

Records of the Folk family of Lexington, Colleton and Bamberg Counties South Carolina claim that we trace our family history back to Germany where Folk ancestors settled as French Huguenot refugees during religious persecutions under King Louis XIV, having descended from the French Counts of Anjou who settled in maritime France late in the ninth century. This was the time of the conquest of Normandy by the Norsemen, the Vikings of Scandinavia where oral and written traditions trace our family's ancestry back to 40 B.C. One branch of the Folk family which did not succumb to the temptation to settle in the fertile river valleys of Anjou, had a rendezvous with history in Sweden.

As the old line of King Olaf of Sweden came to its end in 1125, a political figure emerged second in importance only to the King. He was the Jarl, a title Anglicized even earlier into "earl", a man chosen from the leading noble families, with the special responsibilities of organizing and commanding the LEDUNG, the traditional levy of armed men and ships from the eastern provinces. The first and most important Jarl of the thirteenth century was Birger Brosa to whom should be credited the national achievements of King Knut's reign: developing economic ties with the rest of the continent, a commercial treaty with the powerful Dukes of Saxony, building a harbor at the mouth of the River Gota, minting Swedish coins for the first time in two centuries and building a series of forts to protect the coast. The earliest of the provincial codes, the Västergötland Law, also dates from this period and contains detailed instructions on how to live in harmony at all cost according to Christian ideals of peace and justice: "Christ is first in our community. Then comes our Christian doctrine and all Christians: King, peasants and all propertied men, bishops and all learned men."

Jarl Birger Brosa was a Folk, a grandson of Folk Digre, a leading noble whose name was used to designate the Folk dynasty. Jarl Birger

Brosa married his daughter to King Sverker II, successor to King Knut (2) Erikson. But he proved to be an unpopular ruler and became less acceptable when he called in Danish troops to crush a revolt. He died in battle in 1210. His rival Eric, grandson of King Eric the Saint, first local saint and later patron saint of Sweden, was crowned by the Archbishop of Uppsala in 1210, the first recorded coronation ceremony in Swedish history. When Eric died in 1216 he was succeeded by a son of Sverker. When this ruler died childless in 1222 the rivalry between the Sverkers and Eriksons ended.

Through all these years the office of Jarl was held by Folkungs. One of them, Birga Jarl, married Princess Ingeborg, daughter of King Eric X who died 1216 and sister of Eric XI who ruled successfully from 1226 to 1250. Since Eric XI left no children, his sister and her husband, Birga Jarl, had their son Valdemar elected King in 1250, first of the royal Folkungs. Valdemar had one of his Folk brothers consecrated Bishop and created a younger brother, Folk Magnus, Duke of Svear, first Swedish duke. Their father, Birger Jarl, was the actual ruler until his 1266 death. He wrote the principal law code, encouraged foreign merchants to settle under the walls of the royal castle Stockholm and thus founded that great city. He instituted the writing of Chronicles of Eric, the great Swedish saga which tells the story of his wife's family as well as his own. The Chronicle dramatizes the quarrel between Valdemar and Duke Magnus which resulted in the 1274 election of Magnus as King, he having married his son Birger to the sister of Eric Menved, King of Denmark, and his daughter to Eric himself. Magnus introduced new cultural influences from the more advanced states of Europe, including the entire apparatus of chivalry with tournaments and the dubbing of new knights. He extended the power of the Church, granting extensive immunity from taxation to Church lands. Several of his daughters and nieces "took the veil" and in 1280 he began building Uppsala Cathedral where his ancestor, St. Eric, was proclaimed Patron Saint of Sweden, his remains having been interred there. Magnus forbade his nobles claiming maintenance for themselves and their followers from the peasants as they travelled around the country. This was a most popular move and

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earned him the nickname, Ladulas ("barnlock"). He introduced new methods of mining from Germany and discovered abundant new sources of silver, iron and copper, thus developing the entire mining industry. New crown taxes from these minerals helped stabilize the monarchy. Foreign trade flourished, butter, skins and furs being exported along with these newfound mineral riches. At his death in 1290 Magnus Ladulas was buried in the handsome new church he built on the Island of Ridderholm ("Knight's Isle"), the chief sanctuary of the Franciscan monks just west of Stockholm, the first of Sweden's many rulers to be buried there.

The records of the Folk family claim that we should trace our ^{family history} ~~genealogy~~ back to Germany where ^{Folks} ~~they~~ settled ^{as} French Huguenot refugees during the persecutions under King Louis XIV, having descended from the French Counts of Anjou who settled in maritime France late in the 9th century. We know that this was the time of the conquest of Normandy by the Norsemen, the Vikings of Scandinavia whose oral and written traditions trace our ^{families} ancestry back to 40 B.C. One branch of the Folk family which did not succumb to the temptation to settle in the fertile river valleys of Anjou had a ^{Folk} ~~kin~~ ^{who remained in Sweden} ~~end~~ ^{ing} with history in Sweden and it is about these ^{Folk} ~~kin~~ ^{who remained in Sweden} ~~end~~ ^{ing} cousins that I will tell you today.

As the old line of King Olaf of Sweden came to end in 1125 there emerged a political figure ^{quite early} ~~second~~ in importance only to the King, he was the Jarl (a title which was Anglicized into "earl"), a man chosen from the leading noble families, with the special responsibilities of organizing and commanding the LEDUNG, the traditional levy of armed men and ships from the eastern provinces. The first and most important Jarl of the 13th century was named Birger Brosa to whom should be credited the national achievements of King Knut's reign: developing economic ties with the rest of the continent, a commercial treaty with the powerful Dukes of Saxony, building a harbor at the mouth of the River Gota, minting Swedish coins for the first time in two centuries and building a series of forts to protect the coast. ^{Given} Jarl Birger Brosa was a Folk, a grandson of Folke Dige, a leading noble whose name was used to designate the ^{Folk} ~~dynasty~~. Birger Brosa married his daughter to King Sverker II, successor to King Knut Erikson but he proved to be an unpopular ruler and became less acceptable when he called in Danish troops to help him crush a revolt; he died in battle in 1210. His rival, Eric, grandson of King Eric the ^{the 1st local saint he later patron saint of the whole country} ~~Saint~~, was then crowned by the Archbishop of Upsala ^{in 1210} the first ^{recorded} coronation ceremony in Swedish history. But ~~Eric~~ ^{this Eric} ~~did not create stability and he~~ was succeeded ~~in 1216~~ by a son of the late King Sverker. ^{When} ~~thus~~ ruler died childless in 1222, the rivalry between the ~~descendants~~ ^{of} Sverkers and the Eriksons ended.

Look forward to seeing you in Savannah.

The provincial edition.

Sincerely,

Deak Kattel

the Västergötland Law, also taken from this period. I enclose detailed instructions relative

to live in harmony ~~and peace~~ at all times, in which I include an ideal of peace & justice: "Christ is first in our community. Then comes our children, doctrine to all Christians: King, presidents and all groups that respect, hope and all I can do for you!"

enclosures

Throughout all these years the office of Jarl was held by the Folkungs (2) and one of them, known as Birger Jarl, was ultimately married to Princess Ingeborg, daughter of King Eric X and sister of Eric XI who ruled successfully from 1226 to 1250. Since Eric XI left no children, his sister and her husband, Birger Jarl had their son Valdemar elected ^{King} in 1250, the first of the royal Folkung dynasty. ~~Ingeborg died in 1254 but Birger Jarl continued his crusades against Finland until his death in 1266 as told in the Chronicle of Eric, the great Swedish saga he ordered written.~~ Valdemar had ^{of his folk} his brothers consecrated Bishop and created ^{a younger} brother, Magnus, Duke of Sverar, the first Swedish duke. But their father, Birger Jarl was the real ruler until his death in 1266. He wrote the principal law code, encouraged foreign merchants to settle under the walls of the royal castle Stockholm and thus founded that great city. He instituted the writing of the Chronicle of Eric, the great Swedish saga which tells the story of his wife's family as well as his own. The Chronicle also dramatizes the quarrel between Valdemar and his brother, Duke Magnus, which resulted in Magnus' election as King in 1274 with Danish support, his having married his son Birger to the sister of Eric Menved, King of Denmark, and his daughter to Eric himself. Magnus introduced new cultural influences from the more advanced states of Europe, including the whole apparatus of chivalry with tournaments and the dubbing of new knights. He extended the power of the church, granting extensive immunity from taxation to Church land. Several of daughters and his nieces "took the veil" and in 1280 he began building Uppsala Cathedral where his forebear, St. Eric was proclaimed patron saint of Sweden, his remains having been reinterred there. Magnus forbade his nobles to claim maintenance for themselves and their followers from the peasants as they travelled about the country; this was a most popular move and earned him the nickname of Ladulas (barnlock). He introduced new methods of mining from Germany, and discovered abundant new sources of silver, iron and copper, thus developing the whole mining industry. New crown taxes from these minerals helped to stabilize the monarchy. Foreign trade flourished with butter, skins and furs being exported along with these

newfound mineral riches. At his death in 1290 Magnus Ladulas (3) was buried in the handsome new church he built on the Island of Riddarholm ("knight's Isle"), the chief sanctuary of the Franciscan monks just west of Stockholm, the first of Sweden's many rulers to be buried there.

Magnus had secured the acceptance of his son Birger as his successor as early as 1284, ~~preventing the disappearance of the elective monarch~~ but he was still a minor and the Council took over the government until his coronation in 1302, greatly weakening the monarchy. His two brothers, Dukes Eric & Valdemar, conspired