

English Kingdoms

William II and Henry I

"William Rufus"

Born around 1057

Ascended in 1087

Died in 1100, aged 43

Reigned for 13 years

Unmarried

William II, the Conqueror's third son, was irreverently known as William Rufus because of his red complexion. Robert, his brother, had been given France but he wanted England too. This caused much dissension and betrayal between the two brothers.

The king retained his throne by bribery and cash promises. He was not good with money and pillaged the church and treasury so none regretted the strange hunting accident that left him dead from an arrow. He was succeeded by Henry I.

Born in 1068

Ascended in 1100

Died in 1135, aged 67

Reigned for 35 years

Married to Matilda of Scotland bearing 1 son and 1 daughter. Then to Adela of Louvain

Henry, also known as the Beauclerc or the Scholar, was the youngest son of William the Conqueror. He was well educated, but vicious with his enemies and he had a string of mistresses that gave him 24 children (only three were legitimate to his wife Matilda). Sadly the heir, William, died when the royal boat, *White Ship*, foundered on a rock in the English Channel.