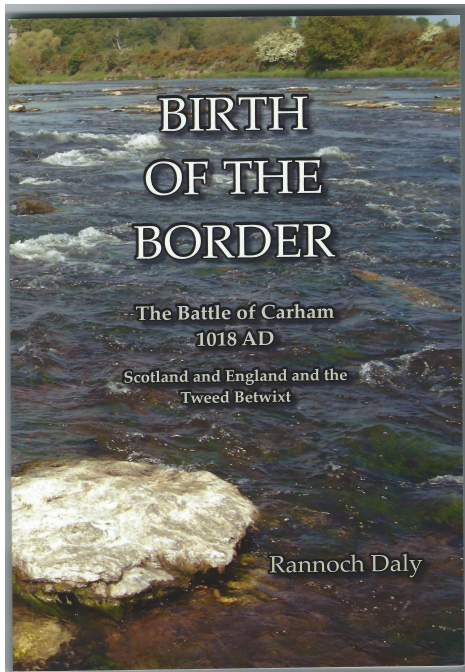


The Battle of Carham 1018 AD



A thousand years ago Carham was a quiet spot on the river Tweed only twenty-five miles from the Bernician stronghold of Bamburgh. Bernicia was part of the buffer state of Northumbria separating Scotland from England.

By 1016 the Danish leader Cnut had obtained the submission of the Anglo-Saxons, including Uhtred of Bernicia, had installed Eric of Norway as Earl of Northumbria at York and had been crowned King of England.

In September 1018, taking advantage of Uhtred's weakened position in Bernicia, King Malcolm II of Scotland and King Owain the Bald of Strathclyde struck south, defeating

Uhtred at the battle of Carham. One consequence was that Lothian, which had been part of Bernicia, became part of Scotland and the southern border of Scotland became the River Tweed. A thousand years after the battle, it still is.

However, for the first two centuries, neither side was content with the Tweed as the border. The English tried to push further north and the Scots tried to push further south. The Tweed did not become the agreed border until Alexander II of Scotland and Henry III of England sealed the Treaty of York in 1237.

In only 25,000 words Rannoch Daly tells the whole story of how Scotland and England gradually gobbled up Northumbria, and eventually settled an Anglo-Scottish border on the river Tweed.

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