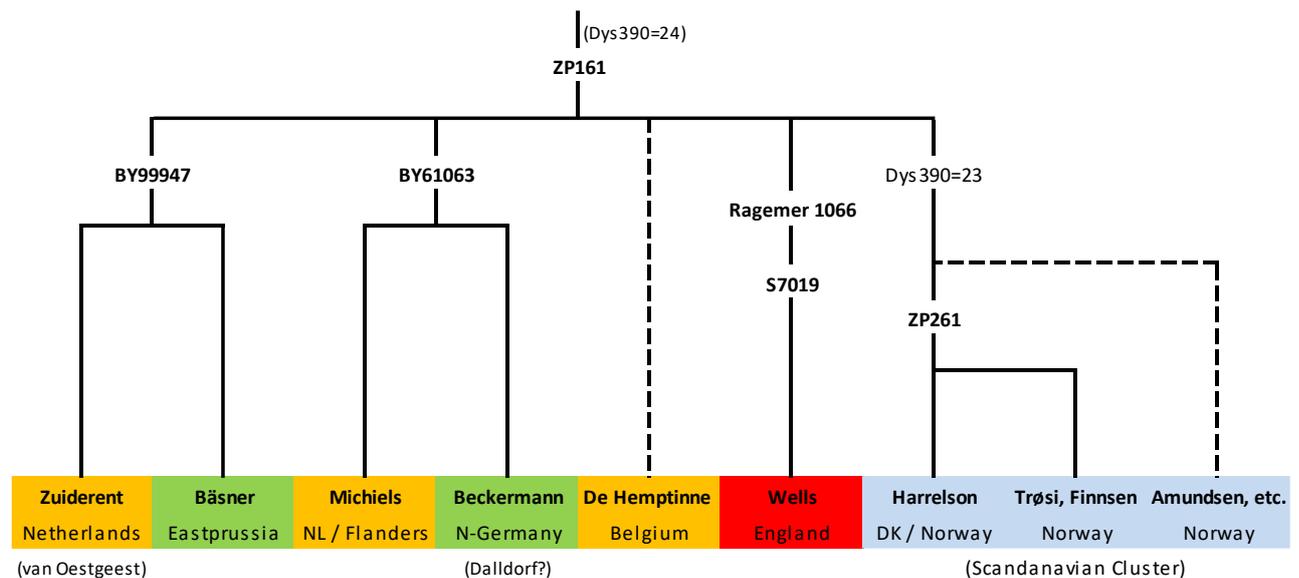


In the study of Richard B. Wells about the Dark Age Ancestry of the Wells family<sup>1</sup>, he made a well-motivated suggestion about the origin of his ancestor Ragemer. This Norman knight in service of Gilbert of Ghent in the battle of Hastings in 1066, would descent from a family of ‘hirdmen’ of the Danish rulers in Frisia. Hirdmen were members of the king’s bodyguard in peacetime and core of his army in wartime. After the Danish period in Frisia (826-885), some assimilated hirdmen would have taken service as warriors of the nobility in the Low Countries. In the same small Haplogroup ZP161 we see other members with probably the same life history: the knightly Van Oestgeest family (proven ZP161) was in service of the Counts of Holland, and the De Hemptine family (expected ZP161) descents from the Belgian knight Stassin de Hemptine, mentioned 1263. For the other members of ZP161/Dys390=24 a connection to the same clan was made plausible.<sup>2</sup>



The Dys390=23 members of ZP161 stayed in Scandinavia, Harrelson etc. (proven ZP161) in Norway and Denmark, Trøsi end Finnsen (proven ZP161) in Norway (Sør-Odal, Nes), Amundsen etc. (expected ZP161) in Norway (in/near Akershus). Amund Finnsen (1545-1620) must have had old roots in this area. He was owner of Heberg, an important farm, connected with the ownership of the waterfall Funnefossen (Nes, Romerike) where the ships traveling on the biggest river in Norway, Glomma, needed to reload their cargo.<sup>3</sup> The most plausible explanation is that the ZP161 clan has its origin in Norway, probably in the Akershus/Romerike area, which corresponds to the following.

### Norwegian Vikings in service of Danish rulers of Frisia

A mixture of Scandinavian nationalities within Viking troops, even within the same ship, was not exceptional. But there are stronger arguments than that concerning Norwegians as hirdmen of the



Danish rulers in Frisia. These rulers were from Norwegian origin and could have taken their Norwegian hirdmen with them. **Harold Klak**, the first Viking who got land granted by the Franks (Rüstringen in East-Frisia in 826), belonged to the royal family of Hedeby, from where he had to flee for his rival cousins.

Hedeby (German: Haithabu) in Schleswig was a Danish center of trade, established by Vikings from Sweden and/or Norway. The kings of Hedeby belonged to the Ynglings, the oldest known Swedish dynasty. **Harald Klak** is also known as **Harald Halvdansson Yngling**. Rorik of Dorestad, Duke of West-Frisia (841-873) was a

nephew of Harald and Godfrey the Norseman (‘the Sea-king’), his successor in Frisia, was probably a relative of Rorik. So the Danish rulers in Frisia were members of the Yngling clan. But in this period of history the Ynglings no longer ruled in Sweden but in a part of Norway. The Ynglings in Hedeby

descent from the Ynglings in Norway, kings of Vestfold and Romerike. Romerike is precisely the region where the main part of the 'Scandinavian cluster' of ZP161 lives (in or near Eidsvoll in Akershus, Nes and the near Odal area). That is why we can expect that the ZP161 members in the Low Countries come from the area of Romerike.

### 'A man from Romerike'

We found another indication for Romerike as the origin of the Z161-clan. In this clan the only name we know is Ragemer, the ancestor of the Wells family. Richard Wells writes in his study: 'Ragemer is called by various names in different historical and genealogical sources. In *The Lindsey Survey* he is known as Ragemer. In *The Domesday Book* he is called Rauemer. In some family genealogies he is

called Rademer Anghard. The variations Ragemer, Rauemer, and Rademer share a common root, Raumr, in the Old Norse languages.'

King Raum the Old, 'Raumr inn gamli' in Old Norse, was the legendary king of Romerike, before the Ynglings followed on the throne. Raumr would have been big and ugly. In Old Norse, Raumr means 'a hudge and ugly man', but it can also mean 'a man from Romerike'.<sup>4</sup> So in the Viking Age, the Z161-clan has probably been seen as a family from Romerike.



*The Akershus county borders Oslo from the east, west and north and is often referred to as 'the green belt of Oslo'. The eastern – and biggest – part of Akershus is the district of Romerike, divided in an upper and lower part.*

### Romerike in ancient history

Before the Unification of Norway by King Harald Fairhair, Romerike was a petty kingdom. It had its age of greatness between the 5th and 7th centuries. The Goth scholar Jordanes wrote around 551 AD in Constantinople in his *De origine actibusque Getarum* about the **Raumarici** as one of the Germanic tribes, located in Scandza. In the Anglo-Saxon epics *Beowulf* and *Widsith* the tribe is mentioned as the warlike Heaðo-Reamas (i.e. battling Reamas).

After Romerike was conquered by **Halfdan Hvitbeinn**, king of Soleyar (in Hedmark), he became the first Yngling king of Romerike. Halfdan was succeeded on the throne of by his son **Eystein Halfdansson**, who died on a viking raid to Varna, on the eastern side of the Oslofjord. His son **Halfdan the Mild** (+802 AD) succeeded him as king of Romerike and Vestfold. He was the grandfather of Halfdan the Black, the father of the Norwegian king Harald Fairhair.



### Link to Hedeby

**Sigurd and Harald**, the Ynglings who founded Hedeby, considered to be brothers of **Halfdan the Mild**.<sup>5</sup> Harald was the grandfather of **Harald Klak**.

### How the Swedish Ynglings came to Norway

The Ynglinga saga is a legendary saga, originally written in Old Norse by the Icelandic poet and historian Snorri Sturluson about 1225. The saga deals with the arrival of the Norse gods to Scandinavia and how Freyr founded the Swedish Yngling dynasty at Uppsala. Then the saga follows the line of Swedish kings until the 23<sup>rd</sup> in the line,<sup>6</sup> **Ingjald Anundson**. The descendants of his son **Olof Trätälja**, survivor of the dynasty, settled in Norway and founded the Norwegian Yngling branch.

The history of the emigration to Norway will be explained on and below this map:



The last Yngling king **Ingjald Anundson** ('illruler'), who ruled in **Uppsala** (1), was psychopathic and not beloved by his people. He was killed by his successor, Ivar Vidfamne from Scania. Ingjald's only son, **Olof Trätälja** ('Tree Feller'), found refuge, with his followers, in **Nerike** (2), his mother's homeland. They settled and cleared land, creating the new province of **Värmland** (3). Because the harsh rule of the Swedish king Ivar Vidfamne, many Swedes fled west and populated Värmland, which became overcrowded and afflicted by famine. Olof was made responsible and was sacrificed to the gods by burning him in his house. His son **Halfdan Hvitbeinn** was raised by his mother in **Soleyar** (4) in Norway. Many Swedish settlers from Värmland emigrated to Soleyar, where they chose Halfdan as their leader. After he subjugated the area, he became king of Soleyar and **Romerike** (5).

### Romerike, homeland or transit country of the ZP161-clan?

The question arises if the ZP161-clan belonged to the Raumarici tribe, described in 551 AD, or if they came with the emigrants, described above, about the 7<sup>th</sup> century, from Sweden to Norway. To answer this question, we will take a closer look at the available DNA data.

Haplogroup sequence: R1b -> U106 -> Z18 -> Z17 -> Z372 -> ZP91 -> S5970 -> Z161

Because we have an estimated date of 610 AD<sup>7</sup> for the ZP161 mutation, we better look at its predecessor S5970, estimated 160 AD. In the U106 list of FamilyTreeDNA<sup>8</sup> we see no members of this

group in Norway except the members of its subgroup ZP161. One member is from Sweden, the others – probably due to the Viking age – from outside of Scandinavia. The predecessor of S5970 is ZP91. The Scandinavian members of this group without its subgroup S5970 are from Sweden, except one man from Midsund in West-Norway. Three Swedes are from Jönköping, one from Närke (Nerike) and one from Kronaberg. This makes the theory, that S5970 came with the emigrants from Sweden, more likely than that they belonged to the ancient Raumarici.

Looking at the predecessor of ZP91, the big Haplogroup Z372, we see that this group is nearly equally spread over Sweden and Norway. In Sweden there is a concentration in South Sweden and Värmland. Adding the rest of the mother-group Z18/Z18 to these data, the big concentration in

Värmland is striking. It makes it plausible that many members of the Z18/S372 group belonged to the people that deforested Värmland with Olof Trätälja ('Tree Feller') and settled there. A part of them, including a part of ZP91, may have belonged to the emigrants to Norway that moved on to Halfdan Hvitbeinn in Soleyar.

Interesting in this regard is the fact that the 'Scandinavian cluster' of ZP161 not only exists of people from Eidsvoll in Akershus (Romerike), but also from Sør-Odal in Hedmark, just between Soleyar and Romerike, the two districts ruled by Halfdan Hvitbeinn.



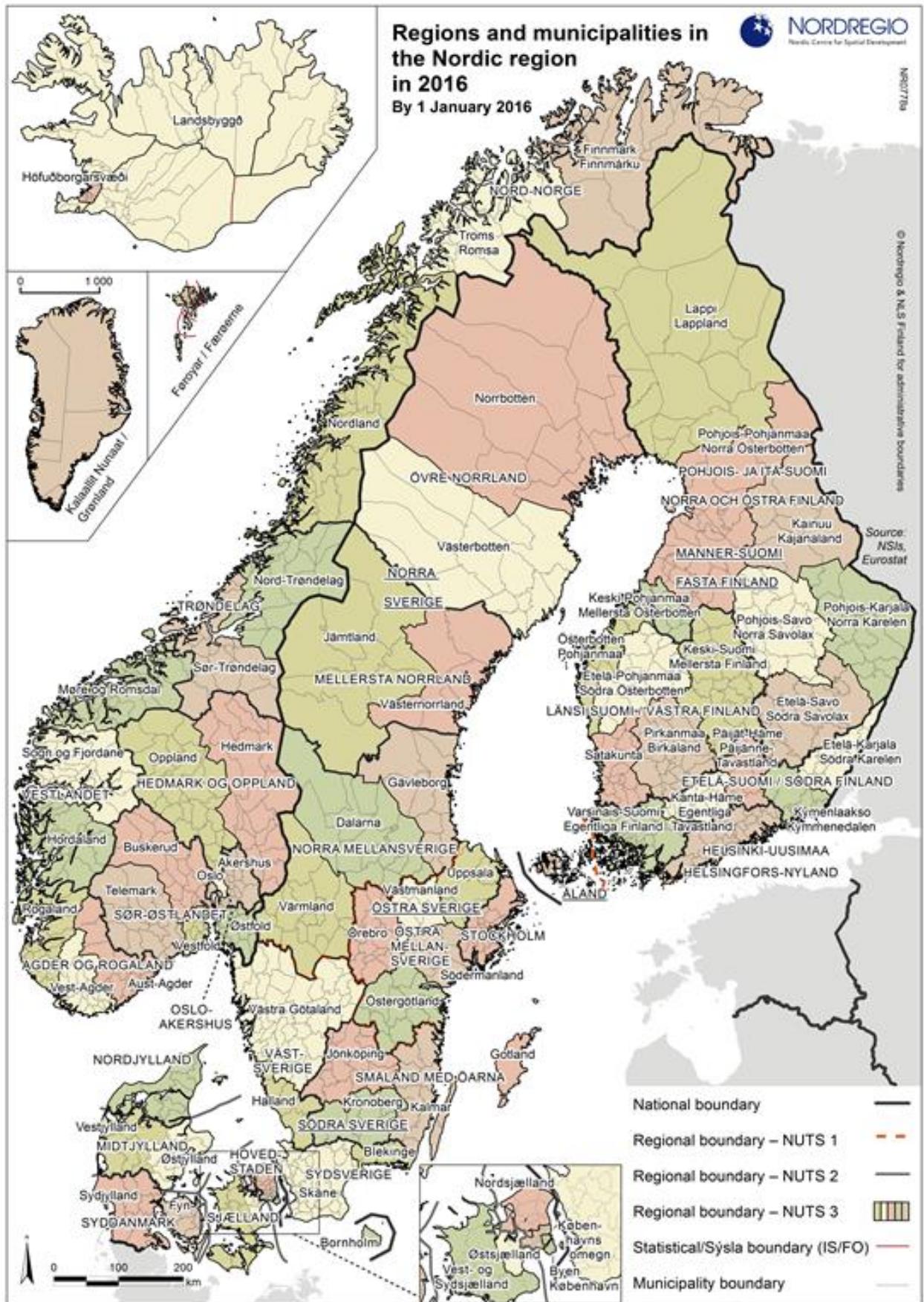
*On this map of the county of Hedmark, we see right below the municipalities Våler, Åsnes and Grue. They form the traditional district of Solør, the former Soleyar. Just left of the Solør district we see the municipalities Nord- and Sør-Odal, sandwiched between Solør and Akershus (Romerike) on the left (not visible here).*

### Appendix I: Family tree of Yngling kings mentioned in this paper

Based largely on prehistoric data, written down many centuries later in several sagas.

<b>Ingjald Anundson ('Illruler')</b> king of Sweden in Uppsala		
<b>Olof Trätälja ('Tree Feller')</b> settled in Nerike, deforested Värmland		
<b>Halfdan Hvitbeinn</b> king of Soleyar and Romerike		
<b>Eystein Halfdansson ('the Fart')</b> +ca. 730 king of Romerike and Vestfold		
<b>Halfdan the Mild</b> +ca. 802 king of Romerike and Vestfold	<b>Sigurd (I) of Hedeby</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> king of Hedeby	<b>Harald (I) of Hedeby</b> +ca. 804 2 <sup>nd</sup> king of Hedeby
Gudröd, king of Vestfold -- King Harald Fairhair - Kings of Norway	Gottfrid I, 6th king of Hedeby  his sons expel Harald Klak and his brother Rorik from Denmark in 813	no offspring known
		<b>Halfdan (II) Haraldsson</b> +ca. 810 4 <sup>th</sup> king of Hedeby
		<b>Harald (III) Klak</b> +ca. 844/852 10 <sup>th</sup> king of Hedeby 812-814 baptized by the Franks in Mainz 826 King of Rürstringen (East-Frisia) 832-844

Appendix II: Map of Scandinavian regions



Source : Nordregio, Designer/Cartographer Linus Rispling

## Notes

Most data about the sagas and early historians like Snorri Sturluson are taken from Wikipedia.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.mrc.uidaho.edu/~rwwells/techdocs/Dark%20Age%20Ancestr20of%20Wells.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> See: [Structurestudy\\_Z17](#), A. Zuiderent.

<sup>3</sup> Information from his Norwegian descendant Steinar Viken.

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.nordicnames.de/wiki/Raumr> and <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Romerike>

<sup>5</sup> Schwennicke, *Europäische Stammtafeln*, Band II, Tafel 104.

<sup>6</sup> Legendary numbering is off course not exact, see also list in Wikipedia, starting with Odin (!).

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_legendary\\_kings\\_of\\_Sweden](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_legendary_kings_of_Sweden)

<sup>7</sup> The mutations dates are estimated with several methods. We found so many differences between estimations and reality in the younger generations, that every estimation turns out to be unsure. I used the estimations in the SNP Tracker of November 2019, some weeks later they were already changed. In my opinion most estimations are rather too early than too late. For more information see [Strucuterstudy\\_Z17](#), chapter 'Age Estimations'.

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.familytreedna.com/public/U106?iframe=ycolored>, Version Nov. 2019