Bernard Cornwell OBE (born 23 February 1944) is an English author of historical novels. He is best known for his novels about Napoleonic Wars rifleman Richard Sharpe which were adapted into a series of Sharpe television films.
The Battle of Ashdown, in Berkshire (possibly the part now in Oxfordshire), took place on 8 January 871.

Alfred the Great, then a mere prince of twenty-one, led the West Saxon army of his brother, King Ethelred, in a victorious battle against the invading Danes.

The West Saxons had a slight advantage in numbers (around 800 to 1000 men) and held the high ground. The battle was little more than a great clash of shield walls and resulted in a victory for Alfred. The battle, however, was not decisive. This was a pyrrhic victory, for a great many lives were lost on each side and the Danes were subsequently able to win several victories after receiving reinforcements.
The Danes, full of confidence after successes at Reading and nearby, marched west to attack the Saxons who had retreated up onto the Berkshire Downs to reassemble their armies. Alfred had to act quickly to avoid disaster. The King’s troops had to be mustered from the surrounding countryside without delay.

Blowingstone Hill

Alfred reputedly took his favourite white mare and rode up onto Blowingstone Hill (near Kingston Lisle), where stood an ancient perforated sarsen stone, called the 'Blowing Stone'. Anyone with the appropriate skill could generate a booming sound from this stone, by blowing into one of its holes. Alfred took a deep breath and blew hard. He did it exactly correctly and a great boom blew out across the Downs. From all over the surrounding country, men were stirred from their beds and they knew it was time to gather and defend their homes.

Ashbury Oxfordshire

'Æscesdn' or Ashdown is generally thought to be an ancient name for the whole of the Berkshire Downs. It is not known exactly where the two armies met, though it was around occupation by the British, in 1

After publishing 8 books in his Sharpe series, Cornwell was asked by a production company interested in adapting them for television. They requested that the story feature Spanish characters to secure funding from Spain. The result was Sharpes Rifles, published in 1987 and a series of television films starring Sean Bean. A series of contemporary thrillers with sailing as a background followed: Wildtrack in 1988, Sea Lord (aka Killer's Wake) in 1989, Crackdown in 1990, Storm in 1991, and a political thriller called Scoundrel in 1992.

In June 2006, Cornwell was made an Officer of the Order of the British Empire in the Queen's 80th Birthday Honours List. Cornwell's latest work is titled Azincourt and was released in the UK in October 2008. The protagonist is an archer who participates in the Battle of Agincourt, another devastating defeat suffered by the French in the Hundred Years War. However it not is about Thomas of Hookton or any of his relatives.

Novel series

The Sharpe stories

Cornwell's best known books are the adventures of Richard Sharpe, a soldier during the Napoleonic Wars. The first 12 books of the Sharpe series (beginning in chronological order with Sharpe's Rifles and ending with Waterloo, sometimes published as Sharpe's Waterloo) detail Sharpe's adventures in various Peninsular War campaigns over 12 years. Subsequently, Cornwell wrote a prequel trilogy - Sharpe's Tiger, Sharpe's Triumph, and Sharpe's Fortress - depicting Sharpe's adventures under Wellington's command in India, including his hard-won promotion to the officer corps. He also wrote Sharpe's Battle, "inserted" into his previous continuity, which takes place during the Battle of Fuentes de Oñoro. Cornwell was initially dubious about the casting of Sean Bean for the television adaptations, but was
a lone thorn tree.

East Ilsley

Thorn Down at Compton, near East Ilsley — meaning Place of Conflict — is therefore a popular contender. Modern investigation suggests a site on the Ridgeway between Aldworth and the Astons.

Alfred’s Castle

Victorian theory states that Alfred’s men gathered at the valley-fort now called Alfred’s Castle near Ashdown House at Ashbury.

Hardwell Camp

Ethelred’s troops had taken up position nearby, at Hardwell Camp, near Compton Beauchamp.

Uffington Castle Ditch

subsequently so delighted that Sharpe’s Battle to him, and ha that he subtly changed the wri character to align with Bean’s. The following is the correct 'h order, although they are all st: stories:


Sharpe’s Fury: Richard Sharpe of Barrosa, March 1811 Sharpe’s Battle: Richard Sharp Battle of Fuentes de Oñoro, May 1811

Sharpe’s Company: The Siege January to April 1812

Sharpe’s Sword: Richard Sharpe Salamanca Campaign, June 1812 Sharpe’s Skirmish (short story Sharpe and the defence of the August 1812


Sharpe’s Revenge: Richard Sh: Peace of 1814 Sharpe’s Waterloo: Richard Sh Waterloo Campaign, 15 to 18 ] Sharpe’s Ransom (short story, Sharpe’s Christmas) Sharpe’s s
The Danes had meanwhile reached Uffington Castle, where they had made their camp. On the morning of 8 January 871, the two sides met where the lone gnarled thorn tree stood; a tree that may earlier have been worshipped by the druids. The armies were drawn up in two columns each. The Danes were commanded by their Kings, Bagsecg and Halfdan Ragnarsson and five Earls. Ethelred and Alfred led the Saxons. There they waited, jeering and shouting at one another. Alfred was keen to get to grips with the enemy, but Ethelred decided to spend the ensuing lull in prayer for victory. He left the battlefield for the little church at Aston (Tirrold or Upthorpe) and, despite Alfred's insistence, he would not return until the priest had finished! The young Prince had to make a decision: should he wait for his brother or commence the fight alone? The troops were on edge and impatient. The Danes had already deployed in an advantageous position, on the higher ground and to let them take the initiative would be to court disaster. Despite his brother's absence, Alfred gave the command for his own men to charge.

The Saxons prevailed but not without great carnage on each side. The Danes were chased back eastward, across Berkshire. Thousands of bodies covered the chalky slopes. King Bagsecg and the five Danish Earls perished.

*Wayland Smithy*

King Bagsecg was reputedly buried in Waylands Smithy; the Earls and other noblemen near Lambourn, at Seven Barrows.

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**The Starbuck Chronicles**

A tetralogy set during the American Civil War. The title character, Nathaniel Starbuck, is a Northerner who has decided to fight for the South in a Virginian regiment. The last novel has been *The Bloodtaking* taking place during the Antietam Campaign. Cornwell has said that he plans more Starbuck novels, but hasn't yet.

**The Warlord Chronicles**

A trilogy depicting Cornwell's re-creation of Arthurian Britain. The series postulates that Post-Roman Britain was a difficult time for the native Britons threatened by invasion from the Anglo-Saxons in the East and raids from the Irish in the West. At the same time, internal power struggles between the kingdoms and the friction between Druidic religion and newly-arrived Christianity.

**The Grail Quest novels**

A trilogy that deals with a mid search for the Holy Grail during the Hundred Years' War. An English archer, Thomas of Hookton, becomes drawn into the quest by the actions of a mercenary soldier called "The Harlequin". The Harlequin murders Thomas's family in his obsessive search for the Grail. Cornwell was planning at one more books about the main character Thomas of Hookton and said shortly after finishing *Heretic* he had stopped it - mainly because he felt that his story ended in *Heretic* and he didn't want to get too much from him. Which doesn't mean I won’t pick the idea up sometime in the future." [7]

**The Saxon Stories**

The Last Kingdom
The Pale Horseman
The Lords of the North
Sword Song
Cornwell's latest series focuses on the Anglo-Saxon kingdom of Wessex.
Seven Barrows

These are misguided assertions however and, in fact, Seven Barrows appears to date from the Bronze Age and Waylands Smithy from Neolithic times.

The battle in fiction

There is a detailed account of the battle in The Namesake, a juvenile historical novel by C. Walter Hodges. There is also an account of a visit to the battlefield in Tom Brown's Schooldays:-

"And now we leave the camp, and descend towards the west, and are on the Ashdown. We are treading on heroes. It is sacred ground for Englishmen—more sacred than all but one or two fields where their bones lie whitening. For this is the actual place where our Alfred won his great battle, the battle of Ashdown ('Aescendum' in the chroniclers), which broke the Danish power, and made England a Christian land. The Danes held the camp and the slope where we are standing—the whole crown of the hill, in fact. 'The heathen had beforehand seized the higher ground,' as old Asser says, having wasted everything behind them from London, and being just ready to burst down on the fair Vale, Alfred's own birthplace and heritage. And up the heights came the Saxons, as they did at the Alma. 'The Christians led up their line from the lower ground. There stood also on that same spot a single thorn-tree, marvellous stumpy (which we ourselves with our very own eyes have seen). 'Bless the old chronicler! Does he think nobody ever saw the 'single thorn-tree' but himself? Why, there it stands to this very day, just on the edge of the slope, and I saw it not three weeks since—an old single thorn-tree, 'marvellous stumpy.' At least, if it isn't the same tree it ought to have been, for it's just in the place where the battle must have been won or lost—'around which, as I was saying, the two lines of foemen came together in battle with a huge shout. And in this place one of the two kings of the heathen and five of his earls fell down and died, and many thousands of the heathen side in the same during the 9th-century reign of Great, his fierce opposition to (Vikings), and his determination to make England as one country. According to Cornwell's replies on his web board, the series will not be a medieval works, but will have sequels: "I'm not sure how many seven? maybe eight? The latest in the series, titled 'Land, is likely to be released in October 2009 and January 2010.

Bibliography

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1987 - Sharpe's Siege and Red
1988 - Sharpe's Rifles and Wil
1989 - Sharpe's Revenge and 'Killer's Wake'
1990 - Sharpe's Crackdown
1991 - Stormchild
1992 - Sharpe's Devil and Scoundrel
1993 - Rebel
1994 - Copperhead
1995 - Sharpe's Battle, Battle F
1996 - The Bloody Ground and God
1997 - Sharpe's Tiger and Excalib
1998 - Sharpe's Triumph
1999 - Sharpe's Fortress and Sharpes Honour
2000 - Harlequin (aka The Archer's Tale)
2001 - Sharpe's Trafalgar and Sharpe
2002 - Sharpe's Prey, Sharpe's Vagabond
2003 - Sharpe's Havoc, Sharpes
2004 - Sharpe's Escape and The Kingdom
2005 - The Pale Horseman
2006 - Sharpe's Fury and The North
2007 - Sword Song
2008 - Azincourt
place. After which crowning mercy, the pious king, that there might never be wanting a sign and a memorial to the country-side, carved out on the northern side of the chalk hill, under the camp, where it is almost precipitous, the great Saxon White Horse, which he who will may see from the railway, and which gives its name to the Vale, over which it has looked these thousand years and more."

(Gutenberg Project)

The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle

Annals from A.D. 851 to A.D. 880

A.D. 851.

This year Alderman Ceorl, with the men of Devonshire, fought the heathen army at Wemburg, and after making great slaughter obtained the victory. The same year King Athelstan and Alderman Elchere fought in their ships, and slew a large army at Sandwich in Kent, taking nine ships and dispersing the rest. The heathens now for the first time remained over winter in the Isle of Thanet. The same year came three hundred and fifty ships into the mouth of the Thames; the crew of which went upon land, and stormed Canterbury and London; putting to flight Bertulf, king of the Mercians, with his army; and then marched southward over the Thames into Surrey. Here Ethelwulf and his son Ethelbald, at the head of the West-Saxon army, fought with them at Ockley, and made the greatest slaughter of the heathen army that we have ever heard reported to this present day. There also they obtained the victory.

A.D. 852.

About this time Abbot Ceolred of Medhamsted, with the concurrence of the monks, let to hand the land of Sempringham to Wulfred, with the provision, that after his demise the said land should revert to the monastery; that Wulfred should give the land of Sleaford to Meohamsted, and should send each year into the monastery sixty loads of wood, twelve loads of coal, six loads of peat, two tuns full of fine ale, two neats' carcases, six hundred loaves, and ten kilderkins of Welsh ale; one horse also each year, and thirty shillings, and one night's entertainment. This agreement was made in the presence of King Burhred. Archbishop Ceolnoth, Bishops Tunbert, Kenred, Aldhun, and Bertred; Abbots Witred and

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http://www.bernardcornwell.net/index.cfm?page=76.


More Links

Benard Cornwell Official site http://www.bernardcornwell.net
Book Banter Cornwell interview you can listen to http://bookbanter.podbean.com/2009/04/01/bookbanter-episode-005/barnard-cornwell/
Wefred, Aldermen Ethelherd and Hunbert, and many others.

A.D. 853. This year Burhred, King of Mercia, with his council, besought King Ethelwulf to assist him to subdue North-Wales. He did so; and with an army marched over Mercia into North-Wales, and made all the inhabitants subject to him. The same year King Ethelwulf sent his son Alfred to Rome; and Leo, who was then pope, consecrated him king, and adopted him as his spiritual son. The same year also Elchere with the men of Kent, and Huda with the men of Surrey, fought in the Isle of Thanet with the heathen army, and soon obtained the victory; but there were many men slain and drowned on either hand, and both the aldermen killed. Burhred, the Mercian king, about this time received in marriage the daughter of Ethelwulf, king of the West-Saxons.

A.D. 854. This year the heathen men for the first time remained over winter in the Isle of Shepey. The same year King Ethelwulf registered a tenth of his land over all his kingdom for the honour of God and for his own everlasting salvation. The same year also he went to Rome with great pomp, and was resident there a twelvemonth. Then he returned homeward; and Charles, king of the Franks, gave him his daughter, whose name was Judith, to be his queen. After this he came to his people, and they were fain to receive him; but about two years after his residence among the Franks he died; and his body lies at Winchester. He reigned eighteen years and a half. And Ethelwulf was the son of Egbert, Egbert of Ealhmund, Ealhmund of Eafa, Eafa of Eoppa, Eoppa of Ingild; Ingild was the brother of Ina, king of the West-Saxons, who held that kingdom thirty-seven winters, and afterwards went to St. Peter, where he died. And they were the sons of Cenred, Cenred of Ceolwald, Ceolwald of Cutha, Cutha of Cuthwin, Cuthwin of Ceawlin, Ceawlin of Cynric, Cynric of Creoda, Creoda of Cerdic, Cerdic of Elesa, Elesa of Esla, Esla of Gewis, Gewis of Wig, Wig of Freawine, Freawine of Frithugar, Frithugar of Brond, Brond of Balday, Balday of Woden, Woden of Frithuwald, Frithuwald of Freawine, Freawine of Frithuwulf, Frithuwulf of Finn, Finn of Godwulf, Godwulf of Great, Great of Taetwa, Taetwa of Beaw, Beaw of Sceldwa, Sceldwa of Heremod, Heremod of Itermon, Itermon of Hathra, Hathra of Hwala, Hwala of Bedwig, Bedwig of Sceaf; that is, the son of Noah, who was born in Noah's ark: Laznech, Methusalem, Enoh, Jared, Malalahel, Cainion, Enos, Seth, Adam the first man, and our Father, that is, Christ. Amen. Then two sons of Ethelwulf succeeded to the kingdom; Ethelbald to Wessex, and Ethelbert to Kent, Essex, Surrey, and Sussex. Ethelbald reigned five years. Alfred, his third son, Ethelwulf had sent to Rome; and when the pope heard say that he was dead, he consecrated Alfred king, and held him under spiritual hands, as his father Ethelwulf had desired, and for which purpose he had sent him thither.

A.D. 855. And on his return homewards he took to (wife) the daughter of Charles, king of the French, whose name was Judith, Chatham’s interview with Ber: http://www.mychatham.com/well.html/


Line of Battle Interview http://line-of-battle.de/special.php?id=60

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Comment

Sir Walter Scott, commenting on the

abdication of Napoleon Bonaparte in 1814, 

wrote: 

Although I never supposed th [Napoleon] possessed, allowi difference of education, the lil conduct and political views wi sometimes exhibited by old H I did think he [Napoleon] mig the same resolved and dogged resolution which induced Tipt manfully upon the breach of t with his sabre clenched in his

The Sharpe Companion by Mark
and he came home safe. And then in about two years he died, and his body lies at Winchester: and he reigned eighteen years and a half, and he was the son of Egbert. And then his two sons succeeded to the kingdom: Ethelbald to the kingdom of the West-Saxons, and Ethelbert to the kingdom of the Kentish-men, and of the East-Saxons, and of Surrey, and of the South-Saxons. And he reigned five years. A.D. 860. This year died King Ethelbald, and his body lies at Sherborn. Ethelbert his brother then succeeded to the whole kingdom, and held it in good order and great tranquillity. In his days came a large naval force up into the country, and stormed Winchester. But Alderman Osric, with the command of Hampshire, and Alderman Ethelwulf, with the command of Berkshire, fought against the enemy, and putting them to flight, made themselves masters of the field of battle. The said Ethelbert reigned five years, and his body lies at Sherborn.

A.D. 861. This year died St. Swithun, bishop.

A.D. 865. This year sat the heathen army in the isle of Thanet, and made peace with the men of Kent, who promised money therewith; but under the security of peace, and the promise of money, the army in the night stole up the country, and overran all Kent eastward.

A.D. 866. This year Ethered, brother of Ethelbert, took to the West-Saxon government; and the same year came a large heathen army into England, and fixed their winter-quarters in East-Anglia, where they were soon horsed; and the inhabitants made peace with them.

A.D. 867. This year the army went from the East-Angles over the mouth of the Humber to the Northumbrians, as far as York. And there was much dissension in that nation among themselves; they had deposed their king Osbert, and had admitted Aella, who had no natural claim. Late in the year, however, they returned to their allegiance, and they were now fighting against the common enemy; having collected a vast force, with which they fought the army at York; and breaking open the town, some of them entered in. Then was there an immense slaughter of the Northumbrians, some within and some without; and both the kings were slain on the spot. The survivors made peace with the army. The same year died Bishop Ealstan, who had the bishopric of Sherborn fifty winters, and his body lies in the town.

A.D. 868. This year the same army went into Mercia to Nottingham, and there fixed their winter-quarters; and Burhred, king of the Mercians, with his council, besought Ethered, king of the West-Saxons, and Alfred, his brother; that they would assist them in fighting against the army. And they went with the West-Saxon army into Mercia as far as Nottingham, and there meeting the army on the works, they beset them within. But there was no heavy fight; for the Mercians made peace with the army.

A.D. 869. This year the army went back to York, and sat there a year.

A.D. 870. This year the army rode over Mercia into East-Anglia, and
there fixed their winter-quarters at Thetford. And in the winter King Edmund fought with them; but the Danes gained the victory, and slew the king; whereupon they overran all that land, and destroyed all the monasteries to which they came. The names of the leaders who slew the king were Hingwar and Hubba. At the same time came they to Medhamsted, burning and breaking, and slaying abbot and monks, and all that they there found. They made such havoc there, that a monastery, which was before full rich, was now reduced to nothing. The same year died Archbishop Ceolnoth; and Ethered, Bishop of Witshire, was chosen Archbishop of Canterbury.

A.D. 871. This year came the army to Reading in Wessex; and in the course of three nights after rode two earls up, who were met by Alderman Ethelwulf at Englefield; where he fought with them, and obtained the victory. There one of them was slain, whose name was Sidrac. About four nights after this, King Ethered and Alfred his brother led their main army to Reading, where they fought with the enemy; and there was much slaughter on either hand, Alderman Ethelwulf being among the slain; but the Danes kept possession of the field. And about four nights after this, King Ethered and Alfred his brother fought with all the army on Ashdown, and the Danes were overcome. They had two heathen kings, Bagsac and Healfden, and many earls; and they were in two divisions; in one of which were Bagsac and Healfden, the heathen kings, and in the other were the earls. King Ethered therefore fought with the troops of the kings, and there was King Bagsac slain; and Alfred his brother fought with the troops of the earls, and there were slain Earl Sidrac the elder, Earl Sidrac the younger, Earl Osbern, Earl Frene, and Earl Harold. They put both the troops to flight; there were many thousands of the slain, and they continued fighting till night. Within a fortnight of this, King Ethered and Alfred his brother fought with the army at Basing; and there the Danes had the victory. About two months after this, King Ethered and Alfred his brother fought with the army at Marden. They were in two divisions; and they put them both to flight, enjoying the victory for some time during the day; and there was much slaughter on either hand; but the Danes became masters of the field; and there was slain Bishop Heahmund, with many other good men. After this fight came a vast army in the summer to Reading. And after the Easter of this year died King Ethered. He reigned five years, and his body lies at Winburnminster. Then Alfred, his brother, the son of Ethelwulf, took to the kingdom of Wessex. And within a month of this, King Alfred fought against all the Army with a small force at Wilton, and long pursued them during the day; but the Danes got possession of the field. This year were nine general battles fought with the army in the kingdom south of the Thames; besides those skirmishes, in which Alfred the king's brother, and every single alderman, and the thanes of the king, oft rode against them; which were
accounted nothing. This year also were slain nine earls, and one king; and the same year the West-Saxons made peace with the army.

A.D. 871. And the Danish-men were overcome; and they had two heathen kings, Bagsac and Halfdene, and many earls; and there was King Bagsac slain, and these earls; Sidrac the elder, and also Sidrac the younger, Osbern, Frene, and Harold; and the army was put to flight.

A.D. 872. This year went the army to London from Reading, and there chose their winter-quarters. Then the Mercians made peace with the army.

A.D. 873. This year went the army against the Northumbrians, and fixed their winter-quarters at Torksey in Lindsey. And the Mercians again made peace with the army.

A.D. 874. This year went the army from Lindsey to Repton, and there took up their winter-quarters, drove the king, Burhred, over sea, when he had reigned about two and twenty winters, and subdued all that land. He then went to Rome, and there remained to the end of his life. And his body lies in the church of Sancta Maria, in the school of the English nation. And the same year they gave Ceolwulf, an unwise king’s thane, the Mercian kingdom to hold; and he swore oaths to them, and gave hostages, that it should be ready for them on whatever day they would have it; and he would be ready with himself, and with all those that would remain with him, at the service of the army.

A.D. 875. This year went the army from Repton; and Healfden advanced with some of the army against the Northumbrians, and fixed his winter-quarters by the river Tine. The army then subdued that land, and oft invaded the Picts and the Strathclydwallians. Meanwhile the three kings, Guthrum, Oskytel, and Anwind, went from Repton to Cambridge with a vast army, and sat there one year. This summer King Alfred went out to sea with an armed fleet, and fought with seven ship-rovers, one of whom he took, and dispersed the others.

A.D. 876. This year Rolla penetrated Normandy with his army; and he reigned fifty winters. And this year the army stole into Wareham, a fort of the West-Saxons. The king afterwards made peace with them; and they gave him as hostages those who were worthiest in the army; and swore with oaths on the holy bracelet, which they would before to any nation, that they would readily go out of his kingdom. Then, under colour of this, their cavalry stole by night into Exeter. The same year Healfden divided the land of the Northumbrians; so that they became afterwards their harrowers and plowers.

A.D. 876. And in this same year the army of the Danes in England swore oaths to King Alfred upon the holy ring, which before they would not do to any nation; and they delivered to the king hostages
from among the most distinguished men of the army, that they would speedily depart from his kingdom; and that by night they broke. A.D. 877. This year came the Danish army into Exeter from Wareham; whilst the navy sailed west about, until they met with a great mist at sea, and there perished one hundred and twenty ships at Swanwich. 35 Meanwhile King Alfred with his army rode after the cavalry as far as Exeter; but he could not overtake them before their arrival in the fortress, where they could not be come at. There they gave him as many hostages as he required, swearing with solemn oaths to observe the strictest amity. In the harvest the army entered Mercia; some of which they divided among them, and some they gave to Ceolwulf.

A.D. 878. This year about mid-winter, after twelfth-night, the Danish army stole out to Chippenham, and rode over the land of the West-Saxons; where they settled, and drove many of the people over sea; and of the rest the greatest part they rode down, and subdued to their will; -- all but Alfred the King. He, with a little band, uneasily sought the woods and fastnesses of the moors. And in the winter of this same year the brother of Ingwar and Healfden landed in Wessex, in Devonshire, with three and twenty ships, and there was he slain, and eight hundred men with him, and forty of his army. There also was taken the war-flag, which they called the raven. In the Easter of this year King Alfred with his little force raised a work at Athelney; from which he assailed the army, assisted by that part of Somersetshire which was nighest to it. Then, in the seventh week after Easter, he rode to Brixton by the eastern side of Selwood; and there came out to meet him all the people of Somersersetshire, and Wiltshire, and that part of Hampshire which is on this side of the sea; and they rejoiced to see him. Then within one night he went from this retreat to Hey; and within one night after he proceeded to Heddington; and there fought with all the army, and put them to flight, riding after them as far as the fortress, where he remained a fortnight. Then the army gave him hostages with many oaths, that they would go out of his kingdom. They told him also, that their king would receive baptism. And they acted accordingly; for in the course of three weeks after, King Guthrum, attended by some thirty of the worthiest men that were in the army, came to him at Aller, which is near Athelney, and there the king became his sponsor in baptism; and his crisom-leasing was at Wedmor. He was there twelve nights with the king, who honoured him and his attendants with many presents.

A.D. 879. This year went the army from Chippenham to Cirencester, and sat there a year. The same year assembled a band of pirates, and sat at Fulham by the Thames. The same year also the sun was eclipsed one hour of the day.

A.D. 880. This year went the army from Cirencester into East-Anglia, where they settled, and divided the land. The same year went the army over sea, that before sat at Fulham, to Ghent in Frankland,
and sat there a year.

Notes
33 i.e. the Danes; or, as they are sometimes called, Northmen, which is a general term including all those numerous tribes that issued at different times from the north of Europe, whether Danes, Norwegians, Sweons, Jutes, or Goths, etc.; who were all in a state of paganism at this time.

34. Aetheredus, -- Asser, Ethelwerd, etc. We have therefore adopted this orthography.

35. It is now generally written, as pronounced, "Swanage"

Posted by Mossflower at 14:26
Chateau. At half past one, d'Erlon leads an attack on the British left between Papelotte and La Haye Sainte. The French are driven back with heavy losses. From 4 o'clock, assaults, led by Marshal Ney, are directed against the British rig the west of the Charleroi road approach of the Prussians toward Plancenoit was clear and Napoleon has to cover his line of retreat. He sends some battalions of the Imperial Guard against the Prussians, troops that would be invaluable to Ney. Ney's cavalry has spent itself against British infantry squares to little effect. Between seven and eight Napoleon orders a general assault on the British position. Ney leads the but is repulsed. The battle is over. About nine o'clock, Wellington and Blucher meet at La Belle Alliance. There are heavy losses on all sides: British 13,000, Prussians 7,000, French 25-30,000. There is nothing to stop the allied advance to Paris, which they reach on July 7th. After abdicating on June 22nd, Napoleon flees to Rochefort and surrenders to the captain man-of-war Bellerophon. Later he is exiled to St Helena in the South Atlantic where he eventually dies.

a glossary of military terms & relevant information

Aide de Camp Junior staff officer attached to a marshal or general

Anfrancesados Spanish natives who collaborated with the French

Baker Rifle Rifle used by Sharpe and all British rifle battalions during the Peninsular War. The rifle had a 30 inch, seven groove, quarter turn barrel and was accurate up to 250 yards although it was slow to load.

Banquette Firing step behind

Bastion Defensive work with two front faces forming a salient from the curtain wall, to allow flanking fire along the wall.

Battalion Tactical infantry unit varying
between 500 to 1000 men (sometimes less)

Brigade Tactical military formation of about 3000 men and containing 2 or 3 battalions.

Brown Bess Nickname of the British smoothbore musket, originally the Long Land Pattern musket. Portuguese rifle- or infantrymen were brown. Translation = 'hunter'

A four pointed metal spike that was thrown on the ground, always with one spike upright. Used against cavalry.

Canister Artillery projectile of tin container. Ressembled a giant shotgun cartridge and had similar effect over short range.

Carcass Incendiary or illuminating shell of oil soaked hay, fired from a mortar or howitzer.

Carronade Large calibre short range cannon, commonly used on ships for firing canister. Cazadore (a caballo) chasseurs or light cavalrymen.

Maree Small coastal sailing or fishing boats.

Chasseur Light troops. Translation = 'hunter'

Cheval de Frise Portable barrier of sword blades used to block breaches. Could also be made of stake- or sword studded beams.

Chosen Man Title given to a corporal in the 95th Rifles.

Colours Battalion flags which represented the honour of the unit. Usually each battalion held the King's Colour (Union Flag) and the regimental colour.

Company Basic military unit of about 50 to 100 men and commanded by a captain.

Congreve's Rockets Invented by Sir William Congreve. They looked like overgrown fireworks, were extremely erratic and not used a great deal, although Wellington used them occasionally in the Peninsula and at Waterloo.

Corps Military formation of 2
commanded by a general.

Counterguard Earthwork to protect the base of a curtain wall.

Counterscarp Vertical face of a ditch around a fort on the outer side.

Crapaud French meaning 'toad', used by the British of the French in general.

Cuirassier French armoured heavy cavalry. The cuirass being a breastplate.

Cunette/Cuvette Deep narrow ditch, often filled with water, in the main defensive ditch of a fort.

Curtain Wall or Curtain Main wall surrounding a fort.

Demi Brigade French military formation consisting of part regular and part conscript battalions.

Division Large military formation of about 4000 to 6000 men, containing 2 or 3 brigades and commanded by a lieutenant general.

Dragoons Originally mounted infantry, they usually carried curved sabres, carbines and pistols.

Eagle French equivalent of the British colours. Presented to all regiments by the Emperor.

Enfilade Adjective used to describe fire coming from the flank and raking the length of a formation.

Ensign Infantry second-lieutenant.

Escalade Attack on walls of a fort using ladders.

Forlorn Hope First storming party into a breach, usually volunteers under a junior officer, who drew enemy fire. Officers and sergeants who survived were usually rewarded with promotion.

Galloper Guns 6-pounder guns drawn by...
horses to accompany cavalry.

Glacis Open space or slope surrounding a fort.

Goddam Dates from the Hundred Years War, French nickname for the British troops taken from their extensive use of the expression. Gonfalon Banner

Gorget The crescent-shaped plaque worn around the neck by officers, a commissioned rank and a relic of armour.

Grapeshot Close range artillery ammunition

Guerilla 'little war', also a term for partisan fighters

Half Pay An officer holding a commission, but unemployed, received half pay.

Howitzer Short barrelled cannon designed for high angle fire. Imperial Guard Napoleon’s elite formation of troops. Kings German Legion Formed from the old Electorate of Hanover’s army after Napoleon overran the country in 1803.

Kligenthal Hand forged sword all made from one piece of steel, strong and durable.

Light Company British company composed of agile men and good marksmen, used as skirmishers. Were relied upon to use their initiative more than line troops.

Loophole Small hole in a wall allowing defenders to fire out.

Magazine Storage place for munitions or a soldier’s supplementary ammunition container.

Necessaries Issued items of personal kit.


Parole System of releasing prisoners of war.
Pelisse Hussar jacket with fur sometimes worn over one shoulder.

Picket (Piquet) Infantry outpost or sentry.

Provost Early military police, commanded by a Provost Marshall, universally unpopular throughout the army, but supported by Wellington.

Quartermaster Officer responsible for supplies, uniforms, stores, etc.

Ravelin Triangular outwork, built in a ditch of a fort to split the attacking force and cause confusion.

Regiment In the British Army, an administrative military unit which recruited soldiers and sent them to war. Usually two battalions to a regiment.

Roundshot Projectile of cannon, simple iron balls, they were the main cannon ammunition in the field.

Sapper Originally a soldier who dug narrow siege-trenches (or saps), but later became a generic term for engineers and those trained in siege operations.

Shako Peaked, cylindrical hat, usually made of felt and often black. Worn by all armies in the Napoleonic wars.

Shell Artillery ammunition. Hollow iron ball filled with gunpowder which exploded by means of a fuse.

Stock Leather collar worn around the neck under the jacket collar. British soldiers and they were universal. Can also mean a fabric strip worn around the neck.

Subaltern Junior officer of ensign or lieutenant rank in the British Army.

Voltiguer Light infantry companies of line battalions. Translation = 'vaul...

Tipoo Sultan
India

Sultan Tipoo Blunderbuss did not help him

Sharpe's India and more

The events depicted in the Sharpe stories also take this "brilliant but wayward" soldier into conflicts other than the Napoleonic wars, for example tales take us to India under the command of the East India Company and chronicle Sharpe's years spent in the ranks. During the late 18th Century, the British Empire would be found in a great many parts of the globe and one particular jewel in the crown was India. In the stories, Sharpe serves four years as Armoury Sergeant in Seringapatam, which was the location in 1799 of a hugely significant battle.

The Battle of Seringapatam was important because it was the final confrontation between the British and Tipu 'the Tiger of Mysore, who was killed when the British broke into the fortress. Because of the British victory, the fate of India changed forever, as did English dominance in the continent.
Being a fictional hero, Sharpe’s creator Bernard Cornwell frankly admits he has taken license with history, often placing the place of another man who lost to history. These achievements including killing the Tipu Sultan at Seringapatam, saving Wellesley’s life at the Battle of Assaye and personally taking command of a regiment that drives off the French Imperial Guard at Waterloo.

However, the fact that the character of Sharpe is so closely intertwined with key events in European history means that the series has great opportunities to reveal the bloodshed, drama and European politics that erupted during this period while at the same time spinning cracking good swashbuckling yarns you can shake a sword at! The Siege of Seringapatam (4 May 1799) was the confrontation of the Fourth Anglo-Mysore War between the British East India Company and the Kingdom of Mysore. The British achieved a decisive victory after breaching the walls of the fortress at Seringapatam (as Srirangapatna known) and storming the citadel. Tippu Sultan, Mysore’s ruler, was killed in the action. The British restored the Wodeyar dynasty to the throne after the victory, but retained indirect control of the

Further reading

Watch Tower at Gawilgarh
towards heaven

Lake inside Gawilghur

plenty of water

Bernard Cornwell New

Only Two years to the next U:
Comments: Received you latest U:
book, 'The Burning Land', this
finished reading it. I'll proba
many times (along with the ot
series), until its successor is
written/released. I feared that
the last of the series, but hap
so. I realise it has to happen a
but look forward to the next. J
years to wait..... again. Thank y
hours of literary entertainmer
me. Bob Quickenden.

Bernard Cornwell’s new Saxo
Burning Land
Due in Uk 1st October; US Jan
It will be a special during its la
October through Waterstones
ordered now at a reserve pr
visited the Halifax Citadel National Historic Site of Canada yesterday evening as a guest of the Board of the Halifax Citadel Regimental Association (HCRA) and the officers and NCOs of the 78th. In Halifax for a reading from his series featuring the adventures of 19th century rifleman Richard Sharpe, Cornwell was treated to a repast of Beef Wellington in the Soldier’s Library. Later in the evening, flanked by sentries from the 78th, the author unveiled his new book, entitled “Sharpe’s Escape” at the Cambridge Military Library in R.A. Park just across from Citadel Hill.

Questions and Answers

Q: Hey Bernard! I just finished reading Sword Song and, like the rest of the Uhtred books, I loved it! However, there is something that kind of troubles me. I understand that Uhtred is a pagan and doesn’t believe in God or Christianity, and that you yourself were unfortunate enough to be raised by over zealous Christian parents, but not all of us are nutbags like Asser or Erkenwald! Most of us are like Pyrlig (my favourite character by the way =D) or Willibald. I just hope that you don’t hold any sort of resentment towards Christians. I didn’t find anything about what your current religious standing may be, so for all I know, I’m wasting my time with this. Anyway, love the books, keep writing them, and I’ll keep buying them!

Andrew K.

A: I give you good Christians and bad. There were some ghastly clerics, really horrible people! But I do try to be balanced, despite my distaste for all religions.

Q: Dear Mr Cornwell, I’ve read all of your books and love every single one of them, the stories of Uhtred are the ones that I love most. I’ve just finished reading The Burning Land and loved it, although I was frustrated at his treatment from the church and ultimately Alfred, sometimes I wish he’d fight for the Danes and massacre Alfred’s family once and for all. Thankyou so very much for all the hours of literary
pleasure you have shared with all of us avid fans. A question if you will, you one of the Saxon story books t historical rulers of The Bebbanburg your ancestors, I was wondering if you could share how you came about this knowledge? My own surname going back to ancient Treowemann (faithful/loyal man) and in my imagination I see my own anc as a Saxon Huscarle in service would love to know if this was in this day and age of mostly the television are there any pl series of The Saxon Stories? I Kevin McKidd (Vorenus) would wou excellent Uhtred. If there were you like to see try to fill Uhtred plated boots? Yours humbly a gracious thanks Chris Trueman

A: What I know was discovered by a member of my birth family (I only met them about six or seven years ago). They were fortunate in being a prominent family . . . in Saxon times they were, first, kings of Bernicia (now lowland Scotland) then earls of Northumbria (thus the connection with Bebbanburg), and even after t (thanks to Cnut) they remained gentry in north Yorkshire . . . a surname is distinctive enough them quite easy to trace through records.

No plans for a TV series. I have no clue! I'd be horrible at casting...

Q: Bernard I have just finished "The Burning Land" -- a very enjoy: continuation of a great series. I was surprised, however, that t "The Royal Family of Wessex" the UK edition shows King Athelstan as a descendant of Aethelflaed. I'd enjoyed your suggestion in your Historical Note that you have used your license as an author of fiction to denigrate Eathelred despite the lack of supporting evidence. Making Athelstan the son of Aethelflaed (and presumably Uhtred) would be much bigger stretch. John

A: You're right - I haven't seen that genealogy table (the publishers generated it and I gave them the correct information, but it...
seems they’ve screwed up - so - I’ll have them correct it

Q: Mr. Cornwell I was just wondering if The Burning Land is going to be the last in the Saxon stories? Or do you have another series planned? I hope it’s the latter.

Dear Mr. Cornwell, I have been thoroughly enjoying your Saxon Chronicles series and am happy to hear the continuation of Uhtred’s tale is due out soon. I have two questions concerning this series. Firstly, how many books do you envision to complete Uhtred’s tale? Secondly, based on the style of it, it seems it would be ideal for making into a Motion Picture mini-series. Any hope we may see Uhtred in more than just our own heads for your time and Best Wishes,

Karl

PS- A friend of mine from Chicago went so far as to have relatives in Sweden get Sword Song from Europe and send it back to America. We couldn’t wait until it came out in print here in the States. Makes us true fans. Wasail!

A: It is not the last book of the series - there will be more! I don’t know how many yet. No plans for a film or TV series.

Q: Hi, being naturally extremely excited about the new Uhtred book, I’ve just listened to the unabridged audiobooks of the first two as a quick re-cap and was wondering when the third and fourth will be released in the same format? Elsewhere in the questions section you seem to suggest that they should already be available in this format, but I can’t find them on Amazon.co.uk or Audible.co.uk (which has the other two). Am I missing something? PS: I think Tom Sellwood is a great narrator for them. Cheers.

Ed Prior

A: Both The Lords of the North and Sword Song are available unabridged through BBC audiobooks (Chivers). I don’t know if you can get them from Amazon, but maybe from the BBC website?
New Book Released: Burning Land

The Burning Land by Bernard Cornwell

Synopsis
The latest in the bestselling Alfred series from number one historical novelist, Bernard Cornwell. In the last years of the ninth century, King Alfred of Wessex is in failing health, and his heir is a youth. The Danes, who have failed so many times to conquer Wessex, smell opportunity! First comes Harald Bloodhair, a savage warrior leading a Viking horde, who is encouraged to cruelty by his woman, Skade. But Alfred still has the services of Uhtred, his unwilling warlord, who leads Harald into a trap and, at Farnham in Surrey, inflicts one of the greatest defeats the Vikings were ever to suffer. This novel, the fifth in the magnificent series of England’s history tells of the final assaults on Alfred’s Wessex, that Wessex survived to become England is because men like Uhtred defeated an enemy feared throughout Christendom.

Book details
Format: Hardback 352 pages
Date of publication: 01/10/2009
Publisher: HarperCollins Publishers Ltd
ISBN: 9780007219742
House of York

House of York  
Country: England  
Parent house: House of Plantagenet  
Titles: Duke of York, King of England  
Founder: Edmund of Langley  
Final ruler: Richard III of England  
Current head: Francis Fitzherbert  
Founding year: 1385  
Ethnicity: English, French

Yorkist—Dukes of York

Edmund of Langley (House of York founder) 1385–1402

Duke Portrait Birth Marriages

Edmund of Langley

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Portrait</th>
<th>Birth</th>
<th>Marriages</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5 June 1341</td>
<td>Isabella of Castile</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Kings

Langley son of Edward III of England and Philippa of Hainault

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Isabella of Castile</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3 children</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Joan de Holland</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>no children</td>
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| 1 August 1402 |
| Kings Langley age 61 |

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Edward of Norwich 1402–1415</th>
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| 25 October 1415 |
| Agincourt age 42 |

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<tr>
<th>Richard Plantagenet 1415–1460</th>
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<table>
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<th>21 September 1411</th>
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<tr>
<td>Portrait</td>
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<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edward IV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edward V</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anne Neville</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cecily Neville</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elizabeth Woodville</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Edward Plantagenet became Edward IV in 1461, thus merging the title of Duke of York in crown.

### Sharpe Peril
blown up again

**Sharpe News**

**USA Release**

Both Sharpe’s Challenge and Sharpe’s Peril have been sold to United States broadcaster WGBH and will be shown across the United States, probably early in 2010.

**Sharpe’s Peril**


**Fallen Angel**

![Bernard Cornwell](image)

**Book by Bernard Cornwell**

**Bernard Cornwell: Fallen Angel**

**Title: Fallen Angels**

**Title: A Crowning Mercy**

Fleeing from her strict Puritan household and an unbearable arranged marriage, Dorcas seeks her fortune in 17th century London and falls in love with an aristocrat. Left an intricately wrought seal by her unknown father, she must follow the course of her father’s legacy to find her destiny.

**A Crowning Mercy**
This is the cover art that I made for the book named "Enemy of God" by Bernard Cornwell (The Arthur Books series). This cover was made for the Turkish Edition of the book. Warlords picture.
Books on Saxons and Danes

The Vikings in history By F. Donald Logan

Tolkien, J. R. R.; Finn and Hengest: The Fragment and the Episode
Keynes, Simon; Michael Lapidge (2004).
Kings and Kingdoms of Early England by Dr Barbara Yorke
Formby Parish Boundary by Reginald Yorke and Barbara Yorke
Nunneries and the Anglo-Saxon Houses (Women, Power & Pol) by Barbara Yorke
Wessex in the Early Middle Ages (Studies in the Early History of Britain) by Yorke
The Conversion of Britain: Religion, Politics and Society in Britain, 600-800 by Barbara Yorke
The Anglo-Saxons (Sutton Pocket Histories) by Barbara Yorke
The King Alfred Millenary in Winchester, 1901 (Hampshire Papers) by Yorke
Bishop Aethelwold: His Career and Influence by Barbara Yorke
A History of the Vikings By T. I Kings and Vikings: Scandinav A.D. 700-1100 By P. H. Sawyer

The Count of the Saxon Shore Church

Books on the Templars and the Grail
The Templars and the Grail: K Quest by Karen Ralls-MacLeod, Karen Ralls, John Matthews (Foreword by)
About this title: The result of 11 years of research, this well-documented book surveys various theories about Templers’ quest and lets readers decide what is fact. Includes rare photos from the Rosslyn Chapel Museum (Scotland). 2 illustrations, 18 photos.
The Grail: A Secret History
by Dr. John Matthews
About this title: What is the Grail? Is it a stone? Is it a chalice? Or is it something more powerful--an enduring idea that has captured humanity’s imagination across the centuries? Fictional accounts of the Grail have topped best-seller lists, with "The Da Vinci Code" being one of the more recent among them. But the truth about the Grail--where truth can be brought to light--is even more electrifying than any exciting novel ever written. This informative and beautifully illustrated book recounts the Grail’s story, from its early appearances in ancient myths to its many references in modern times. It examines the part the chalice plays in Christ’s Passion, tells stories of the secret societies that guarded the Grail’s mysteries, explores Grail theories that speculate on the holy bloodline of Jesus and Mary Magdalene, and on an alternate theory of the Grail as the philosopher’s stone. It describes modern Grail seekers and reveals why even the Nazis sought it. These and hundreds more fascinating details will keep readers turning pages to the book’s final chapter. Approximately 90 color photos.

The Grail: Quest for the Eternal
by John Matthews
About this title: Explore a truly astonishing range of interests, philosophies, religions, and cultures -- from alchemy to angels, Buddhism to Hinduism, myth to magic. The distinguished authors bring a wealth of knowledge, visionary thinking, and accessible writing to each intriguing subject in these lavishly illustrated, large-format paperback books.

Books
"Marching with Sharpe" by B J Bluth, this book is beautifully illustrated and contains everything you wanted to know about life in Wellington’s Army in the Napoleonic Wars.

The Recollections of Rifleman Harris - non-fiction, non-sharpe
Not the Rifleman Harris of book and series fame, but memoirs of a soldier who was there!

Wellington's War - A Living History by Paul Lewis Isemonger with an intro by Richard Rutherford Moore. This book covers all aspects of life as a soldier or sailor at the time of the Peninsular campaign, illustrated with the help of re-enactors.

Uniforms of Waterloo by Philip Haythornthwaite, Jack Cassin-Scott, Michael Chappell - 80 colour plates of Waterloo, beautifully illustrate descriptions of the uniforms and historical information. Included are a summary of the campaign, an order of battle and a bibliography.

Wellington-The Years of the Sword (Published by Weidenfelt and Nicholson in 1969) SBN29717917 - Lady Elizabeth Longford. This book covers the years 1769-1815.

Wellington - Pillar of State (Written in 1972) ISBN 0.297-00250-3 - Lady Elizabeth Longford. Although written sometime ago, these are highly recognised books and worth trying to get hold of. Longford is a member of Wellington's family and considered to be an authority on him.


The Duke - Philip Guiadalla. No further information on this at the moment.
Saxon Series: Hud...
Character in Bernard Cornwell's Saxon Series: Ealh...
Warrior
Honour
Homage
Character in Bernard Cornwell's Saxon Series: Wulf...
Character from Bernard Cornwell's Saxon Series: Eg...
Map of Stane Street
C. Walker Map of London 1845
Richard Blome Map of London 1673
London West End
London Theatres in 1600
Saxon London
Roman London: Red marking are modern features
John Rocque Map of London 1741-5
map showing John Evelyn's plan for London after th...
Map showing London's Central Area
Map showing the East End of London
Civilitas Londinium: The Agas Map of London in the t...
map of London by Ogilby 1677
Map showing Central London
1611 map of London by John Norden
Medieval London about 1300
Map showing Settlement of the Angles, Saxons and J..
Map of London by John Norden
Map of Middlesex
Stane Street
Viking Battles in Ireland
Viking Defences
Characters in Bernard Cornwell's Saxon Series: Ulf, ...
London / Lundene: Place in Bernard Cornwell's Saxo...
Southwark / Suthringa Gewiic
Ludgate
River Fleet / Fleot: Place in Bernard Cornwell's sa...
The Battle of Maldon Poem

The Battle of Maldon is the name given to an Anglo-Saxon poem of uncertain date celebrating the real Battle of Maldon of 991, at which the English failed to prevent a Viking invasion. Only 325 lines of the poem are extant, both the beginning and the ending are lost.

The poem

The poem is told entirely from the perspective of the English, with many individual and, Mitchell and Robinson believe, real Englishmen named. Mitchell and Robinson conjecture that the lost opening of the poem must have related how Byrhtnoth, the leader, hearing of the Viking invasion, raises his troops and leads them to the shore. The poem as we have it begins with the English preparing for battle. A Viking messenger offers the English ealdorman Byrhtnoth peace if he will consent to pay tribute. Byrhtnoth angrily refuses, telling the messenger that he will fight the heathen Vikings in defence of what he regards as his land, and the land of his king, Æthelred. However, Byrhtnoth allows the Vikings entry to the mainland, giving them room in which to do battle, rather than keeping them penned in on the easily-defended causeway that links the mainland to the small island where the Vikings have landed. Individual episodes from the ensuing carnage are described, and the fates of several English warriors are related, notably that of Byrhtnoth himself, who dies urging his soldiers forward and commending his soul to God. English are portrayed as heroic however: one, Godric the son of Odda (there are two Godrics in the poem)...
battle with his brothers and, most improperly, does so on Byrthtnoth's horse. Several lines later the English lord Offa claims that the sight of Byrthtnoth's horse (easily recognisable from its trappings) fleeing, and so Byrthtnoth, would appear from a distance, has bred panic in the ranks and left the English army in danger of defeat. Several passages in which English lords urge on their soldiers and voice their defiance of their enemy, descriptions of how they are then killed by the un-personified "sea-wanderers". The poem as it has come down to us ends with another Godric disappearing from view. This time it is Godric the son of Æthelgar, advancing Vikings and being killed.

History of the text
In 1731 the only known manuscript of the poem (which, as with the modern version, was missing its beginning and ending) was destroyed in the fire at Ashburnham House that also damaged and destroyed several other Cotton library. The poem has come down to us thanks to the transcription of it made c.1724, which was Thomas Hearne in 1726. After being lost, the original transcription was found in the Bodleian Library in 1930. Who made this original transcription is still unclear, some favouring John Elphinstone, others David Casley.

Scholarship
George K. Anderson dated The Battle of Maldon to the 10th Century and felt that it was unlikely that much was missing. R.K. Gordon is not so specific, writing that this "last great poem before the Norman Conquest... apparently written very soon after the battle", while Michael J. Alexander speculates that the poet may even have fought at Maldon. S.A.J. Bradley reads the poem as a celebration of pure heroism – nothing was gained by the battle, rather not only did Byrthtnoth, "so distinguished a servant of the Crown and protector and benefactor of the C alongside many of his men in the defeat, but the Danegeld was paid shortly after – and sees in it an assertion of national spirit and unity, and in the contrasting acts of the two Godrics the heart of the Anglo-Saxon hero. Mitchell and Robinson are more succinct: “The poem is about how men bear up when things go wrong.” Critics have commented on the poem’s preservation of a centuries-old Germanic ideal of heroism: Maldon is remarkable (apart from the fact that it is a masterpiece) in that it shows that the strongest motive in a Germanic society, still, nine hundred years after Tacitus, was an absolute and overriding loyalty to one' Michael J. Alexander, The Earliest English Poems

In popular culture
The Anglo-Saxon scholar and writer J. R. R. Tolkien was inspired by the poem to write The Homecoming of Beorhtnoth Beorhthelm's Son, an alliterative dialogue between two characters at the end of the battle. In publishing the work, Tolkien included alongside it an essay on the original poem and another on the word "ofermde".

Further reading
The poem translated into modern English by Jonathan A. Glenn
Old and Middle English Literature From the Beginnings to 1485 by George K. Anderson, OUP, 1950, pp.29-30

Poem: The Battle of Maldon in Old English

The Battle of MaldonVerse Indeterminate Saxon
brocen wurde. Het þa hyssé hwænæ hors forlætan, feor afysan, and forð gangan, hícgan to handum and godum.  
þæt Offan mæg ærest onfunde, þæt se eorl nolde yrðo geþolian, he let him þa of handon leofne fleogan hafoc wið þæs holtes, and to þære hilde stop; be þam man mihte oncnawan þæt se cnihtholde 10wacian æt þam wige, þa he to wæpnum feng. Eac him wolde Eadric his ealdre gelæstan, frean to gefeohte, forð beran gar to guþe. He hæfde god geþanc þa hwile þe he mid handum healdan mihte
The text contains a narrative in Old English, possibly a historical or mythological account. It describes events involving kings, battles, and journeys. The text is rich with Old English vocabulary and grammar, characteristic of the period ranging from the 5th to 11th centuries. The narrative includes references to specific individuals and places, likely from the Anglo-Saxon period. The text is dense with poetic language and historical detail, typical of epic or genealogical poetry from that time. Without further context, the exact content and its significance are difficult to interpret in modern terms.
150fleogan of folman, þæt se to forð gewat þurh ðone æþelan æþelredes þegn. Him be healfre stod his cinht on gecampe, se full caflice bræd of þam beorne blodigne gar.
155Wulfstanes bearn, Wulmær se geonga, geforheord forhærdan faran eft ongean; ord in gewod, þæt se on e his þeoden æþerle gerahte. Eode þa gesyrwed secg to þam eorde;
160he wolde þæs beornes beagas gefecgan, reaf and hringas and gerenod swurd. Þa Byrhtnød bræd bill bræd and bruncceg, and on þa byrana slo. To raþe hine gelette lidmanna sum,
165þa he þæs eorles earm amyrede. Feoll þa to foldan fealohilte swurd; ne mihte he healdan heardne wænepes wealdan. Þa gytt þæt word gecwæð har hilderinc, hyssas bylde,
170bæd gangan forð gode goferan; ne mihte he on fotum læng fæste gestandan. He to heofenun wlat: "O ðeoda waldend, ealra þæra wynna þe ic on worulde gebad.
175Nu ic ah, mildle metod, maete þærfe þæt þu minum gaste godes genuene, þæt min sawul to ðe siðian gewælad, þeoden engla, mid friþe ferian. Ic eom fryndi to þe
Poem: The Battle of Maldon in Modern English

The Battle of Maldon
Translated from the Anglo-Saxon by Wilfrid Berridge

Part I BRITHNOTH DECIDES TO FIGHT
Then he ordered each of his warriors his horse to loose
Far off to send it and forth to go,
To be mindful of his hands and of his high heart.
Then did Offa's Kinsman first know
That the earl would not brook cowardice,
Loosed he from his hands his darling to fly,
His Hawk to the wood, and to the battle strode.
From that one could tell that the chieftain
Would never weaken in the warfare - when he his weapons seized.
And after him Edric chose his chief to follow,
His friend in the fight - then 'gan he forth to bear
The spear to the strife - high spirit had he,
So long as he with his hands to hold was able
His buckler and broadsword; his boast he fulfilled
That he by his friend's side should fight.

BRITHNOTH PREPARES HIS ARRAY
Then did Brithnoth begin his men to bestow -
He rode up and counselled them - his soldiers he taught
How they should stand, and their standing to keep,
And bade them their round shields rightly to hold
Fast to their forearms, that they flinch not at all.
And when he had his folk fairly bestowed
He lighted there with his people, where he would liefest be
Where he knew his own troops were most to be trusted.

THE VIKINGS PARLEY
Then stood forth on the strand and sternly spake
The messenger of the Vikings, delivered his tidings;
He spoke, for the seafarers'Their sentence to the earl, where he stood on the shore.
"They sent me to thee, sea-robber,
To yield to the seamen at their own choice
Tribute for a truce, and so take peace of us,
Then will we with the tax to ship betake us
To sail on the sea - and hold truce with you.
Brithnoth made answer - his buckler he grasped,
Brandished his slender spear - and spoke.
"Hearest thou, sea-robber, what this people say?"
THE TIDE DELAYS THE FIGHTING
Nor could for the water, the army come at the other,For there came flowing, flood after ebb;Locked were the streams, and too long it seemedUntil they together might carry their spears.There by Panta's stream in array stood,Essex men's rank, and the men from the ships,Nor might any one of them injure the otherExcept where from arrow's flight one had his death.The flood went out - the pirates stood ready.Full many of the Vikings, eager for battle.

BRITHNOTH SETS A GUARD OVER THE FORD
Then bade the men's saviour, one to hold the bridge,A warrior war-hardened, that was Wulfstan hight1, mid his kin - he was Ceola's son,Who the first foeman with his spear did fellThat bravest stepped forth upon the bridge.There stood with Wulfstan warriors goodlyAelfere and Maccus, high hearted both,That never at the ford would turn them to flight,But they steadfastly 'gainst their foes made defence,While their weapons to wield they were able.

BRITHNOTH ALLOWS THE VIKINGS TO CROSS
Then did the earl, in his overweening heartLend land too much to that loathed people.Then 'gan he call out - across the cold waterBrighthelm's son, and all the band listened."Now room is meted you, come swiftly to us,Warriors to war. Only God knowsWho at the end shall possess this fight's field".Then went the war wolves - for water they recked not.The troop of the pirates, west over Panta.Over the shining water they carried their shieldsSeamen to the shore, their bucklers they shouldered.There against the raiders ready stoodBrithnoth with his band, and with the bucklers badeForm the shield wall, and make firm the ranksFast against the foes. Then was fighting nigh,Fame in the fight - now was the hour comeWhen that the feymen2 must fall.

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1 'hight' = archaic, literary word meaning 'named' or 'called'
2 'feymen' = 'doomed men' destined to die in the battle

Part II THE BATTLE IS JOINED
Now was riot raised, the ravens wheeled,The eagle, eager for carrion, there was a cry on earth.Then loosed they from their hands the file-hard lance,The sharp-ground spears to fly.Bows were busied - buckler met pointBitter was the battle-rush, warriors fellOn either hand, the young men lay!Wounded was Wulfmur, a war bed he choseBrithnoth's kinsman, he with swordsWas straight cut down, his sister's son.Then the Vikings were requital given.I heard that Edward did slay oneStraightly with his sword, nor stinted3 the blow,That at his feet fell - the fey warrior.For this his thane did to him give thanks,Even to his chamberlain - when he had a space.

THE ESSEX MEN STAND FAST
So stood firm the stout-heartedWarriors in the war - they did keenly striveWho with his point first should be ableFrom fey men to win life.Warriors with weapons: wrack fell on earth.They stood steadfast; Brithnoth stirred them,Bade each of his men intend to the strifeThat would from the Danes win glory.

A VIKING ATTACKS BRITHNOTH
Went one stern in battle - his weapon upheaved,His shield for safety - and 'gainst the chief strode -As re him the earl did go,Each to the other did evil intend.Sent then the seafarer a southern dart,And wounded was Brithnoth's chieftain.But he shoved with his shield - so that the shaft burst,And the spear broke, and it sprang away.Wroth was the chieftain, he pierced with his spearThat proud Viking who gave him that wound.Yet prudent was the chieftain; he aimed his shaft to goThrough the man's neck - his hand guided itSo that he reached his sudden enemy's life.Then he a second swiftly sentThat the breastplate burst - in the heart was he woundedThrough his harness - and at his heart stoodThe poisoned point; the earl was the blither:-Laughed then that high-he thanks to GodFor his day's work - that his Saviour granted him.
A SECOND VIKING WOUNDS BRITHNOTH

Loosed then one of the foemen a dart from his hands, To fly from his finders - that it rushed forth Through the noble thane of Aethelred. Close to his side stood a youth not yet grown Wulfstan’s child - even Wulfmeer the younger. He plucked from his chieftain that bloody spear Then loosed the hard spear ’gainst that other to go; In ran it that he on earth lay Who ere had sorely wounded his chief. Went an armed Viking against the earl Who would the earl’s jewels to plunder, His armour and rings - and well-adorned sword. Then Brithnoth drew his sword sheath Broad and brown edged - and at his breast-plate smote. Too soon hindered him one of the seamen That he in earth lie, Who ere had sorely wounded his chief. Went an armed Viking against the earl Who wished the earl’s jewels to plunder, His armour and rings - and well-adorned sword. Then Brithnoth drew his sword from sheath Broad and brown edged - and at his breast-plate smote. Too soon hindered him one of the seamen, So that the earl’s arm he did injure. Fell then to earth the fallow-hilted sword, Nor could he hold the hard brand Or wield his weapon.

BRITHNOTH’S DYING WORDS

Yet then this word did speak The old warrior; cheered on his men Ordered to go forward - his good brethren. No longer could he firmly on his feet stand. He looked up to heaven "I thank Thee, Lord of all peoples For all those joys that I on earth have known. Now, my Maker mild - I have most need That thou to my ghost should grant good. To thee may journey, Into thy kingdom - O lord of the Angels, May pass with peace - I do desire of Thee that my friends may not hurt it." Then hewed at him those heathen men And at both those men that stood him be and Wulfmeer - both fell; Then beside their liege - their lives they yielded.

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3 'stinted' = restrained, held back

Part III GODRIC BEGINS THE FLIGHT

Then fled those from the fight that wished not to be there. Then were Odda’s sons first in the flight Godric battle, and left his good lord Who had often given him many a mare, He sprang upon the horse that his lord had owned, Upon the trappings where no right had he, And with him his brothers - they both galloped off, Godric and Godwig, they loved not the battle. They went from that war - and the wood they sought, They fled to the saved their own lives, And men more than had any right If they had all bethought them of the blessings They done them for their good comfort. Even thus to him Offa one day ere had said In the meeting-place where he held his moot. That with proud minds many did then speak Who later at need would not endure. Then fell that leader of the folk, Aethelred’s earl and all did see, His hearth companions - that their lord was laid low.

MANY CONTINUE THE BATTLE

Then went forth the proud thanes, Brave men - hastened eagerly, And willed they all - for one of two things: Their lives to lose, or their loved lord to avenge. Thus urged them forth the son of Aelfric, A warrior young in winters - With words he spake, Aelfwin thus said - boldly he spoke, "Think ye of the times when we oft spake at mead When we on the benches did raise up our boast, Henchmen in the hall - about hard strife, Now may each one make trial of how bold he be. Now will I tell my lineage to all That I was in Mercia of a mighty kindred Mine old father - Aldhelm was alderman wise - and rich in wealth; Nor shall the thanes mid the people reproach me, That I would consent to flee from this fight, My home to seek, now my lord lieth low, Slain in the strife; but yet it most grieves me For that he was both - my kinsman and my lord." Then went he forth - full mindful of the feud, So that with his spear one he slew. A pirate 'mong his people - that he fell to the earth, Slain by his weapon. He 'gan to urge on His comrades - that they should go forth, Offa spoke, his spear-shaft shook, "Lo thou, Aelfwin, hast all heartened Thanes and our lord lieth, The earl on the earth - for us all is need That each one of us should hearten the other Warrior to war, while he his weapon may Have and hold, his hard blade, His spear and good sword - for Godric hath us coward son, all betrayed. For many men thought when he rode off on the mare, On that proud steed, that he was our lord. And for that cause are the folk scattered over the field The shield wall broken. May his plan come to nought! For that he so many men hath set to flight." Leofsund spoke, his buckler uphove, His shield for safety - and that man answered, "I do promise this, that I will not hence Fly a foot’s step, but shall further go To avenge in the war my friendly lord. Then shall not need in Sturmere the steadfast soldiers To twit me with words, now my friend is fall’n, For that I returned home without my lord, Turned from the battle, but the sword shall take me, The point and the steel." And he, most wroth, departed. Fought steadfastly - flight he despised. Dunmer then spoke - shook his sp churl - called out above all, Bade each warrior - "Brithnoth avenge! Now may not go he who thinketh to a friend among the folk, nor mourn for his life."
And then they went forth - for life they recked not. Then 'gan the house men hardly to fight, The fierce spear bearers - and they begged God That they might avenge their friendly lord, And on their enemies bring death. Then the hostage 'gan eagerly help, He was in Northumbria of a hardy kin, Eclaf's child, and Aesferth his name. He weakened not a whit in the warplay, But he sent forth often a shaft, Often he a buckler struck, often a man hit, Ever and again he dealt out wounds The while he his weapons might wield. Then yet in the rank stood Eadward the tall, Ready and eager - a boastful word spoke, That he would not flee a foot's space of land, Or budge back, now that his better chief was fall'n. He shattered the shield wall and fought with the soldiers Until he his treasure-giver upon the sea had worthily avenged - 'ere he lay with the slain. So did Aeturic - a noble companion, Eager and impetuous - he fought keenly, Sibright's brother, - and full many more, - split the hollow shields, sharply parried. The buckler's breast-plate sang a grisly song. Then in the strife struck Offa a seaman, that he sank to the earth, And then Gadda's kinsman the ground sought. Soon in the struggle was Offa struck down Yet had he done what he boasted to his friend As he bragged before to his ring-giver: That they both to the burg should ride Hale to their home, fall, On the war field perish of their wounds. He fell like true thane at his chief's side. Then was breaking of bucklers, the seamen came on stern to the strife; the spear often pierced a feyman's body. Forth then went Wistan son, with the enemy fought, He was in the throng - of three men the bane Ere Wigelin's son on the battlefield laid. Then was stern meeting, stood fast Warriors in the war, then men sank down Wearied with wounds - slaughter fell on earth. Oswald and Ealdwald all the while Brothers both, urged on the men, Their dear kinsmen, with words incited That they there at need should hold out, Stoutly wield their weapons. Brythwold spoke, grasped his buckler, He was an old comrade, urged the men, He full boldly cheered his soldiers, "Thought must be the harder, heart the keener Spirit shall be more - as our might lessens. There lies our chief all cut down, Good man on the ground, who may he grieve Who now from this war-play thinketh to go. I am old in years - hence I will not, But by the side of my own lord, By my chief so loved, I think to lie." And thus them all did Aethelgar's son urge, Even Godric, to the battle - oft he cast a spear, A spear of slaughter to go upon the Vikings, As he 'mid the folk foremost went, Smote and struck down till he sank down in the fight. He was not that Godric who left the battle.

The Sermon of 'Wolf' to the English

There are many clerics in Bernard Cornwell's Saxon Series and many are not very Christian. It often difficult for us to understand the Early Christian Church as they embed themselves into the daily lives of the common man and politics of state and having the Kings ear. I found this while reading Anglo-Saxon Prose Translated and Edited by Michael Swanton, published by Dent Everyman Library, ISBN 0-460-11809-9 and although it was written after King Alfred's Death it still concerns the viking raids and the church's view on them.

Wulfstan's life spanned a particularly troubled period of English history, he was a statesman-cleric who used the pen-name 'Wolf' for several writings. He was Bishop of London from 996-1002 and Archbishop of York from 1023, which office he held in plurality with the See of Worcester until 1016.

Viking raids were once more a serious menace in the last decade of the tenth century, inflicting a series of military defeats, of which the poem on The Battle of Maldon is one literary reflection. Danegeld was levied in the aftermath of the Battle of Maldon. Aethelred was exiled to Normandy to allow the Danish King Sweyn to succeed. Aethelred returned on Sweyn's death the following year, but Danish depredations continued under the direction of Sweyn's son Cnut; and upon Aethelred's death in 1016, Cnut assumed the throne.
we have earned themiseries which oppress us by great demerit, we must obtain the cure from God, if it is henceforth by very great merit. and many misfortunes befall this nation over and over again. And forlong now the English have been entirely without victory and too much cowed because of God, and the pirates so strong with God’s consent, that in battle often one will put to flight ten, and somtimes more, all because of our sins. But all the disgrace we often suffer with honour to those who bring shame on us. We pay them continually, and they humiliate us daily. They burn, plunder and rob, and carry away on board; and indeed, what else is there in all these events but the wrath of God clear and visible towards this nation? But look, in God’s name, let us do as is necessary for us, defend ourselves as best we may, lest we all perish together. There was a historian in the time of the English, Gildas. He wrote about their misdeeds, how by their sins they angered God so very excessively that finally he allowed the host of the English to conquer their land and to destroy the nobility of the Britons altogether. This shows how long they had been suffering as this reference comes from a letter by Alcuin of York on hearing about the destruction of Lindisfarne by the Danes 793 and attributing the calamities of his own day to the sins of the English. May God help us. Amen.

If you would like to hear this and other works read in Old English this site has many:

A daily reading of the entire Anglo-Saxon Poetic Records, which includes all poems written in Old English. By Michael D. C. Drout, Prentice Professor of English at Wheaton College, Norton, MA.

http://fred.wheatonma.edu/wordpressmu/mdrout/category/wulfstan/

References
Kirby, Early England. 107.

Melissa Bernstein has produced an extensive annotated bibliography

Segontium
Roman Fort

Heathfield Sussex
Town
Grimes Graves
Sussex

Cottages at Rotherfield
Sussex

Battle Abbey Plan
built on site of the battle William I

The Burning Land
I had left Finan and a handful of men as our only sentries. They were posted at the edge of the fields, halfway between the village and the old hall and Finan had sent one man to warn me that the Danes were moving. "They're in the woods, lord," the man told me, "by our camp." "How many?" "We can't tell, lord, but it sounds like a horde." Which could mean two hundred or two thousand, and prudence suggested I should wait till Finan could estimate more accurately, but I was in that bleak mood, feeling doomed and desperate for a sign from the gods, and turned to Æthelflæd. "You wait here with your bodyguard," I said, and did not wait for an answer, but ju
sparks in the new brightness. Chaos. For a moment we had held the advantage of surprise, but the Danes recovered bellowing their own war cries. The sun had risen, dazzling and blinding, the hall was an inferno and the air a whirl of most had gone either north or south along the crest and now they reformed and came at us from both directions, Ælfwold’s men were deep in the fight now and our charge had split the Danes. Some had retreated down the hill, but Breath into a bearded face. I felt her shatter teeth and ripped her back to saw her edge deeper. A horse screamed.

I was trying to keep my horse moving. There were dismounted Danes among the riders, and a slash across my sword, then his horse stumbled. Sihtric slashed with an axe and I had a glimpse of splitting metal and sudden blood.

my men were coming to help. I lunged at the gap-toothed man, but he was quick and his shield intercepted the at his arm, but his mail stopped the blow. We were deep among the enemy now, unable to ride farther, but more of man was trying to lunge his sword through my stallion’s neck. I knocked his blade down with Serpent-Breath and cut

through mail and into his belly. I felt something strike my shield, but could not look to my left because a gap-toothed man who deflected the blow with his raised shield, then he was struck by a spear below the shield, the blade ripping west across the night-shadowed land. I was still shouting as I charged into them, sword swinging at a yellow-bearded

my mind. Finan and Cerdic and Sihtric, and together we rode for the large group of mounted warriors who had been staring me. Finan was with scatters throughout the encampment and few realised we were approaching until our horses and blad in the dawn. The largest body of the enemy was at the clearing’s western edge, staring across the dark la the flat of an axe blade, knocking off the man’s helmet and hurling him back into one of the fires. The man must have been in the habit of cleaning his hands after eating by running them through his hair because the grease flames and flared sudden and bright. He screamed and writhed, head like a beacon as he staggered to his feet, then a flames and flared sudden and bright. He screamed and writhed, head like a beacon as he staggered to his feet, then a

horizon, but the sudden new light was red and bright. Fire. The Danes, I guessed, had lit the hall’s that light their deaths. I could see the edge of the trees, see the fallen trunks we had felled the day before, see of dying campfires and the dark shapes of men and horses and the glimmer of reflected fire from helme weapons, and I kicked the stallion again and roared a challenge. "Kill them!" We came in a ragged order from the trees with swords and spears, with hatred and fury, and almost as soon as I entered the clearin were outnumbered. The Danes had come in force, at least four hundred, and most were still mounted, t scattered throughout the encampment and few realised we were approaching until our horses and blad in the dawn. The largest body of the enemy was at the clearing’s western edge, staring across the dark la the flat of an axe blade, knocking off the man’s helmet and hurling him back into one of the fires. The man had been in the habit of cleaning his hands after eating by running them through his hair because the grease flames and flared sudden and bright. He screamed and writhed, head like a beacon as he staggered to h rush of horsemen overrode him. A hoof threw up a spew of sparks and riderless horses fled in panic. Finan and Cerdic and Sihtric, and together we rode for the large group of mounted warriors who had been west across the night-shadowed land. I was still shouting as I charged into them, sword swinging at a ye man who deflected the blow with his raised shield, then he was struck by a spear below the shield, the blade through mail and into his belly. I felt something strike my shield, but could not look to my left because man was trying to lunge his sword through my stallion’s neck. I knocked his blade down with Serpent-I at his arm, but his mail stopped the blow. We were deep among the enemy now, unable to ride farther, l my men were coming to help. I lunged at the gap-toothed man, but he was quick and his shield intercepted sword, then his horse stumbled. Sihtric slashed with an axe and I had a glimpse of splitting metal and si was trying to keep my horse moving. There were dismounted Danes among the riders, and a slash ac stallion’s legs could bring me down and a man was never so vulnerable as when he topples from a sad slid from my right, sliding across my belly to lodge in the underside of my shield and I just back-swing Breath into a bearded face. I felt her shatter teeth and ripped her back to saw her edge deeper. A horse s Ælfwold’s men were deep in the fight now and our charge had split the Danes. Some had retreated dow most had gone either north or south along the crest and now they reformed and came at us from both d bellowing their own war cries. The sun had risen, dazzling and blinding, the hall was an inferno and the sparks in the new brightness. Chaos. For a moment we had held the advantage of surprise, but the Danes
attack. "Jesus, Jesus," Ælfwold said, and then the breath stuttered in his throat and he said no more. Our shield wall came and the blows hammered down. I thrust Serpent-Breath into a horse’s chest, twisted and thrust again, and Bastard," he said, "you treacherous bastard." He must have thought I had deliberately led his men into a trap, but it from foe. Many Saxons had a cross on their shield, but not all. There were plenty of Danish corpses too, but desperate shield wall. Too many were dead, some killed by their own side for, in the maelstrom, it was hard to know between the rising sun. At least a hundred of my Saxons were dismounted now and we formed a circle inside a their living outnumbered us. They had my small shield wall surrounded, while their horsemen were harrying the still the Danes and I saw a Saxon twist in his saddle, his spear hand hanging from his bloody arm by a scrap of bone or thrust with a blade-scored shield. I stabbed the horseman’s thigh with sword from his saddle and Cerdic deflected the thrust with a blade-scored shield. I stabbed the horseman’s arm, driving the blade at the enemy’s horses to keep them at a distance. "Thankyou," I said to Cerdic and Sihtric. stretching his mail, a spear like a small tree-trunk in his hands. He carried no shield and so used the spear-two "We should go back, lord," Cerdic said. "Where’s Finan?" "Back!" Cerdic shouted, and he unceremoniously grabbed And the man made a mewing noise and fell from the saddle, and just then my horse screamed and staggered in unceremonious left shoulder and pulled me away from the Danes. Finan was fighting behind us, hammering an axe at the Danes right leg was trapped beneath him. Another horse stepped a hair’s breadth from my face. I covered my left shield and tried to drag myself free. A blade crashed into the shield. A horse stepped on Serpent-Breath and I almost Serpent-Breath’s hilt was in my hand, and it was not, and I screamed, knowing I was denied the joys of Valhalla, then my vision turned red. There was warmth on my face and red before my eyes, and I recovered my senses trying to drive us over the crest and pursue us down the steep slope where our bodies would be a smear of blood beneath the rising sun. At least a hundred of my Saxons were dismounted now and we formed a circle in a desperate shield wall. Too many were dead, some killed by their own side for, in the maelstrom, it was friend from foe. Many Saxons had a cross on their shield, but not all. There were plenty of Danish corps living outnumbered them. They had my small shield wall surrounded, while their horsemen were horsemen had mounted Saxons back into the woods. Ælfwold had lost his stallion and the Mercian forced his way to me. bastard," he said, "you treacherous bastard." He must have thought I had deliberately led his men into a was only my stupid carelessness, not treachery, that had led to this disaster. Ælfwold raised his shield a second time and the blows hammered down. I thrust Serpent-Breath into a horse’s chest, twisted and thrust at Pyrlig, half hoisted a man from the saddle with a tremendous lunge of his heavy spear. But Ælfwold was helmet ripped open, his blood and brains spilling onto his face, but he retained enough consciousness to reproachfully before he started to quiver and spasm and I had to look away to ram the sword at another horse, now a corpse, and then the enemy pulled back from our shield wall to ready themselves for attack. "Jesus, Jesus," Ælfwold said, and then the breath stuttered in his throat and he said no more. Our
was shrunk, our shields splintered and bloodied. The Danes mocked us, snarled at us and promised deaths. Men moved closer together and I should have encouraged them, but I did not know what to say was my fault, my recklessness. I had attacked without first discovering the enemy’s strength. My death, would be just, but I would go to the afterlife knowing I had taken too many good men with me. So the o was to die well, and I pushed past Sihtric’s shield and went towards the enemy. A man accepted the cha rode at me. I could not see his face because the rising sun was behind him, blinding me, but I slashed S across his stallion’s mouth and thrust my shield up to take his sword’s blow. The horse reared, I thrust missed as another man swung an axe from my left, and I stepped away and my foot slid in a slippery ta split from a corpse eviscerated by an axe. I went onto one knee, but again my men came to rescue me. I thumped down and I stood, lunging at the rider, sword striking him somewhere, but I was sun dazzled see where. To my right a stallion, a spear impaled in its chest, was coughing blood. I was shouting, thou remember what I shouted, and from my left came a new charge of horsemen. The newcomers were s tim cries. Die well. Die well. What else can a man do? His enemies must say of him that he died like a man. I driving the horse away and a sword smacked into the top of my shield, splitting the iron rim and driving wood into my eye. I rammed the blade away as his sword cracked on my helmet, glanced off and thumped The mail stopped the blow that had been suddenly weakened because Father Pyrlig had speared the ri The Welshman dragged me back towards the shield wall. "God be thanked!" he was saying over and ov newcomers were Saxons. They rode under the banner of Wessex’s dragon, and at their head was Steapa worth ten other men, and they had come from the north and were slicing into the Danes. "A horse!" I sh someone brought me a stallion. Pyrlig held the nervous beast as I mounted. I pushed my boots into the stirrups and shouted at my dismounted men to find themselves horses. There were too many dead bea enough riderless stallions still lived white-eyed amidst the slaughter. A huge crash announced the colburning hall’s roof. The flaming beams fell one by one, each spewing a new thrust of sparks into the sm sky. I spurred to the ancient votive stone, leaned from the saddle and touched the stone’s top as I said a Thor. A spear had lodged itself through the hole in the pillar and I sheathed Serpent-Breath and took th weapon. The blade was bloodied. The spearman, a Dane, lay dead beside the stone. A horse had steppe mangling it and leaving an eyeball dangling over his helmet’s edge. I gripped the ash shaft and spurred towards the remnants of the fight. Steapa and his men had utterly surprised the Danes who were turning; to the safety of the fort, and Steapa was following. I tried to catch him, but he vanished among the trees. were in pursuit now, the thick woods filled with horses and fugitives. Finan somehow discovered me ar alongside, ducking beneath branches. A wounded and dismounted Dane flinched from us, then fell to he ignored him. "Sweet Jesus," Finan shouted to me, "but I thought we were doomed!" "Me too!" "How Steapa’s men were coming?" He asked, then spurred after a fleeing Dane who kicked his horse frantical shouted, though Finan was too intent on his prey to hear me. I caught up and aimed the spear at the sm Dane’s back. Leaf mould flew up into my face from the hooves of the enemy’s horse, then I lunged and back with his sword and the Dane dropped from the saddle as we galloped past. "Ælfwold’s dead!" Finawas it! He thought I betrayed him!" "He kept his brains in his arse then. Where have the bastards gone?" riding for the fort and our pursuit had taken us slightly eastwards. I remember the green sunlight leaves, remember thumping past a badger’s earth, remember the sound of all those hooves in the greet relief of living after what seemed certain death, and then we were at the edge of the trees. And still there front of us was a great stretch of grass where sheep and goats normally grazed. The land sloped down to then rose more steeply to the gate of the old fort high on its domed hill. The Danes were galloping for t to gain the protection of its ditch and ramparts, but Steapa’s men were among the fugitives, slashing an from their saddles. "Come on!" Finan shouted at me, and kicked back with his spurs. He saw the opport did. My immediate thought was to stop him and to stop Steapa’s undisciplined charge, but then the red hold again. I shouted some wordless challenge and spurred after Finan. I had lost all sense of time. I co how long that fight on the hill’s edge had taken, but the sun was risen now and its light shimmered off lit the high grass saddle a glowing green. The stream of horsemen stretched from the woods to the fort. horse was breathing hard, sweat white on its flanks, but I kicked it on as we converged on that turf-chi cavalcade of pursuers and pursued. And what Finan had understood before me was that the Danes mig gate too late. He understood that they might be in such panic that they did not even think to close the g their own men pounded across the ditch’s causeway and beneath the wooden arch they would leave th but Steapa’s men were so mixed with the Danes that some might get through, and if enough of us could
that wall then we could take the fort. Later, much later, when the poets told of that day’s fight, they said I attacked Thunresleam’s old hall together, and that we drove the Danes in panic and that we assaulted the fort because the enemy was still reeling from that defeat. They got the story wrong, of course, but then, they were poets, not warriors. The truth was that Steapa rescued me from certain defeat, and neither of us assaulted the fort. The first of Steapa’s men were allowed through the gate and it was only when they were inside that the Danes realised the enemy had entered with their own men. Another desperate fight started. Steapa ordered his men to dismount and they made a shield wall at the gate, a wall that faced both into the fort and out to the sunlit slope, and the Danes trapped outside could not break that shield wall and fled instead. They spurred down the steep westwards facing slope, riding desperately towards the new fort. I saw Skade then. I never discovered whether she had led the horsemen to Thunresleam’s burning hall, but she commanded the men in the old fort. She was screaming at them to attack us. But we were now in overwhelming numbers. There were at least four hundred Saxons in Steapa’s wall, and more kept arriving on horseback. The proud banner of Wessex flew above the enemy—a shield wall of Danes guarding the bridge which led to the new fort. Not all the fugitives were going to that bridge, some were swimming their horses across the deep narrow creek to reach Caninga. The flags announced a victory, but that victory would mean nothing unless we could capture the new fort which, for the first time, I saw clearly. And cursed.

Chertsey Abbey

Surrey

Brookland Poster
Surrey

Walton-on-Thames
Character in Bernard Cornwell's Saxon Series: Ulf

The meaning of the name Ulf is Wolf
The origin of the name Ulf is German

River Fleet Underground
London

River Eden Catchment Area

Tributary of the River Medway

River Beult Catchment
River Medway Tributary

Queensborough
Shire Court or Moot Court

Shire Court or Shire Moot was an Anglo-Saxon institution dating back to the earliest days of English society. The Shire Court referred to the magnates, both lay and spiritual, who were entitled to sit in council for the shire and was a very early form of representative democracy. The practice began in Wessex and was later used throughout the rest of England. Similar models were introduced in Wales, particularly after the Statute of Rhuddlan in 1284. Initially the Court would travel and use different locations for its meetings, but after a while the name began to refer to the building or location where the court would usually meet. Amongst the lay and spiritual members of the Shire Court was the Shire Reeve the king’s representative and chief administrative officer.

The shires themselves were divided into Hundreds which each had their own Hundred Court and Hundred Reeve. This whole system of government was replaced in the 19th Century with the introduction of county councils.

Charter confirmed as witness by Heaberht

A.D. 765. Egbert, king of Kent, to Eardwulf, bishop; grant of land at Rochester, confirmed by Heahberht, king of Kent (A.D. 765 x 772, Medeshamstede) by Offa, king of Mercia. Latin.

Archive: Rochester
MSS: Maidstone, Kent Archives Office, DRc/R1 (Textus Roffensis), 126v-127r (s. xii1; facsimile)
Printed: Hearne, Textus Roffensis, pp. 77-9; Thorpe. Reg. Roff., pp. 16-17; K 113; Mon. Angl. (rev. edn) i. 196; Pierquin, Recueil, pt 1, no. 51; Campbell, Rochester, no. 7.
Comments: HS, p. 413, attestations and date questionable; Stevenson 1904, p. 331 n. 4, genuine; Stenton cited (= Stenton 1970, p. 191); John 1966, p. 25, cited; Stenton 1971, p. 207, cited; Campbell, Rochester, p. authentic; O’Donovan 1973, p. 99, witness-list is suspect; Scharer 1982, pp. 223, 226, authenticity uncertain 1983, pp. 116-17, treats as authentic; Kelly, St Augustine’s, p. 201, on historical background.

+ In nomine summi saluatoris et domini nostri qui ubique disponit omnia. ego Ecgberhtus rex Cantie.
After the Romans left, Britain was open to invasion by the various Germanic peoples from the Baltic area who had already been making raids on the 'Saxon Shore' in the days of the Empire. Invasions started around 400 AD. The Saxons were a Germanic tribe from the Danish peninsula and northern Germany. Their territories originally reached as far as the Rhine but Saxony was conquered by Charlemagne in 792. Under pressure from the Franks, they migrated to various parts of Europe including Britain and pursued piracy in the North Sea and English Channel. They settled in Essex, Sussex and Wessex.

The Jutes were a Germanic people who may have originated in the Rhineland, rather than Jutland in Denmark, and later settled in Frankish territory. In around 450 AD, they occupied Kent under Hengist and Horsa and conquered the isle of Wight and the Hampshire coast in the early C6th.

The Angles came from the German/Danish border area, now Schleswig-Holstein and may have been united with the Saxons before invading Britain. They settled largely in East Anglia, Mercia and Northumbria.

By the end of the C6th, the tribal settlements had become seven kingdoms (the Heptarchy) and by the first decade of the C7th, Northumbria was dominant with its king bearing the titles of Rex Anglorum and being accepted as the bretwalda or overlord of the others. Although the tendency is to think of the people that the Normans conquered as 'The Saxons', they were actually a mixture of the various groups and the language now known as Old English, was a combination of several Germanic tongues which developed into Middle English after the second Germanic invasion was that of the Norsemen. This took place in several stages, with the Danes arriving by 800 AD and the Norwegians in the north-west by about 900 AD. The third wave of Germanic invasion was that of the Normans. They had only been in France for a few generations but their language and naming system were already heavily influenced, with many old Germanic names taking on 'Normanised' forms.

The kingdoms were eventually united under the kings of Wessex. During the reign of King Alfred in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle was begun. Written by monks, it provides a record of history from the Roman invasion to 1154 and an illustration of the development of Old English prose.

Anglo-Saxon Rulers In the Anglo-Saxon period, England was divided into small kingdoms. They are known as the Heptarchy (lit 'rule of seven') as there were usually seven of them although the number varied occasion amalgamations and divisions. They formed a loose federation under a single king, the most powerful of whom was acknowledged as head king or bretwalda and were eventually united under the kings of...
Bretwaldas (Head Kings) (According to Bede + later historians)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Kingdom</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aelle</td>
<td>Sussex</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ceawlin</td>
<td>Wessex</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aethelbert I</td>
<td>Kent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Redwald</td>
<td>East Anglia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edwin</td>
<td>Northumbria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oswald</td>
<td>Northumbria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oswy</td>
<td>Northumbria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Offa</td>
<td>Mercia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Egbert</td>
<td>Wessex</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Northumbria and Bernicia

The kingdom of Northumbria, the most northern of the Saxon Heptarchy, was formed when Bernicia and Deira were united. Its most powerful period was during the C7th under Edwin, Oswald and Oswy but it declined after the latter's death and became part of the Viking kingdom of York after the last recorded king, Egbert II, died around 878.

Kings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monarch</th>
<th>Reign</th>
<th>Lineage</th>
<th>Spouse</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ida of Bernicia</td>
<td>547-59</td>
<td>Bearnoch</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glappa</td>
<td>559-60</td>
<td>Son of Ida</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adda</td>
<td>560-8</td>
<td>''</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aethelric</td>
<td>568-72</td>
<td>''</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theodric</td>
<td>572-9</td>
<td>''</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frithuwald</td>
<td>579-85/6</td>
<td>''</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hussa</td>
<td>585/6-92/3</td>
<td>''</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aethelfrith</td>
<td>593-616</td>
<td>Son of Aethelric</td>
<td>Bebba</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edwin</td>
<td>616-33</td>
<td>Son of Aelle of Deira</td>
<td>Aethelburh daughter of Aethelbehrt I Kent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eanfrith</td>
<td>633-4</td>
<td>Son of Aethelfrith + 1 Pictish princess</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St Oswald</td>
<td>634-41</td>
<td>Son of Aethelfrith + 2 Cyneburg, daughter of Cynegils of Wessex</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oswy</td>
<td>641-70</td>
<td>Son of Aethelfrith + 3 1 Rhiainfellt of Rheged (Riennmelth)</td>
<td>2 Eanfled of Deira</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oswy</td>
<td>661-70</td>
<td>Son of Aethelfrith + 3 1 Rhiainfellt of Rheged (Riennmelth)</td>
<td>2 Eanfled of Deira</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aethelwald</td>
<td>c 651-4</td>
<td>Bernicia nephew of Eanfrith</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ecgfrith</td>
<td>670-85</td>
<td>Son of Oswy + 2 1 Aethelthryth (Etheldreda) d of Anna of East Anglia</td>
<td>2 Eormenburg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aldfrith</td>
<td>685-704</td>
<td>Son of Oswy + 3 Cuthburh, sister of Ine of Wessex</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Osred I</td>
<td>704-16</td>
<td>Son of Aldfrith</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coenred</td>
<td>716-8</td>
<td>son of Cuthwine, descendant of Ida</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Osric</td>
<td>718-29</td>
<td>Gs of Oswy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ceolwulf</td>
<td>729-37</td>
<td>d 760, a monk brother of Coenred</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eadbehrt</td>
<td>737-58</td>
<td>d 768 cousin of Ceolwulf</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oswulf</td>
<td>758-9</td>
<td>son of Eadbehrt Richrith</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aethelwald Moll</td>
<td>759-65</td>
<td>Aethelthryth</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alchred</td>
<td>765-74</td>
<td>Desc of Ida of Bernicia Osgyfu d of Oswulf Aethelred I 774-778/9 2 Aelflæad, daughter of Osric</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mercia Aelfwald</td>
<td>I 778/9-88</td>
<td>son of Oswulf</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Osred II</td>
<td>788-92</td>
<td>son of Alhred</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Egbert II</td>
<td>876-8</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Earls

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monarch</th>
<th>Reign</th>
<th>Lineage</th>
<th>Spouse</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ragnald c 919</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edgar 957</td>
<td>Eng, Mercia</td>
<td>1 Aethelflead</td>
<td>2 Wulfthryth</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3 Aelfthryth of Devon
Thored c 970
Waltheof -1006 beyond Tees
Uhtred 1006-16 son of Waltheof 1 Ecgthryth of Durham 2 Sigen 3 Aelfgifu, daughter of Eththelred II of England
Eadwulf 1016 beyond Tees son of Waltheof
Aldred -1038 son of Uhtred (1st m)
Eadwulf 1038-41 beyond Tees son of Uhtred (1st m)
Siward 1041-55 Aelflaed, daughter of Aldred
Earl Tostig dep 1065 brother of Harold II of England Judith, daughter of Baldwin IV of Flanders
Morcar 1065-6 dep son of Aelfgar of Mercia
Gospatric 1068 + Dunbar grandson of Uhtred
Oswulf 1068 beyond Tees son of Eadwulf
Waltheof 1072-6 (+ H’don) son of Siward Judith, neice of William I of England

Dier

Monarch Reign Lineage Spouse
Yffe/Yffi -560
Aelle/Aelli 560-88 son of Yffe
Edwin Son of Aelle 1 Cwenburg of Mercia 2 Ethelburga of Kent
Osric 632-3 son of Aelfric, Aelle’s brother
Oswine 644-killed 651 son of Osric
Ethelwald of Bernicia 651-654 annexed to Bernicia Son of St Oswald
Aelfrith 54-664 sub king son of Oswy of Northumbria Aelfwine killed 679 sub-king brother Ahlfirth

Essex

This kingdom of the Heptarchy was founded about 527 and annexed to Wessex in 825.

Monarch Reign Lineage Spouse
Aescwine C527-87
Sledda C587-pre604 Son of A Ricula d of Eormenric of Kent Saebert Pre 604-616/7 Son of Sledda
Saexred
Saeward
Name unknown 616/7 3 sons of Saebert
Sigebehrt I 'the Little' 617-pre653 Son of Saeward
Sigebehrt II 'the Good' 653-60 Son of Sexbald bro of Saebert Swithhelm 660-5 Bro of Sigebehrt II
Sebbi + Sighere 665-95
665-83 Bro of Sigebehrt I
Son of Sigebehrt I
St Osyth, dau Frithwold, sub-king of Surrey
Sigeheard + Swaefred c695-pre709 Sons of Sebbi
Offa c 709 abd to be monk Son of Sighere Cyneswith, daughter of Penda of Mercia
Saelred 709-46 Son (gs/ggs?) of Sigebehrt II
SWithred 746-758+ S of Sigemund, s of Sigeheard
Sigeric 758+-798 Son of Saelred
Sigered 798-825 submitted to Egbert of Wessex

Mercia

This kingdom in central England between Northumbria and Wessex was founded c 585. It declined after the death of Offa in 796 and was eventually absorbed by Wessex. In 873, King Burhred was driven out by the Danes and Ethelred acknowledged Alfred the Great of Wessex as overlord.
### Monarch Reign Lineage Spouse

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monarch</th>
<th>Reign</th>
<th>Lineage</th>
<th>Spouse</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Creoda</td>
<td>C585-93</td>
<td>Son of Creoda</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pybba</td>
<td>593-c606</td>
<td>Son of Pybba Cynewise</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ceorl</td>
<td>Kinsman of P</td>
<td>Son of Penda Eormenhild/Eormengild d E’behrt of Kent</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Penda</td>
<td>632-54</td>
<td>Son of Pybba Cynewise</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peada</td>
<td>654-6</td>
<td>Mid Ang son of Penda Alhflead, daughter of Oswy of Northumbria</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wulfhere</td>
<td>657-74</td>
<td>Son of Penda Eormenhild/Eormengild d E’behrt of Kent</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aethelred</td>
<td>675-704</td>
<td>Osthrth/Osthrd Os Aewa son of Pybba Cynethryth Ecgfrith 796 son of Offa</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coenred</td>
<td>704-9</td>
<td>abd to be monk son of Wulfhere</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ceolred</td>
<td>709-16</td>
<td>Son of Aethelred Waerburh/Werburg/</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethelbald</td>
<td>716-57</td>
<td>Ggs of Pybba</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beormred</td>
<td>757</td>
<td>Offa Descended from Eawa, son of Pybba Cynethryth Ecgfrith 796 son of Offa</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coenwulf</td>
<td>796-821</td>
<td>Descended from Cenwalh, son of Pybba Aelfthryth</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ceolwulf I</td>
<td>821-823</td>
<td>Brother of Coenwulf</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wiglaf</td>
<td>827-40</td>
<td>Aelflead, daughter of Ceolwulf I</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beorhtwulf</td>
<td>840-52</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burgred/Burhred</td>
<td>852- Aethelswith, sister of Alfred the Great</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ceolwulf II</td>
<td>873-c83</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Earls

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Earls</th>
<th>Reign</th>
<th>Lineage</th>
<th>Spouse</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Edgar</td>
<td>957</td>
<td>Eng, N'bria</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leofwine</td>
<td>-c 1023</td>
<td>Ealdorman of Hwicce</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leofric</td>
<td>c 1023-57</td>
<td>Earl of M son of Leofwine Godgifu (Lady Godiva)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aelfgar</td>
<td>1051-7-65</td>
<td>+ E Ang son of Leofric Aelfgifu</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edwin</td>
<td>1065-6</td>
<td>d 1071 son of Aelfgar</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### East Anglia

The kings of the East Angles were called the Wuffings after Wuffa who probably founded the kingdom. His grandson Redwald is probably the man buried at Sutton Hoo in Suffolk. The last king was St Edmund who was killed by the Danes in 869.

### Monarch Reign Lineage Spouse

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monarch</th>
<th>Reign</th>
<th>Lineage</th>
<th>Spouse</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wuffa</td>
<td>571-8</td>
<td>Son of Wuffa</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tytila</td>
<td>578-93</td>
<td>Son of Tytila</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Redwald</td>
<td>593-617</td>
<td>Son of Redwald</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Earpwald</td>
<td>617-627/8</td>
<td>Son of Redwald</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sigeberht</td>
<td>631-4</td>
<td>abd to be monk Stepson of Redwald</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ecgric</td>
<td>634-5</td>
<td>Kinsman of Sigebehr</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anna G635-654</td>
<td>Son of Eni bro of Redwald Saewara Aethelhere (Aethelric?) 654 Bro of Anna Hereswith, g Deira; sister of Hilda of Whitby</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aethelwold</td>
<td>654-663/4</td>
<td>Bro of Anna</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ealdwulf</td>
<td>663-713</td>
<td>Son of Aethelhere/ric</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aelfwold</td>
<td>713-49</td>
<td>Son (or bro) of Ealdwulf</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St Edmund</td>
<td>855-69/70</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Earls Monarch Reign Lineage Spouse

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Earls Monarch Reign Lineage Spouse</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ulfctyl c 1000 Wulfhild, daughter of Ethelred the Unready Harold 1045 + England and Mercia son of Godwin of Wessex Ealdgyth, daughter of Aelfgar of Mercia</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gyrth 1057-66 died at Hastings brother of Harold</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Before about 449, the founder of the kingdom, Hengest, and his brother, Horsa, were invited to come from Jutland to help the British king, Vortigern, defend himself against the Picts and Scots. The ruling family were called after Hengest's son, Oeric Oisc.

### Wessex

The kingdom of the West Saxons, founded by Cerdic, expanded to cover most of southern England during the 6th and 7th. Under Egbert (802-39) it also gained control of Northumbria and Mercia. The later kings are also credited as the first kings of all England but Wessex declined after the death of Edgar in 975 and the throne was later lost to Danish invaders.
Ine 688-726 abd to go to Rome as pilgrim son of Cenred, desc of Ceawlin Ethelburga
Ethelheard 726-40 Bro of Ethelburga Desc of Cerdic
Frithugyth
Cuthred 740-56 Claimed desc from Cerdic (maybe bro of E) Sigebehrt 756-7 dep
Cynewulf 757-86
Beohtric 786-802 Bro of Cynewulf? Eadburh, daughter of Offa of Mercia
Egbert 802-39 + England Son of Ealhmund, sub-king in Kent Redburga
Earl Godwine 1018-53 Father of Harold II of England Gytha, daughter of Jarl Thorgils

Kings of England
The kings of Wessex became overlords of all the Saxon kingdoms and were later recognised as kings of England with the other kingdoms remaining as earldoms. Princes of the royal family were called 'Athelings' because they descended from Aethelwulf.

Monarch Reign Lineage Spouse
Aethelwulf 839-58 (England) Son of Egbert 1 Osburga d of Oslac
2 Judith d of Charles the Bald King of The Franks
Aethelbald 858-60 1st s of Aethelwulf + 1 Judith, his stepmother
Aethelbehrt 860-5 2nd s of Aethelwulf + 1
Aethelred I 865-71 3rd s of Aethelwulf + 1 Wulfthryth
Alfred the Great 871-99 Son of Aethelwulf + 1 Ealhswith d Ethelred Mucil of the Gaini (Mercia)
Edward the Elder 899-924 son of Alfred the Great
1 Ecgwynn/Egwina
2 Aelflead/Elfleda
3 Eadgifu
Aethelstan 924-39 son of Edward + 1 dnm
Edmund I 'the Magnificent' 939-46 son of Edward + 3
1 Aelfgifu (St Elfgiva)
2 Aethelflead of Darmerham
Eadred 946-55 son of Edward + 3 Dnm
Eadwig/Edwy 955-59 son of Edmund I + 1 Aelfgifu, his cousin (illegal)
Edgar 'the Peaceful' 959-75 son of Edmund I + 1 1Aethelflead/Ethelfleda d Ordmaer
2Wulfthryth/Wulfthryth
3 Aelfthryth/Elfrida d of Ordgar of Devon
Edward the Martyr 975-78 son of Edgar + 1 -
Ethelred II the Unready (Redeless - 'lacking counsel') 978-1016 son of Edgar + 2
1 Aelflead (Elfgiva?) of Northumbria
2 Emma dau Richard I of Normandy
Edmund II Ironside 1016 son of Ethelred + 1 Ealdgyth/Edith, widow of Sigeferth s of Earngrim
Canute (Cnut) the Dane 1017-35 son of Sweyn Forkbeard
1 Alfgifu of Northampton
2 Emma of Normandy
Harold I Harefoot 1035-40 2nd son of Canute + 1 dnm Hardicanute (Harthacnut) 1040-42 Son of Canute
Edward the Confessor 1042-66 2nd s of Ethelred II + 2 Edith, sis of Harold II
Edgar 1066 defeated at Hastings by William the Conqueror 2nd son of Godwin of Wessex Ealdgyth d
Mercia Eadgyth Swan-neck

Anglo Saxon Names
Only a personal name was given. This was often made up of two elements, often linked in some way with the parents' names. For instance, Aldred and Edith might call their daughter Aldith as some elements were suitable for both males and females. These dithematic names did not necessarily have any link in meaning between their two elements. Monothematic names were more popular with the later Anglo-Saxons with the monothematic, or single element, names acquiring a lower-
class association.
As the various permutations produced a large number of different names, few duplications would have occurred in a particular settlement. Surnames were not necessary for identification purposes although bynames were used. It was also considered that a name contained a person’s spirit and using it for a new-born child could drain that spirit from him. Although there was no inherited surname, some families (usually aristocratic) were identified by a collective name taken from a famous forebear such as the Athelings, Gumeningas, Besingas, Baducings, the final ‘-ing’ element signifying ‘people of’.

Name Elements
Some of these were only used as the first or second element of a name but others could occur in either English and variants
Modern English Alf, aelf, alf elf Aethel, al, adal, ayl, ethel noble Ard hard Beald, ba beard Bed command Bert, beraht, beorht, bright bright, famous Brun brown Burh, bur, burg, borrow for quen woman? Dar dear Ed, ead prosperity, fortune Eald, ald old Est, east grace? Flead, fleg beauty Frea, Frith peace Gar, ger spear God good Here, her, heri army? Hug, hugu heart, mind, spirit Hild battle Ken Lam land Lea, liffe leof, lef, leav, lew, life, liff, loe loved, dear Lee, ley, leah clearing, wood Lilley, lili lit May servant Maer, mar, mer, more fame Mil mild/gentle Mund, munt peace, protection Os god Rad, red counsel, wisdom Ric, rich power, ruler Rod, hrud, hreod fame Sig, sieg victory Stan, ston stone Trum, trulfr, oł, olph, wulf wolf Wald, walt rule Ward, weard, wart guard What brave Whit elf, wight Wig war Win friend Yon, yong young

Male
Acwald
Acwuld
Acwulf
Adalbert
Adelard
Adulf
Aedbald
Aedilbert
Aedilhum
Aedilhun
Aednoth
Aedwulf
Aefic
Aegelric
Aegenwulf
Aegheard
Aelbehrt
Aelbert
Aelffrith
Aelfgar
Aelfgeat
Aelgiest
Aelfheah
Aelfhelm
Aelfhere
Aelfhun
Aelfmaer
Aelfnoth
Aelfred
Aelfric
Aelfsi
Aelfsige
Aelfstan
Female Saxon names were still widely used after the Norman conquest and are found in various forms in written records, often with the letter ‘v’ represented by ‘u’.

Adellufu
Adney
Aedilburh
Aegthryth
Aelfgifu
Aelfgyth
Aelflead
Aelfrun
Aelfhryth
Aelfwyn
Aengifu
Aeschild
Aethelberga
Aethelburh
Aethelgi
Aethelhun
Aethelswith
Aethelthryth
Aethelthryth
Aethelu
Aethelwaru
Aegnilda
Ak
Achlfrid
Aldreda
Alfild
Alfilda
Alfrun
Alfwen
Alhburg
Alkeld
Alkelda
Aluburg
Aluhburg
Arild
Athilda
Aylyld
Baldehuia
Baldeth
Baldethiva
Baldguia
Baldhild
Baldith
Balethiva
Balthildis
Bathild
Beadohild
Beaduburg
Aylild
Aylyld
Many of these originated as bynames or nicknames and were not always complimentary. They seem to have had a more low-status association than the dithematic or two element names. Forms ending in ‘-el’, ‘ela’ and usually diminutives, probably taken from one element of a dithematic name.

**Monothematic Names**

Many of these originated as bynames or nicknames and were not always complimentary. They seem to have had a more low-status association than the dithematic or two element names. Forms ending in ‘-el’, ‘ela’ and usually diminutives, probably taken from one element of a dithematic name.

**Male**
Abba
Abbo
Abo
Acca
Adda
Addi
Aebba
Aebbe
Aecci
Aed
Aeddi
Sicga
Siège
Sihtric
Skotte Sledda Snoc Snytra Socca Soppa Sprot Sprota Sprow Stan Stealla Steapa Stofn Strenge Stubb
Stut Stybba Styfic Sucga Sumor Sunna Swaefa Sweord Sweppi Sweta
Swift
Swiftel
Synnel
Tada
Taebba
Tael
Taepa
Taesa Taeta
Taetel
Taetwa
Tala
Tata
Tatel
Tatta
Tatuc
Teitri
Teobba
Teoba
Teodec Teorra Teotta Theoda Throca Thrymma Thymel Thymli Tibba Tibbi Tica Ticea Tida Tid
Tidna Tila Tilla Tilli Timan Tippa Tira Tissi Titel Titta Titten Tiwa Toa Toat Toca Tocca Toki Topp
Tota Tott Trost Trosta Trot Trott Trump Trumpa Trymma Trympa Tryppa Tubba Tucca Tucga Tuda Tudeca Tuf Tuffa Tuisco Tulla Tumma Tunna Tutta Twicca Twicga Tydda Tydi Tydic Tyfel Tylli Tynne
Tyrh tel Tyssi Tytta Tyttla
Ubba
Ucca
Ucga
Ufa
Uffa
Ufic
Ugga
Uggeca
Uggi
Uhtred
Ula
Ulf
Ullaula
Ulla
Uttel
Uttoc
Waca
Wacca
Wacer
Wacol
Wada
Wadda
Wade
Waeba
Waeccin
Waeddi
Female
Anglo-Saxon Religion

**Gods**
The Germanic deities who figure in the Old Norse pantheon were also followed by most of the peoples who settled in England although Christianity soon took over. There is literary evidence for many of the same stories and beliefs amongst them although the legend of Ragnarok is exclusive to Scandinavia.

**Name Attributes Family Wife**
Woden (Grim) chief, sky Frig
Thunor Thunder
Tiw originally sky god
Wayland/Weland smith son of Wada/Wade, father of Widia Hama (ON Heimdall) Watchman

**Goddesses**

**Name Attributes Husband**
Frig/Freo/Frija mother of gods Woden Wyrd/Wurd destiny (orig one of three fates)
Metod another possible 'fate' meaning measurer.
Waelclyrge Valkyries Nerthus earth goddess?

**Descendants of Woden**
Early historians including Bede and Florence of Worcester trace the descent of the various Anglo-Saxon kings back to Woden.
Wecta Baeldaeg
Casere Saexneat
Waeagdaeg Wihtlaeg Winta
Witta Brand
Tytmon Gesecg Siggar
Wermund king of Angel c 350
Cretta Wihtgils Frithugar Benoc/Bernic Trygils Antsecg Swebdaeg Offa Cweldgils Hengest Freawine Alo
Sweepa Sigegeat Angeltheow Caedbaed Kings of Kent
Wig Angenwit Hryp Sigefugel Saebald Eomer Bubba
Gewis Ingui Wilhelm Bedca Saefugl Icel Beda
Esla Esa Wehha Offa Westerfalca Cnebba Biscop
Elesa Eoppa Wuffa Aescwine Wilgisl Cynewald Eanferth Cerdic Ida Kings of East Anglia
Kings of Essex Uxfrea Creoda Eatta
Kings of Wessex
Kings of Bernicia + Northumberland
Yffi Kings of Mercia Ealdrith fl 786-96
Aelli
Kings of Deira

**Middangeard / Middle Earth**
Indo-European sky father Djevs or Deivos
Sanskrit Dyaus
Greek Zeus
Latin Jovis
North West Europe Tiwaz?
Germany Ziu
Scandinavia Tyr
England Tiw
Supplanted by: Western Europe Wodenaz German Wuotan Old Saxon Woden Old Norse Woden Old English Woden

**Anglo-Saxon Calendar**
The year began on 25th December. Boxing night was called modra nect or 'mother's night' after the ceremonies that Bede says were performed then.
12 + 1 Giuli last month of old and first of new year
2 Solmonath 'when cakes were offered to the gods' says Bede 3 Hretha -
4 Eostre Easter
5 Thrimilci cows milked three times a day
6 + 7 Litha possibly 'moon'
8 Weodmonath 'weedmonth'
9 Halegmonath 'holy month' (harvest festival?)
10 Wintirfyllith 'winter full moon' (first full moon of winter?) 11 Blotmonath 'blood month' (sacrifice of animals that would not survive winter)

England: Bill of Rights
constitutions and governments established in America.

The Constitution of the United States is the supreme law of the land, and it outlines the three branches of government: legislative, executive, and judicial. The Constitution was ratified on September 17, 1788, in Philadelphia.

Bible Oaths

The Constitution of the United States is the supreme law of the land, and it outlines the three branches of government: legislative, executive, and judicial. The Constitution was ratified on September 17, 1788, in Philadelphia.
oath of office

Jewish Talmud
France: Tennis Court Oath at the time of the Revolution
All for one and one for all

King James 1 of England making an Oath before Parliament
oath to country

King John Oath by signing the Magna Carta
An oath (from Anglo-Saxon ᵒ鞴, also called plight) is either a promise or a statement of fact calling upon someone that the oath maker considers sacred, usually God, as a witness to the binding nature of the promise or truth of the statement of fact. To swear is to take an oath, to make a solemn vow. The essence of a divine oath is an invocation of divine agency to be a guarantor of the oath taker's own integrity in the matter under question. By implication, this invokes divine displeasure if the oath taker fails in their sworn duties. It therefore implies greater care than usual in the act of the performance of one's duty, such as giving testimony to the facts of the matter in a court of law.
A person taking an oath indicates this in a number of ways. The most usual is the explicit "I swear," but or promise that includes "with * as my witness" or "so help me *," with '*' being something or someone holds sacred, is an oath. Many people take an oath by holding in their hand or placing over their head a scripture or a sacred object, thus indicating the sacred witness through their action: such an oath is called corporal. However, the chief purpose of such an act is for ceremony or solemnity, and the act does not of itself make an oath. There is confusion between oaths and other statements or promises. The current Olympic Oath, for instance a pledge and not properly an oath since there is only a "promise" and no appeal to a sacred witness. Oaths are also confused with vows, but really a vow is a special kind of oath.

In law, oaths are made by a witness to a court of law before giving testimony and usually by a newly-appointed government officer to the people of a state before taking office. In both of those cases, though, an affirmation usually substituted. A written statement, if the author swears the statement is the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, is called an affidavit. The oath given to support an affidavit is frequently administered by a public who will memorialize the giving of the oath by affixing her or his seal to the document. Breaking (or affirmation) is perjury.

Greco-Roman tradition
In the Greco-Roman Tradition, oaths were sworn upon Iuppiter Lapis or the Jupiter Stone located in the Temple of Jupiter, Capitoline Hill. Iuppiter Lapis was held in the Greco-Roman Tradition to be an Oath Stone, an aspect of Jupiter is his role as divine law-maker responsible for order and used principally for the investiture of the oath-taking of office. Bailey (1907) states: We have, for instance, the sacred stone (silex) which was preserved in the temple of Iuppiter on the Capitol, and was brought out to play a prominent part in the ceremony of treaty-making. The fetial, who on that occasion represented the Roman people, at the solemn moment of the oath-taking, struck the sacrificial pig with the silex, saying, 'Do thou, Diespiter, strike the Roman people as I strike this pig here to-day, and strike them the more, as thou art greater and stronger.' Here no doubt the underlying notion is not merely symbolical, but in origin the stone is itself the god, an idea which later religion expressed in the cult-title specially used in this connection, Iuppiter Lapis. Walter Burkert has shown that since Lycurgus of Athens (d. 324 BC), who held that "it is the oath which holds democracy together", religion, morality and political organization had been linked by the oath, and the prerequisite altar had become the basis of both civil and criminal, as well as international law.

Jewish tradition
The concept of oaths is deeply rooted within the Judaism. It is found in Genesis 8:21, when God swears "never again curse the ground because of man and never again smite every living thing." This repetition of the term never again is explained by Rashi, the preeminent biblical commentator, as serving as an oath, citing this ruling. The first personage in the biblical tradition to take an oath is held to be Eliezer, the chief servant of Abraham, when the latter requested of the former that he not take a wife for his son Isaac from the daughters of Canaan, but rather from among Abraham's own family. In the Judeo-Christian Tradition, this is held as the origination of the concept that it is required to hold a sacred object in one's hand when taking an oath. Because circumcision was the first commandment Abraham performed and was therefore so dear to him on both a spiritual as well as a personal level, Abraham had Eliezer take hold of his genitals.

Christian tradition
As late as 1880, Charles Bradlaugh was denied a seat as an MP in the Parliament of the United Kingdom because of his professed atheism he was judged unable to swear the Oath of Allegiance in spite of his proposal to swear the oath "as a matter of form". Various religious groups have objected to the taking of oaths, most notably the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) and Mennonites. This is principally based on Matthew 5:34-37, the Antithesis of the Law. Here, written to say "I say to you: 'Swear not at all'". The Apostle James stated in James 5:12, "Above all, my brothers, do not swear—not by heaven or by earth or by anything else. Let your "Yes" be yes, and your "No," no, or you will be condemned." Not all Christians follow this reading, because of the statements in the Old Testament. Jews also avoid as making a false oath, even unintentionally so, would violate a Biblical commandment in Leviticus 19:
Opposition to oath-taking caused many problems for these groups throughout their history. Quakers were frequently imprisoned because of their refusal to swear loyalty oaths. Testifying in court was also difficult; George Fox, Quakers' founder, famously challenged a judge who had asked him to swear, saying that he would do so once the judge could point to any Bible passage where Jesus or his apostles took oaths. (The judge could not, but this did not escape punishment.) Legal reforms from the 18th century onwards mean that everyone in the United Kingdom now has the right to make a solemn affirmation instead of an oath. The United States has permitted affirmations since it was founded; it is explicitly mentioned in the Constitution. Only two US Presidents, Franklin Pierce and Hoover (who was a Quaker), have chosen to affirm rather than swear at their inaugurations.

Germanic tradition

Germanic warrior culture was significantly based on oaths of fealty, directly continued into medieval notions of chivalry.

A prose passage inserted in the eddic poem Helgakviða Hjörvarðssonar relates:

Hedin was coming home alone from the forest one Yule-eve, and found a troll-woman; she rode on a wolf, and had snakes in place of a bridle. She asked Hedin for his company. "Nay," said he. She said, "Thou shalt pay for this at the bragarfull." That evening the great vows were taken; the sacred boar was brought in, the men laid their hands thereon, and took their vows at the bragarfull. Hedin vowed that he would have Sváva, Eyjólfs' daughter, of his brother Helgi; then such great grief seized him that he went forth on wild paths southward over the land, and found Helgi, his brother.

Such Norse traditions are directly parallel to the "bird oaths" of late medieval France, such as the voeux du faisan (oath on the pheasant) or the (fictional) voeux du paon (oath on the peacock).

An oath of allegiance is an oath whereby a subject or citizen acknowledges his/her duty of allegiance and swears loyalty to his/her monarch or country. In many modern oaths of allegiance, allegiance is sworn to the Constitution. In particular, in the United States presidents, judges, and military personnel are under an oath to the Constitution. In Canada, oaths are sworn to the Canadian monarch.

In feudal times a person would also swear allegiance to his feudal superiors. To this day the oath sworn by the Lord Mayor of the City of London contains an oath of obedience to the Lord Mayor of the City of London. Oaths of allegiance are commonly required of newly-naturalised citizens (see Oath of Citizenship), members of the armed forces, and those assuming public (particularly parliamentary and judicial) office. Clergy in the Church of England are required to take an Oath of Supremacy acknowledging the authority of the British monarch.

A typical example of an oath of allegiance is that sworn by Members of Parliament in the Netherlands:

I swear (affirm) allegiance to the King, to the Statute for the Kingdom of the Netherlands, and to the Constitution. I swear (affirm) that I will faithfully perform the duties my office lays upon me. So help me God almighty! (This I declare and affirm) In many Commonwealth realms all that is required is an oath to the monarch, and not the constitution or state. There have been moves in some of the realms to make the oath of citizenship sworn by new citizens refer to the country rather than the monarch. However, the oaths sworn by judges, Members of Parliament, etc., have not been changed. In New South Wales, there are plans for MPs and Ministers' oaths to be made to "Australia" rather than the Queen. All of these moves have not succeeded as the Queen is the personification of Canadian, British, Australian (or any other Commonwealth realm) State. Allegiance sworn to the monarch is as same as to the country, its constitution, flag, etc. The New Zealand Oath of Allegiance still refers to the Queen. The European Court of Human Rights ruled in 1999 that the oath of allegiance to a reigning monarch "reasonably viewed as an affirmation of loyalty to the constitutional principles which support... the wor representative democracy in the respondent State.

The Oath of Allegiance of the United Kingdom has its origin in an Oath of Allegiance in the Magna Carta of 1215. "Once the terms had been finalised on 19 June, the rebels again swore allegiance to King John. The later Bill of Rights (1689) included the Oath of Allegiance to the crown, which was required by Magna Carta to be taken by all crown servants and members of the judiciary." Over the following centuries this evolved in separate oaths: of Supremacy (repudiation of the spiritual or ecclesiastical authority of any foreign prince), Allegiance (declaration of fidelity to the Sovereign) and in 1702 Abjuration (repudiation of the of descendants of James II to the throne). Oaths of allegiance were exacted from Lords, by Henry IV and 1455 and 1459, and oath of supremacy was introduced under Henry VIII in 1534. Elizabeth I introduced Supremacy in 1563 requiring an oath to be taken by all future Members of the House of Commons. A ne
allegiance appeared under James I (prompted by the "Gunpowder Plot") under the Popish Recusants Act 1605. This oath required recognition of James I as lawful King and renunciation of the Pope. The 1609 Act required Commons MPs to take the oath of allegiance and of supremacy, but this was a "parliamentary" oath, as it was not taken in Parliament, and there were no consequences if not sworn. After the Restoration, oaths of supremacy and allegiance were imposed upon all MPs and Peers in Parliament. In 1689, in an Act passed by William and Mary, old oaths of supremacy and allegiance were replaced with almost its modern form: in 1701 the exiled king James II, died and the adherents of the Stuart claim a XIV of France proclaimed his son rightful king. The Act of Succession 1701 was quickly passed to address this situation. It extended substantially the old oaths, and added an oath of abjuration of the Pretender's title pledged support for the Hanoverian succession and for the exclusion of the Stuarts. The Oaths of Allegiance etc and Relief of the Jews Act 1858 prescribed a single form of the oath in place of three. This single form retained a declaration of allegiance and a promise to defend the Hanoverian succession. A declaration relating to the supremacy of the Sovereign was also included and the oath continued to be an oath true faith of a Christian' However, both of these latter elements disappeared from the revised version of the oath that was subsequently prescribed in the Parliamentary Oaths Act 1866, which repealed much of the old legislation in so far as they related to oaths taken by Members of Parliament. Finally, in the Promissory Oaths Act 1868 a further curtailment to the oath was made, thereby establishing the oath still used today. The direct religious content has disappeared along with the declarations relating to the supremacy of the Sovereign. In its current form, the oath conforms fairly closely to the medieval (feudal) oath of allegiance. After the general right to affirm was guaranteed in 1888, the Oaths Act 1909 introduced a change to the ordinary method of taking oaths, which provided for oaths to be sworn on the Bible: in case of a Christian, on the New Testament, and in the case of a Jew on the Old Testament. This Act also established the usual form of taking an oath with the phrase "I swear by Almighty God that …". Section 1 of the 1888 Oaths Act (on the right to affirm) was replaced in the Administration of Justice Act 1977. The Oaths Act 1961 extended the 1888 Act, but did not apply to Parliamentary Oaths. All of the provision of Acts of 1838, 1888, 1909, 1961 and 1977 were repealed and consolidated in the Oaths Act 1978, although wording of the oath set out in the 1868 Act was preserved. The 1978 Oaths Act contains provisions relating to the manner of administering the oath, the option of swearing with uplifted hand, the validity of oaths, the making of solemn affirmations and the form of affirmation. The current Oath of Allegiance or Official Oath set out in the Promissory Oaths Act 1868 is required to be taken by various office-holders in the following form: "I, NAME, do swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, her heirs and successors, according to law. So help me God." An oath of fealty, from the Latin fidelitas (faithfulness), is a pledge of allegiance of one person to another. In medieval Europe, fealty was sworn between two people, the obliged person (vassal) and a person of rank (lord). This was done as part of a formal commendation ceremony to create a feudal relationship. Fealty and homage are a key element of feudalism. Under the feudal system, the smallest unit of land a fief could own was called a fea or fee, giving rise to the term freehold. The term is also used by English-speakers to refer to similar oaths of allegiance in other feudal cultures, as with medieval Japan, as well as in modern political contexts. Anglo-Saxon Dithematic Names Only a personal name was given. This was often made up of two elements, often linked in some way with the names of the parents. For instance, Aldred and Edith might call their daughter Aldith as some elements were suitable for both males and females. These dithematic names did not necessarily have any link in meaning between their two elements, and were more popular with the later Anglo-Saxons with the monothematic, or single element, names acquiring a lower-class association. As the various permutations produced a large number of different names, few duplica
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**Name Elements**

Some of these were only used as the first or second element of a name but others could occur in either position. The **Old English** and variants **Modern English**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Old English</th>
<th>Modern English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alf, aelf, alfr</td>
<td>elf</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aethel, al, adal, ayl, ethel</td>
<td>noble</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ard</td>
<td>hard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beald, bald</td>
<td>bold</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bard</td>
<td>beard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bed command</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bert, beraht, beorht, bright</td>
<td>bright, famous</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brun</td>
<td>brown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burh, bur, burg, borrow</td>
<td>fortress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cwen, quen</td>
<td>woman?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dar</td>
<td>dear</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ed, ead</td>
<td>prosperity, fortune</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eald, ald</td>
<td>old</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Est, east</td>
<td>grace?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flead, fled</td>
<td>beauty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frea, fre, frew</td>
<td>free</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frith</td>
<td>peace</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gar, ger</td>
<td>spear</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>God</td>
<td>good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Here, her, heri</td>
<td>army?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hug, hugu</td>
<td>heart, mind, spirit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hild battle</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ken bold, royal</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lam land</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lea, liffe leof, leav, lew, life, liff, loe</td>
<td>beloved, dear</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lee, ley, leah</td>
<td>clearing, wood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lilley, lili</td>
<td>little</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lit</td>
<td>bright</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May servant</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maer, mar, mer, more</td>
<td>fame</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mil mild/gentle</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mund, munt</td>
<td>peace, protection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Os god</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rad, red, raed</td>
<td>counsel, wisdom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ric, rich power, ruler</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rod, hrud, hreod</td>
<td>fame</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sig, sieg victory</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stan, ston</td>
<td>stone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trum, trun</td>
<td>strong?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ulf, ulfr, olf, olph, wulf</td>
<td>wolf</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wald, walt rule</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ward, weard, wart</td>
<td>guard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What brave</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whit elf, wight</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wig war</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Win, wine, wyn friend
Yon, yong young

London river bank 1616

surrounded by countryside

London North River Bank 1615

many spires

London Bridge
with heads above its gate on spears

Character in Bernard Cornwell's Saxon Series: Halfdan
Halfdan was one of the sons of Ragnar Lodbrok. It has been suggested that he is the same person as Ragnar Hvitserk. He pillaged with his brothers in England in 855, and later became a leader of the Great Heathen Army. He was the ruler of London 871–872 where he had coins made.
In 875, he conquered Northumbria where he became king. He was widely unpopular due to his alleged cruelty. He was expelled from York and died during a new Viking expedition in 877.
Preceded by none King of Jórvík 875–877 Succeeded by Guthfrith

Wool
England had been a wool exporting country since before the Norman Conquest. The Emperor Charlemagne back in the 8th century A.D. was insisting on woollen cloaks being sent to him from the north of England. The West Riding of Yorkshire became an important wool area for the same reasons that made Lancashire a cotton area: climate and geology.
The high millstone grit of the Pennines is unsuitable for growing crops and the grass it supports is too coarse for cattle. Sheep, however, can survive on it. There is less rain than in Lancashire, but enough to keep the streams flowing and provide the water necessary for producing woollen cloth.
Just as in Lancashire weaving was an adjunct to small scale farming. All the family would be involved; the carding, the wife spinning and the husband weaving and cultivating his bit of land, where oats could be grown for oat cakes, the staple diet. Cloth pieces would be taken on market days to the Piece Hall at Halifax, Almondbury or Huddersfield.
Water power was later used, first in fulling mills, where great wooden hammers beat the cloth until the fibres interlocked, and later in the weaving mills. It is claimed that Halifax, benefitting from more steep streams with water power long after neighbouring Bradford had adopted steam, and consequently never quite caught up.
The coming of the canals and the turnpike roads boosted the industry, but it was the introduction of worsted weaving, which saw the great expansion of the trade in Yorkshire. Originally an East Anglian industry, it arrived in Yorkshire in the 18th century and was soon rivalling the output of Norwich in quantity, if not quality. Worsted cloths were woven of longer, finer fibres than woollen cloths, and were stronger.
It was as a result of mechanisation that Yorkshire eclipsed East Anglia, and by the 19th century Bradford and Norwich as the centre of the worsted industry. Mechanisation of spinning was crucial. The first worsted spinning mill was actually built near Lancaster at Dophinholme, but mills began to be built in Yorkshire, initially wit
but by 1800 steam driven mills were being built in Bradford. One of the best known and biggest worsted mills in Yorkshire, indeed the world was John Foster & Son Black Dyke Mills were at Queensbury, a hilltop village, 1100 feet above sea-level, mid-way between Bradford and Halifax. The founder John Foster came from nearby Clayton. He married Ruth Briggs, whose family owned land in Queensbury. He began by putting yarn out to be woven, collecting the finished pieces and selling them at the Piece Hall in Halifax. Later he built a warehouse in Queensbury. The warehouse became a mill, the mill expanded and John Foster prospered, so much so that he later bought Hornby Castle near Lancaster as the family home. After the sale he wandered into an inn on his newly acquired estate. John Foster was famous for affecting the dress and manner of an ordinary working man. The landlord who was engaged in conversation with some of the 'better class', ordered Foster into the taproom. He joined him later and condescended to share his woes with him.

The Cambridge history of western textiles, Volume 2 By David Jenkins "The estate's been bought by one of those Yorkshire mill owners," he said. "I've a new landlord." "Aye, that's right," John Foster replied. "It's me."

The English Wool Trade in the Middle Ages By T. H. Lloyd The monastic order in Yorkshire, 1069-1215 By Janet E. Burton

Amlab Penny Coin showing Raven and Cross

Amlab coin showing Raven Banner Reverse

Minted at York

Viking Coprolite
found at York

Amlab Mac Godfraid

coin

River Fleet
London Map 1300

London

RIVER FLEET

Camden

King's Cross

Clerkenwell

Blackfriars

Hampstead Heath

1 mile

N
showing Roman boundaries

Kensington Palace from across long water
London

Richmond Park
London

Regents Park 1833
London

Hyde Park 1883
London

Green Park
London

London Bridge 1616
London Bridge Sold to America

British Museum
London

Madam Tussauds
Museum

London Street During the Blitz
Map showing Gwent bordering Gloucestershire

Speech House

Gloucester

Monmouth
Rebellion

Monmouth Rebellion

map

Malvern hills
bordering Gloucestershire

Cleeve Hill
Cotswolds
Mordiford
Gloucestershire
River Severn at Epney
flooding

River Severn at Wainlode Hill

industrial waterways

River Stour Map
Tributaries and towns

Alfred Baptised Guthrum at Aller

field

Anglo-Saxon Map
Anglo-Saxon England

(c) Matthew White 1996

showing towns

Dartmoor
relation to Cornwall

Cornwall
Misty Sea

Cornwall
Falmouth Docks

Cornwall
Giants Causeway

Cornwall
Holy Well Bay

Cornwall
The Rumps, Iron Age Fortification

England
Anglo-Saxon Chronicles

Appledore

map
Devils Punch Bowl

Battle
village

Chichester
village

Hastings
Town Centre

Lancing

College

South Downs
Devil's Dyke

River Lavant
East of Dean

Rye
Mermaid Street

Rye Mill
windmill

Slougham
Rose Cottage junction

South Downs, Sussex

Sussex Downs

Blackmore Vale: Sherborne
The term thegn (or thane in Shakespearean English), from OE þegn, ðegn "servant, attendant, retainer", is commonly employed by historians to describe either an aristocratic retainer of a king or nobleman in Anglo-Saxon England, or as a class term, the majority of the aristocracy below the ranks of ealdormen and high-reeves. It is also the term for an early medieval Scandinavian class of retainers.

**Etymology**

Old English þeg(e)n "servant, attendant, retainer" is cognate with Old High German degan and Old Norse þegn ("thane, franklin, freeman, man").

The thegn had a military significance, and its usual Latin translation was miles, meaning soldier, although minister was often used. Joseph Bosworth describes a thegn as "one engaged in a king's or a queen's service, whether in the household or in the country," and adds, "the word in this case seems gradually to acquire a technical meaning, and to become a term denoting a class, containing, however, several degrees."

But, like all other words of the kind, the word thegn was slowly changing its meaning, and, as William Stubbs (Constitutional History, vol. i.), "the very name, like that of the gesith, has different senses in different ages and places, but the original idea of military service runs through all the meanings of thegn, as that of personal association in all the applications of gesith."

After the Norman Conquest, William replaced the Anglo-Saxon aristocracy with Normans and the new Norman French ruling class replaced the Anglo-Saxon terminology with Norman French. In this process, king's thegns became barons, and thegns appear to have been merged in the class of knights.

**Gesith and thegns**

The precursor of the thegn was the gesith, the companion of the king or great lord, a member of his comitatus. The word thegn began to be used to describe a military gesith.

It is only used once in the laws before the time of Aethelstan (c. 895-940), but more frequently in the charters.
Chadwick (Studies on Anglo-Saxon Institutions, 1905) says that "the sense of subordination must have been inherent in the word from the earliest time," but it has no connection with the German dienen, to serve. In the course of time it extended its meaning and was more generally used. The thegn became a member of a territorial nobility, dignity of thegnhood was attainable by those who fulfilled certain conditions. The nobility of pre-Conquest England was ranked according to the heriot they paid in the following descending order: earl, king's thegn, median thegn. In Anglo-Saxon hierarchic society, a king's thegn attended in person upon the king, bringing with him his resources. A "median" thegn did not hold his land directly from the king but through an intermediary lord.

**Status**

The thegn was inferior to the ætheling, the member of a kingly family, but he was superior to the ceorl, and Chadwick, "from the time of Aethelstan the distinction between thegn and ceorl was the broad line of demarcation between the classes of society." His status is shown by his wergild. Over a large part of England this was shillings, or six times that of the ceorl. He was the twelfhynde man of the laws, sharply divided from the twyhynde man or ceorl.

**Gepyncðo, Rectitudines Singularum Personarum and Norðleoda laga**

In a document known as "Of people's ranks and laws," we learn: "And if a ceorl throve, so that he had ful his own land, church and kitchen, bellhouse and burh-gate-seat, and special duty in the king's hail, then was he thenceforth of thegn-right worthy." A hide of land was considered sufficient to support a family. And again—"merchant throve, so that he fared thrice over the wide sea by his own means, then was he thenceforth of they worthy". In a similar manner a successful thegn might hope to become an earl. In addition to the thegns others who were thegns on account of their birth, and thus thegnhood was partly inherited and partly acquired.

**Thegns and local administration**

The twelve senior thegns of the hundred play a part, the nature of which is rather doubtful, in the development of the English system of justice. By a law of Aethelred they "seem to have acted as the judicial committee of the court for the purposes of accusation" (W.S. Holdsworth, History of English Law, vol. i. 1903), and thus they have some connexion with the grand jury of modern times.

**Growing class**

The increase in the number of thegns produced in time a subdivision of the order. There arose a class of thegns, corresponding to the earlier thegns, and a larger class of inferior thegns, some of them the thegns of bishops or of other thegns. A king's thegn was a person of great importance, the contemporary idea being shown in the translation of the words as comes (compare "count"). He had certain special privileges. No one save the king had the right of jurisdiction over him, while by a law of Canute we learn that he paid a larger heriot than an ordinary thegn.

After the Conquest

**Taini in Domesday Book**

In Domesday Book, OE þegn has become tainus in the Latin form, but the word does not imply high status. Domesday Book lists the taini who hold lands directly from the king at the end of their respective counties, and the term became devalued, partly because there were so many thegns.

**Thanes**

The word thane was used in Scotland until the 15th century, to describe a hereditary non-military tenant of the crown. Possibly the best-known holder of the title thane is William Shakespeare's character Macbeth, who is id play as the Thane of Cawdor.

**Analogies**

Compare the separate development of the concept of "vassal", from a warlord's henchman to one of Charlemagne's great companions.

**References and Sources**

Northvegr - Zoëga's A Concise Dictionary of Old Icelandic
Blood Feuds

A blood feud is a feud with a cycle of retaliatory violence, with the relatives of someone who has been killed or otherwise wronged or dishonored seeking vengeance by killing or otherwise physically punishing the culprits or their relatives. Historically, the word vendetta has been used to mean a blood feud. The word is Italian, and originates from the Latin vindicta (vengeance). In modern times, the word is sometimes extended to mean any long-standing feud, not necessarily involving bloodshed.

In ancient Homeric Greece, the practice of personal vengeance against wrongdoers was considered natural and customary: "Embedded in the Greek morality of retaliation is the right of vendetta . . . Vendetta is a war, an indefinite series of vendettas; and such acts of vengeance are sanctioned by the gods".

In the ancient tribal Hebraic context, it was considered the duty of the individual and family to avenge evil on behalf of God. The executor of the law of blood-revenge who personally put the initial aggressive killer to death was given a special designation: go'el haddam, the blood-avenger or blood-redeemer (Num. 35: 19, etc.). Six cities were established to provide a "cooling off" phase as well as due process for the accused. As the Oxford Companion to the Bible states: "Since life was viewed as sacred (Gen. 9.6), no amount of blood money could be given as recompense for the loss of the life of an innocent person; it had to be 'life for life'" (Exod. 21.23; Deut. 19.21) .

The Middle Ages, from beginning to end, and particularly the feudal era, lived under the sign of private vengeance. The onus, of course, lay above all on the wronged individual; vengeance was imposed on him as the most sacred of duties ... The solitary individual, however, could do but little. Moreover, it was most commonly a death that had to be avenged. In this case the family group went into action and the faide (feud) came into being, to use the old Germanic word which spread little by little through the whole of Europe--'the vengeance of the kinsmen which we call faida', as a German canonist expressed it. No moral obligation seemed more sacred than this ... The whole kindred, therefore, placed as a rule under the command of a chieftain, took up arms to punish the murder of one of its members or merely a wrong that he had suffered.


The Celtic phenomenon of the blood feud demanded "an eye for an eye," and usually descended into prolonged violence. Disagreements between clans might last for generations in Scotland and Ireland. Due to the Celtic heritage of many whites living in Appalachia, a series of prolonged violent engagements in late- nineteenth-century Kentucky and West Virginia were referred to commonly as feuds, a tendency that was partly due to the nineteenth-century popularity of William Shakespeare and Sir Walter Scott, authors who both wrote semihistorical accounts of blood feuds. These incidents, the most famous of which was the Hatfield-McCoy feud, were regularly featured in the newspapers of the eastern U.S. between the 1880s and the early twentieth century. Although they were interpreted as such at the time, there is little reason to believe that these American incidents had any correlation to "feuding" in Europe centuries earlier.

Chariot racing in the Byzantine Empire also included the racing clubs. The Blues and the Greens were not simply sports teams. They gained influence in military, political, and theological matters. The Blue-Green rivalry often erupted into gang warfare, and street violence had been on the rise in the reign of Justin I. Riots culminated in the Nika riots of 532 AD during the reign of Justinian I, with nearly half the city being burned or destroyed and tens of thousands of people killed.

In Japan's feudal past the Samurai class upheld the honor of their family, clan, or their lord by katakiuchi, revenge killings. These killings could also involve the relatives of an offender. While some vendettas were sanctioned by the government, such as that of the 47 Ronin, others were given official permission with specific targets. At the Holy Roman Empire's Reichstag at Worms in 1495 the right of waging feuds was abolished. The Imperial Reform proclaimed an "eternal public peace" (Ewiger Landfriede) to put an end to the abounding feuds and the anarchy of the robber barons and it defined a new standing imperial army to enforce that peace. However...
few more decades until the new regulation was universally accepted. In 1506, for example, knight Jan Kő killed somebody in Prague and the Town Councillors sentenced him to death and had him executed. Bishop Kopidlansky revenged himself by continuing atrocities.

More than a third of the Yanomamö males, on average, died from warfare. The accounts of missionaries have recounted constant infighting in the tribes for women or prestige, and evidence of continuous warfare enslavement of neighboring tribes such as the Macu before the arrival of European settlers and government intervention.

**Weregild**

Weregild (alternative spellings: wergild, wergeld, weregeld, etc.) in early Germanic law was a reparational payment usually demanded of a person guilty of homicide or other wrongful death. The payment of weregild was an important legal mechanism in early Germanic society; the other common form of legal reparation at this time was blood revenge. The payment was typically made to the family or to the clan. No distinction was made between murder and manslaughter until these distinctions were instituted by Roman imperial law in the 12th century. Payment of the weregild was gradually replaced with capital punishment starting around the 9th century, and almost entirely by the 12th century when it began to cease as a practice throughout the Holy Roman Empire.

**Etymology**

The word weregild is composed of were, a word meaning "man" (as in werewolf) and geld, meaning "payment, fee", as in Danegeld. Geld is the Old English word for money, and is still the Dutch and German word for money. The Yiddish word for money is gelt, also in common use in slang modern Hebrew. In Danish the word is gæld, meaning "debt".

The same concept outside Germanic culture is known as blood money. Native terms include ericfine in Ireland and galanas in Wales, "vira" ("vir" = "life") in Russia and głóbczyzna in Poland.

**Amount**

The standard weregeld for a freeman appears to have been 200 solidi (shillings) in the Migration period, reflected as the basic amount due for the death of a ceorl both in Anglo-Saxon and continental law codes. It could however be multiplied according to the social rank of the victim and the circumstances of the crime. For example, the 8th century Lex Alamannorum sets the weregeld for a duke or archbishop at three times the basic value (600 shillings), while the killing of a low ranking cleric was fined with 300, raised to 400 if the cleric was attacked while he was reading mass.

The size of the weregild was largely conditional upon the social rank of the victim. A regular freeman (ceorl) was worth 200 shillings in 9th century Mercian law (twyhyndeman), a nobleman was worth 1200 (twelfhyndeman). The law code even mentions the weregeld for a king, at 30000, composed of 15000 for the man, paid to the royal family, and 15000 for the kingship, paid to the people. An archbishop is likewise valued at 15000. The weregild for a Welshman was 110 if he owned at least one hide of land, and 80 if he was landless.

Thralls and slaves technically commanded no weregild, but it was commonplace to make a nominal payment in the case of a thrall and the value of the slave in such a case. A shilling was defined as the value of a cow in Kent or elsewhere, a sheep. The weregild for women relative to that of men of equal rank varied: Among the Alamanni, it was double the weregild of men, among the Saxons half that of men.

**In literature**

A classic example of a dispute over the weregild of a slave is contained in Iceland’s Egil’s Saga. In the Story of Grettir the Strong, chapter 27, The Suit for the Slaying of Thorghils Makson, Thorgeir conveys to court Thorgils Arison’s offer of weregild as atonement for killing Thorgils Makson.

In the epic poem Beowulf, at lines 456-472, Hroðgar recalls the story of how Ecgþeow (Beowulf’s father) him for help, for he had slain Heaðolaf, a man from another tribe called the Wulfings, and either couldn’t wergild or they refused to accept it. Hroðgar had married Wealhþeow, who probably belonged to the Wulfings and was able to use his kinship ties to persuade the Wulfings to accept the wergild and end the feud. Hroðgar’s offer as a son’s gratitude for what Hroðgar had done for Beowulf’s father.

Canute, King of the English: On Heriots and Reliefs, c.1016-1035
The Saxon heriot or succession duty was paid on the death of a thegn and originally took the form of the return of military equipment which was surrendered to the king. Subsequently it assumed the form of a payment in kind (the relief) and in Norman times the money payment alone was exacted from the heir. It thus became a feudal burden associated with tenure.

72. And let the heriots be as it is fitting to the degree. An eorl’s such as thereto belongs, that is, eight horses, four saddled and four unsaddled, and four helmets and four coats of mail, and eight spears and as many shields and 200 mancuses of gold. And after that, a king’s thegn’s, of those who are nearest to him; four saddled and two unsaddled, and two swords and four spears and as many shields, and a helmet and a coat of mail and fifty mancuses of gold. And of the medial thegn’s, a horse and his trappings and his arms; or his 'he Wessex; and in Mercia two pounds; and in East Anglia two pounds. And the heriot of a king’s thegn amo who has his soken, four pounds. And if he have further relation to the king, two horses, one saddled and unsaddled, and one sword and two spears and two shields and fifty mancuses of gold; and he who is of two pounds.

The relief of a count, which belongs to the king, is eight horses, of which four will be saddled and bridle them four breast-plates, four helmets, four lances, four shields, and four swords. The other four horses will be palfreys and post horses with reins and bridles. The relief of a baron is four horses of which two will be bridled and two breast-plates with them, two shields, two helmets, two lances, two swords. Of the other two horses, one will be a palfrey and the other a post horse, with reins and bridles. The relief of a vavasor, to his liege lord, is a horse which belonged to his father on the day of the latter’s death; and a breastplate, helmet, shield, lance, and sword. And if by chance he do not have these, he may acquit himself with payment of one hundred shillings. The relief of a villein is his best animal; whether it be an ox, or horse, it will be his lord’s. The relief of him who holds land at an annual rent shall be as much as the rent of one year.

Source:
The Title Thegn on Rune Stones

On a previous page I spelled the name Farthegn with letters from the 24-character 'elder futhark' (the runic alphabet). During the Viking Age this futhark was shortened to only 16 characters, requiring certain letters to do double duty, for example, since the letter "e" was no longer used, the e-rune had to be represented by the i-rune. The g-rune sometimes replaced by the k-rune. As a result, the word thegn was spelled "thikn", "thign", and even "thiakna" on some rune stones. "Thegn" was also used as a Scandinavian personal name and, like thousands of other names, eventually developed into an English surname (in this instance, the surnames Thain, Thaine, and Thayne).

From Runes and Their Origin, Denmark and Elsewhere, by Erik Moltke (The National Museum of Denmark, 1985):

Page 189: "Titles like thegn and drengr most probably belong in the military sphere, the first used of veterans, the second of younger warriors."

Page 267: "We may presume that the ranks of the retinue were filled by 'thegns', 'drengs', and 'svens', (thegn, dreng, sveinn), all recruited from the best families in the country (and abroad)."

Page 285-6: Svend Aakjaer "maintained that the Scandinavian 'thegns' and 'drengs' were -- like their Anglo-Saxon counterparts -- royal 'servants', members of the group of nobles, who gave the king personal service and other members of his retinue or bodyguard." Since the earliest Danish example of the word 'thegn' on a rune stone was associated with lith, host, warband or the like, we may reasonably assume it denoted a kind of military 'thegn' is then a title of rank (cf. the man dubbed Knight in the Middle Ages or commissioned as an official) associated with the king, wardens, and commanders. Once a 'thegn', always a 'thegn'. After a period of service on the king, he remained a 'thegn' but was now a captain or colonel of the reserve. Some 'thegns' were probably given official functions in the countryside, at royal residences and on crown demesnes, bailiff collectors or the like. Others likely returned to run their own family estates. This is the picture of 'thegns' that can be drawn from Anglo-Saxon parallels and the occurrence of the word in runic inscriptions.

"It will be self-evident that 'thegns' were drawn from the best families in the country."

Bretwalda

Bretwalda, also Brytenwalda, Bretenanwealda, is an Anglo-Saxon term, the first record of which comes from the ninth century Anglo-Saxon Chronicle. It is applied in that chronicle to some of the rulers of Anglo-Saxon England from the fifth century onwards who had achieved overlordship over some or all the other Anglo-Saxon kingdoms. It is unclear if the word really dates back to the fifth century, or is a ninth century invention. The rulers of Mercia

Mercia were generally the most powerful of the English kings from the mid-seventh to the early-ninth century. However they are not accorded the title of Bretwalda by the chronicle—which fact is usually assigned to bias by its authors. Whether they used it themselves is again uncertain, though in many cases their power was greater than those listed by the chronicle. It is notable that the Annals of Wales also continued to recognize Northumbrian rulers as King of the Saxons (i.e. English) until the death of Osred in 716.

The term Bretwalda also appears in a charter of Æthelstan, king of the English. It appears in several variants (brytenwalda, bretenanwealda, &c.), and means most probably "lord of the Britons" or "lord of Britain". The derivation of the word is uncertain, its earlier syllable seems to be cognate with the words Briton and Britannia. However Kemble derives Bretwalda from the Old English word bryotan, to distribute, to interpret, and translates it "ruling."

Bretwaldas

Listed by Bede and the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle

Aelle of Sussex (488–c.514)
Ceawlin of Wessex (560–91, died 593)
Æthelberht of Kent (591–616)
Rædwald of East Anglia (616–27)
Edwin of Deira (627–32)
Oswald of Bernicia (633–41)
King of the Saxons, as listed by the Annals of Wales
Oswy of Northumbria (641–670)
Ælfrith of Northumbria (685–705)
Osred of Northumbria (705–716)
Ethelbald of Mercia (716–757)

Mercian rulers
Wulfhere of Mercia (658–675)
Æthelred of Mercia (675–704, died 716)
Cœnred of Mercia (704–709, died ?)
Ceolred of Mercia (709–716)
Ceolwald of Mercia (716)
Ethelbald of Mercia (716–757, proclaimed King of Britain 746) Beornred of Mercia (757, died ?)
Offa of Mercia (757–796, proclaimed King of the English 774) Egfrith of Mercia (796)
Cœnwulf of Mercia (796–821, proclaimed Emperor)
Ceolwulf of Mercia (821–823, died ?)
Beornwulf of Mercia (823–826)
Ludeca of Mercia (826–827)
Wiglaf of Mercia (827–829, died 840)

Listed only by the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle
Egbert of Wessex (829–39)

Contemporary use
The entry for 827 in the [C] manuscript of the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle, listing the eight bretwaldas. The first recorded use of the term Bretwalda comes from a West Saxon Chronicle of the late 9th century applying the term to Ecgberht, who was King of Wessex from 802–839.[2] The chronicler also wrote down the names of seven kings Bede had listed in his Historia ecclesiastica gentis Anglorum in 731.[3] All subsequent manuscripts of the Chronicle use Brytenwalda, whether it represents the original term or derives from a common error.

There is no evidence that the term Bretwalda was a title that had any practical use, with implications of powers and office, or even that it had any existence before the ninth-century chronicler. Bede wrote in Latin and never used the term, and his list of kings holding imperium should be treated with great caution, not least in that he overlooks kings such as Penda of Mercia who clearly held some kind of dominance in their time. Similar to Bretwaldas, the West Saxon chronicler ignores Mercian kings such as Offa. It is unlikely that there was a succession and defined duties, and it is doubtful whether the term Bretwalda is anything more than a later simplification of a complex structure of kingship.

Bretwalda is, therefore, a highly problematic term, and one which, if anything, was merely the attempt by the West Saxon chronicler to make some claim of West Saxon kings to the whole of Great Britain. This shows that the unity of Britain was at least recognised in the period, whatever was meant by the term. Quite possibly it was only a survival of a Roman concept of "Britain"; it is significant that, while the hyperbolic inscriptions of the kings often include the title rex Britanniae, when England was actually unified the title used was rex Angulsaxonum, king of the Anglo-Saxons.

Modern interpretation by historians
For some time the existence of the word Bretwalda in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle, which was based in part on the list given by Bede in his Historia Ecclesiastica, led historians to think that there was perhaps a "title" held by the kings of Great Britain. This was particularly attractive as it would lay the foundations for the establishment of an English monarchy. The twentieth-century historian Frank Stenton says of the Anglo-Saxon chronicler that "his inaccuracy is more than compensated by his preservation of the English title applied to these outstanding kings."[4] I argue that the term Bretwalda "falls into line with the other evidence which points to the Germanic origins of the earliest English institutions."

Over the later twentieth century this assumption was increasingly challenged. Patrick Wormald interprete
an objectively realized office than a subjectively perceived status" and emphasizes the partiality of its use of Southumbrian rulers.[5] In 1991, Steven Fanning argues, "It is unlikely that the term ever existed as a common usage in Anglo-Saxon England."[6] The fact that Bede never mentioned a special title for the king implies that he was unaware of one.[7] In 1995 Simon Keynes wrote, "If Bede's concept of the Southumbrian ruler and the chronicler's concept of the 'Bretwaldas', are to be regarded as artificial constructs, which have no existence outside the context of the literary works in which they appear, we are released from the assumptions about development which they seem to involve...we might ask whether kings in the eighth and ninth centuries were so obsessed with the establishment of a pan-Southumbrian state."[8]

Thus, more recent interpretations view the bretwaldaship as a complex concept. It is now recognized as an indicator of how a ninth-century chronicler interpreted history and tried to insert the West Saxon kings, rapidly expanding their power at the time, into that history.

Overlordship
What did exist was a complex array of dominance and subservience. Examples such as a king granting land in another kingdom, are a sure sign of such a relationship. When a king held sway over a larger kingdom such as a Mercian ruler over East Anglia, the relationship would have been more equal than in the case of a Mercian ruler exercising lordship over a smaller one, as in the case of Mercia and Hwicce. Mercia was arguably the most powerful Anglo-Saxon kingdom for much of the late seventh and eighth centuries, though Mercian kings are missed out of the two main lists. For Bede, Mercia was a traditional enemy of his native Northumbria, powerful Mercian kings such as Penda (a pagan) as standing in the way of the conversion of the Anglo-Saxons, and so does not include them in his list, even though it is evident that Penda held a considerable degree of power. Similarly, powerful Mercian kings such as Offa are missed out of the West Saxon Anglo-Saxon Chronicle, which sought to demonstrate the legitimacy of the West Saxon kings to rule over other Anglo-Saxon peoples.

Notes
3. From Bede, Historia ecclesiastica gentis Anglorum 2.5.

References

Other sources
Kings of the Isle of Wight

The Isle of Wight is a 147-square-mile (380 km²) island off the south coast of England. The first Kings of the Isle of Wight were recorded by St Bede in 512CE as Stuf and Wihtgar, the nephews of Cerdic, the founder of the Wessex dynasty, then known as the "Allies" or "Gewisse". However, the name for the "Men of Wight" was "Wihtwara" and their fort "Wihtwarasburgh". Hence it is conjectured (by Stenton, Yorke et al.) that Wihtgar was a made-up name to account for this. Although the dynasty has never been given a name, presumably they were named after their founder - as the kings of Kent and East Anglia were (the "Oiscings" and "Wuffings" respectively after Oisc and after Wuffa).

Hence the Isle of Wight dynasty may have been the "Stuffings". The subsequent kings are unknown until the final King, who died in 686CE. In 661CE Wulfhere of Mercia conquered Wessex and gave the overlordship to his godson, King Aethelwalh of Sussex and forced the Islanders to convert to Christianity. Upon Wulfhere’s departure the Island returned to paganism. The last Jutish King and the last pagan king in England was King Arwald, about which we only know that he was killed resisting the invasion by King Caedwalla of Wessex, under the tutelage of St. Wilfrid and that Caedwalla later died of his wounds sustained in action to Bede, Caedwalla "endeavoured to destroy all the inhabitants thereof" and replaced them with his own people. The only known survivor of the Jutes was Arwald's sister, whose name is unknown, but was at this time Ethelbert King of Kent, another Jute engaged in fighting off Caedwalla and his brother Mul. She was an ancestor of Alfred the Great.

After the Norman Conquest the Isle of Wight was given to the de Redvers family in 1101 who were known as "Lords of the Isle of Wight". However the last of them was Isabella de Fortibus (1237-1293) who was known as the Isle of Wight until her death. Upon her death bed she was visited by the King, Edward Longshanks, later "Edward I" who said that she had sold the Isle of Wight to him whilst on the point of death for 6,000 marks of silver. Henry VI had a favourite courtier named Henry Beauchamp, Duke of Warwick, to whom he gave the honorific title, or perhaps nickname would be more accurate, "King of the Isle of Wight" in 1444, although this does not appear to have entailed any other implication, and he died shortly after.

References
St. Bede "History of the English Church" Eddius Stephanus "Vita Dunstani" Oxford Biography Index. www.oxfordbiography/dnb.com/index/

Chronological List of the Kings of East Anglia

This is a chronological list of the monarchs of East Anglia, formally known as The Kingdom of the East Angles, the seven traditional kingdoms of the Anglo-Saxon Heptarchy. It was founded in the 6th century and ceased to be independent in 918, having been conquered by Wessex, another member of the Heptarchy.

Many of the dates of this time are considered unreliable, often being based on computation from known events, and is computed allowing all or part of the years 627, 628 and 629 to this interregnum or unknown reign.

The names are given in modern English form, followed by the names and titles (as far as is known) in contemporaneous Anglo-Saxon English and Latin, being the recorded languages of the time. Note that the title Rex Anglorum is used of Rædwald, and Rex Ang. (indeterminate, probably Anglorum) of Aethelstan and Eadmund in their coinage. This was a time when spellings varied widely, even within a document. A number of variations of the details below exist. Amongst these are the preference between þ and ð (voiceless and voiced th).

A character resembling '7' (the so-called Tironian et) was used as the ampersand '&' in contemporary Anglo-Saxon writings. The era pre-dates the emergence of forms of writing accepted today, notably minuscule, and the letters 'W' and 'U'. Where W was followed by U this was generally rendered as 'VV' (which was also used for 'W' alone). For a graphical chart of the first kings, see this family tree.

List of the Kings of the East Angles Reign Incumbent Contemporary title Notes ??? to ??
Wehha VVEHHA VVILHELMING ESTANGLE CYNINGVVHEHA REX ANGLORVM ORIENTALIVM 'The first East Angles' (Historia Britonum) ante 571 to 578 Wuffa VVFFA VVEHHING ESTANGLE CYNINGVVFF
ANGLORVM ORIENTALIVM Eponymous ancestor of the Wuffing dynasty, 'ruling' in 571 (Roger of Wenc 599 Tyttla TYFINTTYTTLA VVFINGTYTTLA REX ANGLORVM ORIENTALIVM 'Took up the helm of the kingdom (Wendover) 599 to 624 Rædwald RÆDVVALD TYTTLING ESTANGLE CYNINGRÆDVVALD REX ANGLORVM ORIENTALIVM Imperium; Rex Anglorum (Bede). Bretwalda (Anglo-Saxon Chronicle). 617 to 618 Eni EN ESTANGLE CYNINGENI REX ANGLORVM ORIENTALIVM not known to have reigned c.624 to c.627 Eorp EORPVVALD RÆDVVALDING ESTANGLE CYNINGEORPVVALD REX ANGLORVM ORIENTALIVM Murde Ricberht. c.627 to c.629 Ricberht RICBRYHT REX ANGLORVM ORIENTALIVM not known to have reigned Sigeberht SIEVBRYHT RÆDVVALDING ESTANGLE CYNING SIEVBRYHT REX ANGLORVM ORIENTALIVM with Ecgric; abdicat; Slain in battle; Saint Sigeberht. Son or Stepson of Rædwald. ante 634 to ?636 Ecgric ESTANGLE CYNINGECGRIC REX ANGLORVM ORIENTALIVM Slain in battle; kinsman of Sigeberhtprest Rædwald or Eni. 636 to 654 Anna ANNA ENING ESTANGLE CYNINGANNA REX ANGLORVM ORIENTALI battle 654 to 15 November 654 Æthelhere ÆÞELHERE ENING ESTANGLE CYNINGÆÞELHERE REX ANGLORVM ORIENTALIVM late 654 to 664 Æthelwold ÆÞELVWOLD ENING ESTANGLE CYNINGÆÞELVWOLD REX ANGLORVM ORIENTALIVM 663 or 664 to 713 Ealdwulf EALDVVLF ESTANGLE CYNINGEALDVVLF REX ANGLORVM ORIENTALIVM c.713 to 749 Ælfwulf ÆLFVVALD ENING ESTANGLE CYNINGÆLFVVALD REX ANGLORVM ORIENTALIVM 749 to ANGLORVM ORIENTALIVM Joint ruler (possibly mythic) 749 to c.760 Beorna BEORN CYNRex ANGLORVM ORIENTALIVM Joint king 749 to ?Æthelberht ALBERHT ANGLORVM ORIENTALIVM Joint ruler; also known as Æthelberht I ;c.760 to ?c.779 Æthelred I ÆÞELRED CYN TANGÆÞELRED REX ANGLORVM ORIENTALIVM Possibly mythic ?779 to ?Æthelberht II ÆÞELBRYHT ANGLORVM ORIENTALIVM Saint Æthelbert. Executed at the command of Offa Mercian Dynasty c.760 to ?ICFRIPING MIERCNA 7 ESTANGLE CYNINGOFFA REX MERCIA ET ANGLIÆ ORIENTALISOFFA REX. Held dominion over East Angles East Anglian Dynasty after 794 to ?Æthelred EADVLF CYNINGEADVLF REX ANGLORVM ORIENTALIVM Mercian Dynasty c.796 to 821 Coenwulf COENVVLF CYNINGCOENVVLF REX MERCIA ET ANGLIÆ ORIENTALIS Held dominion over East Angles Ceolwulf COELVVLF MIERCNA 7 ESTANGLE CYNING COELVVLF REX MERCIA ET ANGLIÆ ORIENTALIS Held dominion over East Angles 823 to 826 Beornwulf BEORNVVLF MIERCNA 7 ESTANGLE CYNINGBEORN MERCIA ET ANGLIÆ ORIENTALIS Held dominion over East Angles 827 to 876 Oswald OSVVALD MIERCNA 7 ESTANGLE CYNINGOAESTANGLE CYNINGOSVVALD REX ANGLIÆ ORIENTALIS Martyred; Saint Edmund. Styled Rex Anglorum (coins) Sub-kings under Norse Suzerainty 870 to 876 Oswald OSVVALD E CYNINGOSVVALD REX ANGLIÆ ORIENTALIS Died 876 876 to 879 Æthelred II ÆÞELRED CYN TANGÆÞELRED REX ANGLIÆ ORIENTALIS Killed in battle December 902 902 to 916 Guthrum II GUTHRUM CYNINGGUTHRUM REX ANGLIÆ ORIENTALIS Killed in battle 916 After 917, East Anglia was under the rule of Wessex, with subsequent rulers downgraded to the status of Anglia.

Wuffing Dynasty
The Wuffings Dynasty

The Wuffings were the ruling dynasty of East Anglia. They took their name from the early East Anglian king Wuffa. Due to the strong Scandinavian connections revealed in their graves at Sutton Hoo, (Newton 1993) has argued that they were probably a branch of the Geatish Wulfing dynasty.

The following family tree includes all kings of East Anglia from 560 until 749 except for the usurper Ricberht.

After 749 East Anglia was ruled either by the Mercians or by kings whose genealogy is not known at all.

Bibliography

Newton, S., 1993. The Origins of Beowulf and the Pre-Viking Kingdom of East Anglia. Cambridge

http://www.wuffings.co.uk/

References
Fictional Army Regiments

The South Essex Regiment, later the Prince of Wales' Own Volunteers, is a fictional infantry regiment in the British Army that was created by Bernard Cornwell in the Sharpe series of books.

It first appeared in Sharpe's Eagle, commanded by Colonel Sir Henry Simmerson. Sharpe was transferred to the South Essex when his previous regiment, the 95th Rifles, was withdrawn back to England, and made a captain shortly after the battle of Valdelacasa in which the South Essex and the Spanish Regimen de Santa Maria were mauled by French cavalry. In this action, the South Essex lost the King's and the regimental Colours and the Regimen de Santa Maria lost both of its colours as well. However, Sharpe recaptured the South Essex's Colours and so recovered some honour. Simmerson tried to ruin Sharpe's career (and save himself) by blaming the loss of the Colours on Sharpe.

After Simmerson showed ill judgement and cowardice at the Battle of Talavera (where Sharpe captured Imperial Eagle, which then went on to be displayed on the regiment's Colours), Colonel William Lawford, an old friend of Sharpe's, took command. Lawford was wounded soon after and the South Essex went through colonels.
In Sharpe's Regiment, the South Essex is renamed the Prince of Wales' Own Volunteers (in reality, the Prince of Wales' Volunteers was (or is) the South Lancashire Regiment). When the regiment returns to Spain it is commanded by Colonel Bartholomew Girdwood, who suffers a breakdown during an attack into French soil. Sharpe takes command soon after, and Colonel Joseph Ford takes command. The regiment does not appear again until Waterloo, where Sharpe and Sergeant Patrick Harper save the regiment from the advance of Napoleon's Old Guard at the end of the battle, where Sharpe is finally given command of the regiment by the Duke of Wellington.

**Battle honours**
This is a rough list of battle honours that it is likely the regiment would have gained during the Sharpe Series:
- Talavera, 1809,
- Busaco, 1810,
- Ciudad Rodrigo, 1812,
- Badajoz, 1812,
- Salamanca, 1812,
- Vittoria, 1813,
- Pyrenees, 1813,
- Toulouse, 1814,
- Peninsular, 1808-1814,
- Waterloo, 1815.

The regiment's fate after Waterloo is unknown. It is likely to have been disbanded due to its high regimental number (this is stated in the Sharpe Companion) but it could have been merged with the 44th Regiment of Foot Essex which lost many men at Quatre Bras. In the latter case it would have become the Essex Regiment under the Cardwell Reforms and the battalion carrying its traditions would have been disbanded and the honours continued. This is of course speculation, but there are several similarities between the East and South Essex - both captured French Imperial Eagles, both have yellow coat facings, and they share a county designation.

**Regimental Colonels**
This is a rough list of the colonels of the regiment described in the books and the period they served as colonel. There are gaps where colonels are not known in the books. The Prince Regent, later George IV was the colonel in chief and added his patronage in 1813.
- Sir Henry Simmerson (1809) was the first Colonel, raised the regiment and led it on its first campaign. Relieved from command by the next colonel,
- William Lawford (1809-1812) who commanded the regiment during the Portugal campaign before being wounded at Ciudad Rodrigo. The regiment would then be commanded by a former staff officer of General Sir Thomas Picton, Colonel Windham from the siege and storming of Badajoz until his death shortly before the Battle of Salamanca (1812). It is then commanded by the American expatriate
- Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Leroy until his death at the Battle of Vitoria (1813).
- Lieutenant Colonel Bartholomew Girdwood would then assume command of the now renamed Prince of Wales' Own Volunteers until his mental breakdown at the Battle of the Nivelle (1813).
- Sharpe would be in effective command until the French capitulation at the Battle of Toulouse (1814).

The regiment is reformed after Napoleon's escape from Elba and the resumption of hostilities and is commanded by
- Lieutenant Colonel Joseph Ford until his mental collapse under fire at Waterloo, where Wellington gives him command of the regiment to Sharpe where they assist in defeating the Old Guard.

**List of fictional British regiments**
The following is a list of British and Empire regiments that have appeared in various works of fiction.

**British Regiments**

**Numbered United Kingdom Regiments**
- 3rd Foot and Mouth Regiment ("The Devils in Skirts") (A Highland Regiment mentioned in Carry On up the Khyber 1968 film.
- 3rd Regular Army Deserters,
- 3rd Disgusting Fusiliers,
3rd Armoured Thunderboxes, and 3rd Mounted NAAFI are examples of the regiments that Major Bloodnok (played by Peter Sellers of The Goon Show) claimed to have served with.

6th Light Dragoons (A Close Run Thing by Allan Mallinson) 27th Lancers (The Charge of the Light Brigade 1936 film) later a real regiment

114th Queen’s Own Royal Strathspeys [The James Ogilvie books] by Philip McCutchan aka Duncan MacNeil (also repeated below)

117th Foot ("The Royal Mallows") (An Irish regiment mentioned in The Adventure of the Crooked Man and The Green Flag by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. A real regiment that only existed from 1761 to 1796, sans nickname).

**Named regiments**

The Bedford Light Infantry (Red Cap BBC-1 TV series 2001-2004)
The Black Boneens A rival Irish regiment mentioned in "The Mutiny of the Mavericks" by Rudyard Kipling.
The Black Tyrone An Irish regiment serving in India mentioned in "The Ballad of Boh da Thone" by Rudyard Kipling.
Bombardier Guards (The Book of Snobs by William Makepeace Thackeray; Put Out More Flags by Evelyn Waugh)
Caledonian Highlanders (Bonnie Scotland 1935 film {Laurel and Hardy})
The Cumbrians (Duke of Rutland's Own) (Soldier Soldier TV series 1991-1997)
The Derbyshire Regiment (Red Cap BBC-1 TV Series 2001-2004)
The Dragons (Heathercrest National Service Depot) Regiment (Carry On Sergeant 1958 film {Carry On films})
Duke of Buckingham's Light Infantry ("The Sky Blues") (Gideon’s Sword Bearers by John Mackenzie (author))
Duke of Clarence’s Own Clanranald Highlanders ("The Inverness-shire Greens") (The Monarch of the Glen by Compton Mackenzie)
The Duke of Glendon’s Light Infantry (The ‘Dogs’) (The Way Ahead 1944 Film)
The Fore and Fit Princess Hohenzollern-Sigmaringen-Anspach’s Merther-Tydfilshire Own Royal Loyal Regimental District 329 A ("The Fore and Aft" Regiment) ("Drums of the Fore and Aft" by Rudyard Kipling)
The King's Own Fusiliers (Soldier Soldier TV series 1991-1997)
Lennox Highlanders (Richard Hannay's regiment in the works of John Buchan)
Jackboot Guards (The Book of Snobs by William Makepeace Thackeray)
Life Guards Greens (various novels by William Makepeace Thackeray)
The nickname of the short-lived Horse-Grenadier Troops of the Life Guards. Light Armoured Brigade (Thursday Next novels by Jasper Fforde)
Loamshire Regiment (Bulldog Drummond by "Sapper")
Royal Loamshire Regiment (A fictitious regiment used in British Army texts and manuals as an example. 1st Battalion, The Loamshire Regiment (The Life and Death of Colonel Blimp 1943 film) 5th Battalion, The Loamshire Regiment (Men at Arms by Evelyn Waugh)
Lord Sempill’s Highland Regiment (A unit that mutinied mentioned in Gideon's Swordbearers by John Buchan)
The Malvern Regiment (Carry On Sergeant 1958 film {Carry On films})
Northdale Rifles (The Mark of Cain 2007 TV film)
Queen’s Own McKamikaze Highlanders (Monty Python’s Flying Circus TV comedy series)
114th Queen’s Own Royal Strathspeys [The James Ogilvie books] by Philip McCutchan aka Duncan MacNeil (also repeated above)

Queen's Own West Mercian Lowlanders (Fairly Secret Army TV comedy series)
Royal Cambrian Fusiliers (Red Cap BBC-1 TV Series 2001-2004)
Royal Corps of Halberdiers (The Sword of Honour Trilogy by Evelyn Waugh)
Royal Cumbrian Regiment (The Four Feathers by A.E.W. Mason)
The Royal Loyal Musketeers ("The Mavericks") An Irish regiment mentioned in "Kim" and "The Mutiny of the Mavericks" by Rudyard Kipling
Royal North Surrey Regiment (The Four Feathers 1939 Film) Royal Wessex Rangers (Spearhead British TV series 1978-1981)
South Essex Regiment/Prince of Wales' Own Volunteers (Richard Sharpe's regiment in the Sharpe series by Cornwell)
Weald Light Infantry (Now God be Thanked trilogy by John Masters).
Wessex Guards (Pigeon Pie by Nancy Mitford)
Wessex Fusiliers (Alms for Oblivion - a series of novels by Simon Raven)
Wessex Light Tank Armoured Brigade (The Well of Lost Plots by Jasper Fforde)

The White Hussars "The Rout of the White Hussars" by Rudyard Kipling

**British Empire Regiments**
1st Bangalore Pioneers (Colonel Sebastian Moran’s old Indian Army regiment in The Adventure of the Empty House by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle)
12th Gurkha Rifles (Colonel Arbuthnot’s regiment in Murder on the Orient Express by Agatha Christie)
12th Indian Lancers (Major Duncan Bleek’s regiment in Terror by Night 1946 film [Sherlock Holmes]).
19th/45th East African Rifles (Captain Blackadder’s old colonial regiment before the war in Blackadder)
34th Bombay Infantry (Major John Sholto’s regiment in The Sign of Four by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle)
77th Bengal Lancers (Tales of the 77th Bengal Lancers American TV show 1956-1957).

**Special Operations Units**
Internal Counter-Intelligence Service UNIT audio dramas by Big Finish set in the (Doctor Who) universe (Doctor Who)
Red Troop, 22nd Special Air Service Regiment (Ultimate Force TV series 2002-2006)

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**Bernard Cornwell**

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**Rifle**

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**Sharpe Music**
Over the Hills and Far Away

The Album: Sharpe's Music to the Television Series

*Over the Hills & Far Away: The Music of Sharpe* was released in 1996 as a companion to the Sharpe television series. The recording features performances by various artists, including British folk musicians John Tams (who played a supporting role in the series and wrote or arranged much of its music) and Kate Rusby, composer Dominic Muldowney, and The Band and Bugles of the Light Division, performing traditional songs along with some original music from the programmes.

**Track listing**

"The Overture" a) "Sharpe’s Theme" b) "Prelude" (Dominic Muldowney/John Tams, words trad.) featuring Sean Bean) – 2:48
"I’m Ninety Five" (Trad.) performed by The Band and Bugles of the Light Division – :50
"Over the Hills and Far Away" (Trad./Tams) performed by Tams – 3:49
"The Spanish Sword" (Muldowney) – 1:30
"Rogue’s March" – (Trad.) performed by Tams/Barry Coope - :33
"The Collier Recruit" (Trad., arranged by Kate Rusby/John McCusker) performed by Rusby – 4:17
"The Bird in the Bush/The Colors" (Trad./Tams/Muldowney) performed by Tams/Moscow Symphony Orchestra/Muldowney – 3:52
"The Spanish Bride" (Tams) performed by Tams – 6:57
"The Shilling" (Muldowney) – 2:00
"Gentleman Soldier" (Trad., arranged by Tams/Roger Wilson) performed by Tams – .35
"Bugle Call/Moneymusk" (Trad.) performed by The Band and Bugles of the Light Division – :51
"Broken-Hearted I Will Wander" (Trad. arranged by Rusby/McCusker) performed by Rusby – 2:11 "Badajoz" (Muldowney) - 3:58
"The Rambling Soldier" (Trad./Tams/Coope) performed by Tams/Coope - 1:43
"The Huntsman's Chorus/The Italian Song" (Trad.) performed by The Band and Bugles of the Light Division
"Johnny is Gone for a Soldier" (Trad.) performed by Tams - 3:26
"The Forlorn Hope" (Muldowney) - 2:05
"Love Farewell" (Trad./Tams) performed by Tams - 3:09 "Sunset" (Trad.) The Band and Bugles of the Light Division - 1:38
"Sharpe’s Song/Sharpe’s Theme" (Trad./Muldowney/Tams) - 1:39

**References**

http://www.contemplator.com/england/faraway.html
http://www.warof1812.ca/songs.htm

Sharpe Song: Over the Hills and Far Away (Traditional)

"Over the Hills and Far Away" is a traditional English song, dating back to at least the early 1700s. One version of the song was recorded on the album "Over the Hills & Far Away: The Music of Sharpe."
published in Thomas D'Urfey's Pills to Purge Melancholy in 1706, a very different one appeared in Geo
Farquhar's play The Recruiting Officer. A version also appears in John Gay's The Beggar's Opera of 1728.
The words have changed over the years, as can be seen in the versions below. The only consistent elem
versions is the title line and the tune. D'Urfey's and Gay's versions both refer to lovers, while Farquhar'
refers to fleeing overseas to join the army. The tune was provided with another set of lyrics for the Sharp
based on Farquhar's version. This version was also recorded by John Tams who played Dan Hagman in
The nursery rhyme "Tom, Tom, the Piper's Son" mentions a piper who knows only one tune, this one. "
and Far Away" is also the name of a novel by Candida Lycett Green (2002).

War memorials
The Royal Military College of Canada Memorial Arch includes the text "Hark now the drums beat up ag
 Soldiers Gentlemen" on the inside top right face.

D'Urfey lyrics
Jocky met with Jenny fair
Aft by the dawning of the day;
But Jockey now is fu' of care
Since Jenny staw his heart away.
Altho' she promis'd to be true
She proven has, alake! unkind
Which gars poor Jockey aften rue
That e'er he loo'd a fickle mind.
Tis o'er the hills and far away
Since that she will nae pity take
I maun gae wander for her sake
And, in ilk wood and gloomy grove
I'll, sighing, sing," Adieu to love.
Since she is fause whom I adore
I'll never trust a woman more;
Frae a' their charms I'll flee away
And on my pipes I'll sweetly play,
" O'er hills and dales and far away
O'er hills and dales and far away
O'er hills and dales and far away
The wind has blawn my plad (sic) away.

George Farquhar lyrics
A version of the lyrics by George Farquhar for his play The Recruiting Officer from 1706.

Our 'prentice Tom may now refuse
To wipe his scoundrel Master's Shoes,
For now he's free to sing and play
Over the Hills and far away.
Over the Hills and O'er the Main,
To Flanders, Portugal and Spain,
The queen commands and we'll obey
Over the Hills and far away.
We all shall lead more happy lives
By getting rid of brats and wives
That scold and bawl both night and day -
Over the Hills and far away.
Over the Hills and O’er the Main,
To Flanders, Portugal and Spain,
The queen commands and we’ll obey
Over the Hills and far away.

Courage, boys, 'tis one to ten,
But we return all gentlemen
All gentlemen as well as they,
Over the hills and far away.
Over the Hills and O’er the Main,
To Flanders, Portugal and Spain,
The queen commands and we’ll obey
Over the Hills and far away.

**John Gay lyrics**

In *The Beggar’s Opera* the song is a duet between the antihero Macheath and his lover Polly. It is a romantic dream of escape, with no military references.

MACHEATH: Were I laid on Greenland’s Coast, And in my Arms embrac’d my Lass; Warm amidst eternal Frost, Too soon the Half Year’s Night would pass.
POLLY: Were I sold on Indian Soil, Soon as the burning Day was clos’d, I could mock the sultry Toil When on my Charmer’s Breast repos’d.

MACHEATH: And I would love you all the Day,
POLLY: Every Night would kiss and play,
MACHEATH: If with me you’d fondly stray
POLLY: Over the Hills and far away

http://www.sharpe.ucoz.ru/

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**Saxon Soldiers**

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**Anglo-Saxon Warfare**

The period of Anglo-Saxon warfare spans the 5th Century C.E. to the 11th in England. Its technology and tactics resemble those of other European cultural areas of the Early Middle Ages. There are extant contemporary descriptions of some Anglo-Saxon battles. Of particular relevance are the poems recounting the battles of Brunanburh, fought in 937 C.E. and Maldon, fought in 991 C.E.
In the literature, most of the references to weapons and fighting concern the use of javelins. The typical battle-development involved both sides forming shield walls to protect against the launching of missiles, and standing slightly out of range of each other. Then, individual warriors would run forward from the shield wall to gain velocity for their javelin throws. This made them vulnerable due to their being exposed, having left the protection of the shield wall, and there was a chance of being killed by a counter throw from the other side. The disciplined volley-throwing of javelins, followed by an immediate charge home as practiced by the Romans seems not to have been common, likely due to the non-professional, levied nature of armies of the time. This is epitomized in the following excerpt:

So then did Aethelgar’s child enbolden them all, Godric to battle. Often he sent forth spears, deadly shaft sped away onto the Vikings thus he on this people went out in front of battle, cutting down and smiting, until he too on the battlefield perished.

(Battle of Maldon. 320-4.)

If killed in the 'no man's land', someone from the other side might rush out to retrieve the valuable arm weapons, such as extra javelins, sword, shield and so on from the corpse. The one best positioned to retrieve the body was often the thrower of the fatal javelin as he had run forward of his shield wall too in order to make his throw. Exposing himself like this, and even more so during his attempt to retrieve the slain's gear, was a great mark of bravery and could result in much valuable personal gain, not only in terms of his professional career as a retainer, but also in material wealth if the equipment were worth a lot.

Due to the very visible and exposed nature of these javelin-throwing duels, we have some detailed descriptions which have survived, such as the following passage. The first part describes thrown javelin duels, and the latter part describes fighting over the corpses' belongings.

Advanced again to fierce battle, weapons raised up, shields to defense, and towards these warriors they stepped. Resolute they approached Earl to the lowest Yeoman: each of them intent on harm for the enemy. Sent then a sea-warrior a spear of southern make that wounded the warrior lord. He thrust then with his shield such that the spear shaft burst as it sprang in reply. Enraged became that warrior: with anger he stabbed that proud man who had given him that wound. Experienced was that warrior; he threw his spear forward through the warrior's neck, his hand guiding so that he this ravager's life would fatally pierce. Then he with another stab speedily pierced the raw chainmail coat broke: this man had a breast wound cut through the linked rings; through his heart stuck a deadly spear. Enraged became that warrior: with anger he stabbed that proud man who had given him that wound. Experienced was that warrior; he threw his spear forward through the warrior's neck, his hand guiding so that he this ravager's life would fatally pierce. Then he with another stab speedily pierced the raw chainmail coat broke: this man had a breast wound cut through the linked rings; through his heart stuck a deadly spear. Enraged became that warrior: with anger he stabbed that proud man who had given him that wound. Experienced was that warrior; he threw his spear forward through the warrior's neck, his hand guiding so that he this ravager's life would fatally pierce. Then he with another stab speedily pierced the raw chainmail coat broke: this man had a breast wound cut through the linked rings; through his heart stuck a deadly spear. Enraged became that warrior: with anger he stabbed that proud man who had given him that wound. Experienced was that warrior; he threw his spear forward through the warrior's neck, his hand guiding so that he this ravager's life would fatally pierce. Then he with another stab speedily pierced the raw chainmail coat broke: this man had a breast wound cut through the linked rings; through his heart stuck a deadly spear. Enraged became that warrior: with anger he stabbed that proud man who had given him that wound. Experienced was that warrior; he threw his spear forward through the warrior's neck, his hand guiding so that he this ravager's life would fatally pierce. Then he with another stab speedily pierced the raw chainmail coat broke: this man had a breast wound cut through the linked rings; through his heart stuck a deadly spear.

The Earl was the better pleased: laughed then this great man of spirit, thanking the Creator for the day's work which the Lord had given him. And so then another warrior a spear from the other side flew out of hand, which deeply struck through the noble Aethelred's retainer. To him by his side stood a young man not fully grown, a youth on the battlefield, Wulfstan's child, Wulfmaer the younger; and so with blinding speed came the shaft in reply. The spear penetrated, for that who on the Earth now lay among his people, the one who had sorely pierced. Went then armed a man to this Earl; he desirous of this warrior's belongings to take off with, booty and rings and an ornamental sword. Then Byrhtnoth drew his sword from its sheath broad and bright of blade, and then struck the man's coat of mail. But too soon he was prevented by a certain sea-scavenger, and then the Earl's arm was wounded. Fall then to the ground with his gold-hilted sword: his grip unable to hold the heavy sword, or wield the weapon.

(Battle of Maldon. 130-58.)

Sometimes individuals or groups fighting over bodies might come to sword blows between the two shield walls. At close quarters, swords and shields were preferred over thrusting spears. Ideally, however, enough damage was done to the enemy through the launching of missiles, so that any shield-to-shield fighting would be a mopping-up operation rather than an exhausting and risky push back and forth at close quarters.

However, when there were fewer javelins handy to throw or to throw back at the enemy, and no side had fled, the battle could come to close order combat with sword and shield.

The shield was used as much for offense as the sword was, to unbalance and push the opponent down, vulnerable to being stabbed, kicked and cut, and to thereby open a breach in the shield wall exposing the opponent’s shield boss, and striking or stabbing the enemy's unprotected back with one’s sword.

Understanding how battles were fought also helps us to understand why excelling in certain sports was
the mark of a valuable retainer or war leader. Sports like running, jumping, throwing spears, and unbalancing people (i.e. wrestling) were all critical skills for combat. Heroes like the legendary Beowulf are described as champions in such athletic events.

Anglo-Saxon military organization is difficult to analyze. This is because there are many contrasting records and debates by modern historians as to the precise occurrences and procedures. Anglo-Saxon England is known for its tumultuous nature and the constant presence of outside threats and dangers made it necessary for a solid military to constantly be in place. Even though there is some controversy as to the accurate forms of military organization, one is able to deduce some aspects of from the records that have been preserved. Though the military organization has been lost, it is still very prominent in Anglo-Saxon society.

**Tactics and Strategies**

There were many tactics and strategies that were used. There was a division between armies who fought on land and those who fought on sea. In some instances, the two would combine their efforts to provide a more effective defense against approaching armies. In this instance, the water-borne fyrd would strategically place their seamen on the shore or would arm themselves to provide a suitable defense towards the oncoming attackers.

Anglo-Saxon land battle tactics have also spawned much debate. The conflict lies in how the armies fought. Some historians believe that horses were used, though most argue that the battles took place on foot. Infantry battles are reported in many texts from the period, though it is also written. The strength of the Anglo-Saxon army is another issue which cannot be agreed upon by scholars. Some argue that the army was weak and only used infantry as a means of defense and battle; whereas others believe the army was much more powerful, employing both infantry and cavalry. The former argument suggests that the infantry did not have very much power. The Anglo-Saxons did not carry many strong weapons, but they did as their early literature relates. Also, only some of the men who were sent to battle (specifically the select fyrd) were actually trained to fight. Because of this a lot of Anglo-Saxon fighting is seen as having been disorganized and fruitless.

There are some battles in which scholars generally agree on which tactics and methods were used. The Battle of Hastings, in 1066, demonstrates some interesting military tactics. At Hastings, the soldiers were organized in a tightly packed wall, protecting the areas behind them. Though this seems like a rather ineffective method rather effective at repelling the Norman Cavalry. This strategy was also used in the battle of Sherston in 1016, with a slight difference. Instead of simply standing in a solitary position, the army moved to the opposition with a large solid group. They moved very slowly and managed to maintain their formation while advancing on the enemy. This tactic was further developed and used in the crusades. The same procedure would take place, however there was a slight difference: instead of simply standing in a solitary position, the army moved to the opposite point in the advance; a hole would open in the wall of soldiers to allow a charge of cavalry to attack the opposition. Military tactics did develop gradually throughout the Anglo-Saxon period. Though there is debate as to how efficient the soldiers and the fighting was, it is clear that as the ages progressed, so to did the strength and intelligence of the army.

**Primary Sources**

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**References**

The Battle of Ashdown, when irradiated with an infrared laser, the concept of political conflict monotonously represents an image.