Erik Bloodaxe: His Life and Times: A Royal Viking in His Historical and Geographical Settings / 2012 / 272 pages / 9781468583298 / Author House, 2012 / William Pearson

Historians have reconstructed a narrative of Eric's life and career from the scant available historical data. Eric's sobriquet blóðøx, 'Bloodaxe' or 'Bloody-axe', is of uncertain origin and context. Further details on his family background are provided solely by the Icelandic and Norwegian sources of the 12th and 13th centuries, which are of limited and uncertain historical value and should therefore be treated with due circumspection. Harald 'Fairhair' is usually portrayed as a polygamous and fertile king, the number of his sons varying between 16 and 20. Despite his success in battle, his nickname came from his involvement in the killing of several of his brothers. Erik and his wife, Gunnhild (according to different accounts either a Danish princess or a witch from northern Norway), were between them responsible for the deaths of five brothers. Image of Erik Bloodaxe (aka Eric Bloodaxe) projected on to Clifford's Tower at the Jorvik Viking Festival York 2006. For the first time, the whole of Denmark and England were under the rule of one king, and in 1028 Cnut also conquered Norway, establishing the largest North Sea empire seen before or since, although it fragmented again following his death in 1035. Cnut also took the opportunity to borrow ideas from his English kingdom to apply in Denmark. 1996: Roy Fisher joins Bloodaxe with his first retrospective, The Dow Low Drop, Rita Ann Higgins with hers, Sunny Side Plucked, and Menna Elfyn with the bilingual Cell Angel. Peter Reading brings his account up-to-date with Collected Poems 2: Poems 1985-1996. Peter Reading is the only poet to read an entire lifetime's work for the Lannan Foundation's DVD archive â€“ his filmed readings for Lannan (made in 2001 and 2010) of 26 poetry collections make up the only archive of its kind in the world. Pamela Gillilan dies at 82 after a writing life begun at 60. Tomas Tranströmer receives his Nobel Medal and Diploma from His Majesty King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden at the Nobel Prize Award Ceremony in Stockholm, 10 December 2011. (Copyright © The Nobel Foundation 2011. Eric Bloodaxe is one of the most famous Viking warriors, at least in the British Isles. Many Britons today trace their Viking ancestry through Eric Bloodaxe and his prodigy who settled in York. But Eric's story seems far less noble than that of many other Viking warriors. He was expelled from kingship several times, usually because he had lost the support of his own people who preferred a different ruler. What does this say about this unlucky Viking? Let's take a closer look at the Norwegian warrior that called Northumbria home, and how exactly he earned the nickname Bloodaxe? Eric's Bloodline The Vikings, although losing their autonomous power in the late 10th to early 11th century CE, had by then already integrated into Irish society through intermarriage and close contact with the locals, and left a lasting mark on both commerce and culture. Viking Attack. John Rickne, Community Manager, Paradox Interactive (Public Domain). The draw. What exactly motivated the Vikings to set sail for Ireland (or the British Isles in general), though, is subject to ongoing debate. In western Norway, where land that did not try to kill you or your crops was a bit scarce, a search for new land may h