

ROLLO NORMANNEREN (Rollo the Norman), colt, out of Nicole and by Battle of Hastings. 100% purebred Knabstrupper in 4th generation.

I often sit and wonder what the world would have looked like if certain events or persons had not happened. Lets try Rollo (846-931) and the connection with the Battle of the Grey Apple Tree or, as it is known today, the Battle of Hastings in 1066. You can open attached pedigrees of the men-at-arms and their wives of the time and follow me around. It goes like this: In the year 911 one fine summer day a group of Normans (synonymous with Danes at the time) made a cruise up the Seine River in France and besieged Paris. Their leader was Rollo, the son of earl Ragnvald of Moere. He told Karl, the king of France, that if he did not cede the area of the lower Seine Basin to him tomorrow in Paris there would be no Paris the day after tomorrow! Recognizing a good argument, history tells us, king Karl yielded and the warrior dukedom of Normandy was created. Rollos name was franconized to Robert or Rou, and he promised Karl to keep the coast clear of other Normans, and then of course immediately called down all known relatives and friends. But what if for arguments sake Rollo had not been born?? Well, his son William (Longsword) would not have been born either, neither would his grandson Richard 1. (The Fearless), nor his greatgrandson Richard 2. (The Good), nor his greatgreatgrandson Robert 1. (The Devil (by himself The Magnificent)), and his greatgreatgreatgrandson William (The Bastard) would not have been able to nickname himself The Conqueror, because he would not have conquered anything due to the fact, that he would not have been born. William would also not have been able to marry his beloved Mathilde, whose sister Judith (daughters of king Balduin 5. of Flanders) would probably have had some more years with her husband, Toste Godwinsson, instead of losing him along with his brothers Gyrð, Leofwin and king Harold Godwinsons at the battle of Hastings. They were all the offspring of earl Godwin and his Danish wife Gyda. She was the sister of Denmarks most powerful man after the king, Ulf Jarl. He in turn was married to Estrid the full sister of king Canute the Great. Canute would however not have been able to marry Emma (The Jewel of Normandy) the widow of king Ethelred, because Emma as the full sister of Richard 2. (The Good), see above, would not have been born. Ethelred would probably still have ordered the St. Bricius Day massacre of the Norse settlers in the Danelaw, which triggered king Svend Tveskæg (Svein Forkbeard) and his son Canute (The Great) into revenge and the first conquest of England in that millennium. But Ethelred and Emma could not have had the son king Edward (The Confessor) because Emma was not born. And Edward could thus not have promised England to William (The Bastard), as the latter claimed, because neither would have been born, and Edward, to close the circle, could not have married Edith the full sister of the Godwinson brothers. King Harold Godwinson did have a daughter with his Danish mistress Edith Svanehals (Swanneck), named Gyda. She would probably still have been married to the Viking king Valdemar Monomachos of Novgorod in todays Russia. He was the son of Vsevolod whose sister Ellisiv was married to the king of Norway, Harald Haardraade, who perished at the Battle of Stamford Bridge a few weeks before Hastings. If that battle at Stamford Bridge would have taken place is doubtful, but anyhow, the battle-exhausted victors of that battle would not have had to hasten down to their doom at the battle of Hastings, because *that* battle would *definitely* not have taken place, at least not then and there. Family trouble at its very best!

Well, Rollo *was* born, and now I am only left wondering, why William, whose invasion fleet was ready for sea at the latest on august 10, did not choose to cross the channel before september 27/28 or as short after the Battle at Stamford Bridge as a team of fast dispatchriders could ride down from there to the channel coast! Coincidence? Hardly!

Best regards Torben