

= Edmund Ætheling =

Edmund Ætheling (/ ʔdmʔnd ʔæʔʔlʔʔ / ; c . 1015 ? 17 ? possibly 1046 , certainly by 1054) was a member of the royal House of Wessex as the son of Edmund Ironside , who briefly ruled as King of England between April and November 1016 . He fought the Danish Vikings under Cnut the Great , but following the Danish victory at the Battle of Assandun in October , it was agreed that Ironside would rule Wessex , while Cnut took Mercia and probably Northumbria . In November 1016 , Ironside died and Cnut became King of all England .

Intent on keeping his succession secure , Cnut sent Ironside 's two infant sons , Edward and Edmund Ætheling , to his brother in Sweden , where they were to be murdered . Instead , the princes were spared and sent to safety to the Kingdom of Hungary , where they remained in the care of King Stephen I. After fleeing assassins hired by Cnut , the Æthelings arrived at the royal court of Kievan Rus ' in 1028 . The princes remained under the tutelage of Prince Yaroslav the Wise until adulthood . In 1046 , the Æthelings both traveled to Hungary and helped the exiled Andrew of Hungary in his quest for the throne . Edmund died shortly after marrying a Hungarian princess , before 1054 .

= = Birth = =

Edmund was born either in 1015 , 1016 or 1017 . Edmund 's mother was probably Ealdgyth , Edmund Ironside 's wife ; it is possible that she was only his stepmother , as the king 's death in November 1016 left space of only one year for two children to be born . Although there is a possibility that Edmund was older than his brother , later known as Edward the Exile , it is also possible that they were twins . At the time , it was customary for posthumous sons to bear their father 's name ; thus , Edmund could have been the younger , posthumous son .

= = Life in exile = =

With Edmund Ironside dead and Cnut marrying Emma of Normandy , both Edmund and Edward were deprived of their rights to succeed to the English throne . Nonetheless , both were titled " Ætheling " , an Old English word which designated royal princes who were eligible for kingship . As Edmund and Edward were the rightful heirs of England , Cnut decided to have them murdered . Considering it " a disgrace " for the Ætheling to be killed on English soil , Cnut sent them to his half @-@ brother , Olof Skötkonung , the reigning King of Sweden , where they were to be put to death . An old ally of the princes ' grandfather , Æthelred the Unready , Olof instead sent the Ætheling to the Hungarian royal court of King Stephen I , fearing they were unsafe in the north , where Cnut 's power was great . Although exiled , Edmund and Edward still instilled hope in the leaderless Anglo @-@ Saxons of Danish England .

After his baptism in 985 , Stephen I had become the first Christian ruler of Hungary . By the time of Edmund and Edward 's arrival at his court , Stephen was married to Gisela of Bavaria and had led a peaceful reign . The Hungarian court was " a happy home " for the exiled English princes . However , in 1028 , Edmund and Edward were forced to flee Hungary after Cnut sent powerful assassins to carry out the task of murdering the two Æthelings . The princes found refuge at the court of Yaroslav the Wise , Grand Prince of Kiev .

Edmund and Edward were recorded as being " somewhat grown , and had passed twelve years " when they arrived in Yaroslav 's capital , Gardorika , another name for Kiev . A mid thirteenth @-@ century letopis (chronicle) records nothing of Edmund and Edward 's stay at the Kievan court , although later Russian chronicles do mention their refuge . The Anglo @-@ Saxons were Roman Catholics and Edmund and Edward were reserved towards the Eastern Orthodox character of Kievan Christianity ; Yaroslav is likely to not have allowed the Æthelings to voice their dissatisfaction . The Æthelings ' presence at the Kievan court presented itself as " a very useful negotiating counter " for Yaroslav 's Western @-@ orientated foreign policy .

After King Harthacnut 's death , the English considered bringing Edmund and Edward back to

England , but nothing came of it , as the princes were still in Kiev in late 1042 . By 1043 , Edmund , now in his late twenties , was being left out of Yaroslav 's continental schemes , while Edward was elevated " to a position of sole responsibility where England 's crown or dynastic alliances were concerned . " This was possibly due to Edmund having an affair with a noble lady , which had caused quite a scandal . Andrew of Hungary , a Hungarian prince who had also been exiled , had established himself at Yaroslav 's court in the 1030s . In 1046 , during the Vata pagan uprising in Hungary , Andrew returned to his homeland with the intention of gaining the throne ; Edmund and Edward are likely to have fought for Andrew 's army and it is possible that they were present at his coronation .

= = Marriage and death = =

Ailred of Rievaulx , a near @-@ contemporary chronicler , recorded Edmund 's marriage to the daughter of a Hungarian king , but omitted to mention the name of the king and the name of the daughter . This could not have been a daughter of King Stephen , although a sister of King Samuel Aba , as well as any other princess of the huge Árpád dynasty is a possible candidate . It is possible that Edmund 's wife was named Hedwig . Edmund died shortly after the marriage , possibly during the military campaign of Andrew of Hungary in 1046 ; he was certainly dead by 1054 , when only Edward was recalled to England by the princes ' uncle , King Edward the Confessor . The king wanted to appoint his nephew as his heir , however Edward died soon after his arrival in London . With the death of Edward 's son , Edgar the Ætheling (who had been proclaimed king in 1066 but was forced to swear allegiance to William the Conqueror and renounce his rights) , around 1126 , the male line of the House of Wessex died out . Edmund was buried in Hungary , however the exact location of his grave is unknown .

= = Ancestry = =