



GRANHOLM GENEALOGY



ORKNEY EARLS ~ VIKING ERA



INTRODUCTION

I recently got an unusual and good beer from an unusual place, the Skull-Splitter ale from Orkney. This prompted me to Google that and I found some quite interesting information.

The Orkney beer is named after one of our ancestors. The Orkney flag shows their close Scandinavian relationship. During the 300 years long Viking era the ruling Earls (Jarls) of Orkney had close ties to the Norwegian Vikings. Below I have listed how we are related to them and stories about them. For many of the persons I have included Wikipedia information or when not available some other relationships information.

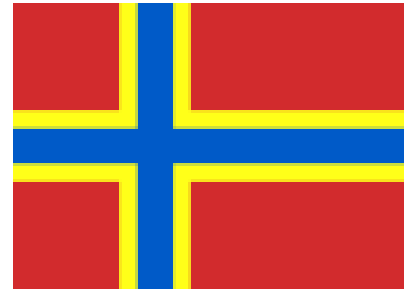
Lars Granholm
Adamstown, MD
November 2012

Orkney also known as the **Orkney Islands** is an [archipelago](#) in northern [Scotland](#), 16 kilometres (10 mi) north of the coast of [Caithness](#). Orkney comprises approximately 70 islands of which 20 are inhabited.

The largest settlement and administrative centre is [Kirkwall](#).



The name "Orkney" dates back to the 1st century BC or earlier, and the islands have been inhabited for at least 8,500 years. Originally occupied by [Mesolithic](#) and [Neolithic](#) tribes and then by the [Picts](#), Orkney was invaded and forcibly annexed by [Norway](#) in 875 and settled by the Norse. It was subsequently annexed to the [Scottish Crown](#) in 1472, following the failed payment of a [dowry](#) for [James III](#)'s bride, [Margaret of Denmark](#).



According to the Orkneyinga Saga, Harald Hårfagre (on the left) took control of Orkney in 875.



Both Orkney and [Shetland](#) saw a significant influx of Norwegian settlers during the late 8th and early 9th centuries. [Vikings](#) made the islands the headquarters of their [pirate](#) expeditions carried out against Norway and the coasts of mainland Scotland. In response, Norwegian king [Harald Hårfagre](#) ("Harald Fair Hair") annexed the [Northern Isles](#) in 875. [Rognvald Eysteinnsson](#) received Orkney and Shetland from Harald as an earldom as reparation for the death of his son in battle in Scotland, and then passed the earldom on to his brother [Sigurd the Mighty](#).

However, Sigurd's line barely survived him and it was [Torf-Einarr](#), Rognvald's son by a slave, who founded a dynasty that controlled the islands for centuries after his death. He was succeeded by his son [Thorfinn Skull-splitter](#) and during this time the deposed Norwegian King [Eric Bloodaxe](#) often used Orkney as a raiding base before being killed in 954. Thorfinn's death and presumed burial at the broch of Hoxa, on [South Ronaldsay](#), led to a long period of dynastic strife.



The *Orkneyinga Saga* suggests the islands were Christianised by [Olav Trygvasson](#) in 995 when he stopped at [South Walls](#) on his way from Ireland to Norway. South Walls played a crucial role in the Christianisation of Orkney. The King summoned the [jarl Sigurd the Stout](#) and said "*I order you and all your subjects to be baptized. If you refuse, I'll have you killed on the spot and I swear I will ravage every island with fire and steel.*" Earl Sigurd accepted, and remained a nominal Christian the rest of his life. However, he did so under duress - King Olaf had many [valas](#) (Norse [shamans](#)) executed by

being tied and left on a skerry at ebb. This was a long and terrible wait for death, and perhaps Earl Sigurd expected a similar fate. The islands became Christian at a stroke receiving their own [bishop](#) in the early 11th century.

Descendants of: Rognvald "The Wise" Earl of Orkney as Related to: Lars Erik Granholm

1 Rognvald Eysteinsson "The Wise" Earl of Orkney b. Abt 830 d. 892 (35th great grandfather)
m. Ragnhild (Hilde) Hrolfsdotter Countess of More b. Abt 840 d. 892

1 Sigurd Eysteinsson "The Mighty" Earl of Orkney b. Abt 875 d. 892 (Half 30th great grand-uncle)

2 Einar "Turf" Rognvaldsson Earl Of Orkney b. 858 d. 910 (34th great grandfather)

3 Thorfinn 'Skull Splitter' Einarsson Earl Of Orkney b. 890 d. 976 (33rd great grandfather)
m. Grelod Dungadsdotter b. 898 d. 941

4 Arnfinn Thorfinnsson Earl Of Orkney b. 941 d. 979 (33rd great-uncle)
m. Ragnhild Eriksdotter Princess Of Norway m. 954 d. 984

4 Hlödvir Thorfinnsson Earl Of Orkney b. 924 d. 980 (32nd great grandfather)
m. Eithne Audna Edna of Orkney Princess of Orkney b. 940 d. 1000

5 Sigurd II The Stout Hlodvesson Earl Of Orkney b. 960 d. 1014 (31st great grandfather)
m. Olith (Donada) MacKenneth

6 Brusi Sigurdsson Earl of Orkney b. 987 d. 1031 (30th great grandfather)
m. Ostrida Regenwaldsdotter Countess of Orkney b. 990 d. 1010

7 Ragnvald II Bruesson Earl Of Orkney b. 1011 d. Dec 1048 (29th great grandfather)
m. Felicia Princess Of Normandy b. 1017

8 Thora Ragnvaldsdotter Queen Of Norway b. 1030 (28th great grandmother)
m. Olaf III Kyrre King Of Norway b. Abt 1050 d. 22 Sep 1093

6 Thorfinn Sigurdsson II Earl Of Orkney b. 989 d. 1060 (31st great-uncle)
m. Ingibjorg Finnsdottir b. 1021 d. 1066

7 Erland Thorfinnsson Earl Of Orkney and Caithness (first cousin, 31 times removed)
m. Thora Sumarlidsdatter Sida b. 1061

8 St Magnus Erlandsson Earl Of Orkney b. 1076 d. 1115 (second cousin, 30 times removed)

8 Gunhild Erlendsdottir b. 1077 (second cousin, 30 times removed)
m. Kol (Kali) Kalisson of Agder b. 1098

9 Rögnvald (Saint Ronald) Earl Of Orkney b. 1100 d. 1158 (third cousin, 29 times removed)

7 Paul Thorfinnson Earl Of Orkney (first cousin, 31 times removed)

8 Haakon Paulsson Earl Of Orkney b. 1105 d. 1123 (second cousin, 30 times removed)

9 Margaret Haakonsdottir Duchess Of Orkney (third cousin, 29 times removed)
m. Matad Mormaer of Caithness

10 Harald Maddadsson Earl of Orkney b. 1134 d. 1206 (4th cousin, 28 times removed)
m. Hvarflod Maelsdottir

11 Jon Haraldsson Earl of Orkney d. 1231 (5th cousin, 27 times removed)

See the full Descendants List in [Norwegian Royal Ancestry Harald Hårfager to Present](#)

Rognvald Eysteinnsson

Rognvald "The Wise" Eysteinnsson (son of [Eystein Ivarsson](#)) is the founder of the [Earldom of Orkney](#) in the [Norse Sagas](#). Three quite different accounts of the creation of the [Norse](#) earldom on [Orkney](#) and [Shetland](#) exist. The best known is that found in the *[Heimskringla](#)*, but other older traditions are found in the *[Historia Norvegiae](#)* and the *[Fragmentary Annals of Ireland](#)*.

The saga accounts are the best known, and the latest, of the three surviving traditions concerning Rognvald and the foundation of the Earldom of Orkney. Recorded in the 13th century, their views are informed by [Norwegian](#) politics of the day. Once, historians could write that no-one denied the reality of [Harald Fairhair](#)'s expeditions to the west recounted in *Heimskringla*, but this is no longer the case. The Norwegian contest with the [Kings of Scots](#) over the [Hebrides](#) and the [Isle of Man](#) in the middle 13th century underlies the sagas.

The *Heimskringla* recounts other tales of Rognvald. It tells how he causes Harald Finehair to be given his byname Fairhair by cutting and dressing his hair, which had been uncut for ten years on account of Harald's vow never to cut it until he was ruler of all Norway, and it makes him the father of Ganger-Hrólf, identified by saga writers with the [Rollo](#) (Hrólf), ancestor of the [Dukes of Normandy](#), who was said to have been established as Count of [Rouen](#) by King [Charles the Simple](#) in 931.

Earl Rognvald is killed by Harald's son Halfdan Hålegg. Rognvald's death is avenged by his son, Earl [Turf-Einar](#), from whom later Orkney earls claimed descent, who kills Halfdan on [North Ronaldsay](#).

The oldest account of the Rognvald and the earldom of Orkney is that found in the *Fragmentary Annals of Ireland*. The annals survive only in incomplete copies, but the original annals are believed to date from the lifetime of [Donnchad mac Gilla Pátraic](#) (died 1039). The annals are known to have had an influence on later writings in [Iceland](#).

Rognvald having given his earldom to Sigurd, according to the *[Orkneyinga Saga](#)*, the latter died in a curious fashion after a battle with [Máel Brigte of Moray](#). Sigurd's son Gurthorm ruled for a single winter after this and died childless.

In addition to Hrólf/Rollo and Turf-Einar, Rognvald had a third son called Hallad who then inherited the title. However, unable to constrain Danish raids on Orkney, he gave up the earldom and returned to Norway, which "everyone thought was a huge joke." The predations of the Danish pirates led to Rognvald flying into a rage and summoning his sons Thorir and Hrolluag. He predicted that Thorir's path would keep him in Norway and that Hrolluag was destined seek his fortune in Iceland. Turf-Einar, the youngest, then came forward and offered to go to the islands. Rognvald said: "Considering the kind of mother you have, slave-born on each side of her family, you are not likely to make much of a ruler. But I agree, the sooner you leave and the later you return the happier I'll be." His father's misgivings notwithstanding, Torf-Einarr succeeded in defeating the Danes and founded a dynasty which retained control of the islands for centuries after his death.

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

Sigurd Eysteinnsson



Map of North-eastern Scotland showing [Orkney](#), [Shetland](#), [Caithness](#), and [Moray](#). At his death, Sigurd Eysteinnsson controlled the area north of the [river Oykel](#). The probable site of his burial mound, Sigurd's Howe is shown.

Sigurd Eysteinnsson (aka **Sigurd the Mighty**, ruled *circa* 875–892) was the second [Viking Earl of Orkney](#), who succeeded his brother [Rognvald Eysteinnsson](#). He was a leader in the [Viking conquest of what is now northern Scotland](#). Bizarrely, he was killed by the [severed head](#) of one his enemies, [Máel Brigte](#), who may have been [mórmaer of Moray](#). Sigurd strapped Máel Brigte's head to his saddle as a trophy of conquest, and as he rode, Máel Brigte's teeth grazed against Sigurd's leg. The wound became infected and Sigurd died.

The two main sources for Sigurd's life are the Norse [Heimskringla](#) and [Orkneyinga](#) sagas. According to the sagas, after the [Battle of Hafrsfjord](#) unified the [Norwegian kingdom](#) in or after 872, the [Orkney](#) and [Shetland](#) islands became a refuge for exiled Vikings, who raided their former homeland. The king of Norway, [Harald Finehair](#), subdued the pirate Vikings with the aid of [Rognvald Eysteinnsson](#) of [Møre](#).

During the conquest, Rognvald's son, Ivar, was killed, and in compensation for his loss Harald gave Rognvald the islands along with the title of Jarl or Earl. With the consent of Harald, Rognvald transferred the title and lands to his brother Sigurd, who was one of Harald's forecastle-men. The [Historia Norvegiæ](#), written around the same time as the sagas but from a different source, corroborates the conquest of the islands by Rognvald's family, but omits any details.

In league with [Thorstein the Red](#), Sigurd expanded his domains to the Scottish mainland, and conquered [Caithness](#) and [Sutherland](#) at least as far south as *Ekkjalsbakka*, which some sources say was in [Moray](#), but was much more likely to be farther north somewhere along the banks of the [river Oykel](#). His exploits in conquering the north of Scotland became legendary and earned him the epithet, "the Mighty", or in [Old Norse](#) *ríki*.

Sigurd's Howe

According to the [Orkneyinga saga](#), towards the end of his reign, Sigurd challenged a native ruler, Máel Brigte the Bucktoothed, to a 40-man-a-side battle. Treacherously, Sigurd brought 80 men to the fight. Máel Brigte was defeated and beheaded. Sigurd strapped the head to his saddle as a trophy, but as Sigurd rode, Máel Brigte's buck-tooth scratched his leg. The leg became inflamed and infected, and as a result Sigurd died. He was buried in a [tumulus](#) known as Sigurd's [Howe](#), or *Sigurðar-haugr*, from the [Old Norse](#) word *haugr* meaning mound or barrow. The location of Sigurd's Howe is most probably modern-day Sidera or Cyderhall near [Dornoch](#).

The sagas say that Rognvald's sons were more interested in conquering places other than Scotland, and so the earldom was given to Rognvald's youngest son, [Einarr](#) whose mother was a slave.

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

Battle of Hafrsfjord

The national monument of [Haraldshaugen](#) was raised in 1872, to commemorate the Battle of Hafrsfjord.



The **Battle of [Hafrsfjord](#)** has traditionally been regarded as the battle in which western [Norway](#) for the first time was unified under one monarch.

Although most scholars currently tend to regard the unification as a process lasting centuries, rather than being the result of a single battle, the Battle of Hafrsfjord ranks high

in the popular imagination of Norway. It was the conclusion of King [Harald I of Norway](#)'s declaration to become the sole ruler of Norway. This battle may well have been the largest in Norway up to that time and for a good while after.

Harald Hårfagre in battle at Hafrsfjord



It was formerly believed that this battle was the decisive event in the unification of Norway. According to Snorri's saga, King Harald controlled large parts of Norway's southeast portion before the battle; but other sources claim that the eastern portion of Norway was under the Danish king. The Battle of Hafrsfjord marks the final crushing of opposition from Norway's southwestern portion. This made it possible for King Harald to subdue the country and collect taxes from a large part of it. Later historiography regarded him as the first legitimate [King of Norway](#). Many of the defeated who would not submit to Harald's rule emigrated to Iceland.

The most well-known source of the battle is Harald Fairhair's saga in [Heimskringla](#) written by [Snorri Sturluson](#) more than 300 years after the battle took place.

News came in from the south land that the people of [Hordaland](#) and [Rogaland](#), [Agder](#) and [Thelemark](#), were gathering, and bring together ships and weapons, and a great body of men. The leaders of this were [Eirik king of Hordaland](#); Sulke king of Rogaland, and his brother Earl Sote: Kjotve the Rich, king of Agder, and his son Thor Haklang; and from Thelemark two brothers, Hroald Hryg and Had the Hard. Now when Harald got certain news of this, he assembled his forces, set his ships on the water, made himself ready with his men, and set out southwards along the coast, gathering many people from every district. King Eirik heard of this when he came south of Stad; and having assembled all the men he could expect, he proceeded southwards to meet the force which he knew was coming to his help from the east. The whole met together north of Jadar, and went into Hafrersfjord, where King Harald was waiting with his forces. A great battle began, which was both hard and long; but at last King Harald gained the day. There King Eirik fell, and King Sulke, with his brother Earl Sote. Thor Haklang, who was a great berserk, had laid his ship against King Harald's, and there was above all measure a desperate attack, until Thor Haklang fell, and his whole ship was cleared of men. Then King Kjotve fled to a little isle outside, on which there was a good place of strength. Thereafter all his men fled, some to their ships, some up to the land; and the latter ran southwards over the country of Jadar.

Torf-Einarr

Einarr Rögnvaldarson, Torf-Einarr or **Turf-Einar** (*fl.* early 890s–920s) was one of the [Norse Earls of Orkney](#). His rise to power is related in [sagas](#) which apparently draw on verses of Einarr's own composition for inspiration. After battling for control of the [Northern Isles](#) of [Scotland](#), Einarr founded a dynasty which retained control of the islands for centuries after his death.

Einarr was the youngest son of [Rögnvald Eysteinnsson](#) of [Møre, Norway](#), by a concubine. Rögnvald's family conquered the [Orkney](#) and [Shetland](#) islands in the late ninth century, and Rögnvald's brother, [Sigurd Eysteinnsson](#), was made Earl of Orkney. After his death on campaign, Sigurd was succeeded by his son, Guthorm, who died shortly afterward. Rögnvald sent one of his sons, Hallad, to govern the islands but Hallad was unable to maintain control, resigned his earldom and returned to Norway as a common landholder.

According to the Norse [Heimskringla](#) and [Orkneyinga sagas](#), Rögnvald had little regard for his youngest son Einarr because Einarr's mother was a slave. The sagas record that Rögnvald agreed to provide Einarr with a ship and crew in the hope that he would sail away and never return. Einarr sailed to the Scottish islands, where he defeated two Danish warlords (Thorir Treebeard) and Kálf Skurfa (Kalf the Scurvy), who had taken residence there, and established himself as earl. It is unclear whether the account in the sagas of Einarr's conquest is accurate. Though the [Historia Norvegiæ](#), written at the same time as the sagas but from a different source, confirms that Rögnvald's family conquered the islands, it gives few details. The scene in the sagas where Einarr's father scorns him is a literary device which often figures in [Old Norse literature](#). Much of Einarr's story in the sagas appears to be derived from five [skaldic](#) verses attributed to Einarr himself.

The five verses attributed to Einarr describe a feud between the families of Rögnvald and the King of Norway, [Harald Finehair](#). The poems are elaborated in the sagas, which say that two of Harald Finehair's unruly sons, Halvdan Hålegg (Hálfðan Longlegs) and Gudrød Ljome (Gudrod the Gleaming), killed Einarr's father Rögnvald by trapping him in his house and setting it alight. Gudrød took possession of Rögnvald's lands while Hálfðan sailed westwards to Orkney and displaced Einarr. The sagas say that King Harald, apparently appalled by his sons' actions, overthrew Gudrød and restored Rögnvald's lands to his son, Thorir Rögnvaldarson. From a base in [Caithness](#), Einarr resisted Hálfðan's occupation of the islands. After a battle at sea, and a ruthless campaign on land, Einarr spied Hálfðan hiding on [North Ronaldsay](#). The sagas claim that Hálfðan was captured, and sacrificed to [Odin](#) as a [blood-eagle](#). The blood-eagle sacrifice may be a misunderstanding or an invention of the sagawriters as it does not feature directly in the earlier skaldic verses, which instead indicate that Hálfðan was killed by a volley of spears.

The remainder of Einarr's long reign was apparently unchallenged, and he died in his bed of a sickness, leaving three sons, Arnkel, Erlend and [Thorfinn](#). The sagas describe Einarr as tall, ugly and blind in one eye, but sharp-sighted nonetheless. Despite these apparent disabilities, as well as his low-born mother, Einarr established a dynasty which ruled the Orkney Islands until 1470.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thorfinn_Turf-Einarsson,_Earl_of_Orkney

Thorfinn Turf-Einarsson, Earl of Orkney

Thorfinn 'Skullsplitter' Hausakljufr (died 976) was [earl of Orkney](#). He was the youngest son of [Turf-Einarr](#). Thorfinn married Grelod, daughter of the [Mormaer of Caithness](#) and granddaughter of [Thorstein the Red](#). Thorfinn and Grelod had five sons and two daughters. Their son [Arnfinn Thorfinnsson](#) married [Ragnhild Eiriksdotter](#), daughter of [Eirik Bloodaxe](#) and his widow, [Gunnhildr](#). Thorfinn may have been buried in the [broch](#) at Hoxa, on [South Ronaldsay](#).

The five sons of Thorfinn were Arnfinn, Havard, Hlodvir, Ljot, and Skuli. Arnfinns' wife, Ragnhild Eiriks-Dottir had her husband killed at [Murkle](#) in Caithness and married Havard who ruled as earl for a time. Skuli gave allegiance to the Scots king who made him Earl of Caithness and Orkney but never gained control of Orkney, being killed in battle against Ljot in Caithness. Ljot later died in battle, possibly against [MacBeth](#) of [Moray](#).



The modern Orcadian beer [SkullSplitter](#) with his name is still made, according to the label on the bottle “5000 years in the making”. Considering that Orkney has been inhabited for 8,500 years, this may be possible.

<http://www.geni.com/people/Arnfinn-Orkneyjarl/6000000001169221732>

Arnfinn Thorfinnsson Orkneyjarl (c.941 - 979) MP

[Back to Orkneyjarl surname](#)

Nicknames: "Thorfinnsson"

Birthdate: circa 941

Birthplace: Norse Orkney

Death: Died 979 in Myrkhol, Caithness, Scotland

Occupation: prince Danois dit de Bastembourg

Managed by: Cecilie Nygård

Last Updated: March 15, 2011

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[Find Arnfinn Orkneyjarl's Marriage Records](#)

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Ragnhild "The Wicked" Eiríksdóttir wife	Håvard in Threswick son	Gilette de BEAUMONT wife
Thorfinn I Hausakljufer Einarsson father	Grelod / Gruaidh Dungadsdotter mother	NN Einar Klining's mother of Orkney sister
NN Einar Hardkjef's mother of Orkney sister	Håvard 'Season-Prosperous' Thorfinnsson brother	Ljot, Earl Of Orkney brother
Hlodver Thorfinnsson brother	Skuli Thorfinnsson, Earl of Caithness brother	the Caithness stepdaughter


ARNFINN Torfinnsson (-murdered Murkle, Caithness -). Orkneyinga Saga names (in order) “Arnfinn...Havard the Fecund...Hlodvir...Ljot...Skuli” as the five sons of Thorfinn. Snorre names "the Earls Hlodver, Arnfid, Ljot and Skule, the sons of Thorfin Hausakljufer" as rulers in Orkney when [Queen Gunhild](#) [mother of Ragnhild] and her sons returned to Orkney. In a later saga, Snorre names (in order) "Arnfin, Havard, Hlodver, Liot and Skule" as sons of Thorfin "Hausakljufer". He succeeded his father in as Jarl of Orkney [and Caithness]. Orkneyinga Saga records that “[Ragnhild Eirik](#)’s daughter plotted the death of her husband Arnfinn at Murkle in Caithness” before marrying “his brother Havard the Fecund who succeeded to the earldom”.

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[TWC](#)
[21710 Weather Forecast a...](#)
[WGN Live Video Live New...](#)

Hlöðvir Þorfinnsson, I, Earl of Orkney (924 - c.980) MP

public profile



Nicknames: "Hlöðvir Þorfinnsson", "Lodve", "Hlodvir", "Lodvar", "Lodver", "The Viking"

Birthdate: 924

Birthplace: Orkney Islands, UK

Death: Died 980 in Orkney

Occupation: Jarl av Orknøylene, Comte, d'Orkney

Managed by: [Dana Jackson](#)













Last Updated: September 4, 2012

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Immediate Family

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 <p>(No Name) wife</p>	 <p>Hvarflad daughter</p>	 <p>Eithne of Orkney, Princess of Ir... wife</p>
 <p>Sigurd II Hlodvesson, Orkneyjarl son</p>	 <p>Svenlaug, Orkney daughter</p>	 <p>NN, perhaps 'Gerleota' Hávard's... daughter</p>
 <p>Thorfinn I Hausaklufer Einarsson father</p>	 <p>Grelod / Gruaidh Dungadsdotter /... mother</p>	 <p>NN Einar Klinging's mother of Ork... sister</p>
 <p>NN Einar Hardkjetf's mother of O... sister</p>	 <p>Arnfinn Orkneyjarl brother</p>	 <p>Hávard 'Season-Prosperous' Thor... brother</p>

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

Sigurd the Stout

Sigurd Hlodvisson ([circa](#) 960–23 April 1014), popularly known as **Sigurd the Stout**, was [Earl of Orkney](#). The main source for his life is the [Orkneyinga Saga](#), written some two centuries after his death.

The *Orkneyinga Saga* reports that Sigurd was the son of Hlodvir, one of the five sons of [Thorfinn Skull-Splitter](#), and Eithne, said to be a daughter of [Kjarvalr](#), King of Ireland—[Cerball mac Dúnlainge](#), [King of Osraige](#), who died in 888. Hlodvir died in his bed and was succeeded as Earl by Sigurd.

Sigurd's uncle Ljot had been killed in war against the [Scots](#), and Sigurd soon faced trouble from his southern neighbours. An "Earl Finnleik" ([Findláech of Moray](#)) led an army against him which outnumbered Sigurd's men by seven to one. The *Saga* famously records Sigurd's mother's reply when he went to her for advice:

I would long have fostered thee in my wool-basket, if I had known that thou wouldst live for ever, and fortune decides as to a man's life, and not circumstances. It is better to die with honour than to live with dishonour. Receive a standard which I have made with my whole knowledge, and I expect it will be victorious to him before whom it is carried, but the bane of him who bears it.

The [Raven banner](#) worked as just Sigurd's mother said: *He was victorious but the standard-bearer was killed.*

The [Northern Isles](#) were Christianised by [Olav Tryggvasson](#) in 995 when he stopped at [South Walls](#) on his way from Ireland to Norway. The King summoned [jarl](#) Sigurd and said *"I order you and all your subjects to be baptised. If you refuse, I'll have you killed on the spot and I swear I will ravage every island with fire and steel."* Unsurprisingly, Sigurd agreed and the islands became Christian at a stroke.

According to the 13th century [Njal's Saga](#), [Gormflaith](#) prompted her son, [Sigtrygg Silkbeard](#), into getting Sigurd to fight against her former husband, [Brian Ború](#):

"...she sent him to Earl Sigurd to ask for support... Sigtrygg sailed back to [Ireland](#) and told his mother that the jarl had joined him."

The 12th century Irish source, the [Cogadh Gaedhil re Gallaibh](#), records the events of the [Battle of Clontarf](#) in 1014. The "foreigners and [Leinstermen](#)" were led by [Brodur](#) of the [Isle of Man](#) and Sigurd, and the battle lasted all day. Though Brian was killed in the battle, the Irishmen ultimately drove back their enemies into the sea, and Sigurd himself was killed, apparently whilst holding a Raven banner. Sigurd left four sons: [Brusi](#), [Sumarliði](#), [Einar](#) and [Thorfinn](#), each of whom would also bear the title *Earl of Orkney*.

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

Battle of Clontarf

Battle of Clontarf took place on 23 April 1014 between the forces of [Brian Boru](#) and the forces led by the King of [Leinster](#), [Máel Mórda mac Murchada](#): composed mainly of his own men, [Viking](#) mercenaries from [Dublin](#) and the [Orkney Islands](#) led by his cousin [Sigtrygg](#), as well as the one rebellious king from the province of Ulster. It ended in a rout of the Máel Mórda's forces, along with the death of Brian, who was killed by a few Norsemen who were fleeing the battle and stumbled upon his tent. After the battle, [Ireland](#) returned to a fractious status quo between the many small, separate kingdoms that had existed for some time.

In 1012, the [king of Leinster](#), [Máel Mórda mac Murchada](#), rose in revolt. His attempts were quickly thwarted when Brian arranged a series of cross-marriages, giving his daughter to [Sigtrygg Silkbeard](#) leader of the Dublin Vikings, and himself marrying Sigtrygg's mother and Máel Mórda's sister, [Gormlaith](#). However this alliance was destined not to last, and in 1013 Máel Mórda again went to Sigtrygg for help after being admonished by Gormlaith for accepting Brian's rule. This time Sigtrygg was ready to fight, and various Irish clans who were envious of Brian quickly joined him.

Brian immediately imprisoned Gormlaith, and went on a series of raids around Dublin in order to tie down any Irish who would attempt to join the Viking forces. Meanwhile Gormlaith contacted [Sigurd Lodvesson](#) “the Stout” the Viking earl of the Orkney Isles, to come to her aid. He not only agreed, but in turn contacted [Brodur](#) of the [Isle of Man](#) to join the fight. Sigurd and Brodir both planned on killing the other after the battle to take the seat of High King for themselves, while Sigtrygg was busy trying to form alliances with everyone involved in an attempt to at least retain his own seat in Dublin.

In 1014, Brian's army had mustered and set off towards Dublin. As they approached, the Irishmen of Meath, commanded by ex-high king Máel Sechnaill mac Domnaill, refused to take part in the battle. This left him with 4,500 men, outnumbering the 1,000 or so under Sigtrygg, but considerably worse equipped in comparison. They arrived outside the walls of Dublin and set up camp.



That night Brian received news that the Viking forces had boarded their longships and headed out to sea, deserting Sigtrygg. This was in fact a ruse. After nightfall they turned around and landed on the beaches of [Clontarf](#), just over a mile to the north of Dublin, in order to surprise Brian's army the next day. At the time Dublin was only on the south shore of the [River Liffey](#), connected to the north bank, and Clontarf, only by a single bridge. This allowed the Vikings time to disembark and prepare in relative safety.

Battle of Clontarf, oil on canvas painting by Hugh Frazer, 1826, Isaacs Art Center

The Viking army formed up into five divisions on the field, while Sigtrygg and 1,000 of his men remained in town. Sigtrygg's son commanded the extreme left of the line with 1,000 of the men from Dublin who decided to fight in the open. Máel Mórda added another 3,000 men from Leinster in two divisions. Although numerous, they too were poorly armed in comparison to the Vikings on either side. Sigurd's Orkney Vikings manned the center with 1,000 men, and Brodir's Vikings added another 1,000 or more on the right, on the beaches.

At first the battle went the Vikings' way, with their heavier weapons prevailing over their opponents as everyone had expected. This advantage also served Brian, whose Viking mercenaries on his right slowly pushed back the forces facing them. On the left, Brodir himself led the charge and gained ground, until he met the warrior [Wolf the Quarrelsome](#), brother of King Brian. Although Wolf was unable to break Brodir's armor, he knocked him to the ground and Brodir fled to hide. This left the now leaderless Viking force facing Murchad's forces, who considered themselves the "king's own" (containing many of Brian's more distant relatives) and by the afternoon Brodir's forces were fleeing to their ships.

In the center things were going more the Vikings' way. Both Sigurd's and Máel Mórda's forces were hammering into the Munster forces. However Sigurd, according to legend, carried a "magical" standard into battle which drew the Irish warriors to it, eventually forcing their way in and killing the bearer. Although the standard was supposed to guarantee a victory for the bearer's forces, it also guaranteed the bearer's death. No one would pick it up due to its reputation, so Sigurd did and was quickly killed.

By the end of the day, after several mutual pauses for rest, the Vikings found themselves with both flanks failing, Sigurd dead, and everyone exhausted. The beaches in front of the ships were already lost, and many men took to trying to swim to the ships further offshore, [drowning](#) in the process. The battle was now clearly going Brian's way, and the Dublin Vikings decided to flee to the town. At this point Máel Sechnaill decided to re-enter the battle, and cut them off from the bridge. The result was a rout, with every "invading" Viking leader being killed in the battle.

Meanwhile Brodir, hiding in the woods near Dublin, noticed Brian praying in his tent. Gathering several followers they ran into the tent and killed him and his retainers. Then they retreated, with Brodir yelling, *Now let man tell man that Brodir felled Brian*. According to Viking accounts, he was eventually tracked, captured and gruesomely killed by [Wolf the Quarrelsome](#) with whom he had clashed earlier on the battlefield.

Of the 6,500 to 7,000 Vikings and allied forces, an estimated 6,000, including almost all the leaders, were killed. Irish losses were at least 4,000, including their king and most of his sons. There were in fact some sons of Brian Boru left after the battle of Clontarf. Two of his sons, Donnogh and Teige both were heirs of Brian and after their father's death in 1014, were at debate against each other which started with mild quarrelsome and ended with both brothers coming together in 1018 and killing Donell McDuff Davereann. The two sons of Brian did not inherit the throne right after their father was slain.

With the Irish now leaderless, and the power of the Dublin Vikings as a political force broken, Ireland soon returned to a series of bloody factional fighting. However things had changed as a result of the battle, with Viking and Gaelic culture no longer contesting power. After a number of years this led to a lasting peace.

Brusi Sigurdsson

Brusi Sigurdsson (died between 1030 and 1035) was one of [Sigurd Hlodvirsson](#)'s four sons (together with [Thorfinn](#), [Einar](#) and [Sumarlidi](#)). He was jointly [Earl of Orkney](#) from 1014. His life is recorded in the *[Orkneyinga Saga](#)*.

When Earl Sigurd was killed at the [Battle of Clontarf](#), he left four sons: Brusi, [Sumarlidi](#), [Einar](#) and [Thorfinn](#). Thorfinn was only a child, whereas his three brothers were grown men, so the Earldom was divided between the three older brothers.

Sumarlidi died soon after, and Einar, called Wry-Mouth, took his share, ruling two-thirds of the Earldom and leaving a third for Brusi. Einar soon became unpopular, demanding heavy taxes and frequent military service from the farmers, and gaining little booty on his raids. He was, the saga says, "a great bully", whereas Brusi was "gentle, restrained, unassuming and a fine speaker" and "well liked by everyone".

Brusi had to make peace between Einar and Thorfinn when the youngest brother grew to manhood, not once but twice. In the end, Einar plotted Thorfinn's death but was found out and killed by Thorfinn. The agreement made with Einar meant that Brusi inherited another third of the earldom on Einar's death, leaving Thorfinn with one part of the earldom, Brusi with two. Thorfinn was not pleased with this arrangement, and asked Brusi for a half share. This Brusi refused. However, while Thorfinn could count on the aid of his maternal grandfather, [Máel Coluim mac Cináeda](#). Brusi could rely only on his own resources.

To find support Brusi went to [Norway](#), to the court of King [Olaf Haraldsson](#), to have the sharing out of the Earldom settled, and Thorfinn followed him there. Olaf kept Einar's share for himself, appointing Brusi to administer it, and kept Brusi's son [Rognvald](#) at his court. Brusi later gave Thorfinn the disputed third of the islands in return for Thorfinn seeing to the defence of [Orkney](#) and [Shetland](#).

Brusi died before 1035 as the saga says he had died before his son Rognvald accompanied [Magnus the Good](#) back to Norway.

[Earl of Orkney](#)

Preceded by
[Sigurd Hlodvisson](#)

1014-1030
with [Einar Sigurdsson](#) 1014-1020
with [Sumarlidi Sigurdsson](#) 1014-1015

Succeeded by
[Thorfinn Sigurdsson](#)

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/R%C3%B6gnvald_Brusason

Rögnvald Brusason

Rognvald Brusason (died 1046), son of [Brusi Sigurdsson](#), was [Earl of Orkney](#) jointly with [Thorfinn Sigurdsson](#) from about 1037 onwards. His life is recorded in the [Orkneyinga Saga](#).

Rognvald was taken by his father to [Norway](#), to the court of [Olaf Haraldsson](#), when Brusi and Thorfinn went there to have the inheritance of [Einar Wry-mouth](#)'s third-share of the Earldom settled. Olaf kept Einar's share for himself, appointing Brusi to administer it, and kept Rognvald at his court.

The Orkneyinga Saga says of Rognvald:

Rognvald was one of the handsomest of men, with a fine head of golden hair, smooth as silk. At an early age he grew to be tall and strong, earning a great reputation for his shrewdness and courtesy.

Rognvald was a supporter of Olaf Haraldsson, later Saint Olaf, sharing his exile in [Kievan Rus](#), and helping his brother [Harald Sigurdsson](#), better known as Harald Hardraade, escape after the [Battle of Stiklestad](#) in 1030. While Harald went on to [Constantinople](#), Rognvald and other exiles remained in Rus, in the service of [Yaroslav the Wise](#). Rognvald returned to Norway with Olaf's son [Magnus the Good](#) in 1035.

While Rognvald was abroad, his father had died and Thorfinn Sigurdsson was ruling all of the Earldom of Orkney. Rognvald asked King Magnus for his third part of the Earldom, and Magnus agreed, giving him three ships and granting him the stewardship of Magnus's own third share. When Rognvald arrived in Orkney, he sent to his uncle Thorfinn asking him for the two thirds of the Earldom which Magnus had given him. Thorfinn agreed to give Rognvald his father's third, and the third which Magnus claimed into the bargain, although he claimed not to recognise Magnus's claim and presented this as a gift in return for Rognvald's assistance. and Rognvald worked closely together for eight years, fighting against enemies in the [Hebrides](#) and raiding [Scotland](#) and [England](#).

Kalf had a large following which placed a heavy burden on the Earl's finances. Plenty of people told him that he shouldn't let Rognvald have two-thirds of the islands, considering his heavy outlay.

Rognvald and Kalf Arnesson were not friends. The [Orkneyinga Saga](#) reports that Rognvald, a staunch supporter of Saint Olaf, came close to attacking Kalf in Rus, who alone among the Arnessons had betrayed Olaf, when he came to pledge his support to Magnus. For that reason, if for no other, Rognvald refused to hand over the third which Thorfinn asked for. From then onwards, relations deteriorated. Rognvald was defeated in a sea-battle and sought refuge in Norway with Magnus while Thorfinn took control of the earldom.

With a single ship, and a crew of picked men, Rognvald returned to Orkney hoping that surprise would enable him to retake the earldom. He succeeded, but not entirely as Thorfinn was able to flee to [Caithness](#). However, soon afterwards, Rognvald was surprised in his turn, but was killed by Thorkell the Fosterer while escaping, given away by the barking of his [lap dog](#).

Twelfth-century Earl [Kali Kolsson](#) was given the name Rognvald "because Kali's mother claimed that Rognvald Brusason had been the most able of all the Earls of Orkney, and people saw this as a sign of good luck."

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Tora Pora Ragnvaldsdóttir (Ragnvaldsdatter)

(c.1045 - 1090)

public profile

Nicknames: "Pora Ragnvaldsdóttir", "Tora Ragnvaldssdatter", "Thora Ragnvaldsdatter", "Ragnvaldsdatter", "Póra Ragnvaldsdóttir", "Thora Jonsdottir"

Birthdate: circa 1045

Birthplace: Godøy, Møre og Romsdal, Norway

Death: Died 1090 in etter 1070, trolig mye senere, Møre, Norway

Occupation: Husfrue, Norsk dronning, Queen of Norway, Drottning av Norge

Managed by: [Anne M Berge](#)

Last Updated: September 27, 2011

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Olaf III Haraldsson Kyrre
partner

Magnus III Olavsson «Barefoot»...
son

Brynjulf Ulvalde II
husband

Ljot Jarl på Godøy
husband

Andor på Bremsnes
husband

Borgvar Bremsnes
daughter

Frille på Godøy
mother

Ragnvald Orkneyjarl, II
father

Olav Grebstad
stepson

Arlogia of Orkney of Kiev I Vlad...
stepmother

Duvnjat Ragnvaldsson Raud
half brother

Waldemar of Orkney
half brother

Thorfinn the Mighty

Thorfinn Sigurdsson (1009?–c. 1064?), called **Thorfinn the Mighty**, was an 11th-century [Earl of Orkney](#). One of five brothers (with [Brusi](#), [Sumarlidi](#), [Einar](#) and [Hvølp](#)), sons of Earl [Sigurd Hlodvirsson](#) by his marriage to the daughter of [Malcolm II of Scotland](#). Thorfinn was the youngest of the five known sons of Earl Sigurd Hlodvirsson, but the only son of Sigurd's marriage to a daughter of Máel Coluim mac Cináeda. His elder half-brothers Einar, Brusi and Sumarlidi survived to adulthood, while a brother called Hundi ("the Dog") or 'Hvølp' ("the Whelp") died in Norway, a hostage at the court of King Olaf Trygvasson. Thorfinn married [Ingibjörg Finnsdóttir](#), daughter of [Finn Arnesson](#), [Jarl](#) of [Halland](#).

The *[Heimskringla](#)* of [Icelandic](#) historian [Snorri Sturluson](#), and the anonymous compiler of the *[Orkneyinga Saga](#)*, wrote that Thorfinn was the most powerful of all the earls of Orkney. He is said to have been earl for seventy-five years and ruler of nine earldoms in [Scotland](#), of the [Hebrides](#), and of part of [Ireland](#). A sizable part of the account in the *Orkneyinga Saga* concerns his wars with a "King of Scots" named [Karl Hundason](#) whose identity is very uncertain.

Background

Thorfinn was the youngest of the five known sons of Earl Sigurd Hlodvirsson, but the only son of Sigurd's marriage to a daughter of Máel Coluim mac Cináeda. His elder half-brothers [Einar](#), [Brusi](#) and Sumarlidi survived to adulthood, while a brother called *Hundi* ("the Dog") or 'Hvølp' ("the Whelp") died in Norway, a hostage at the court of King [Olaf Trygvasson](#).

Earl Sigurd was killed at the [Battle of Clontarf](#) on 23 April 1014. Before setting out for Ireland, he had sent Thorfinn, then aged five, to be fostered by his maternal grandfather, the King of Scots. When the news of Sigurd's death came, Thorfinn's older half-brothers divided [Orkney](#) and [Shetland](#) between them. King Máel Coluim set Thorfinn up as ruler of [Caithness](#) and [Sutherland](#) with Scots advisors to rule for him.

Thorfinn ruled alone in Orkney until the return of his nephew [Rognvald Brusason](#) in about 1037. Rognvald had received the favour of King [Magnus the Good](#), who granted him Brusi's share of the islands and the third which Olaf Haraldsson had claimed after Einar's death.

In time, Thorfinn and Rognvald fell out. The vivid account of the war between Thorfinn and Rognvald in the *Orkneyinga Saga* which survives may well be only a part of a much longer saga now lost. Their enmity arose with the arrival of [Kalf Arnesson](#) and his followers in Orkney. Kalf was the uncle of Thorfinn's wife [Ingibjörg Finnsdóttir](#), and had left Norway to escape King [Magnus Olafsson](#).^[21] Rognvald, with Kalf's brothers, had shared Magnus's exile in [Kievan Rus](#) under the protection of Prince [Yaroslav the Wise](#), and the saga says that when Kalf came to [Ladoga](#) to invite Magnus back to Norway, Rognvald almost attacked him.^[22] Thorfinn, it is said, found hosting Kalf and his men a burden, and in time asked Rognvald to return the third of the earldom "which had once belonged to Einar Wry-Mouth". Rognvald refused, saying that it was for King Magnus to settle matters. Thorfinn began raising an army, and Rognvald's islanders were unwilling to fight Thorfinn, so Rognvald sailed to Norway where King

Magnus supplied him with ships and men. He returned to the islands, facing Thorfinn and Kalf Arnesson in a sea battle which Arnor the skald commemorated in verse. The battle went Rognvald's way to begin with, but in the end he was defeated and forced again to seek refuge with King Magnus.

King Magnus offered to fit out another expedition for Rognvald, but he decided to take just one ship and a picked crew. He sailed to Shetland in winter, and learning that Thorfinn was staying on a farm on the Orkney Mainland with only a few men, he set out at once to attack him. Rognvald's men surprised Thorfinn, and set the farm ablaze. The saga says that Thorfinn had to break down a wall and escape, carrying his wife in his arms, flying south to Caithness for safety. Rognvald ruled in [Kirkwall](#) over the winter, believing Thorfinn dead, but in the spring, while staying on [Papa Stronsay](#), Thorfinn and his men turned the tables, taking Rognvald by surprise, just as he had surprised Thorfinn. Rognvald escaped the house, but was tracked down, given away by the barking of his lap dog, and killed by Thorkell the Fosterer.

Pilgrimage

Even with Rognvald dead, Thorfinn was not entirely secure. The saga recounts an attempt to make peace with Magnus Olafsson, who had sworn vengeance for the death of his men in Thorfinn's attack on Rognvald. Magnus was at war with the Danish king [Sweyn Estridsson](#), and died before he could take any action. Magnus's uncle and successor, [Harald Sigurdsson](#), better known as Harald Hardrada, was more friendly towards Thorfinn, and made a peace, accepting Thorfinn's gifts.

Unlike his kinsmen, Thorfinn had been raised as a Christian. The *Orkneyinga Saga* knows of only two sons of Thorfinn, both by his wife Ingibiorg, as opposed to the multiple marriages which appear to have been common before his time. Among the signs of this change in outlook is Thorfinn's [pilgrimage to Rome](#), which took place after his meeting with Harald Sigurdsson, probably beginning in 1048. The saga says that he travelled through [Saxony](#), meeting with Emperor Henry ([Henry III](#)) on the journey. Although the saga does not say so, it is thought that he also met with Archbishop [Adalbert](#) of [Hamburg-Bremen](#).

As a result of Thorfinn's request, it appears that the first [Bishop of Orkney](#) was appointed at about this time.

The *Orkneyinga Saga* dates Thorfinn's death no more precisely than placing it "towards the end" of Harald Sigurdsson's reign, which is far from exact. Thorfinn returned from Rome in around 1050 and

Harald Sigurdsson died at the [battle of Stamford Bridge](#) in 1066.

He was followed as earl by his sons [Paul and Erlend](#).

Thorfinn was buried in the grounds of St. Magnus Church, [Birsay](#), [Mainland Orkney](#). He is known to history as Thorfinn the Mighty.



St. Magnus Church (Birsay), Mainland, Orkney, Scotland (J. Demetrescu 2010)

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

Paul and Erlend Thorfinnsson

Paul Thorfinnsson (died after 1098) and **Erlend Thorfinnsson** (died after 1098) ruled together as [Earls of Orkney](#).

Paul and Erlend Thorfinnsson were the sons of [Thorfinn Sigurdsson](#) and [Ingibjorg Finnsdottir](#). Through Ingibjorg's father Finn Arnesson and his wife, the family was related to the Norwegian Kings [Olav II](#) and [Harald II](#).

Their lives and times are recounted in the [Orkneyinga Saga](#). The first mention of the brothers is when they accompanied the Norwegian king [Harald Hardrade](#) and [Tostig Godwinson](#) on the ill-fated expedition to [England](#) in 1066. Paul and Erlend were with Harald's son [Olaf Kyrre](#), guarding the ships, when the [battle of Stamford Bridge](#) was fought. Along with Olaf they were allowed to leave by the English king [Harold Godwinson](#). Olaf overwintered on [Orkney](#) with them and left on good terms with the Thorfinssons.

The saga says that Paul and Erlend were on good terms until their children grew to adulthood, after which the disputes between their sons led to a quarrel and open hostility between the brothers. As the disputes between the descendants of Paul and Erlend loomed large in the affairs of 12th century Orkney, the saga goes into some detail on their family relationships.


Paul was married to an unnamed daughter of Norwegian earl [Hakon Ivarsson](#). Two sons and four daughters are named. Of these, [Hakon](#) played the greatest part in events.

Erlend married Thora, daughter of one [Sumarlidi Ospaksson](#), and they had two sons and two daughters, while Erlend had a third, illegitimate daughter as well. Erlend's son [Magnus](#) appears in the saga as earl, martyr and saint. The troubles between the earls began with rivalry between [Hakon Paulsson](#) and Magnus's brother Erling. Both are described as quarrelsome, arrogant men, and talented too. Erlend's daughter Gunnhild's was married to [Kol Kalison](#) and [Rognvald Kali Kolsson](#) was their son.

[Magnus III of Norway](#) took possession of the islands in 1098, deposing Erlend and Paul. Paul's son, [Haakon Paulsson](#), then became regent on behalf of the Norwegian prince, the future King [Sigurd I of Norway](#), who made Haakon earl in 1105.

Ragnhild Haakonsdatter (c.1080 - c.1105) MP

public profile














Birthdate: circa 1080
 Birthplace: Oppland, Norway
 Death: Died 1105 in Orkney, Scotland
 Occupation: Grevinna på Orkney, Skottland

Managed by: [Dana Jackson](#)
 Last Updated: August 13, 2012

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 Pål Thorfinnsson, Jarl of Orkney husband	 Håkon Pålson, Jarl of Orkney son	 Thora of Orkney daughter
 Ingrid Paalsdatter daughter	 Herbjørg Páledóttir daughter	 Ragnhild of Orkney daughter
 ? Paulsen, III daughter	 ? Paulsen, I son	 Grunhild Kalleon daughter
 Aslak på sola husband	 Ivar I Heetbe son	 N.N. Aslakedatter daughter

About Ragnhild Haakonsdatter

Daughter of Håkon Ivarsson av Norge, married Paul Thorfinnsson Orkneyjarl. First name unknown, but could be Ragnhild like her mother.

<http://fmj.ac/Projects/MedLands/SCOTTISH%20NOBILITY.htm#Paulldied1098B>

PAUL Thorfinnsson, son of THORFINN II "the Black" Jarl of Orkney & his wife Ingibjørg Finnsdatter (-in prison Bergen 1098, bur Bergen).

http://www.geni.com/family-tree/index/6000000003645825356

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Ragnhild Haakonsdatter's Tree Showing 325 People

Hvite (?) (c.1000) — **Porbjorg** (deceased) — **Ragnhild princess of norway** (deceased) — **Magnus I Olavsson «the Good» den Gode** — **thora halfdandsdatte** (deceased)

Haakon Ivarsson, Earl (1031 - 1070) — **Ragnhild Magnusdatter, Princess of Norway** (c.1038 - c.1070)

Aslak på Sola (c.969 - d.) — **Ragnhild Haakonsdatter** (c.1060 - c.1105)

Ragnhild Haakonsdatter (c.1060 - c.1105)
Daughter of Hakon Ivarsson av Norge, married Paul Thorfinnsson Orkneyjarl.
First name unknown, but could be Ragnhild like her mother. PAUL

Blood Relatives: 5,000
Ancestors: 4,748
Descendants: 5,000

Related Trees:
Pål Thorfinnsson, Jarl of Orkney's family tree
Håkon Pålson, Jarl of Orkney's family tree
Thora of Orkney's family tree
Ingrid Paalsdatter's family tree
Herbjørg Pålsson's family tree

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

Magnus Erlendsson, Earl of Orkney

Statue of St. Magnus on the wall of Nidaros Cathedral.



Saint Magnus, Earl Magnus Erlendsson of Orkney, sometimes known as **Magnus the Martyr**, was the first [Earl](#) of [Orkney](#) to bear that name, and ruled from 1108 to about 1115. His story is told in two [sagas](#), *Magnus' saga* the shorter and longer and one [legend](#), *Legenda de sancto Magno*.

Magnus's grandparents Earl [Thorfinn](#) and his wife [Ingibjorg Finnsdottir](#) had two sons, Erlend and Paul, who were twins. Through Ingibjorg's father [Finn Arnesson](#) and his wife, the family was related to the Norwegian Kings [Olav II](#) and [Harald II](#).

Born in 1075, Magnus was the son of [Erlend Thorfinnsson, Earl of Orkney](#), and he first served [Magnus III of Norway](#) as *skutillsvein*, who took possession of the [islands](#) in 1098, deposing Erlend and his brother, Paul. Paul's son, [Haakon Paulsson](#), then became regent on behalf of the Norwegian prince, Sigurd, who made Haakon earl in 1105.

Battle of Menai Strait

According to the [Orkneyinga Saga](#), Magnus had a reputation for piety and gentleness, and was rejected by the Norwegians, refusing to fight in a Viking raid in [Anglesey](#), [Wales](#), because of his religious convictions, instead staying on board his ships during the Battle of [Menai Strait](#), singing [psalms](#). He was obliged to take refuge in [Scotland](#), but returned to Orkney in 1105 and disputed the succession with his cousin Haakon.

Having failed to reach an agreement, he sought help from King [Eystein I of Norway](#), who granted him the earldom of Orkney and he ruled jointly and amicably with Haakon until 1114.

Their followers fell out, and the two sides met at the [Thing](#) (assembly) on the Orkney mainland, ready to do battle. Peace was negotiated and the Earls arranged to meet each other on the island of [Egilsay](#), each bringing only two ships. Magnus arrived with his two ships, but then Haakon treacherously turned up with eight ships.

Magnus took refuge in the island's church overnight, but the following day he was captured and offered to go into exile or prison, but an assembly of chieftains insisted that one earl must die. Haakon's standard bearer, Ofeigr, refused to execute Magnus, and an angry Haakon made his cook Lifolf kill Magnus by

striking him on the head with an axe. It was said that Magnus first prayed for the souls of his executioners.

Burial

Magnus was first buried on the spot where he died. According to his legend, the rocky area around his grave miraculously became a green field. Later Thora, Magnus' mother asked Haakon allow her to bury him in a Church. Haakon gave his permission and Magnus was then buried at *Christchurch* at [Birsay](#).

There were numerous reports of miraculous happenings and healings. [William the Old](#), Bishop of Orkney, warned that it was "heresy to go about with such tales" and was then struck blind at his church but subsequently had his sight restored after praying at the grave of Magnus, not long after visiting Norway (and perhaps meeting Earl Rognvald Kolsson).

Magnus's nephew, [Rognvald Kali Kolsson](#), laid claim to the Earldom of Orkney, and was advised by his father Kol to promise the islanders to "build a stone minster at [Kirkwall](#)" in memory of his uncle the Holy Earl, and this became [St Magnus Cathedral, Kirkwall](#). When the cathedral begun in 1137 was ready for consecration the relics of St Magnus were transferred, and in 1917 a hidden cavity was found in a column, containing a box with bones including a damaged skull. These are held without (much) doubt to be the relics of St Magnus.

In the [Faroes](#), the [St Magnus Cathedral, Kirkjubøur](#) was built around 1300 A.D., at the time of [Bishop Erlendur](#). It is quite sure that the church was used for services (though it never was finished, or has been destroyed later), for estimated relics of Saint Magnus were found here in 1905. [Kirkjubøur](#) is one of the most important Faroese historical sites and expected to become a [World Heritage Site](#). In total there are 21 churches in Europe dedicated to St Magnus.

Ruins of Magnus Cathedral



The Magnus Cathedral in 1839

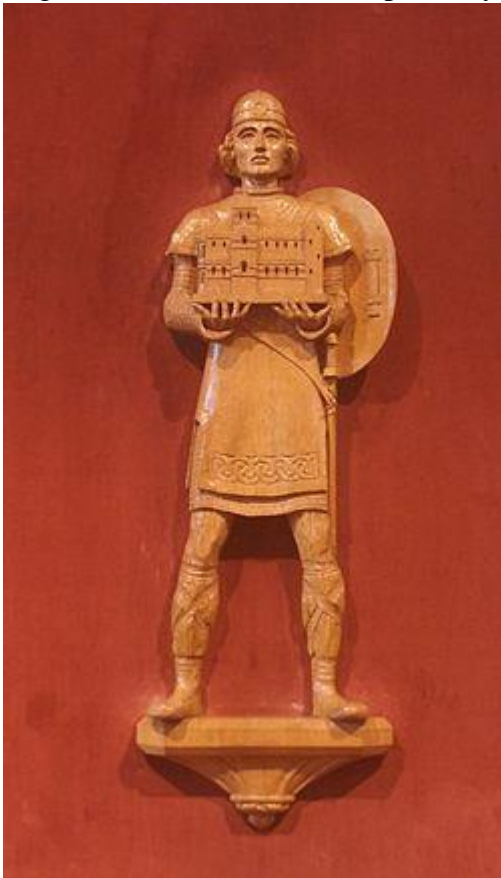


http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rognvald_Kali_Kolsson

Rögnvald Kali Kolsson

Ragnvald Kale Kollsson (also known as **St. Ronald** or **St. Ronald of Orkney**) was an [Earl of Orkney](#) and a [Norwegian saint](#).

Ragnvald Kale Kolsson was probably born in [Jæren, Norway](#). Other researchers think that, as son of a [lendmann](#) in Agder, he may have been born in [Fjære](#), a part of Grimstad. His parents were Lendmann Kol Kalisson and Gunhild Erlendsdotter, the sister of [Magnus Erlendsson](#). King [Sigurd I of Norway](#) appointed him Earl of Orkney and [Shetland](#) in 1129. Ragnvald should have had one half of Orkney as his uncle Magnus Erlendsson had, but his second cousin [Paul Haakonsson](#) had just made himself sole ruler of the islands and would not cede any of them. Ragnvald remained in Norway as one of the leading men of King [Harald Gille](#). After Harald became sole king of Norway in 1135, he took Ragnvald on an expedition to Orkney in which Paul Haakonsson was captured and killed. Ragnvald was hailed as [jarl](#) in 1136.



In 1137, Ragnvald initiated the building of [St. Magnus Cathedral](#) in [Kirkwall, Scotland](#). Ragnvald also served as guardian to [Harald Maddadsson](#), the five-year-old nephew of Paul Haakonsson. In 1138 Ragnvald appointed Harald Maddadsson as Earl along with him. Harald had inherited [Caithness, Scotland](#) and thus was Ragnvald master over this area.

In 1153, Ragnvald traveled to [Constantinople](#) as the head of a fleet of 15 ships. Ragnvald returning by way of Norway, returning back to Orkney in late 1155. While he was abroad,

King [David I of Scotland](#) granted half of Caithness to the cousin of Harald Maddadsson, [Erlend Haraldsson](#). Earl Harald subsequently displaced Erlend Haraldsson, who was killed in 1156. In August 1158, Ragnvald was cut down with his company of eight men by Harald's foster father, Torbjørn Klerk. His body was taken to Kirkwall and buried in St. Magnus Cathedral. Alleged miracles happened at his grave as well as on the stone where he died. Ragnvald was canonized 1192 by [Pope Celestine III](#).

<http://www.geni.com/people/P%C3%A5l-Thorfinnsson/6000000000424848932>

Pål Thorfinnsson, Jarl of Orkney (c.1049 - 1099) MP

[Back to Thorfinnsson surname](#)



Nicknames: "Paul /Thorfinnson/", "Paul Thorfinnson /Jarl/"
Birthdate: circa 1049
Birthplace: Orkney, Birsay, Scotland
Death: Died 1099 in Bergen, Hordaland, Norway
Occupation: Earl of Orkney, Scotland 1064-1098.

Managed by: Dana Jackson
Last Updated: August 29, 2012

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Find Pål Thorfinnsson's Marriage Records

Find Pål Thorfinnsson's Obituary Records

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Immediate Family

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Sigurd of Scotland
son



Haakon ORKNEY, Jarl
son



Ragnhild Haakonsdatter
wife



Hákon Pálson, Jarl of Orkney
son



Thora of Orkney
daughter



Ingrid Paalsdatter
daughter



Herbjörg Pálsdóttir
daughter



Ragnhild of Orkney
daughter



? Paulsson, III
daughter



? Paulsson, I
son



Grunhild Kalison
daughter



Thorfinn Sigurdsson, II Jarl
of ...
father

1. [PAUL Thorfinnsson, son of THORFINN II](#) "the Black" Jarl of Orkney & his wife [Ingibjörg Finnsdatter](#) (-in prison Bergen 1098). Orkneyinga Saga names "Paul and...Erlend" as the two sons of Jarl Thorfinn and his wife who survived childhood. He succeeded his father as Joint Jarl of Orkney, jointly with his brother. Morkinskinna records that Harald III King of Norway sailed to Orkney en route for his invasion of England in 1066 and "recruited the aid of Jarl Thorfinn's sons Páll and Erlendr". He may have fought with his father at Stamford Bridge 1066. Orkneyinga Saga records that [Magnus "Barelegs"](#) King of Norway "seized the Earls, Paul and Erlend" on his arrival in Orkney, "sent them east to Norway, and made his own son Sigurd overlord of the islands with regents to govern the earldom", adding in a later passage that Paul "was buried at Bergen" He was deposed and imprisoned in 1098 by Magnus "Barelegs" King of Norway, and died in Bergen according to Snorre

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

Haakon Paulsson

Haakon Paulsson (Old Norse: Hákon Pálsson) was a [Norwegian Jarl](#) (1105–1123) and jointly ruled the [Earldom of Orkney](#) together with his cousin [Magnus Erlendsson](#).

His father was [Paul Thorfinnsson](#), the son of [Thorfinn Sigurdsson](#) and [Ingibjorg Finnsdottir](#). His father and his uncle, [Erlend Thorfinnsson](#), had ruled together as Earls of Orkney. King [Magnus III of Norway](#) took possession of the Orkney islands in 1098, deposing both Erlend and Paul. Haakon Paulsson was chosen to become regent on behalf of the Norwegian prince, the future King [Sigurd I of Norway](#), who made Haakon an earl in 1105.

According to the *Orkneyinga Saga*, his cousin [Magnus Erlendsson](#) was initially rejected by the Norwegians rulers because of his religious convictions. Magnus was obliged to take refuge in Scotland, but returned to Orkney in 1105 and disputed the succession of Haakon. Having failed to reach an agreement, Magnus sought help from King [Eysteinn II of Norway](#) who granted him the joint earldom of Orkney.

Magnus and Haakon ruled jointly from 1105 until 1114. Their followers then had fallen out and the two sides met at the [Thing](#) assembly on the Orkney mainland, ready to do battle. Peace was negotiated and the Earls arranged to meet each other on the island of [Egilsay](#), each bringing only two ships. Magnus arrived with his two ships, but Haakon turned up with eight ships. Magnus took refuge in the island's church overnight, but the following day he was captured and offered to go into exile or prison. An assembly of chieftains insisted that one earl must die. Haakon killed Magnus on the island of [Egilsay](#) in April 1116. This led to the "martyrdom" of Magnus and the construction of [St Magnus Cathedral](#) in [Kirkwall](#).



St. Magnus Cathedral

Harald Maddadsson

The Lewis chessmen an iconic image of Scandinavian Scotland in Harald Maddadsson's time.



Harald Maddadsson (c. 1134 – 1206) was [Earl of Orkney](#) and [Mormaer of Caithness](#) from 1139 until 1206. He was the son of [Matad](#), [Mormaer of Atholl](#), and Margaret, daughter of Earl [Haakon Paulsson](#) of Orkney. Of mixed [Norse](#) and [Gaelic](#) blood, and a descendant of Scots kings, he was a significant figure in northern [Scotland](#), and played a prominent part in Scottish politics of the twelfth century. The [Orkneyinga Saga](#) names him one of the three more powerful Earls of Orkney with [Sigurd Eysteinnsson](#) and [Thorfinn Sigurdsson](#).

In the early twelfth century, the Earldom of Orkney, although weakened since the time of Earl Thorfinn, remained in control of [Caithness](#) and was dominant in [Sutherland](#) and parts of the [Outer Hebrides](#). Thus the succession of the earldom was of great interest to the Scots king [David I](#).

Harald's first wife was named Affrica, a Gaelic name shared with a daughter of [Fergus of Galloway](#). They had four children together whom the *Orkneyinga Saga* names as Heinrek, Haakon, Helena and Margaret.

The second wife of Earl Harald, the *Orkneyinga Saga* says, was Hvarflod (erroneously called *Gormflaith* in some literature), daughter of "[Earl Máel Coluim of Moray](#)", whom he married around 1168, and with her he had six children: Thorfinn, David, Jon, Gunnhild, Herborga and Langlif. Hvarflod's father is presumed to have been Máel Coluim mac Aedh, so that her sons, and it may be that she was the mother of Thorfinn alone of Harald's sons, would carry on the old rival claims to the Scots throne. It

appears that King William demanded that Harald repudiate Hvarflod as a condition of peace between them. Of the surviving Haraldssons, David and Jon were joint Earls of Orkney on their father's death. In 1222 Earl Jon was implicated, indirectly, in the burning of Bishop Adam of Caithness in his hall at [Halkirk](#) by local farmers. Jon was accused of looking on or of fomenting the discontent. King [Alexander II](#) undertook harsh reprisals for the killing, to the satisfaction of [Pope Honorius III](#). The writer of the *Orkneyinga Saga* reported that "*The punishments by Alexander for the burning of the bishop, by mutilation and death, confiscation and outlawry from the land, are still in fresh memory*". Jon Haraldsson was killed in 1231, at [Thurso](#) in Caithness. He was contested by Snaekoll Gunnisson, a great-grandson of [Rognvald Kali](#), who had demanded that Jon should share the Earldom with him, as had been done before. Jon's supporters and Snaekoll's fought a war until it was agreed that King [Haakon Sverreson](#) should settle the matter. All concerned set off to Norway, but a ship carrying Earl Jon, his supporters, and his kin, was lost at sea on the return voyage. As a result, the line of Norse Earls came to a temporary end and from 1231 until 1236 Orkney was without an Earl. In 1236 the Earldom was granted by [Haakon IV of Norway](#), to Magnus, son of Gille Brigte, [Mormaer of Angus](#). Although ruled by Angus, Strathearn and Sinclair lords thereafter, Orkney remained part of the kingdom of Norway.

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

Jon Haraldsson

Jon Haraldsson was [Earl of Orkney](#) between 1206 and 1231.







Jon Haraldsson and his brother David were the sons of [Harald Maddadsson](#) with his second wife Hvarflod, daughter of Earl [Máel Coluim of Moray](#). Jon and David were joint Earls of Orkney after the death of their father. [David Haraldsson](#) died of sickness in 1214, leaving Jon Haraldsson to rule alone.




In 1222, Jon Haraldsson was implicated, indirectly, in the burning of Bishop [Adam of Caithness](#) in his hall at [Halkirk](#) by local farmers. Jon was accused of looking on or of fomenting the discontent. King [Alexander II of Scotland](#) undertook harsh reprisals for the killing, to the satisfaction of [Pope Honorius III](#).





Snaekoll Gunnisson, a great-grandson of [Rognvald Kali](#), demanded that Jon Haraldsson should share the Earldom with him. The supporters of Jon and Snaekoll fought a war until it was agreed that King [Haakon IV of Norway](#) should settle the matter. All concerned set off to [Norway](#), but a ship carrying Jon Haraldsson, his supporters and his kin, was lost at sea on the return voyage during 1231. An alternative version of Earl John's demise is that he was resident in [Thurso](#), and had his hall burnt around him. He escaped to a cellar only to be mortally wounded by Hanef, *quaestor* to the King of Norway, with nine wounds.

With his death the [Norse](#) line of the [Earldom of Orkney](#), dating from the time of [Harald Fairhair](#), became extinct.

<http://www.geni.com/people/Jon-Haraldsson-I/6000000002188364998>


 <http://www.geni.com/people/Jon-Haraldsson-I/6000000002188364998>   

 [Jon Haraldsson I, Earl of Caithness](#)  

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Jon Haraldsson I, Earl of Caithness (c.1162 - 1231)

public profile















Birthdate: circa 1162
Birthplace: Orkney, Orkney Islands, Scotland
Death: Died 1231 in Thurso, Caithness-shire, Scotland

Managed by: [Douglas Nimmo](#)
Last Updated: May 19, 2011

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Immediate Family [view all 17](#)

 Lady unknown Haraldsson wife	 Joan of Orkney daughter	 Elizabeth Jonsdottir daughter
 Hvarfrod Dunkeld, Earl Of Ros mother	 Haraldr Maddadson, Earl Of Caith... father	 Matilda of Scotland, Princess sister
 Margaret of the Orkneys sister	 gormlaith angus sister	 Håkon of the Orkneys brother
 Grelod (Gronflaeth) Haraldsdottir stepmother	 Aufrica / Affrica Fife stepmother	 Heinrek 'Henry' of the Orkneys half brother

About Jon Haraldsson I, Earl of Caithness

In 1222 Earl Jon was implicated, indirectly, in the burning of Bishop Adam of Caithness in his hall at Halkirk by local farmers. Jon was accused of looking on or of fomenting the discontent.[28] King Alexander II undertook harsh reprisals for the killing, to the satisfaction of Pope Honorius III. The writer of the Orkneyinga Saga reported that "The punishments by Alexander for the burning of the bishop, by mutilation and death, confiscation and outlawry from the land, are still in fresh memory".[29]