

A Royal Connection?

The Family Line through Torunn Back to the Vikings and Norse Kings

**Part of the
Sherpe/Hanson/Ostrem
Family History**

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JORUNN VIKINGSDATTER

For several years all I knew about Jorunn was her name. On my charts in the Ogmund at Sponheim line, she was married to Bergulf Arnesen who is named in 1423 records. His father was Arne Omundsen Aga, whose grandfather was Knight Omund Petersen from Byre. I had never bothered to pursue her line any farther because all I knew was her first name.

That is, until I met Henrik O. Lunde from Pennsylvania. He was in Madison doing research at the Vesterheim Geneological Center when they discovered he was also researching Ogmund at Sponheim. They showed him my research on Ogmund and we later got to meet. We are related and it was wonderful to find someone else who had been doing research in the same area. Our findings and conclusions on Ogmund at Sponheim were basically the same, only he was even more certain that there is a relationship between Peter Steypar and Ogmund at Sponheim.

Mr. Lunde reads Norwegian and can also read Old Norse. He has studied all the records and accounts that he has been able to find. These include studying the land transaction records and any court proceedings from that period of time, looking for relationships among the people involved. It is his opinion after studying all the material over the past ten years of research that Peter Unge was the son of Peter Steypar and that Peter Unge's first wife was the daughter of Ogmund at Sponheim. She must have died during their marriage because his second wife is the sister of Brynjulv Aga. It appears that Peter Unge was born around 1204 as I had speculated in my conclusions. He is listed in a property trade in 1226 and by law you had to be at least 20 years old. This would make him 22 years old at the time of the transaction. All these findings by Mr. Lunde helped verify what I had also found. It was great to see these same results when we were both coming from different areas, he from the Sandvin line and me from the Byre line.

After he returned to Pennsylvania, he began studying the records that I had sent him. When he came to the name **Jorunn**, he realized that our lines came together at that point. A great grandmother in his line, was a sister of Jorunn, a great grandmother in the Sherpe/Ostrem lines.

Jorunn was married to **Bergulf Arneson**.

Jorunn was the daughter of **Viking Torgilson**, born around 1330 and died after 1369. Viking married **Olov Eiriksdatter Galtung**.

Her father, Viking's line, goes back to Jorunn's great-grandfather, **Trond in Hundevaag**, who was last mentioned in 1321. Henrik has not been able to get farther back than Trond at this point.

Jorunn comes on her mothers side, from one of the most powerful and famous families in Western Norway, the Enes (Ænes) family. Her mother, **Olov Eiriksdatter**, was the daughter of **Erik Sigurdson Galtung**, a knight. His father, **Sigurd Gauteson Galtung**, was a knight. His father, **Gaut Gauteson of Hatteberg**, who died about 1288, was a baron. His father was **Gaut Jonsson**. His father was **Jon Gautsson**. His father was **Gaut at Ænes**. This line came from the Ænes farm.

We don't yet know who Erik Sigurdson Galtung was married to, but his mother, the wife of Sigurd Gauteson Galtung, was **Eline Toraldsdatter Kane**. She came from another powerful family in Norway at this time. Eline was the daughter of **Toralda Gunnarson Kane**, who in turn was the son of **Gunnar Toraldsson Kane**. The Kanes originally came from Brandenburg in Germany, and had the name **von Kanitz**. At this time we are missing a link between von Kanitz in Brandenburg and Gunnar Toraldsson Kane in Norway. They were all members of the higher aristocracy.

Jorunn's great-great grandmother (name not known) the wife of Baron Gaut Gauteson of Hatteberg, is an interesting person in Norwegian history. For a long time it was believed she was the daughter of Tore Greipson, a member of the lower nobility. However, the latest research has shown that she is most likely the illegitimate daughter of **Sigurd Haakonson**, the oldest son of **Haakon Haakonson**, the King of Norway. Sigurd had a daughter with **Torunn**, the wife of Tore Greipson, while she was still married to Tore. After Tore died she married another member of the Norwegian nobility, Erlend Huseby.

Torunn received unusual attention and favors by the royal family while she was still alive. The fact that Torunn appears to have had a daughter with the eldest son of the king while still married had to be kept a strict secret. A similar infraction by a lesser individual would certainly have led to the person losing their head. The Royal Family could not let information like this get out and prob-

ably obtained the cooperation of the Catholic Church in keeping it a well kept secret.

Torunn received farms and other gifts and favors from the Royal Family. After Torunn's death her child continued to receive gifts and favors from King Magnus Haraldson Lagabøter, brother of Sigurd Haraldson. Sigurd died before his father and never became king. The line then passed to his younger brother, Magnus Lagabøter, who became king. The only way a person like Torunn would have received gifts such as this, was as "bribery or blackmail": Take good care of Torunn and her child and keep this scandal from becoming news.

Several sources that deal with this story:

These sources can all be found at the UW

Memorial Library in Madison, Wisconsin.

1. One is by Thor S. Naesheim, in the historical periodical "*Aett og Heim*" (1967) titled "Viking Torgilsson og Olov Eiriksdatter".

2. County History of Sør-Elvdal by Hans S. Hansen. These are royal letters bestowing gifts and favors on Torunn. Which could be labeled "bribery or blackmail payments".

3. An article in the periodical "*Norsk Slegtshistorisk Tidsskrift*", Vol. 33, Part II, 1991 by Harald Tusberg, titled "Et kongelig sidesprang?" (Translated: A royal sidestep?). This article is the latest word on this issue and deals directly with the connection between the wife of Baron Gaut and the royal family. See the following translated article.

A Royal Sidestep?

by Harald Tusberg Translated by Bjarne Breilid

The relationship between Knight Toralde Sigurdson (ca. 1325-1403) to the Royal family has occupied geneologists and people studying the Middle Ages in Norway for a long time. He was a Cabinet Minister in the State Council. Was he and his family also of royal descent?

(One of Toralde's brothers is Knight Erik Sigurdson, who is one of our great grandfathers. Anything that pertains in this article to Toralde Sigurdson, also applies to Erik Sigurdson.)

Two of those who have researched this are Gerhard Munthe and before him in 1770, Gerherd Schøning. They open up the discussion of Aspa in Frei, to see if he can be traced back to Olav Trygvesson and if he could be traced back to the royal family.

Schøning in documents relates about the power and wealth of the Aspa family in early times. But there is no explanation of what he is really looking for. This does not exclude the possibility that such

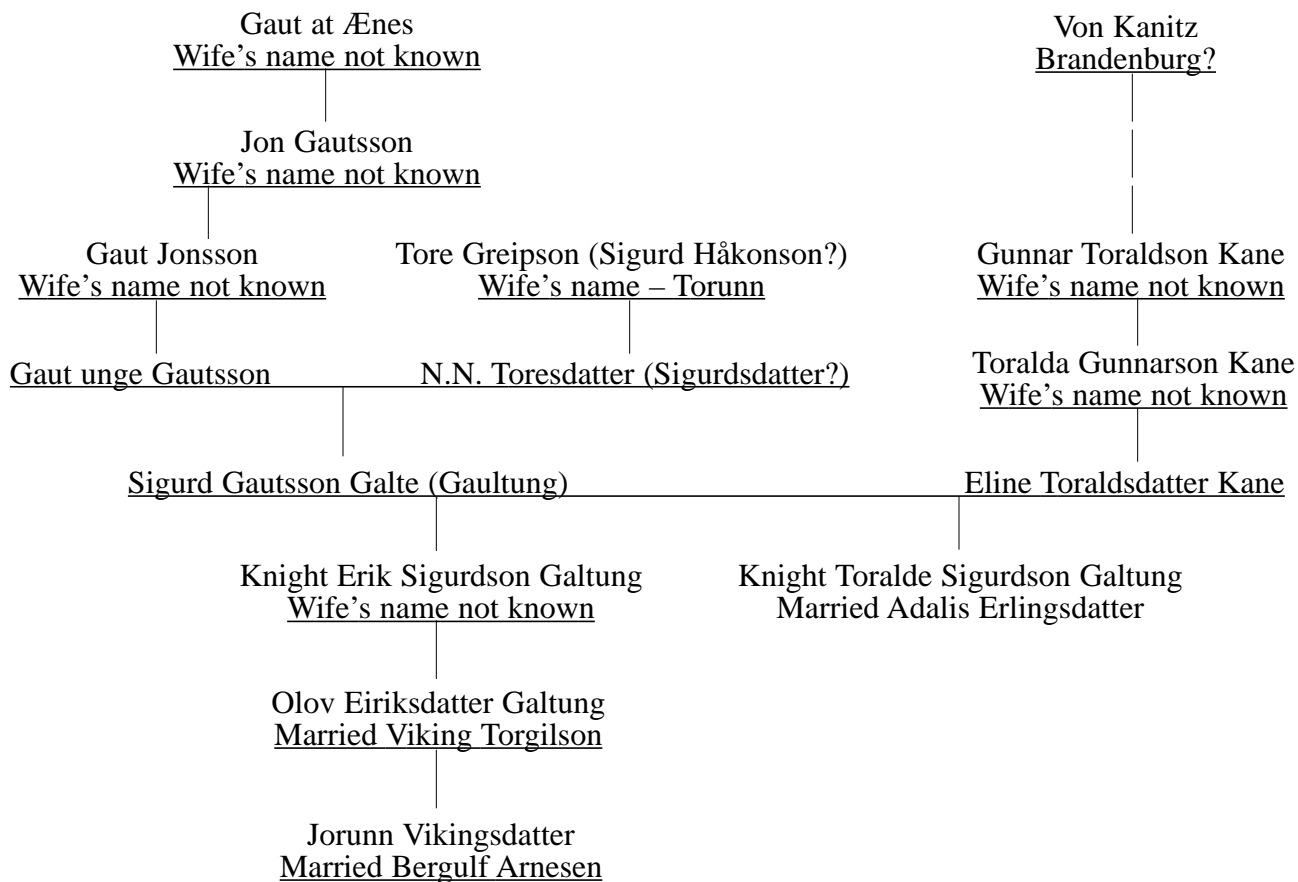
material once existed. There had been a fire on the farm where important documents are thought to have been lost.

In our own time, 3 central and well documented proposals describing the Aspa families likely genealogical line has appeared.

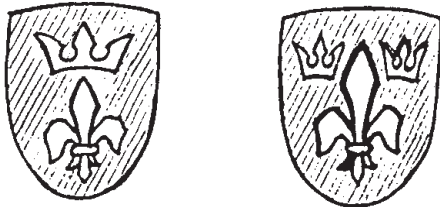
- Oddvar Grønli: family chart for the reformation period (Vol. 13, section 3, NST 1952).
- Magnus Mardal: (unknown) Toralde Sigurdsson (NST).
- Aspas family – a wealthy family in the 1200's. (NST).
Additional information is found in the book. –Olav Ødegård – family lines from the Middle Ages (Stavanger 1952).

Cabinet Minister Toralde Sigurdson is frequently mentioned in these works. We can reconstruct the family background as far as we know it. We have reasonable documentation for the family line.

Table 1



We know that Toralde Sigurdson, and his family, used two family crests. The first was a lilly with a royal crown above it. Later they used a larger lilly with two smaller crowns above it.



The same two crowns were used by the well known lendmann (government official), Pål Sure, one century earlier. We see them on Pål Sure's gravestone by the Nidaros Cathedral. Pål's daughter, Ingeborg Pålsdatter married Ardun Vagleiksson. He assumed the more humble version of the crest with one crown, presumably because he had just married into the noble family. The crest with two crowns has later been tied to the Aspa family.

Cabinet Minister and Knight Toralde Sigurdson belonged to the high nobility. He was the son of the King's foremost financial consultant, Sigurd Gautson Galtang (Galte). Would such a prominent man as Toralde dare to use one and later two royal crowns in his crest without the fact that everyone, including the royal family, would know that he was of the royal family? The reason for the fact that so many have paid attention to this crest is that it is reasonable to assume that the solution to the problem, the mystery about the Aspa connection to the royal family, goes through the family of Toralde Sigurdson (and Erik Sigurdson). They assume that because he used the crest, he was of royal blood. No other family would have been allowed to use it unless they were of the royal family.

King Håkon IV Håkonson's first son, born to his mistress Kanga, was called Sigurd Håkonson. He was born in 1221 and died in 1254, barely 33 years old.

Let us pay attention to Table #1. It is a fact that the only one of Toralde's known forefathers who was named Sigurd, was his father, Sigurd Gautson Galte. There is no other Sigurd before that. (Sigurd Gautson Galte would have been named after his paternal grandfather, as was the naming custom in Norway. His paternal grandfather would have been Tore Greipson, Torunn's first husband. However, it appears that Sigurd is named after Sigurd Håkonson, who it appears had an illegitimate daughter with Torunn, who was married to Tore

Greipson at the time. This daughter was Sigurd Gautson Galte's mother and Sigurd Håkonson would have been his grandfather.

The saga about King Håkon Håkonson, which his son, Magnus Lagabøter (Law changer), ordered from the Icelandic writer Sturla Trondson, was personally checked and supervised by Magnus. The saga has few pieces of information about his 17 years older half-brother, Sigurd Håkonson. For being the oldest son of the King, it is unusual that the saga, which was ordered written by the King's son, Magnus, has so little information on his older, illegitimate brother, born to his father's mistress, Kanga. It doesn't say anything about Sigurd's love relationships or whether he had any children. This is something which is usually mentioned in the sagas. There was usually no attempt to hide relationships with women and there was no shame in having a child with a mistress. Some historians think the 33 year old Sigurd died childless.

Others, for instance, Gerhard Munthe, have speculated about possible descendants, and in the saga ordered by Magnus Lagabøter it doesn't say that Sigurd didn't have any children either. (Det Norske Folks Sprag og Historie II, s. 212f.)

The saga does not say anything about poor relations between Sigurd and the King's, Håkon and Magnus. On the contrary, it makes a point of the fact that he was shown all the honor the oldest King's son should receive, for instance, during his father's crowning ceremony. His sister Cecilia, was as the King's daughter first given away to an important person and later to a King on the Isle of Mann. His sister also had Kanga for a mother. Kanga was presumably from Ireland. It says that she had to go back to the Irish Sea. She was sent away from the Court when Sigurd and Cecelia were 3 and 2 years old.

From all this, we can between the lines, get the impression that Sigurd Håkonson may have been a tragic person. King Håkon decided that Sigurd was not to succeed him as King, as had been the custom earlier. Sigurd's 11 years younger brother, Håkon the Young, who was born in the marriage to Margreta Skulesdatter, was to inherit the throne. However, when Håkon the Young died before his father, the throne went to Sigurd's younger half-brother, Magnus Lagabøter.

The saga doesn't say anything about how Sigurd lived or how he died. One might almost get the impression that Sigurd was a non-person, and

that is the picture of Sigurd which the royal family wanted to leave behind. If this is correct, the question is why?

The reason that comes to mind, has something to do with contemporary history. After long periods with disturbing civil wars, one rebel after another could claim that he was the son of a king and could establish an army. It was King Håkon Håkonson who would stop this situation. He changed the rules, and set up as a condition, that only the oldest son, born in a marriage, could inherit the Throne. That is the important phrase, “born in a marriage”. He himself, went first, to set a good example, (and in so doing relegated Sigurd, in the eyes of the Church, to the status of a “bastard” born out of marriage.) The reason behind this move, took well into focus the policies of the great power source in the country at that time – the Catholic Church. King Håkon had to pay attention to what the Church said, because it was so powerful.

The papacy, Bishops inside the country and out, wanted to establish celibacy among its own. This was something that was not easy to carry through in a country like Norway, with its well established local tradition of sexual activity. There were continuous problems with Monks and Nuns, as well as higher-ups, who came into the searchlight continuously, accused of indecency, cardinal sin and lack of understanding for the new celibacy idea within the Catholic Church.

King Håkon’s foremost goal was to stabilize the royal powers for himself and his among the powerful church. To be able to do this he had to have the blessing of the Pope for his crowning ceremony. He had to support the church in their struggle with sexual activity outside of marriage and celibacy among its own. In so doing, he had to sacrifice his oldest son, Sigurd, because he was not born in the marriage. He and his sister Cecilia were both illegitimate in the eyes of the Church. (To gain favor in the eyes of the Church, He sent Kanga back to Ireland, gave Cecilia away, and relegated Sigurd to obscurity. Later, his brother Magnus even kept his mention in the sagas to a minimum.)

Håkon was occupied with changing the way things were done in many areas. It’s worth noticing that while making a law less strict, such as abolishing bestial methods of punishment (the cutting of hand and feet as punishment), he made the law less strict in that respect. But he made a big side-

step (sidejump) when it came to marriage, which carried with it exile for transgressions. If someone did something wrong in a marriage they could be exiled. If you strayed from your marriage you could be exiled. Children born outside of marriage were no longer acceptable. Having a child with a married woman was even worse.

(Because King Håkon instituted these new laws to appease the Church, any transgressions by members of his family would be a great embarrassment to him.) If Sigurd Håkonson had any children, especially with a married woman, it would have been consciously and carefully kept secret by the contemporary times. And it must have been kept secret very thoroughly. Gossip and information about someone in the royal family going astray would have been the same then as it is now. It would need to be kept a strict secret or everyone would hear about it, and this would be in strict violation of what King Håkon and the Church were trying to do and change. As mentioned before this time, there would have been no reason to keep secret a child born out of marriage or if any important person had a child with a mistress. It was no longer accepted but wouldn’t be kept a secret. But because of the changes that King Håkon had brought about, all this was now changed. He was programmed or almost forced to punish sidejumps in marriage. As a result, there must have been a strong, important reason to keep this (Sigurd’s child) a secret.

If a child was born to the King’s son, Sigurd, is it possible that the simple solution is that he had a child with a married woman. This was strictly against the Church rules and would have to be kept secret to avoid embarrassment to the King and to the Church, who supported the King.

This is a very possible explanation. A sidejump on the side of Sigurd Håkonson must have happened in the period when he was sexually mature, from 1238-1254. During this period the child would have been born. The sources tell us about fathers, but rarely about mothers.

The only thing we can count on is that married women among Toralde (and Erik) Sigurdson’s ancestors were usually high-born (nobility). Their father, Sigurd Gautson Galte was married to Eline Toralddatter Kane, from the very important Kane/Hvit family, which presumably descended from Bradenburg (Germany) and the original name was von Kanitz.

But who was their father's father, Baron Gaut unge Gautson, married to. Gaut unge was the son of no less a person than the Official Gaut Jonsson, one of the King's families closest friends and one of the most powerful men in Norway. (This is one of our great grandfathers.) We can be quite certain that Gaut never would have accepted anything except an unusually high born woman as a wife for his son, Gaut unge (the younger). Nevertheless, we know little about this woman's background. We don't know the name of Gaut unge's wife. We know only that she was the daughter of Torunn.

Olav Ødegård is of the opinion that she was known formally or officially as the daughter of Tore Greipson, Torunn's first husband. But Tore Greipson could in no way measure up in esteem and importance on the father's side. He came from a common family and not held in high esteem. Certainly not the type of family that a person of Gaut Jonsson's high social standing would let his son, Gaut unge, marry into, unless there were things about the background of this woman that Gaut Jonsson was aware of, being a close friend of the King's family.

Baron Gaut unge Gautson's little known wife could have been born in the time period 1238-1254. In other words, she could be Sigurd Håkonson's daughter.

Few, if any families, have been so thoroughly researched as the old Norwegian King's family. There are a number of unanswered questions.

In *Diplomatorium Norvegicum*: King Håkon IV Håkonson gave the farm, Berg in Storelvdal to his "relative" Torunn before he died in 1263. He did not give it to her second husband, high nobleman, Erlend Huseby, but to Erland's wife Torunn. Torunn appears to be the one in favor with the royal family. her first husband, Tore Greipson, must have died young as she is married to Erland Huseby when she receives the farm.

This Torunn must have died before Håkon's son, Magnus Lagabøter, took over the throne in 1263. One of the first things Magnus did in his first year of rule in 1264 was to write to Torunn's son and heir, Tarald, in which he, with his applied seal, goes along with his father's gift of the farm to his mother Torunn. "For our worthy father's souls and our relationship sake". At the same time, Magnus makes it clear that anyone who does not respect the fact that the farm now belongs to "Tarald Torunnsson", will have to count on dealing with

the King. (Notice the highly unusual form, not Erlendson, but Torunnson, after the mother's name.) Torunn and her heirs are certainly being taken care of by the royal family. Notice it is the bloodline heirs, not heir by marriage.

The royal family was occupied with the memory about King Håkon's gift of the farm to Torunn, because 28 years later in 1292, King Manus Lagabøter's son, Earl Hakonson, wrote an affirmation regarding the inheritance to a "royal relative" Torunn and had now been given to her son and heir, Tarald Torunnson. Some people may find it difficult to understand why the royal family should give a farm to Torunn, who has no apparent family connection to the royal family. In 1318 there is one more affirmation about ownership of the farm to Torunn, signed by King Håkon V, grandson of King Håkon Håkonson and son of King Magnus Lagabøter. Håkon bases his affirmation information on the fact "that it is done and needed for the forefathers and their relatives soul's sake". These letters are referred to in Hans S. Hanson's *Bygdebok for Sør-Elvdal*.

The 12th and 13th centuries were a period with deep religious feelings, where Purgatory and faith in the hereafter were very real. Håkon Håkonson's son and grandson both think about King Håkon's soul and it looks as if they want people to remember the King's good deeds when he gave the farm to Torunn, and perhaps to make up for earlier wrongs he may have done to her and his son, Sigurd Håkonson.

The letters are not intended to be routine royal affirmations for just any type of ownership situation. This is not an ordinary case. Otherwise they would have been satisfied with just a short order without any further explanation. It was Torunn personally who got this farm for her and her heirs.

If we look at this with the eyes of the Middle Ages we can almost get the impression that it is very important to them, to remind us that King Håkon before he died, made up for something that he might be punished for in the hereafter.

The above is of course not something that can not be disproved: That Gaut unge's wife in reality should have been called Sigurdsdatter and not Toresdatter or that there is a provable and certain line from Sigurd Hakonson to Toralde and Erik Sigurdson. Nor is this the only possible explanation of their and the Aspa families crest and presumed family connection to the royal family.

700 years later, I suppose the only thing we can say with certainty is that the proposal for a solution like this, will never be able to be fully proved or disproved. The question is how much of this happened and how many pieces of the puzzle can fall into place.

Let us sum up the theory:

1. Sigurd Håkonson has a secret and a strictly illegal relationship with Tore Greipson's wife, Torunn, who had a daughter being born about 1250. Tore Greipson may possibly not know about this or he may have been paid to accept his role as a father.

2. What happened may have dramatic consequences for the parties involved. Perhaps Sigurd allied himself with consultants with power to help him and from the beginning had to promise complete discretion. To whom would it be natural for Sigurd Håkonson to go? Official Gaut Jonsson and father to Gaut unge Gautson, is one possibility, and in that case would explain Gaut unge's later marriage to the prominent Sigurdsdatter. Gaut Jonsson would then have known that his son was marrying a woman of nobility, which he would have approved of, knowing her bloodline.

3. Sigurd's younger half-brother, Magnus, who was then 12 or 13 years old, may have known about the relationship without being able to do anything about it himself.

4. Shortly after Sigurd died, it's possible that Tore Greipson also died. That would explain Torunn's marriage to Erland Huseby. They have a son, Tarald, who the King addresses as Tarald Torunnson.

5. At one time or another, King Håkon himself must have found out about what happened. Since the King never recognized the child, there may possibly be some, in the closest circle, who are of the opinion that the King committed an injustice to Sigurd, the mother Torunn, and the child. Something that he would have to answer for in the next life. For instance, Magnus Lagabøter and his well-known sense of justice.

6. Before he dies, King Håkon regrets what he has done and gives a farm to the child's mother, Torunn. We do not know if Håkon gave anything to Torunn and Sigurd's daughter, who at the time was well-married to Gaut unge Gautson, or if he was able to give her anything. We know that the couples son, who is also was called Sigurd, later was given unusual special privileges by the royal family.

7. After King Håkon's death, and after one or two generations, the story is so well known in the inner circles that Knight Toralde Sigurdson thinks or feels that he can allow himself to put the discrete royal crown in the crest for his family.

But where does the second crown come from?

Magnus Mardal in his "Aspaslekten" Aspas noble family from Northmørsk in the 12th century and the unknown Toralde Sigurdson. One of his assumptions tried to make possible that there is a family line from Official Pål Sure to Arne Gudbrandson Saud's wife and from there via Svein Arneson in Aspa and his daughter, Adalis Erlingsdatter, who married Toralde Sigurdson, his second marriage. We can presume that after this marriage, Taralde adds the second royal crown.

The people at that time were very concerned about symbols and details. There was a big difference between one and two royal crowns. If the theory is correct, we can reason that Taralde's, half-official relationship with his great grandfather, Sigurd Håkonson, made it possible for him to have a royal crown. With Adalis and the Official Pål Sure, his relationship with the old royal family was indisputable. It justified his and his descendants right to use 2 crowns in their crest, just as Pål Sure had done before him.

The family line of Taralde's marriage to Adalis Erlingsdatter, back to Pål Sure is not a line that we are connected with. We are concerned with Erik Sigurdson, brother of Taralde. There is no mention of who Erik was married to. Erik was also a Knight and would have used the crest with one royal crown. Since he was not connected to Pål Sure he would not have used 2 royal crowns as did his brother.

This is the end of the article, "A Royal Sidestep".

Knight Erik Sigurdson Galtung had a daughter, Olov Eiriksdatter Galtung, who married Viking Torgilson, born in 1330. They had a daughter, Jorunn Vikingsdatter, who married Bergulf Arneson. It is interesting that the name Jorunn is very similar to Torunn.

Until Henrik Lunde provided Jorunn's father's name, she was the end of the line and I never thought we would go beyond her. You never know where a single name may lead you.

Conclusions Regarding the Daughter of Torunn

As the author, Harald Tusberg says, “700 years later, I suppose the only thing we can say with certainty is that the proposal for a solution like this, will never be able to be fully proved or disproved. The question is how much of this happened and how many pieces of the puzzle can fall into place”.

I think after studying all the information available at this time we can come to some very strong conclusions.

1. It appears that much changed during the reign of King Håkon Håkonson. The biggest changes appear to be in the morality of the country. Up until that time it was perfectly respectable and perhaps expected, that a man should also have a mistress or two. Children by these women were treated as equals. If it was the oldest son, that son would follow his father to the throne.

Håkon changed all that under pressure from the (Catholic) Church, who held great power and influence in Norway at that time. They also owned much of the land, which was a major cause of the Birkebeiners (poor farmers) rising up against the Baglers (Church) during the Norwegian Civil War.

Håkon's grandfather, Sverre, had led the Birkebeiners. Now Håkon needed the backing and support of the Church. The Church was trying to establish celibacy among it's own, and expected the population to refrain from sex outside of marriage. The first thing Håkon needed to do was clean up his own house. He sent his mistress, Kanga, back to Ireland and gave his illegitimate daughter, Cecelia, away. His oldest son, Sigurd, also an illegitimate son with Kanga, was relegated to a non-person, or at least non-family status. His second son, Håkon the Young, would succeed him. From that point on, little mention is made of Sigurd Håkonson.

2. It appears that Sigurd had an affair with Torunn, a married woman. Her husband was Tore Greipson. From that affair a daughter was born, whose name we don't know. It does not appear that Tore and Torunn had any children besides this daughter. Perhaps they had not been able to have any children and that is why they knew Torunn's daughter was not his.

3. Once it was determined that Sigurd was the probable father, it became a real problem for the royal family. Because of King Håkon's strong stance against children outside of marriage, including exile of the offending parties, this situation could be a real

embarrassment for King Håkon. It had to be kept a strict secret.

4. Before King Håkon dies he wants to make amends for the way he has treated his son, Sigurd, Torunn and their child. I also believe he was trying to leave a clean slate behind before he died, as he faced the afterlife. His son, Sigurd died at least 9 years before him at 33 years of age. He gives Torunn the farm Berg in Storelvdal, and refers to her as his “relative”. That in itself, says a lot. He refers to her as a relative. This has to imply that she is the mother of his grandchild, daughter of his son, Sigurd.

5. King Magus Lagabøter writes to Torunn's son, Tarald, whose father is Erland Huseby, to affirm his father's gift to Torunn, his mother. He even uses the unusual form “Tarald Torunnsson”. These gifts and favors seem to be made to appease and keep happy and quiet the people involved, as well as to help the soul of King Håkon find it's way to Heaven.

6. Earl Håkonson, son of King Magnus, also refers to Torunn as a “royal relative” in another letter of affirmation. I don't think there is any doubt that Torunn's daughter was the son of Sigurd Håkonson, as people had speculated. This is based on two of the royal family referring to Torunn as their relative and in return giving her and her heirs great gifts and favors. This to a woman who had no ties or claims to the royal family before this.

7. I believe Gaut Jonsson, as a close friend of the Kings family, knew about this daughter being the King's granddaughter. As such he allowed his son Gaut unge Gautson to marry her. This may have also been the royal families way of insuring that she would be well taken care of and the secret remain a secret. Descendants of Gaut and N.N. (Sigurdsdatter?) also were made Knights and used the crest bearing a royal crown.

It is my opinion, based on the existing evidence, that Torunn and Sigurd Håkonson did have an illegitimate daughter. Our line goes back to Torunn, that is a fact. I also believe that her daughter, our great grandmother, was not Tore Greipson's, but Sigurd Håkonson's daughter. That means that King Håkon Håkonson is also our great grandfather. From there the line goes back as I have shown in the charts.

There may always be doubt in some people's minds, but I agree with many who have researched this situation. There is little doubt that Torunn's daughter is King Håkon's granddaughter.

The Family Line from Torunn

The chart below, from the time of King Hakon Hakonson on back to the earliest recorded Norwegian history, is based on the family tree as documented in Snorri Sturluson's *Heimskringla, History of the Kings of Norway*. As stated in the first two entries, Odin and Niörd are considered semi-historical, mythical figures. #3, Yngvi-Frey, born during the time of Christ, is the first historical figure. As mentioned, "recorded history" began around the time of King Harold Sigurdson "Hardrade", #34. All stories before that time were handed down as "oral history" and must be judged accordingly.

1. Odin, semi-historical figure, came from Asia Minor in 70 B.C.
2. Niörd of Noatun, semi-historical figure, mythical figure with possible historical beginning
3. Yngvi-Frey (born during time of Christ*) (called Drott or Sovereign) first historical ancestor
4. Fjölfnir (born around 50 A.D.*) ruled in Sweden and Upsala, drowned in a vat of mead while drunk
5. Svegdir (born around 100's*) married Vana from Vanheim, disappeared one night after drinking
6. Vanlandi (born early 100's*) ruler of Upsala, married Driva, daughter of Snæ the Old, Finnland. Killed
7. Visbur (born mid 100's*) burned to death by sons of his first wife. Second wife was mother of Domaldi
8. Domaldi (born late 100's*) ruled Sweden, married Drott, daughter of King Danp, son of Rig, Danish king
9. Domar (born early 200's*) ruler in Sweden, died in his bed
10. Dygvi (born mid 200's*) ruler in Sweden, first to be called King, died in bed
11. Dag (born late 200's*) ruler in Sweden, killed in a battle at Gotland when stabbed with a pitchfork
12. Agni (born around 300's*) king in Sweden, married Skjalv, hanged and burned near Agna-fet
13. Alrek (born mid 300's*) married Dageid, daughter of King Dag the Mighty. Was killed mysteriously
14. Yngvi Alrekson (born late 300's*) shared rule of Sweden with brother, Alf. Killed by his brother
15. Jørund (born early 400's*) king of Upsala, captured in battle with Danes and was hanged
16. Aun the Old (born mid 400's*) king in Sweden,
17. Egil (born late 400's*) king in Sweden, gored to death by a bull
18. Ottar (The Crow) (born late 400's-early 500's*) king in Sweden, killed in battle near Denmak
19. Adhil (born early 500's*) called Mighty King, married Yrsa from Germany, killed when horse fell on him
20. Eystein (born in 500's*) ruler in Sweden, killed when house was surrounded and burned
21. Yngvar (born late 500's*) ruler in Sweden, killed in battle with Estland army
22. Braut-Anund (born around 600*) killed in landslide at Himenheid, Sweden
23. Ingjald (born early 600's*) married Gauthild, daughter of King Algaut and Alov
24. Olav Træteltja (Tree-feller) (born mid 600's*) married Solveig, daughter of Halvdan Gold-tooth
25. Halvdan Hvitbein (Whiteleg) (born late 600's*) married Asa, daughter of King Eystein Haardraade
26. Øystein (Eystein) (born early 700's*) married Hild, daughter of Eirik Agnarsson, King of Vestfold
27. Halvdan (The Generous and Food-stinter) (born mid 700's*) married Liv, daughter of King Dag (Vestmar)
28. Gudrød (The Magnificent) (born late 700's) married Asa**, daughter of Harold Grandraude (Redbeard)
29. Halvdan Svarte (The Black) (born c. 820, died c. 860) married Ragnild, Harold Goldbeard's daughter
30. Harald Haarfagre (Hairfair) (850-933) King from 860-930, married Snæfrid Svasisdatter
31. Sigurd Rise (The Giant) (Unknown to after 920)
32. Halvdan Sigurdson (900's to after 960)
33. Sigurd Syr (unknown to 1018) married Asta Gudbrandsdatter, daughter of Gudbrand Kule
34. Harald Sigurdson (Hardrade "The Hard") (1015-1066 in England) married Tora Torborgsdatter of Giske
35. Olav Haraldson Kyrre (The Peaceful) (1049 -1093in Haakeby, Tanum) married Tora Ragnvaldsdatter
36. Magnus Berfott (Bareleg) (born 1073, killed in 1103 while attacking Ulster in Ireland)
37. Harold Gille (born in Ireland, year unknown, died in 1136, married Tora Guttormsdatter
38. Sigurd Munn (1133-1155) Gunnhild, mother of his illegitimate son, Sverre
39. Sverre Prest (about 1151, died 1202) married Aastrid Roesdatter

40. Haakon Sverreson (about 1175, died 1204) had a child with Inga of Varteig
41. Haakon Haakonson (1204-12630) married Kanja
42. Sigurd Haakonson (1221-1254) had an illegitimate child with **Torunn**, wife of Tore Greipon
43. N.N, Sigurdsdatter (illegitimate child) married Baron Gaut Gauteson of Hatteberg (died around 1288)
44. Knight Sigurd Gauteson Galtung married Elaine Toralbsdatter Kane from a powerful family in Norway
45. Knight Erik Sigurdson Galtung, wife is unknown
36. Olov Eiriksdatter married Viking Torgilson (about 1330 -after 1369)
47. Jorunn Vikingsdatter married Bergulf Arnesen
48. Torgalde Bergulfsen (1436 records)
49. Ingeborg Torgalbsdatter married Svein Nilssen from upper Eikeland (1491 records)
50. Gitlaug Sveinsdatter Bjørkeim married Are Markussen Fitje (Named in March 13, 1521 records)
51. Aresdatter Skår married Peder Reersen (Reiilsen) Skåland (Named in March 1, 1558 records)
52. Torberg Pedersdatter Skåland married Gamel Olufsen Austad (1568-91 records)
53. Gamelsdatter Austad married Stenu Bjørnsen Austad (Named in 1591-1622 records)
54. Udbjør Stenusdatter Austad/Vatland married Brynild Tollaksen Skår (Vatland) (Died Sept. 15, 1657)
55. Guri Brynildsdatter Vatland married Omund Karlsen Hove (Omund died in 1648)
56. **Asbjørn Omundsen Skjeggstad (1642-1715) married Guri Asbjørnsdatter Bjordal-Bjerkreim (-1696)
57. Jon Asbjørnsen Skjeggstad (1685-1715) married Ingrid Didriksdatter Eikeland (-1760)
58. Didrik Jonsen Eikeland (1712-1749) married Gjøa Larsdatter (Skaland) (1708-1786)
59. Lars Didriksen Skjerpe (Skåland) (1745-1827) married Sissel Sigbjørnsdatter Skjerpe/Haukland
60. Anne Guri Larsdatter Haukland/Skjerpe (1780-1815) married Hans Hansen Tjellesvik (1777-)
61. Hans Hanson Haukland/Skjerpe (1808-1895) married Inger Marie Olsdatter Sandsmark (1811-1848)
62. Hans Olaus Hanson (Sherpe) (1839-1912) married Lisa Larsdatter Tomtengen (1847-1930)
63. Andrew Serenius Hanson Sherpe (1882-1940) married Inga Malene Østrem (1889-1965)
64. Hans Olaus Sherpe (1914-) married Anna Marie Hanson (1918-1992)
65. Howard Maynard Sherpe (1944-) married Linda Jean Bartling (1947-)
66. Erik Hans Sherpe (1972-) and Amy Ann Sherpe (1974-)
- 67.
- 68.

* Approximate date

** #28 Asa This was Queen Asa, who historians believe was buried on the Osberg Ship
(Now on display in the Viking Museum in Oslo, Norway).

*** Point where Sherpe and Ostrem lines change. All ancestors before that point are the same.

King Sigurd Syr
Viking Chieftain, born in 900's.
Father of Harald III and step-father of King Olav Haraldsen (St. Olav) He married **Asta**, widow of Harald "The Grenlander". Sigurd was a man of great wealth, prudence and influence. He raised St. Olav from the time he was a young boy.

Harald Sigurdson (Harald III)
1015-1066
Known as **Harald Hårdråde** "The Hard"
King from 1046-1066. Half brother of St. Olav. Married Elizabeth. (See continuation page). Second wife was **Tora Torborgsdatter of Giske** (See continuation page 15). Harald is referred to in history books as "without doubt, the last great Viking of the Viking Age". Killed at the Battle of Stamford Bridge in England in 1066 when he led 10,000 Vikings, in over 240 ships, in an attack on England. He killed more than 40 men with his battle axe before being felled with an arrow in the throat.

Olav Haraldsen (Olav III)
King from 1067-93. Called "The Peaceful". He married **Tora Ragnvaldsdatter**. (See continuation page 16). He founded the town of Bergen and Stavanger. He was the most beloved of kings, and under his rule Norway grew much in wealth and power. He became sick and died while at his estate in Sweden. He was buried in the Christ Church at Nidaros.

Magnus Olavsen (Magnus II) (Barfott)
King from 1093-1103. Called "Bareleg" because he often appeared wearing complete Scotch Highland dress, authentic tartan plaid. He brought the Norse islands off the coast of Scotland and the Norse colony in Ireland under his control. He died leading an invasion of Ireland at Ulster in 1103 and was buried near the coast of Ulster.

Harold Gille (Harald IV)
He was born in Ireland. The year is not known. He died in 1136. He married **Tora Guttormsdatter**. He was also married to Ingrid Ragnvaldsdatter, mother of King Inge. She later married Arne Starheim in Nordfjörd. They were parents of Bishop Nikolas.

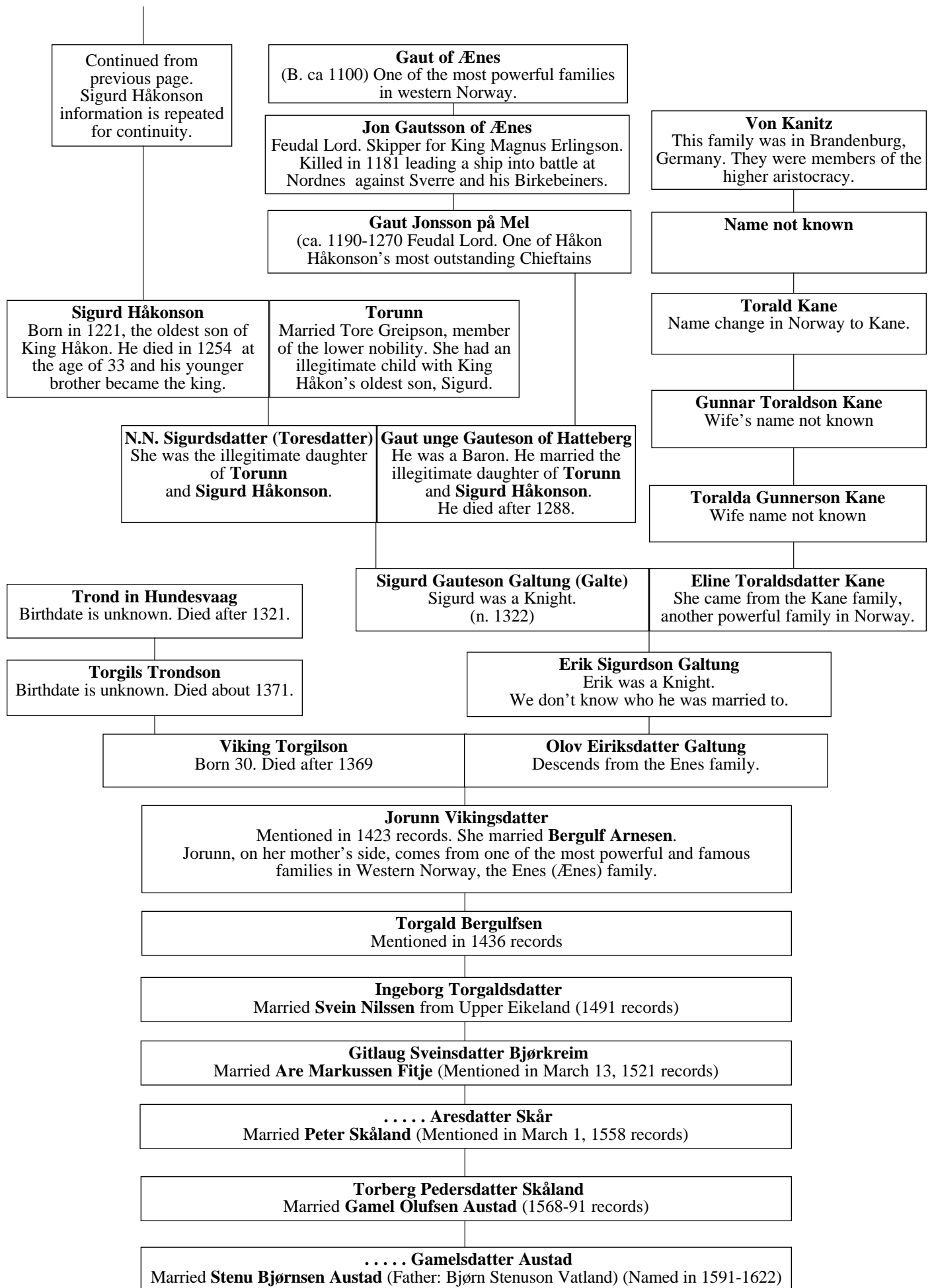
Sigurd Munn
He was born around 1133. He died in 1155. He had an illegitimate son, Sverre, with **Gunhild**.

Sverre Prest
He was born around 1151. He was the illegitimate son of Sigurd Munn and Gunhild. Sverre was the leader of the Birkebeiners. He married **Aastrid Roedatter**. He died in 1202.

Håkon Sverreson (Håkon III)
He was born around 1175. He had an illegitimate child, Håkon, with **Inga of Verteig**. She died after 1204. He died in 1204.

Håkon Håkonson (Håkon IV)
He was born in 1204. King of Norway from 1217-1263. He had two children with **Kanga**, his mistress. He died in 1263. It is Håkon's Saga that tells about Ogmund at Sponheim.

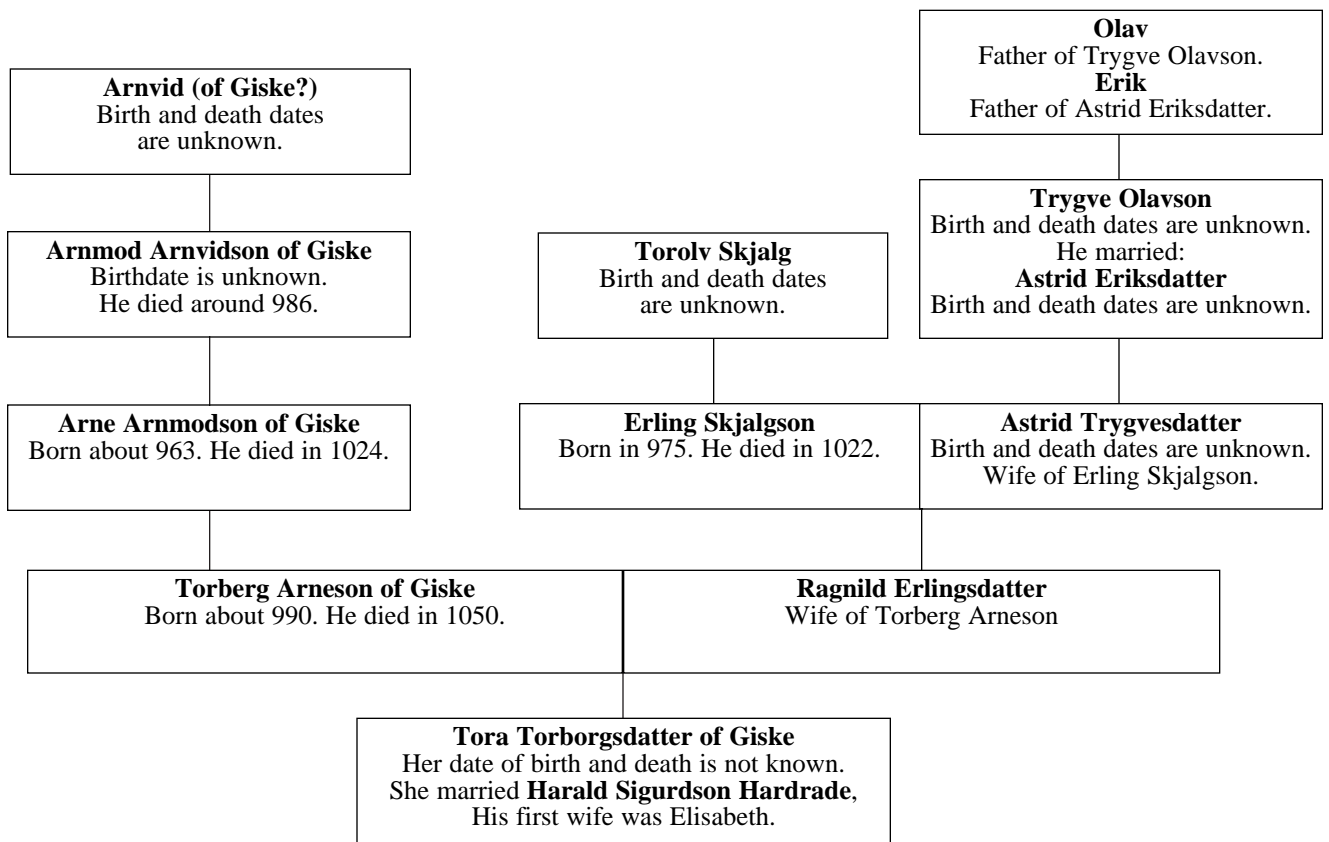
Sigurd Håkonson
Born in 1221, the oldest son of King Håkon. He died in 1254 at the age of 33 and his younger half-brother, Magnus, became the king.





Tora Torborgsdatter of Giske
Continuation of her line of ancestry

(She is found on page 12, wife of Harald Sigurdson Hardrade)



Ragnvald Bruseson Orkenoy-jarl

Continuation of his line of ancestry

(He is found on page 12, father of Tora Ragnvaldsdatter, who married Olav the Peaceful)

