NOTES ON (EARLY) OLD ENGLISH PERSONAL NAMES

by

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('Seaxmund Swaefhelming')

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Note – this is not meant to be authoritative or exhaustive; I don't have the expertise, and begrudge the time, for more detailed research on such a minor topic. In particular, tables IV and V are incomplete and a few names are probably missing from table VIIa. However I regard all names in table I, and all unbracketed names in table VIIa, to be authentic. Together with tables II, IIb and VIIb, this represents a total of 5,231 compound names and 172 uncompounded, plus the 14 unusual names in table VI. This should be more than sufficient for Society purposes in any concievable circumstances.

INTRODUCTION

Old English names were of two types - simple, or uncompounded; and compounded, which were made up of two elements. In our period there seems to have been no prejudice against uncompounded names - q.v. such important Saxons as Ida Eopping, Hengest, Finn, Offa, AElle, Penda, all with uncompounded names. In some cases people seem to have been knwn by either - one early West Saxon king is referred to as both Cutha and Cuthwulf.

In an attempt to eliminate the use of inauthentic late and foreign names and name-elements I have drawn up the following lists. As I cannot find an exhaustive work on OE names (such a work - Förstemann - exists for Continental Germanic names) I have erred on the side of caution. Anyone who particularly wants a 'Possible' name is best advised to do the research themselves. Even so, I hope this work will also widen the variety of names and name-elements at use in the society and make characters' names less similar and hence less confusing.

Phonological note.

Both eth ð and thorn þ are written 'th'. Ash is written AE or ae. Thus (a)e should be read 'ash or e' and a(e) as 'ash or a'. In general, spellings conform to Early West Saxon, with possible earlier and Northumbrian variants noted where appropriate.

COMPOUNDED NAMES

Compounded names are made up of two elements, drawn from a stock of traditional 'name words'. These would have had a meaning to the Anglo--Saxons, as indeed many of them still do in English; however compounds seem to have been formed regardless of the 'meaning' of the whole name. Some elements are used only as first, or as second, parts of names; others can be used as either, sometimes with a change of form. It should be noted that later OE usage allowed a greater freedom in this than earlier usage; I have not included late positional variants. It should also be noted that double compounds, e.g. Wulfwulf, do NOT occur.

The sex of a name is determined by the second element, which is usually of the same grammatical gender as the person named. In the case of names beginning 'Cw(o)en-' only females are recorded; this is not surprising, it means 'woman'. A couple of other sex-specific first-elements are found, but this is probably due to chance non-recording of female names, which occur infrequently anyway.

Note that all examples of Old English names from texts cannot be used. There are many examples listed which appear to be spurious for Society purposes, for various reasons:

i) Names of mythical and semi-historical figures do not occor as the names
   of 'mere mortals' in the early OE period.

ii) Some names are of Continental origin; especially suspect are the
    names of priests, bishops, queens, and merchants.However, there also
seems to be an early practice of using 'Continental' type names that
later die out, perhaps as memories of the homelands fade. (E.g. Ingeld,
 Hlothheri).

iii) Some names appear to be wholly native, but a late 'fashion'.
    (E.g. names in Leod-, Leof-).

iv) Many later names are of Scandinavian origin.

I have drawn a dividing line of AD 800 to account for the names in
(iv) - the earliest Viking recorded in the Chronicle is Healfdene (i.e.
Halfdan) in 796 (Tolkien). I have also tried to exclude other unlikely
name-elements, being particularly suspicious of examples not recorded until
the 8th century.

It cannot be assumed that all name-elements are of common Germanic
stock; for example, 'AEthel-'does not occur in Norse names at all,
despite being by far the most common OE name-element, and 'Til-' is found
only in OE. It is interesting to note that the early OE do not seem to
have used the names of deities in names of people - cf. the frequency of
'Thor-' in Viking names and 'Ing(i)-'in Continental ones.

I have divided the name-elements into 'definites', 'probables' (no
evidence against), and 'possibles' (arguments on both sides). I have
appended lists of elements I suggest should not be used, spelling variants,
and apparantly compound names the OE appear to have treated more has
uncompounded names. Both 'definites' and 'probables' can probably be used
with impunity. I have included possible shortened forms of name-elements,
where these differ from the original form of the word. (Q.v. under
uncompounded names and diminutives).

TABLE I - DEFINITES

Ist ELEMENTS	2nd ELEMENTS	MEANING	SHORT FORM
Ac- (I)	-	oak	Ac(c)-
AElf-	-	elf	AEf(f)-
AEsc-	-	ash, spear	
AEthel-	-	noble, homeland	AEl-, AEd-
And- (I,2)	-	anger	
Beadu-	-baed, -baeth (m)	battle	Pa(e)d(d)-
Beag-	-	ring, crown	
Beorn-	- (3)	man, warrior	Pe(o)n(n)-
Beald-	-beald (m)	bold, brave	
Beorht-	-beorht (m)	bright	Beot(t)- (4)

1st ELEMENTS	2nd ELEMENTS	MEANING	SHORT FORM
Bil-	-bill (5) (m)	sword, knife	
Bot-	–	help	
Breg(u)-	–	ruler	
–	-brord (1,6) (m)	point, spear	
Burh-	-burh (f)	protection	Buc-, Bu(c)g-
Cent- (1)	–	? (7)	
Ceol-	–	keel, ship	
C(o)en(e)- (8)	–	keen, brave, bold	
Cyn(e)-, -i- (9)	–	kin, royal	Cun-
Cuth-	–	famous	Cudd-
Cwic- (1)	–	quick, alive	
Cw(o)en- (f) (8)	–	woman, queen	
Daeg- (1)	–	day	
Dryht- (1,10)	–	army	
Dun-	–	hill,mountain; or brown?	
Dycg- (1)	–	dycgan= 'to thrive'	
Ead-	–	property, wealth	Ed(d)-
Eald-	–	old	Ald-
Ealh-	–	temple, refuge	Alc-
Ean-	–	fertility?	
Eard-	–	home(land)	
Ecg-	–	edge, sword, blade	Ec(c)-
Eo-	–	horse	
Eofor-	–	boar	
Eorcon- (1)	–	good, holy	
Eormen- (1)	–	universal, immense	Imm-
Eorp-	–	swarthy, brown	Eop(p)-
Feolu-, Fel(i)- (1)	–	?	Fel(l)-
–	-flaed (f)	beauty	
Folc-	–	folk, nation	
Forth-	–	forth, onwards	
Frige-, Freo- (1)	–	free	
Frith(u)-	-frith (m)	peace	
Gar-	-gar (m)	spear	
Gean- (1)	–	again(st)	
Gearu- (1)	–	ready, prepared	
Geb-, Gef-, Gif(e)- (11)			
	-gefu, -gifu (f)	gift	

?

TABLE I – DEFINITES (cont.)

1st ELEMENTS	2nd ELEMENTS	MEANING	SHORT FORM
Gisl-, Gils-	-gils, -gisl (m)	hostage? arrow?	
Guth-	-gyth (f)	battle, war	Gud(d)-
-	-had (m)	rank, '-hood'	
Hael-	-	?	
Haem-	-	cf. 'ham', home?	
Heah- (12)	-heah (m)	high, illustrious	
Heard- (10)	-heard (m)	hard	
Heathu-	-haeth, -haed (m)	battle, war	Had(d)-
Helm-	-helm (m)	helm, protection	
Here-, -i- (9)	-here, -i (m)	army	
Hild(i)-	-hild (f)	battle, war	Hid(d)-
Hroeth- (13) (1)	-	victory, glory	Hrod(d)-
Hroth	-	joy, pleasure	Hrod(d)-
Hun-	-hun (m)	Hun; or (bear)cub	
Hwaet-	-	bold, sharp	
Hyge-	-	mind, heart, courage	Hu(c)g-
Hyse-	-hyse (m) (1)	(young)man, warrior	Hus-
Ing- (1)	-	the god Ing	
-	-lac (m)	battle; or offering	
-	-laf, -lab (m) (11)	cf. 'leave'. Remnant?	Laf-
- (14)	-maer (m)	renowned, famous	
- (14)	-man,-mon (m)	man	
Mearc- (1,15)	-	boundary, marches	
Mere-	-	sea (16)	
Mild-	-	gentle, merciful	
-	-mod (m)	mood,heart, courage	
-	-mund (m) (17)	protection, hand	
Noth-	-noth (m) (17)	boldness	
Ord-	-	point,spear	Od(d)-
Os-	-	(pagan) god	
Pend-	-	pledge?	
Peoht-	-	Pict	
Pleg(e)-	-	sport, fighting	Plecg-
Raed-	-red (m)	counsel, power	Rad-
Ric-	-ric (m)	power, strength	
Sae-, Sa-	-	sea	
Scir- (1)	-	bright, shining	
Seax-	-	knife, sax	
Sel(e)-	-	hall, house	

TABLE I — DEFINITES (cont.)

1stELEMENTS	2nd ELEMENTS	MEANING	SHORT FORM
Sig(é)-, -i- (9)	-sige, -i (m)	victory	Si(c)g-
—	-stan (m)	stone, rock	
Swaeb-, Swaef- (11)	—	Suevi, Swabian	
Swith-	-swith (f)	strong, violent	
Tat-	—	happy, glad	
—	-thegn (m) (1)	warrior, thegn	
Til-	—	good, excellent	
Theod- (1)	—	people, nation (18)	
Thing- (1)	—	assembly, court	
Thryth-	-thryth (f)	force, strength	
Tid-	—	time, season	
Tond-, Tand- (1)	—	fire? hearth? home?	
Torht-	—	bright, glorious	Tot(t)-
Trum- (1)	—	firm, strong	Tum(m)-
Tun-	—	(enclosed) field, village	
Waer-	—	?	
Weald-	-weald, -walda (m)	rule(r)	
W(e)alh-	-w(e)alh- (m)	foreigner, Briton	
Weard-	-weard (m)	guardian, lord, king	
Weoh-, Wih-	-wiu (-wih (1)) (m)	idol, temple	Weh(h)-
Wig-	-wig (m)	war, battle	Wi(c)g-
Wiht-	-wiht (m)	person, 'wight' (19)	Wit(t)-
Wil(li)-	—	will, desire	
Wine-, -i- (9)	-wine, -i (m)	friend, protector	
Wulf- (12)	-wulf (m) (20)	wolf	Wuf(f)-
Wyn-	-wyn (f)	joy	
—	-wudu (m) (1)	wood	

TABLE II — PROBABLES

1stELEMENTS	2nd ELEMENTS	MEANING
Daed- (1)	—	deed
Deor-	—	bold, brave, dear
Ealu- (21)	—	ale
Eastor- (1,22)	—	east; goddess Eostre?
—	-for (m) (23)	traveller, expedition
R(a)eg(e)n-	—	the gods, mighty (4)
Sc(e)ot- (23)	—	quick, ready; or Scot?
Stith- (23)	—	stiff, strong, resolute

1st ELEMENTS	2nd ELEMENTS	MEANING	SHORT FORM
Blaec-	-	black	
Blaed-	-	breath, life	
-	-fus (m)	eager, keen	
Leod- (24)	-	king, nation	
Leof- (24)	-	love	

TABLE III - POSSIBLES (i.e. 'probably nots')

1st ELEMENTS	2nd ELEMENTS	MEANING	
Ael- (25)	-	all	
Dene- (26)	-	Danish	
Dream-	-	joy	
Frod- (27)	-	wise	
-	-gearn (f) (28)	?	
-	-georn (m) (1)	eager	
Hring- (29)	-	ring	
-	-hwaet (m) (30)	bold, sharp	
Hwit-	-	white	
Maeg-	-	(male) kinnsman	
Maer-	-	renowned	
Man(n)-	-	man	
Oft- (29)	-	Oft(en)	
-	-reow (29)	fierce	
Steaf-	-	?	
Uht- (31)	-	dawn? or q.v. 'wiht'	
Wusc- (U(u)x-) (32)	-	wish	

NOTES TO TABLES I, II, IIb & III

(1) Rare (at any rate, in our period).

(2) Characteristically an early form.

(3) The use of this as a second element seems to derive from the
Norse '-björn'.

(4) Conjectural. (i.e. could derive from something else).

(5) Recorded as a second element once - but in Bede. Appears genuine.

(6) The uncompounded name is, however, quite common. (i.e. Brorda).

(7) May be related to 'Cuth-', famous.

(8) Forms in '-oe-' appear earlier.

(9) Forms in '-i' appear earlier.

(10) Appears only in male names; this may be due to chance. There appears
to be no reason why it should not form female names.

(11) Forms in '-b' appear earlier.

(12) Use as a first element occurs towards the end of the period.

(13) Occurs in Northumbria. Not to be confused with 'Hroth-'.

(14) No authenticated OE examples occur of this used as a first element.

(15) Found largely among the royal family of Mercia.

(16) Or may be connected with '-maer', q.v.

(17) However, this appears to be a feminine noun.

(18) From the same root as 'Teutonic', 'Dutch', and German 'Deutsch'
Rare in native names.

(19) Or from a Celtic source, cf. Isle of Wight (Ström)

(20) Sometimes appears as '-ulf' even as early as Bede (although his
'u' and 'uu' spellings are hardly consistant). I would suggest,
however, that '-wulf' is used; it is never wrong.

(21) Some authors ascribe this to scribal error (presumably of 'Eald-'
or 'Ealh-') but it seems to occur frequently enough, and with
enough provenance, to be regarded as a seperate name element.

(22) 'East-' appears later; 'Eastor-' appears genuine, but on very
little evidence.

(23) Twice in our period.

(24) Appears once or twice in eighth-century names; appears very
frequently in the late OE period (C9-C11)

(25) Probably scribal error for 'AElf-', 'Ealh-', 'Eald-', or even
'AEthel-'.

(26) Occurs largely in Scandinavian names; however, may be a genuine OE
name-element. Any use as a second element appears entirely Norse.

(27) Occurs largely in Continental names. May be genuine OE; the un-
compounded name 'Frod' appears in our period.

(28) Probably a scribal error for '-gifu'.

(29) Once.

(30) Probably derived from Norse '-hvat' as a second element.

(31) Probably a late form of 'Wiht-' and not an independant word.

(32) Found only in the compound 'Wuscfrea' or 'Uxfrea' (twice) in
the genealogy of the kings of Bernicia; as the grandfather and
grandson of Ida Eopping. Probably not an independant name-element.

It should also be noted that where more than one form of a name-element
is given, the most frequent form is given first. 'Double' names
should not be used, even where the element changes form between
first and second element usage, e.g. Heathu- -haed, -haeth.

TABLE IV -INAUTHENTIC

(Should not be used under any circumstances)

1st ELEMENT	2nd ELEMENT	REASON
	-acer	Continental
AEgel-, AEgen-	-aelf (1)	(very) late/Cont.
Amal-, Angel-, Ans-	-	(very) late/Cont.
Angen-	-	Continental (2)
As-	-	Scandinavian
	-ath	late (Celtic origin?)
-	-bearn, -beorn, -begn	Scandinavian
Bel-	-	late & (2)
Beo-	-	just not used
Blith-	-bodo (sic)	late/Continental
Brand- (2), Brun-	-brand (2), -brun	late/Continental
Broc-,Bruc-	-	very late
Caed-	-	spurious (3)
-	-carl	Scandinavian
Clyd-, Cnof-, -b-,	-col	(very) late
Cor-	-cume, -cor	late
Cweld-, Cytel-	-cytel,-culf	Scandinavian
-	-deof	late/Scand.
Dom-, Don-, East-	-	late/Cont.
Earn-,	-	foreign/late
Eges-	-	probably Cont. (4)
Fa(e)r-, Fast-	-fa(e)r, -fast,-fand	(very) late/Cont.
Fisc-, Flaed-, Folth-, Fram-	-fram	(very) late/Cont.
Geat- (2), Geard-	-geat (2), -geat	late/Continental
Gold-, Gild-	-geld, -gild	late/Cont. (2)
Gist-	-gis	foreign
God-, Grim-	-god, -grim	late/Scandinavian
Gold, Gos-	-gold, -gos	late/Continental
Gul-, Gum-	-	late/Continental
Gun(n)-, -d-	-gund	late/foreign (OE guth)
Healf-	-	Scandinavian
Halig-, Help, Held-	-	late/Continental
Hold-, Hrafn-, Hram-	-	late/foreign
Hund-, Hus-, Huth-	-	late/Continental
In-, Ingel-, Is-, Ise(r)n-		late/Continental
Land-, Lec-	-land, -lic	late
-	-leda, -lida	Scandinavian
Lind-, Liht-, Lust-	-log, -leof	late/Continental

1st ELEMENT	2nd ELEMENT	REASON
Haegen-, Macht	—	Continental
Maerle-, Maeth(el)-	—	very late
Mal-	—	v. late (Celtic origin?)
Man(n)-, Mon(n)-, Mund-	-mel	late/Continental
North-, Orm	-orm	Scandinavian
Nith-, Oth-	-nith	Continental
Raef(en)-, Rand-	-raef(e)n	late
Rest-, Rim-, Rid-, Rinc-	-rinc	late/Continental
Ros-, Run-	-run	late
Sand-, Sc(e)alc-	-sand,-sc(e)alc	late/foreign
—	-secg	Continental (2)
Seol(h)-, Sid(e)-, Snel-, Snot-		very late/Continental
Snae- Steg(e)n-	-steg(e)n	Scandinavian
Sot-, Stan-, Strang-, Streon-		late
Stur-, Sw(e)art-, Swet-		(very) late
Styr-	-sweg(e)n	Scandinavian
Thegn-	—	late
Thur-, Thor-	-thor	Scandinavian
Ulf-	- (5)	Scandinavian
Ust-, Wad-	-wacer (2)	late
Wan-, Wen-, Wendel-	-waru	late
Wild-, Winc-, Wing-	-wild	late
Winter-	—	Scandinavian
Wither-, Wlanc-,	—	very late
Wrac-	—	Continental/v. late
Wurm-	—	v. late (from Norse 'orm'?)

NOTES TO TABLE IV

General ♦ I have taken this table from the one in Searle (1897)
pp xv-xix. See also Table V - Spelling Variants. Note that I have
often given unconnected elements on the same line, in order to save
space. Any name elements in Searle not in any of Tables I-V I
regard as spurious, or as mere spelling variants/scribal error for
'real' ones. 'Scandinavian' is self-explanatory; 'Continental' refers
to Frankish, Frisian, High German etc. 'Foreign' indicates both these
and Norse names. 'Very late' usually refers to names occurring post
AD 1000 or so.

(1) Elements are not connected - arranged thus merely to save space.

(2) Appears in OE only in literary contexts, or as the name of a
     mythical/semi-historical figure.

(3) See table VI

(4) Perhaps related to OE 'Ecg-' ?

(5) See Table I note 20 for use of '-ulf' as a 2nd element. '-olf'
     is purely Norse.

TABLE V - SPELLING VARIANTS

FOR	SEE	FOR	SEE
Ad-	Ead-	AEgel-	AEthel-
Ans-	Os-	An-	Ean-
Alk-	Ealh-	Ant-	And-
Bed- -bed	Beadu- -baed	Bald- Bold-	Beald-
-beorg	-burh (1)	Bet- -bet	Beorht- -beorht
Bod- Bud-	Bot-	Bert- -bert	" "
Col-	Ceol-	Cund-	Cuth-
Dod- Dud-	Theod-	Ea-	Eo-
Eon-	Ean-	Ere- -ere	Here- -here
Gaer- -gaer	Gar- -gar	Geng- Gean-	Ean-
-giu	-gifu	Iaen- Jaen-	Ean-
Gyth-	Guth-	Had- Haeth-	Heathu-
-hus	-hyse	Hean-	Ean-
-ferth	-frith	-in	-wyn -wine
-mar	-maer	Od-	Ord-
OEthel-	AEthel- (2)	OEsc-	AEsc- (2)
Pil-	Bil-	Plec- Pleo(h)-	Pleg-
Rein- Ran-	Raegn-	Rinc-	Hring-
Rod- Ros- Rud-	Hroth-	-sith	-swith -sgyth (3)
Tot-	Torht-	Tut- Tud-	Theod-
-tred -trud	-thryth	Uht-	Wiht-
Ulf- -ulf -olf	Wulf- -wulf	Wen- -wen	Wini- -wine Wyn-
Wit-	Wiht- Hwit-	" "	-wyn
-wio	-wiu	Wold- -wold	Weald- -weald
Wolc- -wolc	Wealh- -wealh	Wun-	Wyn-

NOTES TO TABLE V

- This is by no means exhaustive. For other spelling variants see in the
main body of Searle 1897. Note that 'ea' is commonly spelt 'a', 'e' or
'o'; 'eo' as 'e'; 'w' as 'u' or 'uu'; 'sc' as 'x' etc. (See Sweet 1896
p. xiv)

(1) '-be(o)rg' is probably a misspelling, or from Norse '-björg', rather than a seperate name-element meaning 'mountain'.

(2) The 'OE' for 'AE' variant occurs in Bede; it is probably a genuine early or Northumbrian form rather than simple misspelling.

(3) i.e. for names such as Osgyth, Gilsgyth.

TABLE VI - (APPARANTLY) COMPOUND NAMES probably not treated as such by the Old English.

NAME	COMMENTS
Badric	1st element unique. Perhaps a variant of 'Beadu-' ?
Caedmon	Not a compound name. Ström derives it from a British name *Catumanos. However, Caedmon of Straneshealh was indubitably English.
Cenfus	2nd element unique. See Table IIb.
Cundwealh	1st element unique. Possibly a variant of 'Cuth-'
Cynreow/Centreow	2nd element unique. See Table IIb.
Hildilith (f)	2nd element unique. Found in Bede; meaning 'lithe' ?
Hlothheri	Foreign-type name borne by king of Kent. 1st element otherwise unknown.
Hwithyse	2nd element rare; 1st element unique. The compound is, however, reasonably common (3 or 4 examples)
Ingeld (i.e. Ingi-geld)	1st element rare; 2nd element unique. Again, the compound is reasonably common.
Ortfor	Ist element rare; 2nd element unique. The compound appears twice.
Osgearn (f)	2nd element unique. Probably scribal error for '-gifu' (presumably a near-illiterate scribe)
Uxfrea/Wuscfrea	Both elements unique; name appears twice. See Table III note 32.
Wealhstod	2nd element unique. Name appears twice - means 'translator'.

NOTES ON TABLE VI

All the above names should probably be used as for uncompounded ones - they can be used, but not to form other compounds. Some elements I regard as 'Possibles', for which see Table III. In particular Caedmon, Hlothheri, Ingeld, Uxfrea, and Wealhstod should not be regarded as authentic OE compound names.

UNCOMPOUNDED NAMES

Uncompounded names appear relatively common in our period, given to people from all levels of society. Many appear to derive from shortening of compound names; others may be originally uncompounded names derived from the same traditional stock of name-words. I have given the names from Redin that appear to derive from the period ante A.D. 700 or so. In Tables I-III I have given the short forms derived from name-elements where these differ from the root of the word; where this is not given it is to be assumed that uncompounded names and diminutives can be formed directly from the name-word itself.

The endings of uncompounded names are commonly '-a' and '-e/-i' for masculine names and '(a)e' or '-u' for femenine names. In many cases masculine names end in a consonant. The earlier forms of the strong masculine and weak feminine endings respectively appear to be '-i' and '-ae'. '-a' is relatively rare in feminine names; in many cases it seems to be a Latinization of the original OE ending.

Dimimitive endings are -el, -il(a), -la, -oc, and -uc for male names -ing may be either a dimimutive or a patronymic. For females -ilu and -ole are recorded; the -ula in Ricula is probably an error for the latt-. er. -icu and -ic(a)e are presumably possible,though not recorded in our period. It should be noted that I have included female names from post A.D. 700 in my sample; these are the ones with no date (or source) in Table VIIb.

I have only recorded names found as names; many have been postulated from place-names, some of which derivations can be very dodgy. I have recorded some 'mythical' names in Table VII; these are the ones Redin appears to regard as genuine OE names. I put them in brackets. Etymologies are mostly Redin's; mine are, again, in brackets. '?' indicates that Redin regards the name as unintelligible; in many cases I attempt a derivation.

TABLE VIIa — UNCOMPOUNDED MASCULINE NAMES

NAME	NOTES
Acca	See Ecca
Addi	(Bede)(Short for Ead-)
Alusa	Northern form of Elesa (q.v.)
An(n)a	(Bede; Chronicle 653-4) ? (Short for Ean-)
AEcci	(Bede) (Short for Ac- ?)
AElla	(Bede) Short for names in AElf-, AEthel- ?
AElli	(Chronicle 477-92; Bede) As above.
AEsc	See OEsc.

NAME	NOTES
AEsica	(Bede) ?
AEta	See Ea(t)t$_a$
AEtla	(Ead- + diminutive ending '-la' ?) (Bede)
Ba(c)ga	(c. 700) ?
B(a)eda	(Chronicle 501 et al) ? (from 'Beadu-' ?) i.e. Bede
Beonna	(697) from 'Beorn-'. 'Beorn' is found later.
(Beo(w), Beaw	Mythical figure. Probably means 'barley'.)
Bicca	(688) ?
Bisi	(Bish. E. Anglia 669-73) ? (Perhaps from 'biscop' ?)
Blaecca	(Bede) 'blac', 'blaec', black; or 'blāc', shining.
Blaedla	(ante 700) 'Blaed-' + diminutive ending '-la'.
Bosa	(Bede; Chronicle 678, 685) ?
Brand	(Chronicle 597; Nennius) 'brand' fire, flame, sword. Perhaps only in use for mythical figures.
Brond	(Chronicle 547) As above.
Brord	(672) Perhaps an error for 'Brorda' (below)
Brorda	(664. Common in 700s) 'brord' prick, point.
Bryni	(692) ('brun! brown; or 'bryne' burning, flames ?)
Bud(d)a	(688) 'budda' beetle (or as 'Byda below ?)
Byda	(c. 700) 'beodan' command.
Caefi	See Coifi
Ceawlin	(K. of Wessex 560-93) Probably Celtic.
Celin, Celm	Probably scribal error for 'Ceawlin', above.
Ceol	(Chronicle 591) 'ceol' keel, ship.
Ceola	(Chronicle 611) As above.
Ceorl	(Bede) Also 'Cherlus' : 'ceorl' churl
Cerdic	(K. of Wessex 519-34) Celtic.
Cissa	(Chronicle 477 & 91; 678 & 85) Probably Celtic.
Cnebba	(Chronicle 626; genealogies) ?
Coen, Coena	(704) Possibly corrupt. 'coen' 'cēn' bold
Coifi	(Bede – pagan High Priest of Bernicia) ?
Creoda	(Chronicle – son of Cerdic; & 626) Probably Celtic.
Cudda	(670) Short for 'Cuth-'.
Cutha	(Chronicle 568, 571, 584 etc.) As above.
Cymen	(Chronicle 477) Perhaps not of Germanic origin.

TABLE VIIa – UNCOMPOUNDED MALE NAMES (cont.)

NAME	NOTES
Eaba, Eabba	(Genealogies & 659) ? (Short for 'Eorp-' or 'Eofor-' ?)
Ead(d)a	(674, 704) Short for 'Ead-'.
Ea(n)na	(689) Short for 'Ean-'.
Eappa	See Eoppa.
Ea(t)ta	(Bede; 664) Short for 'Ead-'.
Eawa, Eawes	(ante 700) ?
Ebba	(689) ? (Perhaps as Eab(b)a, q.v.)
Ebbi	(pre 675) As above
Ecca	(675-99) (Short for names in 'Ac-')
Echha	(697) ? (Perhaps short for 'Eo(h)-' ?) EWS spelling 'Eahha' ?
Elesa	(Chronicle 597-) Also 'Alusa' q.v. Etymology ?
Ella	See AElla.
Eni	(Bede) ? (Short for 'Ean-' ?)
Eolla	(Bede) Perhaps short for 'Eorl-' (no compounds recorded)
Eona	(660) See Ea(n)na
Eoppa	(Chronicle 547) Also E(a)ppa, Ebba (Nennius) Short for 'Eorp-'.
Eota	See Ea(t)ta
Esa	See OEsa
Esla	(Cerdic's grandfather) See OEsa (+ diminutive ending '-la')
Etenca	(696) ?
Etla	See AEtla
(Finn	(Chronicle 547) Probably not in early use as a personal name)
Frod	(689) 'frōd' wise, old.
(Geat	Mythological)
Giwis	(Chronicle 552, 597) Founder of the Gewissae. The name is probably a back-formation from the name of the tribe.
Glappa	(Ida Eopping's son) ?
Gu(d)da	(688) Also Gutha. Short for 'Guth-'.
Ha(d)da	(699) Short for 'H(e)athu-'. Also He(a)dda
Haeddi	(Bede) As above ?
Hama	(ante 700) ('ham' home ?)
Hasi	(6th century) Name in ruric inscription.
Hean	(675, 688, 699) 'hēan' lowly, despised, poor.
He(a)dda	See Ha(d)da.
H(a)ecci	(696) ?
Hengist	(Bede; Chronicle 449-596) Also Hengest. 'hengest' stallion.
Hering	(Chronicle 603) 'Son of Heri' ? (q.v. 'Here-' Table I)
Hidda	(Bede) Short for 'Hild-'.

NAME	NOTES
Hiddila	(Bede) As Hidda (q.v.) + dimimutive ending '-ila'.
Hoc	(692-5) Also Hooc. 'hōc' hook.
Hors(a)	(Bede; Chronicle 448-55) 'hors' horse.
Hryp	(Probably ante 700) Unintelligible.
Huduc	(696) ? Apparantly a diminutive.
Hun(n)a	(660) (From names in 'Hun-' ?)
Hussa	(Chronicle 603 & others) 'hūs' house (or from 'Hyse-' ?)
Hyssa	(696-716) Probably from 'Hyse-'.
Icel, Icil	(626) ?
Ida	(547-731; Bede et al) Perhaps short for compounds in 'Id-' (none recorded)
Id(d)i	(688) As above
Imma	(Bede) See Immen/Immin.
Immin	(664; Bede; Chronicle 656) Short for 'Eormen-'
Ini	(680-) Also Yne. Perhaps from 'Ean-'.
(Ingui	(Chronicle 547) Short for Ingwine. Probably not in general use.
Lilla	(Bede; Chronicle 626) ?
Lulling	(7th Century) 'Son of Lulla'- etymology uncertain.
Macgla	(Chronicle 501) Probably from Celtic 'Maglos'.
Mul	(Chronicle 685-694) Celtic, or 'mūl' mule . (His father had a Celtic name 'Ceadwalla'.)
Nunna	(K. of Sussex 692-) Probably short for Nothhelm.
Oba	(699) Perhaps related to Offa (q.v.)
Occa, Ocga	(Son of Ida Eopping) ?
Oct(h)a,	(Bede, Chronicle etc. 596-616) 'ōht' persecution, fear
C(c)hta	As above.
Odda	(ante 700) Probably short for 'Ord-'.
Offa	(Chronicle 626 et al) Etymology uncertain.
OEsa	See Osa.
OEsc	(Bede) Also AEsc, Oisc. Probably an early form of AEsc. Maybe related to 'ōs' (pagan) god.
Onna	(Chronicle 653) See Anna.
Osa, OEsa	(Chronicle 547) From 'os' (pagan) god. Also Esi, OEsi
P(e)ad(d)a	(Bede; Chronicle 653-75) Mercian – etymology ?
Penda	(Bede; Chronicle 626-) (q.v. 'Pend-' Table I)
Pinca	(605) cp. OE 'pyngan' to prick; E. Frisian 'pink' penis.
(Port	(Chronicle 501) Probably a complete invention)

NAME	NOTES
Pybba	(593) ?
Putta	(672) ?
Puttuc	(701) Above name + dimimutive ending '-uc'.
Sa(e)ba	(Bede) Presumably short for 'Saebeorht' or some such.
S(a)ebbi	(Bede) As above.
(Sceaf	'scēaf' sheaf. Entirely mythical)
(Scyld	'scield' 'scyld' shield, protector. Entirely mythical.)
Seaxa, -i	(Genaology of kings of Essex) Short for Seax- .
Sibbi	(Chronicle 656) Presumably short for 'Sigebeorht' or some such
Snocca	(688-96) ?
Sledd(a)	(Sledd AEscwining K. of Essex 587-) ?
(Soemel	(Geneology of Bernicia) Probably mythical)
Stuf	(Chronicle 514) ?
Swaeppa	(ante 650) Short for 'Swaeb-', 'Swaef-'.
Taebba	(692) Probably short for Tatbeorht or some such.
Teoda	(688, 696) Short for 'Theod-'.
Trygil	(c. 600) Apparantly a diminutive.i.e. Tryga (?) + '-il'.
Tud(d)a	(Bede; Chronicle 656, 664) Celtic ? (or short for 'Theod-' ?)
Tum(m)a	(ante 700) From compounds in 'Trum-'.
Tyrhtil	(693) ('Torht-' + dimimutive ending '-il' ?)
Tyttla	(585) Apparantly a dimimutive.(From 'Thryth-' or 'Tid-' + '-la' ?)
Theabul	(697) (Possibly from 'Theodbeald' or some such + dimimutive '-ul')
U(a)eba	See W(a)eba.
Uuedr	See Wedr, Wethr.
Wadda	(c. 700) ? (From compounds in 'Weard-', 'Weald-' ?)
W(a)eba	(689, 699) 'webba' weaver ?
Waga	(627) From 'wāeg' wave (cp. Waegmund in 'Beowulf')
Walh	(696-716) 'w(e)alh' foreigner, slave, Briton, Welshman.
Weccä	(680, 693) 'weccan' awaken (?)
Wecta	(706) See Wihta. Also Wehta.
Wedr, Wethr	(704) 'weder' weather; or 'weðer' ram. (Recorded as 'Uuedr')
Wel(h)isc	(679, 688) 'wielisc' foreign, Welsh.
Wig	(Chronicle 522, 597) 'wīg' war.
Wihta	(Kentish genealogy; Chronicle 449) OE 'wiht' wight, person, creature; or Celtic (cp. Isle of Wight)
Willoc	(704) 'Wil(li)-' (q.v. Table I) + dimimutive ending '-oc'.
Wine, -i	(Bede, Chronicle 660) Also Wina. 'wine' friend.

NAME	NOTES
Wlencing	(Chronicle 477) 'Wlance' stately, proud. Probably 'son of Wlanca', which name occurs later.
Wuffa	(Bede etc.) From Wulf-. The name 'Wulf' occurs later.
Yffi	(560) ? Perhaps from 'ylf' a form of 'aelf'.
Yne	See Ine.

TABLE VIIb - UNCOMPOUNDED FEMININE NAMES

Ache	(Bede)(From 'Ealh-' or 'Eo(h)-' ?) EWS form Eahhe?
AEbbe, -a	? See Eaba
AEtte	(696) See AEta
Bebba	(Bede) ?
Badu	From 'Beadu-'.
Beage	(721-43) From 'Beag-' (q,v, Table I)
Beonnu	From 'Beorn-'.
Bettu	From 'Beorht-' (or even Beadu-)
Bucge, -a	From 'Burh-'
Bugge, -a	As above ('gg' probably pronounced 'cg')
Eabae	(Bede) See Eaba
Eadu	From 'Ead-'
Eafu	Probably from 'Eofor-'(or possibly from 'AElf')
Eahhe	See Ache
Ethilu	From 'AEthel-'
Hild	(Bede) 'hild' battle
Hilla	(744) From 'Hild' ?
Hwatu	From 'Hwaet-'.
Nunn(a)e	Short for some name beginning in N- ?
Ricole	(Bede; Chronicle 604) 'ric-' + diminutive ending '-ole'
Ricula	As above
Thingu	From 'Thing-' (q.v. Table I)

Addendum

Dunne, -a	From 'Dun-' (q.v. Table I)

PATRONYMICS AND BYNAMES

A patronymic is a name identifying a person by the name of the father. The
native form is to add the suffix '-ing' to the name, usually without any
final vowel; thus we get 'Ceolwulf Ealubeorhting'. The alternative form, in
genetive of noun + 'sunu' is rare before the seventh century; however, as
'-ing' does not appear to have been used for 'daughter of' the corresponding
form - genitive + 'dohtor' - should be used. For those of you who wish to use
authentic case forms, the genitive singular is as follows:

Masculine - ending -i, -e, or consonant		-ES
	ending -a	-AN
Feminine - ending -u, or consonant		-E
	ending -e (or -ae)	-AN

(In the sagas, people are sometimes given 'matronymics' where the father
died early, the parents were divorced, or the child is illigitimate.)

Bynames are rare in the early OE period - or, at least, they are recorded
infrequently. However many personal names appear to have originated as
nicknames - for example Hengest 'stallion'; Horsa 'horse'; Hoc 'hook';
Hiordi (a little after 700) 'shepherd'; and Mul 'mule'(if not Celtic).
There are also a couple of recorded examples of bynames in the 600s -
such as AEthelweald Moll (meaning ?) and AEthelburh Tatae ('the happy').
In the late OE period, due to Scandinavian influence and a rapidly expanding
population, bynames became far more popular. However, they never seem to have
gained the universality and near-official status of Viking Scandinavia, where
bynames were even occasionally passed down from father to son. The evidence,
such as it is, seems to suggest that bynames would have been used, however
unofficially. Examples already in use in the Society include Sigeheard Hara
('the hare'), Ceolwyn Lyttling ('little one'), Ceolwulf Garswalgende ('spear-
-swallower'), and Ricula Hrithboda ('stormbringer').

APPENDIX I – SOCIETY NAMES (SAXON)

There follows a list of all OE names which have been used by Society
members. Names of long-left members may possibly be re-utilised with
care. Names marked * belong to deceased characters; those marked **
belong to 'fictitious' characters i.e. 'real' characters' parents,
children, etc. (Normalised EWS spellings in brackets)

Cynric, Guthric	Bill Hubbard
Wulfric	Dave Bone
Sighard Hara (i.e. the hare)	Colin Richards
Uxfrea (Wuscfrea)	Chris Halewood
Osyth (Osgyth)	Jenny Loring
AElfflaed	Vanessa Roberts
Snia	Jon Snow
*AElfgifu, Cyniswith, Herebald	Tara Mallinson
Ricula	Alex Croom
**Cuthred	(Ricula's father)
**Bebba	(Ricula's sister-in-law)
**Swert	(Ricula's brother)
Hagen	Rob Savage
Hiordi, Ceolwulf	Richard Underwood
**Ealubeorht	(Ceolwulf's father)
Hrothgar	Pete Allen
Seaxmund	Phil Clark
**Swaefhelm	(Seaxmund's father)
Tilswith, Tilfrith	Tracey Flint
Eadfrith, Eadric	Eddy Edmonds
Benoc	Simon Shepherd
Oswald	Simon Green
AElle	Martin
Hildwulf	Simon Savage
Oslac	Robert Potter
Cuthwulf	Gary Norman
AElric	Colin Hagreen
Bebba	Rowan Flindall
Seaxwyn	Ellie Douglas
AEthelswith	Rosie Fowler
AEscferth (AEscfrith)	Jeff Simpkin
Cutha	Andrew 'G' Goddard
*AElbeorht, Thingfrith	Jem Axford
Ceolwyn	Sam Middleton
AElfwine	Lyndon Sculthorpe

APPENDIX I – SOCIETY NAMES (SAXON) (cont.)

Leofwyn	Jo Harrison
Eadgyth	Rachel Gardner
AEscgar	Steve Flint
Guthwine	Ian Stephenson
Osric	Paul Mullis
AElfwyn	Kathy Dance
Ealdra	Elaine Hutchinson
AEsowyn	Fiona Bayliss

(TO BE CONTINUED... Please do not amend this copy – use the loose-leaf one.)

APPENDIX II - OLD ENGLISH NAMING PRINCIPLES.

For those of you contemplating forming an Anglo-Saxon family, the following principles were used by the original bearers of the names when naming their children.

(i) REPETITION. A child could be given the name of an ancestor. This is relatively rare, and more common with uncompounded names than compounded ones, e.g. Offa of Mercia was named after his (supposed) ancestor Offa of Angeln. Usually people were only named after <u>dead</u> relatives - this may have been due to some sort of superstition, quite apart from a pragmatic avoiding of confusion.

(ii) ALLITERATION. Many families, especially noble ones who would have been written about in alliterative verse, would adopt the practice of calling children by names alliterating on one letter. For example, the kings of Essex alliterate on S-; the kings of Wessex on C- and later (from Ecgbeorht onwards) on E(a)- or AE-.

(iii) ,VARIATION. Basically, the name-elements of the father and mother, or other relatives, would be varied in the children; thus keeping a family tradition while maintaining significant name differences. Beorhtric and Swithhild (for example) coulb name twelve children merely by rearranging their name-elements (and four uncompounded names).

However, these are not universal. The naming principles could be mixed or not used at all; many cases exist where children were obviously called by anything which took the parents' fancy.

PRONUNCIATION OF OLD ENGLISH

(As can best be inferred, mainly from OE 'glosses' of Latin words.)
There is no standard OE literary dialect. Usually 'Early West Saxon' (the
language of King AElfred) or 'Classical Old English' (the language of AElfric
c.1000) are taken as standard and texts are normalised on one of these bases
i.e. the spelling is made to conform to one or other standard. The grammar is
most often based on EWS.

OE texts use three symbols not found in Modern English:

Æ æ 'ash'

Þ þ 'thorn'

Ð ð 'eth'.

In addition OE texts use ƿ 'wynn' for w and ȝ 'yogh' for g, but these are
usually written w & g in modern texts. In certain earlier texts, particularly
Bede, w was written u or uu and Þ/Ð written th/d (indiscriminately)

VOWELS

   Note that æ, e, i, y are FRONT VOWELS

            a, o, u are BACK VOWELS.

   The sign ā (or sometimes an acute accent á) is employed to mark length of
vowels in modern texts – they are not used in OE texts, but can be inferred
from the context.

a   is pronounced like a short version of 'a' in 'father' (like a German or
                        French 'a' sound).

ā   "   "   " a longer version of 'a' (but not as long as in father).

æ   "   "   " 'a' in 'hat'.

ǣ   "   "   " the vowel sound in 'mare' (but with no 'r').

e   "   "   " 'e' in 'egg'.

ē   "   "   " 'ee' in German 'See' (i.e. like a Northern English 'ay'
                        sound – the standard English is a diphthong (q.v.)).

i   "   "   " 'i' in 'bid'.

ī   "   "   " 'i' in 'machine'.

o   "   "   " 'o' in 'not'.

ō   "   "   " 'eau' in French 'beau' (the ModE long 'o' is a diphthong).

u   "   "   " 'u' in 'bush'.

ū   "   "   " 'oo' in 'soon'.

y   is a cross between 'u' and 'i' – try saying 'oo' with your lips in the position
for 'ee' (or vice versa). It is the same as the French 'u' (not 'ou') and German
'ü'.

ȳ   is a longer version of 'y' – cf. French 'lune'.

oe is sometimes found. It is the same as the German 'ö' – when short as in
'Göttingen', when long as in 'schön'. It's a kind of pure 'er' without the 'r'
sound.]

a before 'm' or 'n' is occasionally written or pronounced as short 'o', hence land/lond, man/mon.

DIPHTHONGS

Sounds made up of two vowel sounds stuck together - as in 'how' (a+u) and 'high'(a+i). In ModE long 'a' and 'o' (as in 'hate' and 'coat') have become diphthongs; e+i and o+u respectively. OE sounds are correspondingly 'purer'. (q.v. ē, ā above).

ea is pronounced as OE 'e' plus the neutral sound heard in ModE 'pillock' ('ɔ').
　　　　　- a bit like 'ai' in 'air' (with no 'r').

eo is similar - more like 'ē' + 'ə'.

ēa, ēo are like 'ea' and 'eo', only longer. The whole sound is lengthened, not
　　　　　just the first element,

CONSONANTS

As in Modern English - b, d, l, m, n, p, t, w, x.

f was pronounced 'f' initially and finally, but 'v' between vowels

s　　"　　　"　　's'　　"　　　　"　　　"　　　"　'z'　　"　　　　"

þ/p were　　"　　'th' as in 'thin'　　　　　　'th' as in 'this'.

h was pronounced 'h' initially and 'ch' as in 'loch' medially and finally.

k is rarely used, but pronounced as in ModE.

r is always pronounced.

z is very rare; pronounced 'ts' or 'dz'.

c is pronounced as 'ch' in 'cheap' when next to a FRONT VOWEL (and sometimes
　　　　　finally after n, l, r.) Sometimes shown as 'ċ'.
　"　　"　　"　'k' in other cases.
　(N.B.- this is not invariable; sometimes 'k' next to a front vowel. ModE
　　is often a good guide. Hence 'cyrice' (church) and 'cild' (child); but
　'ceol' (cf. keel) and 'cyn/ing' (cf. kin/g).)

g is pronounced as 'y' in 'yet' when next to a FRONT VOWEL. Sometimes shown as 'ġ
　"　　"　　　"　'g' in 'get' initially before consonants and BACK VOWELS.
When after or between BACK VOWELS pronounced as a sound which bears the same relationship to the 'ch' in 'loch' as g does to k.
　(N.B.- as this is a difficult sound for Enlish speakers it can be pronounced
　'w' as this is the sound it developed into e.g. 'boga' (bow), 'dragan'(draw).)

sc is pronounced 'sh' as in 'ship'.

ng is pronounced 'ng' as in 'finger'.

x sometimes represents, or is spelt, 'hs' or 'sc' instead of 'cs'. Hence
　'U(u)xfrea' for 'Wuscfrea'.

cw is normally used for this sound; very occaisionally 'qu' is preferred.

cg is pronounced as 'j' in 'judge'.

The digraphs wr, cn, gn, hw, hl, hr, hn, wl, should have both sounds pronounced

Thus the probable pronunciations of some common OE names are: Sighard 'seeyhard'; Rīcula 'reechula'; Ælfgifu 'alf-yivu'; Gudwine 'goothwinay'.

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