

Arnulf I, Count of Flanders

Arnulf of Flanders (c. 890 – March 28, 965), called **the Great**, was the first **Count of Flanders**, who ruled the **County of Flanders**, an area that is now **northern France** (Nord), northwestern **Belgium** and southwestern **Netherlands**.

Contents

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Born	c. 890
Died	28 March 965
Noble family	House of Flanders
Spouse(s)	Adele of Vermandois
Father	Baldwin II of Flanders
Mother	Ælfthryth of Wessex

Life

Arnulf was the son of margrave **Baldwin II of Flanders** and Ælfthryth of **Wessex**, daughter of **Alfred the Great**.^[1] Through his mother he was a descendant of the **Anglo-Saxon kings** of England, and through his father, a descendant of **Charlemagne**.^[2] Presumably Arnulf was named after Saint **Arnulf of Metz**, a progenitor of the **Carolingian** dynasty.^[3]

At the death of their father in 918, Arnulf became Count of Flanders while his brother **Adeloft or Adelolf** succeeded to the **County of Boulogne**.^[1] However, in 933 Adeloft died, and Arnulf took the countship of Boulogne for himself, but later conveyed it to his nephew, **Arnulf II**.^[4]

Arnulf I greatly expanded **Flemish** rule to the south, taking all or part of **Artois**, **Ponthieu**, **Amiens**, and **Ostrevent**. He exploited the conflicts between **Charles the Simple** and **Robert I of France**, and later those between **Louis IV** and his **barons**.

In his southern expansion Arnulf inevitably had conflict with the **Normans**, who were trying to secure their northern frontier. This led to the 942 murder of the **Duke of Normandy**, **William Longsword**, at the hands of Arnulf's men.^[5] The **Viking** threat was receding during the later years of Arnulf's life, and he turned his attentions to the reform of the Flemish government.

Family

The name of Arnulf's first wife is unknown but he had at least one daughter by her:^[6]

- Name unknown; married **Isaac of Cambrai**. Their son Arnulf succeeded his father as Count of Cambrai.^[6]

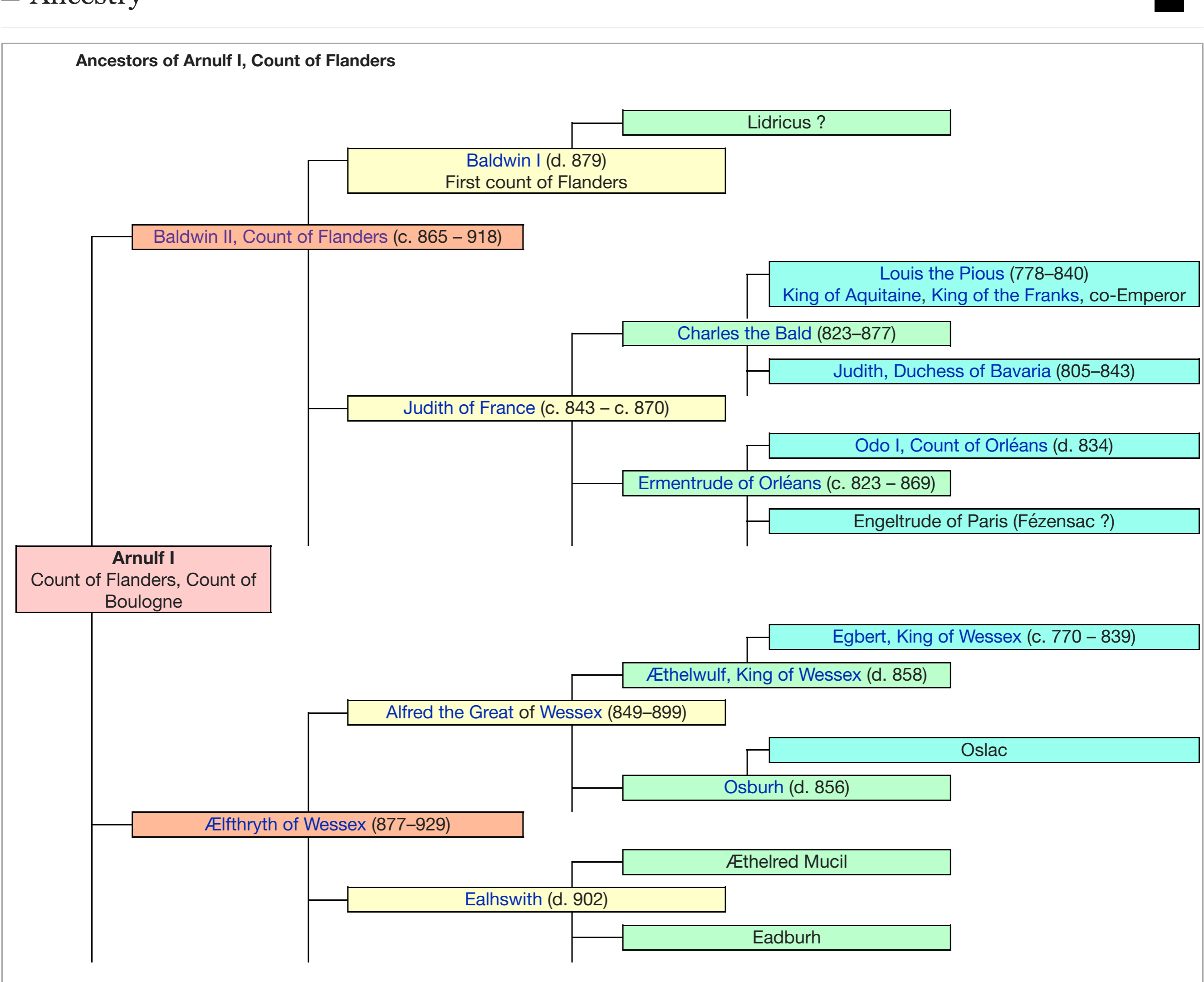
In 934 he married **Adele of Vermandois**, daughter of **Herbert II of Vermandois**.^[1] Their children were:

- Hildegarde, born c. 934, died 990; she married **Dirk II, Count of Holland**. It is uncertain whether she is his daughter by his first or second wife.^[6]
- Liutgard**, born in 935, died in 962; married Wichmann IV, Count of **Hamaland**.^[1]
- Egbert, died 953.^[1]
- Baldwin III of Flanders** (c. 940 – 962), married **Mathilde of Saxony** († 1008), daughter of **Hermann Billung**.^[1]
- Elfrude; married Siegfried, Count of **Guînes**.^[1]

Succession

Arnulf made his eldest son and heir **Baldwin III of Flanders** co-ruler in 958, but Baldwin died untimely in 962, so Arnulf was succeeded by Baldwin's infant son, **Arnulf II of Flanders**.^[1]

Ancestry



See also

- Counts of Flanders family tree**

References

Wikimedia Commons has media related to **Arnulf I of Flanders**.

- ↑ *^* *abcdefgh* Detlev Schwennicke, *Europäische Stammtafeln: Stammtafeln zur Geschichte der Europäischen Staaten*, Neue Folge, Band II (Verlag von J. A. Stargardt, Marburg, Germany, 1984), Tafel 5
- ↑ *The Annals of Flodoard of Reims, 919–966*, ed. Steven Fanning & Bernard S. Bachrach (University of Toronto Press, CA, 2011), p. xx
- ↑ Philip Grierson, 'The Relations between England and Flanders before the Norman Conquest', *Transactions of the Royal Historical Society*, Vol. 23 (1941), p. 86 n. 1
- ↑ Renée Nip, 'The Political Relations between England and Flanders (1066–1128)', *Anglo-Norman Studies 21: Proceedings of the Battle Conference 1998*, ed. Christopher Harper-Bill (The Boydell Press, Woodbridge, UK, 1999), p. 150
- ↑ David Nicholas, *Medieval Flanders* (Longman Group UK Limited, London, 1992), p. 40
- ↑ *^* *abc* Heather J. Tanner, *Families, Friends and Allies: Boulogne and Politics in Northern France and England, C.879–1160* (Brill, Leiden, Netherlands, 2004) p. 55 n. 143

Additional references

- Folcwine**
- Lambert of Ardres**
- Platts, Beryl. *The Scottish Hazard: Flemish Nobility and their Impact on Scotland*, 1985

<div>Preceded by</div> Baldwin II	<div>Count of Flanders</div> 918–965 <div><i>with Baldwin III (958–962)</i></div>	<div>Succeeded by</div> Arnulf II (Flanders)
<div>Preceded by</div> Adalophe	<div>Count of Boulogne</div> 933–964	<div>Succeeded by</div> Arnulf II (Boulogne)

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