

Cynric of Wessex

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Cynric was King of Wessex from 534 to 560. Everything known about him comes from the *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle*. There he is stated to have been the son of Cerdic, and also (in the regnal list in the preface) to have been the son of Cerdic's son, Creoda. During his reign it is said that the Saxons expanded into Wiltshire against strong resistance and captured Searobyrig or Old Sarum, near Salisbury, in 552. In 556 he and his son Ceawlin won a battle against the Britons at Beranburh, now identified as Barbury Castle.^[2] If these dates are accurate, then it is unlikely that the earlier entries in the chronicle, starting with his arrival in Britain with his father Cerdic in 495, are correct. David Dumville has suggested that his true regnal dates are 554-581.

		Cynric	
		<i>King of Wessex</i>	
Reign			534–560
Predecessor			Cerdic
Successor			Ceawlin
Issue			
	Ceawlin		
	Cutha or Cuthwulf ^[1]		
Father			Cerdic
Died			560

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Etymology

The name Cynric has a straightforward Old English etymology meaning "kin-ruler." However, as both his predecessor, Cerdic, and successor, Ceawlin, might have Celtic names, an alternative etymology has been postulated from "Cunorix" which would mean "hound-king" in Old British (rendered as Cinir in Old Welsh, Kynyr in Middle Welsh).^[3] In 1967 a stone was found at Wroxeter in a Sub-Roman context (dating to c. 460 - 475 AD^[4]) with the inscription CUNORIX MACUS MAQVI COLINE, which translates as "Cunorix ('Hound-king') son of Maqui-Coline ('Son-of-Holly'), both of which are regarded as Irish personal names.^{[5][6]}

In Popular Culture

In the 2004 film *King Arthur*, Cerdic and Cynric were depicted as Saxon invaders, and were killed, respectively, by King Arthur and Lancelot at the Battle of Badon Hill (Mons Badonicus). Cynric was portrayed by Til Schweiger.

Notes

- ↑ According to the Online DNB article on Ceol, he was the son of Cutha (probably Cuthwulf) and grandson of Cynric

2. ^ Myres, p. 162
3. ^ Clemoes, p. 30
4. ^ Wright, R.P. and Jackson, K.H. (1968) `A Late Inscription from Wroxeter', *The Antiquaries Journal* 48, part 2: 296-300.
5. ^ Laing, p.114
6. ^ Wright, R.P. and Jackson, K.H. (1968) `A Late Inscription from Wroxeter', *The Antiquaries Journal* 48, part 2: 296-300.

References

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See also

- House of Wessex family tree

Regnal titles		
Preceded by Cerdic	King of Wessex 534–560	Succeeded by Ceawlin of Wessex

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