

# ***GRANHOLM GENEALOGY***

***RUSSIAN/VIKING ANCESTRY***

**Direct Lineage from: Rurik Ruler of Kievan Rus to: Lars Erik Granholm**

- 1 **Rurik Ruler of Kievan Rus** b. 830 d. 879  
m. **Efenda (Edvina) Novgorod** m. ABT 876 b. ABT 850
- 2 **Igor Grand Prince of Kiev** b. ABT 835 Kiev, Ukraine, Russia d. 945 Kiev, Ukraine, Russia  
m. **Olga Prekrasa of Kiev** b. ABT 890 d. 11 Jul 969 Kiev
- 3 **Sviatoslav I Grand Prince of Kiev** b. ABT 942 d. MAR 972  
m. **Malusha of Lybeck** b. ABT 944
- 4 **Vladimir I the Great Grand Prince of Kiev** b. 960 Kiev, Ukraine d. 15 Jul 1015 Berestovo, Kiev  
m. **Rogneda Princess of Polotsk** b. 962 Polotsk, Byelorussia d. 1002  
[daughter of Ragnvald Olafsson Count of Polatsk]  
m. **Kunosdotter Countess of Oehningen**
- [Child of Vladimir I the Great Grand Prince of Kiev and Rogneda Princess of Polotsk]
- 5 **Yaroslav I the Wise Grand Duke of Kiev** b. 978 Kiev d. 20 Feb 1054 Kiev  
m. **Ingegerd Olofsdotter Princess of Sweden** m. 1019 Russia b. 1001 Sigtuna, Sweden d. 10 Feb 1050  
[daughter of Olof Skötkonung King of Sweden and Estrid (Ingerid) Princess of Sweden]
- 6 **Vsevolod I Yaroslavich Grand Prince of Kiev** b. 1030 d. 13 Apr 1093  
m. **Irene Maria Princess of Byzantium** b. ABT 1032 Konstantinopel, Turkey d. NOV 1067  
[daughter of Constantine IX Emperor of Byzantium and Sclerina Empress of Byzantium]
- 7 **Vladimir II "Monomach" Grand Duke of Kiev** b. 1053 d. 19 May 1125  
m. **Gytha Haraldsdotter Princess of England** m. 1074 b. ABT 1053 d. 1 May 1107  
[daughter of Harold II Godwinson King of England and Ealdgyth Swan-neck]  
m. **NN Byzantine Princess** d. 7 May 1107
- [Child of Vladimir II "Monomach" Grand Duke of Kiev and Gytha Haraldsdotter Princess of England]
- 8 **Mstislav I (Harald) Grand Duke of Kiev** b. 1076 d. 15 Apr 1132  
m. **Christina Ingesdotter Princess of Sweden** b. ABT 1078 d. 18 Jan 1122  
[daughter of Inge I Stenkilsson King of Sweden and Helena Toriltdatter Queen of Sweden]
- 9 **Ingeborg Princess of Russia** b. ABT 1099 d. 1140  
m. **Knud Eriksson Lavard King of Denmark** m. ABT 1118 b. 12 Mar 1091 d. 7 Jan 1131 Murdered by Magnus, son of Niels  
[son of Erik I Ejegod King of Denmark and Bothild Thorgatsdotter Queen of Denmark]
- 10 **Valdemar I the Great King of Denmark** b. 14 Jan 1131 d. 12 May 1182  
m. **Sofiya Vladimirovna Princess of Russia** b. 1140 Novgorod, Russia d. 5 May 1198  
[daughter of Vladimir Dmitriy Vsevolodich Prince of Russia and Richia Sventoslava Princess of Poland]
- 11 **Richiza Valdemarsdotter Princess of Denmark** b. ABT 1178 d. 8 May 1220  
m. **Erik X Knutsson King of Sweden** b. 1180 Stockholm, Sweden d. 10 Apr 1216 Visingsö, Sweden  
[son of Knut I Eriksson King of Sweden and Cecilia Johansdotter Queen of Sweden]
- 12 **Martha Eriksdotter Princess of Sweden** b. ABT 1213  
m. **Nils Sixtensson Sparre av Tofta** b. ABT 1188 Tofta, Uppsala, Sweden  
[son of Sixten Sixtensson Sparre of Tofta]
- 13 **Sixten Nilsson Sparre av Tofta** b. \_\_\_\_ d. 1310  
m. **Ingrid Abjörnsdotter** b. Abt 1220 Adelsö, Uppsala
- 14 **Abjörn Sixtensson Sparre av Tofta** b. ABT 1240 d. 1310  
m. **Ingeborg Ulfsson Ulf** b. ABT 1258 d. AFT 1307  
[daughter of Ulf Karlsson Ulv and Karlsdotter Lejonbalk]
- 15 **Margarete Abjörnsdotter Sparre of Tofta** b. 1293 Tofta, Adelsö, Uppsala  
m. **Gissle Elinasson Sparre of Vik** b. 1276 Wik, Balingsta, Uppsala d. AFT 1343
- 16 **Marta Gislesdotter Sparre of Vik**  
m. **Rorik Tordsson Bonde**  
[son of Tord Petersson till Örbäck Bonde and Margareta Röriksdotter Balk]
- 17 **Tord Röriksson Bonde** b. ABT 1350 Vadstena, Sweden d. 21 Mar 1417 Viborg, Finland  
m. **Ramborg Cecilia Nilsdotter Vasa** m. 3 Oct 1376 b. ABT 1352 d. 1439  
[daughter of Nils Kettilsson Vasa and Kristina Jonsdotter Rickery]
- 18 **Knut Tordsson Bonde** b. ABT 1377 Vadstena, Östergötland, Sweden d. 1413  
m. **Margareta Karlsdotter Sparre av Tofta** d. 1428  
[daughter of Karl Ulfsson Sparre av Tofta and Cecilia]
- 19 **Karl VIII Knutsson Bonde King of Sweden** b. 29 Sep 1409 Ekholmen, Uppsala d. 15 May 1470 Stockholm Slott
- 20 **Karin Karlsdotter Bonde**  
m. **Erengisle Björnsson Djäkn** d. bef 1447  
[son of Björn Pedersson Djäkn]

**Direct Lineage from: Rurik Ruler of Kievan Rus to: Lars Erik Granholm**

- 21 **Märta Erengisledotter Djäkn**  
m. **Johan Henriksson Fleming** b. 1465 Rada, Sverige d. AFT 1514  
[son of Henrik Klausson Fleming and Valborg Jönsdotter Tawast]
- 22 **Anna Johansdotter Fleming** b. 1435 d. 1505  
m. **Olof Pedersson (Wildeman) Lille** d. 1535
- 23 **Karin Olofsdotter Wildeman** b. 1465 d. 1535  
m. **Ludolf Boose** b. 1465 Holstein d. 1535
- 24 **Johan Ludolfsson Boose** b. 1526 d. 1596 Karuna  
m. **Ingeborg Henriksdotter**
- 25 **Kirstin Johansdotter Boose** b. 1576 d. 1646 Karuna  
m. **Bertil von Nieroht** b. 1582 d. 1652
- 26 **Maria Bertilsdotter von Nieroht** b. 1612 d. 1682  
m. **Carl Henriksson Lindelöf**  
[son of Henrik Hansson Lindelöf and Anna Bengtsdotter Gyllenlood]
- 27 **Carl Carlsson von Lindelöf** b. 1642 d. 1712  
m. **N.N. Laurisdotter Laurentz**
- 28 **Anna Maria Carlsdotter von Lindelöf** b. 1670 d. 1 Feb 1747 Suomensjärvi  
m. **Ericus Christierni Orenius** b. ABT 1658 d. 2 Mar 1740 Suomensjärvi  
[son of Krister (Christiernus) Matthiae Orenius and Ingeborg]
- 29 **Margareta Eriksdotter Orenia** b. 16 Jan 1710 Suomensjärvi, Laperla  
m. **Johan Urnovius**
- 30 **Christina Margareta Urnovia**  
m. **Johan Flinck** m. 20 Dec 1781 Turku
- 31 **Johan (Flinck) Årenius** b. 12 Jan 1787 Pemar Vista d. 6 Nov 1823 Eckois Tyrvää  
m. **Ulrika Abrahamsdotter Sevon** m. 15 Mar 1810 b. 9 Jun 1784  
[daughter of Abraham Abrahamsson Sevon and Juliana Ulrika Hallonblad]
- 32 **Johan Gustaf Johansson Årenius** b. 5 Jun 1810 Eckois Tyrvaa  
m. **Johanna Carolina Röring** b. 24 Jun 1802 d. ABT 1839  
[daughter of N.N. Röring and Maria Jakobsdotter Täktström]  
m. **Anna Helena Roswall** m. 2 Nov 1839 b. 2 Jul 1799  
[daughter of Martin (Mårten) Malmgren and Marie Alexandra]
- [Child of Johan Gustaf Johansson Årenius and Johanna Carolina Röring]
- 33 **Charlotta Constantia Renlund** b. 4 Jun 1830 d. 28 Jan 1905  
m. **Erik Eriksson Kåll** m. 19 Mar 1854 b. 24 Jun 1829 d. 23 Jan 1905  
[son of Erik Persson Lillkåll and Maria Johansdotter Lillkåll]
- 34 **Johanna Karolina Eriksdotter Kåll** b. 9 Jan 1863 d. 8 Nov 1934  
m. **Karl-Johan Granholm** m. 24 Mar 1887 b. 14 Mar 1866 d. 22 Jun 1920  
[son of Anders Gustaf Johansson Granholm and Brita Andersdotter Djupsjö]
- 35 **Erik Anton Granholm** b. 28 May 1906 d. 29 Jan 1959  
m. **Karin Hildegard Kasén** m. 20 Aug 1933 b. 3 Jul 1914  
[daughter of Alfred Jakobsson Kasén and Wera Ingeborg Björk]
- 36 **Lars Erik Granholm** b. 28 Jul 1934  
m. **Leena Elisabeth Kentala** b. 23 Oct 1936  
[daughter of Anders Artur Kentala and Anna Heleena Reuter]

## **Our Russian ancestry**

Rurik was our earliest Russian ancestor. There are some different opinions about who his son was and who succeeded him as the second ruler. The chart below is most widely used and seems to be the most likely family tree. In any case the Scandinavian influence in founding Russia was significant. Our Russian ancestry goes from Rurik via Grand Duke Vsevolod I to the son of Vladimir II "Monomach", King Mstislav I of Kiev, who married Princess Christine of Sweden, a daughter of King Inge I of Sweden. Another son, Yuri I Dolgoruki, is the direct ancestor of Ivan the Terrible. The last pages in this part describes our relationship to that branch which ends the Rurik Dynasty.

Svjatoslav Born: abt. 942	Igor of Kiev Born: abt. 877 in Kiev	Rurik of Kiev Born: abt, 800	
	Saint Olga of Kiev Born: 890	Efenda of Novgorod Born: 830	

1. Vsevolod I of Kiev Born: 1030  2. Anastasia of Kiev Born: 1023	Yaroslav I of Kiev Born: 978	Saint Vladimir I of Kiev Born: abt. 956 i Ukraina	Svjatoslav Born: abt. 942
			Malusha
	Ingegerd Olofsdotter Born: abt. 1001	Rogneda of Polotzk Born: 962	Ragnvald
		King Olof Skötkonung King of Sweden Born: abt. 980	Erik VIII Segersäll King of Sweden Born: abt. 945
			Sigrid Storråde
		Estrid, Prinsess of Sweden Born: abt. 979	Mieceslas Prince of Obotrites, Born: 919
			Sophia

## Rurik



*The Varangians in Kievan Rus*

**Rurik** or **Riurik** (*Russian*: Рюрик; Russian pronunciation: [ˈrʲurʲɪk]; *Old East Norse*: Rørik, meaning "famous ruler"; c. 830 – c. 879) was a *Varangian* chieftain who gained control of *Ladoga* in 862, built the *Holmgard* settlement near *Novgorod*, and founded the *Rurik Dynasty* which ruled *Kievan Rus* and then *Russia* until the 16th century

The runes **ruRikr** representing the [Old Norse](#) name Hroðrekr on the Viking Age runestone U 413 in the church of Norrsunda, [Uppland](#), [Sweden](#).



## History

A monument celebrating the [millennium of Rurik's arrival to Novgorod](#)



There is a debate over how Rurik came to control [Ladoga](#) and [Novgorod](#). The only information about him is contained in the 12th-century [Russian Primary Chronicle](#), which states that [Chuds](#), [Slavs](#), [Merias](#), [Veses](#) and [Krivichs](#) "...drove the Varangians back beyond the sea, refused to pay them tribute, and set out to govern themselves". Afterwards the tribes started fighting each other and decided to invite Rurik to reestablish order.

Rurik remained in power until his death in 879. His successors (the [Rurik Dynasty](#)), however, moved the capital to [Kiev](#) and founded the state of [Kievan Rus](#), which persisted until 1240, the time of [Mongol invasion](#). A number of extant princely families are patrilineally descended from Rurik, although the last [Rurikid](#) to rule Russia, [Vasily IV](#), died in 1612.



There is a large 9th-century [funerary barrow](#) in [Novgorod Oblast](#), reminiscent of the mounds at [Old Uppsala](#). Intricately defended against looting, it remains to be excavated. The local inhabitants refer to it as [Rurik's Grave](#).

## Disputed origin

According to the *Primary Chronicle* Rurik was one of [the Rus](#), a [Varangian](#) tribe likened by the chronicler to Danes, Swedes, English and [Gotlanders](#). In the 20th century, archaeologists partly corroborated the chronicle's version of events. It was discovered that the settlement of [Ladoga](#), whose foundation has been ascribed to Rurik, was actually established in the mid-8th century. [Earthenware](#), household utensils, and types of buildings from the period of Rurik's foundation correspond to patterns then prevalent in [Jutland](#).



Rurik and his brothers [Truvor](#) and [Sineus](#) arrive in Ladoga

## Igor, Grand Prince of Kiev



Prince Igor Exacting Tribute from the [Drevlyans](#), by [Klavdiy Lebedev](#) (1852-1916).

**Igor** (Old East Slavic/Russian: Игорьъ, Old Norse: Ingvar, Ukrainian: Ігор) was a Varangian ruler of [Kievan Rus](#) from 912 to 945. Very little is known about him from the [Primary Chronicle](#). It has been speculated that the chroniclers chose not to enlarge on his reign, as the region was dominated by [Khazaria](#) at that time. He twice besieged Constantinople, in 941 and 944, and in spite of his fleet being destroyed by



*Greek fire*, concluded with the Emperor a *favourable treaty* whose text is preserved in the chronicle. In 913 and 944, the *Rus* plundered the Arabs in the *Caspian Sea* during the *Caspian expeditions of the Rus*, but it's not clear whether Igor had anything to do with these campaigns.

*Igor* was killed<sup>[2]</sup> while collecting tribute from the *Drevlians* in 945 and revenged by his wife, *Olga of Kiev*. The *Primary Chronicle* blames his death on his own excessive greed, indicating that he was attempting to collect tribute a second time in a month. As a result, Olga changed the system of tribute gathering (*poliudie*) in what may be regarded as the first legal reform recorded in Eastern Europe.



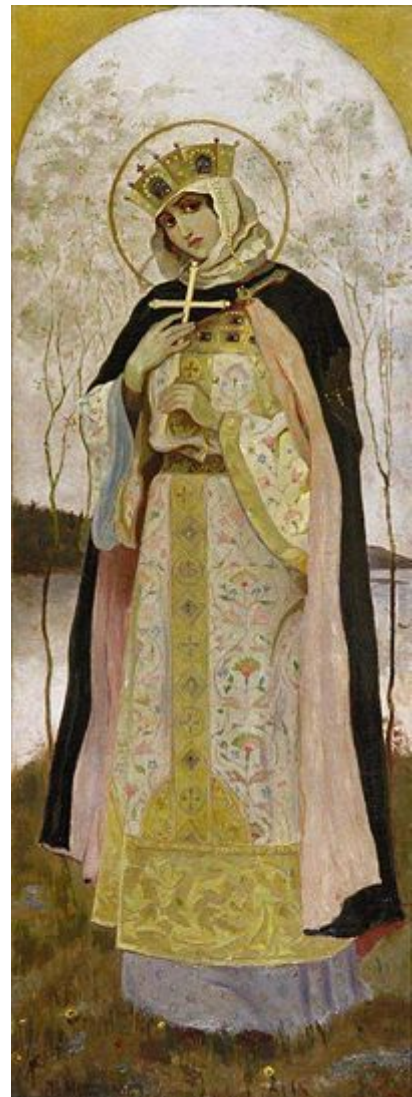
Ship burial of *Igor the Old* in 945, depicted by *Henryk Siemiradzki* (1843–1902).

**Saint Olga** (*Russian* and *Ukrainian*: Ольга, also called Olga Prekrasa (Ольга Прекраса), or Olga the Beauty, *Old Norse*: Helga; born c. 890 died July 11, 969, Kiev) was a Pskov woman of Varangian extraction who married the future Igor of Kiev, arguably in 903. The Primary Chronicle gives 879 as her date of birth, which is rather unlikely, given the fact that her only son was probably born some 65 years after that date. After Igor's death, she ruled Kievan Rus as regent (945-c. 963) for their son, Svyatoslav.

Saint Olga by Mikhail Nesterov

At the start of her reign, Olga spent great effort to avenge her husband's death at the hands of the Drevlians, and succeeded in slaughtering many of them and interring some in a ship burial, while still alive. She is reputed to have scalded captives to death and another, probably apocryphal, story tells of how she destroyed a town hostile to her. She asked that each household present her with a dove as a gift, then tied burning papers to the legs of each dove which she then released to fly back to their homes. Each avian incendiary set fire to the thatched roof of their respective home and the town was destroyed. More importantly in the long term, Olga changed the system of tribute gathering (poliudie) in what may be regarded as the first legal reform recorded in Eastern Europe.

She was the first Rus ruler to convert to Christianity, either in 945 or in 957. The ceremonies of her formal reception in Constantinople were minutely described by Emperor Constantine VII in his book De Ceremoniis. Following her baptism she took the Christian name Yelena, after the reigning Empress Helena Lekapena. The Slavonic chronicles add apocryphal details to the account of her baptism, such as the story how she





charmed and "outwitted" Constantine and how she spurned his matrimonial proposals. In truth, at the time of her baptism, Olga was an old woman, while Constantine had a wife.

Olga was one of the first people of Rus to be proclaimed a [saint](#), for her efforts to spread the Christian religion in the country. Because of her proselytizing influence, the [Orthodox Church](#) calls St. Olga by the [honorific](#) *Isapóstolos*, "Equal to the [Apostles](#)". However, she failed to convert [Svyatoslav](#), and it was left to her grandson and pupil [Vladimir I](#) to make [Christianity](#) the lasting [state religion](#). During her son's prolonged military campaigns, she remained in charge of Kiev, residing in the castle of [Vyshgorod](#) together with her grandsons. She died soon after [the city's siege](#) by the [Pechenegs](#) in 968

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Svyatoslav\\_I\\_of\\_Kiev](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Svyatoslav_I_of_Kiev)

## Svyatoslav I of Kiev

*Lebedev Svyatoslavs meeting with Emperor John*

**Svyatoslav I of Kiev** (c. 942 – March 972) was a warrior prince of [Kievan Rus'](#). The son of [Igor of Kiev and Olga](#), Svyatoslav is famous for his incessant campaigns in the east and south, which precipitated the collapse of two great powers of Eastern Europe—[Khazaria](#) and the [First Bulgarian Empire](#); he also subdued the [Volga Bulgars](#), the [Alans](#), and numerous [East Slavic](#) tribes, and at times was allied with

the [Pechenegs](#) and [Magyars](#). His decade-long reign over Rus' was marked by rapid expansion into the [Volga River](#) valley, the [Pontic steppe](#) and the [Balkans](#). By the end of his short life, Svyatoslav carved out for himself the largest state in [Europe](#), eventually moving his capital from [Kiev](#) to [Pereyaslavets](#) on the [Danube](#) in 969. In contrast with his mother's conversion to [Christianity](#), Svyatoslav remained a staunch [pagan](#) all of his life. Due to his abrupt death in combat, Svyatoslav's conquests, for



the most part, were not consolidated into a functioning empire, while his failure to establish a stable succession led to civil war among his successors.

## Personality

The Kievan Rus' at the beginning of Sviatoslav's reign (in red), showing his sphere of influence to 972 (in orange)



Sviatoslav was the first ruler of Kievan Rus' whose name is indisputably *Slavic* in origin (as opposed to his predecessors, whose names are ultimately derived from *Old Norse*). Virtually nothing is known about his childhood and youth, which he spent reigning in *Novgorod*. Sviatoslav's father, *Igor*, was killed by the *Drevlians* around 942 and his mother, *Olga*, ruled as *regent* in *Kiev* until Sviatoslav's majority (ca. 963).<sup>[4]</sup> His life was spent with his *druzhina* (roughly, "troops") in permanent warfare against neighboring states. According to the *Primary Chronicle*:

Upon his expeditions he carried with him neither wagons nor kettles, and boiled no meat, but cut off small strips of horseflesh, game or beef, and ate it after roasting it on the coals. Nor did he have a tent, but he spread out a horse-blanket under him, and set his saddle under his head, and all his retinue did likewise.

Sviatoslav was noted by *Leo the Deacon* to be of average height and build. He shaved his head and his beard (or possibly just had a wispy beard) but wore a bushy mustache and a one or two sidelocks as a sign of his nobility. He preferred to dress in white, and it was noted that his garments were much cleaner than those of his men. He wore a single large gold earring bearing a *ruby* and two *pearls*.<sup>[7] [8]</sup>

His mother converted to Christianity at the court of *Byzantine* Emperor *Constantine Porphyrogenitus* in 945 or 957. However,<sup>[9]</sup> Sviatoslav continued to worship *Perun*, *Veles*, *Svarog* and the other gods and goddesses of the *Slavic pantheon*. He remained a stubborn *pagan* for all of his life; according to the *Primary Chronicle*, he believed that his warriors would lose respect for him and mock him if he became a Christian.<sup>[10]</sup> The allegiance of his warriors was of paramount importance in his conquest of an empire that stretched from the Volga to the Danube.



## Family

Very little is known of Sviatoslav's family life. It is possible that Sviatoslav was not the only (and the eldest) son of his parents. The [Russo-Byzantine treaty of 945](#) mentions a certain Predslava, Volodislav's wife, as the noblest of the Rus' women after Olga. [George Vernadsky](#) was among many historians to speculate that Volodislav was Igor's eldest son and heir who died at some point during Olga's regency. At the time of Igor's death, Sviatoslav was still a child and he was raised by his mother or at her instructions. Her influence, however, did not extend to his religious observance.

Sviatoslav, had several children, but the origin of his wives is not specified in the chronicle. By his wives, he had [Yaropolk](#) and [Oleg](#).<sup>[11]</sup> By [Malusha](#), a woman of indeterminate origins,<sup>[12]</sup> [Sviatoslav had Vladimir](#), who would ultimately break with his father's paganism and [convert Rus to Christianity](#).

## Eastern campaigns

Shortly after his accession to the throne, Sviatoslav began campaigning to expand the Rus control over the Volga valley and the [Pontic steppe](#) region. His greatest success was the conquest of [Khazaria](#), which for centuries had been one of the strongest states of [Eastern Europe](#). Sviatoslav began by rallying the Khazars' [East Slavic](#) vassal tribes to his cause. Those who would not join him, such as the [Vyatichs](#), were attacked and forced to pay tribute to the Kievan Rus' rather than the Khazars.<sup>[15]</sup>



Sviatoslav's military campaigns in 966-72 (the map presents one of several hypotheses about the precise routes taken by Sviatoslav in these campaigns

## Campaigns in the Balkans



Pursuit of Sviatoslav's warriors by the Byzantine army, a miniature from 11th-century chronicles of [John Skylitzes](#).

The annihilation of Khazaria was undertaken against the background of the Rus'-Byzantine alliance, concluded in the wake of [Igor's Byzantine campaign](#) in 944.<sup>[26]</sup> Close military ties between the Rus' and Byzantium are illustrated by the fact, reported by John Skylitzes, that a Rus' detachment accompanied Byzantine Emperor [Nicephorus Phocas](#) in his victorious naval expedition to [Crete](#).

In 967 or 968<sup>[27]</sup> Nicephorus sent to Sviatoslav his agent, [Kalokyros](#), with the task of talking Sviatoslav into assisting him in a war against [Bulgaria](#).<sup>[28]</sup> Sviatoslav was paid 15,000 pounds of gold and set sail with an army of 60,000 men, including thousands of Pecheneg mercenaries.<sup>[29][30]</sup>

[Sviatoslav defeated](#) the Bulgarian ruler [Boris II](#)<sup>[31]</sup> and proceeded to occupy the whole of northern Bulgaria. Meanwhile, the Byzantines bribed the Pechenegs to [attack and besiege Kiev](#), where Olga stayed with Sviatoslav's son Vladimir. The siege was relieved by the druzhina of [Pretich](#), and immediately following the Pecheneg retreat, Olga sent a reproachful letter to Sviatoslav. He promptly returned and defeated the Pechenegs, who continued to threaten Kiev.

Sviatoslav retreated to [Dorostol](#), which the Byzantine armies [besieged for sixty-five days](#). Cut off and surrounded, Sviatoslav came to terms with John and agreed to abandon the Balkans, renounce his claims to the southern Crimea and return west of the [Dnieper River](#). In return, the Byzantine emperor supplied the Rus' with food and safe passage home. Sviatoslav and his men set sail and landed on [Berezan](#)

[Island](#) at the mouth of the Dnieper, where they made camp for the winter. Several months later, their camp was devastated by famine, so that even a horse's head could not be bought for less than a half-[grivna](#).

Ivan Akimov. [Svyatoslav's](#) return from the [Danube](#) to his family in [Kiev](#). 1773



## Death and aftermath

The Death of Sviatoslav by [Boris Chorikov](#).

Fearing that the peace with Sviatoslav would not endure, the Byzantine emperor induced the Pecheneg [khan Kurya](#) to kill Sviatoslav before he reached Kiev. According to the Slavic chronicle, [Sveneld](#) attempted to warn Sviatoslav to avoid the [Dnieper cataracts](#), but the prince slighted his wise advice and was ambushed and slain by the Pechenegs when he tried to cross the cataracts near [Khortitsa](#) early in 972. The Primary Chronicle reports that his skull was [made into a chalice](#) by the Pecheneg khan, Kurya.<sup>[37]</sup>



Following Sviatoslav's death, tensions between his sons grew. A war broke out between Sviatoslav's legitimate sons, Oleg and [Yaropolk](#), in 976, at the conclusion of which Oleg was killed. In 977 [Vladimir](#) fled Novgorod to escape Oleg's fate and went to [Scandinavia](#), where he raised an army

of [Varangians](#) and returned in 980. Yaropolk was killed and [Vladimir](#) became the sole ruler of Kievan Rus'.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vladimir\\_I\\_of\\_Kiev](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vladimir_I_of_Kiev)

## Vladimir I of Kiev

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Saint **Vladimir Svyatoslavich the Great** (c. 958 – 15 July 1015, [Berestovo](#)) was the grand prince of [Kiev](#) who converted to [Christianity](#) in 988<sup>[1]</sup>, and proceeded to [baptise the whole Kievan Rus](#). His name may be spelled in different ways: in [Old East Slavic](#) as Volodimir and the modern [Scandinavian languages](#) as Valdemar.

### Way to the throne

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Vladimir was the youngest son of [Sviatoslav I of Kiev](#) by his housekeeper [Malusha](#), described in the [Norse sagas](#) as a prophetess who lived to the age of 100 and was brought from her cave to the palace to predict the future.

Transferring his capital to [Preslavets](#) in 969, Sviatoslav designated Vladimir ruler of [Novgorod the Great](#) but gave Kiev to his legitimate son [Yaropolk](#). After Sviatoslav's death (972), a fratricidal war erupted (976) between Yaropolk and his younger brother [Oleg](#), ruler of the [Drevlians](#). In 977 Vladimir fled to his kinsmen [Haakon Sigurdsson](#), ruler of [Norway](#) in [Scandinavia](#), collecting as many of the [Viking warriors](#) as he could to assist him to recover Novgorod, and on his return the next year marched against Yaropolk.

On his way to Kiev he sent ambassadors to [Rogvolod](#) (Norse: Ragnvald), prince of [Polotsk](#), to sue for the hand of his daughter [Rogneda](#) (Norse: Ragnhild). The well-born princess refused to affiance herself to the son of a bondswoman, but Vladimir attacked Polotsk, slew Rogvolod, and took Ragnhild by force.

### Years of pagan rule

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Though [Christianity](#) had won many converts since Olga's rule, Vladimir had remained a thorough going pagan, taking eight hundred concubines (besides numerous wives) and erecting pagan statues and shrines to gods. It is argued that he attempted to reform Slavic [paganism](#) by establishing thunder-god [Perun](#) as a supreme deity.



# Baptism of Rus

The Baptism of Saint Prince Vladimir, by [Viktor Vasnetsov](#) (1890)

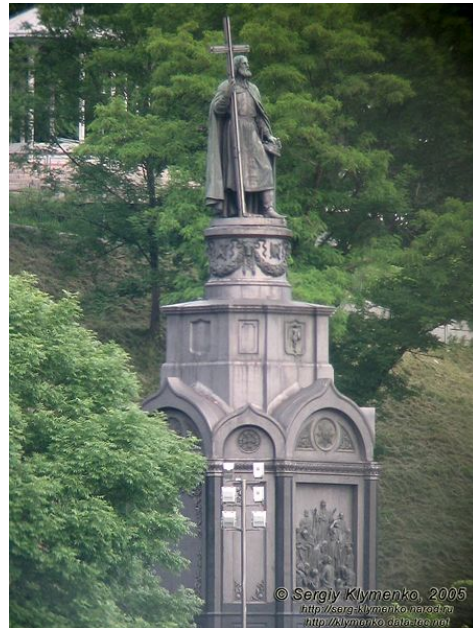
The [Primary Chronicle](#) reports that in the year 987, as the result of a consultation with his [boyars](#), Vladimir sent envoys to study the religions of the various neighboring nations whose representatives had been urging him to embrace their respective faiths. The result is amusingly described by the [chronicler Nestor](#). Of the [Muslim Bulgarians of the Volga](#) the envoys reported there is no gladness among them; only sorrow and a great stench, and that their religion was undesirable due to its [taboo](#) against [alcoholic beverages](#)



and [pork](#); supposedly, Vladimir said on that occasion: "Drinking is the joy of the Rus'." Russian sources also describe Vladimir consulting with [Jewish](#) envoys (who may or may not have been [Khazars](#)), and questioning them about their religion but ultimately rejecting it, saying that their loss of [Jerusalem](#) was evidence of their having been abandoned by [God](#). Ultimately Vladimir settled on [Christianity](#). In the churches of the Germans his emissaries saw no beauty; but at [Constantinople](#), where the full festival ritual of the Byzantine Church was set in motion to impress them, they found their ideal: "We no longer knew whether we were in heaven or on earth," they reported, describing a majestic [Divine Liturgy](#) in [Hagia Sophia](#), "nor such beauty, and we know not how to tell of it." If Vladimir was impressed by this account of his envoys, he was yet more so by political gains of the Byzantine alliance.

A mid-19th century statue overlooking the Dnieper in Kiev, by [Peter Klodt](#)

In 988, having taken the town of [Chersonesos](#) in [Crimea](#), he boldly negotiated for the hand of the emperor [Basil II](#)'s sister, Anna. Never had a Greek imperial princess, and one "[born-in-the-purple](#)" at that, married a barbarian before, as matrimonial offers of French kings and German emperors had been peremptorily rejected. In short, to marry the 27-year-old princess off to a pagan Slav seemed impossible. Vladimir, however, was baptized at Cherson, taking the Christian name of Basil out of compliment to his imperial brother-in-law;



the sacrament was followed by his wedding with [Anna](#). Returning to Kiev in triumph, he [destroyed pagan monuments](#) and established many churches, starting with the splendid [Church of the Tithes](#) (989) and monasteries on [Mt. Athos](#).

## Christian reign

Modern statue of Vladimir in [London](#)

He then formed a great council out of his boyars, and set his [twelve sons](#) over his subject principalities. With his neighbors he lived at peace, the incursions of the [Pechenegs](#) alone disturbing his tranquillity. After Anna's death, he married again, most likely to a granddaughter of [Otto the Great](#).

He died at Berestovo, near Kiev, while on his way to chastise the insolence of his son, Prince [Yaroslav of Novgorod](#). The various parts of his dismembered body were distributed among his numerous sacred foundations and were venerated as [relics](#). [One of the largest Kievan cathedrals](#) is dedicated to him.





## Rogneda of Polotsk

Vladimir and Rogneda (1770).

**Rogneda of Polotsk (962-1002)** is the **Slavic** name for **Ragnhild**, whose father **Ragnvald** (Slavic: Rogvolod) came from overseas (i.e., from **Scandinavia**) and established himself at **Polotsk** in the mid-10th century.

It has been speculated that Ragnvald belonged to the **Ynglings** royal family of **Norway**. In or about 980, **Vladimir of Novgorod**, on learning that she was betrothed to his brother **Yaropolk I** of **Kiev**, took Polotsk and forced Rogneda to marry him. Having raped Rogneda in the presence of her parents, he ordered them to be killed, along with two of Rogneda's brothers.

Rogneda gave him several children.

The four sons were **Yaroslav the Wise**, Vsevolod, **Mstislav of Chernigov**, and **Iziaslav of Polotsk**. She also bore two daughters, one of whom is named by **Nestor the Chronicler** as **Predslava** (taken as a concubine of **Boleslaus I of Poland**, according to **Gallus**). A later chronicle tells a story, most likely taken from a **Norse saga**, of Rogneda plotting against Vladimir and asking her elder son, Iziaslav, to kill him. As was the Norse royal custom, she was sent with her elder son to govern the land of her parents, i.e. Polotsk. Iziaslav's line continued to rule Polotsk and the newly-found town of **Iziaslavl** until the **Mongol invasion**.

After Vladimir converted to Christianity and took **Anna Porphyrogeneta** as his wife, he had to divorce all his previous wives, including Rogneda. After that, she entered the convent and took the name **Anastasia**.



## Yaroslav I the Wise

*Ivan Bilibin's artwork of Yaroslav I.*

**Yaroslav I the Wise** (c. 978 in [Kiev](#) - [February 20, 1054](#) in [Kiev](#)) (*East Slavic*: Ярослав Мудрый; Christian name: George; *Old Norse*: Jarisleifr) was thrice Grand Prince of [Novgorod](#) and [Kiev](#), uniting the two principalities for a time under his rule. During his lengthy reign, [Kievan Rus'](#) reached a zenith of its cultural flowering and military power.



### His way to the throne



Coins of Yaroslav and his descendants represent the [trident](#).

Early years of Yaroslav's life are enshrouded in mystery. He was one of the numerous sons of [Vladimir the Great](#), presumably his second by [Rogneda of Polotsk](#), although his actual age (as stated in the [Primary Chronicle](#) and corroborated by the examination of his [skeleton](#) in the 1930s) would place him among the youngest children of

Vladimir. It has been suggested that [he was a child begotten out of wedlock](#) after Vladimir's divorce with Rogneda and his marriage to [Anna Porphyrogeneta](#), or even that he was a child of Anna Porphyrogeneta herself. Yaroslav figures prominently in the [Norse Sagas](#) under the name of Jarisleif the Lamé; his legendary lameness (probably resulting from an arrow wound) was corroborated by the scientists who examined his relics.



In his youth, Yaroslav was sent by his father to rule the northern lands around [Rostov the Great](#) but was transferred to [Novgorod the Great](#), as befitted a senior heir to the throne, in 1010. While living there, he founded the town of [Yaroslavl](#) (literally, Yaroslav's) on the [Volga](#). His relations with father were apparently strained, and grew only worse on the news that Vladimir bequeathed the Kievan throne to his younger son, [Boris](#). In 1014 Yaroslav refused to pay tribute to Kiev and only Vladimir's death prevented a war.

During the next four years Yaroslav waged a complicated and bloody war for Kiev against his half-brother [Svyatopolk](#), who was supported by his father-in-law, Duke [Boleslaus I of Poland](#). During the course of this struggle, several other brothers ([Boris and Gleb](#), Svyatoslav) were brutally murdered. The [Primary Chronicle](#) accused Svyatopolk of planning those murders, while the [Saga of Eymund](#) is often interpreted as recounting the story of Boris's assassination by the [Varangians](#) in the service of Yaroslav.

Yaroslav defeated Svyatopolk in their first battle, in 1016, and Svyatopolk fled to Poland. But Svyatopolk returned with Polish troops furnished by his father-in-law Duke Boleslaus of Poland, seized [Kiev](#) and pushed Yaroslav back into [Novgorod](#). In 1019, Yaroslav eventually prevailed over Svyatopolk and established his rule over Kiev. One of his first actions as a grand prince was to confer on the loyal Novgorodians (who had helped him to regain the throne), numerous freedoms and privileges. Thus, the foundation for the [Novgorod Republic](#) was laid. The Novgorodians respected Yaroslav more than other Kievan princes and the princely residence in the city, next to the marketplace (and where the veche often convened) was named the [Yaroslavovo Dvorishche](#) after him.

## His reign

Yaroslav's monument in [Yaroslavl](#) depicted on Russian 1000 roubles banknote



The [Ukrainian hryvnia](#) represents Yaroslav.

One of many statues of Yaroslav holding the *Ruskaya Pravda* in his hand

In 1043 Yaroslav staged a naval raid against *Constantinople* led by his son *Vladimir* and general *Vyshata*. Although *the Rus' navy was defeated*, Yaroslav managed to conclude the war with a favourable treaty and prestigious marriage of his son *Vsevolod* to the emperor's daughter. It has been suggested that the peace was so advantageous because the Kievans had succeeded in taking a key Byzantine possession in *Crimea, Chersones*.

Yaroslav was a notable patron of book culture and learning. In 1051, he had a Russian monk *Ilarion* proclaimed the *metropolitan* of Kiev, thus challenging old Byzantine tradition of placing Greeks on the episcopal sees. Ilarion's discourse on Yaroslav and his father Vladimir is frequently cited as the first work of *Old Russian literature*.



## Family life and posterity

In 1019, Yaroslav married *Ingegerd Olofsdotter*, daughter of the king of *Sweden*, and gave *Ladoga* to her as a marriage gift. There are good reasons to believe that before that time he had been married to a woman named Anna, of disputed extraction.

In the *Saint Sophia Cathedral*, one may see a *fresco* representing the whole family: Yaroslav, Irene (as Ingigerd was known in Rus), their five daughters and five sons. Yaroslav married three of his daughters to foreign princes who lived in exile at his court: *Elizabeth* to *Harald III of Norway* (who had attained her hand by his military exploits in the *Byzantine Empire*); *Anastasia of Kiev* to the future *Andrew I of Hungary*, and the youngest daughter *Anne of Kiev* married *Henry I of France* and was the regent of *France* during their son's minority. Another daughter may have

been the *Agatha* who married *Edward the Exile*, heir to the throne of *England* and was the mother of *Edgar Etheling* and *St. Margaret of Scotland*.

Sarcophagus of Yaroslav the Wise.

Yaroslav had one son from the first marriage (his Christian name being Ilya), and 6 sons from the second marriage. Apprehending the danger that could ensue from divisions between brothers, he exhorted them to live in peace with each other. The eldest of these, *Vladimir of Novgorod*, best remembered for building the *Saint Sophia Cathedral in Novgorod*, predeceased his father. Three other sons—*Iziaslav*, *Sviatoslav*, and *Vsevolod*—reigned in Kiev one after another. The youngest children of Yaroslav were Igor of *Volynia* and Vyacheslav of *Smolensk*.



[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ingegerd\\_Olofsdotter](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ingegerd_Olofsdotter)

## Ingegerd Olofsdotter

**Ingegerd Olofsdotter** (1001 – 10 February 1050) was the daughter of *Swedish King Olof Skötkonung* and *Estrid of the Obotrites*. She was born in *Sigtuna*, Sweden, and was engaged to be married to Norwegian King *Olaf II*, but when *Sweden* and *Norway* got into a feud, Swedish King *Olof Skötkonung* wouldn't allow for the marriage to happen.

Instead, Ingegard's father quickly arranged for a marriage to the powerful *Yaroslav I the Wise of Novgorod*. Once in *Russia*, her name was changed to the Greek Irene. According to several *sagas*, she was given as a marriage gift *Ladoga* and adjacent lands, which later received the name *Ingria* (arguably a corruption of Ingegerd's name). She set her friend *jarl Ragnvald Ulfsson* to rule in her stead.

Ingegard initiated the building of the *Saint Sophia Cathedral in Kiev* that was supervised by her husband, who styled himself *tsar*. They had six sons and four daughters, the latter of whom became Queens of *France*, *Hungary*, *Norway*, and



(arguably) [England](#). The whole family is depicted in one of the [frescoes](#) of the Saint Sophia. Upon her death, Ingegard was buried in the same cathedral.



11th-century fresco of the [St. Sophia Cathedral in Kiev](#) representing the daughters of Yaroslav I, with Anna probably being the youngest. Other daughters were [Anastasia](#) wife of [Andrew I of Hungary](#), [Elizabeth](#) wife of [Harald III of Norway](#), and Agatha wife of [Edward the Exile](#).

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anastasia\\_of\\_Kiev](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anastasia_of_Kiev)

## Anastasia of Kiev

**Anastasia of Kiev** (c. 1023 – 1074/1096) was [Queen of Hungary](#) as the wife of [King Andrew the White](#). She was the [eldest daughter of Grand Prince Yaroslav I the Wise of Kiev and Ingigerd of Sweden](#), and the older sister of [Anne of Kiev](#), Queen consort of [Henry I of France](#).

Around 1039, Anastasia was married to Duke [Andrew of Hungary](#), who had settled down in [Kiev](#) after his father [Vazul](#) took part in a failed assassination attempt aimed at King [Stephen I of Hungary](#).

In 1046, her husband returned to [Hungary](#) and ascended the throne as King [Andrew I](#) after defeating King [Peter I](#).



## Marriage and children

# c. 1039: King *Andrew I of Hungary* (c. 1015 – before 6 December 1060)

- *Adelaide* (c. 1040 – 27 January 1062), wife of king *Vratislaus II of Bohemia*
- King *Solomon of Hungary* (1053 – 1087 or after)
- *David of Hungary* (after 1053 – after 1094)

(Continues to us in *Granholt Genealogy/Hungarian Ancestry*)

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vsevolod\\_I,\\_Prince\\_of\\_Kiev](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vsevolod_I,_Prince_of_Kiev)

## Vsevolod I of Kiev



Kievan court in the times of Vsevolod I

**Vsevolod I Yaroslavich** (*Ukrainian and Russian: Всеволод I Ярославич*), (1030 – 13 April 1093) ruled as *Grand Prince of Kiev* from 1078 until his death.

## Early life

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He was the fourth and favourite son of Yaroslav I the Wise by Ingigerd Olafsdottir.

To back up an armistice signed with the Byzantine Empire in 1046, his father married him to a daughter of Emperor Constantine IX, Anastasia, a princess, d. 1067. The couple had a son, the future Vladimir Monomakh.

Upon his father's death in 1054, he received in appanage the towns of Pereyaslav, Rostov, Suzdal, and the township of Beloozero which would remain in possession of his descendants until the end of Middle Ages. Together with his elder brothers Iziaslav and Sviatoslav he formed a sort of princely triumvirate which jointly waged war on the steppe nomads, polovtsy, and compiled the first East Slavic law code. In 1067 Vsevolod's Greek wife died and he soon married a Kypchak princess. She brought him another son, who drowned after the Battle of the Stugna River, and two daughters, one becoming a nun and another, Eupraxia of Kiev, marrying Emperor Henry IV.

## Children

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Vsevolod and his first wife had only one known son:

- Vladimir II Monomakh (1053 - 19 May 1125).

Vsevolod and his second wife had five known children:

- Rostislav Vsevolodovich (1070 - 26 May 1093). Drowned while retreating from the Battle of the Stugna River.
- Eupraxia of Kiev (1071 - 20 July 1109). Married Henry IV, Holy Roman Emperor.
- Catherine Vsevolovna (d. 11 August 1108). A nun. Her date of death is recorded in the Primary Chronicle.
- Maria Vsevolodovna (d. 1089).
- Anna Vsevolodovna (d. 3 November 1112). Abbess. Visited Constantinople in 1089.

## Vladimir II Monomakh



Monomakh rests after hunting (painting by [Viktor Vasnetsov](#), c. 1900).

**Vladimir II Monomakh** ( Christian name *Vasiliy*, or *Basil*) (1053–May 19, 1125) —or **Vladimir** in English — was a famous *Velikiy Kniaz* (Grand Prince) of *Kievan Rus'*.

### Family

He was the son of *Vsevolod I* (married in 1046) and princess *Anastasia of Byzantium* (d. 1067), daughter of *Emperor Constantine IX Monomachos*, from whom he takes his nickname of *Monomakh* (*Greek*: "One who fights alone").

In his famous *Instruction* to his own children, *Monomakh* mentions that he conducted 83 military campaigns and 19 times made peace with the *Polovtsi*. At first he waged war against the steppe jointly with his cousin *Oleg*, but after *Vladimir* was sent by his father to rule *Chernigov*



and Oleg made peace with the Polovtsi to retake that city from him, they parted company. Since that time, Vladimir and Oleg were bitter enemies who would often engage in internecine wars. The enmity continued among their children and more distant posterity.

The **Battle of the Stugna River** (26 May 1093) was a battle between the princes of [Kievan Rus](#) ([Sviatopolk II of Kiev](#), [Vladimir Monomakh](#) of [Chernigov](#)) and the nomadic [Cumans](#) tribe (a [Turkic peoples](#)). The Kievan forces were defeated.

The Cumans raided Rus' soon after [Vsevolod's](#) death and sought to buy peace with the new great prince, Sviatopolk. However Sviatopolk incarcerated the Cumans ambassadors and the Cumans came in force to attack Kiev. Facing an enemy army of eight-thousand, Sviatopolk took the advice of counsel and called for help from [Vladimir Monomakh](#), prince of Chernigov. Monomakh came with his troops and also called upon his only brother, Rostislav of [Pereyaslav](#).

Princes of Rus deliberate their actions against the Cumans

Monomakh insisted on peace with the Cumans while Sviatopolk wanted war. Union against Cumans was achieved and Sviatopolk released the ambassadors of Cumans. The armies of the three princes joined together and set out for the city of [Tropol'](#). Approaching the [Stugna River](#) the princes were undecided, so they stopped to have a council. The Cumans were across the river.



Monomakh (whose wife was a Cuman princess), continued to demand that they sue for peace, but the Kievan troops wanted battle. They crossed the river and met the Cumans in a valley at the rampart of [Tropol'](#). Sviatopolk deployed on the right, Rostislav in the center and Vladimir on the left.

First Cumans attacked Sviatopolk's troops and after a bloody battle Sviatopolk's troops ran. Then Vladimir Monomakh was crushed and all the Kievan troops retreated. Sviatopolk took cover in [Tropol'](#), but Rostislav and Monomakh attempted to swim the Stugna River. Rostislav, in a heavy chain armour, drowned. Monomakh retreated to [Chernigov](#) and Sviatopolk retreated at night to [Kiev](#).

When [Sviatopolk II](#) died in 1113, the [Kievan](#) populace revolted and summoned Vladimir to the capital. The same year he entered Kiev to the great delight of the crowd and reigned there until his death in 1125. Vladimir Monomakh is buried in the [Saint Sophia Cathedral](#) in [Kiev](#).

## Marriages and children

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Vladimir was married three times. His first wife was **Gytha of Wessex**, daughter of **Harold of England** who fell at **Hastings** and **Ealdgyth Swan-neck**. They had at least five children:

- **Mstislav I of Kiev** (1 June 1076 - 14 April 1132).
- Izyaslav Vladimirovich, Prince of **Kursk** (c. 1077 - 6 September 1096).
- Svyatoslav Vladimirovich, Prince of **Smolensk** and **Pereyaslav** (c. 1080 - 16 March 1114).
- **Yaropolk II of Kiev** (1082 - 18 February 1139).
- **Viacheslav I of Kiev** (1083 - 2 February 1154).

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gytha\\_of\\_Wessex](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gytha_of_Wessex)

## Gytha of Wessex

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**Gytha of Wessex** was one of several daughters of **Ealdgyth Swan-neck** by **Harold II**, the last **Anglo-Saxon** king of **England**.

According to **Saxo Grammaticus**, two of Harold's sons and a daughter escaped to the court of their uncle, king **Sweyn Estridsson** of **Denmark**. They were treated by Sweyn with hospitality, while their sister was married to Waldemar, king of **Ruthenia**, i.e. **Vladimir II Monomakh**, one of the most famous rulers of **Kievan Rus**.

Gytha was the mother of **Mstislav the Great**, the last ruler of united **Kievan Rus**. In the **Norse sagas**, Mstislav is called Harald after his grandfather. The **pateric** of St Pantaleon Cloister in **Cologne** says that "Gytha the Queen" died as a nun on **10 March**. It is assumed that she followed **Godfrey of Bouillon** in the **first Crusade** and died in **Palestine**, most likely in **1098**, as a year later Vladimir Monomakh married another woman.

## Children

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Their children were:

1. **Mstislav the Great** (1076-1132)
2. Izyaslav Vladimirovich, Prince of **Kursk** (+September 6, 1096)
3. Svyatoslav Vladimirovich, Prince of **Smolensk** and **Pereyaslav** (+March 16, 1114)
4. **Yaropolk II of Kiev** (+February 18, 1139)
5. **Viacheslav I of Kiev** (+February 2, 1154)

## Mstislav I of Kiev

**Mstislav I Vladimirovich the Great** (June 1, 1076, *Turiv* – April 14, 1132, Kiev) was the *Velikiy Kniaz* (Grand Prince) of Kiev (1125-1132), the eldest son of Vladimir II Monomakh by Gytha of Wessex. He figures prominently in the *Norse Sagas* under the name *Harald*, taken to allude to his grandfather, *Harold II of England*.

St Nicholas Cathedral, built by Mstislav I near his palace at Yaroslav's Court, Novgorod, contains 12th-century *frescoes* depicting his illustrious family

As his father's future successor, Mstislav reigned in *Novgorod the Great* from 1088-93 and from 1095-1117. Thereafter he was Monomakh's co-ruler in Belgorod-on-the-Dnieper, and inherited the Kievan throne after his death. He built numerous churches in Novgorod, of which St. Nicholas Cathedral (1113) and the cathedral of St Anthony Cloister (1117) survive to the present day. Later, he would also erect important churches in Kiev, notably his family *sepulchre* at Berestovo and the church of Our Lady at Podil.



Mstislav's life was spent in constant warfare with *Cumans*, *Estonians*, *Lithuanians*, and the principedom of *Polotsk*. In 1096, he defeated his uncle Oleg of Chernigov on the *Koloksha River*, thereby laying foundation for the centuries of enmity between his and Oleg's descendants. In 1095, Mstislav wed *Princess Christine of Sweden*, daughter of King *Inge I of Sweden*. They had many children:

1. *Ingeborg of Kiev*, married *Canute Lavard* of *Jutland*, and was mother to *Valdemar I of Denmark*
2. Malmfrid, married (1) *Sigurd I of Norway*; (2) *Eric II of Denmark*
3. Eupraxia, married Alexius Comnenus, son of *John II Comnenus*
4. *Vsevolod of Novgorod and Pskov*
5. Maria, married *Vsevolod II of Kiev*
6. *Iziaslav II of Kiev*
7. *Rostislav of Kiev*
8. *Sviatopolk of Pskov*
9. Rogneda, married *Yaroslav of Volinya*
10. Xenia, married *Briachislav of Izyaslavl*

Christine died on January 18, 1122; later that year Mstislav married again, to Liubava Dmitrievna, the daughter of Dmitry Zavidich, a nobleman of Novgorod. Their children were:

1. *Vladimir II Mstislavich* (1132-1171)
2. Euphrosyne of Kiev, (c. 1130 – c. 1193) married King *Géza II of Hungary* in 1146



## Canute Lavard

### Saint Canute Lavard



Canute Lavard in a fresco in *Vigersted Church* near *Ringsted*.

**Born** ~1090

**Died** 7 January, 1131, forest of *Haraldsted* near *Ringsted* in Zealand.

**Venerated** *Roman Catholic Church*  
**in**

**Canonized** 1170

**Feast** *January 7*

*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 was the only legitimate son of *Eric I of Denmark* and *Bodil Thrugotsdatter* 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 suspicions 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*. The fate of Canute and his son's victory formed the perfect background for his *canonisation* in 1170, which was requested by the same *Valdemar*. His *feast day* is celebrated on the day of his death, January 7.

Canute Lavard is the ancestor of the "Valdemarian" kings and of their subsequent royal line. He was the first Duke of Schleswig (Slesvig) and the first border prince who was both a Danish and a German vassal, a position leading towards the historical double position of South Jutland.

*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*

**Note by LG:** Besides our ancestry from Rurik, the first ruler of Russia, we are also related to Czar Nicholas II, the last royal ruler, who with his family was murdered by Bolsheviks on July 16, 1918. His daughter Anastasia has become one of the best known members of that family. The enclosed two-column list shows the descendants from Erik I, King of Denmark, our common ancestor's two sons to Anastasia and our family.

A separate booklet covers our relationship with Russian rulers during a later historical part from Catherine the Great to Nicholas II.

**Descendants of: Vladimir II "Monomach" Grand Duke of Kiev As Related to: Lars Erik Granholm**

- 1 **Vladimir II "Monomach" Grand Duke of Kiev** b. 1053 d. 19 May 1125 (26th great grand father)  
m. **NN Byzantine Princess** d. 7 May 1107
- 2 **Yuri I Dolgoruki Grand Prince of Kiev** b. 1099 d. 15 May 1157 (26th great uncle)  
m. **Helena Komnene Princess of Greece**
- 3 **Vsevolod III Grand Prince of Vladimir** b. 1154 d. 1212 (first cousin, 26 times removed)  
m. **Maria Shvarnovna**
- 4 **Yaroslav II Grand Prince of Vladimir** b. 1191 d. 1246 (second cousin, 25 times removed)  
m. **Fedosia Igorevich of Ryazan**
- 5 **Saint Alexander Nevsky Grand Prince of Novgorod** b. 1220 d. 1263 (third cousin, 24 times removed)  
m. **Alexandra**
- 6 **Daniel Grand Prince of Moscow** b. 1261 d. 1303 (4th cousin, 23 times removed)  
m. **Maria**
- 7 **Ivan I Prince of Moscow** b. 1288 d. 1340 (5th cousin, 22 times removed)  
m. **Helena**
- 8 **Ivan II the Fair Grand Prince of Moscow** b. 1326 d. 1359 (6th cousin, 21 times removed)  
m. **Alexandra Ivanovna Velyaminova**
- 9 **Saint Dmitriy Donskoy Prince of Moscow** b. 1350 d. 1389 (7th cousin, 20 times removed)  
m. **Eudoxia Grand Princess of Nizhniy Novgorod** d. 1407
- 10 **Vasily I Grand Prince of Moscow** b. 1371 d. 1425 (8th cousin, 19 times removed)  
m. **Sophia Princess of Lithuania** b. 1371 d. 1453
- 11 **Vasily II Grand Prince of Moscow** b. 1415 d. 1462 (9th cousin, 18 times removed)  
m. **Maria Yaroslavna**
- 12 **Ivan III the Great Grand Prince of Russia** b. 1440 d. 1505 (10th cousin, 17 times removed)  
m. **Sophia Palaiologina Grand Duchess of Moscow** b. 1455 d. 1503
- 13 **Vasili III Grand Prince of Moscow** b. 1479 d. 1533 (11th cousin, 16 times removed)  
m. **Elena Glinskaya Princess of Moscow** d. 1538
- 14 **Ivan IV the Terrible Tsar of Russia** b. 1530 d. 1584 (12th cousin, 15 times removed)  
m. **Anastasia Tsarina of Russia** d. 1560
- 15 **Feodor I of Russia Tsar of Russia** b. 1557 d. 1598 (13th cousin, 14 times removed)



# Ivan IV of Russia

**Ivan IV Vasilyevich**, known in [English](#) as *Ivan the Terrible* ([August 25, 1530](#), Moscow – 28 March 1584, Moscow) was [Grand Prince of Moscow](#) from 1533.

The Grand Prince Ivan having achieved much overseeing numerous changes in the transition from a mere local medieval [nation state](#) to a small [empire](#) and emerging [regional power](#), became acknowledged as the first [Tsar](#) of a new more powerful nation, became "*Tsar of All Russia*".

*Portrait of Ivan IV by Viktor Vasnetsov, 1897*



Ivan was intelligent, devout, and impulsive; given to rages, and according to the suspicions of some, probably had episodic outbreaks of [mental illness](#). One notable outburst resulted in the death of his groomed and chosen heir – [Ivan Ivanovich](#) – resulting in the passing of the Tsardom to a less than ideal younger son – the [mentally retarded Feodor I of Russia](#). His long reign saw the conquest of the [Khanates of Kazan](#), [Astrakhan](#), and Sibir, transforming Russia into a [multiethnic](#) and [multiconfessional](#) state spanning almost 1 billion acres.

The **Tsardom of Rus'** was the official name for the Russian state between [Ivan IV](#)'s assumption of the title of [Tsar](#) (Emperor) in 1547 and [Peter the Great](#)'s foundation of the [Russian Empire](#) in 1721.

## Early reign



Ivan was the long awaited son of [Vasili III](#), who had divorced his first wife in the 1520s on the grounds that she was barren (he charged her with sorcery and had her forcibly tonsured a nun before marrying Elena Glinskaya, Ivan's mother.) When Ivan was just three years old his father died from a [boil](#) and inflammation on his leg which developed into blood poisoning. Ivan was proclaimed the [Grand Prince of Moscow](#) at his father's request. At first, his mother Elena Glinskaya acted as a regent, but she died when Ivan was merely eight years old. She was replaced as regent by [boyars](#) from the [Shuisky](#) family until Ivan assumed power in 1544. According to his own letters, Ivan and his younger brother [Yuri](#) customarily felt neglected and offended by the mighty boyars from the Shuisky and [Belsky](#) families.

*Ivan IV, parsuna, 16th-century (National Museum of Denmark).*

Ivan was crowned king with [Monomakh's Cap](#) at the [Cathedral of the Dormition](#) at age sixteen on [January 16, 1547](#). Despite calamities triggered by the [Great Fire of 1547](#), the early part of his reign was one of peaceful reforms and modernization. Ivan revised the law code (known as the [sudebnik](#)), created a [standing army](#), established the [Zemsky Sobor](#) or assembly of the land, a public, consensus-building assembly, the council of the nobles and confirmed the position of the Church with the [Council of the Hundred Chapters](#), which unified the rituals and ecclesiastical regulations of the entire country. He introduced the local self-management in rural regions, mainly in the Northeast of Russia, populated by the state peasantry.

*Ivan the Terrible at the deathbed of his first and most-beloved wife, [Anastasia Romanovna](#). Ivan married seven more times, sometimes divorcing a wife a week after the marriage. Painting by [Georgiy Sedov](#), 1875.*



Other events of this period include the introduction of the first laws restricting the mobility of the [peasants](#), which would eventually lead to [serfdom](#), and change in Ivan's personality, traditionally linked to his near-fatal illness in 1553 and the death of his first wife, [Anastasia Romanovna](#) in 1560. Ivan suspected boyars of poisoning his wife and of plotting to replace him on the throne with his cousin, [Vladimir of Staritsa](#). In addition, during that illness Ivan had asked the boyars to swear an oath of allegiance to his eldest son, an infant at

the time. Many boyars refused, deeming the tsar's health too hopeless to survive. This angered Ivan and added to his distrust of the boyars. There followed brutal reprisals and assassinations, including those of [Metropolitan Philip](#) and Prince [Alexander Gorbati-Shuisky](#).

## Later reign

*Ivan the Terrible killing his son by [Ilya Repin](#) (Tretyakov Gallery, Moscow).*



The later half of Ivan's reign was far less successful. Although [Khan Devlet I Giray](#) of [Crimea](#) repeatedly devastated the Moscow region and even [set Moscow on fire](#) in 1571, the Tsar supported [Yermak](#)'s conquest of [Tatar Siberia](#), adopting a policy of [empire-building](#), which led him to launch a victorious war of seaward expansion to the west, only to find himself fighting the [Swedes](#), [Lithuanians](#), [Poles](#), and the [Livonian Teutonic Knights](#).

For twenty-four years the [Livonian War](#) dragged on, damaging the Russian economy and military and failing to gain any territory for Russia. In the 1560s the combination of [drought](#) and [famine](#), [Polish-Lithuanian](#) raids, [Tatar](#)

[invasions](#), and the sea-trading blockade carried out by the Swedes, Poles and the [Hanseatic League](#) devastated Russia. The price of grain increased by a factor of ten. Epidemics of the plague killed 10,000 in Novgorod. In 1570 the plague killed 600-1000 in Moscow daily. One of Ivan's advisors, Prince [Andrei Kurbsky](#), defected to the Lithuanians, headed the Lithuanian troops and devastated the Russian region of [Velikiye Luki](#). This treachery deeply hurt Ivan. As the Oprichnina continued, Ivan became mentally unstable and physically disabled. In one week, he could easily pass from the most depraved orgies to anguished prayers and fasting in a remote northern monastery.

Because he gradually grew unbalanced and violent, the Oprichniks under [Malyuta Skuratov](#) soon got out of hand and became murderous thugs. They massacred nobles and peasants, and conscripted men to fight the war in Livonia. Depopulation and famine ensued. What had been by far the richest area of Russia became the poorest. In a dispute with the wealthy city of [Novgorod](#), Ivan ordered the Oprichniks to murder inhabitants of this city, which was never to regain its former prosperity. His followers burned and pillaged the city and villages.<sup>[10]</sup> As many as 60,000 might have been killed during the infamous [Massacre of Novgorod](#) in 1570; many others were [deported](#) elsewhere. Yet the official [death toll](#) named 1,500 of [Novgorod](#) *big* people (nobility) and only mentioned about the same number of *smaller* people. Many modern researchers estimate number of victims between two and three thousand. (After the famine and [epidemics](#) of 1560s the population of Novgorod perhaps did not exceed 10,000-20,000.)

*Ivan the Terrible and Harsey*



Having rejected peace proposals from his enemies, Ivan IV found himself in a difficult position by 1579, when [Crimean Khanate](#) devastated Muscovian territories and even burnt down [Moscow](#) (see [Russo-Crimean Wars](#)). The dislocations in population fleeing the war compounded the effects of the concurrently occurring [drought](#) and exacerbated war engendered [epidemics](#) causing much loss of population.

In 1581, Ivan beat his [pregnant](#) daughter-in-law for wearing immodest clothing, which may have caused a [miscarriage](#). His son, also named [Ivan](#), upon learning of this, engaged in a heated argument with his father, which resulted in Ivan striking his son in the head with his pointed staff, causing his son's (accidental) death. This event is depicted in the famous painting by [Ilya Repin](#), *Ivan the Terrible and his son Ivan on Friday, November 16, 1581* better known as *Ivan the Terrible killing his son*.



## Death and legacy

*Ivan the Terrible meditating at the deathbed of his son. Ivan's murder of his son brought about the extinction of the Rurik Dynasty and the Time of Troubles. Painting by Vyacheslav Grigorievich Schwarz (1861).*



Although it is thought by many that Ivan died while setting up a chess board, it is more likely that he died while playing [chess](#) with [Bogdan Belsky](#) on [March 18, 1584](#). When Ivan's tomb was opened during renovations in the 1960s, his remains were examined and discovered to contain very high amounts of [mercury](#), indicating a high probability that he was poisoned. Modern suspicion falls on his advisors Belsky and [Boris Godunov](#) (who became tsar in 1598). Three days earlier, Ivan had allegedly attempted to rape Irina, Godunov's sister and Feodor's wife. Her cries attracted Godunov

and Belsky to the noise, whereupon Ivan let Irina go, but Belsky and Godunov considered themselves marked for death. The tradition says that they either poisoned or strangled Ivan in fear for their own lives. Upon Ivan's death, the ravaged kingdom was left to his unfit and childless son [Feodor](#).

## Epistles

*Ivan's repentance: he asks a father superior of the Pskovo-Pechorsky Monastery to let him take the tonsure at his monastery. Painting by Klavdiy Lebedev.*



# Feodor I of Russia

**Fyodor I Ivanovich** ([31 May 1557](#) - [17 January](#), 1598) was the last [Rurikid Tsar](#) of [Russia](#) (1584 - 1598), son of [Ivan the Terrible](#) and [Anastasia Romanovna](#). He is known as **Feodor the Bellringer** in consequence of his inclination to travel the land and [ring the bells](#) at churches. He was born in [Moscow](#) and crowned Tsar and Autocrat of all Russia on [31 May 1584](#).

*Fyodor I Tsar of all Russia*



Feodor, reputedly [mentally retarded](#), took little interest in [politics](#). He was of pious character and spent most of his time in prayers. Having inherited a land devastated by the excesses of his father, Ivan the Terrible, he left the task of governing the country to his able brother-in-law, [Boris Godunov](#).

He married in 1580 Irina (Alexandra) Feodorovna Godunova (1557 – [23 November 1603](#)), sister of [Boris Godunov](#). In 1588 he added on to St. Basil's Cathedral in the Red Square. Constructed between 1555-1561 by his father Ivan IV (or Ivan the Terrible), he built more towers on the eastern side of the cathedral over the grave of St. Basil the blessed.

After almost twelve years of marriage, The Tsarevna Irina gave birth a daughter, Feodosia, in 1592. When she died in 1594 aged two, the Tsar approached a state of mental breakdown. His failure to procreate other children brought an end to the centuries-old [Rurik dynasty](#) and led Russia into the [Time of Troubles](#). He died in [Moscow](#) and was buried at [Archangel Cathedral](#), [Kremlin](#).



*Painting titled Feodor Ioannovich presents a golden chain to Boris Godunov by Aleksey D. Kivshenko (1851-96)*