

THE GUANO CONNECTION

or

A Whole Load of Genealogy

A Journey through the Family Tree

by

Mike Jonas

(A Guano Great-Grandson)

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Note: The family tree is now indexed and online at jonases.org.

Introduction

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Many years ago, my Aunt Pam began work on our family tree. My sister Meriel took up Pam's work and did a lot more research, and published an excellent book, *The Family*, with all sorts of detailed information and stories about our parents and their known ancestors. When I talk about "we" or "us" or "our", I'm talking about Meriel and myself.

Some time later, when the internet was becoming a really useful source of information, I tried to find as many of the "missing links" as I could, and to see how far back I could trace our direct ancestors. What triggered this activity was an intriguing document that Meriel and I had inherited - a hand-written family tree going back many generations to kings and queens of England, France and Spain, with a note about *Alfred the Great*, and someone called just *Anne of Russia*. This hand-written tree had names but very little other information. I was quite dubious about it, but I checked a few names at random against the internet, and found that they matched well.

It took me a while, but I eventually found *Anne of Russia* and verified the whole ancestral line from her to us, and what an interesting person she turned out to be! You will find her in **Part 2** as *Anna Yaroslavna*, our 25Great-Grandmother.

So then I embarked on my genealogical expedition through the web. It's an intriguing exercise, which I can recommend to anyone interested in "where they came from", but be warned: it can be very frustrating and very time-consuming. Information can come from all sorts of different sources - documents in the family, church and civil records such as births marriages and deaths, government censuses, and genealogical websites such as Wikitree, Geni, Burke's Indexed Family Records, Burke's Landed Gentry, Burke's Peerage and thepeerage.com. If an original document is available, check it too, because sometimes there are transcription errors in the digital records.

The censuses are great for relating people to each other, because an entire household is shown each time, but they "only" go back 200 years or so. Before that, you have to rely mainly on the people who recorded the news stories and genealogy of the day.

In the very early days - Medieval times - there were various *chronicles*, some of them written from verbal stories handed down over generations. Those ancient times could be extraordinarily turbulent, with great movements of people, battles, kidnappings, murders, executions, torture, and romance too. When you discover what your own ancestors were doing back then it brings history alive. (Our Medieval ancestors' stories are in **Part 2**, and some of them are .. um .. colourful!).

In later years, but before the censuses, there were *visitations* where officials would visit an area from time to time and record who was there and who they said their parents, grandparents etc were (a bit like censuses but not so comprehensive). In general, the further back in time it goes, the less reliable the information is. Some of it was distorted to give people more "important" ancestors, but in any case the more "important" people were recorded while others often were not.

The *chronicles* and *visitations* are incredibly difficult to decipher, and frankly it's best to use the genealogical sites where they have worked through all the documents and given their best effort at interpretation. There were no family names back then, spelling was haphazard, children often had a parent's first name ("John son of John"), dates were inaccurate or missing, and many women were simply invisible. The genealogists who sorted it all out often give their reasoning, so if you want to

you can work out how reliable you think they are. Oh, and if you think you've found someone interesting or important, just see if they are on Wikipedia.

Another valuable source of information, which has only quite recently become available, is the DNA test. My wife Dawn and I were DNA-tested by ancestry.com, and we chose to make the data public so that others could see if they were related (your identity can be concealed until you choose to identify yourself to someone). We have both been contacted by 3rd or 4th cousins around the world, who have given us more family information - and we have given them new information too.

Again, I can thoroughly recommend anyone who is interested in "where they came from" to do a DNA test. A good friend of ours, who had been adopted as a baby in England, had found out who her mother was, but couldn't find her father. A DNA test led to her knowing who her father was. She now has met several half-siblings and first cousins in England and the USA. Without the DNA test, she would not have known of their existence.

The Guano Connection

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It is extraordinary what circumstances or events can bring people together. There can't be too many married couples who first met because of bird droppings, but that is what happened to our Great-Grandparents George Jonas and Jane Ellen Payne.

In the 19th century, the guano trade played a pivotal role in the development of modern intensive farming practices. The guano was mostly seabird guano (droppings) consisting of nitrogen-rich ammonium nitrate and urate, phosphates, as well as some earth salts and impurities, and was an excellent fertiliser. Guano was mined from various islands around the world - off South America or Africa, or in the Caribbean, the Indian Ocean or the Pacific. On some islands, the guano was over 50 metres deep.



Our Great-Great-Grandparents Samuel Jonas and Ann Carter lived at *Chrishall Grange* in Cambridgeshire. Samuel was a forward-thinking and innovative farmer. He didn't own or inherit any land, but he became the biggest tenant farmer in England. He was the first to remove hedges in order to get the

economies of scale made possible by efficient farming practices. The land that he farmed near *Chrishall Grange* still has noticeably larger fields than the surrounding farms.



Samuel's prize-winning essay, *On Farming in Cambridgeshire*, was read before the Royal Agricultural Society in 1847. He was a founder member of the Royal Agricultural Society and, interestingly, he was the only tenant farmer among the membership. So he was plain "Mr Jonas", whereas all the others who were not Sirs or Lords, etc. were accorded the title "Esq.".



George Jonas



Jane Ellen
Payne

On his farm, Samuel used a lot of guano, which he frequently bought from a guano importer, Richard Algernon Payne, in Liverpool. Samuel's son George met Richard's daughter Jane, and they obviously got on pretty well because George Jonas and Jane Ellen Payne were married in 1865.

So there you have it - a married couple who only met because of bird droppings.

Part 1 - Recent Times

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Meriel provided a lot of information about our parents, and about many of the next few generations of our ancestors, in *The Family*. I won't try to reproduce that book here, so I'll give just a potted summary of the first few generations and maybe one or two interesting stories.

I have numbered the generations, starting with Meriel and myself as Generation 1. So our parents are Generation 2, our grandparents are Generation 3, etc. For earlier generations, subtract 3 from the Generation Number to find the number of "Great"s before "Grandparent". So, for example, Generation 5 are our Great-Great-Grandparents - which I write as 2G-GParents.

There are so many direct ancestors in our family tree, and the tree is so complicated in places, that I can't present it as a single diagram. And there can be several lines of descandancy from any one ancestor down to us, with a different number of generations in different lines. So, in the computer files that I used to try to keep track of everything, I gave each ancestor the lowest possible generation number, and then gave each ancestor an arbitrary serial number within that generation.

For example: "6-2 *Rebecca Gardner*", our 3G-GMother, is the 2nd listed ancestor in Generation 6.

A husband and wife will normally be next to each other in the sequence, but they might not be. And they could even be in different generations. It's even possible for an ancestor to have a higher generation number than their own parents.

Generations 1-6 are straightforward, and they look like this:

Tree for 1-1 Michael Jonas 1944-?		
Generation 1	1-1 Michael Jonas 1944-?	
Generation 2	2-1 Ronald McClellan Powning Jonas	2-2 Doreen Scott Christall Oldfield 1
Generation 3	3-1 Arthur Charlton Jonas 1866-1938	3-2 Olive Howard Powning 1881-194
Generation 4	4-1 George Jonas 1839-1908	4-2 Jane Ellen Payne 1839-1889
Generation 5	5-1 Samuel Jonas 1802-1871	5-2 Ann Carter 1807-1881
Generation 6	6-1 Samuel Jonas 1770-1843	6-2 Rebecca Gardner 1777-1848
		6-3 John Carter ?-?
		6-4 Mary Leonard ?-1841
		6-5 Richard Payne ?-?
		6-6 Mary Sugden 1781-?
		6-7 Alexander McClellan 1774-1843
		6-8 Jane Charlton 1778-1864
		6-9 William Powning 1782-1841
		6-10 Sarah Moyle Nickell 1788-1883
		6-11 William Robert Heaven 1780-?
		6-12 Sarah - ?-?
		6-13 Samuel Roadley ?-1812
		6-14 Elizabeth Howard ?-?
		6-15 Henry Grocock 1754-1840
		6-16 Alice Annis 1764-1836
		6-17 Christopher Oldfield 1764-1808
		6-18 Mary Johannah Morris ?-1854
		6-19 Colonel Richard Scott 1750-182
		6-20 Laetitia Camac 1758-1842
		6-21 Charles Bayley 1780-1865
		6-22 Mary Anne Alice Smith ?-1824
		6-23 William Young Ottley 1771-183
		6-24 Sarah - ?-?
		6-25 Alexander Aikman 1782-?
		6-26 Janet Thomson 1790-?
		6-27 Thomas Morton ?-?
		6-28 Jean Armour ?-?
		6-29 Alexander Christall 1771-1828
		6-30 Elizabeth Hill 1780-?
		6-31 George MacDonald ?-1832
		6-32 Margaret Maclean ?-1820

1.1 - Generation 2 <our Parents>

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[Follow any ↔ link to see the line of descendancy]

↔ **Commander Ronald McClellan Powning Jonas, DSC, RN (our Father)** **1903-1981**



From a very early age, Ronald's parents intended him to go into the Royal Navy. He was educated at the naval colleges of Osborne and Dartmouth. During World War II, he rose to the rank of Commander and was awarded the DSC (Distinguished Service Cross) twice.

He began his naval career in submarines, and in the early part of WWII was captain of the Royal Navy submarine *Triad* involved mostly in patrolling the North Sea and escorting convoys of merchant ships between Britain and

Murmansk in North-West Russia.

The Triad Incident

On one occasion, the submarine's after (rear) hydroplanes failed, and *Triad* had to come to the surface. The submarine was disabled and being driven by a storm rapidly towards the rocky Norwegian coast. The crew frantically tried to get the submarine going again, and finally managed to get it going just a few feet away from destruction. But the best that they could do was to make the submarine go backwards very slowly, on the surface, and with not much control over the steering.

Some RAF planes arrived and patrolled around them, and eventually two destroyers arrived and one tried to tow *Triad*. The tow-rope broke in the heavy seas, and *Triad* had to go backwards again. They eventually managed to get into a Norwegian port, Mastrafjord, and get the submarine repaired. Norway was still a neutral country at that time. While in port they were looked after by two Norwegian naval officers, one was friendly but the other was a Nazi supporter and made things as difficult as he could.

When the time came to leave port, Dad was hoping desperately that the friendly officer would be their pilot - under international law, in wartime an officer of the neutral country had to escort a combatant vessel to international waters, 3 miles from the coast. Dad expected that the enemy would be waiting for him, and he didn't want to be piloted there by a hostile officer, but just before leaving he was visited by the Commander-in-Chief of the Royal Norwegian Navy who said that he had personally flown over the fjord to make sure that no German warships were lurking in the vicinity.

The friendly officer was then given the task of escorting them to international waters, but they hadn't gone very far along the fjord when the Norwegian said "*I think you can find your own way from here*" and left them. They weren't going to take any chances, and dived immediately, and got safely away.

Cherbourg

After submarines, Dad went into Destroyers. He was in command of *HMS Fernie* at the evacuation of Cherbourg. All the other ships had left, and his last job was to blow up major port equipment to stop the Germans using it, and to pick up any allied troops who were still there. The port was equipped with large three-legged cranes, and his sailors attached a time-fused explosive to one leg of each crane, allowing just enough time for the *Fernie* to get away before they exploded.

They hadn't gone very far, when four British soldiers appeared on the dock, racing towards them. Dad had a difficult decision - risk the ship or abandon the soldiers. A senior army officer who had already been picked up by *Fernie* was on the bridge with him, and said "*You will have to leave them*". But Dad quickly gave the order for the ship to go back, and the four soldiers raced up and jumped over the rail onto the deck - and a rather thin and scrawny local dog jumped over with them!

Before *Fernie* could get far enough away again, the explosives went off and a large chunk of concrete fell on the forecastle. Fortunately no-one was injured. Dad called for the four soldiers to come to the bridge and explain why they had been so late getting away, and was amazed to find that the army officer had ordered them to stay and destroy some equipment, and had then boarded the ship himself without trying to tell the soldiers it was time to leave. The army officer was frostily "*invited to leave the bridge*" and was not invited back.

The soldiers and the dog were well looked after, and the dog quickly became a favourite of the crew and was given the name "*Cherbourg*". In a very short time he was fat, sleek and totally spoiled and believed that every sailor was a source of food. When they got back to England, *Cherbourg* was not allowed to go ashore, because of rabies regulations. *Cherbourg* remained on the ship as the ship's mascot for the rest of the war.

On VE (Victory in Europe) day, they put *Cherbourg* ashore in France, but tragically he tried to swim after the *Fernie* and drowned.

↔ Doreen Scott Christall Oldfield (our Mother) 1917-2001



Doreen was a very difficult woman at times. Her mother died when she was only 4 years old, and her father was away a lot of the time after that, although he spoiled her badly whenever he was at home. So she was brought up mainly by governesses. She absolutely hated school, and was bullied mercilessly.

We think that her upbringing was a big factor in her character, and that in some ways she never really grew up - there was always a bit of petulant little girl in her.

The Fishing Fleet

When she was about 17, she travelled by ship to the Far East - Hong Kong and Shanghai - with her friend Pam Jonas. They took masses of luggage, containing "essentials" like a large number of ball gowns. There was a strong Royal Navy presence there, with lots of handsome young naval officers, and they were going to go to a lot of parties.

Quite a lot of other young women were doing the same thing, and they were known as "the fishing fleet" (fishing for husbands). Pam's brother Ronald Jonas was there, and Ronald introduced Pam to his naval officer friend Jimmy Greene, and eventually Doreen became Mrs Jonas, and Pam became Mrs Greene.

By the summer of 1937, the situation in China had become very dangerous. The Japanese army was conducting exercises east of Peking (as Beijing was then known) and it was feared that they would invade Peking. The Royal Navy issued strict instructions to all personnel - including the "fishing fleet" - that no-one was to go to Peking. But Pam and Doreen had planned a trip to Peking and went anyway.

While they were there, the Japanese did invade Peking. Pam and Doreen, with a large team of Chinese porters carrying their voluminous luggage, frantically went to the nearest railway station to get a train back to Shanghai, but there were no trains running. Peking was in absolute chaos. They were told trains might be going from another station. Off they went with their team of porters ... and then to a third station ... and finally they found a train that was leaving. It was the last train to leave Peking. Phew!

When they got back to Shanghai, they were in a lot of trouble. The Royal Navy commanding officer gave them a furious dressing down. But I think that even Mum realised that she and Pam would have been in much more trouble if they had been caught by the Japanese. The beautiful Peking glassware which Mum had bought in Peking, and which had been in the luggage that their Chinese porters had carried from station to station, always had pride of place in our house.

1.2 - Generation 3 <our Grand-Parents>

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↔ **Arthur Charlton Jonas 1866-1938 and**

↔ **Olive Howard Powning 1881-1949 "Toots", "Granny Jo"**
(our Paternal Grandparents)



(photo is Arthur with the Prince of Wales, later King Edward VIII)

Arthur was educated at boarding schools Toxteth Park in Lancashire and St Thomas, Salisbury, in Wiltshire. He became a solicitor and a Freemason. He was also the Clerk to the Commissioner of Taxes for New Sarum (Salisbury, Wiltshire) - ie, he recorded the collection of taxes. When he died, at Probate his assets came to £13,887 5s 3d - a substantial sum for those days. He left most of it to Olive in trust (because she was hopeless with money), and even though she lived comfortably from it, when she died the trust was worth £33,000 (several £million in today's money).

Olive was quite a lively person. In her schooldays, she was expelled from her school *The Godolphin School* for 'misbehaviour', and when she died she left a case of champagne and strict instructions that the family were to have a Good Party after she died.

When *Powning and Jonas* became successful (see William Charles Powning and Sophia Howard Roadley, below), Arthur and Olive moved to Avonside, Fordingbridge, an ugly grey brick Victorian

house, but very comfortable. They gradually acquired 40 acres of fields, woods and a stretch of the river Avon, and cultivated 8 acres of garden.

I never met Arthur because he died before I was born, and I never got to know Olive ("Granny Jo") as she died when I was just 4 years old. Olive had quite a dry sense of humour: in the 1939 England and Wales Register, she recorded her occupation as "*Unpaid Domestic Duties*". [The 1931 census was destroyed by fire in WWII, and there was no 1941 census because of the war. The 1939 Register "provides a snapshot of the civilian population of England and Wales just after the outbreak of the Second World War" and effectively replaces the missing censuses.].

When I was growing up, we rarely saw any of Dad's siblings (Arthur and Olive's other children, Howard, George and Pam <our Uncles and Aunt>). We lived in Wiltshire, Uncle Howard was a doctor in Hertfordshire and Aunt Pam lived in Suffolk, both quite a long way away. Uncle George lived in the New Forest which was only about 40 miles away, but I think Mum and Dad didn't visit very often because George's wife Valerie talked about little other than horses.

↔ Frederick Biscoe Oldfield 1871-1940 and ↔ Doris Armour Aikman 1889-1921 **(our Maternal Grandparents)**



Frederick was educated at New College, Oxford. He was a Major in the 7th Royal Fusiliers in WWI, and after WWI he became a barrister.

Doris came from a farming family in Lanarkshire, Scotland. Tragically, she died when her daughter Doreen <our Mother> was only 4 years old and her son Christopher, our *Uncle Chris*,> was just 2 months old.

Frederick died before I was born, and when Meriel was only 6 months old.

Frederick and Doris's only other child, Mum's brother and our *Uncle Chris*, was a delightful person. He was a successful stockbroker, but he had to join the army in WWII and he somewhat reluctantly became an officer in the Guards. He was not military material, and the war affected him quite badly.

There was one incident I remember when *Uncle Chris* was visiting us at our house *Chedlanger* near Warminster in Wiltshire: At dinner, we were drinking Mateus Rosé, a sparkling pink wine which came in a distinctively shaped bottle. When the bottle was empty, Dad opened a second bottle and topped up *Uncle Chris*'s glass with it, but instead of being pink and bubbly the wine was brown and flat. *Uncle Chris* started to drink it, but Mum yelled "*Ronnie! the wine's off!*", snatched *Uncle Chris*'s glass out of his hand and poured it down the kitchen sink, followed by the rest of the bottle. *Uncle Chris* rather wistfully said "*Actually it tasted rather nice*". Only then did we realise that Mum had poured away an extremely expensive bottle of Napoleon Brandy which had a similar shape to the Rosé.

1.3 - Generation 4 <our Great-Grandparents>

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[↔ George Jonas 1839-1908 and ↔ Jane Ellen Payne 1839-1889](#)

These two are the *Guano Connection*, so I have already written about them.

[↔ William Charles Powning 1843-1904 and ↔ Sophia Howard Roadley 1841-1902](#)



Sophia came from Sproxton in Leicestershire, a small village a long way from Redruth, Cornwall, where William was born. Sophia's family had been in Sproxton for several generations, thanks to marriages between the Sproxton families of Roadley, Grocock, Annis, Waite, etc. The Sproxton church records show many other marriages between Sproxton families, so it seems to have been a community that pretty much kept itself to itself. So it is a bit of a mystery to us how Sophia and William came to meet each other, get married in London, and then live in Salisbury, Wiltshire.

Little mysteries like these are part of the fascination of genealogy, and they can't always be solved.

Sophia was a teacher and very artistic - her portrait of her daughter Olive <our GrandMother> was highly praised by Sotheby's.

William was a successful solicitor, in a partnership *Powning and Jonas* with his son-in-law Arthur Charlton Jonas <our GrandFather>, Olive's husband. William and Sophia had three live-in servants. William was the Salisbury Town Clerk for many years, and became Mayor in 1900. When he died in 1904, there was a very large attendance at the funeral, business was suspended at many of the principal shops in the city, and almost all of them had their blinds drawn or black shutters displayed.

[↔ George Biscoe Oldfield M.A. 1840-1932 and ↔ Henrietta Elizabeth Bayley 1838-1871](#)



George was born in Bengal, India, was educated at Exeter College, Oxford and became Rector of Berwick St Leonard Cum Sedghill in Wiltshire. Careers in the Church in those days were much sought after, they were pretty well paid and there was lots of spare time for other pursuits. George and Henrietta would probably have had quite a comfortable life.

↔ Henry Erskine (Harry) Aikman 1856-1908 and
↔ Patricia Marion Christall 1856-1911

Harry's father was a merchant and shipbroker in Lanarkshire, Scotland, and Patricia was born and brought up at Elgin, Morayshire, a lot further north. Harry's parents were quite wealthy, with a large house and several servants, but Harry wasn't their eldest son.

When they died, Scottish people tended to leave their estate to the eldest son, while the younger sons left home to seek their own fortune and the daughters tried to get married. Harry's father was the youngest of 10 children of a farmer in Lanarkshire, Scotland, and had moved away to make his fortune in trade and shipbroking. As his father had done, Harry left home to try to make his fortune in the same trade. We think he worked in Glasgow, which is where he lived and was buried, although he died in Edinburgh. Harry died after suffering from "*general paralysis*" for 31 years. He died, without leaving a will, with assets of £1,180 11s 2d. Patricia died 3 years later, and in her will she left assets worth £2,974 16s 5d, a fairly substantial sum in those days. Maybe Patricia managed the business, or maybe she had an inheritance of her own? Another little mystery.

At the Glasgow Necropolis cemetery there is a headstone in memory of several Aikmans, including Harry and his parents Thomson Aikman and Janet Morton.

1.4 - Generation 5 <our 2G-GParents>

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As you can see from the chart "Generations 1-6", each generation you go back, the number of possible ancestors increases. So from now on, I won't try to cover everyone. I'll just pick out a few of interest. But all the names of Generation 5 are listed [here](#).

↔ William Charles Powning 1820-1866 and
↔ Sarah Onslow Heaven 1814-1887

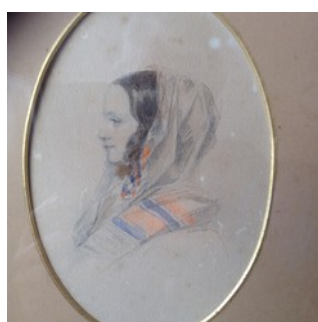
Sarah was born in Pimlico, London. As a young woman, she travelled to Canada with her husband, William Lambert, and had a son, Edwin William Lambert. William Lambert then died, and Sarah came back to England with Edwin. In 1841 they were living in St Breock, Cornwall, just 2 doors away from the widow Sarah Powning, her 21 year old son William Charles Powning, and her daughters Catherine and Jane.

It didn't take Sarah long to meet her near neighbours, because she and William Charles Powning were soon married and living in Somerset. Sarah really did appear to like the name William!

We tried very hard to track down Sarah's ancestry. It is possible that Sarah's paternal grandfather was a brother of a Thomas Heaven who seems to have been the first 'Heaven' to live in Jamaica. Thomas was born in Minchinhampton, Gloucestershire, and there appear to be links between the Minchinhampton Heavens and Cornwall which might have explained how Sarah ended up in Cornwall. Unfortunately, many of the historical records are missing, and there just isn't enough information to allow us to complete the links in the chain. We know that Sarah's father was called William Heaven, but we can't be sure about who William's parents were.

Some of Thomas Heaven's descendants married Jamaicans and their descendants still live in Jamaica. So if we really were right about the relationship to Thomas, then we have Jamaican 5th-cousins. Hopefully one day we will find out.

↔ William Henry Bayley 1813-1890 and ↔ Henrietta Ottley 1814-1876



William and Henrietta were both born in India, where William had a respectable career in the Madras Civil Service. They then retired to England and lived at Brighton.

The watercolour of Henrietta is signed "B Glaize". We think the artist was August Barthélemy Glaize 1807-1893. He was one of the great French Romantic painters of the early 19th century, and one of his

works hangs in *The Louvre* in Paris. It would be fairly unusual for a young English lady to have her portrait painted by such an illustrious French artist, but Henrietta's father was William Young Ottley, Custodian of the Prints at the British Museum and very well respected in art circles. Also, the painting would have been fairly early in August Barthélemy Glaize's career.

↔ Thomson Aikman 1816-1893 and ↔ Janet Morton 1824-1912



Thomson Aikman and Janet Morton married at Govan near Glasgow, Scotland, in 1844. These portraits were painted at the time of their engagement.

Thomson was variously described as a South American merchant, a ship owner, a nitrate merchant, and a produce broker. A major part of his South American trade was importing guano ("nitrate") - but I couldn't find a second *Guano Connection*.

Thomson and Janet mainly lived in the Partick district of Glasgow from where there were panoramic views of the River Clyde and from where, no doubt, Thomson could keep an eye on the comings and goings of merchant ships.

Janet always kept a cow to provide milk for their children to help protect them from TB.

Later on, they and their children moved to Stirling where eventually both died. However, they were buried back in Glasgow in the Necropolis overlooking Glasgow Cathedral, the favoured resting place in its day for the "*great and good*" people of the city.

Thomson and Janet had 15 children. Two of their daughters, Alice and Elizabeth, died young, and their eldest son, Alexander, suffered from epilepsy and died on Christmas morning, 1865, aged 18. Their second son Thomson followed in his father's footsteps and became a produce broker, and evidently did well at it, as he bought the substantial Erskine House, overlooking the Clyde, west of Glasgow, for his wife. In WWI, he made it available free of charge as a hospital for wounded sailors and soldiers. Today, Erskine Hospital still provides long-term medical care for veterans of the British Armed Forces.

[↔ Peter Christall 1802-1866 and ↔ Marian MacDonald 1814-1885](#)

Peter's first marriage was in 1834 to Elizabeth Henderson. They had a daughter Mary Ann in 1837, but Elizabeth then died in 1838.

Peter turned to his friends Walter and Elizabeth Strachan, who took Mary Ann into their household and brought her up. Peter evidently got on well with Elizabeth's sister, Marian MacDonald, as they were married in 1842. They had several children, including Patricia Marion Christall <our Great-GrandMother>. Their first child, Elizabeth Strachan Christall, was given the middle name Strachan, presumably because of the support that the Strachans had given Peter.

Peter was a bank agent - a respectable middle-class job. His first daughter, Mary Ann, did well in her life too, marrying Alexander Struthers George a "*Flour Manufacturer & Farmer Employing 4 Millers 3 Granary Men, 12 Farm Servants 1 Farm Boy, 4 Farm Women & 4 Domestic Servants And Farming 472 Acres [Arable]...*".

Marian's father, Captain George MacDonald ?-1832 <our 3G-GFather> was for a while a prisoner-of-war in the Napoleonic Wars.

1.5 - Generation 6 <our 3G-GParents>

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[↔ Colonel Richard Scott 1750-1824 and ↔ Laetitia Camac 1758-1842](#)

A genealogist called Alfred Simpson wrote a letter to our Grandfather Major Frederick Biscoe Oldfield in October 1925:

To Major F.B. Oldfield

Sir

Might I enquire if a carefully compiled genealogical "tree" of your Royal descents through the "Scott" family would be of any interest to you?

This "tree" would be drawn up - by hand - on one large sheet of stout paper - 30 inches wide and 23 deep - and would trace these descents through Colonel Richard Scott ...

... this Colonel Richard Scott was descended from Kings Edward the 1st - Henry the 3rd and Henry 2nd of England, by a number of different lines of descent. Also from Henri the 1st - Louis the 8th and Philip the 3rd Kings of France - David the 1st

King of Scotland - McMurrough King of Ireland [Leinster - through the famous "Strongbow"] - Llewellyn the Great last of the great Princes of Wales - and Alfonso the 8th & Ferdinand the 3rd Kings of Castile and Spain.

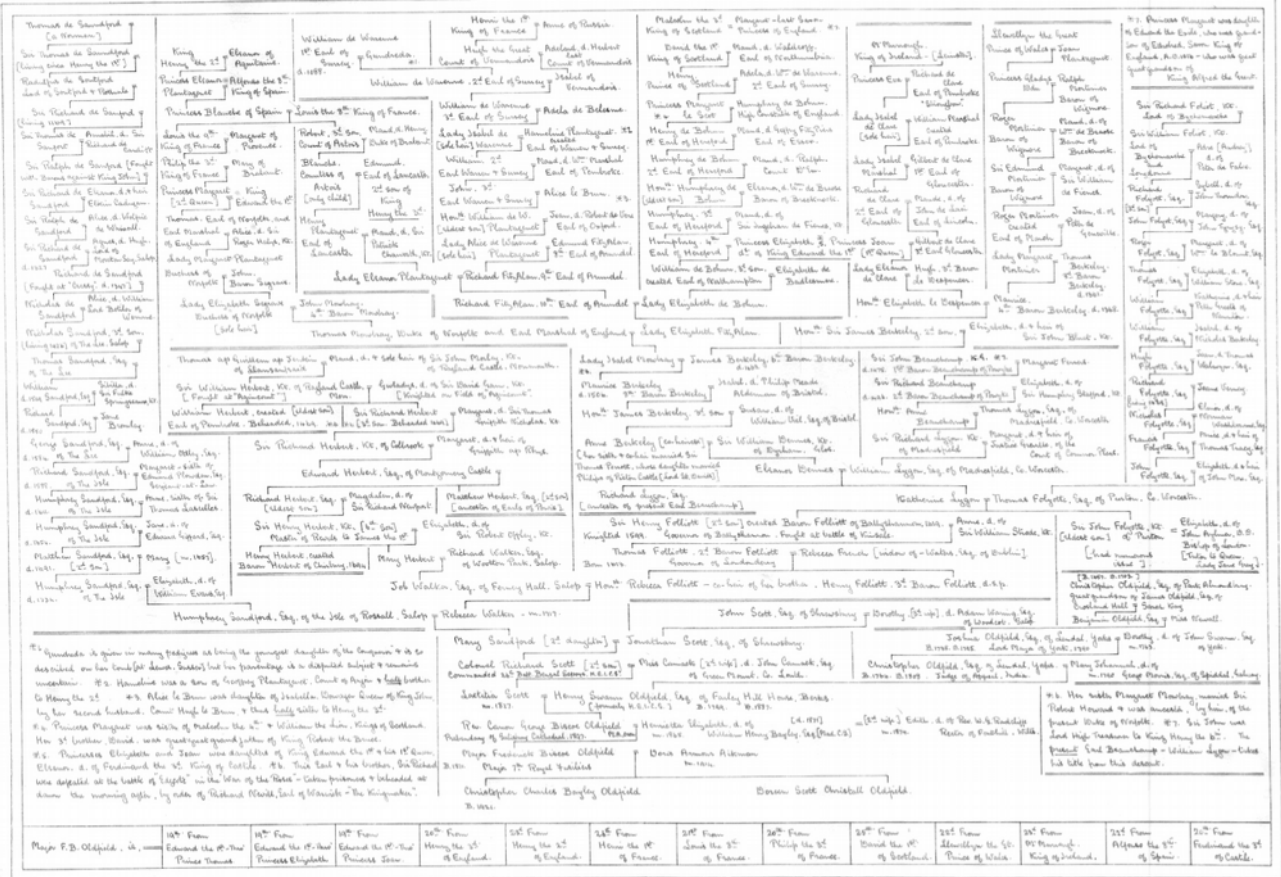
... Price 25/= - postage paid ...

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Alfred Simpson

25/= was 25 shillings (1¼ British Pounds). Fortunately, Frederick accepted the offer and paid Alfred Simpson, and we now have the hand-written tree. Given that it all had to be designed and written out without any computer assistance, it is a pretty impressive document:



Richard Scott was born in England but went to India to work for the East India Company. The company had its own private army, eventually taken over by the British government. Richard joined up, and the *British Dictionary of National Biography* says: *Richard Scott rose to the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel, and served with distinction under Sir Eyre Coote against Hyder Ali Khan and under the Marquis of Cornwallis in the war against Sippoo Sultaun.*

Laetitia Camac was from a wealthy Northern Irish family, and was brought up in *Greenmount Lodge, Lurgan, County Armagh.*

↔ Charles Bayley 1780-1865 and ↔ Mary Anne Alice Smith d.1824



Charles was born at Hope Hall in Eccles, near Manchester.

When he was aged 17 he too went to India. In fact, a lot of people travelled to India in those days to seek their fortune. The “British Raj” was an extremely important part of the British Empire, and many fortunes were made there. Charles joined the Bengal Civil Service, in which he had a respectable career. He met and married Mary Anne Smith in India.

1.6 - Generations 7 to 12 <our 4-9G-GParents>

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Somewhere around the 15th or 16th century, a transition began from feudal power to nation-states. There was more Rule of Law and more certainty of property ownership. Local Barons no longer raised and maintained armed forces of their own, and military activities were conducted at a national level. There were still wars between nations, and civil wars within nations, but for many citizens life became a lot more stable, and for much of the time they could just concentrate on making a living. Consequently, there was growth in the middle classes - people who became financially well off simply by conducting a business.

[↔ Thomas Butterworth Bayley F.R.S. 1744-1802 and](#)

[↔ Mary Leggatt 1748-1818 <our 4G-GParents>](#)



Thomas was the son of Daniel Bayley and Anne Butterworth. We have portraits of all three, but they are relatively small paintings and were presumably only test paintings that the artist made in order to get the go-ahead for full-sized portraits. The artist did get the go-ahead, and our cousin, Richard Oldfield, has the three full-sized portraits.

Thomas was educated at Edinburgh University, and was clearly a very able person. He was appointed High Sheriff of Lancashire at the age of just 24 and was elected FRS (Fellow of the Royal Society) aged about 29. At age about 38 he became Lt.Colonel of the Manchester Military Association. About 9 years later he took an active part in raising the Manchester and Salford Volunteers, subscribing 20 guineas towards the initial expenses, and becoming Colonel of the regiment on its embodiment.

Thomas was dedicated to making prisons more humane places, and while still in his 30s he was instrumental in the building of the New Bailey Prison in 1787 to replace the old House of Correction (a Bailey is a walled area, this prison had nothing to do with the Old Bailey prison in London). By today's standards, the prison was spartan, but it was a big step forward in its day. The prison closed in 1868 and has now been demolished. Thomas also advocated the substitution of paid constables for the then universal honorary constables.

His leisure time was devoted to agriculture and planting elms at Hope Hall. He was one of the founders of the Manchester Agricultural Society, and an honorary member of the Board of Agriculture in London. He wrote several pamphlets on agriculture, and also on design of horse-drawn carts, management of highways, and “Rules, Orders and Bye-Laws” for prisons.

In *Biographical Memoirs of the Late Thomas Butterworth Bayley: Esq., of Hope Hall, Near Manchester*, published 1802, Thomas Percival wrote of “... the much-lamented death of Thomas B. Bayley, Esq., whose talents, character, and conduct have long been regarded by the public, with no ordinary degree of interest. He was seized at Buxton with a disorder of the bowels, which terminated fatally, on Thursday the 24th of June, 1802, as the close of the 58th year of his age. The illness was short, but severe; and supported by him with exemplary serenity and fortitude. His progenitors were persons of fortune and great respectability; and on his mother's side he was descended from the Dukenfields of Dukenfield in Cheshire; an ancient family, in the male line of which the dignity of Baronet has been transmitted, in regular succession since the reign of King Charless II.”

Thomas married Mary Leggatt when he was aged 21 and she was only 17, and they had 17 children. Large families were quite normal back then, but many women must have had tough lives.

↔ Peter Ainsworth 1711-1780 and ↔ Alice Galland 1715-1787 **<our 5G-GParents>**

Peter established the Halliwell bleach works near Bolton, Lancashire, in 1739. Bolton then was a town of about 2,000 inhabitants, with a modest wool and cotton weaving industry. The bleach works used lye (an alkali, typically sodium hydroxide or potassium hydroxide) to remove the natural colour from the fabric in preparation for dyeing. It was a slow and laborious process that took several weeks.

Thanks to a large inheritance from a cousin, Peter was able to buy a substantial house, Lightbounds House, near the bleachworks and which is still standing today. It is a Grade II listed building, now divided into two dwellings. Peter and Alice had 11 children, of whom three died when very young (one died in infancy, one drowned in a well aged 3, and one died aged 8).

Some time after Peter and Alice had died, their eldest son Peter (not our direct ancestor) funded a chemist, Charles Tennant, to find a more efficient method of bleaching. The result was a bleaching process using chlorine (as chloride of lime), that took just one hour. This totally transformed the bleaching industry, and made a massive fortune for Peter who became known as "*The Opulent Bleacher*".



The Opulent Bleacher

↔ Daniel Bayley 1699-1764 and ↔ Anne Butterworth 1713-1795 **<our 5G-GParents>**

Anne was very proud of her small hands and feet, and you can see in her portrait that the artist made her hands seem even smaller.



Daniel went into business with his father, and was involved in making the Mersey and Irwell rivers navigable. In 1732 he was appointed a trustee of Cross Street Chapel, where he was a regular attendant, and remained in the trust until his death.

Anne was Daniel's second wife. They went to live at Hope Hall in the parish of Eccles in June 1749. The property had belonged to the Bradshaws (his paternal grandmother's family) for some time, and they later rebuilt it on the old foundations. Hope Hall was demolished in the 1950s to make way for a housing estate, in spite of protests that it was of heritage value.

Daniel was Deputy Lieutenant for the county and served occasionally as a grand jurymen at the Lancaster assizes. He was interested in science and invited scientists to observe the transit of Venus from his estate in 1761. He was an energetic dissenter and gave £100 to trusts "for binding apprentice the children of the poor Protestant Dissenting ministers and decayed tradesmen".



Hope Hall

Daniel's first wife was Elizabeth Gaskell. Elizabeth Gaskell's sister Rebecca married Richard Clive, MP, of Styche. Rebecca's son Robert, who became the celebrated Lord Clive (Clive of India), was sent to live with Daniel and Elizabeth at an early age, and was trained and educated by them as though he had been their own son. Robert Clive was evidently a tearaway in his early years, and quite a handful for his uncle and aunt. When Robert was about 6 years old, Daniel wrote "*I am satisfied that his fighting (to which he is out of measure addicted) gives his temper a fierceness and imperiousness, and he flies out upon trifling occasion...*".

Elizabeth Gaskell died soon after the birth of their only child, Elizabeth, who died soon afterwards. Daniel then married Anne Butterworth, and they had 6 children, of whom sadly five died young. Only one, Thomas Butterworth Bayley, survived past the age of 10. Anne Butterworth's mother was a Dukinfield, the *ancient family* referred to in the story of Thomas Butterworth Bayley. Anne received a very substantial inheritance, in both money and properties, when her father died.

Daniel's burial place is not recorded, but we think it may have been in Cross Street Chapel.

↔ James Bayley 1673-1753 and ↔ Sarah Kirkes d.1719 <our 6G-GParents>

James Bayley was one of the most prosperous merchants in Manchester, and a churchwarden. He was an undertaker (guarantor) for making the Mersey and Irwell rivers navigable.

During the Jacobite Rebellion, the Young Pretender (“*Bonnie Prince Charlie*”, Charles Stuart, who claimed to be the rightful King Charles III of England) came to Manchester on his retreat from Derby, and demanded that the people of Manchester pay him £5,000 (something like half a million to 1 million pounds in today’s money) by 4 o’clock the next day “*on pain of military execution*”. Manchester had recently had £3,000 similarly extorted from them, and told the Young Pretender that they couldn’t pay. The Young Pretender reduced the amount to £2,500 but his men seized James Bayley and said that if the money wasn’t paid by 1 o’clock then James would have to leave with them.

James argued that he was too old (between 70 and 80), but they just said they could provide a wheeled carriage. James then argued that it would be more difficult if he couldn’t help Manchester raise the money, and they eventually released him saying he had 2 hours to bring them the money. James and a Mr Dickinson then went to the local coffee house, where “*a great number of the inhabitants were*”, and gave promissory notes (IOUs) to anyone who would lend them money.

The money was raised, and paid by about 2 o’clock. So, in the end, James Bayley and Mr Dickinson between them paid the whole amount out of their own pockets, on behalf of the City of Manchester.

Sarah Kirkes came from Chester, about 40 miles away from Manchester - a journey of several hours by horse and carriage.

James and Sarah were 6*Great-GrandParents of Queen Elizabeth II of England, so Elizabeth II is our 7th-cousin. The line from the Bayleys to Elizabeth is:

James Bayley and Sarah Kirkes

James Bayley 1706-1769,
Elizabeth Bayley d.1797,
Frances Mary Parker Mosley 1770-1844,
Oswald Smith 1794-1863,
Frances Dora Smith 1832-1922,
Claude George Bowes-Lyon 1855-1944,
Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon 1900-2002,
Elizabeth II b.1926.

↔*Brook Taylor, FRS 1685-1731 and ↔Elizabeth Sabetta Sawbridge 1707-1729 <our 6G-GParents>*

Brook Taylor, FRS (Fellow of the Royal Society) was both a mathematician and a painter - and very good at both.



In mathematics, Brook Taylor is best known for *Taylor's theorem*, which he stated in 1712, and the *Taylor series*. In the same year, Brook was elected a fellow of the Royal Society, and sat on the committee for adjudicating the claims of Sir Isaac Newton and Gottfried Leibniz. He also became secretary to the society.

The importance of *Taylor's Theorem* remained unrecognized until 1772, when the famous Italian-French mathematician Joseph-Louis Lagrange realized its

powers and termed it "*the main foundation of differential calculus*". *Taylor's Theorem* is taught in introductory-level calculus courses and is one of the central elementary tools in mathematical analysis.

In painting, his biographer said: "*He drew figures with extraordinary precision and beauty of pencil. Landscape was yet his favourite branch of design. His original landscapes are mostly painted in water-colours, but with all the richness and strength of oils. They have a force of colour, a freedom of touch, a varied disposition of planes of distance, and a learned use of aerial as well as linear perspective, which all professional men who have seen these paintings have admired. ...*".

In their personal lives, Brook Taylor and his two wives were extraordinarily unfortunate. Brook married Sarah Elizabeth Bridges against his father's wishes, and Sarah died in childbirth having their first child, who also died. After the two deaths, Brook and his father were reconciled, and a few years later Brook married Elizabeth Sabetta Sawbridge, this time with his father's approval. Sadly, Elizabeth also died in childbirth having their first child, but this time the child, Elizabeth Brook Taylor <our 5G-GMother> survived.

Brook was devastated, and went into a steep decline. He died just over a year later, at the age of 46, and "*His remaining days were days of imbecility and sorrow*".

A crater on the moon is named after him: *Crater Taylor*.

↔ Daniel Bayley 1651-1684 and ↔ Sarah Bradshaw 1650-1695 **<our 7G-GParents>**

Daniel was a silk weaver (silk manufacturer) in Manchester. His public duties included: "*inmates officer for Markett Street Lane, bylaws man for Deansgate, and market looker for weights and measures*". The only time Daniel got into the local news was when he was fined for "*not keeping in repair the street before his house*".

Daniel died before his father Thomas Bayley, and Sarah Bradshaw then continued his business.

↔ Sir Robert Dukinfield, 1st Baron Dukinfield, 1642-1729 and **↔ Susanna Thompson 1659-1742 <our 7G-GParents>**



The Dukinfields lived at Dukinfield Hall in Dukinfield, Cheshire. Dukinfield Hall was not demolished until about 1950. Robert's mother Martha was the daughter of Sir Miles Fleetwood and Anne Luke (see below). Robert's father, Colonel Robert Dukinfield, was High Sheriff of Cheshire and then Governor of Chester, and fought with distinction for Oliver Cromwell during the English Civil War - he defended Stockport Bridge against Prince Rupert, conducted the siege of Wythenshawe, captured the Isle of Man, and suppressed Sir George Booth's rebellion.

After the end of the Cromwells' Commonwealth and the restoration of King Charles II, the monarchy obviously did not hold his father's loyalties against young Robert Dukinfield, because they created the Dukinfield baronetcy for him and he then served as High Sheriff of Cheshire.

Robert Dukinfield evidently accumulated significant wealth. Some of the wealth was dissipated when his great-granddaughter Penelope, who had inherited much of the Dukinfield estate, met and married the artist John Astley. John Astley was a well-known artist who was described as "*a gasconading [boasting] spendthrift and a beau of the flashiest order*" and "*He thought that every advantage in civil society was compounded in women and wine: and, acting up to this principal of bliss, he gave his body to Euphrosyne, and his intellects to madness. He was as ostentatious as the peacock and as amorous as the Persian Sophihe.*". Colourful language, but no doubt you get the drift: he married Penelope for her money and then spent it all on himself.

↔ Thomas Bayley 1626-1688 and ↔ Ann Churton <our 8G-GParents>

Thomas was a silk weaver (silk manufacturer), of Deansgate, Manchester. He undertook various public duties under the Court Leet (an English criminal court for the punishment of small offences):- Officer for Mastiff Dogs, Officer for Forestallers and Regrators of the Market (Engrossing, forestalling and regrating were marketing offences - unacceptable methods of influencing the market), Market Looker for White Meat, Mise Gatherer (a Mise was a local Tax or Levy), and various other capacities.

Thomas was a member of the jury for several years. The jury system was still evolving, and up to about Thomas's time jurors could investigate cases on their own. Juries could sometimes be given a hard time by the judge; at about that time, in one trial when the jury found the accused *Not Guilty*, the judge locked up the jury without food, water, heat or light, saying "*I will have a positive verdict or you'll starve for it*".

Thomas and Ann had 7 children. Ann was the administratrix of Thomas's will when he died, and had to produce an inventory of all his personal goods. Their total value was found to be £14 13s 11d - equivalent to something like £1-2,000 today. But Thomas also left several valuable houses and some land.

↔ Sir Henry Herbert 1595-1673 and ↔ Elizabeth Offley d.1698 **<our 8G-GParents>**

Henry Herbert was a wily person, well educated, handy with a sword, and well connected (he knew a lot of influential people). His first wife (name unknown) was wealthy, and between them they bought out his two brothers' share in a "*fine house*" in Worcestershire for £3,000. After his first wife died, he married Elizabeth Offley, daughter of Sir Robert Offley of Dalby in Lincolnshire, and we don't know how much more money she brought in.

Henry began his career as a servant of King James I of England, and very quickly demonstrated that he was "*dexterous in the ways of the court*". He was soon knighted by King James, and was made Master of the Revels. This meant that he had to arrange all entertainment at court - paid for by Treasury of course. He quickly expanded his role, rather cheekily claiming the right to license every

kind of entertainment throughout England. The earliest entries in his register deal with exhibitions of elephants, beavers and dromedaries, and the public performances of quack doctors! He also tried to control public games like fencing, billiards and ninepins, and to control the publication of books. His licence fees were quite expensive, for example, £2 for every new play performed, and £1 to revive an old play.

Henry was Master of the Revels for over 50 years. Needless to say, Henry made a lot of enemies, and he was involved in many court battles over his "licences", some of which he won and some he lost. He also claimed that Treasury owed him an ever-increasing amount of money, and his personal fortune was "*much reduced*" by the time that he died.

↔Sir Alexander Swinton 1625-1700 and ↔Alison Skene <our 8G-GParents>

As with so many others of his time, Sir Alexander's career was full of ups and downs. Alexander fought for King Charles II against Oliver Cromwell in the Battle of Worcester in 1651, and was taken prisoner. After the restoration of the monarchy, he became an advocate (legal advisor to the government) but later resigned because of unintended consequences of the Test Act of 1673 ("An act for preventing dangers which may happen from popish recusants") aimed at removing Catholics from government positions. Alexander was a Presbyterian, not a Catholic, but he felt unable to accept some aspects of the Act.

Some years later, he was "forgiven" in a letter from King James, and was made a judge and given the title Lord Mersington. Just a few months later Alexander was involved in the so-called "Glorious Revolution", which deposed the king and replaced him with the king's daughter Mary and her dutch husband (the king's nephew) William of Orange. Alexander's involvement was perhaps not very convincing, as although he was prominent in the attack on Holyrood House (the king's residence in Scotland) it was reported that he joined the supporters of William of Orange "with a halbert in his hand, and as drunk as ale or brandy could make him".

Alexander was removed as a judge by (now King) William, but was restored soon afterwards, and was temporarily appointed president of the bench while the intended president's nomination was being confirmed. Two years later he was still president, when he suddenly died.

Alison became involved in the controversy soon after Alexander had been made a judge. It was unsafe at that time for men to protest against the government, so on one occasion Alison and a "mob of women" (presumably the wives of members of the privy council) petitioned parliament in protest against changes to the Privy Council. For this, Alison was banished from "the town of Edinburgh and the liberties thereof".

↔Sir Miles Fleetwood MP 1576-1641 and ↔Anne Luke 1578-1642 <our 9G-GParents>

Sir Miles Fleetwood was the eldest son of Sir William Fleetwood 1551-1616, so he was a member of the English nobility and could reasonably have expected to have a comfortable life and, eventually, a substantial inheritance.

Miles married Anne Luke, also from the nobility - her mother was Lady Margaret St John, daughter of Oliver, 1st Baron St John of Bletso, Lord Lieutenant of Bedfordshire. Many of the marriages in those days were arranged marriages aimed at increasing the influence of both families.

Miles began his career well, on military campaigns in Ireland, and was knighted in his own right - probably not too difficult an achievement given that his senior officer was his sister's husband, and that he was knighted by his own relative, Charles Blount, Baron Mountjoy, Lord Deputy of Ireland (Representative of the British monarch and head of the Irish executive under English rule. Miles's maternal grandmother was a Blount.). Unfortunately for Miles and Anne, things then went a bit wrong when Miles's father was found to have embezzled £14,164 from the government, couldn't repay it, and went bankrupt. There was then no prospect of an inheritance (daughters rarely inherited if they had a brother, and Anne had 2 brothers).

Miles got himself into Parliament by being appointed member for Huntingdon by Anne's uncle (some constituencies had genuine elections, but some were controlled by powerful individuals). There was a continual power struggle between the king and parliament, on such matters as financing a war with Spain and whether the king should have to marry a Protestant, and Miles seemed always to be in the thick of it, sometimes supporting one side, sometimes the other.

In 1619, Miles admitted to having paid a huge £500 bribe to the Earl of Suffolk, but he was ferocious in his attacks on corruption by others. Most of the time, parliament struggled to find enough money to finance itself, but Miles was quite happy to award himself grants from public funds and to profit personally from government business. Somehow, no formal charges were ever brought against him. Miles was careful always to be seen to be very religious, but it was said of him "*that he went to two sermons on a Sunday, and that on Monday morning he would sell his friend for two shillings*".

The period in which Miles was in Parliament was known as the *Addled Parliament* because it failed to achieve anything (not all that surprising!) and was dissolved by the king after just 8 weeks.

Part 2 – Medieval and Ancient Times

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When I began my work on the Family Tree, I decided that I would track every line back as far as I could. I had no idea then of just how far back some of the lines would go. The earliest known birth date of an ancestor is Alcetas I of Macedon, born in 576BC. But the line goes back from there seven generations to Caranus of Macedon, who was said to have moved into Macedon before the first Olympiad - which is thought to have been in 776BC. Further back from Caranus we are firmly in Greek Mythology, with about another five generations to Heracles. Now obviously information from that far back is highly unreliable, but it's difficult to know when to stop looking - there's no exact point in time where the information changes from reliable to unreliable.

And one more thing: the ancestors in **Part 1 Recent Times** are our ancestors. They are the people who shaped us and our cousins, aunts, uncles, nephews and nieces. But if you go far enough back in time, then you are looking at everyone's ancestors. Almost every person living now, with European

ancestry, is descended from many of the very same individuals who are our *Medieval and Ancient* ancestors. A large proportion of the people living now in Britain, Europe, Russia, North and South America, Australia and New Zealand, even Africa, have some of these same ancestors, it's just that no-one can trace all the lines.

One of the very noticeable features of the longer ancestral lines is that they are predominantly male lines. Women are largely invisible. And that made me pay more attention to our female ancestors, recognising that the women that did get into the chronicles tended to be much more interesting people than the men who just fought each other for power and influence.

As they say in the book "Heroines of the Medieval World:-

Heroines come in many different forms, and it is no less true for medieval heroines. They can be found in all areas of medieval life; from the dutiful wife and daughter to religious devotees, warriors and rulers. What makes them different compared to those of today are the limitations placed on them by those who directed their lives – their fathers, husbands, priests and kings. Women have always been an integral part of history, although when reading through the chronicles of the medieval world, you would be forgiven if you did not know it. We find that the vast majority of written references are focussed on men. The chronicles were written by men and, more often than not, written for men. It was men who ruled countries, fought wars, made laws and treaties, dominated religion and guaranteed – or tried to guarantee – the continued survival of their world. It was usually the men, but not all of them, who could read, who were trained to rule and who were expected to fight, to defend their people and their country...

They could have added that Medieval women usually had lots of children too, which took up a lot of their time.

Here's a simple example of the disempowerment of women in Norman times - Marguerite de Sablé <our 22G-GMother>:

Her father was a Grand Master of the Knights Templar (1191–1193), and Lord of Cyprus (1191–1192); he was also a wealthy and powerful Angevin baron and landowner. Upon his death in the Holy Land on 23 September 1193, the lordships and lands, mostly in the River Sarthe valley passed to Marguerite, making her one of the wealthiest heiresses in Anjou and Maine.

Well, she would have been one of the wealthiest, but: **All her honours and vast landholdings went to her husband**, whom she had married two years earlier.

In this part of the family tree, I'll start with the earliest ancestors and work forwards in time. But I'll only pick out a few of the more interesting ones – and some of those are women of course.

Please note: I removed all accents from names while I was working with them, because they made them very difficult to search, and also because when I moved names from one facility to another, accents sometimes got corrupted. Some accents may still be missing.

2.1 - Generations 50+ <our 47+G-GParents>

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Because the chapters are arranged by Generation Number, not by date, they are not necessarily in date sequence. That's because each ancestor's generation number can be derived from the Family Tree, but their birth and death dates might not be known.

Historical context: The centres of power and of art and education (not counting China and Eastern Asia) during these very early generations were in the Middle East and the Eastern Mediterranean. The centre of power was slowly shifting west and north - Babylon, then Persia, then Macedonia (Alexander the Great) and Athens (ancient Greece). Finally, the Roman Empire began to gain strength. Battles for supremacy were also taking place between the peoples of northern Europe and Scandinavia, but not on as large a scale.

Notable historical persons in generations 50+ are

- [↔ Ptolemy I Soter](#) 367BC-282BC Pharaoh of Egypt <our 70G-GFather> (see below).
- [↔ Mark Antony](#) 83BC-30BC <our 65G-GFather>. Mark Antony played a critical role in the transformation of the Roman Republic into the Roman Empire. His affair with the ruler of Egypt, Cleopatra VII Philopator (not our ancestor) was later made famous in Shakespeare's play *Antony and Cleopatra*.
- [↔ Boudica \(Boadicea\)](#) d.61 <our 53G-GMother> Queen of the Iceni (see below).
- [↔ Theoclea Zenobia Septimia](#) 240-290 <our 51G-GMother> Queen of Syria, Queen of Egypt, Empress of the East (see below)



[↔ Ptolemy I Soter 367BC-282BC](#) and [↔ Berenice I 340BC-275BC](#) <our 70G-GParents> Pharaoh (King) and Queen of Egypt



Ptolemy founded the Ptolemaic dynasty which ruled Egypt for nearly three centuries. Ptolemy himself ruled Egypt for 23 years and was one of the most trusted companions and military officers of Alexander the Great, probably his half-brother. He turned Egypt into a Hellenistic (ancient Greek) kingdom, and made Alexandria a centre of Greek culture.

Ptolemy sponsored the mathematician Euclid but found his seminal work, *The Elements*, too difficult to study, so he asked if there were an easier way to master it. Euclid is said to have replied: "*Sire, there is no Royal Road to geometry*".

The Elements has been referred to as the most successful and influential textbook ever written. It was required reading for many university students worldwide for 2,000 years.

Maybe Alexander the Great and Ptolemy inherited some of their abilities from their paternal grandmother Eurydice I Queen of Macedon <our 72G-GMother>, who was literate (very unusual for women) and was the first royal woman known to play an active political role. Her successful intervention in political and military affairs is described as "remarkably bold and without any known precedent, an extraordinary act for a royal woman".

When Berenice's first husband, Philip (a Greek-Macedonian nobleman) died, she travelled to Egypt with her second cousin Queen Euridyce wife of King Ptolemy I. Berenice and Ptolemy began a relationship, and they married after Euridyce had moved away in resentment. Berenice had two cities named after her, one founded by her son-in-law Pyrrus (of "Pyrrhic Victory" fame) on the Ionian Sea, and one founded by her son Ptolemy II on the Red Sea.

Berenice is said to have won a chariot race at an unspecified Olympics, and although unlikely it could be true.

↔ Clodius I of Sicambria 176BC-159BC <our 69G-GFather>

With some of these earliest generations, the information is highly unreliable. It seems that no-one even knows where *Sicambria* was, and the dates are highly dubious - did Clodius really die at the age of 17, after having had a son, Chlodimir?

After the fall of Troy, well before 1000BC, Priam and Antenor and their followers supposedly founded the city of *Sicambria* on the River Don near the Sea of Azov, north of the Black Sea. Over 1,000 years later, the *Sicambri* people were a germanic race living on the east bank of the Rhine in what is now Germany near the Netherlands border, well over 2,500km away. In the intervening millenium or so, it seems that no-one knows anything about them.

At some point after this, the genealogical information must start becoming a bit more reliable, but I will leave it to you to work out when that might be

↔ Berenice II of Egypt 267BC-221BC <our 68G-GMother> Queen of Cyrene (an important city in what is now Libya), Queen of Egypt



Berenice is said to have participated in the Nemean Games (between 245 and 241 BC) and to have competed in Olympic games at some unknown date. There is no record of her winning any event.

Note: Very few women competed in the Ancient Olympics, and for the first few centuries they were not even allowed to enter the stadium. The first recorded female entrant was Cynisca of Sparta in the 96th Olympiad, ie. 380 years after the first Olympics, who was the owner of horses driven by a man to win the 4-horse chariot race. And she was not allowed to watch them run! But that win was a pivotal moment for women in sport, and in later years a number of women competed in the Olympics. Bilistiche, a mistress of Berenice's father-in-law Ptolemy II Philadelphus, won three events in the Olympic Games of the 128th and 129th Olympiads (268BC and 264BC).

Berenice had a strong equestrian background and was accustomed to fighting from horseback. According to Hyginus's *Astronomica*, he tells of when Berenice's father Magas, King of Cyrene, and his troops were routed in battle - Berenice mounted a horse, rallied the remaining forces, killed many of the enemy, and drove the rest to retreat.

Soon after her father died, Berenice was married to Demetrius the Fair, a Macedonian prince. Demetrius became King of Cyrene, but then he became ambitious to the point of recklessness, and became the lover of Berenice's mother, Apama. In a dramatic event, Berenice had him killed in Apama's bedroom. Berenice stood at the door and instructed the hired assassins not to hurt her mother who was attempting to protect Demetrius. There were many later plots (not by Berenice) to assassinate Apama, but all hired assassins became fearful of her "*exceptional courage*" and all the plots failed.

After the death of Demetrius, Berenice married Ptolemy III and became Queen of Egypt but, soon after Ptolemy's death, she was murdered at the instigation of their son, Ptolemy IV.

↔ Laodice IV, Head Priestess and Queen of the Seleucid Empire **<our 66G-GMother>**

The Seleucid Empire covered what is now Syria and a large part of Western Asia. Laodice's parents, Antiochus III the Great and Laodice III, were first cousins. But Laodice went one better than that - three times! First she married her eldest brother, crown prince Antiochus. Theirs was the first sibling marriage in the Seleucid Empire, although sibling marriages were not all that uncommon in ancient Egypt. Together, they had a daughter, Nysa <our 66G-GMother>.



Seleucus IV

When Antiochus died, Laodice married her second eldest brother, Seleucus IV Philopator, so they became the Queen and King and ruled for 12 years. They were the first Seleucid King and Queen depicted on coins (unfortunately we don't have a picture of her on a coin). Together, they had three children: two sons, Antiochus and Demetrius I Soter <our 66G-GFather> and a daughter Laodice V <our 66G-GMother>.



Antiochus
IV

After the death of Seleucus IV, Laodice married for the third time, to her youngest brother Antiochus IV Epiphanes, who had inherited the throne. So Laodice remained Queen. Laodice bore Antiochus IV two children: a son, Antiochus V Eupator, and a daughter, Laodice VI <our 65G-GMother>. Antiochus IV actually co-ruled with his nephew Antiochus, and adopted him as his son, but had him assassinated a few years later.

Note: You can see here how generation numbers can behave strangely. Laodice IV was our 66G-GMother, yet her children Nysa, Demetrius I and Laodice V were also our 66G-GParents. That's because the line from her other daughter Laodice VI to us was one generation shorter. So that made Laodice VI our 65G-GMother. In turn, that made Laodice VI's mother Laodice IV our 66G-GMother. (You can also see how confusing family trees can be, when parents keep giving their children the same name as themselves. In this case, the mother Laodice had two daughters called Laodice!).

↔ Cleopatra Thea 164BC-121BC, Queen of the Seleucid Empire, Queen of Syria <our 65G-GMother>



Cleopatra (not the Cleopatra in *Antony and Cleopatra*) was Queen of Syria three times as the wife of three successive kings of Syria. After the death of Cleopatra's third husband, her second husband's son Seleucus became king, but Cleopatra had him murdered soon after and ruled Syria herself. In order to legitimise her reign, she shared the throne with her young son, Antiochus VIII Grypus.

Antiochus VIII Grypus became less controllable as he grew up and eventually Cleopatra Thea decided to eliminate him. As he returned from a hunt one day, she offered him a cup of wine. Since this was not common behaviour for her, Grypus was suspicious and forced her to drink the wine, which killed her.

↔ Pharnaces II of Pontus 97BC-47BC <our 63G-GFather>



Pharnaces' parents were siblings - Mithridates VI King of Pontus (now part of Turkey on the south coast of the Black Sea) and his sister Queen Laodice. Pharnaces was continually involved in various military campaigns, first against his own father, and then against Julius Caesar. Julius Caesar eventually took over the kingdom, so Pharnaces never became king. After the battle of Zela, which was a particularly successful and short battle against Pharnaces, Julius

Caesar is reputed to have said the famous words "*veni, vidi, vici*" (I came, I saw, I conquered). But Pharnaces is perhaps best known thanks to Vivaldi's most successful opera, *Farnace*, written in 1727 with libretto by Antonio Maria Lucchini, although the plot in the opera bears no relationship whatsoever to Pharnaces' actual life. Pharnaces also appears in Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's opera, *Mitridate*.

Perhaps more interesting than Pharnaces were his parents, siblings Laodice and Mithridates VI <our 64G-GParents>. Laodice married her brother Mithridates VI some time after their father had died (poisoned at a lavish banquet that he was hosting), and after Mithridates VI had imprisoned their mother and another brother in order to secure the throne. After they were married, Mithridates was often away for extended periods, and while he was away Laodice took lovers, became pregnant, and gave birth to a son. To conceal her unfaithfulness, Laodice plotted to have her husband poisoned.

However, Mithridates returned to Pontus suddenly and without warning, catching Laodice with her lovers. He was shocked and distressed, but was prepared to forgive her until his servants warned him of Laodice's plot and named her co-conspirators. Mithridates had Laodice and her collaborators executed immediately, although he spared Laodice's new born son.

Well ... that's the story in the historical record. But is that really how it happened? Let's face it, the story wasn't written by Laodice! It would probably have been written by someone whose life depended on not offending Mithridates. So maybe - just maybe - Mithridates killed Laodice and her lovers in a rage, and then invented the story of Laodice's plot to justify his actions? Or maybe Laodice never had any lovers and Mithridates just wanted to get rid of her? That's the trouble with the old chronicles, they don't always get it right (*just like today's newspapers and TV stations - and,*

of course, social media!!!).

↔ **Boudica (Boadicea) d.61, Queen of the Iceni <our 53G-GMother>**



Boudica, Queen of the Iceni (now Norfolk and parts of Suffolk and Cambridgeshire) - is one of the most famous women in British folk lore. She was a Queen of the British Celtic Iceni tribe who led an uprising against the occupying forces of the Roman Empire in AD 60 or 61. The Romans had forced heavy loans on the reluctant Britons, and when Boudica's husband Prasutagus died, they ignored his will which left his kingdom and his property to his daughters, and took everything for themselves in "payment" of the loans. [Interestingly, Xi Jinping of China is right now pursuing what appears to be a similar crushing strategy with some of the minor nations of Africa, SE Asia and the Pacific.].

Boudica led an uprising against the Romans, and it was a massive effort. She led an army of around 100,000, drawn from various peoples oppressed by the Romans. She destroyed Camulodunum (now Colchester), and even though the Romans rushed to defend Londinium (London) she destroyed that too, followed by Verulamium (St Albans). She took no prisoners, and gruesomely killed everyone who had not fled from the Roman cities. It is estimated that 70-80,000 Romans and Britons died in the sacking of the three cities. But a crafty Roman general, Suetonius, in spite of being heavily outnumbered, defeated Boudica at the Battle of Watling Street (somewhere in the British midlands, they don't know exactly where) by driving tight wedges of disciplined soldiers into the loose formations of Boudica's army and following them with cavalry. Boudica died soon after her defeat, probably suicide by poison.

Unsurprisingly, Boudica is a British folk hero - an underdog who stood up to corrupt authority. There is a statue of Boudica in her chariot on the Victoria Embankment next to Westminster Bridge and the Houses of Parliament.



Interestingly, she was chosen by the Welsh public as one of eleven statues of historical figures to be included in the Marble Hall at Cardiff City Hall. The statue was unveiled by David Lloyd George on 27 October 1916 (1,855 years after Boudica's death). Buddug (Boudica's name in Welsh) was the most ancient of the statues' subjects, the only female, and the only one from outside the modern Welsh nation.

↔ **Theoclea Zenobia Septimia 240-290 <our 51G-GMother>** **Queen of Syria, Queen of Egypt, Empress of the East**



Zenobia was evidently an extremely capable woman. She married Odaenathus, King of the Palmyrene Empire, which covered large parts of what are now Egypt, Israel, Syria and Turkey. Not long afterwards, Odaenathus was assassinated, and although their young son Vaballathus became king, Zenobia became the de facto ruler.

Zenobia was a cultured monarch and fostered an intellectual environment in her court, which was open to scholars and philosophers. She was tolerant toward her subjects and protected religious minorities. She maintained a stable administration which governed a multicultural multiethnic empire. Zenobia's reign inspired historians, artists and novelists, and she is a national hero in Syria.

Zenobia was also of very striking appearance: "*Her face was dark and of a swarthy hue, her eyes were black and powerful beyond the usual wont, her spirit divinely great, and her beauty incredible. So white were her teeth that many thought that she had pearls in place of teeth.*"

Eventually, Palmyra became too successful for Rome's comfort, and came under attack by the Roman Emperor, Aurelian. The Romans were victorious after heavy fighting; the queen was besieged in her capital and captured by Aurelian, who exiled her to Rome where she spent the remainder of her life.



The Palmyrene Empire was no more.

2.2 - Generations 40-49 <our 37-46G-GParents>

[\[back\]](#)

Historical context: After several centuries of great power and influence (and wealth) the Roman Empire started to decline. The countries to Rome's north became more influential, and the period became notable for conflicts across northern Europe as the rulers there competed for control.

Notable historical persons in these generations are

- [↔ Theoderic I](#) 393-451 <our 44G-GFather> "The Great", King of the Ostrogoths. Theoderic controlled an empire stretching from the Atlantic Ocean to the Adriatic Sea. He kept good relations between Ostrogoths and Romans, maintained a Roman legal administration and oversaw a flourishing scholarly culture and the largest building program in Italy in 100 years. He is a hero of German legends, in which he is known as Dietrich von Bern, and in Norse sagas, as Þiðrekr of Bern. Theoderic was the inspiration for J. R. R. Tolkien in his creation of king Theoden of Rohan in *The Lord of the Rings*. 
- [↔ Alaric I Balthas](#) 370-410 <our 45G-GFather> first King of the Visigoths. The fall of the Roman Empire was more of a long decline than a single event, but the sacking of Rome by Alaric is seen as a major landmark in the fall of the empire. The Visigoths are often referred to as "barbarians", but actually they were at least as civilised as the Romans. The sack was, by the standards of the age, restrained. There was no general slaughter of the inhabitants and the two main basilicas of Peter and Paul were nominated places of sanctuary. Most of the buildings and monuments in the city survived intact, though stripped of their valuables. 
- [↔ Coel Hen](#) 350-420 <our 43G-GFather> Coel the Old of Rheged. Although Wikipedia says it is unlikely, others claim that Coel Hen is the "*Old King Cole*" of the nursery rhyme.
- [↔ Hengist](#) 430-490 <our 42G-GFather> (Hengest von Sachsen), King of Kent. The brothers Hengist and Horsa were the first Anglo-Saxon settlers in Britain. Over the next 500-600

years, the Anglo-Saxons gained control over most of what is now England.

- [↔ Clovis I of the Franks 466-511 <our 40G-GFather>](#). Clovis was the first king of the Franks to unite all of the Frankish tribes under one ruler. He is considered to have been the founder of the Merovingian dynasty, which ruled the Frankish kingdom for the next two centuries. In other words, Clovis was the first king of what would become France.



[↔ Niall Noigiallach mac Echdach d.452, "Niall of the Nine Hostages", King of the Connachta, and ↔ Roigneach \(Rignach\) ingen Meadaib <our 43G-GParents>](#)



We're still going back a long way in time here, and many people believe that all the stories of Niall of the Nine Hostages were made up, and that Niall never actually existed. Niall's nickname came about because of stories that in his (supposed) early reign as King of Ireland he consolidated his power by taking hostages from opposing royal families.

But, as reported in the *New York Times* (Jan 18, 2006), a geneticist, Dr. Daniel Bradley, with colleagues at Trinity College in Dublin, conducted a DNA survey of citizens of New York. They found that 2% or 1 in 50 of all New Yorkers had a genetic signature that traced back to a single common ancestor, and that the pattern was strongest among those with family names associated with the *Ui Neill*, meaning "the descendants of Niall", a group of dynasties that claimed the high kingship of Ireland from about A.D. 600 to 900. Dr. Katherine Simms, a co-author of the report, said that the findings "*appear to confirm that the Ui Neill really did come from a common ancestor*", and that perhaps there was a genetic basis for Niall's existence. While not disagreeing, Dr. Daniel Bradley was pretty disparaging about Niall, saying he was "*a highwayman. He was a slave trader, nothing noble about him. He was a pirate.*". But maybe Dr. Daniel Bradley had no idea what life was really like back then.

[↔ Conan Meriodoc b.305 and ↔ Saint Ursula ferch Dynod b.305 <our 45G-GParents>](#)



Many legends have sprung up about Saint Ursula and Conan Meriodoc. Many of the legends are clearly fanciful, and originate in later centuries. The probability is that the people were real, the later stories about them were not.

Conan's cousin, Helena, married Magnus Maximus <our 36G-GFather>, Roman Emperor in Britannia and Gaul (Britain and France). Originally, Conan rebelled against Magnus but was defeated. They then became friends and Conan was given control over Armorica (Brittany). His army lacked wives, so Conan arranged for Donaut of Dumnonia (Cornwall) to send some Cornish ladies to Armorica. He married Donaut's daughter, Ursula. Ursula was a very devout woman, and it doesn't sound like she was too keen on marrying Conan. When she landed in Brittany, she insisted that she was going to go on a pilgrimage to Rome before she would marry anyone. Conan followed her to Rome, and they were married there, probably married by Pope Cyriacus himself. They had their first child in Rome. We don't know what happened to Ursula in later years.

But then various story-tellers got hold of the story, and embellished it over the ages, until the Cornish ladies became 11,000 virgins who were all captured and beheaded by the Huns when their ships landed at Cologne! Hollywood was not the first place to distort stories in order to create a dramatic tale.

**↔ Childeric I of the Salian Franks 437-481 and
↔ Basina of Thuringia 438-477 <our 41G-GParents>**



If you can trust the records of the 5th century, Basina must have been a force to be reckoned with! She left her husband, King Bisinus, and went to Roman Gaul. She herself took the initiative to ask for the hand of Childeric I, King of the Franks, and married him. For as she herself said, "*I want to have the most powerful man in the world, even if I have to cross the ocean for him*". This came after Childeric's successful invasion of the Roman Empire and his attempt to settle a Frankish kingdom on Roman soil. Basina and Childeric were first cousins - they shared their grandfather Clovis of Cologne (Clovis of the Franks).

Childeric's tomb was discovered in 1653, and among the treasures in the tomb were 300 beautiful gold bees with garnet wings. When Napoleon saw them (about 150 years later) he decided to make them the emblem of the French empire. Sadly, in 1831, the treasures were stolen and melted down for the gold - but the thieves missed two of the bees.



Childeric and Basina were the parents of the man who is remembered as the founder of the Frankish realm and modern France, King Clovis I.

Through the ages historians have been intrigued by the story of Basina since she obviously acted as a player and not as bystander — which was not uncommon for women of the German clans, but highly uncommon for the Romans.

Queen Basina of Thuringia is the central protagonist in the 2005 film, *The Brothers Grimm*. Unfortunately the film is a heap of Hollywood rubbish.

**↔ Sigebert I of Austrasia 535-575 and ↔ Brunhilda of the Visigoths 543-614
<our 42G-GParents>**

Sigebert was the Arch-Duke of Austrasia (a kingdom covering parts of what are now France, Belgium and Germany). He was upset that his brothers were marrying "*unworthy*" wives - even slaves - so he asked King Athanagild of the Visigoths (in what is now Spain) if he could marry his beautiful daughter Brunhilda, and sent lavish presents with the request. Athanagild agreed, and sent Brunhilda to him.



Sigebert's brother Chilperik <our 39G-GFather>, ruler of a neighbouring kingdom, was so impressed that he asked Athanagild for Brunhilda's sister Galswintha. Athanagild again agreed, and Chilperik abandoned all his other wives to marry Galswintha. But after that, things started to go badly wrong. Chilperik tired of Galswintha and murdered her so that he could return to his mistress Fredegund, who had been a servant of his first wife Audovera (but Fredegund had persuaded Chilperik to leave Audovera for her). Brunhilda was obviously upset by her sister being murdered, and persuaded her husband Sigebert to take revenge, and this started a feud that lasted 40 years.

Sigebert attacked Chilperik's kingdom and captured most of it, forcing Chilperik to go into hiding. But Chilperik then had Sigebert assassinated and Brunhilda imprisoned. Brunhilda's nephew Merovech rescued Brunhilda and married her (yes, he married his aunt - something which even then was against canon law). Chilperik then attacked Merovech, and forced him to enter a monastery and become a priest. Merovech later tried to overthrow Chilperik but failed, and committed suicide by asking his servant to kill him.

In the meantime, Sigebert and Brunhilda's young son Childebert <our 41G-GFather> inherited the kingdom, but Brunhilda took control. She ran the kingdom very efficiently, but ruthlessly, and made a lot of powerful enemies. After many battles, murders and executions over many years, Brunhilda eventually lost a battle with Fredegund's son Clothar (Clotaire) II. She was by then over 70 years old. She was put on trial for the murder of ten(!) Frankish kings and (of course) found guilty. Her punishment was reportedly to be pulled apart by four horses, although another report said that she was tortured for three days and then drawn and quartered.



↔ Cunedda Wledig ap Edern 386-460 and ↔ Gwawl ferch Coel Hen b.384 <our 42G-GParents>

Cunedda (Cunedag) was born in the late 4th century in Manau Gododdin (now Clackmannanshire on the Firth of Forth just north of Edinburgh). The records of the time are not all that reliable, but historians have pieced together some of his story. Britain had been ruled by the Romans for a long time, and Cunedda's last three generations of male ancestors were called Aeternus, Paternus and Tacitus and were clearly Roman not Celtic in their way of life and customs. They had commanded Celtic troops called *Votadini*, defending Roman territory. The period was one of political chaos in Europe, as the Roman empire was beginning to crumble.

When North Wales came under attack from the *Scotti* (who were Irish, not Scottish), Cunedda and his entire entourage were moved there from Scotland: "*Cunedag, with his sons, whose number was eight, had come previously from the northern part, that is from the region which is called Manau Gododdin, one hundred and forty-six years before Maelgwn reigned. And with great slaughter they drove out from those regions the Scotti who never returned again to inhabit them.*".

Cunedda gained control of the area and became King of Gwynedd, helped no doubt by an influential marriage to Gwawl, daughter of Coel Hen ("the Old"), Ruler of York, and Ystrafael ferch Cadfan ("the Fair") <our 43G-GParents>. Coel Hen was possibly *Old King Cole* of the nursery-rhyme. The early kingdoms of Ceredigion (Cardigan) and Meirionnydd (Merioneth) were

supposedly named after Cunedda and Gwawl's two sons Ceredig and Meirion. The three families of Cunedda from Clackmannan, Brychan from Ireland, and Caw from Strathclyde were known as *The Three Saintly Families of Wales*, and are regarded as the cultural founders of Wales.

[↔](#) **Maelgwyn Hir 480-549, "The Tall", "The Dragon of Anglesey"**
<our 40G-GFather>,
and [↔](#) **Gwallwyn verch Mallach 490-543 <our 43G-GMother>**

Maelgwn was a generous supporter of Christianity, funding the foundation of churches throughout Wales and even far beyond the bounds of his own kingdom, which may seem curious given the way he behaved the rest of the time. Or maybe he was trying to atone for his sins. If the chronicles of the late 5th century are to be believed (that's a big "if"!) Maelgwyn killed his uncle in order to become King of Gwynedd. After repenting for a while in a monastery, he took a lady called Gwallwen as his mistress and had 2 or more children with her. But maybe he got tired of Gwallwen, because he then married a 25 year old widow called Nest. But that didn't last long because Maelgwyn then became enamoured of the 16 year old wife, Sanan, of his own nephew. He killed the nephew to bigamously marry Sanan, and when Nest objected he killed her too. Then the records say he "*went downhill from there so far as decency and honour were concerned*"!

Unlikely though it might seem, Maelgwyn was a man of culture, and many poets and musicians attended his court at Deganwyand.

In medieval Arthurian literature, Maelgwyn is represented as Malaguin, the King of the Hundred Knights.

2.3 - Generations 35-39 <our 32-36G-GParents>

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Historical context: These were still turbulent times, especially after the fall of the Roman Empire. But gradually Europe was consolidating into large sovereign states, under strong leaders, with major centres of arts and learning. There were still threats from the south, but these came more from the middle-eastern arab states than from the old Roman Empire.

Notable historical persons in these generations are

- [↔](#) **Flavius Magnus Maximus Augustus 335-388 <our 36G-GFather>**, Roman Emperor in Britannia and Gaul (Britain and France), the last Roman ruler of Britain. Usually called Magnus Maximus, in Wales he was known as Maccsen Wledig. He is considered to be the founding father of the dynasties of several medieval Welsh kingdoms, including those of Powys and Gwent.



- [↔](#) **Cadwaladr Fendigaid ap Cadwallon d.682 <our 36G-GFather>** "*The Blessed*", King of Gwynedd. The red dragon (Welsh: Y Ddraig Goch) has long been known as a Welsh symbol. It is known as "*The Red Dragon of Cadwaladr*".

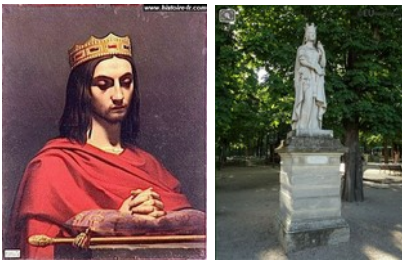


- [↔](#) **Charles Martel 686-741 <our 33G-GFather>** "*The Hammer*", King of the Franks. Charles Martel effectively re-wrote the map of much of Europe. He was



"a warrior who was uncommonly ... effective in battle" and forcibly united various Frankish kingdoms to create Francia, which covered nearly all of what is now France plus substantial parts of Germany and Italy. He also successfully defended Francia against Arab invasions. He was the de facto ruler of Francia for many years, but was not officially recognised as its king until shortly before his death.

↔ Clovis II of Neustria 634-657 and ↔ Saint Balthilde 626-680
<our 36G-GParents>



Balthilde didn't get off to too good a start in life. She was born Anglo-saxon, but when she was a young girl she was captured by Danes and sold as a slave to Erchinoald, Mayor of the Palace of the Merovingian King Clovis II. Her unusual qualities of mind and her virtues inspired the confidence of her master who gave many of the affairs of the household into her charge and, after the death of his wife, wished to marry her. At this the young girl fled and did not return until Erchinoald had married again.

But about this time the king, Clovis II, met her at Erchinoald's house, and was impressed by her beauty, grace, and all the good things he had heard of her. He freed and married her. This sudden elevation did not change Balthilde's kind nature - her humility, spirit of prayer, and large-hearted generosity to the poor were particularly noticeable.

Seven years after their marriage Clovis II died, leaving Balthilde with three sons, Clothaire, Childeric, and Thierry (Theoderik), all three of whom later became kings. Clothaire, aged five, was declared King of the Franks under the regency of his mother, Balthilde. Although she had wished for a secluded life, Balthilde ruled France as its Queen until Clothaire came of age, and was able to carry out useful reforms. She abolished the trade in Christian slaves, and firmly repressed simony (selling positions in the church) among the clergy. She also led the way in founding charitable and religious institutions, such as hospitals and monasteries.

After her children were well established in their respective territories, she returned to her wish for a secluded life and withdrew to her favourite Abbey of Chelles near Paris. Balthilde was canonised 200 years after her death, by Pope Nicholas I. Her statue is in the Luxembourg Gardens in Paris.

↔ Aud Ketilsdatter <our 32G-GMother> the Deep-Minded
and the Jarls of Orkney <our 24-38G-GFathers>

A Jarl is a viking Earl, so the Jarls of Orkney were the viking rulers of the Orkney Islands, just north of the mainland of Scotland. There were about 30 Jarls, from around 892 to 1230 AD (only some were our ancestors). It is a bit difficult to know exactly how many there were, because their situation was very unstable for most of the time. This is because the viking tradition was that when a king (or Jarl) died, his kingdom was divided between his sons. What usually happened next was that the sons fought and killed each other for control of the whole kingdom - and if a Jarl wasn't killed by a brother then he was likely to be killed by some other rival anyway. It was quite unusual for a Jarl to die of old age!

Aud Ketilsdatter, also known as Aud the Deep-Minded, enjoyed considerable fortune for a while. She married Olaf the White <our 32G-GFather>, who conquered Dublin and became King of Dublin. Their son, Thorstein the Red <our 31G-GFather>, also became a warrior king, with conquests in the north of Scotland.

But things got a little tricky for Aud after her husband and son were killed in separate battles. She was living at Caithness in the north of Scotland, and decided that she needed to get away. She was reputed to be respected, capable, independent and strong-willed, and she must have been all of these because she arranged for a *Knarr* (a Viking ocean-going ship) to be built secretly in the forest. When it was ready, she then captained the ship on a voyage to Orkney, with a crew of 20 and passengers including her relatives and some prisoners from Viking raids.

In Orkney, she married off her granddaughter Groa <our 30G-GMother> (a daughter of Thorstein the Red) to Earl Dungad (Duncan), and sailed on to Iceland. Groa became an ancestress of many of the Jarls of Orkney, including her grandson Thorfinn Torf-Einarsson *the Skull-Splitter* <our 29G-GFather>. In Iceland, Aud took control of an area in north-west Iceland, freed all the prisoners and gave them land. She is credited with bringing Christianity to Iceland.

Aud appears in several Norse sagas, including *The Saga of Erik the Red* (of Greenland fame).

↔ Borivoj I 852-889 and ↔ Saint Ludmila of Bohemia 860-921 **<our 32G-GParents>**



Ludmila

Borivoj was the first historically recorded Duke of Bohemia, and the first Christian ruler of Bohemia. In Bohemia at that time, a Duke was a sovereign ruler. Borivoj and Ludmila were grandparents of Saint Wenceslaus (not our direct ancestor), of the carol “*Good King Wenceslas*”. After Borivoj died, Ludmila ruled as regent until their elder son came of age. She later oversaw Wenceslaus' education, but Wenceslaus' mother, Drahomira (Ludmila's daughter-in-law), became jealous of Ludmila's influence and arranged to have her killed by hired assassins (they strangled her with her veil). Shortly after her murder, Ludmila was canonised.

After Wenceslaus took over as ruler of Bohemia, he exiled Drahomira, but he was later murdered by his brother Boleslav “*The Cruel*” <our 30G-GFather>.

Antonín Dvořák composed his oratorio *Svatá Ludmila* (Saint Ludmila) between September 1885 and May 1886. Ludmila is the patron saint of Problems with In-Laws (!) (and of Bohemia, Converts, Czech Republic, Duchesses, and Widows).

[↔ Eystein Halfdansson 726-780 <our 33G-GFather> "The Fart"](#)

Eystein seems to have been quite a colourful character, but judging by his nickname he might not have been very popular. His nickname in old Norse was *Eystein fret* (Eystein the fart), or *Eystein Meinfretr* (Eystein foul-fart).

He inherited the kingdom of Romerike, north-east of Oslo in what is now Norway. He also obtained the kingdom of Vestfold, west of Oslo, as his wife Hildi's inheritance on the death of his father-in-law Erik, King of Vestfold (another example of a woman's inheritance going to her husband). Eystein evidently spent a fair amount of his time raiding the neighbouring kingdoms, and he died after a raid to Varna, on the eastern side of the Oslofjord. Eystein's men had finished looting and pillaging the area and were coming back across the fjord, when the boom of his ship swung and hit Eystein so that he fell overboard and drowned. His body was salvaged and buried in a mound at Borre in Vestfold.

[↔ Vratislaus I of Bohemia 888-921 and ↔ Drahomira of Stodor 877-936 <our 31G-GParents>](#)



Vratislaus, son of Borivoj I and Saint Ludmila, married Drahomira of Stodor. Drahomira ruled Bohemia as Regent after Vratislaus died in 921. She murdered her Mother-in-Law Ludmila of Bohemia using hired assassins (see the story on Borivoj I and Saint Ludmila), and she is the subject of two operas, *Drahomíra* by František Škroup (1848), and *Drahomíra* by Karel Šebor (1867).

2.4 - Generations 30-34 <our 27-31G-GParents>

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Historical context: The British Isles had not yet managed the level of consolidation of the Europeans. There was an ongoing three-way power struggle between the original Britons, the Saxons (from what is now Germany), and the Vikings (from Denmark and Norway). The Britons ended up being mostly pushed into Wales, where they remained largely in control. Saxon campaigns against the Vikings were more successful, after many years of struggle, and Viking rule over major parts of Britain was ended.

Notable historical persons in these generations are

- [↔ Charlemagne 747-814 <our 31G-GFather>](#), "*Father of Europe*", Holy Roman Emperor. Charlemagne built on the previous efforts of his grandfather, Charles Martel, and united most of Western Europe for the first time since the end of the Roman Empire. He brought in other parts of Europe that had never been under Frankish or Roman rule into what became known as the Carolingian Empire. His rule was a period of energetic cultural and intellectual activity.



- [↔ Rurik av Svealand](#) 832-879 <our 30G-GFather> Prince of Novgorod. Rurik was the first ruler of Kievan Rus' and the founder of the Rurik Dynasty (Kievan Rus' was a large area of what are now eastern Europe and western Russia, stretching from the Black Sea in the south to the White Sea in the north). The Rurik Dynasty ruled Kievan Rus' and its successor states, including the Grand Duchy of Moscow and the Tsardom of Russia, until the 17th century.



- [↔ Rhodri Mawr ap Merfyn](#) 810-877 <our 30G-GFather> "*The Great*", King of Gwynedd, King of Powys, King of Seisyllwg, Prince of Wales, King of the Britons. Rhodri ruled over virtually the whole of what is now Wales, and successfully defended it against repeated Viking and English invasions. He "*destroyed*" the Vikings, but was eventually defeated by Alfred the Great.

- [↔ Heinrich I](#) 876-936 <our 29G-GFather> "*The Fowler*", Holy Roman Emperor. Heinrich (Henry) was the first non-Frankish king of East Francia. He established the Ottonian Dynasty of kings and emperors, and he is generally considered to be the founder and first king of the medieval German state.



- [↔ Alfred the Great](#) 849-899 <our 28G-GFather> King of Wessex (see below).
- [↔ Hereward the Wake](#) 1035-1072 <our 27G-GFather> "*The Watchful*" led an East Anglian opposition to the Normans - a *Robin Hood* of the fens. He was made famous by Charles Kingsley's 1866 novel *Hereward the Wake: last of the English*.

- [↔ Lady Godiva](#) 1010-1067 <our 27G-GMother> "*God's Gift*" (see below).

- [↔ Harold Godwinson](#) 1022-1066 <our 27G-GFather> last Anglo-Saxon King of England. (see "Edith the Fair" below).



[↔ Alfred the Great, King of Wessex, 849-899 and ↔ Ealhswith d.902](#) <our 28G-GParents>



The hand-written family tree, obtained by our grand-parents (see 1.5 - Generation 6 <our 3G-GParents>), didn't go as far back as Alfred the Great, but it did have a note that Princess Margaret the last Saxon Princess of England was descended via Ethelred from Alfred the Great. That note was correct, and it turned out that we were also descended from Alfred the Great by several other lines.

Alfred the Great was a truly great leader, one of only two Kings of England known as "*The Great*" (the other was the Viking, Cnut (Canute)). Alfred inherited the Kingdom of Wessex when his older brother Aethelred was killed in battle. Alfred had a reputation as a learned and merciful man of a gracious and level-headed nature who encouraged education. He was not physically strong – he had health problems throughout his life – but after some early defeats he became an astute military leader who studied the Vikings' war strategies and worked out how to defeat them. He successfully defended Wessex from the Vikings, and ensured that neighbouring Mercia was ruled by a Dane, Guthrum, who had converted to Christianity, had signed a peace treaty with Alfred, and had become Alfred's god-son. In the later years of Alfred's reign, Guthrum died and the Danes began to attack

again. Alfred managed to hold the kingdom together, but it was under increasing pressure when he himself died.

Ealhswith it seems played no part in military or political matters, but Alfred evidently thought highly of her as she inherited three important estates from Alfred when he died, and founded the convent of St Mary's Abbey, Winchester.

It was their daughter, Aethelflaed, who completed the job of consolidating the kingdom. She finally defeated the Danes, in alliance with her Brother Edward in London, in one of the finest examples of leadership in English history. And yet, few have ever heard of her. When her husband Aethelred died, she ruled Mercia as *Lady of the Mercians*, the only case of a female ruler in Anglo-Saxon history. She fortified many towns, defeated several Viking invasions, and then counter-attacked. She captured Derby from the Vikings, accepted the surrender of Leicester, and at her death was about to accept the loyalty of York, the Viking capital.

On 13 Jun 2018, there was a BBC article "*The warrior queen who broke the glass ceiling*" about Aethelflaed, extolling her capabilities. "*How does a ruler defeat bloodthirsty invaders, secure a kingdom and lay the foundations for England - and then almost get written out of history? Be a woman, that's how.*". Her only child died childless, so she has no direct descendants. We're as close as anyone gets.

↔ Oldřich of the Premyslids and ↔ Božena of Peruc d.1052 **<our 29G-GParents>**



The young (and married) Oldřich set out on a hunt and travelled to Peruc. There, he spied a beautiful peasant girl, Božena, and was immediately entranced by her. Oldřich abandoned his hunt and took Božena back to Prague, where she eventually gave birth to his illegitimate son Bretislaus (see the story about Bretislav of Bohemia and Judith von

Schweinfurt <our 28G-GParents>). Their encounter is obviously quite an important part of Czech folklore, as there are at least two paintings of it.



Oldřich did eventually marry Božena. Božena was the saviour of the Czech House of Přemysl (Dukes of Bohemia), as their son Bretislav was the only son of Oldřich or his brothers. Perhaps that's not too surprising, since one of Oldřich's brothers castrated the other, and was then imprisoned.

↔ Saint Olga of Kiev 890-969 <our 29G-GMother>

Olga must have been quite a fiery person. She is best known for her obliteration of the Drevlians (she killed nearly all 5,000 of them!), a tribe that had killed her husband Igor Ryurikovich <our



29G-GFather>. She ruled Kievan Rus' for 15 years after Igor's death, and worked hard to spread Christianity there. For that, Olga is venerated as a saint. It seems that killing people wasn't all that un-Christian back then.

↔ Gorm the Old d.958 and ↔ Thyra Dannebod, King and Queen of Denmark <our 28G-GParents>



Thyra and Gorm

Gorm the Old and Thyra Dannebod ruled Denmark for over 20 years, from about 936 to 958. But it is thought that Denmark then was only the northern part of what is Denmark today, and that their son Harald Bluetooth <our 27G-GFather> expanded the kingdom.



Harald Bluetooth

Gorm the Old was also known as Gorm the Languid (ie. slow, not energetic). But Thyra was evidently an active Queen. She is credited with the completion of the Danevirke, a wall between Denmark's southern border and

its unfriendly Saxon neighbors to the south. She expanded the wall with a ditch and earthen foundation topped by a timber stockade above it. She is also said to have led an army against Germany.

Asteroid 115 *Thyra* is named after her.

The *Bluetooth* communication system is named after Gorm and Thyra's son Harald Bluetooth.

↔ Gerberga of Saxony 913-969, Duchess of Lorraine, Queen of the West Franks <our 28G-GMother>



Gerberga was a highly educated, intelligent and forceful political player. She had 12 children by two husbands, yet she had the time and energy to organize the defence of the besieged city of Laon against the troops of Hugh "The Great" (husband of her sister Hedwig <our 28G-GMother>). She then managed to free her husband Louis IV <our 28G-GFather> from prison, and handed control back to him. After his death she ruled the kingdom as regent. Gerberga and her sister Hedwig were the heads of the two most powerful dynasties in West Francia (France), but she had to hand over control again when her



Hedwig

son came of age!

↔ Bretislav of Bohemia 1002-1055 and ↔ Judith von Schweinfurt d.1058
<our 28G-GParents>



The young Bohemian prince Bretislav, son of the Přemyslid duke Oldřich of Bohemia and Božena of Peruc <our 29G-GParents>, on his way to the court of Emperor Conrad II in 1029 passed through Schweinfurt, where he met Judith and immediately fell in love with her. Beautiful Judith was a desirable bride, and Bretislav's father Duke Oldřich was not averse to confirming his good relationship with the German nobility through a marriage to Judith, but Oldřich's only son Bretislav was of illegitimate birth (see the story about Oldřich and Božena). Judith and her relatives appear not to have been too averse to Bretislav, but they were very proud of their noble origins. This complicated the prospect of Bretislav's marriage with the high-born Judith.

The young man solved the problem in his own way by sneaking into the monastery where Judith was living, and abducting her on a wild ride out of Schweinfurt, shattering locks and chains with his sword. Bretislav was never punished for the crime. He and Judith settled at Olomouc in Moravia.

Bretislav and Judith were married some time later.

↔ Sprota b.911 <our 28G-GMother>

Sprota was a Breton captive taken as a "wife" by William I, Duke of Normandy, in the Viking fashion (*more danico*). Effectively, she was a concubine. With William she had a son, Richard I, Duke of Normandy <our 27G-GFather>. After William's death, her situation became perilous, but she was "collected" by a wealthy miller, Esperleng of Vaudreuil. She married Esperleng, with whom she had a son Rodulf of Ivry <our 27G-GFather>. So Sprota was our direct ancestress by two separate lines.

↔ Lady Godiva (Godgifu, Godgyfu - "God's Gift") 1010-1067
<our 27G-GMother>

Lady Godiva is one of the most famous women in British history. Like other Anglo-Saxon women of her class, Godgyfu owned property in her own right, including the



Godiva deciding whether to ride



modest farming village of Coventry. The Domesday Book lists it, twenty years after her death, as having sixty-nine families. Legend has it that Godgyfu protested so insistently to her husband, Leofric, about the heavy taxes that he was levying on the people of Coventry, that eventually he challenged her to ride naked through Coventry, saying that if she did, he would stop the taxes (thinking, of course, that she wouldn't dare to do it). But it seems more likely that Godgyfu actually undertook the ride as a penance for her husband's horrendous destruction of Worcester (demanded by Hardacnut, son of King Cnut (Canute)).

She rode naked through Coventry, and back, and the story has been written up - and embellished - many times. The most famous story of the ride was the poem *Godiva* by Alfred Lord Tennyson, which was written 800 years later in 1842, and which guaranteed Lady Godiva immortality in British literature.

Asteroid 3018 *Godiva* is named after her.

↔ Edith the Fair 1025-1086 <our 27G-GMother> “The Gentle Swan”



Edith was the first wife of King Harold Godwinson <our 27G-GFather>, although their marriage by *more danico* (Danish custom) was not recognised by the English clergy. When Harold was killed at the Battle of Hastings, his body was horribly mutilated. Harold's mother, Gytha Thorkelsdóttir, pleaded for William the Conqueror to surrender Harold's body for burial, offering Harold's weight in gold, but the Norman army refused. It was then that Edith the Fair walked through the carnage of the battle so that she might identify Harold by markings on his chest known only to her. It was because of Edith the Fair's identification of Harold's body that Harold was given a Christian burial by the monks at Waltham Abbey.

[↔ Gunnor \(Gunnora\) de Crepon 950-1031 <our 27G-GMother>](#)



Gunnora was living with her sister Seinfreda <our 34G-GMother>, the wife of a local forester, when Richard I, Duke of Normandy <our 27G-GFather>, hunting nearby, heard of the beauty of the forester's wife. He ordered Seinfreda to come to his bed (Norman dukes could do that, back then), but the lady substituted her unmarried sister, Gunnora. Gunnora stayed with Richard for many years, and together they had three sons and three daughters. When Richard was prevented from nominating their son Robert to be Archbishop of Rouen, because Robert was illegitimate, Richard and Gunnora were at last married, making their children legitimate in the eyes of the church.

Gunnora was evidently a very able woman, and Richard was quite dependent on her. She attested ducal charters, where she is variously regent of Normandy, a mediator and a judge. She was skilled in languages and was said to have had an excellent memory. She was one of the most important sources of information on Norman history for historian Dudo of St Quentin. And, in the typical role of a medieval aristocratic mother, she was also an arbitrator between her husband and their oldest son Richard II.

There seems to be some doubt about who Gunnora's parents were, but she is clearly identified by findagrave.com as daughter of Harald I Bluetooth and Gynrthe Olafsdottir. All other facts match completely with other records, including Dudo of St Quentin's statement that she was of *noble Danish origin*.

2.5 - Generations 25-29 <our 22-26G-GParents>




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Historical context: Although Europe was much more stable overall than it had been in previous centuries, there was still conflict between nations and between powerful individuals. Middle-eastern Arab and Muslim states were still making inroads into southern Europe. The major event in the British Isles was the transformation that resulted from the successful invasion by the Normans (from northern France) under William the Conqueror. William became the king of England, and over time the Normans gained control of most of England and Wales.

Notable historical persons in these generations are

- [↔ Brian Boru mac Cennetig 941-1014 <our 26G-GFather>](#) High King of Ireland. Brian Boru ended the domination of the High Kingship of Ireland by the Uí Néill and founded the O'Brien dynasty.
- [↔ Gruoch ingen Boite <our 26G-GMother>](#), Queen of Alba (Scotland), is better known as Lady MacBeth, made famous by William Shakespeare's play *MacBeth*.
- [↔ Theodora Komnene b.1096 <our 26G-GMother>](#). Theodora was the daughter of Byzantine Emperor Alexios I and Empress Irene Doukaina. Apart from that, her life was unremarkable - except that, through her many successful children, she is now known as an ancestress of every modern royal house in Europe.



- **Robert Fitzwalter** 1180-1235 <our 26G-GFather> unsuccessfully attempted to assassinate King John, and later became the leader of the barons opposed to King John in a campaign that culminated in the reluctant signing by King John of Magna Carta at Runnymede in 1215. Robert FitzWalter was one of the 25 sureties of Magna Carta. Robert's daughter, Matilda, may have been the inspiration for the character *Maid Marian* in the *Tales of Robin Hood*.
- [↔ Anna Yaroslavna](#) 1024-1075 <our 25G-GMother> Queen of France (see below).
- [↔ Rodrigo Diaz](#) 1043-1099 <our 25G-GFather> "*El Cid*". Rodrigo was called *El Cid* (The Lord) by Muslims, and *El Campeador* (The Outstanding Warrior) by Christians. He was renowned for his military prowess, and (at different times) fought for both Muslim and Christian leaders. El Cid remains a Spanish popular folk-hero and national icon. 
- [↔ Gruffydd ap Llywelyn](#) 1007-1064 <our 25G-GFather> King of Wales (see below).
- [↔ Saint Margaret of Scotland](#) 1045-1093 <our 24G-GMother> "*The Pearl of Scotland*", English Princess, Queen of Scotland. Queen Margaret was said to be a strong, pure, noble character, who had very great influence over her husband, King Malcolm III of Scotland, and through him over Scottish history. She was considered an exemplar of the "just ruler", and influenced her husband and children to be just and holy rulers. Margaret was a niece of Anna Yaroslavna. 
- [↔ William the Conqueror](#) 1028-1087 <our 24G-GFather> "*The Bastard*", Duke of Normandy, first Norman King of England. Famous for his victory over Harold Godwinson <our 27G-GFather> at the Battle of Hastings. 
- [↔ Sir William de Tracy](#) 1135-1189 <our 23G-GFather> had an important impact on English history when, with three others, he murdered Archbishop Thomas Becket in Canterbury Cathedral. Thomas Becket had been trying to place priests above the law. In a 2006 "worst Briton" poll, Thomas Becket came second behind Jack the Ripper.
- [↔ Agnes de Essex](#) 1151-1212 <our 22G_GMother> arguably had just as much impact as Sir William de Tracy on English history - and on European history - though you probably won't find her name in any history books. (See below).

[↔ Anna Yaroslavna \(Anne of Kiev\) 1024-1075 <our 25G-GMother>](#) **Queen of France**



Anna Yaroslavna is *Anne of Russia* in our inherited hand-written tree. Anna was the daughter of Ingegerd Olofsdottir of Sweden (Saint Anna) <our 26G-GMother>. She could read and write (in the Cyrillic alphabet), which was rare even among royal princesses at the time, and she could ride a horse. She married King Henry I of France on 19 May 1051 - the first French queen to be crowned at Reims.

Anna came to play an important personal role as Queen of France. As Queen, it was

her role to act as the manager of the royal court and household, supervise the upbringing of the royal children and act as the protector of churches as convents. But Queen Anna was also knowledgeable in politics and actively participated in governing France. She accompanied Henry I on his inspection travels around France, and she was appointed a member of the royal council. Many French documents bear her signature, written in old Slavic language ("Ана Рѣина", that is, "Anna Regina", "Anna the Queen"). Pope Nicholas II, who was greatly surprised with Anna's great political abilities, wrote her a letter:

"Honorable lady, the fame of your virtues has reached our ears, and, with great joy, we hear that you are performing your royal duties at this very Christian state with commendable zeal and brilliant mind."

Henry I respected Anna so much that his many decrees bear the inscription *"With the consent of my wife Anna"* and *"In the presence of Queen Anna"*. French historians point out that there are no other cases in French history, when Royal decrees bear such inscriptions.

After Henry's death, she ruled France as regent, until - you guessed it! - her son came of age ... or maybe a little earlier than that because of the scandal

In 1061, Anna reportedly took a passionate fancy for Count Ralph IV of Valois, who repudiated his wife Eleanor de Montdidier for adultery in order to marry Anna in 1062. Eleanor appealed to Pope Alexander II, who declared the marriage between Anna and Ralph IV to be invalid and excommunicated Ralph IV in 1064. Anna continued to live with Ralph IV despite his excommunication.

All subsequent French kings were her direct descendants. Her statue is in the Luxembourg Garden in Paris.



There is also a statue of Anna in Senlis, France. Another monument to Anna was unveiled in Lvivska Square in Kyiv (Kiev) on 10 Nov 2016 in the presence of the French ambassador to Ukraine. That's more than 900 years after her death - impressive!

↔ Herleva of Falaise 1012-1050 <our 25G-GMother>

Herleva was the daughter of Fulbert <our 26G-GFather>, a lowly tanner in Falaise. One day Robert, the young Duke of Normandy, saw Herleva from the roof of his castle tower. The walkway on the roof still looks down on the dyeing trenches cut into stone in the courtyard below, which can be seen to this day from the tower ramparts above. The traditional way of dyeing leather or garments was to trample barefoot on the garments which were awash in the liquid dye in these trenches.

Herleva, legend goes, seeing the Duke on his ramparts above, raised her skirts perhaps a bit more than necessary in order to attract the Duke's eye. The latter was immediately smitten and ordered her brought in (as was customary for any woman that caught the Duke's eye) through the back door. Herleva refused, saying she would only enter the Duke's castle on horseback through the front gate, and not as an ordinary commoner. The Duke, filled with lust, could only agree. In a few days, Herleva, dressed in the finest her father could provide, and sitting on a white horse, rode proudly

through the front gate, her head held high. This gave Herleva a semi-official status as the Duke's concubine.

Fulbert did pretty well out of it too because, when Robert became Duke, Fulbert was his Chamberlain (like a Head Butler). Fulbert was also reportedly given several properties.

Herleva had an illegitimate son, Guillaume, with Robert. Guillaume is now better known as ... William the Conqueror <our 24G-GFather>.

↔ Ida (Itha) of Formbach-Ratelnberg 1055-1101 <our 26G-GMother>



Ida was known as one of the great beauties of her day. She raised and led her own army toward Jerusalem in the crusade of 1101. She is reported as having been killed in an ambush by the sultan Kilij Arslan I.

↔ Ingegerd Olofsdottir of Sweden (Saint Anna) 1001-1050 <our 26G-GMother>



Ingegerd may have saved the life of Edward The Exile <our 25G-GFather> and several other children. After the Danish conquest of England in 1016, Canute had Edward, said to be only a few months old, and his brother, Edmund, sent to the Swedish court of Olof Skötkonung <our 27G-GFather> (who was either Canute's half-brother or stepbrother), supposedly with instructions to have the children murdered. Instead, the two boys were secretly sent either to Kiev, where Olof's daughter

Ingegerd was the Queen, or to Poland, where Canute's uncle Bolesław I Chrobry <our 29G-GFather> was duke.



Boleslaw I

↔ Siward Bjornsson 1020-1055 <our 25G-GFather> "Sigurd the Dane" Earl of York, Earl of Northumberland.



Sigurd was known to be six foot seven, and believed to be a descendant of a royal Danish family who arrived in England with king Canute. He led a successful invasion of Scotland, defeating Macbeth and replacing him with Malcolm Canmore <our 24G-GFather>. Malcolm appears in Shakespeare's play *Macbeth*. "Young Siward" in *Macbeth* was Siward's son Osbjorn Bulax, killed in the battle of the Seven Sleepers in 1054 (Shakespeare called it Dunsinane).



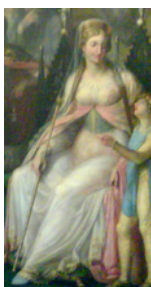
Malcolm Canmore

They were a bloodthirsty lot: "*The killing of Uhtred <our 27G-GFather> by*

Thurbrand the Hold started a blood feud that lasted for many years. Uhtred's son Ealdred <our 26G-GFather> subsequently avenged his father by killing Thurbrand, but Ealdred in turn was killed by Thurbrand's son, Carl. Ealdred's vengeance had to wait until the 1070s, when Waltheof <our 24G-GFather>, Ealdred's grandson had his soldiers kill most of Carl's sons and grandsons."

Siward married Ealdred's daughter Aefflaed <our 25G-GMother>, and then killed all Ealdred's other heirs so that he could inherit. Bloodthirsty indeed!

↔ Sigelgaita of Salerno 1040-1090
and ↔ Robert de Guiscard, "Black Shirt Robert" 1022-1085
<our 25G-GParents>



Known for her bravery, Sigelgaita commanded troops in her own right, wearing full armour. She was the second wife of Robert Guiscard, Duke of Apulia. Robert divorced his first wife Alberada <our 27G-GMother> in order to marry Sigelgaita, as Sigelgaita's father was more influential. Alberada appears not to have minded at all. With Robert, Sigelgaita had eight children.

Sigelgaita sided with her brother Gisulf in a war against her husband, but later on she often fought alongside her husband. Robert was a very large overbearing and villanous Norman, with nicknames "*The Resourceful*", "*The Cunning*", "*The Wily*", "*The Fox*", and "*The Weasel*", who started his career as the chief of a small roving robber-band and ended up ruling the southern Italian provinces of Apulia, Calabria, Sicily and, briefly, Benevento. When he turned his sights on the Byzantine Empire, Sigelgaita tried to persuade him not to attack them, but when he went ahead she brought troops and supported him. They conducted two campaigns against the Byzantines, returning between them to defend Pope Gregory VII against the Holy Roman Emperor Henry IV <our 26G-GFather>. Robert died on the second Byzantine campaign with Sigelgaita at his side. Sigelgaita then seems to have "retired" to Salerno, and at her request she was buried at Monte Cassino, a small hill-top town that she and Robert had often supported, when she died.

↔ Almodis de la Marche 1020-1071 <our 25G-GMother>



Almodis de la Marche was famed for her marriage career, in particularly for her third marriage to Raimond Berenguer I, Count of Barcelona <our 25G-GFather>. Life with her family (or families) must have been pretty colourful. She had several children with each of her three husbands, and two of her children are our direct ancestors. The first husband, Hugh V, Lord of Lusignan and Lord of Couhé <our 27G-GFather>, divorced her on grounds of consanguinity - usually a concocted reason because there were very few grounds for divorce back then; they were half first cousins (they shared a grandmother). Hugh then arranged for her to marry Count Pons of Toulouse, but she was later kidnapped and married by Raimond Berenguer. Almodis and Raimond were excommunicated by Pope Victor II, who declared their marriage illegal as both her

previous husbands were alive.

There were jealousies between her children, which culminated in Pere, Raimond's eldest son by an earlier marriage, murdering Almodis. Pere was disinherited and exiled from the country. The mayhem didn't end there - after Raimond died, Barcelona was split between Raimond and Almodis' twin sons, Ramon and Berenguer. Berenguer, "*The Fratricide*", later killed Ramon but then died on a pilgrimage to Jerusalem.

↔ Sir Robert de Thweng 1208-1268 "Will Wither" and
↔ Maud Kilton 1210-1279 <our 25G-GParents>

When Sir Robert married Maud (Matilda) Kilton, he inherited a dispute with the church. The Prior of Gisbourne had tried to gain control of the parish while Maud's uncle, Sir William Kilton, was infirm, and they were angered by what they saw as the imposition of foreign (Italian) priests.

When they had exhausted all the ecclesiastical routes of appeal, Robert turned to rebellion and started raiding church properties, especially those belonging to foreign churchmen, using the name *Will Wither* (William the Angry). He distributed the spoils to the poor. He was excommunicated by the Papal Legate in England, Cardinal Otto.

He was supported by many of the northern noble families, and eventually presented his case to King Henry III. Henry gave him letters of recommendation to take to Pope Gregory IX, and (rather surprisingly?) the Pope ruled in his favour. The rebellion of Will Wither was over ... well, not quite over ... Robert clearly remained antagonistic to the church, and a few years later he was charged with assaulting the Archbishop of York. His lands were seized, but they were later returned to him.

↔ Sir Payn de Turberville 1090-1129 <our 26G-GFather> "The Demon"

Sir Payn was one of the legendary *Twelve Knights of Glamorgan*. The unfortunate Iestyn ap Gwrgan <our 25G-GFather>, the last king of Morgannwg, after a dispute with his rival Einion ap Collwyn, invited Robert Fitzhamon (a Norman, Lord of Gloucester) and his twelve knights into the region to settle the matter. Once invited in, they refused to leave and eventually deposed Iestyn and seized Glamorgan for themselves.

The Turbeville family came originally from Turbeville in Normandy, and were granted lands by William the Conqueror for their assistance at the Battle of Hastings in 1066. Branches of the family were also found in Wiltshire and in Dorset, and the d'Urberville family in Thomas Hardy's novel *Tess of the d'Urbervilles* was based on the mediaeval Turberville family of Bere Regis, Dorset. According to legend, a ghostly coach crosses the bridge by Woolbridge Manor near Wool, Dorset at night, but only those with Turberville blood can see it. One version claims the coach contains the ghosts of John Turberville of Woolbridge and Anne, the daughter of Thomas Howard, 1st Viscount Howard of Bindon on their elopement.

↔ Cynfyn ap Gwerystan 985-1033 <our 25G-GFather> ***"The Interim King", King of Powys***

When he was born in about 985, there was no expectation Cynfyn would ever become a king. His ancestors had been among the leading men of Powys for hundreds of years, but the kingdom had been ruled by another ancient family which was still in power. His father had married the daughter, and only child, of the then king (King Cadell ap Brochwel <our 27G-GFather>), but Cadell had brothers and nephews eligible to rule after his death; a Welsh kingship never descended through female lines if there was an eligible qualified male heir.

But that is just what happened in 1023. Llewelyn ap Seisyll <our 26G-GFather> was king of Powys and Gwynedd, but he died (or was killed) fairly early in his life and at a time when his son and the other qualified males in the Royal Family were too young for kingship. Cynfyn became "*the Interim King*" of Powys pending Llewelyn's son Gruffudd (Gruffydd) <our 25G-GFather> coming of age.

In 1033, Iago ap Idwal of Gwynedd <our 25G-GFather> became King of Gwynedd. What happened next isn't completely clear, but it seems that Iago then attacked the kingdom of Powys, killing several members of the royal family (possibly including Cynfyn).

↔ Gruffudd (Gruffydd) ap Llewelyn 1007-1063 <our 25G-GFather> ***King of Wales***

..... The remainder of the Powys royal family fled to Ireland for their safety where Gruffudd and his entourage were given refuge by Sihtric Silkbeard <our 26G-GFather> King of Dublin, who while not related to Gruffudd (as far as I can tell) was obviously very much on Gruffudd's side. Sihtric gave his eldest grand-daughter to Gruffudd as his wife, and gave troops to support Gruffudd's return to Wales.

After being confirmed as the new king of Powys, Gruffudd's first act was to kill Iago and seize Gwynedd. Then, with help from Leofric <our 27G-GFather>, Earl of Mercia (in central Britain), husband of Lady Godiva, Gruffudd conquered the rest of Wales and claimed sovereignty over the whole of the country – a claim which was recognised by the English.

Historian John Davies stated that Gruffudd was "*the only Welsh king ever to rule over the entire territory of Wales... Thus, from about 1057 until his death in 1063, the whole of Wales recognised the kingship of Gruffudd ap Llywelyn. For about seven brief years, Wales was one, under one ruler, a feat with neither precedent nor successor.*" During this time, between 1053 and 1063, Wales lacked any internal strife and was at peace.

But in 1064, Gruffudd was killed by Cynan <our 24G-GFather>, son of Iago, in revenge for Gruffudd having killed his father. And Wales then disintegrated back into the original kingdoms of Powys, Gwynedd, etc.

↔ *Urraca de Portugal 1079-1126 <our 23G-GMother>*
Empress of all the Spains



Urraca was a child bride at eight, and endured extended physical abuse from her husband. Later, she was involved in several battles (real battles) with siblings and others, but she eventually succeeded in restoring, expanding and stabilising the kingdom. Tragically, she died at age 46 in childbirth.

Urraca used her feminine charms to great effect. "*Urraca's use of sex in politics should be viewed more as a strategy that provided the queen with allies but without any masters.*". She "*laid the foundation for the brilliant reign of her son Alfonso VII <our 22G-GFather> who succeeded to the throne of a kingdom whole and at peace at Urraca's death in 1126*".

An interesting lady!

Urraca's aunt, Urraca of Zamora (not our direct ancestor), was pretty good at looking after herself too. Urraca of Zamora was one of five children of Fernando I The Great <our 25G-GFather> who each inherited a fifth of his realm when Fernando died. Urraca inherited the city of Zamora. Her brother Sancho wanted the entire kingdom, and waged war on his siblings. He overthrew his brothers Garcia and Alfonso, and captured the city of Toro from his sister Elvira. Then he besieged Urraca's city of Zamora - but he had met his match. Urraca defended the city well and stalled Sancho for a while, and then one day Sancho was assassinated. The assassin was reportedly given sanctuary in Zamora, but no-one was ever able to pin the crime on Urraca. (It seems that assassination was a crime, but attacking a city with an army was not!).

↔ *Madog Eidio Wyllt Y Golwg Goch ap Sutric of Llywel 1065-1105*
<our 25G-GFather> "The Wild Steer", "Red Eyes"

Apart from having an interesting name, Eidio (as he was mostly known) must have been an interesting person to have those nicknames, although it has been suggested that he might have been called "*Red Eyes*" because he was a hard drinker of mead. Brought up in Ireland, grandson of Sihtric Silkbeard King of Dublin, he came over to Wales to help his uncle Rhys ap Tewdwr, King of Deheubarth, defend Brycheiniog (Brecknock) from the norman Bernard Newmarch. For his services, Eidio was granted the manor of Llywel in Brecknock's Cantref Mawr.

Although Brecknock was ultimately lost to Newmarch and Rhys was killed, Eidio and his descendants continued to hold Llywel for several generations, presumably after having defended successfully against Bernard Newmarch and eventually reaching some sort of agreement with him.

↔ *Matihilde van Vlanderen (Matilda of Flanders) 1030-1083*
<our 24G-GMother>

When young, Matilda was rumoured to have been in love with the great Saxon thegn (lord) Brictric,



son of Algar, who declined her advances. She eventually married the very ambitious William, Duke of Normandy, later known as William the Conqueror. This marriage was very useful for William, as it gave him upward mobility. She was a descendant of Charlemagne and a member of the Carolingian royal family, and her descent from Alfred the Great also proved a legitimizing factor as Queen of England. In other words, her ancestry was a factor in William's claim to the throne of England.

When William was preparing to invade England, Matilda outfitted a ship, the *Mora*, out of her own funds and gave it to him. He used it as his flagship. In return, he gave her control of Normandy in his absence. For some time after William had established himself in England, Matilda ruled Normandy well - no major uprisings or unrest occurred. In later years, Matilda did move to England, and often ruled during William's absences. She also made sure that their nine or ten children, including their daughters, were well educated.

After some fierce arguments between William and their eldest son Robert, William exiled Robert. Some time later, Robert very nearly killed William in a battle, in fact he only stopped when he recognised his father's voice. While Robert was in exile, Matilda secretly sent him large sums of money, and when William found out she managed to reunite father and son. Matilda must have been a very capable woman.

But it seems that she never forgot or forgave the unfortunate young Brictric. While ruling England in one of William's absences, Matilda is said to have confiscated Brictric's lands and thrown him into prison, where he died.

Matilda's statue is in the Luxembourg Gardens in Paris.

↔ *Maud (Matilda) de St Valery 1155-1210 <our 22G-GMother> "Lady of Hay"*

In contemporary records, Maud was described as beautiful, very wise, doughty, and vigorous. She was also said to have been extremely tall and often donned armour while leading troops into battle. In 1198, Maud defended Painscastle in Elfael against a massive Welsh attack led by Gwenwynwyn, Prince of Powys, who was supported by Llewellyn the Great <our 21G-GFather>. She successfully held off Gwenwynwyn's forces for three weeks until English reinforcements arrived, led by Geoffrey Fitz Peter <our 20G-GFather>. Over three thousand Welsh were killed. Painscastle was known as *Matilda's Castle* by the locals.

She also managed to produce 16 children.

After an argument with Maud's husband, William de Braose, King John <our 20G-GFather> demanded Maud's son William be sent to him as a hostage for her husband's loyalty. Maud refused, and stated loudly within earshot of the King's officers that she would not deliver her children to "*a king who had murdered his own nephew*". Maud and her son William then fled, but were eventually caught in Ireland.

John imprisoned Maud and William in a dungeon at Corfe Castle, where they starved to death. This so outraged the English nobility that the Magna Carta, which they forced King John to sign in 1215, contained the clause (clause 39): "*No man shall be taken, imprisoned, outlawed, banished or in any*

way destroyed, nor will we proceed against or prosecute him, except by the lawful judgement of his peers or by the law of the land.”.

↔ Owain Gwynedd ap Gruffydd 1100-1170 <our 23G-GFather> “The Great”, King of Gwynedd

Owain was the first to be styled "Prince of Wales". He is considered to be the most successful of all the North Welsh princes prior to his grandson, Llywelyn the Great. Owain and his brothers Cadwallon and later Cadwaladr led the forces of Gwynedd against the Normans and against other Welsh princes with great success. His elder brother Cadwallon was killed in a battle against the forces of Powys in 1132, leaving Owain as his father's heir. Owain and Cadwaladr, in alliance with Gruffydd ap Rhys <our 22G-GFather> of Deheubarth, won a major victory over the Normans at *Crug Mawr* near Cardigan in 1136 and annexed Ceredigion (Cardigan) to their father's realm.

One of the most intriguing stories involves Owain's son Madoc (not our direct ancestor). Madoc is reputed to have sailed to America in 1170, over three hundred years before Christopher Columbus's famous voyage in 1492. Early European and American explorers told stories of encountering a pale-skinned, Welsh-speaking Native American tribe, called the Mandans.

In the 18th century a man called James Girty drew up a list of comparisons between Mandan and Welsh, which amounted to approximately 350 words and phrases. Some years later, an American painter, George Catlin, also lived among Native American tribes observing their customs. He concluded that the Mandan tribe were descendants of Madog's pioneering expedition who had intermarried with the Mandan people, passing on their language and culture in doing so.

The Mandans themselves readily claimed Welsh ancestry, alleging they hailed from a distant land across great waters. They looked for spiritual guidance from the Great Spirit of the Race - 'Madoc Maha Paneta am byd'. The similarity to the Welsh 'Madog Mawr Penarthur am byth' - Madog the Great Spirit forever - convinced Catlin and other supporters that his theory was correct. These "Welsh Indians" were credited with the construction of a number of landmarks throughout the Midwestern United States.

Plaques in memory of Prince Madoc were erected at Fort Mountain State Park in Georgia and at Fort Morgan in Alabama, but they have since been altered or removed.

↔ Rohese de Vere 1110-1166 <our 22G-GMother>

Rohese was quite a forceful personality. Rohese and her first husband Geoffrey de Mandeville, 1st Earl of Essex, made many grants to religious houses. Geoffrey founded the abbey at Walden in Essex, while Rohese's favourite chapel was at Chicksands, Bedfordshire.

Some time after Geoffrey had died, their son also died. The son's servants started taking his body to Walden for burial at the abbey founded by his father. On hearing this Rohese gathered a band of armed retainers and caught up with them, ordering them to go instead to Chicksands. However, early the next morning her son's servants turned the bier around and took it to Walden Abbey before Rohese could prevent it. Rohese retaliated by stripping all the furnishings from Geoffrey's private

chapel and taking them to Chicksands.

↔ *Arnulf de Montgomery and ↔* Lafracoth O'Brien <our 23G-GParents>

Lafracoth O'Brien was a great-great-granddaughter of Brian Boru <our 26G-GFather>, High King of Ireland, founder of the O'Brien dynasty, and widely regarded as one of the most successful and unifying monarchs in medieval Ireland. Her father, Murrough O'Brien <our 24G-GFather>, Brian Boru's great-grandson, was also High King of Ireland. So Lafracoth would have been a pretty significant person in Ireland, right? Wrong! Being female wasn't much fun in those days.

Murrough, Lafracoth's father, was visited by an envoy from Arnulf de Montgomery <our 23G-GFather>, Earl of Pembroke, asking for Murrough's help in a rebellion against King Henry I of England. Oh yes, and he asked for Murrough's daughter too. Murrough was happy to oblige, and "*sent his daughter and many armed ships*". The chronicles that recorded this generous gift didn't even mention her name!

Murrough and Arnulf had a bit of a disagreement some years later, and Murrough not only threatened to kill Arnulf - who ran away and was of "*no fixed abode*" for 20 years - but also "*took his daughter away from Arnulf and gave the wanton girl in an unlawful marriage to one of his cousins*". It isn't clear why she was regarded as "*wanton*", when he had given her away in the first place.

↔ *Gwenllian verch Gruffydd 1103-1136 Princess of Deheubarth, and ↔* Gruffydd ap Rhys 1081-1137 "The Homeless Prince" <our 22G-GParents>



Gwenllian was the great-great-great-granddaughter of Brian Boru, High King of Ireland, and she was strikingly beautiful. Around 1113, she eloped with Gruffydd ap Rhys <our 22G-GFather>. Gruffydd was the son of Rhys ap Tewder, King of Deheubarth, who was later killed by Normans. Gruffydd and his brother Llewelyn <our 23G-GFather> "*The Destitute Prince*" escaped, and Gruffydd took refuge in Ireland, but two of Gruffydd's brothers, Gronwy and Hywel, were captured by the Normans - actually, by Arnulf de Montgomery <our 23G-GFather> (see above). Gronwy died in prison, and Hywel, who had been castrated by the Normans (charming people, these Norman ancestors of ours!)

escaped.

Gruffydd eventually tired of hiding in Ireland, and returned to Wales, depending on relatives and others for refuge. Gruffydd and Gwenllian were often forced to flee into mountain and forest strongholds, from which they led retaliatory strikes against the Normans. They harassed Norman, English, and Flemish colonists in Deheubarth, taking goods and money and redistributing them among the Welsh people who had also been dispossessed, like a pair of "*Robin Hoods of Wales*".

Gruffydd became known as "*The Homeless Prince*". His plight touched the imagination of the Welsh people and sympathy for him grew, until the norman King Henry of England was warned that *the homeless lad* was beginning to be dangerous to his authority and that *the men of Deheubarth*

were ready to rally behind this homeless prince in the hope to cast off the foreigner's yoke.

Gruffydd and Hywel were staying with a distant relative, Gruffudd ap Cynan, Lord of Anglesey, when Gruffudd ap Cynan was summoned to King Henry's presence and ordered to kill Gruffydd or bring Gruffydd to Henry. Gruffudd had guessed what Henry would want, and had sent Gruffydd off with some troops (by sea, so that they wouldn't be intercepted) to some relatives so that Gruffydd could begin training them for a full rebellion, and he then sent a message to Henry with a made-up story that he had tried to arrest Gruffydd but that Gruffydd had taken refuge in a church and had been protected by the priests (in those, days, church sanctuary was taken very seriously).

While Gruffydd was away, some other welshmen started an uprising, and had some initial success. Gwenllian tried to take advantage of the situation by taking troops to attack the norman Kidwelly Castle. On the way, she was approached by an experienced soldier who offered his skills and services to her enthusiastic but amateur soldiers. Now maybe his price was too high, but when Gwenllian turned down his offer it seems that she made a very bad mistake. The soldier went straight to Kidwelly Castle, made the same offer to the Normans there which was quickly accepted, and then defeated Gwenllian's army when it arrived. One of her sons was killed in the battle, and Gwenllian and another of her sons were captured and executed.

Gwenllian was the only medieval period woman known to have led a Welsh army into battle. Although Gwenllian was defeated, her patriotic revolt inspired others in South Wales, including two of Gwenllian's brothers, to rise up against the Normans. They killed the Norman ruler of Ceredigion (Cardigan) and re-captured much of the territory from the Normans. For many years after her death, Welshmen cried out *Revenge for Gwenllian* when engaging in battle.

And maybe there was a lot more to Gwenllian than just her military efforts. She is thought to be the author of *The Four Branches of the Mabinogi*, the earliest prose stories in British literature. Goodness knows how she found the time to write them! According to Wikipedia, the stories appeal to a wide range of readers, and continue to inspire. The style is admired for deceptive simplicity and controlled wordpower. The stories were referenced as recently as 19 March 2020 in a BBC article *How a storm revealed a Welsh kingdom*. The article was about the remains of an ancient forest that had just been uncovered by a storm. Until then, the forest had been thought to be just a medieval legend.

Coming back to Gruffydd: things didn't end too well for him. He never regained his kingdom. His hosts insisted that he had to use his troops to help them before they would help him. He fought for them for quite a long time, and had a crushing victory over the Normans at *Crug Mawr* near Cardigan, but his hosts never did help him to regain his kingdom. He re-married after a while, but according to the chronicles "*he was killed by her treachery*". The chronicles don't say exactly how, but presumably she betrayed him to the Normans.

↔ Agnes de Essex 1151-1212 and ↔ Aubrey III de Vere 1115-1194 **<our 22G-GParents>**

Agnes de Essex was betrothed (engaged) to Geoffrey de Vere when she was 3 years old. When she was about 6 years old, she left her own family and was taken into Geoffrey's care. However, when she was just 11 years old, she rejected Geoffrey, and soon married his eldest brother, Aubrey III de Vere, 1st Earl of Oxford, as his third wife. Aubrey was about 48 years old at the time, and she was just 12.

Shortly after the marriage, Agnes' father Henry was accused of treason, tried by duel (he had to fight a duel to "prove" his innocence!) and lost. Henry recovered from his wounds but lost all his lands and his office as Royal Constable, and became a monk. This made Agnes much less attractive as a wife to Aubrey - marriage was often just about status and influence in those days - and Aubrey tried to have their marriage annulled.

Agnes, who was still only 15 years old, fought her husband's efforts all the way up to the Pope in Rome. During this period, Aubrey kept her a prisoner in one of his three castles, in spite of being reprimanded for it by the Bishop of London.

Eventually, the Pope ruled in her favour. This ruling established the legal requirement of consent by females in betrothal and marriage. Before this important ruling, females had no say, in the eyes of the law, in who they were betrothed to or married to. After the ruling, they could only be betrothed or married if they consented. It still took quite a long time for the change to become fully effective - after Aubrey died, Agnes still had to pay the crown for the right not to be married.

2.6 - Generations 20-25 <our 17-22G-GParents>

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Historical context: The times were still pretty rough by today's standards, but little by little they were becoming more civilised. The major event in Britain was the (reluctant) signing of Magna Carta by King John <our 20G-GFather>. Magna Carta is regarded as a major landmark in British history - a major reduction in the power of the monarch and a foundation for rule by Parliament, rule of law, and eventually for democracy.

Notable historical persons in these generations are

- [↔ Henry Plantagenet](#) 1133-1189 <our 21G-GFather> King Henry II of England, married [↔ Eleanor of Aquitaine](#) 1122-1204 <our 21G-GMother> Queen of France, Queen of England (see below). Henry's legal changes are generally considered to have laid the basis for the English Common Law - he created legislation to improve both ecclesiastical and civil court processes, sent justices to visit all the counties in England with authority to cover both civil and criminal cases, and greatly increased the use of juries. Henry wanted the law to handle crimes by clergy, but Thomas Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury, argued that only the church could handle them. This became a rather nasty long-running dispute, that ended with the murder of Thomas Becket.
- [↔ Llywelyn Fawr ap Iorwerth](#) 1173-1240 <our 21G-GFather> "*The Great*", Ruler of all Wales. Llywelyn the Great dominated Wales for 45 years. He signed a treaty with King John I of England <our 20G-GFather> and married his daughter, but then fought John when John reneged on the treaty. Llywelyn allied himself with the barons who were in rebellion against John, and when John was forced to sign Magna Carta, Llywelyn was rewarded with several favourable provisions relating to Wales.
- [↔ Rhys ap Gruffudd](#) 1132-1197 <our 21G-GFather> "*The Lord Rhys*", Prince of South Wales. The Lord Rhys was one of the most successful and powerful Welsh princes. He occupied the stage of Welsh politics for over fifty years and became



the dominant power in Wales. He held a festival of poetry and song at his court at Cardigan, with prizes, announced a year in advance throughout Wales and in England, Scotland, Ireland and possibly France. It is generally regarded as the first recorded Eisteddfod.

- **Robert the Bruce** 1274-1329 <our 18G-GFather> King Robert I of Scotland. Robert successfully fought for Scotland's independence from England. He conducted a guerilla campaign against the English King Edward I for several years, culminating in the Battle of Bannockburn in which Robert and his men intercepted Edward's much larger army and destroyed it.



- **Roger Mortimer** 1287-1330 <our 17G-GFather> 1st Earl of March. Oliver Cromwell was not the only non-royal ruler of post-Norman England. Roger Mortimer was very ambitious, and very wealthy thanks to his wife Joan de Geneville's inheritance. He was imprisoned in the Tower of London for leading a revolt against King Edward II <our 18G-GFather>, but escaped to France where he was joined by Edward's wife Queen Isabella ("*The She-Wolf of France*") <our 18G-GMother (with Edward II)>. Roger and Isabella then deposed and murdered Edward, and ruled England for the next three years. Their rule ended when Edward's son, the rightful King Edward III <our 17G-GFather> overthrew Roger and executed him for treason. Queen Isabella was not punished by Edward, and lived for many years in considerable style.



↔ Alys of France 1160-1220 <our 21G-GMother>

Alys was the daughter of King Louis VII of France. When only 8 years old, she was engaged to Richard, son of King Henry II of England, later known as Richard the Lionheart (King Richard I). Alys was sent to England as Henry's ward.

22 years later (!), Henry had died and Richard and Alys were still officially engaged, but Richard sent Alys back to her brother King Philip II in France claiming that she had had an affair with Henry and that he would not marry his father's mistress.

Philip unsuccessfully tried to marry her off to Prince John of England, but eventually arranged for her to marry William Talvas, Count of Ponthieu. This was a strategic move, with Philip hoping that they wouldn't have any heirs (Alys was 18 years older than William), in which case he would gain control of Ponthieu.

Alys and William, however, did have a daughter and heiress, Marie <our 20G-GMother>, who became Countess of Ponthieu when William died. Philip never did get control of Ponthieu.

↔ Eleanor of Aquitaine 1122-1204 <our 21G-GMother> **Queen of France, Queen of England**

Eleanor participated in the unsuccessful Second Crusade. In 1151, after meeting Henry Plantagenet duke of Normandy, she created a scandal by seeking an annulment of her marriage to King Louis VII of France (not our ancestor), and annulment was eventually granted on grounds of consanguinity. Just 8 weeks later, in May 1152, she married Henry, who became King Henry II of England <our 21G-GFather>. She was imprisoned by Henry in 1173 for supporting their son



Henry's revolt against him, and she stayed in prison for 16 years. When Henry died in 1189, she was eventually released by their second son Richard the Lionheart (not our ancestor).

“Eleanor's father ensured that she had the best possible education. Eleanor came to learn arithmetic, the constellations, and history. She also learned domestic skills such as household management and the needle arts of embroidery, needlepoint, sewing, spinning, and weaving. Eleanor developed skills in conversation, dancing, games such as backgammon, checkers, and chess, playing the harp, and singing. Although her native tongue was Poitevin, she was taught to read and speak Latin, was well versed in music and literature, and schooled in riding, hawking, and hunting. Eleanor was extroverted, lively, intelligent, and strong-willed.”

“Geoffrey [Plantagenet and his son] Henry went to Paris to pledge their alliance to their liege King Louis VII, in 1151. There, Henry met the Queen Eleonore for the first time, and apparently fell in love, which would later result in one of the biggest scandals of their time.”

↔ Alan Winton 1330-1363 and ↔ Lady Margaret Seton b.1330 **<our 18G-GParents>**

Alan abducted Margaret in about 1347, when both were young. Alan was a subordinate of Margaret's on the Seton estate, and this caused a rift called "Wyntoun's War" in the local community where "some favoured the ravisher, others thought to bring him to punishment". Alan was apprehended and brought before King David II of Scotland. At his trial, Margaret was blindfolded and had to "choose" between two objects: a sword and a ring. She "chose" the ring, so they were considered to be married. Had she "chosen" the sword, presumably Alan would have been executed. Such was medieval justice!

Alan and Margaret had two children, but Alan came under a lot of pressure from Margaret's family, and went on pilgrimage to the Holy Land in order to atone for his sins. It was reported that he died on his way to Mount Sinai, when about to visit the tomb of St. Katherine there. Margaret, although still young, never re-married.

↔ Yolande of Brittany 1218-1272 <our 20G-GMother>

Yolande had an unusual childhood by today's standards. Her mother died when she was not quite three years old. When she was seven years old, Yolande was betrothed (engaged) to King Henry III of England <our 19G-GFather>. The marriage never took place because Blanche of Castile, the Regent of France, wanted to prevent Henry from gaining land or influence in France, and so forced Yolande's father to change her betrothal. So Yolande was then betrothed to John of France, Count of Anjou, son of Blanche and King Louis VIII <our 20G-GParents>. That engagement ended when John died aged thirteen.

Yolande was engaged a third time, when still aged only 13, to Theobald IV, Count of Champagne, but for reasons unknown this betrothal to Theobald also did not result in marriage.

Yolande eventually married Hugh XI of Lusignan <our 20G-GFather>, half-brother of Yolande's first fiancé Henry III.

↔ Marjorie Bruce 1297-1316 <our 17G-GMother> Princess of Scotland



*Effigy of Marjorie
Bruce at Paisley
Abbey*

Marjorie had a short and rather sad life. Her mother, Isabella of the Clan Mar, died soon after Marjorie was born. In 1306, after a defeat in battle by the English, her father Robert the Bruce sent Marjorie, her stepmother Elizabeth de Burgh and two of Marjorie's aunts away for safety with an ally, Isabella MacDuff, but they were captured and handed over to the English. Marjorie's uncle, Christopher Seton, was also captured. Marjorie was about 10 years old.

King Edward I of England then executed Christopher Seton, and placed all the women in solitary confinement in different parts of England. Marjorie's aunts were treated particularly harshly - they were kept in wooden cages in public view. Edward had a cage made for Marjorie too, but relented and sent her to a convent.

Edward died a year later, but his son Edward II kept the women captive for another seven years. They were eventually freed after Edward's defeat by Robert the Bruce at the Battle of Bannockburn in 1314. Walter Stewart, 6th High Steward of Scotland and about the same age as Marjorie, was sent to fetch them, and soon married Marjorie, now aged about 18. Walter and Marjorie had two children, but soon after the birth of their second child Robert (our 17G-GFather, King Robert II of Scotland), Marjorie fell off her horse and was killed. She was only about 20 years old.

There is an interesting story about Marjorie's paternal grandmother Marjorie of Carrick (our 20G-GMother>), but like many stories of those times, no-one knows if it is true: Marjorie of Carrick's first husband, Adam, was killed on crusade in the Holy Land. A young man called Robert de Brus visited her to tell her the news, and she took such a fancy to him that she held him captive until he agreed to marry her. They had ten children, including Robert the Bruce.

2.7 - Generations 13-19 <our 10-16G-GParents>

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Historical context: In Britain and elsewhere, the power of the Monarch and the power of individual barons were still being reduced, with gradual transfer of power to Parliament. So, for example, the barons' private armies were eventually replaced by national armies controlled by Parliament. People's lives generally were still unstable by today's standards, but they were much more stable than in the tumultuous earlier periods.

Notable historical persons in these generations are

- **↔ John of Gaunt** 1340-1399 <our 16G-GFather> Duke of Lancaster, King of Castile. John of Gaunt was one of the richest men of his era - he owned land in almost every county in England. He assumed control of many government functions, and rose to become one of the most powerful political figures in England - and one of the most unpopular. He is ancestor to all Scottish monarchs from 1437 onwards, and of all English monarchs of the houses of Lancaster and Tudor as well as, incidentally, York.



- **↔ Thomas Cromwell** 1485-1540 <our 12G-GFather> 1st Earl of Essex. Son of a butcher, Thomas admitted to having been a "ruffian" in his youth, and became a mercenary in the French army. On return to England, he worked his way up through



various services to King Henry VIII (making many enemies along the way), until he was made Earl of Essex and the king's chief minister. He came unstuck, however, when he engineered Henry's marriage to Anne of Cleves - his enemies exploited Henry's repulsion of Anne, blaming Thomas, and managed to get Thomas executed.

↔ Gwladys ferch Dafydd Gam d.1454 <our 13G-GMother> “The Star of Abergavenny”

Gwladys certainly lived in turbulent times. Her father Dafydd Gam came under heavy attack by the Welsh rebel Owain Glyndŵr (Owen Glendower), who captured Gwladys' mother, Lady Gwenllian, and then murdered her by locking her in her house and burning it to the ground. Dafydd Gam, with his father and with his daughter Gwladys and her two brothers, fled to King Henry IV's court, where Gwladys gained employment as a Lady-in-Waiting to Henry's first and second wives.

Later, when they had been able to return to Wales, Gwladys married Sir Roger Vaughan (Roger Fychan) of Bredwardine, and had several children with him. But both Roger her husband and Dafydd her father were killed at the Battle of Agincourt (made famous by Shakespeare's play *Henry V*), while saving the life of Henry V. Gwladys then married Sir William ap Thomas of Raglan Castle, "*The Blue Knight of Gwent*" (because of the colour of his armour), who had also fought for King Henry V at the Battle of Agincourt. Gwladys had several more children with Sir William.

As Lady of Raglan Castle, Gwladys put much of her energy into assisting the needy and afflicted. The local people called her "*The Star of Abergavenny*", and the Welsh poet Lewys Glyn Cothi described her as "*Gwladys the happy and the faultless*", saying she was a brilliant being, "*like the sun - the pavilion of light*." Gwladys was so beloved by her people that when she died, reportedly 3,000 knights, nobles and weeping peasantry followed her body from Coldbrook House (her son Richard's manor) to the Herbert Chapel of St. Mary's Priory Church where she was buried.



↔ Anne Launcelyn 1470-1538 <our 13G-GMother>

Anne had an interesting job. From *A Who's Who of Tudor Women*: In 1491, she was appointed wet nurse to the infant Henry Tudor (later Henry VIII). To qualify, she must recently have had a child of her own, since her job was to breastfeed the royal baby. She lived primarily at Eltham, where the royal nursery was located, but the downside of her job, as detailed by Mary Louise Bruce in *The Making of Henry VIII*, was that she was required to abstain from sex and was held responsible for any ill-health the baby suffered. If he had colic, she was purged [made to vomit]. If her milk supply was inadequate, she would have to eat stewed udders of goats or sheep or powdered earthworms, since those cures were supposed to produce more milk.

Bruce further lists the qualities believed by physicians of the time to be necessary in a wet nurse: "*rosy cheeks, a white skin, thick reddish hair, a fleshy body and a hopeful, brave, amorous disposition . . . a thick neck, broad breasts and be aged about twenty-five, be of a respectable status if not actually a gentlewoman, and without vice.*" It is unknown if Anne exhibited all of these qualities.

Bruce suggests that she remained in the household until Henry was seven and she may also have been one of Catherine of Aragon's chamberwomen. Her second husband was Walter Luke, Justice

of Common Pleas, by whom she had a son, Nicholas <our 12G-GFather>. In 1515, Anne received two annuities of £20 (a very nice income in those days).

↔ Sir Henry Percy 1364-1403 "Hotspur" and Elizabeth Mortimer 1371-1417 <our 16G-GParents>



The story of Sir Henry Percy illustrates how the times, though improving, were still brutal.

Sir Henry was dashing, successful and highly influential. Nicknamed "Hotspur", his positions included Justice of Chester, North Wales and Flintshire, Warden of the East and West Marches, Sheriff of Northumberland, King's Lieutenant in North and South Wales, and Captain of Berwick-on-Tweed. But when Henry

Bolinbroke deposed King Richard II and assumed the crown as King Henry IV, Sir Henry regarded his wife's nephew Edmund Mortimer, a great-great-grandson of King Edward III, as the rightful heir to the throne. Sir Henry accused King Henry of murdering Richard II (who is thought to have died of starvation in prison), and was joined by many other nobles in open rebellion. Sir Henry led an army against the king at the battle of Shrewsbury on 21 July 1403, but was killed in the battle.

After the battle, rumours persisted that Hotspur was still alive. In order to demonstrate that Hotspur was indeed dead, King Henry IV had Hotspur's body exhumed and displayed. His head was impaled on a city gate in York. The rest of his body was quartered, and the pieces were displayed in London, Newcastle upon Tyne, Bristol, and Chester. His wife Elizabeth finally recovered them, and reburied him in November 1403 at York Minster.

The football Club, Tottenham Hotspur, is named in his honour.

Henry Hotspur, in *Henry IV Part 1*, is one of Shakespeare's best-known characters.

↔ Maurice Berkeley 1436-1506 de jure 3rd Baron Berkeley and Isabel Meade 1444-1514 <our 12G-GParents>, and the Battle of Nibley Green

Maurice Berkeley was born at Berkeley Castle. He was the son of James 1st Baron Berkeley and younger brother of William 2nd Baron Berkeley. So he was very much in the nobility - the British upper class. But he caused some dismay in the Berkeley family when he married Isabel Meade, the daughter of Philip Meade. Philip was a wealthy businessman, an MP, and three times Mayor of Bristol, but he was still considered to be below the social status of the Berkeleys.

Maurice's older brother William had no children of his own, so Maurice would have inherited Berkeley Castle and William's title and his other possessions on William's death. But, because Maurice had supposedly brought the noble family of Berkeley into disrepute by marrying Isabel Meade, William disinherited him. When William died, the title "Baron Berkeley" ended, and Maurice never got to own Berkeley Castle (but his grandson Henry did eventually get the title restored).

The disinheritance of Maurice by William Berkeley was particularly mean-spirited because Maurice and Philip Meade had been very generous to William. This is what happened: Thomas Talbot, 2nd Viscount Lisle, had been in a heated dispute with William over the ownership of Berkeley Castle. Eventually, Thomas challenged William to a battle, and William agreed.

The battle took place the following day at Nibley Green, on 20 March 1469. It is notable for being the last battle fought in England entirely between the private armies of feudal magnates. Maurice Berkeley and Philip Meade both sent reinforcements to William, who ended up with 1,000 men opposing Thomas Talbot's 300 men. Thomas Talbot was killed early in the battle which then ended very quickly. But the extraordinarily ungrateful William still went on to disinherit Maurice because of his marriage to Philip Meade's daughter.

↔ **Elizabeth Seymour 1518-1568 <our 11G-GMother> Lady Ughtred**



Elizabeth was a sister of Jane Seymour, King Henry VIII's 3rd wife. Elizabeth's fortunes and Jane's were closely linked. They both served Henry's 2nd wife, Anne Boleyn, and while Anne Boleyn was in the king's favour Elizabeth's first husband Sir Anthony Ughtred was granted manors in Lepington and Kexby (Yorkshire).

When Anne Boleyn was executed and Henry married Jane Seymour, the Seymours (actually, the male Seymours) gained wealth and power. Some time after Elizabeth's husband had died, Jane gave birth to a son, and this made Elizabeth dramatically more valuable as a potential bride. She married Gregory Cromwell, son of the still in-favour Thomas Cromwell (see above), and her future looked rosy.

Unfortunately for Elizabeth, Jane died soon after giving birth and Thomas Cromwell fell dramatically out of favour with the king and was executed, and all his property was forfeited. Elizabeth and Gregory had been dependants of Thomas Cromwell, so they now had no home and little income of their own, and their situation became desperate.

Fortunately for them, Henry eventually looked favourably on them, gave Elizabeth a job in Catherine Howard's household, made Gregory a Knight, and gave him some of his late father's lands. Again, Elizabeth's future looked rosy.

But then Gregory died, and Elizabeth's brother Edward, Duke of Somerset, was found guilty of treason and was executed, all his property was forfeited, and his four daughters were put into Elizabeth's care. She received a small allowance for looking after the daughters, but it wasn't enough, her pleas for more help fell on deaf ears, and the rest of her life became a difficult struggle.

Such were the vagaries of life in the time of Henry VIII.

Part 3 – Bits and Pieces

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One thing to note, when reading about all these ancestors, is that some of the names sound quite grand, but really they aren't. Before there were family names, they needed to find ways of distinguishing between people with the same given name. *John fitz Geoffrey*, for example, sounds quite grand, but it just means *John son of Geoffrey*. There would have been lots of *John fitz*

Geoffrey's, all unrelated. Later on, some of these *fitz* names (and *Mac* and *O'* and *--son*) did become family names.

For people who travelled away from their home town, the place they came from was often used. So *Elizabeth de Stafford*, for example, just means *Elizabeth from Stafford*. There would have been lots of them, too.

Another way of identifying people was by using nicknames, such as "*The Redhead*" or "*The Bearded*". And because an eldest son or daughter was often given their father's or mother's name, nicknames like "*The Younger*" and "*The Elder*" were used quite a lot. The nicknames weren't always all that complimentary - see **3.2 - Nicknames** below.

3.1 - Notable nth-Cousins

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In *Part 2 Medieval and Ancient Times*, I said:

"But if you go far enough back in time, then you are looking at *everyone's* ancestors. Almost every person with European ancestry living now is descended from many of the very same individuals who are our *Medieval and Ancient* ancestors. A large proportion of the people living now in Britain, Europe, Russia, North and South America, Australia and New Zealand, even Africa, have some of these same ancestors, it's just that no-one can trace all the lines."

So, if we look at the family trees of anyone else, we are likely to find that they are our *n*th-cousins, right? Well, yes, if their trees go back far enough, then we should find some common ancestors. But do bear in mind that we only know a very small proportion of our own ancient ancestors. For example, we know the names of over 100 individuals in our *Generation 21*. That sounds a lot, but it's puny compared to 2^{20} . So even though there can be many lines to each individual ancestor, we only have a very small part of the full picture. And the same will apply to other people's family trees, of course.

We have already established that Queen Elizabeth II of England is our 7th-cousin - see *James Bayley and Sarah Kirkes* in **Part I**.

So, let's look at some other people. Famous people are much more likely to have family trees going back many generations and accessible online, so we'll look at some of them. And we'll avoid royalty, because they are particularly strongly inter-connected.

Admiral Horatio Nelson

Admiral Horatio Nelson, victor (and killed) at the Battle of Trafalgar in 1805, was the son of a parson, Rev Edmund Nelson, and a rector's daughter, Catherine Suckling. He didn't gain any titles until well into his naval career. Thanks to his fame, his ancestry is probably going to be online ... yes, it's on thepeerage.com (but it's a bit laborious to work through). He's our 8th-cousin (6x removed):

[↔ Sir John St John](#) and [↔ Sibyl verch Morgan](#) <our 13G-GParents>

Alice St John

Mary Parker

Ralph Shelton

Henry Shelton

Maurice Shelton

Sarah Shelton

Rev Maurice Suckling

Catherine Suckling

Admiral Horatio Nelson

There are quite a lot of other lines making us *n*th-cousins of Admiral Horatio Nelson. It often happens that if you find one line, there are then lots more.

Princess Diana

Princess Diana wasn't royalty when she married Charles. Does her family tree intersect with ours?

Anne Strode 1590-1652 was our 8G-GMother. Her first husband, Sir Henry Folliott 1568-1622 <our 8G-GFather> when in his mid-20s worked for the crown (ie, the British government) in Ireland. He was given the job of creating a new township in Donegal. The township was incorporated as the Borough of Ballyshannon in 1613. Henry became very wealthy, owning salmon fisheries and land in Donegal, and in 1620 he became Baron Folliott of Ballyshannon.

Anne had 7 children with Henry. After Henry's death, Anne re-married twice and had several more children with her third husband, including a son Cary who became a friend of the diarist Samuel Pepys. Meanwhile, Henry and Anne's daughter Elizabeth was producing children of her own

[↔ Sir Henry Folliott](#) and [↔ Anne Strode](#)

Elizabeth Folliott (1620-1697)

William Ponsonby (1659-1724)

Brabazon Ponsonby (1679-1758)

John Ponsonby (1713-1789)

William Brabazon Ponsonby (1744-1806)

Mary Elizabeth Ponsonby (1776-1861)

Elizabeth Grey (1798-1880)

Louisa Emily Charlotte Bulteel (1839-1892)

Margaret Baring (1868-1906)

Albert Edward John Spencer (1892-1975)

Edward John Spencer (1924-1992)

Diana Frances Spencer (1961-1997).

Princess Diana is our 9th-cousin (twice removed).

Duke of Wellington

The Duke of Wellington, victor at the Battle of Waterloo, wasn't royalty or even nobility. He was born plain *Arthur Wesley* (he changed his name later on to *Wellesley*), son of *Garret Wesley* and *Anne Hill*. He was only made the Duke of Wellington after a number of military victories and Napoleon's first abdication. The Duke was one of the most famous military strategists of all time, so someone was likely to have worked out his family tree. Sure enough, he's on thepeerage.com, and I could plough through his ancestors looking for ancestors of ours. It turns out that he's a 13th-cousin (once removed):

[↔ Lady Isabel Mowbray](#) <our 13G-GMother>

Elizabeth Ferrers

Sir John Grey

Thomas Grey

Lady Elizabeth Grey

Gerald FitzGerald

Lady Mary FitzGerald

Mabel Nugent

Dermot O'Brien

Mary O'Brien

Eleanor Boyle

Rt Hon. Michael Hill

Arthur Hill-Trevor

Anne Hill

Field Marshal Arthur Wellesley, 1st Duke of Wellington

But I also found a huge number of other lines - more than 60! - from Arthur to other ancestors of ours. I found shared ancestors in England, Wales, Scotland, Ireland, The Netherlands, Belgium, France, Luxembourg and Italy.

Winston Churchill

Winston Churchill is a 14th-cousin (twice removed):

[↔ Sir Henry Wentworth](#) and [↔ Anne Say](#) <our 13G-GParents>

Sir Richard Wentworth

Sir Thomas Wentworth

Anne Wentworth

Margaret Poley

Jane Palmer

Jane Meredith

Jane Wyche

Jane Granville

John Leveson-Gower

John Leveson-Gower (same name as his dad)

Gertrude Leveson-Gower

Caroline Russell

George Spencer

Sir George Spencer-Churchill

Sir John Winston Spencer-Churchill
Randolph Henry Spencer-Churchill
Sir Winston Churchill

Each generation we go back, we find a smaller proportion of our ancestors. By the time we get back to Sir Henry Wentworth and Anne Say's generation we only know about 1% of our ancestors. We know less than 0.01% of Winston Churchill's, but there's still a match. So we're almost certainly really a lot closer than 14th-cousins, only we don't know enough of the lines to find them. And the same applies to these nth-cousins below ...

Charles Darwin

famouskin.com shows that [↔Princess Elizabeth Plantagenet](#) was Charles Darwin's 14G-GMother, so Charles Darwin is no further away than 15th-cousin. Princess Elizabeth Plantagenet is our 17G-GMother, which makes Charles Darwin a 15th-cousin 3x removed.

Alan Turing

Alan Turing was a brilliant mathematician who was a code-breaker at Bletchley in WWII and designed the world's first programmable computer. Alan Turing is widely considered to be the father of theoretical computer science and artificial intelligence. [↔John of Gaunt](#) was Alan Turing's 16G-GFather and our 16G-GFather too, so Alan Turing is our 17th-cousin.

But what about some people outside Britain?

US Presidents

Many US presidents, from George Washington to Barack Obama (yes, even Barack Obama), including Thomas Jefferson, Ulysses S Grant, Theodore Roosevelt, Franklin D Roosevelt, George H W Bush and George W Bush, and probably many of the others, trace their ancestry back to [↔Edward I King of England](#) <our 18G-GFather> or [↔Robert I King of France](#) <our 19G-GFather>, so they are all nth-cousins.

But there's no known link to Donald Trump - his ancestry is only known for a very few generations.

I didn't find many other people outside Europe with long recorded ancestries. Here are some of them:

Samuel Morse

Samuel Morse, co-developer of Morse Code, is a 4G-GSon of *Benjamin Childe and Sarah Shenton* our 9G-GParents (G-GParents of James Bayley, see *James Bayley and Sarah Kirkes* in **Part I**). So Samuel Morse is no further than 5th-cousin (4x removed).

[↔Benjamin Childe](#) and [↔Sarah Shenton](#)
Benjamin Child
John Child

John Child (same name as his dad)
Sarah Child
Jedidiah Morse
Samuel Morse

General Douglas MacArthur

General Douglas MacArthur was supreme commander of allied forces in the Far East in WWII. After being forced to retreat from the Philippines to Australia, he famously told the Philippines "*I shall return*" - and he did. He's our 13th-cousin (once removed) through *Sir William Dennes and Anne Berkeley* <our 11G-GParents>. Anne Berkeley is the daughter of *Maurice Berkeley and Isabel Meade* (see **Part 2**).



Anne
Berkeley

[↔ Sir William Dennes and ↔ Anne Berkeley](#)

Anne Dennis
Isabel Dennis
Elizabeth Berkeley
Elizabeth Lygon
Jane Bassett
Frances Deighton
Benjamin Williams
Benjamin Williams (same name as his dad)
Deborah Williams
Benjamin Belcher
Benjamin Barney Belcher
Aurelia Belcher
Gen. Arthur MacArthur
General Douglas MacArthur

Wernher von Braun

Wernher von Braun, the German WWII rocket scientist who played a big part in America's space program, is 18G-GSon of [↔ John of Gaunt and ↔ Katherine de Roet](#) our 16G-GParents. So Wernher von Braun is no further than 17th-cousin (twice removed).



Katherine de
Roet

Allan Dulles

Allan Dulles, the first civilian director of the CIA, is the CIA's longest-serving director. He headed the CIA during the Cold War. His brother, John Foster Dulles (as in *Dulles Airport*, Washington), is better known - but of course people working in intelligence tend not to seek the limelight. Allan Dulles is a 17G-GSon of [↔ Richard Fitzalan and ↔ Elizabeth de Bohun](#) our 15G-GParents. So Allan Dulles is no further than 15th-cousin (twice removed). And of course his brother, John Foster Dulles, is too.



Richard
FitzAlan

Amelia Earhart

Amelia Earhart was a famous American aviation pioneer. She was the first female to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean. Sadly, she disappeared in July 1937, flying from Papua New Guinea. [↔Princess Elizabeth Plantagenet](#), the same one who is Charles Darwin's 14G-GMother, is Amelia Earhart's 20G-GMother. So Amelia Earhart is no further than 18th-cousin (3x removed).

Samuel Colt

Samuel Colt, inventor of the Colt revolver, is a 19G-GSon of [↔Roger de Quency](#) and [↔Helen de Galloway](#) our 21G-GParents. So Samuel Colt is no further than 20th-cousin (twice removed).

Edwin Hubble

Edwin Hubble, the famous astronomer after whom the Hubble Telescope is named, is a 23G-GSon of [↔Griffith Maelor ap Madog](#) and [↔Emma Audley](#) our 21G-GParents. So Edwin Hubble is no further than 22nd-cousin (twice removed).

Taylor Swift

Taylor Swift, the singer, is a 24G-GDaughter of [↔Sir William de Ros](#) and [↔Lucy fitzPeter \(fitzPiers\)](#) our 21G-GParents. So Taylor Swift is no further than 22nd-cousin (3x removed).

George Gallup

George Gallup, inventor of the Gallup Poll, is a 24G-GSon of [↔Richard de Camville](#) and [↔Millicent de Rethel](#) our 23G-GParents. So George Gallup is no further than 23rd-cousin (once removed).

Surely there is no doubt -everyone is our *n*th-cousin! And *n* might not be as large a number as you might have expected. But finding the nearest link isn't always possible.

3.2 - Nicknames

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Here are some of the more interesting nicknames of our ancestors - and let's face it: the uncomplimentary nicknames are the interesting ones.

"*The Bad*" - Haakon Sigurdsson <our 31G-GFather>

"*The Bastard*" - William the Conqueror <our 24G-GFather> (see *Herleva of Falaise* in **Part 2**)

"*Black William*" - William de Braose <our 20G-GFather>

"*The Broken-Nosed*" - Iorwerth Drwyndwn ap Owain Gwynedd <our 22G-GFather>

"*Bucktooth*" - Hamo de Creully <our 25G-GFather>

"*The Coward*" - Etienne Henri de Blois <our 24G-GFather>

"*Crooked David*" - Sir Dafydd Gam <our 14G-GFather>

(see *Gwladys ferch Dafydd Gam* in **Part 2**)

and - two others called "*The Crooked*"

"The Cruel" - Boleslav I, Duke of Bohemia <our 31G-GFather> (mentioned in **Part 2**)
"The Demon" - Sir Payn de Turbeville <our 26G-GFather> (see **Part 2**)
"The Devil" - Hugh VI of Lusignan <our 26G-GFather>
"The Dragon of Anglesey" - Maelgwyn Hir <our 40G-GFather>
"The Drunkard" - Michael III Mythistes the Phrygian <our 32G-GFather>
"The Fart" and *"Foul-Fart"* - Eystein Halfdansson <our 34G-GFather> (see **Part 2**)
"The Fat" - regrettably(?) six of our ancestors were known as *"The Fat"*
"Flatnose" - Ketill Bjornsson <our 37G-GFather>
"The Fool", *"The Simple"* - Lulach mac Gille Coemgain <our 28G-GFather>
"The Fratricide" and *"The Patricide"* - perhaps unsurprisingly, given the violence of times past, there are three of these among our ancestors.
"Hairyfoot" - Bernard II Plantevelue <our 34G-GFather>
"The Hateful" - Eithne Uathach <our 41G-GFather>
"Hook-Nose" - Antiochus VIII Grypus <our 64G-GFather>
"The Impetuous" - Einion Yrth ap Cunedda <our 42G-GFather>
"The Madman" - Donald (Domnaill) II Dasachtach mac Causantin <our 35G-GFather>
"The Noisy" - Eystein Glumra Ivarsson <our 29G-GFather>
"The Oppressor" - Merfyn Frych ap Gwriad <our 31G-GFather>
"of the Tusks" - Brochfael Ysgythrog ap Cyngen <our 41G-GFather>
"The Ragged" - Gwrast Lledlwm <our 42G-GFather>
"Red Eva" - Princess Eva MacMurrough <our 21G-GMother>
"Red Eyes" and *"The Wild Steer"* - Madog Eidio (Idio) Wyllt Y Golwg Goch ap Sutric <our 25G-GFather> (see **Part 2**)
"The Rough" - Uilliam I mac Einric <our 24G-GFather>
"The She-Wolf of France" - Isabella of France, Queen of England <our 18G-GMother> (see **Part 2**)
"The Sick" - Donnchad I mac Crinain <our 25G-GFather>
"The Skull-Splitter" - Thorfinn Torf-Einarsson <our 33G-GFather> (mentioned in **Part 2**)
"Sweet-Voiced" - Conall Guthbinn mac Suibni <our 37G-GFather>
"The Toothless" - Cadwgan Fantach ap Cadwgan <our 23G-GFather>
"The Trickster" - Thibaut I de Blois <our 27G-GFather>
"The Weasel", *"The Cunning"*, *"The Fox"* - Robert de Guiscard <our 26G-GFather> (see **Part 2**)
"Wine-Bountiful" - Constantine I mac Choinnich <our 36G-GFather>

Some nicknames were more complimentary, of course. Some were used to flatter a powerful person - a sort of self-protection : nicknames like *"The Great"* (there are lots and lots of those among our ancestors), *"The Mighty"* or *"The Magnificent"*. But some are probably more genuine, for example:

"The Deep-Minded" - Aud Ketilsdatter <our 34G-GMother> (see **Part 2**)
"The Destitute Prince" - Llywelyn Ddiriaid ap Rhys <our 23G-GFather> (mentioned in **Part 2**)
"The Fair" - Edith Swannesha <our 27G-GMother> (see **Part 2**)
 and 4 others
"The Generous" - Morgan Mwynfawr ap Athrwys <our 38G-GFather>
"The Gentle" - Offa of Mercia <our 48G-GFather>
"God's Gift" - Lady Godiva <our 25G-GMother> (see **Part 2**)
"The Good" - Alfonso VII Ramundez <our 23G-GFather>
 and 2 others
"The Homeless Prince" - Gruffydd ap Rhys <our 22G-GFather> (see **Part 2**)
"The Just" - James Berkeley <our 13G-GFather>
 and - Childebert III <our 36G-GFather>
"The Kind" - Hugh II of Lusignan <our 30G-GFather>

"*The Magnanimous*" - Henri II de Brabant <our 20G-GFather>
"*Old King Cole*" - [maybe] Coel Hen of Rheged <our 43G-GFather>
"*The Peaceful*" - Hugues II de Bourgogne <our 25G-GFather>
"*The Sage*" - Wermund of Mercia <our 49G-GFather>
"*The Star of Abergavenny*" - Gwladys ferch Dafydd Gam <our 13G-GMother> (see **Part 2**)
"*Toots*" - Olive Howard Powning <our GrandMother>
"*The Wise*" - Sancho VI Garces de Navarre <our 23G-GFather>
and 3 others

3.3 - Kings and Queens

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Back in Medieval times, there were kings and queens all over the place. Someone, usually a man of course, would get control of a decent-sized territory and call himself King. Some women did that too, but mostly they became queen by being married to a king. Many of the queens ruled their lands as "regent" after their husband died and before their eldest son came of age. Only a few queens actually ruled their territory in their own right - though some queens did rule their king!

Among our known ancestors are people who were, or claimed to be, the kings and queens (and emperors and empresses) of: Airthir Liphí, Alania, Alba, Albania, Alt Clut, Antigonía, Aquitaine, Aragon, Armenia, Asia Minor, Austrasia, Bernicia, Bohemia, Bosphorus, Bourbonnais, Britain (Britannia), Brittany, Brycheiniog, Builth, Burgundy, Byzantium (Byzantine Empire), Calchfynedd, Cappadocia, Castile, Caucasian Iberia, Ceredigion, Commagene, Constantinople, Croatia, Cynwydion, Cyrenaica, Dal Riata, Dalmatia, Deheubarth, Deira, Denmark, Dublin, Dumbarton, Dumnonia, Dyfed, East Anglia, Eastern Roman Empire, Eastern Thrace, Egypt, England, Ergyng, Essex, Ewyas, France, Galicia, Gaul, Germany, Glamorgan, Glywysing, Gotland, Gwent, Gwynedd, Hedemarken, High-Burgundy, Holy Roman Empire, Hungary, Iberia, Ireland, Italy, Jerusalem, Kent, Kievan Rus, Langobarden, Leinster, Leon, Lorraine, Lotharingia, Lower Burgundy, Macedon (Macedonia), Media Atropatene, Melitene, Mercia, Morgannwg, Munster, Naples, Navarre, Neustria, Nicaea, Northern Britain, Northumbria, Norway, Ossory, Palmyra, Parthia, Pennines, Persia, Poland, Pontus, Powys, Provence, Rama, Rheged, Rhos, Roman Empire, Rome, Saxony, Scandinavia, Scotland, Seisyllwg, Seleucid Empire, Septimania, Sicily, Soissons, Soleyar, Sophene, South Rheged, Spain (Hispania), Strathclyde, Sweden, Syria, Thessalonica, Thomond, Thrace, Thuringia, Tirconal, Toulouse, Uisnech, Ulster, Vendil, Vestfold (Westfold), Wales, Wermland, Wessex, West Armenia, West Connacht, West Francia, Western Roman Empire, Ynys Manaw (Isle of Man), York, Yorkshire.

There are probably a few missing. And some other rulers claimed to rule a people rather than a place. But between them, there wasn't much of Europe (and some places beyond) that they didn't rule at some time.

3.4 - Saints

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Back in medieval times, Saints were ten-a-penny. Later on, the Catholic church took control and were more selective about who was or was not a Saint, but it can be claimed that sainthood came more often from politics than from merit.

There are 46 Saints among our ancestors. They are - most recent generations first: St Louis IX Capet, St Margaret Aetheling of Scotland (see **Part 2**), St Leopold III, St Anna (Princess Ingegerd) Olofsdotter (see **Part 2**), Saint Hedwig of Andechs, Saint Rognvald Kale Kolsson of Orkney, St

Vladimir I Svyatoslavich (Vladimir the Great), St Elgiva (Aelfgifu) of Shaftesbury, St Matilde von Ringelheim, Saint Irene Arpadhazi, St Olga of Kiev (see **Part 2**), Saint Olaf Haraldsson, Saint Yaropolk Izyaslavich, Saint Ladislaus Arpadhazi, St Eberhard (Evrard) of Friuli, St Walla de Corbie, St Arianwen verch Brychan, St William of Gellone, St Brychan Gododdin ap Anlach of Brycheiniog (mentioned in **Part 2**), St Ludmila of Bohemia (Patron Saint of Problems with In-Laws) (see **Part 2**), Saint Arianwen verch Brychan, St Theodora Mamikonean, St Leudwinus, St Begga, Saint Edmund "The Martyr" of East Anglia, St Amalberga, St Arnulf of Metz (Patron Saint of Brewing), St Doda (Clothilde) of Treves, St Itta of Metz, St Marie Sigrade d'Alsace, St Balthilde of Ascania (see **Part 2**), St Cawrdaf ap Caradog, St Seaxburh Uuffing of Ely, St Aethelbert I Eormenricing, St Clotilde, St Radegonda of Thuringia, St Tewdrig ap Teithfallt, St Cyngen Glodrydd, St Tudlwystl ferch Brychan, St Ceneu ap Coel, St Cywair of Ireland, St Gwenllian ferch Brychan, St Ursula ferch Dynod (see **Part 2**), St Narses I Souren Pahlav, St Husik I Desouren Pahlav, St Vrtanes I Pahlav, St Gregory Lusavorich.
