

# Herrick Family Association

Founded in 2001



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## **SEASONS GREETINGS**



### **Message from the President:**

**Dale E. Yoe, HFA #062**

It's at this time of year that I like to, not only look back at the last year or so, but to look forward to the next. Looking back, I am reminded what our mission statement says, and we are continuing our pursuits along those lines.

### **Primary Mission Statement**

1. The primary mission statement of the HFA is to provide a forum for those individuals with a Herrick ancestor to take advantage of research conducted by others, regardless of whether they may be descended from Henerie Hericke, a.k.a. Henry of Salem.

2. To continue to update, as an addendum, the third edition of the Herrick Genealogical Register (HGR3) since its completion in 2016.

3. Since the corrections have been made on the erroneous claim in the 1846 and 1885 editions of the HGR that Henerie Hericke was the fifth son of Sir William of Beaumanor, we will continue to pursue the ancestry of Henry of Salem (who arrived in the Massachusetts Bay Colony by June 1629).

4. Conduct and share research on Henry John "Hen" Heyricke, a.k.a. Henry of Virginia (who was in Court in York Co., VA on 17 March 1641 and determine the ancestry of his wife Ann (\_\_\_?) Herrick, and any children they may have had). The discovered information to be shared via the HGR3, HFA and the Internet.

5. Hold meetings of the HFA with members and non-members at various locations of interest to the Herricks.

6. Maintain a Home Page Web Site, Forum page and Facebook page for the HFA.

7. Continue to publish a Newsletter.

As I look back, I also am reminded that we had a terrific trip to England, with tours and speakers, followed up by our zoom talk by Dr. Cat Jarman. Once again, I thank those instrumental in providing these activities, and many thanks to all who serve on the board of directors and as chairpersons.

Looking forward. I am waiting to receive more information from interested Herricks on corrections and additions we need for an Addendum to the HGR3. I also will be on a new committee with NEHGS, but more on that in the next newsletter.

Happy Holidays to all- sending you wishes of health and happiness in the New Year!

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## **Amos Herrick: Revolutionary Patriot, 1775–1777**

**By Kevin Duane Fronk HFA # 227 and Amanda Kae Fronk**

More than a year before Thomas Jefferson penned the Declaration of Independence in the summer of 1776, armed conflict had already begun in Massachusetts. Thousands of men across New England enlisted to fight against the British, including a set of brothers whose family had called the American colonies home since their great-great grandparents Henry Herrick and Editha Laskin had come early in 1629 to help settle Salem, Massachusetts.

Two of the six Herrick brothers—17-year-old Lemuel and 24-year-old Sanford—joined the Connecticut Sixth Regiment in May 1775 within weeks of the attack on Lexington and Concord. Older brother Simeon (28) married with five children joined a year later into the Connecticut Fourth militia. By 1777, 26-year-old Lebbeus had also joined the cause. Noticeably missing from the Connecticut enlistment lists is 30-year-old bachelor Amos Herrick (HGR ID# 179).

Birth and land records show that Amos and all of his ten siblings were born and raised along the Pachaug River in Preston, Connecticut. Their parents, Robert Herrick and Abiah Hill had also spent their lives in Preston on the same land that his father Timothy Herrick had bought in 1704 when he came from Beverly, Massachusetts. And yet, Amos did not enlist with the Connecticut militia. Instead, Amos enlisted on July 8, 1775, joining early in the cause for 6 months with the New York Fourth Regiment, in Captain Rufus Herrick's company. Rufus Herrick (HGR ID# 107) was Amos's second cousin, and had also been born in Preston, Connecticut. Rufus's 18-year-old son, Samuel, was also part of this company. It's unclear why Amos signed up with Rufus's company. Rufus, now 42-years-old, was the constable in Nine Partners, New York, when he was appointed captain on June 28 and asked to obtain his own men for his company. It is possible Rufus asked his cousin, Amos, to join his company.

### **Invasion of Quebec and the Siege of St. Johns**

On June 27, 1775, the First Continental Congress authorized an invasion to seize the Province of Quebec from Great Britain and attempted to persuade French-speaking Canadians to join the revolution on the side of the Thirteen Colonies. The October 9, 1775, muster roll shows Rufus's company camped at Fort Ticonderoga, but lists Amos and 27 other soldiers "on duty at St. Johns," a British-held fort further north of Lake Champlain, which guarded the entry to British Canada. On September 10, Americans General Richard Montgomery and Ethan Allen had begun a siege, entrenching troops around St. Johns fort outside of Montreal. The siege lasted until November 2, when the British surrendered. Amos would have been there for part of this siege, at least from October 9 onward. The siege conditions were difficult. The ground was swampy, and trenches soon filled with knee-deep water. Montgomery described the army as "half-drowned rats crawling through a swamp." Food and ammunitions were in short supply. Illness was prevalent, with more than 900 men sent back to Ticonderoga by mid-October. Amos was likely part of replacement troops for the sick men coming from the siege to Fort Ticonderoga, where the rest of Amos's company was stationed. Both Amos's father, Robert, and his eldest brother, Elias, had fought at Fort Ticonderoga during the French and Indian War.

At the end of December, Amos finished his first term of service and found his way to Pleasant Valley, near Bennington, Vermont. Here he married Deborah Fillmore in October 1776. The following July, Amos reenlisted with his Pleasant Valley neighbors in Captain Elijah Dewey's Bennington west militia company of Rangers. A month later, the war would come to his doorstep.

### **Battle of Bennington**

During the summer of 1777, the British undid what the Americans, including Amos, had achieved in 1775. Making their way south from Canada, the British earned victory after victory taking back Forts Crown Point, Ticonderoga, and Independence. Their end objective for the campaign was winning Albany, New York, severing the New England Patriots from the southern Patriots. The British force was a more threatening force than it had been in 1775. British General John Burgoyne assembled some 8,000 men made up of British soldiers, Brunswick mercenaries, 500 Native Americans, and 250 Canadian and American Loyalists. As part of their pay, the mercenaries were allowed to plunder the towns and villages they passed through. The Native Americans, made up of members of nine different tribes, fought by different rules of warfare than the Europeans. They were known to scalp and dismember men, women, and children regardless of their role in combat. The force's reputation of terror preceded it as the troops made their way south. They seemed an unstoppable force, taking Fort Ticonderoga without a shot fired.

For over three months this stew of terror—the enemy being bigger, better trained, better equipped, better led, and more ferocious than the Patriots—had been rolling and boiling toward the people of the little village of Bennington. On the 13th of August, the Bennington Council of Safety met at the Catamount Tavern and wrote the colonels of the Vermont militia, asking them to send troops to Bennington “without a moment's Loss of Time” because “a Large Body of the Enemy's Troops Were Discovered two hours ago in St. Koik, 12 Miles from this Place.” Low on supplies of cattle, horses, and carriages, British commander Burgoyne sent Lieutenant Colonel Friedrich Baum and 900 men (434 Brunswickers, 50 British marksman, 260 Loyalists and Canadians, 14 Hessian artillerymen with two three-pounder cannons, and about 150 Mohawk Native Americans) to plunder Bennington.

On the day of battle, the Americans outnumbered Baum's contingent of soldiers, with 2,000 men from New Hampshire, Massachusetts, and Vermont. They were led by Colonel John Stark, who was known for his heroics at Bunker Hill, Canada, and Trenton. Amos's Bennington militia fought under Colonel Samuel Herrick. Samuel Herrick (HGR ID# 158), another cousin from the Preston area, was 43 years old at the time of the battle and he owned a tavern at the crossroads entering Pleasant Valley in Bennington. Alongside neighbors and family (his brother-in-law Nathan Fillmore served as ensign in the regiment), Amos woke on the morning of August 16, 1777, with a two-month-old baby and his wife just miles away from the battlefield. After skirmishes with the Mohawk scouts on August 14, Baum seized a steep hill that rose 300 feet above the Walloomsac River and began creating redoubts and defenses there. Rallying his troops, Stark cried, “There are the redcoats, and they are ours, or this night Molly Stark sleeps a widow.” He divided his men into three groups, sending flanking parties on the sides of the hill. Colonel Herrick led the far-left approach. Because he had to take his men across pastures where they could be seen from the Loyalist redoubt, he ordered them to go in twos and threes to give the impression that they were an informal assemblage of Loyalists on their way to join the enemy. The homespun most of them wore would work in his favor. His 300 men including Amos forded the Walloomsac River where it ran north beneath Colonel Stark's encampment and marched a long circuitous trek the length of a high ridge. They then waded across the Walloomsac again after it had angled west toward its confluence with the Hoosic, before making the 3:00 p.m. charge up the steep slope to storm the Hessian cannon and breastwork at the top of the hill.

Part of Amos's personal experience is in a letter by Simeon Searls to support a pension request. Recounting Joseph Rudd's first-hand retelling of coming up against a Hessian soldier:

“The Hessian turned & raised his piece to fire, but Mr Rudd said he was so near to him that by a spring & Quick effort he knocked the Hessian's gun up, and as he grappled with him drew the Hessian's sword instead of his own and gave him the Hessian a severe blow on his neck as he broke from him and turned to run. And that a Mr Herrick struck the Hessian with the butt of his gun and killed him. I have also heard Mr. Herrick & others relate repeatedly the same story.”

The Battle of Bennington was a major victory for the Americans, with the British recording 207 dead and

900 captured. The Patriots noted 30 dead and 40 wounded. It was a turning point in the Saratoga campaign and in the war overall. Bennington proved the British could be stopped. In the August 14 skirmish, the Mohawk had lost their oldest chief. This along with other Mohawk losses dampened the Native Americans' zeal for continuing with the British forces. Their return to Canada was a major hit to Burgoyne's forces. And the lack of supplies not won at Bennington was a contributing factor to Burgoyne's loss at the Battles of Saratoga, which began a month later. After the American victory at Saratoga, the French agreed to ally with the patriots and send troops to fight, a turning point in the war that would eventually lead to American victory.

### **Settling Ira, Vermont**

Sometime after the battle, Amos and Deborah moved north from Bennington to help found the town of Ira, Vermont. On May 31, 1779, Amos was elected one of the first three selectmen for the town and on October 12, 1780, Amos is listed as one of 39 men petitioning Vermont for a town grant for the district of Ira. Amos and Deborah had three children. Sadly, all three children die in infancy. Tragedy struck again when Deborah died on April 7, 1781. During these years, Amos enlisted two more times in various militias.

At age 35, Amos married 20-year-old Eunice Searle on August 5, 1781. They had six sons and moved multiple times within New York, including to Scipio, which was land reserved as payment by the federal government to veterans of the Revolutionary War. In March 1817 at the age 72, Amos moved one final time to Hiram, Ohio, with Eunice and their sons: 21-year-old Ira and 25-year-old Lemuel. Amos died in 1825 at age 80. Thirty-six years later his grandson, 19-year-old Ira Herrick Jr., will join the 7th Ohio Volunteer Infantry early to fight and die for the Union/Freedom cause in the Civil War, but that is another story.

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## **Erick the Forester**

**By Michael Herrick #118**

A few years ago, Alice (AB) Reynolds wrote a comprehensive article for the newsletter about Erick the Forester. In this article, I am submitting a rejoinder to her excellent article.

In September of 2020, our friend in Leicester, Irene Turlington, sent us an email indicating that she obtained a copy of John Thorsby's book, *The History and Antiquities of the Ancient Town of Leicester*, published in 1791. In there she found a reference to Erick the Forester on page 271, which described him as a "great commander who was opposed to the landing of William the Conqueror . . .". This is exactly the same wording used in the 1846 volume of the *Herrick Genealogical Register (HGR I)* and the 1885 *HGR II*. See below for the reference on page 65 in HGR I.

Also below is the page from John Thorsby's book that Irene sent to me which references Erick the Forester as the one who the Herrick family derives their lineage. Thorsby also mentions the connection of Abigail Erick to Jonathan Swift. But there is no reference to a source for his claim of Herrick lineage to Erick the Forester.

Of this family are buried here, are, "Robert Heyrick, iron-monger, and twice mayor of Leicester," and Sir William Heyrick of Beaumanor. The former died in 1618, aged 78 years; the latter in 1652, aged 90.

A small monument here remembers "G. Heyricke, who died in 1697, aged 32." Stones also remember the present Town Clerk's grand-father, and the father of William Heyrick of Knighton, Esq. some time Town Clerk, all descended originally from the same family (a).

## George

(a) I have given in my *Leicestershire Views* a pretty full pedigree of this ancient and respectable family, who derive their lineage from Erick the forester, a great commander, who opposed the Landing of William the Conqueror. This veteran retired into Leicestershire, in his old age, after being employed in the service of the Conqueror, where his descendants, in succession, have continued ever since. From him descended John Erick, of Stretton, who left issue Robert, whose son Robert was Bishop of Chester (otherwise called Lichfield and Coventry); and Sir Wm. Eyrick, lord of Stretton, John, and Adelena. In 1360, 34 Edward III. this bishop founded a chantry in the chapel of St. Giles, Great Stretton, in the parish of Great Glenn, and taking the name of Robert de Stretton amply endowed it in the second year of Richard the Second (the deed bearing date Sept. the 4th, 1378), with 198 acres of land in Great Stretton. This family had a considerable grant of land near Leicester so far back as the reign of King John. A Nicholas Heyrick was mayor of Leicester the sixth year of Edward VI. Others of note, descendants, beside those noticed above, were Robert and Richard, sons of Sir William Heyrick; the former was fellow of All Souls College, Oxford, patronized by the earl of Exeter, and numbered among the suffering Loyalists in the last century; the latter was also fellow of All-Souls, Oxford, and warden of Christ's College, Manchester, by the appointment of Charles the First. William, the eldest son of Sir William Heyrick, was commissioned, by Charles the First, about the repairs of Leicester castle, and putting it into a state of defence, prior to the troubles of his reign. This gentleman, for his attachment to the royal cause, was a considerable sufferer in the issue. Branches of this family have lived in the neighbourhood, and in Leicester, for centuries, who are allied, by marriage, to many of the first families who at times have lived in these parts.

The father of Dean Swift was named Jonathan, and was the son of Thomas Swift, eminent for his loyalty to Charles the First. The Dean's father married Mrs. Abigail Erick, descendant of this family. She brought her husband little or no fortune; and Mr. Swift dying two years after his marriage, left his widow in narrow circumstances, and with child of the famous Dean Swift, who was born A. D. 1667, seven months after his father's death. *Essay on the Life of Dean Swift.*

The Dean's mother, as is said, was greatly beloved by all the family of the Swifts. She was extremely

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## C.

"Jonathan Swift, father of the distinguished Dean of Saint Patricks, married Abigail Erick of Leicestershire, descended from the most ancient family of the Ericks, who derived their lineage from Erick the Forester, a great commander, who raised an army to oppose the invasion of William the Conqueror, by whom he was vanquished, but afterwards employed to command that Prince's forces, and in his old age retired to his house in Leicestershire, where his family have continued ever since, but declining every age, are now in the condition of very private gentlemen. The family of Eric, which has produced many eminent men, is still represented by two respectable branches, the Heyricks of Leicester-town, and the Herricks of Beau-Manor. Of both these branches, distinct pedigrees and many curious historical anecdotes are given in the 'History of Leicestershire.'" [Vol. II, page 215. Vol. III, page 148.] *Scott's Life of Swift, App'x, page 341, 342.*

## D 1.

The following epitaph on the Tomb-stone of John Heyricke, Esq., and Mary Bond, his wife, is found in St. Martin's Church, Leicester, at the east end of the north aisle, in a part thereof called "Heyrick's Chancel," being appropriated as a burying place for that family.

"Here lieth the body of John Heyrick, late of this Parish, who departed this life ye 2d of Aprill, 1589, being about the age of 76. He did marry Marie, ye daughter of John Bond of Wardende, in the Countie of Warwicke, Esquire, and did live with the said Mary, in one house, full fifty-two yeares; and in all that tyme, never buried man, woman, or child, though they were sometimes twenty in house-hold. He had yssue by ye said Marie, 5 sonnes and seven daughters. The said John was Mayor of this towne in anno 1559, and again in anno 1572. The said Marie departed this life ye 8th of December, 1611, being of the age of 97 yeares. She did see before her departure, of her children, and children's children, and their children, to the number of 142."

John Nickols wrote a similar history called, *History and Antiquities of Leicestershire*. It seems that Nichols took his commentary from Throsby, since Throsby published in 1791 and Nichols published between 1795 and 1815. Later Walter Scott wrote *The Life of Jonathan Swift*, published in 1829. Scott probably used Nichols and Throsby in his commentary about Abigail Erick, wife of Jonathon Swift. Again. The wording Scott used is exactly the same as Throsby, Nickols, and our HGR. However, Scott references the Herrick ancestry in *History of Leicestershire* Vol II and Vol III. But who wrote that? The closest that I can find is *The Description of Leicestershire* written by William Burton published in 1622. Below is a link to Scott's book. When you open it, click on 'read free of charge', then scroll down to pages 341-342. Here you will find Scott's reference to Abigail Erick's ancestry and to Erick the Forester.

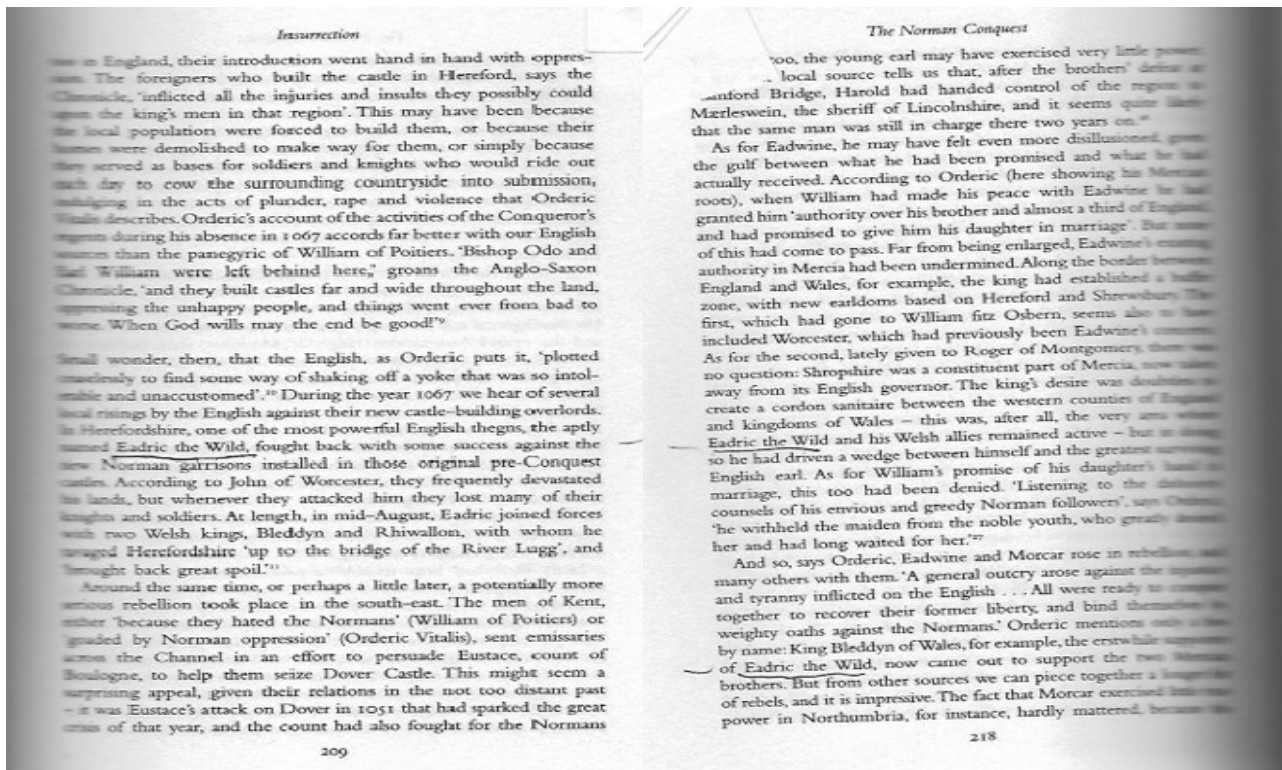
[https://www.google.com/books/edition/\\_/5zwfAAAAMAAJ?hl=en&gbpv=](https://www.google.com/books/edition/_/5zwfAAAAMAAJ?hl=en&gbpv=)

So, the reference to Erick the Forester by Jedediah Herrick in HGR I and repeated by Lucius Herrick in HGR II appear to be based on secondary sources from Throsby, Nichols, and Scott. To authenticate the accounts of Eric the Forester, we need primary sources. So far, none have been found that I know of.

Ann Williams, a respected post conquest scholar and historian, can be considered an authority in our search for Erick the Forester. In her book, *The English and the Norman Conquest*, Williams documents the role of one Eadric the Wild during the Norman conquest. Her description of Eadric the Wild is similar to the story we have of Erick the Forester.

I lean heavily on the scholarship of Ann Williams who told me in a personal communication that she does not believe Erick the Forester existed. The fact that A.B. discovered that no land is registered for Eadric the Wild in Leicestershire strikes me as further decisive. It may have been the wishful thinking of someone taking the reputation of Eadric the Wild and applying it to our Herrick ancestry in Leicestershire. Therefore, I see no evidence that Erick the Forester and Eadric the Wild are the same person.

Below are pages from Ann Williams book, *The English and the Norman Conquest* that refer to Eadric the Wild and which A.B. referenced in her newsletter article from two years ago.



In her last article on Erick the Forester, A.B. asked if anyone was interested in following up to research this further. I'll do the same. If interested contact me at [herrickresearch@me.com](mailto:herrickresearch@me.com) or A.B. at [reyno23@aol.com](mailto:reyno23@aol.com).

## Ericke of East Anglia

By Michael Herrick #118

*“But in the meantime, Ericke, the King of those Danes which held the countrie of East Angle, was about to procure new warre, and to allure other Danes to join with him against the Englishmen . . . But as the battell was rashlie begun on King Erick’s syde, who was the end very harmful to him, for with small adoo, after great losse o both sides, he was vanquished and put to flight . . .*

*After coming home, because of his great overthrow and fowle discomfiture, he began to govern his people with more rigour . . . Whereby he provoked the malice of the East Angles so highlie against him, that they fell upon him and murdered him.”*

-Polydore Virgil, *Anglia Historia*, 1534

*“After this, other of the Danes assembled themselves together, and in Staffordshire, at a place called Tettenhall, fought the with Englishmen, and after a great slaughter made on both parties, the Danes were overcome . . .*

*And thus, King Edward put the Danes to the worse . . . he invaded the countrie, and so afflicted the same, that the Danes which were inhabitants there, gladly continued to rest and peace.”*

Raphael Holinshed, *Holinshed’s Chronicles*, 1577

*“It is now probable that we have sprung from the same old stock, Ericke, the Danish Chief, who was one of the invaders of England during the reign of Alfred, the Saxon King of Britain . . . “*

Letter addressed to Alfred Herrick from Capt. William Henry Herrick October 19, 1836.

*“It seems likely that the Herricks could trace their ancestry back to on Erik, one of the original Danish settlers, perhaps of the last quarter of the ninth century in the same village; and they may well have occupied the same piece of land since that distant date knowing what we do of the immense continuity of village ownership in Wigston in medieval times. They above all emerge into recorded village history from the mists of pre-Conquest days, from the Danish army of the ninth century and the soke-men of the eleventh, and we find them flourishing vigorously in the village when Henry VIII came to the throne.”*

W.G. Hoskins, *The Midland Peasant: The Economic and Social History of a Leicestershire Village*, 1957, p 42

These passages about Ericke of East Anglia are found in the Herrick Genealogical Register II (HGR II) by Lucius Herrick in the Appendix on pp. 360-361, published in 1885. The citation from W.G. Hoskins is important because Hoskins is a highly regarded historian of medieval Leicestershire and became the first professor of local history at the University of Leicester in 1965. Wikipedia references to Ericke are titled “Ericke (or Eohric) King of East Anglia.” These are all secondary sources. To be sure of our lineage back to Ericke of East Anglia, we need to find primary sources.

The *Anglo-Saxon Chronicles* are primary sources and only refer to Eohric of East Anglia. It reads,

*“A..D. 905: This year Ethelwald enticed the army in East Anglia to rebellion; so that thy overran all the land of Mercia until they came to Cricklade, where they forded the Thames . . . King Edward went after and overran all their land between the foss and the Ouse . . . Whereupon the army surrounded them, and there they fought. There fell Alderman Siwulf and Sigelm; Eadwold, the king’s thane . . . On the Danish side were slain Eohric their king.”*

Interestingly, the Old Norse spelling of Ericke is Eirikr and the Old English is Eohric. But the Anglo-Saxon Chronicles, a primary source, only refers to Eohric, who was the son of Guthrum, an early leader in the Great Viking Army. Eohric succeeded Guthrum as King of East Anglia at Guthrum’s death in 890. As the Chronicles

state, Eohric died in battle in 905, but other sources, including English historian Michael Wood, say he died at the Battle of the Holme in 902. However, Viking scholars has stated that East Anglia had no certain ruler after Guthrum and that two possible kings, or earls, could have succeeded him.

But does any of this documentation provide evidence that Ericke or Eohric is our Viking ancestor? Given the citations from HGR II citing secondary sources, it is enticing to think that they are. However, historical scholars say that it is not. Ericke is a common Scandinavian name, so we could be related to many possible Erickes in the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> century. Can modern science help us? Perhaps. Those of you who viewed my interview with Cat Jarman might recall that I asked her if conclusive DNA matches could be made with ancient Viking remains and Herrick family members today. Her answer seems to indicate that it is doubtful.

But the prospects still remain tantalizing, since if we can link ourselves to Eohric, then we can link ourselves to Guthrum, a significant Viking leader, who reinforced the Great Army at Fulham in 871, settled in the Repton winter camp with other Viking Great Army leaders in 873, led a faction of the Great Army from Repton to Cambridge in 874, invaded King Alfred's army in Wessex in 878 and took control of East Anglia. According to The Annals of St Neots, written in the county of Suffolk between c. 1120 and c. 1140, Guthrum was buried at Hadleigh in Suffolk. I am not aware of any excavations of his remains.

Is anyone interested in following up to research this further? If so, contact me at [herrickresearch@me.com](mailto:herrickresearch@me.com)

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## **Herrick Trivia**

**Shared by Dale Yoe HFA #062**

### **How a Sack of Flour Starred in a Strange Fundraising Scheme**

During the Civil War, a sack of flour was repeatedly auctioned off to raise money for wounded soldiers.

In January 1865, four months before the Civil War's end, Harper's Weekly published the story of a peculiar flour sack credited with raising thousands of dollars for injured soldiers. The tale — entirely true — began in Austin, Nevada, the previous year. On the eve of city elections, two wagering men, area merchant Reuel Colt Gridley and Dr. Henry Herrick, placed a bet on the vote's outcome. The loser would pay up with a 50-pound sack of flour, but not before a dose of public humiliation: Whoever lost had to ceremoniously march down the town's main strip with the bag, all to the tune of "John Brown's Body" (a patriotic melody that would later inspire "The Battle Hymn of the Republic").

Within a day, the losing bettor, Gridley, was being cheered on by his fellow townsfolk — who turned out in numbers to watch the spectacle — as he followed a brass band down the city's center, flour sack over his shoulder. At the end of his march, he handed the sack to the bet's winner, Herrick, but not without first recommending it be donated to the Sanitary Commission, a relief agency that provided care for sick and injured Union soldiers. Herrick agreed, and soon after the hefty sack of flour was auctioned for \$350. But in an act of gallantry, the winner asked that the sack be sold again, raising another \$250. Surrounding towns joined in, and before long Gridley and the "Sanitary Sack of Flour" had gone as far as San Francisco and raised \$63,000. Newspapers spread the story, leading the flour sack across the country, raising upwards of \$275,000 (more than \$4 million today) and ending up as far as New York City. Gridley, who had started the journey as a Confederate sympathizer, returned to Nevada an ardent supporter of the Union; the famed Sanitary Sack returned with him and remains on display in Reno at the state Historical Society Museum.

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## Herrick Research – Some Thoughts and Next Steps

By A.B. Reynolds HFA #003

We've really made a lot of progress. I am thinking especially of the Herrick Genealogical Register III (by Richard L. Herrick, JoAnn Nichols, Ken Herrick and the contributions of many of us) that updated Herricks in America. That was a real achievement and has benefited us all.

We've also learned a great deal about our English forbearers from our work in England (Dale Yoe, Irene Turlington, A.B. (Alice) Reynolds and Mike Herrick. We even have a theory (which has some flaws) about Henerie Hericke's (of Salem) family in Leicester.

But it is time to dig deeper – confirm and expand our theory or find a better one.

Here are some ideas for research topics:

- **City of Leicester** has early documents accessible online including the list of Mayors and chancellors and other roles. Digging into them and finding additional Herrick references would be important. Focus on the period from 1650 to as early as the documents are dated.
- **Wigston Historical Society** has made lots of progress of the Herricks in Wigston Magna. We should learn what they know.
- We should find out if the **Leicestershire Record Office** is more accessible again to researchers. After having been wonderfully helpful and accessible, they clamped down for some reason and accessing their information seems almost impossible from afar.
- The **British Library** has accessible files of wills from the 1650s and earlier. We have used some to help build our theory of Henerie Hericke's origin family. But more could be out there!! There is something call the **Guildhall Library** at Lambeth Palace that we have not searched at all.
- There is also the **Goldsmith Guild Library in London**. We have not thoroughly asked for their help.
- **The Herrick Papers**, which are summarized in the HGR II and further summarized in a document from the Bodelian Library. I think that material was moved to the British Library, but we need to check. Going through them again may well help us make connections we haven't so far.
- Leicester was a **mint for royal currency** from before the 1066 conquest of William through history. Mints were important functions, and the minters has particular skills with metal and design. This might be an interesting source of information about the skilled folks in Leicester ... the metal workers, who might be connected to the part of the Herrick family who were goldsmiths and ironmongers.
- What can we learn from the more recent **DNA** work? Refinements are being made that may open some real doors for us.
- Dive deeper into the information about **Bishop Robert Eryk** of Stretton and his brother, **Sir William Eryk of Stretton**, who both served and were benefited by The Black Prince, son of William II. This would give us good information about the Herricks in the 1300s in the Leicester area.
- Staying in contact with **local researchers** like Judith Jesch, Peter Liddle, and others. Saying "hi" from time to time, might stir up some interesting new information and connections.
- Leicester was a town of 1500 people in the 1400-1500's. Perhaps the **family histories** of other families would mention the Herricks.
- Sir William Heyricke often invested in the **global business** that was flourishing at the time through the East India Company, the Dorchester Company, the Virginia Company and others (Africa Company?). Their records could be tremendously valuable regarding their business partners and their reach across the world. Remember that Sir William's son, Henry Heyricke (of Virginia, as we call him) served their

business in Virginia having been preceded by a Thomas Heyricke and his son, Thomas. Others were involved in the East Indian trade. One family member suffered pirate attacks and died in Java. There must be histories of these companies.

- Basic **birth-marriage-death records** for areas around Leicester. We've only scoured a few of the areas. Our Herricks might have come from nearby areas...
- Find **recent family trees**. With the increased interest in genealogy, people are bound to have found some information we haven't.
- More **Puritan or non-separatist histories** might be available. We know the Herricks were dissenters, although we don't know the exact form it took, but Henerie Hericke went to Salem, MA because he was being prosecuted in England for his dissent.
- The histories of the **plague in Leicester**. We know several rounds occurred in the 1600's. Has more detailed work been done?
- Recent **digs** may well turn up more information. We can check with Peter Liddle about any links he might have made and find out if Great Stretton ever got the funding needed for a full-fledged did.

What else have you been thinking about? What looks most promising or most intriguing? What have you found?

There, clearly, is plenty of opportunity!

A.B.

Research chair

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## New Book

### *The Christmas Spirit Story* by Bill Herrick, HFA #156

*The Christmas Spirit Story* is a true story about a beautiful carol, Christmas Spirit, written by the author who was so passionate about sharing the song with the world that he changed careers. Not once, but twice. "Payola" thwarted the author's first career change before it could blossom. This dark side of the music business caused the author to conscientiously rethink his responsibilities and apply himself to another career path that never crossed his mind, even as a remote possibility.

The preface will capture the reader's imagination, then on to the introduction, where they will discover a need to read the book to answer the most critical question that any reader has, "Why should I read this book?" You will quickly turn from the introduction to the first chapter and ask yourself, "Who is this author?" and "Why haven't I heard Christmas Spirit?"

The writing of this book provided an outlet for the author's physical activities, taken from him by Transverse Myelitis. Hence, having hundreds of articles and pictures referring to the Christmas Spirit, dating back 40 years, and other articles and pictures concerning his dive into the challenging field of songwriting, a myriad of material for this book existed. Therefore, it was an easy decision to write, *The Christmas Spirit Story*, A Vicennial Memoir.

This book can be purchased online from Amazon and other select retailers.

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## More from Dr. Cat Jarman

By Michael Herrick HFA #118

Last June, many of you participated in the live zoom call with Dr. Cat Jarman, the preminent bio-archaeologist and field archaeologist specializing in the Viking Age. In the last HFA newsletter, I posted a summary of that zoom call and provided links to podcasts that she has produced, called Gone Medieval. Recently, Dr. Jarman led an archaeology team to Althorp, the ancestral home of Princesses Diana and her brother Charles Spencer. The purpose was to discover more about the earliest occupants of the Althorp estate. I think this episode speaks to the search that all of us, no matter who we are, have about who our ancestors are, where and how they lived, and what we can learn about our legacy.

This archaeological dig at the Spencer estate was featured in an episode of Secrets of the Dead on PBS. Below is the link to that episode. It runs about 50 minutes.

<https://www.pbs.org/wnet/secrets/archaeology-althorp-preview-je0rmr/6278/>

\* \* \*

## A Timeline of Leicester, England

By Tim Lambert

### Roman Leicester

43 The Romans invade Britain

47 The Romans capture what is now Leicestershire

49 The Romans build a fort, and a town grows up nearby

80 The Roman army moves on but the town flourishes

100 The town of Ratae (Leicester) is rebuilt

c 250 Suburbs grow outside the walls of Ratae (Leicester)

407 The Roman army leaves Britain. Afterwards Roman civilization breaks down and Roman towns are abandoned.

### Anglo-Saxon and Medieval Leicester

c. 800 Town life revives in England. The old Roman town at Leicester is revived by the Anglo-Saxons.

877 The Danes capture Leicester

911 The English recapture Leicester

1086 Leicester has a population of about 1,500

1143 Leicester Abbey is built

1173 An earl rules Leicester. He rebels against the king but the king's men capture Leicester and burn part of it.

1231 The Earl, Simon de Montfort expels all Jews from Leicester

1464 Leicester is given a corporation and a mayor

### **Leicester in the 16th Century**

- 1500 The population of Leicester is about 3,000
- 1545 A grammar school is built in Leicester
- 1564 The plague strikes Leicester
- 1583 The plague returns to Leicester

### **Leicester in the 17th Century**

- 1604 and 1606 The plague is back in Leicester
- 1610 The plague returns to Leicester
- 1612 A conduit is built to bring water into Leicester
- 1625 The plague strikes Leicester again
- 1636 and 1638 The plague strikes but fortunately the 1638 epidemic is the last one
- 1645 During the Civil War the Royalists briefly capture Leicester
- 1670 The population of Leicester is about 5,000
- 1681 Leicester gains a fire engine
- 686 A scavenger is appointed to clean the main streets of Leicester

### **Leicester in the 18th Century**

- 1730 The population of Leicester is about 8,000
- 1737 New Road is built
- 1759 Pumps are installed by public wells
- 1771 The Royal infirmary is built
- 1774 The town walls are demolished
- 1794 The Soar Canal is finished

### **19th Century Leicester**

- 1801 Leicester has a population of about 17,000
- 1821 Leicester gains gas light
- 1836 Leicester gains a police force
- 1849 Cholera strikes Leicester
- 1853 Leicester gains a piped water supply
- 1855 Leicester gains a sewage works
- 1871 The first public library in Leicester opens
- 1881 A telephone exchange opens in Leicester
- 1882 Victoria Park and Abbey Park open
- 1894 Electric streetlights are switched on in Leicester for the first time

# **A Brief History of Leicester, Leicestershire, England**

**By Tim Lambert**

## **Roman Leicester**

Leicester probably started as a Celtic settlement. It was the capital of the local Celtic tribe, the Corieltauvi. The Romans invaded Britain in 43 CE, and they captured Leicestershire by 47 CE. The Romans built a fort at Leicester in 48 CE. The Celtic settlement nearby prospered as the Roman soldiers provided a market for goods made in the town. About 80 CE the Roman army moved on but the nearby town thrived.

The streets of Roman Leicester were changed to a grid pattern with a space left in the center for a marketplace called a Forum. The Forum was lined with shops and had a kind of town hall called a basilica. Many of the townspeople rebuilt their houses in stone with tiled roofs. The Romans also dug drains under the streets of Leicester (or Ratae as they called it). They also built public baths on the site of the Jewry Wall Museum.

There were several temples in Roman Leicester. One, which stood in St Nicholas Circle, was dedicated to the Persian god Mithras. Roman Leicester continued to grow and prosper in the 3rd century and suburbs grew up outside the walls. Roman Leicester reached a peak in the early 4th century then began to decline. Roman civilization slowly broke down. The last Roman soldiers left Britain in 407. Afterward, Roman towns like Leicester fell into ruins.

## **Saxon Leicester**

After the Romans left Leicester was probably abandoned. There may have been some people living within the walls and farming the land outside, but it ceased to be a town. However, in the late 7th century town life began to revive in England. Leicester was given a bishop. By the 9th century, Leicester was a thriving town again. However, Saxon Leicester was crude compared with the Roman town. There were no fine stone buildings only wood huts with thatched roofs. In Leicester, women wove cloth while there were craftsmen such as potters, blacksmiths, and carpenters. There were also men who made things like combs from bone.

In the 9th century the Danes invaded England and by 877 they captured Leicester. In 918 the English recaptured the town, but the short period of Danish rule left the area with many Danish place names. In the 10th century, Leicester had a mint, so it was quite an important town.

## **Leicester in the Middle Ages**

At the time of the Domesday Book (1086) Leicester probably had a population of around 1,500. It would seem tiny to us but towns were very small in those days. The Normans built a wooden castle within the town walls. In the early 12th century, it was rebuilt in stone.

Leicester was ruled by an Earl. However, the Earl appointed a steward to run the town day to day. By law all grain had to be ground to flour in mills owned by the Earl and all bakers had to bake their bread in his ovens. The Earl also took fines for minor offenses such as baking underweight loaves. He also took the tolls from stallholders in the market.

The Earl caused the people of Leicester much suffering in 1173 when he rebelled against the king. The king's men captured the town and burned part of it down. But Leicester soon recovered from this disaster.

In 1231 the Earl, Simon de Montfort (c. 1208-1265) banished all Jews from Leicester. He was killed at the Battle of Evesham in 1265.

The main industry in Medieval Leicester was making wool. First, the wool was woven into cloth. Then it was fulled. That means it was cleaned and thickened by being pounded in a mixture of water and clay. The wool was pounded by wooden hammers, which were worked by watermills. After the wool dried it was dyed.

Leather was also an important industry in Medieval Leicester and there were many tanners in the town. Furthermore, in Leicester, there was a weekly market and an annual fair. In the Middle Ages, a fair was like a market but it was held only once a year for a period of a few days. Leicester fair would attract buyers and sellers

from all over the Midlands.

In the Middle Ages the merchants in Leicester formed an organisation called a guild to safeguard their interests. Eventually, the Earl's hold on the town weakened and the merchants began to run things. From 1464 Leicester had a corporation with a mayor.

Leicester Abbey was built in 1143. Furthermore, in the Middle Ages, the only hospitals were run by the church. In them, monks cared for the poor and the sick as best they could. In the Middle Ages, there were several hospitals in Leicester.

From the 13th century there were also friars in Leicester. Friars were like monks but instead of withdrawing from the world they went out to preach. Franciscan friars were called grey friars because of the color of their costumes. Their name lives on in the street name.

In the Middle Ages a few people in Leicester had private wells but most took their water from public wells. (Cank Street is named after the Cank, a well which once existed there).

### **Leicester in the 16th Century and 17th Century**

In 1500 Leicester probably had a population of about 3,000. However, like all Tudor towns, Leicester suffered from outbreaks of the plague. It struck in 1564, 1579, 1583 and 1593. Nevertheless, Leicester continued to grow despite periodic outbreaks of plague.

Henry VIII closed Leicester Abbey, the friaries and the hospitals of St Leonard and St John. His son closed the merchant's guild (The Tudors dislike guilds as they felt they restricted trade) and confiscated their property, including the Guildhall. In 1563 it was sold to the town council.

In 1545 a grammar school was founded in Leicester.

There were more outbreaks of plague in Leicester in 1604, 1606, 1610, 1625, 1636 and 1638. But the outbreak in 1638 was the last.

Then in 1642 came civil war between king and parliament. The king's army laid siege to Leicester in 1645. The royal army was made up of 5,500 men. Inside Leicester, there were only 2,000 defenders. Traitors left the town at night and revealed where there were weak spots in the walls. The royalists aimed their cannons at these spots and made breaches. The defenders tried to plug the gaps with sacks of wool but the royalist infantry attacked. They attempted to reach a breach in the wall near Newark 4 times but each time they were repulsed. The royalists then attacked a breach by the Eastgate. They caused the defenders to withdraw by throwing hand grenades among them. Then they swarmed through the breach. Soon Leicester was captured. The royalists then sacked the town killing many people.

However, their triumph was short-lived. The royalists were routed at the Battle of Naseby. The parliamentary army then laid siege to Leicester. The royalists had not had time to repair the breaches in the walls and they were soon forced to surrender. However, they were allowed to leave provided they left behind all their weapons. Afterward, the castle was destroyed to make sure it never fell into royalist's hands again.

Leicester soon recovered from the effects of the civil war and by 1670 it probably had a population of about 5,000.

At the end of the 17th century a writer said that: Leicester has four gates. The streets are fairly large and well made. There are 5 parishes. The marketplace is a large space, very handsome with a good market cross and town hall. The town's buildings are of timber except one or two of brick.

In 1612 a conduit was built to carry water from springs into Leicester. The name survives in Conduit Street. In 1681 Leicester purchased its first fire engine and in 1686 a scavenger was appointed to clean the main streets. Also in the late 17th century, a hosiery industry flourished in Leicester.

### **Leicester in the 18th Century**

By 1700 there were about 6,000 people in Leicester. The population rose to about 8,000 by 1730. Growth then stabilized till 1760 when it again began to grow rapidly, reaching 17,000 by 1800.

Meanwhile in 1711 the land that had once belonged to the Grey friars was sold for building and by 1720 it was built up. New Road was built in 1737 and the Corn Exchange (where grain was bought and sold) in 1748.

In 1759 pumps were installed by public wells and Leicester Royal Infirmary opened in 1771. The town walls were removed in 1774 as improvements in artillery had made them obsolete. Then in 1785 the town council created a public walk, the New Walk.

In the late 18th century Leicester was transformed by the industrial revolution. The Soar Canal was completed in 1794 and it allowed an engineering industry to grow up by providing a cheap way of transporting coal and iron into Leicester. The shirt trade in Leicester began in 1796.

### **Leicester in the 19th Century**

In 1801 at the time of the first census Leicester had a population of around 17,000. The town continued to grow rapidly. Houses were built outside Belgrave Gate in the 1820s. At the same time houses were built south of the town. Northampton Street, Conduit Street and Prebend Street were built around 1830. Between 1835 and 1860 St Margaret's parish became built up. Houses were also built along the roads leading to the villages of Belgrave and Humberstone. Meanwhile in 1835 the boundary of Leicester was extended to the West Bank of the Soar.

The population of Leicester rose to about 40,000 in 1841 and to 68,000 in 1861.

Amenities in Leicester improved during the 19th century. In 1821 Leicester obtained gas street lighting. Furthermore, by 1830 most of the streets were paved. Then in 1836 Leicester got its own police force.

In 1849 Leicester suffered an epidemic of cholera. Afterwards a Board of Health was formed. The Board built proper drains and sewers. In 1855 Leicester gained its first sewerage works. In 1853 it gained a piped water supply (although it was a long time before all houses were connected).

In 1882 Victoria Park opened. Abbey Park also opened in 1882 and Spinney Park followed in 1886.

The first public library in Leicester opened in 1871 and a new Town Hall was built in 1876. In 1881 the first telephone exchange opened in Granby Street and in 1894 some streets were lit by electricity for the first time. Silver Arcade was built in 1899.

New industries grew up in Leicester during the 19th century. Engineering flourished after the Britannia ironworks was opened in 1804. A much larger works, the Vulcan works opened in Welford Road in 1878. The Boot and shoemaking industry boomed. In 1831 there were only 425 boot and shoemakers in Leicester. By 1861 there were 2,741. The elastic web industry began in 1839 when a factory opened in Southgate.

In 1832 a railway was built from Leicester to Swannington. In 1840 another was built from Leicester to Rugby. In 1849 another line, to Burton opened. In 1857 a railway through Market Harborough to London was opened.

Leicester continued to spread rapidly into the surrounding countryside. From the mid-19th century onward houses were built east of the town in the area called Highfields. In the late 18th century, a house called Stoneygate was built. By the mid-19th century a hamlet had grown up around it. By the 1880s the area had become a suburb of Leicester.

South Knighton also became built up in the 1880s. Meanwhile, in 1885 an architect called Arthur Wakerley bought land at North Evington and then built houses and factories there. As Leicester grew it also absorbed other areas. In 1874 Belgrave was still separate but in that year a horse drawn tram connected the two. As both Leicester and Belgrave grew the land separating them became built up. In 1879 Aylestone was connected to Leicester by horse drawn trams and it too soon became built up.

### **Leicester in the 20th Century**

Leicester was described in a magazine in 1909: it is difficult to think of Leicester as a town of considerable industrial importance. The impression remains with one of a clear and sunny atmosphere with wide streets, clean brick buildings and a constant background of green trees. The boot and hosiery factories appear to give out little

or no smoke.

Leicester continued to grow rapidly during the 20th century. It was made a city in 1919. In 1927 Leicester was given a cathedral and a bishop and the boundaries of the city were extended in 1935.

Palace Theatre opened in 1901 and Leicester General Hospital opened in 1905. The first cinema in Leicester opened in 1910 in High Street. In 1926 the Guildhall was opened as a museum. Belgrave Hall opened in 1937 and in 1940 Newarke Houses were opened as a museum.

Meanwhile in 1901-4 the horse drawn trams in Leicester were converted to electricity and in 1924 the first corporation buses began running.

The engineering industry in Leicester continued to grow rapidly in the 20th century and in 1908 the Imperial Typewriter Co. came to Leicester. In 1900 only 6,000 people were employed in engineering in Leicester. By 1939 the figure had risen to 13,500 and by the 1950s 29,000.

Leicester Council began building houses in 1914 when they built an estate in North Evington. Council house building continued in the 1920s and 1930s. Many new council houses were built at Braunstone in the 1930s. At the same time slum clearance began and many slums were demolished in St Margarets parish.

Leicester escaped heavy bombing during the Second World War but on 19 November 1940 bombs were dropped on Highfield Street and Saxby Street killing 40 people.

After 1945 slum clearance continued and large areas of Leicester were redeveloped. Existing council estates like Braunstone were also enlarged. In the 1970s a new development of mixed council housing and private houses was built at Beaumont Leys. This estate was built with a popular shopping centre. Meanwhile the last trams ran in Leicester in 1949.

In the early 20th century, a Jewish community grew up in the Highfields area and after 1945 Polish and Latvian refugees moved into this area. In the 1950s West Indians moved into the area. In the 1960s some Asians came to Leicester and their numbers were swelled in the 1970s when Indians were forced to leave Uganda. Leicester is now a multicultural city.

The old industries like hosiery remained important in the late 20th century. However new industries such as metal fabrication, electrical and precision engineering, printing, pharmaceuticals and food processing came to Leicester.

The University of Leicester was established in 1957. Then in 1969 Leicester Polytechnic was formed from the old College of Art and Technology. It became De Montfort University in 1992. Meanwhile in 1971 the Haymarket Centre opened and in 1973 Haymarket Theatre opened.

In 1984 St Martins Shopping Centre opened. The Phoenix Arts Centre opened in 1988 and The Shire Shopping Centre opened in 1992.

In 1997 Leicester was made a unitary authority.

### **Leicester in the 21st Century**

In 2011 Sir Peter Soulsby became the first directly elected mayor of Leicester. Today the population of Leicester is 348,000.

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## From The Raid on Lindisfarne to Harald Hardrada's Defeat:

### 8 Viking Dates You Need to Know

First published on BBC History Extra in May 2016

The Viking era is thought to have lasted from the ninth century to 1066, when the Norwegian king Harald Hardrada was defeated at the battle of Stamford Bridge. But what are some other key moments in the history of the Vikings? From the infamous Lindisfarne raid in 793 to the year the Vikings arrived in North America, we bring you eight dates from Viking history you need to know...



#### The raid on Lindisfarne

On 8 June 793, the terrified inhabitants of the small Northumbrian Island of Lindisfarne found themselves under attack. Norse longboats landed on the holy island with the intention of plundering its monastery's riches. Treasures were stolen, religious relics destroyed, and monks murdered, in a brutal and shocking start to centuries of Viking activity in Britain.

Anglo-Saxon monasteries made rich pickings for Viking raiders. The British Isles' religious communities could offer little resistance to the plundering of their treasures. Furthermore, as pagans, the attacking attackers had no religious qualms about desecrating sacred sites.

Lindisfarne was not the first time Scandinavians had visited on the British Isles. While they had largely come to trade peacefully, there had been sporadic violence. In 789 three ships of Norsemen had landed on the coast of the kingdom of Wessex and murdered one of the king's officials. Yet the merciless raid on Lindisfarne's monastery was different – it was an unprecedented brutal strike right at the heart of Anglo-Saxon Christianity.

The shocking event spread fear and panic across Christian Europe. The scholar Alcuin argued that God, as vengeance on the immoral people of the kingdom of Northumbria, had sent the raiders. The attack was not easily forgotten. In the ninth century, Lindisfarne's Anglo-Saxon residents memorialised the violence by carving the scenes of bloodshed onto a stone grave marker. The stone, now kept in Lindisfarne's Museum, is known as the 'Viking Domesday Stone'.

Just as Christian communities had feared, Lindisfarne heralded the beginning of further death and destruction, as Viking raids on Britain escalated over the following years.

## **865 – The Great Heathen Army lands in England**

The formation of the Great Heathen Army in 865 marked a turning point in the Vikings' relationship with Britain. Up until this point, Scandinavian expeditions to the British Isles had consisted of smaller raiding parties on 'smash-and-grab' missions. Their intention was to plunder the islands' riches before returning to their homelands with the loot. The Great Heathen Army was different however – it was a calculated invasion force.

The army was a coalition consisting of soldiers from Norway and Denmark, and possibly also Sweden. According to legend, various bands of Norsemen came together under the leadership of the three sons of legendary Viking warlord Ragnar Lodbrok – Halfdan Ragnarsson, Ivar the Boneless and Ubba. The number of troops in the army is unclear – estimates range from less than 1,000 men to several thousands.

The Great Heathen Army landed on the coast of East Anglia in the autumn of 865, picking up horses before going on to capture Northumbria and York. For several years, frequent fighting plagued the Anglo-Saxon kingdoms, as rulers proved unable to subdue the spread of the Viking invaders. By 874, Wessex was the only Anglo-Saxon kingdom not under effective Viking control.

## **866 – York is conquered by Viking forces**

As a thriving Anglo-Saxon metropolis and prosperous economic hub, York was a clear target for the Vikings. Led by Ivar the Boneless and Halfdan, Scandinavian forces attacked the town on All Saints' Day. Launching the assault on a holy day proved an effective tactical move – most of York's leaders were in the cathedral, leaving the town vulnerable to attack and unprepared for battle.

After it was conquered, the city was renamed from the Saxon Eoforwic to Jorvik. It became the capital of Viking territory in Britain, and at its peak boasted more than 10,000 inhabitants. This was a population second only to London within Great Britain.

Jorvik proved an important economic and trade centre for the Vikings. Norse coinage was created at the Jorvik mint, while archaeologists have found evidence of a variety of craft workshops around the town's central Coppergate area. These demonstrate that textile production, metalwork, carving, glasswork and jewellery-making were all practised in Jorvik. Materials from as far afield as the Arabian gulf have also been discovered, suggesting that the town was part of an international trading network.

According to Dr Soren Sindbaek, urban living in the tightly packed streets of Jorvik was unusual for Viking settlers, whose traditional lifestyle was agricultural. Sindbaek argues that for a Viking, "the commonest path is to farm the land... If you end up in towns, something's almost always gone wrong."

Jorvik's last Viking king was Eric Bloodaxe. Depicted in Norse sagas as a bloody tyrant, Bloodaxe was expelled from York in 954, after which the town returned to Anglo-Saxon rule.886 – The Danelaw is formally agreed

By the 870s, the Great Heathen Army had conquered huge swathes of north-east England. However, Viking forces had failed to conquer Wessex, under the rule of Alfred the Great. After two unsuccessful invasion attempts, in 878 the army launched a third attack on Alfred's kingdom. At the ensuing battle of Edington, they met with a crushing defeat at the hands of the Anglo-Saxons and Viking leader Guthrum met with Alfred to negotiate terms.

A peace treaty was established. Guthrum agreed to baptism and assumed the Anglo-Saxon name Aethelstan. In return, Alfred formally recognised the Viking leader as king of East Anglia.

As part of this peace treaty, a political boundary was drawn up, dividing Aethelstan's Norse territory in the north-east and Alfred's Anglo-Saxon lands in the south-west. The Viking region, known as the Danelaw, was to be dominated by Norse customs and law-codes, different to those of the surrounding Anglo-Saxon kingdoms.

The first article of the treaty formally drawn up between Alfred and Guthrum has been taken to mark out the boundaries of the Danelaw. It reads – "First concerning our boundaries: up on the Thames, and then up on the Lea, and along the Lea unto its source, then straight to Bedford, then up on the Ouse to Watling Street." The treaty also laid down laws to establish peaceful co-existence between the two kingdoms. Its fifth article banned attacks by raiding bands, set down rules for the exchange of hostages and slaves and made allowances for safe trading

between Vikings and Anglo-Saxons.

Although the Danelaw was never extensively settled by Vikings and had dissolved by c954, the impact of Norse rule on England's north-east was significant and long lasting. Echoes of the Danelaw could be traced forward in the social customs and law codes (such as severe fines for breach of the peace) of the region for many centuries. Norse influence can still be seen in the area's place names, especially in the central Viking hub of Yorkshire. Here, you can still find many town names ending in 'thorpe', the Norse term for an outlying farmstead, and 'by', which meant a farmstead or village.

### **10th century – The Second Viking Age**

In the mid-tenth century Denmark began to emerge as a major power, heralding in what is known as the Second Viking Age. As the Danish kingdom became increasingly powerful, Viking raiders began to target the British Isles with a renewed ferocity.

In 991 Danish king Swein Forkbeard landed in Kent with more than 90 longboats, before exacting a cruel victory over Anglo-Saxon forces at the battle of Maldon. Over the following two decades, Swein led several more destructive campaigns in England.

While Norse raids had been targeting the Britain Isles since the eighth century, it was unprecedented for these raids to be led by the king himself. Raids were on a larger scale than ever before, and Swein's Danish forces proved unstoppable as they ravaged England's major towns and extorted money from their leaders.

By 1012, the Anglo-Saxons' situation had reached breaking point. Payments to the Danes, known as Danegeld, had proved crippling. Anglo-Saxon leaders were forced to raise 22,000kg of silver, largely levied through tax. The same year, Viking raiders led by Thorkell the Tall (it is debated whether Thorkell was an agent of Swein or not) plundered Canterbury and held the archbishop Aelfheah hostage for seven months. When he refused to let anyone pay his ransom, they pelted him to death with stones and struck him over the head with an axe.

### **c1000 – The Vikings reach North America**

The British Isles were not the only destination of seafaring Norse traders, raiders and adventurers. Paris, Iceland, Italy and even the Iberian Peninsula and Morocco were also visited by the Vikings.

Remarkable archaeological discoveries have revealed that Norse longboats even travelled huge distances to North America, making the Vikings the first Europeans to land on the continent. In 1960, evidence of Norse settlement was uncovered at L'Anse aux Meadows, a site on the northernmost tip of the island of Newfoundland, off the east coast of Canada.

Investigation into the site began after archaeologists found a small cloak pin that appeared to be of Scandinavian origin. Further archaeological work revealed timber-framed buildings identical to ones in Viking settlements discovered in Greenland and Iceland. After extensive work on the sites, experts have suggested that there were in fact Norse settlers in Newfoundland, but they stayed close to the coast and abandoned the site just a few years after it was founded.

According to Norse sagas, the first Viking explorer to reach North America was Leif Erikson, a fearless seafaring adventurer who discovered 'Vinland'. The description of 'Vinland' in the sagas has been seen by some to match the site in Newfoundland.

In 2015, a potential new site of Viking settlement was found at Point Rosee, on Newfoundland's south-west coast. Identified using infrared satellite images and aerial photographs, the site contains promising evidence of iron-smelting, and turf walls which match Norse construction styles. Further investigation into the site is planned for later this year.

### **1013 – Swein Forkbeard becomes the first Viking king of England**

By 1013, after years of raiding England, Danish king Swein Forkbeard set his sights on conquering the country entirely.

Although Swein had been campaigning in Britain from 991 onwards, fighting had been piecemeal. His troops were repeatedly forced back to Scandinavia – in 999 by an attempted coup in his homeland and in 1005 by famine in Britain. However, after decades of patchy campaigning, in 1013 Swein’s attempts to conquer the entirety of Anglo-Saxon England finally came to fruition.

By 1013, Oxford, Bath, Winchester and many other major towns had capitulated to Swein’s forces. After fierce resistance, London also finally submitted, its residents afraid of what the Viking forces might inflict on them. Following these victories, the Anglo-Saxon king Aethelred the Unready was forced into exile in Normandy and Swein was finally accepted as king of England.

However, after battling for so long to add England to his great Scandinavian empire, Swein’s reign was short-lived. Only five weeks after he was pronounced king of England, Forkbeard died on 3 February 1014. It took two more years of intensive fighting before the country was returned to Viking rule, under Swein’s son Cnut. Cnut reigned over England for 19 years, finally bringing a period of relative peace and stability to the kingdom and uniting his Anglo-Saxon and Danish subjects.

### **1066 – The end of the Viking age**

The death of Anglo-Saxon king Edward the Confessor (of the House of Wessex) in 1066 led to a power-struggle for the English crown. The Viking contender for the throne was Harald Hardrada, king of Norway. Descended from the line of the kings of Norway ousted by Cnut a generation earlier, Hardrada claimed a right to the throne based on an agreement between his father and Hardicanute, Cnut’s son and successor.

In an effort to reclaim England for the Scandinavians, in 1066 Hardrada sailed to England with 300 ships stuffed full of 11,000 warriors. His intention was to seize the throne from the vulnerable Anglo-Saxon king Harold Godwinson, who was also expecting a Norman invasion from the south.

After sailing up the river Ouse and seizing York, Hardrada’s forces were taken by surprise by the Anglo-Saxon troops at Stamford Bridge. Harold Godwinson’s men had travelled north with remarkable speed, meaning that the Scandinavian forces were unprepared to take them on. Not expecting Harold Godwinson to leave the south under the threat of Norman invasion, Hardrada had left both men and armour behind with his anchored fleet at Riccall. The Viking army was smashed and Hardrada killed by an arrow through the neck. It was reported that of the 300 longboats that landed in England, only 24 returned to their homeland carrying the survivors.

Despite proving a failure, the Viking invasion of 1066 nonetheless had a significant impact on British history. Taking on the Vikings at Stamford Bridge had weakened Harold Godwinson’s forces, making the path easier for the successful invasion of William of Normandy. William defeated Godwinson at the battle of Hastings just three weeks later, going on to launch a conquest more successful and long lasting than any Viking invasion.

Hardrada’s crushing defeat at Stamford Bridge is generally seen as the end of Viking influence in Britain. Centuries of raiding, extortion, trading, and bloodshed had finally come to a close.

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## **Update on the Neanderthal Research Progress**

**By Curtis J. Herrick, Jr. HFA #100**

*Nature* articles announced **Savante Pääbo** as the winner of the **2022 Noble Prize award for Physiology or Medicine** (the biological science of the functions, activities, and processes of living organisms) on 4 Oct. 2022.

A summary of some of the significant accomplishments are below:

As a geneticist and department director of the Max Plank Institute, he

1. Led his Team to win the Nobel Prize
2. Sequenced the first pure Neanderthal genome without human traces.
3. Identified a new Hominid in southern Siberia which they named Denisovans after the local terrain.
4. Discovered the oldest recorded DNA, 430,000 years old from Spain.
5. Published in 2010 that the Neanderthals and Homo Sapiens interbred and that the 1 to 4 percent of the modern European or Asian, of human's descent can be traced back to the Neanderthals.
6. Recognized that the remains of specimens were being damaged by poor handling and created proper procedures which are being and used world-wide.
7. Research continues...



Richard and Mary

### **Richard C. Herrick, HFA #132 Obituary**

Richard C. Herrick, 72, of Desson Ave in Troy, passed away peacefully on Monday, September 19, 2022, at his home in the loving care of his family.

Born in Albany, NY, he was the son of the late C. Robert and Elizabeth Gordon Herrick Shelford and was a 1967 graduate of Vincentian Institute.

He retired as Assistant Chief of the Real Property Bureau at the NYS Office of General Services.

Survivors include his beloved wife of 36 years Mary Louise DeLair Herrick, his devoted son Jonathan (Katherine) Herrick of Wilton, his devoted daughter Kirsten (William F., Jr.) Doughty of Alpharetta, GA, his cherished grandsons; Timmy and Billy Doughty, his adored granddaughters; Maeve and Emmy Herrick and his brothers; Robert (Josie) Herrick, W. Mark Herrick and Fred (Pamela) Herrick. He was predeceased by his sisters; Elizabeth Paige and Nancy McCoon. Services will be held privately by the family.

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Bill Catterson

### **William Catterson, HFA #070 Obituary**

William Albert Catterson went home to be with the Lord on August 3, 2022. He was known as "Bill" to his family and friends. Bill was born at Mound Park Hospital in St. Petersburg, Florida, March 29, 1938. He attended Euclid Elementary, Mirror Lake Junior High and St. Petersburg High School before joining the United States Marines Corps in 1956. After basic training, he was stationed in San Diego, California for a brief time, but spent most of his stent in the USMC in Hawaii until 1959.

Upon returning to St. Petersburg after his service in the Marines, Bill resumed delivering furniture for Maas Brothers Department Store until 1988. He also worked for Kimberly Quality Care delivering medical supplies until his retirement in 1995. Bill was a member of Central Christian Church from the mid - 1960s until the late 1990s. He served as a Sunday School teacher, Deacon and various other capacities as well while attending. During this era, he spent his leisure time singing, dabbling in his stamp collection, watching sports and taking family vacations to the mountains of Georgia and North Carolina. Bill always had a quick dry wit about him, and sometimes even a "dad" joke. In retirement, Bill enjoyed reading, listening to music, watching classic television, playing games, attending family gatherings, but mostly working on family genealogy with his sister, Marilyn.

Bill is preceded in death by his mother Lucille (1971), his father Albert (1967), as well as his daughter Debbie (1990) and sister Estelle (1997). He leaves behind his daughters Peggy Kruml (Larry) of Castle Pines, Colorado, Marianne Catterson of St. Petersburg, Florida, Cheryl Skaggs (Robert) and step-grandsons Grayson and Asher Skaggs of Trinity, Florida, his granddaughter Barbara Sprenger and great-grand daughter, Eliana, and great-grand son, Simeon, of Aurora, Colorado. His sister, Marilyn "Kitty" Shea, resides in St. Petersburg, Florida, as do many nieces, nephews and great- and even great-great nieces and nephews throughout Florida and the United States.

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**Message from the Editor:**

Nancy Johnson, HFA #212

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I would like to thank our members, Dale E. Yoe, HFA #62, Alice (A.B.) Herrick Reynolds HFA #03, Michael Herrick HFA #118, Kevin Duane Fronk HFA# 227 and Amanda Kae Fronk, Bill Herrick, HFA #156, Curt Herrick HFA #100, and Tim Lambert for contributing to this newsletter.

I'd like to remind everyone that I'm happy to accept articles and stories for the next newsletter at any time.

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