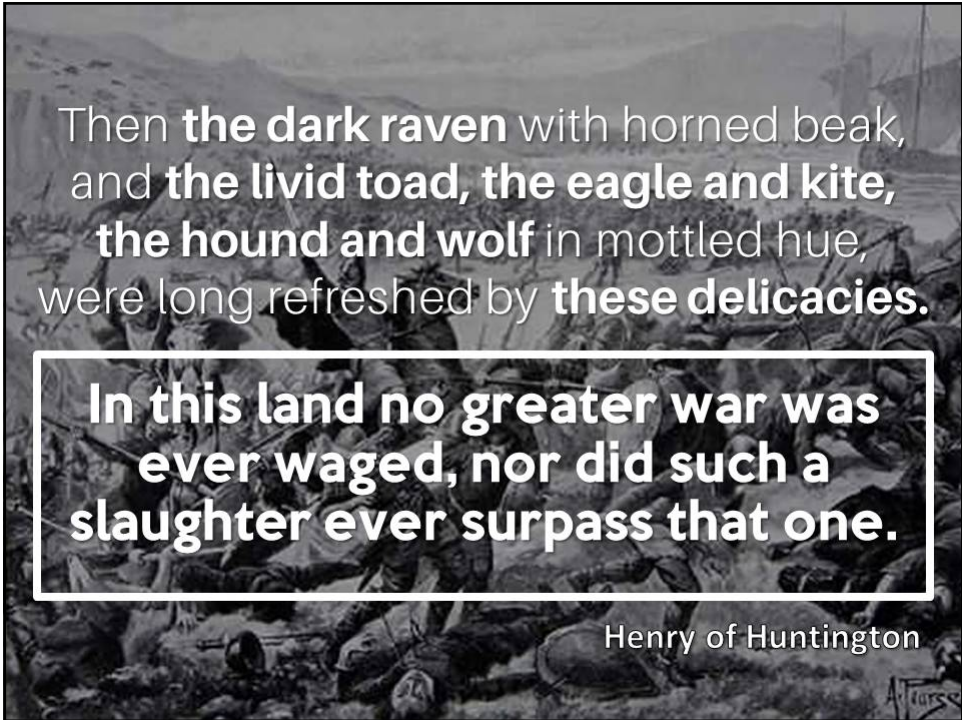


MILITARY
HISTORY
THE BATTLE OF
BRUNANBURH
937 A.D.



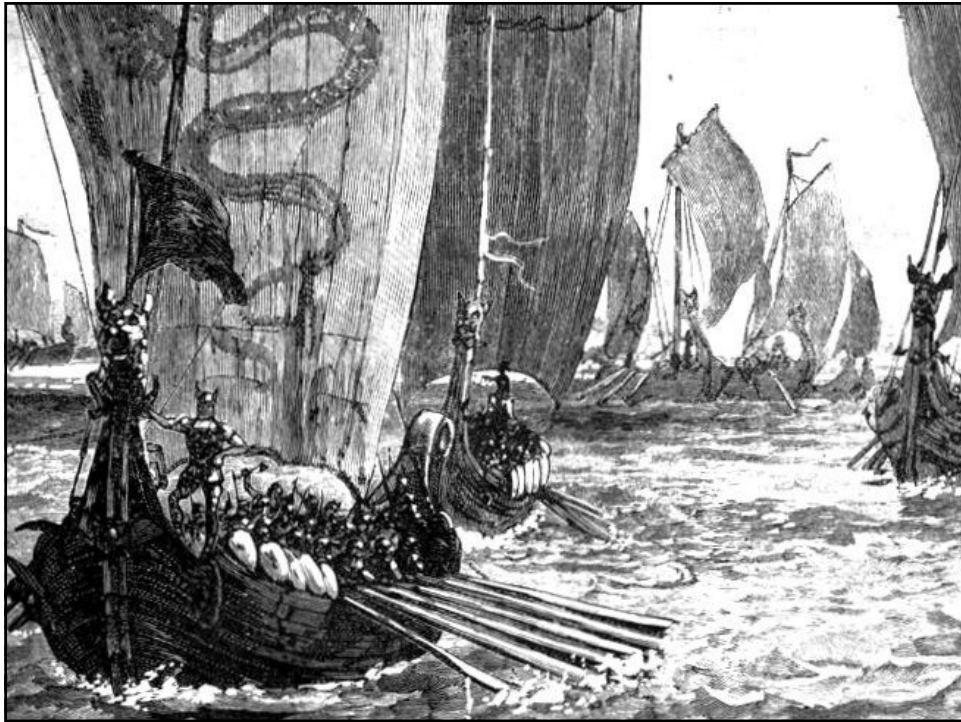


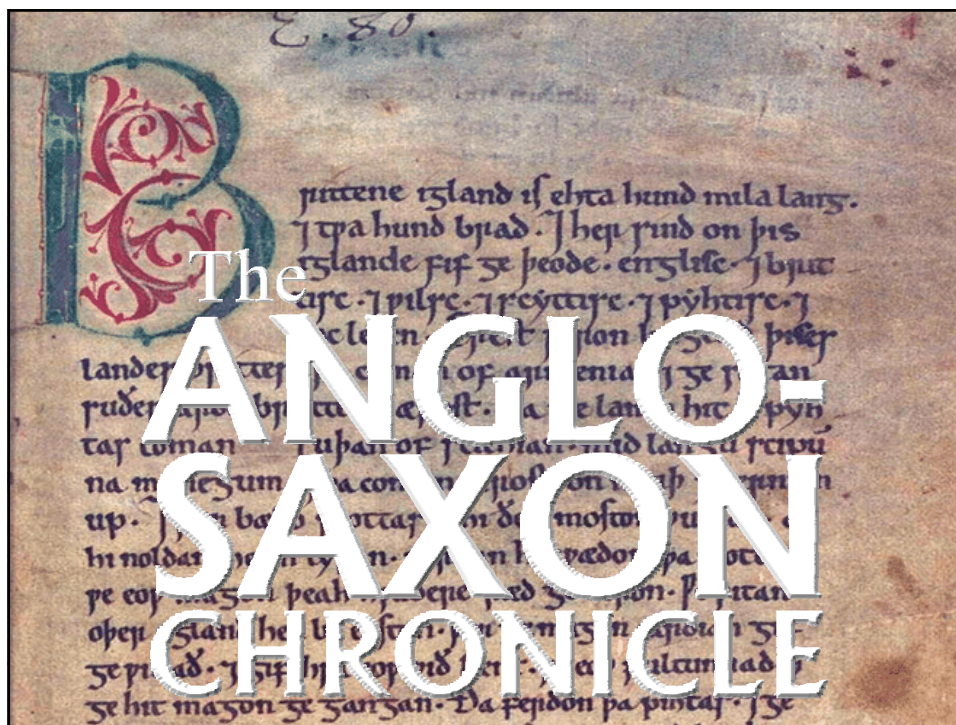
Then **the dark raven** with horned beak,
and **the livid toad, the eagle and kite,**
the hound and wolf in mottled hue,
were long refreshed by **these delicacies.**

**In this land no greater war was
ever waged, nor did such a
slaughter ever surpass that one.**

Henry of Huntington





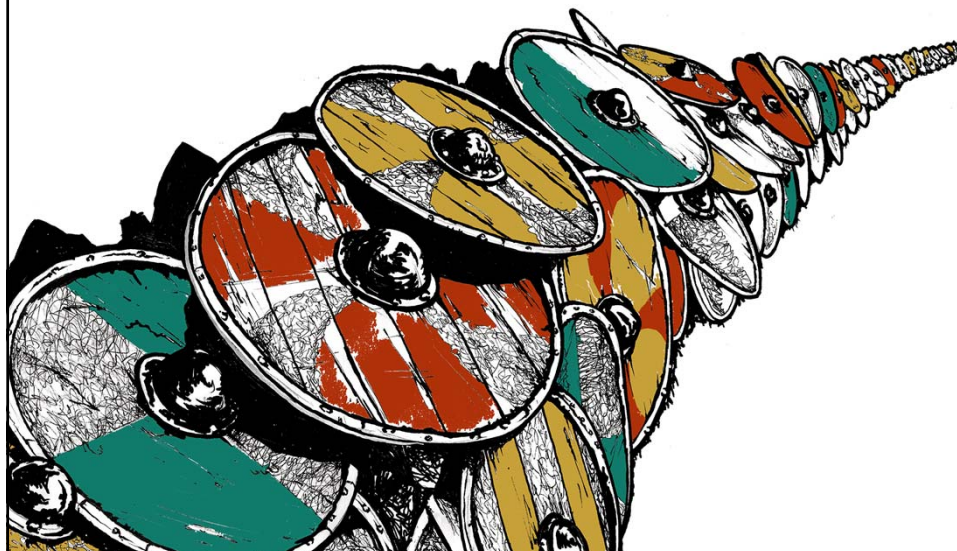


937 AD

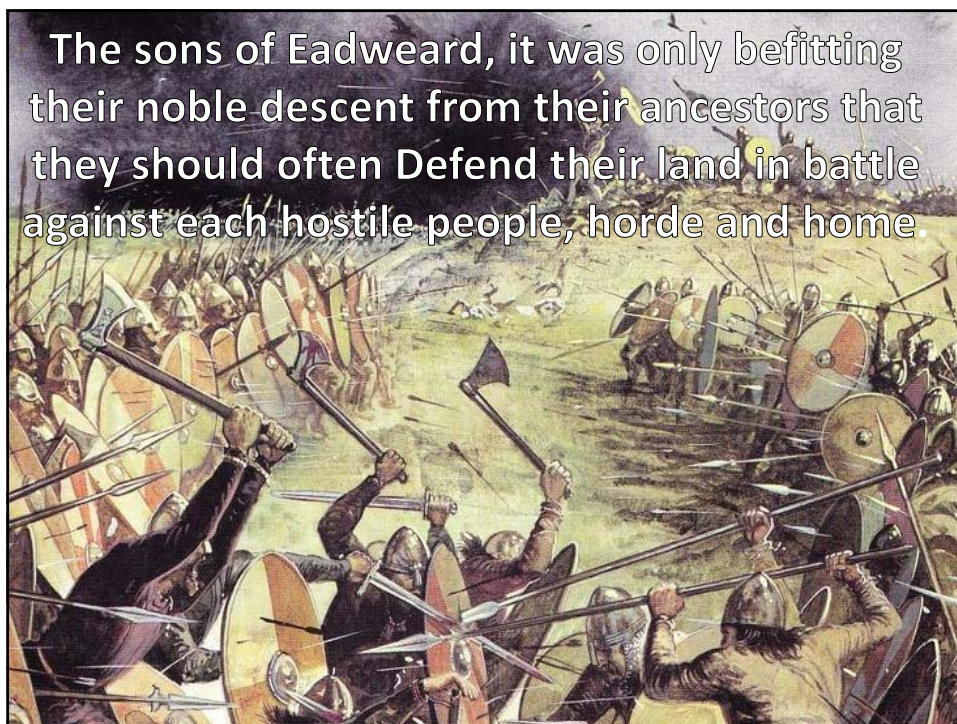
In this year King Aethelstan, Lord of Earls, ring-giver to men, and his brother also, Prince Eadmund, won eternal glory in battle with sword edges around Brunanburh.



They split the shield-wall,
They hewed battle shields with the remnants of hammers.



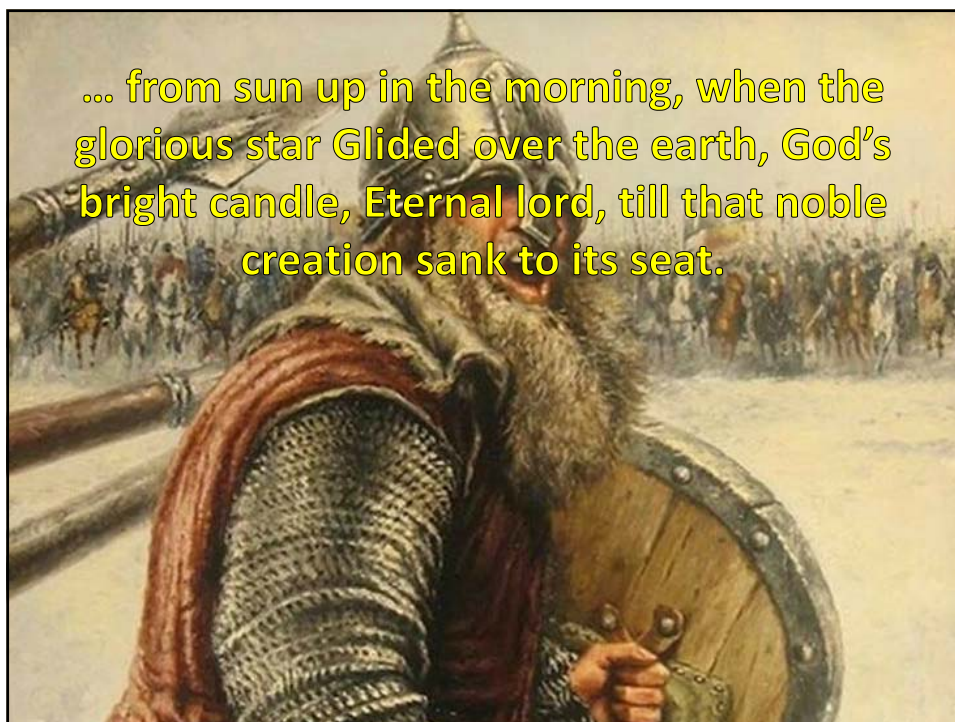
The sons of Eadweard, it was only befitting
their noble descent from their ancestors that
they should often Defend their land in battle
against each hostile people, horde and home.





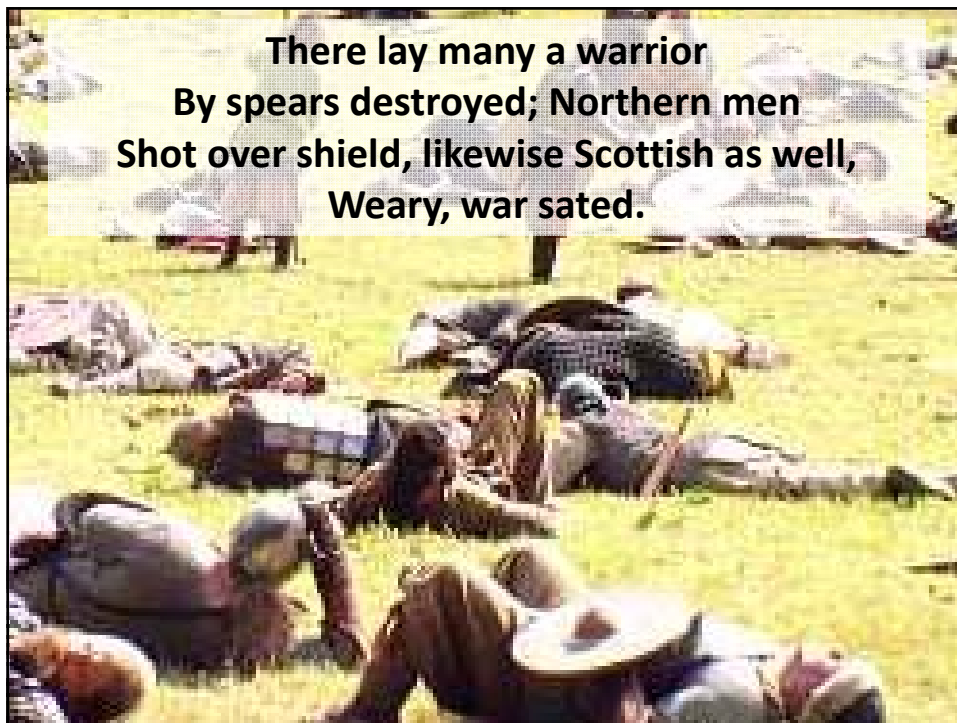
The enemy
perished,
Scots men
and seamen,
Fated they
fell.

The field
flowed
With blood
of warriors...



... from sun up in the morning, when the
glorious star Glided over the earth, God's
bright candle, Eternal lord, till that noble
creation sank to its seat.

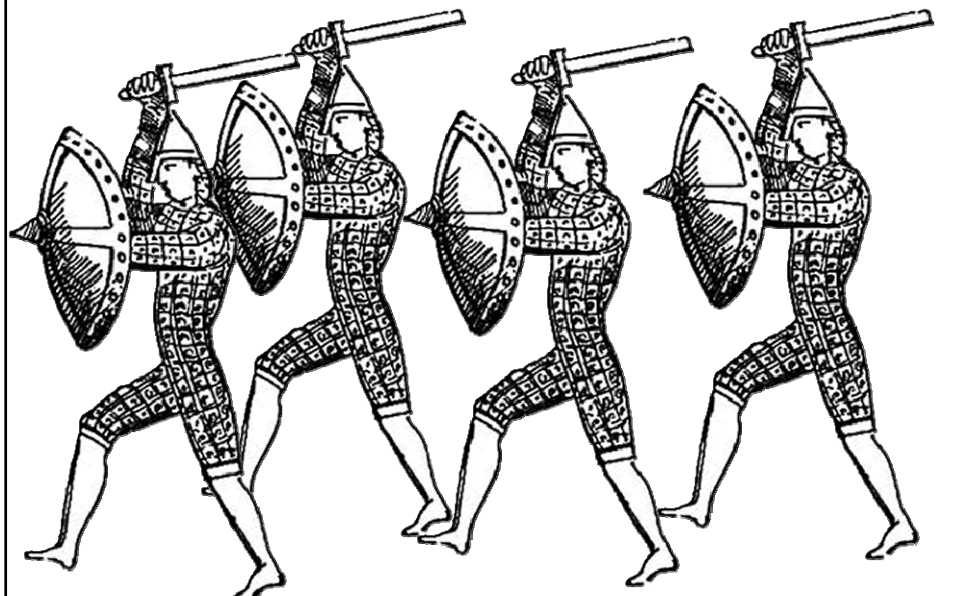
**There lay many a warrior
By spears destroyed; Northern men
Shot over shield, likewise Scottish as well,
Weary, war sated.**



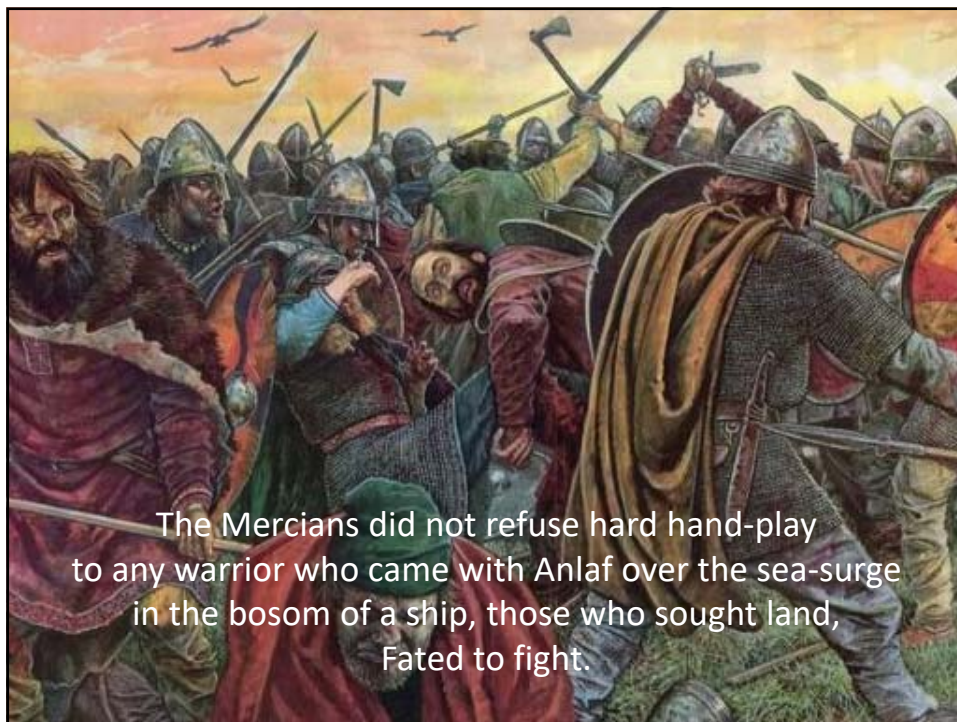
**The West-Saxons pushed onward all day;
In troops they pursued the hostile people.**

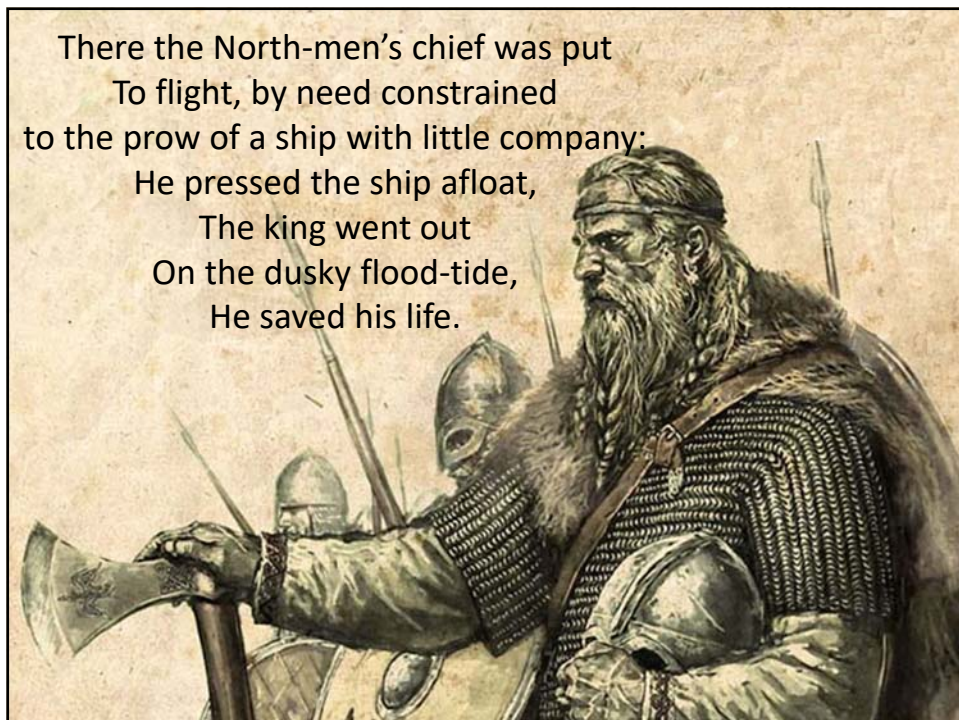
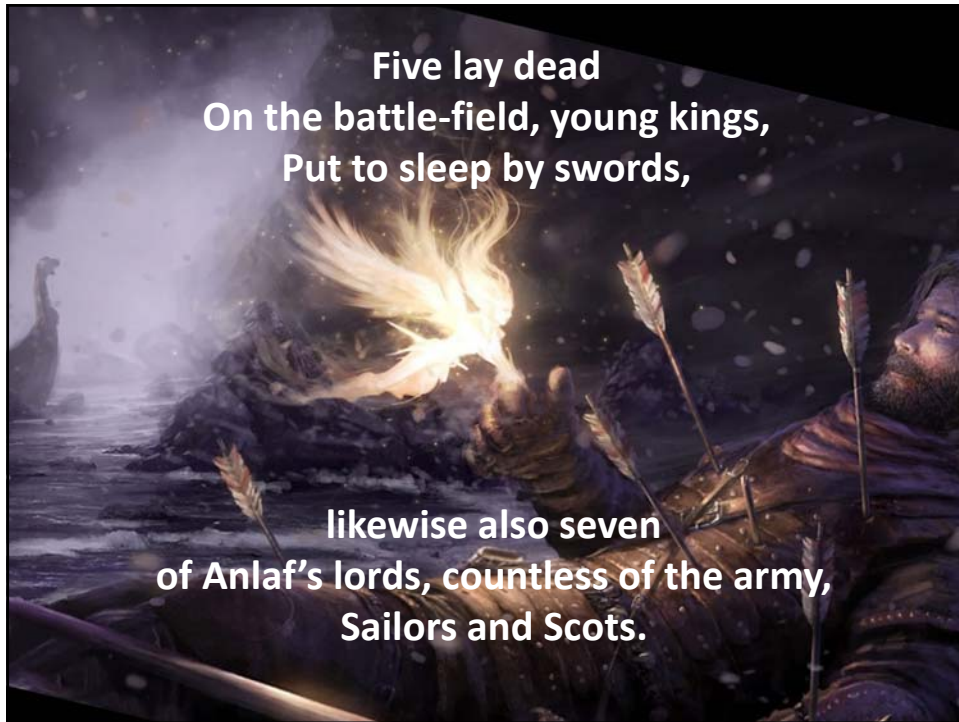


They hewed the fugitive grievously from behind
With swords sharp from the grinding.



The Mercians did not refuse hard hand-play
to any warrior who came with Anlaf over the sea-surge
in the bosom of a ship, those who sought land,
Fated to fight.





Likewise, there also the
 old campaigner
 Through flight came to
 his own region in the
 north—Constantine—
 hoary warrior.

He had no reason to
 exult the great
 meeting; he was of his
 kinsmen bereft,
 Friends fell on the
 battle-field, killed at
 strife: even his son,
 young in battle, he left
 in the place of
 slaughter, ground to
 pieces with wounds.



That grizzle-haired warrior
 had no reason to boast of
 sword-slaughter, Old
 deceitful one,
 no more did Anlaf; With their
 remnant of an army they had
 no reason to Laugh that they
 were better in deed of war in
 battle-field—collision of
 banners, encounter of
 spears, encounter of men,
 Trading of blows—when they
 played against the sons of
 Eadweard on the battle field.



Departed then the Northmen
in nailed ships.



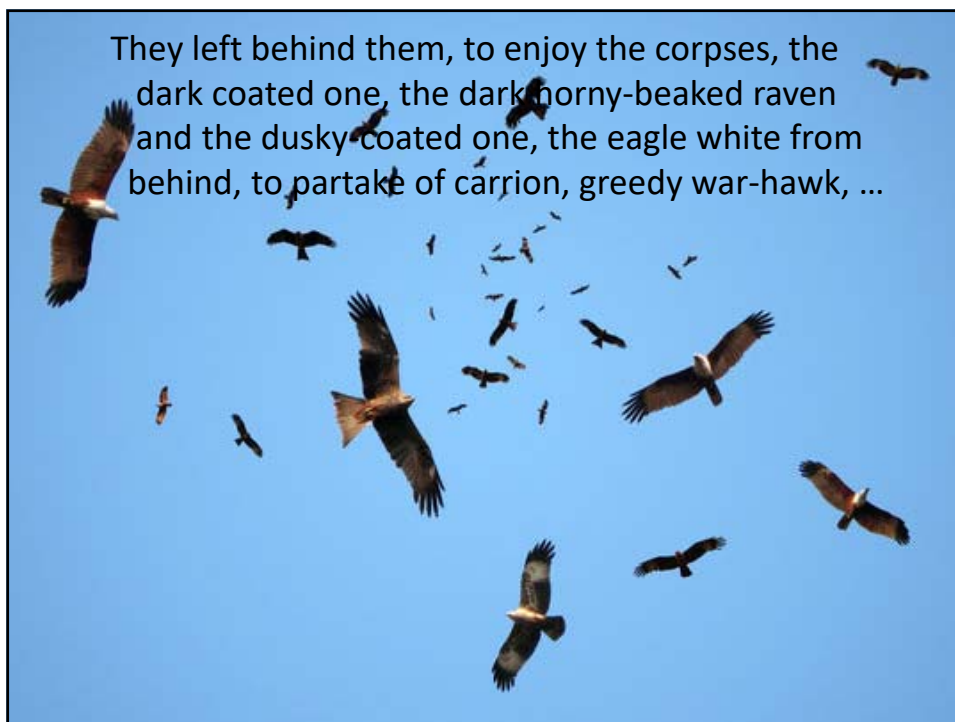


Likewise the brothers, both together, King and Prince,
sought their home, West-Saxon land, exultant from battle.



Great Hall of Winchester Castle (1067)

They left behind them, to enjoy the corpses, the
dark coated one, the dark horny-beaked raven
and the dusky-coated one, the eagle white from
behind, to partake of carrion, greedy war-hawk, ...



and that gray animal
The wolf in the forest.

Never was there more slaughter on this island, never yet
as many people killed before this with sword's edge:



... never according to those who tell us from books, old wisemen, since from the east Angles and Saxons came up over the broad sea.

At
Bruneswerce
he had the better of
the Scots, the men of
Cumberland, the Welsh
and the Picts. There
were so many killed
I think it will ever
be spoken
of.

Geoffrey Gaimar,
(1136)

Britain

they sought,

Proud war-smiths who overcame the Welsh,
glorious warriors they took hold of the land.



A great, lamentable and horrible battle was cruelly fought between the Saxons and the Northmen, in which several thousands of Northmen, who are uncounted, fell, but their king Amlaib [Olaf], escaped with a few followers. A large number of Saxons fell on the other side, but Æthelstan, king of the Saxons, enjoyed a great victory.

The Ulster Chronicles
Woolf, *From Pictland to Alba*, p. 169

... it would be no small stretch to consider the battle the moment when Englishness came of age. The men who fought and died on that field forged a political map of the future that remains with us today, arguably making the Battle at Brunanburh one of the most significant battles in the long history not just of England but of the whole of the British Isles.

Historian Michael Livingston



**KEEP CALM
AND
FORM A
SHIELDWALL**