

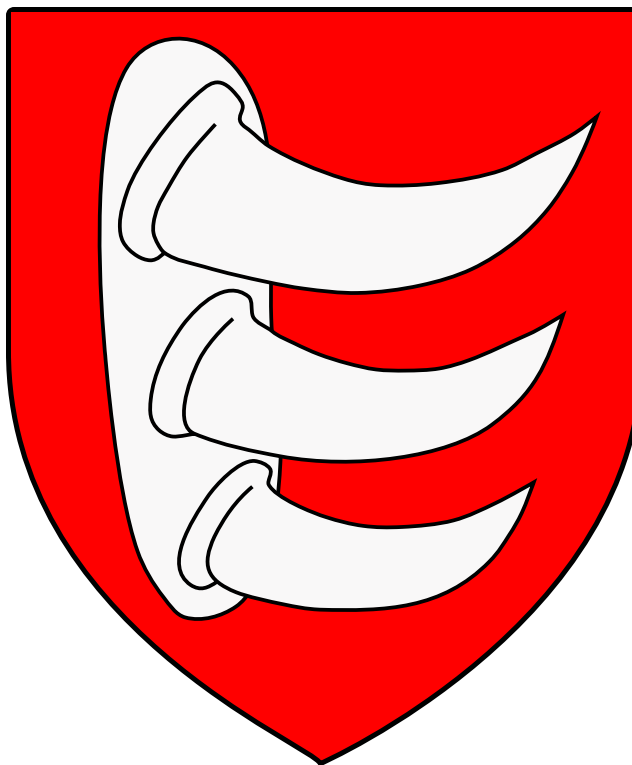
Description

The Báthory family was one of the most dominant aristocratic houses in the medieval Kingdom of Hungary and the Principality of Transylvania, reaching peak influence during the era of Ottoman occupation. Recent genomic analysis using Next Generation Sequencing was conducted on remains from the family's rediscovered chapel in Pericei, Romania. Researchers successfully identified the skeletons of Elek and Ferencz Báthory, confirming a fourth-degree paternal relationship exactly as recorded in historical genealogies. Both men were buried near the church altar with a ceremonial mace, gold-plated armor, and helmets.



Portrait of Balthasar Báthory (1555–1594), Transylvanian noble.

The dynasty reached its peak in the late 16th century with Stephen Báthory, who became King of Poland and Grand Duke of Lithuania — an extraordinary reach for a Transylvanian noble house. The family traced its origins to the Swabian Gutkeled clan, which immigrated to the region in the 11th century, eventually branching into two main lines: the Somlyó and the Ecsed. Their influence shaped the political and military landscape of an entire region through centuries of Ottoman pressure and shifting borders.



Báthory family coat of arms — three teeth surrounded by a dragon biting its own tail (Order of the Dragon).

Genetic analysis confirmed the family's recorded Germanic roots through the Y-chromosome haplogroup R-S498 — within the R1b-U106 branches characteristic of Germanic populations — validating the historical claim of Swabian origin. The Swabian paternal line held across generations, but the broader genome tells a more layered story: it shows significant intermixing with the local medieval Hungarian population, and subtle biological traces of earlier migrations through the Carpathian Basin, including echoes of Hun and Avar populations who had passed through the region centuries before. The Báthory genomic profile is a record of conquest, migration, and settlement across one of Europe's most historically contested regions.

Modern population	Distance
Moldovan	1.773
Hungarian	2.040

Modern population	Distance
Bosniak	2.215
Croat	2.291
Serb	2.554
Romanian	2.576
Serb (Bosnia)	2.578
Serb (Croatia)	2.596
Slovenian	2.659
Montenegrin	2.755

Source

Date: 1550–1600

Y-DNA: R-S498, I-CTS10936, R-S264, J-PF7394, R-S1690, R-S206, R-Y4383, Q-YP821, I-BY25361

mtDNA: H13a1a1a, H7c4, H1c, J1c10, T2, U5a1b, H7e, H1n6, T2b5, A26, J1c5a, H7c4, U4c1

Location: Romania

Research: Genetic identification of members of the prominent Báthory aristocratic family

Sample(s): PER01, PER02, PER03-1, PER04A, PER04B, PER05, PER08, PER09-1p, PER09B, PER09, PER10, PER11, PER22