

The Iron Lady

July 18, 2022

Ribe, Denmark

In the year 865, “a great heathen army” landed on England’s east coast, which prompted a cleric of the times to say, “*Never before has such terror appeared in Britain as we have now suffered from a pagan race.*”

Seafaring Scandinavian people, who became known as *Vikings*, established settlements all over the North Atlantic. The British Isles and much of continental Europe was under their control. Exceptional navigators and skilled traders, the Vikings spread their culture as far as Arabia to the east and Newfoundland, Canada to the west. From the late 8th century to the 11th, the northern hemisphere was dominated by Vikings.



Often portrayed as brutal warriors, it was the Viking’s superior navigational, technical, and cultural advancements that gave them superiority over their conquered adversaries. While they did employ brute force to subdue their enemies, it was their brains rather than their brawn that allowed the Vikings to rule the north for as long as they did.

While the Vikings were spreading their culture around the globe, they were also proliferating their gene pool. They settled, intermarried, and took slaves wherever they went, with the result that Viking DNA often shows up in modern genealogical records worldwide.

One of the congenital traits that Vikings carried is known as *Baron Dupuytren's Contracture* (“BDC”), or *Viking’s Disease*. BDC causes fibrosis in the tendons of the hand. As ligaments deteriorate and harden, the fingers of the hand tighten into a clenched position that can’t be released. The disease affects far more men than women, by an 8/1 ratio. It is more common in diabetics, smokers, and alcoholics, but the single-most common distinction of BDC sufferers is Scandinavian heritage.

Which brings me to Margaret Thatcher.

Thatcher was born in northeast England, which happens to be where the most concentrated settlement of Vikings occurred on the British Isles. Despite the odds of a woman contracting the disease, Margaret Thatcher had BDC in the little finger of her right hand.

There is a very high degree of possibility that one of Margaret Thatcher's ancestors was a marauding, hairy warrior.



Which might also explain some of the political tendencies of ...

... The Iron Lady



Artifacts from the Viking Museum in Ribe, Denmark

