

From *The Annals of Xanten*, 845-853

Xanten was an abbey (monastery town) in present day western Germany.

845

Twice in the canton of Worms [Germany] there was an earthquake...**In the same year the heathen [non-Christian invaders] broke in upon the Christians... Another party of invaders devastated Gaul; of these more than six hundred men perished. Yet owing to his indolence [laziness], Charles the Bald [ruler of the Franks] agreed to give them many thousands of pounds of gold and silver if they would leave, and this they did. Nevertheless, the relics of most of the saints were destroyed, and many of the Christians were taken away as captives.**

846

According to their custom the Northmen [Norsemen aka Vikings] plundered eastern and western Frisia [Netherlands] and burned down the town of Dordrecht, with two other village...The Northmen, with their boast filled with immense booty, including both men and goods, returned to their own country.

At this same time...**the Church of Saint Peter was taken and plundered by the Moors, or Saracens [Muslims]...The Saracens, moreover, slaughtered all the Christians whom they found outside the walls of Rome...They also carried men and women away prisoners...**

849

...The heathen from the North [probably the Vikings again] wrought havoc in Christendom as usual and grew greater in strength,...

850

On January 1st of that season...a great deal of thunder was heard and a mighty flash of lightning seen; and an overflow of water [flood] afflicted the human race during this winter. In the following summer an all too great heat of the sun burned the earth. **Pope Leo, an extraordinary man, built a fortification around the church of St. Peter [in Rome]. The Moors, however, devastated the coastal towns in Italy...**

852

Excessive heat; a famine followed. There was not enough fodder for the animals.....

853

A great famine in Saxony so that many were forced to live on horse meat.

The Northmen [Norsemen aka Vikings], ascending the Rhine, plundered and burned many villages. Liutbert, archbishop of Mainz, with a small band of troops, attacked them and, after killing many of them, recovered much of the booty which they had taken. Cologne was rebuilt, except its churches and monasteries, and its walls with their gates and towers were restored...

circa 950

Michael, bishop of Regensburg...gathered his troops and joined the other Bavarian nobles in resisting an invasion of the Magyars [Hungarians]. In the battle which followed, our troops were defeated.