carrying the apple of fertility. Völsung's father died shortly after this, but his wife was pregnant for six years, until she had had enough. She commanded that the child be delivered by [cAesarian](#), an operation that in those days cost the life of the mother. Völsung was a strong child and he kissed his mother before she died.

He was immediately proclaimed king of Hunaland and when he had grown up he married the giantess [Ljod](#). First they had twins, the girl [Signy](#) and her twin brother named [Sigmund](#) then nine more sons.

Völsung built himself a great hall in the centre of which stood a large apple tree. [Siggeir](#), the [King of the Geats](#), soon arrived and proposed to Signy. Both Völsung and his sons approved, but Signy was less enthusiastic.

A great wedding was held in the hall, when suddenly a stranger appeared. He was a tall old man with only one eye and could not be anybody else but [Odin](#). He went to the apple tree, took his sword and stuck it deep into the trunk. [Odin](#) told everyone that the sword was meant for the man who could pull the sword from the apple tree. Then he vanished.

Everyone at the wedding tried to pull the sword but only Sigmund succeeded, and he did so effortlessly. The sword was named [Gram](#) and it proved to be an excellent weapon. Siggeir, his brother-in-law, offered thrice its weight in gold for the sword, but Sigmund scornfully said no. This greatly angered Siggeir, who returned home the next day.

Three months later, Völsung and his sons were invited to banquet with Siggeir. They were met by Signy, who warned them that Siggeir intended to ambush them. They refused to turn back whereupon Signy cried and implored them to go home. Soon they were attacked by the [Geats](#), Völsung fell and his ten sons were taken captive.

For the continued story, see [Sigmund](#).

Sigmund

A depiction of Sigmund by [Arthur Rackham](#).



In [Norse mythology](#), **Sigmund** is a hero whose story is told in the [Volsunga saga](#). He and his sister, [Signy](#), are the children of [Völsung](#) and his wife [Ljod](#). Sigmund is best known as the father of [Sigurd](#) the dragon-slayer, though Sigurd's tale has almost no connections to the Völsung cycle.

Völsunga saga

In the *Völsunga saga*, Signy marries [Siggeir](#), the king of [Gautland](#) (modern [Västergötland](#)). Volsung and Sigmund are attending the wedding feast (which lasted for some time before and after the marriage), when [Odin](#), in the guise of a beggar, plunges a sword into the living tree [Barnstokk](#) ("offspring-trunk"^[1]) around which Volsung's hall is built.

The disguised Odin announces that the man who can remove the sword will have it as a gift. Only Sigmund is able to free the sword.

"Sigmund's Sword" (1889) by Johannes Gehrts.



[Siggeir](#) is smitten with envy and desire for the sword. Siggeir invites Sigmund, his father Völsung and Sigmund's [nine](#) brothers to visit him in in Gautland to see the newlyweds three months later. When the Völsung clan arrive they are attacked by the Gauts; king Völsung is killed and his sons captured. Signy beseeches her husband to spare her brothers and to put them in [stocks](#) instead of killing them. As Siggeir thinks that the brothers deserve to be tortured before they are killed, he agrees.

He then lets his [shape-shifting](#) mother turn into a wolf and devour one of the brothers each night, until only Sigmund remains. Signy has a servant smear [honey](#) on Sigmund's face and when the she-wolf arrives she starts licking the honey off Sigmund's face. She licks and sticks her tongue into Sigmund's mouth whereupon Sigmund bites her tongue off, killing her. Sigmund then hides in the forests of [Gautland](#) and Signy brings him everything he needs.

Sigmund escapes his bonds and lives underground in the wilderness on Siggeir's lands. While he is in hiding, Signy comes to him in the guise of a [Völva](#) (sorceress) and conceives a child by him, [Sinfjötli](#) (the *Fitela* of *Beowulf*). Bent on revenge for their father's death, Signy sends her sons to Sigmund in the wilderness, one by one, to be tested. As each fails, Signy urges Sigmund to kill them. Finally, Sinfjötli (born of the [incest](#) between Signy and Sigmund) passes the test.

Sigmund and his son/nephew, Sinfjötli, grow wealthy as outlaws. In their wanderings, they come upon men sleeping in cursed wolf skins. Upon killing the men and wearing the wolf skins, Sigmund

and Sinfjötli are cursed to a type of [lycanthropy](#). Eventually, Sinfjötli and Sigmund avenge the death of Volsung.

After the death of Signy, Sigmund and Sinfjötli go harrying together. Sigmund marries a woman named [Borghild](#) and has two sons, one of them named Helgi. Helgi and Sinfjötli rule a kingdom jointly. Helgi marries a woman named Sigrun after killing her father. Sinfjötli later kills Sigrun's brother in battle and Sigrun avenges her brother by poisoning Sinfjötli.

Later, Sigmund marries a woman named [Hjördís](#). After a short time of peace, Sigmund's lands are attacked by King Lyngi. While in battle, Sigmund matches up against an old man ([Odin](#) in disguise). Odin shatters Sigmund's sword, and Sigmund falls at the hands of others. Dying, Sigmund tells Hjördís that she is pregnant and that her son will one day make a great weapon out of the fragments of his sword. That son was to be [Sigurd](#). Sigurd himself had a son named Sigmund who was killed when he was three years old by a vengeful Brynhild.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sigurd>

Sigurd



"Siegfried Tasting the Dragon's Blood" by [Arthur Rackham](#)

Sigurd ([Old Norse](#): **Sigurdr**) is a legendary hero of [Norse mythology](#), as well as the central character in the *[Völsunga saga](#)*. The earliest extant representations for his legend come in pictorial form from seven [runestones](#) in [Sweden](#) and most notably the [Ramsund carving](#) (c. [1000](#)) and the [Gök Runestone](#) ([11th century](#)).

As **Siegfried**, he is the hero in the German *[Nibelungenlied](#)*, and [Richard Wagner](#)'s operas *[Siegfried](#)* and *[Götterdämmerung](#)*

As **Sivard Snarensven(d)** he was the hero of several [medieval Scandinavian ballads](#).

Völsunga saga

In the *[Völsunga saga](#)*, Sigurd is the posthumous son of [Sigmund](#) and his second wife, [Hiordis](#). Sigmund dies in battle when he attacks [Odin](#) (who is in disguise), and Odin shatters Sigmund's sword. Dying, Sigmund tells Hiordis of her pregnancy and bequeaths the fragments of his sword to his unborn son.

Hiordis marries King [Alf](#), and then Alf decided to send Sigurd to [Regin](#) as a foster. [Regin](#) tempts Sigurd to greed and violence by first asking Sigurd if he has control over Sigmund's gold. When Sigurd says that Alf and his family control the gold and will give him anything he desires, Regin asks Sigurd why he consents to a lowly position at court. Sigurd replies that he is treated as an equal by the kings and can get anything he desires. Then Regin asks Sigurd why he acts as stableboy to the kings and has no horse of his own. Sigurd then goes to get a horse. An old man (Odin in disguise) advises Sigurd on choice of horse, and in this way Sigurd gets [Grani](#), a horse derived from Odin's own [Sleipnir](#).

Finally, [Regin](#) tries to tempt Sigurd by telling him the story of the Otter's Gold. Regin's father was [Hreidmar](#), and his two brothers were [Otr](#) and [Fafnir](#). Regin was a natural at smithing, and Otr was

natural at swimming. Otr used to swim at Andvari's waterfall, where the dwarf [Andvari](#) lived. Andvari often assumed the form of a pike and swam in the pool.

One day, the [Aesir](#) saw [Otr](#) with a fish on the banks, thought him an [otter](#), and [Loki](#) killed him. They took the carcass to the nearby home of [Hreidmar](#) to display their catch. [Hreidmar](#), [Fafnir](#), and Regin seized the Aesir and demanded compensation for the death of Otr. The compensation was to stuff the body with gold and cover the skin with fine treasures. Loki got the net from the sea giantess [Ran](#), caught Andvari (as a pike), and demanded all of the dwarf's gold. Andvari gave the gold, except for a ring. Loki took this ring, too, although it carried a curse of death on its bearer. The Aesir used this gold and stuffed Otr's body with gold and covered its skin in gold and covered the last exposed place (a whisker) with the ring of Andvari. Afterward, Fafnir killed Hreidmar and took the gold.

Sigurd agrees to kill Fafnir, who has turned himself into a dragon in order to be better able to guard the gold. Sigurd has Regin make him a sword, which he tests by striking the anvil. The sword shatters, so he has Regin make another. This also shatters. Finally, Sigurd has Regin make a sword out of the fragments that had been left to him by [Sigmund](#). The resulting sword, [Gram](#), cuts through the anvil. To kill Fafnir the dragon, Regin advises him to dig a pit, wait for Fafnir to walk over it, and then stab the dragon. Odin, posing as an old man, advises Sigurd to dig trenches also to drain the blood, and to bathe in it after killing the dragon; bathing in Fafnir's blood confers invulnerability. Sigurd does so and kills Fafnir; Sigurd then bathes in the dragon's blood, which touches all of his body except for one of his shoulders where a leaf was stuck. Regin then asked Sigurd to give him Fafnir's heart for himself. Sigurd drinks some of Fafnir's blood and gains the ability to understand the [language of birds](#). Birds advise him to kill Regin, since Regin is plotting Sigurd's death. Sigurd beheads Regin, roasts Fafnir's heart and consumes part of it. This gives him the gift of "wisdom" (prophecy).

"Sigurd proofs the sword Gram" (1901) by Johannes Gehrts.



Sigurd met [Brynhildr](#), a "[shieldmaiden](#)," after killing Fafnir. She pledges herself to him but also prophesies his doom and marriage to another.

Sigurd went to the court of Heimar, who was married to Bekkhild, sister of Brynhild, and then to the court of [Gjúki](#), where he came to live. Gjuki had three sons and one daughter by his wife, [Grimhild](#). The sons were [Gunnar](#), Hogni and Guttorm, and the daughter was [Gudrun](#). Grimhild made an "Ale of Forgetfulness" to force Sigurd to forget Brynhild, so he could marry Gudrun. Later, Gunnar wanted to court Brynhild. Brynhild's bower was surrounded by

flames, and she promised herself only to the man daring enough to go through them. Only Grani, Sigurd's horse, would do it, and only with Sigurd on it. Sigurd exchanged shapes with Gunnar, rode through the flames, and won Brynhild for Gunnar.

Some time later, Brynhild taunted Gudrun for having a better husband, and Gudrun explained all that had passed to Brynhild and explained the deception. For having been deceived and cheated of the

husband she had desired, Brynhild plots revenge. First, she refuses to speak to anyone and withdraws. Eventually, Sigurd was sent by Gunnar to see what was wrong, and Brynhild accuses Sigurd of taking liberties with her. Gunnar and Hogni plot Sigurd's death and enchant their brother, Guttorm, to a frenzy to accomplish the deed. Guttorm kills Sigurd in bed, and Brynhild kills Sigurd's three year old son Sigmund (named for Sigurd's father). Brynhild then wills herself to die, and builds a funeral pyre for Sigurd, Sigurd's son, Guttorm (killed by Sigurd) and herself. Sigurd and Brynhild had the daughter [Aslaug](#) who married [Ragnar Lodbrok](#).

Sigurd and Gudrun are parents to the twins Sigmund (named after Sigurd's father) and [Svanhild](#).

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brynhildr>

Brynhildr

"Brynhild" (1897) by G. Bussière



Brynhildr is a [shieldmaiden](#) and a [valkyrie](#) in [Norse mythology](#), where she appears as a main character in the [Völsunga saga](#) and some [Eddic poems](#) treating the same events. Under the name *Brínnhilde* she appears in the [Nibelungenlied](#) and therefore also in [Richard Wagner's](#) opera cycle [Der Ring des Nibelungen](#). Brynhildr is probably inspired by the [Visigothic](#) princess [Brunhilda of Austrasia](#), married with the [Merovingian](#) king [Sigebert I](#) in [567](#). The history of Brynhildr includes [fratricide](#), a long battle between brothers, and dealings with the [Huns](#).

Norse mythology

Volsunga saga

A depiction of Brynhildr (1919) by Robert Engels.



[Sigurd](#) and Brynhild's funeral



According to the [Volsunga saga](#), Brynhildr is the daughter of [Budli](#). She was ordered to decide a fight between two kings: Hjalmgunnar and Agnar. The valkyrie knew that [Odin](#) himself preferred the older king, Hjalmgunnar, yet Brynhildr decided the battle for Agnar. For this [Odin](#) condemned the valkyrie to live the life of a mortal woman, and imprisoned her in a remote castle behind a wall of shields on top of mount [Hindarfjall](#) in the Alps, and cursed her to sleep on a couch (while being

surrounded by fire) until any man would rescue and marry her. The hero [Sigurdr Sigmundson](#) (*Siegfried* in the Nibelungenlied), heir to the clan of [Völsung](#) and slayer of the dragon [Fafnir](#), entered the castle and awoke Brynhildr by removing her helmet and cutting off her chainmail armour. He immediately fell in love with the shieldmaiden and proposed to her with the magic ring [Andvarinaut](#). Promising to return and make Brynhildr his bride, Sigurdr then left the castle and headed for the court of [Gjuki](#), the [King of Burgundy](#).^[1]

Gjuki's wife, the sorceress [Grimhild](#), wanting Sigurdr married to her daughter [Gudrun](#) ([Kriemhild](#) in Nibelungenlied), prepared a magic potion that made Sigurdr forget about Brynhildr. Sigurdr soon married Gudrun. Hearing of Sigurdr's encounter with the valkyrie, Grimhild decided to make Brynhildr the wife of her son [Gunnar](#) ([Gunther](#) in the Nibelungenlied). Gunnar then sought to court Brynhild but was stopped by a ring of fire around the castle. He tried to ride through the flames with his own horse and then with Sigurdr's horse, [Grani](#), but still failed. Sigurdr then exchanged shapes with him and entered the ring of fire. Sigurdr (disguised as Gunnar) and Brynhildr married, and they stayed there three nights, but Sigurdr laid his sword between them (meaning that he did not take her virginity before giving her to the real Gunnar). Sigurdr also took the ring Andvarinaut from her finger and later gave it to Gudrun. Gunnar and Sigurdr soon returned to their true forms, with Brynhildr thinking she married Gunnar.

However, Gudrun and Brynhild later quarreled over whose husband was greater, Brynhildr boasting that even Sigurdr was not brave enough to ride through the flames. Gudrun revealed that it was actually Sigurdr who rode through the ring of fire, and Brynhildr became enraged. Sigurdr, remembering the truth, tried to console her, but to no avail. Brynhildr plotted revenge by urging Gunnar to kill Sigurdr, telling him that he slept with her in Hidarfjall, which he swore not to do. Gunnar and his brother [Hogni](#) ([Hagen](#) in the *Nibelungenlied*) were afraid to kill him themselves, as they had sworn oaths of brotherhood to Sigurdr. They incited their younger brother, [Gutthorm](#) to kill Sigurdr, by giving him a magic potion that enraged him, and he murdered Sigurdr in his sleep. Dying, Sigurdr threw his sword at Gutthorm, killing him.^[2] (some Eddic poems say Gutthorm killed him in the forest south of the [Rhine](#), also while resting)^[3].

Brynhildr herself killed Sigurdr's three-year-old son, and then she willed herself to die. When Sigurdr's funeral pyre was aflame, she threw herself upon it – thus they passed on together to the realm of [Hel](#).^[4]

However, in some [Eddic](#) poems such as [Sigurdarkvida hin skamma](#), Gunnar and Sigurdr lay siege to the castle of [Atli](#), Brynhildr's brother. Atli offers his sister's hand in exchange for a truce, which Gunnar accepts. However, Brynhildr has sworn to marry only Sigurdr, so she is deceived into believing that Gunnar is actually Sigurdr.^[5]

According to the *Völsunga saga*, Brynhildr bore Sigurdr a daughter, [Aslaug](#), who later married [Ragnar Lodbrok](#).

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aslaug>

Aslaug

King Heimer and Aslaug

Aslaug, *Aslög*, *Kraka*, *Kraka* or *Randalin*, was a queen of [Scandinavian mythology](#) who appears in [Snorri's Edda](#), the [Völsunga saga](#) and the saga of [Ragnar Lodbrok](#).

The Fictional Aslaug

Aslaug was the daughter of [Sigurd](#) and the [shieldmaiden Brynhildr](#), but was raised by Brynhild's fosterfather Heimer. At the death of Sigurd and Brynhild, Heimer was concerned about Aslaug's security, so he made a harp large enough to hide the girl. He then travelled as a poor harpplayer carrying the harp containing the girl.

Once they arrived at [Spangereid](#) at [Lindesnes](#) in [Norway](#), where they could stay for the night in the house of Åke and Grima. Åke believed that he saw precious items stick out from the harp, which he told his wife Grima. Grima then convinced him of murdering Heimer as he was sleeping. However, when they broke the harp, they discovered a little girl, who they raised as their own, calling her Kraka (Crow). In order to hide her noble origins, they forced the girl always to be dirty and to walk in dirty clothes.

However, once as she was bathing, she was discovered by some of [Ragnar Lodbrok](#)'s men, who had been sent ashore to bake bread. Confused by Kraka's beauty, they allowed the bread to be burnt, and when Ragnar enquired about this mishap, they told him about the girl. Ragnar then sent for her, but



in order to test her wits, he commanded her neither to arrive dressed nor undressed, neither hungry nor full and neither alone nor in company. Kraka arrived dressed in a net, biting an onion and with only the dog as a companion. Impressed, Ragnar married her and she gave him the sons, [Ivar the Boneless](#), [Björn Ironside](#), [Hvitserk](#) and [Ragnvald](#).

Once Ragnar visited viceroy [Östen Beli](#) of Sweden and Östen convinced Ragnar of marrying the Swedish princess Ingeborg and of rejecting Kraka. At his



return home, three birds had already informed Kraka of Ragnar's plans, and so she reproached him and told him of her true noble origins. In order to prove that she was the daughter of Sigurd who had slain [Fafnir](#), she said that she would bear a child whose eye would bear the image of a serpent. This happened and she bore the son [Sigurd Snake-in-the-Eye](#). When Östen learnt of Ragnar's change of mind, he rebelled against Ragnar, but was slain by Ragnar's sons at Kraka's behest.

When Ragnar was about to undertake his fated expedition to England, his failure was due to his not heeding Kraka's warnings about the bad condition of the fleet. When Ragnar had been thrown into the snake pit by king Ella, he was protected by an enchanted shirt that Kraka had made. It was only when this shirt had been removed that the snakes could bite Ragnar and kill him.

Kraka by [Mårten Eskil Winge](#), 1862

The Historic Aslaug

By all indications Aslaug was a commoner from the region near Oslo Norway. It is quite possible that the story of her solving Ragnar's riddle has basis in fact. However, with regard to the historicity of her ancestry, her ancestral claims would have been impossible. Her alleged father, Sigurd Fafnersbane, was a historic (although legendary) person who lived at the time of the fall of Rome in 440CE. Based on a study of the Roman records mentioning the various Foederated tribes of Rome, it becomes apparent that it was Ragnar Sigurdsson Ring, himself, and not his commonlaw wife Aslaug who was descended from the legendary hero, [Sigurd](#).

Ragnar Lodbrok

Ragnar Lodbrok



Aella murdering Ragnar Lodbrok

In the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle, Ragnar was said to be the father of three sons, Halfdan, InwAer (Ivar the Boneless), and Hubba (Ubbe), who led a Viking invasion of East Anglia in 865 seeking to avenge Ragnar's murder. He was said at one point to be married to the infamous Viking pirate [Lathgertha](#)

Ragnar Lodbrok (Ragnar "Hairy-Breeks", [Old Norse](#): *Ragnarr Lodbrok*) was a [Norse](#) legendary hero from the [Viking Age](#) who was thoroughly reshaped in [Old Norse poetry](#) and [legendary sagas](#).^{[1][2]}

The namesake and subject of “Ragnar’s Saga”, and one of the most popular Viking heroes among the Norse themselves, Ragnar was a great Viking commander and the scourge of France. A perennial seeker after the Danish throne, he was briefly ‘king’ of both Denmark and a large part of Sweden, (possibly from around 860 AD until his death in 865 AD). A colorful figure, he claimed to be descended from Odin, married the famous shield-maiden [Lathgertha](#), and told people he always sought greater adventures for fear that his (possibly adoptive) sons who included such notable vikings as [Björn Ironside](#) and [Ivar the Boneless](#) would eclipse him in fame and honor. Ragnar raided France many times, using the rivers as highways for his fleets of longships. By remaining on the move, he cleverly avoided battles with large concentrations of heavy Frankish cavalry, while maximizing his advantages of mobility and the general climate of fear of Viking unpredictability. His most notable raid was probably the raid upon Paris in 845 AD, which was spared from burning only by the payment of 7,000 lbs of silver as Danegeld by Charles the Fat. To court his second wife, the

Swedish princess Thora, Ragnar traveled to Sweden and quelled an infestation of venomous snakes, famously wearing the hairy breeches whereby he gained his nickname. He continued the series of successful raids against France throughout the mid 9th century, and fought numerous civil wars in Denmark, until his luck ran out at last in Britain. After being shipwrecked on the English coast during a freak storm in 865, he was captured by Saxon king Aella and put to death in an infamous manner by being thrown into a pit of vipers.

Although he is something of a hero in his native [Scandinavia](#), reliable accounts of his life are very sketchy and heavily based on ancient Viking sagas. Even the dating of his reign is not certain; there are sources that date it from 750–794, and others from 860–865. Neither really matches with what is known of him, though he may perhaps have held power as a warlord from approximately 835 to his death in 865, perhaps only being recognized as king in the last five years of his life.

A historic Ragnar Lodbrok is held to have been a [jarl](#) at the court of the [Danish](#) king [Horik I](#) (814–854), and this Ragnar participated in the [Viking](#) plunderings of [Paris](#)^[2] in 845.

A certain *Reginheri* attacked Paris with a fleet of 120 ships. The warriors belonging to the army of [Charles the Bald](#), were placed to guard the monastery in [St. Denis](#), but fled when the Danish Vikings executed their prisoners ferociously in front of their eyes.

After receiving a [tribute](#) of 7000 pounds of [silver](#) from [Charles the Bald](#), Ragnar went back.^[2] By mysterious circumstances, many men in Ragnar's army died during the journey and Ragnar died soon after his return.^[1]

Contemporary sources



Paris at the time of Ragnar's attack.

Ragnar apparently spent most of his life as a [pirate](#) and raider, invading one country after another. One of his favorite tactics was to attack [Christian](#) cities on church [feast days](#), knowing that many soldiers would be in church. He would generally accept a huge payment to leave his victims alone, only to come back later and demand more riches in exchange for leaving.

But as the extent of his supposed realm shows, he was also a gifted military leader. By 845, he was a powerful man and most likely a contemporary of

the first ruler of [Russia](#), the Viking [Rurik](#). It is said he was always seeking new adventures because he was worried that his freebooting sons would do things that would outshine his own achievements.

France

In 845 he sailed southward, looking for new worlds to conquer. With an alleged force of 120 ships and 5,000 Viking warriors, he landed in what is now [France](#), probably at the [Seine](#) estuary, and ravaged West Francia, as the westernmost part of the [Frankish Empire](#) was then known. [Rouen](#) was ravaged and then [Carolienna](#), a mere 20 km from St. Denis. The raiders then attacked and captured [Paris](#). The traditional date for this is 28 March, which is today referred to as Ragnar Lodbrok Day by certain followers of the [Asatru](#) religion. The King of West Francia, [Charlemagne](#)'s grandson [Charles the Bald](#), paid Ragnar a huge amount of money not to destroy the city. Ragnar Lodbrok, according to

Viking sources, was satisfied with no less than 7,000 pounds of [silver](#) in exchange for sparing the city. However, that did not stop Ragnar from attacking other parts of France, and it took a long time for the [Franks](#) to drive him out.

Later, Ragnar's sons were to return for more booty. Among their feats was destroying the city of [Rouen](#) several more times. Ultimately, many of them settled there permanently, in a land that became known as [Normandy](#) (for "Northmen", as the Franks called the Scandinavians or the "Nordmenn" as the Norwegians called themselves (which is much more likely)).

England

After he was done with France, and after his supposed death in 845, he turned his attention to [England](#). In 865, he landed in [Northumbria](#) on the north-east coast of England. It is claimed that here he was defeated in battle for the only time, by King [Aelle II of Northumbria](#).

Aelle's men captured Ragnar, and the King ordered him thrown into a pit filled with poisonous snakes. As he was slowly being bitten to death, he is alleged to have exclaimed "*How the little pigs would grunt if they knew the situation of the old boar!*", referring to the vengeance he hoped his sons would wreak when they heard of his death.

Death Song

As he was thrown into the snake pit, Ragnar was said to have uttered his famous death song: "*It gladdens me to know that Balder's father makes ready the benches for a banquet. Soon we shall be drinking ale from the curved horns. The champion who comes into Odin's dwelling does not lament his death. I shall not enter his hall with words of fear upon my lips. The Aesir will welcome me. Death comes without lamenting... Eager am I to depart. The Dísir summon me home, those whom Odin sends for me from the halls of the Lord of Hosts. Gladly shall I drink ale in the high-seat with the Aesir. The days of my life are ended. I laugh as I die.*"

Legacy

One Viking saga states that when his four sons heard the manner of his death, they all reacted in great sorrow. [Hvitserk](#), who was playing [tafl](#), gripped the piece so hard that he bled from his fingernails. [Björn Ironside](#) grabbed a spear so tightly that he left an impression in it, and [Sigurd Snake-in-the-Eye](#), who was trimming his nails, cut straight through to the bone.

Although these stories may not be accurate, like virtually all tales concerning Ragnar Lodbrok, his death had serious consequences. His other sons, [Ivar the Boneless](#) (alias *Hingwar*) and [Ubbe](#) soon learned the details of their father's death and swore that they would avenge his killing, in time-honoured Viking tradition. In 866, Ivar and Ubbe crossed the [North Sea](#) with a large army (The [Great Heathen Army](#)), sacked [York](#), met King Aelle in battle, and captured him. He was sentenced to die according to the custom of [Rista Blodörn](#) (Blood eagle), an exceedingly painful death.

They then moved south to East Anglia, on the way attacking the monasteries of [Bardney](#), [Croyland](#) and [Medeshamstede](#) where, according to tradition, their army slew 80 monks. Eventually they captured King Edmund and had him shot by archers and beheaded. These wars were a prelude to the long struggle of the [Saxons](#) of [Alfred the Great](#) against the [Danes](#) a generation later.

Sigurd Snake-in-the-Eye

Sigurd Snake-in-the-eye (Old Norse: **Sigurdr ormr i auga**) was one of the sons of [Ragnar Lodbrok](#) and [Kraka](#), but what set him apart from the others was that he was born with the image of the [ouroboros](#), a snake or dragon biting its own tail, encircling the pupil of his left eye.

Sigurd's descendants

[Ragnarssona þattr](#) informs that when his father died, he inherited [Zealand](#), [Scania](#), [Halland](#), the Danish islands, and [Viken](#). He married Blaeja, the daughter of king [Aelle II of Northumbria](#) and they had the children [Harthacanute](#) and Aslaug (who was named after her grandmother).

Harthacanute and his son Gorm

Harthacanute succeeded Sigurd as the king of Zealand, Scania and Halland, but he lost Viken. He was the father of [Gorm the Old](#), the king of Denmark.

Gorm succeeded his father as king and married [Thyra](#) , the daughter of the [Jutish](#) chieftain [Harald klak](#). When Harald died, Gorm took his kingdom too and united Denmark.

Aslaug and her son Sigurd Hart

Sigurd's daughter Aslaug married [Helgi the Sharp](#) (the great-great-grandson of king [Ring of Ringerike](#)) of the [Dagling](#) dynasty. They had the son [Sigurd Hart](#), who married Ingeborg, the daughter of the [Jutish](#) chieftain [Harald Klak](#). Sigurd Hart and Ingeborg had the children Guttorm and Ragnhild. When his uncle king Frodi of [Ringerike](#) died, Sigurd Hart went to Norway to succeed him as king.

[Ragnarssona þattr](#) and [Heimskringla](#) relate that a berserker from [Hadeland](#) named Haki killed Sigurd Hart, but lost a hand in the fight. Then Haki went to Sigurd Hart's residence at Stein and took Sigurd's children Ragnhild and Guttorm. Haki returned with the children and all the loot to [Hadeland](#). Before Haki recuperated from his wounds and could marry the 15 year old Ragnhild, she was captured a second time, by [Halfdan the Black](#). Halfdan and Ragnhild were the parents of [Harald Fairhair](#).

Harthacnut of Denmark

Harthacnut (born c. [890](#)) was a legendary [King of Denmark](#). He was either the son of an otherwise unknown "Sweyn," or, as presented by *[Ragnarssona þattr](#)*, of the semi-mythic [viking chieftain Sigurd Snake-in-the-Eye](#), himself one of the sons of the legendary [Ragnar Lodbrok](#). Historians have suggested that Harthacnut was a grandson of Sigurd rather than a son; both claims are impossible to verify.

Early years

In the 890s Denmark was conquered by the [Swedes](#) and king [Helge](#) was deposed by [Olaf](#) who founded the [House of Olaf](#) in Denmark. According to [clergyman Adam of Bremen](#), who came from Germany to record the history of the [Archbishop of Bremen](#), Olaf and two or more of his sons took the realm "by weapons and violence.

When Olaf died, two of his sons seem to have ruled simultaneously, and around 915 a son of Olaf's son [Gnupa](#) and a Danish noblewoman Asfrid, assumed the throne. This son of Gnupa, [Sigtrygg](#), is remembered on two [runestones](#) erected by his mother after his death.

Gorm the Old

Gorm learns of the death of his son Canute



Gorm the Old ([Old Norse](#): *Gormr gamli*), also called Gorm the Sleepy, was King of [Denmark](#) from c.900- c.940.

The son of Danish king [Harthacnut](#) Gorm was born in the late 9th century, and died in 958 according to [dendrochronological](#) studies of the wood in his burial chamber.

Gorm was "old" in the sense that he has always been considered the traditional ancestral "head" of the Danish monarchy, the oldest in Europe^[1] Gorm the Old did not live an especially long life, but his rule of 40 years, c.900- c.940, is the longest of any Danish Viking monarch. Saxo Grammaticus in the *Gesta Danorum* asserts that Gorm was older than other monarchs and having lived so long was blind by the time his son Canute was killed. Records of earlier kings either were not available or discounted by royal historians. Gorm's name appears on the Jelling Stones and that was definitive proof historians of the past needed.

Gorm married [Thyra](#), the daughter of one of the regional chiefs, probably from southern Jutland. Claims that Thyra was a daughter of King [Harald Klak](#) have been discounted due to the impossibility of the ages of the persons involved. Thyra was the daughter of Aethelred, King of England according to the *Gesta Danorum*.^[2] Gorm raised one of the great burial mounds at Jelling for her and the oldest [Jelling stones](#) to her. Gorm was the father of two sons, Canute (*Knud*) and Harald, later King [Harald Bluetooth](#).

Arild Hvitfeldt's *Danmarks Riges Kronike* explains how Gorm died. Of his two sons, Gorm preferred the eldest, Canute, to Harald to the extent that he made an oath that the messenger who brought news of Canute's death would be executed. The two sons were Vikings in the truest sense, departing Denmark each summer to raid and pillage. Harald came back to the royal enclosure at Jelling with the news that Canute had been killed in an attempt to capture Dublin, Ireland. Canute was shot with a coward's arrow while watching some games at night. No one would tell the king in view of the oath the king had made. Queen Thyra ordered the royal hall hung with black cloth and that no one was to say a single word. When Gorm entered the hall, he was astonished and asked what the mourning colors meant. Queen Thyra spoke up: "Lord King, You had two falcons, one white and the other gray. The white one flew far afield and was set upon by other birds which tore off its beautiful feathers and is now useless to you. Meanwhile the gray falcon continues to catch fowl for the king's table." Gorm understood immediately the Queen's metaphor and cried out, "My son is surely dead, since all of Denmark mourns!" "You have said it, your majesty," Thyra announced, "Not I, but what you have said is true." According to the story Gorm was so grieved by Canute's death that he died the following day. This would seem to contradict information on the Jelling Stones which seem to point to Queen Thyra's death before Gorm died. Historians have always suggested that Gorm was buried

first in Queen Thyra's grave mound at Jelling, and later moved by his son, [Harald Bluetooth](#), into the original wooden church in Jelling.

His skeleton is believed to have been found at the site of the first Christian church of Jelling. During the reign of Gorm, most Danes still worshipped the [Norse gods](#), but during the reign of Gorm's son, [Harold Bluetooth](#), Denmark officially [converted to Christianity](#). Harald left the hill where Gorm had originally been interred as a memorial.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thyra>

Thyra



Runic stone for Thyra, back side

Runic stone for Thyra, front side





[Lorenz Frolich](#)'s impression of Thyra Dannebod ordering the foundation of the [Dannevirke](#).

Thyra was the consort of King [Gorm the Old](#) of [Denmark](#). She is believed to have led an army against the [Germans](#). Gorm and Thyra were the parents of King [Harald Bluetooth](#).

While [Gorm the Old](#) had disparaging nicknames, his wife Thyra was referred to as a woman of great prudence. [Saxo](#) wrote that Thyra was mainly responsible for building the [Dannevirke](#) on the southern border, but archeology has proven it much older.

Gorm raised a [memorial stone](#) to Thyra at [Jelling](#), which refers to her as *tanmarka but*, the 'Pride' or 'Ornament' of Denmark.

Gorm and Thyra were buried under one of the two great mounds at Jelling and later moved to the first Christian church there. This was confirmed when a tomb containing their remains was excavated in 1978 under the east end of the present church.

According to popular tradition, her daughter was captured by [trolls](#) and carried off to a kingdom in the far north beyond [Halogaland](#) and [Biarmaland](#).

Tradition also has it that before Thyra consented to marry Gorm, she insisted he build a new house and sleep in it for the first three nights of winter and give her an account of his dreams those nights. The dreams were told at the wedding banquet and as recorded, imitate the dreams Pharaoh had that were interpreted by Joseph in Genesis. Oxen came out of the sea (bountiful harvest) and birds (glory of the king to be born).



Harald I of Denmark

Harald being baptized by Poppo the monk, probably c. 960

Harald Bluetooth Gormson (*Danish: Harald Blåtand*), was born around 935, the son of King [Gorm the Old](#) and of [Thyra](#) a supposed daughter of [Harald Klak](#), [Jarl](#) of [Jutland](#), or daughter of a noblemen of [Sonderjylland](#) who is supposed to have been kindly disposed towards Christianity. He died in 985 or 986 having ruled as [King of Denmark](#) from around 958 and king of [Norway](#) for a few years probably around 970. Some sources state that his son [Sweyn](#) forcibly deposed him as king.

Rune stones of Gorm and Harald, front side



Rune stones of Gorm and Harald, back side

The Jelling stones

Harald Bluetooth caused the [Jelling stones](#) to be erected to honour his parents.^[1] Encyclopedia Britannica considers the runic inscriptions as the most well known in Denmark.^[2] The biography of Harald Bluetooth is summed up by this runic inscription from the [Jelling stones](#):

"Harald, king, bade these memorials to be made after Gorm, his father, and Thyra, his mother. The Harald who won the whole of Denmark and Norway and turned the Danes to Christianity."



The rune stone of Harald, quotation writings this side

Conversion and Christianization of Denmark

Although Harald's predecessors had adopted [Christianity](#) at the instigation of the [Frankish Carolingian](#) kings in 826, [paganism](#) remained predominant among Danes and northerners for centuries. His mother may have implanted in the boy the first seeds of Christianity which his father, a devout servant of the [Norse](#) god [Odin](#), did his utmost to combat. In 948 Harald submitted to emperor Otto I and had German bishops establish the bishoprics of [Ribe](#), [Arhus](#) and [Schleswig](#). In 960 Harald was himself converted at a place called [Poppo stone](#).

The Christian god became a part of Norse life, but was no more important, at first than their gods which already existed. A good example is the Jelling Stones made by Harald I. The runestone has both Christian and pagan qualities demonstrating the mixture of old and new values. Consequently many people looked on the plots that were directed against the sovereignty and life of the aging prince by his own son Svend as a punishment from Heaven. Although baptized, Svend joined forces with [Palnatoke](#), the most powerful chieftain on Funen, who led the heathen party. The fortunes of war varied for a time, and Harold took refuge from his son, but finally Harald was slain on 1 November, 985 or 986.

Harald had a son named [Sweyn Forkbeard](#), who was baptized along with the rest of the royal family, and given the name by the [Holy Roman emperor Otto the Great](#):

Not long after Harald himself was baptized together with his wife, Gunnhild, and his little son, whom our king raised up from the sacred font and named Svein^[5]

The [Norse sagas](#) presents Harald in a rather negative light. He was forced twice to submit to the renegade Swedish prince [Styrbjörn the Strong](#) of the [Jomsvikings](#)- first by giving Styrbjörn a fleet and his daughter [Tyra](#), the second time by giving up himself as hostage and an additional fleet. Styrbjörn brought this fleet to [Uppsala](#) in [Sweden](#) in order to claim the throne of Sweden. However, this time Harald broke his oath and fled with his Danes in order to avoid facing the Swedish army at the [Battle of the Fyrisvellir](#).

After the battle of Fýrisvellir, by [Mårten Eskil Winge](#) (1888).

As a consequence of Harald's army having lost to the Germans in the shadow of Danevirke in 974, he no longer had control of Norway and Germans having settled back into the border area between Scandinavia and Germany. The German settlers were driven out of Denmark in 983 by an alliance consisting of



[Obodrite](#) soldiers and troops loyal to Harald. Soon after, Harald was killed fighting off a rebellion led by his son Sweyn. He died 1 November, 985 or 986. His remains were buried in the cathedral at [Roskilde](#), where his bones are still preserved, walled up in one of the pillars of the choir.

Marriages and issue

1. [Gyrid Olafsdottir](#), probably by 950.
 - o Thyra Haraldsdotter, married [Styrbjörn Starke](#)
 - o [Sveyn Forkbeard](#). Born about 960. Usually given as the son of Harald and Gyrid, though it is said in some of the older sagas that he was an illegitimate son.
 - o Hakon. Born in 961.
 - o Gunhild. She married [Pallig](#), Jarl and Ealdorman in Devon. They both died in the [St. Brice's Day massacre](#) in November 1002.
2. Thora (Tova) the daughter of [Mistivir](#) in 970. She raised the [Sonder Vissing Runestone](#) after her mother.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sweyn_Forkbeard

Sweyn Forkbeard

Sweyn I Forkbeard, in the *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle*, in English **Sven the Dane**, also known as **Swegen** and **Tuck**, (*Old Norse*: *Sveinn Tjúguskegg*, *Norwegian*: *Svein Tjugeskjegg*, *Swedish*: *Sven Tveskägg*; *Danish*: *Svend Tveskæg*, originally *Tjugeskæg* or *Tyvskaæg*), (c. 960 – [February 3, 1014](#)), was king of Denmark and England, as well as parts of Norway. He was a Viking leader and the father of [Canute the Great](#). On his father [Harald Bluetooth](#)'s death in late 986 or early 987, he became King of [Denmark](#); in 1000, with allegiance of the Trondejarl, [Erik of Lade](#), he was ruler over most of Norway. After a long effort at conquest, and shortly before his death, in 1013 he became [King of England](#). For the last months of his life, he was the Danish [sovereign](#) of a [North Sea](#) empire, which only his son Canute was to rival in northern Europe.



Forkbeard's cognomen

Sweyn Forkbeard's nickname, which was probably used during his lifetime, unlike many royal nicknames, refers to a pitchfork-style moustache which was fashionable at the time, particularly in England, where Sweyn may have picked up the idea. Similar type moustaches can be seen depicted on the [Bayeux Tapestry](#).

The Church and currency

On the northern edges of the relatively recent domain known as the [Holy Roman Empire](#), with its roots in [Charlemagne](#)'s conquests hundreds of years prior to Sweyn's time, Sweyn Forkbeard had coins made with an image in his likeness. The [Latin](#) inscription on the coins produced read, "ZVEN REX DAENOR", translates as, "Sweyn, king of Danes".

Sweyn's father, [Harald Bluetooth](#), was the first of the [Scandinavian](#) kings to officially accept [Christianity](#), in the early or mid-960s. According to [Adam of Bremen](#), an 11th century historian,

Harald's son Sweyn was baptised *Otto*, paying tribute to the German king [Otto I](#)^[3] who was the first [Holy Roman Emperor](#). Forkbeard is never known to have officially made use of this Christian name though. He did not use it on the coins he proudly sent forth, and when he was given the English crown by the [Witenagemot](#) of [Anglo-Saxon](#) nobles, in 1013, he took the crown as king Sweyn

The Battle of Svolder. Painting by Otto Sinding (1842-1909).



The map shows the division of [Norway](#) after the [Battle of Svolder](#) according to [Heimskringla](#). Eirik Hakonarson ruled the purple area as a fiefdom from, Sweyn Forkbeard. The yellow area was, under [Sveinn Hakonarson](#), his half-brother, held as a fief of [Olof Skötkonung](#), the Swedish king. The red area was under direct Danish control, with Sweyn ruling it as a Danish extension.

Ruler of England

According to the chronicles of [John of Wallingford](#), Sweyn was involved in raids against [England](#) during 1002-1005, 1006-1007, and 1009-1012, to revenge the [St. Brice's Day massacre](#) of England's Danish inhabitants in November 1002, a massacre often seen as large-scale [ethnic cleansing](#) of the Danes in England orchestrated by [Ethelred the Unready](#). Sweyn is thought to have had a personal interest in these raids due to his sister, [Gunhilde](#), being amongst the victims, according to Mike Ashley, in *British Monarchs*: "Probably his [Ethelred's] worst decision was the St. Brice's day



massacre on [13 November 1002](#)...he ordered the killing of every Dane who lived in England, except the Anglo-Danes in the Danelaw. The massacre brought back to English shores the Danish commander Swein, whose sister and brother-in-law had been killed in the massacre".^[8]

Sweyn and the Jomsvikings at the [funeral ale](#) of his father Harald Blatand

He acquired massive sums of [Danegeld](#) through the raids, and in 1013, he is reported to have personally led his forces in a full-scale invasion.^[10]

The contemporary [Peterborough Chronicle](#), one of the Anglo-Saxon

Chronicles, states that "before the month of August came king Sweyn with his fleet to [Sandwich](#). He went very quickly about [East Anglia](#) into the [Humber](#)'s mouth, and so upward along the [Trent](#) till he came to [Gainsborough](#). [Earl Uchtred](#) and all [Northumbria](#) quickly bowed to him, as did all the people of [Lindsey](#), then the people of the [Five Boroughs](#). He was given hostages from each [shire](#). When he understood that all the people had submitted to him, he bade that his force should be provisioned and horsed; he went south with the main part of the invasion force, while some of the invasion force, as well as the hostages, were with his son Canute.

But the Londoners are said to have destroyed the bridges that spanned the river [Thames](#) ("[London Bridge is falling down](#)"), and Sweyn suffered heavy losses and had to withdraw. The chronicles tells that "king Sweyn went from there to [Wallingford](#), over the Thames to [Bath](#), and stayed there with his troops; [Ealdorman](#) AethelmAer came, and the western [Thegns](#) with him. London had withstood the assault of the Danish army, but the city was now alone, isolated within a country which had completely surrendered. Sweyn Forkbeard was accepted as King of England following the flight to [Normandy](#) of King [Ethelred the Unready](#) in late 1013.

Sweyn was based in [Gainsborough, Lincolnshire](#), and began to organize his vast new kingdom, but he died there on [February 3, 1014](#). His embalmed body was subsequently returned to Denmark, to be buried in the church he built in Roskilde.^[12] He was succeeded as King of Denmark by his elder son, [Harald II](#), but the Danish fleet proclaimed his younger son Canute king. In England, the councillors had sent for Aethelred, who upon his return from exile in Normandy in the spring of 1014 managed to drive Canute out of England. However, Canute returned to become King of England in 1016, while also ruling Denmark, Norway, parts of Sweden, [Pomerania](#), and [Schleswig](#).

Sigrid the Haughty

Sigrid Storråda



Sigrid the Haughty, also known as **Sigrid Storråda**, was a Nordic queen of contested historicity.

She has been variously identified as **Świętosława**, **Saum-Aesa**, **Gunnhilda**, daughter of [Mieszko I](#), sister to [Bolesław I Chrobry](#), King of Poland.

She is a character who appears in many [sagas](#) and historical chronicles. It is unclear if she was a real person or a compound person (with several real women's lives and deeds attributed to one compound person).

Sigríð married the first time, wedding Eiríkr the Victorious ([King Eiríkr VI SigrsAell](#)) of Sweden. She had one son by this marriage: King Olaf II Eiríksson of Sweden, also called [Olof Skotkonung](#). It was in 994 she wed Sweyn Forkbeard under her Scandinavian name, Sigrid Storråda, and the marriage bore five daughters, half-sisters of Danish princes [Harald](#) and [Canute the Great](#).

One daughter, Astrid Margarithte was the second wife of Richard II of Normandy (married 1017) after his first wife Judith (mother of three daughters & three sons, one of whom was Robert I, father of King William I, the Conqueror). Astrid later married Ulf Jarl, son of Thorgils Spragalæg (the last king of Danish Scania (Ohlmarks), died at Svold 1005), great-grand son of Harald Bluetooth, King of Denmark. They had two sons: Bjorn and Sweyn II of Denmark.

The most commonly-held understanding is that [Harald](#) and [Canute](#) brought back Świętosława from Poland after their stepmother **Sigrid** left upon the death of their father.

Contemporary chroniclers

Theories hold that Sigrid was the daughter of a mythical [Burislaw](#) (possibly [Mieszko I of Poland](#) and [Dubrawka](#)). The medieval chroniclers who were Sigrid's contemporaries seem to support the hypothesis that her father was Mieszko, though recent analysis suggests they confused her with Gunhild, the Polish princess who changed her name from Świętosława when she married Swein Forkbeard.

Several medieval chronicles state that the mother of Harald II of Denmark and Canute the Great was either a Pole or possibly a member of a closely related Slavic tribe. Arguments which support this assertion include:

- [Thietmar](#) mentions that the daughter of [Mieszko I of Poland](#) and sister of [Boleslaw I of Poland](#) married Sweyn Forkbeard and gave him two sons, [Canute the Great](#) and [Harold II of Denmark](#), but he does not mention her name. Thietmar is probably the best informed of all medieval chroniclers, since he was contemporary with described events and well-informed about the events in Poland and [Denmark](#).

- [Adam of Bremen](#) writes that a Polish princess was the wife of [Eric the Victorious](#) and that she was the mother of [Canute the Great](#) and [Harold II of Denmark](#). Adam's information here is considered unreliable by some historians.
- *[Gesta Cnutonis regis](#)* mentions in one short passage that Canute and his brother went to the land of the Slavs, and brought back their mother, who was living there. This does not necessarily mean that his mother was Slavic, but nevertheless this chronicle strongly suggests that she was.
- There is an inscription in "Liber vitae of the New Minster and Hyde Abbey Winchester", that king Canute's sister's name was "Santslaue" ("Santslaue soror CNVTI regis nostri"), which without doubt is a Slavic name. J. Steenstrup suggests that Canute's sister may have been named after her mother, hence coining (the now generally agreed upon) hypothesis, that her [Slavic](#) name is *Świętosława*, but only as a reconstruction based on a single mention of her daughter's name and the hypothesis that she named her daughter after herself. This statement also supports the theory that Sigrid was the daughter of Mieszko I.

The mother of Harald and Canute?

The assertion that Harald and Canute's mother was Boleslaw's sister may explain some mysterious statements which appear in medieval chronicles, such as the involvement of Polish troops in invasions of England.

Scandinavian sources

According to the theory based on [Norse sagas](#), **Sigrid the Haughty** was the daughter of the powerful Swedish Viking [Skoglar Toste](#). She married [Eric the Victorious](#), King of [Sweden](#), and together they had a son [Olof Skötkonung](#). She later divorced Eric and was given [Götaland](#) as a fief. After Eric's death, she married [Sweyn Forkbeard](#), King of [Denmark](#).

The Danish historian [Saxo Grammaticus](#) confirms some of the information from the Norse sagas, when he writes that Eric the Victorious' widow Syritha had married Sweyn Forkbeard after having spurned Olaf Trygvasson.

Refusal to marry Olaf Trygvasson

[Olaf Tryggvason](#) proposes marriage to **Sigríð the Haughty**, imposing the condition that she must convert to Christianity. When Sigríð rejects this, Olaf strikes her with a glove. She warns him that this might lead to his death.^[2]

In 998, when it was proposed that Sigríð, daughter of the Swedish king, marry [Olaf Trygvasson](#), the king of [Norway](#), she rebelled because it would have required that she convert to Christianity. She told him to his face, "I will not part from the faith which my forefathers have kept before me." In a rage, Olaf hit her. It is said that Sigríð then calmly told him, "This may some day be thy death."

^[1] Sigríð proceeded to avoid the marriage, and created instead a coalition of his enemies to bring about his downfall. She

accomplished this by allying [Sweden](#) and [Denmark](#) against [Norway](#). She achieved her purpose when Olaf fell fighting against Sweden and Denmark in the year 1000 during the [Battle of Svold](#). Queen Sigríð won her vengeance that day, for King Olaf saw his Norwegian forces defeated and he himself leapt into the sea to drown rather than face capture by his enemies.



The cognomen "Haughty"

Sigríð got the Scandinavian style cognomen *Haughty* when she had [Harald Grenske](#) burnt to death in order to discourage other petty kings from proposing to her.

Sweyn II of Denmark

Sweyn II Estridsson Ulfsson. (c. 1019 – [April 28, 1074](#) or 1076) was the King of [Denmark](#) from 1047 until his death. He was the son of [Ulf Thorgilsson](#) and [Estrid Margarete Svendsdatter](#), daughter of [Sweyn I of Denmark](#) and sister of [Canute the Great](#). He was married three times.

Because of his relationship to [Canute the Great](#) he was a pretender to the throne from his early years.

When king [Harthacanute](#) died in 1042, he claimed the Danish throne, but lost to [Norway's](#) King [Magnus](#), who made Svend a *jarl* (earl or viceroy) instead.

He soon rebelled against Magnus and had the Danish nobles crown him king, but was defeated by Magnus and fled to [Sweden](#). The war between Magnus and Sweyn lasted until 1045, when [Harald Hardråde](#) returned to Norway from exile. Harald and Sweyn joined forces and forced Magnus to share the throne with Harald.

Sweyn came close to losing Denmark and his life at the naval battle of Niså off the coast of Halland. The fleets met a night and the Danes seemed to be winning, but when the Norwegians received reinforcement ships, the Danes began to sail away. Ship after ship was captured and Sweyn at last was forced to abandon his own sinking ship and row to the coast with a few retainers. They reached land and stopped at the house of a peasant to ask for something to eat. "What was the terrible rumbling in the night?" she asked. "Didn't you know the two kings were fighting all night?" asked one of Sweyn's men. "Who won, then?" the woman asked. "Norwegians," came the reply. "It's a shame on us, for a king we already have. He limps and is timid." "No," King Sweyn explained, "Timid the king of the Danes is assuredly not," defended another of the king's men, "but luck isn't with him and he lacks a victory." The housecarl brought the men water and a towel to clean themselves. As the king was drying his hands, the woman tore the cloth from him, "You should be ashamed of yourself for using the whole towel for yourself," she scolded. "The day will come when I will have your permission to use the whole cloth," was the king's comment. Her husband gave the king a horse and Sweyn continued on his way to Zealand. Sometime later the peasant was called to Zealand and given lands there for his service to the king, but his wife had to remain behind in Halland.^[3] Sweyn had a reputation for generosity and kindness that helped him on several occasions win the trust of his people. Harald relinquished his claims to Denmark in 1064 and sailed away to England to try to enforce his claim on England's crown.

After Harald was defeated and killed at the [Battle of Stamford Bridge](#) and [William the Conqueror](#) in turn defeated [Harold Godwinson](#), Sweyn turned his attention to [England](#), once ruled by his uncle [Canute the Great](#). He joined forces with [Edgar Atheling](#), the last remaining heir of the [Anglo-Saxon](#) royal house, and sent a force to attack King William in 1069

Coin struck for Sweyn II of Denmark, ca. 1050



Sweyn could also be ruthless. One New Year's Eve it was reported to the king that several of his guests and hired men had ridiculed him and talked behind his back. The king was so angry that he had them murdered in the church on New Year's Day. When the king arrived at the cathedral for mass, his friend, Bishop Vilhelm met him at the door and forbade the king and his party to enter. "You stand condemned before God, a murderer, who has defiled the house of God with blood!" cried the bishop and pushed the king back with his shepherd's crook. He declared the king excommunicated from the church. The king's men drew their swords and stepped forward to hack the bishop down, but Bishop Vilhelm held his ground. "Let him be," shouted the king and withdrew to his farm. There he removed his New Year's fine clothing and weapons and dressed in sackcloth. Then he walked back to the cathedral in his bare feet and cast himself face down in front of the entrance. Bishop Vilhelm had just begun the mass when he was told the king lay humbled at the door. Bishop Vilhelm stopped the service and went to the door to hear the king's abject confession. When the bishop realized the king was truly repentant, he raised him up, lifted the excommunication and led Sweyn into the cathedral. They were fast friends ever after.



King Sweyn died at his farm, Soderup, near Urnehoved Tingsted, near the town of Åbenrå. The king's body was carried to Roskilde where he was interred in a pillar of the choir next to the remains of Bishop Vilhelm. He was called after his death the "father of kings" because of his fifteen sons, five would become kings of Denmark.

Sweyn's second marriage was to Gunild, who was a stepmother of his former wife whose name is unknown). The pope ordered that he dissolve the union, which he did, only to take one mistress after another during the rest of his life. Sweyn fathered at least 19 children, probably more, none of them were born in wedlock, nor are their mothers now known.

- [Harald III](#) (Harald Hén) d. 1080
- [Canute IV the Saint](#) (Knud den Hellige) d. 1086
- [Oluf I](#) (Oluf Hunger) d. 1095
- [Eric I](#) (Erik Ejegod) d. 1103
- [Niels](#) d. 1134
- [Sweyn the Crusader](#) d.1197 husband of [Florine of Burgundy](#)
- Sigrid d.1066 wife of Gottschalk Fürst der Obodriten.
- Ingrid wife of [Olav III of Norway](#).

Canute IV of Denmark

Canute (or Knut) IV (c. 1043 – [July 10, 1086](#)), also known as **Canute the Saint** and **Canute the Holy** ([Danish](#): *Knud IV den Hellige* or *Sankt Knud*), was [King](#) of [Denmark](#) from 1080 until 1086. Canute was an ambitious king who sought the English throne, attempted to strengthen the Danish monarchy, and devoutly supported the [Roman Catholic Church](#). Slain by rebels in 1086, he is recognized by the [Roman Catholic Church](#) as [patron saint](#) of Denmark.

"The Death of Canute the Holy" by [Christian von Benzon](#)



Canute was the [illegitimate](#) son of [Sweyn II Estridsson](#). Before he became king of Denmark, the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle reports that Canute was one of the leaders of a Viking raiding expedition against England in 1075. On its return from England, the Danish raiders' fleet stopped in the [County of Flanders](#). Because of its hostility toward [William I of England](#), Flanders was a natural ally for the Danes.

In 1080, Canute succeeded his brother, [Harald III](#), to the throne of Denmark. On his accession, he married [Adela](#), daughter of [Robert I, Count of Flanders](#). She bore him one son, Charles, a name uncommon in Denmark. The boy later became Count of Flanders and was known as [Charles the Good](#), ruling from 1119 to 1127. Like

his father, he was martyred in a church by rebels (in [Bruges](#) in 1127).

Canute's ambitions were not purely domestic. As the grandnephew of [Canute the Great](#), who until 1035 was king of [England](#), [Denmark](#) and [Norway](#), this Canute considered the crown of England to be rightfully his. He therefore regarded [William I of England](#) as an usurper. In 1085, with the support of his father-in-law Count Robert, Canute planned an invasion of England. He assembled a fleet at [Limfjord](#), but it never set sail. Possibly Canute was wary of intervention by [Henry IV, Holy Roman Emperor](#), with whom both Denmark and Flanders were on unfriendly terms. Certainly Canute was suspicious of his brother Olaf (later [Olaf I of Denmark](#)), who sought command of the fleet, and had him arrested and sent to Flanders. The fleet then dispersed, but Canute intended to reassemble it in a year's time.

Before the fleet could reassemble, a peasant revolt broke out in southern [Jutland](#), where Canute was staying, in early 1086. Canute and his men took refuge inside the wooden Church of St. Alban's in [Odense](#). But the rebels stormed into the church and slew Canute, along with his brother Benedict and seventeen of their followers, before the altar on July 10, 1086. According to Niels Lund, Lecturer in Medieval History at the University of Copenhagen, Canute's abortive invasion of England "marked the end of the Viking Age." For it was the last time a Viking army was to assemble against Western Europe.

Because of his "[martyrdom](#)" and advocacy of the Church, Canute quickly began to be considered a saint. [Miracles](#) were soon reported as taking place at his grave. In 1101, thanks to the persuasion of [Eric III of Denmark](#)'s envoys, [Pope Paschal II](#) confirmed the "cult of Canute" that had arisen and King Canute IV was [canonized](#) as a saint. In 1300, his remains and those of his brother were interred in the new [Saint Canute's Cathedral](#).



The bones of Saint [Canute IV of Denmark](#) interred in his namesake cathedral.



Saint Canute's Cathedral, Odense

Eric I of Denmark

Eric I of Denmark (c. 1060, [Slangerup](#), – [1103](#)), also known as **Erik Ejegod** (Danish:forever kind-hearted), was King of [Denmark](#) following his brother [Olaf I](#) in 1095. He was a son of King [Sweyn Estridson](#) and Gunhild Svendsdatter, and he married Boedil Thurgotsdatter.

He was born in the town of [Slangerup](#) in North [Zealand](#). During the rule of his half-brother [Canute IV of Denmark](#) he was an eager supporter of the king, but he was spared during the rebellion against Canute. Erik remained at the royal farm instead of accompanying Canute to St Albans church in Odense. Erik talked his way off the farm and fled to Zealand. At last Erik was elected as a king at the several assemblies. Erik was well-liked by the people and the famines that had plagued Denmark during Olaf Hunger's reign ceased. For many it seemed a sign from God that Erik was the right king for Denmark.

Medieval chroniclers and myths portray him a “strapping fellow” appealing to the common people. He could keep his place when four men tried their best to move him. Erik was a good speaker, people went out of their way to hear him. After an assembly (Danish:ting) concluded he went about the neighborhood greeting men, women and children at their homesteads. He had a reputation as a loud man who liked parties and who led a rather dissipated private life.. He had a reputation for being ruthless to robbers and pirates.

King Erik had determined to go on pilgrimage to the Holy Land. The cause, according to Danmarks Riges Kronike, was the murder of four of his own men while drunk at a feast in his own hall. Despite the pleadings of his subjects, he would not be deterred. Erik and Bodil and a large company traveled through Russia to Constantinople where he was a guest of the emperor. While there he became ill, but took ship for Cyprus anyway. He died at [Paphos, Cyprus](#) in July 1103. The queen had him buried there. He was the first king to go on pilgrimage after Jerusalem was conquered during the [First Crusade](#).^[1] Queen Bodil also became ill, but made it to Jerusalem where she died. She was buried at the foot of the [Mount of Olives](#) in "Josaphats Vale".

Erik and Bodil had one legitimate son, [Canute Lavard](#). [Harald Kesja](#) was Canute's half brother. Erik had two sons outside marriage [Eric II Emune](#) and [Benedict](#), and two daughters, one named Ragnhilde (mother of the future king [Eric III](#)).

St [Canute Lavard](#) was King Erik's eldest son, and he was a chivalrous and popular Danish prince. Canute was murdered [January 7, 1131](#) by Erik's nephew [Magnus](#), the son of King [Niels](#) the Elder, who viewed Canute as a likely competitor for the throne. Canute's death occurred days before the birth of Canutes child, [Valdemar](#), who would become King of Denmark from 1157-1182. Eric Ejegod is the ancestor of later [Danish monarchs](#).

Note by LG: *Of Erik's sons Canute is an ancestor of the present Queen of Denmark and Harald Kesja is my 25th great grand father. Christian IX, King of Denmark below is my 25th cousin, twice removed and thus his descendants, as shown below, are also my distant cousins.*

Erik I Ejegod King of Denmark born 1060 died 10 Jul 1103

Harald "Kesja" Eriksson Prince of Denmark
born 1083 died 1135

Knud Eriksson Lavard King of Denmark
born 12 Mar 1091 died 7 Jan 1131

Björn Haraldsson "Jernside" Prince of Denmark
born 1105 died 1134

Margrethe Knudsdotter Princess of Denmark

Ulfhild Björnsdotter Princess of Sweden

Christine Stigsdotter Hvide
born abt 1145

Karl "Döve" Bengtsson Folkunga
born abt 1139 died 8 Aug 1220

Sverker II "the Younger" King of Sweden
born 1165 died 17 Jul 1210

Karl Karlsson Ulf
born abt 1198 died aft 1251

Christina Princess of Sweden

Ulf Karlsson Ulv
born abt 1230 died 1281

John Prince von Mecklenburg
born abt 1211 died 1264

Ingeborg Ulfsdotter Ulf

born ABT 1258 died AFT 1307

Heinrich I the Pilgrim Prince von Mecklenburg

Ulf Abjörnsson Sparre
born 1348

born abt 1230 died 1302

Karl Ulfsson Sparre av Tofta

Johann III Duke von Mecklenburg-Schwerin
born abt 1264

Margareta Karlsdotter Sparre av Tofta
died 1429

Luitgard von Mecklenburg-Schwerin

Karl VIII Knutsson Bonde King of Sweden
born 29 Sep 1409 died 15 May 1470

Agnes von Lindau-Ruppin
born abt 1308 died 1242

Karin Karlsdotter Bonde

Wenceslas von Saxe-Wittenburg
born abt 1337 died 1388

Märta Erengisledotter Djäkn

Rudolf III Duke von Saxe-Wittenburg
born 1367 died 1419

Anna Johansdotter Fleming
born 1435 died 1505

Barbara d' ASCANIE Duchess von Saxe-Wittenberg
born 1405 died 1465

Karin Olofsdotter Wildeman
born 1465 died 1535

Dorothea von Brandenburg Queen of Denmark
born 1430 died 1495

Johan Ludolfsson Boose
born 1526 died 1596

Frederick I King of Denmark
born 1471 died 1533

Kirstin Johansdotter Boose
born 1576 died 1646

Christian III King of Denmark
born 1503 died 1550

Maria Bertilsdotter von Nierohr
born 1612 died 1682

Frederick II King of Denmark
born 1534 died 1588

Christian IV Oldenburg King of Denmark
born 1577 died 1648

Carl Carlsson von Lindelöf
born 1642 died 1712

Anna Maria Carlsdotter von Lindelöf
born 1670 died 1 Feb 1747

Margareta Eriksdotter Orenia
born 16 Jan 1710

Christina Margareta Urnovia

Johan (Flinck) Årenius
born 12 Jan 1787 died 6 Nov 1823

Johan Gustaf Johansson Årenius
born 5 Jun 1810

Charlotta Constantia Renlund born 4
Jun 1830 died 28 Jan 1905

Johanna Karolina Eriksdotter Kåll
born 9 Jan 1863 died 8 Nov 1934

Erik Anton Granholm
born 28 May 1906 died 29 Jan 1959

Lars Erik Granholm
born 28 Jul 1934

Frederick III King of Denmark
born 1609 died 1670

Christian V Oldenburg King of Denmark
born 1646 died 1699

Frederick IV Oldenburg King of Denmark
born 1671 died 1730

Christian VI Oldenburg King of Denmark
born 1699 died 1746

Frederick V Oldenburg King of Denmark
born 1723 died 1766

Lovisa Oldenburg Princess of Denmark
born 1750 died 1831

Luise Caroline Princess von Hesse
born 1789 died 1867

Christian IX King of Denmark
born 8 April 1818 died 29 January 1906

Frederick VIII King of Denmark
born 3 June 1843 died 14 May 1912

Christian X King of Denmark
born 26 September 1870 died 20 April 1947

Frederick IX King of Denmark
born 11 March 1899 died 14 January 1972

Margrethe II Queen of Denmark
born 16 April 1940

Margrethe II Queen of Denmark

is the 27th cousin, twice removed of Lars Erik Granholm

Saint Canute Lavard

Canute Lavard (meaning "Canute the Lord," [Danish](#): *Knud Lavard*) (c. 1090 – [7 January 1131](#)) was a Danish prince and [Earl](#), later [Duke](#) of [Schleswig](#).

Canute Lavard in a fresco in [Vigersted Church](#) near [Ringsted](#)



Canute was the only legitimate son of [Eric I of Denmark](#) and [Boedil Thurgotsdatter](#) and as a minor he was bypassed in the election of 1104. He grew up in close contact with the noble [Zealander](#) family of Hvide, who were later on to be among his most eager supporters. In 1115, his uncle, [King Niels](#), made him Earl of South Jutland (Schleswig) in order to put an end to the attacks of the Slavic [Obodrits](#). During the next fifteen years, he fulfilled his duty, so well establishing peace in the border area that he was elected "King of the Obodrits" and became a vassal of the [Holy Roman Empire](#).

He seems to have been the first member of the Danish royal family who was attracted by the knightly ideals and habits of medieval Germany, indicated by his changing his title to "duke." His appearance made him a popular man and a possible successor of his uncle but he also acquired mighty enemies among the Danish princes and magnates who apparently questioned his loyalty and feared his bond with the Emperor, [Lothair III](#), who had recognized him as sovereign over the western [Wends](#). Whether these

suspensions were just or not is impossible to say.

Both Niels' and his son, [Magnus the Strong](#), seem to have been alarmed by Canute's recognition by the emperor. On [7 January 1131](#), Canute was trapped in the forest of Haraldsted near [Ringsted](#) in Zealand and murdered. Some sources attribute the murder to Magnus, some to Niels himself. The murder provoked a civil war that intermittently lasted until 1157, ending only with the triumph of Canute's posthumous son [Valdemar I](#).

Canute Lavard was married to Ingeborg, daughter of [Mstislav of Kiev](#). They had four children:

1. [Valdemar I of Denmark](#)
2. Margaret, married Stig Hvitedr
3. [Christina](#) (b. 1118), married (1133) [Magnus IV of Norway](#)
4. Catherine, married (c. 1159) [Pribislav Henry](#), [Duke of Mecklenburg](#)

Christian IX of Denmark

Christian IX (8 April 1818 - 29 January 1906) was King of [Denmark](#) from 1863 to, 1906.

Christian IX King of Denmark

He was born in [Gottorp](#), the fourth son of [Friedrich Wilhelm, Duke of Schleswig-Holstein-Sonderburg-Glücksburg](#) and [Louise Caroline, Princess of Hesse](#). Through his mother, Christian was a great-grandson of [Frederick V of Denmark](#), great-great-grandson of [George II of Great Britain](#) and descendant of several other monarchs, but had no direct claim to any European throne.

Through his father, Christian was a member of a junior male branch of the [House of Oldenburg](#) and a prince of the Schleswig-Holstein-Sonderburg-Glücksburg line, a junior branch of the family which had ruled Denmark for centuries.

King Christian IX Monument in [Christiansborg Palace](#).



When Frederick died in 1863, Christian assumed the throne as **Christian IX**.

In November 1863 Frederick of Augustenburg claimed the twin-duchies in [succession](#) after King [Frederick VII of Denmark](#), who also was the [Duke](#) of Schleswig and Holstein, and who had died without a male heir.

In 1864, Prussia and Austria initiated the [Second war of Schleswig](#) which eventually led to the Danish loss of both South Jutland and Holstein.



Europe's "Father in Law"

Christian and Louise gave birth to six remarkably successful children:

- Crown Prince Frederick of Denmark, later [Frederick VIII of Denmark](#) (June 3, 1843 - May 14, 1912). Married [Princess Lovisa of Sweden](#).
- [Princess Alexandra of Denmark](#), later the [Queen consort](#) of [Edward VII of the United Kingdom](#) (December 1, 1844 - November 20, 1925).
- Prince Vilhelm ([December 24, 1845](#) - [March 18, 1913](#)), later [King George I of Greece](#). Married [Olga Konstantinova, Grand Duchess of Russia](#).
- [Princess Dagmar of Denmark](#), later the consort of [Tsar Alexander III of Russia](#) ([November 26, 1847](#) - [October 13, 1928](#)).
- [Princess Thyra of Denmark](#), later consort of [Ernst August of Hanover, 3rd Duke of Cumberland](#) ([September 29, 1853](#) - [February 26, 1933](#)).

- [Prince Valdemar of Denmark](#), ([October 27, 1858](#) - [January 14, 1939](#)). Married Princess [Marie de Orléans-Bourbon](#) (1865-1909).

Four of his children became monarchs, sitting on the thrones (either directly or as a consort) of [Denmark](#), [Great Britain](#), [Russia](#) and [Greece](#). A fifth, daughter Thyra, would have become Queen of Hanover, had her husband's throne not been abolished before his reign began. The great dynastical success of the six children was to a great extent not the favor of Christian IX himself, but due to Christian's wife [Louise of Hesse-Kassel](#) dynastical ambitions. Some have compared her dynastical capabilities with those of Queen [Victoria of the United Kingdom](#).

Christian's grandsons included [Nicholas II of Russia](#), [Constantine I of Greece](#), [George V of the United Kingdom](#), [Christian X of Denmark](#) and [Haakon VII of Norway](#). He was, in the last years of his life, named [Europe's "father-in-law"](#). Today, most of Europe's reigning and ex-reigning royal families are direct [descendants of Christian IX](#).

There is a story that, while on an outing with his children and their families, they happened across a lost man whom they helped to find his way. Upon reaching the road, the man inquired as to the identities of Christian and his family. Christian replied truthfully, stating the names and titles of all present. Not believing Christian but instead taking it in humour, he proclaimed himself to be [Jesus Christ](#) before departing.

Christian died peacefully of old age at 87 at the [Amalienborg Palace](#) in [Copenhagen](#) and was buried in [Roskilde Cathedral](#).

Note by LG: *The following pages show King Christian's European royal descendants in 12 countries and their relationships to me.*

Christian IX is a 23th cousin twice removed of Lars Granholm

1. **Christian IX King of Denmark**, b. 8 April 1818, (son of Wilhelm Duke von Schleswig-Holstein and Luise Caroline Princess von Hesse) d. 1906. He married Louise Princess of Hesse-Kassel, b. 1817, d. 1898.

Children:

2. i. Maria Feodorovna (Dagmar) Empress of Russia b. 26 Nov 1847.
3. ii. Alexandra Princess of Denmark b. 1 Dec 1844.
4. iii. Frederick VIII King of Denmark b. 3 June 1843.
5. iv. George I King of Greece b. 1845.

24th cousin once removed of Lars Granholm

2. **Maria Feodorovna (Dagmar) Empress of Russia**, b. 26 Nov 1847, d. 13 Oct 1928. She married Alexander III Romanov Czar of Russia, b. 1845, d. 1894.

Children:

6. i. Nicholas II Romanov Czar of Russia b. 1868.

3. **Alexandra Princess of Denmark**, b. 1 Dec 1844, d. 20 Nov 1925. She married Edward VII King of the United Kingdom, b. 9 Nov 1841, (son of Prince Albert of Coburg and Victoria Queen of the United Kingdom) d. 6 May 1910.

Children:

7. i. George V King of the United Kingdom b. 3 Jun 1865.

4. **Frederick VIII King of Denmark**, b. 3 June 1843, d. 14 May 1912. He married Louise Queen of Denmark, b. 31 October 1851 in Stockholm, d. 20 March 1926.

Children:

8. i. Christian X King of Denmark b. 26 September 1870.
9. ii. Haakon VII King of Norway b. 1872.
10. iii. Ingeborg Princess of Denmark b. 1878.

5. **George I King of Greece**, b. 1845, d. 1913. He married Olga Konstantinovna Princess of Russia.

Children:

11. i. Constantine I King of Greece b. 1868.

25th cousins of Lars Granholm

6. **Nicholas II Romanov Czar of Russia**, b. 1868, d. 16 Jul 1918 in Executed by Bolsheviks. He married Alexandra Fedorovna von Hessen, b. 1872, d. 16 Jul 1918 in Executed by Bolsheviks.

Children:

- i. Anastasia Romanov Grand Duchess of Russia, b. 1901, d. 16 Jul 1918 in Executed by Bolsheviks.

7. **George V King of the United Kingdom**, b. 3 Jun 1865 in Marlborough House, London, d. 20 Jan 1936. He married Mary of Teck Queen of the United Kingdom, b. 26 May 1867, d. 24 Mar 1953.

Children:

12. i. George VI (Albert) King of the United Kingdom b. 14 December 1895.

8. **Christian X King of Denmark**, b. 26 September 1870, d. 20 April 1947. He married Alexandrine Duchess of Mecklenburg-Schwerin, b. 24 December 1879, (daughter of Frederick Francis III, Grand Duke of Mecklenburg-Schwerin and Anastasia Mikhailovna Grand Duchess of Russia) d. 28 December 1952.

Children:

13. i. Frederick IX King of Denmark b. 11 March 1899.

9. **Haakon VII King of Norway**, b. 1872, d. 1957. He married Maud Princess of Wales.

Children:

14. i. Olav V King of Norway b. 1903.

10. **Ingeborg Princess of Denmark**, b. 1878, d. 1958. She married Carl Duke of Västergötland, (son of Oscar II King of Sweden).

Children:

15. i. Märtha Princess of Sweden b. 1901.
16. ii. Astrid of Sweden Queen of Belgium b. 1905.

11. **Constantine I King of Greece**, b. 1868, d. 1923. He married Sophie Princess of Prussia.

Children:

- i. George II King of Greece, b. 1890, d. 1947.
17. ii. Paul King of the Hellenes b. 1901.
18. iii. Helen Queen Mother of Romania b. 1896.

26th cousins once removed of Lars Granholm

12. **George VI (Albert) King of the United Kingdom**, b. 14 December 1895, d. 6 February 1952. He married Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon Queen Mother, b. 4 August 1900, d. 30 March 2002.

Children:

19. i. Elizabeth II Queen of the United Kingdom b. 21 April 1926.

13. **Frederick IX King of Denmark**, b. 11 March 1899 in Sorgenfri, Isle of Seeland, d. 14 January 1972. He married Ingrid Victoria Princess of Sweden, b. 28 March 1910, (daughter of Gustaf VI Adolf King of Sweden and Margaret Princess of Connaught) d. 7 November 2000.

Children:

20. i. Margrethe II Queen of Denmark b. 16 April 1940.
21. ii. Anne-Marie Queen of Greece b. 1946.

14. **Olav V King of Norway**, b. 1903, d. 1991. He married Märtha Princess of Sweden, b. 1901, (daughter of Carl Duke of Västergötland and Ingeborg Princess of Denmark) d. 1954.

Children:

22. i. Harald V King of Norway b. 1937.

15. **Märtha Princess of Sweden**, (See marriage to number 14.)

16. **Astrid of Sweden Queen of Belgium**, b. 1905, d. 1935. She married Leopold III King of Belgium, b. 1901, d. 1983.

Children:

- i. Baudouin I King of Belgium, b. 1930, d. 1993. He married Fabiola Queen of Belgium, b. 1928.
23. ii. Albert II King of Belgium b. Jun 6 1934.
24. iii. Josephine-Charlotte Grand Duchess of Luxembourg b. 1027.

17. **Paul King of the Hellenes**, b. 1901, d. 1964. He married Frederica Princess of Hanover, b. 1917, d. 1981.

Children:

- i. Constantine II King of Greece b. 1940.
26. ii. Sofia Queen of Spain b. 1938.

18. **Helen Queen Mother of Romania**, b. 1896, d. 1982. She married Carol II King of Romania, b. 1893, d. 1953.

Children:

- i. Michael King of Romania b. 1921.

27th cousins twice removed of Lars Granholm

19. **Elizabeth II Queen of the United Kingdom**, b. 21 April 1926. She married Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, b. 1921.

Children:

- i. Prince Charles, Prince of Wales, b. 14 November 1948. He married Diana, Princess of Wales.

20. **Margrethe II Queen of Denmark**, b. 16 April 1940. She married Henrik Prince Consort of Denmark, b. 1934. *Children:*

- i. Frederik Crown Prince of Denmark.

21. **Anne-Marie Queen of Greece**, b. 1946. She married Constantine II King of Greece, b. 1940, (son of Paul King of the Hellenes and Frederica Princess of Hanover).

Children:

- i. Pavlos Crown Prince of Greece, b. 1967.

22. **Harald V King of Norway**, b. 1937. He married Sonja Queen of Norway. *Children:*

- i. Haakon Crown Prince of Norway, b. 1973.

23. **Albert II King of Belgium**, b. Jun 6 1934. He married Paola Queen of Belgium, b. 1937.

Children:

- i. Elisabeth Crown Princess of Belgium, b. 2001.

24. **Josephine-Charlotte Grand Duchess of Luxembourg**, b. 1027, d. 2005. She married Jean Grand Duke of Luxembourg, b. 1921.

Children:

28. i. Henri Grand Duke of Luxembourg b. 1955.
29. ii. Marie Astrid Archduchess of Austria b. 1954.
30. iii. Margaretha Princess of Liechtenstein b. 1957.

25. **Constantine II King of Greece**, (See marriage to number 21.)

26. **Sofia Queen of Spain**, b. 1938. She married Juan Carlos I King of Spain, b. 1938.

Children:

- i. Felipe, Prince of Asturias.

27. **Michael King of Romania**, b. 1921. He married Anne of Bourbon-Parma.

Children:

- i. Elena Princess of Romania, b. 1950.

28th cousins three times removed of Lars Granholm

28. **Henri Grand Duke of Luxembourg**, b. 1955. He married Maria Teresa Grand Duchess of Luxembourg, b. 1956. *Children:*

- i. Guillaume Hereditary Grand Duke of Luxembourg, b. 1981.

29. **Marie Astrid Archduchess of Austria**, b. 1954. She married Carl Christian Archduke of Austria, b. 1954. *Children:*

- i. Marie Christine Archduchess of Austria, b. 1983.

30. **Margaretha Princess of Liechtenstein**, b. 1957. She married Nikolaus Prince of Liechtenstein, b. 1947.

Children: i. Josef-Emanuel Prince of Liechtenstein, b. 1989.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frederick_VIII_of_Denmark

Frederick VIII of Denmark

Frederik VIII (Christian Frederik Vilhelm Carl) ([3 June 1843](#) – [14 May 1912](#)) was King of Denmark from 1906 to 1912.



He was the eldest son of King Christian IX and his wife, Denmark's heiress, Louise of Hesse - and was born in Copenhagen. As Crown Prince of Denmark he formally took part in the war of 1864 against Austria and Prussia, and subsequently assisted his father in the duties of government. He became king of Denmark on Christian's death in January 1906.

On his return journey from a trip to [France](#), King Frederik made a short stop in [Hamburg](#), staying at the Hotel Hamburger Hof. The evening of his arrival, Frederik (incognito) took a walk on the Jungfernstieg. While walking he became faint and collapsed on a park bench and died. He was discovered by a police officer who took him to a Hafen hospital where he was pronounced dead. His

cause of death was announced as a paralysis-attack.

In July 1868, Frederik became engaged to the 17-year-old only daughter of [Charles XV of Sweden](#), [Lovisa of Sweden](#). Princess Lovisa's family was related by marriage to [Napoleon Bonaparte](#). She belonged to the [Bernadotte dynasty](#), which had ruled in Sweden since 1818, when the founder, [Jean-Baptiste Bernadotte](#), one of Napoleon's generals, was elected King of Sweden with the name of [Charles XIV of Sweden](#).

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christian_X_of_Denmark (15453)

Christian X of Denmark



Christian X (Christian Carl Frederik Albert Alexander Vilhelm) ([26 September 1870](#) – [20 April 1947](#)) was [King](#) of [Denmark](#) from 1912 to 1947 and last king of [Iceland](#) between 1918 and 1944.

In contrast to the monarchs of [Norway](#) and [the Netherlands](#), who went into [exile](#) during the Nazi occupation of their countries, Christian X remained in his capital throughout the [occupation of Denmark](#), being to the Danish people a visible symbol of the national cause..

In 1942, [Adolf Hitler](#) sent the king a long telegram congratulating him on his 72nd birthday. The king's reply telegram was a mere, *Meinen besten Dank. Chr. Rex* ([English](#): *My best thanks, King Chr.*). This perceived (and no doubt deliberate) slight greatly outraged Hitler and

he immediately recalled his ambassador from Copenhagen and expelled the Danish ambassador from Germany.

During the German [occupation of Denmark](#), the King's daily ride through Copenhagen became a symbol of Danish sovereignty. This picture was taken on his birthday in 1940. Note that he is not accompanied by a guard.

King Christian used to ride through the streets of Copenhagen unaccompanied while the people stood and waved to him. One apocryphal story relates that one day, a German soldier remarked to a young boy that he found it odd that the king would ride with no bodyguard. The boy reportedly replied, "All of Denmark is his bodyguard."



http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frederick_IX_of_Denmark

Frederick IX of Denmark

Frederick IX (Christian Frederik Franz Michael Carl Valdemar Georg) ([11 March 1899](#) – [14 January 1972](#)) was [King of Denmark](#) from [20 April 1947](#) until his death. He was the son of [King Christian X](#) of Denmark and Queen [Alexandrine](#), born Duchess of Mecklenburg.



In 1922, Frederick was engaged to [Princess Olga of Greece](#), his cousin and the daughter of [Prince Nicholas of Greece](#); however they never wed. Instead, he married Princess [Ingrid of Sweden](#) (1910-2000, daughter of [Crown Prince Gustav Adolf](#), later King Gustav VI Adolf of Sweden) in [Stockholm](#) on [24 May 1935](#). They were related in several ways. In descent from [Oscar I of Sweden](#), they were third cousins. In descent from [Paul I of Russia](#), Frederick was a fourth cousin of Ingrid's mother.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Margrethe_II_of_Denmark

Margrethe II of Denmark

Margrethe II (*Margrethe Alexandrine Þórhildur Ingrid*) (born [16 April 1940](#)) is the [queen](#) of [Denmark](#). Only very rarely is her name [anglicized](#) as **Margaret II**. She is commonly called Dronningen ("[the queen](#)").

Princess Margrethe was born at [Amalienborg Palace](#), to [Crown Prince Frederik](#) and [Crown Princess Ingrid](#). Since King Christian X was also the [King of Iceland](#) at the time, as a tribute to the people of Iceland, the Princess was given an [Icelandic](#) name, *Þórhildur*.

On 10 June 1967, Princess Margrethe of [Denmark](#) married a French diplomat, Count [Henri de Laborde de Monpezat](#).



Margrethe II Queen of Denmark



Frederik, Crown Prince of Denmark

Frederik, Crown Prince of Denmark ([Danish](#): *Frederik André Henrik Christian, Kronprins til Danmark*; born: [Copenhagen](#), 26 May 1968) is the [heir apparent](#) to the [Throne of Denmark](#). Frederik is the elder son of [Queen Margrethe II](#) and [Count Henrik of Monpezat](#). If Crown Prince Frederik becomes king, as he is expected to, he will be *Frederik X of Denmark*.

Crown Prince Frederik of Denmark