

= Wuffa of East Anglia =

Wuffa (or Uffa , Old English : ?uffa) is recorded in the Anglo @-@ Saxon genealogies as an early king of East Anglia . If historical , he would have flourished in the 6th century .

By tradition Wuffa was named as the son of Wehha and the father of Tytila , but it is not known with any certainty that Wuffa was an actual historical figure . The name Wuffa was the eponym for the Wuffingas dynasty , the ruling royal family of the East Angles until 749 .

Bede regarded Wuffa as the first king of the East Angles , but the author of the *Historia Brittonum* , writing a century later , named Wehha as the first ruler .

= = Background = =

The kingdom of the East Angles was an independent and long @-@ lived Anglo @-@ Saxon kingdom that was established after migrants arrived in southeast Suffolk from the area now known as Jutland . Rainbird Clarke identified Wehha as one of the leaders of the new arrivals : the East Angles are tentatively identified with the Geats of the Old English poem *Beowulf* . Historians have used sources such as the Anglian collection too as an aid in calculating a date for the establishment of the kingdom . Collingwood and Myers note the use of literacy sources and archaeological finds as evidence in how the region was settled during and after the 5th century , when various disparate groups arrived in Norfolk and Suffolk from different parts of the coast and the rivers of the Fens .

The kingdom of the East Angles was bordered to the north and east by the North Sea , to the south by mainly impenetrable forests and by the Fens marshes on its western border . The main land route from East Anglia would at that time have been a corridor , along which ran the prehistoric Icknield Way . The Devil 's Dyke (near modern Newmarket) may have at one time formed part of the kingdom 's western boundary , but its construction cannot be dated accurately enough to establish it as of Anglo @-@ Saxon origin .

= = Pedigree and reign = =

According to the East Anglian dynastic tally in the Anglian collection , Wuffa was the son of Wehha and the father of Tytila . His name , which is a diminutive form of the Old English word for wolf , is the eponym for his dynasty , the Wuffingas , (which taken literally , means ' the kin of Wuffa ') . It has been suggested that Wuffa and his dynasty may possibly have originated from a Germanic tribe known as the Warni : Wuffa has been identified with the ' King of the Angli ' , as depicted by the Byzantine scholar Procopius . According to Procopius , a 6th @-@ century Warni prince called Radiger was betrothed to the sister of the ' King of the Angli ' . The historian Michael Wood has suggested that before the arrival of Wuffa 's dynasty in Britain , it had been founded by " some powerful and important warrior " that was of an ancient royal line .

According to the 13th century chronicler Roger of Wendover , Wuffa ruled from 571 to 578 , but the origin of this information is unknown . According to Michael Wood , current evidence suggests that Wuffa ruled the East Angles in around 575 .

Bede named Wuffa as the grandfather of Rædwald , " from whom the East Anglian kings are called Wuffingas " , but Bede 's view that Wuffa was the first King of the East Angles is contradicted by the 9th century *Historia Brittonum* , which instead apparently names a person called Guillem Guercha . In the *Historia Brittonum* , Guillem Guercha is listed as part of a long pedigree :

Woden begat Casser , who begat Titinon , who begat Trigil , who begat Rodmunt , who begat Rippa , who begat Guillem Guercha , who was the first king of the East Angles . Guercha begat Uffa , who begat Tytillus , who begat Eni , who begat Edric , who begat Aldwulf , who begat Elric .

The 19th @-@ century historian Sir Francis Palgrave confused matters when he stated that , " Guercha is a distortion of the name Uffa , or Wuffa , arising in the first instance from the pronunciation of the British writer , and in the next place from the error of the transcriber " . D. P. Kirby has however concluded that Nennius intended to mean that it was Wehha , and not Wuffa , who was the earliest Wuffingas king .

A lack of documentary evidence prevents scholars from knowing if Wuffa is anything more than a legendary figure and the true identity of the first East Anglian king cannot be known with certainty . The historian Martin Carver has argued that Wuffa is " best regarded as an emblematic figure personified from royal origin @-@ myth "

Later East Anglian kings claimed their right to rule by being descended from Wuffa , in the same way that the Kentish kings claimed descent from Oisc .

The descendants of Wehha

See Wuffingas for a more complete family tree .