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Evolution of the U.S. Jury

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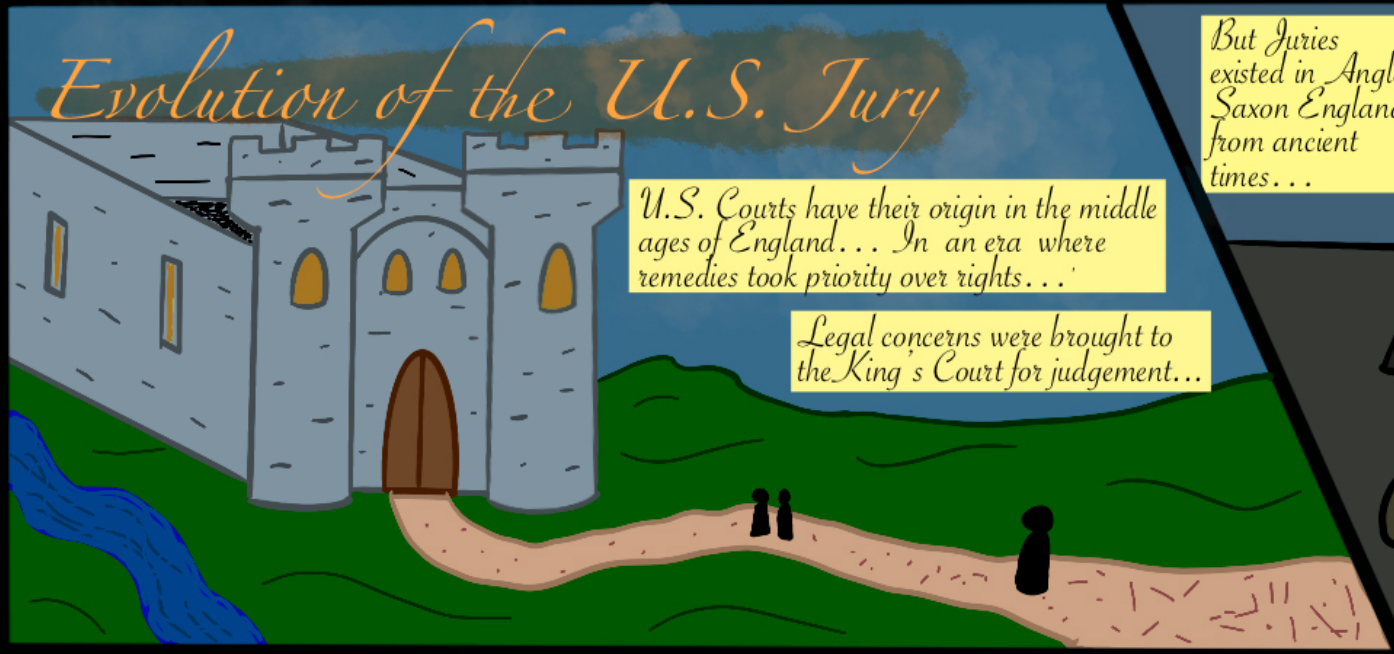
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Evolution of the U.S. Jury



U.S. Courts have their origin in the middle ages of England... In an era where remedies took priority over rights...

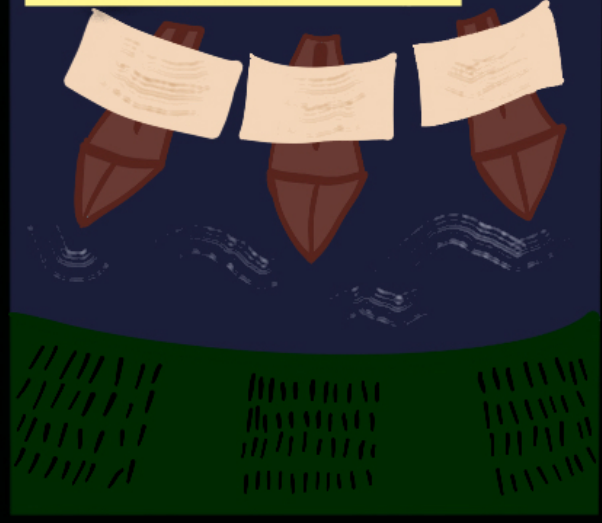
Legal concerns were brought to the King's Court for judgement...

But Juries existed in Anglo-Saxon England from ancient times...

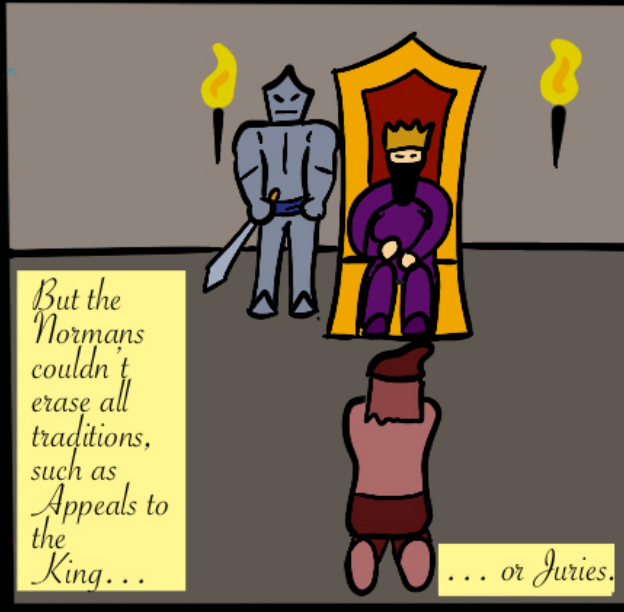
...when respected men of Germanic Tribes would investigate and discuss local crimes.



Then everything changed when the Normans attacked...

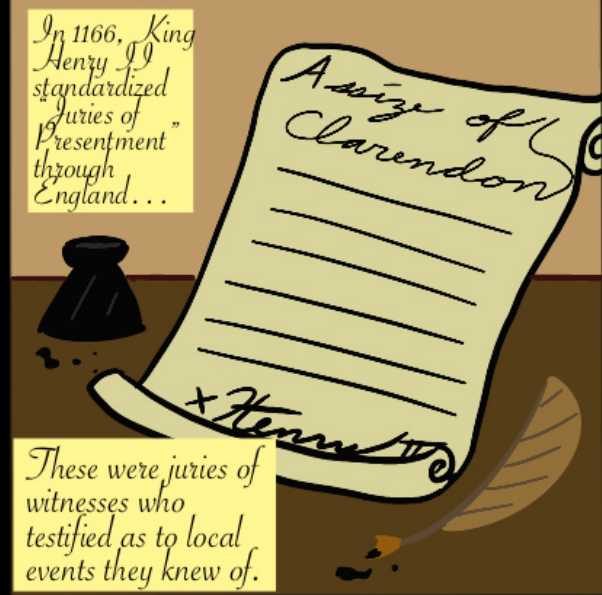


Norman-controlled England introduced new Judicial concepts, such as traveling Clergy Justices and Trial by Combat.



But the Normans couldn't erase all traditions, such as Appeals to the King... .. or Juries.

In 1166, King Henry II standardized Juries of Presentment through England...



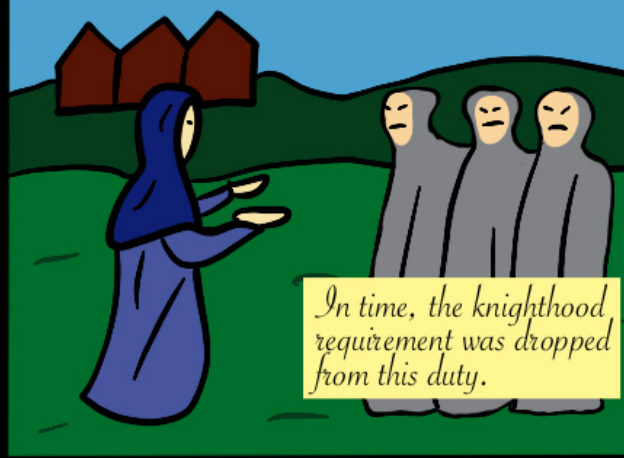
These were juries of witnesses who testified as to local events they knew of.

These juries were self-informing. They were aware of details by living in the community.

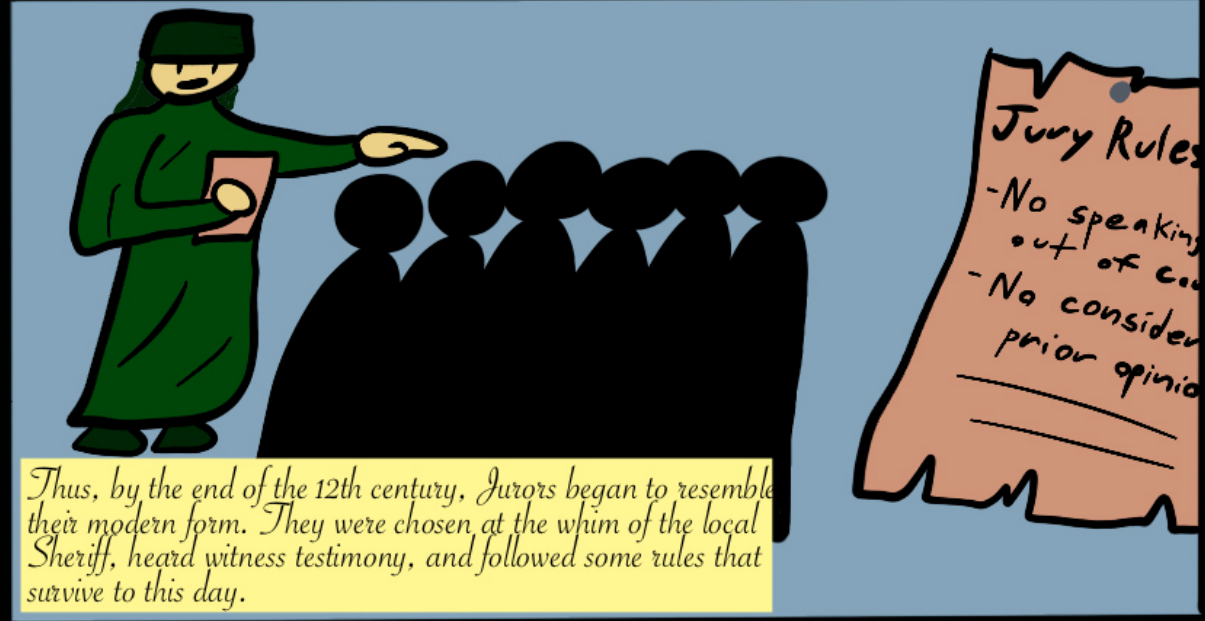


That knowledge could be firsthand, found through investigation, or even rumors and hearsay.

Eventually, these witnesses were replaced by knights, who impartially heard witness testimony like juries today.



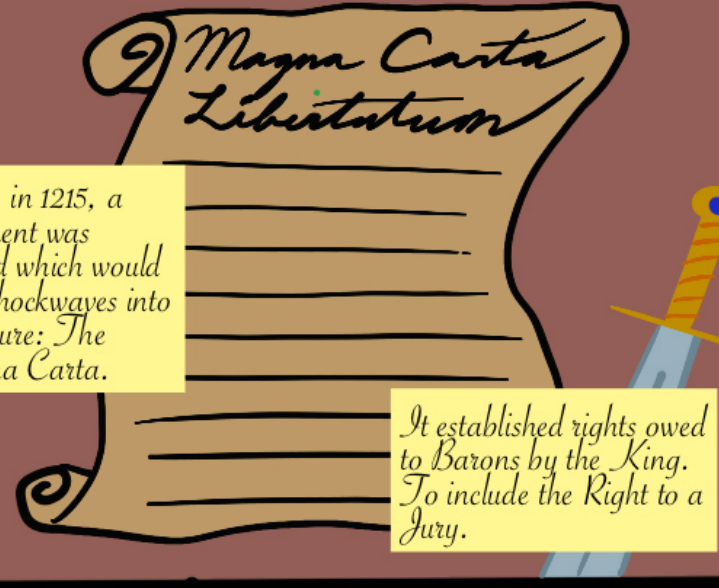
In time, the knighthood requirement was dropped from this duty.



Thus, by the end of the 12th century, Jurors began to resemble their modern form. They were chosen at the whim of the local Sheriff, heard witness testimony, and followed some rules that survive to this day.

Jury Rules
 - No speaking out of court
 - No consideration of prior opinion

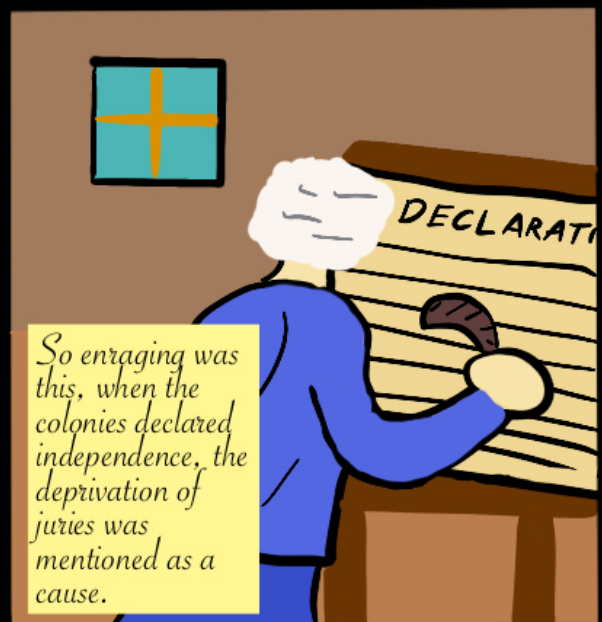
Then, in 1215, a document was drafted which would send shockwaves into the future: The Magna Carta.



It established rights owed to Barons by the King. To include the Right to a Jury.



American colonists drew on this when they were denied juries in certain British Courts. These courts were overseen exclusively by Judges paid and installed by the British crown.



So enraging was this, when the colonies declared independence, the deprivation of juries was mentioned as a cause.



And so, when it came time to draft specific rights held by American People, the right to an impartial and local jury was stated in the 6th Amendment...