

# Family Group Sheet for Brúsi Sigurðsson

<b>Husband:</b>	Brúsi Sigurðsson
Birth:	Abt. 987 AD; Orkneyjum (Orkney)
Death:	1031 in Orkneyjum (Orkney)
Father:	Sigurd II "Digri" HLODVERSSON
Mother:	Donalda Princess Of SCOTLAND
<b>Wife:</b>	Ástríður Reginvaldsdóttir
Birth:	Abt. 990 AD in á Gotlandi í Svíþjóð
Father:	
Mother:	
<b>Children:</b>	
1	Name: Rögnvaldur Brúsason
M	Birth: 1011 in Orkney, Scotland
	Death: Dec 1046 in Papa Stronsay, Orkney Islands, Scotland; Killed
	Spouse: Felicia Princess of Normandy

## Notes

### Brúsi Sigurðsson

Age at death: possibly 44 years old

Sources: - person: HH

once source doubts relations with Vikings and discrepancies with names.  
This will require the most research of all family ties.

An interesting account is found in Florence Van Rensselaer, *The Livingston Family in America and Its Scottish Origins*, New York, 1949, pages 30 and 31:  
BRUCE (BRUS, BRUSI, BRUSEE)

The first Bruce to go to Normandy, had left Orkney, where his forbears had been earls, or jarls, since the fifth generation from their earliest known ancestor Sveide, of Upland, a Viking, circa 760, who ruled until he died, and thereafter his descendants for three generations lived in Denmark and Norway, one Sigurd, becoming the first Earl of Orkney. For six more generations, these hardy men fought by land and sea, when another Sigurd, the seventh Earl, married for his second wife Olith or Thora, daughter of Malcolm II, king of Scotland, and his grandson married as his second wife, Felicia, daughter of Robert Duke of Normandy, her brother being William the Conqueror. Their second son was named Brusi, or Robert de Brusee who first went to Norway, but before long attached himself to the service of his maternal grandfather, and settled in Normandy, where he became eminent and powerful in that Court; being Councillor to Robert I, Duke of Normandy, the grandfather referred to, built the Castle of "la Brusee or Bruis", now Brix, which became "the Crade of the royal house of Scotland," and married Emma, daughter of Alain, Earl of Brittany. Again after six generations the three last having been barons of Annandale, and all but two named Robert, came,...

...Brusi, Earl of Orkney, and Earl of Cathanes and Sutherland. He died in 1031; married Ostrida, daughter of Regenwald Wolfson, Earl of Gothland. Earl Brusi held two-thirds of Orkney, by the support of King Olaf, of which he lost one half in 1030. He was converted to Christianity in the eleventh century.

<http://www.robertsewell.ca/bruce.html>

### Malcolm II of Scotland

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malcolm\\_II\\_of\\_Scotland](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malcolm_II_of_Scotland)

Máel Coluim mac Cináeda (Modern Gaelic: Maol Chaluim mac Choinnich[1], known in modern anglicized regnal lists as Malcolm II; died 25 November 1034),[2] was King of the Scots from 1005 until his death.[3] He was a son of Cináed mac Maíl Coluim; the Prophecy of Berchán says that his mother was a woman of Leinster and refers to him as Máel Coluim Forranach, "the destroyer".[4]

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## Notes (con't)

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### Ástriður Reginvaldsdóttir

HH

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### Rögnvaldur Brúsason

Age at death: possibly 35 years old

Jarl í Orkneyjum

Sources: - person: HH

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/R%C3%B6gnvald\\_Brusason](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/R%C3%B6gnvald_Brusason)

Rögnvald Brusason

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Rognvald Brusason (died 1046), son of Brusi Sigurdsson, was Earl of Orkney jointly with Thorfinn Sigurdsson from about 1037 onwards. His life is recorded in the Orkneyinga Saga.

Rognvald was taken by his father to Norway, to the court of Olaf Haraldsson, when Brusi and Thorfinn went there to have the inheritance of Einar Wry-mouth's third-share of the Earldom settled. Olaf kept Einar's share for himself, appointing Brusi to administer it, and kept Rognvald at his court.[1]

The Orkneyinga Saga says of Rognvald:

Rognvald was one of the handsomest of men, with a fine head of golden hair, smooth as silk. At an early age he grew to be tall and strong, earning a great reputation for his shrewdness and courtesy ...[2]

Rognvald was a supporter of Olaf Haraldsson, later Saint Olaf, sharing his exile in Kievan Rus, and helping his brother Harald Sigurdsson, better known as Harald Hardraade, escape after the Battle of Stiklestad in 1030. While Harald went on to Constantinople, Rognvald and other exiles remained in Rus, in the service of Yaroslav the Wise. Rognvald returned to Norway with Olaf's son Magnus the Good in 1035.[3]

While Rognvald was abroad, his father had died and Thorfinn Sigurdsson was ruling all of the Earldom of Orkney. Rognvald asked King Magnus for his third part of the Earldom, and Magnus agreed, giving him three ships and granting him the stewardship of Magnus's own third share. When Rognvald arrived in Orkney, he sent to his uncle Thorfinn asking him for the two thirds of the Earldom which Magnus had given him. Thorfinn agreed to give Rognvald his father's third, and the third which Magnus claimed into the bargain, although he claimed not to recognise Magnus's claim and presented this as a gift in return for Rognvald's assistance. and Rognvald worked closely together for eight years, fighting against enemies in the Hebrides and raiding Scotland and England.[4]

However, the Earls eventually fell out. The proximate cause of their quarrel, according to the saga, was the arrival of Kalf Arnesson, the uncle of Thorfinn's wife Ingibiorg Finnsdottir.

Kalf had a large following which placed a heavy burden on the Earl's finances. Plenty of people told him that he shouldn't let Rognvald have two-thirds of the islands, considering his heavy outlay.[5]

Rognvald and Kalf Arnesson were not friends. The Orkneyinga Saga reports that Rognvald, a staunch supporter of Saint Olaf, came close to attacking Kalf in Rus, who alone among the Arnessons had betrayed Olaf, when he came to pledge his support to Magnus.[6] For that reason, if for no other, Rognvald refused to hand over the third which Thorfinn asked for. From then onwards, relations deteriorated. Rognvald was defeated in a sea-battle and sought refuge in Norway with Magnus while Thorfinn took control of the earldom.[7]

With a single ship, and a crew of picked men, Rognvald returned to Orkney hoping that surprise would

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## Notes (con't)

enable him to retake the earldom. He succeeded, but not entirely as Thorfinn was able to flee to Caithness. However, soon afterwards, Rognvald was surprised in his turn, but was killed by Thorkell the Fosterer while escaping, given away by the barking of his lap dog.[8]

Rognvald was buried on Papa Westray. The Orkneyinga Saga offers this assessment of Rognvald:

Everyone agrees that of all the Earls of Orkney he was the most popular and gifted, and his death was mourned by many.[9]

Twelfth-century Earl Kali Kolsson was given the name Rognvald "because Kali's mother claimed that Rognvald Brusason had been the most able of all the Earls of Orkney, and people saw this as a sign of good luck.[10]"

## [edit] Notes

1. ^ Orkneyinga Saga, cc. 17-19; Saint Olaf's Saga, cc. 100-102.
2. ^ Orkneyinga Saga, c. 19; Saint Olaf's Saga, c. 100.
3. ^ Orkneyinga Saga, cc. 19 & 21; Saga of Harald Sigurtharson, c. 1.
4. ^ Orkneyinga Saga, cc. 21-22; Crawford, pp. 77-78.
5. ^ Orkneyinga Saga, c. 25.
6. ^ Orkneyinga Saga, c. 21; Crawford, pp. 77-78.
7. ^ Orkneyinga Saga, cc. 25-27.
8. ^ Orkneyinga Saga, cc. 27-29.
9. ^ Orkneyinga Saga, c. 29.
10. ^ Orkneyinga Saga, c. 61.

## [edit] References

- \* Anderson, Alan Orr, *Early Sources of Scottish History A.D 500-1286*, volume 1. Reprinted with corrections. Paul Watkins, Stamford, 1990. ISBN 1-871615-03-8
- \* Anon., *Orkneyinga Saga: The History of the Earls of Orkney*, tr. Hermann Pálsson and Paul Edwards. Penguin, London, 1978. ISBN 0-14-044383-5
- \* Crawford, Barbara, *Scandinavian Scotland*. Leicester University Press, Leicester, 1987. ISBN 0-7185-1282-0
- \* Sturluson, Snorri, *Heimskringla: History of the Kings of Norway*, tr. Lee M. Hollander. Reprinted University of Texas Press, Austin, 1992. ISBN 0-292-73061-6

cited in *Prosopography of Anglo-Saxon England*, published online by the University of Cambridge, UK at <http://www.asnc.cam.ac.uk/pase>.