Early Anglo-Saxon Kingdoms

NORTHUMBRIA (616-670)

Edwin (616-32)—Bede credits with ideal of unified leadership. Built buildings on the Roman model; had his standard carried before him. Converted to Christianity. Established peace through war in the North.

Oswald (632-41)—may well have dominated more of Britain than any king until James I (1603-25). Defeated Welsh (Britons) and Picts in Scotland.

Oswy (641-79) Choice of Romand Christianity

MERCIA (c. 670-802)

Penda (7638-54)—killed Oswy; progressive economic and defensive policies—coinage=penny.

Ethelbald and Offa were the two dominant political personalities of the eighth century.

Ethelbald (716-57) Expansion of Mercian might; subdued seven kingdoms of southern England; Offa mopped up the rest.

Offa (757-96)—Offa's dyke, negotiations with Charlemagne. Marks high water-point of Mercian supremacy.

WESSEX (802-899)—Rising power corresponded with the first century of Viking invasions (c.785-878).

Ine (688-726)

Alfred (871-899).