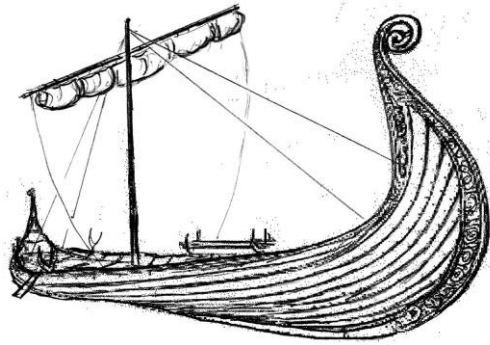


Date

Ellingham

Kirby Cane



865 A force of Northmen landed in East Anglia under the leadership of Ivar the Boneless and his brother, Halfdan the sons of the Ragnar Lodbrok.

870 The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle says that the Danish army under Ivar took possession of the land and divided it. They "took up winter quarters in East Anglia, and there they were supplied with horses and the East Angles made peace with them."

They moved on to York but came back in 869. King Edmund opposed them in battle, but was captured and killed, becoming the first East Anglian martyr and saint

878

King Alfred, by Treaty with Guthrum, gave him East Anglia and they took possession in 879. Guthrum was then baptised and took the Christian name of Athelstan.

The settlers were farming families, mostly peasants. Geldeston was probably settled at this time, Geldes being a Scandinavian personal name.

Kirby also probably gained its present name then, Kirkby means land with a church in Old Norse, the language the Vikings spoke. Beck (bekkr) is also of Scandinavian origin. Because this region came under Viking rule and obeyed its laws, it was called the Danelaw. We gained something of the Danish culture, but missed the revival of learning, which happened under Alfred's reign elsewhere.

886

The Treaty made between Alfred, the Witan (wise men, councillors) of East Anglia and Guthrum gave the latter, Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex, Cambridgeshire and parts of Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire. Another clause in the treaty set the wergild (man price) to be paid to the family of a murdered person by the murderer. Set high, it was designed to be a deterrent and keep the peace where the law was the Danelaw. Guthrum died in 888 and Alfred died in 899 and this brought political upheaval.

Because the Danes did not have a written bureaucracy or literature, evidence for East Anglia under the Danelaw is thin, and was written by monks in other areas.

909

King Edward the Elder of England succeeds his father, Alfred. He and his sister, Princess Aethelflaed of Mercia, raid Danish East Anglia and bring back the body of St. Oswald in triumph. Aethelflaed presents it to her foundation in Gloucester.

