

= Lagmann mac Gofraid =

Lagmann mac Gofraid , known in Old Norse as Lǫgmaðr Guðrøðarson and Lögmaðr Guðrøðarson , was a late eleventh @-@ century King of the Isles , whose rise , reign , and fall from power are obscure . He was the eldest son of Gofraid Crobán , King of Dublin and the Isles , a Norse @-@ Gaelic dynast who conquered and ruled the kingdoms of the Isles and Dublin , before dying in 1095 . Three years after the latter 's death , the Isles was conquered by Magnús Óláfsson , King of Norway , whose regime in the region lasted until his death in 1103 . The chronology of Lagmann 's reign is uncertain : he may have begun his reign either before Magnús ' conquest , during his regime , or after his demise .

As King of the Isles , Lagmann faced significant opposition from factions supporting his younger brothers , Aralt and Amlaíb . At some point , the Islesmen are reported to have petitioned Muirchertach Ua Briain , King of Munster to select a temporary ruler in the region . This act may have been initiated on behalf of a faction supporting Amlaíb . Whatever the case , Ua Briain responded by placing an Uí Briain relative upon the throne . The Uí Briain interlopers , however , do not appear to have been well received ; and were evidently ejected by the Islesmen , perhaps led by supporters of Lagmann himself .

The chronology and circumstances surrounding the conclusion of Lagmann 's reign are uncertain . According to one source , he voluntarily resigned the kingship and journeyed to Jerusalem where he died . This account could be evidence that he died on crusade : one possibility is the First Crusade , perhaps in the entourage of Robert II , Duke of Normandy ; another possibility is the so @-@ called Norwegian Crusade , in the entourage of Sigurðr Magnússon , King of Norway . Although one source claims that Lagmann 's trek to the Holy Land was undertaken in remorse for the cruelty he had inflicted upon Aralt , another possibility is that he was forced into exile instead . Whatever the case , it is apparent that about a decade after Magnús ' death , the Crovan dynasty was restored to the kingship in the person of Lagmann 's youngest brother .

= = Antecedents , accession , and insurrection = =

Lagmann was one of three sons of Gofraid Crobán , King of Dublin and the Isles (died 1095) . Gofraid first emerges into history in the mid eleventh century . Although his precise parentage is uncertain , he appears to have been a descendant of Amlaíb Cuarán , King of Dublin and Northumbria (died 981) . Gofraid 's apparent Uí Ímair antecedents appear to have endowed him with ancestral claims to the Norse @-@ Gaelic kingdoms to Dublin and the Isles . In the 1070s , he secured the kingship of the Isles through his conquest of Mann , and forcefully added Dublin to his realm in 1091 . Gofraid 's downfall came in 1094 , when he was driven out of Ireland by the Uí Briain , and died the following year in the Hebrides .

There is uncertainty concerning the political situation in the Isles in the last decade of the eleventh century . What is known for sure is that , before the end of the century , Magnús Óláfsson , King of Norway (died 1103) led a marauding fleet from Scandinavia into the Isles , seized control of the kingdom , and held onto power in the Irish Sea region until his death in 1103 . According to the Chronicle of Mann , when Gofraid died in 1095 , Lagmann succeeded him as his eldest son , and went on to reign for seven years . The numerical calculations and chronology of this source are suspect , and it is uncertain if Lagmann 's reign began before Magnús ' arrival , during Magnús ' overlordship , or even after Magnús ' death . One possibility is that Lagmann commenced his reign in the Isles immediately after his father assumed the kingship of Dublin in 1091 . If so , this transfer of power would seem to evidence the eminent status of Dublin 's kinship amongst the Norse @-@ Gaelic elite .

Despite the uncertainty surrounding the inception of his reign , the chronicle reveals that Lagmann faced continued opposition from within his own family , in the form of an ongoing rebellion by his brother , Aralt . Lagmann eventually overcame Aralt , however , and is stated to have had the latter blinded and emasculated . Afterwards , if the chronicle is to be believed , Lagmann repented the cruelty that he had inflicted upon Aralt , and remorsefully resigned his kingdom , before setting off to

Jerusalem , where he died .

= = Irish intervention = =

Although the Chronicle of Man maintains that Lagmann voluntarily vacated his throne , there is reason to suspect that he was forced from power . In about 1096 , the chronicle claims that the leading Islesmen sought assistance of Muirchertach Ua Briain , King of Munster (died 1119) , and petitioned him to provide a regent from his own kin to govern the kingdom until Lagmann 's younger brother , Amlaíb (died 1153) , was old enough to assume control . The chronicle 's account could be evidence that , by about 1096 , Lagmann faced a faction formed around his younger brother ; and that , when this faction was unable to topple Lagmann by itself , it approached Ua Briain for assistance in placing Amlaíb upon the throne .

Ua Briain was certainly a formidable potential ally , having recently imposed his dominance over the kingdoms of Connacht , Leinster , Mide , and Dublin as well . In fact , it was through his conquest of the latter that Ua Briain had banished Lagmann 's father from Ireland once and for all , and thereby secured control of Dublin 's awesome naval power . In consequence of this predominance , the clause as stated by the chronicle ? that Ua Briain was to provide the Isles with a regent from his own kin ? may well have been a condition on his intervention , rather than a request of the Islesmen themselves . Whatever the case , the chronicle reveals that Ua Briain then installed Domnall mac Taidc (died 1115) upon the throne . Although Domnall had previously opposed Ua Briain over the kingship of Munster , he was the son of Ua Briain 's brother , and further possessed strong familial connections with the Isles through his maternal descent from Echmarcach mac Ragnaill , King of Dublin and the Isles (died 1064 / 1065) . In fact , the Annals of Ulster appears to indicate that at least two apparent members of Echmarcach 's family were killed less than a decade before in a repulsed invasion of Mann . As a result , Domnall may have been the leading male representative of Echmarcach 's family . The slaying of Domnall 's brother , Amlaíb , as recorded by the Annals of the Four Masters in 1096 , suggests that Domnall and the rest of the Meic Taidc faced significant opposition in the Isles , possibly in the form of Lagmann 's adherents . The chronicle credits Domnall with an oppressive three @-@ year reign that ended when the leading Islesmen revolted against him , and drove him from the kingdom back to Ireland .

= = Norwegian domination and diminishment = =

The extent of Domnall 's rule in the kingdom is unknown , and it is questionable whether he had any real authority in the northern Hebrides , furthest from Mann . In about 1097 , Magnús sent a delegate named Ingimundr into the Isles to take possession of the kingdom . After installing himself in Lewis , Ingimundr was overthrown and killed whilst attempting to usurp the kingship . Ingimundr 's rationale for seating himself upon an island (Lewis and Harris) on the edge of the kingdom may have been due to the fact that he was unable to gain any authority on Mann itself . In fact , the chronicle reveals that civil war erupted there the following year , and the chronicler Orderic Vitalis (died c . 1142) indicates that Mann was devastated to point of being a virtual desert by the time Magnús appeared on the scene . The warring itself may have been related to the aforesaid factional struggles between Gofraid 's sons . The fact that the chronicle makes no mention of Domnall during this particular conflict may be evidence that he had lost control of Mann by then . Within the year , the same source records the arrival of Magnús himself , which could suggest that it was Ingimundr 's slaying , at the hands of the Islesmen , that had incited Magnús to take matters into his own hands .

Magnús ' takeover of the Isles is colourfully depicted in the chronicle , and several mediaeval Norse sources , such as the early thirteenth @-@ century Morkinskinna , Fagrskinna , Orkneyinga saga , and Magnúss saga berf?tts within the early thirteenth @-@ century saga @-@ compilation Heimskringla . As the Norwegian fleet descended upon the Isles , the latter source specifies that Lagmann set himself to defend the Norðreyjum (" Northern Islands ") , a term that likely refers to the Outer Hebrides . A particular verse of poetry in Morkinskinna , attributed to the contemporary skald Gísl Illugason , describes Lagmann as " Ívistar gram " (" Prince of Uist " , or " Lord of Uist ") .

This title not only appears to corroborate Lagmann 's authority in the northern Isles , but could also indicate that he was primarily based on Uist as well .

At several points in the history of the Isles , the realm endured periods of fragmentation between rival factions . Whether the references to Lagmann in the north are evidence of a similarly partitioned kingdom is unknown . The Norwegian subjugation of the Isles , and subsequent capture of Lagmann , are recounted by several sources . For instance , Orkneyinga saga states as much ; whilst Morkinskinna further specifies that Lagmann fled southwards and out to sea , as Magnús ' fleet advanced , only to be captured and kept in the Norwegian king 's company for some time afterwards .

Having overwintered in Isles , Magnús left for Norway in the summer , only to make his return nearly four years later , in 1102 or 1103 . Once re @-@ established on Mann , Magnús entered into an alliance with Ua Briain , formalised through the marriage between Magnús 's young son , Sigurðr (died 1130) , and Ua Briain 's daughter , Bjaðmunjo (fl . 1102 / 1103) . Magnús , therefore , appears to have intended for Sigurðr to rule over his recently @-@ won territories . Unfortunately for Ua Briain , and his long @-@ term ambitions in Ireland and the Isles , Magnús was slain in Ulster in 1103 , whereupon Sigurðr immediately repudiated his bride and returned to Norway . Although Ua Briain was able to regain control of Dublin , and still held considerable influence in the Isles , Magnús ' death appears to have left a power vacuum in the region that he was unable to fill .

In 1111 , Domnall mac Taidc appears to have forcefully seized the kingship of the Isles . Although it is possible that he had backing from Ua Briain himself , there is evidence to suggest that made his move without Ua Briain 's consent . Not long after this undertaking , Domnall appears to have been either forced from the Isles , or drawn back to Ireland in an attempt to capitalise on Ua Briain 's failing health , only to be slain himself in 1115 . The encroachment of competing Irish factions into the Isles may well have been as unpalatable to the English and Scots as the power vacuum left in the wake of Magnús ' demise . Since the chronicle records that the subsequent reign of (Lagmann 's brother) Amlaíb lasted forty years , the latter 's accession to the kingship appears to date to about 1112 or 1113 , not long after Domnall launched his bid for the throne . In fact , the chronicle indicates that Amlaíb spent his youth at the court of Henry I , King of England (died 1135) , and it appears that this restoration of the Crovan dynasty , in the person of Lagmann 's youngest brother , was the work of the English king .

= = Departure and death = =

Late in 1095 , Pope Urban II (died 1099) first proclaimed an armed pilgrimage , or penitential holy war , that led to the First Crusade of 1096 ? 1102 . Before the end of the year , tens of thousands of men , women , and children answered his call to re @-@ establish Christian control of Jerusalem . The particular terminology employed by the Chronicle of Mann ? that Lagmann departed the kingdom " marked with the sign of the Lord 's cross " ? suggests that he participated in a crusade . On the other hand , since the chronicle was compiled in the thirteenth century , during a period when the idea of a cross @-@ bearing pilgrim was well established , it is possible that this depiction of Lagmann has been contaminated by anachronistic conceptions .

There are many reasons why crusaders volunteered to " take the cross " . One particular reason was the desire of repentance . Remorse for the cruelty that he had inflicted upon his own brother may well have played a part in Lagmann 's decision . On the other hand , embarking upon a crusade could also be a means of escaping political tribulations and pressure at home , as in the case of the embattled Robert II , Duke of Normandy (died 1134) . In Lagmann 's case , his participation may have been a direct after @-@ effect of Magnús ' conquest of the Isles in 1098 , or the aforesaid later revival of Uí Briain encroachment in Dublin and the Isles .

If Lagmann was indeed a crusader , it is uncertain which particular crusade he undertook . One possibility is that he took part in the First Crusade , a movement that reached its climax with the successful siege and capture of Jerusalem in mid 1099 . Lagmann could have embarked upon this enterprise in about 1096 , the year the pope 's calls reached England , and perhaps joined Robert 's assembling forces that summer . Alternately , in light of Lagmann 's capture by the Norwegians in

1098 , it is conceivable that his release from custody was made conditional upon his exile and participation in the First Crusade . On the other hand , it is not impossible that Lagmann originally undertook a pilgrimage before catching wind of the crusade en route . Whatever the case , if Lagmann indeed participated and perished in the First Crusade , he may have met his end on campaign in Syria or Anatolia .

Another possibility is that Lagmann regained some form of control in the Isles following Magnús ' death , and afterwards joined Sigurðr 's expedition to Holy Land in the first decade of the twelfth century . Whether Sigurðr 's undertaking was a planned crusade per se , or merely an eventful and violent pilgrimage , is debatable . The precise chronology of this enterprise is similarly uncertain , although the Norwegian fleet certainly reached England before the end of the first decade of the twelfth century . It may have been at this point , whilst Sigurðr overwintered at the English royal court , that Lagmann joined up with him . If Lagmann and Sigurðr indeed rendezvoused in England , this may have been the time when Amlaíb , the future King of the Isles , was entrusted to the safekeeping of the English king .