



The parents of Harald Bluetooth were **Gorm**, the first historically recognized King of Denmark, and **Thyra**. Gorm raised one of the great burial mounds at Jelling as well as the oldest of the Jelling Stones for her, calling her tanmarkar. (Denmark's Salvation or Denmark's Adornment).



Harald Bluetooth



Cnut



Emma of Normandy

Emma (985 - 1052), was the daughter of the Duke of Normandy . She was Queen consort of England twice, by successive marriages: first as second wife to Æthelred the Unready of England (1002–16); and then second wife to Cnut the Great of Denmark (1017–35). Two of her sons, one by each husband, and two stepsons, also by each husband, became kings of England, as did her great-nephew, William the Conqueror, Duke of Normandy.



Harthacnut



Edward the Confessor



Tostig Hardrada

Tostig Godwinson (+ September 1066) was an Anglo-Saxon Earl of Northumbria and brother of Harold, who was keen to unify England in the face of the grave threat from William of Normandy. Harold persuaded King Edward to exile Tostig to ensure peace and loyalty in the north.

Tostig, instead, requested King Harald Hardrada of Norway, one of the three claimants of the English throne, to invade England. Hardrada's army succeeded in occupying York, but Harold Godwinson, then crowned king, raced to York with an English army from London to defend. Finally, the Norwegians suffered a complete defeat in Stamford Bridge. Tostig and King Harald Hardrada were both killed in the battle.



Harold Godwinson



Harald Godwinson



William the Conqueror

William the Conqueror (circa 1028 - 1087), Duke of Normandy, claimed the English throne upon the death of the childless Edward the Confessor. In January 1066, however, Harold Godwinson was crowned King of England. Meanwhile, William obtained a consecrated banner from the Pope in support of his claim and invaded England in 1066. King Harold, after defeating his brother Tostig and Harald Hardrada in York, marched his army in 5 days to meet the invading William in the south. Harold took a defensive position at the top of Senlac Hill near Hastings. William had both cavalry and infantry, including many archers, while Harold had only foot soldiers, forming a wall of shields, the English soldiers at first stood so effectively that William's army was thrown back with heavy casualties. Then William sent out rumours of his own death inducing the English to pursue the fleeing Normans on foot. The Norman cavalry then attacked them from the rear. At dusk, a final Norman cavalry attack decided the 9-hour battle resulting in the death of Harold. The Norman victory was complete and William became the first Norman King of England.