

# DRACULA 'LINK WITH QUEEN'

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**HAMPSHIRE** genealogist Mr. Hugh Peskett claimed today that the Queen has a skeleton in her cupboard — the bones of Count Dracula himself.

The amazing allegation follows Mr. Peskett's claim to a Sunday newspaper that Princess Michael is distantly related to the notorious Prince Vlad — Vlad the Impaler — of Transylvania, who reputedly impaled 40,000 people on high-pointed poles during his reign of terror in 15th Century Rumania.

Vlad's second name was Dracul and Irish writer Bram Stoker later based his bloodsucking vampire character, Count Dracula, on the prince.

Mr. Peskett, a genealogist of international repute, said the family connection with the Queen came to light when he was researching the family tree of Princess Michael.

"My research was a result of the Princess's recent remark that she was 'more royal than the Queen'," said Mr. Peskett, of Avenue Road, Winchester.

"I looked into her family

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**By BOB HARVEY**

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history and found that her mother was Hungarian and distantly related to Prince Vlad.

"Almost all the aristocracy in that part of the world can be traced back to Vlad."

Mr. Peskett added: "Even the Queen is descended from that line as well, through her grandmother, Queen Mary."

A spokesman at Buckingham Palace said today: "We would not wish to comment on any of this."