

## **Acts of Alfred the Great.**

Alfred the Great is the King of England, the youngest son of King Æthelwulf of Wessex and Osburg. Alfred was born in 849, in Berkshire. We will learn about it from the Asser's works. The family is very big, there are six children. His grandfather Egbert, King of Wessex, in the beginning of the IX century he united all the petty Anglo-Saxon kingdom in one state - England. Being 5-year-old boy, Alfred was sent to Rome to be anointed by Pope Leo IV. A few years later, he undertook with his pious and generous in relation to the church father of the secondary trip to Rome. On the way back, both of them spent quite long time at the court of Charles the Bald, where young Alfred met a higher civilization. In 871, he was proclaimed king, he was 22 years old. Alfred has a lot of experience of wars with the Danes, and he noticed some peculiarities of conducting their military operations: the active use of the fleet and avoiding battles on open terrain. In great secrecy Alfred began to build a large number of river ships, and by 875 year he already has considerable fleet. Alfred was attributed to military reform. He was the first, who rejected the idea of the people's militia and began to form a military class. Alfred started the restoration of the old fortresses and construction of new ones, which could contain substantial garrison, which could reflect the attacks of small groups of the enemy or withstand a siege until the main forces of the kingdom. By the end of the life of King chroniclers numbered around thirty reconstructed and built forts. He was able to rebuild the army, create a fleet for the defense of the coasts and inflict serious injury, which help to reach a compromise in the end of 80s of IX century: the south-western part of the country remained for the Anglo-Saxons, and the north-east was for the Danes. These areas became known as "The scope of the Danish law". During X cent. and in the first half of XI cent., the war with the Danes often brought victory House of Wessex. In fact, since the end of the X century a new wave of invasions from Scandinavia again changed the correlation of forces in favor of the Danes, and 991 of the Anglo-Saxon kings, to save the crown and avoid devastating raids, systematically paid tribute, a special tax was introduced for what - «Danish money» (Danegeld). By the middle of the XI century it was achieved the unification of all the Anglo-Saxon lands under the rule of King Edward the Confessor (1042-1066). Danish raids feudalization accelerated the

process. It was enough to pass the Danish squad for the IPT particular locality to thousands Curl forever deprived of the opportunity to restore its economy. Royal exactions spread more and more, and when they were introduced, "Danish money" (from 1 to 4 shillings - at that time it was a very large amount), community members often had to give the remains of his property. Finally, in the conditions of constant wars peasant needed a strong "patron", a man who could protect him from the Anglo-Saxon or Danish gangs roamed the country. Freeman was forced to give up their independence and freedom, moving together with the land under the "protection" Earl and pledging to perform a variety of duties.

War and the unification of the state contributed to the release of large, medium and small landowners of the feudal type. Now it is not the king of vigilantes armed and fed at the expense of the spoils, and the combatant became a landowner and by the labor of her peasants acquired heavy weapon and horse; contained squires and servants, surrounded by luxury yourself and your family. Thus strengthened arose before the Danish raids war-class heaters.

The royal power, which represents the interests of the emerging feudal class, was not limited to the distribution of land; by law, the power of the state it is reinforcing the dependence of peasants from the landowners, who were called glafords (later - lords).

Feudal power over the peasants intensified as a result of the fact that given the right to glaford their trial, he transferred part of the state functions. The right to a court, called (coka) (in other countries - immunity), while received only the largest and most influential feudal lords.

The process of strengthening of feudal relations was accompanied by changes in the management organization. Hundreds foreman, who had previously been elected at a meeting of hundreds, gradually turned into a royal official, do not obey the meeting, and his superior administrative stairs. That was his chief of Skira-geref (hence subsequently emerged the word "sheriff"), the county appointed king. Meeting hundreds and counties preserved, but they have now become a collection of the largest and most influential landowners. The meeting was also attended by hundreds of community elders, priests, and the most wealthy farmers.

The highest state power was concentrated in the hands of the king and uitenagemote ( "the Council of the wise"). In the uitenagemote combined Anglo-Saxon kingdoms were the largest land magnates: eldormeny counties, some resistances, the bishops. As advisors to the king, they simultaneously restrict his power as all important government decisions king had to agree with uitenagemote.

Alfred whole country divided into military districts in which every five households (guide) had to deliver a warrior, supplying it at its own expense all necessary. Service in the army was still the duty of every free man, but now he could spend the time on his farm. Some soldiers were on duty in the towns and villages, and the other part was in the army. After a while they changed places, so that the soldiers were no longer permanently cut off from his home. In addition, each farmer had to take part in the maintenance of bridges and fortifications. Alfred also restored and public order, but put the royal court above all other courts and tribunals. He was the first collection of national laws and ordered to present in English law the various Saxon kings, and selected the most appropriate ones. Now, any violation of the laws considered by the judges as an insult, wrought himself king. All of these public concerns, coupled with the constant threat of the Vikings undermined the king's health. In "Monologue" St. Augustine has a place to learn about the people who live in peace and tranquility. Now, Alfred, translating this passage, we would add: "... as I have not been able to." The last years of his reign again clouded renewed Viking raids. But the position of Wessex at that time strengthened so that the enemy attacks were easily repelled. Alfred died on October 26 of 899 year, being the king of a powerful kingdom of Wessex and Mercia neighboring overlord. On a silver penny minted his title "Rex Anglorum" that meant "King of England".

#### References:

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