

*Bath German Society, and
Bath Braunschweig Twining Association*

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5 Weddings and 2 Funerals: An Excursion through the History of Braunschweig and England

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February 1, 1168

January 16, 1764

April 8, 1795

August 14, 1809

May 25, 1913

October 15, 1944

April 26, 1971

1.2.1168

Henry the Lion & Matilda of England



1168 - Context

Germany – an elected monarchy
Guelphs (Welfs) v. Staufen (Ghibellines)



Frederick I (Barbarossa)

* 1122, decedent of Staufen (father) and Guelphs (mother)
Inherited duchies of Swabia and Franconia
1152 elected & crowned king of Germany
Fights to solidify imperial power

Henry the Lion

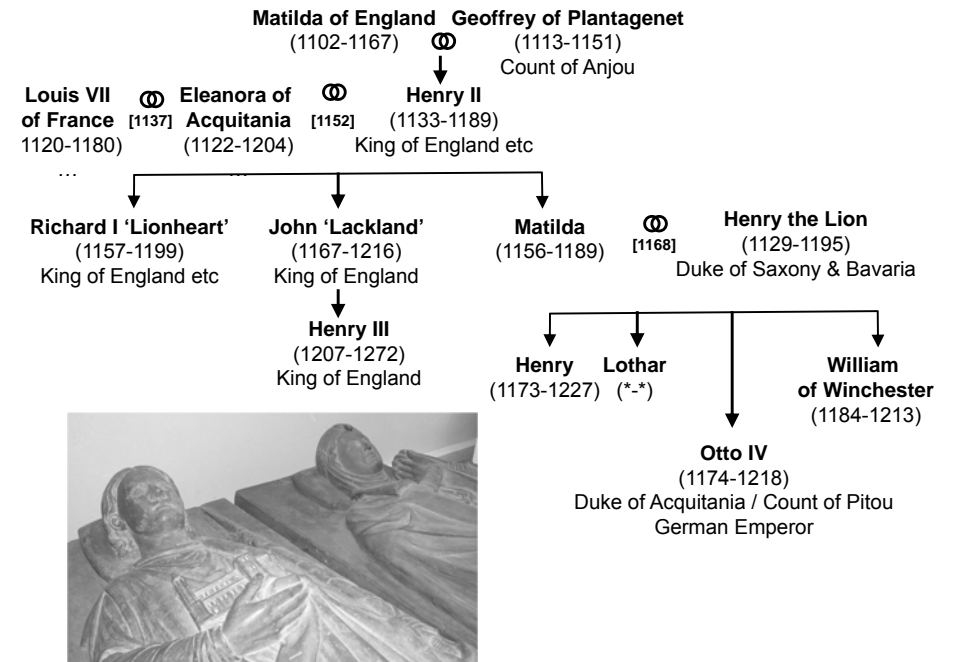
* 1129, cousin of Frederick I
Recovered his father's duchies of Saxony (1142) and Bavaria (1156)
Early supporter of his cousin

1.2.1168

- 1165
Engagement with Matilda,
– oldest daughter of Henry II of England following extensive negotiations.
– Matilda 9 years old
- 1166 Lion Statue
- 1168 Wedding
in the Dome of Minden



YouTube



1168 - Epilogue

- 1174 Henry refuses to support Frederick's 3rd invasion of Lombardy (Italy)
 - Henry's priorities were to solidify his own duchies
- Frederick's Italian adventures ended in disaster,
 - he blamed Henry
 - partners turn into enemies
- 1180 Henry is tried for insubordination, stripped of his duchies and exiled.



1168 - Epilogue

- 1182-1185 Exile at the Court Richard I in Normandy
 - 4th son William born in Winchester
- 1189 2nd Exile in England
 - return after his wife's death later the same year
- Settlement with Frederick I
 - Ends his days as Duke of Braunschweig
 - † 1195
- His sons Otto & William remain in England
 - to be educated at the court of Richard I Lionheart, his uncle.



- 1122 * Friedrich I Barbarossa
- 1129 * Henry the Lion
- 1142 Henry becomes Duke of Saxony
- 1147 Henry participates in the 2nd crusade
- 1152 Friedrich I Barbarossa crowned as German emperor
- 1156 becomes Duke of Bavaria
- 1157 * Richard I Lionheart
- Foundation of cities: 1158 Munich, 1159 Lübeck, 1161 Schwerin
- 1165 engagement with Mathilde
- 1168 Henry ⚔ Mathilde
- 1163/69 Lion Statue
- 1173 Start of rebuilding of the dome in Braunschweig
- 1174 * Otto IV
- 1176 Henry is 'banned' by the emperor Friedrich I Barbarossa due to non-participation in the 5th crusade
- 1180/81 Henry loses his duchies of Saxony and Bavaria
- 1182-85 1st Exile in England
- 1189 *Richard I Lionheart crowned king of England*
- 1189 2nd Exile in England
- 1189 † Mathilde
- 1190 † Friedrich I Barbarossa
- 1195 † Henry the Lion
- 1199 † *Richard I Lionheart*
- 1197 Otto IV nominated as opponent to emperor Phillip
- 1209 Coronation of Otto IV as German-roman emperor
- 1210 Otto IV 'banned' by Pope Innozenz III, Friedrich II becomes opponent emperor
- 1214 Battle of Bouvines (Belgium): Otto IV & his English allies defeated
- 1215 *Magna Charta*
- 1218 † Otto IV in Harzburg

1168 - Epilogue: Otto IV

- Grew up at the court of Richard I
 - who considered him as possible successor as king of England
- 1197: Death of Emperor Henry VI
 - Richard I and the Archbishop of Cologne promote Otto's candidacy
- Two kings elected by their respective supporters: Otto IV (1197) and Philip of Swabia (1198)
 - 10 years battle for control of Germany
- 1208 Phillip was assassinated
 - Otto IV became the only contender to the throne,
 - won over his opponent by marrying Philip's widow.



1168 - Epilogue: Otto IV

- 1209 – crowned emperor by Pope Innozenz III in Rome
 - the only one of the house Guelph ever.
- 1211 – Friedrich II elected king in opposition to Otto IV;
 - pope sides with Friedrich.
- 1214 – Friedrich II and his French allies defeat Otto IV and his English allies
 - near Bouvines (Belgium)
- 1218 – Otto IV, dies
 - a defeated man barely keeping his duchy afloat



January 16, 1764

Augusta & Karl Wilhelm Ferdinand

A British Princess in Braunschweig
(unhappy)



Bahn Gildenhalle: Frederick, Prince of Wales and Augusta, Princess of Wales

1764: Context

Fast forward to the 18th century

The Guelphs:

The guelph family splits in two lines, Braunschweig-Wolfenbüttel and Braunschweig-Lüneburg (later renamed Hanover).

England:

Since George I, crowned in 1714, England is ruled by the Hanover family, which strives to become 'English'



Dukedom of Braunschweig:

Squeezed between the rising powers of Hanover-England and Prussia, Braunschweig is squeezed, but engages in successful "marriage policy".

City of Braunschweig:

After long and proud de facto independence during the Middle Ages, the city comes under the control of the dukes again in 1671.

1764

Augusta & Karl Wilhelm Ferdinand

Augusta



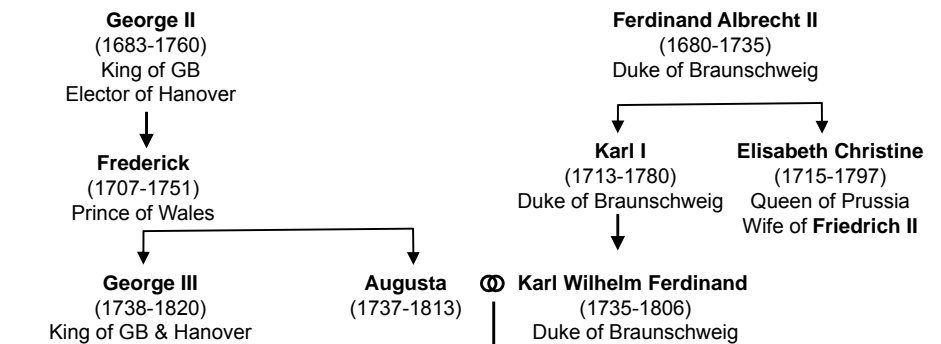
- Born 1737 as oldest daughter of Frederick, Prince of Wales,
 - Frederick grew up in Hanover, and came to England in 1727.
 - After the birth of Augusta, the family is thrown out of the Royal Palaces.
- Augusta grew up in Cliveden (near Maidenhead) and Kew (in **Richmond**).
- Frederick dies 1751 when Augusta was 14 years old
- 1760, her brother aged 22, George III is crowned king of England

1764

Augusta & Karl Wilhelm Ferdinand

Marriage

- Aged 24, Augusta was (!) married to her distant relative, Karl Wilhelm Ferdinand
 - To inherit Braunschweig
 - Frederick the Great of Prussia was his maternal uncle
 - and a serving officer of the Prussian army.
- On the occasion, a province in the new colony of Canada (1763) was named 'New Brunswick'



1764

Augusta & Karl Wilhelm Ferdinand

Culture Shock

- Welcome to Braunschweig
 - a conservative, absolute monarchy
 - with comparatively tight budget constraints,
- Salzdahlum Castle
 - a very formal, half-timbered baroque 'home'.
- Duchess Philippine Charlotte
 - Mother in law, sister of Frederick II, proud of heritage and the culture of the (French) enlightenment.



"In London, horse stables are more elegant"

1764

Augusta & Karl Wilhelm Ferdinand

- 1765/6,
 - Augusta returns to England, gives birth to her 1st son
 - KWF on grand tour of Europe, meets Marchese de Brononi in Rome
- 1768, Augusta build a small castle in an English style
- Augusta gives birth to 6 children, 3 handicapped
- She always remains distant to her host country.

Little Richmond 'Castle'



April 8, 1795 Caroline & George IV

A Braunschweig Princess in England (unhappy, unloved)



Bath Guildhall: King George III and Queen Charlotte

1795: Caroline & George IV

- * 1764
- Lives a life of luxury,
 - to the displeasure of George III
 - accumulates debt
- A ladies' men
 - Several affairs
 - 1785: marries *Maria Fitzherbst*, but marriage not recognized by the court.
 - New mistress *Princes Jersey*
- Seeking official marriage
 - to gain cash and to secure a successor

George IV "Prinney"



1795: Caroline & George IV



Caroline

- * 1768 Braunschweig
 - As 3rd child of Augusta and KWF
- Described as
 - cheerful, humorous, generous, ...
 - Independent-minded, unrestrained, tactless, enjoys the company of ordinary people.
- Marriage 8.4.1795
 - ‘Prinney’ drunk on his wedding day, more interested in Lady Princes than in his bride.



1795: Caroline & George IV

- 7.1. 1796 * Charlotte – probably the last time their parents met
- Lady Jersey a permanent presence, also on official occasions
- Caroline lived tightly constrained life
 - Separated from her daughter and rarely allowed to see her.
 - Not allowed to see visitors, not even her relatives
- Caroline popular among the people, but at all *not* in royal circles

- 1814-20: Caroline on Grand tour, stays in Italy
- Charlotte marries 1816, dies 1817 in childbed.
- Caroline put on trial for infidelity, as George tries to force divorce.
- 1821: George IV crowned king, Caroline refused access to the ceremony



Trial of Queen Caroline

August 14, 1809

The “Black Duke” in British Service

Der Schwarze Herzog in britischen Diensten



1809: Historical Context

- 1789: French Revolution
- 1799: Napoleon, Emperor of France
- 1803-1806: Napoleon conquers Northern Germany, and destroys the historical boundaries and power structures.
- 1806: Duke **Karl Wilhelm Ferdinand** of Braunschweig, commander of the Prussian Army, leads the defence against Napoleon. Fatally wounded in the battle of Jena and Auerstedt.
- 1807: The state of "*Braunschweig-Wolfenbüttel*" disappears from the map, becoming part of the "*Kingdom of Westphalia*" governed by Napoleon's brother Jérôme.



- **Friedrich Wilhelm** becomes contender to the throne, but holds actual power only in Oels, a small territory in Silesia.
- A year later, his wife dies in childbed. An angry man with little to lose is seeking freedom and revenge ...

1809: The Long March

1809

- Feb 25: contract with the Austrian emperor to raise a free corps to fight alongside Austria against Napoleon
- Apr 4: Austria declares war on France, joined by the free corps now in Eastern Bohemia.
- May 21: free corps occupies Zittau/Saxony and fights several skirmishes with the French
- July 7: Truce of Austria and France; Austrian troupes withdraw from Saxony to Bohemia.
- 24. July: Braunschweig free corps in Zwickau (Saxony) of about 2010 soldiers, start their long march to Northern Germany via Leipzig, Halle, Halberstadt (battle).
- 31. July: Hero's welcome in Braunschweig, where Friedrich Wilhelm claims his title.
- 1. August: Battle of Ölper (Braunschweig)
- 6. August: Arrival in Elsfleth, boarding ship to take the troops to England
- 14. August: Landing in England

1810 to 1814: Braunschweig troops serve under British command, mainly in Spain.



1809: Epilogue

- **1813 (22.12):**
After the defeat of Napoleon, Friedrich Wilhelm is restored as ruler of Braunschweig
- **1815 (16.6.):**
Friedrich Wilhelm falls in the Battle of Quatrebas (near Waterloo) – the last European ruler to fall in military battle.
- **Late 19th century:** Friedrich Wilhelm revered as a national hero



1809: Epilogue Revolution of 1830

- **Karl II**
disposed by a revolution in 1830
 - the only revolution in 19th century Germany where citizens actually managed to force their ruler to resign.
 - Creation of a constitutional monarchy.
 - Died in exile in Geneva

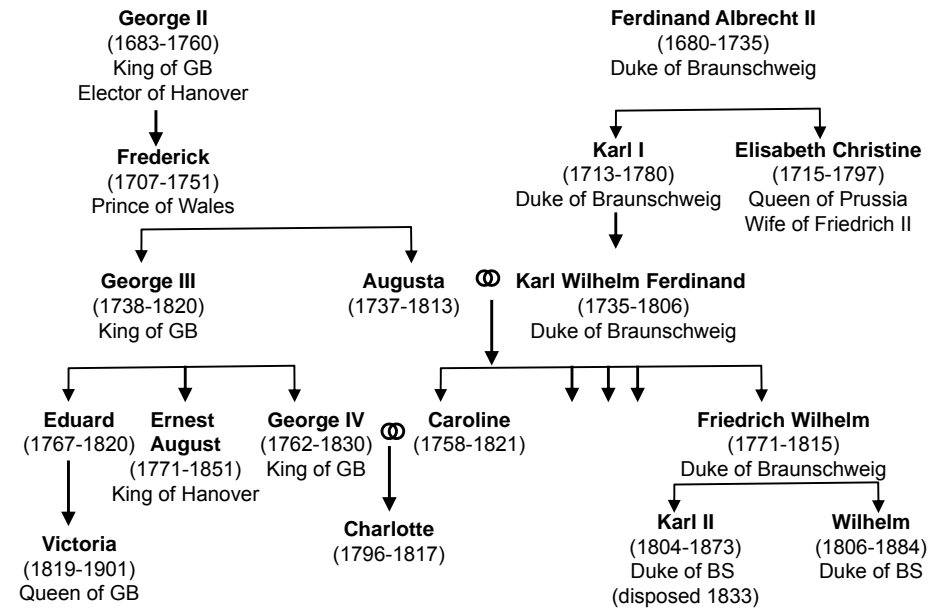


1809: Epilogue

- Wilhelm
 - Rules BS 1830 to 1884, but not well respected by the German aristocracy
 - Like his brother, he remains childless

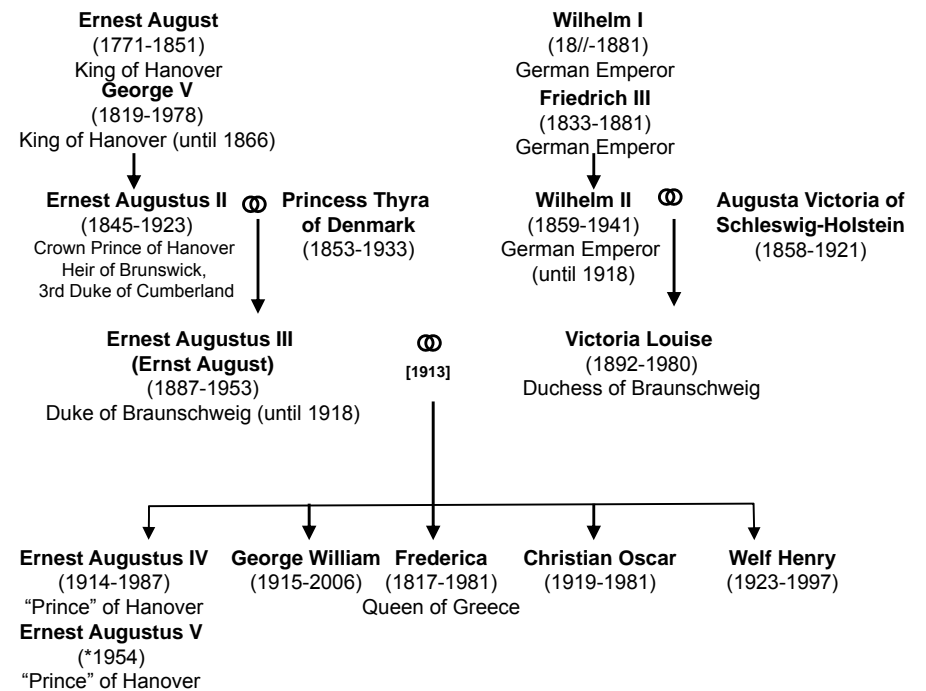


1884:
 'New House of Brunswick' dies out.
 So, what next?



May 25, 1913 Victoria Louise & Ernest August

Reconciliation between the Houses of Hohenzollern and Hanover



May 25, 1913 Victoria Louise & Ernest August



- **Ernest August III**
 - Son of the duke of Cumberland, contender to the throne of Hanover and of Braunschweig
 - Grew up in Austria
 - Travelled to Berlin to meet the Emperor, fell in love with his daughter.
- **Victoria Louise**
 - 7th child and only daughter of emperor William II

May 25, 1913 Victoria Louise & Ernest August

- May 25
Wedding in Berlin
- Oct 27
Duke of Cumberland renounces his claim to Braunschweig
- Nov 1
Grand Procession to welcome the Duke and Duchess to Braunschweig
 - The first duke since 1884
 - The first duchess since 1813



1913 Epilogue: Revolution of 1918

- Nov 8-10, 1918
 - Uprising led by workers and demobilized soldiers forces duke Ernest August to resign.
 - Proclamation of the *Socialist Republic of Braunschweig* by the U-SPD (a party to the left of the social democrats)
- Dec 22
 - State parliamentary elections: M-SPD 27.7%, U-SPD 24.3%, conservative alliance 26.2%, DDP 21.8%.
- April 9-17, 1919
 - Spartakists initiate general strike in BS
 - Military intervention to dissolve the soldiers and workers committee
- Jun 20, 1920
 - State parliamentary elections: USPD prime minister
 - Over the next 10 years Social democrats lead most governments

October 15, 1944



1944 – Prologue 1931-33

- State parliamentar
 - Social Democrats
 - Others: 3 seats
 - Nazis join coalitior
 - Dietrich Klagges (I
 - First wave of camj
 - dismissals of teacl
 - SPD and Commur
- “Braunschweiger I
 - Originally around I
 - Resistance of the
- 1932, February:
 - The state of BS employs a state-less Austrian as civil servant in its Berlin office, thus giving him German citizenship...



1944 – Prologue: 1931-33

January 1933:
Nazis lead coalition government in Berlin

- quick moves to arrest opponents, and remove them from position of influence
 - including the University President in Braunschweig
- Dietrich Klagges appointed Prime Minister of Braunschweig



October 15,
1944



Braunschweiger Innenstadt im Oktober 1944



April 26, 1971 Bath & Braunschweig

1971: Context



*In November 1946
by order of the British military
authorities,
with the support of the relevant
German politicians,
the state of “Braunschweig” is
dissolved,
and integrated in the newly
founded state of
“Niedersachsen”.*

1971: Context

- Rebuilding from the ruins
 - A modern city with reconstructed ‘historical islands’
- Reconciliation with the enemies of two world wars – who historically were close friends.
- Twinning with Bath as basis to facilitate mutual understanding, especially for schools and associations.

