

History of the Monarchy

King Stephen

Born in 1103

Ascended in 1135

Died in 1154, aged 50

Reigned for 19 years

Married to Matilda of Boulogne bearing 1 son and 2 daughters.

Stephen was the first and last of the House of Blois. He had promised King Henry I that his daughter Matilda could become heir, but when Henry died he revoked this promise and stole the crown.

Matilda invaded England in 1139 to claim the throne and a civil war ensued. She even seized the crown for a very short time, but she was betrayed and had to escape leaving the war for her son Henry II to fight - he eventually defeated Stephen.