

A Timeline of Viking History

A.D. 436, This is the time of the legendary Sigurd the dragon slayer. Son of hero Sigmund and leading figure in the Volsung saga. Also known as Siegfried.

480, King Hadding of Denmark. Raised by giants he fought many a great battle. His tale is filled with fantastic creatures and magic.

520, Beowulf. Perhaps the most well known of the Viking heroes. Known mostly for killing the wicked Grendel.

550, Hrolf Kraki. Hrolf is another legendary King of Denmark. His tale is filled with berserkers, witches and all manner of creatures.

793, on the eighth day of June the Vikings sacked the monastery of Lindisfarne on the east coast of England. This was the beginning of the Viking Age.

The scholar Alcuin said, "Never before has such a terror appeared in Britain."

793-795, Norwegian Vikings attacked the monasteries of Jarrow, Monkwearmouth, Rechrú, St. Patrick, and St. Columbia, sacking them with incredible speed and efficiency.

795, the Vikings sacked the Irish monastic foundation on Iona. They attacked again in 801, and once more in 806. The survivors fled to the Irish mainland.

799, Aquitaine is raided by Vikings.

800, coastal defenses are organized by Charlemagne.

810, Frisia is ravaged by the Danish king Godfred.

815, Floki of Rogaland set out from the Faergoe Isles and discovered Iceland.

820, the Useberg ship burial in Norway.

837, 60 Viking longships entered the mouth of the Boyne and another 60 sailed up to Liffey. The Vikings devastated Ireland by ravaging her churches, sanctuaries, and her shrines.

839, the Norse leader Turgeis led an impressive army into the north of Ireland, conquering Ulster, and founding the harbor-stronghold of Dublin.

843, Norwegians plunder the town of Nantes in western France. They then sailed up the Loire as far as Tours and attacked the whole of France.

844, a group of Danes sailed up the Guadalquivir and attacked Seville.

845, The Vikings defile the shrine of Clonmacnoise. Ota, the wife of the Norse leader Turgeis, performed pagan rites on the high altar. Turgeis later took the settlement of Armagh and proclaimed himself king. The Irish later captured him and drowned him in Loch Owel.

845, Vikings threaten Paris and are paid a tribute of bullion worth 7,000 pounds of silver not to attack.

851, Danish Vikings land in Ireland and join forces with the Irish to become the rulers of Ireland.

853, Olaf and Ivar, two sons of a minor Norwegian ruler, established a Norse kingdom in Dublin. This kingdom lasted for more than two centuries.

859, the Danish chieftain Hastein joined forces with another Viking leader and led a fleet of 60 dragon ships through the straits of Gibraltar and raided Algeciras and the coasts of Morocco.

860, Hastein led his fleet to Italy and sacked Luna, a town that no longer exists.

874, first settlement of Iceland.

876, Rolf the Ganger's first arrival in the Seine.

885, birth of Erik Blood-Axe.

907, Swedish Viking Oleg the Wise led an army of eighty thousand men and two thousand ships to Constantinople. Panic-stricken, the Byzantines paid a large tribute and agreed to a commercial treaty.

919, birth of Hacon the Good.

930, Erik Blood-Axe becomes King of Norway on Harold Fairhair's abdication.

931, death of Rolf the Ganger, founder of Normandy.

933, death of Harald Fairhair.

934, Hacon The Good becomes king of Norway.

950, death of Erik Blood-Axe at Steinmore in England.

958, Harald Bluetooth becomes King Of Denmark.

961, death of Hacon the Good after the battle on the island of Stord.

968, birth of Olav Trygvason.

982, Viking chief Erik the Red, accused of a cold-blooded murder, is banished from Iceland for three years. He set sail for the west and finds Greenland.

985, death of Harald Bluetooth. Svein Forkbeard becomes King of Denmark.

992, Leif Erikson, the son of Erik the Red, leaves Greenland with thirty-five men in search of another land. He lands on Labrador and becomes the first European to discover America.

995, Olav Trygvason becomes King of Norway. Birth of St Olav.

1000, Olav Trygvason killed at battle of Svold by Svein Forkbeard & Olaf King of Sweden.

1013 Danish King Svein Forkbeard conquers England, driving Aethelred the Unready into temporary exile. Svein dies in 1014. The Witan restores Aethelred (he dies in 1016).

1016 Cnut the Great, son of Svein Forkbeard, conquers England and marries Aethelred's widow, Queen Emma.

1066, Norwegian king Harald Hardrada leads an army to invade England, but is killed at the battle at Stamford Bridge near York. The English king Harold Godwinsson is himself killed three weeks later at the battle of Hastings against William, duke of Normandy who was crowned king of the English on Christmas Day.

1070, Danish king Sven Estridsson arrives in Humber to claim England. King Williams defenses were too strong and he was forced to withdraw in the summer.

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