



Swallowcliffe Book of Swealewanclif 940 A.D.

From Saxon: "This is the book of SWEALEWANCLIF which King EDMUND gave by charter to CATULF, his thegn, in eternal inheritance" : ~

From Latin: "JESUS CHRIST reigns forever governing all things visible and invisible by Devine law from the summit of the heavens; and the course of life declines daily, temporal wealth and possessions passing away from us mortals vainly enjoying them. Wherefore I. EDMUND, King of the English by Devine grace, freely give, by a perpetual donation, a certain part of land in my jurisdiction to a certain servant of mine called GARULF (viz) 9 measures of land in that place to which the country people have jokingly given the name "The cliff of the swallow". That is ~ SWEALEWANCLIF, so that he may enjoy and perpetually passes it as long as he lives. And afterwards it shall go to whichever heir he wishes, for ever, by hereditary right, as we have said above. Let this said grant be free from all secular hindrance, with all its rightful appurtenances, fields, pastures, meadows, woods, save for those three [obligations] :- military service and the building of bridges and of castles. But if anyone, against our will, in a state of pride, tries to infringe my decree, let him be punished by the frozen blasts of glaciers and by the winged army of malignant spirits, unless he first makes amends with tearful groans of whole-hearted penitence"

[There follow the Swallowcliffe bounds in Saxon, the date 940 A.D. In Latin and the signature of King EDMUND and the witnesses ~ the King's brother EDRED, ALFEAH Bishop of Winchester and ODO Bishop of Ramsbury.]

Source: Swallowcliffe St. Peter