

A portrait of George Washington, the first President of the United States, with the text 'GRANHOLM GENEALOGY' overlaid in the center.

GRANHOLM GENEALOGY

USA PRESIDENTIAL RELATIONS

INTRODUCTION

This booklet describes a relationship between our ancestors and the possibly most prestigious person in USA, the first President George Washington. Unlike royalty and rulers in Europe, which has family dynasties, USA with its elected Presidents, has no lineage from one ruler to another. In case of George Washington, he had no children of his own, so he is nobody's ancestor. His great grandfather emigrated from England and he is related to many of the European kings. Thus we share many ancestors and here I have presented one English lineage from one of many common ancestors. Since my granddaughter Anna was born on the same day, July 4, as America, I have shown our kinship with George Washington as it relates to her. Two lists related to us and George Washington are included; one shows on the top the common ancestor and two columns, the left with Washington's ancestors, which also are our cousins and the right column with our ancestors. A second list shows in some more detail the earliest ancestors of Washington including the relationship to Anna. For these I have included some biography mainly from the Internet Wikipedia. I have included only one text page about Washington, there is so much about him elsewhere.

King George III of England was Washington's opponent in the Revolutionary War. The two last pages show a separate list about how we are also related to him and some information about him. Here also the left column lists our cousins, the right our ancestors.

A list is included showing our relationship to the Presidents Bush. Their history is not written yet.

Another cousin is **Millard Fillmore**, the 13th US President shown on the last two pages and shown in the book [Applegate Ancestry](#).

As a trivia I have first included a page about Saint Emeric or Americus, who is a second cousin, 35 times removed, from our Hungarian Ancestry. According to that text, indirectly, via Amerigo Vespucci, America is named after him.

***Amerigo Vespucci** (March 9, 1454 – February 22, 1512) was an Italian explorer, navigator and cartographer. The continent of America derives its name from the feminized Latin version of his first name.*

Saint Emeric of Hungary

Prince **St. Imre**, also *Henricus*, *Emeric*, *Emericus* or *Americus* ([Székesfehérvár](#) ([Hungary](#)), about 1000 to 1007 – [Hegyközszentimre](#) (at that time located in the [Comitatus Bihar](#) of the Kingdom of Hungary, now [Bihar County](#), [Romania](#)), [September 2, 1031](#)) was the son of King [St. Stephen I of Hungary](#) and [Giselle of Bavaria](#). He is assumed to be the second son of Stephen, he was named after his uncle, [St. Henry II](#), and was the only of Stephen's sons who reached adulthood.

Saint Emeric, Crown Prince of Hungary



Emeric was educated in a strict and ascetic spirit by the bishop of [Csanád](#), [St. Gerhard](#) (St. Gellért) from the age of 15 to 23. He was intended to be the next monarch of Hungary, and his father wrote admonitions to prepare him for this task. His father tried to make Emeric co-heir still in his lifetime.

But his father's plans could never be fulfilled: on [2nd September](#) 1031 Emeric was killed about 24 years old by a boar while hunting. It is assumed that this happened in Hegyközszentimre (presently Sintimreu). He was buried in the [Cistercian](#) church in Székesfehérvár. Several wondrous [healings](#) and [conversions](#) happened at his grave, so on [5th November](#) 1083 [King Ladislaus I](#) unearthed Emeric's bones in a big ceremony, and Emeric was [canonised](#) for his pious life and purity along with his father and Bishop Gerhard by [Pope Gregory VII](#).

[Amerigo Vespucci](#) was presumably named after Saint Emeric, and therefore so were the [Americas](#), indirectly.

St. Emeric is most often pictured in [knight's armour](#) with [crown](#) and [lily](#).



Statue of St Emeric



Torkel (Thorgil) Styrbjörnsson

Fulbert De Falaise
born 985

Herleva of Falaise born
1003 died 1050

William I the Conqueror King of England
born 1027 died 9 September 1087

Henry I, King of England
born 1068 died 1 December 1135

Matilda Empress of the Holy Roman Empire
born 1102 died 10 September 1167

Henry II Curtmantle King of England
born 5 March 1133 died 6 July 1189

John King of England
born 24 December 1166 died 19 October 1216

Henry III King of England
born 1 October 1207 died 16 November 1272

Edward I Longshanks King of England
born 17 June 1239 died 7 July 1307

Edward II King of England
born 25 April 1284 died 21 September 1327

Edward III King of England
born 13 November 1312 died 21 June 1377

John of Gaunt I Duke of Lancaster
born 6 March 1340 died 3 February 1399

Joan de Beaufort born
1375 died 1440

Mary de Ferrers Lady of Oversley
born 1394 died 1457

John Neville
died 1481

Joan (Jane) Neville

William Gascoigne

Elizabeth Gascoigne

Anne Talboys Frances

Dymoke

Mildred Windebank
born 1584 died 1630

George Reade
born 1608 died 1674

Ulf Jarl Thorgilsson
died 25 Dec 1026

Svend II Estridsen King of Denmark
born 1020 died 28 Apr 1074

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

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

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

Christine Björnsdotter Queen of Sweden
born 1124

Knut I Eriksson King of Sweden
born ABT 1145 died 8 Apr 1196

Erik X Knutsson King of Sweden
born 1180 died 10 Apr 1216

Märtha Eriksdotter Princess of Sweden
born ABT 1213

Sixten Nilsson Sparre av Tofta
died 1310

Abjörn Sixtensson Sparre av Tofta
born ABT 1240 died 1310

Ulf Abjörnsson Sparre
born 1348

Karl Ulfsson Sparre av Tofta

Margareta Karlsdotter Sparre av Tofta
died 1429

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

Karin Karlsdotter Bonde

Märta Erengisledotter Djäkn

Anna Johansdotter Fleming
born 1435 died 1505

Karin Olofsdotter Wildeman
born 1465 died 1535

Johan Ludolfsson Boose
born 1526 died 1596

Kirstin Johansdotter Boose
born 1576 died 1646

Maria Bertilsdotter von Nieroht
born 1612 died 1682

Mildred Reade
died 1693

Mildred Warner born
1670 died 1701

Augustine Washington
born 1693 died 1743

George Washington President of USA
born 1732 died 1799

Carl Carlsson von Lindelöf
born 1642 died 1712

Anna Maria Carlsdotter von Lindelöf
born 1670 died 1 Feb 1747

Margareta Eriksdotter Orenia
born 16 Jan 1710

Christina Margareta Urnovia

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

Johan Gustaf Johansson Årenius
born 5 Jun 1810

Charlotta Constantia Renlund born 4
Jun 1830 died 28 Jan 1905

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

Erik Anton Granholm
born 28 May 1906 died 29 Jan 1959

Lars Erik Granholm
born 28 Jul 1934

Pia Carita Granholm
born 1 Aug 1955

Anna Kristiina Applegate
born 4 Jul 1987

Anna Kristiina Applegate

is the 25th cousin, 8 times removed of

George Washington President of USA

Torkel Styrbjörnsson

Torkel Styrbjörnsson (also called **Thorgil Sprakling** or **Sprakalägg**) is claimed by late genealogical traditions¹ to have been the son of the disinherited [Swedish prince Styrbjörn the Strong](#), the son of [Olaf, son of Björn](#), king of Sweden. Styrbjörn's wife, [Thyra Haraldsdotter](#), was the daughter of [Harold Bluetooth](#) (king of [Denmark](#) and [Norway](#)). He died at the [Battle of Svolder](#).

His children were [Ulf](#) (d. 1027), the [Earl](#) of [Canute the Great](#) in [Denmark](#) and Danish steward, and [Gytha Thorkelsdottir](#) who was to marry [Godwin, Earl of Wessex](#).

Battle of Svolder

The naval **Battle of Svolder** (**Svold**, **Swold**)^[1] was fought in September 999 or 1000 somewhere in the western [Baltic](#) between King [Olaf Trygvason](#) of Norway and an alliance of his enemies. The backdrop of the battle is the unification of Norway into a single state, long-standing Danish efforts to gain control of the country, and the [spread of Christianity in Scandinavia](#).

The Battle of Svolder, by [Otto Sinding](#)



King Olaf was sailing home after an expedition to Wendland ([Pomerania](#)), when he was ambushed by an alliance of [Svein Forkbeard](#), King of Denmark, [Olaf Eiríksson](#), King of Sweden, and [Eirik Hákonarson](#), [Jarl of Lade](#). Olaf had only 11 warships in the battle against a fleet of at least 70.^[2] His ships

were cleared one by one, last of all the [Long Serpent](#), which Jarl Eirik captured as Olaf threw himself into the sea. After the battle, Norway was ruled by the Jarls of Lade as a fief of Denmark and Sweden.

The sagas ascribe the causes of the battle to Olaf Trygvason's ill-fated marriage proposal to [Sigrid the Haughty](#) and his problematic marriage to Thyri, sister of Svein Forkbeard. As the battle starts Olaf is shown dismissing the Danish and Swedish fleets with ethnic insults and bravado while admitting that Eirik Hákonarson and his men are dangerous because "they are Norwegians like us". The best known episode in the battle is the breaking of [Einarr Pambarskelfir](#)'s bow, which heralds Olaf's defeat.

Hailed as king in 995, Olaf Tryggvason quickly proceeded to convert Norway to Christianity, using all means at his disposal.



In the 970s, [Haakon Sigurdsson](#), Jarl of Lade, became the most powerful man in Norway, at first supported by [Harald Bluetooth](#) of Denmark and paying tribute to him — though the two later fell out over religious matters. Harald had converted to Christianity and was eager to Christianise Norway, while Haakon remained a staunch [pagan](#). In 995 Haakon was deposed and the young Christian leader [Olaf Tryggvason](#) came to the throne.

The same interests which clashed in the Battle of Svolder were to divide Norway for decades to come, leading to further major engagements, including the [Battle of Nesjar](#) and the [Battle of Stiklestad](#). The resolution came in 1035 with the accession of the Norwegian [Magnus the Good](#) to the throne of an independent and Christian Norway.

Events leading up to the battle

[Olaf Tryggvason](#) proposes marriage to [Sigrid the Haughty](#), on condition she convert to Christianity.



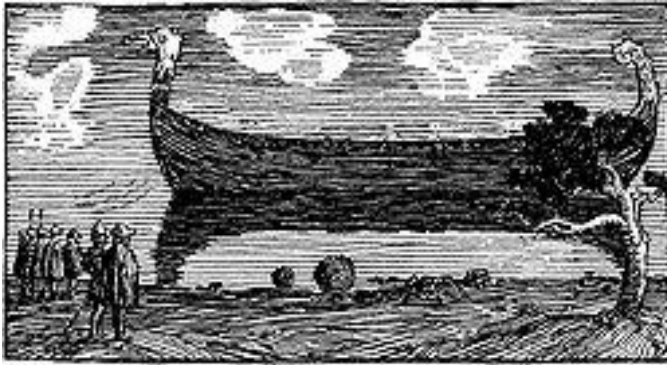
When Sigrid rejects this, Olaf strikes her with a glove. She warns him that might lead to his death.^[10]

Nothing can be gleaned from the contemporary skaldic poems on the causes of the battle. Adam of Bremen states that [Olaf Tryggvason](#)'s Danish wife, Thyri, egged him on to make war against Denmark. When Olaf heard that [Svein Forkbeard](#) and [Olaf the Swede](#) had formed an alliance, he was angered and decided the time had come for an attack.^[11] *Ágrip* and *Historia Norwegie* have a similar account. Thyri was the sister of Svein Forkbeard, and when Olaf Tryggvason married her, Svein refused to pay her promised dowry. Angered,

Olaf launched an expedition to attack Denmark, but he was too impatient to wait for a fleet to assemble from all of Norway, and he set sail for the south with only 11 ships, expecting the rest to follow. When that hope was not realized, he set out for Wendland ([Pomerania](#)) to seek allies and on the way was ambushed by Svein and his allies.

Olaf offers Queen Thyri a stalk of angelica. She weeps and scolds him for not daring to face up to Svein Forkbeard and retrieve her dowry.

The [Long Serpent](#) was "the best ship ever built in Norway, and the most costly".



Olaf's third flagship, the [Long Serpent](#), was a legendary vessel mentioned in several anecdotes in the sagas.



It was constructed as a dragon ship, on the model of the Serpent which the king had taken along from Hálogaland; only it was much larger and more carefully wrought in all respects. He called it the Long Serpent and the other one, the Short Serpent. The Long Serpent had thirty-four compartments. The head and the tail were all gilt. And the gunwales were as high as those on a seagoing ship. This was the best ship ever built in Norway, and the most costly.^[34]

The leaders assess their opponents

Olaf Tryggvason's ships pass the anchorage of his allied enemies in a long column without order, as no attack is expected. Conveniently placed to observe the fleet, Jarl Eirik and the two kings remark upon the passing vessels. Svein and Olaf are eager to join battle, but Eirik is portrayed as more cautious and familiar with the Norwegian forces.

Standing on the isle of Svolder, the allied leaders survey Olaf Tryggvason's passing fleet.



As progressively larger vessels appear, the Danes and Swedes think each one is the Long Serpent and want to attack straight away, but Eirik holds them off with informed comments.^[37]

It is not King Olaf on this ship. I know this ship because I have seen it often. It is owned by [Erlingr Skjálgsson](#) from [Jaðarr](#), and it is better to attack this ship from the stern. It is manned with such fellows that, should we encounter King Olaf Tryggvason, we will quickly learn that it would be better for us to find a gap in his fleet than to do battle with this longship.^[38]

After spotting the enemy, Olaf might have used sail and oar to outrun the ambush and escape, but he refuses to flee and turns to give battle with the eleven ships immediately about him. Seeing the Danish fleet arrayed against him, he comments: "The forest goats will not overcome us, for the Danes have the courage of goats. We will not fear that force because the Danes have never carried off the victory if they fought on ships."^[39] Similarly, Olaf writes off the Swedes with a reference to their pagan customs:

The Swedes will have an easier and more pleasant time licking out their sacrificial bowls than boarding the Long Serpent in the face of our weapons and succeeding in clearing our ships. I expect that we will not need to fear the horse eaters.^[40]

The battle is joined

The chaotic nature of a sea battle is shown in [Peter Nicolai Arbo's](#) Svolder painting.



The disposition adopted in the battle was one which recurs in many [sea-fights of the Middle Ages](#) where a fleet had to fight on the defensive.^[42] Olaf lashed his ships side to side, with his own, the *Long Serpent*, in the middle of the line, where her bows projected beyond the others. The advantages of this arrangement were that it left all hands free to fight, that a barrier could be formed with the oars and yards, and that it limited the enemy's ability to make its superior numbers count. The *Long Serpent* was the longest ship and so also the tallest — another advantage to the defenders, who could rain

down arrows, javelins and other missiles while the enemy would have to shoot upwards. Olaf, in effect, turned his eleven ships into a floating fort.

Einarr Pambarsekelfir

[Einarr Pambarsekelfir](#) tries the king's bow and finds it too weak.



One of the best known episodes from the battle involves [Einarr Pambarsekelfir](#), an archer in King Olaf's fleet who later became a cunning politician. Heimskringla describes his attempt at killing Jarl Eirik and saving the day for Olaf:

Einar shot an arrow at Earl Eirik, which hit the tiller end just above the earl's head so hard that it entered the wood up to the arrow-shaft. The earl looked that way, and asked if they knew who had shot; and at the same moment another arrow flew between his hand and his side, and into the stuffing of the chief's stool, so that the barb stood far out on the other side. Then said the earl to a man called Fin, -- but some say he was of Fin ([Laplander](#)) race, and was a superior archer, -- "Shoot that tall man by the mast." Fin shot; and the arrow hit the middle of Einar's bow just at the moment that Einar was drawing it, and the bow was split in two parts.

"What is that", cried King Olaf, "that broke with such a noise?"

"Norway, king, from thy hands," cried Einar.

"No! not quite so much as that," says the king; "take my bow, and shoot," flinging the bow to him.

Einar took the bow, and drew it over the head of the arrow. "Too weak, too weak," said he, "for the bow of a mighty king!" and, throwing the bow aside, he took sword and shield, and fought valiantly.^[44]

King Olaf's death



In the final stage of the battle, Eirik and his men board the [Long Serpent](#).

At last, the *Long Serpent* is overpowered and Olaf Tryggvason defeated. The Danish sources report that when all was lost he committed suicide by throwing himself into the sea, "the end befitting his life", according to Adam of Bremen.^[46] Saxo Grammaticus says that Olaf preferred suicide to death at the hands of the enemy and jumped overboard in full armour rather

than see his foes victorious. The sagas offer a variety of possibilities. *Ágrip* reports:

"But of the fall of King Óláfr nothing was known. It was seen that as the fighting lessened he stood, still alive, on the high-deck astern on the Long Serpent, which had thirty-two rowing places. But when Eiríkr went to the stern of the ship in search of the king, a light flashed before him as though it were lightning, and when the light disappeared, the king himself was gone."

King Olaf, like [Charlemagne](#), [Frederick Barbarossa](#) and [Sebastian of Portugal](#), is one of those legendary heroic figures whose return was looked for by the people, their deaths never completely accepted.

After the Battle of Svolder, the victorious leaders split Norway into areas of control.



Heimskringla gives the most detailed account of the division, describing it as threefold. Olaf the Swede received four districts in [Trondheim](#) as well as [Møre](#), [Romsdal](#) and [Ranrike](#). He gave these to Jarl [Svein Hákonarson](#), his son in law, to hold as a vassal. Svein Forkbeard gained possession of the [Viken](#) district, where Danish influence had long been strong. The rest of Norway was ruled by Eirik Hákonarson as Svein's vassal.

Faroese stamp showing a scene from the Battle of Svolder, inspired by Jens Christian Djurhuus' poem, *Ormurin langi*.

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

Fulbert of Falaise

Fulbert of Falaise (fl. 11th century) was the father of [Herleva](#), mother of the illegitimate [William the Conqueror](#), the 11th-century [Duke of Normandy](#) and [King of England](#).

The evidence is not beyond dispute, but Fulbert has traditionally been held to be a [tanner](#), which was a common occupation in [Falaise](#), and in King William's later life he was often taunted by enemies who pretended he stank of the tannery. After the birth of William, Fulbert was given a subordinate office at the Norman court, along with his two sons, Osbert and Walter.

He wrote a christian hymn in latin, "*Chorus novae Jerusalem*, nine years before his death in 1029. This hymn was 1850 translated into english, *Ye choirs of new Jerusalem (The Church Hymn Book*, 491/1872), by [Robert Campbell](#).

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

Herleva of Falaise

Herleva (c. 1003 - c. 1050) also known as **Arlette**, **Arletta**, **Herlève** and **Herleva**, was the mother of [William I of England](#). She had two further sons, [Odo of Bayeux](#) and [Robert, Count of Mortain](#), who became prominent in William's realm.

Family Background

The background of Herleva and the circumstances of William's birth are shrouded in mystery. The written evidence dates from a generation or two later, and is not entirely consistent. The most commonly accepted version says that she was the daughter of a [tanner](#) named [Fulbert](#) from the small [Norman](#) town of [Falaise](#), where they lived.

Relationship with Robert the Magnificent

According to one legend, still recounted by tour guides at Falaise, it all started when [Robert](#), the young Duke of Normandy saw Herleva from the roof of his castle tower. The walkway on the roof still looks down on the dyeing trenches cut into stone in the courtyard below, which can be seen to this day from the tower ramparts above. The traditional way of dyeing leather or garments was for individuals to trample barefoot on the garments which were awash in the dyeing liquid in these trenches. Herleva, legend goes, seeing the Duke on his ramparts above, raised her skirts perhaps a bit more than necessary in order to attract the Duke's eye. The latter was immediately smitten and ordered her brought in (as was customary for any wench that caught the Duke's eye) through the back door. Herleva refused, saying she would only enter the

Duke's castle on horseback through the front gate. The Duke, filled with lust, could only agree. In a few days, Herleva, dressed in the finest her father could provide, and sitting on a white horse, rode proudly through the front gate, her head held high. This gave Herleva a semi-official status as the Duke's mistress.^{[*[citation needed](#)*]}

She later gave birth to his son, [William](#), in 1027 or 1028, and probably a daughter, [Adelaide](#), in 1030.

Herleva probably died around 1050, in her forties.

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

Robert I, Duke of Normandy

Robert the Magnificent^[1] ([June 22, 1000](#) – [3 July 1035](#)), also was the [Duke of Normandy](#) from 1027 until his death. He was the son of [Richard II of Normandy](#) and [Judith](#), daughter of [Conan I of Rennes](#). He was the father of [William the Conqueror](#).

Robert the Magnificent as part of the Six Dukes of Normandy statue in the town square of Falaise



When his father died, his elder brother [Richard](#) succeeded, whilst he became [Count of Hiémois](#). When Richard died a year later, there were great suspicions that Robert had Richard murdered, hence his other nickname, "Robert le diable". He is sometimes identified with the legendary [Robert the Devil](#).

Robert aided King [Henry I of France](#) against Henry's rebellious brother and mother, and for his help he was given the territory of the [Vexin](#). He also intervened in the affairs of [Flanders](#), supported [Edward the Confessor](#), who was then in exile at Robert's court, and sponsored [monastic](#) reform in [Normandy](#).

By his mistress, [Herleva](#) of Falaise, he was father of the future [William I of England](#) (1028-1087). He also had an illegitimate daughter, Adelaide of Normandy. After making his illegitimate son William his heir, he set out on pilgrimage to [Jerusalem](#). By way of [Constantinople](#), reached Jerusalem, and died on the return journey at [Nicaea](#) on [2 July 1035](#). Some sources attribute his death to poison and date it to 1 or 3 July. His son William, aged about eight, succeeded him.

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

William I of England

William I (about 1027 or 1028^[1] – [9 September 1087](#)), better known as **William the Conqueror** ([French](#): *Guillaume le Conquérant*), was [Duke of Normandy](#) from 1035 and [King of England](#) from late 1066 to his death. William is sometimes also referred to as "William II" in relation to his position as the second Duke of Normandy of that name. In particular, before his conquest of England, he was known as "William the Bastard" because of the illegitimacy of his birth.

King of England and Duke of Normandy



To press his claim to the English crown, William invaded England in 1066, leading an army of [Normans](#), Bretons, Flemings, and Frenchmen to victory over the [English](#) forces of King [Harold Godwinson](#) (who died in the conflict) at the [Battle of Hastings](#), and suppressed subsequent English [revolts](#) in what has become known as the [Norman Conquest](#).^[2]

Early life

William was born in [Falaise, Normandy](#), the [illegitimate](#) and only son of [Robert I, Duke of Normandy](#), who named him as heir to Normandy. His mother, [Herleva](#) (among other names), who later married and bore two sons to [Herluin de Conteville](#), was the daughter of [Fulbert](#), most probably a local [tanner](#). In addition to his two half-brothers, [Odo of Bayeux](#) and [Robert, Count of Mortain](#), William had a sister, [Adelaide of Normandy](#), another child of Robert. Later in his life, the enemies of William are said to have commented derisively that William stank like a tannery, and the residents of besieged [Alençon](#) hung animal skins

from the city walls to taunt him.

William is believed to have been born in either 1027 or 1028, and more likely in the autumn of the later year. He was born the [grandnephew](#) of Queen [Emma of Normandy](#), wife of King [Ethelred the Unready](#) and later, wife of King [Canute the Great](#).



William's illegitimacy affected his early life and he was known to contemporaries as 'William the Bastard'. Nevertheless, when his father died, he was recognised as the [heir](#).

The castle of William, "Château Guillaume-Le-Conquérant", in Falaise, Calvados, France.

By his father's will, William succeeded him as Duke of Normandy at age seven in 1035 and was known as Duke William of Normandy. Plots by rival Norman noblemen to usurp his place cost William three guardians, though not Count [Alan III of Brittany](#), who was a later guardian. William was supported by King [Henry I of France](#), however. He was knighted by Henry at age 15. By the time William turned 19 he was successfully dealing with threats of rebellion and invasion. With the assistance of Henry, William finally secured control of Normandy by defeating rebel Norman barons at [Caen](#) in the [Battle of Val-ès-Dunes](#) in 1047, obtaining the [Truce of God](#), which was backed by the [Roman Catholic Church](#).

Against the wishes of [Pope Leo IX](#), William married [Matilda of Flanders](#) in 1053 in the chapel at [Eu](#), Normandy ([Seine-Maritime](#)). At the time, William was about 24 years old and Matilda was 22. William is said to have been a faithful and loving husband, and their marriage produced four sons and six daughters. In repentance for what was a consanguine marriage (they were distant cousins), William donated St-Stephen's church (l'[Abbaye-aux-Hommes](#)) and Matilda donated Sainte-Trinité church ([Abbaye aux Dames](#)).

English succession

Upon the death of the childless [Edward the Confessor](#), the English throne was fiercely disputed by three claimants -- William, [Harold Godwinson](#), the powerful Earl of [Wessex](#), and the [Viking](#) King [Harald III of Norway](#), known as Harald Hardrada. William had a tenuous blood claim through his great aunt [Emma](#) (wife of Ethelred and mother of Edward). William also contended that Edward, who had spent much of his life in exile in Normandy during the Danish occupation of England, had promised him the throne when he visited Edward in London in 1052. Further, William claimed that Harold had pledged allegiance to him in 1064: William had rescued the shipwrecked Harold from the count of [Ponthieu](#), and together they had defeated [Conan II](#), Count of [Brittany](#). On that occasion, William had knighted Harold; he had also, however, deceived Harold by having him swear loyalty to William himself over the concealed bones of a saint.^[6]

In January 1066, however, in accordance with Edward's last will and by vote of the [Witenagemot](#), Harold Godwinson was crowned King by Archbishop [Aldred](#).

Norman Invasion

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

Battle of Hastings

Death of [Harold Godwinson](#) in the Battle of Hastings, as shown on the [Bayeux Tapestry](#).



Harold, after defeating his brother Tostig and Harald Hardrada in the north, marched his army 241 miles to meet the invading William in the south. On 13 October, William received news of Harold's march from London. At dawn the next day, William left the castle with his army and advanced towards the enemy. Harold had taken a defensive position at the top of Senlac Hill/Senlac ridge, about seven miles from [Hastings](#), at present-day [Battle, East Sussex](#).

The Battle of Hastings lasted all day. Although the numbers on each side were about equal, William had both cavalry and infantry, including many archers, while Harold had only foot soldiers and few if any archers.^[9] Along the ridge's border, formed as a wall of shields, the English soldiers at first stood so effectively that William's army was thrown back with heavy casualties. William rallied his troops, however -- reportedly raising his helmet, as shown in the Bayeux Tapestry, to quell rumors of his death. Meanwhile, many of the English had pursued the fleeing Normans on foot, allowing the Norman cavalry to attack them repeatedly from the rear as his infantry pretended to retreat further.^[10] Norman arrows also took their toll, progressively weakening the English wall of shields. A final Norman cavalry attack decided the battle irrevocably, resulting in the death of Harold who, legend says, was killed by an arrow in the eye. Two of his brothers, Gyrth and Leofwine Godwinson, were killed as well. At dusk, the English army made their last stand. By that night, the Norman victory was complete and the remaining English soldiers fled in fear.

March to London

English coin of William the Conqueror (1066-1087).

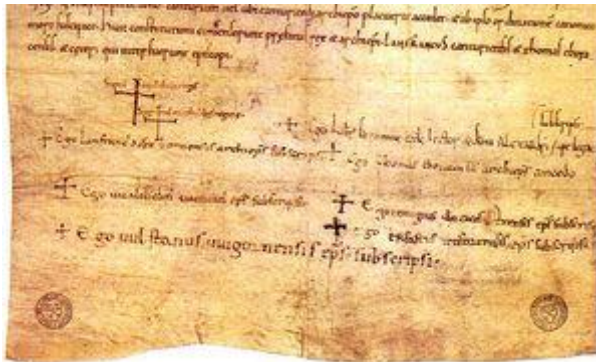


For two weeks, William waited for a formal surrender of the English throne, but the [Witenagemot](#) proclaimed the quite young [Edgar Ætheling](#) King instead, though without coronation. Thus, William's next target was London, approaching through the important territories of [Kent](#), via [Dover](#) and [Canterbury](#), inspiring fear in the English. However, at London, William's advance was beaten back at [London Bridge](#), and he decided to march westward and to storm London from the northwest. After receiving continental reinforcements, William crossed the [Thames](#) at [Wallingford](#), and there he forced the surrender of Archbishop [Stigand](#) (one of Edgar's lead supporters), in early December. William reached [Berkhamsted](#) a few days later where Ætheling relinquished the English crown personally and the exhausted Saxon noblemen of England surrendered definitively. Although William was acclaimed then as

English King, he requested a coronation in London. As William I, he was formally crowned on [Christmas day](#) 1066, in [Westminster Abbey](#), by Archbishop [Aldred](#).^[6]

Reforms

The signatures of William I and Matilda are the first two large crosses on the [Accord of Winchester](#) from 1072.



William also ordered many [castles](#), [keeps](#), and [mottes](#), among them the [Tower of London's](#) foundation (the [White Tower](#)), to be built throughout England. These ensured effectively that the many rebellions by the English people or his own followers did not succeed.

William I built the central White Tower in the [Tower of London](#).



Death, burial, and succession

William died at age 59 at the [Convent of St Gervais](#) in [Rouen](#), capital city of Normandie, France, on 9 September 1087. William was [buried](#) in the [Abbaye-aux-Hommes](#), in [Caen](#), [Normandy](#).

According to some sources, a fire broke out during the funeral; the original owner of the land on which the church was built claimed he had not been paid yet, demanding 60 [shillings](#), which William's son and successor Henry had to pay on the spot; and, in a most unregal postmortem, William's [corpulent](#) body would not fit in the stone [sarcophagus](#).

The grave was defiled twice, once during the [French Wars of Religion](#), when his bones were scattered across the town of [Caen](#), and again during the [French Revolution](#). Following those events, only William's left femur remains in the tomb and some skin particles.

No authentic portrait of William has been found. Nonetheless, he was depicted as a man of fair stature with remarkably strong arms, "with which he could shoot a [bow](#) at full gallop". William showed a magnificent appearance, possessing a fierce countenance. He enjoyed an excellent health until old age; nevertheless his noticeable [corpulence](#) in later life increased eventually so much that French King [Philip I](#) commented that William looked like a pregnant woman.^[18] Examination of his femur, his only bone to survive when the rest of his remains were destroyed, showed he was approximately 5' 10" tall.

Henry I of England

Henry I (c. 1068/1069 – 1 December 1135) was the fourth son of [William I the Conqueror](#). He succeeded his elder brother [William II](#) as [King of England](#) in 1100 and defeated his eldest brother, [Robert Curthose](#), to become [Duke of Normandy](#) in 1106. Henry's reign is noted for its political opportunism. His succession was confirmed while his brother Robert was away on the [First Crusade](#) and the beginning of his reign was occupied by wars with Robert for control of England and Normandy. He successfully reunited the two realms again after their separation on his father's death in 1087. Upon his succession he granted the baronage a [Charter of Liberties](#), which formed a basis for subsequent challenges to rights of kings and presaged [Magna Carta](#), which subjected the King to law.

Miniature from illuminated Chronicle of Matthew Paris



Early life

Henry was born between May 1068 and May 1069, probably in [Selby, Yorkshire](#) in the north east of [England](#). His mother, [Queen Matilda](#), was descended from [Alfred the Great](#) (but not through the main West Saxon Royal line). Queen Matilda named the infant Prince *Henry*, after her uncle, [Henry I of France](#). As the youngest son of the family, he was almost certainly expected to become a Bishop and was given rather more extensive schooling than was usual for a young nobleman of that time. The Chronicler [William of Malmesbury](#) asserts that Henry once remarked that an illiterate King was a crowned ass. He was certainly the first Norman ruler to be fluent in the [English language](#).

William I's second son [Richard](#) was killed in a hunting accident in 1081, so William bequeathed his dominions to his three surviving sons in the following manner:

- [Robert](#) received the [Duchy of Normandy](#) and became Duke Robert II
- [William Rufus](#) received the [Kingdom of England](#) and became King William II
- [Henry Beauclerc](#) received 5,000 pounds in silver

The Chronicler [Orderic Vitalis](#) reports that the old King had declared to Henry: "*You in your own time will have all the dominions I have acquired and be greater than both your brothers in wealth and power.*"

Henry tried to play his brothers off against each other but eventually, wary of his devious manoeuvring, they acted together and signed an Accession Treaty. This sought to bar Prince Henry from both Thrones by stipulating that if either King William or Duke Robert died without an heir, the two dominions of their father would be reunited under the surviving brother.

Seizing the throne of England

When, on [2 August 1100](#), William II was killed by an arrow in yet another hunting accident in the New Forest, Duke Robert had not yet returned from the [First Crusade](#). His absence allowed Prince Henry to seize the Royal Treasury at [Winchester, Hampshire](#), where he buried his dead brother. There are suspicions that, on hearing that Robert was returning alive from his crusade with a new bride, Henry decided to act and arranged the murder of William by the French Vexin [Walter Tirel](#).^[1] Thus he succeeded to the throne of England, guaranteeing his succession in defiance of William and Robert's earlier agreement. Henry was accepted as King by the leading [Barons](#) and was crowned three days later on [5 August](#) at [Westminster Abbey](#). He secured his position among the nobles by an act of political appeasement: he issued a Charter of Liberties which is considered a forerunner of the [Magna Carta](#).

First marriage

On [11 November 1100](#) Henry married [Edith](#), daughter of [King Malcolm III](#) of Scotland. Since Edith was also the niece of [Edgar Atheling](#) and the great-granddaughter of [Edward the Confessor](#)'s paternal half-brother [Edmund Ironside](#), the marriage united the Norman line with the old English line of Kings. The marriage greatly displeased the Norman Barons, however, and as a concession to their sensibilities Edith changed her name to Matilda upon becoming Queen. The other side of this coin, however, was that Henry, by dint of his marriage, became far more acceptable to the Anglo-Saxon populace.

The chronicler William of Malmesbury described Henry thus: "*He was of middle stature, greater than the small, but exceeded by the very tall; his hair was black and set back upon the forehead; his eyes mildly bright; his chest brawny; his body fleshy.*"

Conquest of Normandy

In the following year, 1101, [Robert Curthose](#), Henry's eldest brother, attempted to seize the crown by invading England. In the [Treaty of Alton](#), Robert agreed to recognise his brother Henry as King of England and return peacefully to [Normandy](#), upon receipt of an annual sum of 2000 silver marks, which Henry proceeded to pay.

In 1105, to eliminate the continuing threat from Robert and the drain on his fiscal resources from the annual payment, Henry led an expeditionary force across the [English Channel](#).

Battle of Tinchebray

On the morning of 28 September 1106, exactly 40 years after William had made his way to England, the decisive battle between his two surviving sons, Robert Curthose and Henry Beauclerc, took place in the small village of Tinchebray. This combat was totally unexpected and unprepared. Henry and his army were marching south from Barfleur on their way to Domfront and Robert was marching with his army from Falaise on their way to Mortain. They met at the crossroads at Tinchebray and the running battle which ensued was spread out over several kilometres. The site where most of the fighting took place is the village playing field today. Towards evening Robert tried to retreat but was captured by Henry's men at a place three kilometres (just under two miles) north of Tinchebray where a farm named "Prise" (taken) stands today on the D22 road. The tombstones of three knights are nearby on the same road.

King of England and Ruler of Normandy

After Henry had defeated his brother's Norman army at Tinchebray he imprisoned Robert, initially in the [Tower of London](#), subsequently at Devizes Castle and later at Cardiff. One day whilst out riding Robert attempted to escape from Cardiff but his horse was bogged down in a swamp and he was recaptured. To prevent further escapes Henry had Robert's eyes burnt out. Henry appropriated the [Duchy of Normandy](#) as a possession of the Kingdom of [England](#) and reunited his father's dominions. Even after taking control of the Duchy of Normandy he didn't take the title of Duke, he chose to control it as the King of England.

Activities as a King

Henry I depicted in *Cassell's History of England* (1902)



Henry's need for finance to consolidate his position led to an increase in the activities of centralized government. As King, Henry carried out social and judicial reforms, including:

- issuing the Charter of Liberties
- restoring the laws of [Edward the Confessor](#).

Between 1103 and 1107 Henry was involved in a dispute with [Anselm](#), the [Archbishop of Canterbury](#), and [Pope Paschal II](#) in the [investiture controversy](#), which was settled in the [Concordat of London](#) in 1107. It was a compromise. In England, a distinction was made in the King's chancery between the secular and ecclesiastical powers of the prelates. Employing the distinction, Henry

gave up his right to invest his bishops and abbots, but reserved the custom of requiring them to come and do homage for the "[temporalities](#)" (the landed properties tied to the episcopate), directly from his hand, after the bishop had sworn homage and feudal vassalage in the ceremony called *commendatio*, the [commendation ceremony](#), like any secular vassal.

Henry was also known for some brutal acts. He once threw a traitorous burgher named Conan Pilatus from the tower of Rouen; the tower was known from then on as "Conan's Leap". In another instance that took place in 1119, Henry's son-in-law, Eustace de Pacy, and Ralph Harnec, the constable of [Ivry](#), exchanged their children as hostages. When Eustace blinded Harnec's son, Harnec demanded vengeance. King Henry allowed Harnec to blind and mutilate Eustace's two daughters, who were also Henry's own grandchildren. Eustace and his wife, Juliane, were outraged and threatened to rebel. Henry arranged to meet his daughter at a parley at Breteuil, only for Juliane to draw a crossbow and attempt to assassinate her father. She was captured and confined to the castle, but escaped by leaping from a window into the moat below. Some years later Henry was reconciled with his daughter and son-in-law.

Legitimate children

He had two children by Matilda (Edith), who died on [1 May 1118](#) at the palace of Westminster. She was buried in Westminster Abbey.

1. [Matilda](#). (c. February 1102 – [10 September 1167](#)). She married firstly [Henry V, Holy Roman Emperor](#), and secondly, [Geoffrey V, Count of Anjou](#), having issue by the second.
2. [William Adelin](#), ([5 August 1103](#) – [25 November 1120](#)). He married Matilda (d.1154), daughter of [Fulk V, Count of Anjou](#).

Second marriage

On [29 January 1121](#) he married [Adeliza](#), daughter of [Godfrey I of Leuven](#), [Duke](#) of Lower Lotharingia and [Landgrave](#) of [Brabant](#), but there were no children from this marriage. Left without male heirs, Henry took the unprecedented step of making his barons swear to accept his daughter [Empress Matilda](#), widow of [Henry V, the Holy Roman Emperor](#), as his heir.

Death and legacy



Reading Abbey

Henry died on [1 December 1135](#) of [food poisoning](#) from eating "a surfeit of [lampreys](#)" (of which he was excessively fond) at Saint-Denis-en-Lyons (now [Lyons-la-Forêt](#)) in Normandy. His remains were sewn into the hide of a bull to preserve them on the journey, and then taken back to England and were buried at [Reading Abbey](#), which he had founded fourteen years before. The Abbey was destroyed during the [Protestant Reformation](#). No trace of his tomb has survived, the probable site being covered by St James' School. Nearby is a small [plaque](#) and a large memorial cross stands in the adjoining [Forbury Gardens](#).

Plaque indicating burial-place of Henry I



Empress Matilda

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

Matilda of England Empress consort of the Holy Roman Empire



As a child, Matilda was betrothed and later married to [Henry V, Holy Roman Emperor](#). From her marriage to Henry, she acquired the title *Empress*. The couple had no known children. When widowed, she was married to the much younger [Geoffrey of Anjou](#), by whom she became the mother of three sons, the eldest of whom became King [Henry II of England](#).

Matilda was the first female ruler of the [Kingdom of England](#). However the length of her effective rule was quite brief — a few months in 1141 — and she was never crowned and failed to consolidate her rule (legally and politically). Because of this she is normally excluded from lists of English monarchs, and her rival (and cousin) [Stephen of Blois](#) is routinely listed as monarch for the period 1135-1154. Their warring rivalry for the throne led to years of unrest and civil war in England that have been called [The Anarchy](#). She did secure her inheritance of the [Duchy of Normandy](#) — through the military feats of her husband Geoffrey — and she campaigned

unstintingly for her oldest son's inheritance, living to see him ascend the throne in 1154.

Early life

Matilda was the firstborn of two children to [Henry I of England](#) and his wife [Matilda of Scotland](#) (also known as Edith). Her maternal grandparents were [Malcolm III of Scotland](#) and [Saint Margaret of Scotland](#). Margaret was daughter of [Edward the Exile](#) and granddaughter of [Edmund II of England](#). (Most historians believe Matilda was born at [Winchester](#), but one, [John Fletcher](#) (1990), argues for the possibility of the royal palace at [Sutton Courtenay](#) in [Oxfordshire](#).)

First marriage: Holy Roman Empress

When she was seven years old, Matilda was [betrothed](#) to [Henry V, Holy Roman Emperor](#); at nine, she was sent to [Germany](#) to begin training for the life of Empress [consort](#). The royal couple were married at [Worms](#) on January 7, 1114, and Matilda accompanied her husband on tours to

[Rome](#) and [Tuscany](#). After time, the young wife of the Emperor acted as [regent](#), mainly in Italy, in his absence^[2]. Emperor Henry died in 1125. The imperial couple had no surviving offspring, but [Herman of Tournai](#) states that Matilda bore a son who lived only a short while.

In 1120 her brother [William Adelin](#) was drowned in the disastrous wreck of the [White Ship](#), which left Matilda as the only legitimate child of her father [King Henry](#). Like Matilda, her cousin [Stephen of Blois](#) was a grandchild of [William \(the Conqueror\) of Normandy](#); but her paternal line made her senior in right of succession to his maternal line.

Struggle for throne of England

On the death of her father, Henry I, in 1135, Matilda expected to succeed to the throne of [England](#), but her cousin, [Stephen of Blois](#), a nephew of Henry I, usurped the throne with the support of most of the barons, breaking the oath he had previously made to defend her rights. The [civil war which followed](#) was bitter and prolonged, with neither side gaining the ascendancy for long, but it was not until 1139 that Matilda could command the military strength necessary to challenge Stephen within his own realm. Stephen's wife, the Countess of Boulogne who was also named [Matilda](#), was the Empress's maternal cousin. During the war, Matilda's most loyal and capable supporter was her illegitimate half-brother, [Robert, 1st Earl of Gloucester](#).

Matilda's greatest triumph came in April 1141, when her forces defeated and captured King Stephen at the [Battle of Lincoln](#). He was made a prisoner and effectively deposed.

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

Later life

Matilda's first son, [Henry](#), was showing signs of becoming a successful leader. Although the civil war had been decided in Stephen's favour, his reign was troubled. In 1153, the death of his son Eustace, combined with the arrival of a military expedition led by Henry, led him to acknowledge the latter as his heir by the [Treaty of Wallingford](#).

Although she gave up hope of being crowned in 1141, her name always preceded that of her son Henry, even after he became king. Matilda died at Notre Dame du Pré near Rouen and was buried in the Abbey church of Bec-Hellouin, Normandy. Her body was transferred to the [Rouen Cathedral](#) in 1847; her [epitaph](#) reads: "*Great by Birth, Greater by Marriage, Greatest in her Offspring: Here lies Matilda, the daughter, wife, and mother of Henry.*"

Henry II of England

Henry II, called *Curtmantle* (5 March 1133 – 6 July 1189) ruled as [King of England](#) (1154–1189), [Count of Anjou](#), [Duke of Normandy](#), [Duke of Aquitaine](#), [Duke of Gascony](#), [Count of Nantes](#), [Lord of Ireland](#) and, at various times, controlled parts of Wales, Scotland and western France. Henry was the first of the [House of Plantagenet](#) to rule England and was the great-grandson of [William the Conqueror](#). Henry was the first to use the title "king of England"

Henry II Curmantle, King of England



Early life

Henry II was born in [Le Mans](#), France, on 5 March 1133, the first day of the traditional year.^[1] His father, [Geoffrey V of Anjou](#) (Geoffrey Plantagenet, son of [Fulk of Jerusalem](#)), was [Count of Anjou](#) and [Count of Maine](#). His mother, [Empress Matilda](#), was a claimant to the English throne as the daughter of [Henry I](#) (1100–1135), son of [William, Duke of Normandy](#). Although Henry's father was not a king, He carried in him the blood of the Kings of Scots as well as that of the ancient Saxon kings.

Marriage and children

On 18 May 1152, at [Poitiers](#)^[2], at the age of 19, Henry married [Eleanor of Aquitaine](#). The wedding was "without the pomp or ceremony that befitted their rank,"^[3] partly because only two months previously Eleanor's marriage to [Louis VII of France](#) had been annulled. Their relationship, always stormy, eventually died: After Eleanor encouraged her children to rebel against their father in 1173, Henry had her placed under house arrest, where she remained for fifteen years.^[4]

Henry and Eleanor had eight children, [William](#), [Henry](#), [Richard](#), [Geoffrey](#), [John](#), [Matilda](#), [Eleanor](#), and [Joan](#). William died in infancy. As a result Henry was crowned as joint king when he came of age. However, because he was never King in his own right, he is known as "[Henry the Young King](#)", not Henry III. In theory, Henry would have inherited the throne from his father, Richard his mother's possessions, Geoffrey would have [Brittany](#) and John would be [Lord of Ireland](#). However, fate would ultimately decide much differently.

Character

Like his grandfather, [Henry I of England](#), Henry II had an outstanding knowledge of the law. A talented linguist and excellent Latin speaker, he would sit on councils in person whenever

possible. His interest in the economy was reflected in his own frugal lifestyle. He dressed casually except when tradition dictated otherwise and ate a sparing diet.^[9]

He was modest and mixed with all classes easily. "He does not take upon himself to think high thoughts, his tongue never swells with elated language; he does not magnify himself as more than man."^[10] His generosity was well-known and he employed a [Templar](#) to distribute one tenth of all the food bought to the royal court amongst his poorest subjects.

Henry also had a good sense of humour and was never upset at being the butt of the joke. Once while he sat sulking and occupying himself with needlework, a courtier suggested that such behavior was to be expected from a descendant of the bastard son of a tanner's daughter (referring to his great-grandparents [William the Conqueror](#) and [Matilda of Flanders](#)). The king rocked with laughter and even explained the joke to those who did not immediately grasp it.^[11]

In contrast, the king's temper has been written about. His actions against [Thomas Becket](#) are evidence of his blinding temper, along with his conflict with [William I of Scotland](#).^[12]

Construction of an empire

Henry's claims by blood and marriage

Henry II depicted in *Cassell's History of England* (1902).



Henry's father, [Geoffrey Plantagenet](#), held rich lands as a vassal from [Louis VII of France](#). [Maine](#) and [Anjou](#) were therefore Henry's by birthright, amongst other lands in Western France.^[3] By maternal claim, Normandy was also to be his. However, the most valuable inheritance Henry received from his mother was a claim to the English throne. Granddaughter of [William I of England](#), [Empress Matilda](#) should have been Queen, but was [usurped](#) by her cousin, [Stephen I of England](#). Henry's efforts to restore the royal line to his own family would create a dynasty spanning three centuries and thirteen Kings.

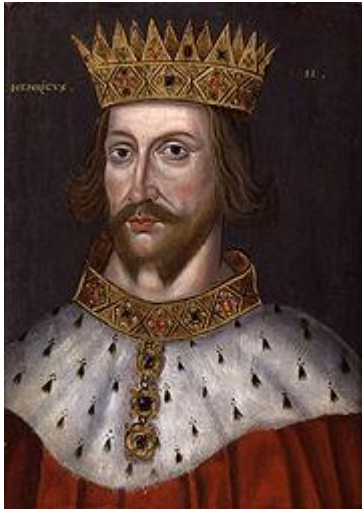
Henry's marriage to [Eleanor of Aquitaine](#) placed him firmly in the ascendancy.^[3] His plentiful lands were added to his new wife's possessions, giving him control of [Aquitaine](#) and [Gascony](#). The riches of the markets and vineyards in these regions,

combined with Henry's already plentiful holdings, made Henry the most powerful vassal in France.

Religious policy

Strengthening royal control over the Church

In the tradition of [Norman](#) kings, Henry II was keen to dominate the church like the state. At Clarendon Palace on 30 January 1164, the King set out [sixteen constitutions](#), aimed at decreasing ecclesiastical interference from Rome. Secular courts, increasingly under the King's influence, would also have jurisdiction over clerical trials and disputes. Henry's authority guaranteed him majority support, but the newly appointed Archbishop of Canterbury refused to ratify the proposals.



Artist's impression of Henry II, circa 1620

Henry was characteristically stubborn and on 8 October 1164, he called the Archbishop, [Thomas Becket](#), before the [Royal Council](#). However, Becket had fled to France and was under the protection of Henry's rival, [Louis VII of France](#).

The King continued doggedly in his pursuit of control over his clerics, to the point where his religious policy became detrimental to his subjects. By 1170, the Pope was considering [excommunicating](#) all of Britain. Only Henry's agreement that Becket could return to England without penalty prevented this fate.

Civil war and rebellion

In 1182, the Plantagenet children's aggression turned inward. Young Henry, Richard and their brother Geoffrey all began fighting each other for their father's possessions on the continent. The situation was exacerbated by French rebels and the French King, [Philip Augustus](#). This was the most serious threat to come from within the family yet, and the King faced the dynastic tragedy of civil war. However, on 11 June 1183, [Henry the Young King](#) died. The uprising, which had been built around the Prince, promptly collapsed and the remaining brothers returned to their individual lands. Henry quickly occupied the rebel region of [Angoulême](#) to keep the peace.^[6]

Death and succession

Weak, ill, and deserted by all but an illegitimate son, [Geoffrey, Archbishop of York](#), Henry died at [Chinon](#) on 6 July 1189. His legitimate children, chroniclers record him saying, were "the real bastards."^[20] The victorious Prince Richard later paid his respects to Henry's corpse as it travelled to [Fontevraud Abbey](#), upon which, according to Roger of Wendover, 'blood flowed from the nostrils of the deceased, as if...indignant at the presence of the one who was believed to have caused his death'. The Prince, Henry's eldest surviving son and conqueror, was crowned "by the grace of God, [King Richard I of England](#)" at Westminster on 1 September 1189.

John of England

King John of England (24 December 1166 – 19 October 1216^[1]) reigned as [King of England](#) from 6 April 1199, until his death. He acceded to the throne as the younger brother of King [Richard I](#), who died without issue. John was the youngest of five sons of King [Henry II of England](#) and [Eleanor, Duchess of Aquitaine](#), and was their second surviving son to ascend the throne; thus, he was a [Plantagenet](#) or [Angevin](#) king of England.

John from the Historia Anglorum

During his lifetime John acquired two epithets. One was "Lackland" ([French](#): *Sans Terre*), because, as his father's youngest son, he did not inherit land out of his family's holdings, and because as king he lost English territories to [France](#). The other was "Soft-sword", for his alleged military ineptitude.^[2]

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

John on a stag hunt, from *De Rege Johanne*.



Before his accession, John had already acquired a reputation for treachery, having conspired sometimes with and sometimes against his elder brothers, Henry, Richard and Geoffrey. In 1184, John and Richard both claimed that they were the rightful heir to Aquitaine, one of many unfriendly encounters between the two. In 1185, John [became the ruler of Ireland](#), whose people grew to despise him, causing John to leave after only eight months.

Reign

.In the hope of avoiding trouble in England and Wales while he was away fighting to recover his [French](#) lands, in 1205, John formed an alliance by marrying off his illegitimate daughter, [Joan](#), to the [Welsh](#) prince [Llywelyn the Great](#).

As part of the war, Arthur attempted to [kidnap](#) his own grandmother, Eleanor of Aquitaine, at Mirebeau, but was defeated and captured by John's forces. Arthur was imprisoned first at Falaise and then at Rouen. No one is certain what happened to Arthur after that. According to the annals of [Margam Abbey](#), Wales, where John would lodge on his trips between England and Ireland: On 3 April 1203

"After King John had captured Arthur and kept him alive in prison for some time in the castle of Rouen... when John was drunk he slew Arthur with his own hand and tying a heavy stone to the body cast it into the [Seine](#)."^{[\[citation needed\]](#)}

However, [Hubert de Burgh](#), the officer commanding the Rouen fortress, claimed to have delivered Arthur around [Easter](#) 1203 to agents of the King sent to [castrate](#) him and that Arthur had died of [shock](#). Hubert later retracted his statement and claimed Arthur still lived, but no one saw Arthur alive again, and the supposition that he was murdered caused [Brittany](#), and later Normandy, to rebel against King John.

Besides Arthur, John also captured his niece, [Eleanor, Fair Maid of Brittany](#). Eleanor remained a prisoner the rest of her life (which ended in 1241); through deeds such as these, John acquired a reputation for ruthlessness.

Dealings with Bordeaux

In 1203, John exempted the citizens and merchants of [Bordeaux](#) from the [Grande Coutume](#), which was the principal tax on their exports. In exchange, the regions of Bordeaux, [Bayonne](#) and [Dax](#) pledged support against the French Crown. The unblocked ports gave Gascon merchants open access to the English wine market for the first time. The following year, John granted the same exemptions to [La Rochelle](#) and [Poitou](#).^{[\[4\]](#)}

Death



John's tomb effigy

Retreating from the French invasion, John took a safe route around the marshy area of [the Wash](#) to avoid the rebel held area of [East Anglia](#). His slow baggage train (including the [Crown Jewels](#)), however, took a direct route across it and was lost to the unexpected incoming tide. This dealt John a terrible blow, which affected his health and state of mind. Succumbing to [dysentery](#) and moving from place to place, he stayed one night at [Sleaford Castle](#) before dying on [18 October](#) (or possibly [19 October](#)) 1216, at [Newark Castle](#) (then in [Lincolnshire](#), now on [Nottinghamshire](#)'s border with that county). Numerous, possibly fictitious, accounts circulated soon after his death that he had been killed by poisoned ale, poisoned plums or a "surfeit of peaches".^{[\[9\]](#)[\[10\]](#)}

He was buried in [Worcester Cathedral](#) in the city of [Worcester](#).

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

Legacy

King John's tomb



King John's reign has been traditionally characterised as one of the most disastrous in English history: it began with defeats—he lost [Normandy](#) to [Philip Augustus](#) of France in his first five years on the throne—and ended with England torn by [civil war](#) and himself on the verge of being forced out of power. In 1213, he made England a [papal fief](#) to resolve a conflict with the [Roman Catholic Church](#), and his rebellious barons forced him to sign [Magna Carta](#) in 1215, the act for which he is best remembered.

In 2006, he was selected by the [BBC History Magazine](#) as the 13th century's [worst Briton](#).^[12]

King John as shown in Cassell's History of England (1902)



Depictions in fiction

These reflect the overwhelming view of his reputation:

- King John was the subject of a [Shakespearean](#) play, [King John](#).
- King John is a central figure in the 1819 historical romance [Ivanhoe](#), by Sir [Walter Scott](#).
- [Philip José Farmer](#), a [science fiction](#) author, featured King John as one of several historical figures in his [Riverworld Saga](#).
- John and one of his [Justices in Eyre](#), the [Sheriff of Nottingham](#), are portrayed as [villain](#) and henchman in the Robin Hood legends. These usually place the Robin

Hood stories in the latter part of Richard I's reign, when Richard was in captivity and John was acting as unofficial [regent](#).

- The animated [Prince John](#) in the 1973 [Disney](#) movie [Robin Hood](#), in which he is depicted as an [anthropomorphic](#) lion voiced by [Peter Ustinov](#), who sucks his thumb and cries for his "mummy" whenever Robin Hood (a [fox](#)) steals his gold. In one scene, he laments, "Mother always did like Richard best".

Henry III of England

Henry III (1 October 1207 – 16 November 1272) was the son and successor of [John "Lackland"](#) as [King of England](#), reigning for fifty-six years from 1216 to his death. His contemporaries knew him as **Henry of Winchester**. He was the first child king in England since the reign of [Ethelred the Unready](#). England prospered during his century and his greatest monument is [Westminster](#), which he made the seat of his government and where he expanded the abbey as a shrine to [Edward the Confessor](#).

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



He assumed the crown under the [regency](#) of the popular [William Marshal](#), but the England he inherited had undergone several drastic changes in the reign of his father. He spent much of his reign fighting the barons over [Magna Carta](#) and the royal rights, and was eventually forced to call the first "[parliament](#)" in 1264. He was also unsuccessful on the Continent, where he endeavoured to re-establish English control over [Normandy](#), [Anjou](#), and [Aquitaine](#).

Coronation

Henry III was born in 1207 at [Winchester Castle](#). He was the son of King John and [Isabella of Angoulême](#). The coronation was a simple affair, attended by only a handful of noblemen and three bishops. In the absence of a crown a simple golden band was placed on the young boy's head, not by the [Archbishop of Canterbury](#) (who was at this time supporting [Prince Louis](#) of [France](#), the newly-proclaimed king of [France](#)) but rather by the [Bishop of Gloucester](#). In 1220, a second coronation was ordered by [Pope Honorius III](#) who did not consider that the first had been carried out in accordance with church rites. This occurred on 17 May 1220 in [Westminster Abbey](#).^[1]

Under John's rule, the [barons](#) had supported an [invasion](#) by Prince Louis because they disliked the way that John had ruled the country. However, they quickly saw that the young prince was a safer option. Henry's [regents](#) immediately declared their intention to rule by [Magna Carta](#), which they proceeded to do during Henry's minority. Magna Carta was reissued in 1217 as a sign of goodwill to the barons and the country was ruled by regents until 1227.

Wars and rebellions

In 1244, when the Scots threatened to invade England, King Henry III visited [York Castle](#) and ordered it rebuilt in stone. The work commenced in 1245, and took some 20 to 25 years to complete. The builders crowned the existing moat with a stone keep, known as the King's Tower.

Henry's reign came to be marked by civil strife as the English barons, led by [Simon de Montfort](#), demanded more say in the running of the kingdom. French-born de Montfort had originally been one of the foreign upstarts so loathed by many as Henry's foreign counsellors. Henry, in an outburst of anger, accused Simon of seducing his sister and forcing him to give her to Simon to avoid a scandal. When confronted by the Barons about the secret marriage that Henry had allowed to happen, a feud developed between the two. Their relationship reached a crisis in the 1250s when de Montfort was brought up on spurious charges for actions he took as lieutenant of [Gascony](#), the last remaining Plantagenet land across the [English Channel](#). He was acquitted by the [Peers of the realm](#), much to the King's displeasure.

Henry also became embroiled in funding a war in [Sicily](#) on behalf of the [Pope](#) in return for a title for his second son [Edmund](#), a state of affairs that made many barons fearful that Henry was following in the footsteps of his father, [King John](#), and needed to be kept in check, too. De Montfort became leader of those who wanted to reassert [Magna Carta](#) and force the king to surrender more power to the baronial council. In 1258, seven leading barons forced Henry to agree to the [Provisions of Oxford](#), which effectively abolished the absolutist [Anglo-Norman](#) monarchy, giving power to a council of fifteen barons to deal with the business of government and providing for a thrice-yearly meeting of [parliament](#) to monitor their performance. Henry was forced to take part in the swearing of a collective oath to the [Provisions of Oxford](#).

In the following years, those supporting de Montfort and those supporting the king grew more and more polarised. Henry obtained a papal bull in 1262 exempting him from his oath and both sides began to raise armies. The Royalists were led by [Prince Edward](#), Henry's eldest son. Civil war, known as the [Second Barons' War](#), followed.

The charismatic de Montfort and his forces had captured most of southeastern England by 1263, and at the [Battle of Lewes](#) on 14 May 1264, Henry was defeated and taken prisoner by de Montfort's army. While Henry was reduced to being a figurehead king, de Montfort broadened representation to include each county of England and many important towns—that is, to groups beyond the nobility. Henry and Edward continued under house arrest. The short period that followed was the closest England was to come to complete abolition of the [monarchy](#) until the [Commonwealth](#) period of 1649–1660 and many of the barons who had initially supported de Montfort began to suspect that he had gone too far with his reforming zeal.

The tomb of King Henry III in Westminster Abbey, London



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

Death

Henry's reign ended when he died in 1272, after which he was succeeded by his son, [Edward I](#). His body was laid, temporarily, in the tomb of Edward the Confessor while his own sarcophagus was constructed in [Westminster Abbey](#).

Attitudes and beliefs during his reign

As Henry reached maturity he was keen to restore royal authority, looking towards the autocratic model of the [French monarchy](#). Henry married [Eleanor of Provence](#) and he promoted many of his French relatives to higher positions of power and wealth. For instance, one [Poitevin](#), [Peter des Riveaux](#), held the offices of [Treasurer of the Household](#), Keeper of the King's Wardrobe, [Lord Privy Seal](#), and the [sheriffdoms](#) of twenty-one English counties simultaneously. Henry's tendency to govern for long periods with no publicly-appointed ministers who could be held accountable for their actions and decisions did not make matters any easier. Many English barons came to see his method of governing as foreign.

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



Appearance

According to [Nicholas Trevet](#), Henry was a thickset man of medium height with a narrow forehead and a drooping left eyelid (inherited by his son, [Edward I](#)).

Marriage and children

Married on 14 January 1236, [Canterbury Cathedral, Canterbury, Kent](#), to [Eleanor of Provence](#), with at least five children born:

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

Edward I of England

Edward I (17 June 1239 – 7 July 1307), popularly known as **Longshanks**, the **English Justinian**, and the **Hammer of the Scots** (*Scottorum malleus*),^[1] was a [Plantagenet King of England](#) who achieved historical fame by conquering large parts of [Wales](#) and almost succeeding in doing the same to [Scotland](#). However, his death led to his son [Edward II](#) taking the throne and ultimately failing in his attempt to subjugate Scotland. Longshanks reigned from 1272 to 1307, ascending the throne of [England](#) on 16 November, 1272 after the death of his father, King [Henry III](#). His mother was [queen consort Eleanor of Provence](#).

Portrait in Westminster Abbey, thought to be of Edward I



Edward was born at the [Palace of Westminster](#) on the night of 17/18 June 1239, to King [Henry III](#) and [Eleanor of Provence](#).^[2] Henry was devoted to the cult of [Edward the Confessor](#), and for this reason decided to name his firstborn son Edward – not a common name among the English aristocracy at the time.^[3]

Eleanor and Edward were married on 1 November 1254 in the monastery of [Las Huelgas](#) in Castile.^[11] They would go on to have at least fifteen (possibly sixteen) children,^[12] and her death in 1290 affected Edward deeply. He displayed his grief by erecting the [Eleanor crosses](#), one at each place where her funeral cortège stopped for the night.^[13] His second marriage (at the age of 60) at [Canterbury](#) on 10 September 1299, to [Marguerite of France](#) (aged 17 and known as the "Pearl of France" by her husband's English subjects), the daughter of King [Philip III of France](#) (Phillip the Bold) and [Maria of Brabant](#), produced three children.

Civil war

The years 1264–1267 saw the conflict known as the [Barons' War](#), where baronial forces led by Simon de Montfort fought against those who remained loyal to the king.^[28] The first scene of battle was the city of [Gloucester](#), which Edward managed to retake from the enemy. When [Robert de Ferrers, earl of Derby](#), came to the assistance of the rebels, Edward negotiated a truce with the earl, the terms of which he later broke. Edward then proceeded to capture [Northampton](#) from Montfort's son [Simon](#), before embarking on a retaliatory campaign against Derby's lands.^[29] The baronial and royalist forces finally met at the [Battle of Lewes](#), on 14 May 1264. Edward's forces performed well, but the king's army nevertheless lost the battle. Edward, along with his cousin Henry of Almain, was given up as prisoners to Montfort.^[30]

Edward remained in captivity until March, and even after his release he was kept under strict surveillance.^[31] Then, on 28 May, he managed to escape his custodians, and joined up with the [earl of Gloucester](#), who had recently defected to the king's side.^[32] Montfort's support was now dwindling, and Edward retook [Worcester](#) and Gloucester with relatively little effort.^[33] In the meanwhile, Montfort had made an alliance with Llywelyn, and started moving east to join forces with his son Simon. Edward managed to make a surprise attack at [Kenilworth Castle](#), where the younger Montfort was quartered, before moving on to cut off the earl of Leicester.^[34] The two forces then met at the second great encounter of the Barons' War – the [Battle of Evesham](#), on 4 August 1265. Montfort stood little chance against the superior royal forces, and after his defeat he was killed and mutilated in the field.^[35]



Medieval manuscript showing [Simon de Montfort](#)'s mutilated body at the field of [Evesham](#)

Administration and the law



A portrait of Edward I hangs in the [United States House of Representatives](#) chamber. It commemorates Edward's contribution to the Anglo-American legal system.

Edward's personal treasure, valued at over a year's worth of the kingdom's tax revenue, was stolen by [Richard of Pudlicott](#) in 1306, leading to one of the largest criminal trials of the period.

Welsh wars

When war broke out again in 1282, it was an entirely different undertaking. For the Welsh this was a war of national independence with wide support, provoked particularly by attempts to impose [English law](#) on Welsh subjects.^[89] For Edward it became a war of conquest rather than simply a [punitive expedition](#), like the former campaign.^[90] The war started with a rebellion by Dafydd, who was discontented with the reward he had received from Edward in 1277.^[91] Llywelyn and other Welsh chieftains soon joined in, and initially the Welsh experienced military success. In June, Gloucester was defeated at the [Battle of Llandeilo Fawr](#).



The Llywelyn Monument at Cilmeri which marks the battle of Orewin Bridge

On 6 November, while [John Peckham](#), [archbishop of Canterbury](#), was conducting peace negotiations, Edward's commander of [Anglesey](#), [Luke de Tany](#), decided to carry out a surprise attack. A [pontoon bridge](#) had been built to the mainland, but shortly after Tany and his men crossed over, they were ambushed by the Welsh, and suffered heavy losses at the [Battle of Moel-y-don](#).^[93] The Welsh advances ended on December 11, however, when Llywelyn was lured into a trap and killed at the [Battle of Orewin Bridge](#).^[94] The submission of Wales was complete with the capture in June 1283 of Dafydd, who was taken to [Shrewsbury](#) and executed as a traitor the following autumn.^[95]

[Caernarfon Castle](#), one of the most imposing of Edward's Welsh castles.

An extensive [project](#) of castle-building was also initiated. In 1284, King Edward's son Edward – the later [Edward II](#) – was born at Caernarfon Castle, and it was also here, in 1301, that the young Edward was the first English prince to be invested with the title of Prince of Wales.^[100]



Homage of Edward I (kneeling) to [Philip IV](#) (seated). As



[Duke of Aquitaine](#), Edward was a [vassal](#) of the French king.

After the fall of Acre, Edward's international role changed from that of a diplomat to an antagonist. He had long been deeply involved in the affairs of his own dukedom of Gascony. In 1278 he assigned an investigating commission to his trusted associates [Otto de Grandson](#) and the chancellor Robert Burnell, which caused the replacement of the seneschal Luke de Tany.^[105] In 1286 he visited the region himself, and stayed for almost three years.^[106] The perennial problem, however, was the status of Gascony within the kingdom of France, and Edward's role as the French king's vassal. On his diplomatic mission in 1286, Edward had paid homage to

the new king, [Philip IV](#), but in 1294 Philip declared Gascony forfeit when Edward refused to appear before the [Parlement](#) of [Paris](#) to answer certain charges.

Later reign and death

Reconstruction of Edward I apartments at the [Tower of London](#)



Edward's later life was fraught with difficulty, as he lost his beloved first wife Eleanor and his heir failed to develop the expected kingly character.

Edward's plan to conquer Scotland ultimately failed. In 1307 he died at [Burgh-by-Sands](#), [Cumberland](#) on the Scottish border, while on his way to wage another campaign against the Scots under the leadership of [Robert the Bruce](#). According to a later chronicler tradition, Edward asked to have his bones carried on future military campaigns in Scotland. More credible

and contemporary writers reported that the king's last request was to have his heart taken to the [Holy Land](#). All that is certain is that Edward was buried in [Westminster Abbey](#) in a plain black marble tomb, which in later years was painted with the words *Edwardus Primus Scottorum malleus hic est, pactum serva*, (*Here is Edward I, Hammer of the Scots. Keep Troth*).^[111]

On 2 January, 1774, the [Society of Antiquaries](#) opened the coffin and discovered that his body had been perfectly preserved for 467 years. His body was measured to be 6 feet 2 inches (188 cm) hence the nickname "Longshanks" meaning long legs.^[112]

Persecution of the Jews

As Edward exercised greater control over the barons, his popularity waned. To combat his falling popularity and to drum up support for his campaigns against Wales and Scotland, Edward united the country by attacking the practice of [usury](#) which had impoverished many of his subjects. In 1275, Edward issued the [Statute of the Jewry](#), which imposed various restrictions upon the Jews of England; most notably, outlawing usury and introducing to England the practice of requiring Jews to wear a [yellow badge](#) on their outer garments. In 1279, in the context of a crack-down on [coin-clippers](#), he arrested all the heads of Jewish households in England, and had around 300 of them executed in the [Tower of London](#). Others were executed in their homes. Edward became a national hero and won the support he needed.

Expulsion of the Jews

By the [Edict of Expulsion](#) of 1290, Edward formally expelled all [Jews from England](#). The motive for this expulsion was first and foremost financial - in almost every case, all their money and property was confiscated. They did not return until the [17th century](#), when [Oliver Cromwell](#) revoked this expulsion.

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

Edward II of England

Edward II, (25 April 1284 – 21 September 1327?) called *Edward of [Carnarvon](#)*, was [King of England](#) from 1307 until he was [deposed](#) in January 1327. He was the seventh [Plantagenet](#) king, in a line that began with the reign of [Henry II](#). Interspersed between the strong reigns of his father [Edward I](#) and son [Edward III](#), the reign of Edward II was disastrous for England, marked by incompetence, political squabbling, and military defeats. Although large in stature and powerfully built, he was more interested in light entertainment and simple pleasures than in the duties of governing. Whereas Edward I had conquered all of Wales and the Scottish lowlands, and ruled them with an iron hand, the army of Edward II was devastatingly [defeated at Bannockburn](#), freeing Scotland from English control and allowing Scottish forces to raid unchecked throughout the north of England. In addition to these disasters, Edward II is remembered for his mysterious death in Berkeley Castle, apparently by murder, and more positively for being the first monarch to establish colleges in the universities of [Oxford](#) and [Cambridge](#).

Edward II, depicted in Cassell's History of England



Prince of Wales

The fourth son of [Edward I](#) by his first wife [Eleanor of Castile](#), Edward II was born at [Caernarfon Castle](#). He was the first English prince to hold the title [Prince of Wales](#), which was formalized by the [Parliament of Lincoln](#) of 7 February 1301.

The story that his father presented Edward II as a newborn to the [Welsh](#) as their future native prince is unfounded. The Welsh purportedly asked the King to give them a prince who spoke [Welsh](#), and, the story goes, he answered he would give them a prince that spoke no [English](#) at all.^[1] This story first appeared in the work of 16th century Welsh "[antiquary](#)" [David Powel](#).^[*citation needed*]

Edward became heir at just a few months of age, following the death of his elder brother [Alphonso](#). His father, a notable military leader, trained his heir in [warfare](#) and [statecraft](#) starting in his childhood, yet the young Edward preferred [boating](#) and [craftwork](#), activities considered beneath kings at the time.

King of England

On 25 January 1308, Edward married [Isabella of France](#), the daughter of King [Philip IV of France](#), "Philip the Fair," and sister to three [French](#) kings. The marriage was doomed to failure almost from the beginning. Isabella was frequently neglected by her husband, who spent much of

his time conspiring with his favourites regarding how to limit the powers of the [Peerage](#) in order to consolidate his father's legacy for himself. Nevertheless, their marriage produced two sons, [Edward](#) (1312–1377), who would succeed his father on the throne as Edward III, and [John of Eltham, Earl of Cornwall](#) (1316–1336), and two daughters, [Eleanor](#) (1318–1355) and [Joanna](#) (1321–1362), wife of [David II of Scotland](#). Edward had also fathered at least one illegitimate son, [Adam FitzRoy](#), who accompanied his father in the Scottish campaigns of 1322 and died shortly afterwards.

A dispute between France and England broke out over Edward's refusal to pay homage to the French king for the territory of Gascony. After several bungled attempts to regain the territory, Edward sent his wife, Isabella, to negotiate peace terms. Overjoyed, Isabella arrived in France in March 1325. She was now able to visit her family and native land as well as escape the Despencers and the king, all of whom she now detested.

Invasion by Isabella and Mortimer

When Isabella's retinue - loyal to Edward, and ordered back to England by Isabella - returned to the English Court on 23 December, they brought further shocking news for the king: Isabella had formed a liaison with [Roger Mortimer](#) in Paris and they were now plotting an invasion of England.

In September 1326, Mortimer and Isabella invaded England. Edward was amazed by their small numbers of soldiers, and immediately attempted to levy an immense army to crush them. However, a large number of men refused to fight Mortimer and the Queen; Henry of Lancaster, for example, was not even summoned by the king, and he showed his loyalties by raising an army, seizing a cache of Despenser treasure from Leicester Abbey, and marching south to join Mortimer.

The invasion swiftly had too much force and support to be stemmed. As a result, the army the king had ordered failed to emerge and both Edward and the Despencers were left isolated. They abandoned London on 2 October, leaving the city to fall into disorder. On the 15 October, a London mob seized and beheaded without trial John le Marshal (a Londoner accused of being a spy for the Despencers) and Edward II's Treasurer, Walter Stapeldon Bishop of Exeter, together with two of the bishop's squires.^[7] The king first took refuge in Gloucester (where he arrived on 9 October) and then fled to [South Wales](#) in order to make a defence in Despenser's lands.^[8] However, Edward was unable to rally an army, and on 31 October, he was abandoned by his servants, leaving him with only the younger Despenser and a few retainers.

On 27 October, the elder Despenser was accused of encouraging the illegal government of his son, enriching himself at the expense of others, despoiling the Church, and taking part in the illegal execution of the Earl of Lancaster. He was [hanged](#) and beheaded at the Bristol Gallows.

Abdication

With the King imprisoned, Mortimer and the Queen faced the problem of what to do with him. The simplest solution would be execution: his titles would then pass to Edward of Windsor,

whom Isabella could control, while it would also prevent the possibility of his being restored. Execution would require the King to be tried and convicted of treason: and while most Lords agreed that Edward had failed to show due attention to his country, several Prelates argued that, appointed by God, the King could not be legally deposed or executed; if this happened, they said, God would punish the country. Thus, at first, it was decided to have Edward [imprisoned for life](#) instead.

On 20 January 1327, Edward II was informed at Kenilworth Castle of the charges brought against him. The King was guilty of incompetence; allowing others to govern him to the detriment of the people and Church; not listening to good advice and pursuing occupations unbecoming to a monarch; having lost Scotland and lands in Gascony and [Ireland](#) through failure of effective governance; damaging the [Church](#), and imprisoning its representatives; allowing nobles to be killed, disinherited, imprisoned and exiled; failing to ensure fair justice, instead governing for profit and allowing others to do likewise; and of fleeing in the company of a notorious enemy of the realm, leaving it without government, and thereby losing the faith and trust of his people. Edward, profoundly shocked by this judgment, [wept](#) while listening. He was then offered a choice: he might abdicate in favour of his son; or he might resist, and relinquish the throne to one not of royal blood, but experienced in government—this, presumably, being Roger Mortimer. The King, lamenting that his people had so hated his rule, agreed that if the people would accept his son, he would abdicate in his favour. The abdication was announced and recorded in London on 24 January, and the following day was proclaimed the first of the reign of Edward III—who, at 14, was still controlled by Isabella and Mortimer. The former King Edward remained imprisoned.

Death or Survival: Mystery and Propaganda

Edward II's tomb at Gloucester Cathedral



The regency government of Queen Isabella and Roger Mortimer was so precarious they dared not leave the deposed King Edward in the hands of their political enemies. In April, 1327, Edward was removed from Kenilworth Castle and placed in custody of Mortimer's subordinates. Thereafter, knowledge of Edward's daily life and whereabouts were deliberately shrouded by his keepers' efforts to keep the 'old' king secluded and incommunicado. He was interned at [Berkeley Castle](#) in Gloucestershire, the seat of [Thomas de Berkeley](#), Mortimer's son-in-law. There, according to various scripts of chroniclers and others, Edward died—it was rumoured about that he was murdered, by agents of Isabella and Mortimer.

Edward III of England

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

Edward III as founder of the [Order of the Garter](#)



Edward was crowned at the age of fourteen, following the [deposition](#) of his father. When he was only seventeen years old, he led a coup against his [regent](#), [Roger Mortimer](#), and began his personal reign. After defeating, but not subjugating, the [Kingdom of Scotland](#), he declared himself rightful heir to the French throne in 1338, starting what would be known as the [Hundred Years' War](#). Following some initial setbacks, the war went exceptionally well for England; the victories of [Crécy](#) and [Poitiers](#) led up to the highly favourable [Treaty of Brétigny](#). Edward's later years, however, were marked by international failure and domestic strife, largely as a result of his inertia and eventual bad health.

Edward III was a temperamental man, but also capable of great clemency. He was, in most ways, a conventional king, mainly interested in warfare. Highly revered in his own time and for centuries after, Edward was denounced as an irresponsible adventurer by later [Whig historians](#). This view has turned, and modern [historiography](#) credits him with many achievements.

Biography

Early life

Edward was born at [Windsor](#) on 13 November 1312, and was called "Edward of Windsor" in his early years. The reign of his father, [Edward II](#), was fraught with military defeat, rebellious barons and corrupt courtiers, but the birth of a male heir in 1312 temporarily strengthened Edward II's position on the throne.^[1] To further this end, in what was probably an attempt by his father to shore up royal supremacy after years of discontent, Edward was created [Earl of Chester](#)

at the age of only twelve days, and less than two months later, his father gave him a full household of servants for his court, so he could live independently as if he were a full adult Nobleman.^[2]

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

Mortimer knew his position was precarious, especially after Philippa had a son on 15 June 1330.^[3] Mortimer used his power to acquire noble estates and titles, many of them belonging to [Edmund FitzAlan, 9th Earl of Arundel](#). FitzAlan, who had remained loyal to Edward II in his struggle with Isabella and Mortimer, had been executed on 17 November 1326. However Mortimer's greed and arrogance caused many of the other nobles to hate him; all this was not lost on the young king.

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

Early reign

Gold [Noble](#) of Edward III, 1344, 33mm, 6.78g.



Edward chose to renew the military conflict with the [Kingdom of Scotland](#) in which his [father](#) and [grandfather](#) had engaged with varying success. Edward repudiated the [Treaty of Northampton](#) that had been signed during the regency, thus renewing claims of English sovereignty over Scotland and resulting in the [Second War of Scottish Independence](#).

Intending to regain what the English had conceded, he won back control of [Berwick](#) and secured a decisive English victory at the [Battle of Halidon Hill](#) in 1333 against the forces of the boy-king [David II of Scotland](#). Edward III was now in a position to put [Edward Balliol](#) on the throne of Scotland and claim a reward of 2,000 librates of land in the southern counties - the Lothians, Roxburghshire, Berwickshire, Dumfriesshire, Lanarkshire and Peebleshire. Despite the victories

of Dupplin and Halidon, the Bruce party soon started to recover and by the close of 1335 and the [Battle of Culblean](#), the Plantagenet occupation was in difficulties and the Balliol party was fast losing ground.

Fortunes of war

Coin of Edward III as [Duke of Aquitaine](#), 3.86g.



After much inconclusive campaigning in [Continental Europe](#), Edward decided to stage a major offensive in 1346, sailing for [Normandy](#) with a force of 15,000 men.^[8] His army [sacked the city of Caen](#) and marched across northern France. On 26 August he met the French king's forces in pitched battle at [Crécy](#) and won a decisive victory. Meanwhile, back home, [William Zouche](#), the Archbishop of [York](#) mobilized an army to oppose David II, who had returned, defeating and capturing him at the [Battle of Neville's Cross](#) on 17 October. With his northern border having been secured, Edward felt free to continue his major offensive against France, [laying siege to the town of Calais](#), which fell after almost a year—probably the greatest single military operation undertaken by the English state in the Middle Ages^[citation needed]—in August of 1347.

After the death of the Holy Roman Emperor Louis IV in October of 1347, his son [Louis V, Duke of Bavaria](#) negotiated with Edward to compete against the new German king [Charles IV](#), but Edward finally decided in May 1348 not to run for the German crown.

In 1348, the [Black Death](#) struck [Europe](#) with full force, killing a third or more of England's population.^[9] This loss of manpower, and subsequently of revenues, meant a halt to major campaigning.



The great landowners struggled with the shortage of manpower and the resulting inflation in labor cost. Attempting to cap wages, the king and parliament responded with the [Ordinance of Labourers](#) (1349) and the [Statute of Labourers](#) (1351). The plague did not, however, lead to a full-scale breakdown of government and society, and recovery was remarkably swift.^[10]

While Edward's early reign had been energetic and successful, his later years were marked by inertia, military failure and political strife. The day-to-day affairs of the state had less appeal to Edward than military campaigning, so during the 1360s Edward increasingly relied on the help of his subordinates.

Edward III and the [Edward, the Black Prince](#)

John of Gaunt, 1st Duke of Lancaster

John of Gaunt, 1st Duke of Lancaster, 1st Duke of Aquitaine (6 March 1340 – 3 February 1399) was a member of the [House of Plantagenet](#), the third surviving son of King [Edward III](#) of [England](#) and [Philippa of Hainault](#). He gained his name "John of Gaunt" because he was born in [Ghent](#) (in today's [Belgium](#)), then called *Gaunt* in English. John exercised great influence over the English throne during the [minority reign](#) of his nephew, [Richard II](#), and during the ensuing periods of political strife, but was not thought to have been among the opponents of the King.

John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster



John of Gaunt's legitimate male heirs, the [Lancasters](#), included Kings [Henry IV](#), [Henry V](#), and [Henry VI](#).

John's legitimate descendants also included his daughters [Philippa of Lancaster](#), [Queen consort](#) of [John I of Portugal](#) and mother of King [Edward of Portugal](#), known as "[Duarte](#)" in Portuguese. John was also the father of [Elizabeth, Duchess of Exeter](#), the mother of [John Holland, 2nd Duke of Exeter](#) through his first wife, Blanche; and by his second wife, Constance, John was the father of [Katherine of Lancaster](#), [Queen consort](#) of [Henry III of Castile](#), granddaughter of [Peter of Castile](#) and mother of [John II of Castile](#).

John of Gaunt fathered five children outside marriage, one early in life by one of his mother's ladies-in-waiting, and four, surnamed "Beaufort," by [Katherine Swynford](#),

Gaunt's long-term mistress and eventual third wife. The four Beaufort children, three sons and a daughter, were legitimized by royal and papal decrees after John married Katherine in 1396. Descendants of the marriage to Katherine Swynford included their son [Henry Beaufort](#), Bishop of Winchester and eventually Cardinal; their granddaughter [Cecily Neville](#), mother to Kings [Edward IV](#) and [Richard III](#); and their great-great-grandson [Henry Tudor](#), who became King of England after the [Battle of Bosworth Field](#) in 1485 and established the [House of Tudor](#).

John of Gaunt was buried alongside his first wife, [Blanche of Lancaster](#), in the nave of [Old St. Paul's Cathedral](#) in an [alabaster](#) tomb designed by [Henry Yevele](#) (similar to that of his son in [Canterbury Cathedral](#)).

Joan Beaufort, Countess of Westmorland

Joan Beaufort, Countess of Westmorland (c. 1379 – 13 November 1440), was the third or fourth child (and only daughter) of [John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster](#) and his mistress, later wife, [Katherine Swynford](#). She was born at the [Château de Beaufort](#) in [Champagne](#), [France](#) (whence the Beaufort children derive their surname). In 1391, at the age of twelve, Joan married [Robert Ferrers, 3rd Baron Ferrers of Wempe](#), and they had two daughters before he died about 1395. Along with her three brothers, Joan had been privately declared legitimate by their cousin [Richard II of England](#) in 1390, but for various reasons their father secured another such declaration from [Parliament](#) in January 1397. Joan was already an adult when she was legitimized by the marriage of her mother and father with papal approval. The Beauforts were later barred from inheriting the throne by a clause inserted into the legitimation act by their half-brother, [Henry IV of England](#). Soon after this declaration, on 3 February 1397, when she was eighteen, Joan married [Ralph de Neville, 1st Earl of Westmorland](#), who had also been married once before.

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

Joan's tomb



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

Joan Beaufort was the grandmother of [Edward IV of England](#) and [Richard III of England](#), whom [Henry VII](#) defeated to take the throne. (Henry then married [Elizabeth of York](#), daughter of Edward IV, and their son became [Henry VIII of England](#)). She was also the grandmother of Richard Neville, Earl of Warwick 'the Kingmaker'.

George Washington

George Washington (February 22, 1732 – December 14, 1799) was the commander of the [Continental Army](#) in the [American Revolutionary War](#) (1775–1783) and served as the [first President](#) of the [United States](#) of [America](#) (1789–1797).

1st President of the United States



The [Continental Congress](#) appointed Washington [commander-in-chief](#) of the American revolutionary forces in 1775. The following year, he forced the [British out of Boston](#), [lost New York City](#), and crossed the [Delaware River in New Jersey, defeating the surprised enemy units](#) later that year. As a result of his strategy, Revolutionary forces captured the two main British combat armies at [Saratoga](#) and [Yorktown](#). Negotiating with Congress, the colonial states, and [French allies](#), he held together a tenuous army and a fragile nation amid the threats of disintegration and failure. Following the end of the war in 1783, Washington returned to private life and retired to his plantation at [Mount Vernon](#), prompting an incredulous [King George III](#) to state, "If he does that, he will be the greatest man in the world."

He presided over the [Philadelphia Convention](#) that drafted the [United States Constitution](#) in 1787 because of general dissatisfaction with the [Articles of Confederation](#). Washington became President of the United States in 1789 and established many of the customs and usages of the [new government's](#) executive department. He sought to create a nation capable of surviving in a world torn asunder by war between Britain and France. His unilateral [Proclamation of Neutrality](#) of 1793 provided a basis for [avoiding any involvement in foreign conflicts](#). He supported plans to build a strong [central government](#) by funding the [national debt](#), implementing an [effective tax system](#), and creating a [national bank](#). Washington avoided the temptation of war and began a decade of peace with Britain via the [Jay Treaty](#) in 1795; he used his prestige to get it ratified over intense opposition from the [Jeffersonians](#). Although never officially joining the [Federalist Party](#), he supported its programs and was its inspirational leader. Washington's [farewell address](#) was a primer on republican virtue and a stern warning against partisanship, sectionalism, and involvement in foreign wars.

Washington died in 1799, and the funeral oration delivered by [Henry Lee](#) stated that of all Americans, he was "first in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of his countrymen." Washington has been consistently ranked by scholars as one of the [greatest U.S. Presidents](#).

Erik I Ejegod King of Denmark

Knud Eriksson Lavard King of Denmark

Valdemar I the Great King of Denmark

Valdemar II the Victorious King of Denmark

Christoffer I King of Denmark

Erik V Klipping King of Danmark

Rikissa Eriksdotter Princess of Denmark

Sophie (Sofia) von Werle

Henry II Graf von Holstein

Gerhard VI Count von Holstein

Hedwig (Heilwig) von Holstein

Christian I King of Denmark

Frederick I King of Denmark

Christian III King of Denmark

Frederick II King of Denmark

Anne of Denmark Queen of England

Elizabeth Stuart Princess of Scotland

Sophia Dorothea Duchess Sophia of Hanover

Georg I King of Great Britain

George II King of Great Britain

Frederick, Prince of Wales

George III King of the United Kingdom

Harald "Kesja" Eriksson Prince of Denmark

Björn Haraldsson "Jernside" Prince of Denmark

Christine Björnsdotter Queen of Sweden

Knut I Eriksson King of Sweden

Erik X Knutsson King of Sweden

Märtha Eriksdotter Princess of Sweden

Sixten Nilsson Sparre av Tofta

Abjörn Sixtensson Sparre av Tofta

Ulf Abjörnsson Sparre

Karl Ulfsson Sparre av Tofta

Margareta Karlsdotter Sparre av Tofta

Karl VIII Knutsson Bonde King of Sweden

Karin Karlsdotter Bonde

Märta Erengisledotter Djäkn

Anna Johansdotter Fleming

Karin Olofsdotter Wildeman

Johan Ludolfsson Boose

Kirstin Johansdotter Boose

Maria Bertilsdotter von Nieroht

Carl Carlsson von Lindelöf

Anna Maria Carlsdotter von Lindelöf

Margareta Eriksdotter Örenia

Christina Margareta Örnovia

Johan (Flinck) Årenius

Johan Gustaf Johansson Årenius

Charlotta Constantia Renlund

Johanna Karolina Eriksdotter Kåll

Erik Anton Granholm

Lars Erik Granholm

Pia Carita Granholm

Anna Kristiina Applegate

Anna Kristiina Applegate

is the 20th cousin, 10 times removed of

George III King of the United Kingdom

George III of the United Kingdom

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

George III, portrait by [Allan Ramsay](#), 1762



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

In the later half of his life, George III suffered from recurrent and, eventually, permanent [mental illness](#). Medical practitioners were baffled by this at the time, although it has since been suggested that he suffered from the blood disease [porphyria](#). After a final relapse in 1810, a regency was established, and George III's eldest son, [George, Prince of Wales](#), ruled as [Prince Regent](#). On George III's death, the Prince Regent succeeded his father as George IV.

Johannes Adam Simon Oertel, Pulling Down the Statue of King George III, N.Y.C., ca. 1859 a [romanticized](#) depiction of the [Sons of Liberty](#) destroying the statue after the Declaration was read by [George Washington](#) to citizens and his troops in [New York City](#) on July 9, 1776



Descendants of: Torkel (Thorgil) Styrbjörnsson As Related to: Anna Kristiina Applegate

- 1 Thorgil Sprakling Styrbjörnsson (33rd great grand father)
- 2 Ulf Jarl Thorgilsson d. 25 Dec 1026 (32nd great grand father)
m. Estrid Svensdotter Princess of Denmark b. 997 Denmark d. 9 May 1074
- 3 Svend H Estridsen King of Denmark b. 1020 England d. 28 Apr 1074 Åbenrå, Denmark (31st great grand father)
m. Rannveig Tordsdotter b. 1026 Aurland, Sogn og Fjordane, Norway
m. Elisabet Princess of Kiev m. Denmark b. 1032 Kiev, Russia
m. Margrete Fredkulla Princess of Sweden b. 1085 Sweden d. 4 Nov 1130
- [Children of Svend II Estridsen King of Denmark and Rannveig Tordsdotter]
- 4 Erik I Ejegod King of Denmark b. 1060 Slangerup d. 10 Jul 1103 Baffia, Cypem (30th great grand father)
m. Bothild Thorgatsdotter Queen of Denmark b. ABT 1061 Denmark d. 1103 Olberg, Jerusalem
- 5 Harald "Kesja" Eriksson Prince of Denmark b. 1083 Denmark d. 1135 Vejle, Denmark (29th great grand father)
m. Ragnhild Magnusdotter Princess of Norway
- 6 Björn Haraldsson "Jernside" Prince of Denmark b. 1105 Denmark d. 1134 (28th great grand father)
m. Katarina Ingesdotter Princess of Sweden b. 1107 Uppsala
- 7 Christine Björnsdotter Queen of Sweden b. 1124 (27th great grand mother)
m. Erik IX the Saint King of Sweden
- 8 Canute I Eriksson King of Sweden b. ABT 1145 Uppsala d. 8 Apr 1196 Eriksberg, Sweden (26th great grand father)
m. Cecilia Johansdotter Queen of Sweden b. ABT 1149 d. 8 Apr 1196
- 9 Erik X Knutsson King of Sweden b. 1180 Stockholm, Sweden d. 10 Apr 1216 Visingsö, Sweden (25th great grand father)
m. Rikissa Valdemarsdotter Princess of Denmark b. ABT 1178 d. 8 May 1220
- 10 Märtha Eriksdotter Princess of Sweden b. ABT 1213 (24th great grand mother)
m. Nils Sixtensson Sparre av Tofta b. ABT 1188 Tofta, Uppsala, Sweden
- 11 Sixten Nilsson Sparre av Tofta d. 1310 (23rd great grand father)
m. Ingrid Abjörnsdotter b. Abt 1220 Adelso, Uppsala
- 12 Abjörn Sixtensson Sparre av Tofta b. ABT 1240 d. 1310 (22nd great grand father)
m. Ingeborg Ulfsdotter Ulf b. ABT 1258 d. AFT 1307
- 13 Ulf Abjörnsson Sparre b. 1348 (21st great grand father)
m. Kristina Sigmundsdotter Tre Klöverblad m. 1330 b. 1295
- 14 Karl Ulfsson Lord of Tofta (20th great grand father)
m. Helena Israelsdotter b. 1340 d. 1410
- 15 Margareta Karlsdotter Sparre av Tofta d. 1429 (19th great grand mother)
m. Knut Tordsson Bonde b. ABT 1377 Vadstena, Sweden d. 1413
m. Steen Tureson Bielke
- [Children of Margareta Karlsdotter Sparre av Tofta and Knut Tordsson Bonde]
- 16 Karl VIII Knutsson Bonde King of Sweden b. 1409 d. 15 May 1470 Stockholm (18th great grand father)
m. Birgitta Turesdotter Bielke d. 1436

Ulf the Earl (31st great grand father to Anna Applegate)

Ulf was the son of [Thorgils Sprakalägg](#) who is claimed to have been the son of [Styrbjörn the Strong](#), a scion of the Swedish royal house, by [Tyra](#), the daughter of king [Harald Bluetooth](#) of Denmark. However, the parentage of Thorgils may have been invented to glorify the royal dynasty founded by Ulf's son, [Sweyn Estridson](#).

Ulf joined [Canute the Great](#)'s expedition to [England](#). In c. 1015, he married Cnut's sister [Estrid](#) and was appointed the Jarl of Denmark which he ruled when Canute was absent. He was also the foster-father of Cnut's son [Harthacnut](#).

When the Swedish king [Anund Jakob](#) and the Norwegian king [Saint Olaf](#) took advantage of Cnut's absence and attacked Denmark, Ulf convinced the freemen to elect [Harthacanute](#) king, since they were discontent with Canute's absenteeism. This was a ruse from Ulf since his role as the caretaker of Harthacanute would make him the ruler of Denmark.

When Cnut learnt of what had happened in 1026, he returned to Denmark and with Earl Ulf's help, he defeated the Swedes and the Norwegians at the [Battle of the Helgeå](#). This service, did not, however, make Cnut forgive Ulf for his coup. At a banquet in [Roskilde](#), the two brothers-in-law were playing [chess](#) and started arguing with each other. The next day, the [Christmas](#) of 1026, Canute had one of his [Housecarls](#) kill Earl Ulf in the church of the Trinity. The accounts of the two brothers and Ulf's death are contradictory.

Ulf was the father of [Sweyn Estridson](#), and thus the ancestor of Danish royal house which would rule Denmark 1047-1375.

Estrid Margarete Svendsdatter (31st great grand mother to Anna Applegate)

Estrid Margarete Svendsdatter (Estrith, Astrith) was a Danish princess, daughter of [Sweyn Forkbeard](#) and sister of [Cnut](#).

As the wife of [Ulf Jarl](#), she was the mother of [Sweyn II of Denmark](#) (Svend Estridsen), and Beorn Estrithson. Ulf was killed in 1026.

Sweyn II of Denmark (30th great grand father to Anna Applegate)

Coin struck for Sweyn II of Denmark, ca. 1050

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



Because of his relationship to [Canute the Great](#) he was a pretender to the throne from his early years. When king [Harthacnut](#) died in 1042, he claimed the Danish throne, but lost to [Norway's](#) King [Magnus](#), who made Svend a *jarl* (earl or viceroy) instead.

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

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

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

Sweyn could also be ruthless. One New Year's Eve it was reported to the king that several of his guests and hired men had ridiculed him and talked behind his back. The king was so angry that he had them murdered in the church on New Year's Day. When the king arrived at the cathedral for mass, his friend, Bishop Vilhelm met him at the door and forbade the king and his party to enter. "You stand condemned before God, a



murderer, who has defiled the house of God with blood!" cried the bishop and pushed the king back with his shepherd's crook. He declared the king excommunicated from the church. The king's men drew their swords and stepped forward to hack the bishop down, but Bishop Vilhelm held his ground. "Let him be," shouted the king and withdrew to his farm. There he removed his New Year's fine clothing and weapons and dressed in sackcloth. Then he walked back to the cathedral in his bare feet and cast himself face down in front of the entrance. Bishop Vilhelm had just begun the mass when he was told the king lay humbled at the door. Bishop Vilhelm stopped the service and went to the door to hear the king's abject confession. When the bishop realized the king was truly repentant, he raised him up, lifted the excommunication and led Sweyn into the cathedral. They were fast friends ever after.

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

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

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

Eric I of Denmark (29th great grand father to Anna Applegate)

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

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

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

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

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

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

Harald Kesja (28th great grand father to Anna Applegate)

Harald Kesja, *Harald the Spear*, (1080-1135) was the son of [Eric I of Denmark](#). He was married to [Ragnhild Magnusdotter](#), the daughter of King [Magnus III of Norway](#). Eric appointed Harald the ruler of [Denmark](#) in 1103, when he went to [Jerusalem](#), but Harald had to decline because of his uncle [Niels of Denmark](#), who was elected king in 1104.

Harald was courageous, but violent, cruel and debauched. Among his 15 sons, only four were born in wedlock. Harald plundered far and wide from his stronghold [Haraldsborg](#) at [Roskilde](#). In 1132, he allied with his half-brother [Eric Emune](#) in order to avenge his third brother [Canute Lavard](#), but he later turned to the murderer [Magnus Nilsson](#) and fought with him at the [Battle of Fotevik](#) in [Skåne](#), 1134. He fled after the defeat but he was taken captive near [Veje](#) on [Jutland](#) and decapitated together with six of his sons.

One of his sons, [Björn Ironside Haraldsson](#) married [Katarina Ingesdotter](#) the daughter of [Inge I of Sweden](#). Björn was the father of [Christina Bjornsdatter](#), a Swedish queen.

Björn Ironside Haraldsson (27th great grand father to Anna Applegate)

Björn Ironside Haraldsson (d.1134), was a Danish prince, one of prince [Harald Kesja](#)'s 15 sons. Björn married princess [Katarina Ingesdotter](#) of Sweden, the daughter of King [Inge I of Sweden](#). Björn was the father of [Christina Bjornsdatter](#), a Swedish queen.

Christina Björnsdotter (26th great grand mother to Anna Applegate)

Christina Björnsdotter of Denmark ([Swedish](#):*Kristina*) (c. 1120/25-1170), was a [Swedish queen consort](#) in the 12th century, married to king [Eric IX of Sweden](#) and mother of king [Canute I of Sweden](#).

Biography

According to the [Knytinga saga](#), Christina was the daughter of [Björn Haraldsson Ironside](#), son of the Danish prince [Harald Kesja](#), and his consort, the Swedish Princess [Katarina Ingesdotter](#), daughter of King [Inge I of Sweden](#). She was made fatherless in 1134, when her father Prince Björn was murdered by orders from his uncle, King [Eric II of Denmark](#).

Christina was married to her cousin, [Eric the Saint](#), at the time throne claimant of Uppland, in 1149 or 1150. Six years later, her husband became king, and she became queen of Sweden; she was the queen of Sweden for four years, from 1156 to 1160.

Queen Christina became notable for her conflict with [Varnhem Abbey](#), [Västergötland](#). She was in dispute with the monks about the ownership to the land upon which the convent had been founded, as she considered it as an inheritance after her relative, lady Sigrid. She is claimed to have harrassed the monks : legend accuse her of sending women in to the convent to dance naked before the monks. This forced the [monks](#) to leave the country and seek refuge in Denmark, were they founded [Vitskøl Abbey](#) (1158), a conflict for which the [pope](#) contemplated to have her excommunicated.

Queen Christina was widowed at the murder of the King outside the cathedral in [Uppsala](#) in 1160. According to legend, she fled with her son and her followers with the crowned head of her husband in her possession. She is believed to have spent the following years in [Denmark](#).

In 1167, her son was made King as Canute I. Queen Dowager Christina is believed to have died in the beginning of her son King Canutes reign, in about the year of in 1170, but neither the date of her birth or death is completely confirmed.

Children:

1. [Canute I of Sweden](#), King of Sweden 1167-1196.
2. Filip
3. [Katarina Eriksdotter](#), married to [Nils Blake](#).
4. [Margareta Eriksdotter](#), married in 1185 [Sverre I of Norway](#), died in 1202.

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

Eric IX of Sweden (26th great grand father to Anna Applegate)

The third seal of the City of Stockholm, depicting the crowned head of Eric the Saint, attested for the first time in 1376.



Eric IX of Sweden (or *Erik the Lawgiver* or *Erik the Saint*. In Swedish he is simply known as *Erik den helige* or *Sankt Erik* which translates as *Erik the Holy* and *Saint Erik* respectively) (c. 1120 – May 18, 1160) was a [Swedish king](#) c.1150 – 1160. No historical records of Eric have survived, and all information about him is based on later legends that were aimed at having him established as a saint.

Casket of Eric the Saint in [Uppsala Cathedral](#).

As later kings from the [House of Eric](#) were consistently buried to [Varnhem Abbey](#) near [Skara](#) in [Västergötland](#), the family is considered to have [Geatish](#) roots like other medieval ruling houses in Sweden. Based on the information that his possible brother Joar was a son of Jedvard (*Edward*), modern sources call him also Eric Jedvardson, but this remains speculative. He was a rival king, from 1150, to [Sverker the Elder](#) who had ascended the throne c.1130 and was murdered 1156, after which Eric was recognized in most or all provinces. Eric's reign ended when he was murdered in [Uppsala](#). He's said to have been murdered by Emund Ulvbane, an assassin who was hired by people working for the Sverker dynasty, in order for them to regain the control of the kingdom, or alternatively by [Magnus Henriksson](#), another claimant, who is said in some sources to have succeeded him briefly as king. People from Sweden recognized a miracle after Eric's death, since a fountain was told to have sprung from the earth where the king's head fell after being chopped off.



He would later be made a [saint](#) whose [feast day](#) in the [Roman Catholic Church](#) and [Evangelical Lutheran Church in America](#) is [18 May](#), although he was never formally canonized by the Catholic Church. The [relic](#) casket of Eric is on display in [Uppsala cathedral](#) (*Uppsala domkyrka*). The casket contains bones of a male, with traces of injury to the neck. Eric is the [patron saint](#) of [Stockholm](#) and depicted in the city's coat of arms.

According to legends, Eric did much to consolidate Christianity in his realm and spread the faith into [Finland](#). In an effort to conquer and convert them, he allegedly led the [First Swedish Crusade](#) against the native Finns and persuaded an English [Bishop Henry](#) of [Uppsala](#) to remain in Finland to evangelize the natives, later becoming a martyr there.

Eric was responsible for codifying the laws of his kingdom, which became known as King Eric's Law (also the Code of Uppland). Additionally, he established a monastic chapter in [Old Uppsala](#), which had come from the Danish abbey of [Odense](#).

In reaction to Eric's insistence that tithes be paid to support the Church as they were elsewhere in Europe, some Swedish nobles joined forces with Magnus Henrikson, great great grand son of the at that time late king [Sweyn Estridson](#) of Denmark. [Magnus the Strong](#) son of the Danish king [Niels of Denmark](#) (c. 1064 - 1134) has been confused with Magnus Henrikson but he did not outlive his father. Eric was accosted near Uppsala at Ostra Aros as he was leaving church after hearing Mass on Ascension Day by the rebelling Swedish nobles. He was thrown to the ground from his horse, tortured, ridiculed, then beheaded.

The king was buried in the church of Old Uppsala, which he had rebuilt around the burial mounds of his pagan predecessors. In 1167, his body was enshrined; and his relics and regalia were translated to the present cathedral of Uppsala, built on the site of Eric's martyrdom, in 1273.

Saint Eric is portrayed in art as a young king being murdered during Mass with the bishop Henry of Uppsala. In Uppsala cathedral there is a series of late medieval paintings depicting Eric and Henry of Uppsala.

Archaeological evidence

According to the legend, King Erik the Saint was slain while he attended the mass at the ecclesia Sancte trinitatis – Trinity church - at Mons Domini. Since the now existing Trinity church in Uppsala was founded in the late 13th century, scholars have discussed different locations of this older Trinity church, but the presence of pre-cathedral graves in the vicinity of the cathedral might suggest that the original Trinity church was located at the same spot as the cathedral.

Family

Married to Kristina from the [House of Stenkil](#).

Children

1. [Canute I of Sweden](#), King of Sweden 1167-1196.
2. [Filip](#)
3. [Katarina Eriksdotter](#), married to [Nils Blake](#).
4. [Margareta Eriksdotter](#), married in 1185 [Sverre I of Norway](#), died in 1202.

Canute I of Sweden (25th great grand father to Anna Applegate)

Seal of Canute I



Canute I Eriksson (*Old Norse: Knutr Eiríksson*) or *Knut Eriksson* in modern [Swedish](#) (born before 1150 - died 1195/96) was king over all of [Sweden](#) from [1173](#) to [1195](#) (rival king since 1167). He was a son of king [Eric the Saint](#) and Kristina (probably a granddaughter of [Inge the Elder](#)).

After killing [Charles Sverkersen](#) in 1167, Canut, who had just returned home after ten years in exile, started fighting for power against [Sverker the Elder](#)'s sons [Kol](#) and [Boleslaw Sverkersen](#). Only in 1173 could he call himself king of the whole country.

Canute's able jarl from 1174 was [Birger Brosa](#) (died in 1202)

Canute built a castle on the island of [Stockholm](#) in [1187](#), one of many such fortifications made necessary by heathen incursions from the Baltic lands.

Family

Married around 1160, name of [his wife](#) is unknown

Children:

1. Jon Knutsson (slain November 1205 at Älgårås)
2. Knut Knutsson (slain November 1205 at Älgårås)
3. Joar Knutsson (slain November 1205 at Älgårås)
4. [Erik Knutsson](#), who would defeat [Sverker the Younger](#) and become [King of Sweden](#) in [1208](#).
5. daughter, NN Knutsdotter (possibly Sigrid, or Karin), who is said to have married either jarl Knut Birgersson (and become mother of Magnus Broka), or married Magnus Broka himself (and with Magnus had a son Knut Magnusson, or, Knut Katarinason, claimant of Swedish throne and killed in 1251). Existence of this daughter is based on unclear mentions in old saga and chronicle material, and is to an extent accepted in research literature, to explicate [Knut Magnusson's](#) hereditary claim to the throne. This daughter was by necessity born in 1170s or 1180s. She is also proposed by old romantical-looking genealogies as mother of a Duke's daughter [Cecilia Knutsdotter](#) (by necessity born near 1208 at earliest), whose parentage however is fully shrouded in mists of history

Eric X of Sweden (24th great grand father to Anna Applegate)

The seal of king Erik.



Erik Knutsson, sometimes anachronistically numbered as **Eric X** (c. 1180 – 1216) was the [King of Sweden](#) between 1208 and 1216. He was the son of [Knut Eriksson](#) and his queen, whose name is unknown, but who very probably was a high-born Swedish noblewoman. He was born around 1180 in Eriksberg royal manor.

When his father, King Canute I, died peacefully in 1195, all his sons were only children. Eric apparently was not the eldest of them. Due to the influence of the mighty second-of-the-realm, Jarl [Birger Brosa](#), Sverker II, the head of the rival dynasty was chosen as King of Sweden, over the underaged boys.

King Canute's sons continued to live in the Swedish royal court, until 1203, when his brothers and family brought forward claims to the throne, and Sverker did not acquiesce, at which point Eric and his brothers escaped to Norway. In 1205, the brothers returned to Sweden with Norwegian support, but lost the [Battle of Älgarås](#), where three of Eric's brothers were killed.

In 1208 Eric returned to Sweden with Norwegian troops and defeated Sverker in the [Battle of Lena](#). Eric became thus chosen the king of Sweden.

Sverker attempted to reconquer the throne, but was defeated and killed in [Battle of Gestilren](#) in 1210. The banner under which King Eric's troops fought, was preserved by his kinsman the [lawspeaker Eskil Magnusson](#) of the Bjelbo clan in [Skara](#), who in 1219 gave it as honorary to his visiting Icelandic colleague [Snorre Sturlasson](#).

At that time, king Eric X married princess [Richeza of Denmark](#), daughter of the late [Valdemar I of Denmark](#). This was to make up relations with Denmark, which had traditionally supported the Sverker dynasty, against the Norwegian-supported dynasty of Eric.

Eric X was the first Swedish king who was crowned.

He died suddenly in fever in 1216 in the castle of Näs on the island of Visingsö. He was buried in the Varnhem Abbey Church.

His marriage produced several daughters, at least three and possibly as many as five, and one and only son, born posthumously, the future [Eric XI of Sweden](#). Daughters:

1. [Märta of Sweden](#), married with [Marshal Nils Sixtensson \(Sparre\)](#)
2. [Ingeborg of Sweden](#), possibly the youngest daughter.

Rikissa of Denmark (24th great grand mother to Anna Applegate)

Queen **Rikissa Valdemarsdotter** (born in 1190/1191, d. 1220) was [queen consort](#) of [Sweden](#), married to king Eric X of Sweden and mother of king Eric XI of Sweden.

Biography

She was a daughter of [Valdemar I of Denmark](#) and [Sofia of Minsk](#). Rikissa of Denmark received her first name, originally a [Lotharingian-Burgundian](#) female name, in honor of her maternal grandmother, the late [Rikissa of Poland](#), queen of Sweden.

In c 1210 the new [king Eric X of Sweden](#), who had deposed his predecessor [Sverker II of Sweden](#), desired to build cordial and peaceful relations with Denmark, which had traditionally supported the [House of Sverker](#), against the Norwegian-supported dynasty of Eric. That was why Rikissa, sister of the then reigning [Valdemar II of Denmark](#), was married to king Eric.

When she arrived at the Swedish coast, the legend says, she was surprised that she was expected to ride and not travel by carriage, and the Swedish noblewoman had then encouraged her to adapt the customs of her new home-country instead of trying to establish her own "Jutian" customs.

Rikissa bore her living husband only daughters. King Eric died in 1216. Queen Rikissa was pregnant at the time and then gave birth to her only surviving son, the future [Eric XI of Sweden](#). The family of king Eric X however was driven to exile from Sweden as the House of Sverker heir, [John I of Sweden](#) was elected king there, to succeed Rikissa's husband. It was in Denmark where Rikissa herself died, without seeing her son's accession to the throne (in 1222), nor her daughters' marriages.

Table of Royals buried at the Church of Ringsted



Konges i ST. BENDTS Kirke i RINGSTED.	
Kong	KNUD LARARD, d. 1130.
Kong	VALDEMAR I, d. 1182.
Kong	Drønning SOPHIA, d. 1198.
Kong	Drønning CHRISTOPHER, d. 1196.
Kong	KNUD VI, d. 1202.
Kong	Drønning RIKIZA, d. 1220.
Kong	VALDEMAR II SEIR, d. 1241.
Kong	Drønning DAGMAR, d. 1213.
Kong	Drønning BEENGJERD, d. 1220.
Kong	VALDEMAR III, d. 1231.
Kong	Drønning ELEONORA, d. 1231.
Kong	Drønning af LOLLAND, d. 1260.
Kong	Drønning af HALLAND, d. 1304.
Kong	VALDEMAR, d. 1304.
Kong	Drønning CHRISTOPHER I, d. 1304.
Kong	ERIK PLOVPENNING, d. 1250.
Kong	Drønning af SVERRIG, d. 1321.
Kong	Drønning MARGARETHE, d. 1341.
Kong	ERIK MENVED, d. 1319.
Kong	Drønning AGNES, d. 1304.
Kong	Drønning INGEBORG, d. 1319.
Kong	ERIK, d. 1331.

Children

- Sophia, (d.1241), married Henry III of Rostock.
- Ingeborg Ericsson of Sweden (d.1254), married to [Birger Jarl](#), regent of Sweden, and mother of king [Valdemar of Sweden](#).
- [Eric XI of Sweden](#), (1216-1250).
- [Märta of Sweden](#), married with [Marshal Nils Sixtensson \(Sparre\)](#)

Karl Ulvsson of Tofta (19th great grand father of Anna Applegate)

Knight **Charles of Tofta**, a.k.a *Karl Ulfson* (died 1407) was a 14th century [Swedish](#) magnate and [High Constable of Sweden](#).

Lord Charles always signed himself as "of [Tofta](#)", which has given his whole ancestral lineage its later genealogical name, although his paternal grandfather for example did not possess Tofta manor. The manor of Tofta, in [Adelsö](#), [Uppland](#), was his main seat, and his other remarkable manor was Ekholmen, in [Veckholm](#), same province.

He was born as the son of the first marriage of knight Ulf Abjörnson of Engso, justiciar of Tiohärad (d 1347) with Kristina Sigmundsdotter of the family of *Tre Klöverblad*. His and his father's [Coat of Arms](#) was a [chevron \('spar'\)](#) wherefore this family is regarded as one of numerous medieval Scandinavian families retrospectively named [Sparre](#) - probably this family was the most prominent of them all. Through his paternal grandmother, Charles was a descendant of the [Ulv branch](#) of the [Folkunge \(Bjelbo\)](#) clan and thus numbered some ancient [Swedish earls](#) among his ancestors. His birth year is unknown to us, but scholarly estimates point to 1320s or early 1330s at latest.

His uncle was [Niels Abjörnson of Salsta](#), [High Seneschal of Sweden](#). And Charles' grandfather and Niels' father knight [Abjörn Sixtenson, Lord of Engso](#), also High Seneschal, had been [Duke Eric](#)'s important ally.

As young, Charles studied in [Paris](#), quite rare for a secular noble of his era. He was advertised as one of learned men in Sweden during his later career. It is clear that he was literate. Charles was knighted between 1354-58, possibly Summer 1355.

He was summoned to the membership of the [High Council of Sweden](#) from 1356 at latest. He also acted as [lawspeaker](#) of [Uppland](#).

When old, Charles had only one remaining issue, his young daughter [Margareta Karlsdotter of Tofta](#) (c 1380s - 1429), who presumably only after Charles' death was given to marriage, and in turn married twice, first knight Knut Tordsson Bonde from Penningby and secondly 1414 Steen Tureson, lord of Vik and Örby. Through his daughter Margaret, Charles became grandfather of [Charles VIII of Sweden](#) and Birgitta Steensdotter of Vik, heiress of Örby and Ekholmen, who made him great-grandfather of the long-time Regent [Steen Sture the Old](#) and Birgitta Gustavsdotter of Revsnes, who became grandmother of [Gustav I of Sweden](#).

Charles VIII of Sweden (17th great grandfather of Anna Applegate)

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 Ulvsson, 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 Nilsson Gyllenstierna](#) was married to [Sten Sture the Younger](#) whose regentship represented similar values: nationalism and Swedish independence.

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.

Relationship Chart

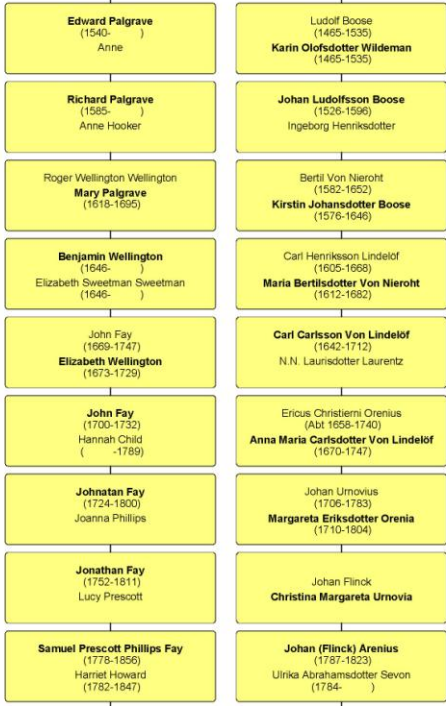
Anna Kristiina Applegate is the 29th Cousin once removed * of George Walker Bush



Relationship Chart

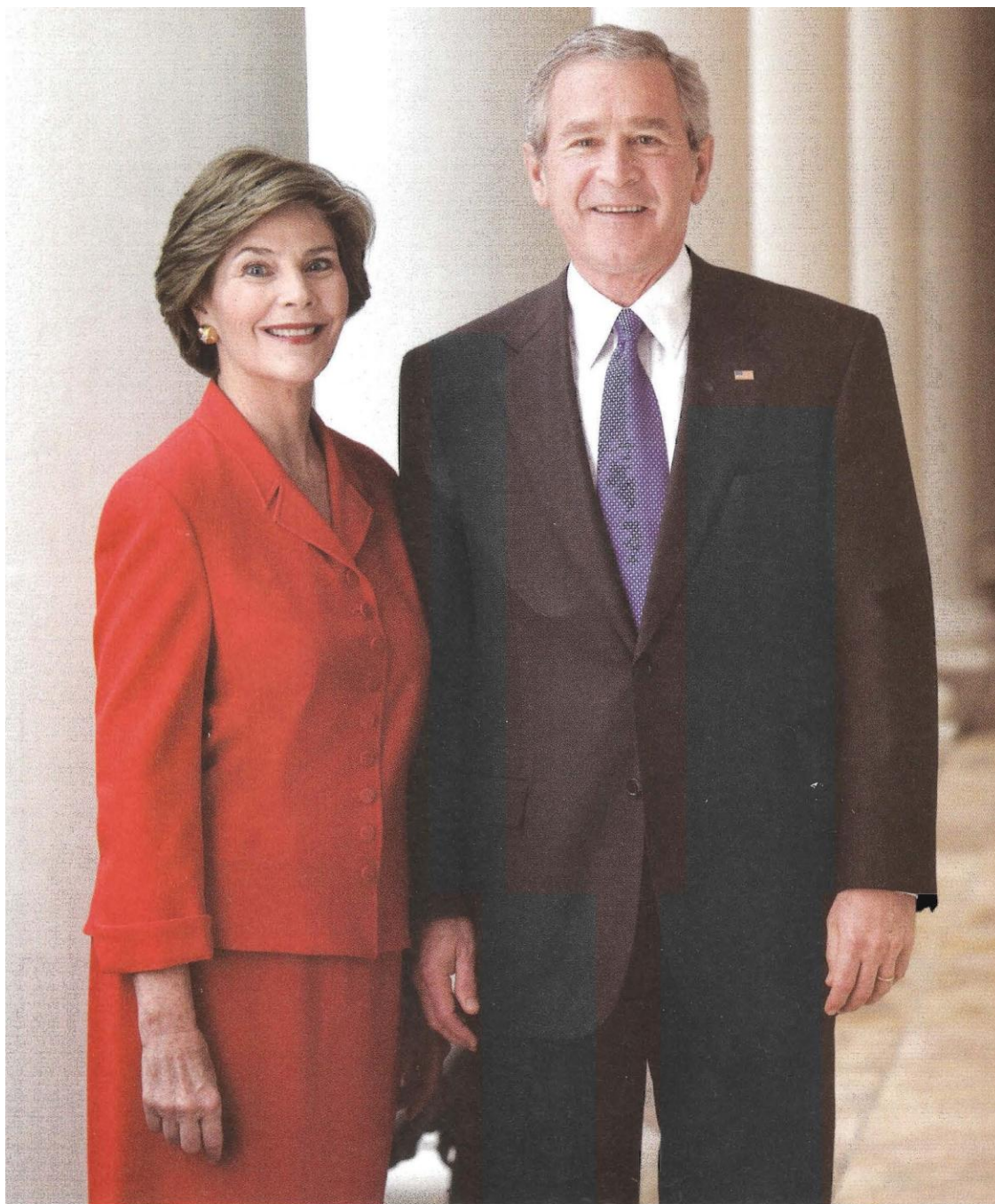


Relationship Chart



Relationship Chart



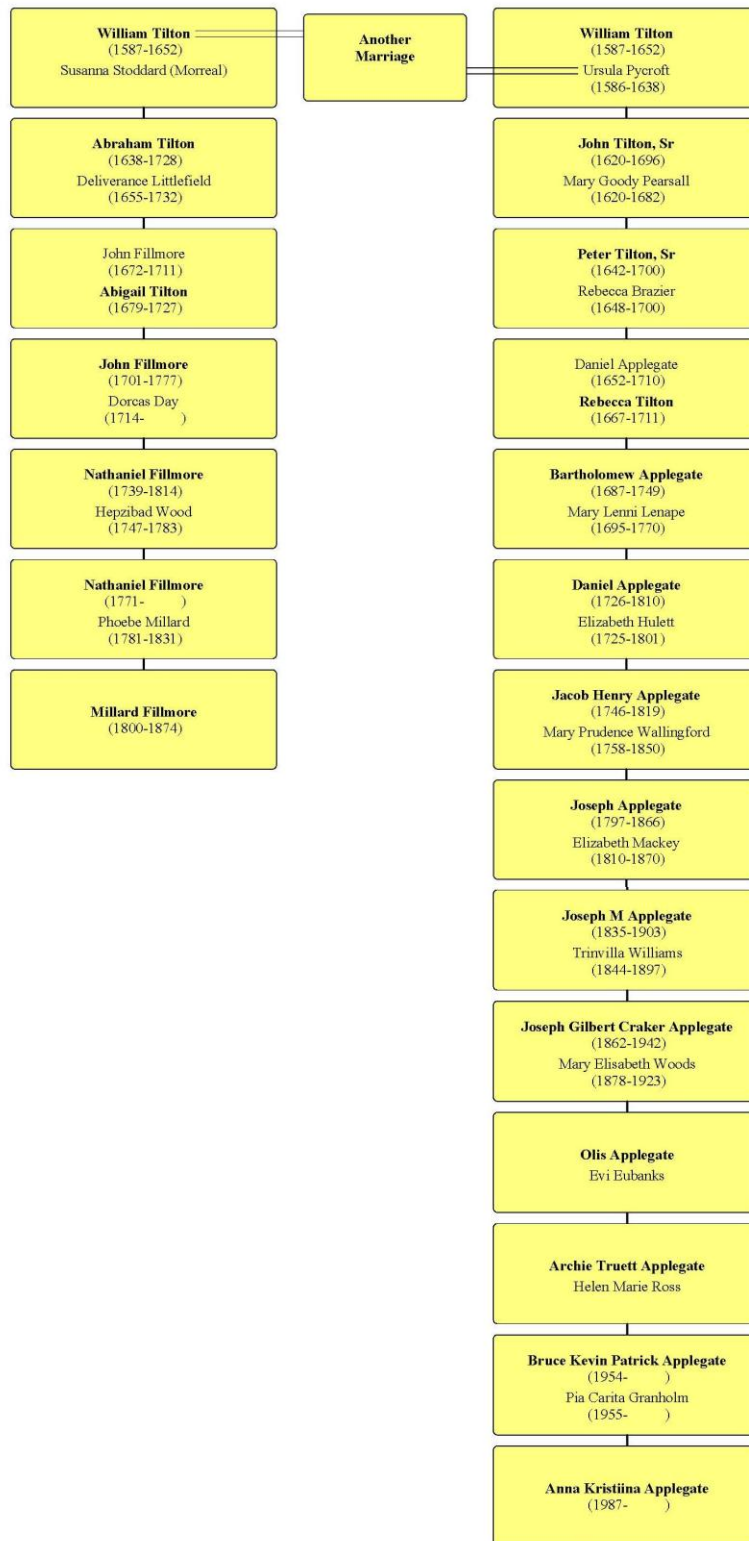


To: Ms. Leena E. Granholm

*Thank you for your steadfast support for the Republican National Committee.
Your friendship and commitment to our cause mean a lot to Laura and me.*

Best Wishes,

Anna Kristiina Applegate is the Half 5th Cousin 7 times removed * of Millard Fillmore



Millard Fillmore



Millard Fillmore (January 7, 1800 – March 8, 1874) was the [13th President of the United States](#) (1850–1853) and the last member of the [Whig Party](#) to hold the office of president. As [Zachary Taylor's Vice President](#), he assumed the presidency after Taylor's death.

Fillmore was born in a [log cabin](#) in [Moravia](#), [Cayuga County](#), in the [Finger Lakes](#) region of [New York State](#).

Fillmore opposed the proposal to keep [slavery](#) out of the territories annexed during the [Mexican–American War](#) (to appease the South), and so supported the [Compromise of 1850](#), which he signed, including the [Fugitive Slave Act](#) ("*Bloodhound Law*") which was part of the compromise. On the foreign policy front, he furthered the rising trade with [Japan](#) and clashed with the French over [Napoleon III's](#) attempt to annex [Hawaii](#), and with the French and the British over the attempt of [Narciso López](#) to invade [Cuba](#). After his presidency, he joined the [Know-Nothing movement](#); throughout the [Civil War](#), he opposed [President Lincoln](#) and during [Reconstruction](#) supported [President Johnson](#).

Some northern Whigs remained irreconcilable, refusing to forgive Fillmore for having signed the [Fugitive Slave Act](#). They helped deprive him of the Presidential nomination in 1852. Within a few years it was apparent that although the Compromise had been intended to settle the slavery controversy, it served rather as an uneasy sectional truce. Although Fillmore, in retirement, continued to feel that conciliation with the South was necessary and considered that the Republican Party was at least partly responsible for the subsequent disunion, he was an outspoken critic of secession and was also critical of [President James Buchanan](#) for not immediately taking military action when South Carolina seceded.

Fillmore administration resolved a serious dispute with Portugal left over from the Taylor administration smoothed over a disagreement with Peru, and then peacefully resolved other disputes with England, France, and Spain over Cuba. At the height of this crisis, the Royal Navy had fired on an American ship while at the same time 160 Americans were being held captive in Spain. Fillmore and his State Department were able to resolve these crises without the United States going to war or losing face.

Because the Whig party was so deeply divided, and the two leading national figures in the Whig party (Fillmore and his own Secretary of State, [Daniel Webster](#)) refused to combine to secure the nomination, [Winfield Scott](#) received it. After Fillmore's defeat the Whig party continued its downward spiral with further party division coming at the hands of the [Kansas-Nebraska Act](#), and the emergence of the Know Nothing party.