

Flanders

Mediæval Flanders

Mediæval Flanders consisted of what is now northwestern Belgium and southwestern Holland. The borders of Flanders varied somewhat through the middle ages. The name “Flanders” is believed to mean “low land” and the modern countries that made up Flanders are referred to as the Low Countries. Flanders, situated on the North Sea, was important from both a strategic and trade standpoint.

The coat of arms of the Counts of Flanders is described as “or, a lion rampant sable” which means “a gold shield with a black lion raising his fore paws in the air as if attacking .”



Generation One

Louis I “the Pious”, Emperor of the West

Born in August 778

Died on June 20, 840

Louis “the Pious” succeeded **Charlemagne** as Emperor of the West. (See *Charlemagne*, Generation Thirteen) Under Frankish law, Charlemagne’s empire was to be divided among his three sons. However, the death of Pépin, King of Italy in 810 and Charles the younger, Duke of Ingelheim, in died 811 left Louis, King of Aquitaine as Charlemagne’s sole surviving son and successor.

Louis was a friend of St. Benedict, and he set out to establish his empire according to Christian principles. He ordered bishops to stop wearing military attire and expelled women of loose morals from the court. He tried to centralize the legal system, but his vision of one empire with one ruler, one people and one law failed to succeed. On his death, his empire was divided among his three surviving sons: Lothaire, Louis “the German” and Charles “the Bald.”

Louis married in 798 to Irmengard of Hesbain, and they had the following children:

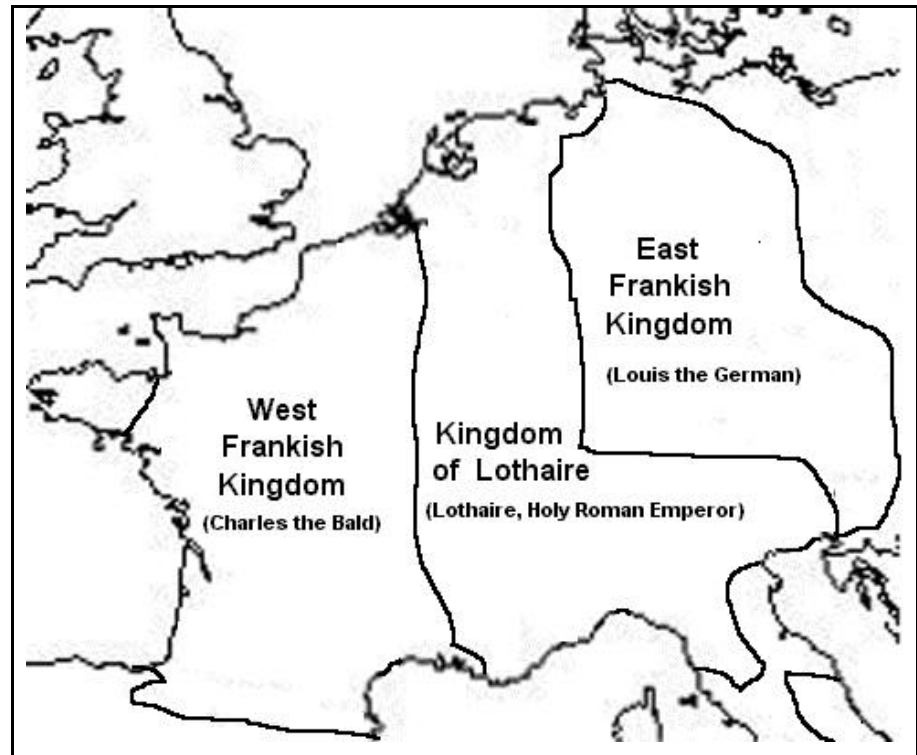
- **Lothair I, Holy Roman Emperor**, born in 795 and died on September 29, 855. Lothaire married Ermengarde, a daughter of Hugh II Count of Tours; and they had the following children:
 - **Ermengarde** (or Helletrude) who married **Giselbert, Count of Darnau**. (See *Merovingian Kings*, Generation Sixteen)
 - **Louis II** (circa 823 - 855) married Engleberge. Their daughter:
 - **Ermengarde** (circa 855 - 897) married Count Boso, King of Provence. Their son:
 - **Louis “the Blind”, King of Provence and Italy**, married Anna of Byzantium, a daughter of Leo VI “the Wise”, Emperor of Byzantium. (See *Byzantium*, Generation Three)
- Pepin I, King of Aquitaine, born in 797, died before his father in 838
- Louis II the German, King East Franks, born about 805 and died in 876

Louis married secondly in 819 to Judith of Bavaria, a daughter of Count Welf of Alemannia and they had the following children:

- **Charles II “the Bald”, King of the West Franks**, mentioned next.
- **Gisèle**, who married Eberhard, Marquis of Friuli. Their great great granddaughter Rosela married **Arnulf II “the Young”, Count of Flanders**. (See Generation Seven below)

After the death of Louis “the Pious” in 840, there was a dynastic struggle between his three sons. In 843, The Carolingian Empire was divided into three parts by the Treaty of Verdun.

- Charles “the Bald” received the West Frankish Kingdom
- Lothair, Holy Roman Emperor received the Kingdom of Lothair
- Louis “the German” received the East Frankish Kingdom



Generation Two

Charles II “the Bald”, King of the West Franks

Born on June 13, 823

Died on October 6, 877

Charles married in 842 to Ermentrude, a daughter of Odo, Count of Orléans and they had the following children:

- Louis II “the Stammerer”, King of France, born in 846; his son:
 - Charles III “the Simple”, King of France, who negotiated the treaty of Saint-Clair-sur-Epte, giving Rolf the Ganger the part of France that came to be called Normandy. (See *Normandy*, Generation Five)
- **Princess Judith**, mentioned next.
- **Hersent** who married **Régnier I**, Count of Hainaut (See *Merovingian Kings*, Generation Seventeen)

Charles married secondly in 870 to Richout, a daughter of Budwine, Count of Metz and they had the a daughter:

- Rothaut, born circa 870 who married Hugh, Count of Bourges

Generation Three

Princess Judith

Born circa 844

Princess Judith married on October 1, 856 at Verberie sur Oise, France to Æthelwulf, King of

England who abdicated on October 1, 856 and died in 858. Judith was only about 12 years old at the time, and the marriage was really nothing more than a demonstration of alliance between her father Charles “the Bald” and Æthelwulf. Judith then married to Æthelwulf’s son and hier, Æthelbald, King of England in 860. This marriage was considered to be “against God’s prohibition and Christian dignity” and they had an annulment the same year. (See *England*, Generation 13)

Princess Judith married third in 862 to Baldwin I “Bras der Fer”, Count of Flanders who died in 879. Judith and Baldwin had a son:

- **Baldwin II “the Bald”**, mentioned next.

Generation Four

Baldwin II “the Bald”, Count of Flanders

Born circa 865

Died on either January 2 or September 10, 918

Baldwin’s early years were marked by a series of Viking raids. However, he built new fortifications and took over abandoned land, thereby increasing his holdings. He married circa 884 to **Æfthryth** (died June 7, 929), a daughter of Æfred the Great, King of England. (See *England*, Generation Fourteen) Baldwin and Æfthryth had a son:

- **Arnulf I “the Old”**, mentioned next.

Generation Five

Arnulf I “the Old”, Count of Flanders

Born circa 890

Died on March 27, 964

Arnulf (also Arnolph and Arnold) waged a war in the late 930’s against William Longsword, 2nd Duke of Normandy. A peace conference was held in December 942, and Arnolph arranged for the murder of William Longsword at that time. (See *Normandy*, Generation Six)

Arnulf married in 934 to **Alice of Vermandois**, daughter of Herbert II de Vermandois. (See *Charlemagne*, Generation Eighteen) Arnolph and Alice had a son:

- **Baldwin III**, mentioned next.

Generation Six

Baldwin III, Count of Flanders

Born circa 940

Died on January 1, 962

Baldwin reigned along with his father as Count of Flanders. However, Baldwin died before his father Arnulf “the Old” who was succeeded by Baldwin’s son Arnulf “the Young.” Baldwin married in 961 to Matilda, a daughter of Hermann Billung, Duke of Saxony and his wife Hildegarde of Westebourg. Baldwin and Matilda had a son:

- **Arnulf II “the Young”**, mentioned next.

Generation Seven

Arnulf II “the Young”, Count of Flanders

Born circa 961

Died on March 30, 887.

Arnolph married in 968 to **Rosela** (or Susanna), a daughter of Berengarius II, King of Italy and his wife Willa. Rosela was a great great granddaughter of Gisèle, a daughter of Louis I “the Pious”, Emperor of the West and his second wife Judith of Bavaria. (See Generation One above) Arnulf and Rosela had a son:

- **Baldwin IV “the Bearded”**, mentioned next.

Generation Eight

Baldwin IV “the Bearded”, Count of Flanders

Born about 980

Died on May 30, 1035

Baldwin married first in 1012 to Ogive (also Otgiva), a daughter of Frederick I, Count of Luxembourg and they had a son:

- **Baldwin V**, mentioned next.

Baldwin married second after 1030 to Judith of Normandy, a daughter of Richard II “the Good”, 4th Duke of Normandy. (See *Normandy*, Generation Eight) Baldwin and Judith had a daughter:

- Judith who married in 1051 to Tostig Godwineson, a son of Earl Godwine of Wessex and brother of Harold Godwineson. Tostig allied himself with King Harold Hardrada of Norway against Harold and was slain at Stamford Bridge on September 25, 1066.

Generation Nine

Baldwin V, Count of Flanders

Born circa 1012

Died on September 1, 1067 at Lille, France

Baldwin married in 1028 to **Adela** (or Alix), a daughter of Robert II “the Pious” Capet, King of France (See *Capet*, Generation Twelve) and they had the following children:

- Baldwin VI, Count of Flanders and Hainault, born about 1030, died on July 10, 1070.
- **Mathilda of Flanders**, born in 1032 and died on November 3, 1083. Mathilda married in 1053 to William the Conqueror. (See *Normandy*, Generation Ten.)
- Robert the Friesian, Count of Flanders, born about 1035, died on October 3, 1093. After the death of his brother Baldwin VI, he displaced his nephews (sons of Baldwin VI) and became Count of Flanders.

For the continuation of this line, see *Normandy*, Generation Ten.

Sources

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