



bernard cornwell



We come together to aid our reading Bernard Cornwell's and we can find background information on places and characters that are in the context of the novel.

Sunday, 20 September 2009

The Battle of Ashdown

Bernard Cornwell



Author

Bernard Cornwell: Bio (short)

Bernard Cornwell OBE (born 1944) is an English author of historical fiction novels. He is best known for his novels about Napoleonic Wars riflemen, the Sharpe series which were adapted into television films.

Biography

Cornwell was born in London. His father was a Canadian airman and his mother was English, a member of the



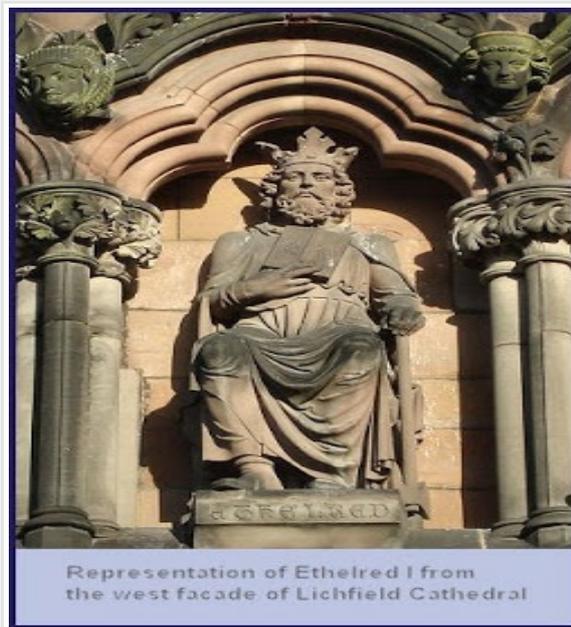
The Battle of Ashdown, in Berkshire (possibly the part now in Oxfordshire), took place on 8 January 871.

Alfred the Great

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.

King Ethelred

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.



Representation of Ethelred I from the west facade of Lichfield Cathedral

Women's Auxiliary Air Force. He was adopted and brought up in the Es Wiggins family, who were members of the Peculiar People, a strict Protestant sect. He was a pacifist and was banned from frivolity and even medicine. After he left the army, he changed his name to his mother's name, Cornwell.

Cornwell was sent away to Marlborough School, attended the University of London and after graduating, worked for the BBC. He attempted to enlist in the Royal Air Force but was rejected on the grounds of military service. He then joined BBC's National News and was promoted to become head of news at BBC Northern Ireland. He then worked for Thames Television as editor of News.[1] He relocated to the United States in 1980 after marrying an American. To get a Green Card, he started working for the FBI as this did not require a work permit. As a child, Cornwell loved the works of J.R.R. Tolkien. He was a forester, chronicling the adventures of a fictional British naval officer, Horatio Hornblower during the Napoleonic Wars, and was surprised to find that his readers were such novelists following Lord Wellington's campaign on land. Motivated by the success of the support he received in the U.S. through his novels, Cornwell decided to write such novels. He named his chief protagonist Richard Sharpe, a rifleman involved in most of the novels set during the Peninsular War.

Cornwell wanted to start the series with the Siege of Badajoz but decided instead to start with a couple of "warm-up" novels. The first two were Sharpe's Eagle and Sharpe's Company, both published in 1981.[2] Sharpe's Eagle was picked up by a publisher, and he got a three-book deal. He wrote the story of Badajoz in his third novel, Sharpe's Company, published by Cornwell and wife Judy co-wrote the first two novels, published under the pseudonym "Susannah Kells". These were Mercy, published in 1983, Fall of the House of Sharpe in 1984, and Coat of Arms (aka The Redcoat) in 1986. (Cornwell's strict Protestant upbringing informed the background of the novel, the English Civil War.) He also wrote Redcoat, an American Revolutionary War novel set in Philadelphia during the American Revolution.



Reading Minster

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.



Blowing Stone 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



'Æsced n' 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 1800. After publishing 8 books in his Richard Sharpe series, Cornwell was approached by a production company interested in adapting them for television. Cornwell was asked him to write a prequel to the series. This was the starting point to the series. The first book requested that the story feature a mix of Spanish characters to secure a market from Spain. The result was *Sharpe's Company* published in 1987 and a series of television films starring Sean Bean. A series of contemporary thrillers followed, including *Sailing as a Background* and *Crackdown* in 1990, *Stormchaser* in 1991, and a political thriller called *Scourge* in 1992. In June 2006, Cornwell was made a member of the Order of the British Empire. Queen's 80th Birthday Honours. Cornwell's latest work is titled *Sharpe's Tiger* and was released in the UK in 2007. 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 Moulton from The Grail Quest or any other

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 *Sharpe's Tiger*) sometimes published as *Sharpe's Company* detail Sharpe's adventures in the Peninsular War campaigns over a period of 12 years. Subsequently, Cornwell wrote a prequel trilogy - *Sharpe's Tiger*, *Sharpe's Triumph*, and *Sharpe's Fort* - which detail Sharpe's adventures under Wellington's command in India, including his promotion to the officer corps. He also wrote *Sharpe's Battle*, which is "inserted" into his previous work, taking place during the Battle of Oñoro. Cornwell was initially approached about the casting of Sean Bean for 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 the Sharpe's Battle to him, and had that he subtly changed the writer's character to align with Bean's. The following is the correct 'h order, although they are all stories:

Sharpe's Tiger: Richard Sharpe's Siege of Seringapatam, 1799

Sharpe's Triumph: Richard Sharpe's Battle of Assaye, September 1803

Sharpe's Fortress: Richard Sharpe's Siege of Gawilghur, December 1803

Sharpe's Trafalgar: Richard Sharpe's Battle of Trafalgar, October 1805

Sharpe's Prey: Richard Sharpe's Expedition to Copenhagen, 1807

Sharpe's Rifles: Richard Sharpe's French Invasion of Galicia, January 1808

Sharpe's Havoc: Richard Sharpe's Campaign in Northern Portugal, 1809

Sharpe's Eagle: Richard Sharpe's Talavera Campaign, July 1809

Sharpe's Gold: Richard Sharpe's Destruction of Almeida, August 1810

Sharpe's Escape: Richard Sharpe's Bussaco Campaign, 1810

Sharpe's Fury: Richard Sharpe's Battle of Barrosa, March 1811

Sharpe's Battle: Richard Sharpe's Battle of Fuentes de Oñoro, March 1811

Sharpe's Company: The Siege of Ciudad Rodrigo, January to April 1812

Sharpe's Sword: Richard Sharpe's Salamanca Campaign, June 1812

Sharpe's Skirmish (short story): Richard Sharpe and the defence of the Lines of Torres Vedras, August 1812

Sharpe's Enemy: Richard Sharpe's Defense of Portugal, Christmas 1812

Sharpe's Honour: Richard Sharpe's Vitoria Campaign, February to March 1813

Sharpe's Regiment: Richard Sharpe's Invasion of France, June to November 1813

Sharpe's Christmas (short story): Richard Sharpe's Siege of Ciudad Rodrigo, 1814

Sharpe's Siege: Richard Sharpe's Winter Campaign, 1814

Sharpe's Revenge: Richard Sharpe's Peace of 1814

Sharpe's Waterloo: Richard Sharpe's Waterloo Campaign, 15 to 18 June 1815

Sharpe's Ransom (short story): Richard Sharpe's Ransom

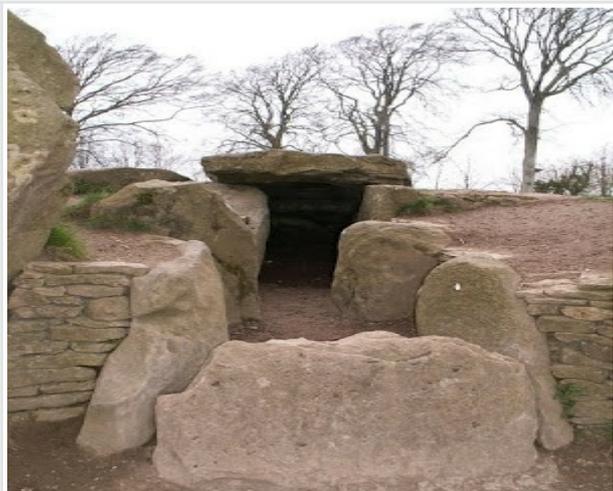
Sharpe's Christmas) Sharpe's Christmas

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.

Sharpe and the Emperor, 1820

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 Virginia regiment, the Faulconer Legion. The last novel in the series has been *The Blood of the South*, taking place during the Antietam campaign. Cornwell has said that he plans to write more Starbuck novels, but has not yet.

The Warlord Chronicles

A trilogy depicting Cornwell's re-creation of Arthurian Britain. The first, *The Warlord*, postulates that Post-Roman Britain was a difficult time for the native Britons, threatened by invasion from the Saxons in the East and raids from the Vikings in the West. At the same time, there were internal power struggles between the various kingdoms and friction between the old Druidic religion and newly-arriving Christianity.

The Grail Quest novels

A trilogy that deals with a medieval quest for the Holy Grail during the Hundred Years' War. An English knight, Thomas of Hookton, becomes the quester by the actions of a mercenary soldier called "The Harlequin" who murders Thomas's family in his obsessive search for the Grail. Cornwell was planning at one time to write more books about the main character, Thomas of Hookton, and said after finishing *Heretic* he had decided to stop it - mainly because I didn't want to get too much from him. What I 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

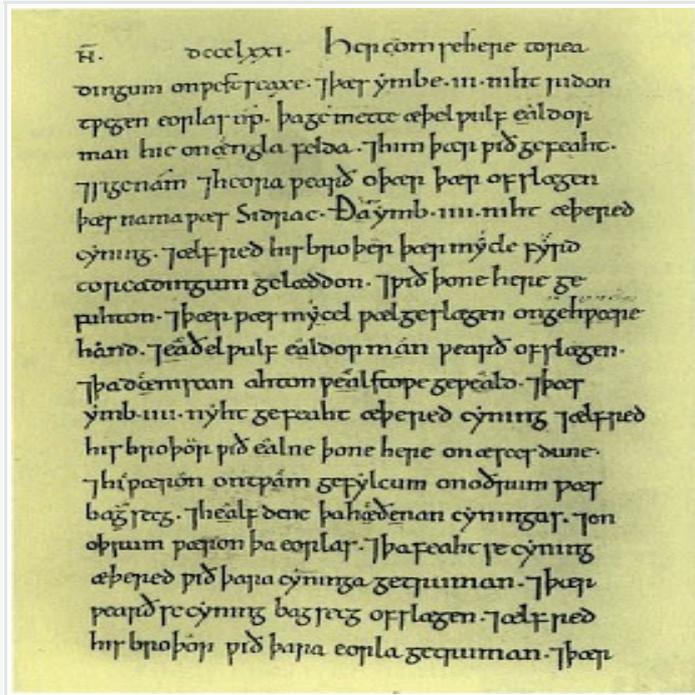
during the 9th-century reign of King Alfred the Great, his fierce opposition to the Danes (Vikings), and his determination to unite England as one country. According to the series board, the series will not be a medieval work, but will have sequels: "I'm not sure how many there will be - perhaps seven? maybe eight." The latest in the series, titled *The Land*, is likely to be released in October 2009 and January 2010.

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- 1982 - *Sharpe's Company*
- 1983 - *Sharpe's Sword*, *Sharpe's Rifles*, *A Crowning Mercy*
- 1984 - *Fallen Angels*
- 1985 - *Sharpe's Honour*
- 1986 - *Sharpe's Regiment and the Aristocrats* (aka *The Aristocrats*)
- 1987 - *Sharpe's Siege and the Redcoat*
- 1988 - *Sharpe's Rifles and the Wild Hunt*
- 1989 - *Sharpe's Revenge and the Killer's Wake*
- 1990 - *Sharpe's Crackdown*
- 1991 - *Stormchild*
- 1992 - *Sharpe's Devil and the Scots*
- 1993 - *Rebel*
- 1994 - *Copperhead*
- 1995 - *Sharpe's Battle*, *Battle of the Winter King*
- 1996 - *The Bloody Ground and the God*
- 1997 - *Sharpe's Tiger and the Execution of Arthur*
- 1998 - *Sharpe's Triumph*
- 1999 - *Sharpe's Fortress and the Novel of 2000 BC*
- 2000 - *Harlequin Archer's Tale*
- 2001 - *Sharpe's Trafalgar and the Redcoat*
- 2002 - *Sharpe's Prey*, *Sharpe's Vagabond*
- 2003 - *Sharpe's Havoc*, *Sharpe's Heretic*
- 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. 880A.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' carcasses, 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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Book Banter Cornwell interview listen to <http://bookbanter.podbean.com/01/bookbanter-episode-005-bernard-cornwell/>

Weftherd, 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, Malalabel, 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 Bernard Cornwell <http://www.mychatham.com/well.html/>

Harper Collins interview map http://www.harpercollins.com/31/Bernard_Cornwell/index.WT.mc_id=WikiA2031

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

National Review on Line interview <http://radio.nationalreview.com/etweenthecovers/post/?q=MWVjYzVlMWI4ODIyYmNiZlYxNDUxYzU5ZmQ=>

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Comment

Sir Walter Scott, commenting on the abdication of Napoleon Bonaparte, wrote:

Although I never supposed that [Napoleon] possessed, allowing for the difference of education, the like of the conduct and political views which were sometimes exhibited by old Henry VIII. I did think he [Napoleon] might have been the same resolved and dogged man, with the resolution which induced Tipu Sultan to die manfully upon the breach of his camp, with his sabre clenched in his

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, 34 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

The Sharpe Companion Adkin

A detailed historical and military guide to the best selling Sharpe Novels by Bernard Cornwell

The Sharpe Companion: The Definitive
Mark Adkin Paperback: 336 pages
Publisher: Harper Paperbacks (October 2005)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0060738146

ISBN-13: 978-0060738143

Named "the direct heir to Patrick O'Brian" by The Economist, Bernard Cornwell is an undisputed master of historical fiction, and for more than twenty years the Richard Sharpe series has thrilled millions of readers worldwide on both the page and on television.

Now author Mark Adkin, a major expert in the British army, has created this indispensable guide covering Sharpe's early years, from his beginnings as an illiterate soldier to his legendary command of the Light Brigade. A treasure not only for fans of the series but also for anyone interested in 19th-century warfare, The Sharpe Companion includes:

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The Sharpe Companion

The Sharpe Companion: A Detailed
Historical and Military Guide to the
Cornwell's Bestselling Series of
Novels

Paperback: 320 pages

Publisher: HarperCollins Publishers

(May 2, 2000) Language: English

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 skain; 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

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An indispensable historical and literary guide for the thousand Bernard Cornwell's Sharpe series is one of the most known and bestselling military fiction series. The adventures of Richard Sharpe during the Peninsular War and on the continent have thrilled hundreds of thousands of readers over the past over sixteen books. Now comes the definitive guide that Cornwell's fans have been waiting for: the definitive guide to the historical military background to the characters and events of the Sharpe novels. Concise, readable, exhaustively detailed, each chapter devoted to each book includes a complete glossary of characters, both real and fictional, this guide will be a must for every devoted reader of Sharpe. With black and white plates of battle scenes and characters, exquisite line drawings and complete maps of the battles and skirmish fought in by Richard Sharpe. The Sharpe Companion is a wonderful and necessary addition to every Sharpe fan's collection.

Characters in TV/Film Series

Richard Sharpe Sean Bean
Patrick Harper Daragh O'Mall
Daniel Hagman John Tams
Rifleman Harris Jason Salkey
Rifleman Cooper Michael Meade
Rifleman Ben Perkins Lyndon
Rifleman Isiah Tongue Paul Toms
Captain William Frederickson
Whitchurch
Sir Arthur Wellesley David Tennant
Duke of Wellington Hugh Fraser
Major Pierre Ducos Féodor Atkinson
Sgt Obadiah Hakeswill Pete Postlethwaite
Col. Sir Henry Simmerson Michael Kitchen
Cochrane
Comandante Teresa Moreno Leticia
Serna
Jane Gibbons Abigail Cruttenden
Lucille Castineau Cecile Paoli
Ramona Diana Perez
Lady Anne Camoynes Carolin
Major Hogan Brian Cox

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 not 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

Major Nairn Michael Byrne
Capt. Jack Spears James Pureff
Major Munroe Hugh Ross
Major Ross James Laurenson
Col. Brand Mark Strong
El Casco Abel Folk
General Loup Oliver Cotton
Col. Leroux Patrick Fierry
Prince of Orange Paul Bettany
The Marquesa Alice Krige
Ellie Jayne Ashbourne
Lady Farthingale Elizabeth Hu

Sharpe Series



Canon to the right of me

Battles

The following is a time line of india

1784 - Parliamentary Board of established to deal with politi the appointment of officials (e highest) and the management left entirely in the hands of the Company, an arrangement th force until 1858.

1792 - War breaks out with the of Mysore. The Tippoo is forced surrender half his dominions.

1799 - At the instigation of the Tippoo takes up arms again. S is captured, the Tippoo slain a his dominions pass into Engli
1803 - The occupation of Mysc English into contact with the M States, which extend from the to Delhi.

1803 - 5 - First Mahratta War. I victories under Wellesley at A Lake at Laswaree establish an protectorate over the Mahratt

the peninsula

1807 - Napoleon determines c annexation of Spain and Portu with 30,000 men enter Portuga

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 Somerserseshire, 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 crism-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,

Portuguese Government flee to Brazil.
1808 - Charles IV of Spain and Ferdinand are induced to abdicate in favour of Joseph Bonaparte. In turn, Joseph is forced to evacuate Madrid in the face of Spanish insurrections. Wellesley captures Portugal and defeats Junot at Vimeiro. The French agree to evacuate Portugal under the Convention of Cintra. Moore is forced to retreat from Ciudad Rodrigo by Soult, whom he defeats at Corunna (1809), but is himself killed in the process.
1809 - The French army under Soult threaten Oporto, another British victory. Marshal Victor moves down the coast. Wellesley drives Soult from Oporto. Wellington turns southwards to defeat Victor at Talavera. The victory is rendered incomplete by the arrival of Soult and his reinforcements. Wellesley retreats to Portugal. He constructs the Lines of Torres Novas, anticipating a French invasion.
1810 - Marshal Massena invades Portugal with 65,000 men, is defeated by Wellington at Busaco and retreats from Torres Novas.
1811 - Graham defeats Victor at Barossa. Wellington prepares to invade Spain and forms the sieges of Badajoz, both on the frontier and in the interior of the French. Massena, advancing on Almeida, is checked by Wellington at Fuentes d'Onoro, and the fort of Almeida surrenders. Soult attempts to retake Badajoz, but is defeated by Wellington (owing to the stubborn bravery of the British troops) at Albuera, but Badajoz is saved by the French.
1812 - Wellington suddenly strikes Soult at Rodrigo and Badajoz and invades Spain. He defeats Marmont at Salamanca and occupies Madrid. Soult's approach to Andalusia means Wellington is forced to retreat to Portugal.

1813 - The french troops are weakened by their numbers and quality due to Napoleon's Russian campaign in Russia. Wellington strikes at the frontier of France. The french armies falling back before him at Vitoria, and again in the Battle of the Pyrenees, they are forced back to France. Closely followed by Wellington.
1814 - English victories at Orthez and Toulouse. Napoleon abdicate

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**

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the hundred days

The Congress of Vienna is into the news that Napoleon has escaped Elba, landed in France and the Louis XVIII, has taken refuge in a general invasion of France is : British, under Wellington, and Prussians, under Blucher are t from Belgium, and the other a Rhine. Organising the allies ta and Napoleon is able to make by attacking Belgium.The allies to be spead over a long line of British from Antwerp to Charle Prussians from Charleroi to Li June 15 - Napoleon collects hi Sambre, attacks the Prussians and drives them back towards June 16 - 17 - The Prussians at concentrate at Ligny and the E Quatre Bras. Napoleon is slow appears to wait until midday. manages to hold his own again and Napoleon succeeds in for Prussians from Ligny. The suc decisive except that both the E Ney summon d'Erlon's corps. D'Erlon is confused by the cor orders and stays put. Napoleo fatal error in the direction of th retreat. He sends Grouchy wit to Namur, but Blucher has ret Wavre. The British and Belgia Waterloo, ground that Wellin selected.

June 18 - The Battle of Waterl The British troops are posted ground from Hougemont, bel Sainte to Papelotte. The Frenc hills opposite, from Hougem Belle Alliance, to Frichermont been heavy rain overnight and chooses not to attack until aln The lost hours prove to be im Grouchy has not held the Prus three quarters of their force is marching from Wavre towards Waterloo.Napoleon directs hi against the Chateau of Houge: believes capturing this is a pre the main attack. He did not tak account British stubbornness ir and troops are engaged there end, the French fail to capture

Chateau. At half past one, d'Er attack on the British left between and La Haye Sainte. The French back with heavy losses. From 1 o'clock, assaults, led by Marshal directed against the British right the west of the Charleroi road approach of the Prussians toward Plancenoit was clear and Napoleon cover his line of retreat. He sent battalions of the Imperial Guard Prussians, troops that would be to Ney. Ney's cavalry has spear British infantry squares to little effect. Between seven and eight Napoleon orders a general assault British position. Ney leads the but is repulsed. The battle is over. About nine o'clock, Wellington's meet at La Belle Alliance. Their losses on all sides: British 13,000-17,000, French 25-30,000. They stop the allied advance to Paris and reach on July 7th. After abdicating on June 22nd, Napoleon flees and surrenders to the captain of the man-of-war Bellerophon. Later to St Helena in the South Atlantic eventually dies.

a glossary of military terms and relevant information

Aide de Camp Junior staff officer of a marshal or general

Anfrancesados Spanish natives who collaborated with the French

Baker Rifle Rifle used by Sharpshooters in British rifle battalions during the Crimean War. The rifle had a 30 inch, screw quarter turn barrel and was accurate to 250 yards although it was slow

Banquette Firing step behind

Bastion Defensive work with towers forming a salient from the curtain wall to allow flanking fire along the wall

Battalion Tactical infantry unit

between 500 to 1000 men (sortie)

Brigade Tactical military formation of 2000 to 3000 men and containing 2 or 3 regiments

Brown Bess Nickname of the flintlock smoothbore musket, originally the Long Land Pattern musket. The Portuguese rifle- or infantrymen were brown. Translation = 'hunter'. A four pointed metal spike that was stuck on the ground, always with one end upright. Used against cavalry.

Canister Artillery projectile of tin or lead shot in a tin container. Resembled a giant shotgun cartridge and had similar effect at short range.

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

Carronade Large calibre short barreled cannon, commonly used on ships. **Canister**. **Cazadore** (a caballo) light chasseurs or light cavalrymen. **Maree** Small coastal sailing or rowing boat.

Chasseur Light troops. Translation = 'hunter'. **Cheval de Frise** Portable sword blades used to block breaches. They could also be made of stake- or sword beams.

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

Colours Battalion flags which carried the honour of the unit. Usually the battalion held the King's Colour (Flag) and the regimental colours.

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

Congreve's Rockets Invented by William Congreve. They looked like ordinary fireworks, were extremely erratic and were used a great deal, although Wellington used them occasionally in the Peninsula and at Waterloo.

Corps Military formation of 20,000 to 40,000 men

commanded by a general.

Counterguard Earthwork to protect the rear of a curtain wall.

Counterscarp Vertical face of a scarp of a fort on the outer side.

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

Cuirassier French armoured cavalry. The cuirass being a breastplate.

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

Curtain Wall or Curtain Main wall surrounding a fort.

Demi Brigade French military unit consisting of part regular and part militia battalions.

Division Large military formation, usually 4000 to 6000 men, containing several brigades and commanded by a general.

Dragoons Originally mounted infantry, usually carried curved sabres, pistols.

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

Enfilade Adjective used to describe a line of coming from the flank and rake of a formation.

Ensign Infantry second-lieutenant.

Escalade Attack on walls of a fort using ladders.

Forlorn Hope First storming party, usually volunteers under a captain or officer, who drew enemy fire. The first sergeants who survived were usually rewarded with promotion.

Galloper Guns 6-pounder gun.

horses to accompany cavalry.
space or slope surrounding a

Goddam Dates from the Hunco
War, French nickname for the
taken from their extensive use
expression. Gonfalon Banner

Gorget The crescent-shaped p
around the neck by officers, a
commisioned rank and a relic
of armour.

Grapeshot Close range artiller
ammunition

Guerilla 'little war', also a terr
fighters

Half Pay An officer holding a c
but unemployed, received hal

Howitzer Short barrelled cann
for high angle fire. Imperial G
Napoleon's elite formation of
troops. Kings German Legion
Formed from the old Electora
Hanover's army after Napoleo
country in 1803.

Kligenthal Hand forged sword
from one piece of steel, strong

Light Company British compa
of agile men and good marks
skirmishers. Were relied upo
initiative more than line troop

Loophole Small hole un a wal
defenders to fire out.

Magazine Storage place for m
soldier's supplementary amm
container.

Necessaries Issued items of p

Nock Gun 7 barrelled volley g
Sgt Harper by his friend Richa
Made by Henry Nock of Londo
originally made for the Royal

Parole System of releasing pri

Pelisse Hussar jacket with fur trim, sometimes worn over one shoulder.

Picket (Piquet) Infantry outpost.

Provost Early military police, usually commanded by a Provost Marshal, universal term for military police, unpopular throughout the army, but supported by Wellington.

Quartermaster Officer responsible for the distribution of supplies, uniforms, stores, weapons, etc.

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

Regiment In the British Army, a permanent administrative military unit with a fixed complement of soldiers and sent them to war. Usually two battalions to a regiment. Roundshot Projectile of cannon, spherical, without balls, they were the main cannon ammunition in the field.

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

Shako Peaked, cylindrical hat, usually made of felt and often black. Worn by British soldiers during the Napoleonic wars.

Shell Artillery ammunition. Hollowed out and filled with gunpowder which explodes on the means of a fuse.

Stock Leather collar worn around the neck, usually under the jacket collar. British soldiers wore them and they were universal.

Can also mean a fabric strip worn around the neck. Subaltern Junior officer rank, usually or lieutenant rank in the British Army. Voltiguer Light infantry companies, usually in the first two battalions. Translation = 'vaunt'.

Tipoo Sultan



India

Sultan Tipoo Blunderk



did not help him

Sharpe's India and mo

The events depicted in the Sharpe's India and mo also take this "brilliant but wa soldier into conflicts other tha Napoleonic wars, for example tales take us to India under th the East India Company and c Sharpe's years spent in the ran During the late 18th Century, Empire would be found in a g parts of the globe and one par in the crown was India. In the Sharpe serves four years as Ar Sergeant in Seringapatam, wh location in 1799 of a hugely si battle.

The Battle of Seringapatam wa because it was the final confr between the British and Tipu S Tiger of Mysore, who was kille British broke into the fortress. the British victory, the fate of I forever, as did English domin continent.

Being a fictional hero, Sharpe' Cornwell frankly admits he has no license with history, often placing the place of another man who was lost to history. These achievements include killing the Tipu Sultan at Seringapatam, saving Wellesley's life at the Battle of Seringapatam and personally taking command of the 5th Foot regiment that drives off the French Guard at Waterloo.

However, the fact that the character Sharpe is so closely intertwined with key events in European history makes the series has great opportunities for the bloodshed, drama and European politics that erupted during the late 18th while at the same time spinning a cracking good swashbuckling tale you can shake a sword at! The Siege of Seringapatam (4 May 1799) was a confrontation of the Fourth Anglo-Mysore War between the British East India Company and the Kingdom of Mysore. British achieved a decisive victory by breaching the walls of the fort of Seringapatam (as Srirangapatam known) and storming the city. Tipu Sultan, Mysore's ruler, was killed in action. The British restored the Wodeyar dynasty to the throne after the war and retained indirect control of the

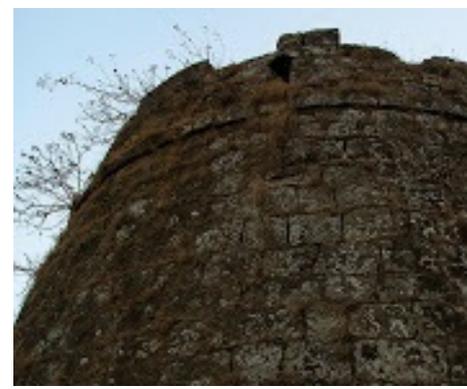
Further reading

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Watch Tower at Gawilghat



towards heaven

Lake inside Gawilghur



plenty of water

Bernard Cornwell New

Only Two years to the next UK
Comments: Received your late book, 'The Burning Land', this finished reading it. I'll probably read it many times (along with the other books in the series), until its successor is written/released. I feared that this would be the last of the series, but happy to be wrong. I realise it has to happen again, but look forward to the next. Just a few more years to wait..... again. Thank you for many hours of literary entertainment. Bob Quickenden.

Bernard Cornwell's new Saxon
Burning Land

Due in UK 1st October; US Jan 2005
It will be a special during its launch
October through Waterstones
ordered now at a reserve price

Bernard Cornwell Dines at the
May 4, 2004
The British author, Bernard Cornwell

visited the Halifax Citadel National Site of Canada yesterday evening of the Board of the Halifax Citadel Regimental Association (HCR) officers and NCOs of the 78th. In Halifax for a reading from his series featuring the adventures of 19th century rifleman Richard Cornwell was treated to a repeat of Wellington in the Soldier's Library the evening, flanked by sentries of the 78th, the author unveiled his next entitled "Sharpe's Escape" at the Military Library in R.A. Park just off Citadel Hill.

Questions and Answers

Q: Hey Bernard! I just finished Sword Song and, like the rest of your books, I loved it! However, there's 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 un-Christian enough to be raised by over zealous Christian parents, but not all Christians are like Asser or Erkenwald! I'm more like Pyrlig (my favourite character) or Willibald. I just hope you don't hold any sort of resentment against Christians. I didn't find anything about what your current religion may be, so for all I know, I'm not in time with this. Anyway, love the books, writing them, and I'll keep buying them. Andrew K.

A: I give you good Christians a hard time. There were some ghastly clerics in the past, horrible people! But I do try to be fair despite my distaste for all religions.

Q: Dear Mr Cornwell, I've read all your books and love every single one of them. The stories of Uhtred are the ones I love most. I've just finished reading Land and loved it, although I'm a bit frustrated at his treatment from the king and ultimately Alfred, sometimes I wish he'd fight for the Danes and not for Alfred's family once and for all. I love you so very much for all the hours

pleasure you have shared with fans. A question if you will, you one of the Saxon story books the historical rulers of The Bebbanburg your ancestors, I was wondering could share how you came about knowledge? My own surname going back to ancient Treowen (faithful/loyal man) and in my imagination I see my own ancestor as a Saxon Huscarle in service would love to know if this was in this day and age of mostly people the television are there any plans series of The Saxon Stories? I've Kevin McKidd (Vorenus) would excellent Uhtred. If there were you like to see try to fill Uhtred's plated boots? Yours humbly and gracious thanks Chris Trueman

A: What I know was discovered a member of my birth family (I met about six or seven years ago). I'm fortunate in being a prominent Saxon times they were, first, known in Bernicia (now lowland Scotland) and Northumbria (thus the connection to Bebbanburg), and even after the Conquest (thanks to Cnut) they remained a gentry in north Yorkshire . . . a surname is distinctive enough that it's quite easy to trace through records.

No plans for a TV series. I have been horrible at casting...

Q: Bernard I have just finished "The Burning Land" -- a very enjoyable continuation of a great series. I was surprised, however, that that "The Royal Family of Wessex" the UK edition shows King Athelstan as a descendant of Aethelflaed. I did see your suggestion in your Historical Fiction and I have used your license as an inspiration in 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 the genealogy table (the published version) and I've only just received a copy. I gave them the correct information

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 of the Saxon stories? Or do you have more series planned? I hope it's the last one.
Donegan

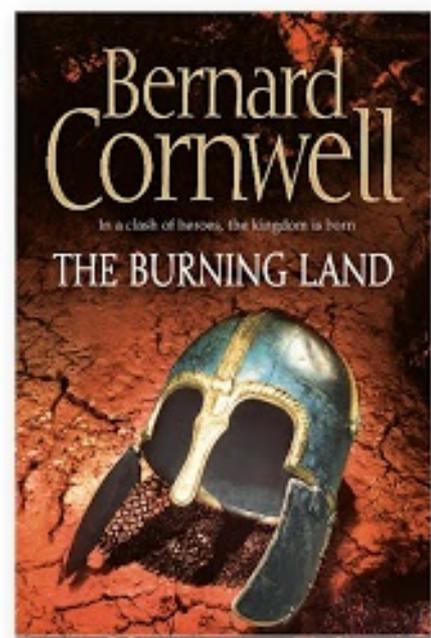
Dear Mr. Cornwell, I have been enjoying your Saxon Chronicle series. I am happy to hear the continuation of Uhtred is due out soon. I have a few questions concerning this series. How many books do you envision for the complete Uhtred's tale? Secondly, I love the style of it, it seems it would be perfect for making into a Motion Picture or a TV mini-series. Any hope we may see it on more than just our own heads? Thank you for your time and Best Wishes to you and your friend of mine from Chicago who is planning to have relatives in Sweden get a copy of the Sword Song from Europe and bring it back to America. We couldn't wait to see it out in print here in the States. It really 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. No plans for a film or TV series.

Q: Hi, being naturally extremely excited about the new Uhtred book, I've listened to the unabridged audiobook of the first two as a quick re-cap and I'm wondering when the third and fourth are released in the same format? I saw the questions section you see in the book that they should already be available in audiobook format, but I can't find them on Amazon.co.uk or Audible.co.uk (I've searched the other two). Am I missing something? I think Tom Sellwood is a great narrator. I think Tom Sellwood is a great narrator. Cheers. Ed Prior

A: Both The Lords of the North and The Sword Song are available unabridged audiobooks on BBCaudiobooks (Chivers). I don't know if you can get them from Amazon.co.uk or from the BBC website?

The Burning Land Book



new book released

New Book Released: B Land

The Burning Land by Bernard
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Synopsis

The latest in the bestselling Al from number one historical n Bernard Cornwell. In the last y ninth century, King Alfred of V failing health, and his heir is a youth. The Danes, who have f times to conquer Wessex, sme opportunity! First comes Hara a savage warrior leading a Vik who is encouraged to cruelty l Skade. But Alfred still has the s Uhtred, his unwilling warlord. Harald into a trap and, at Farn Surrey, inflicts one of the grea the Vikings were ever to suffer the fifth in the magnificent ser England's history tells of the f on Alfred's Wessex, that Wesse become England is because n Uhtred defeated an enemy fea throughout Christendom.

Book details

Format: Hardback 352 pages
Date of publication: 01/10/200
Publisher: HarperCollins Pub
ISBN: 9780007219742



Dining Out

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

Duke Portrait Birth Marriages

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

5 June 1341

Kings

Langley son of Edward III of England and Philippa of Hainault Isabella of France
3 children

Joan de Holland
no children

1 August 1402

Kings Langley age 61

Edward of Norwich 1402–1415

1373 Norwich son of Edmund of Langley and Isabella of Castile never married

25 October 1415 Agincourt age 45
Plantagenet
1415–1460

21 September 1411

son of Richard of Conisburgh,
Cambridge and Anne de Mort
Neville 1437
13 children

30 December 1460 Wakefield
Plantagenet

1460–1461
28 April 1442 Rouen son of Ric
Plantagenet and Cecily Nevill
Woodville 1 May 1464
10 children

9 April 1483 Westminster age 4
Edward Plantagenet became E
1461, thus merging the title of
in crown.

Yorkist—Kings of England
Portrait Birth Marriages Death
Edward IV 4 March 1461 –3 Oc

11 April 1471–1483
28 April 1442 Rouen son of Ric
Plantagenet, 3rd Duke of York
Neville
Elizabeth Woodville Grafton F
1464
10 children

9 April 1483 Westminster Pala
Edward V 9 April–25 June 1483
2 November 1470 Westminste
Edward IV and Elizabeth Woo
unmarried c. 1483 London age
(traditionally: murdered)
Richard III 26 June 1483–1485
2 October 1452 Fotheringhay
Richard Plantagenet, 3rd Duke
Cecily Neville
Anne Neville Westminster Abl
14721
son
22 August 1485 Bosworth Field
in battle)

Sharpe Peril



blown up again

Sharpe News

USA Release

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

Sharpe's Peril

<http://www.compleatseanberesford.com/sharpe/esperil/sharpesperil.html>

Fallen Angel



Book by Bernard Cornwell

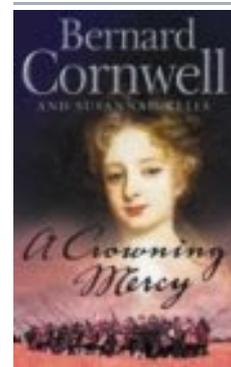
Bernard Cornwell: Fallen Angels and A Crowning Mercy

Title: Fallen Angels

Title: A Crowning Mercy

Fleeing from her strict Puritan father and an unbearable arranged marriage, Dorcas seeks her fortune in 17th-century London and falls in love with a handsome aristocrat. Left an intricately woven web of lies by her unknown father, she must follow the course of her father's legacy to find her destiny.

A Crowning Mercy



Book by Bernard Cornwell

Warlords Book Cover



Turkish Edition

Warlords Cover: Turkish

This is the cover art that I made named "Enemy of God" by Bernard Cornwell (The Arthur Books series). The cover was made for the Turkish edition of the book. Warlords picture

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background or extra reads

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The Vikings in history By F. De

Tolkien, J. R. R.; Finn and Hen
Fragment and the Episode
Bately, Janet M. (1986). The Ar
Chronicle: A Collaborative Ed
MS. A. Cambridge.. Cambridge
ISBN 0-85991-103-9.

Campbell, James; John, Eric &
Patrick (1991). The Anglo-Saxo
Penguin Books. ISBN 0-14-014

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Clarendon Press. OCLC 38218

Hunter Blair, Peter (1960). An
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Cambridge: Cambridge Unive
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Hunter Blair, Peter (1966). Rom
and Early England: 55 B.C. - A.
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00361-2.

Keynes, Simon; Michael Lapid

Alfred the Great: Asser's Life of Alfred and other contemporary sources. Penguin Classics. ISBN 0-14-0-22492-0.

Savage, Anne (1997). The Anglo-Saxon Chronicles. Gadalming: CLB. ISBN 1-478-0.

Swanton, Michael (1996). The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle. New York: Routledge. ISBN 0-415-92129-5.

Kings and Kingdoms of Early Medieval England by Dr Barbara Yorke
Formby Parish Boundary by F. Formby and Barbara Yorke

Nunneries and the Anglo-Saxon Monastic Houses (Women, Power & Politics) by Barbara Yorke

Wessex in the Early Middle Ages (The Early History of Britain) by Barbara Yorke

The Conversion of Britain: Religion, Ritual and Society in Britain, 600-800 AD by Barbara Yorke

The Anglo-Saxons (Sutton Pocket Guides) by Barbara Yorke

The King Alfred Millennium in Wessex 1901 (Hampshire Papers) by F. Formby
Bishop Aethelwold: His Career and Influence by Barbara Yorke

A History of the Vikings By T. J. Green
Kings and Vikings: Scandinavia and Britain 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: The Quest

by Karen Ralls-MacLeod, Karen Ralls
John Matthews (Foreword by)

About this title: The result of 10 years of research, this well-documented book surveys various theories about the Templars' quest and lets readers see what is fact. Includes rare photos of the Rosslyn Chapel Museum (Scotland) and 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 image that has captured humanity's imagination for centuries? Fictional accounts of the Grail have topped best-seller lists of the past few years, "The Da Vinci Code" being the most recent among them. But the truth about the Grail--where truth can be brought to light--is even more electrifying than any of the exciting novel ever written. This is a rich and beautifully illustrated book that tells the Grail's story, from its early roots in ancient myths to its many reappearances. Examines the part the chalice played in Christ's Passion. Tells stories of the societies that guarded the Grail. Explores Grail theories that span the holy bloodline of Jesus and Mary Magdalene, and on an alternative view of the Grail as the philosopher's stone. Describes modern Grail seekers and reveals why even the Nazis sought it, and hundreds more fascinated by it. Keep readers turning pages to the final chapter. Approximately 90 photos.

The Grail: Quest for the Eternal by John Matthews

About this title: Explore a truly unique range of interests, philosophies, and cultures -- from alchemy to Buddhism to Hinduism, myth to history. Distinguished authors bring a wealth of knowledge, visionary thinking, and accessible writing to each introduction. In these lavishly illustrated, large paperback books.

Books

"Marching with Sharpe" by Bernard Cornwell
book is beautifully illustrated with everything you wanted to know about Wellington's Army in the Napoleonic Wars.

non-fiction, non-sharpe
The Recollections of Rifleman

edited and introduced by Chris Hibbert (published by The Wordsworth Press) Not the Rifleman Harris of book fame, but memoirs of a soldier who was there!

Wellington's War - A Living History by Lewis Isemonger with an introduction by Richard Rutherford Moore. This covers all aspects of life as a soldier and sailor at the time of the Peninsular campaign, illustrated with the original enactors.

Uniforms of Waterloo by Philip Haythornthwaite, Jack Cassin-Chappell - 80 colour plates of uniforms at Waterloo, beautifully illustrated with descriptions of the uniforms and other information. Included are a sketch of the campaign, an order of battle and a bibliography.

Wellington-The Years of the Soldier (Published by Weidenfeld and Nicolson 1969) SBN29717917 - Lady Elizabeth Longford. This covers the years 1769-1815.

Wellington - Pillar of State (Wiley 1969) ISBN 0.297-00250-3 - Lady Elizabeth Longford. Although written sometime ago, these are highly readable books and worth trying to get. Longford is a member of Wellington's family and considered to be a close friend of his.

Wellington in India - Jac Weller (Greenhill Books) ISBN 1-85367-100-0

Wellington in the Peninsular - (Pub: Kay and Ward) ISBN 0-7195-0000-0 Written in 1962. Covers the years 1808-1812. Weller is another noted author on the Iron Duke.

The Duke - Philip Guadalla. More information on this at the moment.

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November (2)

October (21)

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British Kingdoms c.800

River Ouse and its Tribu

Map of East Sussex

Map showing Coastal Pl

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**Godley Hundred one of
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Surrey 14 Saxon Hundre

Surrey Roman Town Cai

Surrey Map

Surrey Borders Map

Towns and Villages in St

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**Chichester / Cisseceastr
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**Hastings / Hastengas: A
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**AEthelwold of Wessex 'K
Pagans**

Alfred's Bequeath

**Eashing / AEscengum: A
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Kent Cinque Ports

Kent

Kent (6) One of the Hom

**River Medway and River
Estuary**

Map showing Sheerness

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Homage

**Character in Bernard Co
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**Character from Bernard
Saxon Series: Eg...**

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Richard Blome Map of L

London West End

London Theatres in 1600

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**Roman London: Red ma
modern features**

John Rocque Map of Lor

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Map showing the East E

**Civitas Londinium: The
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1677**

Map showing Central Lo

1611 map of London by

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Map of Middlesex

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Viking Defences

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About the Group



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We are a friendly group affiliated with the Bernard Cornwell Group on Scribbr, a reading site for all book lovers. We are adding background, maps, pictures, and more to do with the books we are reading. We are reading Old English, Middle English, Icelandic Sagas, Myths and Legends etc.

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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; 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 English 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 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, the word “oferm de” (This word, occurring in line 89, has caused much discussion. Literally “high spirits” or “overmooded”, “oferm de” is usually translated as “pride”, and occurs in Anglo-Saxon Genesis poems when referring to Cain and Alexander translate it as “arrogance” and Bradley as “extravagant spirit”) 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 described, notably that of Byrhtnoth himself, who dies urging his soldiers forward and commending his soul to God. The 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 Byrthnoth's horse. Several lines later the English claims that the sight of Byrthnoth's horse (easily recognisable from its trappings) fleeing, and so Byrthnoth 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, and 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 against the 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) was destroyed in the fire at Ashburnham House that also damaged and destroyed several other manuscripts in the Cotton library. The poem has come down to us thanks to the transcription of it made c.1724, which was done by Thomas Hearne in 1726. After being lost, the original transcription was found in the Bodleian Library in 1823. Who made this original transcription is still unclear, some favouring John Elphinstone, others David Caswell.

Scholarship

George K. Anderson dated *The Battle of Maldon* to the 10th Century and felt that it was unlikely that much of it 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 have been fought at Maldon.

S.A.J. Bradley reads the poem as a celebration of pure heroism – nothing was gained by the battle, rather than not only did Byrthnoth, "so distinguished a servant of the Crown and protector and benefactor of the Country" die 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 heroic ideal. Mitchell and Robinson are more succinct: "The poem is about how men bear up when things go wrong". Other critics have commented on the poem's preservation of a centuries-old Germanic ideal of heroism: "The Battle of Maldon is remarkable (apart from the fact that it is a masterpiece) in that it shows that the strongest moral ideal of Germanic society, still, nine hundred years after Tacitus, was an absolute and overriding loyalty to one's lord." 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 the work, Tolkien included alongside it an essay on the original poem and another on the word "ofermod".

Further reading

The Return of the Vikings: The Battle of Maldon 991 by Donald Scragg, Tempus Publishing, 2006, ISBN 9781851956000
Guide to Old English, 5th ed. by Bruce Mitchell and Fred C. Robinson, Blackwell, 1999 reprint ISBN 9780631224220
The Earliest English Poems translated by Michael J. Alexander, Penguin Books, 1966
Anglo-Saxon Poetry translated and edited by S. A. J. Bradley, Everyman's Library, 2000 reprint ISBN 9780462119300
The poem translated into modern English by Jonathan A. Glenn
The Battle of Maldon: Fiction and Fact, edited by Janet Cooper, Hambledon, 1993 ISBN 9781852850654
Old and Middle English Literature From the Beginnings to 1485 by George K. Anderson, OUP, 1950, pp. 100–105
Anglo-Saxon Poetry selected and translated by R.K. Gordon, J.M. Dent & Sons, London, pp. vii, 361

Poem: The Battle of Maldon in Old English

The Battle of Maldon
Verse Indeterminate Saxon

brocen wurde. Het þa hyssa hwæne hors forlætan, feor afysan, and forð gangan, hicgan to handum and godum.

5þa þæt Offan mæg ærest onfunde, þæt se eorl nolde yrhðo geþolian, he let him þa of handon leofne fleon
wið þæs holtas, and to þære hilde stop; be þam man mihte oncnawan þæt se cniht nolde
10wacian æt þam wige, þa he to wæpnum feng. Eac him wolde Eadric his ealdre gelæstan, frean to gefeohtum
forð beran gar to gupe. He hæfde god geþanc þa hwile þe he mid handum healdan mihte

15bord and bradswurd; beot he gelæste þa he ætforan his frean feohtan sceolde. Ða þær Byrhtnoð onga
trymian, rad and rædde, rincum tæhte hu hi sceoldon standan and þone stede healdan,
20and bæd þæt hyra randas rihte heoldon fæste mid folman, and ne forhtedon na. þa he hæfde þæt folc
getrymmed, he lihte þa mid leodon þær him leofost wæs, þær he his heorðwerod holdost wiste.
25þa stod on stæðe, stiðlice clypode wicinga ar, wordum mælde, se on beot abead brimlipendra ærænd
eorle, þær he on ofre stod: "Me sendon to þe sæmen snelle,
30heton ðe secgan þæt þu most sendan raðe beagas wið gebeorge; and eow betere is þæt ge þisne garr
forgylton, þon we swa hearde hilde dælon. Ne þurfe we us spillan, gif ge spedap to þam;
35we willað wið þam golde grið fæstnian. Gyf þu þat gerædest, þe her ricost eart, þæt þu þine leoda lyses
sæmannum on hyra sylfra dom feoh wið freode, and niman frið æt us,
40we willap mid þam sceattum us to scype gangan, on flot feran, and eow fripes healdan." Byrhtnoð ma
hafenode, wand wacne æsc, wordum mælde, yrre and anræd ageaf him andsware:
45"Gehyrst þu, sælida, hwæt þis folc segeð? Hi willað eow to gafole garas syllan, ættrynne ord and ealde
heregeatu þe eow æt hilde ne deah. Brimmanna boda, abeod eft ongean,
50sege þinum leodum miccle laþre spell, þæt her stynt unforcuð eorl mid his werode, þe wile gealgean
æpelredes eard, ealdres mines, folc and foldan. Feallan sceolon
55hæþene æt hilde. To heanlic me þinceð þæt ge mid urum sceattum to scype gangon unbefohtene, nu
hider on urne eard in becomon. Ne sceole ge swa softe sinc gegangan;
60us sceal ord and ecg ær geseman, grim guðplega, ær we gofol syllon." Het þa bord beran, beornas gar
on þam easteðe ealle stodon. Ne mihte þær for wætere werod to þam oðrum;
65þær com flowende flod æfter ebban, lucon lagustreamas. To lang hit him þuhte, hwænne hi togædere
Hi þær Pantan stream mid prasse bestodon, Eastseaxena ord and se æschere.
70Ne mihte hyra ænig oþrum derian, buton hwa þurh flanes flyht fyl gename. Se flod ut gewat; þa flotar
gearowe, wicinga fela, wiges georne. Het þa hæleða hleo healdan þa bricge
75wigan wigheardne, se wæs haten Wulfstan, cafne mid his cynne, þæt wæs Ceolan sunu, þe ðone form
his francan ofsceat þe þær baldlicost on þa bricge stop. þær stodon mid Wulfstane wigan unforhte,
80ælfere and Maccus, modige twegen, þa noldon æt þam forða fleam gewyrcean, ac hi fæstlice wið ða fyr
þa hwile þe hi wæpna wealdan moston. þa hi þæt ongeaton and georne gesawon
85þæt hi þær bricgweardas bitere fundon, ongunnon lytegian þa laðe gystas, bædon þæt hi upgang aga
þone ford faran, feþan lædan. Ða se eorl ongan for his ofermode
90alyfan landes to fela laþere ðeode. Ongan ceallian þa ofer cald wæter Byrhtelmes bearn (beornas geh
eow is gerymed, gað ricene to us, guman to guþe; god ana wat
95hwa þære wælstowe wealdan mote." Wodon þa wælwulfas (for wætere ne murnon), wicinga werod, w
Pantan, ofer scir wæter scyldas wegon, lidmen to lande linde bæron.
100þær ongean gramum gearowe stodon Byrhtnoð mid beornum; he mid bordum het wyrcean þone wil
werod healdan fæste wið feondum. þa wæs feohte neh, tir æt getohte. Wæs seo tid cumen
105þæt þær fæge men feallan sceoldon. þær wearð hream ahafen, hremmas wundon, earn æses georn;
eorþan cyrm. Hi leton þa of folman feolhearde speru, gegrundene garas fleogan;
110bogan wæron bysige, bord ord onfeng. Biter wæs se beaduræs, beornas feollon on gehwæðere hand
lagon. Wund wearð Wulfmær, wælræste geceas, Byrhtnoðes mæg; he mid billum wearð,
115his swuster sunu, swiðe forheawen. þær wearð wicingum wiþerlean agyfen. Gehyrde ic þæt Eadwea
swiðe mid his swurde, swenges ne wyrnde, þæt him æt fotum feoll fæge cempa;
120þæs him his ðeoden þanc gesæde, þam burþene, þa he byre hæfde. Swa stemnetton stiðhicgende hy
hogodon georne hwa þær mid orde ærost mihte
125on fægean men feorh gewinnan, wigan mid wæpnum; wæl feol on eorðan. Stodon stædefæste; stihte
bæd þæt hyssa gehwylc hogode to wige þe on Denon wolde dom gefeohtan.
130Wod þa wiges heard, wæpen up ahof, bord to gebeorge, and wið þæs beornes stop. Eode swa anræd
ceorle, ægþer hyra oðrum yfeles hogode. Sende ða se særinc superne gar,
135þæt gewundod wearð wigena hlaford; he sceaf þa mid ðam scylde, þæt se sceaft tobærst, and þæt sp
þæt hit sprang ongean. Gegremod wearð se guðrinc; he mid gare stang wlancne wicing, þe him þa wunc
140Frod wæs se fyrdrinc; he let his francan wadan þurh ðæs hysses hals, hand wisode þæt he on þam fa
feorh geræhte. Ða he oþerne ofstlice sceat, þæt seo byrne tobærst; he wæs on breostum wund
145þurh ða hringlocan, him æt heortan stod ætterne ord. Se eorl wæs þe bliþra, hloh þa, modi man, sæc
þanc ðæs dægweorces þe him drihten forgeaf. Forlet þa drenga sum daroð of handa,

150fleogan of folman, þæt se to forð gewat þurh ðone æpelan æpelredes þegen. Him be healfe stod hys
cniht on gecampe, se full caflice bræd of þam beorne blodigne gar,
155Wulfstanes bearn, Wulfmær se geonga, forlet forheardne faran eft ongean; ord in gewod, þæt se on e
his þeoden ær þearle geræhte. Eode þa gesyrwed secg to þam eorle;
160he wolde þæs beornes beagas gefecgan, reaf and hringas and gerenod swurd. þa Byrhtnoð bræd bill
brad and brunecg, and on þa byrnan sloh. To raþe hine gelette lidmanna sum,
165þa he þæs eorles earm amyrd. Feoll þa to foldan fealohilte swurd; ne mihte he gehealdan heardne
wæpnes wealdan. þa gyt þæt word gecwæð har hilderinc, hyssas bylde,
170bæd gangan forð gode geferan; ne mihte þa on fotum leng fæste gestandan. He to heofenum wlat: "(
ðeoda waldend, ealra þæra wynna þe ic on worulde gebad.
175Nu ic ah, milde metod, mæste þearfe þæt þu minum gaste godes geunne, þæt min sawul to ðe siðiar
geweald, þeoden engla, mid friþe ferian. Ic eom frymndi to þe
180þæt hi helsceaðan hynan ne moton." ða hine heowon hæðene scealcas and begen þa beornas þe hi
ælfnoð and Wulfmær begen lagon, ða onemn hyra frean feorh gesealdon.
185Hi bugon þa fram beaduwe þe þær beon noldon. þær wearð Oddan bearn ærest on fleame, Godric f
þone godan forlet þe him mænigne oft mear gesealde; he gehleop þone eoh þe ahte his hlaford,
190on þam gerædum þe hit riht ne wæs, and his broðru mid him begen ærndon, Godwine and Godwig,
gymdon, ac wendon fram þam wige and þone wudu sohton, flugon on þæt fæsten and hyra feore burgo
195and manna ma þonne hit ænig mæð wære, gyf hi þa gearnunga ealle gemundon þe he him to dugu
hæfde. Swa him Offa on dæg ær asæde on þam meþelstede, þa he gemot hæfde,
200þæt þær modiglice manega spræcon þe eft æt þearfe þolian noldon. þa wearð afeallen þæs folces ea
æpelredes eorl; ealle gesawon heorðgeneatas þæt hyra heorra læg.
205þa ðær wendon forð wlance þegenas, unearge men efston georne; hi woldon þa ealle oðer twega, lif
oððe leofne gewrecan. Swa hi bylde forð bearn ælfrices,
210wiga wintrum geong, wordum mælde, ælfwine þa cwæð, he on ellen spræc: "Gemunan þa mæla þe v
meodo spræcon, þonne we on bence beot ahofon, hæleð on healle, ymbe heard gewinn;
215nu mæg cunnian hwa cene sy. Ic wylle mine æpelo eallum gecyþan, þæt ic wæs on Myrcon miccles c
min ealda fæder Ealhelm haten, wis ealdorman, woruldgesælig.
220Ne sceolon me on þære þeode þegenas ætwitan þæt ic of ðisse fyrde feran wille, eard gesecan, nu m
ligeð forheawen æt hilde. Me is þæt hearma mæst; he wæs ægðer min mæg and min hlaford."
225þa he forð eode, fæhðe gemunde, þæt he mid orde anne geræhte flotan on þam folce, þæt se on fold
forwegen mid his wæpne. Ongan þa winas manian, frynd and geferan, þæt hi forð eodon.
230Offa gemælde, æscholt asceoc: "Hwæt þu, ælfwine, hafast ealle gemanode þegenas to þearfe, nu ure
eorl on eorðan. Us is eallum þearf þæt ure æghwylc oþerne bylde
235wigan to wige, þa hwile þe he wæpen mæge habban and healdan, heardne mece, gar and godswurd
hæfð, eath Oddan bearn, ealle beswicene. Wende þæs formoni man, þa he on meare rad,
240on wlancan þam wicge, þæt wære hit ure hlaford; forþan wearð her on felda folc totwæmed, scyldbu
Abreoðe his angin, þæt he her swa manigne man aflymde!" Leofsunu gemælde and his linde ahof,
245bord to gebeorge; he þam beorne oncwæð: "Ic þæt gehate, þæt ic heonon nelle fleon fotes trym, ac v
gan, wrecan on gewinne minne winedrihten. Ne þurfon me embe Sturmere stedefæste hælæð
250wordum ætwitan, nu min wine gecranc, þæt ic hlafordleas ham siðie, wende fram wige, ac me sceal v
ord and iren." He ful yrre wod, feaht fæstlice, fleam he forhogode.
255Dunnere þa cwæð, daroð acwehte, unorne ceorl, ofer eall clypode, bæd þæt beorna gehwylc Byrhtno
mæg na wandian se þe wrecan þenceð frean on folce, ne for feore murnan."
260þa hi forð eodon, feores hi ne rohton; ongunnon þa hiredmen heardlice feohtan, grame garberend,
bædon þæt hi moston gewrecan hyra winedrihten and on hyra feondum fyl gewyrcan.
265Him se gysel ongan geornlice fylstan; he wæs on Norðhymbron heardes cynnes, Ecglafes bearn, hin
nama. He ne wandode na æt þam wigplegan, ac he fysde forð flan genehe;
270hwilon he on bord sceat, hwilon beorn tæsde, æfre embe stunde he sealde sume wunde, þa hwile ð
wealdan moste. þa gyt on orde stod Eadweard se langa, gearo and geornful, gylpwordum spræc
275þæt he nolde fleogan fotmæl landes, ofer bæc bugan, þa his betera leg. He bræc þone bordweall and
beornas feaht, oðþæt he his sincgyfan on þam sæmannum wurðlice wrec, ær he on wæle læge.
280Swa dyde æþeric, æpele gefera, fus and forðgeorn, feaht eornoste. Sibyrhtes broðor and swiðe mæn
cellod bord, cene hi weredon; bærst bordes lærig, and seo byrne sang

285gryreleoða sum. þa æt guðe sloh Offa þone sælidan, þæt he on eorðan feoll, and ðær Gaddes mæg g
Raðe wearð æt hilde Offa forheawen; he hæfde ðeah geforþod þæt he his frean gehet,
290swa he beotode ær wið his beahgifan þæt hi sceoldon begen on burh ridan, hale to hame, oððe on l
on wælstowe wundum sweltan; he læg ðegenlice ðeodne gehende.
295ða wearð borda gebræc. Brimmen wodon, guðe gegremode; gar oft þurhwod fægnes feorhhus. Forð þ
Wistan, þurstanes sunu, wið þas secgas feaht; he wæs on geþrange hyra þreora bana,
300ær him Wigelines bearn on þam wæle læge. þær wæs stið gemot; stodon fæste wigan on gewinne, wi
wundum werige. Wæl feol on eorþan. Oswold and Eadwold ealle hwile,
305begen þa gebroþru, beornas trymedon, hyra winemagas wordon bædon þæt hi þær æt ðearfe þoliar
unwaclice wæpna neotan. Byrhtwold mapelode bord hafenode
310(se wæs eald geneat), æsc acwehte; he ful baldlice beornas lærde: "Hige sceal þe heardra, heorte þe
sceal þe mare, þe ure mægen lytlað. Her lið ure ealdor eall forheawen,
315god on greote. A mæg gnornian se ðe nu fram þis wigplegan wendan þenceð. Ic eom frod feores; fra
ac ic me be healfe minum hlaforde, be swa leofan men, licgan þence."
320Swa hi æþelgares bearn ealle bylde, Godric to gupe. Oft he gar forlet, wælspere windan on þa wicing
þam folce fyrrest eode, heow and hynde, oðþæt he on hilde gecranc.
325Næs þæt na se Godric þe ða guðe forbeah

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 high heart.
Then did Offa's Kinsman first know
That the earl would not brook cowardice,
Loose his hands his darling to fly,
His Hawk to the wood, and to the battle strode.
From that one could tell that the
would never
Weaken in the warfare - when he his weapons seized.
And after him Edric chose his chief to
friend in the fight - then 'gan he forth to bear
The spear to the strife - high spirit had he,
So long as he with 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
They should stand, and their standing to keep,
And bade them their round shields rightly to hold
Fast to their they flinch not at all.
And when he had his folk fairly bestowed
He lighted there with his people, where he
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, thou seamen,
And bade me to say that thou must send swiftly
Ring-money for pledges. For you were it better
To off this spear-rush with your tax,
Than that we should have so hard a battle.
What need we to vex us, if you
We will for this gold a sure compact make
If thou wilt agree to it - thou that art strongest.
If that thou be with people to redeem,
To yield to the seamen at their own choice
Tribute for a truce, and so take peace of us
with the tax to ship betake us
To sail on the sea - and hold truce with you.
Brithnoth made answer - his bow
grasped, Brandished his slender spear - and spoke.
"Hearest thou, sea-robber, what this people say?
For ready to give you their spears,
The edge poison-bitter, and the ancient sword.
War-gear that will bring you to the fight.
Thou messenger of the seamen, back with thy message.
Tell to thy people, these far more hateful
tidings, There stands here a good earl in the midst of his men,
Who will this country ever defend,
The kin Aethelred, mine overlord,
The folk and the ground - but they shall fall,
The foemen in the fight; too shame
methinks That ye with our tribute, to ship should be gone
Without a blow struck - now that ye have thus
incoming into our land. Nor shall ye so softly carry off our riches.
Sooner shall point and edge reconcile
warplay indeed - before we give tribute." Bade he then to bear the shields,
the warriors to go, So that they

bank all stood.

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 streams, and too long it seemedUntil they together might carry their spears. There by Panta's stream in : bestood,Essex men's rank, and the men from the ships,Nor might any one of them injure the otherExcept an arrow's flight one had his death.The flood went out - the pirates stood ready.Full many of the Vikings, e

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 on the bridge. There stood with Wulfstan warriors goodlyAelfere and Maccus, high hearted both,That never at turn them to flight,But they steadfastly 'gainst their foes made defence,While their weapons to wield the

THE VIKINGS ARE BAULKED

When they saw that, and keenly espied. That bitter bridge-guardians there they met. Then began they to loathed guests - And begged that they might some foothold get, To fare over the ford - the foemen to lea

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 the cold waterBrighthelm's son, and all the band listened. "Now room is meted you, come swiftly to us, V war. Only God knowsWho at the end shall possess this fight's field". Then went the war wolves - for water not. The troop of the pirates, west over Panta. Over the shining water they carried their shieldsSeamen to their bucklers they shouldered. There against the raiders ready stoodBrithnoth with his band, and with t badeForm the shield wall, and make firm the ranksFast against the foes. Then was fighting nigh,Fame in now was the hour comeWhen that the feymen² must fall.

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 loos their hands the file-hard lance,The sharp-ground spears to fly. Bows were busied - buckler met pointBit battle-rush, warriors fellOn either hand, the young men lay! Wounded was Wulfmur, a war bed he chose Brithnoth's kinsman, he with swordsWas straight cut down, his sister's son. Then to the Vikings was requ heard that Edward did slay oneStraightly with his sword, nor stinted³ the blow,That at his feet fell - the t 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 shoul ableFrom fey men to win life. Warriors with weapons: wrack fell on earth. They stood steadfast; Brithnoth 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 sefarer a southern dart,And wounded warriors' chieftain. But he shoved with his shield - so that the shaft burst,And the spear broke, and it spr away. Wroth was the chieftain, he pierced with his spearThat proud Viking who gave him that wound. Ye the chieftain; he aimed his shaft to goThrough the man's neck - his hand guided itSo that he reached his enemy's life. Then he a second swiftly sentThat the breastplate burst - in the heart was he woundedThro 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 thane of Aethelred.
Close to his side stood a youth not yet grown
Wulfstan's child - even Wulfmeer the young
plucked from his chieftain that bloody spear
Then loosed the hard spear 'gainst that other to go;
In ran the dart that he on earth lay
Who ere had sorely wounded his chief.
Went an armed Viking against the earl
Who went for the earl's jewels to plunder,
His armour and rings - and well-adorned sword.
Then Brithnoth drew his sword
From its sheath
Broad and brown edged - and at his breast-plate smote.
Too soon hindered him one of the seamen
On the earl's arm he did injure.
Fell then to earth the fallow-hilted sword,
Nor could he hold the hard brand
Or wield the 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
could he firmly on his feet stand.
He looked up to heaven.....
"I thank Thee, Lord of all peoples
For all things that thou on earth have known.
Now, my Maker mild - I have most need
That thou to my ghost should grant good things
to Thee may journey,
Into thy kingdom - O lord of the Angels,
May pass with peace - I do desire of Thee
That thine fiends may not hurt it."
Then hewed at him those heathen men
And at both those men that stood him by
and Wulfmeer - both fell;
Then beside their liege - their lives they yielded.

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 fled the battle, and left his good lord
Who had often given him many a mare,
He sprang upon the horse that his lord
owned,
Upon the trappings where no right had he,
And with him his brothers - they both galloped off,
Godwig, they loved not the battle,
They went from that war - and the wood they sought,
They fled to the forest
to save their own lives,
And men more than had any right
If they had all bethought them of the blessings
That God had done them for their good comfort.
Even thus to him Offa one day ere had said
In the meeting-place when he was
moot.
That with proud minds many did then speak
Who later at need would not endure.
Then fell that lord
and his 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
to lose, or their loved lord to avenge.
Thus urged them forth the son of Aelfric,
A warrior young in winters
and he spake,
Aelfwin thus said - boldly he spoke,
"Think ye of the times when we oft spake at mead
When we were young
and benches did raise up our boast,
Henchmen in the hall - about hard strife,
Now may each one make trial of his
strength to be.
Now will I tell my lineage to all
That I was in Mercia of a mighty kindred
Mine old father - Aldhelm was
an 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 the death of
both - my kinsman and my lord."
Then went he forth - full mindful of the feud,
So that with his spear one
of the 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 spake, his spear-shaft shook,
"Lo thou, Aelfwin, hast all heartened
Thanes
that our lord lieth,
The earl on the earth - for us all is need
That each one of us should hearten the other
Warrior
while he his weapon may
Have and hold, his hard blade,
His spear and good sword - for Godric hath us
for a
coward son, all betrayed.
For many men thought when he rode off on the mare,
On that proud steed, that he was
the lord.
And for that cause are the folk scattered over the field
The shield wall broken. May his plan come to pass
that he so many men hath set to flight."
Leofsund spoke, his buckler uphove,
His shield for safety - and then he
answered,
"I do promise this, that I will not hence
Fly a foot's step, but shall further go
To avenge in the vengeance
of my friendly lord.
Then shall not need in Sturmere the steadfast soldiers
To twit me with words, now my friend
that I returned home without my lord,
Turned from the battle, but the sword shall take me,
The point and edge
And he, most wroth, departed.
Fought steadfastly - flight he despised.
Dunmer then spoke - shook his spear
and
churl - called out above all,
Bade each warrior - "Brithnoth avenge!
Now may not go he who thinketh to
be a friend
among the folk, nor mourn for his life."

Part IV THE LAST STAND OF THE THANES

And then they went forth - for life they recked not. Then 'gan the house men hardly to fight, The fierce sp and they begged God That they might avenge their friendly lord, And on their enemies bring death. Then 'gan eagerly help, He was in Northumbria of a hardy kin, Eclaf's child, and Aesferth his name. He weaken in the warplay, But he sent forth often a shaft, Often he a buckler struck, often a man hit, Ever and again h wounds The while he his weapons might wield. Then yet in the rank stood Eadward the tall, Ready and e boastful word spoke, That he would not flee a foot's space of land, Or budge back, now that his better ch fall'n. He shattered the shield wall and fought with the soldiers Until he his treasure-giver upon the sean worthily avenged - 'ere he lay with the slain. So did Aeturic - a noble companion, Eager and impetuous - 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 ther kinsman the ground sought. Soon in the struggle was Offa struck down Yet had he done what he boasted 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 o 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 him Wigelin's son on the b laid. Then was stern meeting, stood fast Warriors in the war, then men sank down Wearied with wounds - on earth. Oswald and Ealdwald all the while Brothers both, urged on the men, Their dear kinsmen, with v incited That they there at need should hold out, Stoutly wield their weapons. Brythwold spoke, grasped h was an old comrade, urged the men, He full boldly cheered his soldiers, "Thought must be the harder, h keener Spirit shall be more - as our might lessens. There lies our chief all cut down, Good man on the gro may he grieve Who now from this war-play thinketh to go. I am old in years - hence I will not, But by the own lord, By my chief so loved, I think to lie." And thus them all did Aethelgar's son urge, Even Godric, to oft he cast a spear, A spear of slaughter to go upon the Vikings, As he 'mid the folk foremost went, Smote : 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 diff understand the Early Christian Chuch as they embed themselves into the daily lives of the common ma politics of state and having the Kings ear. I found this while reading Anglo-Saxon Prose Translated and Michael Swanton, published by Dent Everyman Library, ISBN 0-460-11809-9 and although it was written Alfreds Death it still concerns the viking raids and the church's view on them.

The Sermon of 'Wolf' To The English When The Danes Persecuted Them Most, Which Was In The Year 1 Incarnation Of Our Lord Jesus Christ

It was commonly believed that the world would come to an end a thousand years after either Christ's b death, but in any case imminently. For the apocalyptic signs anticipated read the Bickling Homily 7, p.6'

Wulfstan's life spanned a particularly troubled period of English history, he was a statesman-cleric who name 'Wolf' for several writings. He was Bishop of London from 096-1002 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 o military defeats, of which the poem on The Battle of Maldon is one literary reflection. Danegeld was lev time after Christmas 1013 the incompetent King Aethelred was exiled into Normandy to allow the Danis to succeed. Aethelred returned on Swegn's death the following year, but Danish depredations continued direction of Swegn's son Cnut; and upon Aethelred's death in 1016, Cnut assumed the throne.

Beloved Men, recognise what the truth is: this world is in haste and it is drawing near the end, and theref it is the worse it will get in the world. And it needs must thus become very much worse as a result of the prior to the advent of Antichrist; and then, indeed, it will be terrible and cruel throughout the world.-----

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 now nothing has prospered, within or without,but there has been devastation and persecution in every 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 sometimes 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 God clear and visible towards this nation?-----But look,in God's name,let us do as is needful for us,defend ourselves as best we may,lest we all perish together. There was a historian in the time of the Britons called Gildas. He wrote about their misdeeds, how by their sins they angered God so very excessively that finally he sent the host of the English to conquer their land and to destroy the nobility of the Britons altogether. This story is so long they had been suffering as this reference comes from a letter by Alcuin of York on hearing about the death 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.
D. C. Drout, Prentice Professor of English at Wheaton College, Norton, MA.

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

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Melissa Bernstein has produced an extensive annotated bibliography

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Sussex

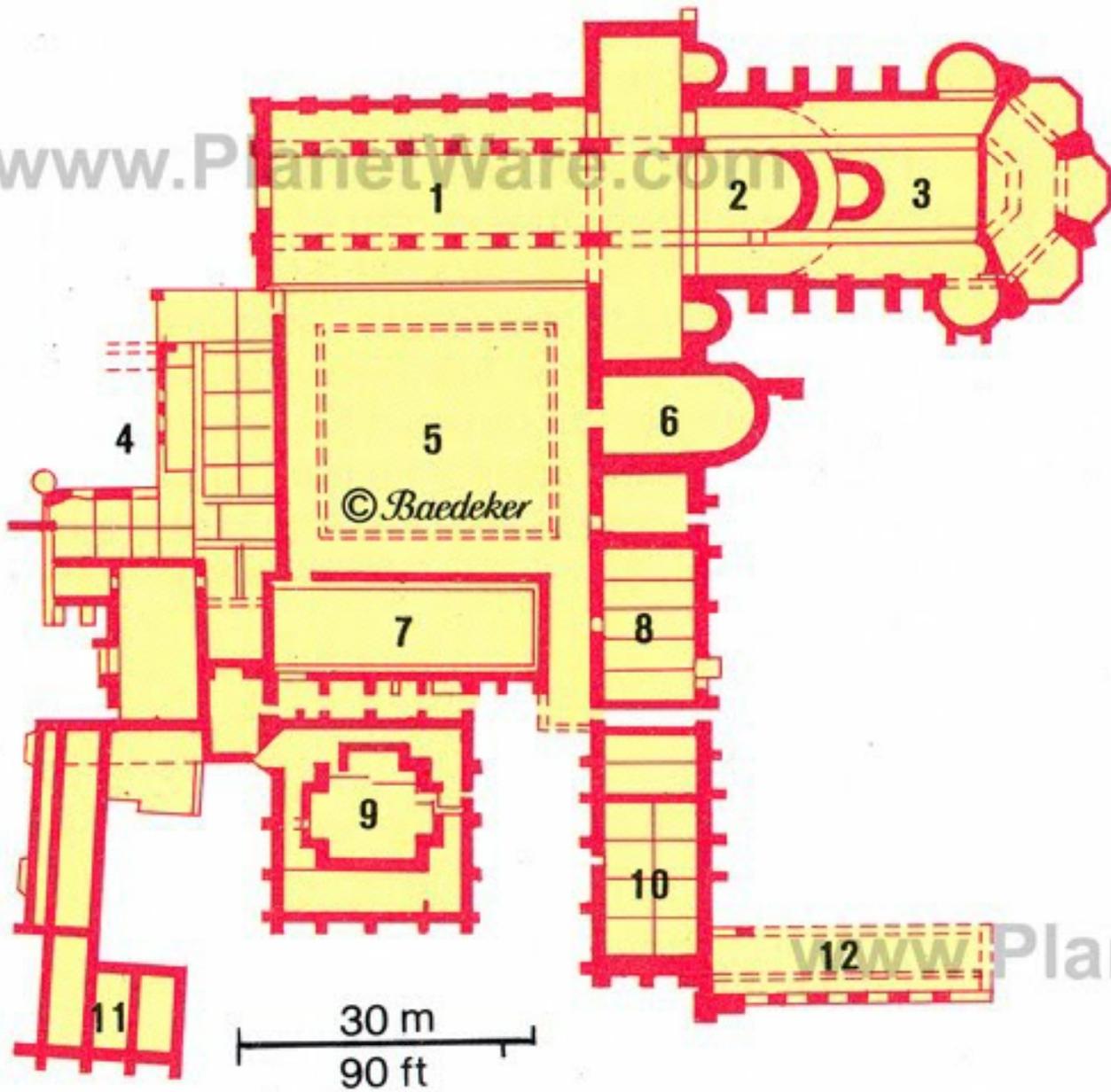
Cottages at Rothersfield



Sussex

Battle Abbey Plan

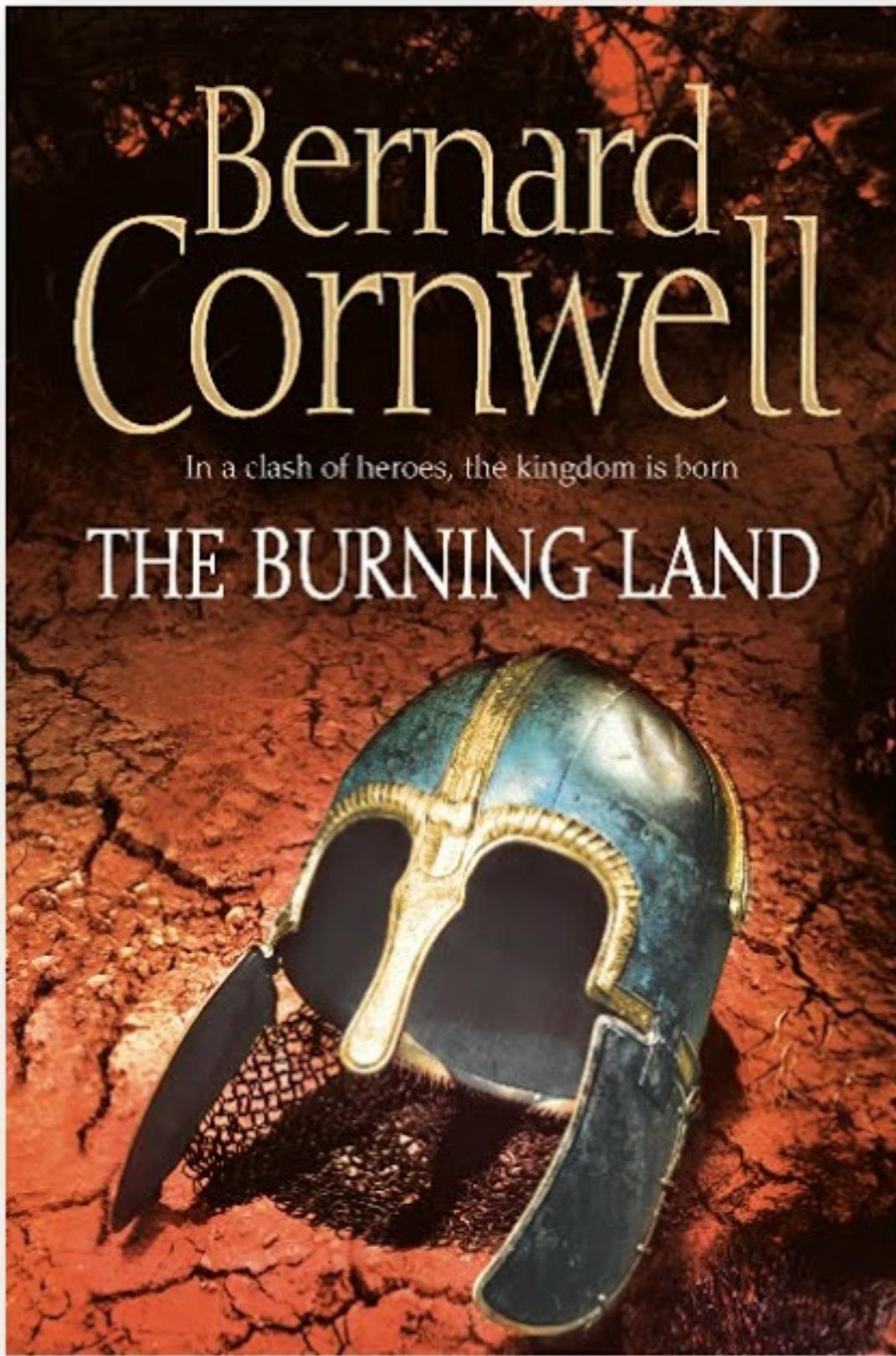
Battle Abbey Reconstruction



- 1 Nave
- 2 Choir
- 3 Presbytery
- 4 Abbot's lodgings
- 5 Cloisters
- 6 Chapterhouse
- 7 Refectory
- 8 Heating chamber
- 9 Kitchen
- 10 Novices' quarters
- 11 Guest House
- 12 Latrines

built on site of the battle William I

The Burning Land



book cover

Spoiler Alert///// The Burning Land Chapter 1 ////////////////;Spoiler alert.

I had left Finan and a handful of men as our only sentries. They were posted at the edge of the fields, half a mile between the village and the old hall and Finan had sent one man to warn me that the Danes were moving. "The Danes are in the woods, lord," the man told me, "by our camp." "How many?" "We can't tell, lord, but it sounds like a lot. It could mean two hundred or two thousand, and prudence suggested I should wait till Finan could estimate the number more accurately, but I was in that bleak mood, feeling doomed and desperate for a sign from the gods, so I turned to Æthelflæd. "You wait here with your bodyguard," I said, and did not wait for an answer, but just

Serpent-Breath, taking comfort from the sound of the long steel scraping through the scabbard's throat. "We are at our camp!" I shouted, "and we're going to kill them!" I spurred my horse, the same stallion I had named Aldhelm. It was a good horse, properly schooled, but I was still unfamiliar with him. Ælfwold spurred to follow. "How many are there?" he asked. "Enough!" I called to him. I was feeling reckless, careless and I knew it. But I reckoned the Danes would attack the encampment and almost immediately realise we had anticipated them and then they would be wary. I wanted them unaware and so I kicked the stallion into a trot. My whole army of four hundred men, was streaming along the track behind me. The day's first shadows were being cast in the distance and birds were flying up from the woods ahead. I turned in my saddle to see spears and swords, axes and shields of Saxon warriors, grey-mailed in a grey dawn, grim-faced beneath helmets, and I felt the battle anger rising in me. I wanted to kill. I was in that bleak mood, assailed by the certainty that I had to throw myself on the mercy of the gods if I wanted to live, if the spinners were willing to weave my thread back into the golden weft, then I would have to die through this morning. Omens and signs, we live by them, and so I rode to discover the will of the gods. I was foolish. Horsemen appeared on our left, startling me, but it was only Finan and his seven remaining men who galloped to join us. "There might be three hundred of them," he shouted, "or maybe four hundred!" I just followed and kicked the horse again. The track to the old hall was wide enough for four or five men to ride abreast. I had probably expected me to halt our horsemen short of the space we had cleared about the old hall and limit our approach to the trees, but the carelessness was on me. Light flared ahead. The daylight was still grey, night shrouding the horizon, but the sudden new light was red and bright. Fire. The Danes, I guessed, had lit the hall's thatched roof to light their deaths. I could see the edge of the trees, see the fallen trunks we had felled the day before, see the smoke of dying campfires and the dark shapes of men and horses and the glimmer of reflected fire from helmets and shields, 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 clearing we were outnumbered. The Danes had come in force, at least four hundred, and most were still mounted, but they were scattered throughout the encampment and few realised we were approaching until our horses and blades were in the dawn. The largest body of the enemy was at the clearing's western edge, staring across the dark landscape at the faint glow of light betraying the fires of Lundene. Maybe they suspected we had given up any hope of holding the forts and, under the cover of night, had slunk back towards the distant city. Instead we were coming in from the east with the growing light behind us, and they turned as they heard the first screams and shouts. We were lit from behind by the growing fire of the old hall's burning thatch. Red fire was flashing from the horses' bared teeth, from our shields, from our blades, and I was still shouting as I swung my sword at the first man. He was on foot and holding a shield and a spear that he tried to level at my horse, but Serpent-Breath caught him on the side of the head and I lifted my sword and lunged it at another man, not bothering to see what damage I did, just spurring on to provoke more and more. I surprised them, and for a moment we were the lords of slaughter as we spread from the track and cut down the dismounted men who searched for plunder around the dying camp fires. I saw Osferth hammer a man's head with 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 would catch in the flames and flared sudden and bright. He screamed and writhed, head like a beacon as he staggered to his feet. A rush of horsemen overrode him. A hoof threw up a spew of sparks and riderless horses fled in panic. Finan followed me. Finan and Cerdic and Sihtric, and together we rode for the large group of mounted warriors who had gathered to the west across the night-shadowed land. I was still shouting as I charged into them, sword swinging at a young man who deflected the blow with his raised shield, then he was struck by a spear below the shield, the spear passing through mail and into his belly. I felt something strike my shield, but could not look to my left because another man was trying to lunge his sword through my stallion's neck. I knocked his blade down with Serpent-Breath at his arm, but his mail stopped the blow. We were deep among the enemy now, unable to ride farther, but my men were coming to help. I lunged at the gap-toothed man, but he was quick and his shield intercepted my sword, then his horse stumbled. Sihtric slashed with an axe and I had a glimpse of splitting metal and saw blood. I was trying to keep my horse moving. There were dismounted Danes among the riders, and a slash across a horse's stallion's legs could bring me down and a man was never so vulnerable as when he topples from a saddle. A horse slid from my right, sliding across my belly to lodge in the underside of my shield and I just back-swung my sword. Serpent-Breath into a bearded face. I felt her shatter teeth and ripped her back to saw her edge deeper. A horse screamed. Ælfwold's men were deep in the fight now and our charge had split the Danes. Some had retreated down the track, most had gone either north or south along the crest and now they reformed and came at us from both directions, 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 Dane

quickly and closed on us. The hill's edge was a melee of trampling horses, shouting men, and the raw screech on steel. I had turned northwards and was trying to drive those Danes off the hill, but they were just as close as I carried a sword blow, watching the man's gritted teeth as he tried to cut my head off. The clash of sword on my arm, but I had stopped his swing and I punched him in the face with Serpent-Breath's hilt. He swung his sword striking my helmet, filling my head with noise as I punched a second time. I was too close to him to use the edge, and he hit my sword arm with the rim of his shield. "Turd," he grunted at me. His helmet was decorated with twists of wool dyed yellow. He wore arm-rings over his mail, denoting a man who had won treasure in battle. I was fury in his fire-reflecting eyes. He wanted my death so badly. I wore the silver-decorated helmet, having more arm-rings than he did and he knew I was a warrior of renown. Perhaps he knew who I was, and he wanted to kill me. I had killed Uhtred of Bebbanburg and I saw him grit his teeth again as he tried to slice the sword at my face. The grimace turned into surprise, and his eyes widened and the red went from them as he made a gurgling noise. He shook his head, desperate to keep hold of his faltering sword as the axe blade cut his spine. Sihtric had a sword and the man made a mewling noise and fell from the saddle, and just then my horse screamed and staggered sideways and I saw a dismounted Dane thrusting a spear up into the stallion's belly. Finan drove the man off his horse as I kicked my feet out of the stirrups. The stallion collapsed, twisting and kicking, still screaming. My right leg was trapped beneath him. Another horse stepped a hair's breadth from my face. I covered my face with my shield and tried to drag myself free. A blade crashed into the shield. A horse stepped on Serpent-Breath's hilt and lost the blade. My world was a thunder of hooves, screams and confusion. I tried to pull free again then a blade or hoof, struck the back of my helmet and the confused world turned black. I was dazed, and in that moment I heard someone making pathetic moaning noises. It was me. A man was trying to drag my helmet off and when I realised I was alive he put a knife at my mouth and I remember thinking of Gisela and desperately checking Serpent-Breath's hilt was in my hand, and it was not, and I screamed, knowing I was denied the joys of life. Then my vision turned red. There was warmth on my face and red before my eyes, and I recovered my senses. I realise that the man who would have killed me was dying himself and his blood was pouring onto my face. Cerdic heaved the dying man away and pulled me from beneath the dead horse. "Here!" Sihtric thrust Serpent-Breath into my hand. Both he and Cerdic were dismounted. A Dane shouted victory and lunged with a thick-hafted spear from his saddle and Cerdic deflected the thrust with a blade-scored shield. I stabbed the horseman's thigh with Serpent-Breath, but the blow had no force and his spear sliced at me, thumping hard into my shield. The Danes, scenting triumph and they pressed forward and we felt their blows chopping on the lindenwood. "Kill them!" Sihtric shouted, though it came out as a croak, and some of Weohstan's men arrived on our right and drove the Danes back. The Danes and I saw a Saxon twist in his saddle, his spear hand hanging from his bloody arm by a scrap of tendon. "Jesus! Jesus!" a man shouted and it was Father Pyrlig who joined us. The Welsh priest was on his hands and knees, stretching his mail, a spear like a small tree-trunk in his hands. He carried no shield and so used the spear to keep his hands, driving the blade at the enemy's horses to keep them at a distance. "Thankyou," I said to Cerdic. "We should go back, lord," Cerdic said. "Where's Finan?" "Back!" Cerdic shouted, and he unceremoniously pulled me by my left shoulder and pulled me away from the Danes. Finan was fighting behind us, hammering an axe into the southern part of the crest where he was supported by most of my men and by Ælfwold's Mercian horsemen. "This is a muddle," Pyrlig said, and I almost laughed because his tone and his words were so calm. It was more than a muddle, it was a disaster. I had led my men onto the hill's edge and the Danes had ridden up to the attack and now they surrounded us. There were Danes to the east, to the north and to the south, and they were trying to drive us over the crest and pursue us down the steep slope where our bodies would be a smudge on the ground beneath the rising sun. At least a hundred of my Saxons were dismounted now and we formed a circle in the middle of a desperate shield wall. Too many were dead, some killed by their own side for, in the maelstrom, it was difficult to tell friend from foe. Many Saxons had a cross on their shield, but not all. There were plenty of Danish corpses scattered around their living outnumbered us. They had my small shield wall surrounded, while their horsemen were hammering the dismounted Saxons back into the woods. Ælfwold had lost his stallion and the Mercian forced his way to the crest. "Bastard," he said, "you treacherous bastard." He must have thought I had deliberately led his men into a trap. It was only my stupid carelessness, not treachery, that had led to this disaster. Ælfwold raised his shield and the blows hammered down. I thrust Serpent-Breath into a horse's chest, twisted and thrust again. Pyrlig half hoisted a man from the saddle with a tremendous lunge of his heavy spear. But Ælfwold was still on his feet, his helmet ripped open, his blood and brains spilling onto his face, but he retained enough consciousness to look reproachfully before he started to quiver and spasm and I had to look away to ram the sword at another Dane. A horse tripped on a corpse, and then the enemy pulled back from our shield wall to ready themselves for another attack. "Jesus, Jesus," Ælfwold said, and then the breath stuttered in his throat and he said no more. Our

was shrunken, 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 tai spilt 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 scre 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 again and felt Serpent-Breath scrape on bone as she tore the rid hacked down. I blinked the splinter 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 ric 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 colla burning 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 turnin 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 h we 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!" Finan saw it! He thought I betrayed him!" "He kept his brains in his arse then. Where have the bastards gone?" were riding for the fort and our pursuit had taken us slightly eastwards. I remember the green sunlight l leaves, remember thumping past a badger's earth, remember the sound of all those hooves in the greer 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 th 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 recl 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 t 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-chur 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 we attacked Thunresleam's old hall together, and that we drove the Danes in panic and that we assaulted the fort while the enemy was still reeling from that defeat. They got the story wrong, of course, but then, they were poor warriors. The truth was that Steapa rescued me from certain defeat, and neither of us assaulted the fort but we did not need to. 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 towards the sunlit slope, and the Danes trapped outside could not break that shield wall and fled instead. They spilled down the steep westwards facing slope, riding desperately towards the new fort. And we simply dismounted and ran through the gate to join Steapa's spreading shield wall inside the old 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 fort and she was screaming at them to attack us. But we were now in overwhelming numbers. There were at least a hundred Saxons in Steapa's wall, and more kept arriving on horseback. The proud banner of Wessex flew above the wall, embroidered dragon spattered with blood, and Skade screamed at us. She was on horseback, in mail, with her long black hair lifting in the wind as she brandished a sword. She kicked her horse towards the shield wall and she had enough sense to check as the round shields lifted in unison and the long spears reached towards the sky. He came with more horsemen, and he led them about the right flank of Steapa's wall and ordered a charge. We shouted at the wall to advance and we marched up the slight slope towards the great halls that crowned the hill. Weohstan's men swept ahead of us and the Danes, understanding their fate, fled. And so we took the old fort. The enemy fled downhill, a man dragging Skade's horse by its bridle. She sat twisted in her saddle, staring at us and not following. We were weary, bloodied, bruised, wounded and amazed. Besides, there was a shield wall of Saxons guarding the bridge which led to the new fort. Not all the fugitives were going to that bridge, some were running with their horses across the deep narrow creek to reach Caninga. The dragon was flown from the old fort's wall to the new, to Ælfwold's cross. The flags announced a victory, but that victory would mean nothing unless we could hold the new fort which, for the first time, I saw clearly. And cursed.

Chertsey Abbey



Surrey

Brookland Poster

**ROAD RACING AT
BROOKLANDS**
SATURDAY,
JULY 10

WEYBRIDGE



Programme includes
**GRAND
'NATIONAL'
RACE**
for Prizes value £350
Also
Long & Short Handicaps
No Race longer than 6 laps

**START
3 P.M.**
Admission - 3/6
Children - - 2/-
Cars to Enclosure 1/-
Cars to Car Park 2/6
Combined Rail and Admission
Tickets at all main S.R. Stations

Surrey

Walton-on-Thames



Surrey

Character in Bernard Cornwell's Saxon Series: Ulf

Wulf the Saxon by G. A. Henty <http://www.classicreader.com/book/2235/>

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



Isle of Sheppey

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 court referred to the magnates, both lay and spiritual, who were entitled to sit in council for the shire as an early form of representative democracy. The practice began in Wessex and was later used throughout 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 came to refer to the building or location where the court would usually meet. Amongst the lay and spiritual members of the 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 courts.

Charter confirmed as witness by Heahberht

A.D. 765. Egbert, king of Kent, to Eardwulf, bishop; grant of land at Rochester, confirmed by Heahberht, king of Kent, and (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. 196, authentic; O'Donovan 1973, p. 99, witness-list is suspect; Schärer 1982, pp. 223, 226, authenticity uncertain; Kelly 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 .

meo fidelissimo ministro atque episcopo . tuae petitioni assensum prebui cum consensu scilicet uener archiepiscopi Genberhti qui michi in omnibus carus est . necnon et principum meorum trado terram in moenia supranominati id est Hrofiscestri unum uiculum cum duobus iugeribus adiacentem platee que a meridie huius terre quam tibi modo in presenti possidendam habendamque . et cuicumque uolueris moriente dare eternaliter perdono . Siquis autem hanc donationem meam inuido maliuoloque infringe temptauerit animo . sit separatus in hoc seculo a participatione corporis et sanguinis domini nostri Iesu futuro a cetu omnium sanctorum segregatus nisi antea suam presumptionem digna satisfactione correxerit . Manentem hanc kartulam in sua semper stabilitate . suprascriptam donationem meam signo sancte crucis curabo . et alios religiosos uiros ut et ipsum agerent adhibui quorum nomina cum signaculis dominice tenentur . Actum anno dominice incarnationis . dcclxv . + Ego Egberhtus rex Cantie . hanc donationem sancte crucis roborare curabo . + Ego Gengberhtus gratia dei archiepiscopus . consensi et subscripsi . + episcopus consensi et subscripsi . + Signum manus Uban . + Signum manus Udan . + Signum manus Aldrici . + Signum manus Uuilheri . + Signum manus Uualhardi . + Signum manus Tymbel . + Signum manus Coerici . + Signum manus Balhhardi . + Signum manus Aethelnodi .

Rubric: Confirmatio Heaberhti regis Cantie .

+ Ego Heaberhtus rex Cant' 'testis' consensi et subscripsi . + Ego Aldberhtus abbas subscripsi . + Signum manus Aldrici . + Singum manus Badohardi . + Signum manus Tidheah . + Signum manus Baldhordi . + Signum manus Botuini . + Signum manus Hetraedi . + Signum manus Beornulfi . + Signum manus Heara .

Rubric: Confirmatio Offae regis Merciorum .

+ Ego Offa rex Merciorum ad petitionem Earduulfi episcopi hanc donationem in monasterio quod appellatur Medyaemstede presidente abbate Botuino meo manu atque impressione sancte crucis Christi corroboraui . licentiam dedi habendi seu tradendi cuicumque uoluisset . + Ego Botuine abbas consensi et subscripsi .

History: Anglo-Saxons

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 once they 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. They later settled in Frankish territory. In around 450 AD, they occupied Kent under Hengist and Horsa and the Isle of Wight and the Hampshire coast in the early 6th century.

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 6th century, the tribal settlements had become seven kingdoms (the Heptarchy) and by the first half of the 7th century, Northumbria was dominant with its king bearing the titles of Rex Anglorum and being accepted as bretwalda or overlord of the others. Although the tendency is to think of the people that the Normans called 'The Saxons', they were actually a mixture of the various groups and the language now known as Old English is a combination of several Germanic tongues which developed into Middle English after the second Germanic wave of that of the Norsemen. This took place in several stages, with the Danes arriving by 800 AD and the Norsemen from the north-west by about 900 AD. The third wave of Germanic invasion was that of the Normans. They had occupied France for a few generations but their language and naming system were already heavily influenced, with many Germanic names taking on 'Normanised' forms.

The kingdoms were eventually united under the kings of Wessex. During the reign of King Alfred in the late 9th century the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle was begun. Written by monks, it provides a record of history from the Roman invasion 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 occasionally through amalgamations and divisions. They formed a loose confederation under a single king, the most powerful of whom was acknowledged as head king or bretwalda and were eventually united under the kings of Wessex.

Bretwaldas (Head Kings) (According to Bede + later historians)

Name Kingdom

Aelle Sussex

Ceawlin Wessex

Aethelbert I Kent

Redwald East Anglia

Edwin Northumbria

Oswald Northumbria

Oswy Northumbria

Offa Mercia

Egbert Wessex

Northumbria and Bernicia

The kingdom of Northumbria, the most northern of the Saxon Heptarchy, was formed when Bernicia and Deira united. Its most powerful period was during the 7th century under Edwin, Oswald and Oswy but it declined after the death of Edwin and became part of the Viking kingdom of York after the last recorded king, Egbert II, died around 878.

Kings Monarch Reign Lineage Spouse

Ida of Bernicia 547-59 Bearnoch

Glappa 559-60 Son of Ida

Adda 560-8 "

Aethelric 568-72 "

Theodric 572-9 "

Frithuwald 579-85/6 "

Hussa 585/6-92/3 "

Aethelfrith 593-616 son of Aethelric 1 Bebba

2 Acha daughter of Aelle of Deira

3 ?

Edwin 616-33 Son of Aelle of Deira Aethelburh daughter of Aethelbeht I Kent

Eanfrith 633-4 Son of Aethelfrith + 1 Pictish princess

St Oswald 634-41 son of Aethelfrith + 2 Cyneburg, daughter of Cynegils of Wessex

Oswy 641-70 Son of Aethelfrith + 3 1 Rhiainfellt of Rheged (Riimmelth)

2 Eanfled of Deira

3 Fina (mistress)

Aethelwald c 651-4 Bernicia nephew of Eanfrith

Ecgrith 670-85 Son of Oswy + 2 1 Aethelthryth (Etheldreda) d of Anna of East Anglia

2 Eormenburg

Aldfrith 685-704 Son of Oswy + 3 Cuthburh, sister of Ine of Wessex

Osred I 704-16 Son of Aldfrith

Coenred 716-8 son of Cuthwine, descendant of Ida

Osric 718-29 Gs of Oswy

Ceolwulf 729-37 d 760, a monk brother of Coenred

Eadbeht 737-58 d 768 cousin of Ceolwulf

Oswulf 758-9 son of Eadbeht Ricthryth

Aethelwald Moll 759-65 Aethelthryth

Alchred 765-74 Desc of Ida of Bernicia Osgyfu d of Oswulf Aethelred I 774-778/9 2 Aelfflaed, daughter of Oswulf

Mercia Aelfwald I 778/9-88 son of Oswulf

Osred II 788-92 son of Alhred

Egbert II 876-8

Earls Monarch Reign Lineage Spouse

Ragnald c 919

Edgar 957 + Eng, Mercia 1 Aethelflead 2 Wulfthryth

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 E

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 Aelfflaed, 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

Diera

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

Ahlfrith 54-664 sub king son of Oswy of Northumbria Aelfwine killed 679 sub-king brother Ahlfrith

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 Rricula d of Eormenric of Kent Saebert Pre 604-616/7 Son of Sledda

Saexred

Saeward

Name unknown 616/7 3 sons of Saebert

Sigebeht I 'the Little' 617-pre653 Son of Saeward

Sigebeht II 'the Good' 653-60 Son of Sexbald bro of Saebert Swithhelm 660-5 Bro of Sigebeht II

Sebbi + Sighere 665-95

665-83 Bro of Sigebeht I

Son of Sigebeht 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 Sigebeht 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

Offa in 796 and was eventually absorbed by Wessex. In 873, King Burhred was driven out by the Danes v

East Mercia in 877, leaving West Mercia to Ceolwulf, their puppet king. His reign ended about 883 and E

Ethelred acknowledged Alfred the Great of Wessex as overlord.

Monarch Reign Lineage Spouse

Creoda C585-93

Pybba 593-c606 Son of Creoda

Ceorl Kinsman of P

Penda 632-54 son of Pybba Cynewise

Peada 654-6 + Mid Ang son of Penda Alhflead, daughter of Oswy of Northumbria

Wulfhere 657-74 Son of Penda Eormenhild/Eormengild d E'behrt of Kent

Aethelred 675-704 Osthryth/Osthryd d Oswy N'bria Merewala c 700 East Mercia Eormenburh d E'raed c

Coenred 704-9 abd to be monk son of Wulfhere

Ceolred 709-16 son of Aethelred Waerburh/Werburg/

Werburga

Ethelbald 716-57 Ggs of Pybba

Beornred 757

Offa 757-96 Descended from Eawa, son of Pybba Cynethryth Ecgfrith 796 son of Offa

Coenwulf 796-821 Descended from Cenwalh, son of Pybba Aelfthryth

Ceolwulf I 821-after 823 Brother of Coenwulf

Wiglaf 827-40 Aelflead, daughter of Ceolwulf I

Beorhtwulf 840-52

Burgred/Burhred 852- Aethelswith, sister of Alfred the Great

Ceolwulf II 873-c83

Earls

Edgar 957 + Eng, N'bria

Leofwine -c 1023 Ealdorman of Hwicce

Leofric c 1023-57 earl of M son of Leofwine Godgifu (Lady Godiva)

Aelfgar 1051-7-65 + E Ang son of Leofric Aelfgifu

Edwin 1065-6 d 1071 son of Aelfgar

East Anglia

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

Monarch Reign Lineage Spouse

Wuffa 571-8

Tytila 578-93 Son of Wuffa

Redwald 593-617 Son of Tytila

Earpwald 617-627/8 Son of Redwald

Sigeberht 631-4 abd to be monk Stepson of Redwald

Ecgric 634-5 Kinsman of Sigeberht

Anna C635-654 Son of Eni bro of Redwald Saewara Aethelhere (Aethelric?) 654 Bro of Anna Hereswith, g

Deira; sister of Hilda of Whitby

Aethelwold 654-663/4 Bro of Anna

Ealdwulf (Aldwulf) 663-713 Son of Aethelhere/ric

Aelfwold (Alfwold) 713-49 Son (or bro) of Ealdwulf

St Edmund 855-69/70

Earls Monarch Reign Lineage Spouse

Ulfcytel c 1000 Wulfhild, daughter of Eththelred the Unready Harold 1045 + England and Mercia son of C

Wessex Ealdgyth, daughter of Aelfgar of Mercia

Gyrth 1057-66 died at Hastings brother of Harold

Kent

Before about 449, the founder of the kingdom, Hengest, and his brother, Horsa, were invited to come from the continent to help the British king, Vortigern, defend himself against the Picts and Scots. The ruling family were called the Kentings after Hengest's son, Oeric Oisc.

Monarch Reign Lineage Spouse

Hengest 455-88 Son of Wihtgils

Aesc (Oeric Oisc) 488-512 Son of Hengest

Octa 512-40 Son of Aesc

Eormenric 540-60 Son of Octa

Aethelbeht I 560-616 Son of Eormenric Bertha, daughter of Caribert I, King of Paris?

2 name unknown

Eadbald 616-40 son of Aethelbert I 1 stepmother '?'

2 Emma (Ymme) d of Clothacar (Clotaire) King of the Franks

Eorcenberht 640-64 Younger son of Eadbald Seaxburh d Anna of East Anglia

Eormenraed joint king? Elder son of Eadbald Oslafa/Oslava Egbert I 664-73 son of Eorcenberht

Hlothhere Swaebhard 673-85 676-92 son of Eorcenberht

son of Sebbi of Essex

Eadric 674-86 joint king son of Egbert

Oswini 688-9 joint king

Wihtred 690-725 son of Egbert 1 Cynegyth

2 Ethelburga

3 Werberga

Aethelbeht II

Eadbeht II

Alric 725-62 725-48 725- Son of Wihtred + 1 ''

Son of Wihtred + 3

Eardwulf c 747-jointly Son of Eadbeht I

Egbert II 765-80 Son of Aethelbeht II

Ealhmund Fl 784/6 sub king Son of Eafa of Wessex Dau of Aethelbert II? Eadbeht II Praen 796-8 Son of

Cuthred 798-807 bro of Coenwulf + Ceolwulf of Mercia Baldred -825 driven out by E III

Egbert III 825-39 (also Wessex + England) Son of Ealhmund Raedburh/Redburga

Aethelstan 839-51 sub-king + Essex, Surrey, Sussex Son or gs of Egbert III Bro (or uncle) of Alfred the Gr

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 the first kings of all England but Wessex declined after the death of Edgar in 975 and the throne was later taken by Danish invaders.

Monarch Reign Lineage Spouse

Cerdic 519-34 Came to Britain c 495 -

Creoda Son of Cerdic - Cynric d 560 son of Creoda or Cerdic - Ceawlin 560-92 son of Cynric -

Ceol 591-7 son of Cutha, brother of Ceawlin -

Ceolwulf 597-611 brother of Ceol -

Cynegils 611-41 son of Ceolwulf or Ceol -

Coenbeht d 661 sub king grandson of Ceawlin

Cenwalh 641-72 son of Cynegils Dau Pybba of Mercia

2? Seaxburh

Seaxburh/Sexburga 672-3/4 Widow of Cenwalh

Cenfus 673/4 Son of Cenferth s of Cuthgils, s of Ceolwulf Aescwine 674-6 Son of Cenfus

Centwine 676-85 Bro of Cenwalh

Caedwalla 685-8 abd to go to Rome as pilgrim son of Coenbeht Centhryth

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) Sigebeht 756-7 dep ''
Cynewulf 757-86 ''
Beohrtric 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 all 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
Aethelbeht 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
Athelstan 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/Wulfthrith
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 Sigferth 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
Harold II 1066 defeated at Hastings by William the Conqueror 2nd son of Godwin of Wessex Ealdgyth d of
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 first element. 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. They were more popular with the later Anglo-Saxons with the monothematic, or single element, names acquired from the Vikings.

class association.

As the various permutations produced a large number of different names, few duplications would have 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 bring 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 position. English and variants Modern English Alf, aelf, alfr 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 quon woman? Dar dear Ed, ead prosperity, fortune Eald, ald old Est, east grace? Flead, fled 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 beloved, 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, tru ulfr, olf, 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
Aelbeht
Aelbert
Aelffrith
Aelfgar
Aelfgeat
Aelfgiest
Aelfheah
Aelfhelm
Aelfhere
Aelfhun
Aelfmaer
Aelfnoth
Aelfred
Aelfric
Aelfsi
Aelfsige
Aelfstan

Aelfwald
Aelfwaru
Aelfwear
Aelfweard
Aelfwin
Aelfwine
Aelfwold
Aelred
Aelwin
Aembriht
Aenheri
Aescwig
Aescwine
Aethelbald
Aethelbehrt
Aethelbeorht
Aethelbert
Aethelbricht
Aetheldred
Aethelfrid
Aethelfrith
Aethelgar
Aethelhard
Aethelheah
Aethelheard
Aethelhelm
Aethelhere
Aethelhun
Aethelmaer
Aethelmod
Aethelmund
Aethelnoth
Aethelred
Aethelric
Aethelsige
Aethelstan
Aethelulf
Aethelwald
Aethelwalh
Aethelweah
Aethelweald
Aethelweard
Aethelwig
Aethelwin
Aethelwine
Aethelwold
Aethelwulf
Aethilheard
Aethilwald
Agilbert
Ahlfrith
Ailmar
Ailnoth
Ailred

Ailwin
Albold
Alcfrith
Alchere
Alchfrid
Alchfrith
Alchred
Alcred
Alcuin
Alden
Aldfrid
Aldfrith
Aldhelm
Aldhere
Aldhun
Aldred
Aldwulf
Aldwyn
Alfar
Alfgar
Alfric
Alfwaerd
Alfwine
Alfwold
Algar
Alhfrith
Alhhere
Almund
Alhstan
Alhwald
Alkmund
Allnut
Allric
Alnod
Alnoth
Aloc
Alphege
Alred
Alric
Aluard
Alward
Alwin
Alwold
Alwyn
Alwyne
Andhere
Andhun
Angeltheow
Angenlaf
Angenmaer
Angenwit
Anlaf
Anselm
Ansfrid

Archibald
Arnulf
Ascferth
Aschere
Ashwin
Asulf
Athelheah
Athelmod
Athelric
Aylward
Aylwin
Badanoth
Badulf
Baegloc
Baeldaeg
Baerbald Baerwald Baldhere Baldred Baldric Baldthryth Baldwin Baldwine Baldwulf Balther Bardolph B
Beadumund Beadured Beaduric Beadwheard Beagmund Beagnoth Bealdwine Beanburh Beanstan Bedf
Bedhelm Bedric Bedwig Behrtferth Behrtwald Beorcol Beorhtel Beorhtfrith Beorhthelm Beorhtthere Beor
Beorhtmund Beorhtnoth Beorhtric Beorhtsige Beorhtstan Beorhtweald Beorhtwig Beorhtwulf Beornfred
Beornheard Beornhelm Beornmod Beornmund Beornnoth Beornoth Beornred Beornric Beornstan Beo
Beornward Beornwulf Beorthelm Beorthmaer Beorthwulf Beorward Beothuk Beowulf Bercthun Berenwa
Berhtwald Berhtwulf Beric Berihert Bermund Bernulf Bernwini Berthelm Berthun Bertram Bertred Bertul
Berwulf Berwyn Bilfrith Bilheard Billfrid Billfrith Birstan Blacwin Blaecman Blithhere Blithweard Bothelr
Botsige Botulf Botwine Botwulf Bregowine Brictric Bridferth Brifard Brihteah Brihtthere Brihtnoth Brihtsig
Brithnoth Brithun Brocwulf Brunheard Bruning Brunloc Brunweard Brunwulf Brychan Bryning Brynstan
Burghal Burgheard Burghelm Burghred Burgred Burgweard Burgwine Burgwulf Burhhelm Burhred Burk
Byrhtferth Byrhtnoth Byrnhorn Byrnstan Byrnwold Byrtferth
Caedmon Caedwalla Calemund Calunoth Cameleac Cantwine Carileph Cathwulf Ceadwalla Ceadweald
Ceawlin Cenbeorht Cenberet Cenfirith Cenfrith Cenfus Cenhelm Cenhere Cenred Centweald Centwine
Cenwalh Cenwulf Ceolbald Ceolbeald Ceolfrid Ceolfrih Ceolfrith Ceolheard Ceolhelm Ceolhere Ceoln
Ceolmund Ceolnoth Ceolred Ceolswith Ceolwald Ceolweald Ceolweard Ceolwulf Ceonred Ceowald C
Clarembald Coelfrid Coenbeht Coengilsus Coenhelm Coenred Coenwalh Coenwulf Coleman Colman
Conewalch Cuichelm Cuthbald Cuthbeorht Cuthbert Cuthburg Cutheard Cuthen Cuthert Cuthfrith Cut
Cuthheard Cuthhelm Cuthhere Cuthman Cuthred Cuthsige Cuthwin Cuthwine Cuthwulf Cwenburg Cw
Cynebald Cynebeht Cynebil Cyneburg Cynefrid Cynegels Cynegils Cynegis Cyneheah Cyneheard Cy
Cynehere Cynelaf Cynemaer Cynemund Cynered Cynesige Cynestan Cyneswith Cynewald Cyneward
Cynferth Cynfrith Cynhelm Cynibert Cynidr Cynred Cynreow Cynric Cynsige

Cynwulf

Daedheah Daegheard Darwin Delwyn Deneheard Denewulf Deorlaf Deorling Deormod Deormund De
Deorsige Deorwine Deowuc Derman Digoth Domgeat Dreamwulf Drithelm Drythelm Drythelm Duce
Dudemaer Dudeman Dunnere Dunstan Dycgbeorht
Eadbald Eadbeald Eadbeht Eadbeorht Eadbert Eadda Eadfrid Eadfrith Eadger Eadheard Eadhed Eadh
Eadlac Eadmaer Eadmer Eadmod Eadmund Eadnod Eadnoth Eadred Eadric Eadsige Eadstan Eadulf Ea
Eadwald Eadward Eadweald Eadweard Eadwig Eadwin Eadwine Eadwold Eadwulf Eadwyn Eahfrid Eal
Ealdbeorht Ealdfrith Ealdhelm Ealdhere Ealdred Ealdwine Ealdwulf Ealfled Ealgmund Ealhelm Ealh
Ealhun Ealhmund Ealhred Ealhsige Ealhstan Ealhswith Ealric Eambald Eanbald Eanbeorht Eanfrid Ea
Eanhere Eanlac Eanmaer Eanred Eansige Eanulf Eanwine Eanwulf Earcanwald Earconbeht Earconbert
Eardwul Eardwulf Earnmund Earnwulf Earpwald Easterwine Eastorwine Ebrard Ecgbald Ecgbert Ecgb
Ecgheard Ecghere Ecgmund Ecgrid
Egbin Egbryht Egelbert Egelwin Egferth Egfrid Egfrith Egred Eggrid Eggrid Eggrid Eggrid Eggrid Eggrid
Elphege Elstan Eluard Eluric Elwin Elwyn Engelard Engelram Eoforheard Eoforich Eoforweald Eohhere
Eomer Eorcenbeht Eorconbeald Eorconbeht Eorconweald Eored Eorkonweald Eormenraed Eormenr
Eorpwald Eosterwine Erconbert

Eric

Ermenred Erminus Ernulf Erwald Erwin Esegar Estmar Estmund Ethbin Ethelred Ethelric Ethelsige Eun
Ewald Eward Ewias
Farman Feleogild Felgild Feologild Feolomaer Feolugeld Feolumaer Flodwig Folcheorht Fordwin For
Forthred Forwin Frealaf Freawine Fremund Freodhoric Freola Freomund Freothul Freothulaf Frigeda
Frithegod Frithestan Frithowulf Frithugar Frithugeorn Frithugis Frithulaf Frithuwald Fromund Fulbert
Gaenbald Gaenbeald Gaenburh Gaerwulf Ganulf Garbeorht Garmund Gebmund Geldfrith Geldhere G
Gerbert Germund Gernebern Gladwin Gleawfrith Godbert Godefrid Godfred Godfrid Godfrith Godhel
Godhold Goding Godmaer Godman Godmann Godmund Godred Godric Godwald Godwin Godwine (C
Godwyn Goldwin Goldwine Goodwin Gosbeorht Gosfrid Graham Grimbald Grimbeald Grimcytel Grin
Gudram Gumbeorht Gumweald Gundulf Gunuert Guthfrith Guthhere Guthlac Guthlaf Guthmaer

Guthred

Haeferic Haemgils Haemgisl Haethbeorht Harding Hardred Hardulph Hardwin Harhold Hariulf Harold
Hathweald Heahfrith Heahhbeorht Heahmund Heahred Heahstan Healfdene Heardbeht Heardinc Hea
Heardwulf Heferth Helmhead Helmheard Helpric Hengest Heorrenda Heorstan Heorulaf Heorulf Heor
Heoruweald Heoruwulf Herbert Herebeald Herebeard Herebeht Herebeorht Herebert Hereferth Heref
Heregeard Heregeorn Heregils Heregod Herelaf Hereman Heremod Herered Hereric Hereward Herewe
Heribert Heriburg Herimann Hering Herrig Herward Hethin Hethor Hewald Hibald Higbald Hildebeorht
Hincmar Hirc Hleogar Hlothere Hlothhere Holbert Hondscio Horik Hothere Hreodbeorht Hrethbeorht
Hringhere Hrothbeorht Hrothgar Hrothlaf Hrothmaer Hrothsige Hrothwulf Huaetberct Hubert Hughoc
Humbert Humberth Hunbald Hunbeald Hunbeht Hunbeorht Hundine Hunferth Hunfirth Hunfrith Hun
Hunstan Hunwald Hwaetbert Hwaetmund Hwaetsige Whitmann Hybald Hygbald Hygebald Hygebeht
Hygelac Hygered Hylpric Hynsige Hythwalda
Iaenbeorht Idhelm Idmaer Ielfgar Ielfred Iestyn Ilfred Ilhelm Indulf Ingeld Ingilram Inguburh Ingulf Ir
Ingwald Ingweald Ingwulf Instio Inwaer Irminric Itermon Ithamar

Jaenbeorht

Jaenbert Jambert Jaruman Jurmin

Kenelm

Kennald

Kenward

Lambert Lambin Lanfranc Leavold Leodbriht Leodhere Leodwald Leofard Leofgeat Leofgiest Leofheah

Leofing Leofnoth Leofred

Leofric

Leofsige Leofstan Leofwig Leofwine Leovenath Letard Leuthere? Liliwin Lindhard Litwin Liudolf Lulling

Madulf Maegenfrith Maerec Maerheard Maerleswein Maethelgar Maldred Mansige Mearcred Medwin M

Merchelm Merefyn Merehwit Merewala Merewald Meriet Mervin Mildred Morcar Morkere

Norbert

Nordman

Norman

Northman

Nothelm

Nothhelm

Nothwulf

Odalric Odard Odbehrt Odoacer Oelfwine Oeric Oethelwald Oftfor Ohthere Oidilwald Ongentheow Ord

Ordheah Ordlaf Ordmaer Ordric Ormar Orped Osbald Osbeorht Osbeorn Osbryht Oscytel Osegod Osfri

Osgar Osgood Oshern Oslac Oslaf Oslafa Osmaer Osmer Osmod Osmund Osred Osric Osulf Osweald O

Oswiu Oswold Oswudu Oswuff Oswulf Oswy Oswyn Osyth Oughtred

Pechthelm Pechthelm Peohtgils Peohthelm Peohtred Peohttric Peohtwine Pilheard Plechelm Pleghelm P

Radbod Raedfrid Raedwulf Raegenhere Ragener Rahere Randal Randwulf Ranulf Redwald Regenbald R

Regenhere Regenmaer Regenweald Reginald Regnheah Regnhere Rendel Ribald Ricbert Richeard Ricm

Ricsig

Ricsige

Robert Roderic Roderick Rodney Rodolph Roger Romund Rumbald Rumwald Rumwold Ryhrtwold

Sabehrt Sabeorht Sabert Saebald Saebehrt Saeborht Saefugl Saegar Saegreat Saeward Saeward Saewig

Saewulf Saward Sawin Scenwulf Scirheah Scirheard Seaxwulf Seeman Selewine Selred Selwyn Sentwine

Sexfred Sexhelm Sexmund Sexwulf Sibert Sibwine Sideman Siferth Sigbert Sigebald Sigebeht Sigebert S
Sigeferth Sigegar Sigegeat Sigehaeth Sigeheah Sigehelm Sigehere Sigelac Sigered Sigeric Sigeward Sige
Sighard Sighere Sigstein Sired Siward Sledda Snaroc Sperling Stidolph Stigand Stithbeorht Stithwulf Stro
Strongric Swaebhard Swaefheard Swartcol Swatreband Sweartling Swefred Swetman Swidbert Swidhelm
Swithun Swithulf Swithun Swithwulf

Tancred Tatfrid Tathere Tating Tatuini Tatwine Tatwulf Teoweald Teowulf Thanchere Theabul Theobal
Theodbeald Theodbeorht Theodgar Theodlac Theodoric Theodric Theodulf Thingfrith Thorweald Thro
Thruidred Thrydwulf Thrythbeorht Thunor Thurstan Tidfrith Tidhelm Tidhere Tidsige Tidweald Tidwu
Tilhere Tilman Tilmund Tilwald Tondbeht Tondbert Tondhere Torhtsige Torold Torphin Torthred To
Trumhere Trumwin Trumwine Trygil Tunbeht Tunbeorht Tunbert Tunfrith Turbert Turec Turoc Turok
Uchtred
Ufegeat
Ulfbeht
Ulfcytel
Ulfric
Ulfrid
Ulger
Unferth
Unlaf
Unwona
Urien
Uscfrea
Uxfrea
Vadir
Vifil

Waegdaeg Waegmund Waegstan Waerbeald Waerferth Waerheard Waermund Waernoht Walahfrid Wal
Waldhere Waldwin Walhhere Wallding Walstan Wardlaw Wardric Wathsige Watman Wayland Wealdhe
Wealdtheof Wealhhere Weidrek Weland Weohstan Weohtgar Weonard Weorcgyth Weorchaeth Werferth
Werheard Wermund Werwulf Westerfalca Wicbeorht Wictgils Wictred Widmund Widreth Widsith Widuc
Wiergils Wiermund Wigbeald Wigbeorht Wigbeorn Wigbert Wigestan Wigferth Wigfrith Wighard Wighe
Wighere Wightgar Wiglac Wiglaf Wigmaer Wigmund Wigod Wigred Wigric Wigstan Wigthegn Wihtgar W
Wihthere Wihtlac Wihtlaeg Wihtred Wihtric Wilbeht Wilbeorht Wilbrord Wilfram Wilfrith Wilgils Wilgis
Wilhere Willehad Willibrord Wilmaer Wilmund Wilsiga Wilsige Wimund Winebald Winebeald Winefrit
Winelac Winemaer Winfirth Winfrid Winfrith Winnibald Winsige Winstan Winston Wiohtthere Withergil
Wlencing Wolfeius Wolnoth Wolstan Wraecwulf Wuldric Wuldwine Wulfbeald Wulfestan Wulferd Wulf
Wulfgeat Wulfhad Wulfheah Wulfhelm

Wulphere
Wulflaf Wulfnoth Wulfred Wulfric Wulfrid Wulfrun Wulfsige Wulfsin
Wulfstan Wulfthere Wulfweard Wulfwig Wulgan Wulmar Wulpher Wuscfrea Wusfrea Wyard Wynbald W
Wynfrith Wynhaeth Wunsige Wynstan Yonwin Yric

Female
Saxon names were still widely used after the Norman conquest and are found in various forms in writte
many cases, variant spellings occur, often with the letter 'v' represented by 'u'.
Adellufu
Adney
Aedilburh
Aegthryth
Aelfgifu
Aelfgyth
Aelflead Aelfrun Aelfthryth Aelfwyn Aelfwynn Aelfifu Aengifu Aeschild Aethelberga Aethelburh Aethelgi
Aethelhun Aethelind Aethelwith Aethelthryth Aethelthryd Aethelthryth Aethelu Aethelwaru Agenilda Ak
Alchflead Alchfrid Aldreda Alfiled Alfileda Alfrun Alfwen Alhburg Alkeld Alkelda Aluburg Aluhburg Arild At
Aylyld Baldehuia Baldeth Baldethiva Baldguia Baldhild Baldith Balethiva Balthildis Bathild Beadohild B

Beaduthryth Bealdthryth Begild Begilda Beorhtwynn Beornthryth Beornwynn Berchthild Bertrade Beyhi
Birghiva Botild Botilda Botill Bregeswith Breguswith Bricheve Brichheve Brichterith Brichtled Brichtrede
Bricteva Bricthiua Brichtled Brictiua BRICTIVA BRICTLED BRICTUIA BRICTWEN Brigthwyna Brihctiua Brihteue Bri
Brihtiua Brihtiue Britheue Britheva Brithiva Brithreth Brithrethe Brithwen Burchwen Burghwenna Burgw
Burgwynn Burwena Burwenna Cengifu Ceolburh Ceolfrith Ceolwynn Coenberg Coenburg Coenburga C
Cuthburh Cuthfleda Cwenburg Cwenburh Cwenthryth Cyneburh Cynedeall Cynehild Cyneswith Cynet
Cynewise Cyniburg Cynwise Denegifu Denegyth Derehild Domneva Eadburg Eadburh Eadgifu Eadgyfu
Eadwine Eadwynn Ealdgifu Ealdgyth Ealzburg Ealhild Ealhswith Ealhswuth Eanburg Eanflaed Eanflea
Eanswida Eanswith Eanswitha Eanswyth Eanwin Earcongota Ecgwynn Edild Edilda Ediltrudis Edoma E
Egefride Einilda Elfilda Elfswitha Enfleda Engeled Engeleis Engeleisia Engelieth Engelise Eorcengota E
Eormenburh Eormengard Eormengyth Eormenhild Eormenhilde Ercongota Erkengota Ermenburga Er
Estrid Estrith Ethelhild Eudelme Everild Everildis Freawaru Frethesant Freware Frigyth Fritheswith Frit
Frithuswith Garwynn Gertrude Gethwine Godehese Godelina Goderun Godgifu Godgyth Godlefe God
Goldberga Goldcorn Goldcorna Goldeburga Golderon Goldhen Goldrun Goldyna Guthild Haunild He
Heahburg Heahgyth Heahthryth Heathuburg Hehilde Hendina Herburga Hereburg Heregyth Herelufu I
Herewynn Hermynhild Hildeburg Hildeburh Hildelida Hildelith Hildilid Hiltrude
Hounild
Hounilda
Hringwynn
Hrodwyn
Hrotsvitha
Hugeburc
Hunburg
Juthwara
Lefsued
Lefsuet
Leofgifu
Leofrun
Leoftaet
Leofwaru
Leofwynn
Maerwynn
Mildburh
Mildgyth
Mildoina
Mildthryth
Mindred
Modthryth
Osburga
Osburh
Osgifu
Osgyth
Oslafa
Osthryd
Osthryth
Quendreda
Rafenild
Rimilda
Rimilde
Ronilda
Roswitha
Rowena
Saeburg
Saegifu

Saethryd
Saethryth
Saewara
Saewynn
Saxleue
Sexhuie
Sidelufu
Sidwell
Sigegifu
Somerhild
Somerild
Stanfleda
Stanflede
Stangyth?
Stanhild
Sunngifu
Sunnild
Theberga
Thedlef
Thedware
Theorigitha
Thurrieua
Tidhild
Tonild
Tortgith
Tortgyth
Touild
Touillda
Touilt
Turgiua
Uuordgiue
Vluerona
Waerblith Waerburh Waerhild Wealhburh Wealththeow Wendreda Wenfleda Wengeua Wengewe Wenyf
Wicthiue Wictieue Wictiue Wifrun Wigburg Wigswith Wihtburh Wilcum Wilthryth Winfred Winfrith Witb
Withburga Wiuerona Wlanchild Wlankild Wlfrun Wrtheve Wrthiue Wuderoua Wulburg Wulfgifu Wulfhi
Wulfrun Wulfthryth Wulftrudis Wulfwaru Wulfwyn Wulfwynn Wychtleth Wyneue Wynflead Wynyeue W

Monothematic Names

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

Male

Abba
Abbo
Abo
Acca
Adda
Addi
Aebba
Aebbe
Aecci
Aed
Aeddi

Aedh
Aeffa
Aega
Aegel
Aegla
Aelf
Aelfa
Aella
Aelle
Aelli
Aellin
Aemela Aemele Aesc Aesca Aescla Aesica Aethel Aetla Aetta Aetti Aettin Afa Ailef Ailsi Alca Alda Alsi Alwe
Anna Anneca Anno Anta Asa Assa
Asser
Atta
Autti

Babba Bacca Bacga Bada Badda Badeca Badela Baecci Baecga Baeddel Baeddi Baega Baegi Baelli Baerla
Baga Bagga Bana Banna Bara Basa Bass Bassa Basuca Bata Beac Beada Beadda Beaga Beage Beagga Beal
Bealga Beard Bearda Beaw Beawa Bebbe Beca Becca Beda Bede Bedel Bedla Beffa Belgr Beli Bem
Benesa Benna Bennca Benoc Beoba Beocc Beocca Beoda Beoduca Beofa Beohha Beonna Beora Beorma
Beotta Bera Betla Betti Bibba Bica Bicca Biccel Bidda Biddi Bieda Bil Billa Binta Bionna Biora Bise Bisi Bit
Biutta Blac Blaca Blaecca Blaedla Blanca Blecca Bledda Blesi Blicla Blitha Blocc Blocca Blunt Bobba Bocc
Bofa Boga Boia Boisil Bola Bolla Bosa Bosel Bota Bracca Brada Braegd Braenci Brand Brant Branta Break
Breid Breme Bret Bretta Bridd Broca Brocc Brorda Bruna Bryda Brynca Bryni Bucc Bucca Buda Buddha Bu
Bula Bulca Bulla Buna Buntel But Buttel Byddi Byni Bynna Byrla Byttel Byttic
Cada Cadda Caecca Caefca Caega Caege Caegel Caegi Caegin Caegla Caelci Caeli Caelic Caelin Caerda
Cafna Cafnoth Calli Calwa Cana Canta Carda Catta Ceabba Ceacca Ceadd Ceadda Ceaddi Ceadel Ceadd
Cealin Cealli Cearl Ceatta Ceatwe Ceawa Cebba Cebbi Cedd Cedda Ceh Celli Cempa Cena Ceobba Cec
Ceola Ceolla Ceomma Ceonna Ceorl Ceorra Cerda Cerne Certa Cetta Ciaba Cibba Cic Cica Cicca Cidd C
Cifa Cilda Ciolla Ciorra Cippa Cissa Cissi Citta Clac Clacc Clip Cnapa Cnebba Cnotta Cnytel Cobba Coc
Coda Cofa Cofsi Cohha Cohhede Coifi Cola Colla Coppa Cora Corra Cort Cortel Cossa Cota Cott Cotta
Craeda Craeddi Crebba Creda Credan Creoda Cretta Crida Criddi Cridel Cridela Croc Cropp Cryda Cry
Cuc Cuca Cucola Cucu Cuda Cufa Cufel Cufna Cugga Cuha Cula Cuma Cumbra Cumma Cunda Cuppa
Cusa Cussa Cutha Cuthsa Cwic Cwida Cybba Cybbel Cyda Cydda Cyddesi Cyddi Cydela Cyfa Cyfel Cyf
Cylp Cyma Cymen Cymesa Cymi Cyna Cyne Cynel Cyppa Cyppel Cyrtra Cysela Cyssi
Daecca Daeccel Daeda Daedca Daeddel Daeddi Daegel Daegga Daegla Dafa Dalla Dealla Deaw Dene D
Deora Deore Dica Dicca Diccel Diccin Dicel Dicla Dida Diuma Docc Doda Dodda Dodde Dodinc Dogoc
Dremca Dremic Ducc Ducca Duccel Duccel Dudd Dudda Duddel Duddela Duduc Dull Dulla Dun
Dunnuca Dunt Duve Dydda Dyddi Dylla Dylli Dynne Dyttel

Eabba
Eabbe
Ead
Eada
Eadric
Eafa
Ealda
Ealhswith
Eama Eamma Eana Earcna Earda Earn Eastr Eata Eatta Eawa Ebba Ebbe Ecce Eccel Eccici Ecga Ecgel Ecg
Eddi
Edla
Eega
Effa
Egwine

Ehta Elave Eleasa Elesa Elesea Eli Ella Elli Elsin Elta Embe Embre Empa Eni Enna

Eochaid

Eofor Eoppa Eorcna Eorma Eorp Esa Esi Esla Esne

Facca Fadda Faela Faele Falca Falta Fealca Fealcna Fecca Feolma Feoluca Filica Fina Fingra Fitela Fofa

Focca Folca Fraeta Fram Frameca Framela Franca Frea Freca Frecla Fremi Fresa Frithel Frithela Fritho

Froda Fugol Fulca Fulla Fygl

Gabba Gadd Gaega Gaegi Gaena Gaera Gaete Gafa Gamal Gamel Gamela Gara Garth Geac Geana Gea

Geddi Gede Gedel Gedla Gegn Geofa Geord Georna Gerla Getla Gewis Gicsa Giedda Giga Gilla Gille G

Gip Gipe Gisla Gislica Glor Goda Golda Gosa Gouti Graega Graeme Granta Grante Grendel Grenta Gr

Gudule Gumela Gunda Guppa Gutha Gyca Gydda Gyddi Gydel Gyldi Gylla Gymi Gymma Gyppa Gyp

Gyrth Gysla Gyssa Gyssi Gythi Gythla Gyxa

Haca Hacca Hada Hadd Haeccel Haecce Haecchin Haeda Haedda Haeddi Haefer Haegel Haele Haep Hafc

Hagona Halda Halnath Hama Hamela Hamgisl Hana Haneca Haseca Hasu Heabba Headd Headda Hea

Hearda Hebba Hebbi Heca Hedda Hedde Heddin Hedena Hefa Hega Helma Help Hemeda Hemede He

Hemmi Heorot Heortla Here Hereca Herel Herela Heresa Hicel Hicela Hidda Hiddi Hiddila Hilla Hlapp

Hluda Hluppa Hnaef Hnotta Hnydda Hoc Hoca Hocca Hocga Hod Hoda Hofa

Hogg

Hogga

Hola Holti Horn Horsa Hova Hraefn Hrathra Hrethel Hroc Hroca Hroda Hrof Hrolla Hroppa Hror Hroth

Hucel Hucela Huda Hudeca Huder Hugga Huhha Humma Huna Hund Hunta Husa Hwaessa Hwaetel H

Hwita Hycca Hycga Hydica Hydla Hyht Hymel Hynca Hynci Hyntel Hytha Hythla Hyttin

Ibba Ibbi Ica Icca Icel Ida Iddi Iella Ifa Igil Illa Illica Imma Immin Immine Ina Inee Ing Inga Ingin Ingu

Ipa Ipela Ippa Ira Irma Iwi

Laca Ladda Laeppa Laesta Lafa Landa Lawa Lealla Leana Leaxa Led Lelli Lendca Leoda Leof Leofa Leofe

Leofel

Leofric

Leofsa Leppa Lida Lill Lilla Limpa Liofa Lissa Lod Loppa Lorta Lott Luba Lubba Luca Luda Ludeca Lufa L

Luhhede Lull Lulla Lullede Lulluc Lullus Lylla Lyrel Lyrti

Maca Macca Maccus Mada Maecea Maegen Maegla Maera Maerla Maersa Maessa Maetta Malla Malti M

Manna Mannus Matta Mealla Meapa Mëappa Mearna Mearth Mearthel Mede Melda Mensa Menta Meo

Milred Milret Mocca Mod Moda Mogga Moll Monn Mort Morta Muca Mucca Mucel Mucga Mul Mula M

Munda Mundel Mynda Myndel Mynta Myntla Myrsa Nethel

Nunna

Oca Occa Ocga Octa Oda Odda Odo Ofa Offa Offede Oftfor Ohta Oiddii Ola Olef Olla On Ona Onlaf Onn

Orri Osa Osla Ota Otta

Paca Pacca Padda Paecc Paecca Paeccel Pæccel Paecga Paegna Paelli Paetta Paettel Paetti Paga Pagga Pa

Pamp Pant Papa Passa Patta Peada Peadda Pearta Peatta Peden Pefen Penda Penta Peoda Peofa Peofel

Peohtla Peola Peot Peota Peotla Pertel Pete Peufa Pic Pica Pice Picel Pidda Pil Pila Pileca Pinna Pinnel P

Plesa Plucca Pocel Pocg Pohha Pohhel Porca Port Poss Possa Possel Praen Preed Prim Pruda Pubba Pu

Puda Pudel Pulloc Pulta Pun Puna Purta Pusa Pussa Puta Putta Pybba Pybbi Pylcca Pylta Pymma Pyppa

Qita

Raeda Raedel Raedla Read Reada Regna Rica Ricel Ricela Ricola Ricole Ringer Risa

Rolf

Rota Rotel Ruffin Rum Runa

Salsa Sceafa Sceaft Sceaftern Scebbi Scef Sceld Sceldwa Scene Sceobba Sceot Scobba Scrobb Scytta Searu

Seaxel Sebbe Sebbi Secca Secg Secga Sele Sellen

Seofeca

Serlo

Sessa

Sibba

Sibbi

Sica

Sicel

Sicela

Sicga
Sifel
Sige
Sihtric
Skotte Sleda Snoc Snot Snytra Socca Soppa Sprot Sprota Sprow Stan Stealla Steapa Stofn Streng 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
Teoda Teodec Teorra Teotta Theoda Throca Thrymma Thymel Thyml Tibba Tibbi Tica Ticcea Tida Tid
Tidna Tila Tilla Tilli Tima Timan Tippa Tira Tissi Titel Titta Titten Tiwa Toa Toat Toca Tocca Toki Topp
Tota Totta Trost Trosta Trota Trott Trump Trumpa Trymma Trympa Tryppa Tubba Tucca Tucga Tuda T
Tudeca Tuf Tuffa Tuisco Tulla Tumma Tunna Tutta Twicca Twicga Tydda Tydi Tydic Tyfel Tylli Tynne T
Tyrhtel Tyssi Tytta Tyttla
Ubba
Ucca
Ucga
Ufa
Uffa
Ufic
Ugga
Uggeca
Uggi
Uhtred
Ula
Ulf
Ullaula
Utta
Uttel
Uttoc
Waca
Wacca
Wacer
Wacol
Wada
Wadda
Wade
Waeba
Waecchin
Waeddi

Wael
Waendel
Waer
Waerla
Waerna
Wafa
Walo
Walsa
Want
Wanta
Warin
Wat
Wata
Wathsa
Wealaca
Wealda
Wealh
Wecta
Wemba
Wendel
Wendla
Wenna
Weoca
Weohha
Weola
Weorc
Weosa
Wera
Werca
Werel
Werna
Wibba
Wicg
Wicga
Widda
Widga
Widia
Wifa
Wife
Wifel
Wig
Wiga
Wiglaf
Wihta
Willa
Wilma
Win
Wina
Wincel
Wine
Wineca
Winel
Winela
Wini

Wintra
Winuc
Wiobba
Wippa
Wipped
Wirc
Wirca
Wiro
Wisa
Wita
Witi
Witta
Wittel
Wittin
Wittuc
Wlanc
Wlenca
Wocc
Wocca
Wolcen
Womar
Wonta
Worr
Worta
Wrabba
Wrenna
Wrenta
Wrobba
Wroc
Wrota
Wrott
Wrybba
Wudiga
Wuffa
Wulda
Wulf
Wulfa
Wulsi
Wunna
Wurth
Wydo
Wyga
Wynna
Wyrm
Wyrma
Wyrtel
Ybba
Yccel
Yffi
Yppe
Yra
Ywi

Female

Acha
Aebba
Aude
Beaga
Beage
Bebba
Bebbe
Begu
Bercta
Berta
Bertha
Bette
Blida
Bucge
Bugga
Bugge
Eabae
Ebba
Ebbe
Eda
Edda
Edde
Eng
Erth
Ethel
Fara
Flaede
Frieda
Gerd
Gerta
Goda
Gode
Golda
Golde
Haedde
Heiu
Helga
Henna
Hild
Hygd
Leva
Lilla
Lioba
Milda
Milde
Mildrith
Oayth
Pega
Quena
Quene
Ran
Ricula
Seild
Tata

Tetta
Tette
Theda
Thieda
Thryth
Thuna
Tibba
Torfi
Tova
Truda
Tunnok
Tunnoke
Werca
Werce
Willa
Witta
Ymme

Anglo-Saxon Religion

Gods

The Germanic deities who figure in the Old Norse pantheon were also followed by most of the peoples of England although Christianity soon took over. There is literary evidence for many of the same stories 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 Wyrð/Wurd destiny (orig one of three fates)

Metod another possible 'fate' meaning measurer.

Waelcyrge Valkyries Nerthus earth goddess?

Descendants of Woden

Early historians including Bede and Florence of Worcester trace the descent of the various Anglo-Saxon Woden.

Wecta Baeldaeg

Casere Saexneat

Waegdaeg 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

Sweppa Siggeat 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 Wodan Old Norse Voden, Odinn
Woden

Anglo-Saxon Calendar

The year began on 25th December. Boxing night was called modra nect or 'mother's night' after the ceremonies 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 Halebmonath 'holy month' (harvest festival?)
10 Wintirfyllith 'winter full moon' (first full moon of winter?) 11 Blotmonath 'blood month' (sacrifice of
would not survive winter)

England: Bill of Rights



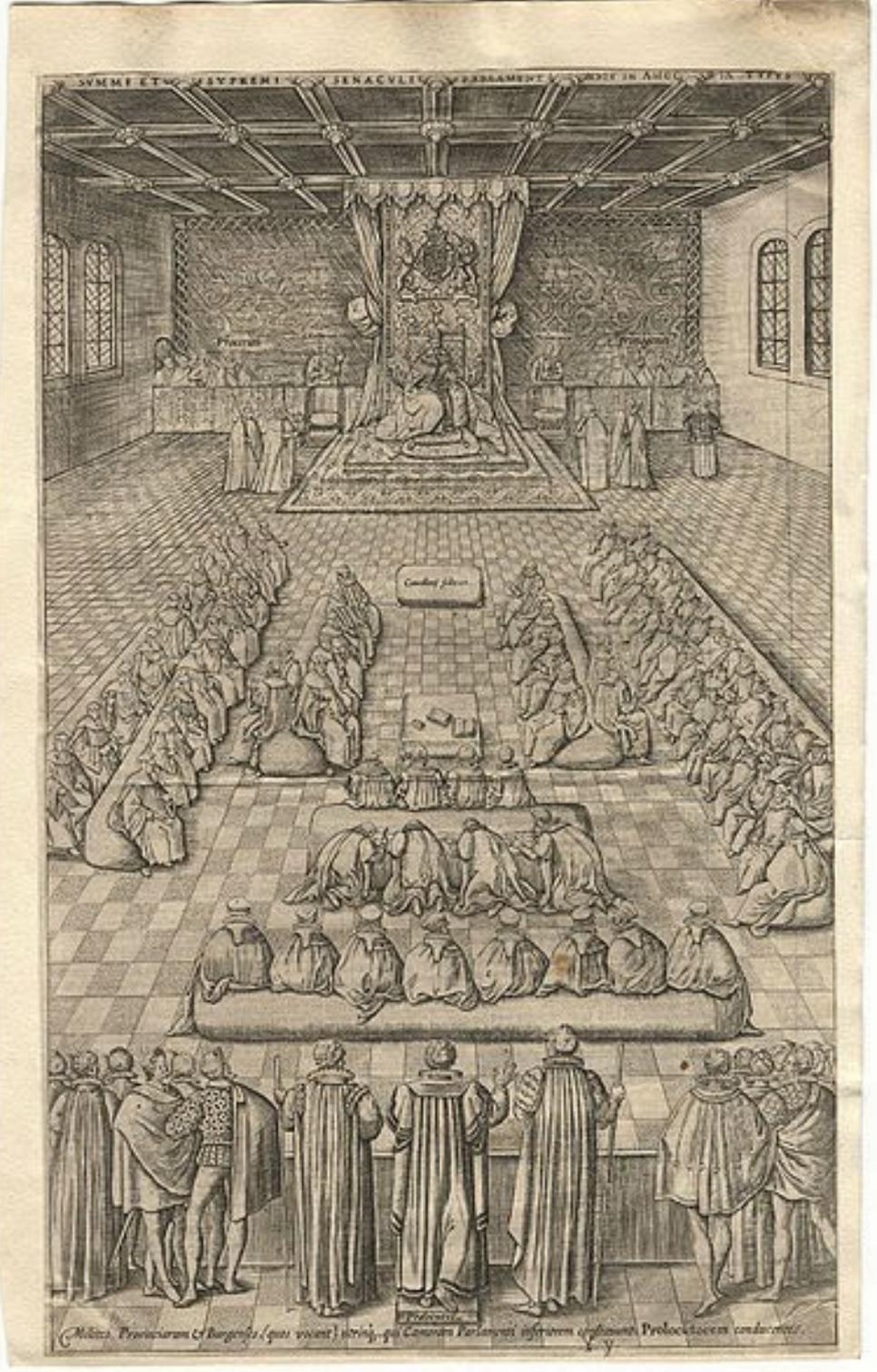
oath of office

Jewish Talmud



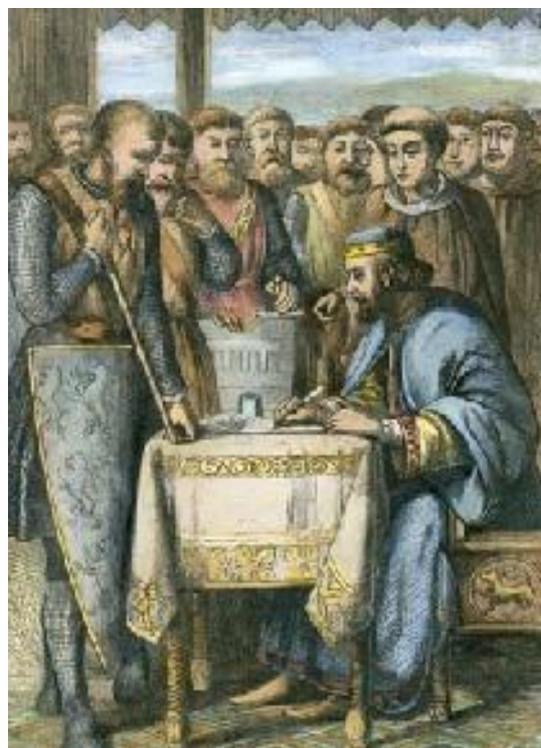
All for one and one for all

King James 1 of England making an Oath before Parliament



oath to country

King John Oath by signing the Magna Carta



constitution

Roland Fealty Oath to Charlemagne



most important to keep an oath

Anglo-Saxon Oath

An oath (from Anglo-Saxon *ǥ*, 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 the 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 to perform sworn duties. It therefore implies greater care than usual in the act of the performance of one's duty, such as 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 However, the chief purpose of such an act is for ceremony or solemnity, and the act does not of itself ma There is confusion between oaths and other statements or promises. The current Olympic Oath, for inst a pledge and not properly an oath since there is only a "promise" and no appeal to a sacred witness. Oa 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-ap government officer to the people of a state before taking office. In both of those cases, though, an affirm usually substituted. A written statement, if the author swears the statement is the truth, the whole truth, 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 affirmation) is perjury.

Greco-Roman tradition

In the Greco-Roman Tradition, oaths were sworn upon Iuppiter Lapis or the Jupiter Stone located in the Jupiter, Capitoline Hill. Iuppiter Lapis was held in the Greco-Roman Tradition to be an Oath Stone, an a Jupiter is his role as divine law-maker responsible for order and used principally for the investiture of t of office.

Bailey (1907) states:

We have, for instance, the sacred stone (silex) which was preserved in the temple of Iuppiter on the Cap brought out to play a prominent part in the ceremony of treaty-making. The fetial, who on that occasio the Roman people, at the solemn moment of the oath-taking, struck the sacrificial pig with the silex, say so, 'Do thou, Diespiter, strike the Roman people as I strike this pig here to-day, and strike them the mor greater and stronger.' Here no doubt the underlying notion is not merely symbolical, but in origin the s the god, an idea which later religion expressed in the cult-title specially used in this connection, Iuppite Walter Burkert has shown that since Lycurgus of Athens (d. 324 BC), who held that "it is the oath which b 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 never again is explained by Rashi, the preeminent biblical commentator, as serving as an oath, citing th this ruling.

The first personage in the biblical tradition to take an oath is held to be Eliezer, the chief servant of Abra the latter requested of the former that he not take a wife for his son Issac from the daughters of Canaan, from among Abraham's own family. In the Judeo-Christian Tradition, this is held as the origination of t that it is required to hold a sacred object in one's hand when taking an oath. Because circumcision was commandment Abraham performed and was therefore so dear to him on both a spiritual as well as a pe 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 his professed atheism he was judged unable to swear the Oath of Allegiance in spite of his proposal to s as a "matter of form".

Various religious groups have objected to the taking of oaths, most notably the Religious Society of Frie (Quakers) and Mennonites. This is principally based on Matthew 5:34-37, the Antithesis of the Law. Her written to say "I say to you: 'Swear not at all'". The Apostle James stated in James 5:12, "Above all, my b swear—not by heaven or by earth or by anything else. Let your "Yes" be yes, and your "No," no, or you condemned."

Not all Christians follow this reading, because of the statements in the Old Testament. Jews also avoid t 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 imprisoned because of their refusal to swear loyalty oaths. Testifying in court was also difficult; George Fox, founder, famously challenged a judge who had asked him to swear, saying that he would do so once the 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 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 Andrew Johnson (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 northern European 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 wagon with snakes in place of a bridle. She asked Hedin for his company. "Nay," said he. She said, "Thou shalt pay me a 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, Eylimi's daughter, of his brother Helgi; then such great grief seized him that he went forth on wild paths southward over the mountains and found Helgi, his brother.

Such Norse traditions are directly parallel to the "bird oaths" of late medieval France, such as the *vœux sur oiseau* (oath on the pheasant) or the (fictional) *vœux 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 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 of the Netherlands. I swear (affirm) that I will faithfully perform the duties my office lays upon me. So help me God almighty.

In many Commonwealth realms all that is required is an oath to the monarch, and in some to 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 the State. Allegiance sworn to the monarch is also sworn 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 is "reasonably viewed as an affirmation of loyalty to the constitutional principles which support... the working of 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 into separate oaths; of Supremacy (repudiation of the spiritual or ecclesiastical authority of any foreign prince or prelate), Allegiance (declaration of fidelity to the Sovereign) and in 1702 Abjuration (repudiation of the claims of descendants of James II to the throne). Oaths of allegiance were exacted from Lords, by Henry IV in 1405 and 1459, and oath of supremacy was introduced under Henry VIII in 1534. Elizabeth I introduced the Oath of Supremacy in 1563 requiring an oath to be taken by all future Members of the House of Commons. A new

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allegiance appeared under James I (prompted by the "Gunpowder Plot") under the Popish Recusants Act 1609. 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 to its modern form: In 1701 the exiled king James II, died and the adherents of the Stuart claimant James III 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. The Act 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 the 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 sworn by '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 previous 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) concept of allegiance.

After the general right to affirm was guaranteed in 1888, the Oaths Act 1909 introduced a change to the 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 oaths with the phrase "I swear by Almighty God that ...". Section 1 of the Oaths Act 1909 (on the right to affirm) was repealed 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 provisions of the Oaths Acts of 1838, 1888, 1909, 1961 and 1977 were repealed and consolidated in the Oaths Act 1978, although the 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 nature 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 sworn 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 the past, the oath is made upon a religious object such as a Bible or saint's relic, thus binding the oath-taker before God. In medieval Europe, fealty was sworn between two people, the obliged person (vassal) and a person of higher status. This was done as part of a formal commendation ceremony to create a feudal relationship. Such as a vassal to a lord.

Fealty and homage are a key element of feudalism. Under the feudal system, the smallest unit of land a person 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 such as 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 elements of the names. For instance, Aldred and Edith might call their daughter Aldith as some elements were suitable for females. These dithematic names did not necessarily have any link in meaning between their two elements. They were more popular with the later Anglo-Saxons with the monothematic, or single element, names acquired by the aristocratic class association. As the various permutations produced a large number of different names, few duplicated.

have occurred in a particular settlement. Surnames were not necessary for identification purposes although they were sometimes used. It was also considered that a name contained a person's spirit and using it for a child could drain that spirit from him. Although there was no inherited surname, some families (usually those of the nobility) were identified by collective name taken from a famous forebear such as the Athelings, Gumeningas, Beaducings, Guthlacingas, 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 position.

Old English and variants **Modern English**

Alf, aelf, alfr elf

Aethel, al, adal, ayl, ethel noble

Ard hard

Beald, bald bold

Bard beard

Bed command

Bert, berahht, beorht, bright bright, famous

Brun brown

Burh, bur, burg, borrow fortress

Cwen, quen woman?

Dar dear

Ed, ead prosperity, fortune

Eald, ald old

Est, east grace?

Flead, fled beauty

Frea, fre, frew free

Frith peace

Gar, ger spear

God good

Here, her, heri army?

Hug, hugu heart, mind, spirit

Hild battle

Ken bold, royal

Lam land

Lea, liffe leof, lef, leav, lew, life, liff, loe beloved, dear

Lee, ley, leah clearing, wood

Lilley, lili little

Lit bright

May servant

Maer, mar, mer, more fame

Mil mild/gentle

Mund, munt peace, protection

Os god

Rad, red, raed, rath counsel, wisdom

Ric, rich power, ruler

Rod, hrud, hreod fame

Sig, sieg victory

Stan, ston stone

Trum, trun strong?

Ulf, ulfr, olf, olph, wulf wolf

Wald, walt rule

Ward, weard, wart guard

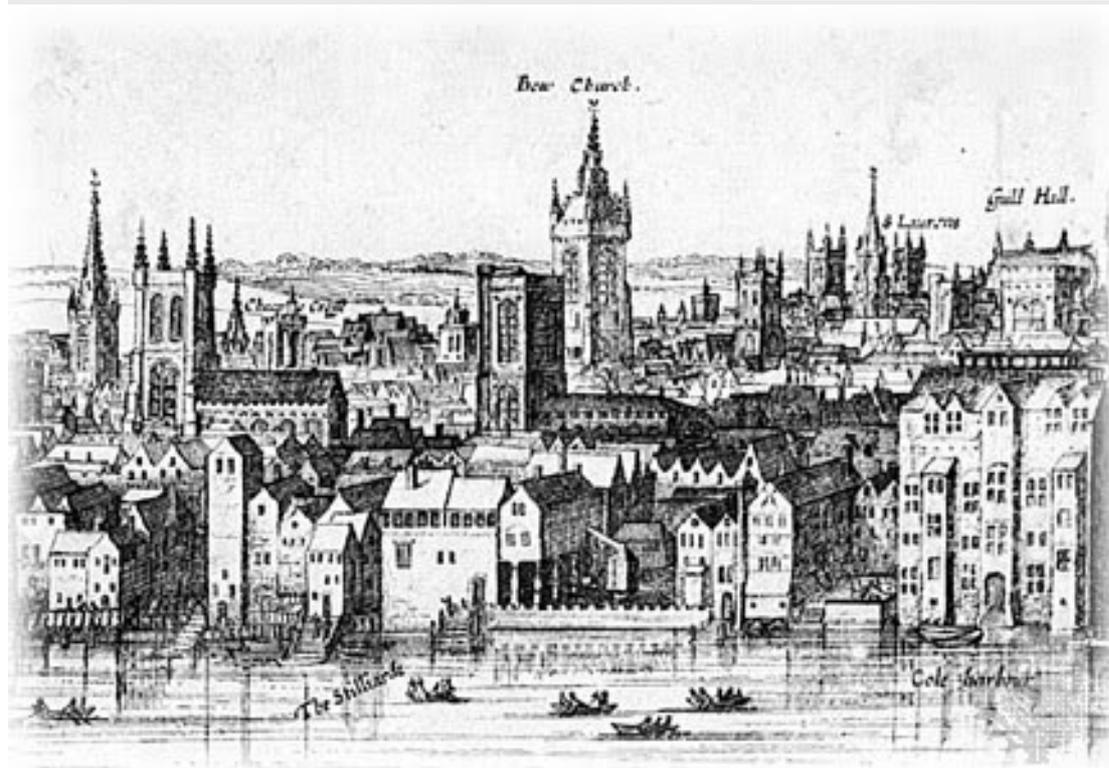
What brave

Whit elf, wight

Wig war

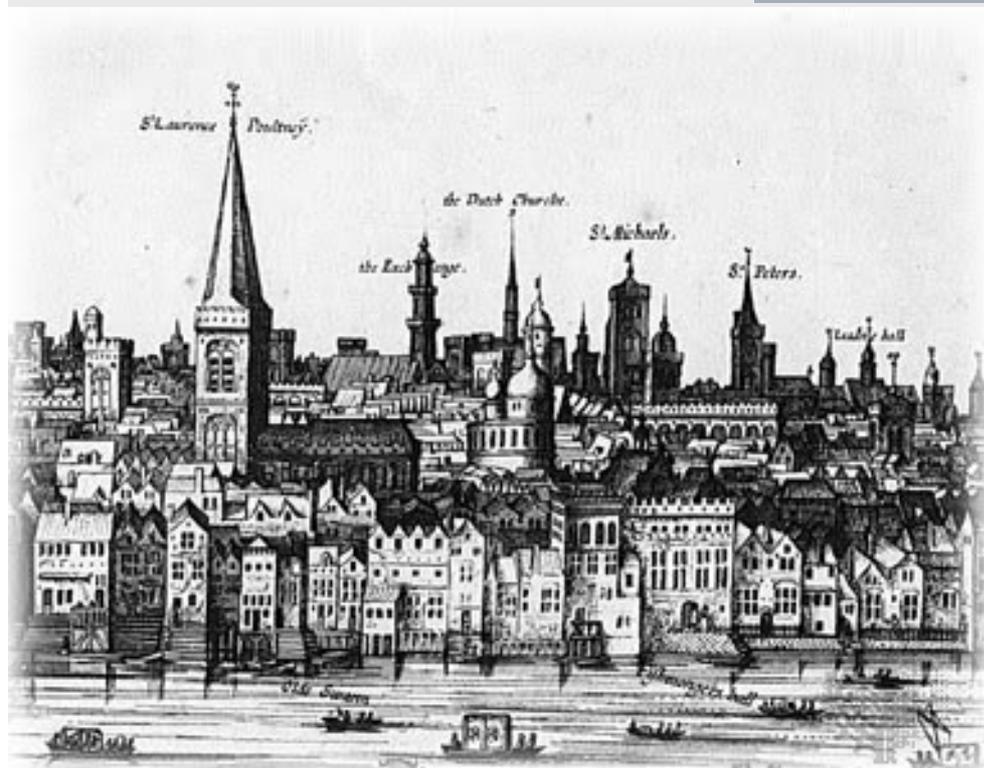
Win, wine, wyn friend
Yon, yong young

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 brutality and 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

Wool

England had been a wool exporting country since before the Norman Conquest. The Emperor Charlemagne in the 8th century A.D. was insisting on woollen cloaks being sent to him from the north of England. The West 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 feed 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 men carding, the wife spinning and the husband weaving and cultivating his bit of land, where oats could be grown and cakes, the staple diet. Cloth pieces would be taken on market days to the Piece Hall at Halifax, Almondsbury or Huddersfield.

Water power was later used, first in fulling mills, where great wooden hammers beat the cloth until the fibres were 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 eclipsed by it. The coming of the canals and the turnpike roads boosted the industry, but it was the introduction of worsted 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 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 eclipsed Norwich as the centre of the worsted industry. Mechanisation of spinning was crucial. The first worsted mill was actually built near Lancaster at Dolphinholme, but mills began to be built in Yorkshire, initially water-powered.

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 Bra Halifax. The founder John Foster came from nearby Clayton. He married Ruth Briggs, whose family own Queensbury. He began by putting yarn out to be woven, collecting the finished pieces and selling them Hall in Halifax. Later he built a warehouse in Queensbury. The warehouse became a mill, the mill expanded. 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 affectio 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 drink with him.

The Cambridge history of western textiles, Volume 2 By David Jenkins "The estate's been bought by one of the 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 Burton

Amlab Penny Coin



showing Raven and Cross

Amlab coin showing Raven Banner Reverse



Minted at York

Viking Coprolite



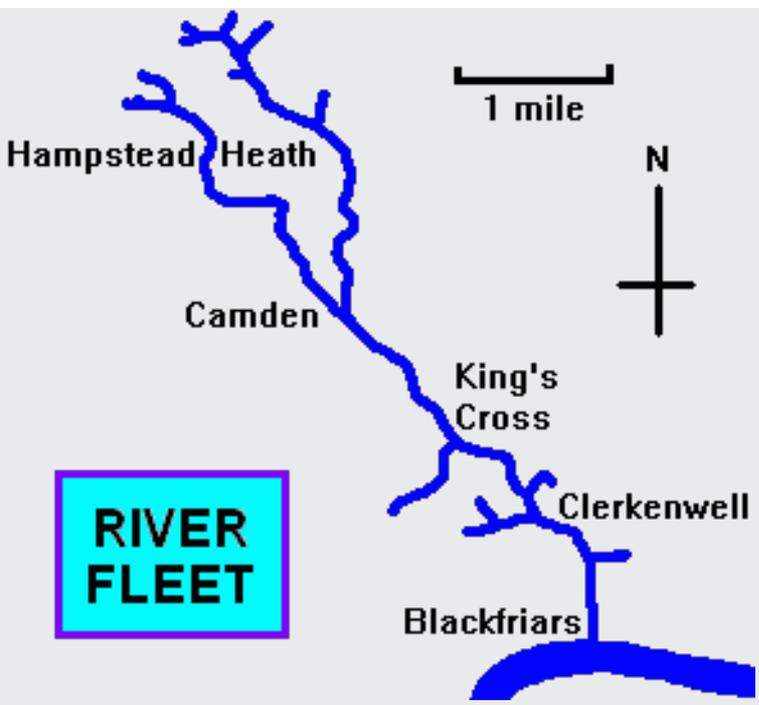
found at York

Amlab Mac Godfraid



coin

River Fleet

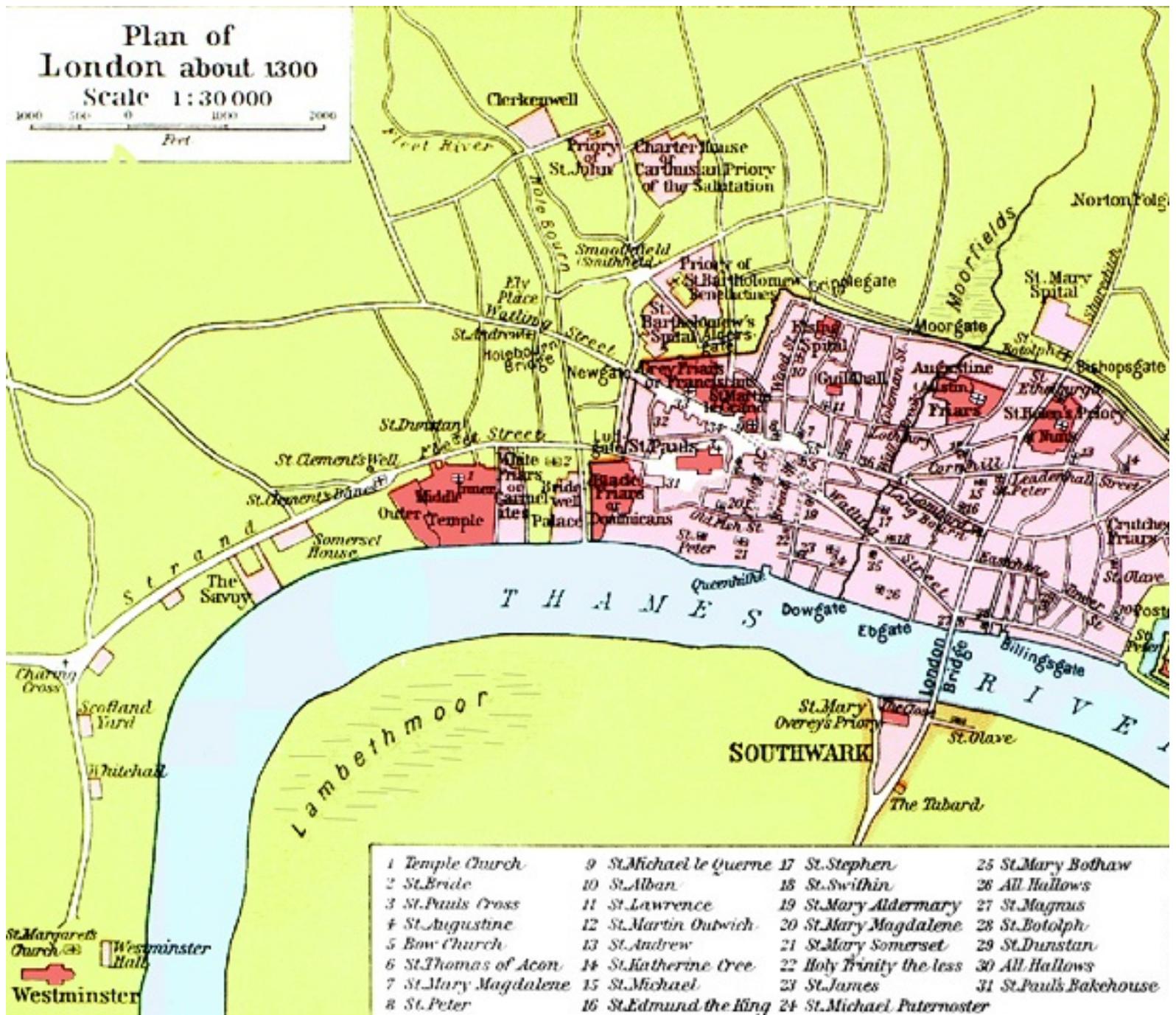


London

London Map 1300

Plan of London about 1300

Scale 1:30 000



showing Roman boundaries

Kensington Palace from across long water



London

Richmond Park



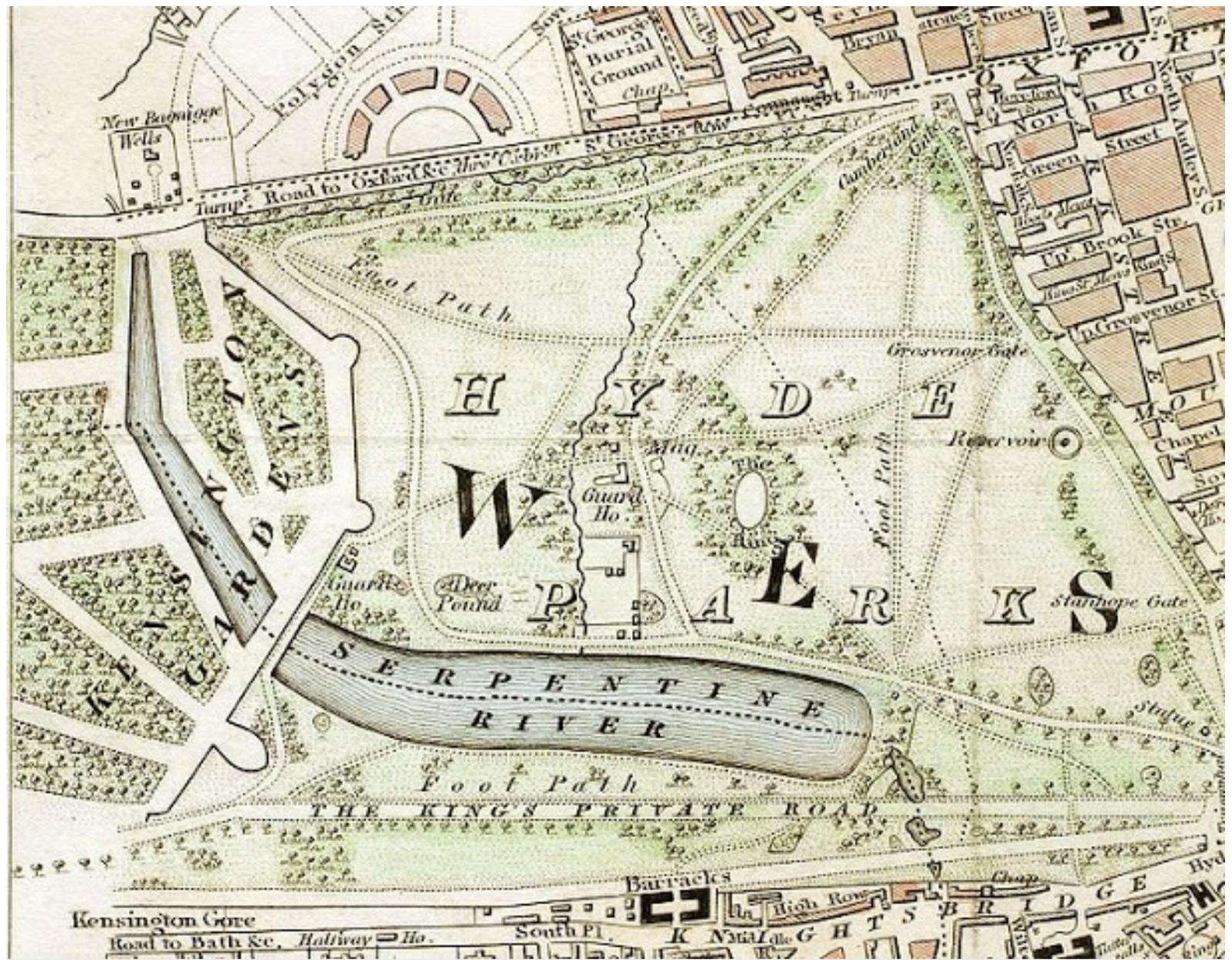
London

Regeants 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



World War II

Medieval Wales



Map showing Gwent bordering Gloucestershire

Speech House



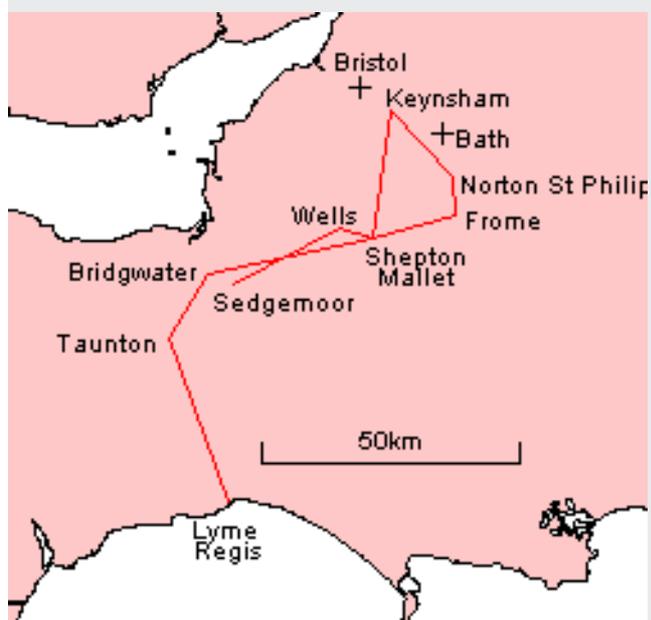
Gloucester

Monmouth



Rebellion

Monmouth Rebellion



map

Malvern hills



bordering Gloucestershire

Cleeve Hill



Cotswolds

Mordiford



Gloucestershire

River Severn at Epney



flooding

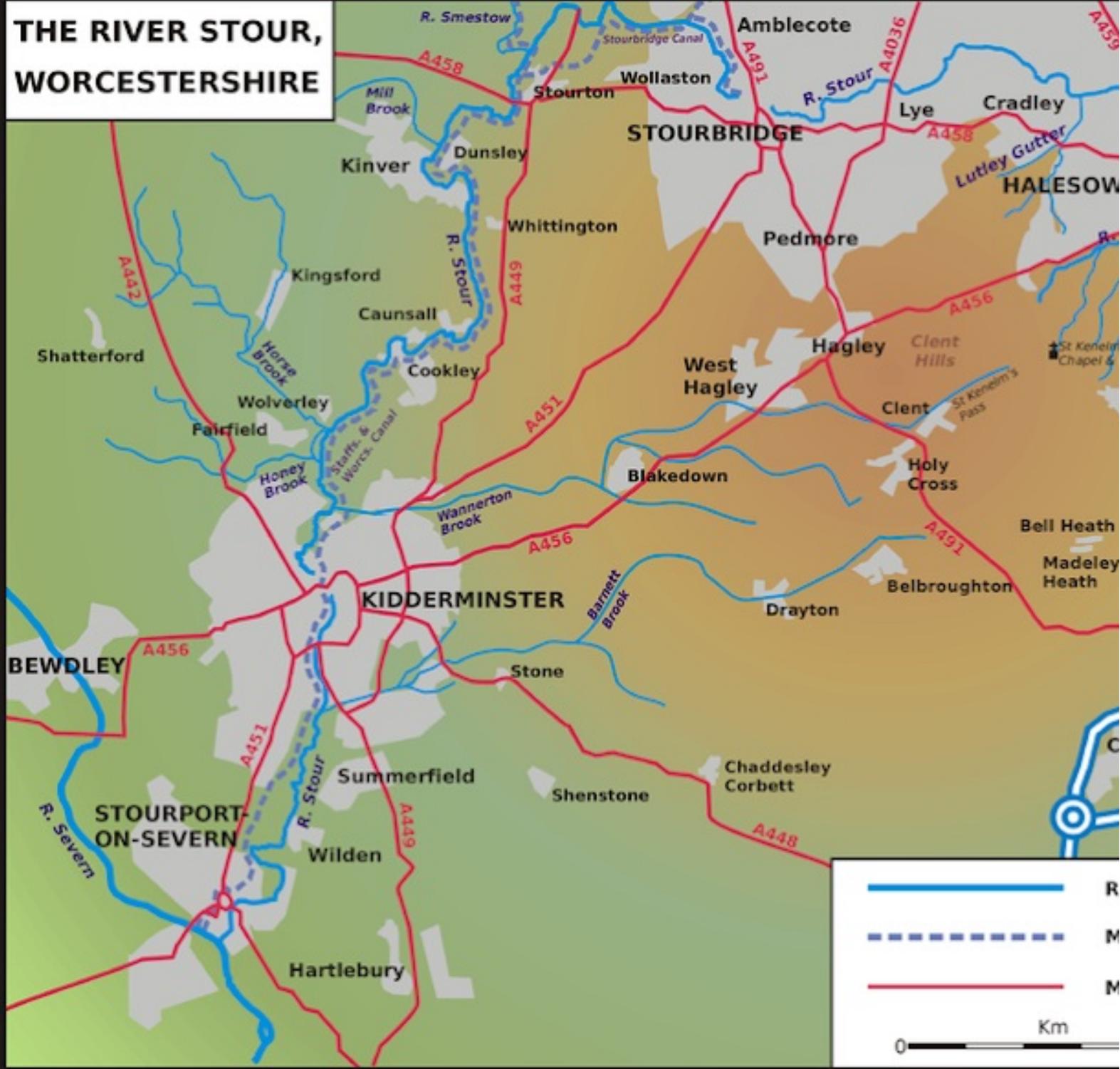
River Severn at Wainlode Hill



industrial waterways

River Stour Map

THE RIVER STOUR, WORCESTERSHIRE



Tributaries and towns

Alfred Baptised Guthrum at Aller



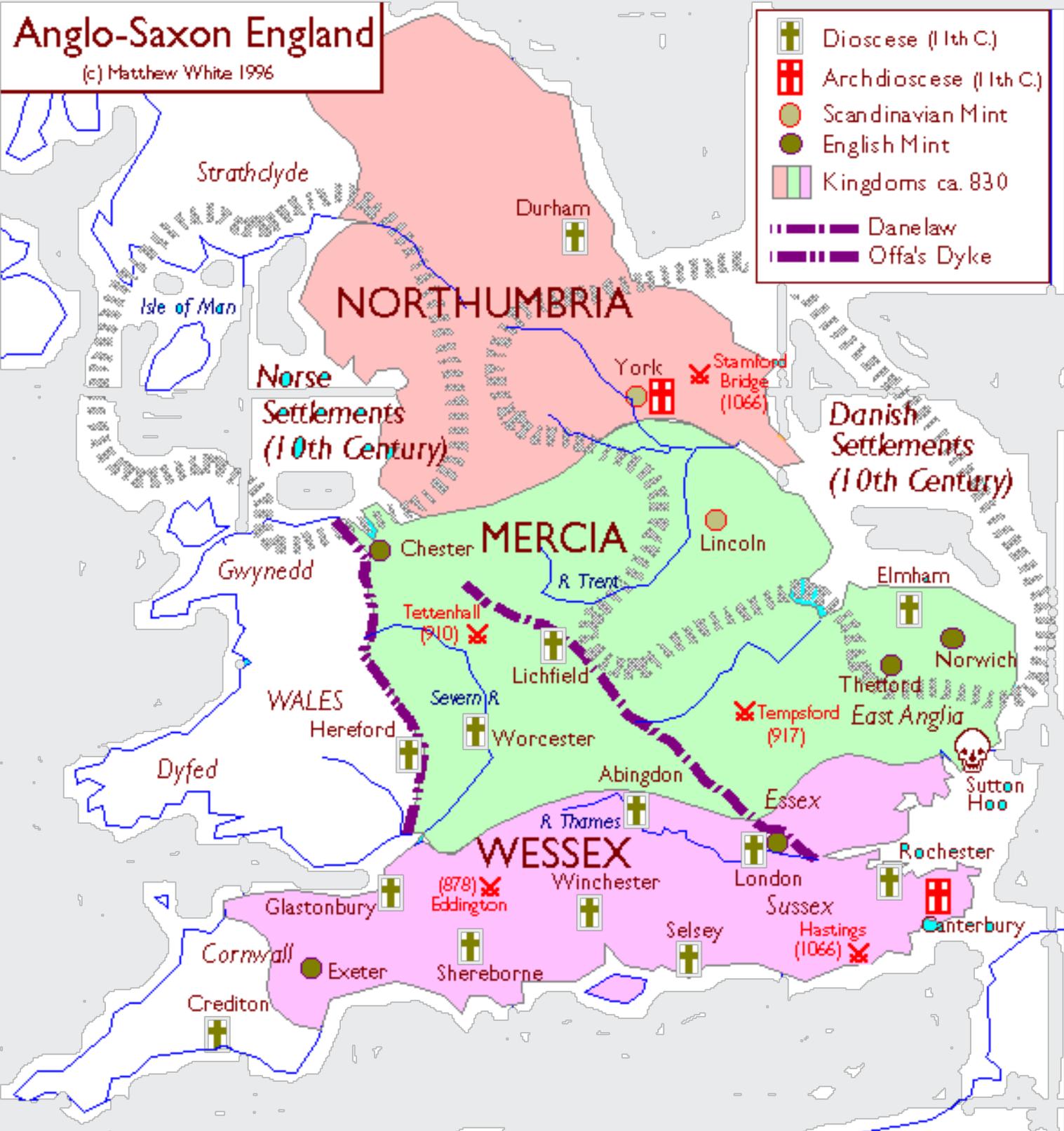
field

Anglo-Saxon Map

Anglo-Saxon England

(c) Matthew White 1996

-  Diocese (11th C.)
-  Archdiocese (11th C.)
-  Scandinavian Mint
-  English Mint
-  Kingdoms ca. 830
-  Danelaw
-  Offa's Dyke



showing towns

Dartmoor

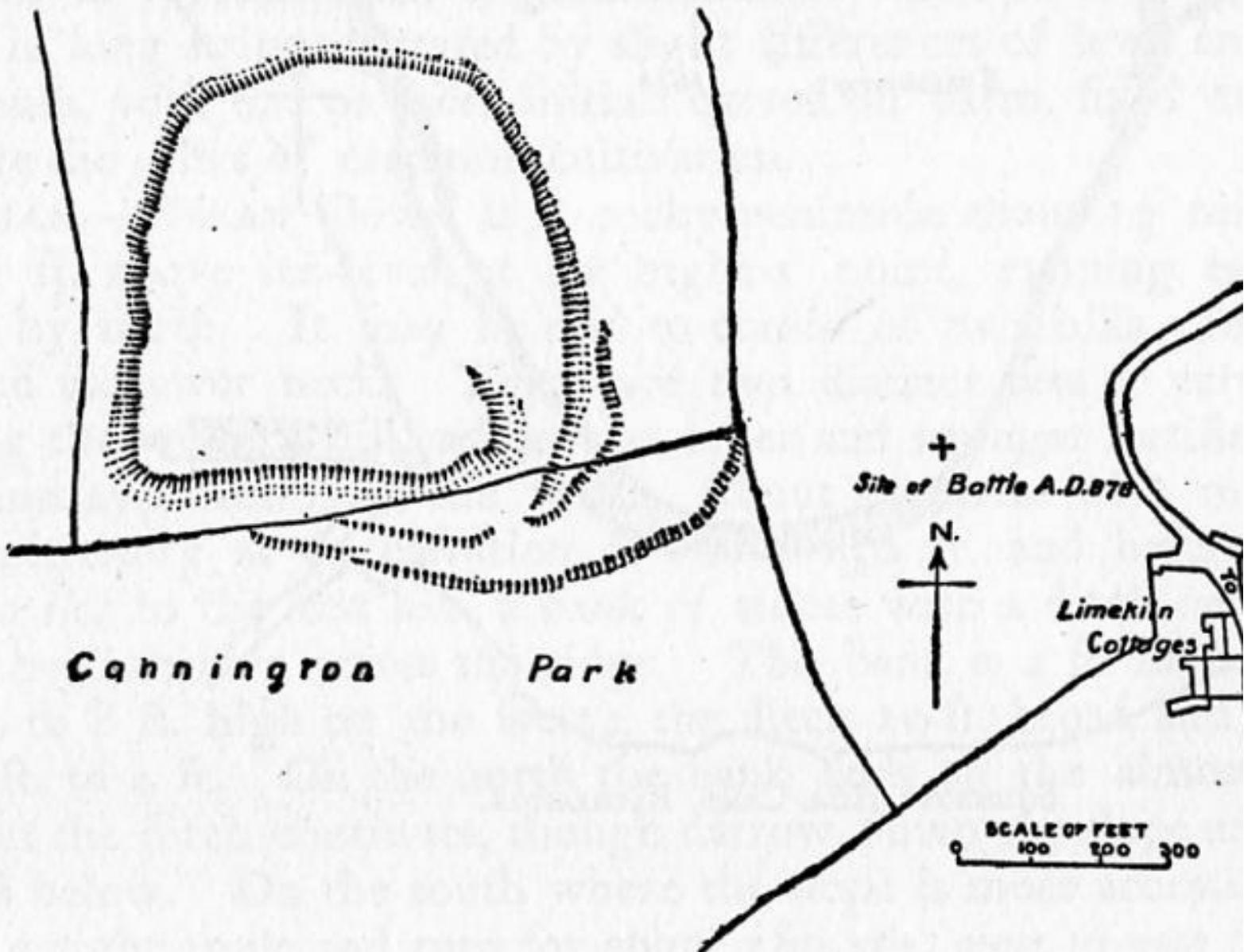


Cornwall

Danelaw Map



England



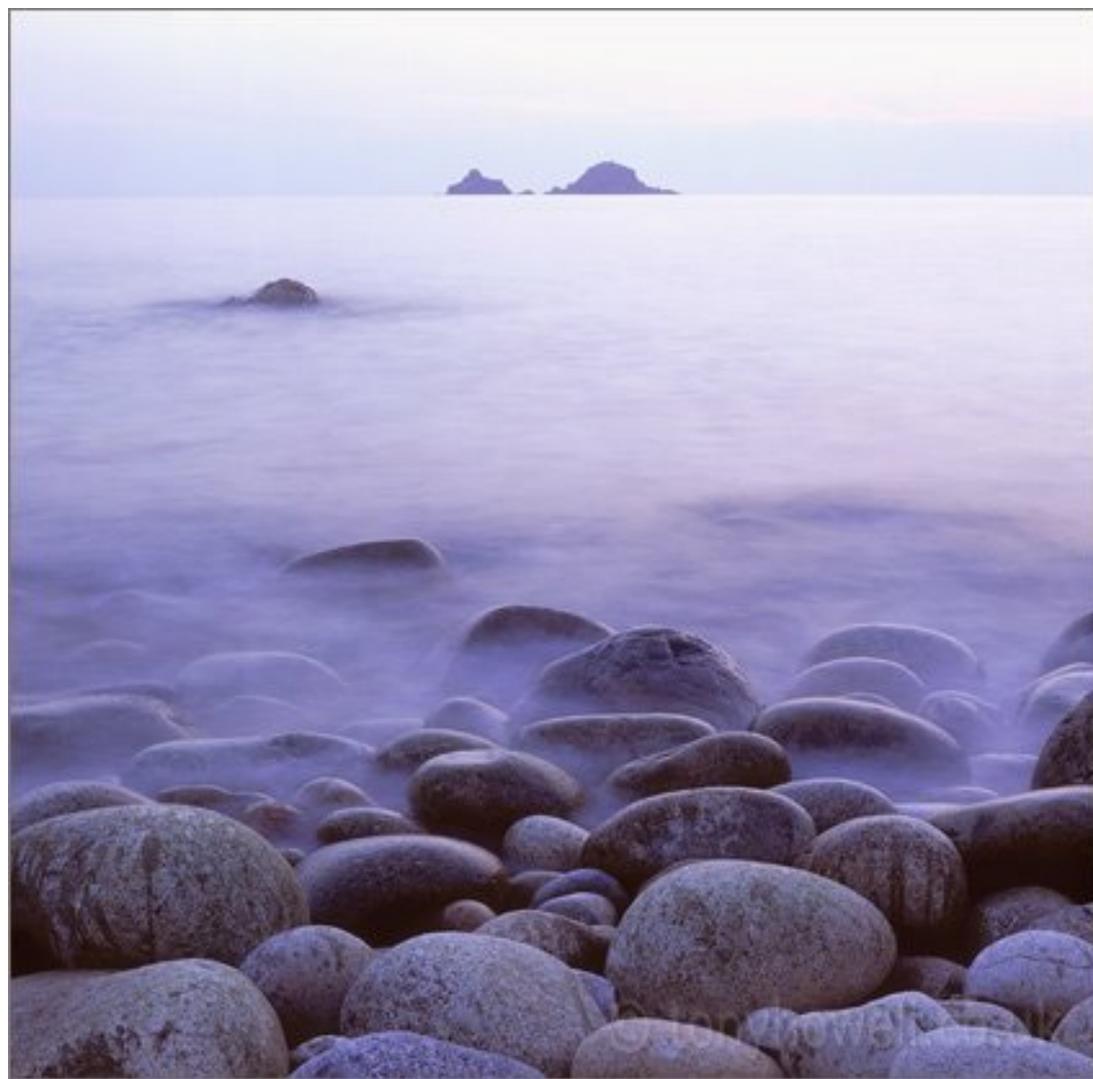
Cannington

Domesday Book



relation to Cornwall

Cornwall



Misty Sea

Cornwall



Falmouth Docks

Cornwall



Giants Causeway

Cornwall



Holy Well Bay

Cornwall



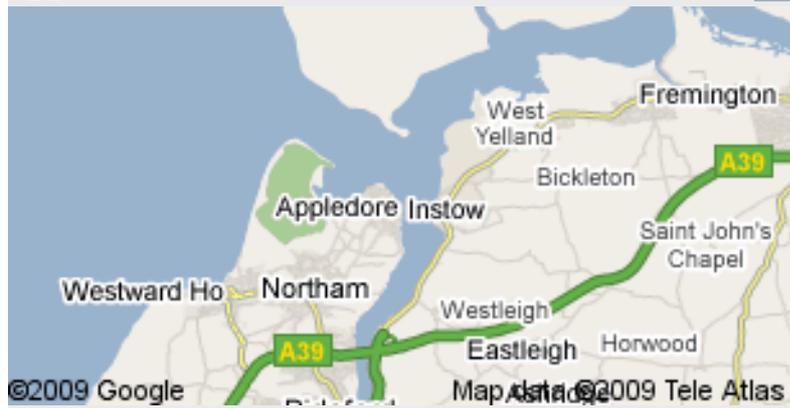
The Rumps, Iron Age Fortification

England



Anglo-Saxon Chronicles

Appledore

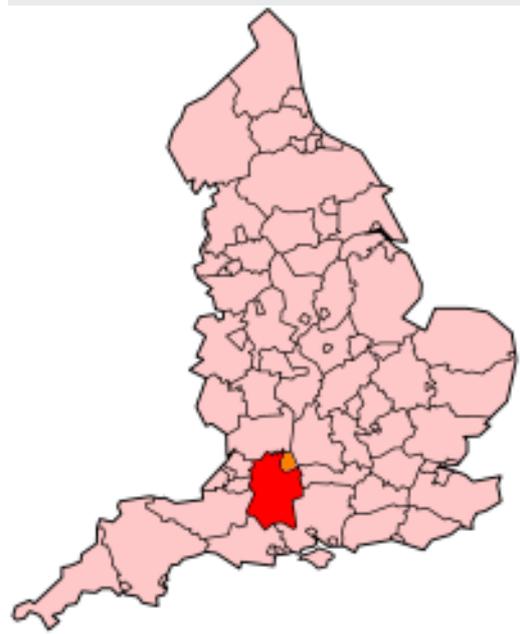


Surrey



Windsor Forest

Wiltshire



England Map

Surrey



Devils Punch Bowl

Battle



village

Chichester



Cathedral

Firle



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



Dorset

Sherborne Castle



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Dorset

Serborne/Scireburnan



Dorset

Pilsden Pen



Dorset

Map England /Europe



Havant to Prague

Thegn

Map of runestones raised over a thegn in Scandinavia. Red dots indicate certain occurrences while blue stones that may mention the junior position "dreng" instead. The term thegn (or thane in Shakespeare) derives 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 ranks 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 the term 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, but the original idea of military service runs through all the meanings of thegn, as that of personal association runs through 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 the word from the earliest time,*" but it has no connection with the German *diene*, 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. The 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*, *medias*. In Anglo-Saxon hierarchic society, a king's *thegn* attended in person upon the king, bringing with him his own 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*, the peasant. Chadwick, "from the time of Aethelstan the distinction between *thegn* and *ceorl* was the broad line of division between the classes of society." His status is shown by his *wergild*. Over a large part of England this was 120 shillings, or six times that of the *ceorl*. He was the *twelfhynde* man of the laws, sharply divided from the *ceorl* man or *ceorl*.

Geþyncðo, 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 fulfilled 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: "*And if a merchant throve, so that he fared thrice over the wide sea by his own means, then was he thenceforth of thegn-right worthy.*" In a similar manner a successful *thegn* might hope to become an earl. In addition to the *thegns* there were 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 hundred for the purposes of accusation" (W.S. Holdsworth, History of English Law, vol. i. 1903), and thus they have some connection 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 inferior *thegns*, corresponding to the earlier *thegns*, and a larger class of inferior *thegns*, some of them the *thegns* 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. In Domesday Book lists the *taini* who hold lands directly from the king at the end of their respective counties. 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. Possibly the best-known holder of the title *thane* is William Shakespeare's character Macbeth, who is identified in the 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.

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Anglo-Saxon Dictionary edited by Joseph Bosworth, T. Northcote Toller and Alistair Campbell, ISBN 0192822011, Oxford University Press, 1972

H. R. Loyn, "Gesiths and Thegns in Anglo-Saxon England from the Seventh to the Tenth Century" *The English Historical Review* 70, No. 277 (October 1955), pp. 529-549 traces the evolution of gesith to thegn. *Select Charters and Other Illustrations of English Constitutional History from the Earliest Times to the First of Edward the First* by William Stubbs, Oxford University Press, 1960. This entry retains some updated public domain text originally from the 1911 *Encyclopædia Britannica*. Richard P. Abels, *Lordship and military obligation in Anglo-Saxon England*, 1988

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 killer 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 a 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 the death of God. The executor of the law of blood-revenge who personally put the initial aggressive killer to death had 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 Compact Bible states: "Since life was viewed as sacred (Gen. 9.6), no amount of blood money could be given as ransom 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 man's duty. The solitary individual, however, could do but little. Moreover, it was most commonly a death which was avenged. In this case the family group went into action and the *faide* (feud) came into being, to use the French word which spread little by little through the whole of Europe--'the vengeance of the kinsmen which was a German canonist expressed it. No moral obligation seemed more sacred than this ... The whole kindred was placed as a rule under the command of a chieftain, took up arms to punish the murder of one of its members, not merely a wrong that he had suffered.

—Marc Bloch, trans. L. A. Manyon, *Feudal Society*, Vol. I, 1965, p. 125-126

The Celtic phenomenon of the blood feud demanded "an eye for an eye," and usually descended into riotous violence. Disagreements between clans might last for generations in Scotland and Ireland. Due to the Celtic heritage of the 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 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 important at the time, there is little reason to believe that these American incidents had any correlation to "feuds" 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 thousands of people killed.

In Japan's feudal past the Samurai class upheld the honor of their family, clan, or their lord by *katakiuchi* (vendetta) revenge killings. These killings could also involve the relatives of an offender. While some vendettas were suppressed 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 K killed somebody in Prague and the Town Councillors sentenced him to death and had him executed. B 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 war enslavement of neighboring tribes such as the Macu before the arrival of European settlers and govern

Weregild

Weregild (alternative spellings: wergild, wergeld, weregeld, etc.) in early Germanic law was a reparation 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 legal reparation at this time was blood revenge. The payment was typically made to the family or to the 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" 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 Old Norse, galanas in Wales, "vira" ("ransom") in Russia and główczyzna in Poland.

Amount

The standard weregeld for a freeman appears to have been 200 solidi (shillings) in the Migration period, as reflected in the basic amount due for the death of a ceorl both in Anglo-Saxon and continental law codes. The amount 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 standard amount (600 shillings), while the killing of a low ranking cleric was fined with 300, raised to 400 if the cleric 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 king, 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, 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 Thorgils Makson, Thorgeir convinces 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) asked him for help, for he had slain Heaðolaf, a man from another tribe called the Wulfings, and either could demand weregild 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 accepted Beowulf's offer as a son's gratitude for what Hroðgar had done for Beowulf's father.

The Saxon heriot or succession duty was paid on the death of a thegn and originally took the form of the military equipment which was surrendered to the king. Subsequently it assumed the form of a payment in money (the relief) and in Norman times the money payment alone was exacted from the heir. It thus feudal burden associated with tenure.

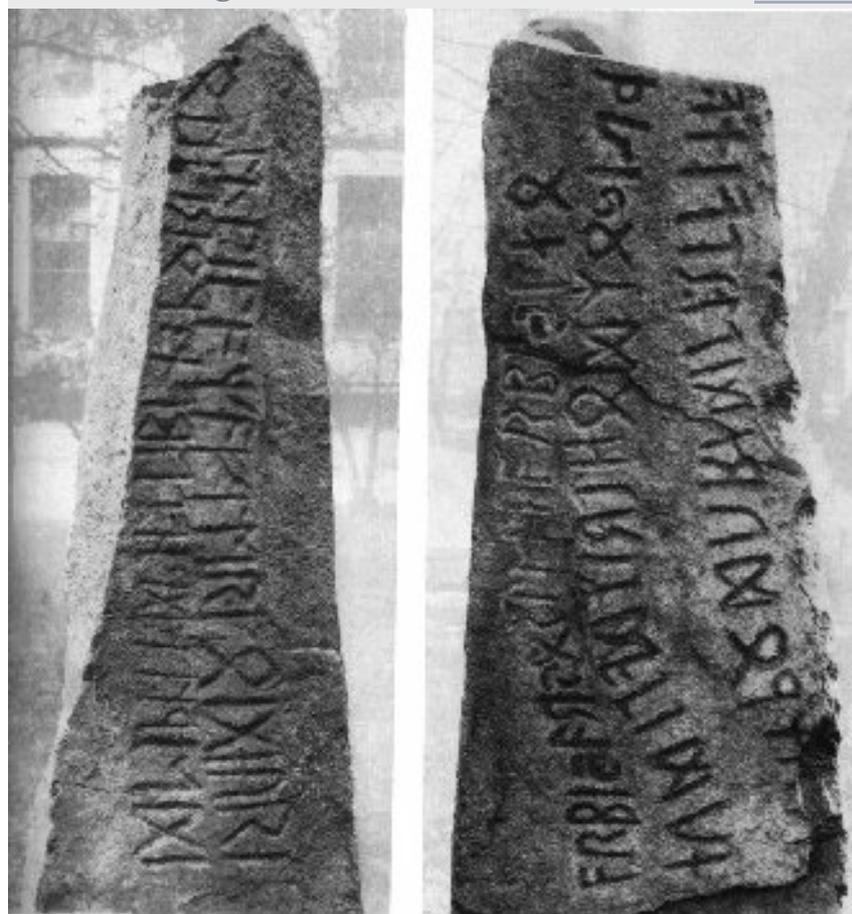
72. And let the heriots be as it is fitting to the degree. An eorl's such as thereto belongs, that is, eight horses saddled and four unsaddled, and four helmets and four coats of mail, and eight spears and as many shields and swords and 200 mancuses of gold. And after that, a king's thegn's, of those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

The relief of a count, which belongs to the king, is eight horses, of which four will be saddled and bridled and the other four will be unsaddled and bridled. With 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 saddled and 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 vavassor, to his liege lord, is a horse which belonged to his father on the day of the latter's death; and a breast plate, 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 is of a lower degree at an annual rent shall be as much as the rent of one year.

Source:

William Stubbs, ed., *Select Charters of English Constitutional History*, revised by H. W. C. Davis, (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1913), pp. 87-88; reprinted in Roy C. Cave & Herbert H. Coulson, *A Source Book for Medieval Economic History* (Milwaukee: The Bruce Publishing Co., 1936; reprint ed., New York: Biblo & Tannen, 1965), pp. 362-363. Scanned by Jerome S. Arkenberg, Cal. State Fullerton. The text has been modernized by Prof. Arkenberg.

The Title Thegn on Rune Stones



titles, runes, stones

The Title Thegn on Rune Stones

On a previous page I spelled the name Farthegn with letters from the 24-character 'elder futhork' (the runic alphabet). During the Viking Age this futhork 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 was sometimes replaced by the k-rune. As a result, the word thegn was spelled "thikn", "thign", and even "thegn" 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 Thain). See *From Runes and Their Origin, Denmark and Elsewhere*, by Erik Moltke (The National Museum of Denmark, Copenhagen, 1965, page 189: "Titles like thegn and dreng 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', (the Old Norse 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 acted as members of his retinue or bodyguard." Since the earliest Danish example of the word 'thegn' on a rune stone is "associated with lith, host, warband or the like, we may reasonably assume it denoted a kind of military retainer." 'Thegn' is then a title of rank (cf. the man dubbed Knight in the Middle Ages or commissioned as an officer).

page 287-8: "We may assume that 'thegns' and certain 'drengs' were associated in some way with the King's household organization. Many of them were probably quite simply hemthaegar, members of his household who acted as advisers, administrators, and commanders. And once a 'thegn', always a 'thegn'. After a period of service in the king's attendance 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, bailiffs, tax collectors or the like. Others likely returned to run their own family estates. This is the picture of 'thegns' 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 Britain 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

Mercian kings 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 the 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 variations (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 Britain. However Kemble derives Bretwalda from the Old English word breotan, to distribute, and translates it "lord of the ruling."

Bretwaldas

Listed by Bede and the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle

Aelle of Sussex (488–c.514)

(break in sequence)

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)

Oswy of Northumbria (641–58, died 670)

King of the Saxons, as listed by the Annals of Wales

Oswy of Northumbria (641-670)

Aldfrith 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)

Cænred 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)

Cænwulf 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 use of the term *Bretwalda* comes from a West Saxon Chronicle of the late 9th century applying the term to Egbert, who was King of Wessex from 802-839.[2] The chronicler also wrote down the names of seven kings before him in his *Historia ecclesiastica gentis Anglorum* in 731.[3] All subsequent manuscripts of the Chronicle use *Bretwalda*, 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 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 the use of *Bretwaldas*, the West Saxon chronicler ignores Mercian kings such as Offa. It is unlikely that there was any specific set of and defined duties, and it is doubtful whether the term *Bretwalda* is anything more than a later simplification of the 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 concept of the unity of Britain was at least recognised in the period, whatever was meant by the term. Quite possibly it is only a survival of a Roman concept of "Britain"; it is significant that, while the hyperbolic inscriptions on royal titles in charters often include the title *rex Britanniae*, when England was actually unified the title used was *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 work 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 Anglo-Saxon monarchy. The twentieth-century historian Frank Stenton says of the Anglo-Saxon chronicler that "his intention was more than compensated by his preservation of the English title applied to these outstanding kings." [4] Many historians now argue that the term *Bretwalda* "falls into line with the other evidence which points to the Germanic origin of the earliest English institutions."

Over the later twentieth century this assumption was increasingly challenged. Patrick Wormald interpreted

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 king and the chronicler's concept of the 'Bretwalda', are to be regarded as artificial constructs, which have no reality outside the context of the literary works in which they appear, we are released from the assumptions about the development which they seem to involve...we might ask whether kings in the eighth and ninth centuries were 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 charters 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 kingdom exercising overlordship over a smaller one, as in the case of Mercia and Hwicce. Mercia was at 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 does not include them in his list, even though it is evident that Penda held a considerable degree of power. Powerful Mercia 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

1. Kemble, John Mitchell (1876). *The Saxons in England. A History of the English Commonwealth till the Norman Conquest*. London: Bernard Quaritch.
2. Anglo-Saxon Chronicle MS A, 827 for 829.
3. From Bede, *Historia ecclesiastica gentis Anglorum* 2.5.
4. F.M. Stenton, *Anglo-Saxon England*, 3rd edition, (Oxford: University Press, 1971), pp.34–5.
5. Patrick Wormald, "Bede, Bretwaldas and the Origins of the Gens Anglorum. p. 118-9."
6. Steven Fanning, "Bede, Imperium, and the Bretwaldas," *Speculum* 66, no. 1 (1991): 24.
7. Steven Fanning, "Bede, Imperium, and the Bretwaldas." 23. 8. Simon Keynes, 'England, 700–900' in *The Cambridge Medieval History*, II, c.700-c.900. ed. R. McKitterick, (Cambridge: University Press, 1995), p.3

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Kings of the Isle of Wight

Kings of the Isles of WightThe 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 Ceolwulf, the founder of the Wessex dynasty, then known as the "Allies" or "Gewisse". However, the name for the "Monarchs" was "Wihtwara" and their fort "Wihtwarasburgh". Hence it is conjectured (by Stenton, Yorke et al.) that the name 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 invaded Wessex and gave the overlordship to his godson, King Aethelwulf of Sussex and forced the Islanders to accept Christianity. Upon Wulfhere's departure the Island returned to paganism. The last Jutish King and the last Jute 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. According 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 married to Egbert 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 the "Kings of the Isle of Wight". However the last of them was Isabella de Fortibus (1237-1293) who was known as the "Queen of the Isle of Wight" until her death. Upon her death bed she was visited by the King, Edward Longshanks, later known as "Edward I" who said that she had sold the Isle of Wight to him whilst on the point of death for 6,000 marks. Henry VI had a favourite courtier named Henry Beauchamp, Duke of Warwick, to whom he gave the honorific title, perhaps nickname would be more accurate, "King of the Isle of Wight" in 1444, although this does not necessarily entailed any other implication, and he died shortly after.

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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, one of the seven traditional kingdoms of the Anglo-Saxon Heptarchy. It was founded in the 6th century and ceased to exist as an independent kingdom 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 dates. Regnal years may be counted twice, since all or part of a year may be attributed: for instance, the period between Ricberht (the East Anglian apostasy) is said by the contemporary author Bede to have lasted for two years 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 contemporary Anglo-Saxon English and Latin, being the recorded languages of the time. Note that the name is not recorded specifically for any East Anglian ruler before Rædwald: the earlier names derive from the regnal list (not regnal list) in the Anglian Collection and the *Historia Britonum*. They are normally styled ruler of the East Angles (Angli Orientales), not of East Anglia (Anglia Orientalis). 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 name 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 use of '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 CYNINGVVEHHA REX ANGLORVM ORIENTALIVM 'The first King of the East Angles' (*Historia Britonum*) ante 571 to 578 Wuffa VVFFA VVEHHING ESTANGLE CYNINGVVFFA

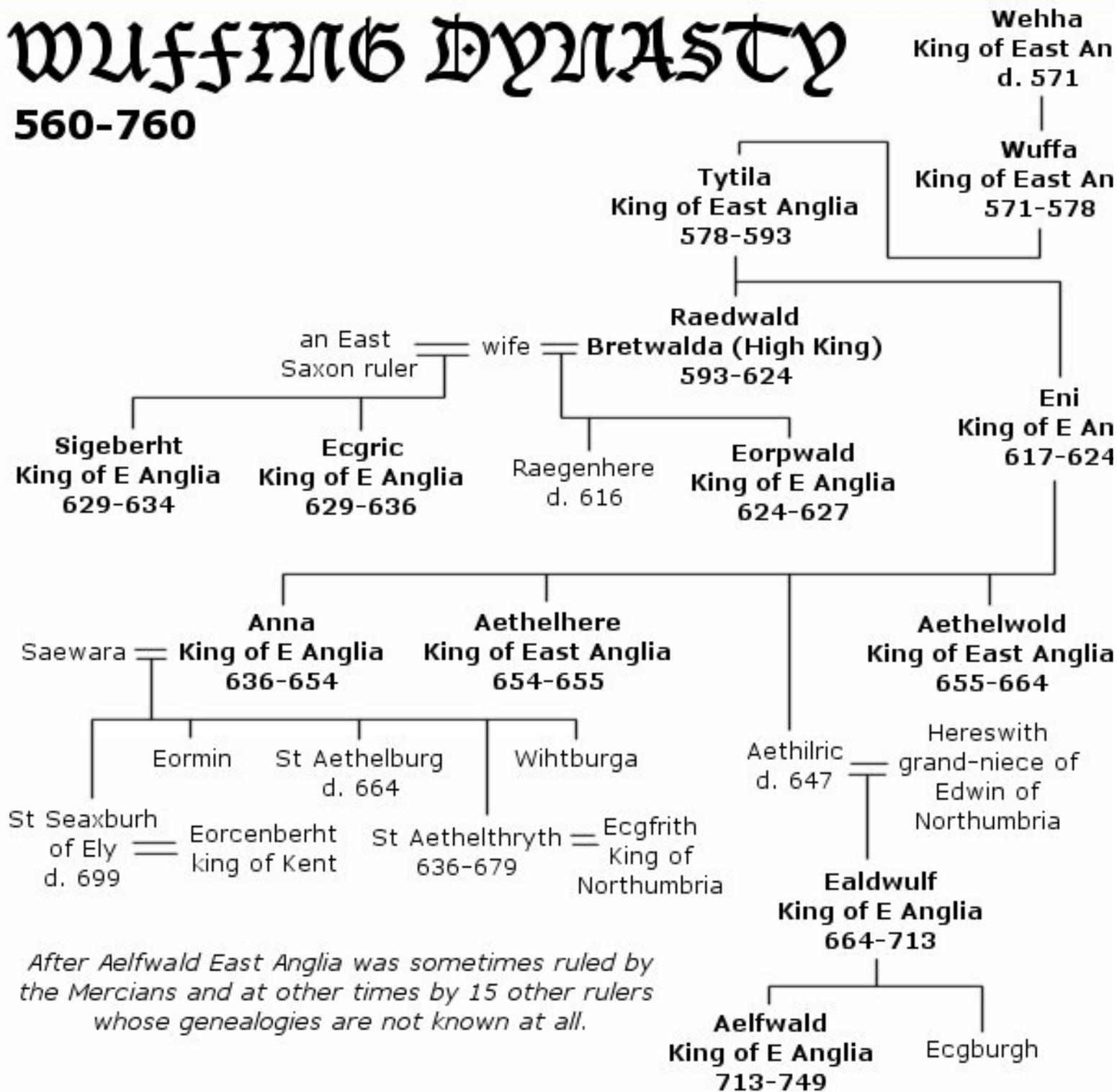
ANGLORVM ORIENTALIVM Eponymous ancestor of the Wuffing dynasty, 'ruling' in 571 (Roger of Wendover) 599 Tytila TYTTLA VVFFINGTYTTLA REX ANGLORVM ORIENTALIVM 'Took up the helm of the kingdom (Wendover) 599 to 624 Rædwald RÆDVVALD TYTTLING ESTANGLE CYNINGRÆDVVALD REX ANGLORVM ORIENTALIVM Imperium; Rex 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 Murdered by Ricberht. c.627 to c.629 Ricberht RICBRYHT REX ANGLORVM ORIENTALIVM not known to have reigned by Sigeberht SIGEBRYHT RÆDVVALDING ESTANGLE CYNINGSIGEBRYHT REX ANGLORVM ORIENTALIVM with Ecgric; abdicated; 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 Sigeberhtpres. Rædwald or Eni. 636 to 654 Anna ANNA ENING ESTANGLE CYNINGANNA REX ANGLORVM ORIENTALIVM battle 654 to 15 November 654 Æthelhere ÆPELHERE ENING ESTANGLE CYNINGÆPELHERE REX ANGLORVM ORIENTALIVM late 654 to 664 Æthelwold ÆTHELVOLD ENING ESTANGLE CYNINGÆPELVOLD REX ANGLORVM ORIENTALIVM 663 or 664 to 713 Ealdwulf EALDVVLF ESTANGLE CYNINGEALDVVLF REX ANGLORVM ORIENTALIVM c.713 to 749 Ælfwald ÆLFVVALD ESTANGLE CYNINGÆLFVVALD REX ANGLORVM ORIENTALIVM 749 to c.760 Beorna BEORNA ESTANGLE CYNINGBEORNA REX ANGLORVM ORIENTALIVM Joint ruler (possibly mythic) 749 to ? Alberht ALBERHT ANGLORVM ORIENTALIVM Joint ruler known as Æthelberht I ?c.760 to ?c.779 Æthelred I ÆPELRED ESTANGLE CYNINGÆPELRED REX ANGLORVM ORIENTALIVM Possibly mythic ?779 to 794 Æthelberht II ÆPELBRYHT ESTANGLE CYNINGÆPELBRYHT REX ANGLORVM ORIENTALIVM Saint Æthelbert.Executed at the command of Offa Mercian Dynasty c.760 to c.794 Offa ÆPINCFRIPING MIERCNA 7 ESTANGLE CYNINGOFFA REX MERCIA ET ANGLIÆ ORIENTALISOFFA REX ANGLORVM ORIENTALIVM Held dominion over East Angles East Anglian Dynasty after 794 to ? Eadwald EADVVALD ESTANGLE CYNINGEADVVALD REX ANGLORVM ORIENTALIVM Mercian Dynasty c.796 to 821 Coenwulf COENVVLF ESTANGLE CYNINGCOENVVLF REX MERCIA ET ANGLIÆ ORIENTALIS Held dominion over East Angles; Coenwulf COELVVLF MIERCNA 7 ESTANGLE CYNINGCOELVVLF REX MERCIA ET ANGLIÆ ORIENTALIS dominion over East Angles 823 to 826 Beornwulf BEORNVVLF MIERCNA 7 ESTANGLE CYNINGBEORNVVLF REX MERCIA ET ANGLIÆ ORIENTALIS Held dominion over East Angles East Anglian Dynasty c.821 to c.839 Æthelstan ÆPELSTAN ESTANGLE CYNINGÆPELSTAN REX ANGLORVM ORIENTALIVM styled Rex Anglorum (coins) Æthelweard ÆPELVVEARD ESTANGLE CYNINGÆPELVVEARD REX ANGLORVM ORIENTALIVM 855 to 20 August 870 Eadmund EADMVND ESTANGLE CYNINGEADMVND REX ANGLORVM ORIENTALIVM Martyred; Saint Edmund.Styled Rex Anglorum (coins) Sub-kings under Norse Suzerainty 870 to 876 Oswald OSVVALD ESTANGLE CYNINGOSVVALD REX ANGLIÆ ORIENTALIS Died 876 876 to 879 Æthelred II ÆPELRED ESTANGLE CYNINGÆPELRED REX ANGLIÆ ORIENTALIS Replaced by Alfred the Great of Wessex in 879 879 to 890 Æthelstan Old ÆPELSTAN ESTANGLE CYNINGÆPELSTAN REX ANGLIÆ ORIENTALIS Norse ruler Guthrum the Old Æthelstan at baptism 890 to 902 Eohric(Eohric) ERIC ESTANGLE CYNINGERIC REX ANGLIÆ ORIENTALIS battle December 902 902? Æthelwold of Wessex ÆPELWALD ESTANGLE CYNINGÆPELWALD REX ANGLIÆ ORIENTALIS Killed in battle December 902? 902 to 916 Guthrum II GUTHRUM ESTANGLE 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 sub-kings of Anglia.

Wuffing Dynasty

WUFFING DYNASTY

560-760



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.

Bibliography

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

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

References

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Ashley, Mike, *The Mammoth Book of British Kings & Queens* New York: Carroll & Graff, 1998. ISBN 0-79

Green Jackets: Tongue



Sharpe

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 name for himself after the battle of Valdelacasa in which the South Essex and the Spanish Regimiento de Santa Maria were both mauled by French cavalry. In this action, the South Essex lost the King's Colours and the Regimiento 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 the loss of the Colours on Sharpe.

After Simmerson showed ill judgement and cowardice at the Battle of Talavera (where Sharpe captured the Imperial Eagle, which then went on to be displayed on the regiment's Colours), Colonel William Lawford, a friend of Sharpe's, took command. Lawford was wounded soon after and the South Essex went through several 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 captured by Colonel Bartholomew Girdwood, who suffers a breakdown during an attack into French soil. Sharpe's Regiment is reformed soon after, and Colonel Joseph Ford takes command. The regiment does not appear again until the Battle of 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's Regiment's service:
Talavera, 1809,
Busaco, 1810,
Ciudad Rodrigo, 1812,
Badajoz, 1812,
Salamanca, 1812,
Vittoria, 1813,
Pyrenees, 1813,
Toulouse, 1814,
Peninsula, 1808-1814,
Waterloo, 1815.

The regiment's fate after Waterloo is unknown. It is likely to have been disbanded due to its high regimental losses (this is stated in the Sharpe Companion) but it could have been merged with the 44th Regiment of Foot which lost many men at Quatre Bras. In the latter case it would have become the Essex Regiment until the Cardwell Reforms and the battalion carrying its traditions would have been disbanded and the honours transferred to the 44th. This is of course speculation, but there are several similarities between the East and South Essex - both have yellow coat facings, both have 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. R. Simmerson took command by the next colonel,
William Lawford (1809-1812) who commanded the regiment during the Portugal campaign before being captured 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 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 to the Mountains and Beyond 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) later a real regiment

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

117th Foot ("The Royal Malloys") (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 Sergeant})

Duke of Buckingham's Light Infantry ("The Sky Blues") (Gideon's Sword Bearers by John Mackenzie (and the Duke of Clarence's Own Clanranald Highlanders ("The Inverness-shire Greens") (The Monarch of the Desert by Compton Mackenzie)

The Duke of Glendon's Light Infantry (The 'Dogs') (The Way Ahead 1944 Film)

The Fore and Aft 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)

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 (The Light Brigade) (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 Mackenzie)

The Malvern Regiment (Soldier Soldier TV series 1991-1997) Northdale Rifles (The Mark of Cain 2007 TV series)

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 MacRae (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 1981)

South Essex Regiment/Prince of Wales' Own Volunteers (Richard Sharpe's regiment in the Sharpe series by Michael Crichton)

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 Wessex Regiment (Red Cap BBC-1 TV Series 2001-2004) West Yorkshire Fusiliers (The Wyffies) Vari
Reginald Hill's Dalziel and Pascoe crime novels.

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
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)

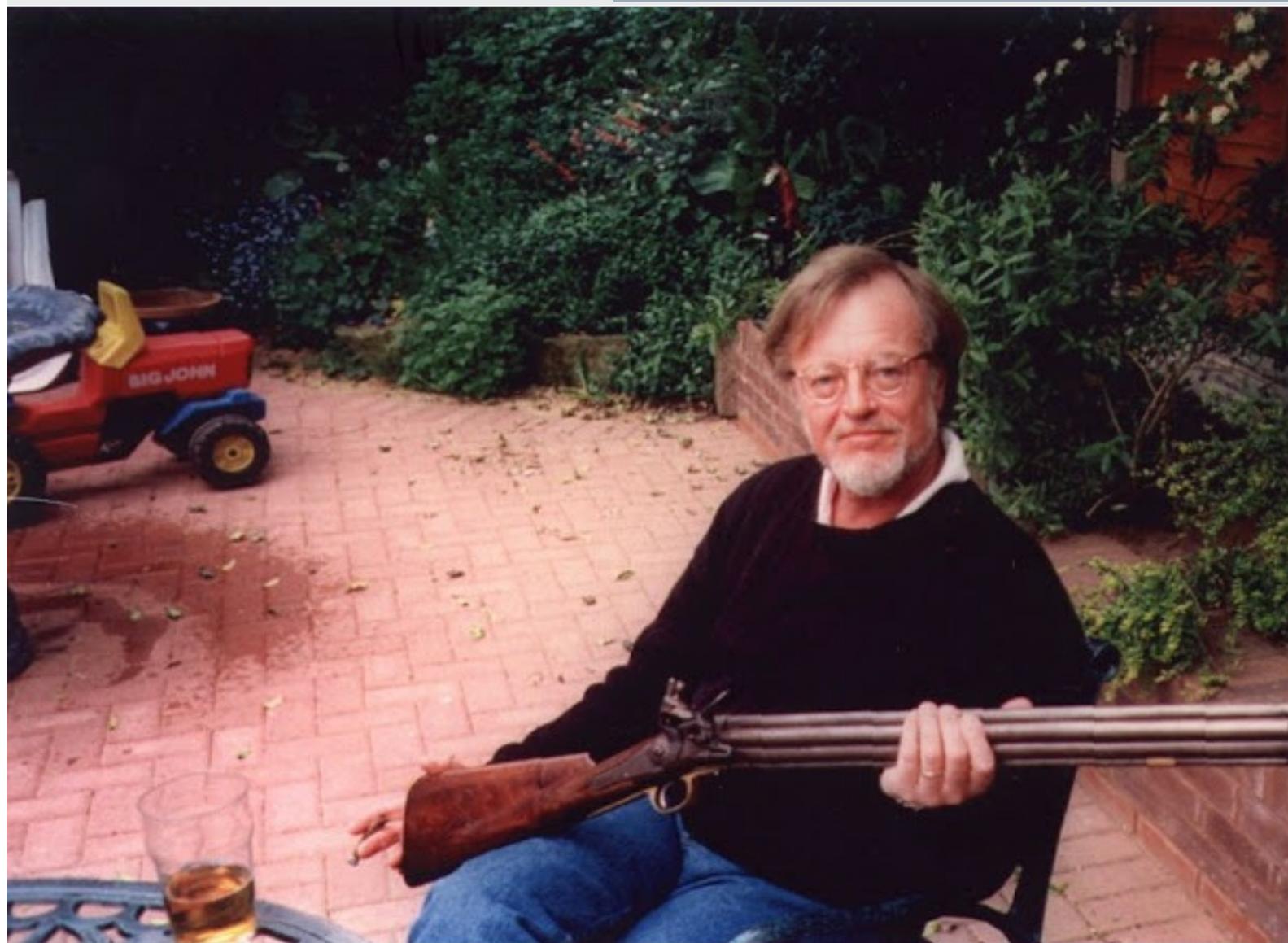
77th Bengal Lancers (Tales of the 77th Bengal Lancers American TV show 1956-1957).

Special Operations Units

Internal Counter-Intelligence Service UNIT audio dramas by Big Finish set in the (Doctor Who) univers
(Doctor Who)

Red Troop, 22nd Special Air Service Regiment (Ultimate Force TV series 2002-2006)

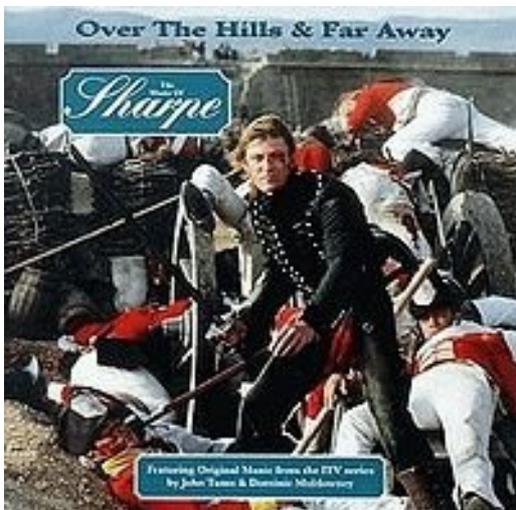
Bernard Cornwell



Rifle

Sharpe Music

Over The Hills & Far Away



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 selected original music from the programmes.

Track listing

- "The Overture" a) "Sharpe's Theme" b) "Prelude" (Dominic Muldowney/John Tams, words trad.) featuring John Tams and Kate Rusby – 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 "Bad Luck" (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 – 3:26
- "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.personal.usyd.edu.au/~slaw/SuesPage/overhill.htm>
- <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

published in Thomas D'Urfey's Pills to Purge Melancholy in 1706, a very different one appeared in George 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 element in all versions is the title line and the tune. D'Urfey's and Gay's versions both refer to lovers, while Farquhar's 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. "Tom 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 again
Soldiers Gentlemen" on the inside top right face.

D'Urfey lyrics

Jockey 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
Tis o'er the hills and far away
Tis o'er the hills and far away
The wind has blown my Plad (sic) 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 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 escape, with no military references.

MACHEATH:Were I laid on Greenland's Coast, And in my Arms embrac'd my Lass; Warm amidst eternal 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 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/>

Saxon Soldiers



plenty of kings

Anglo-Saxon Warfare

The period of Anglo-Saxon warfare spans the 5th Century C.E. to the 11th in England. Its technology and culture 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 those 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 launch and standing slightly out of range of each other. Then, individual warriors would run forward from the shield wall with the velocity for their javelin throws. This made them vulnerable due to their being exposed, having left the shield wall, and there was a chance of being killed by a counter throw from the other side. The discipline of throwing of javelins, followed by an immediate charge home as practiced by the Romans seems not to be 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 spears, the Vikings thus he on this people went out in front of battle, cutting down and smiting, until he too on the field 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 armaments, 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 throw. Exposing himself like this, and even more so during his attempt to retrieve the slain's gear, was a great display of bravery and could result in much valuable personal gain, not only in terms of his professional career as a warrior 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 second describes fighting over the corpses' belongings.

Advanced again to fierce battle, weapons raised up, shields to defense, and towards these warriors they stepped, they approached Earl to the lowest Yeoman: each of them intent on harm for the enemy. Sent then a sea-warrior from the southern make that wounded the warrior lord. He thrust then with his shield such that the spear shaft burst and the spear-head shattered as it sprang in reply. Enraged became that warrior: with anger he stabbed that proud warrior given him that wound. Experienced was that warrior; he threw his spear forward through the warrior's neck and he was guiding so that he this ravager's life would fatally pierce. Then he with another stab speedily pierced the ravager's chainmail coat broke: this man had a breast wound cut through the linked rings; through his heart stuck a spear. The Earl was the better pleased: laughed then this great man of spirit, thanking the Creator for the day's work that the Lord had given him. And so then another warrior a spear from the other side flew out of hand, which deeply pierced through the noble Aethelred's retainer. To him by his side stood a young man not fully grown, a youth on the field who valiantly pulled out of this warrior the bloody spear, Wulfstan's child, Wulfmaer the younger; and so with speed came the shaft in reply. The spear penetrated, for that who on the Earth now lay among his people, the youth sorely pierced. Went then armed a man to this Earl; he desirous of this warrior's belongings to take off with, he brought and an ornamental sword. Then Byrhtnoth drew his sword from its sheath broad and bright of blade, and the warrior man's coat of mail. But too soon he was prevented by a certain sea-scamander, and then the Earl's arm was upraised 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 in 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 non-event 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 a clear advantage and 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, and was vulnerable to being stabbed, kicked and cut, and to thereby open a breach in the shield wall exposing the warrior's mates on either side of him to unprotected death. Hacking through shields was often a sound tactic, so that a strong sword arm and a sturdy sword were of great benefit for the fight. At the initial rushing together of the warriors, jumping forward into the enemy with the shield held in front was a preferred tactic, as was leaping up, running on 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 (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 as many 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 to have 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 it 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 *fyrds* would strategically place their seamen on the shore and they 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 is mentioned in many texts from the period, though it is also written that cavalry was used.

The strength of the Anglo-Saxon army is another issue which cannot be agreed upon by scholars. Some believe the army was weak and only used infantry as a means of defense and battle; whereas others believe that the army was much more powerful, employing both infantry and cavalry. The former argument suggests that the infantry was weak but did not have very much power. The Anglo-Saxons did not carry many strong weapons, but they did use spears as their early literature relates. Also, only some of the men who were sent to battle (specifically the selected *fyrds*) were actually trained to fight. Because of this a lot of Anglo-Saxon fighting is seen as having been disorganized and often 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 fashion that the best soldiers were in the front line, and the less adequate fighters in the following lines. The front line was a tightly packed wall, protecting the areas behind them. Though this seems like a rather ineffective method, it was in fact 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 opposite side of the large solid group. They moved very slowly and managed to maintain their formation while advancing. This tactic was further developed and used in the crusades. The same procedure would take place, however, at an eventual point in the advance; a hole would open in the wall of soldiers to allow a charge of cavalry to break through the opposition. Military tactics did develop gradually throughout the Anglo-Saxon period. Though there is some debate as to how efficient the soldiers and the fighting was, it is clear that as the ages progressed, so too did the strength and intelligence of the army.

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