

GRANHOLM GENEALOGY

FRANK ROYAL ANCESTRY

Introduction by Lars Granholm

The Frank empire lasted about 500 years, (300-800 AD) as listed below. It covered approximately the present France and Germany, but during several wars the area changed constantly. Also different areas were split up among sons and other relatives and favorites. After Charlemagne France and Germany were established as separate countries. This presentation begins where the myth turns into history and ends with Charlemagne. For earlier legendary ancestry, to the time of the birth of Christ, see the link below by Jacob Holdt.

<http://www.american-pictures.com/english/jacob/x2269.htm> (click on the yellow star)

Descendants of: Pharamond King of the Franks As Related to: Lars Erik Granholm

- 1 **Pharamond King of the Franks** #16052 (51st great grand father)
- 2 **Clodio King of the Franks** #16051 b. 395 d. 448 (50th great grand father)
- 3 **Merovech King of the Franks** #16050 b. 411 France d. 457 (49th great grand father) m.
Verica Queen of the Franks #16049 b. 419 Westfalen, Germany
- 4 **Childeric I King of the Franks** #16046 b. 440 Westfalen, Germany d. 481 (48th great grand father) m.
Basina Queen of Thuringia #16047 b. 438 Thüringen d. abt 470 [daughter of Basin King of Thuringia #16048]
- 5 **Clovis I King of the Franks** #16040 b. 466 Loire-Atlantique, France d. 511 Saint Pierre church (47th great grand father) m.
Saint Clotilde Queen of the Franks #16041 b. 475 d. 545 [daughter of Chilperic II King of Burgundy #16042 and Caretena Queen of Burgundy #16043]
- 6 **Clotaire I King of the Franks** #16037 b. 497 d. 561 (46th great grand father) m.
Aregund Queen of the Franks #16038
[daughter of Baderic King of Thuringia #16039] m.
Ingund Princess of Thuringia #16074 b. 499
[daughter of Baderic King of Thuringia #16039]
- [Children of Clotaire I King of the Franks and Aregund Queen of the Franks]
- 7 **Chilperic I King of the Franks** #16035 b. 539 d. 584 (45th great grand father)
m. **Fredegund Queen of the Franks** #16036 d. 597
m. **Galswintha Princess of Hispania** #16069 m. 567 b. 540 d. 568
[daughter of Athanagild Visigothic King of Hispania #16070 and Goiswintha #16071]
- [Children of Chilperic I King of the Franks and Fredegund Queen of the Franks]
- 8 **Chlothar II the Great King of the Franks** #16033 b. 584 d. 629 (44th great grand father) m.
Haldetrude Queen of the Franks #16034
- 9 **Dagobert I King of the Franks** #16031 b. 603 d. 639 (43rd great grand father) m.
Nanthild Queen of the Franks #16032 b. 610 d. 642
- 10 **Clovis II King of the Franks** #16029 b. 637 d. 655 (42nd great grand father) m.
Balthild Queen of the Franks #16030 b. 626 d. 680
- 11 **Theuderic III King of Neustria** #16027 b. 654 d. 691 (41st great grand father) m.
Clotilda of Heristal #16028
[daughter of Ansegisel #16079 and Saint Begga #16078]
- 12 **Bertrada of Prüm** #16026 b. 670 d. 721 (40th great grand mother) m.
Martin of Laon #16025
[son of Ansegisel #16079 and Saint Begga #16078]
- 13 **Bertrada of Laon Queen of the Franks** #16024 b. 710/27 d. 783 (39th great grand mother) m.
Pepin the Short King of the Franks #16023 b. 714 d. 768 [son of Charles Martel Duke of the Franks #16082 and Rotrude Duchess of Trier #16083]
- 14 **Charlemagne Emperor of Holy Roman Empire** #15268 b. 742 d. 814 Aachen (38th great grand father) m.
Hildegard Empress of Holy Roman Empire #15269 b. ABT 757 d. 30 Apr 783 Moselle [daughter of Gerold I Duke of Vinzgau #15273 and Emma of Allemania #15274]
- [Children of Clotaire I King of the Franks and Ingund Princess of Thuringia]
- 7 **Sigebert I King of Austrasia** #16073 b. 535 d. 574 (46th great uncle)
m. **Brunhilda Queen of Austrasia** #16072 b. 543 d. 613
[daughter of Athanagild Visigothic King of Hispania #16070 and Goiswintha #16071]

Kings of the Franks

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pharamond>

<http://www.american-pictures.com/genealogy/persons/per02336.htm#0>

Pharamond (51st great grand father of LG)

King Pharamond



Pharamond or **Faramund** is a legendary early king of the [Franks](#) first referred to in the anonymous 8th century [Carolingian](#) text *Liber Historiae Francorum*, also known as the *Gesta regnum Francorum*. In this work, which is customarily dated to 727, the anonymous author begins by writing of a mythical [Trojan](#) origin for the [Franks](#). The emphasis of the *Liber* was upon "construct[ing] a specific past for a particular group of people."

The story is told of the election of the first Frankish king.^[2] It says that after the death of [Sunno](#), his brother [Marcomer](#), leader of the [Ampsivarii](#) and [Chatti](#), proposed to the Franks that they should have one single king, contrary to their tradition. The *Liber* adds that Pharamond, named as Marchomir's son, was chosen as this first king (thus beginning the tradition of long-haired kings of the Franks), and then states that when he died, his son [Chlodio](#) was raised up as the next king.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Clodio>

<http://www.american-pictures.com/genealogy/persons/per02324.htm#0>

Clodio

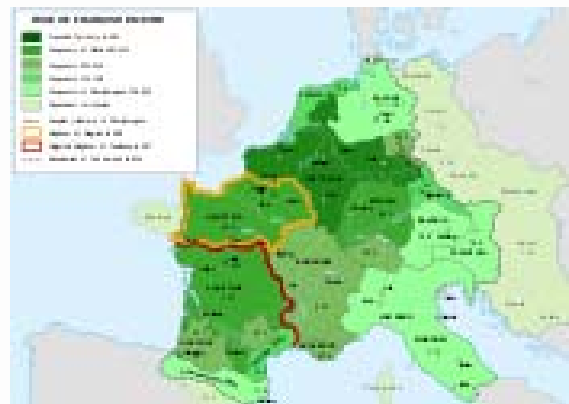
Chlodio (395-448)^[1] was a king of the [Salian Franks](#) from the [Merovingian dynasty](#). He was known as a Long-Haired King and lived at a place on the [Thuringian](#) border called [Dispargum](#). From there he invaded the [Roman Empire](#) in 428 and settled in Northern [Gaul](#), where already other groups of Salians were settled. Although he was attacked by Romans he was able to maintain his position and 3 years later in 431 he extended his kingdom down south to the [Somme](#)

[River](#). In 448, 20 years after his reign began Chlodio was defeated at an unidentified place called Vicus Helena by [Flavius Aëtius](#), the commander of the [Roman Army](#) in Gaul.

Like all [Merovingian kings](#) Chlodio had long hair as a ritual custom. His successor may have been [Merovech](#), after whom the dynasty was named 'Merovingian'. One legend has it that his father was [Pharamond](#).

Merovingian monarchs

[Childeric I](#) (457–481) • [Clovis I](#) (481–511) • [Childebert I](#) (511–558) • [Chlodomer](#) (511–524) • [Theuderic I](#) (511–533) • [Theudebert I](#) (533–548) • [Theudebald](#) (548–555) • [Chlothar I the Old](#) (511–561) • [Charibert I](#) (561–567) • [Guntram](#) (561–592) • [Sigebert I](#) (561–575) • [Childebert II](#) (575–595) • [Theudebert II](#) (595–612) • [Theuderic II](#) (612–613) • [Sigebert II](#) (613) • [Chilperic I](#) (561–584) • [Chlothar II the Great](#) (584–623) • [Dagobert I](#) (623–634) • [Charibert II](#) (629–632) • [Chilperic](#) (632) • [Sigebert III](#) (634–656) • [Childebert the Adopted](#) (656–661) • [Clovis II](#) (639–657) • [Chlothar III](#) (657–673) • [Childeric II](#) (662–675) • [Theuderic III](#) (675–691) • [Dagobert II](#) (675–679) • [Clovis IV](#) (691–695) • [Childebert III the Just](#) (695–711) • [Dagobert III](#) (711–715) • [Chilperic II](#) (715–721) • [Chlothar IV](#) (717–720) • [Theuderic IV](#) (721–737) • [Childeric III](#) (743–751)



<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Merovech>

<http://www.american-pictures.com/genealogy/persons/per02302.htm#0>

Merovech

Silvered brass mounting from 1867 depicting Merovech victorious in battle, by [Emmanuel Frémiet](#).



Merovech/Merowig (411-457) is the legendary founder of the [Merovingian](#) dynasty of the [Salian Franks](#), which later became the dominant [Frankish](#) tribe.

There is little information about him in the later histories of the Franks. [Gregory of Tours](#) only names him once as the father of [Childeric I](#) while putting doubt on his descent from [Clodio](#).^[2] Many admit today that this formulation finds its explanation in a legend reported by Fredegar.^[3] The [Chronicle of Fredegar](#) interpolated on this reference by Gregory by adding Merovech was the son of

the queen, Clodio's wife; but his father was a sea-god, bistera Neptuni.

According to another legend, Merovech was conceived when Pharamond's wife encountered a [Quinotaur](#), a sea monster which could change shapes while swimming. Though never stated, it is implied that she was impregnated by it. This legend was related by [Fredegar](#) in the seventh century, and may have been known earlier. The legend is probably a [back-formation](#) or [folk etymology](#) used to explain the Salian Franks' origin as a sea coast dwelling people, and based on the name itself. The "Mero-" or "Mer-" element in the name suggests a sea or ocean. The legend could also be explained in a much easier way. The sea monster could have been a foreign conqueror, coming from the sea, taking the dead king's (Chlodio or [Pharamond](#)) wife to legitimise his rule.

The first Frankish royal dynasty called themselves [Merovingians](#) in his honor.

Reference in popular culture

The legend about Merovech's conception was adapted in 1982 by authors [Henry Lincoln](#) and [Richard Leigh](#) in their book *[Holy Blood Holy Grail](#)*, as the seed of a new idea. They hypothesized that this "descended from a fish" legend was actually referring to the concept that the Merovingian line had married into the bloodline of [Jesus Christ](#), since the symbol for early Christians had also been a [fish](#). This theory, with no other basis than Lincoln and Leigh's concoction, was further popularized in 2003 via [Dan Brown](#)'s bestselling novel, *[The Da Vinci Code](#)*

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Childeric_I

<http://www.american-pictures.com/genealogy/persons/per02291.htm#0>

Childeric I

Childeric I (c. 440– c. 481) was the [Merovingian](#) king of the [Salian Franks](#) from 457 until his death, and the father of [Clovis](#).

He succeeded his father [Merovech](#) ([Latinised](#) as Meroveus or Merovius) as king, traditionally in 457 or 458. With his Frankish warband he was established with his capital at [Tournai](#), on lands which he had received as a *foederatus* of the [Romans](#), and for some time he kept the peace with his allies.

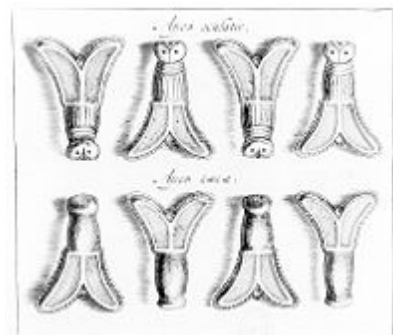
The stories of his expulsion by the Franks, whose women he was taking; of his eight-year stay in [Thuringia](#) with [King Basin](#) and his wife Basina; of his return when a faithful servant advised him that he could safely do so by sending to him half of a piece of [gold](#) which he had broken with him; and of the arrival in Tournai of [Queen Basina](#), whom he married, come from Gregory of Tours' *Libri Historiarum* (Book ii.12).

Drawings of golden bees or flies discovered in the tomb of Childeric I (died 482). Possibly pagan symbols representing longevity or the cult of [Artemis](#).

He died in 481 and was buried in [Tournai](#), leaving a son [Clovis](#), afterwards king of the Franks.

His tomb

Childeric's tomb was discovered in 1653 by a mason doing repairs in the church of Saint-Brice in [Tournai](#), a city in modern Belgium, where numerous precious objects were found, including a richly ornamented sword, a [torse](#)-like bracelet, jewels of gold and cloisonné enamel with garnets, gold coins, a gold bull's head and a ring with the inscription CHILDERICI REGIS ("of Childeric the king"), which identified the tomb. Some 300 golden [bees](#) were also found. [Archduke Leopold William](#), governor of the Southern Netherlands (today's Belgium), had the find published in Latin, and the treasure went first to the Habsburgs in Vienna, then as a gift to [Louis XIV](#), who was not impressed with them and stored them in the royal library, which became the [Bibliothèque Nationale de France](#) during the [Revolution](#). Napoleon was more impressed with Childeric's bees when he was looking for a heraldic symbol to trump the Bourbon [fleur-de-lys](#). He settled on Childeric's bees as symbols of the [French Empire](#).



http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Basina,_Queen_of_Thuringia
<http://www.american-pictures.com/genealogy/persons/per02480.htm#0>

Basina, Queen of Thuringia

Basina was queen of [Thuringia](#) in the middle of the fifth century. She left her husband king [Bisinus](#) and went to Roman [Gaul](#). She herself took the initiative to ask for the hand of [Childeric I](#), king of the [Franks](#), and married him. For as she herself said, "I want to have the most powerful man in the world, even if I have to cross the ocean for him". This remark of her may have been related to Childeric's successful invasion of the Roman Empire and his attempt to settle a Frankish kingdom on Roman soil.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Clovis_I
<http://www.american-pictures.com/genealogy/persons/per02146.htm#0>

Clovis I

Statue depicting the baptism of Clovis by [Saint Remigius](#).



Clovis (c. 466-[511](#)) was the first [King of the Franks](#) to unite all the [Frankish tribes](#) under one ruler. He succeeded his father [Childeric I](#) in 481 as King of the [Salian Franks](#), one of the Frankish tribes who were then occupying the area west of the lower [Rhine](#), at modern frontier between [France](#) and [Belgium](#), Clovis conquered the neighbouring Frankish tribes and established himself as sole king before his death.

He converted to [Roman Catholicism](#), at the instigation of his wife, the [Burgundian Clotilda](#), a Catholic. He was baptized in the [Cathedral of Rheims](#), where most future [French kings](#) would be crowned.

He had previously married the [Christian Burgundian](#) princess [Clotilde](#) (493), and, following his victory at Tolbiac in 496, he converted to her [Trinitarian Catholic](#) faith. This set Clovis apart from the other Germanic kings of his time, such as those of the [Visigoths](#) and the [Vandals](#), who had converted from [heathen](#) beliefs to [Arian Christianity](#).

Christian king

Clovis was baptised at Reims on Christmas 496. The conversion of Clovis to [Catholic Christianity](#), the religion of the majority of his subjects, strengthened the bonds between his Roman subjects, led by their Catholic bishops, and their Germanic conquerors.

He established [Paris](#) as his capital,^[3] and established an abbey dedicated to Saints Peter and Paul on the south bank of the [Seine](#). Later it was renamed [Sainte-Geneviève Abbey](#), in honor of the [patron saint](#) of Paris.^[6]



Gaul after Clovis' death.



Death and legacy

Clovis I is traditionally said to have died on 27 November 511. After his death, he was interred in [Saint Denis Basilica](#), [Paris](#). Upon his death his realm was divided among his four sons: [Theuderic](#), [Chlodomer](#), [Childebert](#), and [Clotaire](#).

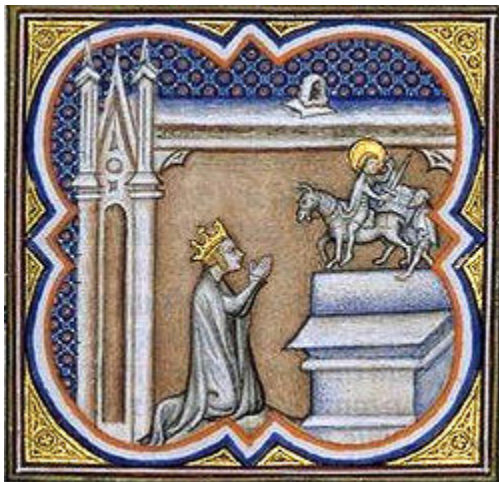
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Clotilde>

<http://www.american-pictures.com/genealogy/persons/per02157.htm#0>

Clotilde

Saint Clotilde (475 – 545), also known as **Clotilda** or simply **Clotild**, was the daughter of [Chilperic II of Burgundy](#) and Caretena, and wife of the Frankish king [Clovis I](#). Venerated as a [Saint](#) by [Roman Catholics](#), she was instrumental to her husband's famous conversion to [Christianity](#) and, in her later years, was known for her almsgiving and penitential works of mercy.

A miniature showing Saint Clotilde's devotion to [Saint Martin](#), 14th century



According to [Gregory of Tours](#), Chilperic was slain by Gundobad, his wife drowned, and of his two daughters, Chrona took the veil and Clotilde was exiled. This account, however, seems to have been a later invention, since an epitaph discovered at Lyons speaks of a Burgundian queen who died in 506. This was most probably the mother of Clotilde.

In 493 Clotilde married Clovis, [King of the Franks](#), who had just conquered northern Gaul. She was brought up in the Catholic faith and did not rest until her husband had abjured paganism and embraced the Catholic faith in 496. With him she built at [Paris](#) the church of the Holy Apostles, afterwards known as *Sainte Geneviève*.

After the death of Clovis in 511 she retired to the abbey of St Martin at Tours.

She died in 544 or 545, and was buried at her husband's side in the church of the Holy Apostles.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Clotaire_I

<http://www.american-pictures.com/genealogy/persons/per02135.htm#0>

Chlothar I

Chlothar I (or *Chlothachar*, *Chlotar*, *Clhar*, *Clotaire*, *Chlotochar*, or *Hlothar*, giving rise to [Lothair](#); 497 – 561), called **the Old** (*le Vieuxot*), [King of the Franks](#), was one of the four sons of [Clovis](#). He was born about 497 in [Soissons](#) (now in [Aisne département](#), [Picardie](#), [France](#)).

He also ruled over the greater part of [Germany](#), made expeditions into [Saxony](#), and for some time exacted from the Saxons an annual tribute of 500 cows. The end of his reign was troubled

by internal dissensions, his son [Chram](#) rising against him on several occasions. Following Chram into [Brittany](#), where the rebel had taken refuge, Clotaire shut him up with his wife and children in a cottage, which he set on fire. Overwhelmed with remorse, he went to Tours to implore forgiveness at the tomb of [St Martin](#), and died shortly afterwards.

Family

His third and most successful marriage was to [Ingund](#), by whom he had five sons and two daughters:

- Gunthar, predeceased father
- Childeric, predeceased father
- [Charibert](#), King of [Paris](#)
- [Guntram](#), King of [Burgundy](#)
- [Sigebert](#), King of [Austrasia](#)
- [Chlotsind](#), married [Alboin](#), King of the [Lombards](#)

His next marriage was to a sister of Ingund, [Aregund](#), with whom he had a son:

- [Chilperic](#), King of [Soissons](#)

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aregund>

<http://www.american-pictures.com/genealogy/persons/per03723.htm#0>

Aregund

Sarcophagus of Arégonde



Belt plaques from the finery set of Queen Aregund



Aregund was the wife of [Clotaire I](#), [king of the Franks](#), and the mother of [Chilperic I](#) of [Neustria](#). She was the sister of [Ingund](#), one of Clotaire's other wives. She lived during the sixth century.

Her [sepulchre](#), among dozens of others, was discovered in 1959 in the [Saint Denis Basilica](#) by [archaeologist Michel Fleury](#). It contained remarkably well-preserved clothing items and [jewellery](#), which were used to identify her.

In an episode of the television series, [Digging for the Truth](#), aired in May 2006, host [Josh Bernstein](#) arranged a [DNA test](#) of a sample of her remains to see if it showed any [Middle Eastern](#) characteristics. It did not. This was meant to disprove the notion put forwards by the [Da Vinci Code](#) that the Merovingians were descended from Jesus, though it should be noted [Aregund](#) was merely married into the dynasty, not a blood descendant- so presumably the results of this test are irrelevant.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chilperic_I

<http://www.american-pictures.com/genealogy/persons/per03537.htm#0>

Chilperic I

Portrait of Chilperic I on a bronze medal [1720](#).

Chilperic I and [Fredegund](#)



Chilperic I (c. 539 – September 584) was the king of [Neustria](#) (or [Soissons](#)) from 561 to his death. He was one of the sons of [Clotaire I](#), sole king of the [Franks](#), and [Aregund](#).

Immediately after the death of his father in 561, he endeavoured to take possession of the whole kingdom, seized the treasure amassed



in the royal town of [Berny](#) and entered [Paris](#). His brothers, however, compelled him to divide the kingdom with them, and Soissons, together with [Amiens](#), [Arras](#), [Cambrai](#), [Thérouanne](#), [Tournai](#), and [Boulogne](#) fell to Chilperic's share. His eldest brother [Charibert](#) received [Paris](#), the second eldest brother [Guntram](#) received [Burgundy](#) with its capital at [Orléans](#), and [Sigebert](#) received [Austrasia](#). On the death of Charibert in 567, his estates were augmented when the brothers divided Charibert's kingdom among themselves and agreed to share Paris.

When Sigebert married [Brunhilda](#), daughter of the [Visigothic](#) sovereign in [Spain](#) ([Athanagild](#)), Chilperic also wished to make a brilliant marriage. He had already repudiated his first wife, [Audovera](#), and had taken as his concubine a serving-woman called [Fredegund](#). He accordingly dismissed Fredegund, and married Brunhilda's sister, [Galswintha](#). But he soon tired of his new partner, and one morning Galswintha was found strangled in her bed. A few days afterwards Chilperic married Fredegund.

It was one day in September of 584, while returning from the chase to his royal [villa](#) of [Chelles](#), that Chilperic was stabbed to death.

Family

Chilperic I's first marriage was to [Audovera](#). They had four children:

- [Theudebert](#), died in the war of 575
- Merovech of Soissons (d.578), married the widow Brunhilda and became his father's enemy
- Clovis of Soissons, assassinated by Fredegund in 580
- [Basina](#), nun, led a revolt in the abbey of Poitiers

His concubinage and subsequent marriage to [Fredegund](#) produced four more legitimate offspring:

- Samson, died young
- [Rigunth](#), betrothed to Reccared but never married
- Theuderic, died young
- [Clotaire](#), his successor in Neustria, later sole king of the Franks

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fredegund>

<http://www.american-pictures.com/genealogy/persons/per03538.htm#0>

Fredegund

Fredegund or **Fredegunda** (also [Latin](#) *Fredegundis* or [French](#) *Frédégonde*; died 597) was the [Queen consort](#) of [Chilperic I](#), the [Merovingian Frankish](#) king of [Soissons](#).

Originally a servant, Fredegund became Chilperic's mistress after he had murdered his wife and queen, [Galswintha](#) (c. 568). But Galswintha's sister, [Brunhilda](#), in revenge against Chilperic, began a feud which lasted more than 40 years.

King [Chilperic I](#) and Queen Frédégonde.



Fredegund is said to be responsible for the assassination of [Sigebert I](#) in 575 and made attempts on the lives of [Guntram](#) (her brother-in-law and the king of [Burgundy](#)), [Childebert II](#) (Sigebert's son), and Brunhilda.

After the mysterious assassination of Chilperic (584), Fredegund seized his riches and took refuge in the cathedral at [Paris](#). Both she and her surviving son, [Clothar II](#), were protected by [Guntram](#) until he died in 592.

Gregory of Tours depicts her as ruthlessly murderous and sadistically cruel; in his account, Fredegund perhaps has few rivals in monstrosity. Although she did not live to see it, her son's execution of Brunhilda bore the mark of Fredegund's hatred: Clothar II had the old queen, now in her sixties, stretched in agony upon the [rack](#) for three entire days, then watched her meet her death chained between four horses that were goaded to the four points of the compass, tearing her body asunder.

Fredegund died c. 8 December 597 in Paris, France. The tomb of Frédégonde (d. 597) is a mosaic figure of marble and copper, situated in [Saint Denis Basilica](#), having come from St. Germain-des-Prés.

Fredegund and Rigunth, steel engraving
from Mme de Witt 1887

Fredegund in Folklore

In his book *Cinderella: A Casebook* folklorist [Alan Dundes](#) sites the following excerpt from *History of the Franks* by [Gregory of Tours](#):



She was jealous of her own daughter, Rigunth, who continually declared that she should be mistress (probably, as Dalton Says, because Fredegund began life as a palace maid, while she was of royal blood, being a king's daughter) in her place. Fredegund waited her opportunity and under the pretense of magnanimity took her to the treasure-room and showed her the King's jewels in a large chest. Feigning fatigue, she exclaimed "I am weary; put thou in thy hand, and take out what thou mayest find." The mother thereupon forced down the lid on her neck and would have killed her had not the servants finally rushed to her aid.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Galswintha>

Galswintha

The strangling of Galswintha by [Chilperic I](#)



The strangling of Galswintha by [Chilperic I](#)

Galswintha (540-568) was the daughter of [Athanagild](#), [Visigothic](#) king of [Hispania](#) (the [Iberian Peninsula](#), comprising modern [Spain](#) and [Portugal](#)), and [Goiswintha](#). Galswintha was the sister of [Brunhilda](#), queen of [Austrasia](#); and the wife of [Chilperic I](#), the [Merovingian](#) king of [Neustria](#).



Galswintha and Chilperic were married at [Rouen](#) in 567, but soon afterwards in 573 she was murdered at the instigation of Chilperic's mistress [Fredegund](#), who then married him. Chilperic in turn was murdered by Fredegund in 584. ^[1]

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Clothar_II

<http://www.american-pictures.com/genealogy/persons/per03536.htm#0>



Chlothar II

The kingdom of Chlothar at the start of his reign (yellow). By 613 he had inherited or conquered all of the coloured portions of the map.

Chlothar II (or *Chlotar*, *Clothar*, *Clotaire*, *Chlotochar*, or *Hlothar*, giving rise to [Lothair](#); 584 – 629), called **the Great**

the *rois fainéants*. The first wife of Chlothar II was Haldetrude (ca 575–604). She was the mother of [Dagobert I](#). Chlothar's second wife was Bertrada. His third wife was Sichilde, who bore him [Charibert II](#) and a daughter, Oda.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dagobert_I

<http://www.american-pictures.com/genealogy/persons/per03532.htm#0>

Dagobert I



Solidus of Dagobert I, [Marseille](#), 623–629

Dagobert I (c. 603 – [19 January 639](#)) was the king of [Austrasia](#) (623–634), [king of all the Franks](#) (629–634), and king of [Neustria](#) and [Burgundy](#) (629–639). He was the last [Merovingian](#) dynast to wield any real royal power. Dagobert was the first of the French kings to be buried in the royal tombs at [Saint Denis Basilica](#).

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Dagobert was the eldest son of [Chlothar II](#) and [Haldetrude](#) (575–604). Chlothar II had reigned alone over all the Franks since 613. In 623, Chlothar was forced to make Dagobert king of Austrasia by the nobility of that region, who wanted a king of their own.

United rule

On the death of his father in 629, Dagobert inherited the Neustrian and Burgundian kingdoms. His half-brother [Charibert](#), son of [Sichilde](#), claimed Neustria but Dagobert opposed him. [Brodulf](#), the brother of Sichilde, petitioned Dagobert on behalf of his young nephew, but Dagobert assassinated him and gave his younger sibling Aquitaine.

Charibert died in 632 and his son [Chilperic](#) was assassinated on Dagobert's orders. By 632, Dagobert had Burgundy and Aquitaine firmly under his rule, becoming the most powerful Merovingian king in many years and the most respected ruler in the West.

Rule in Neustria, from Paris

Also in 632, the nobles of Austrasia revolted under the [mayor of the palace](#), [Pepin of Landen](#). In 634, Dagobert appeased the rebellious nobles by putting his three-year-old son, [Sigebert III](#), on

the throne, thereby ceding royal power in the easternmost of his realms, just as his father had done for him eleven years earlier.

As king, Dagobert made [Paris](#) his capital. During his reign, he built the [Altes Schloss](#) in [Meersburg](#) (in modern [Germany](#)), which today is the oldest inhabited castle in that country. Devoutly religious, Dagobert was also responsible for the construction of the [Saint Denis Basilica](#), at the site of a [Benedictine](#) monastery in Paris.

Dagobert died in the abbey of Saint-Denis and was the first French king to be buried in the [Saint Denis Basilica](#), [Paris](#).



Detail of Dagobert's tomb, thirteenth century

Dagobert's tomb at [Saint-Denis](#), remade in the thirteenth century



Legacy

The pattern of division and assassination which characterise even the strong king Dagobert's reign continued for the next century until [Pepin the Short](#) finally deposed the last Merovingian king in 751, establishing the [Carolingian](#) dynasty.

Marriage and issue

Dagobert was a serial monogamist.

He married [Nanthild](#) and they had the following:

- [Clovis II](#), who inherited the rest of his kingdom at a young age when his father died.
- [Reginrud](#) who married into the Bavarian [Agilolfings](#), either [Theodo, Duke of Bavaria](#) or his son [Duke in Salzburg](#).

He also had a mistress named [Ragintrudis](#) (Ragnetrude) and they had the following:

- [Sigebert III](#)

His other wives were:

- Wulfefundis (Wulfegunde)
- Bertechildis (Berthilde)
- Gomentrude

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Clovis_II

<http://www.american-pictures.com/genealogy/persons/per03543.htm#0>

Clovis II

Tomb of Clovis II (foreground) and Charles Martel in Saint Denis Basilica, Paris



Clovis II (637 – [27 November 655](#) or 658) succeeded his father [Dagobert I](#) in 639 as [King of Neustria](#) and [Burgundy](#). His brother [Sigebert III](#) had been [King of Austrasia](#) since 634. He was initially under the regency of his mother [Nanthild](#) until her untimely death in her early thirties in 642. This death allowed him to fall under the influence of the secular magnates, who reduced the royal power in their own favour. Clovis' wife, [Balthild](#), was an [Anglo-Saxon](#) aristocrat sold into slavery in Gaul. She had been owned by Clovis' [mayor of the palace](#), [Ebroin](#), who gave her to him to

garner royal favour. She bore him three sons who all became kings after his death. The eldest, [Chlothar](#), succeeded him and his second eldest, [Childeric](#), was eventually placed on the Austrasian throne by Ebroin. The youngest, [Theuderic](#), succeeded Childeric in Neustria and eventually became the sole king of the Franks.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Balthild>

<http://www.american-pictures.com/genealogy/persons/per03544.htm#0>



Balthild

Statue of St. Bathilde, Queen of the Franks

Saint Balthild of Ascania (c. [626](#) – [January 30, 680](#)), also called **Bathilda**, **Baudour**, or **Bauthieult**,^[2] was the wife and queen of [Clovis II](#), [king of Burgundy](#) and [Neustria](#) (639 – 658). Two traditions, independent and conflicting, trace her career. One is a [hagiography](#) which was intended to further her successful candidature for sainthood. The other is a record of chroniclers, confirmed by a chance archaeological find in an [East Anglian](#) field.

Both traditions represent her as an Anglo-Saxon of elite birth, perhaps a relative of King [Ricberht of East Anglia](#), the last [Heathen](#) king there. Ricberht was ousted by his Christian rival [Sigeberht](#), who had spent time in the Frankish court. He was established as the rightful heir to the throne with Frankish help. Balthild was sold into [slavery](#) as a young girl and served in the household of [Erchinoald](#), [mayor of the palace](#) of [Neustria](#) to [Clovis](#).

The hagiographic tradition

According to *Vita S. Bathildis*^[4] Balthild was beautiful, intelligent, modest, and attentive to the needs of others. Erchinoald (whose wife had died) was attracted to Balthild and wanted to marry her, but she did not want to marry him. She hid herself away and waited until Erchinoald remarried. Next, King Clovis noticed her and, sometime in 649, asked for her hand in marriage. Balthild was nineteen when she became queen.

She bore her husband three children, all of whom became kings: [Clotaire](#), [Childeric](#), and [Theuderic](#).

When Balthild's husband died between 655 and 658, Clotaire, the eldest son and heir to the throne, succeeded at age five. Balthild served as the queen regent until he came of age in 664, when she was forced into a convent. As queen, she was a capable stateswoman. She abolished the practice of trading [Christian](#) slaves and even sought the freedom of children sold into slavery. As the story goes, after Balthild's three children were of age and "established in their respective territories" (Clotaire in Neustria, Childeric in [Austrasia](#), and perhaps Theuderic in Burgundy), Balthild entered the abbey and gave up her royal rank. She dedicated the rest of her life to serving the poor and the infirm.

Balthild died on January 30, 680. She is buried at her foundation, the Abbey of Chelles outside of [Paris](#). Balthild was [canonised](#) by [Pope Nicholas I](#) about 200 years after her death.

The chronicles and the seal

By some chroniclers' accounts^[8] she was a ruthless ruler, in continuing conflict with the bishops; she seems to have been responsible for several assassinations.^[9] The *vita* of Saint [Eligius](#) by his companion Dado reports (ch. 32), "Then his widowed queen with her boys obtained the reign for a few years. She was afterward removed by law and left the principate to her sons. By an apparition of Eligius (II.41) she was convinced to strip off her gold and jewelled ornaments, "keeping nothing except gold bracelets."

Her gold seal matrix, which was originally attached to a ring, was uncovered in 1999 by a [metal](#)



[detector](#) in a field a few miles east of Norfolk's county town, [Norwich](#). It has two sides. The official side shows her face and her name BALDAHILDIS in Frankish lettering. The private side shows naked figures, doubtless Balthild and Clovis, in a frank erotic position beneath a cross.^[1] One seal identified official documents; the other, apparently, private ones. The seal matrix is conserved in the [Norwich Castle Museum](#). It is surmised that the seal matrix was returned to her kin after her death.¹

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Theuderic_III

<http://www.american-pictures.com/genealogy/persons/per03550.htm#0>

Theuderic III

Theuderic III (or **Theuderich**, **Theoderic**, or **Theodoric**; in [French](#), *Thierry*) (654 – 691) was the king of [Neustria](#) (including [Burgundy](#)) on two occasions (673 and 675 – 691) and king of [Austrasia](#) from 679 to his death in 691. Thus, he was the king of all the [Franks](#) from 679. The son of [Clovis II](#) and [Balthild](#), he has been described as a [puppet](#) — a *roi fainéant* — of [Mayor of the Palace Ebroin](#), who may have even appointed him without the support of the nobles. He succeeded his brother [Clotaire III](#) in Neustria in 673, but [Childeric II](#) of Austrasia displaced him soon thereafter until he died in 675 and Theuderic retook his throne. When [Dagobert II](#) died in 679, he received Austrasia as well and became king of the whole Frankish realm.

Marriage and issue

He married Clotilda, a daughter of [Ansegisel](#) and Saint [Begga of Landen](#).

They had the following children:

- [Bertrada of Prüm](#) (676-740), married [Martin of Laon](#)
- [Clovis IV](#), king (682-695)
- [Childebert III](#), king (683-711)

He married Amalberge (Saint Amalaberga) before 674, daughter of Wandregis and Farahild.

They had a daughter:

- Chrotlind, born about 670

And possibly:

- [Clovis III](#), king of Austrasia (675-676)
- [Clotaire IV](#), king of Austrasia (717-719)

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bertrada_of_Pr%C3%BCm



Bertrada of Prüm

Bertrada castle in [Mürlenbach, Germany](#), named after Bertrada of Prüm

Bertrada (b. ca. 670 - d. after 721), also called **Berthe** or **Bertree**, and perhaps a [Merovingian](#) princess, is known to be the mother of [Caribert of Laon](#), with whom she is co-founder and benefactor of the [Prüm Abbey](#). They founded the abbey in 721.

Trough Charibert's daughter [Bertrada of Laon](#), wife of [Pippin the Younger](#), Bertrada is the great-grandmother of [Charlemagne](#).

Two alternative solutions to the question of her parentage have been suggested:

- She was daughter of the [seneschal](#) and [Pfalzgraf Hugobert](#) and [Irmina of Oeren](#). Her husband is unknown.
- She was daughter of [Theuderic III](#), king of [Neustria](#) and [Austrasia](#), and Clotilda of Heristal.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bertrada_of_Laon

<http://www.american-pictures.com/genealogy/persons/per01913.htm#0>

Bertrada of Laon



Tomb of Bertrada of Laon and Pepin the Short, [Saint Denis basilica](#).

Bertrada of Laon, also called **Bertha Broadfoot** (cf. latin: *Regina pede aucae* i.e. the queen with the goose-foot), (710/27 – [July 12, 783](#)) was a [Frankish](#) queen. She was born in [Laon](#), in today's [Aisne, France](#), the daughter

of [Caribert of Laon](#). She married [Pepin the Short](#), the son of the Frankish Mayor of the Palace [Charles Martel](#), in 740, although the union was not canonically sanctioned until several years later. Eleven years later, in 751, Pepin and Bertrada became King and Queen of the Franks, following Pepin's successful coup against the Frankish [Merovingian](#) monarchs.

Bertrada and Pepin are known to have had four children, three sons and one daughter: of these, [Charles](#) (Charlemagne), [Carloman](#), and [Gisela](#) survived to adulthood, whilst Pepin died in infancy. Charlemagne and Carloman would inherit the two halves of their father's kingdom when he died, and Gisela became a [nun](#).

Bertrada lived with Charlemagne until her death in 783; the king buried her in [Saint Denis Basilica](#) with great honors.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pepin_the_Short

<http://www.american-pictures.com/genealogy/persons/per01902.htm#0>

Pepin the Short

Denier of Pepin, [Troyes](#). The "R" is for *rex* (king) and the "P" is for Pepin.



Pepin or **Pippin** (714 – [24 September 768](#)), called **the Short**, and often known as **Pepin the Younger** or **Pepin III**,^[1] was the [Mayor of the Palace](#) and [Duke of the Franks](#) from 741 and [King of the Franks](#) from 751 to 768. He was the father of [Charlemagne](#).

He was the son of [Charles Martel](#), [mayor of the palace](#) and duke of the Franks, and of [Rotrude of Trier](#) (690-724).

Assumption of power

Pepin's father, Charles Martel, died in 741. He divided the rule of the Frankish kingdom between Pepin and his elder brother, [Carloman](#), his surviving sons by his first wife: Carloman became Mayor of the Palace of Austrasia, Pepin became Mayor of the Palace of Neustria. [Grifo](#), Charles's son by his second wife, Swanahild (*aka* Swanhilde), may also have been intended to receive an inheritance, but he was imprisoned in a [monastery](#) by his two half-brothers. Carloman, who by all evidence was a deeply pious man, retired to a monastery in 747. This left Francia in the hands of Pepin as sole [mayor of the palace](#) and *dux et princeps Francorum*, a title originated by his grandfather and namesake [Pepin of Heristal](#).

Family

In 740, Pepin married [Bertrada of Laon](#), his second cousin. Her father, [Charibert](#), was the son of [Pepin II's](#) brother, [Martin of Laon](#).

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charlemagne>

<http://www.american-pictures.com/genealogy/persons/per01891.htm#0>

Charlemagne

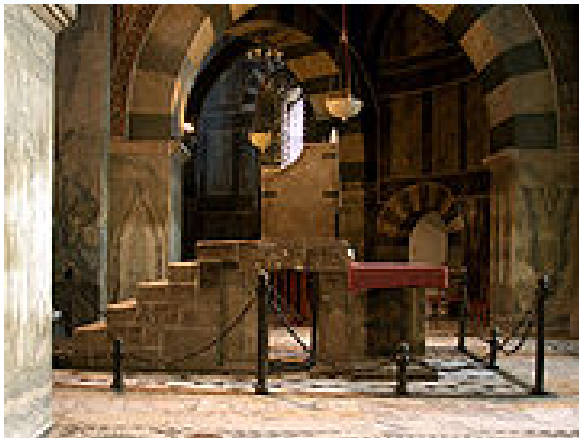
A coin of Charlemagne with the inscription *KAROLVS IMP AVG*



Charlemagne ([Latin](#): *Carolus Magnus* or *Karolus Magnus*, meaning **Charles the Great**) (2 April 742 – 28 January 814) was [King of the Franks](#) from 768 to his death. He expanded the [Frankish](#) kingdoms into a [Frankish Empire](#) that incorporated much of [Western](#) and [Central Europe](#). During his reign, he conquered [Italy](#) and was crowned *Imperator Augustus* by [Pope Leo III](#) on 25 December 800 as a rival of the [Byzantine Emperor](#) in [Constantinople](#). His rule is also associated with the [Carolingian Renaissance](#), a revival of art, religion, and culture through the medium of the [Catholic Church](#). Through his foreign conquests and internal reforms, Charlemagne helped define both [Western Europe](#) and the Middle Ages. He is numbered as **Charles I** in the regnal lists

of [France](#), [Germany](#), and the [Holy Roman Empire](#).

The son of King [Pippin the Short](#) and [Bertrada of Laon](#), he succeeded his father and co-ruled with his brother [Carloman I](#). The latter got on badly with Charlemagne, but war was prevented by the sudden death of Carloman in 771. Charlemagne continued the policy of his father towards the [papacy](#) and became its protector, removing the [Lombards](#) from power in Italy, and waging war on the [Saracens](#), who menaced his realm from Spain. It was during one of these campaigns that Charlemagne experienced the worst defeat of his life, at the [Battle of Roncesvalles](#) (778) memorialised in the [Song of Roland](#). He also campaigned against the peoples to his east, especially the [Saxons](#), and after a protracted war subjected them to his rule. By forcibly converting them to Christianity, he integrated them into his realm and thus paved the way for the later [Ottonian dynasty](#).



Throne of Charlemagne in Aachen Cathedral

Today he is regarded not only as the founding father of both [French](#) and [German](#) monarchies, but also as *the father of Europe*: his empire united most of Western Europe for the first time since the Romans, and the Carolingian renaissance encouraged the formation of a common European identity.

Death

[Persephone sarcophagus](#) of Charlemagne



In 813, Charlemagne called [Louis the Pious](#), king of [Aquitaine](#), his only surviving legitimate son, to his court. There he crowned him with his own hands as co-emperor and sent him back to Aquitaine. He then spent the autumn

hunting before returning to Aachen on 1 November. In January, he fell ill with [pleurisy](#).^[8] He took to his bed on 21 January and as [Einhard](#) tells it:

He died January twenty-eighth, the seventh day from the time that he took to his bed, at nine o'clock in the morning, after partaking of the [Holy Communion](#), in the seventy-second year of his age and the forty-seventh of his reign.

[Frederick II's](#) gold and silver casket for Charlemagne

He was buried on the day of his death, in [Aachen Cathedral](#), although the cold weather and the nature of his illness made such a hurried burial unnecessary. The earliest surviving [planctus](#), the [Planctus de obitu Karoli](#), was composed by a monk of [Bobbio](#), which he had patronised.^[9] A later story, told by Otho of Lomello, Count of the Palace at Aachen in the time of [Otto III](#), would claim that he



and Emperor Otto had discovered Charlemagne's tomb: the emperor, they claimed, was seated upon a throne, wearing a crown and holding a sceptre, his flesh almost entirely incorrupt. In 1165, [Frederick I](#) re-opened the tomb again, and placed the emperor in a sarcophagus beneath the floor of the cathedral.^[10] In 1215 [Frederick II](#) would re-inter him in a casket made of gold and silver.

He was succeeded by his surviving son, Louis, who had been crowned the previous year. His empire lasted only another generation in its entirety; its division, according to custom, between Louis's own sons after their father's death laid the foundation for the modern states of France and Germany.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sigebert_I

Sigebert I

Marriage of Sigebert and Brunhilda, [Grandes Chroniques de France](#), from a MS of the fifteenth century (Bibliothèque nationale de France).



Sigebert I (535 c. - 575 c.) was the king of [Austrasia](#) from the death of his father in 561 to his own death. He was the third surviving son out of four of [Clotaire I](#) and [Ingund](#). His reign found him mostly occupied with a successful civil war against his half brother, [Chilperic](#).

About 567, he married [Brunhilda](#), daughter of the [Visigothic](#) king [Athanagild](#). This marriage, if we take the chief chronicler of the age, [Gregory of Tours](#), at his word, reveals something about Sigebert's superior character in that violent and lascivious age. As Gregory tells it:

Now when king Sigebert saw that his brothers were taking wives unworthy of them, and to their disgrace were actually marrying slave women, he sent an embassy into [Spain](#) and with many gifts asked for Brunhilda, daughter of king Athanagild. She was a maiden beautiful in her person, lovely to look at, virtuous and well-behaved, with good sense and a pleasant address. Her father did not refuse, but sent her to the king I have named with great treasures. And the king collected his chief men, made ready a feast, and took her as his wife amid great joy and mirth.

Upon seeing this, Chilperic, the most base of Sigebert's brothers, sent to Athanagild for his other daughter's hand. This daughter, [Galswintha](#), was given him and he abandoned his other wives. However, he soon tired of her and had her murdered in order to marry his mistress [Fredegund](#). Probably spurred by his wife Brunhilda's anger at her sister's murder, Sigebert sought revenge. The two brothers had already been at war, but their hostility now elevated into a long and bitter war that was continued by the descendants of both.

The assassination of Sigebert by [Jean Fouquet](#),



from the fourteenth century [Grandes Chroniques de France](#).

In 573, Sigebert took possession of [Poitiers](#) and [Touraine](#), and conquered most of his kingdom. Chilperic then hid in [Tournai](#). But at Sigebert's moment of triumph, when he had just been declared king by Chilperic's subjects at [Vitry](#), he was struck down by two assassins working for Fredegund.

He was succeeded by his son [Childebert](#) under the regency of Brunhilda. Brunhilda and Childebert quickly put themselves under the protection of Guntram, who eventually adopted Childebert as his own son and heir.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brunhilda_of_Austrasia

Brunhilda of Austrasia

Brunhilda^[1] (c. 543 – 613) was a [Frankish](#) queen who ruled the eastern kingdoms of [Austrasia](#) and [Burgundy](#) in the names of her sons and grandsons. Initially known as a liberal ruler of great political acumen, she became notorious for her cruelty and avarice.

Life

She was possibly born about 543 in [Toledo](#), the Visigothic capital, the daughter of the [Visigoth](#) king [Athanagild](#) and [Goiswintha](#), his queen. She was the younger of his two daughters. She was only eleven years old when her father was elevated to the kingship (554). She was educated in Toledo as an [Arian Christian](#).

First marriage

In 567, she was married to king [Sigebert I](#) of Austrasia, a grandson of [Clovis I](#) who had sent an embassy to Toledo loaded with gifts. She joined him at [Metz](#). Upon her marriage, she abjured Arianism and converted to orthodox [Roman Catholicism](#).^[2]

In response to Sigebert's noble marriage, his brother King [Chilperic](#) of [Soissons](#) sent to Spain for Brunhilda's sister, [Galswintha](#). Gregory of Tours suggests that he proposed because he envied his brother's marriage to Brunhilda.^[3] However, Galswintha ordered him to purge his court of prostitutes and mistresses and he soon grew tired of her. He and his favourite mistress, one [Fredegund](#), conspired to murder her within the year. He then married Fredegund.

Brunhilda bore Sigebert three children: Ingund, Chlodosind, and [Childebert](#).

The peace was then broken by Chilperic, who invaded Sigebert's dominions. Sigebert defeated Chilperic, who fled to [Tournai](#). The people of Paris hailed Sigebert as a conqueror when he went there with Brunhilda and their children. Germanus wrote to Brunhilda, asking her to persuade her husband to restore the peace and to spare his brother. Chroniclers of Germanus' life say that she ignored this; certainly Sigebert set out to besiege Tournai. Fredegund responded to this threat to her husband by hiring two assassins, who killed Sigebert at [Vitry](#) with poisoned daggers. Brunhilda was captured and imprisoned at [Rouen](#).

First regency

Brunhilda now tried to seize the regency of Austrasia in the name of her son [Childebert II](#), but she was resisted fiercely by her nobles and had to retire briefly to the court of Guntram of Burgundy before obtaining her goal. At that time, she ruled Austrasia as queen. Brunhilda ruled Austrasia until Childebert came of age in 583, at the traditional Merovingian majority of thirteen.

Second regency

Upon Childebert's death in September or October 595, Brunhilda attempted to govern Austrasia and Burgundy in the name of her grandsons [Theudebert II](#) and [Theuderic II](#), respectively. In 599, Brunhilda's eldest grandson, Theudebert, at whose court she was staying, exiled her. She was found wandering near [Arcis](#) in [Champagne](#) by a peasant, who brought her to Theuderic. The peasant was rewarded with the [bishopric of Auxerre](#), as the legend goes. Theuderic welcomed her and readily fell under her influence, which was inclined to vengeful war with Theudebert at the time. Soon the brothers were at war.

It is at this point that Brunhilda begins to display that ruthlessness which led to her especially violent demise. Brunhilda first took to herself [Protadius](#) as lover and, desiring to promote him to high office, conspired to have [Berthoald](#), the [mayor of the palace](#), killed. In 604, she convinced Theuderic to send Berthoald to inspect the royal [villae](#) along the [Seine](#). Clotaire, probably alerted by men of Brunhilda's bidding, sent his own mayor [Landric](#) (ironically, a former paramour of Fredegund) to meet Berthoald, who had only a small contingent of men with him. Realising that he had been the victim of courtly plotting, Berthoald, in the ensuing confrontation, overchased the enemy until he was surrounded and killed. Protadius was promptly put in his place.

Brunhilda and Protadius soon persuaded Theuderic to return to war with Theudebert, but the mayor was murdered by his warriors, who did not wish to fight to assuage the ego of queen. The man who ordered Protadius' execution, Duke [Uncelen](#), was soon arrested by Brunhilda and tortured and executed. He was not the first ducal victim of the queen's revenges.

It was also during these later regencies that [Desiderius, Bishop of Vienne](#) (later Saint Didier) publicly accused her of incest and cruelty. Desiderius finally enraged her with a pointed sermon on chastity preached in 612 before her and Theuderic, with whom she hired three assassins to murder the bishop at the village now called [Saint-Didier-sur-Chalaronne](#).

In that year, at the battle of [Tolbiac](#), Theuderic defeated and captured Theudebert, whom the queen was now claiming was in fact the son of a gardener, and brought him and his royal

paraphernalia to his Brunhilda, who had him put up in a monastery. She probably had him murdered (along with his son Merovech) to allow Theuderic to succeed to both thrones unhindered. This he did and died of [dysentery](#) in his Austrasian capital of [Metz](#) in late 613.

Third regency

Philippoteaux and Girardet, *Die Folterung von Brunhilde*.

The successor of Theuderic II was his bastard son [Sigebert](#), a child. The mayor of the palace of Austrasia, [Warnachar](#), fearing that at his young age he would fall under the influence of his great-grandmother, brought him before a national assembly, where he was proclaimed by the nobles, who did homage to him over both his father's kingdoms. Nonetheless, he could not be kept out of the hands of Brunhilda.

But Warnachar and [Rado](#), mayor of the palace of Burgundy, along with [Pepin of Landen](#) and [Arnulf of Metz](#), abandoned the cause of Brunhilda and the young king and joined with Clotaire, promising not to rise in defence of the queen-regent and recognising Clotaire as rightful regent and guardian of Sigebert. Brunhilda, with Sigebert, met Clotaire's army on the [Aisne](#), but the dukes yet again betrayed her: the [Patrician](#) Aletheus, Duke Rocco, and Duke Sigvald deserted her and she and her king had to flee. The young king and his brother Corbo were killed. Clotaire then had the entire realm of the Franks. Clotaire accused Brunhilda of the death of ten kings of the Franks^[10] and many churchmen, including Desiderius. According to the [Liber Historiae Francorum](#):



"Then the army of the Franks and Burgundians joined into one, all shouted together that death would be most fitting for the very wicked Brunhilda. Then King Clotaire ordered that she be lifted on to a camel and led through the entire army. Then she was tied to the feet of wild horses and torn apart limb from limb. Finally she died. Her final grave was the fire. Her bones were burnt."

Brunhilda was buried in the Abbaye de St. Martin at [Autun](#) that she founded in 602 on the spot where the [bishop of Tours](#) had cut down a beech-tree that served as an object of pagan worship.