

## GUIFRÉ EL PILÓS

Guifré el Pilós was a catalan earldom which he dedicated his regnate to conquer, organize and repopulate the catalan lands. He was born in 840 in Prada in France, and he died in Barcelona, on 11 august of 897. It was his turn to command in difficult times in full middle age. When the king franc named him earldom of Barcelona and Girona the andalusian muslims were very powerful, and no stop to attack the lands that he had to defend! But Guifré was skillful, and during his time, the peasants repopulated the zones of the land.

In the end, he died in a battle. Wounded to death, Guifré asked King Charles the Bald, for a weapon shield because his one was all gold. Charles the Bald dipped his fingers in the blood of the wound and made four stripes on the shield.

Over time, those four stripes on the golden background would become the flag of Catalonia, the Catalan flag.

Guifré also took care of the ecclesiastical reorganization of the repopulated lands. He was the one who promoted the foundation of the monasteries of Santa Maria de Ripoll and Sant Joan de les Abadesses. He was also in charge of restoring the Bishopric of Vic and rebuilding the Castle of Cardona.

The monastery of Ripoll would be the place chosen by Guifré el Pilós to be buried, beginning the history of the pantheon of the counts of Barcelona.

