

# **GRANHOLM GENEALOGY**

**SWEDISH ROYAL ANCESTRY**

**Book 2 – Folkunga Dynasty (1250 - 1523)**

## INTRODUCTION

Our Swedish ancestry is quite comprehensive as it covers a broad range of the history. For simplicity the information has been presented in four different books.

Book 1 – Mythical to Viking Era (? – 1250)

Book 2 – Folkunga Dynasty (1250 – 1523)

Book 3 – Vasa Dynasty (1523 – 1751)

Book 4 – Recent Royalty (1751 – Present)

This Book 2 begins with the Regent Birger jarl, who married the daughter of King Erik X, my 22<sup>nd</sup> great grandfather, listed in Book 1. Birger jarl's grandfather, Bengt Folkesson Folkunga, is my 23<sup>rd</sup> great grandfather.

Unlike Book 1 the persons here do not follow just one lineage, but come from three different lineages. King Karl VIII has no direct ancestors here, he is the 5<sup>th</sup> great grandson of King Erik X in Book 1. Our direct lineage does not follow these persons so for this reason they are cousins, except King Karl VIII.

## Descendants of: Birger Jarl Magnusson of Bielbo As Related to: Lars Erik Granholm

- 1 **Birger Jarl Magnusson of Bielbo** b. 1210 d. 1266 (first cousin, 25 times removed)  
m. **Ingeborg Princess of Sweden** (22<sup>nd</sup> great aunt)  
[daughter of Erik X Knutsson King of Sweden and Richiza Valdemarsdotter Princess of Denmark] (22<sup>nd</sup> great grand parents)
- 2 **Valdemar I King of Sweden** b. 1239 d. 1302 (second cousin, 24 times removed)  
m. **Sofia Queen of Sweden** b. 1241 d. 1286 (second cousin, 22 times removed)  
[daughter of Eric IV Plovpenning King of Denmark and Jutta of Saxony]
- 2 **Magnus III Ladulås King of Sweden** b. 1240 d. 1290 (second cousin, 24 times removed)  
m. **Helvig Princess of Holstein** d. 1325
- 3 **Birger Magnusson King of Sweden** b. 1280 d. 1321 (third cousin, 23 times removed)  
m. **Martha Eriksdotter Queen of Sweden** b. 1277 d. 1341 (5<sup>th</sup> cousin, 22 times removed)  
[daughter of Erik V Klipping King of Denmark and Agnes von Brandenburg]
- 3 **Erik Magnusson Duke of Sweden** b. 1282, murdered 1318) (third cousin, 23 times removed)  
m. **Ingeborg Håkonsdotter Princess of Norway** (6<sup>th</sup> cousin, 20 times removed)  
[daughter of Haakon V Magnusson King of Norway and Eufemia of Rügen]
- 4 **Magnus II (IV) King of Norway and Sweden** b. 1316 d. 1374 (4th cousin, 22 times removed)  
m. **Blanche of Namur Queen of Norway** b. 1320 d. 1363 (13<sup>th</sup> cousin, 20 times removed)  
[daughter of Jean Count of Namur and Maria of Artois]
- 5 **Haakon VI King of Norway** b. 1340 d. 1380 (5th cousin, 21 times removed)  
m. **Margaret I Queen of Denmark, Norway and Sweden** b. 1353 d. 1412 (7<sup>th</sup> cousin, 20 times removed)  
[daughter of Valdemar IV Atterdag King of Denmark and Helvig Duchess of Schleswig]
- 5 **Eric XII King of Sweden** b. 1339 d. 1359 (5th cousin, 21 times removed)  
m. **Beatrix of Bavaria**
- 4 **Eufemia Folkunga Princess of Sweden** b. 1317 d. 1370 (4th cousin, 22 times removed)  
m. **Albrecht II Duke von Mecklenburg** b. 1318 d. 1379 (6th cousin, 24 times removed)
- 5 **Heinrich I (III) Duke von Mecklenburg** (5th cousin, 21 times removed)  
m. **Ingeborg Valdemarsdotter Princess of Denmark** b. 1347 d. 1370  
[daughter of Valdemar IV Atterdag King of Denmark and Helvig Duchess of Schleswig]
- 6 **Mary (Maria ) von Mecklenburg** (6th cousin, 20 times removed)  
m. **Wratislaw VII Duke of Pomerania**
- 7 **Erik XIII of Pomerania King of Sweden** b. 1381 d. 1459 (7th cousin, 19 times removed)  
m. **Philippa Princess of England** b. 1394 d. 1430 (13<sup>th</sup> cousin, 17 times removed)  
[daughter of Henry IV King of England and Mary de Bohun]

**Descendants of: Karl VIII Knutsson Bonde King of Sweden As Related to: Lars Erik Granholm**

(Karl VIII is the 5<sup>th</sup> great grand son of King Erik X)

1 **Karl VIII Knutsson Bonde King of Sweden** b. 1409 Uppsala d. 15 May 1470 Stockholm (15th great grand father)

m. **Birgitta Turesdotter Bielke**

[daughter of Ture Stensson Bielke and Birgitta Abrahamsdotter Tjurhuvud]

[Children of Karl VIII Knutsson Bonde King of Sweden and Birgitta Turesdotter Bielke]

2 **Kristina Karlsdotter Bonde** (15th great aunt)

m. **Erik Eriksen till Demstrup Gyldenstierne**

3 **Nils Eriksson Gyllenstierna** b. 1457 Kalmar d. 1495 Viborg (first cousin, 15 times removed)

m. **Sigrid Eskilsdotter Baner**

4 **Christina Nilsdotter Gyllenstierna** b. 1494 d. 1559 (second cousin, 14 times removed)

m. **Sten Sture the Younger Regent of Sweden** b. 1493 d. 1520 [son of Svante Nilsson Regent of Sweden and Iliana Gisladotter Gädde]  
(third cousin, 15 times removed)

**Descendants of: Dorothea von Brandenburg Queen of Denmark and Sweden As Related to: Lars Erik Granholm**

1 **Dorothea von Brandenburg Queen of Denmark and Sweden** #15407 b. 1430 d. 1495 (13th cousin, 14 times removed)

m. **Christian I King of Denmark** #15408 b. 1426 d. 1481 (7th cousin, 17 times removed)

[son of Dietrich II Count von Oldenburg #16329 and Hedwig (Heilwig) von Holstein #16328]

m. **Kristofer av Bayern King of Sweden** #16538 b. 1416 d. 1448 [son of Johan Greve von Pfalz #16537 and Katarina von Pommern #16536] (8th cousin, 17 times removed)

2 **Hans King of Sweden and Denmark** #16539 b. 1455 d. 1513 (9th cousin, 16 times removed)

m. **Christina of Saxony Queen of Sweden** #16540 b. 1461 d. 1521

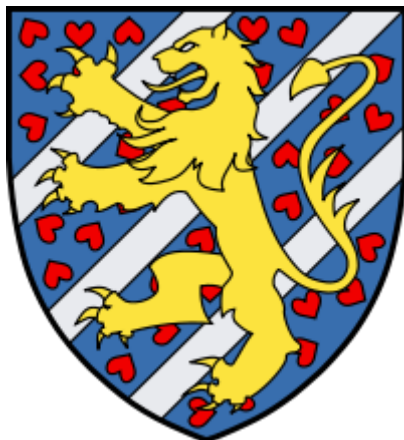
3 **Christian II King of Sweden and Denmark** #16541 b. 1489 d. 1551 (10th cousin, 15 times removed)

m. **Isabella of Austria Queen of Sweden** #16542 b. 1501 d. 1526

4 **Christina Princess of Denmark and Sweden** #16598 b. 1522 d. 1590 (11th cousin, 14 times removed)

# Birger jarl

[Coat of arms](#) of Birger jarl



**Birger jarl**, born **Birger Magnusson** (c. 1210 – 21 October 1266), was a [Swedish](#) statesman, a member of the [House of Bjelbo](#), who played a pivotal role in the [consolidation of Sweden](#) while a [jarl](#) from 1248 until his death. In addition, he is traditionally attributed to have founded the Swedish capital, [Stockholm](#), around 1250, and several historical structures there are still named after him — including the street [Birger Jarlsgatan](#) (on [Norrmalm](#)); the tower [Birger Jarls Torn](#) and the square [Birger Jarls Torg](#) (both on [Riddarholmen](#)).

## Biography

It is known that Birger grew up and spent his adolescence in [Bjälbo](#), [Östergötland](#) but the exact date of his birth remains uncertain and available historical sources are contradictory. Examinations of his mortal remains indicate that he was probably about 50 upon his death in 1266 which would indicate a birth around 1216. However, his father [Magnus Minnesköld](#) is assumed to have died no later than 1210, which would lead to an assumed birth a few years earlier. Under any circumstance, he was the son of [Ingrid Ylva](#), mentioned as the daughter of [Sune Sik](#), the son of [Sverker the Elder](#), which made Birger a member of the [House of Sverker](#). He was also a nephew of the jarl [Birger Brosa](#) from the [House of Bjelbo](#). The combination of this background proved to be of vital importance.<sup>[2][3]</sup>

Birger, thus most likely born at the time for the [Battle of Gestilren](#) in 1210 and named after Birger Brosa, one of the most potent men of the era who died in 1202, started his career in the mid 1230s by marrying the king's sister [Ingeborg Eriksdotter](#), according to the [Eric's Chronicle](#) in fierce rivalry with other suitors.

During the 15 years to follow, Birger then consolidated his position and was probably one of the most influential men years before being formally given the title [jarl](#) in 1248 by King [Eric XI](#). Birger was later claimed to have been responsible for an alleged [military campaign](#) against the [Novgorod Republic](#) that Russians claim ended in a defeat by [Alexander Nevsky](#) during a supposed battle the Russians refer to as [Neva Battle](#) in 1240. While Swedish, German, Finnish, Baltic and other sources have no information on the battle at all, a 16th century Russian legend

Statue of Birger jarl in Stockholm.



tells that the Swedish "king" was wounded in the face while dueling against Prince [Alexander Nevsky](#) himself.

Although Birger Jarl saw many battles, some have speculated that traces of a sword blow in Birger's cranium might have originated from this battle (or any of the many others).

*Battle of the Neva, Alexander Nevsky Fighting the Swedes, by [Boris Chorikov](#)*



"Swedes came with a great army, and [Norwegians](#) and [Finns](#) and [Tavastians](#) with ships in great numbers, Swedes with their prince and bishops, and they stayed on the [Neva](#), at the mouth of the [Izhora](#), willing to take [Ladoga](#), and to put it short, Novgorod and all of its lands. But still protected the merciful, man-loving God us and sheltered us from the foreign people, and the word came to Novgorod that Swedes were sailing to Ladoga; but prince Alexander did not hesitate at all, but went against them with Novgorodians and people of Ladoga and overcame them with the help of Saint Sophia and through prayers of our lady, the [Mother of God](#) and [Virgin Mary](#), [July 15](#), in the memory of [Kirik and Ulita](#), on Sunday, (the same day that) the 630 holy fathers held a meeting in [Chalcedon](#); and there was a great gathering of the Swedes; and their leader called [Spiridon](#)<sup>[3]</sup> was killed there; but some claimed that even the bishop was slain; and a great number of them fell; and when they

had loaded two ships with the bodies of high-born men, they let them sail to the sea; but the others, that were unnumbered, they cast to a pit, that they buried, and many others were wounded; and that same night they fled, without waiting for the Monday light, with shame. Of Novgorodians there fell: Konstantin Lugotinitich, Yuryata Pinyashchinich, Namest Drochilo, Nesdylov son of Kozhevnik, but including the people of Ladoga 20 men or less, God knows. But prince Alexander came back home with Novgorodians and people of Ladoga, all well, protected by God and [Saint Sophia](#) and all the prayers of the holy men."

When the papal diplomat [William of Modena](#) visited present Sweden around 1248, he urged the Swedish kings to fulfill the rules of the Catholic Church, an exhortation which Birger seem to have taken as a chance to strengthen his position. This was a choice of historical importance as it was to make Birger a jarl powerful enough to ultimately wind up the office, thus making him the last Swedish jarl ever, even called as the "first true king of Sweden" by historians.

In 1249 Birger led an expedition to [Finland](#), later dubbed as the [Second Swedish Crusade](#), which permanently established the Swedish rule in Finland. On King Eric's death in 1250, Birger's son [Valdemar](#) was elected as the new king while Birger acted as regent, holding the true power in Sweden until his death.



The grave of Birger jarl, his wife Mechtild and Birger's son Duke Eric.

# Ingeborg Eriksdotter of Sweden

**Ingeborg Eriksdotter** (c. 1212 – c. 1254), was a Swedish Princess and Duchess, daughter of king [Eric X of Sweden](#), eldest sibling of king [Eric XI of Sweden](#), wife of [Birger Jarl](#) and mother of king [Valdemar I of Sweden](#).

The seal of Princess Ingiburga of Sweden



Ingeborg was born as eldest daughter of king [Eric X of Sweden](#) and his wife [Rikissa of Denmark](#). She lived her youth in exile in [Denmark](#), after her brother had been deposed by his guardian and regent in 1229.

Ingeborg Eriksdotter's marital engagement took place in about 1234 in connection of her brother Eric XI resuming the Swedish throne from the 'usurper' [Canute II of Sweden](#), in order to have the mighty [House of Bjellbo](#) as their allies.

Princess Ingeborg bore a vast number of children to her husband dux [Birger Jarl](#). In 1250, her brother died without heirs and her eldest son Valdemar was chosen to succeed her brother Eric on the throne; her son was chosen because he was her son, and her husband was made regent during his minority. Ingeborg thereby became the King's Mother and first lady of the royal

court.

Ingeborg is recorded to have inherited her brother Eric's private property upon his death, as his only living sibling. Even in her forties, she continued to give birth to children, and her death is believed to have occurred because of childbirth complications, possibly giving birth to twins.

*Her following children survived to adulthood:*

1. [Rikissa Birgersdotter](#) of Sweden, queen of Norway.
2. [Valdemar Birgersson](#), King of Sweden 1250-1275, Lord of Gothenland until 1278
3. [Magnus Birgersson](#) "Ladulås", King of Swedes and Goths from 1275
4. Kristina Birgersdotter
5. probably her daughter: Karin (Katarina) of Sweden, married Siegfried, Count of Anhalt
6. Erik Birgersson, [Duke of Sweden](#) ("Hertig af Småland"=Duke of [Småland](#))
7. probably her daughter: Ingeborg of Sweden, married John of Saxony, Duke of Lauenburg
8. [Benedict, Duke of Finland](#), Bishop of Linköping, born c. 1254, seems to have been Ingeborg's last child

# Valdemar of Sweden

Seal of Valdemar Birgersson



**Valdemar Birgersson** (1239 – 1302), [King of Sweden](#) 1250 – 1275/1288/1302, was the son of princess [Ingeborg Eriksdotter](#) of [Sweden](#) and [Birger jarl](#), a.k.a. Birger Magnusson from the House of Bjelbo, who more or less ruled Sweden from 1248 under king [Eric Ericsson the Lamé](#), his brother-in-law. When king Eric XI died in 1250, Valdemar was elected king, while Birger jarl was presumably on [a campaign in Finland](#).

Even after the coming of age of Valdemar in 1257, Valdemar's father Birger jarl held a grip over the country. After Birger's death in 1266 Valdemar came into conflict with his younger brother duke [Magnus](#), who wanted the throne for himself.

Valdemar had a relationship with his queen's sister Jutta (both of them princesses of Denmark) and had to go to Rome in order to get the Pope's forgiveness. In 1288 he was imprisoned by his brother Magnus, who had usurped his throne, being elected king in 1275.

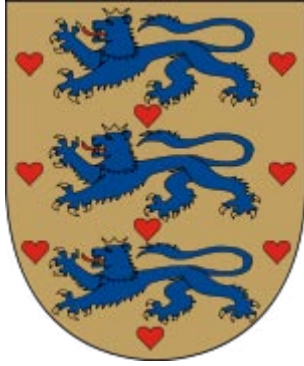
## Family

*Valdemar married [Sofia of Denmark](#) (d. 1286) in 1260 and separated in 1277. He had six children:*

1. [Ingeborg Valdemarsdotter of Sweden](#) (1263 - 1292), countess of Holstein, spouse of [Gerhard II of Holstein](#).
2. [Erik Valdemarsson of Sweden](#) (1272 - 1330)
3. [Marina Valdemarsdotter of Sweden](#)
4. [Rikissa Valdemarsdotter of Sweden](#) (d. c. 1292), queen of Poland, spouse of [Przemysł II of Poland](#)
5. [Katarina Valdemarsdotter of Sweden](#) (- 1283)
6. [Margareta Valdemarsdotter of Sweden](#)

# Sofia of Denmark

Coat of arms of Denmark



Princess **Sofia Eriksdotter of Denmark**, (1241-1286), was a [Queen consort](#) of [Sweden](#), spouse of King [Valdemar I of Sweden](#).

Sofia was the eldest daughter of [Eric IV of Denmark](#) and [Jutta of Saxony](#). Her father was murdered in 1250 when she and her younger sisters, [Agnes](#) and [Jutta of Denmark](#) were young. As he left no son, Eric IV's brothers, [Abel of Denmark](#) and then [Christopher I of Denmark](#) assumed the Danish throne.

Sofia was married to [Valdemar I of Sweden](#) in 1261, as part of [Birger Jarl](#)'s policy of peace between Scandinavian kingdoms. It is said, that when she was informed about the arranged marriage, she left the room, went in to her chamber and asked God; *Give me happiness with him and him with me*. Sofia was described as a politically interested, witty beauty with a quick tongue. She was also known for her interest in [chess](#).

In 1269, Sofia visited her father's grave in Denmark as well as visiting her sisters, Agnes and Jutta, who had both been placed in [Agnesklostret](#) convent in [Roskilde](#). In 1272, Sofia's sister Jutta visited Sweden and became Valdemar's mistress. The affair resulted in a child born in 1273. The following year, Jutta was again placed in a convent and Valdemar was forced to make a pilgrimage to [Rome](#) to ask for the [Pope](#)'s absolution. According to legend, Queen Sofia said: *I will never recover from this sorrow. Curse the day my sister saw the kingdom of Sweden*.

In 1275, Valdemar was deposed by his younger brother, [Magnus III of Sweden](#) after the battle of Hova. The news was said to have reached the queen while she played chess. Many stories are told about her sharp tongue. She is said to have complained about her husband's brothers as "Magnus Ticklingfingers" and "Eric Everything-and-anything". In 1277, Sofia separated from her spouse and returned to Denmark. Her husband lived openly with mistresses in his comfortable prison. In 1283, the ex-queen gave her income in the fishing of [Norrköping](#) to the [Saint Martin Abbey](#) in [Skänninge](#). This is the first document where the city of Norrköping is mentioned. She died in 1286.

# Magnus III of Sweden



Seal of King Magnus

Coat of arms of King Magnus

**Magnus Birgersson** (1240–1290), usually called **Magnus Ladulås**, English: **Magnus III Barnlock**, was [King](#) of [Sweden](#) from 1275 until his death in 1290.



He was the *first* [Magnus](#) to rule Sweden for any length of time, not generally regarded as a usurper or a pretender (but third Magnus to have been proclaimed Sweden's king and ruled there). Later historians ascribe his epithet "Ladulås" to a decree of 1279 or 1280 freeing the yeomanry from the duty to provide sustenance for travelling nobles and bishops ("Peasants! Lock your barns!"); another theory is that it's simply a corruption of Ladislaus, which could possibly have been his second name, considering his [Slavic](#) heritage.

The [Alsnö stadga](#) (Ordinance of Alsnö) from 1279 or 1280 also gave anyone who undertook to provide the Crown with a mounted warrior (knight) and a warhorse, the freedom from certain taxes (such a liberty was called *frälse* in Swedish). This is often said to be the foundation of the [Swedish nobility](#), although the gradual development of this privileged group into a hereditary class would take centuries and not become formalized until long into the 16th century.

Magnus, whose birth year has never been confirmed in modern times, was probably the second son of [Birger jarl](#) (Birger Magnuson, 1200-66) and Princess [Ingiburga](#), herself the sister of the childless king [Eric Ericson of Sweden](#), thus a daughter of king [Eric the Survivor](#) and Queen Richeza (a Princess of Denmark). His father designated Magnus as his successor in powers of the [Jarl](#), henceforward titled [Duke of Sweden](#). The (probably) elder brother, [Waldemar](#) had become King succeeding their maternal uncle in 1250.

In 1275, Duke Magnus started a rebellion against his brother with Danish help, and ousted him from the throne. Magnus was elected King at the [Stones of Mora](#). In 1276, Magnus Barnlock allegedly married a second wife [Haelwig](#), daughter of [Gerard I of Holstein](#) (through her mother Elisabeth of Mecklenburg, she was a descendant of Christina, the putative daughter of Sweartgar II of Sweden and Queen Wulfhilda, she a descendant of Aestrith Olofsdotter, Queen of Norway and daughter of [Olaf Scotking of Sweden](#)). A papal annulment of Magnus' alleged first marriage and a dispensation for the second (necessary because of [consanguinity](#)) were issued ten years later, in 1286. Haelwig later acted as Queen Regent, probably 1290–1302 and 1320–1327.

The deposed king Waldemar managed, with Danish help in turn, to regain provinces in [Gothenland](#), the southern part of the kingdom, and Magnus had to recognize that in 1277. However, Magnus regained them about 1278 and assumed the additional title *rex Gothorum*, [King of the Goths](#), starting the tradition of "King of the Swedes and the Goths".

King Magnus' youngest brother [Benedict](#), then archdeacon, acted as his [Lord High Chancellor of Sweden](#), and in 1284 Magnus rewarded him with the [Duchy of Finland](#).

He died when his sons were yet underage. Magnus ordered his kinsman [Thurchetel](#), the [Lord High Constable of Sweden](#) as the guardian of his heir, the future king [Birger of Sweden](#), who was about ten years old at father's death.

## Children

From his alleged first (annulled) marriage to an unknown woman:

1. Eric Magnusson, born abt. 1275 - d. abt. 1277.

From his second marriage with Queen Haelwig:

1. [Ingiburga](#), born abt. 1279. Married King [Eric VI of Denmark](#), Erik Meanwith.
2. [Birger](#), born abt. 1280, King of Sweden.
3. [Eric Magnuson](#), [Duke of Sudermania](#) in 1302 and Halland etc c 1305, born abt. 1282. Died of starvation 1318 at Nyköpingshus Castle while imprisoned by his brother King Birger.
4. [Waldemar Magnuson](#), [Duke of Finland](#) in 1302 and Öland 1310. Died of starvation 1318 at Nyköpingshus Castle while imprisoned by his brother King Birger.
5. Richeza, abbess of the convent of St. Clare's (Sankta Klara) at Stockholm. Died after 1347.

## Stones of Mora

Fragments of commemorative stones from the monument



**Stones of Mora** was the place where the [Swedish kings](#) were elected. The origin of the tradition is unknown.

### Mora Meadow

In [Lagga parish](#) about 10 km south-east of [Uppsala](#), but (since 2003) in neighbouring [Knivsta Municipality](#), is Mora äng (Mora Meadow). The location is at equal distance from the [Things](#) of the old [folklands](#) [Attundaland](#) and [Tiundaland](#).

# Birger of Sweden

**Birger Magnusson** (1280 – [May 31, 1321](#)) was hailed king of [Sweden](#) when he was four years old. This was done by his father [Magnus Barnlock](#) in order to secure the succession. Birger was only ten years old when his father died, the most influential statesman being the Constable of the Realm [Torgils Knutsson](#).

When Birger came of age there was a conflict with the Church of Sweden over interpretation of the Privileges of 1280 (the cost of the support of the Church for his father's usurpation). The Kings brothers [Erik Magnusson](#) Duke of Södermanland and [Valdemar Magnusson](#) Duke of Finland took advantage of this conflict. Torgils (Duke Valdemar's father-in-law) was executed in 1306 as a token of reconciliation between Birger and his brothers. The same year, Birger was taken captive by his brothers.

The civil war ended in the re-allotment of the Swedish provinces in 1310. Birger remained king in name, but had to give up the Royal Domain, exchanging it for eastern [Uppland](#), [Närke](#), his brother Erik's former Duchy [Södermanland](#), [Östergötland](#), [Gotland](#) and the Castle of [Viborg](#).

Duke Erik also held [Bohuslän](#) from [Norway](#) as well as northern [Halland](#) and was creating a separate kingdom centered around [Göta älv](#). In 1317 however, Birger captured his brothers during a banquet, which lead to their death, traditionally by starvation.

Birger was ousted by his brothers' supporters in 1318 and went into exile to his brother-in-law in [Denmark](#), taking the Royal Archives with him. His son was executed at Stockholm.

In 1319 the three year old son of Duke Erik, King [Magnus VII of Norway](#), was hailed King of Sweden (Magnus III) under the Regency of his grandmother Queen Helvig, his mother Ingeborg, daughter of [Haakon V](#), being Regent in Norway.

King Birger was married to the Danish princess Margaret, in Sweden known as queen [Martha of Denmark](#), in 1298, who is known to have had influence over him.

# Martha of Denmark

**Martha** (originally *Margrethe*) **Eriksdatter of Denmark** (Swedish: *Märta*) (1277-1341) was a Medieval Swedish Queen consort, spouse of king Birger of Sweden. She was a politically influential queen, and played a part in the Håtuna games and in the Nyköping Banquet.

## Biography

Märta was born the daughter of King Eric V of Denmark and Agnes of Brandenburg and sister of King Eric VI. Her father was murdered in 1286, and her mother, who was made regent, remarried in 1293. Märta was married to King Birger of Sweden in 1298; two years before, her brother had been married to her husband's sister, Princess Ingeborg of Sweden. The marriage was decided when she was a child, and she had in fact spent a lot of her childhood in Sweden; engaged to the Swedish crown prince as a child, she had been largely brought up at the Swedish court, by her future mother-in-law, the queen dowager Helwig of Holstein. She was crowned in 1302.

In Swedish history, queen Märta had a bloodthirsty reputation, given to her by the chronicles Erikskrönikan; in the second of her husband's controversies with his brothers the dukes - the king and Queen had, during the first one, the Håtuna games in 1306, been captured and imprisoned by them, and forced to hand over the real power to them - the royal couple invited the dukes to great festivities, during which the dukes were captured and imprisoned, and left to starve to death. The festivities is described in a famous medieval song; *Everyone danced all the way from indoors to outdoors, the Queen had never looked so happy before*, which was seen as a cruel sign of excitement (as she was aware of the plans on capturing them in the middle of the festivities) that she and her husband would now get their revenge.

When her husband was deposed in 1318 and Nyköpingshus castle was taken, she fled to her brother in Denmark, where she spent the rest of her life. Her husband joined her, and she became a widow in 1321, after having witnessed her son's murder in 1320 and her brother's death in 1319. she arranged for the marriages of her daughters and spent 1326-1329 in Germany. The last years of her life was spent as a nun in the convent of Saint Peter in Naestved. She was buried in the church of Saint Bent in Ringsted.

## Children

- Prince Magnus Birgersson of Sweden (1300-1320)
- Prince Eric Birgersson of Sweden
- Princess Agnes Birgersdotter of Sweden
- Princess Katarina Birgersdotter

# Eric, Duke of Södermanland



**Eric Magnusson** (1282-1318) was the second son of [Magnus Ladulås of Sweden](#) and his [Queen consort Helvig of Holstein](#).

## Background

Eric was born circa 1282 and later became the Duke of [Södermanland](#) and a part of [Uppland](#) in 1302. He was betrothed to [Ingeborg of Norway](#), the one-year-old daughter of King [Haakon V of Norway](#).

## Character

Erik is reported as being more skilled and intelligent than his elder brother, king [Birger of Sweden](#). He was also bold and ambitious, and his social skills won him many allies. His younger brother [Valdemar Magnusson](#), the duke of [Finland](#), became his close ally and helped him in all his projects.

## Life

King Birger, who feared his brothers' plans, forced them to sign a paper, in 1304, so as to render them less dangerous. They then fled to [Norway](#), but in 1305, they reconciled with the king and regained their duchies.

Eric was also in possession of [Kungahälla](#), which he had been given during his exile by the Norwegian king, and northern [Halland](#) which he had been given by the [Danish king Eric VI of Denmark](#). Duke Eric planned to topple Birger's [marshal Torgils Knutsson](#) who was in the way of his ambitious plans. As the clergy were in opposition to the marshal, they joined Eric. They prevailed on the weak Birger in 1306 to execute Torgils, who was a faithful counsellor. Little more than half a year later, Birger was imprisoned by his brothers (September 1306), and his brothers took control of Sweden.



Birger's brother-in-law, Eric VI of Denmark arrived with his army to support Birger. [Haakon V of Norway](#), however, was on the side of the younger brothers. In 1308, Eric and Valdemar were forced by the Danish king to release Birger, but they did so under humiliating conditions. When Birger was free, he sought aid in [Denmark](#), and the strife began anew. The course of events turned against duke Eric. By concluding a peace treaty with the Danish king, unbeknownst to Haakon V, Eric lost Haakon's trust. Håkon wanted to have [Kungahälla](#)

back, but Eric refused.

## War

A war broke out between Haakon V of Norway and Eric in 1309, and the kings of Norway and Denmark concluded peace, and allied against the dukes. Through his strategic skills, Eric managed to ride out the storm, and defeated the Norwegians, and also the Danes who arrived as far as [Nyköping](#) in 1309.

He attacked Norway and reconquered [Kungahälla](#), which he had lost to Håkon, in 1310. Finally, there was peace at [Helsingborg](#), in which Sweden was divided between Birger and his brothers. Eric received [Västergötland](#), [Dalsland](#), [Värmland](#) and [Kalmar County](#), as well as northern [Halland](#) as a fief from Denmark, but he promised to return Kungahälla to Norway.

## Marriage

In spite of the fact that Eric never returned Kungahälla, and broke almost all his promises to Haakon, he managed to win his approval. In 1312, he married Haakon V of Norway's 11-year old daughter [Ingeborg Haakonsdatter](#), who, in 1316 gave him a son, the future king [Magnus IV of Sweden](#) and in 1317 daughter [Euphemia of Sweden](#).

Duke Eric seemed close to reaching his goals: he was now in possession of a composite territory consisting of some parts of all the three Scandinavian kingdoms, centered on the coast of [Skagerrak-Kattegat](#) with [Varberg](#) as his ducal seat, he had a son who was the heir apparent of the kingdom of Norway, and he was the *de facto* ruler of Sweden.

## Treachery

However, his career was stopped and his life was shortened by the treachery of his brother King Birger, the *de jure* ruler of Sweden. During a call on his brother in [Nyköping](#), Eric and his brother Valdemar were arrested and chained, the night between the 10th and 11th of December 1317. No one knows for certain what happened to the two brothers. They either starved to death or were slain, in the early summer of 1318.

## Legacy

In all of Scandinavia, their deaths caused great dismay and sorrow, which caused many people to forgive their misdeeds, and only to remember their positive qualities. However, Eric's ambitions had caused great troubles for Sweden. The time of civil war between the brothers were one of the grimmest eras in Swedish history. Eric's life was portrayed in a positive light in [Eric's Chronicle](#), created by his supporters.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ingeborg\\_Haakonsdatter](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ingeborg_Haakonsdatter)

# Ingeborg of Norway

Seal of Duchess Ingiburga, in 1318-1319 Sweden's *de facto* ruler and [Queen mother](#) for over 40 years.



**Ingeborg of Norway**, a.k.a **Duchess Ingeborg**, [Swedish](#) *Ingeborg Håkansdotter*, (1301-1361), was a [Scandinavian](#) royal duchess and sometime regent of Norway (1319-1321) and Sweden (1318-1326).

Ingeborg was born as the only legitimate daughter of king [Haakon V of Norway](#) from his marriage with [Euphemia of Rügen](#). As a child, she was first betrothed to [Magnus Birgerson](#), the son and designated heir of king [Birger I of Sweden](#). Soon afterwards the engagement was however broken for altered political reasons, and in 1305 she was betrothed to [Eric, Duke of Södermanland](#), a younger brother of king [Birger of Sweden](#), thus uncle of her first betrothed. In

1312, Ingeborg and Eric were formally married; at her wedding, her mother queen Euphemia had published the recently-translated (by her command) famous poems, the Euphemia songs.

She barely was old enough to bear her first husband two children, in 1316 and in 1317, before Duke Eric was murdered. Her son [Magnus VII of Norway](#), at the age of 3, was proclaimed king of [Norway](#) upon her father's death, in rights devolved from her. Ingeborg was recognized as formal regent of her son in Norway.

Soon, the Swedish nobility elected young Magnus king of [Sweden](#) after deposing Birger, and Ingeborg was made nominal regent of Sweden and given a seat and vote in the Swedish government and the title: *Ingeborg, by the Grace of God, daughter of Haakon, Duchess in the Kingdom of Sweden*. However, power was mostly in hands of the two highest officers of the Swedish kingdom. Duchess Ingeborg held her own court at her residence in [Varberg](#).

## Children and Family

*1st marriage with [Eric of Sweden, Duke of Södermanland](#):*

- [Magnus VII of Norway](#) (1316-74)
- [Euphemia of Sweden](#), duchess of Mecklenburg (1317-c 1370)

# Magnus IV of Sweden

**Magnus II Eriksson** or Magnus VII of Norway and Magnus IV (II) of Sweden was king of [Sweden](#) (spring 1316 – [December 1, 1374](#)), [Norway](#), and [Terra Scania](#), and was son of Duke [Erik Magnusson of Sweden](#) and Ingeborg, daughter of [Haakon V of Norway](#). Also known by his nickname "Magnus Smek" (Eng. "Pet-Magnus").

*King of Sweden, Norway and Scania*



Magnus was elected king of Sweden on [8 July 1319](#), and acclaimed as [hereditary king of Norway](#) at the [thing](#) of *Haugathing* in [Tønsberg](#) in August the same year. Under the Regencies of his Grandmother Queen Helvig and his Mother Duchess [Ingeborg](#) the countries were ruled by [Knut Jonsson](#) and [Erling Vidkunsson](#).

Magnus was declared to have come of age at 15 in 1331. This caused resistance in Norway, where a statute from 1302 made clear that kings came of age at the age of 20, and a rising by Erling Vidkunsson and other Norwegian nobles ensued. In 1333, the rebels submitted to king Magnus.

In 1332 the king of Denmark, [Christopher II](#), died as a "king without a country" after he and his older brother and predecessor had pawned Denmark piece by piece. King Magnus took advantage of his neighbour's distress, redeeming the pawn for the eastern Danish provinces for a huge amount of silver, and thus became ruler also of [Terra Scania](#).

On [21 July 1336](#) Magnus was crowned king of both Norway and Sweden in [Stockholm](#). This caused further resentment in Norway, where the nobles and magnates wished a separate Norwegian coronation. A second rising by members of the high nobility of Norway ensued in 1338.

In spite of his many formal expansions his rule was considered a period of decrease both to the Swedish royal power and to Sweden as a whole. Foreign nations like Denmark (after its recovery in 1340) and [Mecklenburg](#) intervened and Magnus himself does not seem to have been able to resist the internal opposition. He was regarded a weak king and criticised because for giving favourites too much power.

In 1336 he married [Blanche of Namur](#), daughter of Count Jean of [Namur](#) and Marie of Artois, a descendant of [Louis VIII of France](#).

Opposition to Magnus' rule in Norway led to a settlement between the king and the Norwegian nobility at [Varberg](#) on [15 August 1343](#). In violation of the Norwegian laws on royal inheritance, Magnus' younger son [Håkon](#) would become king of Norway, with Magnus as [regent](#) during his

minority. Later the same year, it was declared that Magnus' older son, [Eric](#) would become king of Sweden on Magnus' death. Thus, the union between Norway and Sweden would be severed. This occurred when Håkon came of age in 1355.

Magnus' young favourite courtier was [Bengt Algotsson](#), whom he elevated to [Duke of Finland](#) and [Halland](#), as well as Viceroy of the province of [Scania](#). Because [homosexuality](#) was a mortal sin and vehemently scorned at that time, revelations about the king's alleged love relationship with Algotsson, and other erotic escapades, were spread by his enemies, particularly by some noblemen who referred to mystical visions of [St. Bridget](#) (Birgitta) <sup>[2]</sup>. The allegations earned Magnus the epithet of Magnus the Petter (M. Smek), and caused him a lot of harm, but there is no factual basis for them in historical sources. Magnus and Blanche had at least five children, of whom three daughters died in infancy.

Because of the raise in taxation to pay for the acquisition of the Scanian province, some Swedish nobles supported by the Church attempted to oust Magnus, setting up his elder son Eric as king ([Eric XII of Sweden](#)), but Eric died supposedly of the [plague](#) in 1359, with his wife Beatrice of Brandenburg and their two sons.

King [Valdemar IV of Denmark](#) conquered Terra Scania in 1360. He went on to conquer [Gotland](#) in 1361. On the 27th of July, 1361, outside the city of Visby, the main city of Gotland, the final battle took place. It ended in a complete victory for Valdemar. Magnus had warned the inhabitants of Visby in a letter and started to gather troops to reconquer Scania. Valdemar went home to Denmark again in August and took a lot of plunder with him. Either in late 1361 or early 1362 the inhabitants of Visby raised themselves against the few Danish that Valdemar left behind and killed them. In 1363 a rebellion against Magnus broke out. It was supported by Valdemar and resulted a few months later (February 1364) in that Magnus was deposed from the Swedish throne being replaced by the Duke of Mecklenburg's son [Albert of Sweden](#). Magnus was seeking refuge with his younger son in Norway, where he drowned in 1374.

According to an allegedly autobiographic account known as the "Rukopisanie Magnusha" (Magnus's Testament) which has been inserted into the Russian *Sofia First Chronicle* composed in [Novgorod](#) (against whom Magnus had crusaded in the 1340s and 50s), Magnus in fact, did not drown at sea, but saw the errors of his ways and converted to Orthodoxy, becoming a monk in a Novgorodian monastery in Karelia. The account is apocryphal.

# Blanka of Namur

"Queen Blanka" by [Albert Edelfelt](#)



**Queen Blanche of Sweden and Norway**, (1320 – 1363) was queen-consort of [Sweden](#) and [Norway](#), as the wife of King [Magnus Eriksson](#). She was born as daughter of (daughter of Count Jean of [Namur](#) and Marie of Artois, a descendant of [Louis VIII of France](#).) the [Count of Namur](#).

It is unknown how it came that the Swedish/Norwegian king married a woman from [Namur](#). In June 1334 he travelled from Norway to Namur to propose. In Namur they got engaged and Magnus returned to Sweden in the fall of 1334. Blanka left Namur in the fall of 1335 and the wedding took place in October or early November 1335, possibly at Bohus castle. As a wedding gift Blanka received the province of [Tunsberg](#) as a fief. Blanka's coronation took place in July 1336, possibly July 22, in the [Great Church](#) in Stockholm.

Together they had two sons, Erik and Haakon. It was agreed that Erik should inherit [Sweden](#) and Haakon [Norway](#). When Haakon became [Haakon VI of Norway](#) in 1355, [Erik](#) rebelled against his father and was elevated to co-ruler of Sweden.

Queen Blanka is one of the most interesting of Swedish/Norwegian medieval queens. Apparently, she was very politically and socially active and noticeable as a person and not only as a queen, as many stories and songs were written about her. In Sweden, queen Blanka is also remembered for the song: "*Rida rida ranka, hästen heter Blanka*" ("*Ride ride ranka, the name of the horse is Blanka*"), which can be seen on the famous historical painting by Edelfeldt of her and her son.

Her political influence made her controversial and exposed to much criticism and slander. In 1359 she was accused by people of having poisoned her daughter-in-law [Beatrix of Bavaria](#) and her own son, the co-ruler, king Erik; on his deathbed, her son said, that the same person who gave him life, had now taken it from him - it is possible that he himself believed that he was poisoned by her, but there is no proof that this happened. Historians now believe that both her son and her daughter-in-law died of the plague. From 1359, she lived in [Tønsberg](#) in Norway and ruled the south-east of this country.

She spent her last years, from 1359 until her death, at the [Tunsberg Castle](#). On April 9, 1363, her son Haakon married [Margaret](#), daughter of [Valdemar IV of Denmark](#). Shortly after the wedding Blanka fell ill and died. The cause of death and the place where she is buried is unknown.

**Tunsberg Castle** King [Magnus Eriksson](#) was wedded here to [Blanche of Namur](#), who received the castle as a gift from her husband.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Haakon\\_VI\\_of\\_Norway](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Haakon_VI_of_Norway)

## Haakon VI of Norway

**Haakon VI Magnusson** ([Swedish](#): *Håkan Magnusson*) (appr. 1340 – 1380), was King of [Norway](#) 1343-80 and co-king of Sweden 1362-64.



He was the younger son of King [Magnus Eriksson](#) of [Sweden](#) and [Norway](#) and [Blanche of Namur](#). In 1343 he succeeded his father to the Norwegian throne, who would still rule during his minority, until 1355 when he reached majority as sovereign of Norway.

[15 February 1362](#) he was elected (co)king of Sweden in Mora stones (representatives of [Finland](#) taking part in the election for the first time) at instigation of nobles, but soon in agreement with his father. In 1363 he married [Margaret of Denmark](#), daughter of King [Valdemar IV of Denmark](#). In 1370 they had the son [Olav](#) who would succeed his grandfather to the Danish throne in 1376.

His cousin [Albert III of Mecklenburg](#) and nobles moved against his father in Sweden, ultimately deposing Haakon and Magnus and taking the old king prisoner.

Haakon then concentrated mainly on business of his Norwegian kingdom. However he succeeded in getting his father released and allowed to settle in Norway where he died. Some occurrences, they made efforts to oust Albert. Haakon continued to claim the Swedish throne, a reason why his wife and later widow Margaret used the title queen of Sweden until her own death.

In 1379 Haakon solved the disputes over succession in the Norse [earldom of Orkney](#), awarding it to [Henry Sinclair, ocean explorer](#), a (youngest) grandson of earl Maol Iosa, over the widower of Maol Iosa's elder daughter and other descendants.

In 1380 King Haakon died and was succeeded by his own son [Olav IV Haakonsson](#) who was also [King of Denmark](#).

# Margaret I of Denmark

**Margaret** Valdemarsdatter (1353 - October 28, 1412) was [Queen of Denmark](#), [Norway](#) and [Sweden](#) (also later Regent of Sweden), and founder of the [Kalmar Union](#), which united the Scandinavian countries for over a century.

*Queen of Denmark, Sweden, and Norway*



## Name

She is known in Denmark as "Margrethe I", to distinguish her from the [current queen](#). Denmark did not have a tradition of allowing women to rule and so when her son died she was named "all powerful lady and mistress (regent) of the Kingdom of Denmark."<sup>[1]</sup> She only styled herself Queen of Denmark during 1375. Others simply referred to her as the "Lady Queen" without specifying what she was queen (or female king) of, but not so [Pope Boniface IX](#), who wrote to her as "Queen of Denmark" or "Queen of Denmark, Norway and Sweden".

When she married [Haakon](#), in 1363, he was yet co-king of Sweden making Margaret queen, and despite being deposed, they never relinquished the title. When the Swedes expelled Albert I in 1389, in theory Margaret

simply resumed her original position.

## Queen

Margaret was born in [Vordingborg Castle](#), the daughter of [Valdemar IV of Denmark](#) and [Helvig of Sønderjylland](#). She married, at the age of ten, King [Haakon VI of Norway](#), who was the younger and only surviving son to [Magnus VII of Norway](#), [Magnus II of Sweden](#).

## Eric of Pomerania

It had been understood that Margaret should, at the first convenient opportunity, provide the three kingdoms with a king who was to be a kinsman of all the three old dynasties, although in Norway it was specified that she would continue ruling alongside the new king. In 1389 she proclaimed her great-nephew, [Eric of Pomerania](#) (grandson of Henry of Mecklenburg), king of Norway. In 1396 homage was rendered to him in Denmark and Sweden likewise, Margaret reserving to herself the office of regent during his minority. To weld the united kingdoms still

more closely together, Margaret summoned a congress of the three [Councils of the Realm](#) to [Kalmar](#) in June 1397; and on [Trinity Sunday](#), on June 17, Eric was solemnly crowned king of Denmark, Norway and Sweden. A few years after the [Kalmar Union](#), Eric, when in his eighteenth year, was declared of age and homage was rendered to him in all his three kingdoms, but during her lifetime Margaret was the real ruler of Scandinavia.

The tomb of Margaret I in [Roskilde Cathedral](#).



So long as the union was insecure, Margaret had tolerated the presence near the throne of "good men" from all three realms (the Rigsraad, or council of state, as these councillors now began to be called); but their influence was always insignificant. In every direction the royal authority remained supreme. The offices of high constable and earl marshal were left vacant; the [Danehofer](#) or national assemblies fell into desuetude, and the great queen, an ideal despot, ruled through her court officials acting as superior clerks. But law and order were well maintained; the licence of the nobility was

sternly repressed; the kingdoms of Sweden and Norway were treated as integral parts of the Danish state, and national aspirations were frowned upon or checked, though Norway, as being more loyal, was treated more indulgently than Sweden.

Margaret's foreign policy was sagaciously circumspect, in sharp contrast with the venturesomeness of her father's. The most tempting offer of alliance, the most favourable conjunctures, could never move her from her system of neutrality. On the other hand she spared no pains to recover lost Danish territory. She purchased the island of [Gotland](#) from its actual possessors, [Albert of Mecklenburg](#) and the [Livonian Order](#), and the greater part of Schleswig was regained in the same way.

## Death

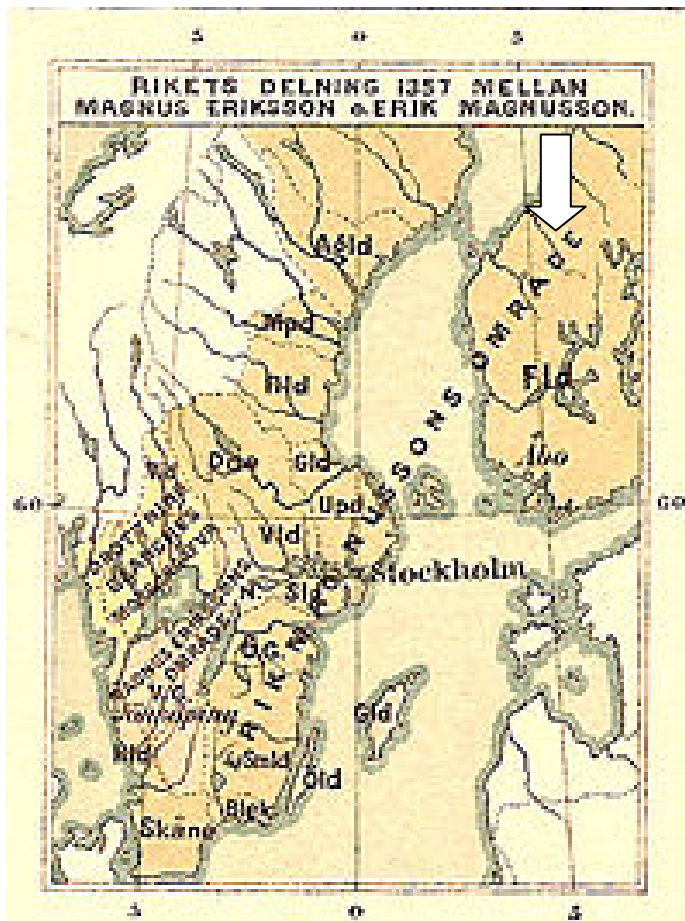
Margaret died suddenly on board her ship in [Flensburg](#) harbour on October 28, 1412. Her sarcophagus made by the Lübeck sculptor [Johannes Junge](#) (1423) stands behind the high altar in the [Roskilde Cathedral](#), near [Copenhagen](#). She had left property to the cathedral on the condition that [Masses](#) for her soul would be said regularly in the future. At the [Reformation](#) (1536) this was discontinued; however, to this day a special bell is being rung twice daily in commemoration of the Queen.

# Erik XII of Sweden

**Erik XII Magnusson** (1339 – [June 21, 1359](#)) was rival king of [Sweden](#) to his father [Magnus IV](#) from 1356 to his death in 1359. Married to [Beatrix of Bavaria](#), daughter of [Louis IV of Bavaria](#).

In 1343 Erik and his brother [Haakon](#) were elected heirs of [Sweden](#) respectively [Norway](#). That Haakon got the Norwegian throne in 1355 (causing the [union between Norway and Sweden](#) to split) while Erik didn't get any position in the Swedish council might have affected his choice to lead a rebellion against his father in 1355. In 1357 the rebellion had forced Magnus to share Sweden with his son Erik who got to rule most of Southern Sweden and [Finland](#). Sweden was reunited again in 1359 when father and son became reconciled, and co-ruled Sweden until Erik's death a few months later. While dying Erik accused his mother [Blanche of Namur](#) for poisoning him. Quite soon after the death his wife Beatrix died too. It is generally believed that they died of the [plague](#).

The seal of king Erik Magnusson.



LG: Arrow shows Perho river, which runs through Kaustinen to Kokkola

Historical map with the division of the country 1357 between Magnus Eriksson och Erik Magnusson

# Euphemia of Sweden

**Eufemia Ericsdotter** (1317-1370), Duchess Consort of [Mecklenburg](#), was born as an heiress of [Sweden](#) and of [Norway](#).

Her father was [Eric of Sweden](#) (b. c. 1282, murdered 1318), Duke of Södermanland, second son of King [Magnus I of Sweden](#), and her mother was Princess [Ingeborg of Norway](#) (1301-c. 1360), the heiress and the only legitimate daughter of King [Haakon V of Norway](#), whose [hereditary Kingdom of Norway](#) thus became the inheritance of Eufemia and her brothers.

In 1319, her infant elder brother [Magnus VII of Norway](#) (1316-1374) succeeded their maternal grandfather in the throne of Norway, and in 1320, Swedish nobles exiled their uncle king [Birger of Sweden](#), after which the infant Magnus was elected King of Sweden.

Euphemia was married (in Rostock 10 April 1336) to her distant kinsman Duke [Albert II, Duke of Mecklenburg](#) (1318-[2 February 1379](#)), a North-German lord deeply interested in obtaining some power in Scandinavia, e.g. fiefs or income. Later, Albert was to gain the nickname "Fox of Mecklenburg", to reflect his intrigues as well as avarice.

Euphemia lived long enough to see her brother's branch of the family get into severe difficulties, albeit its extinction (which happened in 1387) was not necessarily foreseeable then. Euphemia saw her own second son depose her brother from the Swedish throne, and ascend as King [Albert of Sweden](#). Already in Euphemia's lifetime it was easy to see that her genealogical position became a pivotal point to many future claims to the Scandinavian thrones.

At the time of her death, she had five surviving children:

- Duke Henry III of Mecklenburg (c. 1337, d after accident at tournament in Wismar 24.4.1383). Married firstly Ingeborg of Denmark (b. 1.4.1347, d. c. 1370), eldest daughter of sonless King [Waldemar IV of Denmark](#). Claimants to Denmark. They had children: Albert (Claimant to position of hereditary Prince of Denmark), Euphemia, Mary and Ingeborg. Duke Henry III married secondly Mechtild of Werle.
- Duke Albert III of Mecklenburg aka [Albert of Sweden](#) (1340-1412), King of Sweden 1364-89. Married firstly 1359 Richardis of Schwerin (d. 1377 as queen of Sweden); they had children: Eric (hereditary prince of Sweden) and Richardis. Duke Albert III married secondly Agnes of Brunswick (d. 22.12.1434).
- Duke Magnus I of Mecklenburg (d. 1.9.1385), married 1369 Elisabeth of Pomerania-Rügen. Children: at least son John, possibly the daughter Euphemia was already born. His plentiful issue continues through centuries to this day.
- Ingeborg of Mecklenburg, d. c. 1395,. She married firstly (Berlin February 1360) [Louis VI the Roman, Duke of Bavaria](#) (b. Munchen 12.5.1330 d. Berlin 17.5.1365), childless, she was dowager of Ludwig of Bavaria; and married secondly Count Henry II of Holstein (b. c. 1317, d. 16.11.1384), of which marriage several children Gerhard, Albert, Henry, and Sophia.
- Anna (d. 1415), married 1362/6 Count Adolf of Holstein (d 1390), but died childless. Her line extinct by her own death in 1415.

# Eric of Pomerania

**Eric of Pomerania** or **Erik of Pomerania** (1381 or 1382 – [3 May 1459](#)) was [King](#) of [Norway](#) (1389–1442), elected King of [Denmark](#) (1396–1439), and of [Sweden](#) (1396–1439). He was the first male King of the Nordic [Kalmar Union](#).

*King of Denmark, Sweden and Norway,  
the Wends and the Goths, Duke of Pomerania*



## Family

He was a son of [Wratislaw VII, Duke of Pomerania](#), and Mary of [Mecklenburg-Schwerin](#).

His paternal grandparents were [Bogislaw V, Duke of Pomerania](#) and his second wife Adelheid of [Brunswick-Grubenhagen](#). His maternal grandparents were [Heinrich III of Mecklenburg-Schwerin](#) and [Ingeborg of Denmark, Duchess of Mecklenburg-Schwerin](#). Heinrich was a rival of [Olaf Haakonsson](#) in regard to the Danish succession in 1375.

Ingeborg was a daughter of [Valdemar IV of Denmark](#) and his Queen consort Heilwig of [Schleswig](#). Her maternal grandparents were [Eric II, Duke of Schleswig](#)

(reigned 1312 - 1325) and Adelheid of [Holstein-Rendsburg](#).

## Claim to the throne

Eric was born in 1382 in [Rügenwalde \(Darłowo\)](#). Initially named Bogislaw, he was son to the only surviving granddaughter of [Valdemar IV of Denmark](#) and also a descendant of [Magnus I of Sweden](#) and [Haakon V of Norway](#).

On [2 August 1387](#), [Olav Håkonsson](#), King of Denmark since he was five years old and King of Norway since the death of his father, died unexpectedly at seventeen years of age. His mother the Dowager Queen of Norway had added the phrase "the true heir of Sweden" to Erik's list of titles at his coronation. Erik's claim to the Swedish throne came through his grandfather, [Magnus IV of Sweden](#), who was forced to abdicate by the Swedish nobles.

The Rigsråd (Danish [Thing](#)) elected Queen Margaret as "all powerful lady and mistress and the Kingdom of Denmark's Regent". Just a year later, the Norwegians proclaimed Margaret the "reigning queen" and Albert of Sweden fought off an incursion from Norway. His respite was temporary — the Swedish nobility soon enlisted the Danish regent's help to remove Albert from the Swedish throne. In 1388, several of the Swedish nobles wrote secretly to Margaret telling her that if she could rid them of Albert, they would make her [Regent](#). Margaret lost no time and sent an army into Sweden to attack Albert while the Swedish nobles raised their own army to drive him out of the country. In 1389, Albert's forces were defeated at the [Battle of Falköping](#) in [Västergötland](#). Albert and his son Erik were captured when their horses became mired in mud so deep they could not escape. They were put into chains and sent by Queen Margaret to [Scania](#), where Albert was imprisoned in [Lindholmen Castle](#). It took until 1395 for Margaret to force Albert's supporters out of Stockholm. She made provisions for the three kingdoms in the event of her death. She wanted the kingdoms to be unified and peaceful. She chose the surviving grandson of [Valdemar IV](#), [Magnus IV](#).



A contemporary depiction of the king

Young Bogislaw was the grandson of Margaret's sister. In 1389 he was brought to Denmark to be brought up by Queen Margaret. His name was changed to the more Nordic-sounding *Erik*. On [8 September 1389](#), he was hailed as King of Norway at the [Ting](#) in [Trondheim](#). He may have been crowned King of Norway in [Oslo](#) in 1392, but this is disputed. In 1396 he was proclaimed as king in Denmark and then in Sweden. On [17 June 1397](#), he was crowned a king of the three Nordic countries in the cathedral of [Kalmar](#). At the same time, a union treaty was drafted, declaring the establishment of what has become known as the [Kalmar Union](#). Queen Margaret, however, remained the *de facto* ruler of the three kingdoms until her death in 1412.

Erik av Pommern har adopterats av drottning Margareta och kröns till kung av Danmark, Sverige och Norge



On [26 October 1406](#), Eric married the 13-year-old Philippa at [Lund](#). The wedding was accompanied by a purely defensive alliance with England.

## Reign



Royal seal of **Eric of Pomerania** (1398) depicting: (Centre): a lion rampant crowned maintaining an axe (representing [Norway](#)) within an [inescutcheon](#) upon a cross over all; Quarterly: in Dexter Chief, three lions passant in pale crowned and maintaining a [Danebrog](#) upon a semy of hearts (representing [Denmark](#)); in Sinister Chief: three crowns (representing [Sweden](#) or the [Kalmar Union](#)); in Dexter Base: a lion rampant (*Folkung lion*) (representing [Sweden](#)); and in Sinister Base: a griffin segreant to sinister (representing [Pomerania](#)).

From contemporary sources, Eric appears as intelligent, visionary, energetic and a firm character. That he was also a charming and well-speaking man

of the world was shown by a great European tour of the 1420s. Negatively, he seems to have had a hot temper, a lack of diplomatic sense, and an obstinacy that bordered on mulishness.

During the 1430s the policy of the king fell apart. The farmers and mine workers of Sweden began a national and a social rebellion in 1434 which was soon used by the Swedish nobility in order to weaken the power of the king. He had to yield to the demands of both the Holsteiners and the [Hanseatic League](#). Norwegians under Amund Sigurdsson Bolt rebelled against King Erik and his officials. They succeeded and besieged Oslo and Akerhus Castle. When the Danish nobility opposed his rule and refused to ratify his choice of Duke Bugislaw of Pomerania as the next King of Denmark, he left Denmark and settled at his castle [Visborg](#) in [Gotland](#), apparently a kind of a “royal strike” which led to his deposition by the National Councils of Denmark and Sweden in 1439.

For ten years Erik lived on Gotland and made his living by piracy against the merchant trade in the Baltic. Eventually the Danes forced him out of Gotland and he returned to Pomerania.

## Duke of Pomerania

After he had been deposed as king in Sweden and Denmark, the Norwegian [Riksråd](#) remained loyal to him, and wanted him to remain king of Norway only. He reputedly refused the offer. Christopher, his successor, died in 1448, long before Eric himself.

From 1449-59, Eric ruled the [Duchy of Pomerania](#)-Stolp (Słupsk<sup>[3]</sup>), part of the Duchy of Pomerania, as Eric I. He died in 1459 at Rügenwalde Castle in Pomerania, and was buried in Rügenwalde.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philippa\\_of\\_England](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philippa_of_England)

# Philippa of England

**Philippa of England** (4 June 1394 – 7 January 1430) was the Queen of [Denmark](#), [Sweden](#) and [Norway](#) from 1406 to 1430. She was also the consort to King [Eric of Pomerania](#). In fact, Philippa of England was the de-facto regent of [Sweden](#) in 1420 and the regent of [Denmark](#) and [Norway](#) from 1423 to 1425. She also received The Most Noble [Order of the Garter](#) in 1408.

## Early life and marriage

Philippa was born to Henry *Bolingbroke*, later [Henry IV, King of England](#) and [Mary de Bohun](#) at Peterborough Castle, [Peterborough](#). She was married on 26 October 1406 to [Eric of Pomerania](#) at [Lund](#) in [Denmark](#). (The town of Lund (= grove) lies in what is Sweden today; at this time it was still Danish territory.) Philippa was actually the first documented princess in history to wear a white wedding gown during a royal wedding ceremony: she wore a [tunic](#) with a [cloak](#) in white [silk](#) bordered with grey [squirrel](#) and [ermine](#)).<sup>[2]</sup> Philippa was given large parts of Sweden as her [dowry](#); the first years of their marriage, the couple lived in [Kalmar](#) in Sweden, and Philippa was to spend a lot of her time as queen in this country. Her head lady-in-waiting was the Swedish noblewoman Lady Katarina Knutsdotter; daughter of Märtha Ulfsdotter, granddaughter of [Saint Bridget](#) and former lady-in-waiting of Queen [Margaret I of Denmark](#) herself, who was the one who had arranged the marriage, and had hoped also for a marriage between Eric's sister and [the Prince of Wales](#); but that was not to be.

## Regencies

During King Eric's periods of absence abroad, she practically was the regent, and in [Sweden](#), she was in charge most of the time even when the King was not abroad; in Sweden, where she spent a lot of her time, she was a frequent guest at the convent of [Vadstena](#). He evidently had great trust in her. Both ancient and modern authors give a favourable account of her rule. It is even said that in certain matters she was more efficient than her husband. During his stay abroad from 1423 she was regent in Denmark, and among others made a treaty with some members of the North-German Confederation of so-called Hanse-States about the validity of the [coin](#)-system. In 1428 she successfully organized the defence of [Copenhagen](#) against the [Hanseatic League](#), a heroic feat later recounted by [Hans Christian Andersen](#) in *[Godfather's Picture Book](#)* (1868).



Vadstena cloister

The queen bore a stillborn boy in 1429. She died on 7 January 1430 and was buried in the Cloister Church at [Vadstena](#), close to [Linköping](#) in [Östergötland](#), [Sweden](#).

# Charles VIII of Sweden

**Charles II of Sweden, Charles I of Norway**, a.k.a *Karl Knutsson (Bonde)*, king of [Sweden](#) (1448 – 1457, 1464 – 1465 and from 1467 to his death in 1470); king of [Norway](#) (1449 – 1450).



Karl Knutsson was born in 1409, the son of [Knut Tordsson \(Bonde\)](#), knight and member of the [privy council](#) (*riksråd*), and [Margareta Karlsdotter \(Sparre av Tofta\)](#), the only daughter and heiress of [Charles Ulfsson, Lord of Tofta](#). King Charles died [14 May 1470](#). His first marriage, in 1428, to Birgitta Turesdotter (Bielke) (died 1436) gave him his daughter [Kristina](#). His second marriage, in 1438, to Katarina Karlsdotter (Gumsehuvud) (died in 1450) produced his second daughter Magdalena, who married [Ivar Axelsson \(Tott\)](#). He also had two children by his third wife (and former mistress) Kristina Abrahamsdotter, Anna and Karl. His father was said by contemporary legends to descend from a younger brother of King [Eric IX](#) (Saint Eric). His mother, an important heiress, descended from Jarl [Charles the Deaf](#) and

consequently from some ancient [Folkunge](#) earls of Sweden, as well as from a daughter of [Canute IV of Denmark](#) and Adela of Flanders.

In 1434 he became member of the [Privy Council of Sweden](#) and in October of the same year he assumed one of its most senior offices, [Lord High Constable of Sweden](#), or *Riksmarsk*. Due to the growing dissatisfaction over King [Eric of Pomerania](#) among the Swedish nobility, Charles was in 1436 made [Rikshövitsman](#), an office as Military Governor of the [Realm](#) and finally replacing the king as an elected regent from 1438 to 1440, as the result of the rebellion by [Engelbrekt Engelbrektsson](#). During Charles' brief regentship, the so-called rebellion of David (a peasant rebellion) took place in Finland. Eric of Pomerania was forced to step down from the throne and in 1440 [Christopher of Bavaria](#), was elected king in the [Sweden](#), [Norway](#) and [Denmark](#). From 1442 he was the military governor, *hövitsman*, at [Vyborg](#) in [Finland](#) ([margrave of Viborg](#)). Charles acquired extensive fiefs, for example in Western Finland. His first seat was in Turku. Soon, Christopher's government began to take back fiefs and positions and Charles was forced to give up the [castle of Turku](#). Charles' next seat was the [castle of Vyborg](#), on Finland's eastern border, where he kept an independent court.

At the death of Christopher in 1448, without a direct heir, Charles was elected king of Sweden on [June 20](#) and on [June 28](#) he was hailed as the new monarch at the [Stones of Mora](#), not far from [Uppsala](#), mostly due to his own military troops being present at the place, against the wishes of regents Bengt and Nils Jönsson (Oxenstierna). His election as king of Sweden resulted in an effort to reestablish the [Kalmar Union](#), this time under Swedish initiative, and in 1449 he was

elected king of Norway and received the coronation at [Trondheim](#) on [November 20](#). The Danish had in September 1448 elected [Christian I](#) as their new monarch. Soon, in 1450, Charles was forced to cede Norway to Christian. From 1451, Sweden and Denmark were in state of war against each other. Because of devastating warring, a growing opposition against Charles emerged in Sweden. The strongest opponent was the Swedish church which opposed Charles's efforts to concentrate royal and secular power. Other opponents were the family group of [Oxenstierna](#) and [Vasa \(House\)](#), which had been in the opposing side in the election of king and lost.

During the next 20 years, Charles was deposed twice, only to regain the throne and reign three times (1448-57, 1464-65, 1467-70).

Kung Karl VIII painting by [Bernt Notke](#).



In 1457, a rebellion took place, lead by [archbishop Jöns Bengtsson](#) (Oxenstierna) and a nobleman, [Erik Axelsson Tott](#). Charles went into exile to Danzig( Gdańsk). The two leaders of the revolt took the regentship, and organized the election of [Christian I](#) of Denmark as king (firstly in Turku, then in Stockholm).

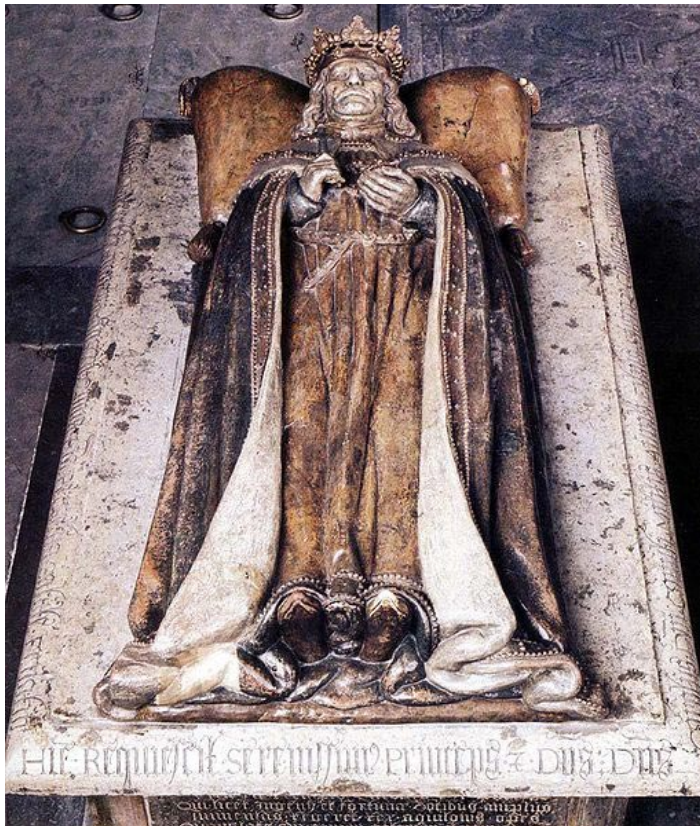
In 1463, King Christian quarreled with the archbishop because of his taxation policies. The archbishop was imprisoned, which resulted in a rebellion by his relatives, and led to Christian being driven out of Sweden. Charles was recalled by the rebels and returned at the head of force of German and Polish mercenaries. Upon arrival in Sweden he found himself at war with the Archbishop and after two bloody battles in the winter of 1464-1465

Charles was again exiled. In 1467, the regent Erik Axelsson Tott, now having reverted to support Charles, once more had him crowned. Charles reigned for three years, under power of riksråd, until his death in 1470.

He left only one young son, born of his mistress, [Kristina Abrahamsdotter](#) whom he married on his deathbed. Though she was recognized as Queen, the Swedish government did not allow the boy, suddenly legitimized as Prince Charles (Karl Karlsson) to succeed him, but appointed one of their number, [Sten Sture the Elder](#) (who was Charles's nephew) as regent.

## Legacy

Charles's great-granddaughter [Christina Nilsdotter Gyllenstierna](#) was married to [Sten Sture the Younger](#) whose regentship represented similar values: nationalism and Swedish independence.



*Carl's 16th century grave monument in Riddarholm Church*

Though the Bonde family, not descendants of Charles himself but just his collateral relatives, remained prominent among the Swedish nobility and in politics into the 20th Century, Charles's own descendants did not ascend nor inherit any thrones until Prince Christian zu Schleswig-Holstein-Sonderburg-Glücksburg became [Christian IX of Denmark](#) in 1863. Charles's descendants have since ascended the thrones of Norway, Greece and Great Britain.

His distant direct descendant, [Sibylla of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha](#) married the Hereditary Prince of Sweden in 20th century, and with Sibylla's son, king [Charles XVI Gustav of Sweden](#), Charles' blood returned to the Swedish throne.

**Note by LG:** The link below refers to his illegitimate daughter, Karin Karlsdotter, who is my 14<sup>th</sup> great grand mother:

<http://sfhs.eget.net/wikiindexorphan.html?http://delphi.eget.net/index.php?One%20drop%20of%20royal%20blood>

# Christina Gyllenstierna

Kristina Nilsdotter of Tullgarn



**Kristina (or Kerstin) Nilsdotter of Fogelvik, Heiress of Tullgarn**, whom later generations have named *Kristina Gyllenstierna* (in her lifetime called "Fru Kristina") (1494-1559), was wife of the [Swedish](#) regent [Sten Sture the Younger](#) and organiser of the defence against the attack from the troops of the lawful heir to the throne [Christian II of Denmark](#). Statues are made to her memory.

## Background

Kristina was a great-granddaughter of king [Charles VIII of Sweden](#) (through her father, a younger son of Christina Karlsdotter Bonde, for whom Christina was named). She was in 1511 married to young Sten Svantesson (who took the surname Sture) partly to strengthen his political position.

She was from an originally Danish family: her grandfather Erik Eriksen of Demstrup ("[Gyldenstjerne](#)") was from Danish ([Jutish](#)) ancestry and acquainted with Sweden due to the [Kalmar Union](#) that then joined these realms and made officials move between capitals. When the Union began to dissolve, he allied with the future king Charles. As reward, Charles's daughter, the heiress of Fogelvik, was married to him and he ultimately became the High Steward of Charles' court.

Sten Sture, her husband, stepped up to the regency quite young, upon the death of his father [Svante Nilsson](#), the regent. At that time there was an attempt to choose a rival, [Eric Trolle](#), a more Danish-leaning High Councillor and a clearly older, mature figure.

## Rebellion and struggle

Sten Sture was mortally wounded at the [Battle of Bogesund](#), on [January 19, 1520](#) and the Danish army, unopposed, was approaching [Uppsala](#), where the members of the [Swedish High Council](#), had assembled. The councillors consented to render homage to [Christian II](#), on condition that he give a full indemnity for the past and a guarantee that Sweden should be ruled according to Swedish laws and custom; a convention to this effect was confirmed by the king and the Danish High Council on [March 31](#).

Kristina held out stoutly at [Stockholm](#), and the peasantry of central Sweden, roused by her patriotism, flew to arms, defeated the Danish invaders at Balundsås on [March 19](#), and were only with the utmost difficulty finally defeated at the bloody [Battle of Uppsala](#), on [Good Friday, April 6, 1520](#).

In May the Danish fleet arrived, and Stockholm was invaded by land and sea; but Kristina resisted valiantly for four months longer, and took care, when she surrendered on [September 7, 1520](#) to exact beforehand an amnesty of the most explicit and absolute character. She had surrendered after great starvation and suffering within the city walls.

## After the defeat

On [November 1](#) the representatives of the nation swore their allegiance to King Christian, who crowned himself king of Sweden in [Storkyrkan](#) and invited the nobility to great festivities to celebrate the coronation. At a grand ball, he danced with Kristina. The festivities lasted for three days.

On November 7, King Christian summoned the Swedish nobility to a meeting. Lady Kristina, as well as several other influential women, were also invited. When they arrived, the doors were shut and guards set in place. The king accused them all of the deposition of the bishop Trolle, a Danish loyalist. Lady Kristina stepped forward and stated that it would not be possible for the king to punish them for this; the document to depose the bishop had been signed by everyone in the room; and as the king had promised amnesty to everyone involved in the rebellion, and the deposition of the Danish bishop had been a part of the rebellion, it would not be possible to punish those involved. "We have proof," she added, "the document is here." At this, the document was brought forward. But there was one thing they had not considered. The deposition of a bishop was also a crime against the church, [heresy](#); and the king had no authority to pardon them for that. Thereby, he could punish them for the rebellion without breaking his word of amnesty. So he took his revenge, now known under the name of the [Stockholm Bloodbath](#). Kristina's husband's remains were excavated from his grave and burned publicly at the stake as a heretic, and her brother, Erik Nilsson, Lord of [Tullgarn](#), was executed by beheading, as were many other Swedish magnates. Kristina inherited Tullgarn at that stage, little benefit as it then did her.

She was considered a great traitor and a rebellion leader, and as such King Christian called upon her and publicly asked her to choose: which did she prefer, to be burned at the stake or to be buried alive? Confronted with this choice, Kristina was unable to reply and fainted with horror. She also agreed to pay him a large part of her property. Another woman almost executed was Christina's mother, Sigrid Eskilsdotter Banér, who was almost executed by drowning when she in the last moment agreed to pay the king her property.

Kristina, with a good number of noble ladies of Sweden, the grandmother, mother and sister of [Gustav Vasa](#), was taken captive and held in the feared and infamous "[Blue Tower](#)" in [Copenhagen Castle](#), Denmark, from 1521. Kristina had the company of her two little sons in the prison. Only after a few years did the new kings of Denmark and Sweden reach an agreement that they were to be returned to their families in Sweden in 1525.

# Sten Sture the Younger

**Sten Sture the Younger** ([Swedish](#): *Sten Sture den yngre*), Lord of Ekesjö (1493 – [February 5, 1520](#)), was a Swedish statesman and regent of [Sweden](#), under the era of the [Kalmar Union](#).

He was born in 1493, as the son of regent [Svante Nilsson](#), a descendant of the [Sture](#) of Ekesjö family, and [Iljana Gisladotter Gädde](#), heiress of [Ulvåsa](#).



At the death of his father, the regent Svante, young Sten was only 18 years old. High Councillor [Eric Trolle](#) was chosen as regent by the council - he supported union with Denmark. However, young Sten utilized the castles and troops fiefed to him by his late father and made a coup. After Sten promised to continue union negotiations with Denmark, the High Council accepted him as regent instead of Trolle.

In reality, lord Sten's purpose was to keep Sweden independent of Denmark. He took the Sture name, heritage from his great-grandmother, because it symbolized independence of Sweden as reminder of Sten Sture the Elder, his father's third cousin.

Regent Sten knew that sooner or later, a war with [John I of Denmark](#) (died 1513) and his son and successor [Christian II](#) would be inevitable. Therefore he in 1513 agreed to a truce with Russia.

A conflict arose between Regent Sten and archbishop [Gustav Trolle](#), son of [Eric Trolle](#). The archbishop claimed more autonomy for the church. Regent Sten had the archbishop deposed and imprisoned.

Finally, Christian II started an invasion of Sweden. Regent Sten was mortally wounded at the [battle of Bogesund](#) on [January 19, 1520](#), in the last part of [Christian II of Denmark](#)'s war against Sweden, and died on the ice of lake [Mälaren](#) on his way back to [Stockholm](#).

Christian II was enthroned in Sweden and archbishop Gustav had his revenge against supporters of Sture and against those who deposed the archbishop: he listed those enemies and accusations against them, dubbing them as heretics. King Christian had those accused executed at the

[Stockholm bloodbath](#) in late 1520, including Sten Sture's corpse which was desecrated as a heretic's (burnt at the stake).

His marriage to [Christina Gyllenstierna](#), great-granddaughter of King [Charles VIII](#), in 1511 produced the son [Svante Stensson Sture](#), later elevated to be 1st [Count Sture](#), [Count](#) of [Stegeholm](#). In 20th century, his distant direct descendant, Sibylla of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha married the [Hereditary Prince Gustaf Adolf](#), and with Sibylla's son, King [Carl XVI Gustav of Sweden](#), Sten Sture the younger's blood returned to the Swedish throne.



The Death of Sten Sture the Younger on the ice of lake [Mälaren](#).  
Painting by [Carl Gustaf Hellqvist](#) (1880).

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dorothea\\_of\\_Brandenburg](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dorothea_of_Brandenburg)

# Dorothea of Brandenburg

Dorothea of Brandenburg and [Christian I of Denmark](#)



**Dorothea of Brandenburg** (1430/1431 – [November 10, 1495](#)) was the [consort](#) of [Christopher of Bavaria](#) and [Christian I of Denmark](#). She is also known as Dorothea of Hohenzollern and as Dorothy Achillies. She was queen of Denmark (1445-1448 and 1449-1481), Norway (1445-1448 and 1450-1481) and Sweden (1447-1448 and 1457-1464) two times each.

## Biography

Dorothea was born in 1430 or 1431 to [John, Margrave of Brandenburg-Kulmbach](#) and Barbara of Saxe-Wittenberg (1405-1465). She married, on [12 September 1445](#), [Christopher of Bavaria](#), the King of [Denmark](#) from 1440-1448, [Sweden](#) from 1441-1448 and [Norway](#) from 1442-1448. The wedding was held in [Copenhagen](#). She was crowned queen of the three

kingdoms on [14 September 1445](#).

After Christopher's death, Dorothea married the next elected king, [King Christian I of Denmark](#), on [28 October 1449](#). In 1457, she became queen of Sweden for the second time and was crowned in [Uppsala Cathedral](#).

Dorothea was given very large estates in Sweden at her first wedding, which she lost control over in 1464. For the rest of her life, she fought to regain control over them, and also asked for the help of the [Pope](#). She was given [Holstein](#) as her fief, and in 1481, she made her youngest son Frederik regent there. In 1488 she visited the Pope in [Rome](#).

## Children

- Oluf (1450-1451)
- Canute (1451-1455)
- [John \(Hans\)](#) (1455-1513), Duke of Schleswig-Holstein, King of Denmark, Norway and Sweden
- [Margarete](#) (1456-1486), married [King James III of Scotland](#) in 1469
- [King Frederik I of Denmark, Norway and Sweden](#) (1471-1533)

Dorothea died on [25 November 1495](#), and is interred next to her second husband in [Roskilde Cathedral](#).

# Christian I of Denmark, Norway and Sweden

**Christian I** (1426 – 1481), Danish monarch and union king of [Denmark](#) (1448 – 1481), [Norway](#) (1450 – 1481) and [Sweden](#) (1457 – 1464), under the [Kalmar Union](#). In Sweden his short tenure as monarch was preceded by regents, [Jöns Bengtsson Oxenstierna](#) and [Erik Axelsson Tott](#) and succeeded by regent [Kettil Karlsson Vasa](#). Also Duke of [Schleswig](#) and [Holstein](#) 1460-81.

*Christian I pictured abt. 1800*



He was born in February 1426 in [Oldenburg](#). His father was Count [Dietrich of Oldenburg](#) (died 1440) whom he succeeded as Count of Oldenburg and Delmenhorst. His mother was his father's second wife, Hedwig of Schleswig and Holstein ([Helvig of Schauenburg](#)) (died 1436). King [Christopher of Denmark, Sweden and Norway](#) died in January 1448. His death resulted in the break-up of the union of the three kingdoms, as Denmark and Sweden went their separate ways. On 1 September 1448, count Christian of Oldenburg was elected to the vacant Danish throne, as king Christian I.

Meanwhile, Sweden had on 20 June 1448 elected [Charles Knutsson](#) as king. Norway was now faced with the choice between a union with Sweden or Denmark, or electing a separate king. The latter option was quickly discarded, and a power-struggle ensued between the supporters of Christian of Denmark and Charles of Sweden. The Norwegian [Council of the Realm](#) was divided. In February 1449, a part of the Council declared in favour of Charles as king, but on 15 June the same year, a different group of councillors paid homage to Christian. On 20 November, Charles was crowned king of Norway in [Trondheim](#). However, the Swedish nobility now took steps to avoid war with Denmark. In June 1450, the Swedish Council of the Realm forced Charles to renounce his claim on Norway to king Christian. The question of the Norwegian succession had thereby been decided between Denmark and Sweden, and the Norwegian Council was left with only one candidate for the throne. In the summer of 1450, Christian sailed to Norway with a large fleet, and on 2 August he was crowned king of Norway in [Trondheim](#). On 29 August, a union treaty between Denmark and Norway was signed in [Bergen](#). Norway had of old been a [hereditary kingdom](#), but this had become less and less a reality, as at the last royal successions, hereditary claims had been bypassed for political reasons. It was now explicitly stated that Norway, as well as Denmark, was an elected kingdom. The treaty stipulated that Denmark and Norway should have the same king in perpetuity, and that he would be elected among the legitimate sons of the previous king, if such existed.

Christian married [Dorothea of Brandenburg](#) (1430 - November 25, 1495), the widow of his predecessor King [Christopher \(of Bavaria\)](#) and thus [dowager](#) queen, on October 28, 1449 in [Copenhagen](#). Dorothea and Christian had five children:

1. Olaf (1450-1451)
2. Knud (1451-1455)
3. [Hans](#) (1455 - 1513), King of Denmark, Norway and Sweden, Duke of [Schleswig](#) and [Holstein](#)
4. [Margarete of Denmark](#) (1456-1486), 13 years old married to the 17 years old King [James III of Scotland](#)
5. [Frederick](#) (1471-1533), Duke of Schleswig and Holstein, in Gottorp, later also King of Denmark and Norway

Charles Knutsson became increasingly unpopular as king of Sweden, and was driven into exile in 1457. Christian achieved his aim of being elected as king of Sweden, thus re-establishing the Kalmar Union. He received the power from temporary Swedish regents archbishop [Jöns Bengtsson Oxenstierna](#) and lord [Erik Axelsson Tott](#). However, Sweden being volatile and split by factions (benefits of union being against nationalistic benefits), his reign there ended in 1464 when bishop [Kettil Karlsson Vasa](#) was installed as the next regent. Charles Knutsson was recalled as King of Sweden, although he was later exiled a second time, recalled again and died during his third term as king. Christian's final attempt at regaining Sweden ended in a total military failure at [Brunkeberg](#) (outside Stockholm) October 1471 where he was defeated by the Swedish regent [Sten Sture the Elder](#) who was supported by the Danish-Swedish nobleman's clan the [Thott](#) family. Christian maintained his claim to the Swedish kingdom up to his death in 1481.

Christian's personal territory was at its largest in 1460-64, before the loss of Sweden. However, many parts of his realm wanted to govern themselves locally, and there were constant struggles. Denmark was his most important center of power.

King Christian died in Copenhagen on May 21, 1481, at the age of 55. He is interred at [Roskilde Cathedral](#). The dynasty he founded, the [House of Oldenburg](#), remained on the throne of Denmark until 1863, and of Norway until 1814. Through his fourth and fifth children respectively, he was an ancestor to [James VI](#), of Scotland and England, and his wife, [Anne of Denmark](#). He is therefore an ancestor to the present-day British royal family, including [Elizabeth II](#), Queen of [Great Britain](#) and [Northern Ireland](#). Through his eldest surviving son, he is ancestor of Dukes of [Lorraine](#) (later Emperors of Austria) and also of Electors of Brandenburg-Prussia. Through his youngest son, he is ancestor of kings of Denmark, Greece, Norway, some kings of Sweden, as well as Tsars of Russia.

# Christopher of Bavaria

**Christopher of Bavaria** known by his [Danish](#) and [Norwegian](#) title as **Christoffer (III) af/av Bayern** and by his [Swedish](#) title as **Kristofer av Bayern** ([26 February 1416](#) - 5 or [6 January 1448](#)) was union king of [Denmark](#) (1440-1448), [Sweden](#) (1441-1448) and [Norway](#) (1442-1448).

## Biography

He was probably born at [Neumarkt in der Oberpfalz](#), the son of Duke [John of Pfalz-Neumarkt](#) and Catherine Vratislava, sister to [Eric of Pomerania](#). Duke John was a son of King [Ruprecht of Palatinate](#). In 1445 he married [Dorothea of Brandenburg](#) ([1430-November 25, 1495](#)), in [Copenhagen](#).

*King of Denmark, Sweden, Norway, the Wends and the Goths,  
Count Palatine of the Rhine, Duke of Bavaria*



King Eric of Pomerania was deposed as king of Denmark and Sweden in 1439. As Eric's nephew, Christopher, who was rather unfamiliar to Scandinavian conditions, was elected by the Danish [State Council](#) as the successor to his uncle, first as [regent](#) from 1439, and then proclaimed King of Denmark at the Viborg Assembly on [9 April 1440](#). He was meant to be a puppet, as evidenced by the saying: "Had the Council demanded the stars of heaven from him, he would have ordered it."<sup>[2]</sup> However he succeeded in maintaining some personal control. He was later elected king of Sweden in 1441, and Norway in June 1442.

At the start of his reign, he put down peasant rebellions on Funen and Jutland. Once the rebellion on Funen was suppressed, he turned his attention the uprising in Jutland. North Jutland, especially Vendsyssel, was so restive that a peasant army of 25,000 led by [Henrik Reventlow](#) posed a serious threat to Christopher's continued reign. Before the king could act, Jutland's noble families raised their own army and marched west of [Aalborg](#) to meet Reventlow's forces. The peasants had created a gigantic wagon fortress three layers deep to protect themselves from the mounted knights they knew would come against them. They also placed tree branches across the bog in front of the camp and then cast earth on top to make it look like solid ground. The overconfident army of nobles led by [Eske Brok](#) appeared at St Jorgen's Hill on [May 3, 1441](#). The knights charged the camp, and were quickly mired down in the bog. The peasants moved in for the kill.

Brok was killed and dismembered and the pieces sent to the towns in the area as a warning. The peasants then raided the area's most important manor at Aagard and burned it, forcing the noble [Niels Guldenstjerne](#) to flee with nothing but a staff.<sup>[3]</sup>

The treatment of the captives after the battle strengthened Christopher's determination to put down the peasants. With his own army Christopher rode north to the rebel camp at [Husby Hole](#) near St Jorgen's Hill in northern Jutland. Because the rebels outnumbered his troops, Christopher sent word that anyone who left the camp and went home would not be punished for rebellion. The men from the island of [Mors](#) and [Thisted](#) left, for which they were called cowards and traitors ever after. Christopher ordered the attack on the rebel camp on [8 June 1441](#) and despite fighting ferociously the rebels could not overcome the heavily armed knights. Thousands of rebels were killed, those who survived were fined heavily. The more severe consequence was that rebels lost their free status and became serfs on the farms where they worked.<sup>[4]</sup> The king made it a capital crime for peasants to carry weapons longer than a short knife. In May 1442 Christopher traveled to Lødøse to meet with the nobles from all three kingdoms. He was crowned King of Norway there and then went to Oslo and the Trondheim to be confirmed as the king. The next year he was proclaimed King of Denmark at the Urnehoved Assembly near Ribe. When his residence at Roskilde burned down, Christopher moved to Copenhagen and made it the capital of Denmark. The Swedes didn't like him, he was too German for them and allowed former King Albrecht to plunder shipping from his castle on Gotland without any attempt to stop him. They blamed a series of bad harvests on him. People



Seal of Christopher of Bavaria.

were so hungry they mixed ground tree bark with the little flour they could find. Christopher was contemptuously nicknamed the "Bark King" in Sweden.



Christopher of Bavaria.

On the other hand he tried to support the cities and their merchants as far as the limits of nobility and Hanseatic cities allowed. During his reign [Copenhagen](#) was made permanently the capital of Denmark ([municipal charter](#) of 1443).

Christopher died suddenly at [Helsingborg](#) in 1448. On [October 28, 1449](#), Dorothea remarried [Christian I](#). King Christopher was buried in [Roskilde Cathedral](#). In 1654 his [Wittelsbach](#) family returned to power in Sweden.

# Hans of Denmark

**Hans** ([Danish](#), [Norwegian](#) and [Swedish](#)) (2 February 1455 – 20 February 1513), was union king of [Denmark](#) (1481 – 1513), [Norway](#) (1483 – 1513) [Sweden](#) (1497 – 1501), under the [Kalmar Union](#), and also Duke of [Schleswig](#) and [Holstein](#).

*King of Denmark, Sweden, Norway, the Wends and the Goths*



He was born on [February 2, 1455](#) as the son of [Christian I](#) and [Dorothea of Brandenburg](#), daughter of [Margrave Hans of Brandenburg](#). In 1478 he married [Christina of Saxony](#), granddaughter of [Frederick the Gentle](#) of [Saxony](#). This produced the following offspring: [Christian II](#), Franciscus, Knud, and Elisabeth, who later married as princess of Brandenburg. He died on [February 20, 1513](#).

Hans' father, king Christian I, in 1458 had the Norwegian [Council of the Realm](#) commit to electing Christian's eldest son as next king of Norway upon his death. A similar declaration was made in Sweden. A meeting between the Councils of Denmark, Sweden and Norway was appointed for [13 January 1483](#) at [Halmstad](#), to work out the terms for electing Hans as king - his [håndfæstning](#). The Swedish Council failed to turn up at the meeting, but the Norwegian and Danish councils proceeded to produce a joint declaration containing the terms for Hans' rule, and electing him king.

By diplomatic means he tried to weaken the position of the Swedish regent [Sten Sture](#), and he also sought new allies – he was the first Danish king to have established a political co-operation with [Russia](#). After the 1493 treaty, [Ivan III of Russia](#) imprisoned all Hanseatic merchants trading in [Novgorod](#) and instigated the [Russo-Swedish War, 1496-1499](#).

In 1497 Hans conquered Sweden during a short and effective military campaign after in advance having undermined the position of Sten Sture by winning most of the Swedish nobility. After the victory the king acted wisely and pardoned his enemies.

Hans fought an increasingly more bitter war against Sten Sture and his successor [Svante Nilsson](#), and this conflict meant frictions with both the Danish nobility and the Hanseatic cities, especially [Lübeck](#). In 1509, with [the Netherlands](#) acting as arbiters, Sweden agreed to a declaration which recognised Hans as king of Sweden in principle, but he was never allowed into Stockholm as long as he lived, nor crowned king of Sweden anew.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christian\\_II\\_of\\_Denmark](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christian_II_of_Denmark)

# Christian II of Denmark

**Christian II** (1 July 1481 – 25 January 1559) was a Danish monarch and King of [Denmark](#), [Norway](#) (1513 – 1523) and [Sweden](#) (1520 – 1521), during the [Kalmar Union](#). Christian was born as the son of King [Hans of Denmark](#) and [Christina of Saxony](#), at Nyborg Castle in 1481 and succeeded his father as king and regent in Denmark and Norway, where he later was to be succeeded by his uncle King [Frederick I of Denmark](#).<sup>[1]</sup>

*King of Denmark, Sweden and Norway, the Wends and the Goths*



*Isabella of Habsburg*

## Politics

During his reign, Christian concentrated on his attempts to maintain control of Sweden while attempting a concentration of power in the hands of the monarch, at the expense of both clergy and nobility. To further this attempt, he supported the creation of a strong class of [burghers](#).<sup>[2]</sup>

Christian took part in [his father's](#) conquest of Sweden in 1497 and in the fighting of 1501 when Sweden revolted. He was appointed viceroy of Norway (1506 – 1512), and succeeded in maintaining control of this country. During his harsh<sup>[2]</sup> administration in Norway, he attempted to deprive the Norwegian nobility of its traditional influence exercised through the [rigsraad](#) leading to controversy with the latter.



A peculiarity, more fatal to him in that aristocratic age than any other, was his fondness for the common people, which was increased by his passion for a pretty Norwegian girl of Dutch heritage, named [Dyveke Sigbritsdatter](#), who became his [mistress](#) in 1507 or 1509.

*Dyveke Sigbritsdatter and Christian II*

Christian's succession to the throne was confirmed at the *Herredag*, or assembly of notables from the three northern kingdoms, which met at [Copenhagen](#) in 1513. The nobles and clergy of all three kingdoms regarded with grave misgivings a ruler who had already shown in Norway that he was not afraid of enforcing his authority to the uttermost.

The [Privy Councils](#) (*Rigsraad*) of Denmark and Norway insisted in the [Haandfæstning](#) (i.e. the charter extorted from the king) that the crowns of both kingdoms were elective and not hereditary, providing explicitly against any transgression of the charter by the king, and expressly reserving to themselves a free choice of Christian's successor after his death. But the Swedish delegates could not be prevailed upon to accept Christian as king at all.

"We have", they said, "the choice between peace at home and strife here, or peace here and civil war at home, and we prefer the former." A decision as to the Swedish succession was therefore postponed. On 12 August 1515, Christian married [Isabella of Burgundy](#), the granddaughter of Holy Roman Emperor [Maximilian I](#). But he would not give up his liaison with Dyveke, and it was only the death of the unfortunate girl in 1517, under suspicious circumstances, that prevented serious complications with the emperor [Charles V](#).

## Reconquest of Sweden

Christian was meanwhile preparing for the inevitable war with Sweden, where the patriotic party, headed by the freely elected Viceroy [Sten Sture the Younger](#), stood face to face with the pro-Danish party under Archbishop [Gustav Trolle](#).

Christian, who had already taken measures to isolate Sweden politically, hastened to the relief of the archbishop, who was beleaguered in his fortress of [Stäket](#), but was defeated by Sture and his peasant levies at Vedila and forced to return to Denmark. A second attempt to subdue Sweden in 1518 was also frustrated by Sture's victory at Brännkyrka. A third attempt made in 1520 with a large army of French, German and Scottish mercenaries proved successful.

Sture was mortally wounded at the [battle of Bogesund](#), on 19 January, and the Danish army, unopposed, was approaching [Uppsala](#), where the members of the [Swedish Privy Council](#), or *Riksråd*, had already assembled. The councillors consented to render homage to Christian on condition that he gave a full indemnity for the past and a guarantee that Sweden should be ruled according to Swedish laws and custom; and a convention to this effect was confirmed by the king and the Danish Privy Council on 31 March.

Sture's widow, Dame [Christina Gyllenstierna](#), still held out stoutly at [Stockholm](#), and the peasantry of central Sweden, roused by her patriotism, flew to arms, defeated the Danish invaders at Balundsås on 19 March, and were only with the utmost difficulty finally defeated at the bloody [battle of Uppsala](#), on [Good Friday](#), 6 April 1520.

In May the Danish fleet arrived, and Stockholm was invested by land and sea; but Dame Gyllenstierna resisted valiantly for four months longer and took care, when she surrendered on 7 September, to exact beforehand an amnesty of the most explicit and absolute character. On 1 November, the representatives of the nation swore fealty to Christian as [hereditary king](#) of

Sweden, though the law of the land distinctly provided that the Swedish crown should be [elective](#).

## The Stockholm Bloodbath

Christian II with coats of arms of Norway, Denmark and Sweden



On 4 November, Christian was anointed by Gustavus Trolle in [Stockholm Cathedral](#), and took the usual oath to rule the [Realm](#) through native-born Swedes alone, according to prescription. The next three days were given up to banqueting, but on 7 November "an entertainment of another sort began." On the evening of that day Christian summoned his captains to a private conference at the palace, the result of which was quickly apparent, for at dusk a band of Danish soldiers, with lanterns and torches, broke into the great hall and carried off several carefully selected persons.

By 10 o'clock the same evening the remainder of the king's guests were safely under lock and key. All these persons had previously been marked down on Archbishop Trolle's proscription list. On the following day a council, presided over by Trolle, solemnly pronounced judgment of death on the proscribed, as

manifest heretics.

At 12 o'clock that night the patriotic bishops of [Skara](#) and [Strängnäs](#) were led out into the great square and beheaded. Fourteen noblemen, three burgomasters, fourteen town councillors and about twenty common citizens of Stockholm were then drowned or decapitated. The executions continued throughout the following day; in all, about eighty-two people are said to have been murdered.

Moreover, Christian ordered that [Sten Sture](#)'s body should be dug up and burnt, as well as the body of his little child. Dame Christina and many other noble Swedish ladies were sent as prisoners to Denmark. The massacre and deeds in the [Old Town of Stockholm](#) is the primary reason why Christian is remembered in Sweden, as *Christian the Tyrant*.

## Downfall

Sweden, too, was now in open revolt; and both Norway and Denmark were taxed to the utmost to raise an army for the subjection of their sister kingdom. Foreign complications were now added to these domestic troubles. With the laudable objective of releasing Danish trade from the

grinding yoke of the [Hanseatic League](#), and making [Copenhagen](#) the great emporium of the north, Christian had arbitrarily raised the Sound tolls and seized a number of Dutch ships that presumed to evade the tax.

Thus, his relations with the Netherlands were strained, while he was openly at war with [Lübeck](#) and her allies. [Jutland](#) finally rose against him, renounced its allegiance, and offered the Danish crown to Christian's uncle, Duke [Frederick of Holstein](#), 20 January 1523. So overwhelming did Christian's difficulties appear that he took ship to seek help abroad, and on 1 May landed at [Veere](#) in Zeeland.

During the years of his exile, the king led a relatively humble life in the city of [Lier](#) in [the Netherlands](#), waiting for the military help of his reluctant imperial brother-in-law. In the meantime, he became regarded a social saviour in Denmark, where both the peasants and the commoners began to wish for his restoration. For some time, he even became a Protestant, but had to re-convert in order to gain the support of the Emperor.

Eight years later, on 24 October 1531, he attempted to recover his kingdoms, but a tempest scattered his fleet off the Norwegian coast, and on 1 July 1532, by the convention of Oslo, he surrendered to his rival, King Frederick, in exchange for a promise of safe conduct.

But King Frederick did not keep his promise, and King Christian was kept prisoner for the next 27 years, first in [Sønderborg Castle](#) until 1549, and afterwards at the castle of [Kalundborg](#).

Stories of solitary confinement in small dark chambers are inaccurate; King Christian was treated like a nobleman, particularly in his old age, and he was allowed to host parties, go hunting, and wander freely as long as he did not go beyond the boundaries of the town of Kalundborg. But he was still a prisoner, albeit a royal one, and his 27-year captivity is a major blemish upon the reputation of king Frederick I and his son. Christian II was never convicted of any crime.

Among the six children of Christian II, three must be mentioned. Prince Hans died a boy in exile in 1532. The two daughters Dorothea, Electress Palatine and [Christina, Duchess of Lorraine](#), both in turn, for many years, demanded in vain the Danish throne as their inheritance. Christian II's blood returned to the Swedish and Norwegian thrones in person of [Charles XV of Sweden](#), descendant of [Renata of Lorraine](#) {Ironically Charles XV was also a descendant of the rival [House of Vasa](#)}; and to the Danish throne in the person of [Christian X of Denmark](#). {Ironically Christian X brother King [Haakon VII](#) of Norway was also a descendant of Royal Houses of [Sweden](#) and [Denmark](#)}.

# Christina of Denmark

**Christina of Denmark** (1522 – 1590), was firstly Duchess-consort of Milan and then Duchess-consort of Lorraine. She was claimant to the thrones of Norway, Denmark and Sweden.

*Duchess consort of Milan and Lorraine*



She was the younger surviving daughter of [Christian II](#) of Denmark and [Isabella of Austria](#), sister of Holy Roman Emperor [Charles V](#). Christina was born in [Nyborg](#) in central Denmark in 1522.

In 1533 she married by proxy [Francesco II Sforza](#), [Duke of Milan](#), who died in 1535.

In 1538, German painter [Hans Holbein](#) arrived in Brussels to meet Christina. Holbein had been commissioned by [Henry VIII of England](#) to paint portraits of noble women who were considered suitable brides. Christina had been mentioned after the death of [Jane Seymour](#) in 1537. Upon Holbein's arrival, Christina sat for a portrait, wearing [mourning](#) clothes. The English ambassador was arranging for Henry VIII to see the Duchess's likeness in connection with plans to marry her. Christina, then only sixteen years old, made no secret of her opposition to marrying the English king, who by this time had a reputation around Europe for his mistreatment of his wives. She supposedly told the English ambassador that "If I had two heads, one should be at the King of England's disposal."

Christina was also the grand-niece of Henry's first wife [Catherine of Aragon](#) through her mother.

After turning down Henry's proposal, in 1541 she married [François](#), Duc de Bar. In an interesting twist of fate, this was the prince who had been betrothed to [Anne of Cleves](#), who became the 4th wife of Henry VIII, after he was turned down by Christina. Francis succeeded his father as Duc de [Lorraine](#) in 1544 and died in 1545, leaving Christina as the Regent of Lorraine. She died in 1590.

Her son was [Charles III, Duke of Lorraine](#), namesake of her uncle the emperor. Her daughter, [Renata of Lorraine](#), married [William V, Duke of Bavaria](#), and it is through her that the current [Danish](#), [Norwegian](#) and [Swedish](#) royal families are descended.