TIMELINE

400

450 ca 450—invasion of Britain by **Angles, Saxons, and Jutes** begins

500

ca 540—the monk Gildas writes *On the Ruin and Conquest of Britain* (doc. 1)
550

597—missionaries sent by **Pope Gregory I** arrive in Kent; soon afterwards, **King Æthelbert of Kent** converts to Roman Christianity (docs. 2, 3) **600**

627—**King Edwin of Northumbria** becomes first ruler to embrace Roman Christianity in the north of England (doc. 4)

650

664—the **Synod of Whitby** sets Anglo-Saxon kingdoms on course to follow practices of Roman, rather than Irish, Christianity

ca 680—Ely "Princess" buried (doc. 5)

700

731—the Northumbrian monk **Bede** completes his *Ecclesiastical History of the English People* (docs. 2, 4)

750

789—the first recorded **Viking** attack in British Isles targets Dorset
800

850

867—Viking army captures York and steps up raids on Mercia and East Anglia

ca 886—treaty between **King Alfred the Great of Wessex** and the Viking king Guthrum defines boundary of the **Danelaw** (doc. 8)

ca 896—Alfred translates Pope Gregory I's treatise *Pastoral Care* as part of a larger project to make Latin works available in the Anglo-Saxon vernacular (doc. 9) **900**

939—death of King Athelstan of Wessex, the first self-proclaimed "king of England"
950

991—English army is defeated by Vikings at the **Battle of Maldon** in Essex (doc. 10) **1000**

1000 — ca 1000—the abbot Ælfric writes his *Colloquy* as a conversation manual to help young monks learn Latin (doc. 11)

ca 1015—Archbishop Wulfstan of York laments the evils of the second Viking Age in his Sermon to the English (doc. 14)

1016—the Danish **Cnut** becomes king of England, marrying **Emma of Normandy**, widow of Æthelred II, and bringing England into an Anglo-Scandinavian empire (docs. 15, 16, 17)

1025

1050

1066—after the death of **Edward the Confessor**, the last Anglo-Saxon king Harold **Godwinson** defeats a Norwegian invasion only to be killed by **Duke William of Normandy** at **Hastings** (docs. 18, 19)

1075

ca 1077—the **Bayeux Tapestry** is completed (doc. 20)

1085—King William I calls for an unprecedentedly thorough survey of his kingdom, which takes the form of the **Domesday Book** (doc. 23)

1096—first teachers and students gather at the future site of **Oxford University**

1097—**Archbishop Anselm of Canterbury** flees England because of his feud with King William II (doc. 25)

1100

1100—**Henry I**, youngest son of William the Conqueror, becomes king and marries Edith-Matilda (docs. 28, 29)

1103—**Council of Westminster** clarifies the agenda for reforming the English Church (doc. 27)

1125

ca 1130—**Gilbertine Order**, the only native English monastic order, founded (doc. 30)

1138—English victory over King David I of Scotland at the **Battle of the Standard** (doc. 32)

1139—outbreak of civil war between the forces of **King Stephen** and his cousin, **Empress Matilda** (doc. 31)

1144—the first accusation of ritual murder against English Jews made following the death of **William of Norwich** (doc. 42)

1150

1154—peace is restored with the accession of Empress Matilda's son as **King Henry II**

1159—John of Salisbury defines the proper relationship between kings and subjects in his *Policraticus* (doc. 45)

1164—Henry II seeks to dominate the English Church through the **Constitutions of Clarendon** (doc. 34)

1170—**Archbishop Thomas Becket**, just returned from several years of exile on the continent, is murdered in Canterbury Cathedral by knights loyal to Henry II (doc. 35)

1171—Henry II asserts his overlordship of Ireland

1175

1190—**Richard I** departs on the **Third Crusade**; captured on his way home from the East, Richard is redeemed for a massive ransom raised by his mother, **Eleanor of Aquitaine** (docs. 38, 46)

1191—monks of Glastonbury Abbey claim to discover the bodies of King Arthur and Guinevere (doc. 39)

1200

1208—After **King John** quarrels with Pope Innocent III over the election of a new archbishop of Canterbury, the pope places England under an **interdict** (doc. 48)

1209—**Cambridge University** founded by scholars fleeing unrest in Oxford

1214—King John's loss of Normandy is confirmed after the **Battle of Bouvines**, leading to baronial revolt in England (doc. 49)

1215—John agrees to the rebel barons' demands as laid out in **Magna Carta** (doc. 50)

1225

1224—the first **Franciscan friars** arrive in England (doc. 55)

ca 1230—composition of the *Ancrene Wisse* for a group of **anchoresses** (doc. 54)

1250

1250

1258—**Provisions of Oxford** imposed on **King Henry III** by barons led by **Simon de Montfort**

1263—Henry III's reassertion of independence leads to the **Second Barons' War** (docs. 56, 57, 58)

1274—Merton College founded at Oxford University (doc. 63)

1275

1282—**King Edward I** defeats **Llwelyn ap Gruffyd** and annexes Wales (doc. 65)

1290—**expulsion of English Jews** by order of Edward I (doc. 53)

1295—**'Model Parliament'** summoned by Edward I to raise money for foreign wars (doc. 59)

1300

1314—Scottish victory over **King Edward II**'s army at **Bannockburn** ensures existence of an independent Scotland

1315—beginning of the **Great Famine** following widespread crop failures (docs. 70, 71)

1325

1327—forced abdication of Edward II in favor of his son **Edward III** (doc. 76)

1346—first great English victory of the **Hundred Years' War** at the **Battle of Crécy** (docs. 78, 79)

1348—the **Black Death** arrives in English ports (docs. 80, 81)

1350

1348—Edward III founds the **Order of the Garter** (doc. 89)

1375

1381—the **Peasants' Revolt**, the largest popular uprising in English history (docs. 82, 83)

1394—the **Lollard Conclusions** are presented to Parliament (doc. 86)

1399—Parliament deposes **King Richard II** in favor of his cousin Henry Bolingbroke (doc. 87)

1400

1400—beginning of nine-year revolt of **Owain Glyn Dwr** against English rule in Wales

1415—**King Henry V** renews hostilities in France in the **Agincourt** campaign (docs. 88, 90)

1420—the **Treaty of Troyes** declares the French throne will pass to Henry V's heirs (doc. 88)

1425

1450—**Cade's Rebellion** breaks out in southeastern England in protest against taxes levied in support of the war in France

1450

1453—the Hundred Years War ends disastrously for the English, who retain port of **Calais** as their only continental possession; **King Henry VI** suffers his first bout of insanity

1455—the **First Battle of St. Albans** marks the beginning of thirty years of conflict between the **Lancastrian** and **Yorkist** parties, a conflict later dubbed the **Wars of the Roses** (docs. 96, 97)

1461—the Yorkist **Edward IV** is crowned king after the Lancastrian defeat at Towton

1470—Henry VI is briefly restored to the throne, only to be deposed and murdered the next year, following Edward IV's return to power

1475

1477—the first book is printed in England by William Caxton

1483—Following the death of his brother, Edward IV, the duke of Gloucester imprisons his nephews in the Tower of London and has himself crowned **King Richard III** (doc. 98)

1485—after Richard III's defeat at the **Battle of Bosworth Field**, victorious **Henry Tudor** institutes a new royal dynasty (docs. 99, 100, 101)

1500

ca 1500—last villagers in **Wharram Percy** are evicted and their land is converted to sheep pasture (doc. 61)