

# Ida of Lorraine

**Ida of Lorraine** (also referred to as **Blessed Ida of Boulogne**)<sup>[1]</sup> (c. 1040 – 13 April 1113)<sup>[2]</sup> was a saint and noblewoman.

She was the daughter of Godfrey III, Duke of Lower Lorraine and his wife Doda.<sup>[3]</sup> Ida's grandfather was Gothelo I, Duke of Lorraine and Ida's brother was Godfrey IV, Duke of Lower Lorraine.

## Contents

**Family**

**Life**

**Death and burial**

**References**

**Sources**

## Family

In 1049, she married Eustace II, Count of Boulogne.<sup>[2]</sup> They had three sons:

- Eustace III, the next Count of Boulogne
- Godfrey of Bouillon, first ruler of Kingdom of Jerusalem
- Baldwin, second ruler of Kingdom of Jerusalem

A daughter, Ida of Boulogne, has also been postulated. She was married first to Herman von Malsen and second to Conon, Count of Montaignu.

Ida shunned the use of a wet-nurse in raising her children. Instead, she breast-fed them to ensure that they were not contaminated by the wet-nurse's morals, i.e. her mode of living.<sup>[4]</sup> When her sons went on the First Crusade, Ida contributed heavily to their expenses.<sup>[5]</sup>

## Life

Ida was always religiously and charitably active, but the death of her husband provided her wealth and the freedom to use it for her projects. She founded several monasteries:

- Saint-Wulmer in Boulogne-sur-Mer<sup>[1][6]</sup>
- Our Lady of the Chapel, Calais<sup>[1]</sup>
- Saint-Bertin<sup>[1]</sup>
- Abbey of Cappelle<sup>[7]</sup>
- Abbey of Le Wast<sup>[7]</sup>

She maintained a correspondence with Anselm of Canterbury. Some of Anselm's letters to Ida have survived.<sup>[8][9]</sup>

**Ida of Lorraine**



<b>Born</b>	c. 1040
<b>Died</b>	April 13, 1113 (aged 72–73)
<b>Spouse(s)</b>	Eustace II of Boulogne
<b>Children</b>	Eustace III Godfrey of Bouillon Baldwin I
<b>Parent(s)</b>	Godfrey III, Duke of Lower Lorraine Doda

She became increasingly involved in church life. However, current scholarship feels that she did not actually become a Benedictine Nun, but that she was a “Secular Oblate of the Benedictine Order”.<sup>[1][6]</sup>

## Death and burial

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Ida died on 13 April 1113, which is the date she is honoured. Traditionally, her burial place has been ascribed to the Monastery of Saint Vaast.<sup>[6]</sup> Her remains were moved in 1669 to Paris and again in 1808 to Bayeux.<sup>[1]</sup>

Her life story was written by contemporary monk of Saint Vaast Abbey.<sup>[6]</sup>

She is venerated in Bayeux.<sup>[1]</sup>

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