

Succession from a monarch to eldest child, and on to their eldest child (a "triple") is extremely rare in England, and has only been achieved four times:

Alfred the Great – Edward the Elder – Athelstan

John – Henry III – Edward I

Henry IV – Henry V – Henry VI

George VI – Elizabeth II – Charles III

When Queen Elizabeth passed the throne to Charles, it was the first time since 31st August 1422 the crown passed in this way.

In all other successions, either the eldest son (or daughter after Tudor times when women first began to reign in their own right) predeceased the reigning monarch, the monarch was childless, or the monarch was overthrown.

It could be argued that Matilda – Henry II – Richard I is also a triple, but although Empress Matilda ruled a significant part of England she was never crowned or universally recognised as Queen.

The Scots, however, put together a winning streak of 4 Stewart monarchs passing the throne to their eldest child, an epic run lasting from 1437 - 1542:

James II – James III – James IV – James V

The House of Dunkeld also achieved a triple: William – Alexander II – Alexander III