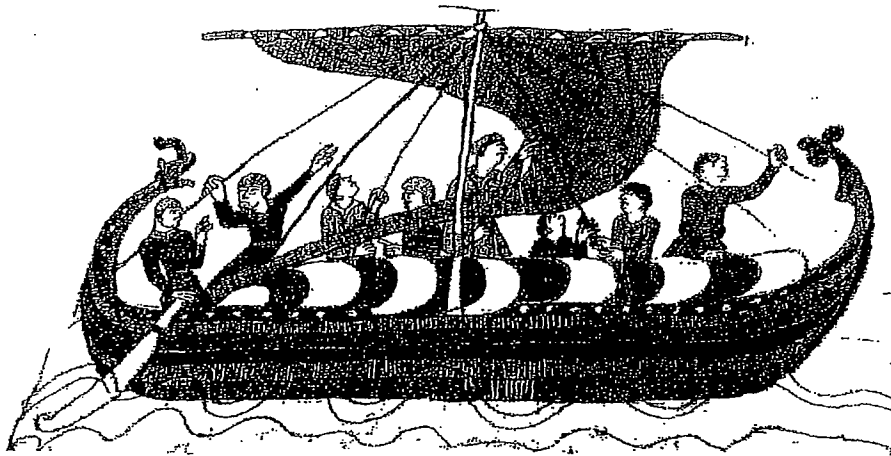


COURT HOUSE MUSEUM FOR 2017



950th ANNIVERSARY

WILLIAM THE CONQUEROR'S VICTORIOUS RETURN TO PEVENSEY IN 1067

AD 1067. William, having acquired some degree of stability in his newly-obtained sovereignty, went the following year into Normandy to receive the congratulations of his ancient subjects, and to examine the affairs of his hereditary state. "He repaired", says Thierry, "to Pevensey, wishing to embark from the very place where he had landed six months before. Several vessels were in waiting for him, adorned with white sails and streamers, in token of joy and triumph. A great number of English had repaired thither by his order to pass the Channel with him." Among them were King Edgar, Archbishop Stigand and several other personages, whom William took with him to serve as hostages for the tranquillity of the English during his absence.

At Pevensey – the port at which he had for the first time trodden English ground – "the Conqueror", says the same author, "distributed presents of every kind to such of his warriors as were about to recross the sea with him, that no one of them on his return might have it in his power to say that he had not gained by the conquest."

Thus, in the short space of six months, the men of Pevensey witnessed both the advent of the mighty invader and his triumphal departure from their port.