

The Royal Roots of Clan Fleming

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The history of Clan Fleming is a long one. The clan was formed by Baldwin, a man from Flanders (conspicuously the French region of such), after he received a multiplicity of land grants from David I, in Lanarkshire.

Baldwin himself was born to Knut de Flanders, who, according to Saxo Grammaticus in his work *Gesta Danorum*, was born to Folke the Fat, "the most powerful man in Sweden". Knut was bore by Ingrid Knutsdotter, the wife of Folke, who herself was the spawn of the Danish sovereign Canute IV, the patron saint of Denmark, making Ingrid herself princess of Denmark.

Canute IV, who only ruled on the Danish throne for 6 years, was born to Sweyn II of Denmark & an unidentified concubine. Sweyn was born to

Ulf, a jarl of Denmark and Viking chieftain. Canute's grandfather, Ulf Thorgilsson, was son of Thorgil Styrbjörnsson Sprakling, himself son of Styrbjörn the Strong. Thorgil was son of Olof (II) Björnsson, a semi-legendary Swedish king, who according to *Hervarar* saga and the *Styrbjarnar þátt Svíakappa* ruled together with his brother Eric the Victorious.

Other notable relatives of Sweyn are Sweyn Forkbeard, his grandfather, son of King Harald Bluetooth of Denmark, who ruled Denmark and England, as well as parts of Norway. Harald Bluetooth, king of Denmark and Norway, was born to Gorm the Old. Gorm was born to Harthacnut.

Adam of Bremen, a German raconteur, makes Harthacnut son of an otherwise unfamiliar king Sweyn, while the chronicle *Ragnarssona þátt* makes him son of the semi-mythic viking tribal chief Sigurd Snake-in-the-Eye, himself one of the sons of the mythic Ragnar Lodbrok.

At this point, the 880's (or close to this), is where the heredity becomes foggy. Nonetheless,

not much (if any) verification beyond the birth of Baldwin to Knut, and Knut to Folke is needed to establish that modern members of Clan Fleming (that is, those who are descended from Baldwin or other chiefs) carry the blood of Swedish, Norwegian and Danish royals, although small, though still in existence.