

Ealhmund of Kent

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Ealhmund was King of Kent in 784.

The only contemporary evidence of him is an abstract of a charter dated in that year, in which Ealhmund granted land to the Abbot of Reculver.^[1] By the following year Offa of Mercia seems to have been ruling directly, as he issued a charter ^[2] without any mention of a local king.

There is a general consensus that he is identical^[3] to the Ealhmund found in two pedigrees in the Winchester (Parker) Chronicle, compiled during the reign of Alfred the Great. The genealogical preface to this manuscript, as well as the annual entry (covering years 855–859) describing the death of Æthelwulf, both make king Egbert of Wessex the son of an Ealhmund, who was son of Eafa, grandson of Eoppa, and great-grandson of Ingild, the brother of king Ine of Wessex, and descendant of founder Cerdic,^[4] and therefore a member of the House of Wessex (see House of Wessex family tree). A further entry has been added in a later hand to the 784 annal, reporting Ealhmund's reign in Kent.

Finally, in the Canterbury Bilingual Epitome, originally compiled after the Norman conquest of England, a later scribe has likewise added to the 784 annal not only Ealhmund's reign in Kent, but his explicit identification with the father Egbert.^[5] Based on this reconstruction, in which a Wessex scion became king of Kent, his own Kentish name and that of his son, Egbert, it has been suggested that his mother derived from the royal house of Kent,^[6] a connection dismissed by a recent critical review.^[3] It has likewise been suggested that Ealhmund might actually have been a Kentish royal scion, and that his pedigree was forged to give son Egbert the descent from Cerdic requisite to reigning in Wessex.^[7]

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See also

- List of monarchs of Kent

Notes

- ↑ "S 38" (http://www.anglo-saxons.net/hwaet/?do=seek&query=S+38). Anglo-Saxons.net. Retrieved 2012-02-10.
- ↑ "S 123" (http://www.anglo-saxons.net/hwaet/?do=seek&query=S+123). Anglo-Saxons.net. Retrieved 2012-02-10.
- ↑ ***a b*** Bierbrier, p. 382
- ↑ Garmonsway, pp. xxxii, 2, 4
- ↑ Garmonsway, pp. xxxix-xxxx, 52

- 6. ^ Kelley
- 7. ^ Bierbrier, p. 382, who does not concur with the hypothesis

References

- Bierbrier, M.L., "Genealogical Flights of Fancy. Old Assumptions, New Sources", *Foundations: Journal of the Foundation for Medieval Genealogy*, 2:379–87.
- Garmonsway, G.N. ed., *The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle*, London: J. M. Dent & Sons, Ltd.
- Kelley, David H., "The House of Aethelred", in Brooks, Lindsay L., ed., *Studies in Genealogy and Family History in Tribute to Charles Evans*. Salt Lake City: The Association for the Promotion of Scholarship in Genealogy, Occasional Publication, No. 2, pp. 63–93.

External links

- Anglo-Saxon Chronicle Year 784 (<http://omacl.org/Anglo/part2.html>) Mention of his reign.

Regnal titles		
Preceded by Ecgeberht II	King of Kent 784	Succeeded by Eadberht III Præn

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