# **The History of England as it affects Genealogy**

## ***The Gaels, Romans, Anglo-Saxons and Normans***

Among the first settlers was an assortment of Stone Age tribesmen who had originated from Europe. Later immigrants, known as Celts, came from east of the Rhine.

The Romans then came and ruled for three and a half centuries.

In 450 AD the Angles, Saxons and Jutes (commonly referred to as Anglo-Saxons), who were tribesmen from the forests of Germany and Denmark, realised that the collapse of the Roman Empire had left Britain defenceless, and invaded. They forced the Celts to the uplands of Cornwall, Wales and Scotland. Tribal chieftains, each lording over a feudal society of earls, noblemen, freemen and serfs, established 7 kingdoms.

In the 8th century, one of these “Kings” announced himself as king of all the kingdoms, even though he only ruled Wessex. This began the line of kings of England. This king spent most of his time defending Wessex from the Norse Vikings. The Norsemen did however conquer areas in the north and central England. In time they merged with the Anglo-Saxons.

In the 10th century a new wave of Danes arrived and in 1016 King Canute became king of England.

In 1066 an army of Normans from France, who were themselves descended from Norsemen, led by William I (The Conqueror) defeated the Saxon army (led by Harold). Initially the Anglo-Saxon English was replaced by the Anglo-Norman French. However, in time the Normans were absorbed into the English culture. William’s great achievement was that he unified and strengthened the country under a central government.

## 500 years from William to the Death of King Henry VIII (1547)

This was the moulding of the nation. Parliament was established, which in the 14th century divided into the House of Lords for the barons and higher clergy and the House of Commons for knights and burgesses.

Kings found that although they still ruled they needed to get money from the people through Parliament in order to fund armies etc. This increasingly meant giving concessions.

From Oxford and Cambridge universities (founded in the 12th century) came England’s first dissenters to Church control. They were “Anglican” Catholics who in the beginning were opposed to not only Catholicism as such but to papal supremacy in their land. There were constant struggles between popes and kings and this was an element in the intermittent wars with France, where the Church was an arm of the state.

Henry VIII persuaded Parliament to break with Rome and make him “Supreme Head” of an independent Church of England.

## Next 250 Years

Under Elizabeth I, the third of Henry VIII’s children to follow him on the throne, England sent its ships, explorers, etc into a world dominated by France and Spain and Sir Francis Drake defeated the Spanish Armada in 1588.

In 1603, James 1 became the first king to rule both England and Scotland. He was constantly at loggerheads with parliament and civil war broke out during 1642 to 1648. This was between the puritans (Roundheads) and the royalists (Cavaliers).

In 1649, at the height of the constant struggle between Parliament and the Crown, King Charles I was beheaded. Oliver Cromwell then ruled as a dictator for 11 years. However England decided that it did not like a republican type of government and when Cromwell died Parliament invited Charles II, son of the beheaded Charles, to take the throne of a restored monarchy in 1660. This is known as the “Restoration”. Roman Catholics became barred from public office. However, the kings relied upon bribes from the king of France to fund their spending. This resulted in a revolution in 1689 that saw it became law that the king must be Protestant. James II, king at the time, fled to France. The crown was offered to William of the Dutch House of Orange and his British wife Mary. William and Mary then approved the Bill of Rights which defined the authority of Parliament.

In 1707 Great Britain came into existence with the Act of Union with Wales and Scotland. In 1714 George I became the first monarch of the House of Hanover.

From 1739 to 1763 there were constant power struggles with France and Spain. Peace in 1763 resulted in England being dominant in North America and India.

During 1775-1783, there was the American war of Independence and from 1793 to 1815 there were wars against French revolutionaries and Napolean. In this period the first empire developed, and the Industrial Revolution got its start.

While I have found some traces of Hayde (and derivative) families in England during this time period I don’t think that any Hayde branches have survived. This is because I have not found any living Hayde that cannot trace themselves back to Ireland rather than England. There are however Hade and Heade branches, not associated with Ireland.

## From 1800 to WWI

In this time Britain and its second empire (re-established and expanded after the loss of America) gave the world a relatively stable time. A population of 7 million in 1700 grew to 14 million in the early 1800s. Queen Victoria expanded the empire, Lord Nelson defeated the French and Spanish at Trafalgar in 1805 and Wellington defeated Napoleon at Waterloo in 1815.

The industrial revolution also resulted in a movement of people to the cities. This seems to have attracted Hayde/Hade/Heade families from Ireland to England (principally to Liverpool, Manchester and London).