

# Aristocracy in the Middle Ages

## Higher nobility in Hardanger

Our family is descending from the higher nobility in Hardanger, which for generations was close connected to the royal family, as cabinet ministers, advisors and friends.

The gateway to the noble families is **Toralde Bergulvson Aga**, who was a big landowner. Among others he owned the farm Upper Egeland in Kvinesdal. His lineage to Opsal/ Oftebro in Lyngdal is well documented. Family tradition says that the family at Egeland was descending from the famous king Harald Hårfagre, born year 856.

Toralde's father, **Bergulv Arneson Aga**, married **Jorunn Vikingdatter**. Her father Viking Torgilson descended from Torgils on Hundavåg, b. ca. 1250. The Viking-name came from Viking Torsnes in Jondal, first mentioned in year 1120.

The Noble families at Aga and Ænes, were living in an area close to the Hardanger Fjord - Aga in Ullensvang, Torsnes in Jondal, and Hatteberg and Mel, now Rosendal Baroni.

## The noble family Aga-Byre

The noble family Aga-Byre lived at the farm Aga in Ullensvang. Byre is located in Fister in Rogaland. The oldest name we know of in this family is Knight Ogmund of Sponheim, who was born ca. year 1190. Knight Ogmund was a prominent nobleman in the early 1200s. He is described in King Håkon Håkonsson saga. Knight Ogmund of Sponheim around 1217 made a pilgrimage to "The Holy Land" (Jerusalem).

*Most genealogists believe that Peter Young of Aga was son of Peter Steyper, and that the Aga family thus are direct descendants of King Magnus IV Erlingson (see pedigree).*

## The noble family Ænes

Gaut of Ænes b. ca. 1100 is the forefather of this great noble family. The family was of the most powerful in western Norway, and was for many generations, lords, barons and knights. The farms at Hatteberg and Mel have since been the main farms in the Barony Rosendal.

Gaut Young was baron, and lived about 1235-1306. Lord Jon Gautson was killed in the Battle at Nordnes against King Sverre and the Birkebeiners. Lord Gaut Jonsson at Mel, ca. 1190-1270, was the greatest chief at the western coast and King Håkon Håkonsson's closest adviser.

## Connection to the royal family?

King Håkon Håkonsson elder son, Sigurd, died only 33 years old, while his father still lived, so the younger half brother, Magnus Lagabøter, took over the royal throne after King Håkon.

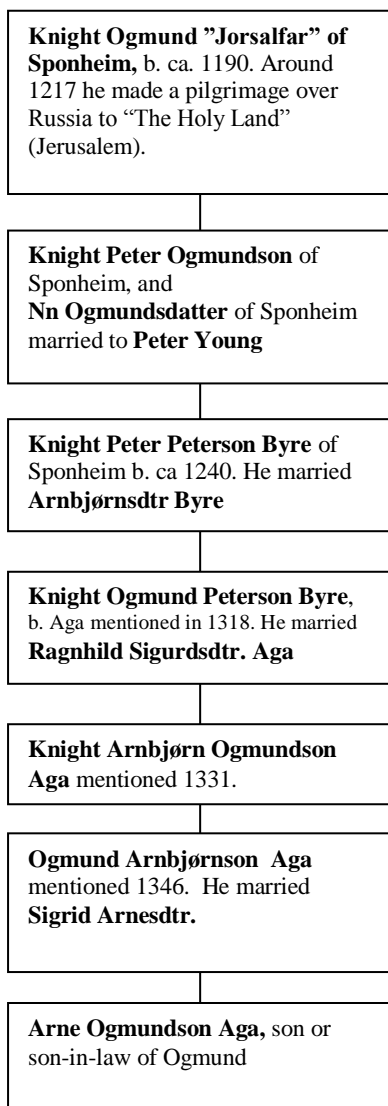
Lately genealogists have documented that Sigurd Håkonsson most likely had a daughter with a Torunn. This daughter of Sigurd was married into the higher nobility, when married to Baron Gaute Young of Ænes. They named their first son Sigurd. The family lineage from Baron Gaute Young and knight Sigurd Gautson is well documented, in a straight line to Anna Elisabeth Oftebro.

## Family tree 1

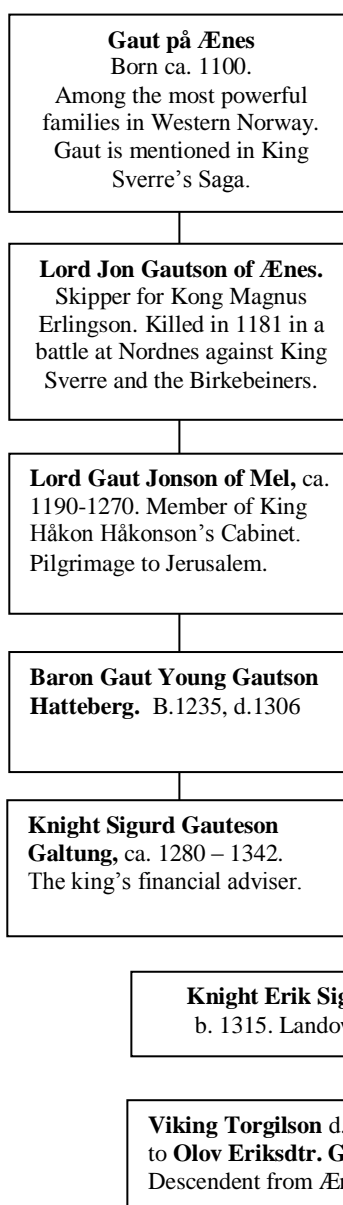
# Aristocracy in the Middle Ages

*A well-documented lineage to the aristocracy in the Middle Ages.*

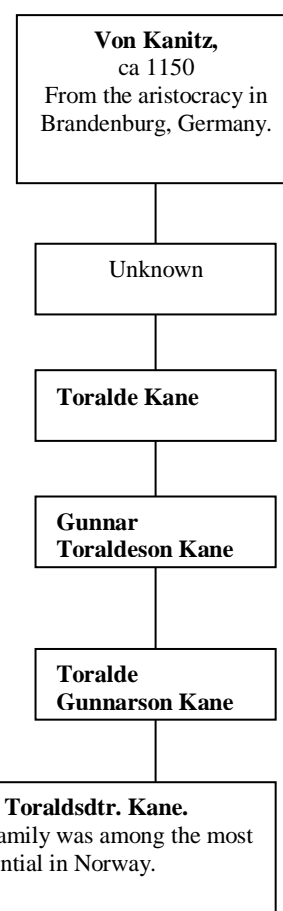
### Noble family Aga-Byre



### Noble family Ænes



### Noble family Kane



**Bergulv Arneson AGA**

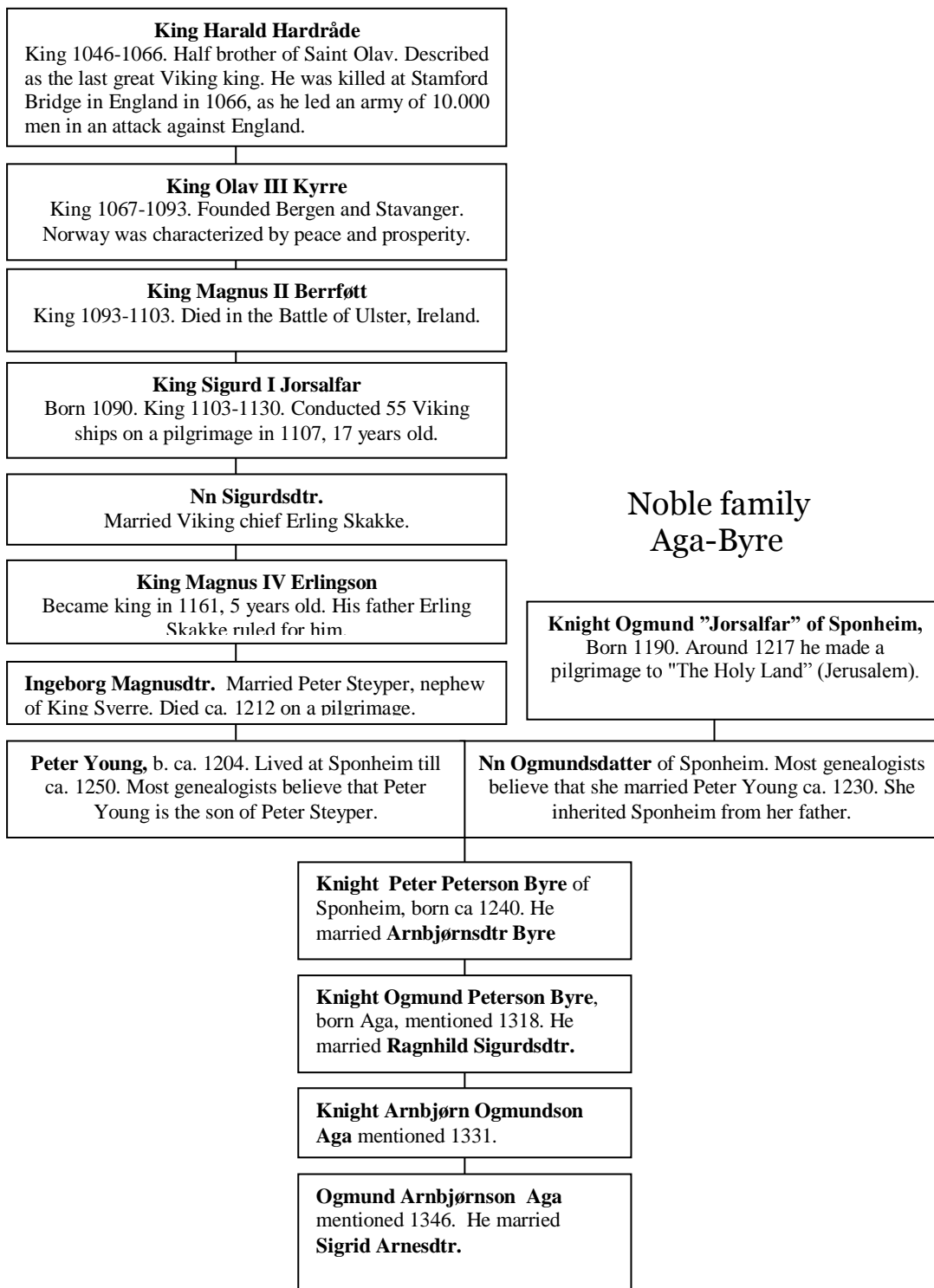
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**Jorunn Vikingsdatter GALTUNG**

## Family tree 2

# From Aga to King Magnus IV Erlingson

*A probable lineage to the kings in the Middle Ages.*



Noble family  
Aga-Byre

**Knight Ogmund "Jorsalfar" of Sponheim**,  
Born 1190. Around 1217 he made a pilgrimage to "The Holy Land" (Jerusalem).



# Family tree to the Kings of Norway

*Generations no. 22 to 35 were published by the Norwegian government at King Haakon's 75th anniversary, 3rd August 1947.*

35. King Gudrød of Vestfold
34. King Halvdan Svarte, d. 866
33. **King Harald Hårfagre**, 856 - 933
32. King Sigurd Haraldson Rise in Opplandene
31. King Halvdan Sigurdson in Opplandene
30. King Sigurd II Syr in Opplandene, d. 1018
29. King Harald Hardråde, king 1046-1066 (*died in battle at Stamford Bridge, England*)
28. King Olav III Kyrre, king 1067-1093
27. King Magnus II Berrføtt, king 1093-1103
26. King Sigurd I Jorsalfar, b.1090, king 1103-1130 (brothers) 26. King Harald Gille, d. 1136
25. Nn Sigurdsdr. m.t. Erling Skakke 25. King Sigurd III Haraldson Munn, d. 1155
24. **King Magnus IV Erlingson, b. 1155** 24. King Sverre Sigurdson, 1152-1202
23. Ingeborg Magnusdr. m.t. Peter Steypper, d. 1212 23. King Håkon III Sverreson, 1178-1204
22. Knight Peter Young, b. 1204 m.t. nn Ogmundsdr. AGA 22. **King Håkon IV Håkonson, 1204-1263**
21. Knight Peter Peterson AGA, b. 1240 21. Sigurd Håkonson, 1221-1254
20. Knight Ogmund Peterson BYRE 20. Nn Sigurdsdr. m.t. Baron Gaut Young Gautson, 1235-1306
19. Knight Arnbjørn Ogmundson AGA, mentioned 1331 19. Knight Sigurd Gautson GALTUNG, b. 1275
18. Ogmund Arnbjørnson AGA mentioned 1346 m.t. Sigrid Arnesdr. 18. Knight Erik Sigurdson GALTUNG, b. 1315
17. Arne Ogmundson AGA 17. Olov Eriksdr. GALTUNG b. 1340 m.t. Viking Torgilson
16. Bergulv Arnesen AGA m.t. Jorunn Vikingsdr. GALTUNG
15. Toralde Bergulvson AGA (*owner of farms at Egeland in Kvinesdal, in Ullensvang, Kinsarvik and Fister*)
14. Ingeborg Toraldesdr. EGELAND m.t. Svend Nilsen, mentioned 1491
13. Gitlaug Svendsdr. EGELAND m.t. Are Markussen FIDJE in Lyngdal, mentioned 1521
12. ...Aresdr. FIDJE m.t. Peder Reilvsen SKOLAND, mentioned 1558
11. Torborg Pedersdr. SKOLAND m.t. Gammel Olsen AUSTAD, mentioned 1591
10. ...Gammelsdr. AUSTAD m.t. Stener Bjørnsen AUSTAD, mentioned 1622
9. Udbjørg Stenersdr. AUSTAD, d. 1657 m.t. Brynhild Tallaksen VATLAND
8. Stener Brynhildsen (1) SCHAAR, 1634 - 1711 m.t. Anna Pedersdr. STENBERG.
7. Brynhild Stenersen (1) SCHAAR, 1661 - 1710 m.t. ...Svendsdr. SKÅLAND
6. Stener Brynhildsen (2) SCHAAR, 1698 - 1736 m.t. Birgite Housheldtr. HAMRE, ca 1693 - 1756
5. Brynhild Stenersen (2) SCHAAR, 1720 - 1770 m.t. Siri Brynhildsdr. HAMRE, sk. 1786
4. Barbro Brynhildstr. SCHAAR, 1763 - 1838 m.t. Jon Sigbjørnsen SANDSMARK, 1755 - 1838
3. Karen Sophie Jonsdr. SANDSMARK, 1800 - 1857 m.t. Torkild Aanensen BIRKELAND, 1794 - 1866
2. Anne Kathrine BIRKELAND, 1821 - 1900 m.t. Tobias OFTEBRO, 1803 - 1889
1. **Anna Elisabeth OFTEBRO, 1851 - 1940 m.t. Jens C. OPSAL, 1837 - 1926**