

# The Search for Brian Boru: High King of All Ireland



# Today we will cover five topics

- ♣ **Family**
- ♣ **Overview of life**
- ♣ **Dromoland Castle**
- ♣ **Sites near Killaloe**
- ♣ **Clontarf & St. Patrick's Cathedral**





# ♣ Family of Brian Boru



# Legendary Giant Finn MacCool

**Dalcassian  
Tribe**

**Kennedy**

**Mahon**

**Brian Boru**

# From Brian Boru to America

Brian BORU High King of All Ireland

Slani ingen BRIAN

King Olaf II of DUBLIN

Ragnhildr of DUBLIN

Gruffydd ap CYNAN Ruler of N. Wales

Owain GWYNEDD Prince of N. Wales

Iowerth DRWYNDWN ("FLATNOSE")

Prince Llywelyn of WALES "The Great"

Margaret AP JORWERTH of Wales

William DE BRAIOSE 1st Lord

William DE BRAIOSE 2nd Lord

Aline DE BRAIOSE

John DE MOWBRAY 3rd Lord

Sir John DE MOWBRAY 4th Lord

Thomas DE MOWBRAY Duke of Norfolk, K.G.

Isabel DE MOWBRAY

Maurice DE BERKELEY 8th Baron

Anne BERKELEY

Eleanor DENNIS

Thomas LYGON

Thomas LIGON

Lt. Col. Thomas LIGON



# **Some of Brian Boru's Descendants:**

- **Edward IV, King of England**
- **Edward V, King of England**
- **Richard III, King of England**
- **Reynold West, 6<sup>th</sup> Lord De La Warre (1395-1450)**
- **Christopher Branch "The Immigrant" (1600-80)**
- **Col. Robert "King" Carter**
- **Benjamin Harrison "The Signer"**
- **President Thomas Jefferson**
- **Queen Elizabeth II (thru her mother)**
- **President John F. Kennedy & clan**

# O'Brien Coat of Arms



“The Strong Hand Uppermost”



# ♣ Overview of Brian's Life



# Ireland at the time of Brian Boru (941-1014 AD)



# Brian Boru was the only true High King of Ireland

## Ireland in Brian's time

The Ireland in which Brian grew up was a turbulent place. There were in the region of 200 tribal kings, four provincial kings and a High King or Ard Ri.

The Irish tribes continually waged war on each other, much to the delight of the invading Vikings who raided and plundered as they saw fit. Later some Irish forces, notably the King of Leinster, allied themselves with the invaders for political advantage.



# His achievements

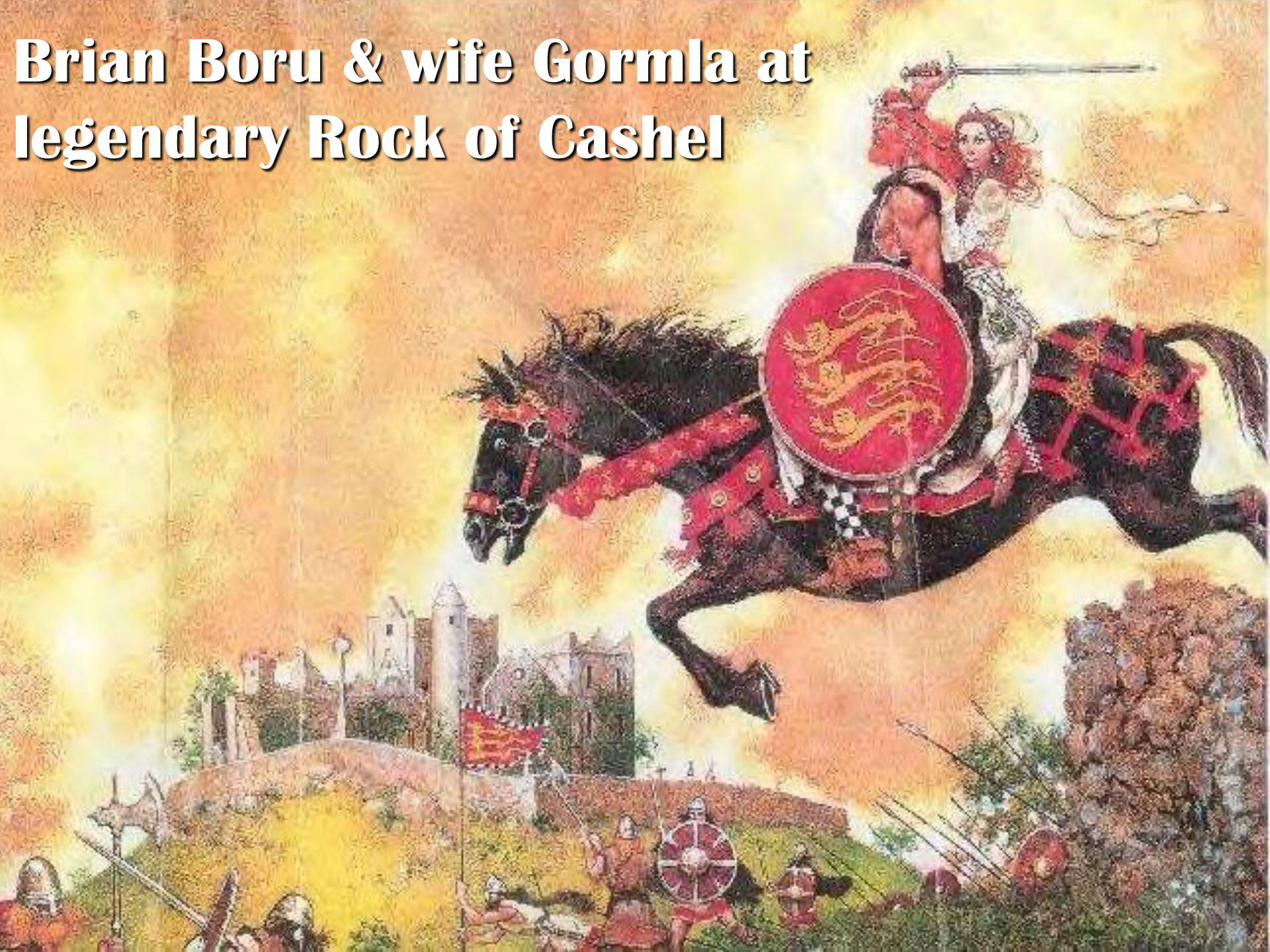
were numerous:

- Unified Ireland (almost)
- Ejected the Vikings
- Built roads & bridges
- Improved education
- Introduced surnames
- Built a navy
- Began trade with Europe
- Restored plundered churches
- Restarted the great fair at Tailteann

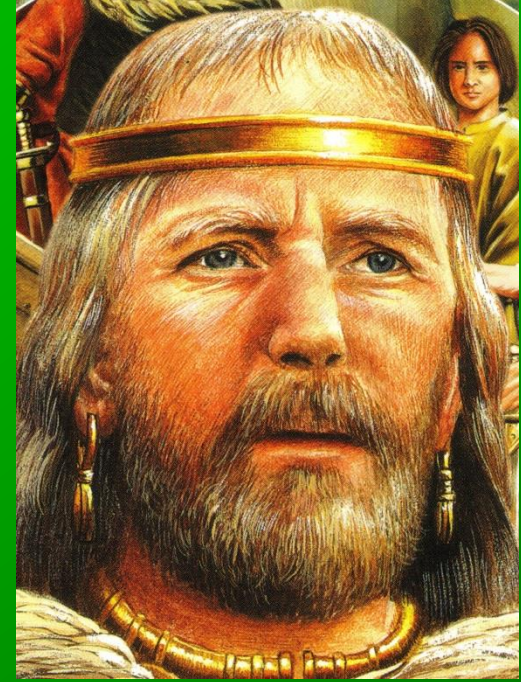
Known as “Greatest Irishman of All”



# Brian Boru & wife Gormla at legendary Rock of Cashel



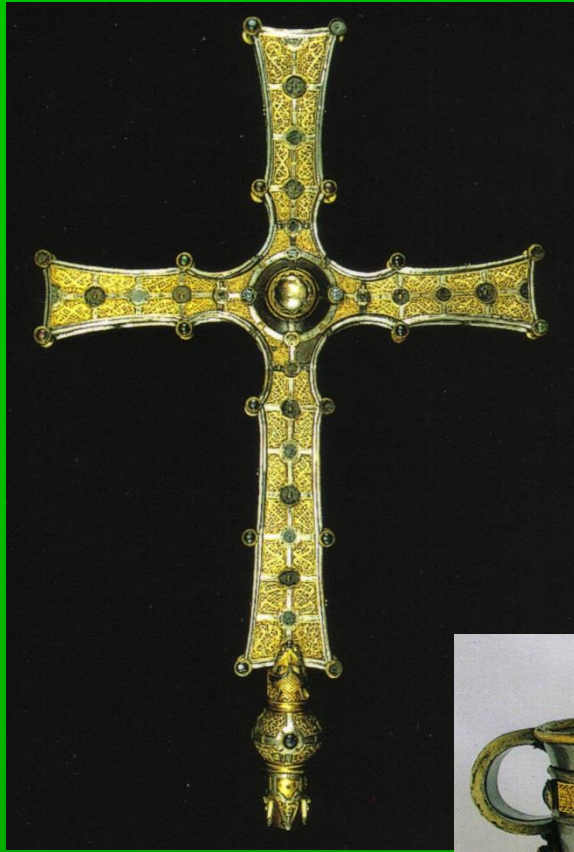
# Images of Brian Boru



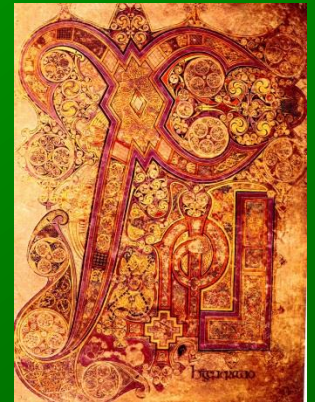
# Brian Boru's harp is the symbol of Ireland



# Objects from the time of Brian Boru

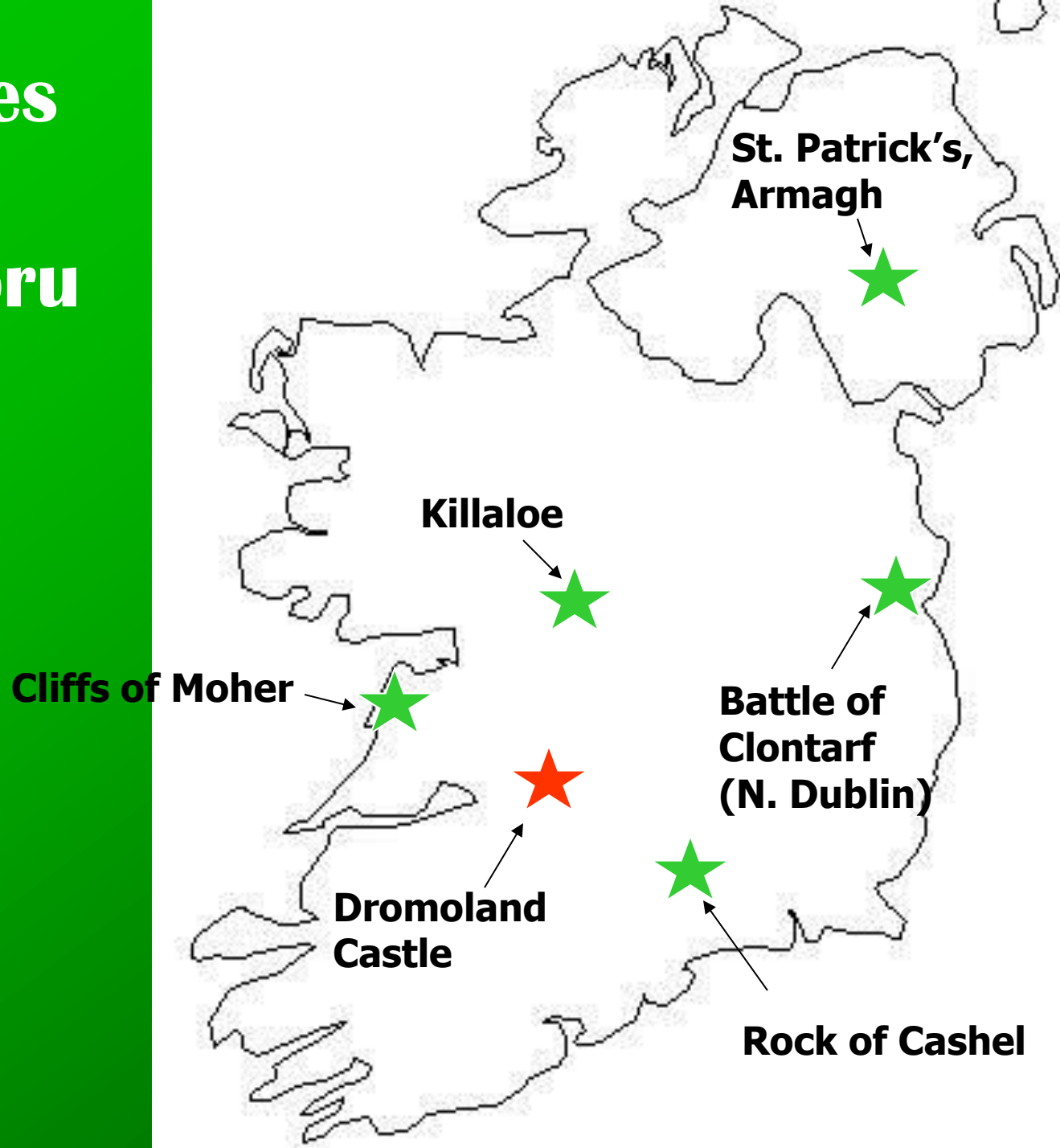


# Architecture & art from the time of Brian Boru





# Current sites related to Brian Boru





# ♣ Dromoland Castle

**Dromoland Castle is now a luxury hotel**



DROMOLAND

# **Dromoland: Home of the O'Brien clan for 900 years**





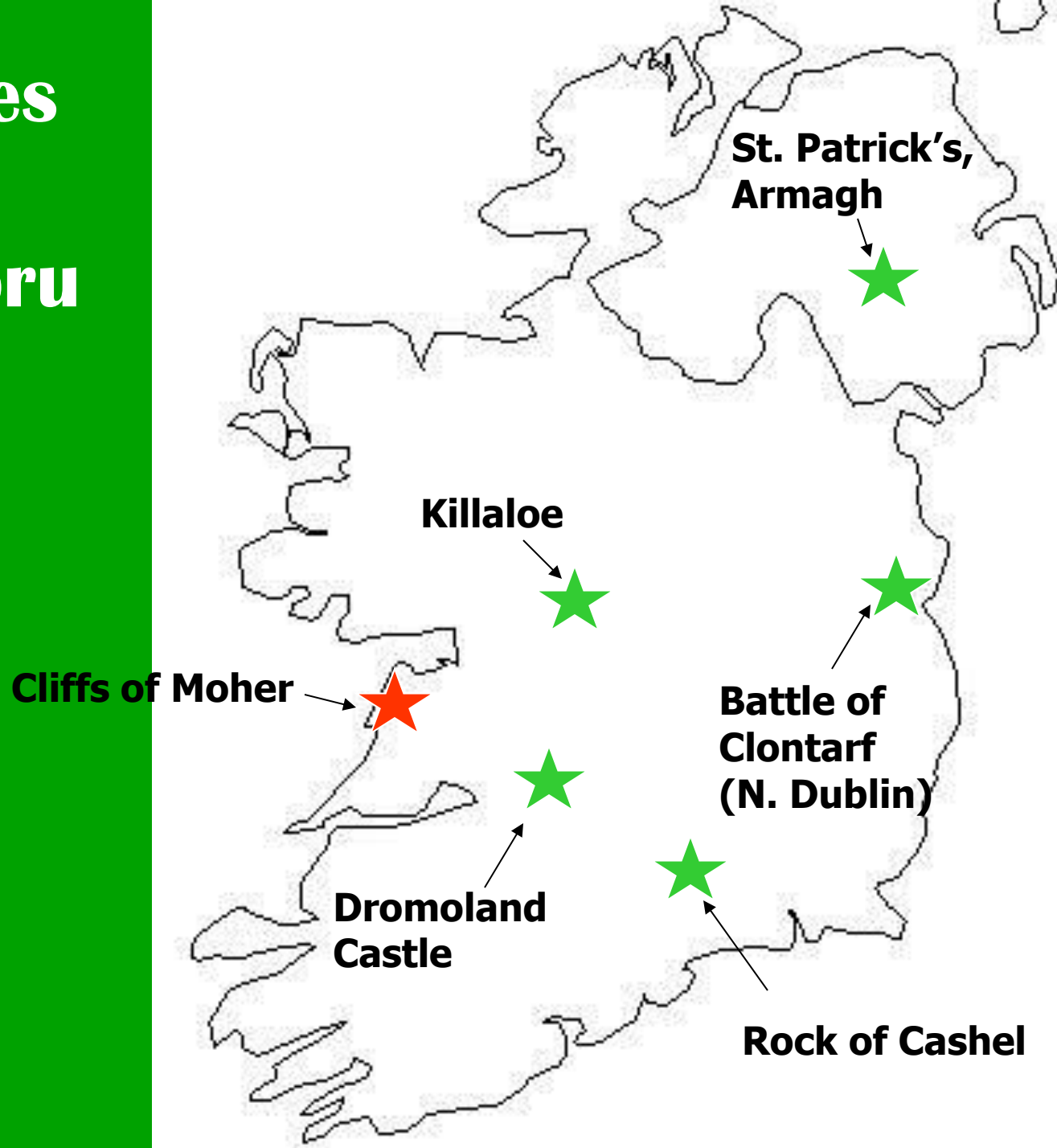
# Dromoland



# Fanciful painting of Brian Boru at Dromoland



# Current sites related to Brian Boru



# O'Brien's Tower at the fabulous Cliffs of Moher

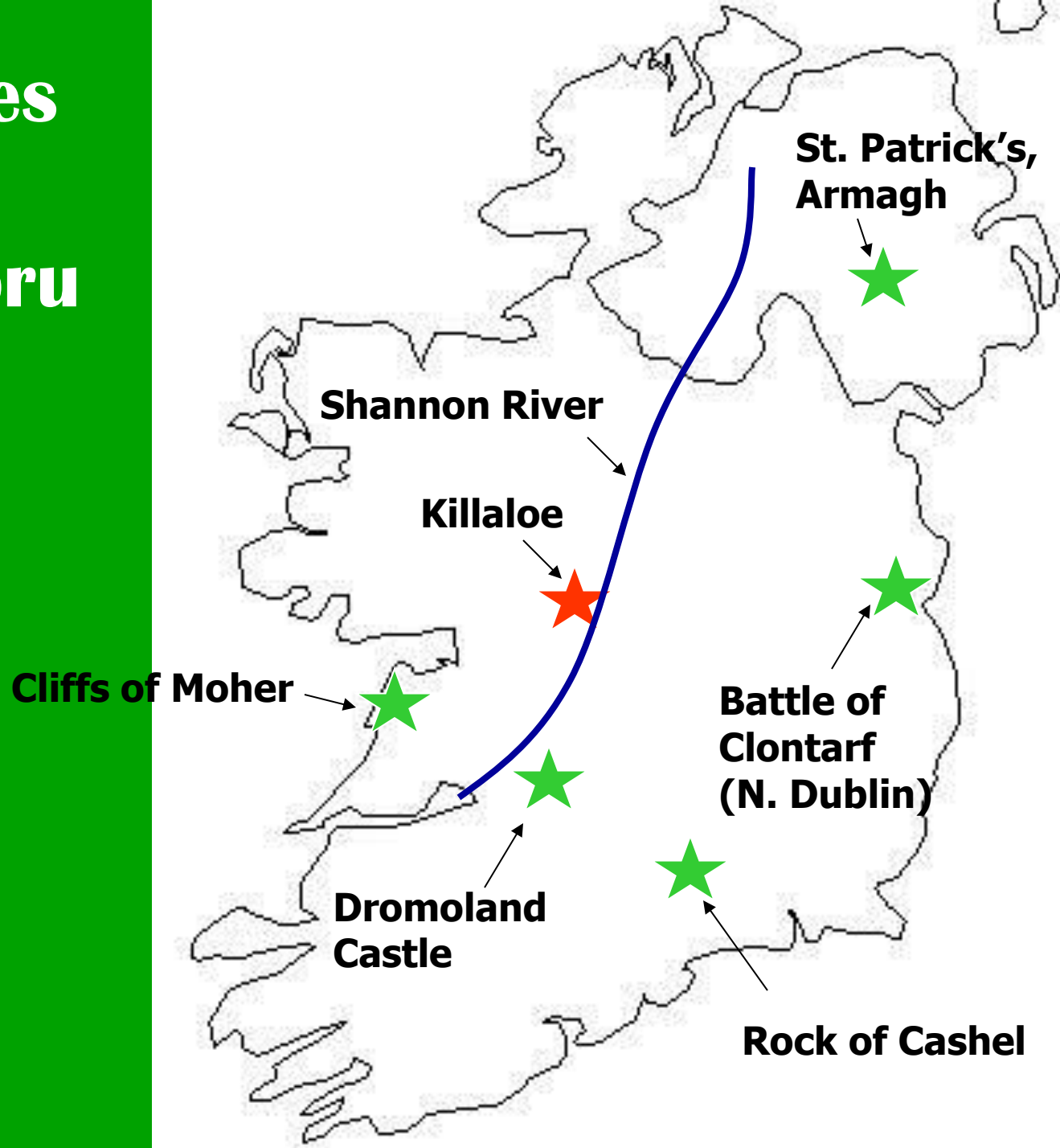






# ♣ Sites Near Killaloe

# Current sites related to Brian Boru

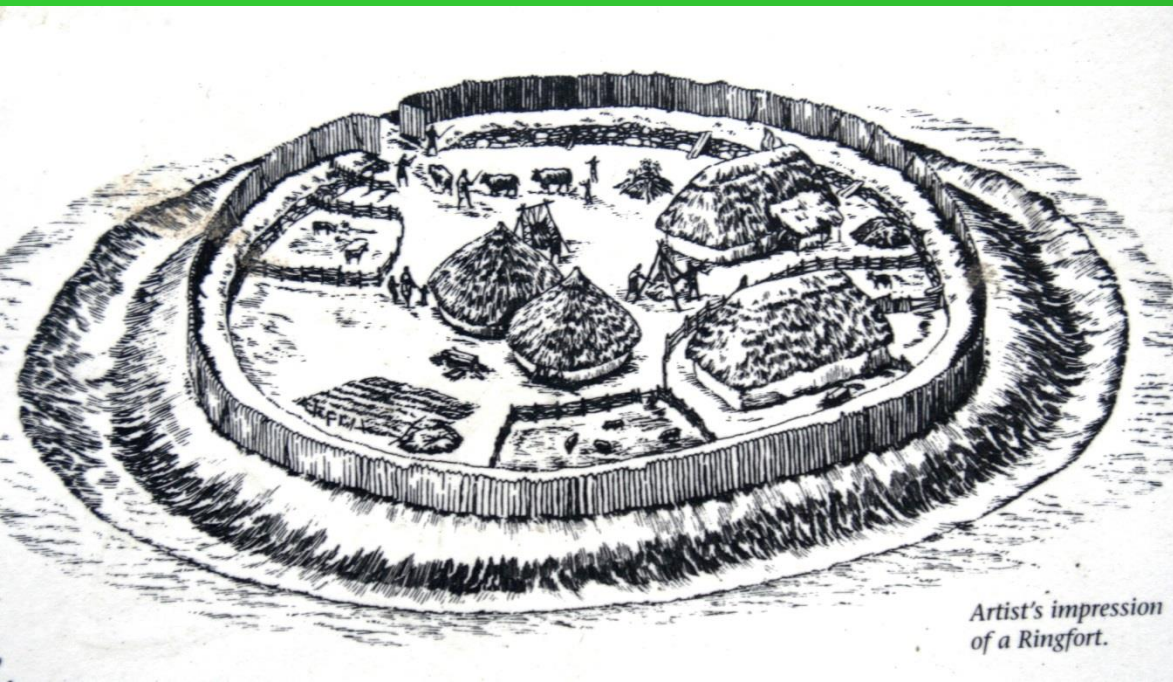


# Killaloe, County Clare

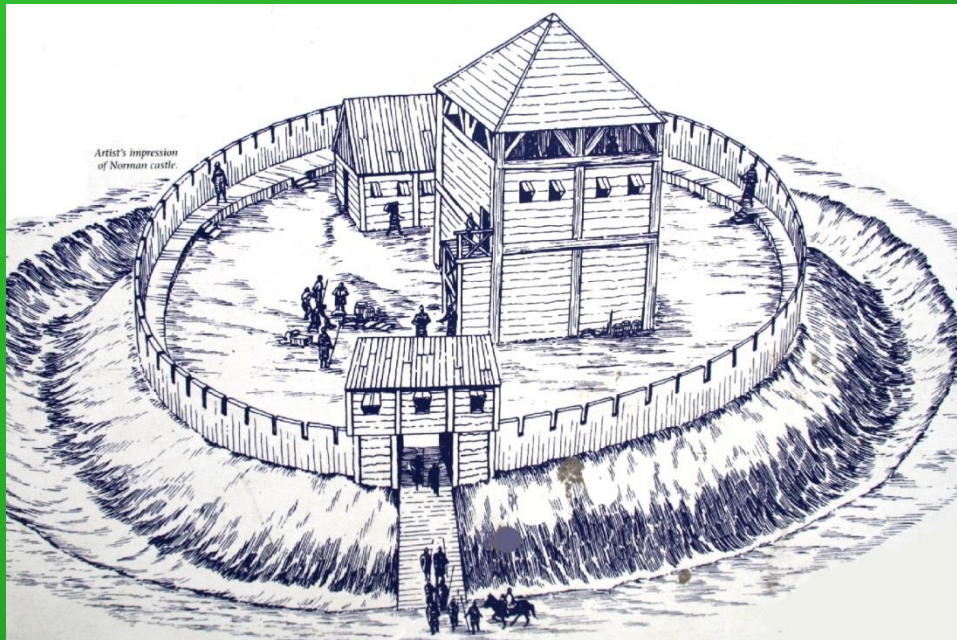


# The Brian Boru Center in Killaloe tells his story





Artist's impression of a Ringfort.



Artist's impression of Norman castle.



# Brian Boru's fort today



**The fort is large**



# A self-drive boat on the glorious Shannon





**Sailing a self-drive is easy-peasy**



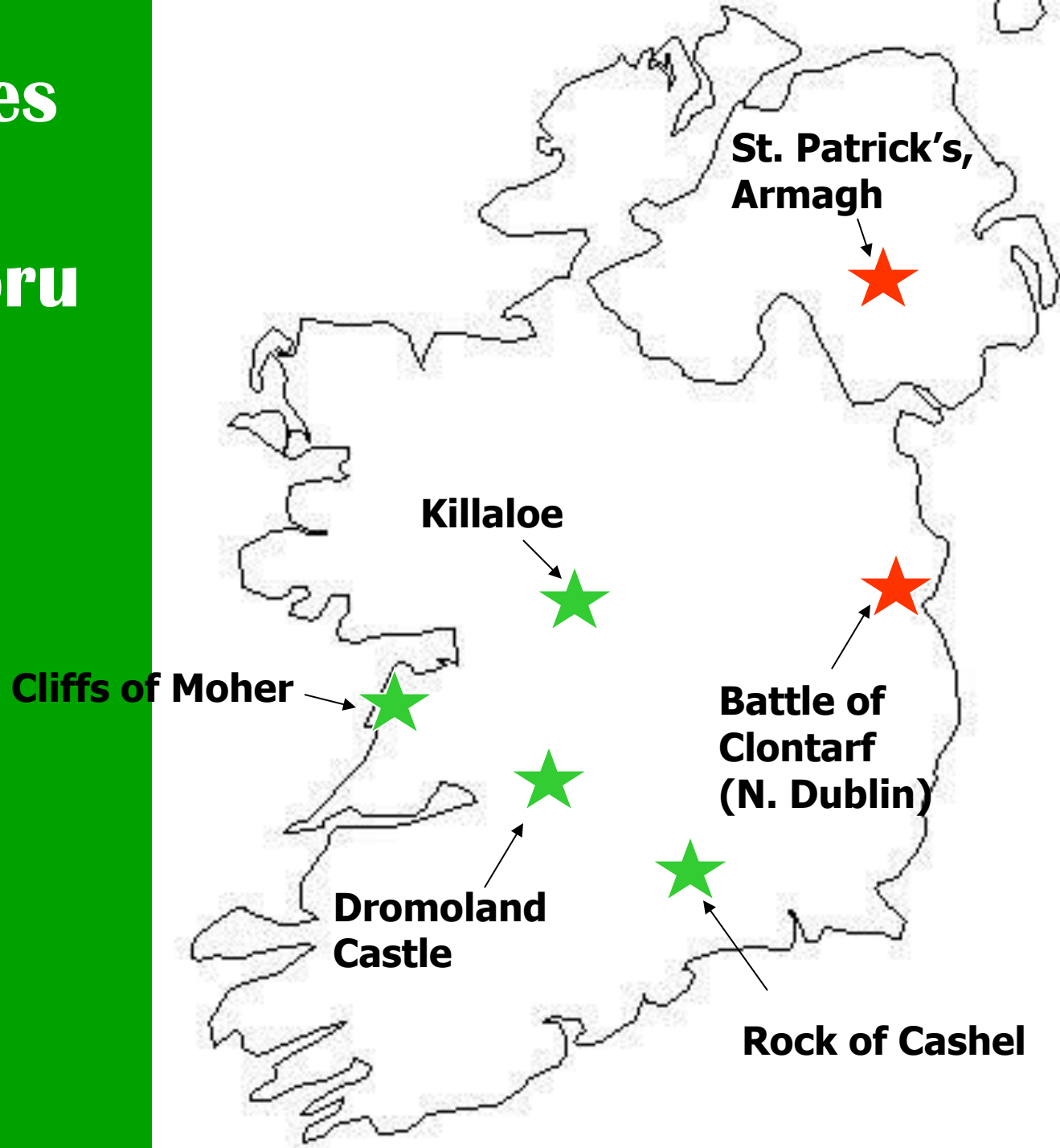
# Clonmacnoise is one of the great river sites





**♣ Battle of Clontarf and  
St. Patrick's Cathedral**

# Current sites related to Brian Boru



# The Battle of Clontarf, 24 April 1014



# The death of Brian Boru



# St. Patrick's Cathedral Armagh, Northern Ireland



+	
ABBOTS & BISHOPS	
444	PATRICK
467	Benignus
481	Jarlath
497	Cormac
513	Dubthach
526	Ailill I
536	Ailill II
551	David O'Farahan

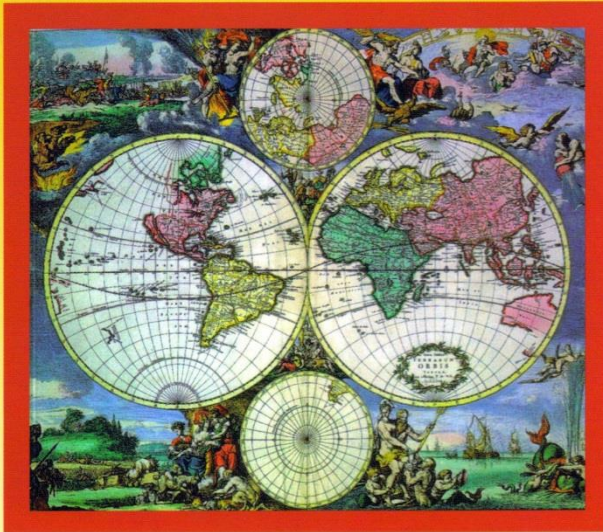






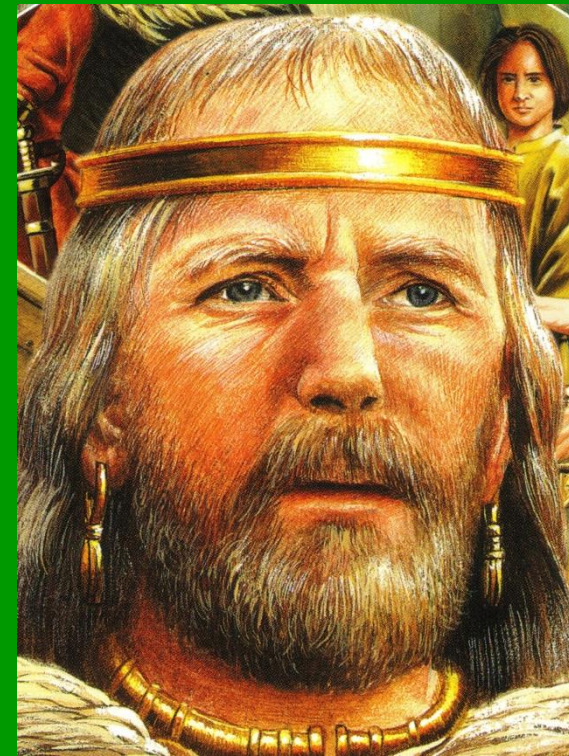
**Thanks!**

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# Thanks!

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