

Our Ancient Kings

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England is the home of the legendary King Arthur and the Historical **KING ALFRED**, the birthplace of the Anglo-Saxon common law and the jury system, and the starting point for a language spoken around the world in the 21st century.

The people living in England around the year 1000 were the recipients of a culture that had developed over the past thousand years, and which showed a mixture of Briton, Roman, Anglo-Saxon, and Danish elements.

The Britons, about whom we know rather little, were conquered by the Romans during the reign of Emperor Claudius; the Southern half of what is now England became a Roman province. Julius Caesar and other Romans invaded Britain in 55 and 54 B.C., but the Romans did not conquer Britain until 43 A.D. Julius Caesar and other Romans condemned the Britons for practicing human sacrifices and ritualistic body painting. It is believed, by some, that Roman soldiers introduced Christianity to Britain.

The Romans ruled England until about 410 A.D. when Rome withdrew her legions. It was an essential move at the time, since the Roman Empire was being attacked in other parts of the world. However, many Britons had long since become accustomed to Roman government and felt betrayed by the Roman departure. The island was left unprotected and was soon invaded by a number of Germanic tribes, including the Angles, Saxons, and Jutes.

The Angles (who lent their name to the land) and Saxons became the dominant tribes in the takeover of England.

ALFRED was a real and known historical figure and he was a direct ancestor of Capt. Christopher Hussey, if our records are correct. He stands for that quintessentially English type of hero: a man at home with books and swords. **ALFRED** is said to have been a devout Christian. He visited Rome in his youth and later wrote church histories. According to his biographer, Alfred was anxious that the hours of devotions should be strictly observed in the monasteries, and conceived the idea of placing four candles in a horn lantern, carefully weighed so as to burn six hours each, so that their successive lighting might show almost exactly the correct time. In the 17th century, near a small fort Alfred's companions had built, a beautiful jewel of enamel, gold, and crystal, was unearthed, bearing the inscription: "Aelfred Mec Heht Gewyrean" ("Alfred fashioned me").

From Childhood Alfred had a great thirst for knowledge. In old age he told how the grief of his life had been that when he had youth and leisure for learning he could find no teachers, and when at last he had gathered men of learning around him, he had been so busied with wars and the cares of governing, and with infirmities, that he could not read to his fill. I read he founded the University of Oxford.

One of Alfred's literary labors was the rendering of the Holy Gospels into the Saxon tongue.

He was also a man of action. He fought the Danes for many years, and restricted the amount of territory they controlled in England.

"Viking, "Scandinavian", "Norse", and "Northmen", can all be used to describe the peoples who spread terror throughout northern Europe during this period. Specifically these were Swedes, Danes, and Norwegians; though the term "Vikings" is employed.

Viking raids began in the middle and later part of the 8th century. Perhaps this was because of a food shortage in Scandinavia – the population had out grown its food supply. Also, it is possible that the Scandinavian's nautical adventures simply evolved into piracy and terror. In either case, they began to attack the coastlines of England, Scotland, Ireland, Holland, Germany, and France, **EVEN ITALY**.

Not only did the Norsemen attack unexpectedly, but they also brought with them a group of warriors called "Berserkers" who used both religious fervor and drunken mania to intimidate their opponents. "Berserkers" lunged into battle carrying great double-handed axes, and calling on the aid of their gods. There was something so terrifying about these men that few could withstand them, and many fled instead of facing them.

France and Germany suffered after the death of the **EMPEROR CHARLEMAGNE** in 814 because his grandsons split their lands into three parts in 843, weakening the empire and making it vulnerable to the Scandinavian attacks. By about 900, most of northern Europe appeared helpless before the continuing attacks from the north. This never would have happened in **CHARLEMAGNE'S** time.

England was saved, as it is written, "by the grace and works" of **KING ALFRED**. **ALFRED** was born around 849, the youngest son of **AETHELWULF, KING OF WESSEX**, (who was the son of **EGBERT, KING OF WESSEX**). Through a series of accidents and surprises **ALFRED** became king, and set out to rid the land of the Danes, who had come in force during the past fifty years or so.

The situation was so bad for **ALFRED** and for Wessex that many English Lords paid the "Danegeld", a specified amount of gold paid yearly to the Danish pirates. If they thought this would deter future Danish invasions, the nobles were completely mistaken. Coming as they did from the nautical countries of Denmark, and Norway, the Scandinavians saw England as a wonderful base from which they could assail other European nations, and collect gold.

ALFRED fought valiantly against the Danes, and he founded the English navy in order to fight some of the Danes before they were able to reach his beloved England.

By the time of **ALFRED THE GREAT'S** death, in 899 A.D., the English people considered him and his descendants the guardians of the Anglo-Saxon heritage. During the next sixty years his successors were able to spread their influence and become truly "Kings of England" rather than just "Kings of Wessex". The King of Scotland and the King of Wales each accepted that the King of England was, to some extent, their overlord. Therefore, something approximating the Kingdom of England had been created.

The measure of security created by **KING ALFRED** and his successors was seriously threatened toward the end of the 10th century. The accession to the throne of **KING ETHELRED II**, often known as "**ETHELRED THE UNREADY**", brought dangerous times to the island kingdom. "Unready" means "unadvised" or "badly advised", and **ETHELRED** lived up to that name. "**ETHELRED II** was the great, great, grandson of **KING ALFRED "THE GREAT"**. His great-grandfather was **KING EDWARD "THE ELDER"**; his grandfather **KING EDMUND I "THE DEED-DOER"**; and his father, **KING EDGAR "THE PEACEABLE"**.

ETHELRED II's father, **EDGAR "THE PEACEABLE"**, by his first wife bore a son, Edward, who succeeded him as King. His second wife, **ELFRIDA**, also known as **AELFTHYTH**, who was **ETHELRED'S** mother, coveted the throne for her son by **EDGAR "THE PEACEABLE"**. **ETHELRED II** was only about ten years old when his mother arranged Edward's death. Edward became known as Edward the Martyr. **ETHELRED** was crowned King in his stead. Many years later **ELFRIDA**, the Queen Mother, repented of this murder, and as proof of her penitence founded the abbey at Wherewell, in Hampshire, in the year 986. In the year 1002 she drowned in the Test stream which flowed past the Abbey. It was suspected that she was helped.

*(Wherwell Abbey was founded in 986 by **ELFRIDA**, Queen of **EDGAR THE PEACEABLE**, King of England. It was rebuilt by the Abbess Euphemia in 1226. It was ruined when King Henry VIII ordered the dissolution of the Abbeys in 1549.*

On the priory side of the wall, by the priory church yard there is a stone with the following inscription:

"Anno Domini 1549

Here was the monastery of Wherwell, erected by Queen Ethelred (Elfrida). Demolished by the overacted seale or avarice of King Henry the VIII, and of its last ruins here buried there yet remains this monument."

The church built on that site, "Saint Peter and the Holy Cross", is the one where Reverend Stephen Bachiler (father-in-law of Captain Christopher Hussey) served as Vicar from 1587 to 1605. (John Bate, believed to be Reverend Bachiler's brother-in-law, followed him as Vicar from 1605-1633.

That church burned in 1856. The present church was built on that site in 1857, using some stones from the original building).

This was not the only murder **ELFRIDA** was responsible for. In the words of the chronicler, William of Malmesbury, it is recorded.

"There was a nobleman of celebrity called AETHLWOLD, one of the confidants of **KING EDGAR THE PEACEABLE**, and **EDGAR** commissioned him to visit **ELFRIDA**, daughter of Ordgar, Duke of Devonshire, and to offer her marriage if her beauty were equal to the reports. (Her charms had so fascinated the eyes of some persons that they had commended her to the King.)

Hastening on his embassy and finding everything consonant to general estimation, AETHELWOLD concealed his mission from her parents and procured the damsel for himself. Returning to the King, he told a tale which he made for his own purpose, that she was a girl of vulgar and commonplace appearance, and by no means worthy of such transcendent dignity.

This caused the King to lose interest in **ELFRIDA**, but eventually he had reason to suspect that he had been duped by his friend. To put the matter to the test, the King appointed a day when he would visit this far-famed lady. Her husband, greatly alarmed by this prospect, went ahead to his wife, confessed what had happened and besought her that she would protect him by attiring herself as unbecomingly as possible. **ELFRIDA** appeared to consent to this stratagem to protect her husband, but instead did everything to make herself most attractive to the King."

The chronicler states:

"The King fell so desperately in love with her the moment he saw her that dissembling his indignation, he sent for the Earl into a wood at Wherwell under the pretense of hunting and ran him through with a javelin."

In the depth of Harewood forest there is a cross, commonly known as "The Monument", which bears this inscription:

"About the year of our Lord A.D. 963, upon this spot, tradition reports that **EDGAR, surnamed THE PEACEABLE**, King of England, in the ardor of youth love and indignation, slew with his own hand his treacherous and ungrateful favorite Earl, AETHELWOLD, owner of this forest of Harewood, in resentment of the Earl's having basely betrayed and perfidiously married his intended bride and beauteous **ELFRIDA**, daughter of **ORDGAR, Earl of Devonshire**, who was afterwards

wife of **KING EDGAR**, and by him mother of **KING ETHELRED II**. **QUEEN ELFRIDA**, after **EDGAR'S** death, murdered his eldest son, King Edward "The Martyr", and founded the nunnery of 'Wor-well'."

KING ETHELRED II was not a warrior king in the tradition of his ancestors. During his long reign England was threatened by numerous invasions, most of them originating in Denmark.

Normandy (meaning "land of the Northmen") was one of the French Duchies. It had been created in the year 911 when **KING CHARLES III** (often called "**THE SIMPLE**") of France had made a deal with a Norwegian Viking named "**ROLLO**". The Norwegians had arrived in France one or two years earlier, and, unlike many Vikings, had chosen to stay. **ROLLO** had made camp near the mouth of the Seine River, and **KING CHARLES** decided to befriend this Viking rather than attempt to expel him. In 911 A.D., **ROLLO** and **KING CHARLES** agreed to the treaty of Sur-le-epte, which made **ROLLO** a Vassel of the King of France and **THE FIRST DUKE OF NORMANDY**.

ROLLO was succeeded by his son **WILLIAM "LONGSWORD"**; who was followed by his son **DUKE RICHARD I**, "the Fearless", who was succeeded by his son, **RICHARD II**. During the rule of **RICHARD II**, Emma, sister of **RICHARD II**, was married to **KING ETHELRED II** as his second wife (his first wife being **ELGIVA**, mother of **EDMUND "IRONSIDE"**, later King Of England). It was the first time in over a century that the English monarchy looked outside the kingdom for a bride, and the marriage had long-lasting consequences. It was a political marriage, intended to strengthen England against the Danes.

Emma and **KING ETHELRED** had two children, Edgar and Edward. There was little love between the royal couple, and their animosity helped to deprive England of strong leadership when the country sorely needed it.

England was threatened by the Danes once more, and this time the Danes had it in mind to take the whole country. "The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle" describes the savagery with which the Danes attacked:

"Cnut came with his force. They went into Warwickshire during the season of Christmas, and ravaged, burnt, and killed all they came across.

The name of the Danish leader, Cnut, was lengthened by his English foes to Canute. He was ruler of Denmark, and a cunning warrior who planned his invasions well in advance and generally out-scouted, as well as out-fought, his enemies.

KING ETHELRED died as Canute was approaching England in 1015. Canute was left to face **EDMUND "IRONSIDES"** (son of **KING ETHELRED** by his first wife, **ELGIVA**), a skillful and charismatic leader who would lead the Anglo-Saxons against Canute and the Danes.

Upon **ETHELRED'S** death, his son **EDMUND IRONSIDE** received the crown of England in the city of London by the hands of the Archbishop of London. In the meantime, Canute was proclaimed King at Southampton by the Bishops and Abbots, and hastened forth to pursue **EDMUND**. It is said, when both armies were at the point to have joined, one of the captains (it is not certain if it was a Dane or an Englishman) stood up where he might be heard by both parties and boldly shouted:

"We have, most worthy captains, fought long enough one against another. There has been too much bloodshed between both the nations, and the valianty on both sides is sufficiently seen by trial, and either of your manhoods likewise, and yet can bear neither good nor evil fortune. If one of you win the battle, he pursues him that was overcome; and if he chance to be vanquished, he rests not until he has recovered new strength to fight with him that is victor. What should you mean by this invincible courage? At what mark shooteth your greedy desire to bear rule, and your excessive thirst to attain honor? If you fight for a kingdom, divide it between you two, which sometime was sufficient for seven kings; but if you covet to win fame and glorious renown, and for the same are driven to try the hazard whether ye shall command or obey, devise the way whereby ye may without so great slaughter, and pitiful bloodshed of both your guiltless people, try whether of you is most worthy to be preferred."

EDMUND and Canute considered this motion, so order was taken that they should fight together in a single combat, with the condition, that whether of them chanced to be victor, should be king, and the other to resign his title forever into his hands. EDMUND and Canute entered the place appointed, in armor, and began the battle in sight of both their armies. The two champions manfully assailed each other, without sparing, first on horseback, and after on foot. Canute could not find advantage. He spoke to EDMUND in low voice, "What necessity is this that for the obtaining of a Kingdom we should put our lives in danger? It is better that we should come to some reasonable agreement. Let us become sworn brethren, and part the kingdom between us: and let us deal friendly, that thou mayest use my things as thine own, and I thine as though they were mine."

With those words **EDMUND** threw down his sword, and coming to Canute joined hands with him. Both the armies by their example did likewise.

After this, partition of the realm was made, that part toward France was assigned to **EDMUND**, the other to Canute.

But, others write that Canute refused the combat because the match was not equal; but since they did pretend title to the realm by due and good direct means, he thought it most convenient that the kingdom should be divided between them-thus both writers have given record.

But King **EDMUND**, after he and Canute had become friends, died in 1016. Some say it was a natural death due to illness; others that he was slain, and that Canute had his murderer beheaded.

KING ETHELRED had sent Emma and her sons, Alfred and Edward to Emma's brother, **RICHARD II**, in Normandy for safety. **IRONSIDE'S** sons Edwin and **Edward** were banished from England, and sent to Sweno, King of Norway; but Sweno sent them to Hungary where they found great favor.

Canute, now with **IRONSIDE'S** death, became King of all England. To all observers, it was apparent that the line passing through KING ALFRED and his descendants was finished as the ruling house of England.

One year after his takeover, Canute sent to **RICHARD II**, Duke of Normandy, requiring **RICHARD** to give his sister, Emma, widow of **KING ETHELRED II**, to him in marriage. **RICHARD** not only consented, but he also took Canute's sister as his wife (there was no issue and the marriage did not last).

Also, one year after his takeover, Canute became a convert to Christianity. He showed such piety that he declined to wear his crown, and had it suspended above the high altar at Winchester as a sign that **GOD ALONE IS KING**. Canute married Queen Emma, the widow of **KING ETHELRED II**. She appeared happier with Canute than she had been with **ETHELRED**, and the couple had two sons, Harthacanute and Harold. Thus, Emma, a Norman noblewoman, had provided England with four potential heirs to the English throne, and two of them were from the ancient line of **KING ALFRED**, and two from the line of Canute.

Given all the confusion and conflict it would seem natural that King Canute would have a difficult reign. However, just the opposite occurred. Canute turned out to be the most effective and the most balanced ruler England had had in two generations. As the years passed Canute sent most of his Danish army home, and ruled with only the protection of his Housecarls (military retainers). The formidable axe-wielding soldiers were the core of Canute's strength, and later they became central to the Anglo-Saxon army.

Canute died in 1035. Though precedence should have gone to his son, Harthacanute, by Queen Emma, dispute ensued between Harthacanute and his brother, Harold. For a time the kingdom was ruled jointly. Neither of these rulers fared very well, and they died young. In 1042, the throne was offered to Prince Edward, (son of Emma and **KING ETHELRED**,) who had spent many years in exile in Normandy.

Edward took the throne, and governed with a modicum of good sense and balance. His subjects noticed his pious behavior and soon called him "Edward, the Confessor", Edward took care not to offend his Danish subjects, and he may have taken for granted the loyalty of his Anglo-Saxons. But Edward showed his strongest backing for Norman counselors and Norman architects. Since he spent so many years in Normandy, in exile, and his mother, Emma, was a Norman, King Edward continued to show this predilection throughout his reign.

In 1057, Aured, the Bishop of Worcester was sent to fetch **EDWARD**, the son of **EDMUND IRONSIDE**, from Hungary to England, whom King Edward "The Confessor" desired to see, meaning to ordain him heir apparent to the throne; but **EDWARD, THE EXILE**, died after his return to England. King Edward, the Confessor, was without issue.

King Edward "the Confessor" sickened and worsened as the year 1065 came to its end. On December 28th the new church at Westminster was consecrated. The building of the church had been one of the projects dearest to King Edward's heart, but he was too ill to attend the ceremony. His condition continued to worsen, and the Witan (Anglo-Saxon counselors of the King), were called to be present in the event of the King's death.

On the morning of 4 January 1066, King Edward was near death. In his last hours he was accompanied by Earl Harold and Stigand, the Archbishop of Canterbury. The Archbishop pressed Edward to answer the question: who should wear the crown of England? Edward stretched forth his hand to the Earl of West-Saxons, and said, "To thee, Harold, my brother" (actually Edward's brother-in-law) I commit my Kingdom". Edward died an hour or two later.

King Edward was buried on the morning of 6 January 1066, the feast of the epiphany. Earl Harold was anointed and crowned King of England that afternoon. As far as the Witan were concerned, the matter was closed.

But there were three other men for whom the matter was not settled: **WILLIAM, 7TH DUKE OF NORMANDY**, Earl Tostig, in exile, and King Harald Hardrada of Norway.

DUKE WILLIAM claimed the English throne on two counts. First, he was a first cousin once removed by marriage, of the deceased King Edward, son of Emma and **ETHELRED**. Emma's brother, **RICHARD II, DUKE OF NORMANDY**, was father of **ROBERT I, 6TH DUKE OF NORMANDY** - who was **WILLIAM'S** father.

(**RICHARD II** was also father of **RICHARD III, 5TH DUKE OF NORMANDY**, father of the **Countess HELENA** who married **HUBERT HUSE**, a companion of **WILLIAM** in the invasion of England. **HELENA** and **WILLIAM** were first cousins).

Second, **DUKE WILLIAM** claimed that Earl Harold, who was crowned King of England, had made an oath of allegiance to him two years past. If this was true, then Harold should relinquish the throne to **WILLIAM**.

If Harold had sworn such an oath, then there was little doubt that **DUKE WILLIAM** was the person who possessed the best claim to the English throne.

WILLIAM was hunting outside the town of Rouen, Normandy, when he heard the news of King Edward's death and the coronation of Harold. His attendants report that he stopped his day's hunt, spoke to no one, and went to his nearby castle where he brooded for hours. When a nobleman was bold enough to speak to him hours later, the Duke had decided to press his claim to the throne of England.

As furious as he was, or may have been, **WILLIAM** knew he could not simply command his Norman knights to cross the channel. They were under no obligation to serve elsewhere than Normandy. If he wanted them to follow him to England, he would have to win them to his cause, and he was going to have to take action quickly.

One way to do so was to appeal to their Christian faith. Here, **WILLIAM** had a trump card: his friendship with Lanfranc, Bishop of Bec, gave him unusually good access to the Pope in Rome. Pope Alexander II had studied at the monastery in Bec twenty years earlier, and he was great friends with Lanfranc, leader of the monks in Normandy. Lanfranc did not take **WILLIAM'S** case himself, but he did send monks and ambassadors to Rome to defend **WILLIAM'S** right to rule England.

Alexander II was the first Pope to have been elected by the College of Cardinals, created in 1059. Prior to that, Popes had been made and unmade by the Holy Roman Emperor, and by a succession created by the Popes themselves. The major reforms in the church that created the College of the Cardinals had been thoroughly accepted by the Norman clergy, but not by the English monks and priests. Therefore, Pope Alexander II had a very good reason to support **DUKE WILLIAM**, especially since **WILLIAM** promised to "clean up the English church", to cleanse it of the abuses that some claim existed.

Making matters even more appealing to Pope Alexander II, **DUKE WILLIAM** made vague promises to hold all England as a fief of the Pope after the land was conquered. If all this came to fulfillment, there would be a new reformed church in England, and all the lands would belong to the Pope in theory. It is not surprising the Pope endorsed **WILLIAM'S** plan for the invasion of England.

The Pope sent a banner, and a ring containing a hair of Peter, the Apostle, indicating his approval of **WILLIAM'S** planned invasion. **WILLIAM** used the banner to good effect at the conferences he held with the Norman nobles. It persuaded them to join the invasion. The nobles had been reluctant even so, but were won over when **WILLIAM** promised them money and lands when England was conquered. By March 1066, **WILLIAM** had decided how to invade and conquer England. He put many of his subjects to work building boats to carry his army across the channel.

WILLIAM had his hands full trying to build a fleet. His Norman subjects, accustomed as they were to fighting on land, were now trying to regain the skill of their Viking ancestors.

While **WILLIAM** was readying his invasion, the Vikings, under Harald Hardrada, King of Norway, attacked England. The English were victorious. Feasts and celebrations followed. King Harold was apparently in the midst of one of the feasts when an urgent message arrived: **WILLIAM** had landed in Sussex.

Although Hastings is the name most associated with **WILLIAM** and the crossing, he and most of his ships came to anchor at Pevensey in East Sussex. It was a natural landing place and would not attract the attention that major ports, such as Dover, might have. By late afternoon **WILLIAM** and most of his 7,000 men were on shore.

The next day **WILLIAM** was anxious for news. He did not know about King Harald Hardrada's landing in the north, or the forced march King Harold had made there, but **WILLIAM** surmised that something was up. There was no other way to account for his landing without any organized resistance.

Normans were sent out to forage in the area and bring back food and supplies. Even his defenders usually concede that **WILLIAM** had no need to undertake this foraging and pillage. The Normans had brought food and wine with them in their vessels. Instead, the forage and pillage was probably a calculated effort to create fear in the hearts of the English, and to persuade England that it was hopeless to resist **WILLIAM** and his Norman army.

Two days after landing **WILLIAM** still knew nothing about King Harald Hardrada's invasion. Despite the remarkably close timing between their two landings, Harald Hardrada in the north, and **WILLIAM** in the south, there had been no coordination between the two invaders: There could not have been, for each had come to claim the throne of England for himself.

King Harold was at York when news reached him that **WILLIAM** had landed. Harold had just managed a march and battle that had finished off the most threatening Viking invasion in recent history, and he and his men had no time to rest.

Neither "the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle", nor any other English documents speak of King Harold's state of mind. All we know is that within one day of receiving the bad news, Harold and his Housecarls, were on their way back to the city of London.

Although there was need for haste, the southern journey was probably somewhat slower than the northern one. Many of the Housecarls had sustained wounds during the battle with Harald Hardrada and his troops at Stamford Bridge, and no one could expect them to make the remarkable speed they had achieved from south to north.

King Harold and the Vanguard of his army entered London on 5 October 1066. Here they received the good news that **DUKE WILLIAM** had not ventured from his beachhead. The Normans were still lodged between Hastings and Pevensey. Harold spent the next five days gathering the Anglo-Saxon Levies from the region around London. By 10th of October he felt ready to proceed to Sussex.

Hastings is about 70 miles south and southwest of London. Harold and his men set out the evening of October 11 with a rendezvous point named as Hoary Apple Tree which stood on a hill called Senlac. It is not clear whether the English army went as one body, or it proceeded in groups and then met near the Hoary Apple Tree, but King Harold had in mind almost exactly the same tactic that had worked against the Vikings: a rendezvous some miles from the foe, and a swift final march and surprise attack.

The English forces met at the rendezvous point on the evening of October 13. The King arrived and set up his personal standard, the Dragon of Wessex. King Harold conferred with his brothers (both had come with him), and perhaps having a few hours sleep that night, he may have been confident. Not only had he shown himself a master of speed and surprise, but he was about to fight in Sussex, part of his Earldom. This was a land he knew well, and which the Norman's did not.

Five miles away **DUKE WILLIAM** learned of Harold's approach. It may have been late that evening or even the early morning hours, but **WILLIAM** was alerted. Within hours he had his entire army mobilized and on the march toward that ridge where the English had assembled.

The English and Norman armies were about the same size, but in certain military aspects the Normans were distinctly superior. **WILLIAM** had many horses with him, and men who were true cavalymen accustomed to charges. The Normans also had many archers. Even though later England would make the longbow famous, Harold had few archers, and therefore the Normans could to some extent, hit the enemy without exposing themselves.

If it had been strictly a battle on foot, the English would have had the advantage (perhaps Harald Hardrada had had no horses with him). The Housecarls were renowned for their skill with axe and sword, and the English militia was excellent in its use of missiles. Most importantly, the Anglo-Saxon "shield wall" was tested and proven as an effective device in warfare. (Rather like ancient Macedonians, who marched in a Phalanx that locked shield on shield). The Anglo-Saxons fought in close formation using the "shield wall" both offensively and defensively.

But King Harold took one look at the Normans and knew he had made a mistake in advancing so far so fast, but he took the center position where his personal emblem flapped in the breeze. His brothers took command of both flanks, and the Anglo-Saxons awaited the inevitable assault.

WILLIAM had both his personal flag and the Papal banner which the Pope had sent to bless the Norman invasion. Prior to the beginning of the battle **WILLIAM** exhorted his men. He reminded them that they were on a holy mission to reclaim the Church of England and to bring it into complete conformity with that of Rome. He reminded them of the perils they had already endured in crossing the channel, and he hinted there would be no retreat. If the Normans were to lose the battle, they would be hunted down like animals by the very people whose homes they had recently pillaged. It was to be all or nothing this day.

By contrast, King Harold probably had nothing to say. His followers were tried and true. They had marched all the way to York and back and had defeated the greatest Viking warrior of their era, Harald Hardrada, King of Norway, who had come to claim the throne of England.

Harald Hardrada's claim to the throne of England was based on Emma and Canute's son, King Harthacnute's, exchange of a promise with Magnus, King of Norway, that if either of them should die childless, the other would rule his kingdom. Magnus' grandson, Harald Hardrada, inherited that promise, for Harthacnute died without issue.

King Harold and his two brothers valiantly died on the hill late that afternoon, as well as almost half 7000 men they had brought with them from London, and the remnants of the English army disappeared in the coming darkness.

The battle was over, but the campaign continued. **WILLIAM** had won his great victory, but the kingdom was still to be won. He acted cautiously in the days and weeks ahead after the Battle of Hastings.

Edgar the Aetheling was grandson of **THE KING EDMUND "IRONSIDE"**. He was just barely beyond boyhood, about seventeen years old. He was the son of **IRONSIDE'S** son **EDWARD "THE EXILE"** and **AGATHA**, daughter of **SAINT STEPHEN, KING OF HUNGARY**. (Some believe **AGATHA** was the daughter of Ludwig Von Braunschweig, Count of West Friesland, and Gertrude Von Egisheim. Ludwig Von Braunschweig was kin to the German emperors – but I have found most favor Saint Stephen of Hungary as **AGATHA'S** father.)

"The deeds of **SAINT STEPHEN**, King of Hungary, were always governed by Christian ethics. His aim was to lead his people toward **GOD: STEPHEN** outlined in his "admonitions" to his son, Prince IMRE (brother of **AGATHA**, Edgar the Aethelings' mother.):

"If you wish the honor of Kingship, be peace-loving. Rule over all without anger, pride, or hatred, but with love, tenderness, and humanity. Remember always that each one of us has the same standing: Nothing humiliates more than haughtiness and hatred...Peace-loving monarchs rule, the rest only tyrannize. Be patient toward all, influential and destitute alike."

Contemporary historians testify that **SAINT STEPHEN** kept these rules. He was merciful to defeated enemies, and provided haven for countless refugees from other lands. Among these was the exiled English prince, **EDWARD "THE EXILE"**, (son of **EDMUND IRONSIDE**), who was given protection and a home in Hungary.

You will remember **EDWARD**, the exile, as the last descendant of **ALFRED THE GREAT**, returned to England with his family in 1057, as a pretender to the throne, at the request of **KING EDWARD, the CONFESSOR**.

EDWARD, the EXILES's son, (by the Hungarian **PRINCESS AGATHA**), Edgar the Aetheling, had yet to serve in, much less lead, a military campaign. All common sense argued against placing an untried boy on the throne, but common sense was overridden by the need to show a legitimate descent from the English royal family. Edgar became "king, in name", sometime in November 1066, although he was never coronated.

Clearly **WILLIAM** did not relish the thought of a siege. London was too large; its population too militant. Even if he should win such a siege, **WILLIAM** did not want to make martyrs of those who would resist him. So he inched closer day by day and was gratified to see the resistance melt before him. Even the Archbishop of Canterbury Stigand, came to kiss **WILLIAM'S** hand on his march, and by the time **WILLIAM** reached the capitol city, there was no need to fight.

WILLIAM had successfully invaded England, so it is unknown whether Edgar, the Atheling, could have become ruler given time, but he had no time, because **WILLIAM** was closing in around London, and Edgar was abandoned by the same men who had proclaimed him king just six weeks before upon King Harold's death.

WILLIAM met with the leaders in London, and they agreed upon a coronation ceremony set for Christmas day, 1066. **WILLIAM** chose to receive the crown in Westminster Abbey. His reason was sound; he wanted more than ever to appear the legitimate heir to his cousin, Edward the Confessor, and he could do so by being crowned in the church Edward had built. It was settled! **WILLIAM, 7TH DUKE OF NORMANDY**, who had all his life been called "**WILLIAM THE BASTARD**", was now **WILLIAM I, KING OF ENGLAND - "the CONQUEROR"**.

The first result of **WILLIAM'S** victory was that it threw three exalted refugees upon the mercy of **MALCOLM III 'CANMORE'**, King of Scotland; Edgar the Aethling, his sister **MARGARET**, and their mother, **AGATHA**, widow of **EDWARD, the EXILE**. They had set sail toward Germany proposing to return to Hungary, but strong winds drove them to Scotland.

In 1069 **MALCOLM** married **MARGARET**. She was beautiful in person and character, and she captivated **MALCOLM** at once. She was very devout and known for her charity.

MARGARET had been raised in the Royal court of Hungary. **MALCOLM'S** court had been like that of a tribal chief. **MARGARET** brought good manners, splendor, and greater use of ceremony, which could only serve to enhance the prestige of Scotland among the kingdoms of Christendom.

MALCOLM was a ferocious warrior, yet a man who was capable of responding to civilizing influences. Though he could neither read nor write, he spoke Gaelic, English, and Latin.

The example of **SAINT STEPHEN, KING OF HUNGARY**, seems to have had great influence on his daughter **AGATHA** who was very devout; and his grand daughter, **MARGARET, QUEEN of SCOTS** (who was later canonized).

MALCOLM and **MARGARET** had six sons, four of whom became Kings of Scotland (Edgar, Edmund, Alexander I, and David I). All but one unquestionably accepted **MARGARET'S** ideas, and the last, in particular, built upon the foundation which she laid.

MALCOLM III was killed at Alnwick in the course of his fifth invasion of England (this time fully justified by the provocation of William Rufus, who had succeeded his father, **WILLIAM the CONQUEROR**, King of England). **SAINT MARGARET** was sick at Edinburgh castle when she received the news that **MALCOLM** and their eldest son, **EDWARD**, had been slain. She died four days after **MALCOLM**.

After **HENRY I**, who followed his brother, William Rufus, as King of England, had brought the common wealth into good estate, he consulted with his nobility as to where he might best get himself a wife. They came to the conclusion that King Edgar of Scotland's sister, **MATILDA**, (known as Edith in Scotland – Matilda in England) a beautiful and virtuous lady, who was a professed nun in a religious house, would be ideal. She had been placed in the convent after the death of her father, **MALCOLM III, "CANMORE"**, by her mother, **SAINT MARGARET**, for safe-keeping.

Notwithstanding the vow, she was thought to be a fit wife for **HENRY**. So, ambassadors were sent to her brother, King Edgar of Scotland, that **HENRY** might have her in marriage. She refused to break her professed vow and would not hear of the offer.

When this news reached **HENRY** he was enraged, and sent new ambassadors to move the case, whereupon King Edgar charged the abbess of the house where **MATILDA** abode, to persuade **MATILDA** that such a marriage was necessary, profitable, and honorable for her country and kindred. The abbess prevailed, and **MATILDA** agreed to the marriage. She was transported to England and wedded to the King, who ordered the Archbishop to crown her Queen of England.

With the marriage of **MATILDA**, Princess of Scotland, (great-grand daughter of **KING EDMUND "IRONSIDE"**, who was the son of **KING ETHELRED II**, to **HENRY I**, King of England (son of **WILLIAM the CONQUEROR**), the ancient Anglo-Saxon royalty was united with the new Norman line in England and the English people were delighted. To this day England is ruled by the descendants of **ALFRED the GREAT**.

KING HENRY I's, anger at **MATILDA'S** first refusal to consider his proposal brings to mind the reaction of his father, **WILLIAM the BASTARD**, when he heard that **HENRY'S** mother, **MATILDA of FLANDERS**, upon hearing that her father, **BALDWIN V**, had agreed to **WILLIAM'S** proposal of marriage, told him in no certain terms that she would never marry William-he would never amount to anything.

When this came to **WILLIAM'S** ears he was infuriated, and went to her father's castle, found her and gave her a beating! When she told her father what **WILLIAM** had done, she added: "Any man brave enough to do what he did is going to be a great man someday!" It turned out to be a love match, and it is said he was always true to her.

Our line proceeds down through **JOHN of GAUNT**, Duke of Lancaster (son of **EDWARD III**, King of England) and his ~~1st~~ ~~was~~ **BLANCHE of LANCASTER**. **JOHN of GAUNT** was the sixth great-grandson of **HENRY I** and **MATILDA** of Scotland. **JOHN of GAUNT** was the eighth great-grandfather of **CAPTAIN CHRISTOPHER HUSSEY**.

JOHN of GAUNT, Prince of England, m. **BLANCHE of LANCASTER**.

COUNTESS ELIZABETH of LANCASTER m. **SIR JOHN HOLAND**, Duke of Exeter, Knight of the Garter.

COUNTESS CONSTANCE HOLAND m. **SIR JOHN DE GREY**, Knight of the Garter.

LORD EDMUND GREY, of Ruthin, 1st Earl of Kent, m. **LADY KATHERINE DE PERCY**.

SIR GEORGE GREY, 2ND Earl of Kent, Knight of the Bath, m. **LADY KATHERINE HERBERT**.

LADY ANNE GREY m. **SIR JOHN HUSSEY**, Baron of Sleaford.

SIR GILES HUSSEY m. **JANE PIGOT**

THOMAS HUSSEY m. **BRIDGET BOWES**

GEORGE HUSSEY m. **ELIZABETH STUYDOLF** (?)

JOHN HUSSEY m. **MARY WOOD**

CAPTAIN CHRISTOPHER HUSSEY m. **THEODATE BACHILER**, daughter of **REVEREND STEPHEN BACHILER**

FALAISE ROLL

(Recording of prominent companions of William, Duke of Normandy, at the conquest of England).

"HUBERT HEUSE"

"An ancient French manuscript said to have been found in the Abbey of Glastonbury when it was dissolved as well as the Visitation of Dorset (1623) records that **HUBERT HEUSE'**, a noble Norman, married the **COUNTESS HELEN,** daughter of the 5th Duke of Normandy (**RICHARD III**), and accompanied **DUKE WILLIAM** to England, where he was invested with the dignity of high constable and extensive estates. From him descended the Husseys of Dorset and Kent. The name occurs on the rolls of Leland, Holinshed, Duchesne, and Delisle."

Burke, 64

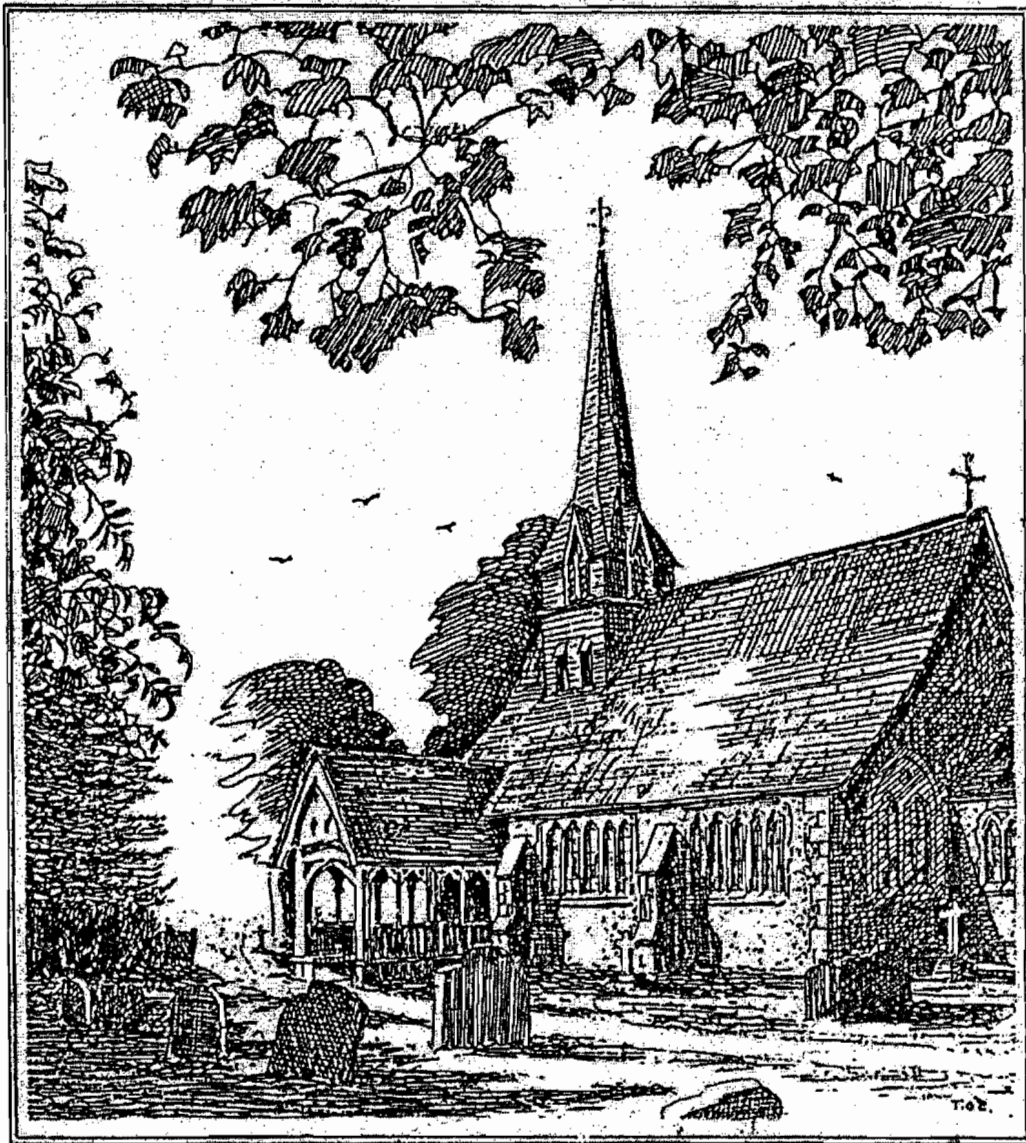
Sources:

- "Hastings" by Samuel Willard Crompton
- "The Anglo-Saxon Chronicles" (A.D. 900-1066)
- "The Bayeux Tapestry"
- "Anglo-Saxon England and the Norman Conquest" H.R.Loyn
- "Who's who in Roman Britain and Anglo-Saxon England" Richard Fletcher
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- "Monarchs of Scotland" Stewart Ross
- "History of the Hungarian Nation" Part 1: 830-1919 A.D.
- "Falaise Roll"
- "The Kings and Queen's of Scotland" by Caroline Bingham
- "The story of Britain" by Rebecca Fraser
- "Emma, the Twice Crowned Queen" by Isabella Strachan
- "Royalty for Commoners" by Stuart
- "Rollo and His Race" by Acton Warburton 1848

SAINT PETER AND HOLY CROSS CHURCH

WHERWELL

HAMPSHIRE



HISTORY AND LEGEND

Present Church. Built in 1857 on site of church destroyed by Henry VIII.

(PAGE 6)



Church Stephen Bachiler pastored from 1557 to 1605. Built on site of Wherwell Abbey founded by Queen Elfrida in 986, and rebuilt by the Abbess Eupheria in 1226, and destroyed by Henry VIII in 1549.

(PAGE 6)



((front view))

GOLD, ENAMEL AND CRYSTAL JEWEL ALFRED
FASHIONED (PG-2)

[Faint, illegible text, possibly bleed-through from the reverse side of the page.]

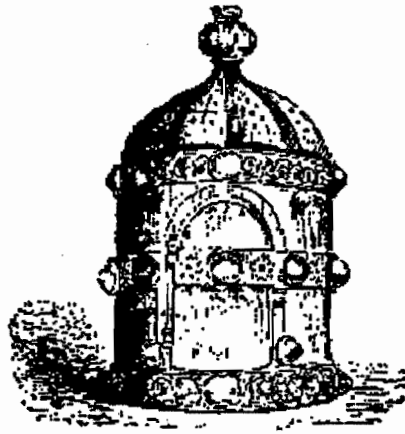
DESCRIPTION OF HORN LANTERN

Alfred encouraged industry of all kinds. He brought many skilful men to England from foreign countries. He himself could show his gold workers, and other artisans, how to do their work. He invented a method of counting the hours by means of candles, carefully made so that six of them would burn just twenty-four hours. ALFRED also invented a lantern, with transparent sides made of horn (for glass was scarce or unknown) to keep drafts away from the candle and make it burn better. His mind was constantly at work, seeking to better the condition of his country.



Gold Jewel of Alfred \ (side view)

DISCOVERED IN THE 17TH CENTURY
NEAR A SMALL FORT ALFRED'S COMPANIONS
HAD BUILT. INSCRIBED " AELFRED MCC
HEHT GEWVYREAN" ("ALFRED FASHIONED ME").
(PAGE 2)



Old English Horn Lantern

HORN LANTERN ALFRED MUSEUM. (PAGE 2)
USED TO DETERMINE TIME.

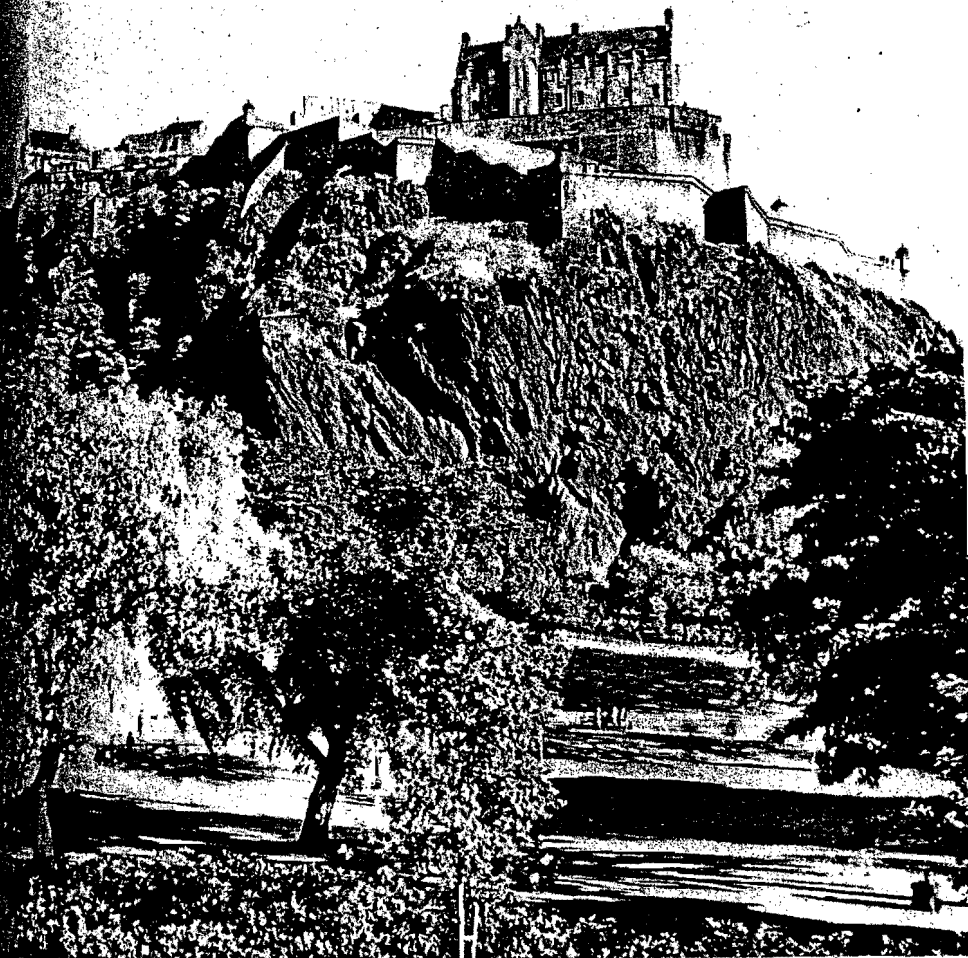
THE LANTERNS WERE NOT SHAPED
LIKE A HORN, BUT THIN PIECES
OF HORN WERE PLACED ON EACH SIDE.

(SEE "SEA URCHINS" PAGE ONE OF TWO.)



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The Coronation Chair and Stone of Scone in Westminster Abbey
WHERE WILLIAM THE CONQUEROR WAS
CORONATED CHRISTMAS DAY 1066.
BUILT BY EDWARD "THE CONFESSOR"

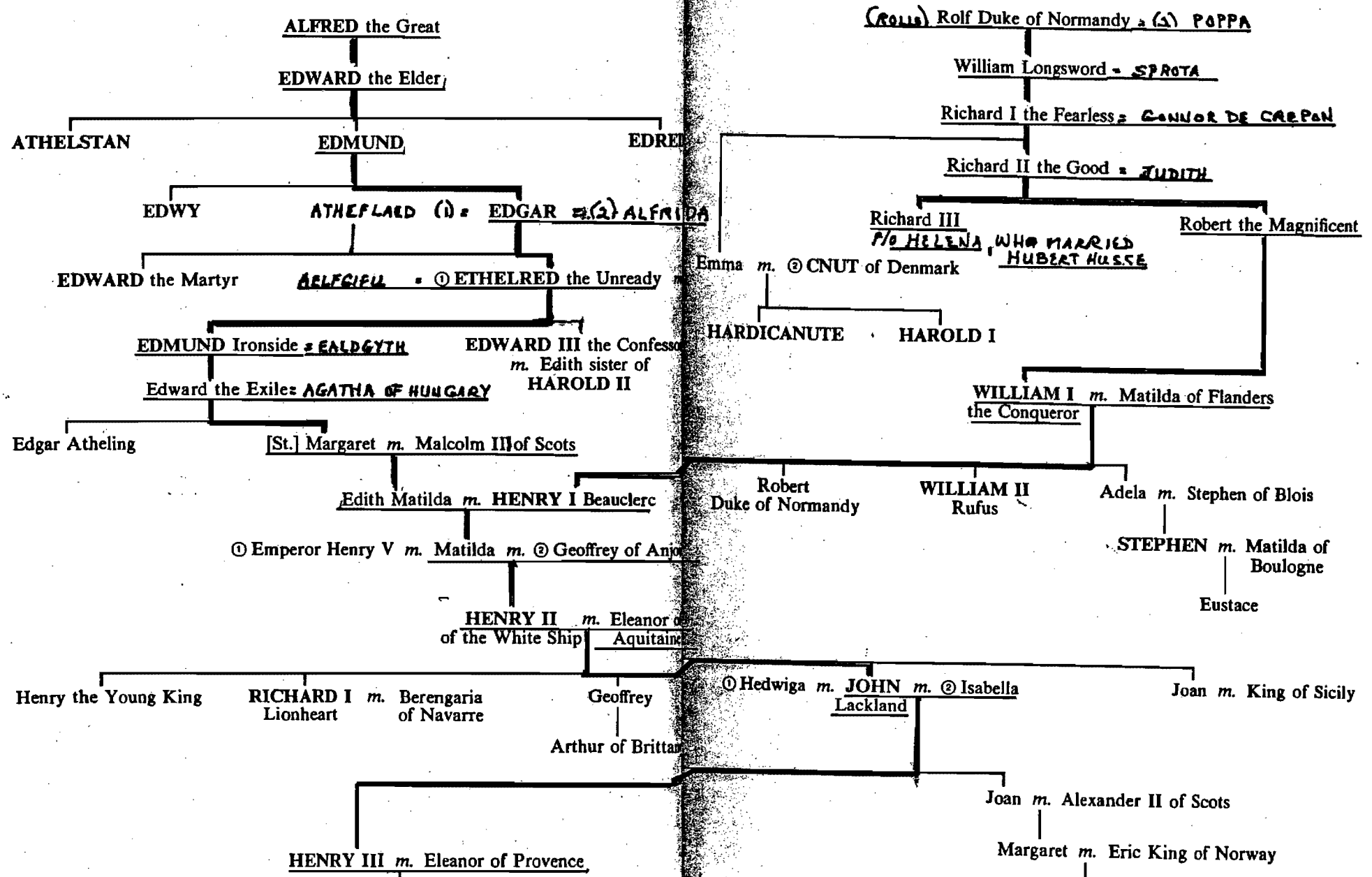


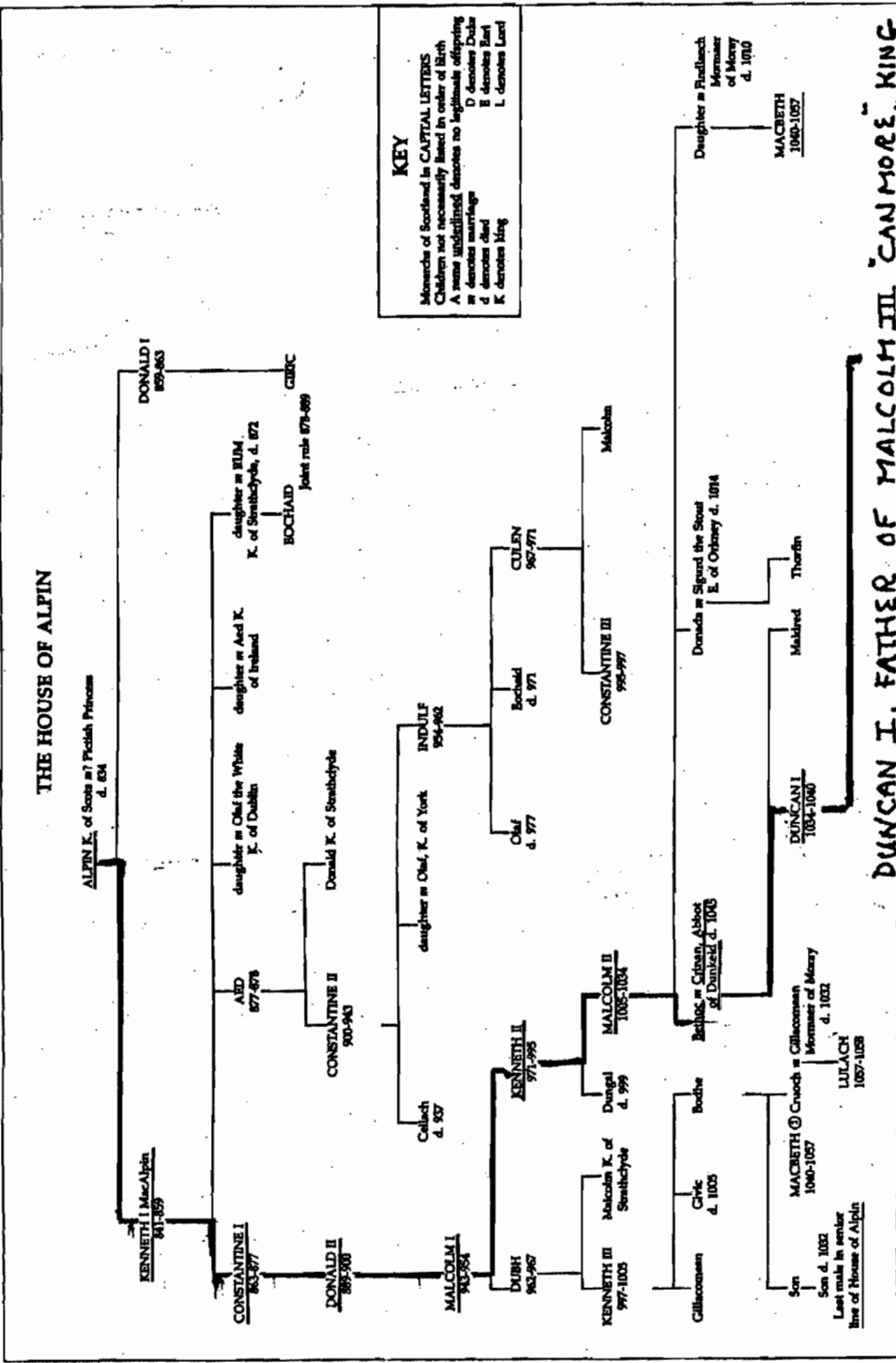
Photograph by A. F. Kersting

Edinburgh Castle
CASTLE OF OUR SCOTTISH KING
MALCOLM III CANMORE
M. ST. MARGARET DAU/O
EDWARD THE EXILE
S/O EDWARD "IRONSIDE"
ST. MARGARET DIED HERE

THE MONARCHS OF ENGLAND

FROM ALFRED THE GREAT TO ELIZABETH II





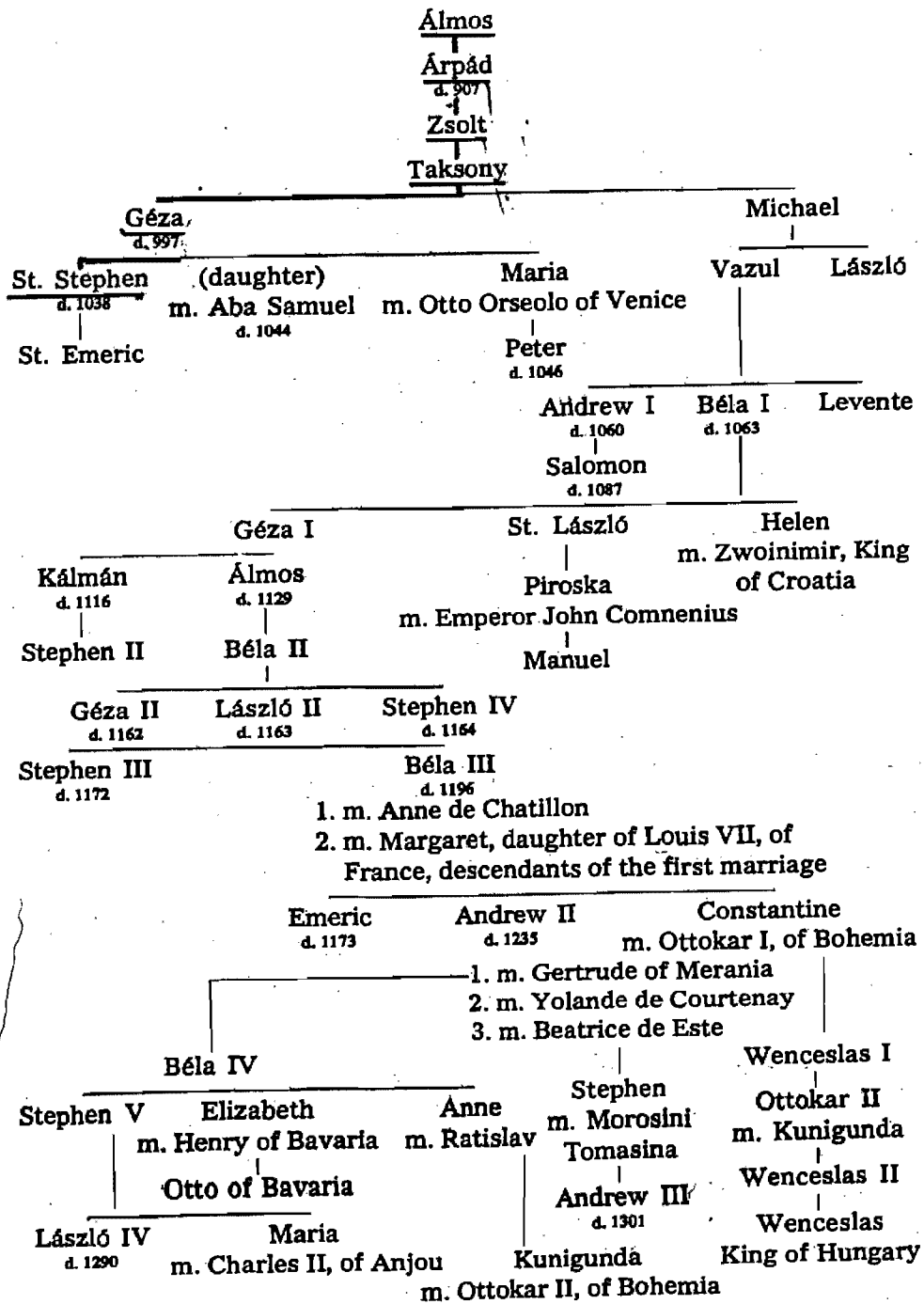
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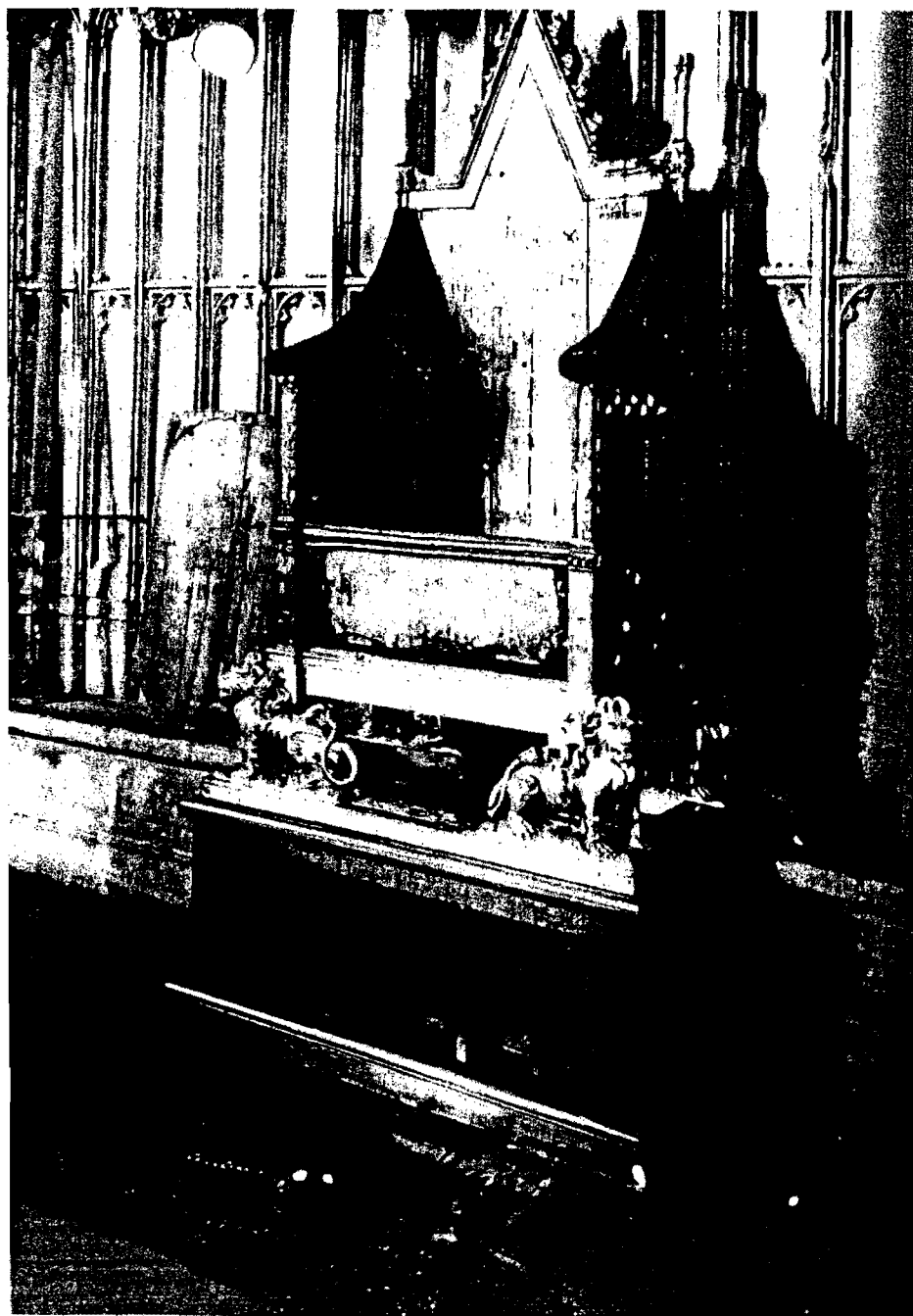
KEN

Born: ?. Die

Almost no founded the f king of Dalri contrived line prove the sup traced the Ho Alpin w: been born on the hard-press on a throne: courtiers, for warrior chiefs than upon res taxes, fines ar was enhanced personal wea trouble it was It is high papal blessing recognised De new monarch crown for cer

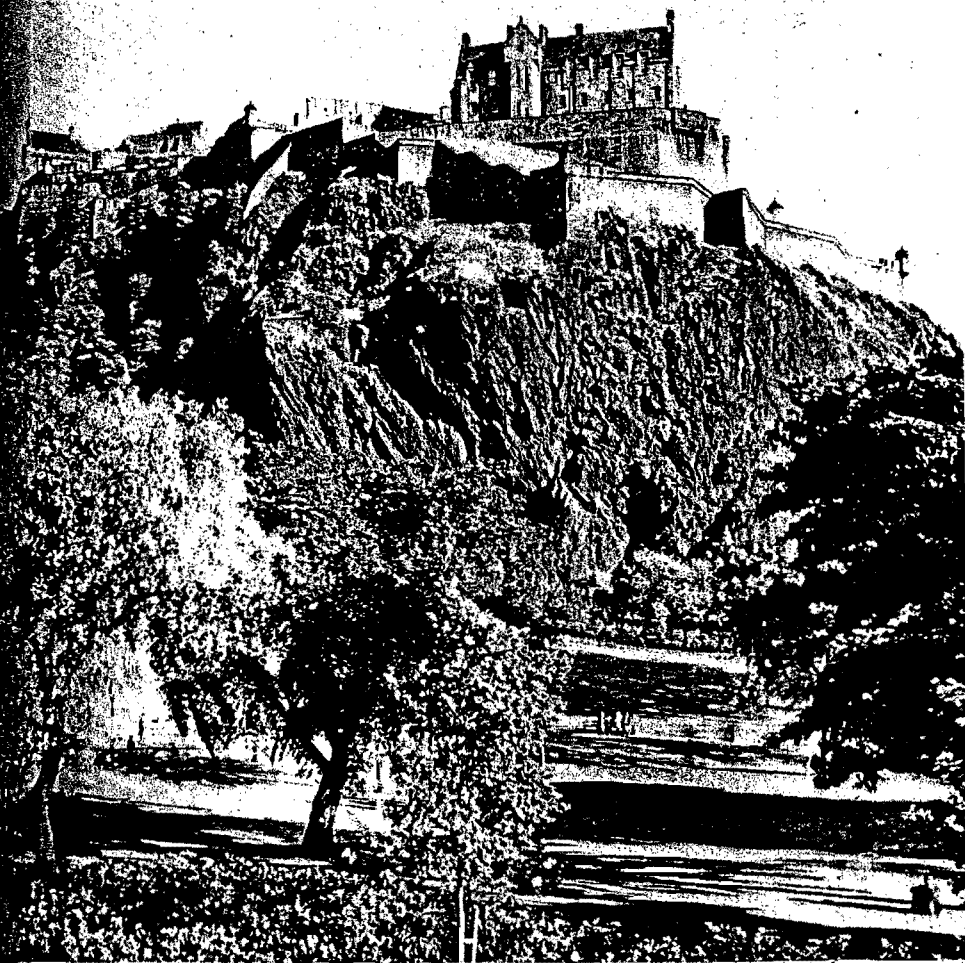
I GENEALOGICAL TABLE OF THE HOUSE OF ÁRPÁD





Copyright Hulton Photo

The Coronation Chair and Stone of Scone in Westminster Abbey



Photograph by A. F. Kersting

Edinburgh Castle

CASTLE OF OUR SCOTTISH KING

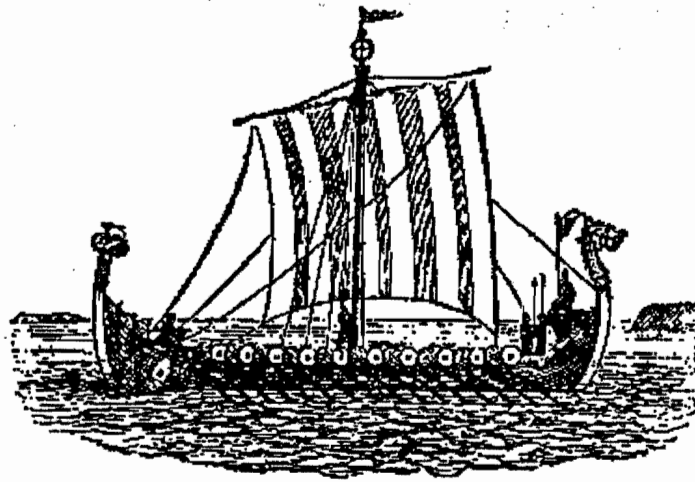
MALCOLM III CANMORE

M. ST. MARGARET DAU/O

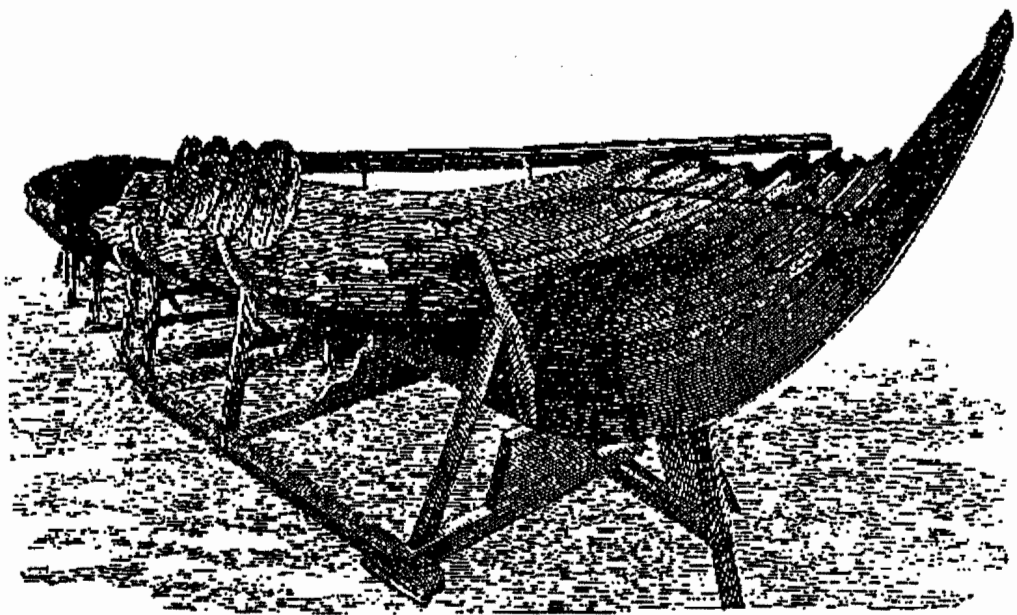
EDWARD THE EXILE

S/O EDWARD IRONSIDE

ST. MARGARET DIED HERE



A Viking Ship



Remains of a Viking Ship Found in Sweden

In France, after repeated attacks through all the ninth century, the Northmen at last settled down in a large district about the mouth of the river Seine, which was given them by the French

(PAGE 8)

Descendants of Hugh Hoese

- 1 Hugh Hoese 990 -
.... +Helena of Normandy 1026 -
- . 2 William Hoese - 1090
..... +Mary FitzRobert 1050 -
- 3 Hugh Husse 1070 -
- 4 Walter Husse 1118 -
- 5 Hugh Husse 1163 -
- 6 John Husse 1219 -
- 7 John de Huse 1250 -
- 7 Hugh le Huse 1255 -
- 8 Hugh de Huse 1285 -
- 9 Hugh Husse 1330 -
- 9 Henry Husse 1335 -
..... +daughter of John Methley
- 10 William Husse 1357 -
..... +daughter of William Staunton 1360 -
- 11 William Husse 1379 -
..... +daughter of Lumley
- 12 John Husse 1402 - 1444
..... +Elizabeth Neffield
- 13 Sir William Husse 1427 - 1495
..... +Elizabeth Berkley
- 14 John Husse 1465 - 1537
..... +Anne Grey
- 15 Giles Hussey 1500 -
..... +Jane Pigott
- 16 Thomas Hussey 1526 -
..... +Bridget Bowes
- 17 John Hussey 1571 - 1632
..... +Mary Wood 1575 - 1660
- 18 Christopher Hussey 1598 - 1685
..... +Theodate Bachelder 1598 - 1649
- 19 John Hussey 1635 - 1707
..... +Rebecca Perkins 1642 - 1711
- 20 John Jr. Hussey 1672 - 1733
..... +Ann Inskoop 1680 - 1733
- 21 Christopher Hussey 1705 - 1774
..... +Ann Garretson 1720 - 1801
- 22 Naomi Hussey 1742 - 1818
..... +Solomon Cox 1738 - 1820

COURTESY OF MARIE POLLY