

449 CE - Vortigern Invites Saxons To Help Repel Attacks By Picts

by *Iain MacAnTsaoir*

Though the exact date is a matter of contention, information ascribes this year as when Vortigern solicited the help of Saxon tribes to repel attacks by Picts and Scots. In return for this help he gave over lands to the Saxons. These lands were simply used by the Saxons as beachheads for further invasion of British lands. Soon enough, Saxons were spilling into Britain, forcing refugees to flee to the west and south. In British literary traditions and folklore, Vortigern is cast as a traitor for this act.

498 CE - Birth of Scottish Dal Riada

by *Cinaet Scotach*

The Birth of the Kingdom of Scottish Dal Riada took place circa 498 A.D. when Fergus Mor MacErc moved the royal seat of Irish Dal Riada to Dunnadd in Argyll on the west coast of Alba. The name *Dal Riada* means Riada's share. According to the traditional Irish genealogies, Cairbre Riada, the son of Conaire and grandson of Conn Ceadchathach (Conn of the Hundred Battles), led his people out of Munster and north to Antrim where their own land was founded...Dal Riada.

Irish Dal Riada was caught between the powerful Ui Neill's on one side and the Dal nAraide (Cruthin) on the other. With these two powerful and warlike neighbors, the only avenue for expansion was over the twelve mile stretch of the North Channel and into Alba. Over the years, several groups of Irish settled in Northern Briton, and some even in the south. All were either eradicated in one way or another or assimilated into the indigenous cultures over time. The only Irish settlement to withstand the test of time was the Dal Riada, who had been occupying the territory for as long as 100 years before Fergus Mor MacErc moved his throne to Dunnadd.

Very little is known about the early Kingdom of Scottish Dal Riada or its first King Fergus. It is believed that Fergus's father Erc MacEochaid and possibly his older brother held the throne before him in Ireland. Erc died in 474, leaving a space of 24 years unaccounted for in the Kings lists. Most historians feel that it could have been held by Fergus's older brother Loarn MacErc. Fergus died in 501 A.D.. In some later accounts it is said that he was killed by his followers. He was followed on the throne by his son Domangart MacFergus.

500's CE - Rome Withdraws From Gaul

by *Iain MacAnTsaoir*

When Rome withdrew, many of the Gallo-Roman provinces declared their sovereignty and formed their own governments. According to the Greek chronicler Zosimus, the area called Amorica was one of these provinces.

While there may have been Brythonic tribes in Amorica, the fifth and sixth centuries saw several immigrations of these refugees to Amorica. This area was targeted first by British mercenaries and princelings who were taking advantage of the chaos that was rampant in the area. This chaos was a result of the withdrawal of Rome from the face of barbarian invasions. These immigrations were therefore not a matter of simply walking into deserted areas. To the contrary, the area was taken by force of arms, against Gallo-Romans in their own countries as well as Frankish invaders. Neither was the whole of what is now Brittany taken in one fell swoop. The first immigrations took the northern and then the western area of the American peninsula. Later immigrations pushed into the southern parts. These immigrants are the people who introduced a dialect of Brythonic akin to Cornish into the area. As they took over the area from the Gallo-Romans they replaced the system of governance with a number of petty lordships. This area increased as the Bretons went against the Franks. Today, the area is called Brittany and the language is called Breton, and is spoken in four dialects.

577 CE - Breton Warrior Waroch defeats Merovingians

by *Iain MacAnTsaoir*

The Merovingian kings of the Frankish people had set their own sights on Amorica. They were less than impressed with the idea of an independent state in what they already considered their territory. However, the Breton Chief Waroch went to battle against the Franks. He ended their plans to subdue the area when he pushed them back past the Vilaine taking Vannes in the process.