



The Domesday Book

Samuel Collins

Tuesday, October 14, 2025 - 6:30 p.m. to 7:45 p.m. ET

Helpful Links:

1066 and the Norman Conquest

Good books at all levels of complexity/readability abound about the Battle of Hastings and the Norman Conquest of 1066. Here are two that I particularly like, both widely available:

Marc Morris, *The Norman Conquest* (2013): accessible and responsible

David Bates, *William the Conqueror* (Yale UP, 2017): an excellent but much more complicated work than

Morris, and aimed more at (but not completely at) an academic audience.

Domesday Book

It's one of the real pleasures of the modern study of Domesday and its extensive digital footprint that interested non-specialist readers have few barriers to grappling with the text itself from the comfort of one's desk.

The research guide to Domesday published by the National Archives (UK) is the place to start for all questions of orientation:

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/research-guides/domesday-book/>

You may search Domesday, download images of the manuscript, and read its entries in both English and Latin at the National Archives site above or at Open Domesday:

<https://opendomesday.org/>

Even in translation, the steepest part of the learning curve with Domesday is coming to grips with its vocabulary. The Hull Domesday Project offers an excellent glossary to have at your elbow as you go:

<https://www.domesdaybook.net/domesday-book/data-terminology>

Questions about how the Domesday survey was made and why it was made all now must run through the monumental (and brand new):

Stephen Baxter, Julia Crick, and C.P. Lewis, *Making Domesday: Intelligent Power in Conquered England* (Oxford, 2025)

While *Making Domesday* is a scholarly work to its core, and anything other than an easy read, an accessible way into the most important conclusions of the book may be found in this recent podcast featuring Chris Lewis, one of the authors of *Making Domesday*:

<https://www.noiser.com/short-history-of/the-domesday-book>

The Normans writ large

Eleanor Jaenega is one of a recent crop of medieval historians doing great public history, podcast and video both. Her new documentary series, "Meet the Normans" is excellent and ongoing. The first two videos in the series may be found here:

Ep. 1: "How Vikings became Norman kings":

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y6TJYV5gIKs>

Ep. 2: "William the Conqueror":

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ow7U4mxOJk8>