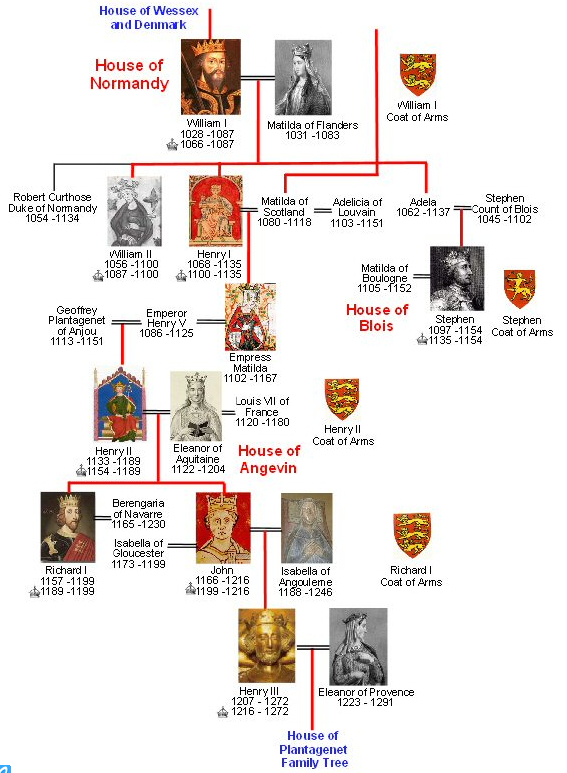
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**The Throne Is Mine!**

*Matilda of England, Henry FitzEmpress and what really happened...*

**Matilda, 1140**

*by Cobflaith ingen Sitriucca meic Ímair*

**The throne is mine**

**My living brothers are all bastards**

**The throne is mine**

**The nobles swore to it twice**

**If Stephen the Oath-breaker thinks he's safe, he's not**

**For the throne is mine, the throne is mine**

At eight years old a queen, I made Germany my home

With twenty thousand silver marks to help Heinrich subdue Rome

The Pope made him Emperor with unwilling hands

In four years, we were wed; in fifteen, Heinrich was dead

My brother, William, five years earlier, King Henry's chosen heir

Had drowned crossing the channel, too much wine the culprit there

I went home a widow; Father's new wife bore no sons

And all the nobles fought to be the first to swear I was the one

**CHO:**

To strengthen our border to the south of Normandy

I must wed the heir to Anjou, my Royal Father had decreed

A fifteen-year-old peacock was never my choice

I'm a woman who has ruled, yet I seem to have to have no voice

After years of estrangement and Father's maneuvering

The nobles swore again support for my right to succeed the King

I rejoined my husband and bore two healthy sons

Yet Father still refused to give my husband castles he had won

**CHO:**

I was far away in Anjou when I heard the King was dead

My cousin Stephen seized the treasury, put the crown upon his head

I took the castles denied us, but had to stop to bear a son

By the time I had recovered, Stephen's treachery was done

I got a foothold in my country; my brother Robert joined my quest

After five years of battle, the pretender we did best

The Lady of England was the title given me

As Stephen rotted in his chains, I proclaimed my sovereignty

**CHO:**

*In two years' time, my mother, the great Matilda, was betrayed*

*She fled to safety with her knights, and Stephen once more King was made*

*But she never gave up and she fought anew for me*

*And she raised me up a warrior to defeat our enemy*

*We claimed Normandy as ours and closed in on Stephen's men*

*Stephen feared our might, so a treaty we did pen*

*He remained King until death, as we allowed*

*Then, after nineteen years of bloodshed, King of England I was crowned*

***The throne is mine***

***My mother fought for our birthright***

***The throne is mine***

***That is why I shall be known***

***As Henry FitzEmpress, son of the great Matilda***

***The throne is mine, the throne is mine***

***The throne is mine, the throne is mine***

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**Timeline for the Empress Matilda**

By **Jone Johnson Lewis**

<http://womenshistory.about.com/od/empressmatilda/a/matilda_timelin.htm>

1101 - Henry I became King of England when his brother William Rufus died, quickly seizing control to displace his other older brother, Robert "Curthose."

August 5, 1102 (disputed) - Matilda, or Maude, born to Henry I, Duke of Normandy and King of England, and his wife, Matilda (also called Edith) who was a daughter of King Malcolm III of Scotland.

She was born at the Royal Palace in Sutton Courtenay (Berkshire).

1103 - William, brother of Matilda, born.

April 10, 1110 - betrothed to Holy Roman Emperor, Henry V (1081-1125)

July 25, 1110 - crowned Queen of the Germans at Mainz

January 6 or 7, 1114 - married to Henry V

1117 - Matilda visited Rome where she and her husband were crowned in a ceremony led by Archbishop Bourdin (May 13). This coronation, which was not by the Pope though she possibly encouraged that misunderstanding, was the basis for Matilda's courtesy title of Empress ("imperatrix") which she used in documents all of her life.

1118 - Matilda's mother died

1120 - William, Henry I's sole surviving legitimate male heir, died when the White Ship was wrecked while crossing from France to England. Henry fathered at least 20 illegitimate children, but was eventually left with just one male legitimate heir and, at the death of William, only with Matilda as legitimate heir

1121 - Henry I married a second time, to Adela of Louvain, apparently still hoping to father a male heir

1125 - Henry V died and Matilda, childless, returned to England

January 1127 - Henry I of England named Matilda his heir, and the barons of England accepted Matilda as the heir to the throne

April 1127 - Henry I arranged that Matilda, age 25, marry Geoffrey V, Count of Anjou, age 15

May 22, 1128 - The Empress Matilda married Geoffrey V the Fair, heir to Anjou, Touraine and Maine, at Le Mans Cathedral, Anjou (date is also found as June 8, 1139) - the future Count of Anjou

March 25, 1133 - birth of Henry, eldest son of Matilda and Geoffrey (first of three sons born in four years)

June 1, 1134 - birth of Geoffrey, son of Matilda and her husband. This son was later known as Geoffrey VI of Anjou, Count of Nantes and Anjou.

December 1, 1135 - King Henry I died, probably from eating spoiled eels. Matilda, pregnant and in Anjou, was unable to travel, and Henry I's nephew Stephen of Blois seized the throne. Stephen had himself crowned at Westminster Abbey on December 22, with the support of many of the barons who had sworn their support for Matilda at her father's request

1136 - birth of William, third son of Geoffrey of Anjou and the Empress Matilda. William was later Count of Poitou.

1136 - some nobles supported Matilda's claim and fighting broke out in a few locations

1138 - Robert, Earl of Gloucester, a half-brother of Matilda, joined with Matilda to unseat Stephen from the throne and install Matilda, sparking a full-fledged civil war

1138 - Matilda's maternal uncle, David I of Scotland, invaded England in support of her claim. Stephen's forces defeated David's forces at the Battle of the Standard

1139 - Matilda landed in England

February 2, 1141 - Matilda's forces captured Stephen during the battle of Lincoln and held him captive at Bristol Castle

March 2, 1141 - Matilda welcomed to London by the Bishop of Winchester, Henry of Blois, Stephen's brother, who had recently switched sides to support Matilda

March 3, 1141 - Matilda was ceremonially proclaimed Lady of the English ("domina anglorum" or "Anglorum Domina") at Winchester Cathedral

April 8, 1141 - Matilda proclaimed Lady of the English ("domina anglorum" or "Anglorum Domina" or " Angliae Normanniaeque domina") by a clergy council at Winchester, supported by the Bishop of Winchester, Henry of Blois, brother of Stephen

1141 - Matilda's demands on the City of London so insulted the populace that they threw her out before her formal coronation could happen

1141 - Stephen's brother Henry changed sides again and joined with Stephen

1141 - In Stephen's absence, his wife (and maternal cousin of the Empress Matilda), Matilda of Boulogne, raised forces and led them to attack those of the Empress Matilda

1141 - Matilda escaped dramatically from Stephen's forces, disguised as a corpse on a funeral bier

1141 - Stephen's forces took Robert of Gloucester prisoner, and on November 1, Matilda exchanged Stephen for Robert

1142 - Matilda, at Oxford, was under seige by Stephen's forces, and escaped at night dressed in white to blend in with the snowy landscape. She made her way to safety, with only four companions, in a picturesque incident which has become a favorite image in British history

1144 - Geoffrey of Anjou won possession of Normandy from Stephen

1147 - Death of Robert, Earl of Gloucester, and Matilda's forces ended their active campaign to make her Queen of England

1148 - Matilda retired to Normandy, living near Rouen

1140 - Henry FitzEmpress, eldest son of Matilda and Geoffrey, named duke of Normandy

1151 - Geoffrey of Anjou died, and Henry, who becomes known as Henry Plantagenet, inherited his title as Count of Anjou

1152 - Henry of Anjou, in another dramatic episode, married Eleanor of Aquitaine, a few months after her marriage to Louis VII, King of France, was ended.

1152? - Eustace, son of Stephen by Matilda of Boulogne, and Stephen's heir, died

1153 - Treaty of Winchester (or the Treaty Wallingford) named Matilda's son Henry heir to Stephen, bypassing Stephen's younger son, William, and agreeing that Stephen should remain king for the duration of his own lifetime and that his son William would keep his father's lands in France

1154 - Stephen died unexpectedly of a heart attack (October 25), and Henry FitzEmpress became king of England, Henry II, the first Plantagenet king

September 10, 1167 - Matilda died and was buried in Rouen at Fontevrault Abbey