

FAMILY TREES

Family trees are maps of a family which shows how people relate to each other. It is a clear way of showing a person's parents, siblings, cousins, marriages, children from their marriages, birth and death dates, and gender.

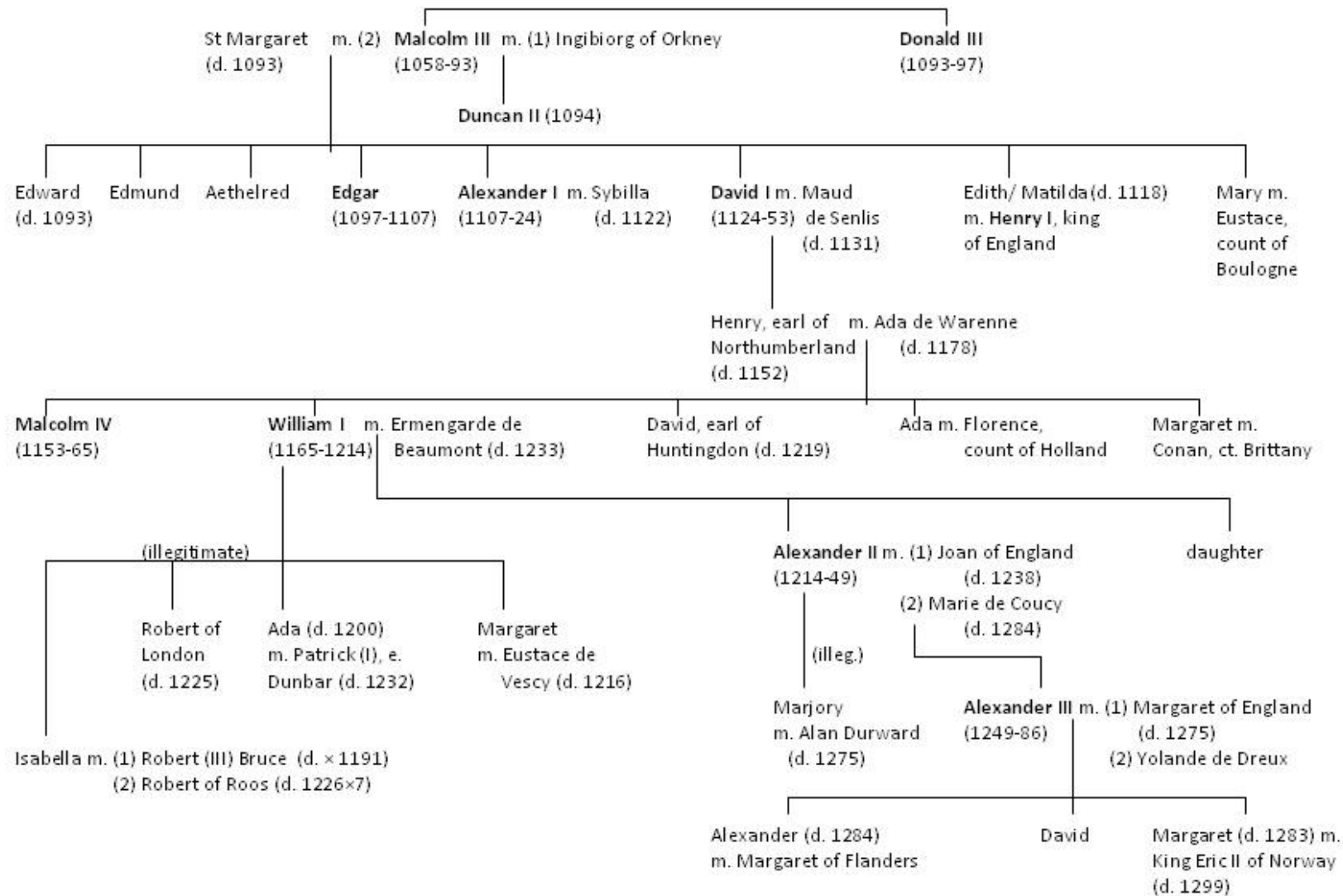
Historians often use family trees to map-out important families in medieval kingdoms, particularly the royal family. This helps us to understand how **succession to the throne** worked. When there was no obvious successor for the throne (such as a son or grandson), different people would claim they should be the next ruler because of where they were in the family tree. Succession was based on closeness in blood-relation to the king, not on personalities. It also went down through the male-line, which meant that sons would be chosen over daughters, even if the daughter was older.

An example of this happening in Scotland is **The Great Cause** in the War of Independence when, after Margaret the Maid of Norway's death in 1290, many people (called 'competitors') argued that they should be next on the throne because they were closer in blood-relation to Margaret than all of the others. They argued this by looking further up the family tree from Margaret and looking sideways at the tree's other branches. In the end, King Edward I of England was allowed to decide who would be the next king. He decided that John Balliol was the closest branch to Margaret, and therefore the most suited as king.

Below are some family trees of families from the medieval period.

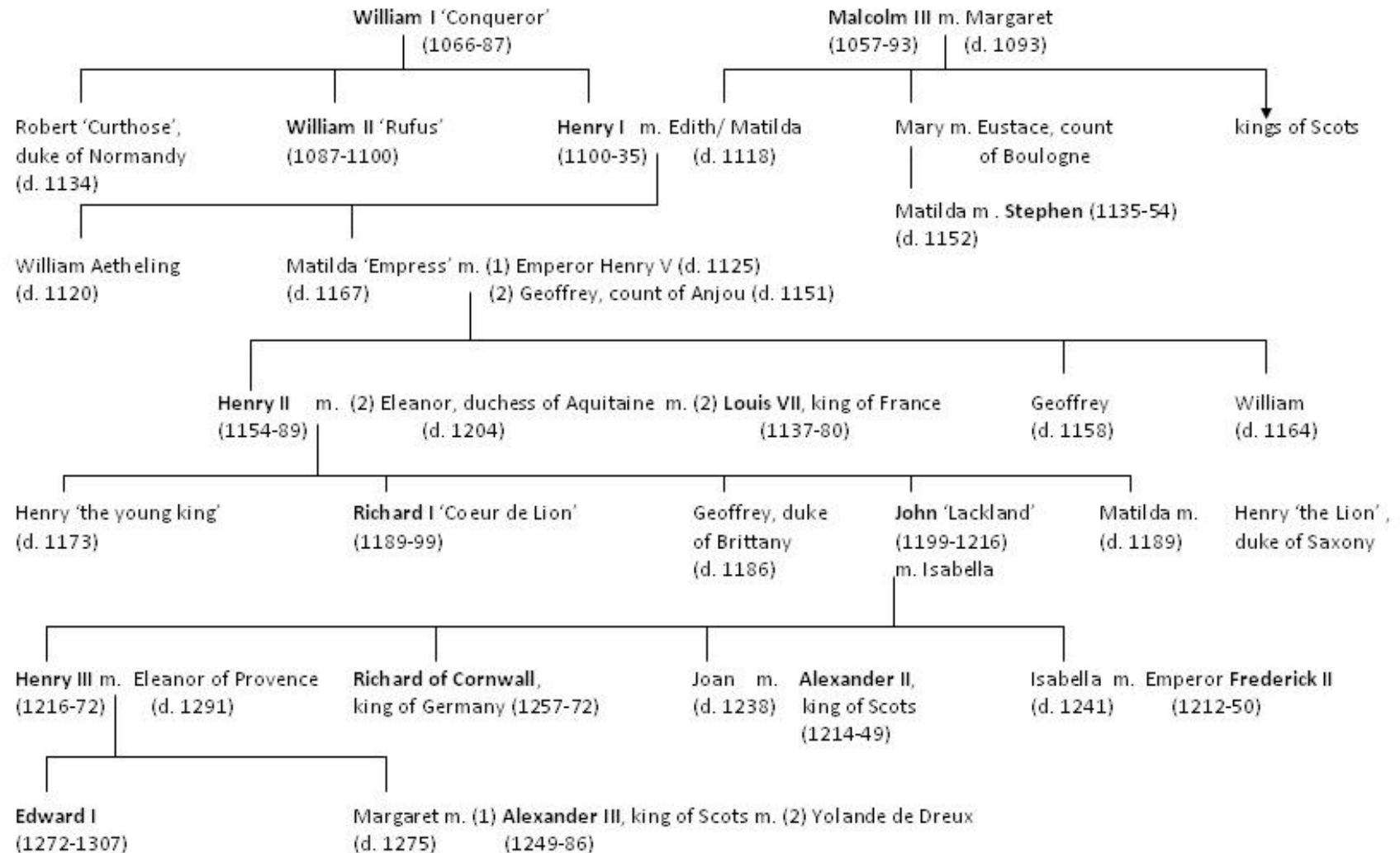
The Scottish Royal Family, 1093-1286

(monarchs in boldface)

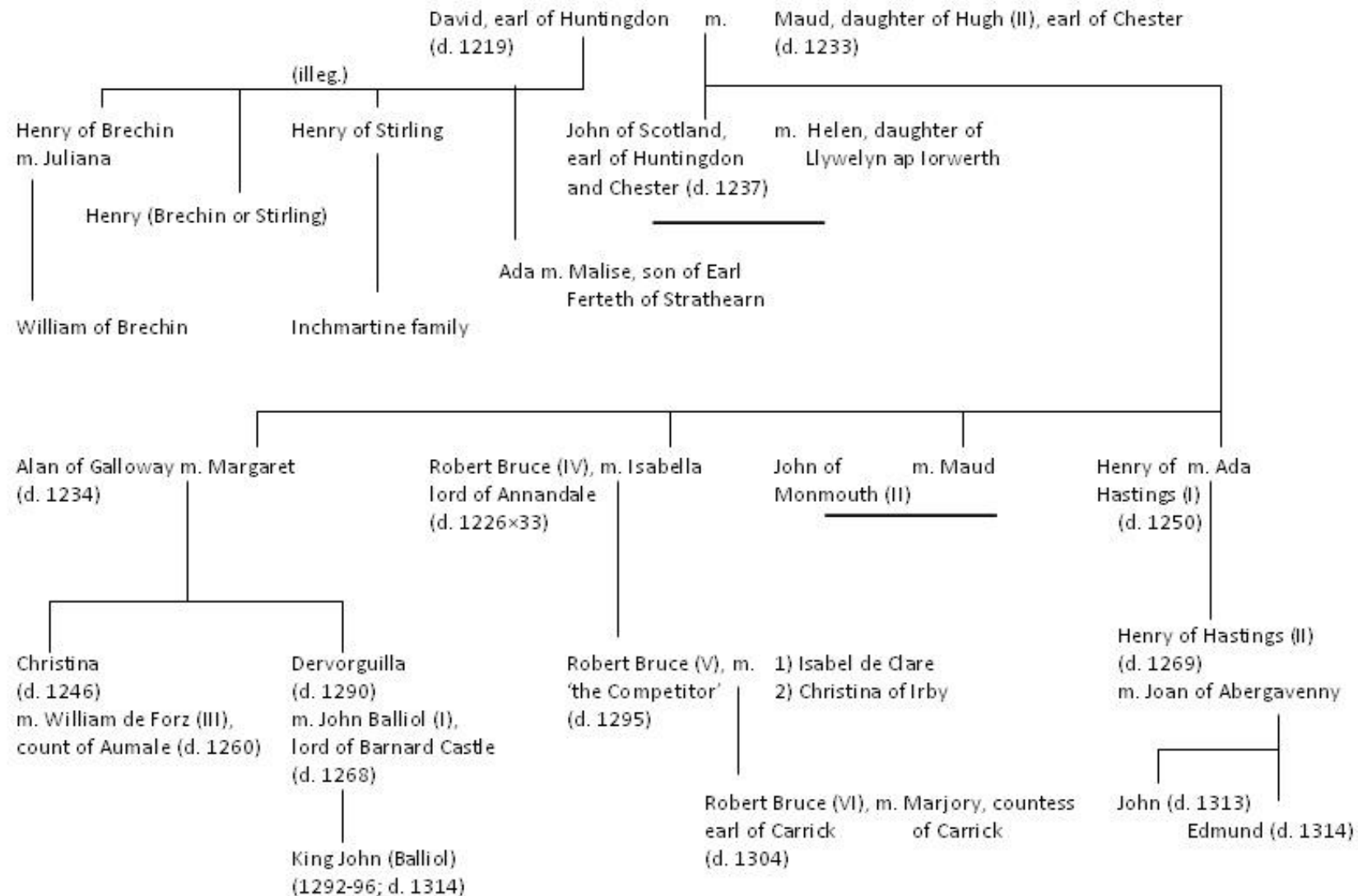


The English Royal Family

(monarchs in boldface)



Descendants of Earl David of Huntingdon



Kings of Man/ the Isles

