

## Håkon V Magnussøn

The farm records from Veldre, Hedmark, Norway clearly show a lineage from our family back to ‘King Haakon the fifth’ who was our great grandfather twenty two generations ago. This royal line comes through Augusta Simerson, wife of Ole O. Wold, and her mother Pernille Larsdatter Bratten, b. 1836. Pernille’s lineage can be shown back to Ales Lauritzdatter Bratten, b. 1625, who was called: ‘adelsdamen Ales Lauritzdtr.’ which means ‘noble woman’. The lineage from 1300 through 1600 is given, but there are some generations that are suspect with not many details. So there is considerable uncertainty, but we do know that Ales Lauritzdatter held this title, and therefore it is very likely that she was a direct descendant of the king. There are many files available on the internet about this king and his family. The following is from [www.nationmaster.com/encyclopedia/](http://www.nationmaster.com/encyclopedia/):

Haakon V Magnussøn was born in 1270 and was king of Norway from 1299 until 1319. He was married to Eufemia of Rügen, and father to Ingeborg Håkonsdotter who married duke Eric Magnusson of Sweden. Haakon V is considered to be the last Norwegian king in the Fairhair dynasty.<sup>23</sup> He was the younger surviving son of Magnus the Lawgiver, King of Norway and wife Ingeborg of Denmark. He succeeded when his older brother king Eric died without an heir. Haakon descended from king St Olav, Olav II of Norway through his mother who was daughter of Jutta of Saxony, and herself a descendant of Ulvhild of Norway, duchess of Saxony. Olav II Haraldsson ( 995 – 1030), king from 1015–1028, was called during his lifetime ‘the Fat’ and afterwards known as Saint Olaf.

This broken bust is said to  
Magnussøn.



have been sculpted after Haakon V

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23 <http://www.statemaster.com/encyclopedia/Haakon-V-of-Norway>

## ‘Gard Tøresen’

Gard Tøresen<sup>24</sup> was born in 1373 A.D. and is known to be one of our direct ancestors. We know of him from the family histories that were kept on the Gaard farm in Talgje, Norway where he lived. In 1959 our grandparents, Ferdinand and Velma Wald, traveled to the Gaard farm and visited our distant cousins who still live there. As a result we have copies of the genealogical records that have been kept by that family for many centuries.

Bertha Gaard, our great great grandmother, was named in her birth record:

‘Udbjörg Bertine Andersdatter Gaard’

Her given name was Udbjörg Bertine, and this is why she used the name Bertha when she came to the United States. Her father’s name was ‘Anders Olsen Gaard’, so she was called Anders’ daughter. Gaard or Gård is the name of the farm where their family lived, and thus her name: Bertha Gaard.

The Gaard farm is located on the island of Talgje, just off the south west coast of Norway, near Stavanger. Gard Tøresen, (who’s name also comes from this place), was one of the earliest known proprietors. But it was actually much more than a farm as we would think of it. The place called ‘Gård’, (pronounced: [gôôrd]), would be better described as a farm village where many families lived together with their various homes circling around a central court yard. In ancient times Gård was even more than a village. Some might call it a castle or a manor with it’s protective walls and towers. It was also the center of the region and a place of justice where courts were held and the law was enforced. At one time it was the most important village thereabouts in the larger region called ‘Ryfylke’.

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24 Lagmannsætta : Gard Tøreson ætta frå Sør-Talgje i Rogaland, Engen, Sigleif, 1903-1989. History and genealogy of the Tøreson family of Sør-Talgje in Rogaland, Norway. Includes histories and genealogies of related families on other farms in Rogaland county, ca. 900 to ca. 1600. FHL INTL Book: 948.31/F2 D2e v. 2 pt. 1 supp. Publication [Stavanger] : S. Engen, 1984. ISBN/ISSN: 8299079748

Gard Tøresen was a nobleman called 'lagemann'. This word literally means 'law-man'. However, in this case it means he was actually the supreme judge in this part of the country. In these early times the law was not like it is now in our country. The poor classes were not usually able to own property. The higher classes, who did own the land, were very careful to ensure that their ownership passed down only to their children or to other members of their family. The poor had to struggle just to have food to eat. Even if they could acquire some savings, it was very hard for them to find land to purchase that wasn't already spoken for. There were also taxes required, both for the poor and for the land holders. Many of the earliest documents we have are tax accounts which list the farms, the men on those farms, and their property.

Because of the importance of royal family lines, there are many genealogies and family histories that were carefully kept by the royal families and their 'noble' grand children. Of our Norwegian ancestors, this is the second time we have seen a family line that can be traced back to royalty. Remember that the family of Augusta Simerson can be traced back through king Håkon V Magnussøn who was king from 1299 to 1319. Augusta's family all came from south eastern Norway in Hedmark county. Although Gard Tøresen's family lived on the opposite side of Norway, his family lines can be traced back to the same royal lines and also to the early Swedish royalty.

It is probably not that unusual that some family lines can be traced back to the kings and queens of medieval Europe. The number of ancestors we have twenty generations back is just over a million ( $X = 2^{20}$ ). No doubt the vast majority of our ancestors were found among the peasants and the working class. After all, these were the people who emigrated to America looking for land that they could own for themselves. Nevertheless, it is wonderful and interesting to have access to records that show our royal heritage and tell about their history.<sup>25</sup>



Tore Gardson  
adelsvåpen

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25 'adelsvåpen' = 'his royal coat of arms'