

**A PRACTICAL SYNOPSIS OF ENGLISH  
HISTORY: OR, A GENERAL SUMMARY  
OF DATES AND EVENTS FOR THE USE OF  
SCHOOLS, FAMILIES, AND CANDIDATES  
FOR PUBLIC EXAMINATIONS**

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A Practical Synopsis of English History: Or, A General Summary of Dates and events for the use of schools, families, and candidates for public examinations by Arthur Bowes

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**ARTHUR BOWES**

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BY ARTHUR BOWES

*NEW EDITION REVISED AND ENLARGED*



LONDON:  
GEORGE BELL AND SONS YORK STREET  
COVENT GARDEN  
1885

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235

TO THE  
ASSOCIATION

*The new Edition of this Manual has been carefully revised,  
and the narrative of events brought down to the present time.*

A. B.

London, Jan., 1885.

ABBREVIATIONS USED IN THE CHARTS.

**Ch** before a Name indicates a Crowned Head.

*b.* born.

*=* married to.

*s. p.* died childless.

*ob. vit. pat.* died during the father's lifetime.

UNIV OF  
CALIFORNIA

## A GENERAL SUMMARY OF **English History.**

PART I. (B.C. 54 TO A.D. 1066.)

FROM THE ROMAN TO THE NORMAN INVASION.

**E**NGLAND was anciently peopled by barbarous tribes. Conquered by the ROMANS about the time of our Saviour's birth, it was gradually civilized and Christianized. About A.D. 426 the ROMANS quitted the island, and

- The BRITONS were driven out of the best of the land by
- The SAXONS; who were invaded by
- The DANES; and both were finally crushed by
- The NORMANS. Hence came
- The ENGLISH nation, which in course of time subdued
- The WELSH (the descendants of the ancient Britons) and
- The IRISH; and finally entered upon a union with

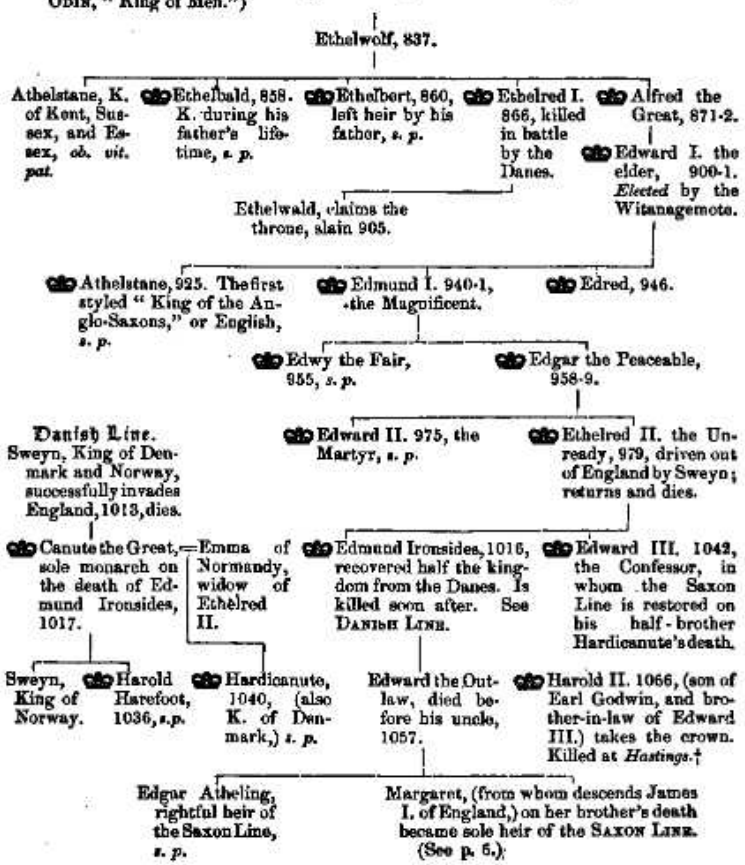
The SCOTS by the Accession of their King to the English throne in 1603, and the Act of Union in 1707. And since the Union with Ireland, in 1800, the whole Empire bears the title of "The UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND."

515246

*Genealogies of the Saxon and Danish Kings.*

**Saxon Line.**

**EGBERT**, King of Wessex, 800,\* and of England, 827. (Ancestor of Queen Victoria, and descended from Cordic, first King of Wessex, who traces his origin back to WODAN or ODIN, "King of Men.")



\* The date after a monarch's name is that of his Accession.  
 † Harold was the only Saxon king not of the royal blood of Cordic.



## PRINCIPAL EVENTS OF THIS PERIOD.

<b>T</b> HE Romans under Julius Cæsar invade Britain, A.D. B.C. 55 and 54. Again during the reign of the Emperor Claudius . . . . .	43
The Romans quit Britain . . . . .	426
The Saxons, under Hengist and Horsa (according to tradition), invited by King Vortigern to assist him against the Picts and Scots, about . . . . .	450

They attack and drive the Britons out of all the land except Cornwall, Wales, and Cumberland. (Some fled to Armorica, in France, which from them took the name of Brittany.) The inhabitants of Wales still speak the language of the ancient Britons.

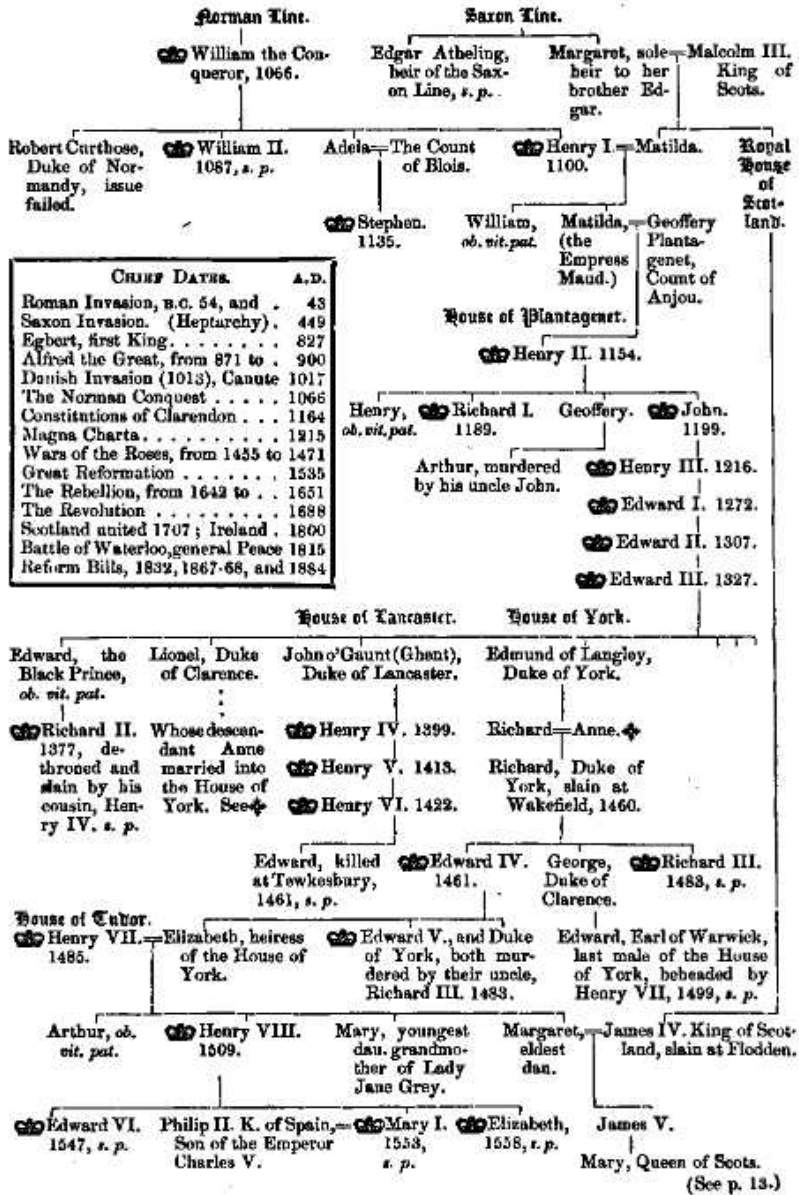
The Saxons settle in England, and gradually establish the Heptarchy (or "Seven Kingdoms"). See Page 28.

These seven nations had always a recognized head, styled Bretwalda, i.e. "Wielder of the Britons," to lead them in cases of emergency and common danger. "The Witanagemote" was the supreme national assembly of the Anglo-Saxons, and is perhaps the germ of our Parliaments.

The famous British hero, King Arthur, flourishes. Arthurian Romance has obscured his story. Killed about	542
St. Augustine, a Romish Monk, converts the Saxons and re-introduces Christianity into England, about	596
The "Venerable" Bede, the great scholar and historian of Saxon times, born about 673, dies . . . . .	735
Egbert (a contemporary of Charlemagne), King of Wessex, 800, and King of Saxon England . . . . .	827
The immortal Alfred, warrior, legislator, and poet, vanquishes the Danes. Reigns from 872 to . . . . .	901
Athelstane, the greatest prince in Europe of his age, beats the Scots and Danes :—first real King of England	925
The Danish Invasion under Sweyn, 1013, Canute the Great becomes King, 1017. This ended a war which had lasted more than 200 years. ( <i>Danish Line</i> , see p. 4)	1017
The Saxon line restored in Edward III., called the Confessor, (see p. 4) . . . . .	1042

[William, Duke of Normandy, claiming to be Edward's heir, invades England, defeats and kills Harold, and usurps the crown from Edgar Atheling, then only fourteen years old.]

## Genealogy of the Norman, Plantagenet, and Tudor Lines.



## PART II. (1066 to 1603.)

FROM WILLIAM THE CONQUEROR TO THE ACCESSION  
OF THE STUARTS.

1066. **WILLIAM I.** (*The Conqueror*), beats Harold at *Hastings* and seizes the crown. Lays waste a large tract of the country north of the Humber, 1070. Introduces the feudal system and laws in Norman-French. Curfew bell. Domesday book. New Forest made. Dies of an injury received on horseback at the burning of *Mantes* in Normandy.
1087. **WILLIAM II.** (*Rufus*), pays his brother Robert 10,000 marks for his duchy of Normandy, to enable him to go to the first crusade, 1096. Westminster Hall built, and the Tower completed. Slain by Sir Walter Tyrrel while hunting in the New Forest. Goodwin Sands overflowed.
1100. **HENRY I.** (*Beau-Clerc*), marries Matilda, daughter of the King of Scots, and niece of Edgar Atheling. Defeats his brother Robert at *Tynchebray* in Normandy, and imprisons him twenty-eight years in Cardiff Castle. His only son, William, drowned on his passage from Normandy, 1120. Dies from eating lampreys, leaving his daughter Matilda or Maud (widow of the Emperor of Germany and wife of Geoffery Plantagenet, Count of Anjou) the right of succession.
1135. **STEPHEN** (*of Blois*), grandson of William the Conqueror, by his daughter Adela, usurps the throne. Defeats David, King of Scots, at "the Battle of the *Standard*," 1138. Civil wars throughout his reign, with the Empress Maud, during which he is taken prisoner, and exchanged for the Earl of Gloucester, natural son of the late King. Treaty, at Wallingford, Berkshire, 1153, with Henry (Maud's son by Geoffery), that after Stephen's death the crown should go to Henry.