

**ENGLISH HISTORY  
IN RHYME. REVISED  
EDITION**

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English History in Rhyme. Revised Edition by Mrs. Charles H. Gardner

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**MRS. CHARLES H. GARDNER**

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# ENGLISH HISTORY

IN RHYME.

BY

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## PREFACE.

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THIS Metrical Summary is one of a series, prepared, or in course of preparation, for use in schools, or for those who wish to memorize in a short time, and in an easy manner, the principal dates and events of history.

Its practical value has been tested in my own school, where I have used it in connection with a text-book. Pupils enjoy reciting it, and, when once learned, it is not readily forgotten.

The genealogical part of this second edition contains information not given elsewhere in any one book, and affords an answer to every question on the subject which would naturally arise.

The Scottish tables are unique, and are quite necessary in properly understanding many portions of the chronicles of England as well as of Scotland.

However skeptical some teachers may be, as to the mnemonic value of this method of study, all doubt will disappear upon a trial of its merits. A great point gained is that pupils take hold of the rhyme with enthusiasm, and do not realize while they are learning it that they are surmounting difficulties which have remained unconquered, except by those who have a phenomenal memory.

MARY RUSSELL GARDNER.

603 FIFTH AVENUE,  
May, 1885.



## ENGLISH HISTORY IN RHYME.

BRITISH AND ROMAN PERIOD (B.C. 55 TO A.D. 449).

From conquered Gaul, victorious Cæsar crossed the belt of sea, Julius Cæsar  
55 B.C.  
To meet on Britain's fabled shore the swarming enemy.  
He made no lasting conquest, and a hundred years had fled,  
Ere Claudius, in forty-three, another army led, Claudius.  
43 A.D.  
Suetonius, at Mona, laid the Druid altars low :  
Agricola accomplished Southern Britain's overthrow. Agricola.  
78 A.D.  
In later times the Britons, by the Scots and Picts annoyed,  
Besought the helping hand of Rome; her legions were em-  
ployed  
In driving back invading Goths ; so, fair-haired Saxons came,  
And kindred Angles found a home to which they gave a name.  
To these untamed idolators by Gregory was sent  
The monk Augustine, who declared the Christian faith in Kent.

SAXON PERIOD (449 TO 1066).

The Saxon Heptarchy comprised Northumbria, Mercia,  
With Kent and Essex, Wessex, Sussex and East Anglia ;  
By Egbert, in eight-twenty-seven, the parts were all com- Egbert.  
827.  
bined.  
Then Ethelwolf and Ethelbald and Ethelbert we find,  
With Ethelred ; and in the year eight hundred seventy-one  
By good, sagacious Alfred, England's glory was begun. Alfred.  
871.  
In fierce encounter with the Dane, their blood-red flag went  
down,  
And in administrative art, he won no less renown.



- Edward.  
901. His son, the earliest Edward, came ; the valiant Athelstan,  
And Edmund the Magnificent ; then Edred's rule began.  
The death of Edwy's lovely wife was laid to Dunstan's charge:  
Edgar.  
958. Eight tributary kings were found, to row King Edgar's barge.  
Succeeding martyred Edward by Eltrida foully slain,  
Was Second Ethelred, who fled the vengeful wrath of Sweyn.
- Canute.  
1016. Brave Edmund Ironside divides his kingdom with Canute,  
The Danish and Norwegian prince, of well-deserved repute.  
His son, swift-running Harold, ruled, and then another Dane,  
Hardicanute, the second son, who had a two-years' reign.
- Edward the  
Confessor.  
1042. With Edward the Confessor came the Saxon line anew,  
Regaining its supremacy, ten hundred forty-two.  
An English noble followed, Harold Second, Godwin's son,  
William I.  
1066. But by William, Duke of Normandy, was Albion claimed and  
won.

#### NORMAN PERIOD (1066 TO 1154).

'Twas in ten hundred sixty-six, by Hastings Battle fought,  
The stern and hated Norman rule to Anglia was brought.  
The Conqueror, with ruthless hand, all insurrections quelled,  
And gave his friends estates from which the Saxons were expelled.  
The Feudal System soon became supreme throughout the land,  
The "Curfew" tolled the evening hour ; the "Domesday  
Book" was planned.

When William died (ten-eighty-seven), both Normandy and  
Maine

- William  
Rufus.  
1087. Were ceded to his eldest son ; in England was to reign  
The younger, William Rufus—a severe, rapacious man ;  
He conquered Scottish Malcolm ;—in his time Crusades began.
- Henry I.  
1100. His brother Beauclerc followed, and by force of arms pur-  
loined

From careless Robert, Normandy, which was to England  
joined.

Prince William, Henry's son, was drowned; the sole inheritor  
Was Maud, who married Henry Fifth, the German Emperor,  
And afterwards, Plantagenet, the Earl of Anjou's son;  
But Stephen, at the king's demise, the sceptre seized upon.  
With lawlessness and civil war the country was astir;  
Matilda, fighting for the crown, took Stephen prisoner.  
The latter, when restored, agreed the kingdom to award,  
Upon his death, to Henry Second, eldest son of Maud.\*

Stephen.  
1135.

PLANTAGENET LINE (1154 TO 1485).

This first Plantagenet was heir to vast estates in France;  
With Eleanor, his wife, he had her rich inheritance.  
And when (eleven hundred fifty-four) all England is his own,  
He tries to lift the burdens under which the people groan.  
The Church and Baronage are brought in fealty to the state;  
Through stubborn opposition, proud Æ Becket meets his fate.  
Hibernia, the "Isle of Saints," by Strongbow is subdued;  
And Scotland's "Lion William" yields a vassal's servitude.  
In England, Gothic temples rise, and art and learning thrive,  
But in the king's unhappy home rebellious children strive.

Henry II.  
1154.

In eighty-nine, King Henry died; his son, the "Lion Heart,"  
Succeeded, and in Third Crusade with Philip† bore a part.  
On Moslem host of Saladin they dealt tremendous blows;  
But the Christian leaders quarrelled and became so bitter foes,  
That Richard was by Leopold in Austria detained,  
And, till ransomed by the English, in captivity remained.

Richard I.  
1189.

His craven brother, Lackland, disregarded Arthur's claim,  
And, conniving at his murder, was received with scorn and  
shame.

John.  
1199.

\* Maud or Matilda.

† Philip Augustus of France.

As Philip's vassal, wicked John was summoned to explain,  
 But, failing to obey the call, lost all his French domain.  
 Pope Innocent compelled the king to bow to his decree,  
 And "Magna Charta" guarded well the people's liberty.

Henry III  
 1216 In twelve-sixteen, comes Henry Third, pacific and humane ;—  
 The kingdom suffers great distress in this protracted reign.  
 For storms of civil discord rage, in council hall confer  
 The mailed barons ; Lewes \* fought, the king is prisoner.  
 De Montfort calls a parliament, with knights from every shire,  
 The delegates from cities and from boroughs first appear.  
 And thus the House of Commons rose, Prince Edward's  
 trusty sword,  
 At Evesham, overthrew the Earl and Henry's power re-  
 stored.

Edward I  
 1272 This bold Crusader Edward, came, twelve hundred seventy-  
 two ;  
 He conquered Wales, and Scotland's might determined to  
 subdue.  
 The ruler, Alexander Third, had left no heirs direct ;  
 So, one of two competitors King Edward must elect,—  
 John Baliol, or Robert Bruce :—the former was preferred ;  
 But Edward grew so arrogant, that Scottish pride was stirred.  
 The standard of revolt was raised, the king his wrath made  
 known ;  
 He took the crown from Baliol,—removed the "Chair of  
 Seon."   
 Avenging William Wallace fled from scattered hearth-stone  
 fires,  
 And summoned all the clans to guard the birthright of their  
 sires.

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\* Pron. Lew'es.