

Our family

English and French Lineage, traced backward from Laura Clark Cost

*Clark &
Herndon*

Compiled by James Steven Cost.

With special thanks to the contributions of James Wilson Cost, Lazell Clark, family members, and many others.

For my son and my grandchildren
Dedicated to my grandmother, Laura Clark Cost

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Clark

Herndon

Digges

William Elmo Cost _____

Forrest Milton Cost _____

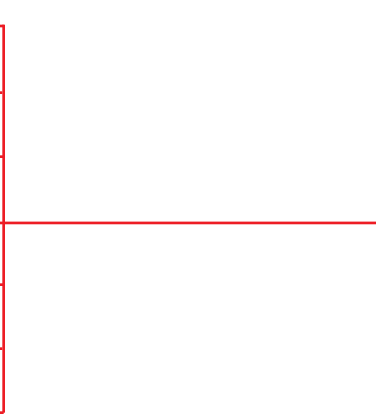
Glenn Harding Cost _____

James Wilson Cost _____

Herbert Holmes Cost _____

Helen Joan Cost _____

Bill Pat Cost _____



William Thomas Cost
Southern Baptist Minister
b. 12-3-1891 Rusk County, Texas
d. 1-19-1967 Granite, Oklahoma

Wyatt Lindsey Clark
b. 3-18-1819 Tenn.
d. 7-10-1896 Little Rock, Arkansas

John Wesley Clark
b. 1848 White County, Tenn.
d. 7-23-1931 Brinkman, Okla.

Laura Mae Clark
b. 2-2-1899 Rusk County, Texas
d. 8-8-1967 Granite, Oklahoma

Chloe Ann Lee
b. 1823 Tennessee

to William
Herndon

James Herndon
b. ca 1780 North Carolina
d. 1852 Pike County,
Alabama

Hiram Herndon
b. 1823 Georgia
d. 1886 Mount Pleasant, Ala.

**Mesannah Elmira Ann
Herndon**
b. 1-2-1858 Pike County, Ala.
m. 8-20-1882
d. 5-25-1925 Brinkman, Greer,
Oklahoma

Sylvia Henderson
b. ca 1790 Georgia,
d. after 1852 Pike County,
Alabama

Hosea Clark
b. c. 1798 Alabama

Mary Ann Mollie Herndon
1st wife and cousin to Mesannah
Herndon
m. 1874
d. 8-14-1881

Bethany Clark
b. 12-20-1824
m. 12-26-1847 Pike Co.,
Alabama
d. 6-4-1900 Leonard,
Fannin Co., Tex.

Miss Stanley

Isabella Thompson.
b. 1742 Caroline Co., Virginia
d. 1802 Logan Co., Kentucky

George Herndon

Plantation owner, served in Revolutionary army under Gen. Lincoln. When serving with Gen. Ambrose Ramsey, he and the company were temporarily captured by Tories of Col. Fanning, at the Chatham, N.C. courthouse and taken to McFalls Mill.

b. 6-14-1762 Caroline Co., Virginia
m. 9-4-1783 Wake Co., N.C.
d. 4-24-1848 near Russellville, Kentucky

Capt. James Herndon

Plantation owner, Capt. in Revolutionary Army, served under regimental commander Col. Lytle part of the army of General Lincoln.

b. 1738 Caroline Co., Virginia
m. 1761
d. 1815 Logan Co., Kentucky

Frances Rogers

b. 11-8-1767 Organce Co., N.C.
d. 9-22-1823 Logan Co., Kentucky
Her mother was the famous "Miss Harper" of historical Harper's Ferry weapons factory.

William Herndon

Plantation owner
b. ca.1706 King and Queen Co. Virginia, m. 1730 d. 1773
Chatham Co., North Carolina

George Herndon

Plantation owner,
b. ca. 1740 Caroline Co., Va.
d. 1816 Georgia

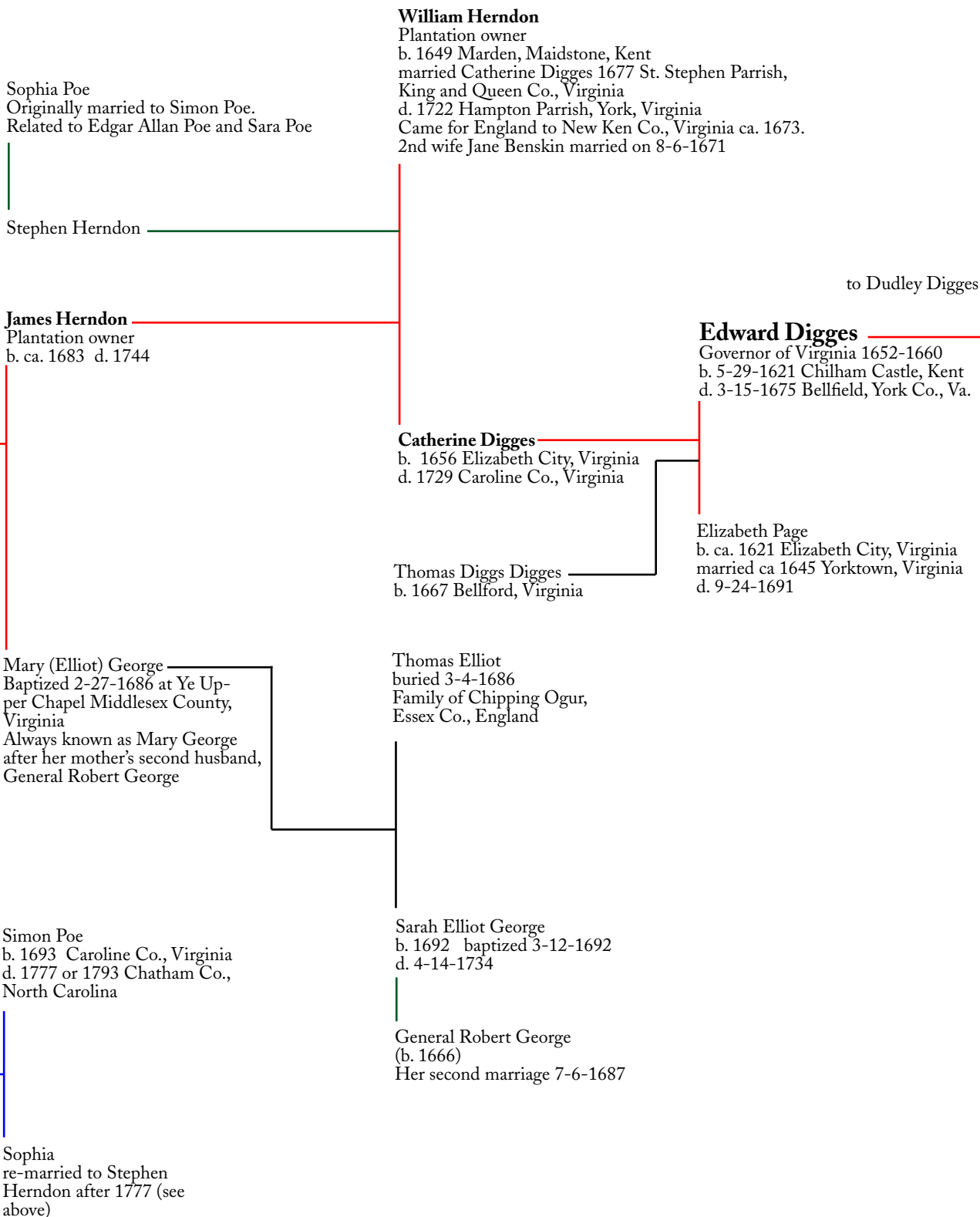
William Herndon

to James Herndon

Frances Merramon

Ann Pounds

Sarah Poe



Sir Thomas Digges

Famous world-class mathematician, astronomer, member of Parliament, Officer in Dutch Wars
 b. 1546 Barham, Kent, d. 8-24-1595 London

Leonard Digges

Inventor of the telescope, mathematician, astronomer, scientist, writer, wealthy gentry, participant in the rebellion against Mary, Queen of Scots
 b. about 1520 Digges Court, Kent
 d. 1559 Kent, England

Leonard Digges

Friend of Shakespeare
 b. 1588 d. 1635

Ursulla Digges

b. 1617

Margaret Digges

Palmer
 b. 1617

Anthony St. Leger

of Warham Plantagenet
 b. 1500 Ulcomb, Kent

Sir Dudley Digges

Member of Parliament, Famous patron of English exploration
 b. 1583 Chilham Castle
 d. 3-18-1638 Chilham Castle

Sir Warham St. Leger

Sheriff of Warham Plantagenet
 b. 1524 Abergavenny Castle
 d. 1599 Cork, Ireland

Agnes Warham of Warham

to Edward Digges

Lady Ann St. Leger

b. 1555 Ulcombe, Kent
 d. 1636 Chilham, Kent

Anthony Saint Leger

Knight of Ulcombe and of Leeds Castle, Kent County England. Died 1603.

Sir Warham Saint Leger

Owner of Leeds castle. Member of the Virginia Company and subscriber to the Third Charter, 1611-12. Accompanied Sir Walter Raleigh on his second voyage to Guiana 1617-18 on the ship "Thunder"

Mary Scott

Married about 1578

Katherine Saint Leger

John Culpeper

Gentry, Surveyor General of South Carolina and Albemarle Co. North Carolina; He participated in *Culpeper's Rebellion*, in North Carolina. Tried for treason in England but not punished.

Thomas Culpeper member of Virginia Company 1623

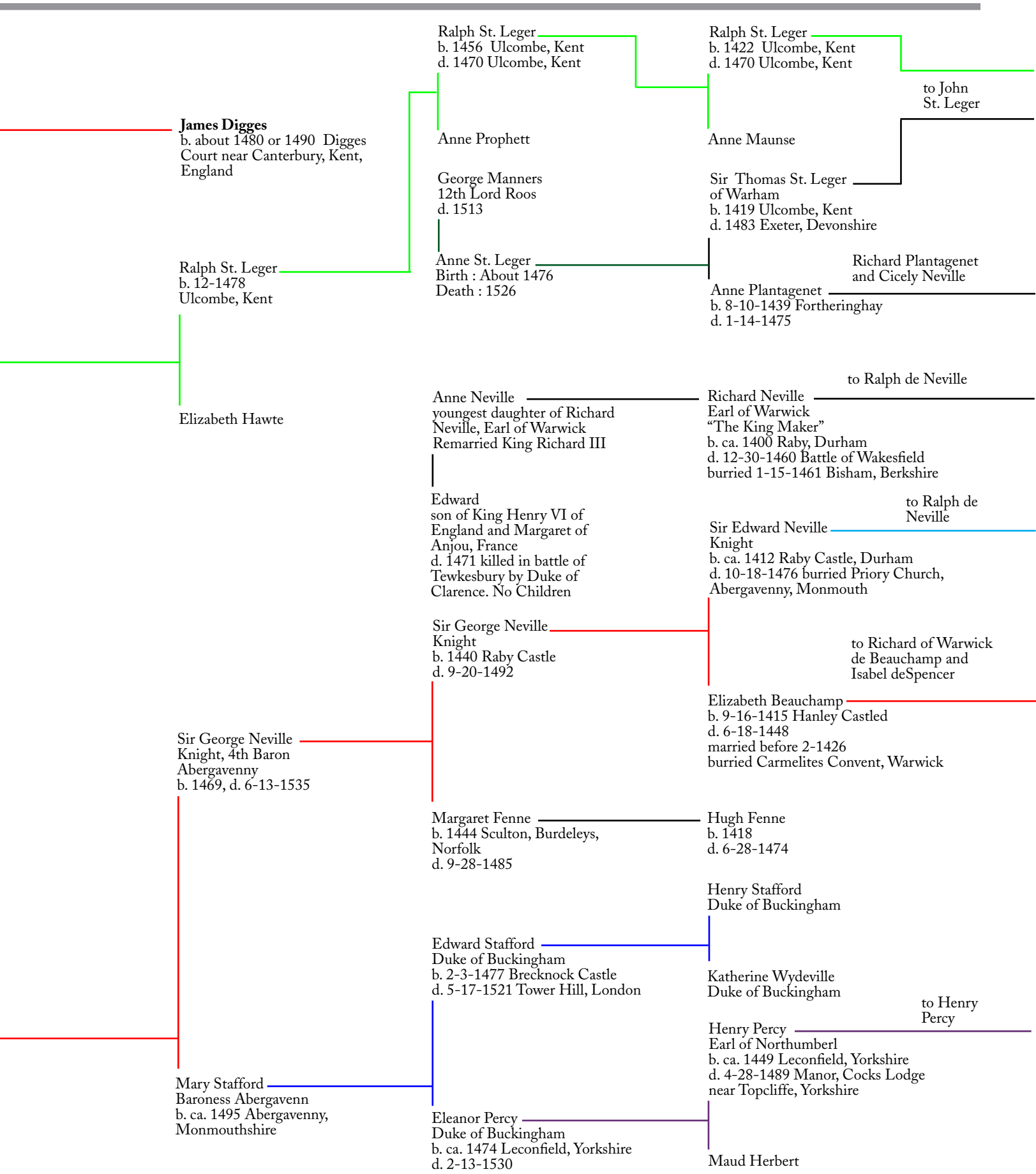
Lady Ursulla Neville

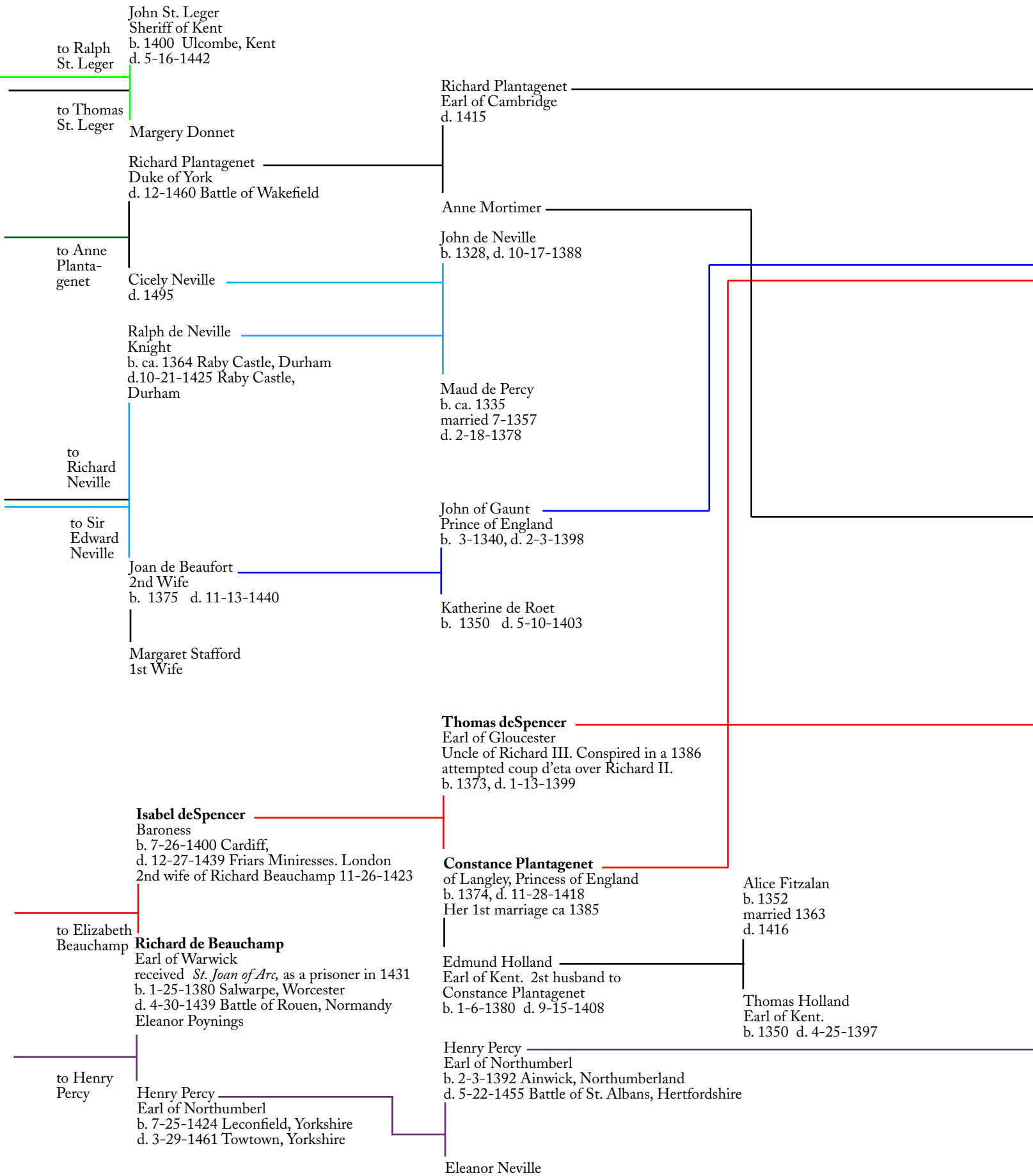
Thomas Kent of Chillham

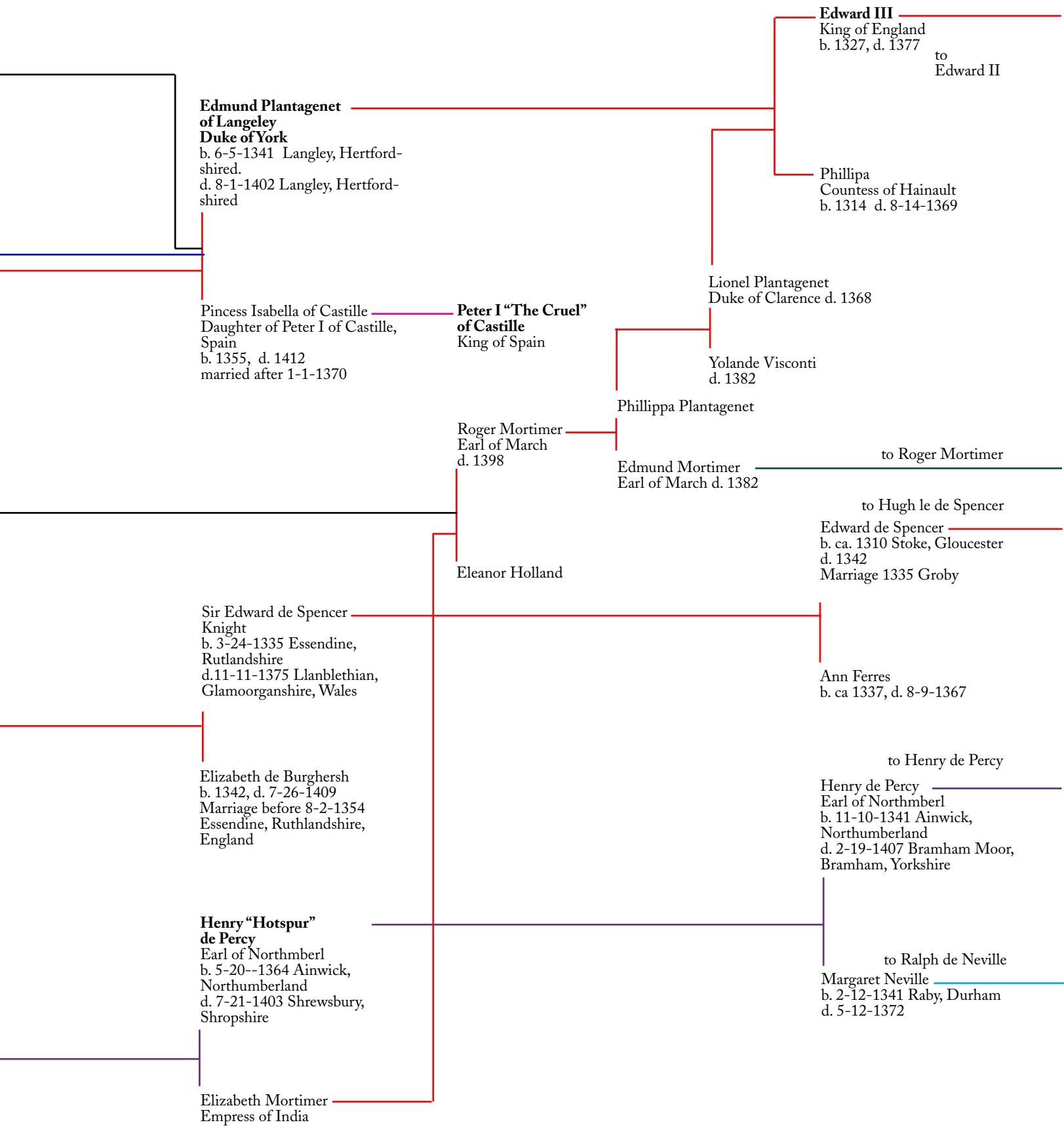
Mary Kemp

b. 1583 Olantigh, Kent
 d. 5-1631 Chilham Castle

Dorothy Thompson







King Edward I Plantagenet

King of England "Longshanks"
marriage 10-18-1254

Eleanor Princess of Castille
Queen of England 1274-1290
b. 1246, d. 11-28-1290

King Edward II
King of England
b. 4-25-1284, d. 9-21-1327

to
Edward III

Isabella of France
Daughter of King Philip IV of France
b. 1292 d. 8-22-1358

to
Edmund
Mortimer

Roger Mortimer
Second husband of
Isabella of France
b. 1287, d. 1330

Baron Hugh le de Spencer
b. 10-1292
d. 11-24-1326

Sir Hugh le de Spencer
Knight
b. 3-1-1260
d. 11-1326

to Edward
de Spencer

Ralph de Monthermer
Second husband
d. 1307 Clare, Suffolk

Joan Plantagenet of Acre
b. 1272 in Acre, Palestine,
Israel, home of Crusaders
d. 4-23-1307 Clare, Suffolk

Eleanore (Alianore) de Clare
b. ca 1285 Caerphilly Castle,
Glamorganshire, Wales
d. 6-30-1337 Tewkesbury,
Gloucestershire
marriage after 6-14-1306, Westminster

Gilbert de Clare
d. 1314 in Battle

Sir Gilbert de Clare
'The Red Earl' of Gloucester
and Hereford
b. 9-2-1243 Christchurch,
d. 12-7-1295 Monmouth Castle
Married 5-1290 Westminster Abbey

to Henry
de Percy

Henry de Percy
Lord Percy

Henry Plantagenet
Earl of Lancaster III
b. 1281 d. 9-22-1345
Leicester

**Edmund "Crouchback"
Plantagenet**

Earl of Lancaster
b. 1-16-1245 London
d. 6-5-1296 Bayonne

Mary Plantagenet
b. 1320 Tutbury Castle,
Tutbury, Staffordshire
d. 9-1-1362

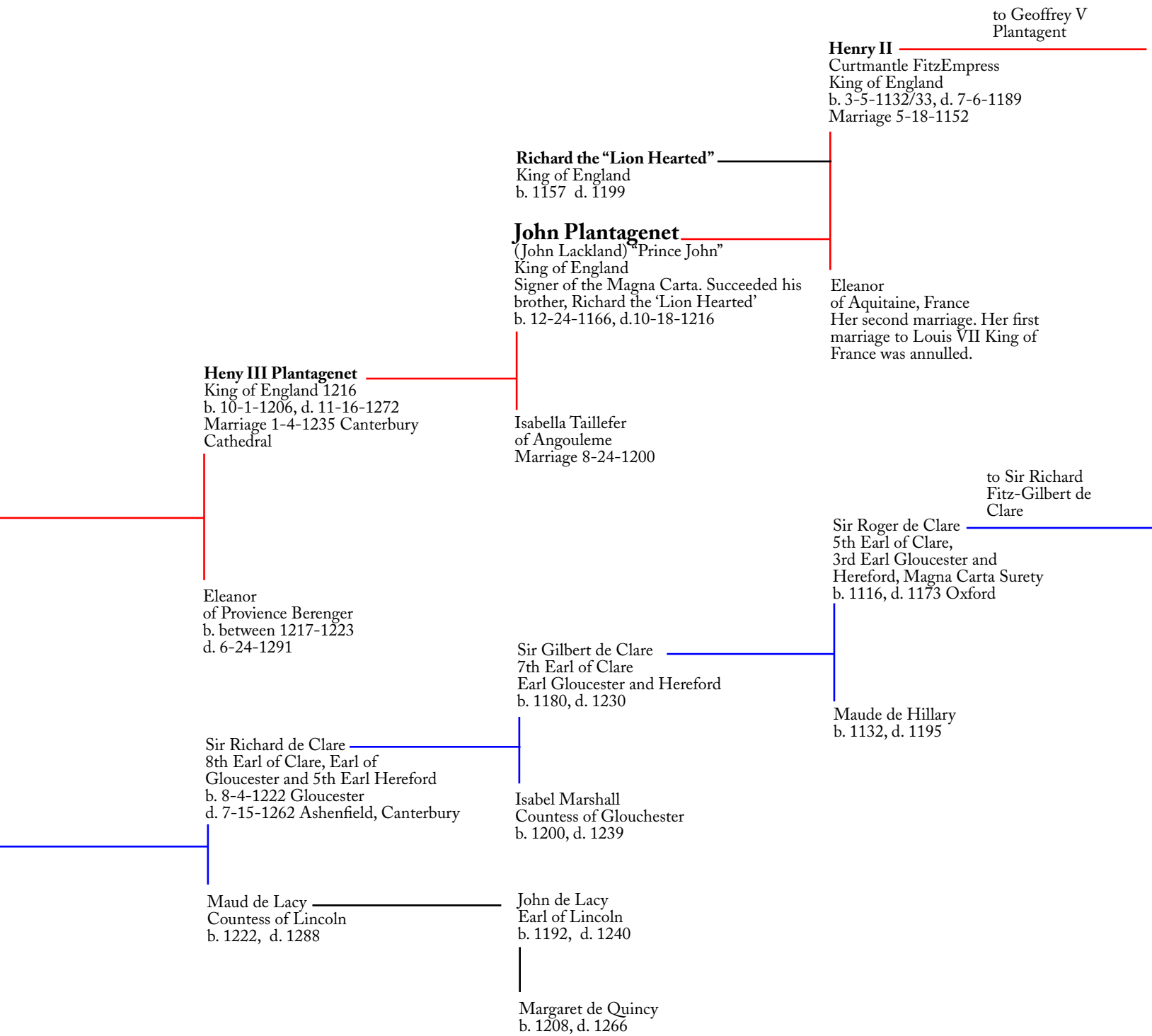
Maud Chaworth

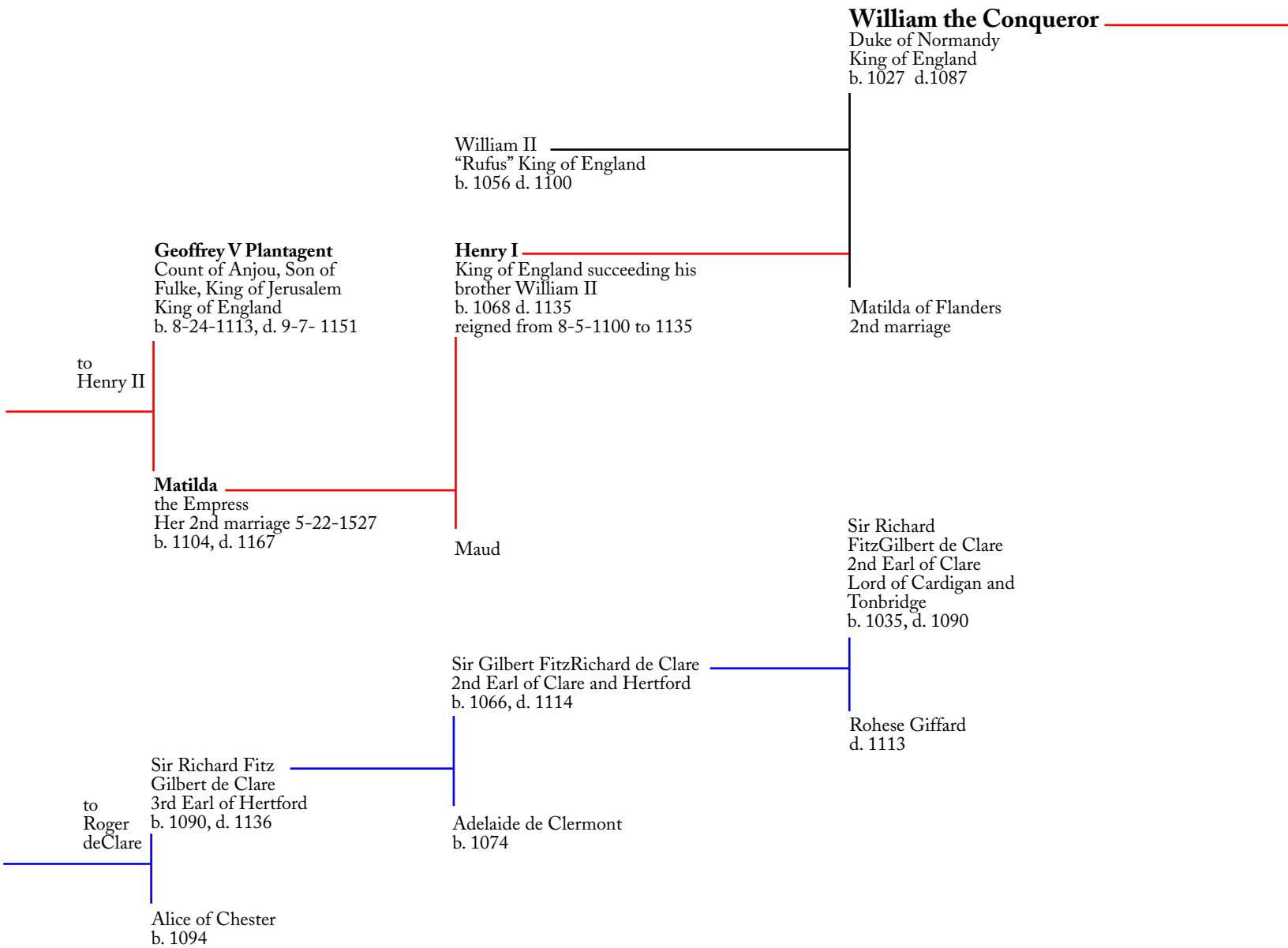
to Margaret
Neville

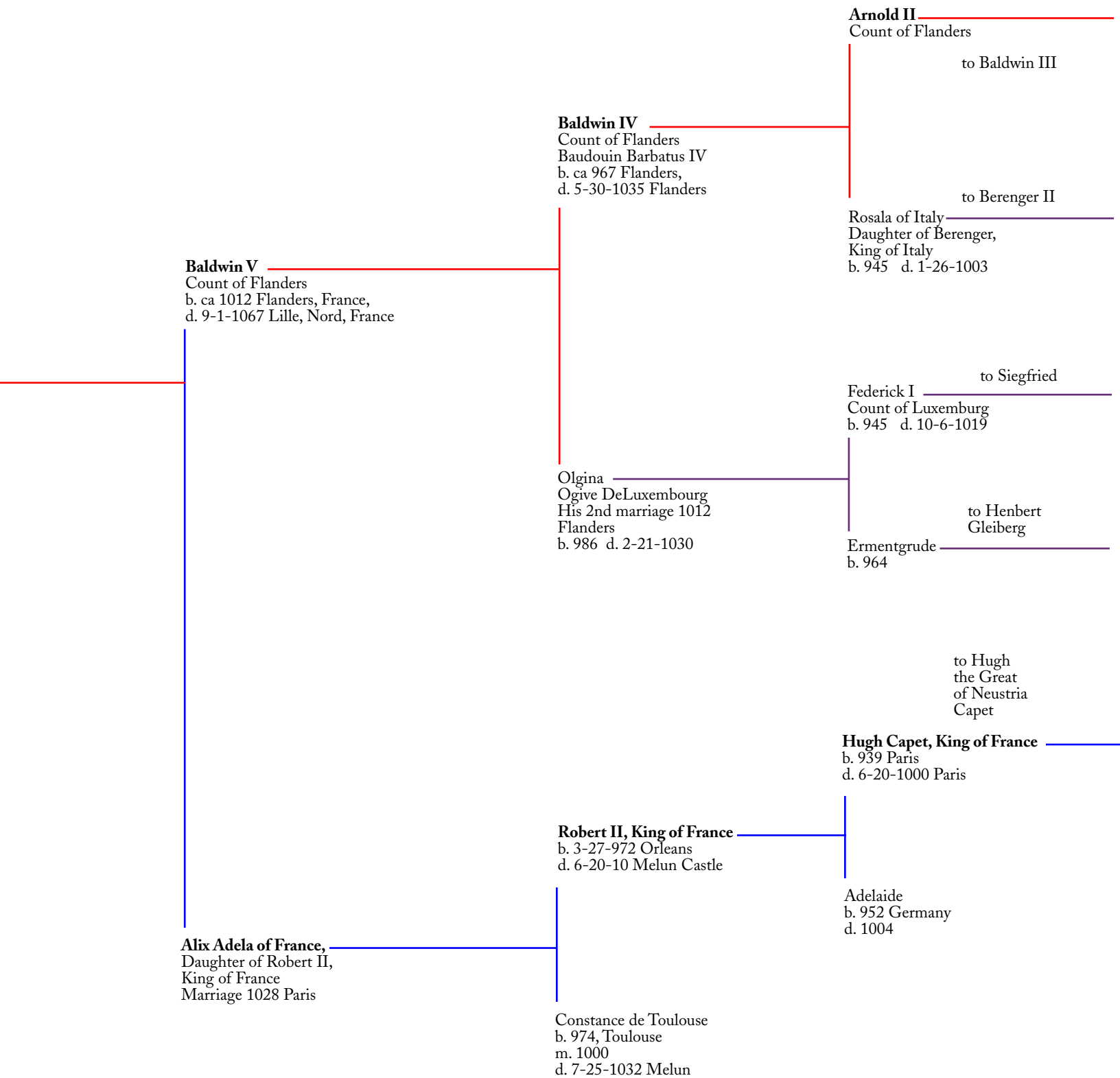
Ralph de Neville
Lord of Raby, Durham

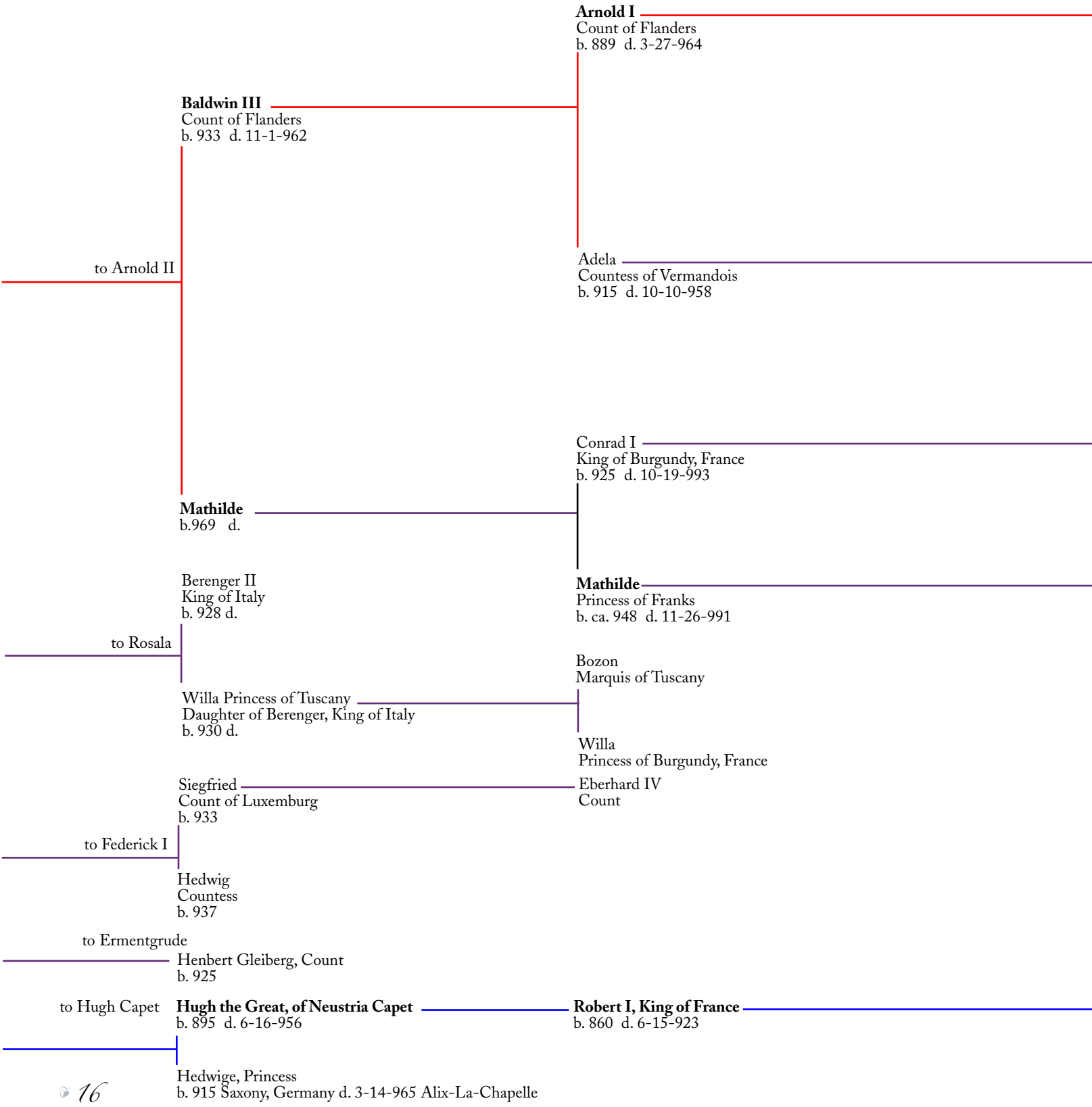
Blanche de Artois
Earl of Lancaster
b. 1281 d. 9-22-1345 Leicester

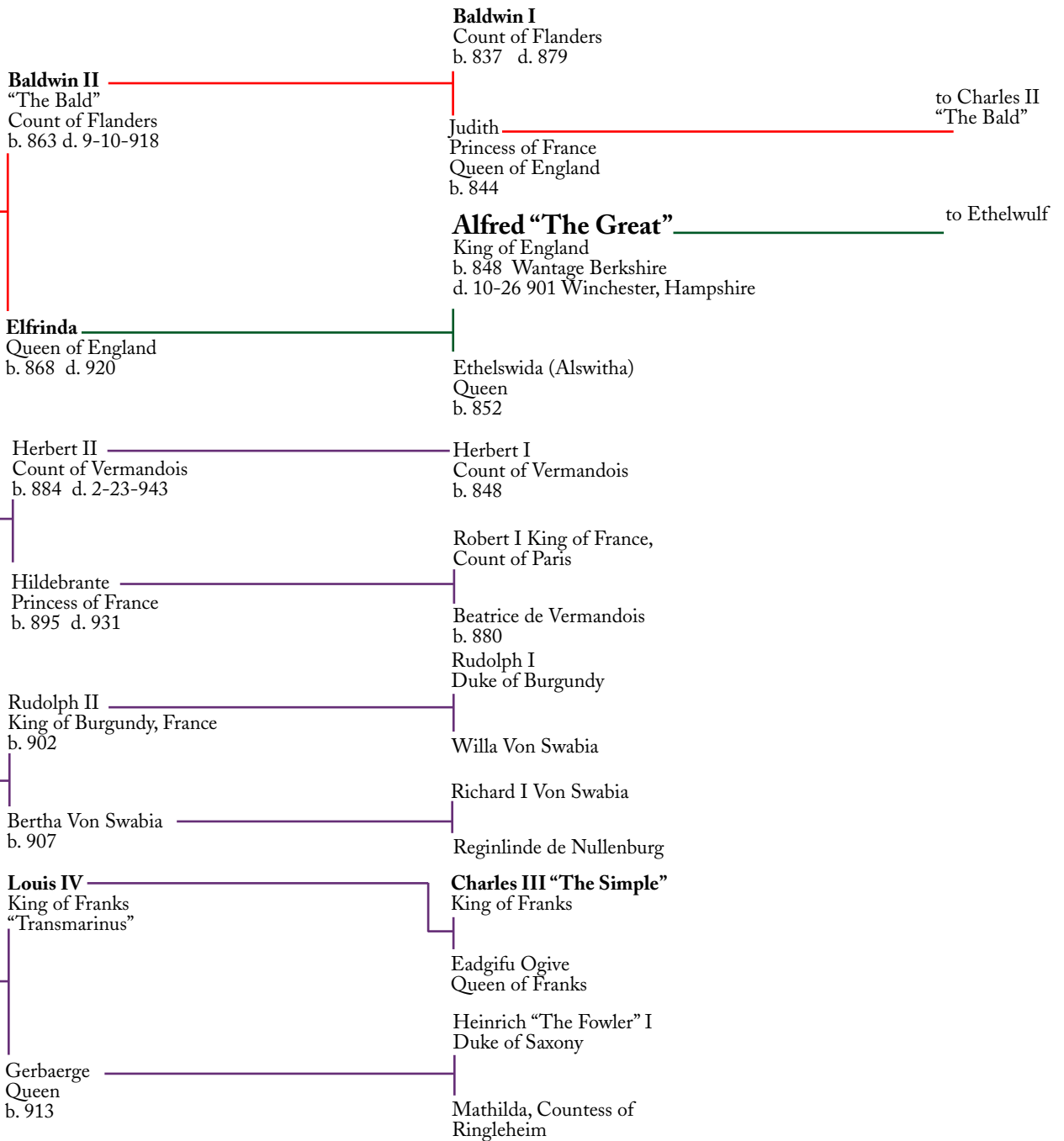
Alice de Audley











Robert the Strong of Neustria
b. unknown d. 866

Charlemagne lineage (France)

**Charles the Great
(Charlemagne)**
Holy Roman Emperor 800
King of Franks
b. 4-2-742 d. 814

Lewis I 'The Pious'
King of Aquitaine 781
Holy Roman Emperor 813-40
b. 8-778 d. 6-20-840

Hildegarde
Countess of Vinzgau
b. 757

Charles II "The Bald"
Holy Roman Emperor 875
b. 5-15- 823 d. 10-6-877

Welf I
Duke of Bavaria
b. 776

to Judith

Judith
Empress
b. 800 d. 4-19-843

Hedwig
Duchess of Bavaria
b. 780

Ermentrude
Queen of Bavaria
b. 825 d. 10-6-869

Eudes
Count of Orleans
b. 798 d. 834

Hadrian
d. 2-15-824

Waldrat
d. 2-15-824

Ingeltrude, Countess
b. 805

Leutaud, Count of Paris

Alfred the Great lineage (England)

Egbert
King of Wessex
b. 784 d. 11-19-838

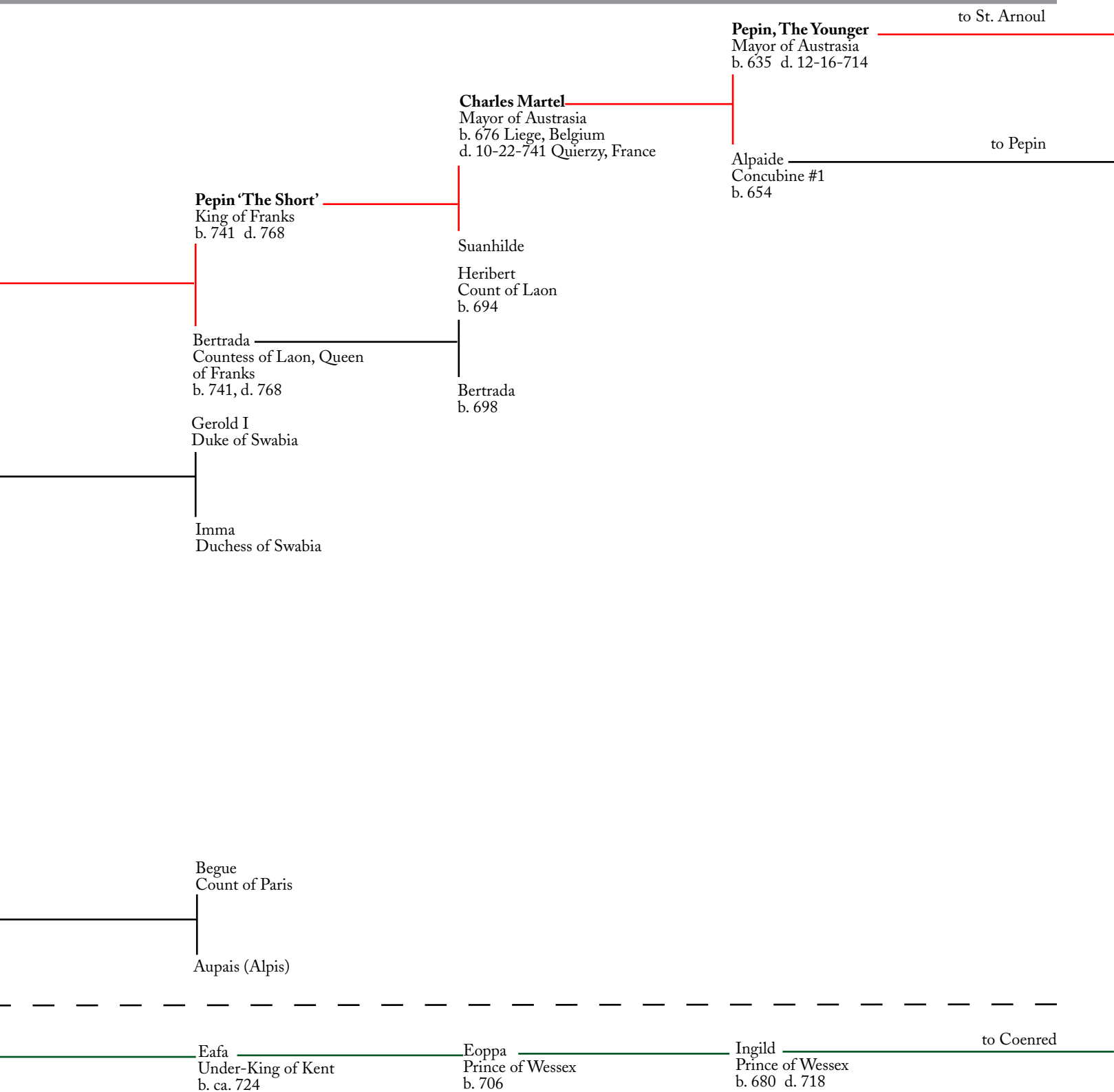
Ealhmund
Under-King of Kent
b. 758

Ethelwulf
King of Wessex
b. 806 d. 857

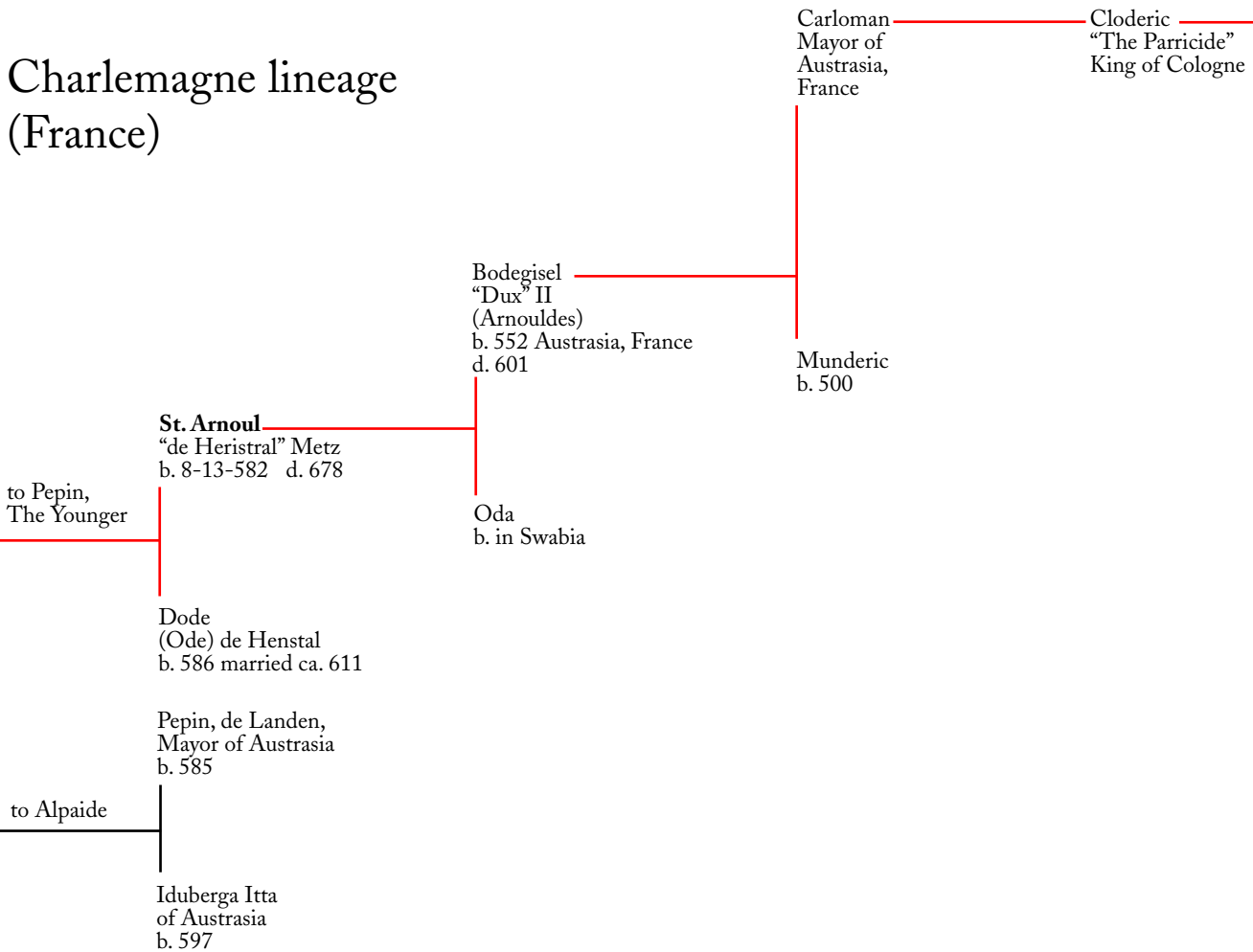
Redburg
b. 788

to Alfred

Osburga
b. 810



Charlemagne lineage (France)



Alfred the Great lineage (England)

to Ingild

Coenred
Prince of Wessex
b. 644

Ceolwald
Prince of Wessex
b. 622

Cudam
Prince of Wessex
b. ca. 595

Cuthwin
Prince of Wessex
b. ca. 564

Sigbert I "The Lamé"
King of Cologne
b. ca 465 d. 509

Childebert
King of Cologne
b. ca. 440

to Elesa

Ceawlin
Prince of Wessex
b. 547 d. 591

Cynric
Prince of Wessex
b. 525 d. 560

Creoda
Prince of Wessex
b. 493

Cerdic
King of Wessex

Alfred the Great lineage (England)

to Cerdic

Elesa — b. 411 Northern Germany-Ancient Saxony

Gewis — From whom all Britons name their nation b. 383

Wig — b. 355

Freawin — b. ca. 320

Frithogar — b. 299

100

Frithuwulf — b. ca. 140

Finn — b. ca. 120

Flocwald — b. ca. 100

Godwulf — b. ca. 80

Gear — b. ca. 60

100 BC

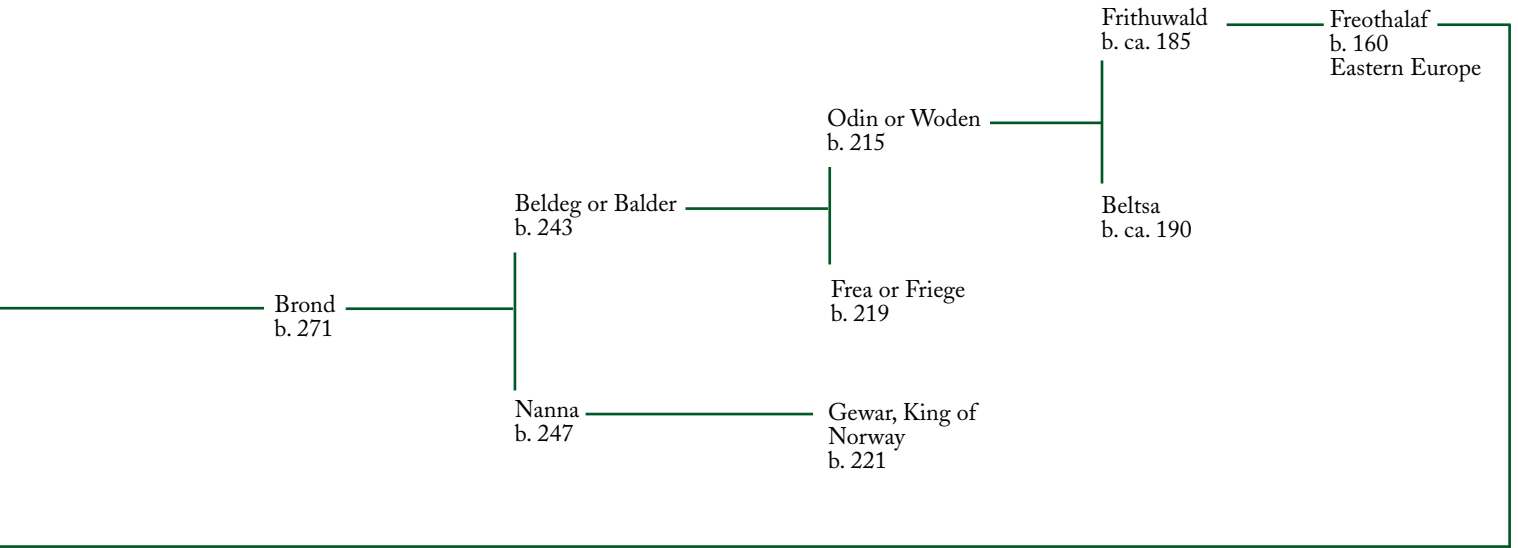
200 BC

Itermon — b. ca. 80 BC

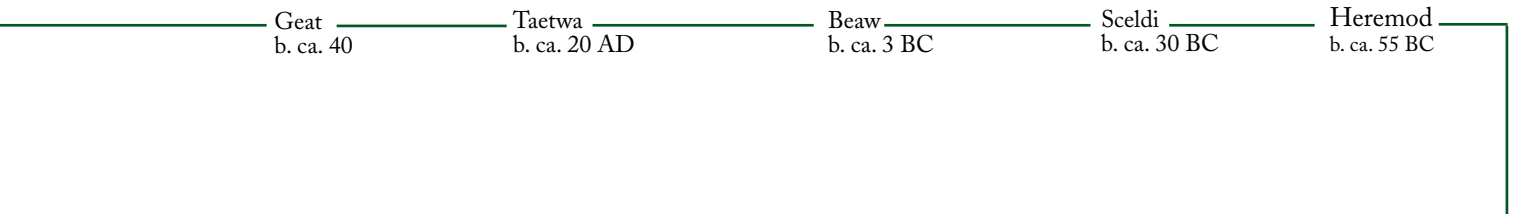
Hathra — b. ca. 105 BC

Guala — b. ca. 125 BC

Bedwig — b. ca. 160 BC



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Laura Mae Clark Cost

b. 2-2-1899 Rusk Co., Texas
d. 8-8-1967 Granite, Oklahoma

Laura was affectionately known as “Babe” and was a sweet kindly lady, with a soft southern voice and affectionate manner. Will and Laura’s home in Granite lay at the southern foot of a low mountain on the west edge of the Witchita Mountain Range, and she would often take her grandchildren for a hike up that mountain. It was always a delight. We would scramble around the boulders, pick our way around the cactus and chase horny toads and avoid the tarantulas. There was a large slab of rock that she would point out and say that it could be a giant’s door. Sometimes we would walk with her to downtown Granite or down the road to the locally famous monument quarry and works. Babe had seen Haley’s comet when she was a child, and she would show the constellations to us, and we would scan the sky for any comets of our own. She kept a large sandbox in her back yard for us to play in. She was a good oil painter, created landscapes of the places where she lived. Babe taught her grandson, James Steven, how to paint when he was only nine. She was a warmly religious woman who supported her minister husband. Babe helped out in the church and the communities where they lived, and served as a practical nurse and hospital volunteer. All of Pappy and Babe’s children and grandchildren looked forward to the loving times we had at the annual Thanksgiving reunion at their Granite, Oklahoma home, and all the other times we got to visit during the year.

Laura Mae
“Babe”
Clark Cost



A Story About The Clark Family by Laura Clark

J. W. Clark, my father, was born in Tennessee on November 22, 1848. He grew up in Tennessee, but later moved to Fannin County, Texas after the War Between the States. The State of Texas at that time was not so well developed. John Wesley filed on a claim in Fannin County that was covered in timber and he started to work cleaning it off and making a home for himself. He often told how he had to look out for wild hogs and other wild animals as he worked or went about his chores in those early days.

In the year 1874, he met and married Mary Ann (Mollie) Herndon. To this union was born two children. Cora Lee on November 26, 1876, and Luther Green on September 15, 1878. Mollie did not live very long, but went to her reward on August 14, 1881.

John Wesley did not give up his children, but stayed on his farm and found time to be both mother and father to his two small children. In the year 1882 a cousin of his late wife came from Alabama to visit her aunt and uncle – Green Herndon who lived in Savory, Texas – Mollie’s parents. This cousin was Mesenah Elmira Ann Herndon. And with her aunt and uncle, she visited my father and his two children.

I have heard Mesenah, my mother, say it was love at first sight. They were married August 20, 1882 and lived on the farm where my father, J. W. Clark, had worked so hard to make a home. For two years Mesenah was mother to the two small children. Then on November 29, 1884 a daughter was born. They named her Minnie Lee. She was a dainty little lassie and a very welcome addition to the family, and the center of attraction for two years until another daughter came to take her place in their midst on June 26, 1886. This one was named Ollie Elizabeth and was loved dearly.

After three years there came another little girl and made herself a place in their lives. She was small of stature but a bundle of energy. They called her Mattie Delilah and her birth date was May 10, 1889. Soon after on September 19, 1890 the first son of this union made his appearance and they named him John after his father, and he was to be called Floyd.

Father was having a very busy time feeding and clothing his little family and trying to improve his Texas farm. The country was new and the black soil was fertile. Father learned, along with the other settlers, to plant and raise as much of their own food as possible. An orchard was planted and began to bear fruit. The area was prospering; the towns of Trenton and Leonard were growing up on either side of them.

Then on May 24, 1893, another son comes into the home. This one they named Claude Holmes. He was a welcome playmate for his brother who by that time was a big boy three years old. These two boys were constant companions through their childhoods – climbing trees, hunting for nuts in the Fall, riding the calves and helping their big brother Luther and their father with the chores.

The home was enlarged. There were two big rooms with a large connecting fireplace opening into each room. There was a big porch that ran completely across the front of the house with a bedroom boxed up on the end of the porch. A long room ran off to the north that served as a kitchen and dining room. A large comfort range at one end, and a huge wood box had to be filled each day, which was a good job for two small boys with a bigger brother to help with the cutting of the wood.

Then fate decreed that there were to be another girl added to this group. Anna Sewell made her appearance on February 8, 1896. She was a little lady with long dark hair and one blue eye and one grey eye.

Her older sisters were growing up then, and they thought this little sister was a very nice addition to their number. The oldest sister is a big girl by this time and has boy friends. One in particular was preferred above



Laura and brothers and sisters (1940s)



Laura and Rev. W.T. Cost. The family called them "Pappy" and "Babe".

Laura Clark Cost, age 15, in her wedding dress.



Laura Clark Cost and second child, Forrest Milton (Mickey) Cost, early 1920



1914 Wedding photos of Reverend W. T. Cost and Laura Clark Cost



Cost family. Back row: father – William Thomas (Pappy), children: Forrest Milton (Mickey) James Wilson, William Elmo, Glenn Harding. Front row: Helen Joan, Billy Pat, Herb Holmes, and mother – Laura Mae (Babe).



Babe's eye glasses and her personal Bible with notes

the others, so on January 5, 1897, Allen Foutch lead her to the parson and they said "I do."

Soon the place she had left vacant was occupied by yet another girl born on February 2, 1899. I was to be the last child born to this union, and they named me Laura Mae. Where other of my sisters had long black hair, I was noted for my bald head. This condition lasted until I was about three years of age.

The older boys and girls had become young men and women who were having friends into the home, and they all were going places together. A school had been built near Corinth, Texas, and also served as a community center. Church services were held in it as well as classes. Some of the teachers of that day are still well remembered, including Lockett Simmons, Grace Mitchell and others.

The finances of the Clark family had increased through the effort of everyone until they had a comfortable home on the farm and enjoying their lives together. A surrey with a fringe on the top was bought and a lovelier conveyance was never ridden in or one more appreciated. Were the family had gone to church and into town before in a wagon or on foot, now they rode in style in the sparkling black surrey, with rubber tires and the fringe on the top waving in the breeze. Pulled by two fat horses, it was a beautiful sight and made us all feel very grand!

Many happy winter evenings were spent around the fireplace, roasting potatoes and eggs wrapped in a wet cloth buried in the ashes, popping corn in a huge wire popper, and eating apples from the barrel stored in a closet by the huge fireplace. When ice and snow was on the ground, Father would make a sled by turning a cane bottom chair on its back and placing the smaller children on it. He would then take them on a merry ride while the older children wore out their shoes skating to and fro.

In the summer there was ice cream parties given in the shade of the trees in the back yard near a well of water that was treasured for its purity and coolness.

These happy times were shared by friends and relatives. Among them was Aunt Mary Cox and her children who had moved from Alabama to Texas and soon her husband passed on and left her with a large family of children to care for. She had an old "darkey" called Tony (a freed Negro slave), who had lived with her since she married. Tony would turn the ice cream freezer and tease the small children. When the ice cream had frozen, he would call to Father and say, "Uncle John, its ripe!" This would call for a scurrying for bowls and a laugh from everyone.

The canning and drying of fruit in the summer and hog killing in the winter were all special events. To dry fruit, long boards were fixed on saw horses and covered with cloth. The fruit was split and placed face up on the cloth. Each evening it was taken

inside. In the morning it was spread out again until dry. Friends and neighbors helped each other and made the work more pleasant. In the winter when butchering was done, the neighbors came again and a feasting and merry time was had by all.

Into this family Luther Green brought his new wife, Genie Weatherby on October 2, 1903. Genie was a jolly, good natured person and soon made a place for herself in the family.

The year 1904 comes around. Mattie who was then 15 met and fell in love with Oscar Lovett of Leonard, Texas. So on December 25 they were married by Parson Conley.

Next Ollie met a neighbor boy by the name of Jim Steele, and they were married in February of 1905. She was 19 and madly in love with her strong efficient (competent?) husband.

It seems that Father and Mother were losing their children at a rapid pace, for the year 1906 found Minnie married to Wix Price. It was February and the rains had been coming down so the black mud was deep and it took a bit of cooperating on the part of the young couple to drive and punch mud in order to reach the parson and back home again. But the task was done and the last one to be married in Texas was in a home of her own.

Come the fall of the year 1906, September 6, saw the migration of the rest of the Clark family from Fannin County, Texas to Greer County, Oklahoma (the "Land of Promise"). Luther had moved the year before and had a wonderful crop growing the year of 1906. One of the things Father held up as ideal to the family before moving was the fact one could go out immediately after a rain and not bog down.

The day the rest of the family arrived on September 27, 1906, at what is now Brinkman on the Bill Lampert farm just north of the city limits, Luther was cutting feed which was taller than the row binder and heavy with heads. In his yard the family pitched their tents and waited until places could be vacated that had been purchased.

There was quite a group in that wagon train – Cora and Allen Foutch with their two children in a covered wagon, and two covered wagons of my family.

The surrey with the fringe on the top and a buggy made up the caravan with Father and Mother, Claude, Anna, me and two hired hands – John Counts and Bill Philips. The only incident that was outstanding was as we crossed the Peas River. The wagon in which Mother, Anna and I were riding, and John Counts was driving, almost floated down the river. Floyd had come on ahead of the rest of the family and was not in the caravan.

We lived in our tents there in the yard of Luther until they gathered their crop or until the first of the year. Cotton was tall that year; higher than an eight year old's head (my head).

The first year found Mother in very poor health. She was in bed almost a year. The first summer found most of the family with typhoid fever including Mother, Mattie (who was living at home with Olga, her daughter), Anna, Claude and me. We had to haul water and use it out of the barrel and this barrel is where we got our typhoid germs. We had some wonderful neighbors, among whom were Ruth and Eula Ryan, who were a great help to Floyd and Father, coming every day to wash clothes, cook and care for Olga; but eventually we all recovered from the fever.

The children went to school at Prosperity, Oklahoma, one mile east of where we lived. There were many happy days spent at this schoolhouse. Some of the teachers were Sam West, Effie Zornes, and others.

Floyd grew up and found himself an Irish "lassie" with a big smile. She was Viola Summerall, whom on September 18, 1909 Floyd lead to the altar and said, "I'll be thine."

Not long after this, the MKT Railroad was built from Wichita Falls, Texas northward and the town of Brinkman came into being, and the outlying churches and schools were moved to the town.

Meanwhile, Anna and I had grown up and went to school in Brinkman. We formerly went to school at Prosperity, one of the small schools that consolidated in Brinkman. The distance was too far for us to walk from our farm home, so school wagons were



Laura, Viola, Everett,
Bertha, Minnie, Gennie,
J. W. and grandchildren

employed by the school district for us and other families. These were drawn by horses or mules. The one coming by the Clark farm, that was driven by father himself, picked up several Syrian children. One little Syrian girl would be nauseated each morning. Here's why – we would heat bricks and place lighted lanterns under blankets stretched across from one side of the wagon to the other and the fumes from the lanterns got very strong and caused her nausea. She would always lose her breakfast.

Anna was the next one to leave the home nest. She was a very popular young lady with beautiful long hair and her blue and grey eyes made her very attractive. She met and married a neighbor boy named George Rogers on January 9, 1912. They actually ran away and were married by George's grandfather.

Claude, not to let his little sister get ahead of him, found a lovely little blond girl, whose home was near the little village of Marie, Texas. They were married the same year on May 8, 1912. Her name was Bertha Foster. They moved in a small house that our Father built for them on the home place just south of the Clark homestead.

This left only me at home with Mother and Father. I spent my time helping keep house and going to school. Also I enjoyed visiting a niece, Jewell Foutch, and a friend, Mattie Shumate, in Brinkman. We went everywhere together. Mother and I went places together, too, in a buggy, driving a large blue horse. I remember one afternoon, when returning from a country store operated by George Massad, a Syrian merchant in Brinkman, the horse got scared by something and ran away with us in the buggy. That horse didn't stop until he ran up to the barn door back home.

The year 1914 rolled around. I was now 15 and going steady with a neighbor farm boy, Will Cost. He was 22 and had been recently licensed to preach by the Baptist Church at Brinkman. I had said that I would never marry a preacher or a doctor. But I was so madly in love with the tall curly haired boy that we had to be with each other for the rest of our lives. We were married on July 4, 1914 (Independence Day) at Brinkman and we then went ten miles east over to Granite, Oklahoma (where we lived many years later, and have now retired) for a Fourth of July picnic with friends and family at the Sulphur Springs park over on the north side of the mountain. I was the youngest child and the last to leave home.

This left Mother and Father alone. But there were many happy Sundays and birthdays when my brothers and sisters would come home bringing our own families and food to eat and have a



George Rogers, Lloyd Clark, Claude Clark, Luther Clark, Wix Price Sr. and (seated) John Wesley Clark

happy visit together.

The year 1923 sees our family scattered around, by we keep in touch with home. In May a message comes that Mother is very ill with cancer. She passed to her reward on May 25 at the age of 64, and was buried in Brinkman Cemetery.

George and Anna move in to stay and care for Father. They didn't stay very long. Claude and Bertha came to replace them. Father was very lonesome in spite of having Claude and Bertha with him. Father bought a little Ford coupe, and a grandson, Bill Price drove for him to visit his other children and grandchildren and to go to other places. Olga Lovett also helped drive him around.

Father had very good health until one day while he was plowing with a go-devil plow, he had a partial stroke and for quite a while he walked with a cane. Finally one day Father had another stroke and could not walk or talk. But in his wheel chair he was very much the center of the home, with Claude and Bertha taking care of him.

On July 29, 1931, Father passed away at the age of 83 and was buried beside Mother in the Brinkman Cemetery. A wonderful mother and father have gone to their rewards, but will never be forgotten as long as their family lives and remembers.



Clark family in the 1920s, at the home place near Brinkman, Oklahoma, with John Wesley Clark (seated) with his long beard.

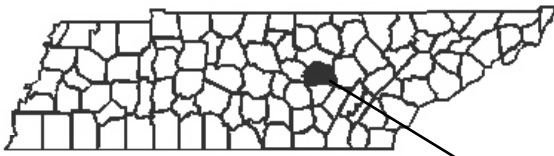


John Wesley Clark and some of his grandchildren

John Wesley Clark

b. 1848 White County, Tenn.
d. 7-23-1931 Brinkman, Okla.

Came to Fannin County, Texas at the age of 21 in 1869 and bought 80 acres at \$2.50 an acre. See story by Laura.



White County, Tennessee

Wyatt Lindsey Clark

b. 3-18-1819, White County, Tennessee
d. 7-10-1896 Little Rock, Arkansas
m. about 1842 to Chloe Ann Lee, John Wesley's mother.
Wyatt had 2 other wives – third wife was named Lew. He was a “country doctor” in his early days in Tennessee. He moved to Fannin County, Texas to farm, then sold out and moved to Little Rock, Arkansas.

Children of Wyatt Lindsey Clark and Chloe Ann Lee:

- James Clark** b. About 1844 Tennessee
- August Jackson Clark** b. about 1847 Tennessee
- John Wesley Clark** b. 1848 White County, Tenn.
d. 7-23-1931 Brinkman, Okla.
- Rachel Clark** b. about 1849 Tennessee
- Nancy Margaret Clark** b. 7-8-1851 Tennessee
d. 1-18-1900 Leonard, Fannin, Texas
- Molly Clark** b. about 1850 Tennessee
- William Penn Clark** b. about 1853 Tennessee
d. 8-31-1931
- Sarah Jane Clark** b. 4-9-1855 Sparta, White Co., Tenn.
d. 7-1-1928
- Waymon Clark** b. 5-22-1857 Tennessee d. 1-05-1928
- Thomas C. Clark** b. about 1858 Tennessee

Mesenah Elmira Herndon and John Wesley Clark



Left to right: Mesena, Ann Rogers, Carthol Rogers (baby), George Rogers, Laura Cost with Elmo (baby)

Mesenah Elmira Herndon Clark

b. 1-2-1858 Pike County, Alabama
d. 5-25-1925 Brinkman, Okla.
daughter of Hiram and Bethany Herndon

Hiram Herndon

Father of Mesenah Elmira
Farmer

b. 1823 Georgia
m. Bethany Clark
d. 1886 Mount Pleasant, Alabama

Hiram Herndon served in the Civil War for the Confederate Army in Company A, 57th Alabama Regiment, Confederate States of America. His daughter, Mrs. Clarissa (Clara) Georganna Herndon Goodman said in a newspaper interview in 1942, “Father went to the army in May 1862 and was gone until the war ended in 1865.” She told of her mother’s struggle to support and care for the five children left at home. Clara herself, the oldest was thirteen years old when her father left for the war. All the children helped in the spinning and weaving cotton cloth at home.

Children of Hiram Herndon and Bethany Clark:

1. Clarissa Georganna Herndon
2. James Sidney Herndon
3. Mesena Elmira Herndon

4. Mary Alice Pounds Herndon
5. Catherine Susan Herndon
6. Nancy Herndon
7. Samuel Herndon
8. Lula Herndon

James Herndon

Father of Hiram. Farmer

b. ca 1780 North Carolina, d. 1852 Pike County, Alabama. Married about 1807 Silvia Henderson b. ca. 1790 Georgia, d. after 1852 Pike County, Alabama. According to *The History of Wilkinson County* by Victor Davidson, they are referred to as members of Friendship Church near Irwinton, Wilkinson County, Georgia. In 1850 they moved to Pike County, Alabama.



Pike County, Alabama was created in 1821. The county boundaries changed several times before being set at their current locations in 1866. The county was named for explorer Gen. Zebulon Pike, of New Jersey, a soldier in the War of 1812 and for whom Pike's Peak is named. The first county seat was established at Louisville, later moved to Monticello and finally located in Troy, now the largest city, in 1839.

William Herndon

Father of James Herndon

Plantation owner

b. about 1760 North Carolina.

Married to Ann Pounds

George Herndon

Father of William Herndon (b. about 1760)

Plantation owner

b. about 1740 Caroline County, Virginia.

Married to Frances Merramon

William Herndon

Father of George Herndon (b. about 1740) and Capt.

James Herndon (b. 1738)

Plantation owner

b. about 1706 King and Queen County, Virginia

m. Sarah Poe 1730 (possibly related to Edgar Allan Poe)

d. 1773 Chatham County, North Carolina

James Herndon

Father to William Herndon (b. about 1706)

Plantation owner

b. 1683 d. 1744

m. Mary Elliot George

In 1692 King and Queen County was created out of New Kent. In the Quit Rent Roll for King and Queen County, 1704, James Herndon was charged with ownership of 100 acres of land, probably part of original grant made in 1673 to his father William Herndon (b. 1649).

William Herndon

Father of James Herndon (b. 1683)

Plantation owner

b. 1649 Marden, Maidstone, Kent

married Catherine Digges 1677 St. Stephen Parrish, King and Queen Co., Virginia

d. 1722 Hampton Parrish, York Co., Virginia

Came for England to New Ken Co., Virginia ca. 1673.

2nd wife Jane Benskin married on 8-6-1671

Noted Herndon Uncles: George Herndon

Son of Captain James Herndon

Plantation owner,

b. 6-14-1762 Caroline Co., Virginia

m. 9-4-1783 Wake Co., N.C. to Frances Rogers, whose father was Robert Harper who established the famous Harpers Ferry and munitions factory, site of John Brown's raid.

d. 4-24-1848 near Russellville, Kentucky

Served in Revolutionary army under Gen. Lincoln. When serving with Gen. Ambrose Ramsey, he and the company were temporarily captured by the Tories of Col. Fanning, at the Chatham, North Carolina courthouse and taken to McFallsMill for holding.

Capt. James Herndon

Father of George Herndon (b. 6-14-1762)

Son of William Herndon (b. 1706) and Sara Poe

Plantation owner and Revolutionary War officer

b. 1738 Caroline Co., Virginia

m. 1761 Isabella Thompson

d. 1815 Logan Co., Kentucky Capt. in Revolutionary Army, served under regimental commander Col. Lytle, part of the army of General Lincoln.



Digges

Catherine Digges

Married William Herndon in 1677

b. 1656 Elizabeth City, Virginia

d. 1729 Caroline Co., Virginia

Children: Edward Herndon born 1678, James Herndon born 1683, William Herndon born 1685.

Edward Digges

Father of Catherine Digges

Governor of the Virginia colony in America 1652-1660

Tobacco plantation owner

b. 5-29-1621 Chilham Castle, Kent

m. Elizabeth Page

d. 3-15-1675 Bellfield, York Co., Va.

Edward Digges, also the Virginia Colony as councilor, as well as auditor-general, receiver-general, a Virginia agent in England, and governor for a two-year term, the latter during the period of the Cromwellian Commonwealth.

Shortly after the first permanent English colony in America was established at nearby Jamestown in 1607 settlers began moving to York County. Established in 1634, York County was one of the original eight shires of colonial Virginia.

Edward had acquired the West family acres on the York River some five miles up river from the site of later Yorktown and developed the famous "E. D. [Edward Digges] Plantation" with its noted quality tobacco. In a land deed dated September 11, 1650, and patent confirming the deed dated May 6, 1651, Edward Digges purchased from Capt. John and Ann West, plantation in Hampton Parish, York County, Virginia, land whose description included "Northwest upon the land of William Sayer." Like other early land owners in the New World, Edward was known as a "planter."



Sir Dudley Digges. portrait painted by Cornelius Janssen in 1636.

Sir Dudley Digges

Father of Edward Digges

b. 1583, Chilham Castle, County Kent, England 56

m. Mary Kempe

d. 3-18-1639, Chilham Castle, County Kent

Member of Parliament and Master of the Rolls

Ambassador to Russia

Knighthood 4-1607

Member of the Virginia Company

Patron of English exploration

Dudley Digges was also the stepson of Shakespeare's friend, Thomas Russell. He attended Christ Church College, and attended Oxford University as a Gentleman Commoner beginning July 18, 1600. He was tutored by the future Archbishop Abbot. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree in 1601.

Digges was interested in exploration and was one of English exploration's greatest supporters. He was a Commissioner of the Council of the Virginia Company in 1609, for which he received land in Virginia in 1622. He helped raise some of the money for Hudson's voyage to discover the Northwest Passage and even advocated an expedition to the North Pole. In 1611 he became Governor of the Northwest Passage Company, and published a book proving that the passage existed. Digges was a Commissioner in the East India and Muscovy Companies as well. William Barlow, pioneer of the navigation to South America, the Prebendary of Winchester and nephew of Roger



Sir Dudley Digges' main house, Chilham Castle, in Kent, was completed 1616

Barlow, dedicated his book *Magnetical Advertisements* on the mathematics of magnetism and its use in exploration and seafaring, published in 1616, to Dudley Digges. In 1618 Digges accompanied the botanist John Tradescant on a voyage to Russia.

From 1604 to 1611 he was M. P. for Tewkesbury. He was knighted at Whitehall April 29, 1607.

Throughout the 1620s Digges was one of the leaders of the House of Commons, taking a prominent part in the impeachment of Lord Buckingham in 1626, when Dudley was briefly imprisoned by King Charles I in the Tower. In 1628 he spoke at length in the debates on the *Petition of Right*. Later he was reconciled to the King, becoming Master of the Rolls in 1636.

As his main house, Digges built Chilham Castle in Kent, finished in 1616.

Dudley married Mary Kempe, daughter of Thomas Kempe and Dorothy Thompson.

Sir Dudley Digges father, Thomas, was wealthy and married to Anne St. Leger. Thomas, however, had his will written in a certain way to discourage his widow Anne from taking a second husband; and if she did, not keeping her inheritance.

After Thomas Digges death, his widow, Anne St. Leger Digges, and her new lover, Thomas Russell, lived together from 1600 – officially betrothed but not marrying – until 1603 when ways were found of circumventing provisions in Sir Thomas Digges's will. Thomas Russell had hopes of buying Clopton House, the second largest and richest house (Shakespeare's being the first) near Stratford. The deal fell through. During the year of his marriage he purchased the lease of Rushlock Manor near Droitwich. His marriage to Lady Anne was not altogether happy. Anne had a fortune of £12,000 from Sir. Thomas Digges. Russell was, despite his land, not rich. Sir Dudley Digges, Anne's son from Sir. Thomas Digges, and now Thomas Russell's stepson, later regretted arrangements to break the trust in his father's will and the ensuing litigation was accompanied by much abuse between the Digges and Russell families.

Dudley, was of distinct affiliation with the secret Order of Rosicrucians association, as may have his father,

Thomas. He was a close friend of the radical, Sir John Eliot, whom Charles I had imprisoned for his oppositional activities in parliament, and in whose handwriting there exists apparently a manuscript in English of the Rosicrucian manifesto, the *Fama*. When John Eliot languished in the Tower, Sir Dudley Digges wrote him a letter that began with the words, "Deere Brother..."



"The Temple of the Rosy Cross," Teophilus Schweighardt Constantiens, 1618

The Rosicrucians are a legendary and secretive Order dating from the 15th or 17th century, generally associated with the symbol of the Rose Cross, which is also used in certain rituals of the Freemasons. Several modern societies have been formed for the study of Rosicrucianism and allied subjects. Many argue that modern Rosicrucians are in no sense directly derived from the "Brethren of the Rosy Cross" of the 17th century, though they are keen followers thereof.



Explorer Henry Hudson's first search for the Northwest Passage in 1609 yielded the discovery of the mouth of the Hudson River. In 1610 a group of London merchants, later to be known as "The Adventurers", including Sir Dudley Digges, sent Captain Hudson out on the Discovery to search for a route to the Orient. Hudson entered Hudson Strait and explored its southern shores upon reaching the western end of the strait, he passed between the islands and the mainland, naming the headlands Cape Digges after Sir Dudley Digges.



Thomas Digges

Father of Dudley Digges

Wrote *Pantometria*

Member of Parliament, Government Official, Aristocrat, Mathematician, Astronomer, Cartographer, Engineer and Optician (co-invented the telescope with his father)
 b. 1545 probably Wotton, near Canterbury
 m. Lady Anne St. Leger, a lady of noble birth.
 d. London, August 24, 1595 at 50 years old.

Sir Thomas Digges had a protestant Anglican Church religious affiliation, and was an advocator for Protestantism in England, and was a hater of Catholics. For income his primary means of support was his family wealth, and secondarily his military salary (of which he was paid very little). He also was paid for his service in Parliament. Thomas Digges inherited his wealth, having succeeded in reclaiming his father's estate when the Protestant Queen Elizabeth came to power.

He was mostly self-educated. There is no proof that he was ever at either Cambridge or Oxford University. By Digges's own statement he received his mathematical education first from his father, Leonard, and then from his friend and fellow scientist, Dee.

Mathematician

Thomas Digges is famous for writing *Pantometria* in 1571. It is impossible to separate Thomas Digges' part of this work on surveying and mapping from that of his

father. The work includes a treatise on the geometric solids that is certainly by Thomas Digges. Digges dedicated *Pantometria*, 1571, to Nicholas Bacon.

He became the first man to explain in England the details of the Copernican astronomical system of the universe. He also wrote on navigation, fortification, pyrotechnics, ballistics, and the designing of ships, but much of his work was left unfinished and unpublished due to involvement in endless lawsuits.

As an astronomer he is quoted as saying:

"This ball every 24 hours by natural, uniform and wonderful slick and smooth motion rouleth rounde, making with his Periode our naturall daye, whereby it seems to us that the huge infinite immoveable Globe should sway and tourne about."

—Quoted in E Maor, *To infinity and beyond* (Princeton 1991)

Thomas Digges was the strongest and most influential protagonist of Copernicanism, not merely as mathematical hypothesis, but as physical reality. Nevertheless, the greatest shake given to Aristotle's view of the cosmos came from the heavens themselves, with the brilliant super-Nova that shone in the firmament, brighter than Venus, for seventeen months in 1572-73 before it became invisible. This apparition upset everyone. To the most ignorant minds it portended disaster. Even Lord Burghley was unwilling to

consult Digges as to what to expect. The super-Nova in Cassiopeia did far more to shake Aristotelian physics and cosmology to ordinary minds than anything else. Thomas Digges book on the Nova published in 1573, *Alae Seu Scalae Mathematicae*, is a work on the position of what would be named the “Tycho Brahe’s supernova.” This work includes observations of the position of the ‘new star’ and trigonometric theorems which could be used to determine the parallax of the star. The observations are particularly impressive making Thomas Digges the ablest observer of his time. He dedicated *Alae Seu Scalae Mathematicae* to Lord Burghley. Digges ended with a tribute to Copernicus, *Nunquam Satis Laudatus*, and since it was in Latin, not English, it could be appreciated on the Continent of Europe. Digges’s friend, Dee, published a similar work on the supernova.

For the English reader, Digges came out more aggressively in his *Prognostication* of 1576 in which he strongly stated that Copernicus had not meant his view as mere hypothesis, but as fact. Answering Aristotle’s arguments for the earth’s stability (in the center of the universe), Thomas Digges stated,

“If therefore the earth be situate immovable in the centre of the world, why find we not theories upon that ground to produce effects as true and certain as these of Copernicus?”

In fact Digges went further than Copernicus, in drawing the conclusion that the universe was infinite, and realized the huge size of stars. Moreover, the diagram that Digges drew to illustrate it became its most familiar representation to the Elizabethans.

Digges consciously appealed to the practical work of artisans, such men as William Bourne, as chief instigator of valuable work on navigation, Robert Norman who first demonstrated the dip of the magnetic needle, William Borough who worked on the variation of the compass, John Blagrave a leading designer of astronomical instruments, who proclaimed his adherence to Copernicanism and constructed a splendid astrolab in accord with it.

The English during the Elizabethan age greatly increased the English vocabulary, often borrowing from other languages. About his place in the classic sciences and use of scientific terminology, it was written, “Scientists like Thomas Digges were not ‘shamed to borrow of the Grecians these and many other terms of art’ they needed—diagonal, pentagonal, etc.”

Digges became the leader of the early English Copernicans. He attached “A Perfect Description of the Caelestial Orbes,” a Copernican statement, to his republication of his father’s *Prognostication*, 1576.

As well as having a military career, Digges also wrote and worked on other military matters. His book *Stratiticos* (1579) is a mathematics book for soldiers and contains the first discussion of ballistics in a work published in England. On military organization, including enough mathematics for a soldier and a discussion of ballistics that was

A Perfect description of the Caelestial Orbes,
according to the most accurate doctrine of the
Pythagoreans. &c.

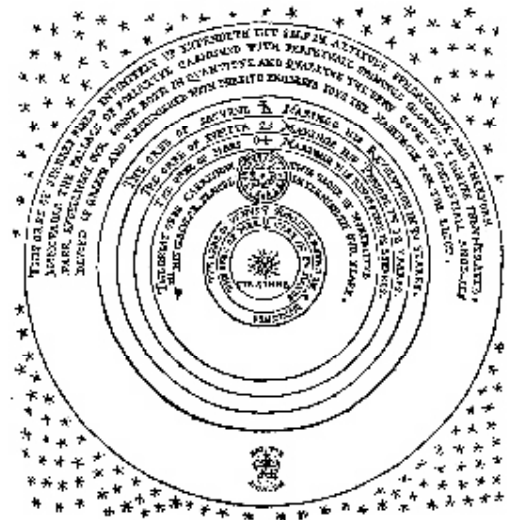


Illustration by Thomas Digges for
A Perfect Description of the Caelestial Orbes in 1576

based on his father’s earlier work. This was the first serious study of ballistics in England. He was involved in the plans for the repair of Dover Harbor, in charge of fortification, in 1582. He wrote extensively on surveying, and published a plan of Dover Castle, town, and harbor in 1581. He excelled in optic science. Like his father Leonard, Thomas Digges was skilled in making so-called “perspective glasses.”

In his 1579 *Stratiticos* Digges said that he was working on a commentary on Copernicus. By now Digges was the leader of the English Copernicans. He translated part of Copernicus’s *De Revolutionibus* and added his own ideas of an infinite universe with the stars at varying distances an infinite space. He published *A Perfect Description of the Caelestial Orbes* in 1576 which again restates Copernicus’s strong theoretical astronomical views.

Thomas Digges was interested in the application of mathematics in military as his publications suggest. In the Preface to *Stratiticos* he mentioned a “Treatise of the Arte of Navigation,” a “Briefe Treatise of Architecture Nauticall,” a “Treatise of Great Artillerie,” and a “Treatise of Fortification,” all in preparation and intended for publication but delayed by the law suits in which Digges was tied up.

Member of Parliament

Thomas Digges was a member of parliament from 1572 for Wallingford and again in 1584 for Southampton, serving under the nomination of the Earl of Leicester. Thomas was reckoned one of the most eloquent debaters in the Commons. He had a good patron in Robert the Earl of Leicester, under whom he served in the Dutch Wars (1585).

During the Christmas recess, Burghley and others devoted themselves to the task of transforming the bill

for the Queen's safety into an effective and acceptable measure. The essence of the problem—especially now that negotiations with James VI to send his mother back to Scotland had failed—was to ensure that, in the event of Elizabeth being murdered, Mary Queen of Scots would not obtain the throne nor Catholicism triumph. The less likely this appeared, the more effective the deterrent to plot and invasion. The crucial need was to prevent anarchy at Elizabeth's death. In the committees debates Members had wanted to provide for an interregnum, but had been silenced by knowledge that the Queen objected. In all likelihood, Thomas Digges had been prominent in that discussion. Still against the Catholics, he still condemned the bill against Jesuits, thinking it hastily passed and dangerous. It was too *lenient* in his opinion:

"These hellhounds cladding themselves with the glorious name of Jesus, and such wretched souls as the bewitch with their wicked doctrine, are indeed the only dangerous persons to her Majesty ... They are fully persuaded her Majesty's life is the only stay why their Roman kingdom is not again established here. They also teach their disciples that it is not only lawful in this case to lay hands on God's anointed and to murder schismatic and excommunicate princes, but meritorious also: yea, the assure them Heaven for it. This persuasion of conscience was it that gave boldness and ability to two murderous Popish wretches to take the life of the Prince of Orange."

The bill was the second great measure of the session of 1586. The Lords got down to it after the Christmas recess, committed it, and made a considerable number of amendments, the chief of which reduced the offence of receiving or aiding priests from treason down to felony. There were some speeches and arguments when these amendments were considered by the House of Commons, especially by Thomas Egerton. House of Commons member, Thomas Digges, being a strong-minded protestant, had something to say. In January he wrote a Discourse, analyzing the defects of the Oath of Association and the draft bill for the Queen's safety. Another argument was:

"In the midst of forrible torments triumphed as if that act had assuredly purchased him the eternal joys of Paradise...Against persons so persuaded, no peril of death, no horror of punishment or torments can prevail. The desire the one, the triumph in the other."

All his arguments led to one conclusion: take away Catholic hopes by providing for an interregnum, organized politically and militarily to cope with the situation. Digges also wrote another short treatise to explain how at no cost to the Queen:

"A force of forty thousand well-armed trained soldiers could be created, ready for the crisis, making

the realm terrible to foreign enemies."

About the bill he found too lenient he is famous for saying:

"I will not speak to the body of the bill: it is neither within my profession nor reach. I reverence, as becomes me, the Lords. Yet let us hold our liberties left us by our fathers; and when a number do cry 'away with the bill!'—as they may well do—for any particular Member to say 'this is levity and rashness in them', I say this levity and rashness in him to say so, 'Therefore, put the bill to the question.'"

"I am against the body of the bill."

"You speak too late," he was told, "it has already passed."

"Then I speak to the additions by the Lords. They would make it felony where we have made it treason. The punishment is too little already. I like it not, that they may submit themselves to a bishop of Justice of the Peace and take the Oath (of Supremacy). Who does not see that they have dispensations to free them from its obligations? Parry took the Oath, yet died a Catholic, as he called himself. This bill is a most dangerous bill. I pray God I be no prophet."

The speech by Digges ended the long debate, a frequent happening. It sustained the temper and temperature of the rebels. When the question was put, the bill was denied a committal by 156 voices to 140. It died in the Parliament and did not come to pass. Had Elizabeth been killed during Mary Queen of Scots's lifetime a calamity that Councillor, Parliament and people thought all too likely, then short of a miracle, the gloomy prognostications of Digges would have come

Thomas Digges really hated the Catholics! Maybe it was due to what was done to his father after the rebellion. After the death of Robert, Earl of Leicester, his friend and supporter, Thomas stated:

"It went for current that all papists were traitors in action or affection. He (Leicester) was no sooner dead, but Sir Christopher Hatton, bearing sway, the puritans were trounced and traduced as troublers of the state."

Muster Master General During the Dutch Wars

Thomas' military career was with the English forces in the Netherlands from 1586 to 1594. The modern state of the Netherlands came into existence with the Treaty of Utrecht in 1579. This was the year Digges wrote his military work *Stratoticos* which he dedicated to Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester. Robert Dudley was named governor-general of the Netherlands in 1586 and Dudley

appointed Digges to be master-general of his English forces in 1586-94 to assist him in the during the Dutch Wars campaign. The Dutch Wars were a series of conflicts between the English and Dutch during the mid to late 17th century. The wars had their roots in the Anglo-Dutch commercial rivalry, although the last of the three wars was a wider conflict in which French interests played a primary role.

Thomas Digges was made Muster-Master-General through the influence of the commanding general, the Earl of Leicester, to whom he dedicated *Stratioticos*, 1579. Digges later wrote a defense of Leicester's relief of Sluse in the Netherland's campaign. Thomas Digges' attempts to stop the corrupt practice of drawing pay for dead soldiers made him so many enemies from the military aristocracy in the Dutch Wars that he lost his standing with the army commanders after his experiences under Leicester.

It was remarkable how many English expeditionary forces had gone off gaily to foreign parts and had been quickly forced into an agonizing reappraisal. Leicester's force was one of them. Among his people there were no one capable of handling an army, and in fact he did not really have an army. His was a collection of infantry and cavalry companies, with only the rudiments, if that, of the staff and logistical organization necessary for a unified fighting force. His opponent, the Spanish General Alessandro Farnese, Duke of Parma, outclassed any leader the Dutch or English could produce, and the hard-hitten Spanish regiments were the best troops in Europe at the time. The moment of truth came when the fighting began:

"How barbarous that common opinion is," observed Thomas Digges, who became muster master of Leicester's forces, "that an Englishman will be trained in a few weeks to be a perfect soldier."

There was also trouble about paying the soldiers. After reports of the poor way of life on the battle field and the fact soldiers were not getting paid, the Queen ordered that wages were to be paid to the soldier by the pole. This was to be done by the Treasurer at War or his deputies in the presence of the muster master (Thomas Digges) or his deputies. Thereafter, the muster master counted the men, deducted the difference between a full-strength company and the actual strength, and upon his certificate the Treasurer at War paid the captain for the number of men certified. There was a startling increase in the strength of the companies, but within two months the Queen learned that these new orders were "impugned by some of the captains in a kind of mutinous and disordered sort, by threatening the muster master, Thomas Digges, and speaking libels against him. As a matter of fact, General Leicester himself disregarded the order. Sir Thomas Digges, the muster master, complained that after he and his men had "by great travail discovered many frauds and abuses," whereby he had heaped upon himself the great hatred of many captains, these commanders had appealed to Leicester, who "did mitigate or pardon the checks, in other words



Thomas Digges was involved in the plans for the repair of Dover Harbor, in charge of fortification, in 1582

the deductions for men not present, and ordered that the cavalry troops, including his own, should be passed without checks, so that whereas the savings made by the muster master ought to have amounted to 13,000 pounds sterling (£13,000), they only amounted to £3,000. Three months after the new orders went into effect the captains had succeeded in breaking down Her Majesty's regulations so thoroughly that, although the cavalry squadrons were exceptionally weak, the captains were drawing pay for squadrons at full strength.

A year later there was a second reform. Not only was the Treasurer at War to pay the captains just for the number of men certified by the muster master, but this was to be done in the open, in the presence of the corporals, sergeants, or six of the longest-service soldiers. The additional stipulation makes it evident that some in high places suspected collusion between the Treasurer at War and the captains. The attempted reforms had one effect at least. They made the muster master, Thomas Digges, the most unpopular Englishman in the Netherlands. He was particularly unpopular with Sir Thomas Sherley, because Sir Thomas Digges could make no payments without a certificate from Thomas Digges, which proved confining.

Sir Sherley had not been in office two months when an observer wrote about Thomas Digges, "I fear me that Sir Thomas Sherley shall have something to do with the muster master, for they run a violent course." Later Sir Thomas Digges pleaded with Burghley for his pay, "so long forborne after others by whom Her Majesty has been damaged are fully paid, or overpaid, whereas I, that never increased her charge one penny, saved many thousand, am yet unsatisfied by £1,000." His brother James Digges, commissioner for musters, was also unpaid:

"...through Sir Thomas Sherley's malice towards him, whereof I have also had some taste for doing my duty faithfully."

A few months later, writing to Willoughby, Thomas Digges referred to the "maimed abbreviates of Sr. Sherley's accounts and noted that:

"...for the £142/17/6 alleged to be paid me, he never paid me one penny for which he has not good warrant, and he has one from the Earl of Leicester to pay me £400 more than I ever could get of him...as

for the £561/1/0 averred to be paid to Captain Isley...he never paid that for him...Whatsoever I see, I will not meddle with more than concern myself, being now no officer, but happily disburdened of that thankless place, where, for my faithful services I have got so many enemies, and have been lately threatened by Mr. Treasurer (Shereley) that if I be one of the comineres against him, he will so use the matter, as that although he have as many thousands of Mer Majesty's treasure as is supposed, there shall be little found due to me; well knowing nevertheless that there is nigh £1,000 due to me..."

Lady Anne St. Leger Digges and Thomas Russell

b. 1555 Ulcombe, Kent d. 1636

First husband: Sir Thomas Digges, member of Parliament, famous mathematician

Children: Sir Dudley Digges, Leonard Digges, Ursula Digges

Second husband: Thomas Russell, friend of Shakespeare

Mother: Ursula Neville

Father: Sir Warham St. Leger

Anne Digges was first married to Sir Thomas Digges. After he died, she fell in love with Thomas Russell and later married him. Thomas Russell (1570-1634) was the son of Sir Thomas Russell, and was a Warwickshire landowner and a good friend of William Shakespeare, the famous Elizabethan playwright. He was left by his father the manors of Alderminster and Broad Campden, although he did not live in Alderminster until 1598. He entered Queen's College, Oxford in 1588. Two years later he married his first wife who was related to Henry Wiltoughby who was friendly with Thomas and also probably knew Shakespeare.

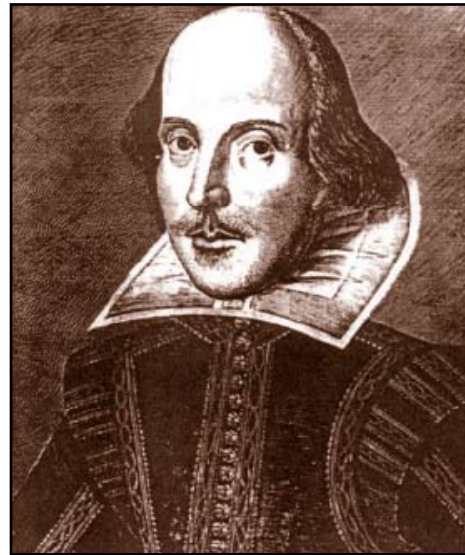
Thomas Russell's first wife and two daughters were both dead before 1599, when he is known to have begun courting Anne St. Leger Digges, the widow of Thomas Digges, at her house in Aldermanbury, near Shakespeare's Silver Street lodging. They lived together from 1600, officially betrothed but not marrying until 1603 when ways were found of circumventing provisions in Sir Thomas Digges's will that was written to discourage his widow Anne from taking a second husband; and if she did, not keeping her inheritance. You will see that Thomas Russell was very interested in Anne's potential money.

In 1601, Thomas Russell "tried to buy Clopton House, the largest house in Stratford, two years after Shakespeare had bought New Place, the second largest house in Stratford; but in the end William Clopton refused to complete the sale."

During the year of his marriage he purchased the lease of Rushlock Manor near Droitwich. His marriage to our

Lady Anne was not altogether happy. Anne had a fortune of £12,000 from Sir. Thomas Digges. Russell was, despite his land, not rich. Sir Dudley Digges, Anne's son from Sir. Thomas Digges, and now Thomas Russell's stepson, later regretted arrangements to break the trust in his father's will and the ensuing litigation was accompanied by much abuse between the families of Digges and Russell. Thomas Russell was known to be generous with money, rather his wife Lady Anne's money, especially to the family of his friend John Hanford, with whom in 1613 he contributed to the purchase of new organs for the Worcester Cathedral.

As a close friend, William Shakespeare left Thomas Russell £5, asking him to act as overseer of his (Shakespeare's) will. In 1616, Thomas Russell witnessed the will of William Shakespeare, which included a bequest of his sword to Thomas Combe (Thomas and Mary Savage Combe of Stratford-on-Avon, Warwickshire).



Sir Thomas Russell, Sr., Thomas Russell, Jr., and three generations of Digges family were close friends of William Shakespeare

Leonard Digges

Father of Sir Thomas Digges

Inventor of the telescope, astronomer, mathematician, scientist, writer, and wealthy gentry
b. about 1520 Digges Court, near Canterbury, Kent,
d. about 1559 England

He was admitted to Lincoln's Inn in 1537.

Father: James Digges of Digges Court, Barnham, Kent

Leonard was from an old, established family of Kent, and was wealthy – inheriting his wealth from his ancient and considerable family, dating back to the early English royalty – enough to give him ample means and leisure.

By enabling man to explore the Universe far beyond the range of the naked eye, the telescope is one of the most powerful of all scientific instruments. According to tradition, it was invented in Holland around 1608. There is evidence, however, that it originated more than thirty years earlier, in England, and that **the inventors of the telescope were Leonard and Thomas Digges**. There is reason to suppose that it was the latter, and not Galileo, who first turned the telescope to the night sky, observing myriads of stars invisible to the naked eye. Leonard independently invented the reflecting, and probably the refracting telescope as part of his need to see accurately over long distances during his surveying works. He concluded that the Universe was infinite in extent.

In 1590 Richard Field produced an edition of Leonard Digges's an arithmetical warlike treatise named *Stratiticos* – revised, corrected and augmented by Leonard's son, the great mathematician Thomas Digges. The Digges family were connected with William Shakespeare over many years, it would seem. It has often been wondered where he got the obscure Danish names of Rosencrantz and Guildenstern, those famous characters in Hamlet. They were in fact ancestors of the Danish astronomer Tycho Brahe. In 1590 Brahe sent a letter to Thomas Savile, in which he desired to be remembered to John Dee and Thomas Digges. With the letter went four copies of an engraving done of his portrait – a portrait on which was to be found his ancestors' names.

In a way Leonard's son, Thomas Digges followed in his footsteps and was a pivotal player in the popularisation of Copernicus book *De Revolutionibus Orbium Coelestium*.

It is difficult to establish Digges' scientific productions precisely because it was mostly published by his son, Thomas Digges, with his own work mixed in. However, *Tectonicon*, 1556, a surveying manual emphasizing practical mathematics, was all his. Thomas Digges published *Pantometria* (surveying and cartography), 1571, and *Stratiticos* (military engineering), 1579, both as essentially his father's work. In *Pantometria*, Thomas Digges described his father's skill in optics. Leonard applied mathematics to

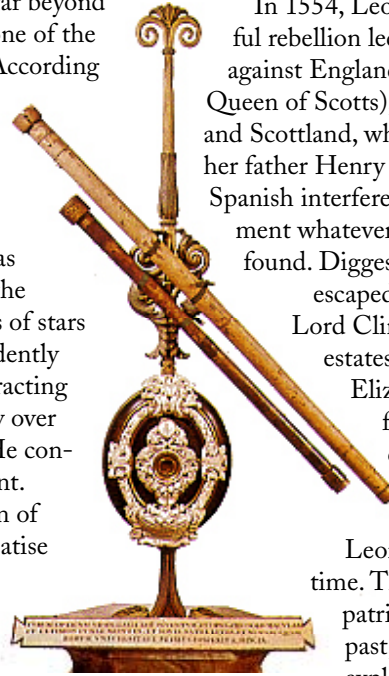
surveying, navigation and gunnery. He was known as an architect and as a master of fortification. He invented the instrument now called the theodolite. Also, he was a friend with the scientist John Dee.

Leonard Digges's book, *Prognostication*, first published in 1553, apparently to earn money after his estate was tainted for treason, and then reprinted frequently until 1605, was an almanac with, among other things, astronomical information, for example on how to determine the hour at night from the stars, and information about instruments for observation. Digges dedicated *Prognostication of Right Good Effect*, 1555, to Lord Clinton, later the Earl of Lincoln, who apparently saved Digges from execution for his participation in Wyatt's rebellion under Mary.

In 1554, Leonard Digges took part in an unsuccessful rebellion led by the Protestant Sir Thomas Wyatt against England's new Catholic Queen Mary (Mary, Queen of Scots), a supporter of Catholicism in England and Scotland, who took over the throne in 1553 from her father Henry VIII. The rebellion was as much against Spanish interference as against Catholicism. No statement whatever about Digges' motivation has been found. Digges was condemned to death, but escaped capital punishment, with the help of Lord Clinton. Leonard instead forfeited all his estates. However, after the accession of Queen Elizabeth I, daughter of King Henry VIII founder of the English Protestant Anglican Church, Thomas Digges was able to reclaim the estate of his now dead father, Leonard.

Leonard Digges lived during Shakespeare's time. The English at this time were full of patriotism and of the sense of the English past, keyed up by the Armada years, the exploits of Drake and voyagers, the renewed war on the Continent as in the days of Henry V and Henry VI, were addicts of history plays – more noticeably than in any other country. William Shakespeare, who responded to both, made them an inspiration in his work, and a complete man of the theatre, gave the public more of what they wanted and better than anyone else. Leonard Digges wrote in a poem:

*So have I seen when Caesar would appear,
And on the stage at half-sword parley were
Brutus and Cassius. O, how the audience
Were ravished! With what wonder they went thence!
When some new day they would not brook a line
Of tedious, though well-laboured, Catinline.
Sejanus too was irksome, they prized more
Honest' Iago, or the jealous Moor.*





St. Leger

Warham Saint Leger Sheriff of Kent, and his wife, Ursula Neville.

Sir Warham and Ursula Neville Saint Leger's children:

Lady Ann St. Leger born 1555 Ulcombe, Kent and died 1636 at Chilham, Kent. She married Sir Thomas Digges, who was born 1546 Barham, Kent, died 8-24-1595 London, a famous world-class mathematician and theoritian, aleading member of Parliament, and an officer in the Dutch Wars.

Katherine Saint Leger m. *Thomas Culpeper* July 10, 1628 Ulcombe Kent Co. England. He was admitted to Middle Temple May 7, 1621, member of *Virginia Company* 1623, an original patentee of the *Northern Neck of Virginia*. Their son was:

John Culpeper, Gentry, Surveyor General of South Carolina and Albemarle Co. North Carolina; He participated in *Culpeper's Rebellion*, in North Carolina. Tried for treason in England but not punished.

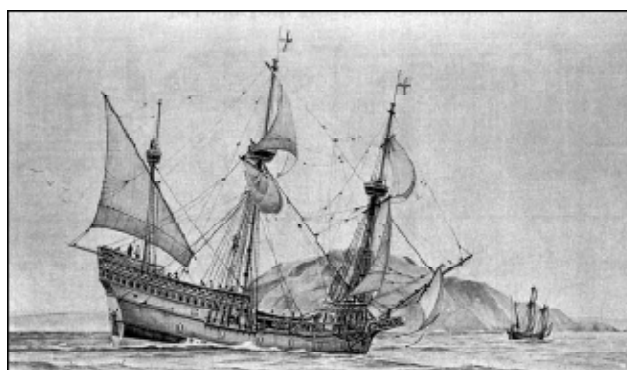
Anthony Saint Leger, *Knight of Ulcombe and of Leeds Castle*, Kent County England. He died 1603. Sir Anthony Saint Leger's child was Sir Warham Saint Leger.



Anthony Saint Leger's Leeds Castle



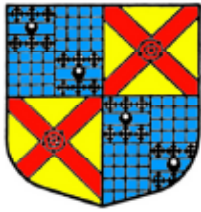
Sir Walter Raleigh and his ship "Thunder"



Sir Warham Saint Leger sailed with Sir Walter Raleigh, Captain of the ship "Thunder"

Sir Warham Saint Leger, Kent., of Ulcombe, Kent County, son of Anthony Saint Leger, grandson of Sir Warham and Ursula Neville Saint Leger, was a member of the *Virginia Company* and *subscriber to the Third Charter*, 1611-12. An *explorer*, Sir Warham Saint Leger accompanied *Sir Walter Raleigh* on his second voyage to Guaina 1617-18, being the captain of the "Thunder" with seventy-six men and twenty guns. Sir Walter Raleigh, in his writing of the misconduct of his subordiantes, stated that all wished to turn pirates *except* St. Leger. The losses which Sir Warham incurred on this expedition compelled him to sell Leeds Castle.

He married Mary Hayward, daughter of Rowland Hayward, Knight, Lord Mayor of London, of Salmeston, Kent County. Sir Warham Saint Leger died Oct 11, 1631 in Kent County, England. His widow, Mary Hayward, died in 1662 also in Kent County, England.



Neville



Battle of Agincourt

Richard Neville, Earl of Warwick

English nobleman, called the Kingmaker
Fought in the “War of the Roses”
b. 1428 d. 1471

Neville is pronounced as: *nevl, worik*

Through his grandfather, Ralph Neville, 1st Earl of Westmorland, Sir Richard had connections with the house of Lancaster; he was also the nephew of Cecily Neville, wife of Richard, Duke of York. Through his wife, Anne de Beauchamp, he inherited the Earldom of Warwick and the vast Beauchamp estates. Thus by virtue of his family and lands, Richard Neville was the most powerful noble in England and the principal baronial figure in the Wars of the Roses. With his father, Ralph de Neville the Earl of Salisbury, Richard supported his uncle, Richard Duke of York, in his bid for the protectorship of Henry VI (1454) and took up arms when York lost his office. Richard was largely responsible for the Yorkist victory at the first battle of St. Albans (1455) and was appointed to the strategic post of governor of Calais. In 1459 when fighting broke out again, Richard Duke of York, Ralph de Neville the Earl of Salisbury, and Richard Neville the Earl of Warwick were forced to flee the country, but in 1460 they returned and captured the king at the battle of Northamp-

ton. The queen, Margaret of Anjou, raised an army in the north, defeated and killed York and Salisbury at Wakefield (1460), and defeated Warwick and recaptured Henry at the second battle of St. Albans (1461). But York's son, Edward, won the battle of Mortimer's Cross (1461), entered London, and was proclaimed king as Edward IV.

War of the Roses: The Rising Against Edward IV

Henry and Margaret were decisively defeated at Towton (1461), and Edward was crowned. Earl Richard of Warwick was now the most powerful man in England, and the Nevilles received extensive royal favors; but Edward resented Earl Richard's domination. In the midst of negotiations by Richard to marry Edward to Bona of Savoy, the sister-in-law of Louis XI of France, the king announced (1464) that he had secretly married Elizabeth Woodville. Edward now favored a Burgundian alliance against France, the Woodvilles received favor, and Earl Richard of Warwick was gradually pushed into the background. He formed an alliance with the king's brother George, duke of Clarence, to whom he married his daughter, against King Edward's orders. Together they rose against Edward in 1469, defeated the king's forces, and placed Edward in captivity. By the end of the year, however, Edward had regained control, and in 1470, after another



Abergavenny Castle at Monmouthshire, England

abortive rising, Warwick and Clarence fled to France. There Louis XI persuaded them to make up their differences with Margaret of Anjou, and in Sept., 1470, Earl Richard of Warwick invaded England as a Lancastrian, defeated Edward (who fled abroad), and restored Henry VI. Within six months Edward secured Burgundian aid, landed in England, and was joined by Clarence. Edward and Earl Richard of Warwick met in battle at Barnet. The earl was defeated and was slain in flight.

Although an able diplomat and a man of great energy, Earl Richard of Warwick owed much of his greatness to his birth and marriage. By the marriage of his daughter to Clarence and the marriage after his death of another daughter to the duke of Gloucester, later Richard III, all of Warwick's property went to the royal house.

Ralph Neville, 1st Earl of Westmorland

1364-1425, English nobleman. His family was one of the most powerful in England and shared domination of the northern counties with the Percy family, with whom the Nevilles were closely allied. Neville succeeded his father as Baron Neville of Raby in 1388 and supported Richard II against the baronial party. In 1397 he was created earl of Westmorland. His second wife was Joan Beaufort, daughter of John of Gaunt and half sister of Henry of Lancaster (later Henry IV). When, in 1399, Henry revolted against Richard, Westmorland supported Lancaster. He continued to support Henry as king and helped to put down the Percy revolt in 1403. When a new anti-Lancastrian revolt broke out in 1405, Westmorland captured two of the leaders, Archbishop Richard Le Scrope and the earl marshal of England, by trickery, but he had nothing to do with their quick execution. He was the father of a large family, many of whom made advantageous marriages. His daughter Cecily Neville married Richard, duke of York, and became the mother of Edward IV and Richard III; another of his grandsons was Richard Neville, earl of Warwick, called the Kingmaker.



Ralph Neville, 1st Earl of Westmorland



Raby Castle, Durham, England



Middleham Castle



Beauchamp

Richard de Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick

English nobleman, son of Thomas de Beauchamp, earl of Warwick.

b. 1382 d. 1439

Sir Richard de Beauchamp fought for Henry IV against Owen Glendower in Wales and the Percys at Shrewsbury (1403). In 1408 he set out for the Holy Land, visiting monarchs and fighting in a tournament en route; he made a similarly active return trip through Russia, Poland, and Germany. After his return in 1410, Richard performed several royal missions, including that as chief English lay envoy to the Council of Constance (1414). He fought with notable success in Henry V's French campaigns and on Henry's death (1422) became a member of the Council for the Infant Henry VI.

Richard married Elizabeth de Berkeley a descendant of Edward I. They had a daughter named Elizabeth Beauchamp born 1417. After his wife died in 1422, he married Isabel le DeSpencer in 1423. Isable was born 1400 and was the widow of his cousin. They, too, had a daughter and also named her Elizabeth Beauchamp and there still was living, of course, his first daughter Elizabeth.

He fought with Henry V in France and he appears in the play *Henry V* by Shakespeare given the lines before the battle of Agincourt in 1415: "O that we now had here but one ten thousand of those men in England that do not work today."

Richard de Beauchamp was a man of piety and courtesy and was famed throughout Europe as a chivalrous knight. His daughter Anne married and brought the earldom to Richard Neville, Earl of Warwick.

Richard de Beauchamp received the captured French female soldier, **Joan of Arc** in 1431. The French Burgundians were fighting Charles VII of France, and the Burgundians allied with the English under Henry V. It was the English who contrived to have Joan burnt for heresy by the Church in 1439. During this war, Richard de Beauchamp was appointed English Lieutenant of France and Normandy.

It was at the age of thirteen and a half, in the summer of 1425, that Joan first became conscious of what we now

believe to be divine manifestations, which she afterwards came to call her "voices" or her "counsel." It was at first simply a voice, as if someone had spoken quite close to her, but it seems also clear that a blaze of light accompanied it, and that later on she clearly discerned in some way the appearance of those who spoke to her, recognizing them individually as St. Michael (who was accompanied by other angels), St. Margaret, St. Catherine, and others. Joan was always reluctant to speak of her voices. She said nothing about them to her confessor, and constantly refused, at her trial, to be inveigled into descriptions of the appearance of the saints and to explain how she recognized them. None



Saint Joan of Arc

the less, she told her judges, "I saw them with these very eyes, as well as I see you."

Although Joan never made any statement as to the date at which the voices revealed her mission, it seems certain that the call of God was only made known to her gradually. But by May, 1428, she no longer doubted that she was bidden to go to the help of the king, and the voices became insistent, urging her to present herself to Robert Baudricourt, who commanded for Charles VII in the neighbouring town of Vaucouleurs.

Before entering upon her campaign, Joan summoned the King of England to withdraw his troops from French soil. The English commanders were furious at the audacity of the demand, but Joan by a rapid movement entered Orléans on 30 April. Her presence there at once worked wonders. By 8 May the English forts which encircled the city had all been captured, and the siege raised, though on the 7th Joan was wounded in the breast by an arrow. So far as the Maid went she wished to follow up these successes with all speed, partly from a sound warlike instinct, partly because her voices had already told her that she had only a year to last. But the king and his advisers, especially La Trémoille and the Archbishop of Reims, were

slow to move. However, at Joan's earnest entreaty a short campaign was begun upon the Loire, which, after a series of successes, ended on June 18th with a great victory at Patay, where the English reinforcements sent from Paris under Sir John Fastolf were completely routed. The way to Reims was now practically open, but the Maid had the greatest difficulty in persuading the commanders not to retire before Troyes, which was at first closed against them. They captured the town and then, still reluctantly, followed her to Reims, where, on Sunday, 17 July, 1429, Charles VII was solemnly crowned, the Maid standing by with her standard, as she explained — "as it had shared in the toil, it was just that it should share in the victory."

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No words can adequately describe the disgraceful ingratitude and apathy of Charles and his advisers in leaving the Maid to her fate. If military force had not availed, they had prisoners like the Earl of Suffolk in their hands, for whom she could have been exchanged. Joan was sold by John of Luxembourg to the English for a sum which would amount to several hundred thousand dollars in modern money. So it was that Richard de Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick took her into his custody. There can be no doubt that the English, including Richard, partly because they feared their prisoner with a superstitious terror, partly because they were ashamed of the dread which she inspired, were determined at all costs to take her life. They could not put her to death for having beaten them, but they could get her sentenced as a witch and a heretic.

Richard de Beauchamp was one of the five Lord Appellants of Richard II. Richard II b. 1367 d. 1400 succeeded to the throne in 1377, upon the death of his grandfather, Ed-

ward III. He was only 10 years old at the time. His father was the decisive and dashing "Black Prince" who had died not long before, leaving him a heritage he could not live up to. His mother, the son-called "Fair Maid of Kent", Joan the Countess of Kent, and his oldest uncle, John of Gaunt, undertook to guide him during his time as a minor.

Being the oldest uncle, John de Gaunt would have, except for little Richard II, been the king himself. A highly competent and ambitious man, John had only to look at little 10 year old Richard who was a pretty youth, delicate, and seemingly unpromising to know at once who would make the better king.

It is to John's credit, (a rare virtue in the Middle Ages and especially among the Plantagenet family) that the boy Richard lived to grow up. If John of Gaunt had not been necessarily away in Spain, Radcot Bridge would never have happened. It had been building up since Richard, 17 years old, and chafing under the restrictions of his much more officious and overbearing uncle Thomas of Woodstock Duke of Gloucester, tried to take over and form his own government. Or, rather, young Richard tried to exchange Gloucester for another ruler, his own favorite—Robert de Vere. This Robert was already Earl of Oxford by inheritance, but Richard did not think this was enough. Richard named Robert first Marquess of Dublin and then named him Duke of Ireland. There was nothing Richard would not have done for him.

Not surprisingly it caused Thomas to become jealous and fearful. Soon Thomas of Woodstock Duke of Gloucester put together an army and challenged Robert. Robert was defeated at a location known as Radcot Bridge. Thomas firmly established the king's dependency by setting up a five-man board, the Lords Appellant. Under their control the Parliament, the next year, ordered the execution of all Richard's friends they could catch. It was said that Richard II and his young queen both pleaded vainly, the queen in tears, actually on her knees, for the life of Sir Simon Burley, an old army friend of Richard's father, the Black Prince. Simon had also been Richard's tutor when Richard was a small boy, for whom Richard had great affection and esteem.

Thomas of Woodstock probably wasn't seeking the throne for himself. Though John of Gaunt was safely out of the country, Thomas acknowledge this elder brother as heir presumptive by including his eldest son in the council of the five Lords Appellant. Rather Thomas hoped to rule England through a puppet nephew, Richard, whom he manipulated now. He was completely contemptuous of Richard and careless of what he said about or to the king. Thomas even threatened Richard to his face with deposition unless he did as he was told. Meanwhile Richard was remembering it all and thinking of revenge.

On May 3, 1389, Richard took the council by surprise.

"My lords," he asked suddenly, "what is the number of my years?"

They replied that he was over twenty-one years old.

"Then," he said, "I am old enough to manage my own affairs." And with that statement the council of the five



Tomb sculpture of Richard de Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick

Lords Appellant had been quietly overthrown. He received immediately the Great Seal from the chancellor. He then replaced the chancellor. The council of the five Lords Appellant must have been surprised that nothing worse happened, because they must have expected five prompt executions. But John of Gaunt, returning, was advising the young king, and the king was also restrained by the excellent influence of the Queen.

The Queen, Anne of Bohemia was everything her husband needed or desired. But in 1394 Queen Anne died and Richard never was the same thereafter. Richard found himself very alone, even though for politics he remarried a seven year old, Isabella of Valois. He became fond of her as one becomes fond of any nice little girl, but it was years too soon for either consummation or companionship. He brooded and remembered what the five Lords Appellant had done to him and to his friends. He remembered, particularly perhaps, Queen Anne in tears before one of them begging vainly for his old tutor's life.

In 1397, 10 years after the battle of Radcot Bridge, Richard II arrested and imprisoned and murdered his uncle Thomas of Woodstock Duke of Gloucester. He arrested and had tried before Parliament, while he sat crowned to listen, his uncle John of Gaunt prosecuting the case, the earl of Arundel. The sentence was beheading and this was carried out immediately on Tower Hill.

Also Richard II had the Earl of Warwick, Richard de Beauchamp similarly arrested and tried, but because the Earl at once pleaded guilty, Richard II had the sentence be merely life imprisonment and the forfeiture of his property.

This took care of three of the five Lords Appellant. The two that were left by some strange chance got into an argument with each other. Perhaps the king put them up to it. The King had perhaps been a little lenient with one them, Bolingbroke, because of the continuing services of John of Gaunt, bolingbroke's father and he rather liked his cousin himself. Anyway, Bolingbroke and the fifth Lord Appellant, Nottingham later the Duke of Norfolk, were going to fight a duel. This duel the King did set up, as a spectacular pageant. Then, dramatically, at the last minute before it was to be fought, broke it up. He forbade it.

Publicly, instead, he banished both the young men, Nottingham for life, Bolingbroke for a term of six years.

Richard became a little insane. He tried to establish an absolute monarchy and set aside the Magna Carta. When he seized his uncle John Gaunt's estate after his uncle's death, the people of England turned against him, especially Bolingbroke who now had his inheritance stripped away from him and put into exile for a duel he did not even fight. Bolingbroke returned from exile and leading a small army made no military mistakes fighting against Richard's army, which made many. Bolingbroke presided over Richard's abdication in September 30, 1399. Richard died in imprisonment by order of Bolingbroke the next year. Richard de Beauchamp was released from prison that same year.

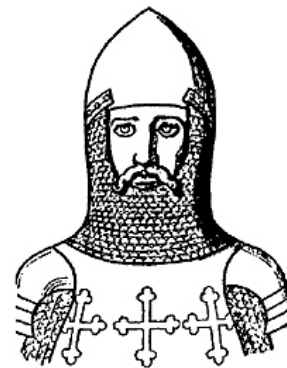
Bolingbroke became the next monarch, King Henry the IV. He was from the Plantagenet family as had the Edwards and earlier Henries. Although, as all the kings of England since William I the Conqueror, he was of French ancestry, he was the first since William to speak the English language as his native tongue.

Thomas de Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick

English nobleman, of an ancient and powerful noble family.

d. 1401

Thomas was one of the governors of the young Richard II. After Richard assumed power, Thomas Beauchamp of Warwick joined the barons who opposed the acts of Richard's favorite courtiers and was one of the lords appellant (1388) who accused them of treason and curbed Richard's power. When Richard II resumed control in 1389, Thomas Beauchamp of Warwick retired to his estates until his sudden arrest on a fabricated charge of treason in 1397. He was imprisoned in the Tower of London (ironically in the Beauchamp Tower, named for him) and then banished to the Isle of Man until the accession of Henry IV, when Thomas Beauchamp of Warwick was restored to his estates.



Thomas Beauchamp Earl of Warwick



Peter I of Castile

b. August 30, 1334 Castile, Spain

d. March 23, 1369

King of Spain

Father to Isabella of Castile who married English Prince Edmund Plantagenet of Loangeley, Duke of York, the son of King Edward III. Peter was the grandfather to Prince John of Gaunt, greatgrandfather to Joan de Beaufort who married Sir Ralph de Neville.

Sometimes known as Peter the Cruel or Peter the Lawful, Peter was the king of Castile from 1350 to 1369. He was the son of Alfonso XI and Maria of Portugal, daughter of Alfonso IV of Portugal.

Most of the bad stories about Peter I are highly likely to be baseless black legend, coined by his enemies, who finally succeeded in their rebellion. He earned for himself the reputation of monstrous cruelty which is indicated by the accepted title. In later ages, when the royal authority was thoroughly established, there was a reaction in Peter's favour, and an alternative name was found for him. It became a fashion to speak of him as El Justiciero, the executor of justice (the Lawful). Apologists were found to say that he had only killed men who themselves would not submit to the law or respect the rights of others. There is this amount of foundation for the plea, that the chronicler Lopez de Ayala, who fought against him, has confessed that the king's fall was regretted by the merchants and traders, who enjoyed security under his rule. Peter began to reign at the age of sixteen, and found himself subjected to the control of his mother and her favourites.

He was immoral, and unfaithful to his wife, as his father had been. But Alfonso XI did not imprison his wife, or cause her to be murdered. Peter certainly did the first, and there can be little doubt that he did the second. He had not even the excuse that he was passionately in love with his mistress, Maria de Padilla; for, at a time when

he asserted that he was married to her, and when he was undoubtedly married to Blanche of Bourbon, he went through the form of marriage with a lady of the family of Castro, who bore him a son, and then deserted her. Maria de Padilla was the only lady of his harem of whom he never became quite tired.

At first he was controlled by his mother, but emancipated himself with the encouragement of the minister Albuquerque and became attached to Maria de Padilla. Maria turned him against Albuquerque. In 1354 the king was practically coerced by his mother and the nobles into marrying Blanche of Bourbon, but deserted her at once. A period of turmoil followed in which the king was for a time overpowered and in effect imprisoned. The dissensions of the party which was striving to coerce him enabled him to escape from Toro, where he was under observation, to Segovia.

From 1356 to 1366 he engaged in continued wars with Aragon, in which he showed neither ability nor daring. It was during this period that he perpetrated the series of murders which made him odious. In 1366 he was assailed by his bastard brother Henry of Trastamara at the head of a host of soldiers of fortune, including Bertrand du Guesclin and Hugh Calveley, and abandoned the kingdom without daring to give battle, after retreating several times (first from Burgos, then from Toledo, and lastly from Seville) in the face of the oncoming armies. Peter fled, with his treasury, to Portugal where he was coldly received by his uncle, King Pedro I of Portugal, and thence to Galicia, in northern Spain, where he ordered the murder of Suero, the archbishop of Santiago, and the dean, Peralvarez.

Henry continuously depicted Peter as "King of the Jews," and had some success in taking advantage of the anti-Semitic feelings of a certain portion of the populace. He instigated pogroms, beginning a period of anti-Jewish riots and forced conversions in Spain that lasted approximately from 1370 to 1390. Peter took forceful measures against this, including the execution of at least five leaders of a riot by boiling and roasting.

In the summer of 1366 Peter took refuge with Edward, the Black Prince, by whom he was restored in the following year. But he disgusted his ally by his faithlessness and ferocity, as well as his failure to repay the costs of the campaign, as he had promised to do. The health of the Black Prince broke down, and he left Spain. When left to his own resources, Peter was soon overthrown by his brother Henry, with the aid of Bertrand du Guesclin and a body of French and English free companions. He was murdered by Henry in du Guesclin's tent on March 23, 1369. His daughters by Maria de Padilla, Constance and Isabella, were respectively married to John of Gaunt and Edmund of Langley, sons of Edward III, king of England.



Percy

Sir Henry “Hotspur” Percy

English nobleman. Warden of Carlisle and the West Marches

b. 1366 d.1403

Called Hotspur or Henry Hotspur, he was the son of Henry Percy, 1st earl of Northumberland. In 1388 he participated in the famous battle of Otterburn, or Chevy Chase, against the Scots. He was captured but later ransomed, and he returned to his post of Warden of Carlisle and the West Marches. He went to Calais in 1391 and served (c.1393–95) as governor of Bordeaux, but by 1398 he was back on the Scottish border. He and his father joined the cause of Henry of Lancaster. After Henry’s accession as Henry IV, Hotspur was called upon to take command of the Welsh border. Sent once again to the defense of the Scottish border, he helped to win (1402) a notable victory over the Scots at Homildon Hill, capturing the Scottish leader, Archibald Douglas, 4th earl of Douglas. A bitter quarrel between Hotspur and Henry IV ensued when Hotspur refused to turn Douglas over to the king except in exchange for the ransom of Sir Edmund de Mortimer, Hotspur’s brother-in-law. In 1403, Hotspur and his father planned with Thomas Percy, earl of Worcester, Owen Glendower, and Sir Edmund de Mortimer to dethrone Henry and crown Edmund Mortimer, 5th earl of March, the nephew of Hotspur’s wife. Henry anticipated the move, and in a battle near Shrewsbury (1403) the king was victorious and Hotspur was slain. Hotspur was an important character in Shakespeare’s Henry IV.



Sir Henry “Hotspur” Percy

Sir Henry Percy, 1st Earl of Northumberland

Father of Henry “Hotspur”

English nobleman. Warden of the Scottish Marches

b. 1342 d.1408

Sir Henry fought in France in the Hundred Years War, became Warden of the Scottish Marches, and was a supporter of John Wyclif. Created earl of Northumberland by Richard II in 1377, he and his son Sir Henry “Hotspur” Percy were engaged in constant warfare with the Scots. He was a leading supporter of Henry of Lancaster (Henry IV) in the usurpation of 1399, but with his brother, Thomas Percy, earl of Worcester, and Hotspur, Northumberland revolted against the king in 1403. He submitted after the death of his son at the battle of Shrewsbury in the same year. By 1405, however, he was plotting again with Owen Glendower and, after fleeing to Scotland and France, invaded England in 1408 from the north with the expectation of recruiting followers. He was slain and his forces were defeated at Bramham Moor.

Sir Thomas Percy, Earl of Worcester

English nobleman. Admiral of the Fleet of the North

b. about 1344 d. 1403

Sir Thomas was a brother of Henry Percy, 1st Earl of Northumberland. He served with considerable success in the wars in France and Spain, especially as Admiral of the Fleet of the North, a position to which he was appointed in 1378. He also served on several diplomatic missions, heading the English embassy to France to treat for peace in 1392. He was created earl of Worcester by Richard II in 1397. He accompanied Richard to Ireland in 1399 as admiral, but upon their return to England he joined his brother and his nephew, Sir Henry Percy, in supporting the seizure of the throne by Henry IV. Henry confirmed Worcester’s past privileges and in 1401 appointed him seneschal (steward), lieutenant of South Wales, and tutor to the prince of Wales (1402). In July, 1403, Worcester surprised the king by joining his kinsmen in open revolt against the crown. Captured in the subsequent battle of Shrewsbury, Worcester was beheaded.

Percy’s Spofforth Castle





deSpencer

Baron Hugh le DeSpencer

Homosexual favorite of King Edward II
Administrator working with his father
b. 10-1292 d. 11-24-1326

Sir Hugh le DeSpencer

Father of Sir Hugh le DeSpencer
Secretary and treasurer to King Edward II
b. 3-1-1260 d. 11-24-1326

Father and son were favorites of Edward II, who were greedy but able businessmen and who for about three years administered England. The Younger Hugh DeSpencer was married to Eleanore de Clare, wealthy daughter of Sir Gilbert "the Red" Earl of Gloucester and Hereford. She also was the grand-daughter of Edward I and the heir-ess to the Clare fortune and Caerphilly Castle in Wales. Gilbert and Guy de Beauchamp had the favorite homosexual friend of Edward II, Piers Gaveston, killed after Gaveston had created havoc in the court for years and regularly insulted the Earl and others. Ironically, Eleanore de Clare's husband, Hugh, then became Edward's favorite homosexual lover and Eleanore's marriage ended.

When Isabella and Mortimer invaded England to

dethrone her husband the King, Edward II, she captured and hanged the older Hugh le DeSpencer. The younger, Baron Hugh, husband to Eleanore de Clare, was still with King Edward. but not many people were still with King Edward as he continued to retreat before the oncoming army. He seemed to be heading for Wales. Finally, near Caerphilly Castle, traditional home of the Clares, King Edward II surrendered to his wife, Isabella of France. He was temporarily imprisoned in Llantrisant Castle. Later King Edward II was taken to Kenilworth Castle and then finally to Barkeley Castle where he was tortured and killed. When he was tortured, to avoid making marks on the outside of the king's body, his murderers burnt out his bowels with a red-hot iron inserted through a hollow horn into his rectum. It is said that his shrieks of agony were so loud he could be heard in the nearby village.

The younger Hugh le DeSpencer was then brought into London in the Queen's train of soldiers, given a prejudged trial and then quickly hanged, drawn, quartered and disemboweled, the latest and most popular mode of gastly execution of the time. The same was given a few years earlier to the rebel warrior, William Wallace of Scotland, after his capture by Edward I.

Hugh DeSpencer the younger's great grandson, Thomas DeSpencer married Constance Plantagenet the grand-daughter of King Edward III. Thomas at the young age of 27, was lynched by a mob at Bristol, England, on January 16, 1400.



The capture of Hugh Despenser the Younger



deClare



Caerphilly Castle, Wales

deClare History

Many modern family names can be spotted drifting in and out of the spotlight of British history across time if one looks closely enough. One such family name, through a combination of intrigue and diplomacy, rose to become the wealthiest family in thirteenth century England, and later members of the dynasty were to influence the country's future by marrying into the Plantagenet royal family.

The family in question is that of the de Clares, now remembered through the surname Clare and its derivatives. Originally a Norman family, they took their name from Clare in Suffolk where their first castle, and the seat of their barony, was situated. By the thirteenth century, the family held vast estates in Wales, Ireland, and twenty two English counties – so there was little chance of the surname becoming isolated to just one area.

The first recorded member of the de Clare dynasty was Godfrey, Count of Eu. Godfrey was an illegitimate son of Richard of Normandy, and his son Gilbert was assassinated in 1040. Gilbert was to become a confusingly common name for sons of the de Clare dynasty. It has been suggested that the de Clares were distant relatives of William I of England, as William himself was the illegitimate son of another Duke of Normandy.

Distantly related to William or not, Gilbert's sons accompanied William in his invasion of England in the late eleventh century. They were suitably rewarded for their support – Baldwin de Clare became Sheriff of Devonshire, and his brother Richard de Clare was given control of 170 estates in Suffolk (95 of which were attached to Clare Castle. Although Baldwin did not marry, Richard's marriage to Rohais Giffard produced three sons (Richard,

Roger and Gilbert) and two daughters (Rohais and one unknown). Richard and Rohais de Clare also set about building a priory at St Neots (now in Cambridgeshire), which was finished around 1100; Richard never saw the dedication service however, as he died around 1090.

Richard and Rohais' children managed to involve themselves in a great deal of the intrigue referred to in the introduction – Roger and Gilbert were present at the murder of William II in 1100, and the unknown daughter was married to Walter Tyrol, who was William's murderer. Gilbert had also been involved in rebellion in 1088 and 1095, so it would seem that the de Clare family were keen to establish a leading role in British politics from an early stage. The third of Richard's sons, named Richard after his father, seemed more content with his lot, as he is not believed to have been involved in any such high level intrigue as his siblings. Saying this however, his son Gilbert kept up family tradition through being one of the twenty five barons involved in the administration of the Magna Carta in 1215. The younger Richard also married Amicia, daughter of the Earl of Gloucester, inheriting the title and passing it down through an unknown son after his death in 1217.

Five sons and one daughter were born to the Gilbert de Clare present at William II's death; his son Gilbert became the powerful Earl of Pembroke, holding and expanding lands in Wales and Ireland; Pembroke's son Richard earned the battle name "Strongbow," presumably for carrying on his families traditional prowess in battle. One of the other five children of the Gilbert present at William II's death was Richard de Clare, who died giving battle to the Welsh in 1136, but his son Gilbert strengthened the family's hold on the Marcher lands of the Welsh border by becoming Earl of Hereford.

Richard de Clare (d.1090), the son of Gilbert, count of Brionne, accompanied William the Conqueror to England in 1066. He took his new title from the fief of Clare in Suffolk. Richard descendants acquired the earldom of Gloucester by marriage, and became the leading barons of the south-eastern March early in the 13th century.



The Great Hall, Caerphilly Castle

By the middle of that century another Richard de Clare (1222-1262) had expelled the Welsh rulers from the western valleys of Glamorgan, as far as the Rhondda, while leaving the rest undisturbed.



Gilbert "The Red" de Clare

Gilbert "the Red"

Father of Gilbert de Clare who fought and died in battle of Bannockburn
b. 1243 d. 1295

Richard de Clare's heir, Gilbert "the Red" as he was known after the fiery red color of his hair, was to become involved in the turbulent English politics of the 1260s. At the time of his father's death Gilbert was a minor, though he was given possession of the Gloucester estates in 1263. To begin with, Gilbert continued in good terms with his powerful neighbor, Llywelyn ap Gruffydd. However, over

the next few years a series of military and political events was to completely change this situation; the building of de Clare's masterpiece Caerphilly Castle, can be seen as the last and most dramatic episode in this story.

The end of the Baronial revolt of the 1260s left Llywelyn ap Gruffydd as the only potential enemy of King Henry III. Prudently, Llywelyn decided to make peace, and by the Treaty of Montgomery (1267) he was recognized as "prince of Wales," and as the feudal lord of the other Welsh princes. Already in 1266 Gilbert de Clare had seized upland Senghennydd from the local ruler, Gruffydd ap Rhys, since King Henry III had given the earl authority to take over the lands of those Welshmen in Glamorgan who had supported Llywelyn. Consequently, on 11 April 1268, Gilbert's workmen began building at Caerphilly, only a few months after the Treaty of Montgomery had been sealed. The young earl was just 25 at the time, yet the scheme for the stronghold at Caerphilly was one of the most ambitious ever to have been conceived in the kingdom.

During the summer of 1268, Llywelyn's forces invaded upper and northern Senghennydd. A truce was arranged by the king and the dispute dragged on for two years, until Llywelyn finally lost patience and burnt some of the fortifications at Caerphilly, on 13 October 1270. Gilbert de Clare recommenced building on 1 June, and Llywelyn prepared for outright war, but the crown intervened and Llywelyn reluctantly accepted the promise of future arbitration over the ownership of Caerphilly. This never materialized, and as Gilbert began to gain allies Llywelyn was forced back into Brecon, leaving de Clare to complete his massive building project at Caerphilly.

By 1287 Gilbert de Clare had cleared the road to Brecon and had begun another castle on his new frontier at Morlais near Merthyr Tydfil. Here he came into conflict with Humphrey de Bohun (d.1298), the earl of Hereford, who disputed possession both of the land and the castle at Morlais. Earl Gilbert was to experience further difficulties just a few years later. In the autumn of 1294, the Welsh broke in revolt under Madog ap Llywelyn, mainly against the actions of new royal administrators in north and west Wales. The uprising quickly spread to Glamorgan, where it was led by Morgan ap Maredudd, a local Welsh ruler dispossessed by Earl Gilbert in 1270, and attacks were directed against the de Clare estates. Morlais Castle was captured, and half the town of Caerphilly was burnt, although the castle itself held out. Eventually the rebels surrendered, not to de Clare, but to the king himself.

The de Clare family profited from playing a major role in Edward's conquest of Wales in the 1270s and 1280s. Much of the land taken from the Welsh Princes was bestowed upon the de Clares.

Although Earl Gilbert "The Red" died in 1295 at 52 years old, his second marriage had given him three daughters and a son, also named Gilbert. This Gilbert was apparently admired as a courteous and honest man. However, like so many of the de Clares before him, Gilbert was a brave and fierce fighter. He loyally supported the king,

and fought and died for Edward II at Bannockburn against the Scots in 1314.

Loyalty to Edward was not shared by all. Edward II (1307–28) was thought to be incompetent and frivolous by his father, Edward I Longshanks, and his people. He was thought to be largely under the influence of his favourites, especially the homosexual Gascon squire, Piers Gaveston (and later Hugh le Despenser and his son). Edward II was not as politically astute or as militarily capable as his father and soon lost many of the strongholds taken by Edward I during his campaigns. Throughout his reign as King, Edward II struggled with discontented barons, who particularly objected to Gaveston's influence – he was widely considered the king's lover. Gaveston was not well liked as Gaveston went out of his way to insult everybody in the court of Edward I.

In 1312, the barons seized Gaveston and executed him at Kenilworth. Edward II's wife, Isabella, (daughter of Philip IV of France), left Edward, and took their son (the future Edward III) to France. In 1326, she returned with her lover, Roger de Mortimer, to depose and murder Edward.

The premature death of Gilbert, the son of Gilbert "The Red" in 1314 when he was killed in battle at Bannockburn, brought an end to the male line of the de Clare family, but his father and Joan of Acre's three daughters were all to be involved in significant marriages. This was probably due to the fact that the vast fortune acquired by the de Clare family was now divided between the three sisters, to be spent on a first come, first served spending spree by whoever the king granted permission to marry the daughters. Margaret was married to Piers Gaveston. Edward II's homosexual favorite friend. Margaret was married to Hugh Audley after Gaveston was killed. There has been speculation that Margaret's previous marriage to Gaveston was intended to prevent rumor spreading as to the nature of his relationship with Edward II.

The second daughter, Eleanor, was married to Hugh le Despenser - who replaced Gaveston as Edward's favourite homosexual friend, and cost Eleanor her marriage. Le Despenser was later beheaded with his father in 1326. Eleanor went on to marry William la Zouche.

Richard de Clare

Father of Gilbert "The Red" deClare.
b. 1222 d. 1262

Richard was a leading member of the reforming party of barons in England. King Henry III's personal style of government and his reliance on foreign advisers had antagonized many of the barons who regarded the royal policy as diminishing their own power and influence. Llywelyn ap Gruffydd (d.1282), prince of Gwynedd, exploited this division and dissension amongst the English. On Richard's death in 1262, Llywelyn moved up the Usk valley, capturing the Brecon lands of Humphrey de Bohun (guardian of the young de Clare heir), and reaching the northern

edge of Glamorgan. By 1267 Llywelyn had become master of the greater part of modern Wales, except for the southern coastal plain.

Pembroke's son Richard first earned his reputation as a warrior by taking a force of warriors to Ireland, where he stormed the Norse-Irish city of Dublin; his progress in conquest was so successful that Henry I feared that Richard had grown too powerful and ordered him to return to his lands in Wales... Richard stubbornly refused and fought on. Eventually, his allies submitted to Henry's demand and Richard had to follow suit, however, after reaffirming his allegiance to Henry, a large force returned to Ireland and Richard held control over the lands of Leinster. He also found time between conquering Ireland to father two children, Isabel and Robert; Isabel married William Marshall and their daughter Isabella wed the younger Gilbert de Clare, Earl of Gloucester. This reunited the two branches of the de Clare family early in the thirteenth century. Gilbert and Isabella had three sons and three daughters, of which Richard inherited the title Earl of Gloucester.

Richard Earl of Gloucester married the Earl of Lincoln's daughter Maud, and this marriage resulted in two sons – Thomas and Gilbert "The Red," who was entitled Earl of Gloucester upon his father's death. Born in 1243, Gilbert rose to become one of the most powerful and influential men in England at his time. He used the strife of the mid-thirteenth century Baronial Wars to his advantage by siding first with Simon de Montfort at the battle of Lewes in 1264, and afterwards with Henry II and Prince Edward. The Earl of Gloucester played a crucial role in the defeat of de Montfort's army at the battle of Evesham the following year, and used the opportunity to strengthen the family's position in the Welsh borderlands.

Like Richard "Strongbow" de Clare had achieved in Ireland, Gilbert "The Red" managed to firmly establish new lands in the former Welsh principality by strength of the sword and diplomacy with the king. Gilbert sealed his favor with the royal household by divorcing his first wife Alice in 1271 in order to marry Joan of Acre. Joan was the daughter of the newly crowned Edward I.

Elizabeth was the eldest of the three daughters, and as such inherited the title of Lady of Clare. Of the three daughters, she had the busiest time, as she was married no less than three times - John de Burgh first, then Theobald Lord Vernon, and finally Roger Damory. After the death of her last husband, Elizabeth used a large portion of her remaining wealth to endow Clare College in Cambridge in 1338; if she had not done so, the College (then known as University Hall) would have closed only twelve years after its foundation.

Some sources claim that Elizabeth de Clare had a granddaughter from her marriage to John de Burgh, named Elizabeth. This Elizabeth grew up to marry Lionel, the son of Edward III, and their son was to become king Edward IV; surely it would have pleased the earlier de Clares if this was the case, as one of their kin finally became the singularly most powerful man in Britain during

his lifetime – a feat many of the earlier de Clares seem to have devoted a lot of their time attempting.

The de Clares certainly had a hand in determining the course of events in medieval and later British history, not just that of England, as the strength of their conquests in Wales and Ireland undoubtedly helped establish an Anglo-Norman rule in these areas. Although maybe not one of the most famous or most common names in Britain, the de Clare's habit of drifting in and out of the medieval political spotlight certainly makes for an interesting ancestry. Despite the wealth and importance of the de Clare family in the medieval period, little remains to be seen of the family; certainly the surname no longer remains an especially common one, as the last surviving de Clares were all daughters. However, illegitimate children were not uncommon amongst the nobility during the medieval period, so many links to unrelated family names may exist unknown even today. The family castle from which they took their name remains in the form of a ruin in Suffolk; the priory they built in St Neots now lies underneath a car park and a newsagents building. The strongest links to the family still to be seen are probably Caerphilly Castle – a majestic ruin in south Wales, Clare College and Clare Bridge in Cambridge; the bridge was built in 1639-40, but was named in remembrance of the Lady who saved the College from closure 300 years before.

In 1260 Thomas de Clare was given the land of Thomond, County Clare, Ireland, by Edward I, then Lord of Ireland, to stop a war of the rival factions of the O'Brien family.

Although building went on for about half a century, the castle was largely complete after only four years: 1268-1271. The impetus for building the castle came from the uncertainty engendered by the Treaty of Montgomery. After Henry III had successfully concluded the Barons' Wars, Llywelyn ap Gruffudd decided likewise to make peace. The Treaty of Montgomery in 1267 acknowledged Llywelyn as the dominant force in Wales, but did not clarify rights as between Llewelyn and the English lord of Glamorgan. Gilbert de Clare aggressively asserted his lordship in the area by beginning the building of Caerphilly Castle only months after the signing of the Treaty of Montgomery. The castle thus both asserted and established his control over the area.

The Great Hall of the castle, situated along the South wall. The wall columns supporting the ceiling are fourteenth century, although the hall itself is late thirteenth century. The present roof is nineteenth century. This hall was both sufficiently large and well-appointed to emphasize the earl's power and wealth.

Gilbert de Clare

Father of Richard de Clare

b. 1180 d. October 25, 1230

Son of Surety Richard de Clare, and himself a Surety, was born about the year 1180. In June 1202 he was entrusted with the lands of Harfleur and Mostrevilliers. He was one of the Barons still opposing the arbitrary proceedings of the Crown. He championed Louis the Dauphin, fighting at Lincoln under the Baronial banner, and was taken prisoner by William Marshall, whose daughter he later married. He led an army against the Welsh in 1228 and captured Morgan Gam, who was released the next year. After an engagement in Brittany, he died on his return at Penros in that Duchy, 25 October 1230. His body was conveyed by way of Plymouth and Cranbourn to Tewkesbury. He was buried there before the High Altar 10 November 1230. He married Isabella, sister of William Marshall, the Surety, and daughter of William Marshall, the Protector, on 9 October 1217. She died 17 January 1239.



Caerphilly Castle, Wales

Plantagenet Kings of England



1066-1485



Plantagenet Kings of England

William I to Richard III

William I, the Conqueror

King: 1066-1087 AD

Born: 1027

Died: September 9, 1087

William, the illegitimate son of the Duke of Normandy, spent his first six years with his mother in Falaise and received the duchy of Normandy upon his father's death in 1035. A council consisting of noblemen and William's appointed guardians ruled Normandy but ducal authority waned under the Normans' violent nature and the province was wracked with assassination and revolt for twelve years. In 1047, William reasserted himself in the eastern Norman regions and, with the aid of France's King Henry I, crushed the rebelling barons. He spent the next several years consolidating his strength on the continent through marriage, diplomacy, war and savage intimidation. By 1066, Normandy was in a position of virtual independence from William's feudal lord, Henry I of France and the disputed succession in England offered William an opportunity for invasion.

Edward the Confessor attempted to gain Norman support while fighting with his father-in-law, Earl Godwin, by purportedly promising the throne to William in 1051. (This was either a false claim by William or a hollow promise from Edward; at that time, the kingship was not necessarily hereditary but was appointed by the witan, a council of clergy and barons.) Before his death in 1066, however, Edward reconciled with Godwin, and the witan agreed to Godwin's son, Harold, as heir to the crown - after the recent Danish kings, the members of the council were anxious to keep the monarchy in Anglo-Saxon hands. William was enraged and immediately prepared to invade, insisting that Harold had sworn allegiance to him in 1064. Prepared for battle in August 1066, ill winds throughout August and most of September prohibited him crossing the English Channel. This turned out to be advantageous for William, however, as Harold Godwinson awaited William's pending arrival on England's south shores, Harold Hardrada, the King of Norway, invaded England from the north. Harold Godwinson's forces marched north to defeat the Norse at Stamford Bridge on September 25, 1066. Two days after the battle, William landed unopposed at Pevensey and spent the next two weeks pillaging the area and strengthening his position on the beachhead. The victorious Harold, in an attempt to solidify his kingship, took the fight south to William and the Normans on October 14, 1066 at Hastings. After hours of holding firm against the Normans, the tired English forces finally succumbed to the onslaught. Harold and his brothers died fighting in the

Hastings battle, removing any further organized Anglo-Saxon resistance to the Normans. The earls and bishops of the witan hesitated in supporting William, but soon submitted and crowned him William I on Christmas Day 1066. The kingdom was immediately besieged by minor uprisings, each one individually and ruthlessly crushed by the Normans, until the whole of England was conquered and united in 1072. William punished rebels by confiscating their lands and allocating them to the Normans. Uprisings in the northern counties near York were quelled by an artificial famine brought about by Norman destruction of food caches and farming implements.

The arrival and conquest of William and the Normans radically altered the course of English history. Rather than attempt a wholesale replacement of Anglo-Saxon law, William fused continental practices with native custom. By disenfranchising Anglo-Saxon landowners, he instituted a brand of feudalism in England that strengthened the monarchy. Villages and manors were given a large degree of autonomy in local affairs in return for military service and monetary payments. The Anglo-Saxon office of sheriff was greatly enhanced: sheriffs arbitrated legal cases in the shire courts on behalf of the king, extracted tax payments and were generally responsible for keeping the peace. "The Domesday Book" was commissioned in 1085 as a survey of land ownership to assess property and establish a tax base. Within the regions covered by the Domesday survey, the dominance of the Norman king and his nobility are revealed: only two Anglo-Saxon barons that held lands before 1066 retained those lands twenty years later. All landowners were summoned to pay homage to William in 1086. William imported an Italian, Lanfranc, to take the position of Archbishop of Canterbury; Lanfranc reorganized the English Church, establishing separate Church courts to deal with infractions of Canon law. Although he began the invasion with papal support, William refused to let the church dictate policy within English and Norman borders.

He died as he had lived: an inveterate warrior. He died September 9, 1087 from complications of a wound he received in a siege on the town of Mantes.

"The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle" gave a favorable review of William's twenty-one year reign, but added, "His anxiety for money is the only thing on which he can deservedly be blamed; . . . he would say and do some things and indeed almost anything . . . where the hope of money allured him." He was certainly cruel by modern standards, and exacted a high toll from his subjects, but he laid the foundation for the economic and political success of England.

William II, Rufus the Red

King (1087-1100 AD)

William II earned the nickname Rufus either because of his red hair or his propensity for anger. William Rufus never married and had no offspring. The manner in which William the Conqueror divided his possessions caused turmoil among his sons: his eldest son Robert received the duchy of Normandy, William Rufus acquired England, and his youngest son Henry inherited 5000 pounds of silver. The contention between the brothers may have exerted an influence on the poor light in which William Rufus was historically portrayed.

Many Norman barons owned property on both sides of the English Channel and found themselves in the midst of a tremendous power play. Hesitant to declare sides, most of the barons eventually aligned with Robert due to William Rufus' cruelty and avarice. Robert, however, failed to make an appearance in England and William Rufus quelled the rebellion. He turned his sights to Normandy in 1089, bribing Norman barons for support and subsequently eroding his brother's power base. In 1096, Robert, tired of governing and quarreling with his brothers, pawned Normandy to William Rufus for 10,000 marks to finance his departure to the Holy Land on the first Crusade. Robert regained possession of the duchy after William Rufus' death in 1100. William Rufus employed all the powers of the crown to secure wealth. He manipulated feudal law to the benefit of the royal treasury: shire courts levied heavy fines, confiscation and forfeitures were harshly enforced, and exorbitant inheritance taxes were imposed. His fiscal policies included (and antagonized) the church - William Rufus had no respect for the clergy and they none for him. He bolstered the royal revenue by leaving sees open and diverting the money into his coffers. He treated the Church as nothing more than a rich corporation deserving of heavy taxing at a time when the Church was gaining in influence through the Gregorian reforms of the eleventh century. Aided by his sharp-witted minister, Ranulf Flambard, William Rufus greatly profited from clerical vacancies. The failed appointment and persecution of Anselm, Abbot of Bec, as the Archbishop of Canterbury in 1093 added fuel to the historical denigration of William II; most contemporary writings were done by monks, who cared little for the crass, blasphemous king.

On August 2, 1100, William Rufus was struck in the eye by an arrow and killed while hunting. Whether the arrow was a stray shot or premeditated murder is still under debate. 1066 and All That, a satire on medieval government, remembers William II in a unique manner: "William Rufus was always very angry and red in the face and was therefore unpopular, so that his death was a Good Thing."

Count Geoffrey V "The Handsome"

Also known as: Count of Anjou - was born on 24 Aug 1113 in Anjou, France and died on 7 Sep 1151 in Chateau, France and was buried in Mans, St. Julian's Church. He was the son of Count Fouiques V of Anjou and Ermengarde Du Maine.

Count Geoffrey married Concupine Plantagent. Concupine was born about 1112 in Normandy, France.

Then Count Geoffrey married Queen Matilda on 22 May 1128 in Le Mans Cathedral, Anjou. Queen Matilda was born in 1104 in Middlesex, England. She was the daughter of King Henry I "Beauclerc" of England and Princess Matilda of Scotland. She died on 10 Sep 1169 in Abbey of Notre Dame des Prés, Rouen and was buried in Fontevraud Abbey, Anjou, France.

Henry I, Beauclerc

King (1100-1135 AD) Henry I, the most resilient of the Norman kings (his reign lasted thirty-five years), was nicknamed "Beauclerc" (fine scholar) for his above average education. During his reign, the differences between English and Norman society began to slowly evaporate. Reforms in the royal treasury system became the foundation upon which later kings built. The stability Henry afforded the throne was offset by problems in succession: his only surviving son, William, was lost in the wreck of the White Ship in November 1120.

The first years of Henry's reign were concerned with subduing Normandy. William the Conqueror divided his kingdoms between Henry's older brothers, leaving England to William Rufus and Normandy to Robert. Henry inherited no land but received £5000 in silver. He played each brother off of the other during their quarrels; both distrusted Henry and subsequently signed a mutual accession treaty barring Henry from the crown. Henry's hope arose when Robert departed for the Holy Land on the First Crusade; should William die, Henry was the obvious heir. Henry was in the woods hunting on the morning of August 2, 1100 when William Rufus was killed by an arrow. His quick movement in securing the crown on August 5 led many to believe he was responsible for his brother's death. In his coronation charter, Henry denounced William's oppressive policies and promising good government in an effort to appease his barons. Robert returned to Normandy a few weeks later but escaped final defeat until the Battle of Tinchebrai in 1106; Robert was captured and lived the remaining twenty-eight years of his life as Henry's prisoner.

Henry was drawn into controversy with a rapidly expanding Church. Lay investiture, the king's selling of clergy ap-

pointments, was heavily opposed by Gregorian reformers in the Church but was a cornerstone of Norman government. Henry recalled Anselm of Bec to the archbishopric of Canterbury to gain baronial support, but the stubborn Anselm refused to do homage to Henry for his lands. The situation remained unresolved until Pope Paschal II threatened Henry with excommunication in 1105. He reached a compromise with the papacy: Henry rescinded the king's divine authority in conferring sacred offices but appointees continued to do homage for their fiefs. In practice, it changed little - the king maintained the deciding voice in appointing ecclesiastical offices - but it marked a point where kingship became purely secular and subservient in the eyes of the Church.

By 1106, both the quarrels with the church and the conquest of Normandy were settled and Henry concentrated on expanding royal power. He mixed generosity with violence in motivating allegiance to the crown and appointing loyal and gifted men to administrative positions. By raising men out of obscurity for such appointments, Henry began to rely less on landed barons as ministers and created a loyal bureaucracy. He was deeply involved in continental affairs and therefore spent almost half of his time in Normandy, prompting him to create the position of justiciar - the most trusted of all the king's officials, the justiciar literally ruled in the king's stead. Roger of Salisbury, the first justiciar, was instrumental in organizing an efficient department for collection of royal revenues, the Exchequer. The Exchequer held sessions twice a year for sheriffs and other revenue-collecting officials; these officials appeared before the justiciar, the chancellor, and several clerks and rendered an account of their finances. The Exchequer was an ingenious device for balancing amounts owed versus amounts paid. Henry gained notoriety for sending out court officials to judge local financial disputes (weakening the feudal courts controlled by local lords) and curb errant sheriffs (weakening the power bestowed upon the sheriffs by his father).

The final years of his reign were consumed in war with France and difficulties ensuring the succession. The French King Louis VI began consolidating his kingdom and attacked Normandy unsuccessfully on three separate occasions. The succession became a concern upon the death of his son William in 1120: Henry's marriage to Adelaide was fruitless, leaving his daughter Matilda as the only surviving legitimate heir. She was recalled to Henry's court in 1125 after the death of her husband, Emperor Henry V of Germany. Henry forced his barons to swear an oath of allegiance to Matilda in 1127 after he arranged her marriage to the sixteen-year-old Geoffrey of Anjou to cement an Angevin alliance on the continent. The marriage, unpopular with the Norman barons, produced a male heir in 1133, which prompted yet another reluctant oath of loyalty from the aggravated barons. In the summer of 1135, Geoffrey demanded custody of certain key Norman castles as a show of good will from Henry; Henry refused and the pair entered into war. Henry's life ended in this sorry state of affairs - war with his son-in-law and rebellion on the horizon - in December 1135.

John, Lackland

King 1199-1216 AD

Born: 24 December 1167 at Beaumont Palace, Oxford

Died: 18 October 1216 at Newark Castle, Nottinghamshire

John was born on Christmas Eve 1167. His parents drifted apart after his birth; his youth was divided between his eldest brother Henry's house, where he learned the art of knighthood, and the house of his father's justiciar, Ranulf Glanvil, where he learned the business of government. As the fourth child, inherited lands were not available to him, giving rise to his nickname, Lackland. His first marriage lasted but ten years and was fruitless, but his second wife, Isabella of Angouleme, bore him two sons and three daughters. He also had an illegitimate daughter, Joan, who married Llywelyn the Great, Ruler of All Wales, from which the Tudor line of monarchs was descended. The survival of the English government during John's reign is a testament to the reforms of his father, as John taxed the system socially, economically, and judicially.

The Angevin family feuds profoundly marked John. He and Richard clashed in 1184 following Richard's refusal to honor his father's wishes surrender Aquitaine to John. The following year Henry II sent John to rule Ireland, but John alienated both the native Irish and the transplanted Anglo-Normans who emigrated to carve out new lordships for themselves; the experiment was a total failure and John returned home within six months. After Richard gained the throne in 1189, he gave John vast estates in an unsuccessful attempt to appease his younger brother. John failed to overthrow Richard's administrators during the German captivity and conspired with Philip II in another failed coup attempt. Upon Richard's release from captivity in 1194, John was forced to sue for pardon and he spent the next five years in his brother's shadow.

John's reign was troubled in many respects. A quarrel with the Church resulted in England being placed under an interdict in 1207, with John actually excommunicated two years later. The dispute centered on John's stubborn refusal to install the papal candidate, Stephen Langdon, as Archbishop of Canterbury; the issue was not resolved until John surrendered to the wishes of Pope Innocent III and paid tribute for England as the Pope's vassal.

John proved extremely unpopular with his subjects. In addition to the Irish debacle, he inflamed his French vassals by orchestrating the murder of his popular nephew, Arthur of Brittany. By spring 1205, he lost the last of his French possessions and returned to England. The final ten years of his reign were occupied with failed attempts to regain these territories. After levying a number of new taxes upon the barons to pay for his dismal campaigns, the discontented barons revolted, capturing London in May 1215. At Runnymede in the following June, John succumbed to pressure from the barons, the Church, and the English people at-large, and signed the Magna Carta.

The document, a declaration of feudal rights, stressed three points. First, the Church was free to make ecclesiastical appointments. Second, larger-than-normal amounts of money could only be collected with the consent of the king's feudal tenants. Third, no freeman was to be punished except within the context of common law. Magna Carta, although a testament to John's complete failure as monarch, was the forerunner of modern constitutions. John only signed the document as a means of buying time and his hesitance to implement its principles compelled the nobility to seek French assistance. The pope later nullified the Magna Carta, but its principal lived on. The barons offered the throne to Philip II's son, Louis. John died in the midst of invasion from the French in the South and rebellion from his barons in the North.

John was remembered in elegant fashion by Sir Richard Baker in *A Chronicle of the Kings of England*: ". . . his works of piety were very many . . . as for his actions, he neither came to the crown by justice, nor held it with any honour, nor left it peace."

Henry III

King: 1216-72 AD

Born: 1 October 1207 at Winchester Castle

Died: 16 November 1272 at the Palace of Westminster

Henry III, the first monarch to be crowned in his minority, inherited the throne at age nine. His reign began immersed in the rebellion created by his father, King John. London and most of the southeast were in the hands of the French Dauphin Louis and the northern regions were under the control of rebellious barons - only the midlands and southwest were loyal to the boy king. The barons, however, rallied under Henry's first regent, William the Marshall, and expelled the French Dauphin in 1217. William the Marshall governed until his death in 1219; Hugh de Burgh, the last of the justiciars to rule with the power of a king, governed until Henry came to the throne in earnest at age twenty-five.

A variety of factors coalesced in Henry's reign to plant the first seeds of English nationalism. Throughout his minority, the barons held firm to the ideal of written restrictions on royal authority and reissued Magna Carta several times. The nobility wished to bind the king to same feudal laws under which they were held. The emerging class of free men also demanded the same protection from the king's excessive control. Barons, nobility, and free men began viewing England as a community rather than a mere aggregation of independent manors, villages, and outlying principalities. In addition to the restrictions outlined in Magna Carta, the barons asked to be consulted in matters of state and called together as a Great Council. Viewing themselves as the natural counselors of the king, they sought control over the machinery of government, particularly in the appointment of chief government positions. The Exchequer and the Chancery were separated from the rest of the government to decrease the king's chances of

ruling irresponsibly.

Nationalism, such as it was at this early stage, manifested in the form of opposition to Henry's actions. He infuriated the barons by granting favors and appointments to foreigners rather than the English nobility. Peter des Roches, the Bishop of Winchester and Henry's prime educator, introduced a number of Frenchmen from Poitou into the government; many Italians entered into English society through Henry's close ties to the papacy. His reign coincided with an expansion of papal power <ETH> the Church became, in effect, a massive European monarchy <ETH> and the Church became as creative as it was excessive in extorting money from England. England was expected to assume a large portion of financing the myriad officials employed throughout Christendom as well as providing employment and parishes for Italians living abroad. Henry's acquiescence to the demands of Rome initiated a backlash of protest from his subjects: laymen were denied opportunity to be nominated for vacant ecclesiastical offices and clergymen lost any chance of advancement.

Matters came to a head in 1258. Henry levied extortionate taxes to pay for debts incurred through war with Wales, failed campaigns in France, and an extensive program of ecclesiastical building. Inept diplomacy and military defeat led Henry to sell his hereditary claims to all the Angevin possessions in France except Gascony. When he assumed the considerable debts of the papacy in its fruitless war with Sicily, his barons demanded sweeping reforms and the king was in no position to offer resistance. Henry was forced to agree to the Provisions of Oxford, a document placing the barons in virtual control of the realm. A council of fifteen men, comprised of both the king's supporters and detractors, effected a situation whereby Henry could do nothing without the council's knowledge and consent. The magnates handled every level of government with great unity initially but gradually succumbed to petty bickering; the Provisions of Oxford remained in force for only years. Henry reasserted his authority and denied the Provisions, resulting in the outbreak of civil war in 1264. Edward, Henry's eldest son, led the king's forces with the opposition commanded by Simon de Montfort, Henry's brother-in-law. At the Battle of Lewes, in Sussex, de Montfort defeated Edward and captured both king and son - and found himself in control of the government.

Simon de Montfort held absolute power after subduing Henry but was a champion of reform. The nobility supported him because of his royal ties and belief in the Provisions of Oxford. De Montfort, with two close associates, selected a council of nine (whose function was similar to the earlier council of fifteen) and ruled in the king's name. De Montfort recognized the need to gain the backing of smaller landowners and prosperous townsmen: in 1264, he summoned knights from each shire in addition to the normal high churchmen and nobility to an early pre-Parliament, and in 1265 invited burgesses from selected towns. Although Parliament as an institution was yet to be formalized, the latter session was a precursor to both

the elements of Parliament: the House of Lords and the House of Commons.

Later in 1265, de Montfort lost the support of one of the most powerful barons, the Earl of Gloucester, and Edward also managed to escape. The two gathered an army and defeated de Montfort at the Battle of Evesham, Worcestershire. de Montfort was slain and Henry was released; Henry resumed control of the throne but, for the remainder of his reign, Edward exercised the real power of the throne in his father's stead. The old king, after a long reign of fifty-six years, died in 1272. Although a failure as a politician and soldier, his reign was significant for defining the English monarchical position until the end of the fifteenth century: kingship limited by law.

Edward I, Longshanks

King: 1272-1307 AD

Born: 17 June 1239 at the Palace of Westminster

Died: 7 July 1307 at Burgh-on-Sands, Cumberland

Edward I, nicknamed "Longshanks" due to his great height and stature, was perhaps the most successful of the medieval monarchs. The first twenty years of his reign marked a high point of cooperation between crown and community. In these years, Edward made great strides in reforming government, consolidating territory, and defining foreign policy. He possessed the strength his father lacked and reasserted royal prerogative. Edward fathered many children as well: sixteen by Eleanor of Castille before her death in 1290, and three more by Margaret.

Edward held to the concept of community, and although at times unscrupulously aggressive, ruled with the general welfare of his subjects in mind. He perceived the crown as judge of the proper course of action for the realm and its chief legislator; royal authority was granted by law and should be fully utilized for the public good, but that same law also granted protection to the king's subjects. A king should rule with the advice and consent of those whose rights were in question. The level of interaction between king and subject allowed Edward considerable leeway in achieving his goals.

Edward I added to the bureaucracy initiated by Henry II to increase his effectiveness as sovereign. He expanded the administration into four principal parts: the Chancery, the Exchequer, the Household, and the Council. The Chancery researched and created legal documents while the Exchequer received and issued money, scrutinized the accounts of local officials, and kept financial records. These two departments operated within the king's authority but independently from his personal rule, prompting Edward to follow the practice of earlier kings in developing the Household, a mobile court of clerks and advisers that traveled with the king. The King's Council was the most vital segment of the four. It consisted of his principal ministers, trusted judges and clerks, a select group of magnates, and also followed the king. The Council dealt with matters of great importance to the realm and acted as a court for cases

of national importance.

Edward's forays into the refinement of law and justice had important consequences in decreasing feudal practice. The Statute of Gloucester (1278) curbed expansion of large private holdings and established the principle that all private franchises were delegated by, and subordinate to, the crown. Royal jurisdiction became supreme: the Exchequer developed a court to hear financial disputes, the Court of Common Pleas arose to hear property disputes, and the Court of the King's Bench addressed criminal cases in which the king had a vested interest. Other statutes prohibited vassals from giving their lands to the church, encouraged primogeniture, and established the king as the sole person who could make a man his feudal vassal. In essence, Edward set the stage for land to become an article of commerce.

Edward concentrated on an aggressive foreign policy. A major campaign to control Llywelyn ap Gruffydd of Wales began in 1277 and lasted until Llywelyn's death in 1282. Wales was divided into shires, English civil law was introduced, and the region was administered by appointed justices. In the manner of earlier monarchs, Edward constructed many new castles to ensure his conquest. In 1301, the king's eldest son was named Prince of Wales, a title still granted to all first-born male heirs to the crown. Edward found limited success in extending English influence into Ireland: he introduced a Parliament in Dublin and increased commerce in a few coastal towns, but most of the country was controlled by independent barons or Celtic tribal chieftains. He retained English holdings in France through diplomacy, but was drawn into war by the incursions of Philip IV in Gascony. He negotiated a peace with France in 1303 and retained those areas England held before the war.

Edward's involvement in Scotland had far reaching effects. The country had developed a feudal kingdom similar to England in the Lowlands the Celtic tribal culture dispersed to the Highlands. After the death of the Scottish king, Alexander III, Edward negotiated a treaty whereby Margaret, Maid of Norway and legitimate heir to the Scottish crown, would be brought to England to marry his oldest son, the future Edward II. Margaret, however, died in 1290 en route to England, leaving a disputed succession in Scotland; Edward claimed the right to intercede as feudal lord of the Scottish kings through their Anglo-Norman roots. Edward arbitrated between thirteen different claimants and chose John Baliol. Baliol did homage to Edward as his lord, but the Scots resisted Edward's demands for military service. In 1296, Edward invaded Scotland and soundly defeated the Scots under Baliol <ETH> Baliol was forced to abdicate and the Scottish barons did homage to Edward as their king. *William Wallace* incited a rebellion in 1297, (*refer to film Brave Heart*), defeated the English army at Stirling, and harassed England's northern counties. The next year, Edward defeated Wallace at the Battle of Falkirk but encountered continued resistance until Wallace's capture and execution in 1304. *Robert Bruce*, the grandson of a claimant to the throne in 1290, instigated

another revolt in 1306 and would ultimately defeat the army of Edward II at Bannockburn. Edward's campaigns in Scotland were ruthless and aroused in the Scots a hatred of England that would endure for generations.

Edward's efforts to finance his wars in France and Scotland strained his relationship with the nobility by instituting both income and personal property taxes. Meetings of the King's Great Council, now referred to as Parliaments, intermittently included members of the middle class and began curtailing the royal authority. Parliament reaffirmed Magna Carta and the Charter of the Forest in 1297, 1299, 1300, and 1301; it was concluded that no tax should be levied without consent of the realm as a whole (as represented by Parliament).

Edward's character found accurate evaluation by Sir Richard Baker, in *A Chronicle of the Kings of England*: He had in him the two wisdoms, not often found in any, single; both together, seldom or never: an ability of judgement in himself, and a readiness to hear the judgement of others. He was not easily provoked into passion, but once in passion, not easily appeased, as was seen by his dealing with the Scots; towards whom he showed at first patience, and at last severity. If he be censured for his many taxations, he may be justified by his well bestowing them; for never prince laid out his money to more honour of himself, or good of his kingdom."

Edward II

King: 1307-27 AD

Born: 25 April 1284 at Caernarfon Castle, Gwynedd

Murdered: 21 September 1327 at Berkeley Castle

Edward II lacked the royal dignity of his father and failed miserably as king. He inherited his father's war with Scotland and displayed his ineptitude as a soldier. Disgruntled barons, already wary of Edward as Prince of Wales, sought to check his power from the beginning of his reign. He raised the ire of the nobility by lavishing money and other rewards upon his male favorites. Such extreme unpopularity would eventually cost Edward his life.

Edward I's dream of a unified British nation quickly disintegrated under his weak son. Baronial rebellion opened the way for Robert Bruce to reconquer much of Scotland. In 1314, Bruce defeated English forces at the battle of Bannockburn and ensured Scottish independence until the union of England and Scotland in 1707. Bruce also incited rebellion in Ireland and reduced English influence to the confines of the Pale.

Edward's preference for surrounding himself with outsiders harkened back to the troubled reign of Henry III. The most notable was Piers Gaveston, a young Gascon exiled by Edward I for his undue influence on the Prince of Wales and, most likely, the king's homosexual lover. The arrogant and licentious Gaveston wielded considerable power after being recalled by Edward. The magnates, alienated by the relationship, rallied in opposition behind the king's cousin, Thomas, Earl of Lancaster; the Parli-

ments of 1310 and 1311 imposed restrictions on Edward's power and exiled Gaveston. The barons revolted in 1312 and Gaveston was murdered - full rebellion was avoided only by Edward's acceptance of further restrictions. Although Lancaster shared the responsibilities of governing with Edward, the king came under the influence of yet another despicable favorite, Hugh Despenser. In 1322, Edward showed a rare display of resolve and gathered an army to meet Lancaster at the Battle of Boroughbridge in Yorkshire. Edward prevailed and executed Lancaster. He and DeSpenser ruled the government but again acquired many enemies - 28 knights and barons were executed for rebelling and many exiled.

Edward sent his queen, Isabella, to negotiate with her brother, French king Charles IV, regarding affairs in Gascony. She fell into an open romance with Roger Mortimer, one of Edward's disaffected barons, and persuaded Edward to send their young son to France. The rebellious couple invaded England in 1326 and imprisoned Edward II. The king was deposed in 1327, replaced by his son, Edward III, and soon Isabella had her husband Edward II murdered in September at Berkeley castle by a hot poker shoved up his rectum.

Sir Richard Baker, in reference to Edward I in *A Chronicle of the Kings of England*, makes a strong indictment against Edward II: "His great unfortunateness was in his greatest blessing; for of four sons which he had by his Queen Eleanor, three of them died in his own lifetime, who were worthy to have outlived him; and the fourth outlived him, who was worthy never to have been born."

Edward III

King: 1327-1377 AD

Born: 13 November 1312 at Windsor Castle, Berkshire

Died: 21 June 1377 at Sheen Palace, Richmond, Surrey

The fifty-year reign of Edward III was a dichotomy in English development. Governmental reforms affirmed the power of the emerging middle class in Parliament while placing the power of the nobility into the hands a few. Chivalric code reached an apex in English society but only masked the greed and ambition of Edward and his barons. Social conditions were equally ambiguous: the export of raw wool (and later, the wool cloth industry) prospered and spread wealth across the nation but was offset by the devastation wrought by the Black Death. Early success in war ultimately failed to produce lasting results. Edward proved a most capable king in a time of great evolution in England.

Edward's youth was spent in his mother's court and he was crowned at age fourteen after his father was deposed. After three years of domination by his mother and her lover, Roger Mortimer, Edward instigated a palace revolt in 1330 and assumed control of the government. Mortimer was executed and Isabella was exiled from court. Edward was married to Philippa of Hainault in 1328 and the union produced many children; the 75% survival rate of their

children - nine out of twelve lived through adulthood - was incredible considering conditions of the day.

War occupied the largest part of Edward's reign. He and Edward Baliol defeated David II of Scotland and drove David into exile in 1333. French cooperation with the Scots, French aggression in Gascony, and Edward's claim to the disputed throne of France (through his mother, Isabella) led to the first phase of the Hundred Years' war. The naval battle of Sluys (1340) gave England control of the Channel, and battles at Crecy (1346) and Calais (1347) established English supremacy on land. Hostilities ceased in the aftermath of the Black Death but war flared up again with an English invasion of France in 1355. Edward, the Black Prince and eldest son of Edward III, trounced the French cavalry at Poitiers (1356) and captured the French King John. In 1359, the Black Prince encircled Paris with his army and the defeated French negotiated for peace. The Treaty of Bretigny in 1360 ceded huge areas of northern and western France to English sovereignty. Hostilities arose again in 1369 as English armies under the king's third son, John of Gaunt, invaded France. English military strength, weakened considerably after the plague, gradually lost so much ground that by 1375, Edward agreed to the Treaty of Bruges, leaving only the coastal towns of Calais, Bordeaux, and Bayonne in English hands.

The nature of English society transformed greatly during Edward's reign. Edward learned from the mistakes of his father and affected more cordial relations with the nobility than any previous monarch. Feudalism dissipated as mercantilism emerged: the nobility changed from a large body with relatively small holdings to a small body that held great lands and wealth. Mercenary troops replaced feudal obligations as the means of gathering armies. Taxation of exports and commerce overtook land-based taxes as the primary form of financing government (and war). Wealth was accrued by merchants as they and other middle class subjects appeared regularly for parliamentary sessions. Parliament formally divided into two houses - the upper representing the nobility and high clergy with the lower representing the middle classes - and met regularly to finance Edward's wars and pass statutes. Treason was defined by statute for the first time (1352), the office of Justice of the Peace was created to aid sheriffs (1361), and English replaced French as the national language (1362).

Despite the king's early successes and England's general prosperity, much remained amiss in the realm. Edward and his nobles touted romantic chivalry as their credo while plundering a devastated France; chivalry emphasized the glory of war while reality stressed its costs. The influence of the Church decreased but John Wycliff spear-headed an ecclesiastical reform movement that challenged church exploitation by both the king and the pope. During 1348-1350, bubonic plague (the Black Death) ravaged the populations of Europe by as much as a fifty per cent. The flowering English economy was struck hard by the ensuing rise in prices and wages. The failed military excursions of John of Gaunt into France caused excessive taxation and eroded Edward's popular support.

The last years of Edward's reign mirrored the first, in that a woman again dominated him. Philippa died in 1369 and Edward took the unscrupulous Alice Perrers as his mistress. With Edward in his dotage and the Black Prince ill, Perrers and William Latimer (the chamberlain of the household) dominated the court with the support of John of Gaunt. Edward, the Black Prince, died in 1376 and the old king spent the last year of his life grieving. Rafael Holinshed, in *Chronicles of England*, suggested that Edward believed the death of his son was a punishment for usurping his father's crown: "But finally the thing that most grieved him, was the loss of that most noble gentleman, his dear son Prince Edward . . . But this and other mishaps that chanced to him now in his old years might seem to come to pass for a revenge of his disobedience showed to his in usurping against him. . ."

Richard II

King: AD 1377-1399

Born: 6 January 1367 at Bordeaux, Gascony

Murdered: 14 February 1400 at Pontefract Castle

Richard II, born in 1367, was the son of *Edward, the Black Prince and Joan, the Fair Maid of Kent*. Edward was but ten years old when he succeeded his grandfather, Edward III; England was ruled by a council under the leadership of John of Gaunt, and Richard was tutored by Sir Simon Burley. He married the much-beloved Anne of Bohemia in 1382, who died childless in 1394. Edward remarried in 1396, wedding the seven year old Isabella of Valois, daughter of Charles VI of France, to end a further struggle with France.

Richard asserted royal authority during an era of royal restrictions. Economic hardship followed the Black Death, as wages and prices rapidly increased. Parliament exacerbated the problem by passing legislation limiting wages but failing to also regulate prices. In 1381, Wat Tyler led the Peasants' Revolt against the oppressive government policies of John of Gaunt. Richard's unwise generosity to his favorites - Michael de la Pole, Robert de Vere and others - led Thomas, Duke of Gloucester and four other magnates to form the Lords Appellant. The five Lords Appellant tried and convicted five of Richard's closest advisors for treason. In 1397, Richard arrested three of the five Lords, coerced Parliament to sentence them to death and banished the other two. One of the exiles was Henry Bolingbroke, the future Henry IV. Richard travelled to Ireland in 1399 to quell warring chieftains, allowing Bolingbroke to return to England and be elected king by Parliament. Richard lacked support and was quickly captured by Henry IV.

Deposed in 1399, Richard was murdered while in prison, the first casualty of the Wars of the Roses between the Houses of Lancaster and York.

Henry IV

King: 1399-1413 AD

Henry IV was born at Bolingbroke in 1367 to John of Gaunt and Blanche of Lancaster. He married Mary Bohun in 1380, who bore him seven children before her death in 1394. In 1402, Henry remarried, taking as his bride Joan of Navarre.

Henry had an on-again, off-again relationship with his cousin, Richard II. He was one of the Lords Appellant who, in 1388, persecuted many of Richard's advisor-favorites, but his excellence as a soldier gained the king's favor - Henry was created Duke of Hereford in 1397. In 1398, however, the increasingly suspicious Richard banished him for ten years. John of Gaunt's death in 1399 prompted Richard to confiscate the vast Lancastrian estates; Henry invaded England while Richard was on campaign in Ireland, usurping the throne from the king.

The very nature of Henry's usurpation dictated the circumstances of his reign - incessant rebellion became the order of the day. Richard's supporters immediately revolted upon his deposition in 1400. In Wales, Owen Glendower led a national uprising that lasted until 1408; the Scots waged continual warfare throughout the reign; the powerful families of Percy and Mortimer (the latter possessing a stronger claim to the throne than Henry) revolted from 1403 to 1408; and Richard Scrope, Archbishop of York, proclaimed his opposition to the Lancastrian claim in 1405.

Two political blunders in the latter years of his reign diminished Henry's support. His marriage to Joan of Navarre (of whom it was rumored practiced necromancy) was highly unpopular - she was, in fact, convicted of witchcraft in 1419. Scrope and Thomas Mowbray were executed in 1405 after conspiring against Henry; the Archbishop's execution alarmed the English people, adding to his unpopularity. He developed a nasty skin disorder and epilepsy, persuading many that God was punishing the king for executing an archbishop.

Crushing the myriad of rebellions was costly, which involved calling Parliament to fund such activities. The House of Commons used the opportunity to expand its powers in 1401, securing recognition of freedom of debate and freedom from arrest for dissenting opinions. Lollardy, the Protestant movement founded by John Wycliffe during the reign of Edward III, gained momentum and frightened both secular and clerical landowners, inspiring the first anti-heresy statute, *De Heretico Comburendo*, to become law in 1401.

Henry, ailing from leprosy and epilepsy, watched as Prince Henry controlled the government for the last two years of his reign. In 1413, Henry died in the Jerusalem Chamber of Westminster Abbey. Rafael Holinshed explained his unpopularity in *Chronicles of England*: "... by punishing such as moved with disdain to see him usurp the crown, did at sundry times rebel against him, he won(himself more hatred, than in all his life time ... had

been possible for him to have weeded out and removed." Unlikely as it may seem (due to the amount of rebellion in his reign), Henry left his eldest son an undisputed succession.

Henry V

King: 1413-1422 AD

Henry V, the eldest son of Henry IV and Mary Bohun, was born in 1387. As per arrangement by the Treaty of Troyes, he married Catherine, daughter of the French King Charles VI, in June 1420. His only child, the future Henry VI, was born in 1421.

Henry was an accomplished soldier: at age fourteen he fought the Welsh forces of Owen ap Glendower; at age sixteen he commanded his father's forces at the battle of Shrewsbury; and shortly after his accession he put down a major Lollard uprising and an assassination plot by nobles still loyal to Richard II. He proposed to marry Catherine in 1415, demanding the old Plantagenet lands of Normandy and Anjou as his dowry. Charles VI refused and Henry declared war, opening yet another chapter in the Hundred Years' War. The French war served two purposes - to gain lands lost in previous battles and to focus attention away from any of his cousins' royal ambitions. Henry, possessed a masterful military mind and defeated the French at the Battle of Agincourt in October 1415, and by 1419 had captured Normandy, Picardy and much of the Capetian stronghold of the Ile-de-France.

By the Treaty of Troyes in 1420, Charles VI not only accepted Henry as his son-in-law, but passed over his own son to name Henry as heir to the French crown. Had Henry lived a mere two months longer, he would have been king of both England and France.

Henry had prematurely aged due to living the hard life of a soldier. He became seriously ill and died after returning from yet another French campaign; Catherine had bore his only son while he was away and Henry died having never seen the child. The historian Rafael Holinshed, in *Chronicles of England*, summed up Henry's reign as such: "This Henry was a king, of life without spot, a prince whom all men loved, and of none disdained, a captain against whom fortune never frowned, nor mischance once spurned, whose people him so severe a justicer both loved and obeyed (and so humane withal) that he left no offence unpunished, nor friendship unrewarded; a terror to rebels, and suppressor of sedition, his virtues notable, his qualities most praiseworthy."

Edward IV

King: 1461-70, 1471-83 AD

Edward IV, son of Richard, Duke of York and Cicely Neville, was born in 1442. He married Elizabeth Woodville in 1464, the widow of the Lancastrian Sir John Grey, who bore him ten children. He also entertained many

mistresses and had at least one illegitimate son.

Edward came to the throne through the efforts of his father; as Henry VI became increasingly less effective, Richard pressed the claim of the York family but was killed before he could ascend the throne: Edward deposed his cousin Henry after defeating the Lancastrians at Mortimer's Cross in 1461. Richard Neville, the Kingmaker, Earl of Warwick proclaimed Henry king once again in 1470, but less than a year elapsed when Edward reclaimed the crown and had Henry executed in 1471.

The rest of his reign was fairly uneventful. He revived the English claim to the French throne and invaded the weakened France, extorting a non-aggression treaty from Louis XI in 1475 which amounted to a lump payment of 75,000 crowns, and an annuity of 20,000. Edward had his brother, George, Duke of Clarendon, judicially murdered in 1478 on a charge of treason. His marriage to Elizabeth Woodville vexed his councilors, and he allowed many of the great nobles (such as his brother Richard) to build uncharacteristically large power bases in the provinces in return for their support.

Edward died suddenly in 1483, leaving behind two sons aged twelve and nine, five daughters, and a troubled legacy.

Edward V

King 1483 AD

Edward V, eldest son of Edward IV and Elizabeth Woodville, was born in 1470. He ascended the throne upon his father's death in April 1483, but reigned only two months before being deposed by his uncle, Richard, Duke of Gloucester. The entire episode is still shrouded in mystery. The Duke had Edward and his younger brother, Richard, imprisoned in the Tower and declared illegitimate and named himself rightful heir to the crown. The two young boys never emerged from the Tower, apparently murdered by, or at least on the orders of, their Uncle Richard. During renovations to the Tower in 1674, the skeletons of two children were found, possibly the murdered boys.

Richard III

King: 1483-1485 AD

Born: 2 OCT 1452, Fotheringhay Castle, Northants, England

Acceded: 7 JUL 1483, Westminster Abbey, London,
Died: 22 AUG 1485, Battle of Bosworth, Leicestershire

Richard III, the eleventh child of Richard, Duke of York, and Cecily Neville, was born in 1452. He was created third Duke of Gloucester at the coronation of his brother, Edward IV. Richard had three children: one each of an illegitimate son and daughter, and one son by his first wife, Anne Neville, widow of Henry IV's son Edward.

Richard's reign gained an importance out of proportion

to its length. He was the last of the Plantagenet dynasty, which had ruled England since 1154; he was the last English king to die on the battlefield; his death in 1485 is generally accepted between the medieval and modern ages in England; and he is credited with the responsibility for several murders: Henry VI, Henry's son Edward, his brother Clarence, and his nephews Edward and Richard.

Richard's power was immense, and upon the death of Edward IV, he positioned himself to seize the throne from the young Edward V. He feared a continuance of internal feuding should Edward V, under the influence of his mother's Woodville relatives, remain on the throne (most of this feared conflict would have undoubtedly come from Richard). The old nobility, also fearful of a strengthened Woodville clan, assembled and declared the succession of Edward V as illegal, due to weak evidence suggesting that Edward IV's marriage to Elizabeth Woodville was bigamous, thereby rendering his sons illegitimate and ineligible as heirs to the crown. Edward V and his younger brother, Richard of York, were imprisoned in the Tower of London, never to again emerge alive. Richard of Gloucester was crowned Richard III on July 6, 1483.

Four months into his reign he crushed a rebellion led by his former assistant Henry Stafford, Duke of Buckingham, who sought the installation of Henry Tudor, a diluted Lancaster, to the throne. The rebellion was crushed, but Tudor gathered troops and attacked Richard's forces on August 22, 1485, at the battle of Bosworth Field. The last major battle of the Wars of the Roses, Bosworth Field became the death place of Richard III. Historians have been noticeably unkind to Richard, based on purely circumstantial evidence; Shakespeare portrays him as a complete monster in his play, *Richard III*. One thing is for certain, however: Richard's defeat and the cessation of the Wars of the Roses allowed the stability England required to heal, consolidate, and push into the modern era.



Other Nobility

Charlemagne

(Charles the Great or Charles I) 742?-814, Emperor of the West (800-814), Carolingian King of the Franks (768-814). King of the Franks

Elder son of Pepin the Short and a grandson of Charles Martel, Charlemagne shared with his brother Carloman in the succession to his father's kingdom. At Carloman's death (771), young Charlemagne annexed his brother's lands, disinheritng Carloman's two young sons, who fled with their mother to the court of Desiderius, king of the

Lombards. When Desiderius conquered part of the papal lands and attempted to force Pope Adrian I to recognize Carloman's sons, Charlemagne intervened (773) on the side of the pope and defeated the Lombards. At Rome, Charlemagne was received by Adrian as patrician of the Romans (a title he had received with his father in 754), and he confirmed his father's donation to the Holy See. Shortly afterward he took Pavia, the Lombard capital, and assumed the iron crown of the Lombard kings of Italy. In 778 he invaded Spain, hoping to take advantage of civil war among the Muslim rulers of that kingdom, but was repulsed at Zaragoza. In later campaigns conducted by local counts, Barcelona was captured (801) and a frontier established beyond the Pyrenees. Charlemagne's struggle with the pagan Saxons, whose greatest leader was Widukind, lasted from 772 until 804. By dint of forced conversions, wholesale massacres, and the transportation of thousands of Saxons to the interior of the Frankish kingdom, Charlemagne made his domination over Saxony complete. In 788 he annexed the semi-independent duchy of Bavaria, after deposing its duke, Tassilo. He also warred successfully against the Avars and the Slavs, establishing a frontier south of the Danube.

Alfred the Great

849–99, king of Wessex (871–99), sometimes called Alfred the Great, b. Wantage, Berkshire. 1

The youngest son of King Æthelwulf, he was sent in 853 to Rome, where the pope gave him the title of Roman consul. He returned to Rome with his father in 855. His adolescence was marked by ill health and deep religious devotion, both of which persisted for the rest of his life.

Little is known of him during the reigns of his older brothers Æthelbald and Æthelbert, but when Æthelred took the throne (865), Alfred became his *secundarius* (viceroy) and aided his brother in subsequent battles against the Danes, who then threatened to overrun all England. When the Danes began their assault on Wessex in 870, Æthelred and Alfred resisted with varying results: they won a victory at Ashdown, Berkshire; they were defeated at Basing; and they had several indecisive engagements.

Upon Æthelred's death after Easter in 871, Alfred became king of the West Saxons and overlord of Kent, Surrey, Sussex, and Essex. Faced by an enemy too powerful to defeat decisively, Alfred cleared the Danes from Wessex by a heavy payment of tribute (see *Danegeld*) in 871. Alfred used the five-year respite that followed to begin building up a fleet. In 876 and 877 the Danes returned to ravage for several months and finally, halted by Alfred's army, swore to leave Wessex forever. However, in a surprise invasion early in 878 they crushed Alfred's forces, and he fled to Athelney in the fens of Somerset, where he organized a series of harassing raids on the enemy. The famous legend in which, unrecognized, he is scolded by a peasant woman

for letting her cakes burn probably derives from this period of his life. 4

In May, 878, Alfred rallied his army and won a complete victory over the Danes at Edington. He then dictated the Peace of Chippenham (or Wedmore) by which Guthrum, the Danish leader, accepted Christian baptism and probably agreed to separate England into English and Danish spheres of influence. The Danes moved into East Anglia and E Mercia, and Alfred established his overlordship in W Mercia. Alfred captured (886) London and concluded another treaty with Guthrum that marked off the Danelaw E and N of the Thames, Lea, and Ouse rivers, and Watling Street, leaving the south and west of England to Alfred.

Security gave Alfred the chance to institute numerous reforms within his kingdom. Against further probable attacks by the Danes, he reorganized the militia, or *fyrð*, around numerous garrisoned forts throughout Wessex. Drawing from the old codes of Æthelbert of Kent, Ine of Wessex, and Offa of Mercia, he issued his own code of laws, which contained measures for a stronger centralized monarchy. He reformed the administration of justice and energetically participated in it, and he reorganized the finances of his court. He came eventually to be considered the overlord of all England, although this title was not realized in concrete political administration.

Alfred's greatest achievements, however, were the revival of learning and the establishment of Old English literary prose. He gathered together a group of eminent scholars, including the Welshman Asser. They strengthened the church by reviving learning among the clergy and organized a court school like that of Charlemagne, in which not only youths and clerics but also mature nobles were taught. It is also commonly ascribed to him, but there is some doubt not directly responsible for the compilation of the *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle*, his patronage of learning undoubtedly encouraged it.

