

Remote Origin of Frankish Foresters from 418 A.D.

Pharamond - King of the Franks, ruled 418 - 430 in Franconia. He was the chieftain who first led his tribe of Salian Franks from Franconia in Germany, into that northern portion of Gaul known as Flanders. Not a great deal is known about him, he had a wife and we must assume that Merovec was his son.

Merovec - King of the Franks, ruled 430 - 458 in Francia. Leader of the Salian Franks from the death of Pharamond. He fought against and caused Attila the Hun to retreat. Merovec's Germanic warriors settled the war-torn land they called Francia. Merovec married an unnamed wife. They had issue. The eldest was named Childeric.

Childeric I - King of the Franks, ruled 458 - 482 in Francia. He continued to expand their new land, and to establish agriculture. His was a reign of settlement and consolidation. Francia as their homeland after his father's expulsion of the Huns. Childeric I married Basina of Thuringia. Their son, Clovis I inherited the crown.

Clovis I - King of the Franks, ruled 482 - 511 in Francia. He united the Frankish tribes by his strong leadership, defeated the last Roman Governor of Gaul and expelled the Visigoths. Now the new Francia was truly the country of the Franks, the land of the Merovingians. A vital factor in his success was his and his people's conversion to Christianity. It assured their support by the powerful Catholic hierarchy of Gaul and Rome, making the Franks more acceptable to the Roman population of Gaul. He married Clotilda, niece of King Gundobad of Burgundy. Later on, after a vicious fighting feud between his four sons, his final heir was Childebert I.

Childebert I - King of the Franks, ruled 511 - 558 in Francia. His was an uneasy rule, due to the enmity of his remaining brother, Clothaire, who constantly strove to

overthrow him. Childeberte I appears to have died unwed and childless during his 29 year reign, since his brother took over from him at his suspicious death in 558.

Clothaire I - King of the Franks ruled 558 - 562 in Francia. Prior to his brief four-year reign, Clothaire had evidently married and came to the throne with four sons - Charibert, Gunthram, Sigibert and Chilperic I. After Clothaire's short reign and early death, they divided his empire among them. Except for Gunthram, who died early, the other three each appear to have ruled consecutively as King after their father.

Charibert - King of the Franks, ruled 562 - 567 in Francia. Charibert had only a four-year reign like his father. Hardly enough time to achieve a great deal. There is no information about his marital status or issue. At his death, his younger brother, Sigibert took over the throne.

Sigibert - King of the Franks, ruled 567 - 575 in Francia. Sigibert's reign was quite a troublesome one. He married Brunhilda, the daughter of the Visigoth King Athanagild. However, his remaining younger brother, Chilperic, then married Brunhilda's sister, Galswintha. But no sooner had he done so than he grew tired of her. He had her murdered, and married her servant wench, Fredegund. The murder of her sister enraged Brunhilda so much that it caused a family feud lasting four decades. In turn, Fredegund became very dangerous and was accused of all sorts of mayhem within the family, until finally, she had King Sigibert assassinated in 575. After a short interregnum, Chilperic finally took the throne.

Chilperic - King of the Franks, ruled 576 - 584 in Francia. Given his sister-in-law's interference, Chilperic's eight-year reign was hardly a happy one, during which Brunhilda, now an old woman, managed to get herself tortured and dragged to death tied by her hair behind a galloping horse.

Eventually, on Chilperic's death in 584, Fredegund's son, Clothaire II, finally became sole King of the Frankish Empire.

Clothaire II - King of the Franks, ruled 584 - 620 in Francia. Clothaire inherited a kingdom that was torn apart by internecine strife and struggles for supremacy among nobility and royalty alike. Apart from this internal strife, there was a constant threat of war with other tribes looming over his reign. However, it was a very long one in comparison with those of his immediate ancestors. He held the Frankish throne for 36 years before finally dying and leaving his son Dagobert I to take over his troubled empire.

Dagobert I - King of the Franks, ruled 620 - 637 in Francia. His reign was to be the culminating point of the Merovingian dynasty. Under Dagobert I, the Franks attained a position of great power and prominence among the European nations. However, despite his name and title being famed from the river Weser to Bohemia and across to the Pyrenees, at home his authority was illrespected. He discovered that he was the king in name only. His predecessors had virtually assigned their direct oversight of their kingdoms to their vassal Counts and Lords - to such a degree that these now almost overruled their own royal masters! The rights of the Counts were irrevocable and hereditary and they exercised them to the full over their respective territories, appointing judges and tribunals as they wished, without consulting the king. Dagobert decided to set matters straight. In 621, he divided his kingdom into several provinces and bestowed their government to his most trusted knights. Among these was one Lyderic, the son of Saluart, Prince of Dijon. Apart from his excellent virtues and qualities, Lyderic was also Dagobert's brother-in-law, being married to his sister, Princess Richilda. Lyderic's mother was also Emingarde, the daughter of Girard, the Signour de Roussilon, a princess herself of the royal blood, of whose descendants one would eventually become wife to the Emperor of all France! In addition to all this,

for having killed the tyrant Phinart, King Dagobert I also invested Lyderic with the government and fiefdom of all Flanders, gave him the name of “Le Buc”, the title of Grand Forester and a coat of arms to match. In this manner the long dynasty of powerful Grand Counts of Flanders came into being. There were, of course, still another eleven Kings of Francia to follow Dagobert I in what were now to become nominal royal “figurehead” roles. However, Dagobert had at least created a single line of loyal Counts as the executive governors over the royal territories instead of all the melange of various and sundry “Jacks-in-Office” who had gone before. Although it is to these powerful semiregal Counts that the interest of modern Forsters and Foresters is now directed - starting with

Lyderic Le Buc - I will at least mention the remaining kings, (even though they were to become such in name only from hereon), as a matter of common courtesy! They are as shown below:

Clovis II, 637 - 655

Clothaire III, 655 - 668

Childeric II, 668 - 674

Dagobert II, 674 - 678

Theuderic III, 678 - 691

Clovis III, 691 - 695

Childbert II, 695 - 711

Dagobert III, 711-716

Chilperic, 716 -721

Theuderic, 721 - 737

Childeric III, 737 - 751

From this point on the dynastic line changes from the **Thuringian** to the **Carolingian** dynasty with which we are not concerned in this genealogical exercise!

Click here for further data:

<http://britannia.com/history/resource/france.html>

Royal Foresters of Flanders

Lyderic de Buc, Forester de Flanders. Born 600 and died.692 in Flanders Appointed Grand Forester and Governor of Flanders by Dagobert I, King of the Franks in 621. Married Dagobert's sister, Richilda, Princess of Merovingia. His 2nd son, one of 15 children, was named Antoine Forester de Flanders.

Antoine, Forester de Flanders. Born c619 in Flanders 3rd son was named Bouchard de Flanders.

Bouchard, Forester De Flanders. Born and died in Flanders Became the first Lord of Harlbec. Had a son named Estorede.

Estorede, Forester de Flanders. Born and died 792 in Flanders 2nd Lord of Harlbec. Became Prince of Lorraine. Son was named Lideric.

Lideric II de Flanders. Born c750 and died 835 in Flanders Became Count of Flanders and Harlbec. Son was named Enguerrand de Flanders.

Enguerrand de Flanders. Born c780 and died c851 in Flanders Count of Flanders and Harlbec. Among others, he had a son named Anacher (or Odoacer) de Flanders.

Anacher, Great Forester de Flanders. Born 810 and died 864 in Flanders Some Belgian records claim him as being Ogier or Oldacre von Laon, Conte de Harlebec, who married the daughter of Anselme de St. Paul and St. Omer. In which case he would have been the grandson of Liederick von Harlebec, "The Forrester of Lotharn". If this is true he would have been Count Odoacer Forester. But it cannot be verified. Anacher's wife bore him a son named Baldwin I.

Baldwin I - 'Bras de Fer' de Flanders. Born 837 and died 877 in France Married Judith of France, daughter of Charles of France and Ermentrude of Orleans. When Flanders became part of Charlemagne's Empire, Baldwin I was created the 1st Count of Flanders, and kept Flanders free of

Vikings. He was named “Bras de Fer” due to his strong arms. Their son was Baldwin II “The Bald”.

Baldwin II - “The Bald” de Flanders. Born 864 and died 918 in Flanders Married Aethelfryth of Wessex, daughter of Alfred the Great, in 889. (She died in 929 in Flanders.) From his castle in Bruges, Baldwin II maintained the repulse of the Norsemen. By his descent from Charlmagne on his mother’s side and marrying the daughter of the Saxon King of England, he greatly strengthened the importance of his dynasty. His wife bore two sons, Arnold (or Arnulf) the elder, and Adalulf (died young).

Arnold I - “The Great” de Flanders. Born 889 and died 964 in Flanders. Married Adele de Vermandois and they had a son, Baldwin. Arnold continued warring against the Vikings, and in old age handed government over to his son, Baldwin - but had to resume control after Baldwin’s early death in battle. He then passed on the succession to his grandson, Arnold II.

Baldwin III de Flanders. Born 938 and died 962 in Flanders
Wednesday, August 15, 2007 Page 9 of 52 Although he only lived twenty four years, Baldwin did much to enhance the greatness of the region by promoting the wool and silk trades in Ghent. However, he also had to do his share of fighting the Vikings at the same time. No details are given of his early death but he still qualifies to take his place in the order of descent of his house. He married Matilda of Saxony Billung around 944 and they had a son, Arnold.

Arnold II - “The Young” de Flanders. Born 961 and died 987 in Flanders. Married Rosela of Italy, before 980. She was born 947 and died 1003. Little is known of Arnold II beyond his marriage and the birth of their son, Baldwin “The Fair Beard”.

Baldwin IV - “Fair Beard” de Flanders. Born 978 and died 1038 in France He married Ogive de Luxemburg, daughter of Richard II, Duke of Normandy, before 1012. She was born 980 and died 1030 in Flanders, France. He fought against the Capetian King of France and the Emperor Henry II, and consequentially gained lands in Flanders. This made him a feudatory holder of part of the French Empire as well as a claimant to the French Crown. The French Fiefs were thus known as “Crown Flanders’ and the German fiefs as “Imperial Flanders”. His wife bore him a son, Baldwin V.

Baldwin V - ‘The Pious’ de Flanders. Born 1012 and died 1067 in Flanders Married Adelaide De France, daughter of Robert II and Constance de Taillefer in Paris, in 1028. He was the Fifth Count of Flanders that became part of the Holy Roman Empire in that century. He received new lands between the Schelde and Dendre rivers, and the Margraviate of Antwerp. His wife, Adelaide, the Princess of France, had 3 children - (1) Matilda-Maude II of Flanders B.1031 - D. 1083, (2) Richard “Forestarius” Forester de Flanders, B. 1030 in Flanders. D.1080 in Scotland, and (3) Robert I “De Fries” Count of Flanders, B. 1033 – D.1093 in Belgium.

Matilda Maud de Flanders. Born 1035 and died 1087 in Caen, France She married William of Normandy in 1053 at Castle d’ Angi, Normandy. Born the son of Robert and Harlette de Falaise in 1024, in Calais and died in1087 at Rouen, France. William was called both “The Conqueror” and “The Bastard”. He was crowned King of England on Christmas Day, 1066. His claim to England’s throne and subsequent invasion were strongly supported by noblemen of Normandy, Brittany and Flanders. Their support was rewarded by gifts of land and titles after his victory at Hastings and recorded in the Domesday Book in 1085. Matilda bore him a son, the future English King Henry I, at Selby, Yorks. Her young brother, Sir Richard Forester, went

on to found both the Scottish and Northumbrian Forester and Forster clans.