

Here begin the excerpts of ap Urien found in the Book of Saint Germanus, and the Origin and Genealogy of the Britons¹

I The World Ages

From the beginning of the world to the Flood there are 2242 years.

From the Flood up to Abraham, there are 942 years.

From Abraham up to Moses, there are 642 years.

From Moses up to David, 500 [years].

From David up to Nebuchadnezzar, 649 [years].

- II The First World Age from Adam up to Noah; the Second from Noah up to Abraham; the Third [from Noah] up to David; the Fourth from David up to Daniel; the Fifth from Daniel to John [the Baptist]; the Sixth from John [the Baptist] up to the Judgement in which Our Lord Jesus Christ will come to judge the living and the dead and the age through fire.

III Certain information about the island of Britain

The island of Britain is named from a certain Brutus, a Roman consul. It rises from North Africa towards the west; it has the extent of 900 miles in length, 200 in breadth. There are 28 cities in it and innumerable promontories, together with innumerable forts that are built from stone and turf. Four people live in it: the Scots, the Picts, the Saxons (and) the Britons. It has three islands, of which one lies towards Armorica and is called the Isle Gueith²; the second is situated in the channel of sea between Ireland and Britain and its name is called Eubonia³, that is, Manaw; the third is situated at the far end of the world of Britain, beyond the Picts, and is called Orc⁴. And so in the proverbs of the ancients, it is said "He ruled Britain with her three islands". There are many rivers in her, which flow to all parts, i.e. to the east, to the west, to the north, to the south. But, however, there are two rivers more famous than the other rivers: Tamensis⁵ and Sabrina⁶, like two arms of Britain, through which barges long ago used to sail to bring riches for trade.

- IV The Britons long ago filled Britain from sea to sea.

¹ Translation ©
2016 Keith
Fitzpatrick-
Matthews,

based on a
text prepared
by the
translator

² Wight
³ The Isle of Man
⁴ Orkney
⁵ The Thames

⁶ The Severn

V The genealogy of the Britons

The origin of the Britons: they derive their etymology from the Romans and the Greeks. That is, from their mother Lavinia, daughter of Latinus king of Italy, and from their father Silvius, son of Enach, son of Dardanus. This same Dardanus, son of Saturn, king of the Greeks, proceeded to the region of Asia and Trouus, son of Dardanus, built the city of Troy. Trouus [was] the father of Priam and Anchises, Anchises the father of Aeneas, Aeneas the father of Ascanius and Silvius: Silvius, the son of Aeneas and Lavinia, daughter of Latinus, king of Italy. And from the progeny of Silvius, son of Aeneas by Lavinia, arose Remus and Romulus and Brutus, the three sequential sons of the pious queen Rhea, who built Roma.

Brutus was Roman consul when he plundered Spain and brought it into the servitude of Rome. And afterwards he occupied the island of Britain, which the Britons (sons of the Romans, long ago sprung from Silvius Postumus) inhabit. And so he is called Postumus since he was born after the death of his father Aeneas. And his mother was Lavinia, concealed when she was pregnant; and so he was called Silvius since he was born in a wood. And so the Roman kings and the Britons are called Silvii, since they were born from him. But the Britons arose from Brutus and from the progeny of Brutus.

- VI Cassivellaunus [was] the British king and he was against Gaius Julius Caesar, the king of Rome, who was sent by the Latin emperor to plunder the island of Britain. And he made war before Cassivellaunus on two occasions through Gaius Caesar and in the third battle [Cassivellaunus] was killed by Caesar, sent by the emperor.

These are the names of the emperors who came to Britain. The first emperor, Julius, came to Britain by way of the Renum⁷ and Germany, up to battle in Tammensis⁸. [The first] afterwards [was] the emperor Claudius, who reached up to Orca⁹ and Euuonia¹⁰ and then left for Roma. The third emperor [was] Reversus¹¹, by whom a stron wall was made. The fourth [was] the tyrant Curatius¹². The fifth [was] Constantius, the father of Constantine the Great, that is a most peaceful man. That Constantius met his death in Britain, who left his son Constantine, from his concubine Helena, made emperor of the Gauls, who died in Britain. The sixth emperor Maximus, with whom [Saint] Martin often spoke, was made unwilling emperor in Britain. The seventh [was] Gratian, the son of Valentinian, who left Britain for Rome and was there killed by Maximus – whose blood was avenged by Eugenius on Maximus and afterwards he killed Eugenius on behalf of the brothers Valentinian and Gratian.

And in the time of Guorthigern king of Britain, the Saxons came to Britain, that is in the year of Our Lord¹³, just as Slebhine, Abbot of Ia¹⁴, discovered or learned in the city of Ripum¹⁵. Five hundred years from the birth of Our Lord up to the

⁷ Rhine

⁸ Thames

⁹ Orkney

¹⁰ The Isle of Man

¹¹ Severus

¹² Carausius

¹³ The date AD

753 is missing

¹⁴ Iona

¹⁵ Ripon

Kalends of January on the 12th day of the moon¹⁶, as others say, 300 years from when the Saxons conquered Britain up to the aforementioned year.

VII The Britons, from Brutus

Brutus was the son of Hissicion, Hissicon the son of Alanus, Alanus the son of Rhea Silvia, Rhea Silvia the daughter of Numa Pompilius, Numa the son of Ascanius, Ascanius the son of Aeneas, Aeneas the son of Anchises, the son of Trou, the son of Dardanus, the son of Flisa, the son of Iuuan, the son of Japheth.

In fact, Japheth fathered seven sons. The first, Gomer, from whom the Gauls; second, Magog, from whom the Scythians and the Goths; third, Madai, from whom the Medes; fourth, Iuuan, from whom the Greeks; fifth, Tubal, from whom the Hebrews, the Spanish and the Italians; sixth, Mosoch, from whom the Cappadocians; seventh, Tiras, from whom the Thracians.

Japheth the son of Noah, the son of Lamech, the son of Methuselah, the son of Enoch, the son of Jared, the son of Malalehel, the son of Cainan, the son of Enos, the son of Seth, the son of Adam, the son of God the Most High.

VIII When Brito was reigning in Britain, the priest Eli was judging in Israel and then the Ark of the Covenant was stolen by foreigners. His brother Postumus reigned among the Latins.

IX The three sons of Noah divided the globe of the earth into three parts after the Flood: Shem in Asia, Ham in Africa and Japheth in Europe. [The first man who came] to Europe, Alanus with his three sons, whose names were Hission, Aremnon, Negro. Hission had four sons – Francus, Romanus, Alamannus, Brito. But Armenon had five sons – Gothus, Walagothus, Gebustus, Burgundus, Longobardus. Negro had three sons – Vandalus, Saxo, Boguarus. So from Hissicio, four peoples are sprung – the Franks, the Latins, the Alamanni, the Britons. But from Armenon, the Goths, the Walagoths, the Gepids, the Burgundians and the Lombards. But from Negro, the Boguarii, the Vandals, the Saxons and the Thuringians. And these peoples were subdivided through the whole of Europe.

So Alanus was the son of Fethebir, [Fethebir] the son of Egomuin, [Egomuin the son of Thoi, Thoi the son of Boib, Boib] the son of Semoin, [Semoin] the son of Mair, [Mair] the son of Ethach, [Ethach the son of Aurthach, Aurthach] the son of Ethieth, [Ethieth] the son of Ooth, [Ooth] the son of Abir, [Abir] the son of Ra, [Ra] the son of Isra, [Isra] the son of Hisrau, [Hisrau] the son of Bath, [Bath] the son of Iobath, [Iobath] the son of Iuuan, [Iuuan] the son of Japheth, [Japheth] the son of Noah, [Noah] the son of Lamech, [Lamech] the son of Methuselah, [Methuselah] the son of Enoch, [Enoch] the son of Jared, [Jared] the son of Malalehel, [Malalehel] the son of Cainan, [Cainan] the son of Enos, [Enos] the son of Seth, [Seth] the son of Adam, [Adam] the son of God.

X But while the Romans were to accept the lordship of the whole world, they sent legates to the Britons so that they should receive hostages and tax from them,

¹⁶ AD 753

just as they were receiving from all regions and islands. But because the Britons were tyrannical and arrogant, they scorned the delegation of the Romans.

- XI** Then, when Julius Caesar was first to receive sole rule and got it, he was exceedingly angry and came to Britain with forty warships. And he reached the mouth of the Tamensis¹⁷, in which his ships endured shipwreck while he was fighting against Dolobellus – who was proconsul of the British king, who was himself called Bellinus, whose son was the Minocannus who occupied all the islands of the Tyrrhenian Sea. And Julius returned without a victory, with many killed and his ships broken. And again, after the space of three years, he came with a great army and three hundred warships and reached as far as the mouth of the Tamensis¹⁸. And there they entered into battle, and there, there fell many soldiers from his knights, since the aforementioned consul had placed iron-tipped stakes and warlike seed – *cetilau*¹⁹ – in a ford of the river. This invisible contrivance was a huge danger to the soldiers of the Romans and they departed without victory on that occasion. The third battle was waged next to the place that is called Trinouantum²⁰ and Julius accepted the control of Britain 47 years before the birth of Christ, 5215 from the beginning of the world.
- XII** On three occasions, the leaders of the Romans were killed by the Britons. It happened that after the aforementioned battle that was between the Britons and the Romans, when their leaders were killed, and after the killing of the tyrant Maximus, they were in fear for forty years.
- XIII** Guorthigern was reigning in Britain, and while he ruled, he was oppressed by fear of the Picts and Scots, and by a Roman attack and indeed through fear of Ambrosius.
- XIV** Meanwhile, there came three warships, driven out in exile from Germany, in which were Hors and Hengest, who were indeed brothers, the sons of Wihtgils, son of Witta, son of Wecta, son of Woden, son of Frealaf, son of Fredulf, son of Finn, son of Folcwald, son of Geata, who was, so they say, son of god – not the God of Hosts, but one of the idols which they themselves worshipped.
- XV** But Guorthigern received them kindly and handed over to them the island that in their language is called Tanet²¹, in British speech *Ruoihm*. While Gratian was ruling a second time, with Equitius²², the Saxons were received by Guorthigern in the 347th year after the Passion of Christ.
- XVI** At that time, Saint Germanus came to Britain to preach. And he shone among them with many virtues, and many were made saved by him, and many perished. I have determined to write down a few miracles that the Lord performed through him. The first miracle of his miracles. There was a certain wicked and tyrannical king, whose name was Benlli. The saintly man wished to visit him and hasten to the wicked king, so that he might preach to him. And when that man of God arrived at the gate of the city together with his companions, the gatekeeper

¹⁷ Thames

¹⁸ Thames

¹⁹ caltrops

²⁰ London?

²¹ Thanet

²² AD 374

came and greeted them. And they sent [him] to the king. And the king gave them a stern reply and with an oath said "If they were to be here or if they were to remain until the end of a year, they may never come into this city". And while they were waiting for the doorman to announce to them the tyrant's reply, the day was turning towards night and night was approaching. And they did not know where they should go.

XVII Meanwhile, one of the king's household came from the middle of the city and prostrated himself in front of the man of God and announced to them all the words of the tyrant king. And he invited them to his house, and they went away with him and he received them kindly. And he did not have any kind of food except for one cow with her calf. And he killed the calf and cooked it and placed it before them.

XVIII And Saint Germanus advised that none of its bones should be broken. And so it was done. And on the next day, the calf was found in front of its mother, healthy and alive and uninjured. Again, they got up in the morning to obtain a greeting from the tyrant. But while they were praying, they were waiting by the gate of the citadel or city and a man ran up to them and his sweat was running from the top of his head to the soles of his feet. And he prostrated himself in front of them. And Saint Germanus said "Do you believe in the Holy Trinity?" and he replied "I believe". And he baptised him and kissed him and said "Go in peace. In this very hour, you will die and the angels of God are waiting for you in heaven, so that you, who have believed, shall go off with them to God", And he went into the citadel, happy. And the prefect held him for the king's pleasure and bound him, and he was led before the tyrant and killed, since he had harmed the worthless tyrant; for, anyone who had not arrived for service in the citadel before sunrise was to be killed. And they remained for the whole day by the gate of the city and did not obtain the greeting of the tyrant. In his usual way, the aforementioned man was there and Saint Germanus said to him "Take care that no man from among your people remain in the citadel tonight". And he returned into the citadel and led out his sons, who were eight in number, and they returned with him to the aforementioned guest-house. And Saint Germanus advised them to stay there, awake. And with the doors shut, he said "Be vigilant and whatever happens in the citadel, do not look at it and pray without ceasing and call out to your God". And after a short interval of the night, fire fell from the sky and burnt up the citadel and all the men who were there with the tyrant. And they never compared it up to the present day, and they never [re]built the citadel up to today. On the next day, that man who was host to them believed and was baptised together with all his sons and the whole region with them (his name was Cadell). And he blessed him and added and said "There may never lack a king from your offspring for eternity, and you shall be king from the present day". And so it happened that what is said by the prophet might be fulfilled: "raising up the poor from the dust" and so on "that he might sit with princes" and so on. Following the word of Saint Germanus, a king was made from a slave.

All his sons were made kings and all the whole region of the Pausi²³ was ruled by their descendants up to the present day.

XIX It happened that after the Saxons were meted out [land] in the aforementioned island Tanet²⁴, the aforementioned king promised them to be given food and clothing without stint, as much as they pleased. And they promised to make war bravely against his enemies. But when those barbarians had multiplied greatly in number, the Britons could not supply food and clothing to them, since they demanded a lot. And the Britons said “We cannot give you what the king had promised, since your number has multiplied. Go away from us. We do not want any of your help”. And they made counsel with their elders that they should break the peace. But as Hengest was a learned and astute and clever man, and as he had recognised the king and his people to be lazy, entering into counsel, [said] to the king “We are few. If you wish, we shall send to our land for hand-picked soldiers and the strongest of our region to come to us to fight for you and for your people”. And the king ordered that they should do it. And they sent envoys across the Tithican Vale²⁵. And they returned with nineteen warships. And hand-picked soldiers came in them and in one of their warship came a girl, beautiful of face and exceedingly pretty – she was Hengest’s daughter. But after the warships had arrived, Hengest held a party for Guorthigern and his soldiers and his interpreter (who was called Ceredig), and his daughter served them wine and cider. And they became drunk and were satisfied no end. While they were drinking, Satan entered into Guorthigern’s heart, so that he should love the girl, and he asked for her from her father by way of his interpreter and said “Whatever you ask of me²⁶

²³ Men of Powys

²⁴ Thanet

²⁵ The North Sea

²⁶ *the text breaks*

off at this

point