

SOME DESCENDANTS OF ALICE FREEMAN

Williams, Ann. (2003). *Aethelred the Unready The Ill-Counselled King*. London and New York: Hambledon and London.

Alice Freeman was a descendant of Aethelred II (Without Counsel), King of England (2nd great-grandson of Alfred the Great). I know of no other royal lines for Alice Freeman. Attempts to link her to Henry I have been unsatisfactory, and even if successful would rely on an unproved illegitimate connection. An alleged descent from Charlemagne is insufficiently supported. Nor does there appear to be descents from Scottish kings.

This is the oldest bloodline in the world.

1. Aethelred II, King of England, b. ca. 967, d. 23 Apr 1016, buried in St. Paul's, London, son of Edgar the Peaceful, King of England; m. (1) very probably dau. of an Ealdorman, perhaps Aelfgifu or Aethelgifu (2) (her first) Emma, d. 6 Mar 1052, dau. of Richard I, Duke of Normandy

In reviewing Stewart Baldwin's work regarding Aethelred II's wife or wives prior to Emma of Normandy, I agree with his conclusions. There's no consensus regarding the number or names of Aethelred II's wives before Emma. Aethelred II's immediate successor, Edmund Ironside, wasn't a son of Emma. Aethelred II's daughter Aelfgifu, who married Uchtred of Northumberland, wasn't the daughter of Emma either. Aethelred II's marriage to Emma was of considerable prestige to him. His previous wife or wives would have come from the topmost rank of the nobility.

There's confusion about the meaning of the terms "ealdorman" and "earl." King Edgar, father of Aethelred II, used the term "earl", after the Danish word "jarl," in areas of Danish influence such as Northumbria, while elsewhere they were called "ealdorman." King Cnut imposed "earl" as the universal term. Adding to the difficulty is the status of wives of Anglo-Saxon monarchs, who at the time weren't "queens" in the sense that Eleanor of Castile was queen of King Edward I. They were considered to be what they were: wives of a king. To create more confusion, Emma of Normandy was called "Elfgiva" by the English. (According to The Chronicle of Florence of Worcester, "The same year [1002] king Ethelred married Emma, who is called by the Saxons Elfgiva, daughter of Richard I., duke of Normandy.")



(This Victorian era painting depicts inhabitants of the Northumbrian coast fleeing a Viking invasion.)

2. Aelfgifu of England (by a wife of Aethelred II prior to Emma); m. (his 3rd) Uchtred, Earl of Northumberland, d. 1016
Uhtred or Uchtred was also called Earl of Bamburgh, the parent territory of Northumbria. Bamburgh was the successor of the independent Bernicia. Uchtred was married three times: (1) Ecgfritha, repudiated, dau. of Bishop Ealdhun, who recovered her dower lands (2) Sigen, dau. of Styrr (3) Aelfgifu as above. This line is a testament to a very important period in English history: the collapse of the old Anglo-Saxon

ruling house, which was succeeded by the Danes, and then returned to a half-Anglo-Saxon, half-Norman king, Edward the Confessor, whose sanctity rates higher in hagiography than does his skill in the political sense. William the Conqueror's victory at Hastings decided a succession crisis that Edward the Confessor should have settled long before.

The 1st Siege of Durham. The men of 'Saxonia,' under Earl Uchtred, defeated the Scots under King Malcolm II. and made great slaughter of their nobles, after the Scots had devastated Northumbria, and had unsuccessfully besieged the city of Durham in the year 1006.⁶

*(Sir Archibald H. Dunbar, Scottish Kings A Revised Chronology Of Scottish History 1005-1625; also texts marked * that follow.)*

In order to detail the death of earl Ucthred, our narrative must revert a little. Suein, the king of the Danes, having driven Ethelred, the king of the English, into Normandy, took possession of his realm; but upon his death, which occurred no long time afterwards, king Ethelred returned to his own kingdom, having taken to wife Emma, the daughter of Richard, the duke of the Normans. Only a very short time had elapsed, when Cnut, the son of Suein, the king of the Danes, whom we have already mentioned, came to England, accompanied by a countless multitude, meaning to reign over it. He sent a message to Ucthred, asking him to join him, along with all the men whom he could muster, to render him assistance against king Ethelred; promising him that, in the event of his compliance, not only should he retain possession of the honour which he then held, but that something yet more extensive should be added. This earl was a man of considerable influence, for he had under him the counties of Northumberland and York. Ucthred, however, answered that he would do nothing of the sort, and declared that it would be the depth of baseness were he to act thus against his lord and father-in-law. "Nothing would induce me," said he, "to take such a step: nor, indeed, ought I to do so. So long as king Ethelred lives, I will be faithful to him; for he is my lord and my wife's father, and the abundant honours and riches which are mine, I possess by his gift. I will never be a traitor to him." Thus Cnut had no assistance from Ucthred.

But upon the death of Ethelred, when Cnut became possessed of the whole realm of England, he sent a message to the earl, commanding that he would come to him as his lord. Having received a safe-conduct for his journey there and home again, the earl went.

A.D. 969.] SIMEON'S ACCOUNT OF THE SIEGE OF DURHAM. 767

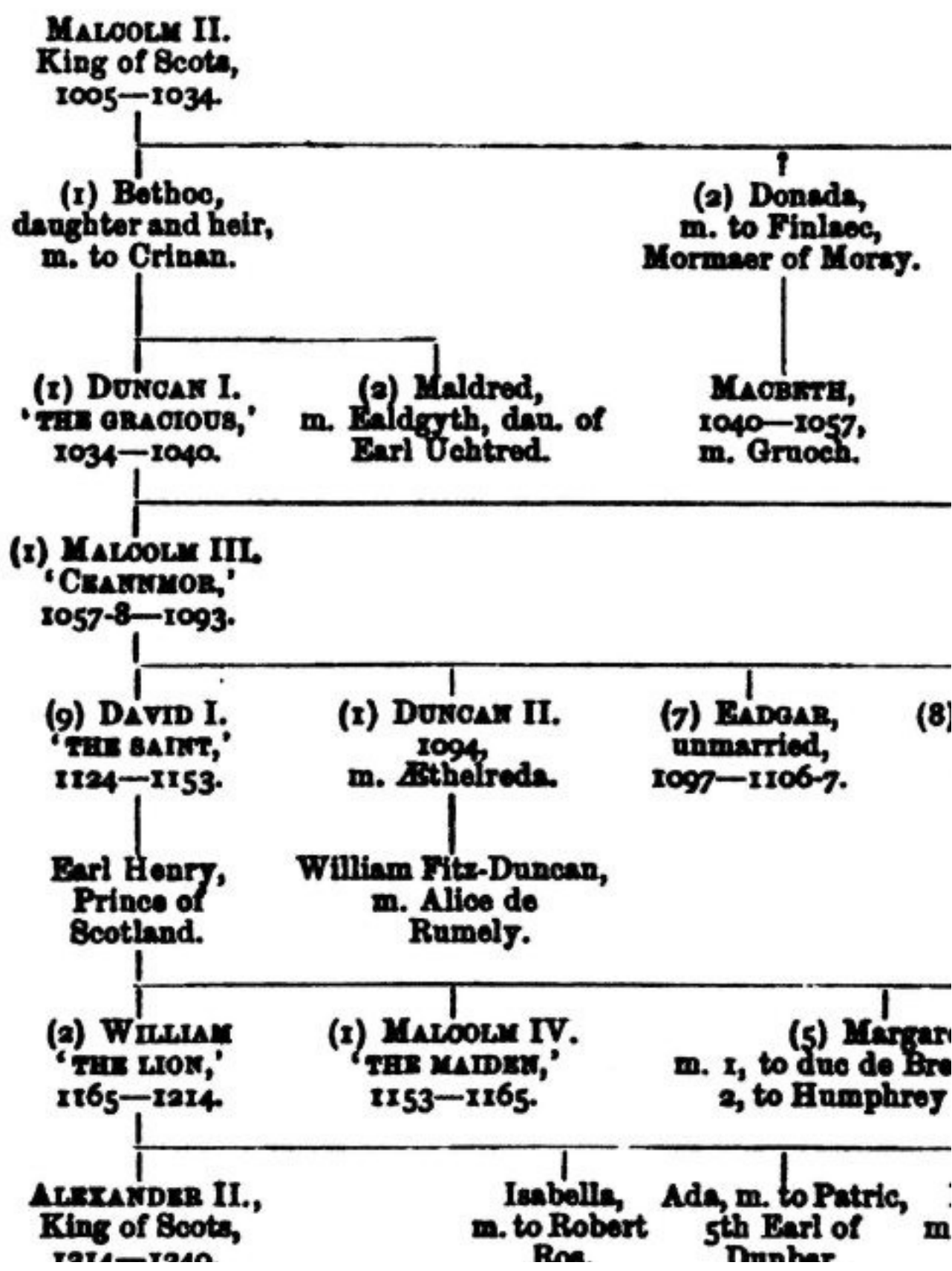
Upon the day appointed, as he was going to the king to treat of peace, certain of the king's armed soldiers, who were hidden within the traverse of the house at Wiheal, behind a curtain which was there suspended, suddenly rushed out and killed the earl, and forty of the chiefest of his men, who had entered along with him. This was planned by the treachery of a certain powerful man, Turebrant, surnamed Hold

(Simeon of Durham; in the style of ancient historians, he has invented Uchtred's speech. Simeon, who was writing in the late 11th and early 12th centuries, is a major source for events in this period. This is contemporary evidence. Simeon knew this family or had talked to people with first hand knowledge of them. The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle tells a similar story of the death of Uchtred: that Uchtred had submitted to Cnut to spare Northumberland from Cnut's ravages, but after receiving hostages, Cnut had him murdered.)

3. Ealdgyth of Northumberland; m. Maldred, lord of Carlisle and Allendale, son of Crinan the Thane, d. 1045

There is confusion as to the identity of Maldred's father Crinan: was Crinan the Thane identical with Crinan, lay abbot of Dunkeld, who had married Bethoc, daughter of King Malcolm II? Note that the passage from The Complete Peerage below uses the term "presumably." However, in the Competition of 1291 for the Scottish crown, Gospatric's descendant Patrick of Dunbar presented his petition based upon descent from a bastard daughter of King William the Lion, rather than legitimate descent from King Malcolm II. If Crinan the Thane was the same person as Crinan, lay abbot of Dunkeld, then Maldred cannot be the son of Bethoc, but was the son of another wife.

Many abbey's had extensive property, so a lay abbot, the secular lord of the abbey's lands, was a lucrative position, a plum granted to a royal favorite. Gospatric's father is proven to be Maldred, and the chart, prepared by Sir Archibald H. Dunbar, Bart., is in error showing Maldred as a grandson of King Malcolm II. Regardless of whether Crinan the Thane was also Crinan the lay abbot, Gospatric has no known descent from Scottish kings, but there's no reason why Crinan could not have been referred to by different titles during his lifetime. In the medieval period prominent men usually held multiple offices.



4. Gospatric I (Gwas Patric), Earl of Northumberland and Dunbar, b. ca. 1040, d. 1074/5; m. a sister of Edmund

(As Gospatric paid a fine to King William I of England to succeed to the Earldom of Northumberland, there can be no doubt he was the son of Maldred, whose wife was heiress to Northumberland. The Latin phrase "nam ex materno sanguine attinebat ad eum honor illius comitatus" essentially means "he succeeded to the office by reason of his mother's blood or family." Sources like Wikipedia and Internet message board "soc.genealogy.medieval" shouldn't be trusted without verification. My opinion is that Gospatric's grandfather Crinian the Thane and Crinan lay abbot of Dunkeld are identical. That explains why Malcolm III made Gospatric earl of Dunbar after William the Conqueror stripped Gospatric of Northumberland, as Maldred would have been a half-brother to Duncan I, king of Scotland. Gospatric was thus the first cousin of Malcolm III, but with no royal Scots descent.)

GOSPATRIC, s. and h. of Maldred (presumably s. of Crinan, lay abbot of Dunkeld, by Bethoc, da. of Malcolm II of Scotland) by Ealdgyth, da. of Ughtred, EARL OF NORTHUMBERLAND, by his wife Elgiva, da. of ÆTHELRED II—thus combining in his person the blood of the ancient Earls of Northumberland and of the royal houses of England and Scotland—very soon after the slaughter of Comines and his men, paid the Conqueror a heavy fine to succeed to the Earldom.^(d) He at once joined the Norwegians, who sailed up the Humber, Sep. 1069, and took York by storm, massacring the Normans there. In revenge the Conqueror laid waste the whole country between York and Durham. Gospatric, who had fled, obtained pardon.^(e) He was in possession of the Earldom in 1071,^(f) but was deprived in 1072 on the old charge of having assisted in the massacre at Durham.^(g) He fled to Scotland, where his kinsman Malcolm Canmore gave him Dunbar, with the adjacent lands in Lothian. From him descended the early Earls of Dunbar. See DUNBAR.

(The Complete Peerage, Vol. 9, pp. 704-705, Dunbar.)

p. 455, note 2. There can, I think, be no doubt that this Gospatric is the Earl of William's reign. The Biographer describes him as being "de ejusdem regis Ædwardi genere." The kinsmen both of Eadward and William are endless, but in this case we can really make out the kindred. Gospatric was the grandson of Eadward's half-sister; "Erat enim ex matre Algitha, filia Uchtredi comitis, quam habuit ex Algiva, filia Agelredi regis." (Sim. Dun. X Script. 205.) See vol. i. p. 327.

Gospatric, earl of Northumberland, purchased that earldom from William the Conqueror at Christmas in 1067, and was 'deprived' in 1072. He had a grant of 'Dunbar with the adjacent lands in Lothian' from his kinsman King Malcolm III. (Ceannmor) in 1072. Earl Gospatric became a monk. His tombstone is now in the crypt of the cathedral at Durham. Issue, three sons, Dolfin, Gospatric, and Waltheof, with Æthelreda, and several other daughters: 27

(* The tradition that Gospatric became a monk and is buried in the crypt of Durham cathedral is not universally accepted and may be myth.)

Invaded England a Second Time. King Malcolm III ravaged Teesdale, Cleveland, Holderness, and the country between the Tees and the Tyne, in the spring of 1069-70. 28

Gospatric, earl of Northumberland, retaliated by ravaging part of Cumbria, then under the dominion of Malcolm III., king of Scots, in 1070. 29

(*)

The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle of Worcester records that soon after 11 Sep 1068: "Three sons of King Swein with 240 ships came from Denmark into the Humber—and Jarl Osbern and Jarl Thurkill. And there came against them Prince Edgar, and Earl Waltheof, and Earl Gospatric with the Northumbrians, and all the people of the land, riding and marching with an enormous raiding-army ... and thus all resolutely went to York and broke down and demolished the castle, and won countless treasures in there, and there killed many hundreds of French men"

5. Gospatric II, 2nd Earl of Dunbar, held serjeanty of Beanley, d. 23 Aug 1138; m. unknown, but evidently not Sibilla

II. GOSPATRIC, who in one place calls himself Earl, and certainly held the rank and place of Earl or ruler of Lothian, does not appear on record until after 1100, the year of the accession of King Henry I. of England, and his earliest mention in Scottish writs is in 1119. Another peculiarity about his designation is that during his lifetime he is never but once, by himself, in a charter to the monks of Coldingham,¹ styled Earl in Scottish charters. He is referred to, whether as a witness to charters, or a granter or recipient of charters, in nearly every case as Gospatric, brother of Dolfin.² In 1119 he is a witness to the charter to the monks of Selkirk, and to the Inquisition of the see of Glasgow, as well as, later, to the foundation charter of Scone.³ He has also the same designation in the first grant to Holyrood.⁴ These are the chief references to him during his life in Scottish records, and while he evidently held a high position, he is never styled Earl until after his death.

King Henry I., also in a charter of unknown date, but certainly some time after 1100, conferred upon him, as Gospatric, brother of Dolfin, a large tract of land lying between Wooler and Morpeth, in Northumberland. This extensive grant, which was confirmed at York about 1136,⁵ was held, not by knight's service or other service usual from a barony, though it is sometimes described as the barony of Beanley. It was held in grand serjeanty, the Earl and his descendants being bound to be 'inborwe' and 'utborwe' between England and Scotland;⁶ that is, they were to be security for persons passing to and fro between the two countries, who would not be allowed to travel north or south without permission of the lords of Beanley, a fact which practically gave to the Earls of Dunbar the important position of Wardens on both sides of the East March.

territories of Bewick and Eglingham, of which he received a grant in feufarm from the abbot of St. Albans, by a special contract, dated between 1097 and 1119,¹ and which were afterwards held by Edgar, a son of Gospatric.

Earl Gospatric granted, probably towards the close of his life, the lands of Ederham, or Edrom, and Nisbet, to the monks of Coldingham, imprecating spiritual penalties on any who should interfere with the grant.² He also gave the church of Edlingham in alms to the Abbey of St. Albans.³ He endowed the church of St. Nicholas of Home, in Berwickshire, his wife and family consenting to the gift.⁴ He joined his kinsman King David I. in the latter's invasion of England in 1138, and commanded the men of Lothian at the battle of Cowton Moor, near Northallerton, otherwise called the battle of the Standard, fought on 23 August 1138. *At least no other person could be described as the 'summus Dux Lodonensium' who led them to the field.⁵ The Scots were defeated, and the leader of the Lothian men was slain or severely wounded by an arrow. Whether this were Earl Gospatric or not, he was certainly dead before 16 August 1139, when King David I. confirmed the grant of Edrom to the monastery of Coldingham.⁶ The seal attached to his charter of Coldingham is round, one inch in diameter; an equestrian figure holding a sword slanting over his shoulder in his right hand. The legend is broken and defaced, but enough remains to show that it must have read, 'SIGILLUM GOSPATRICI FRATRIS DOLFINI.'

The name of the Earl's wife has not been ascertained.⁷ They had issue, four sons and a daughter:—

(*The Scots Peerage*, Vol. 3, pp. 246-247, *Dunbar*, and passage that follows, p. 249.)

6. Juliana of Dunbar; m. Ralph (Ranulf) de Merlay, lord of Morpeth, d. 1160, son of William de Merlay

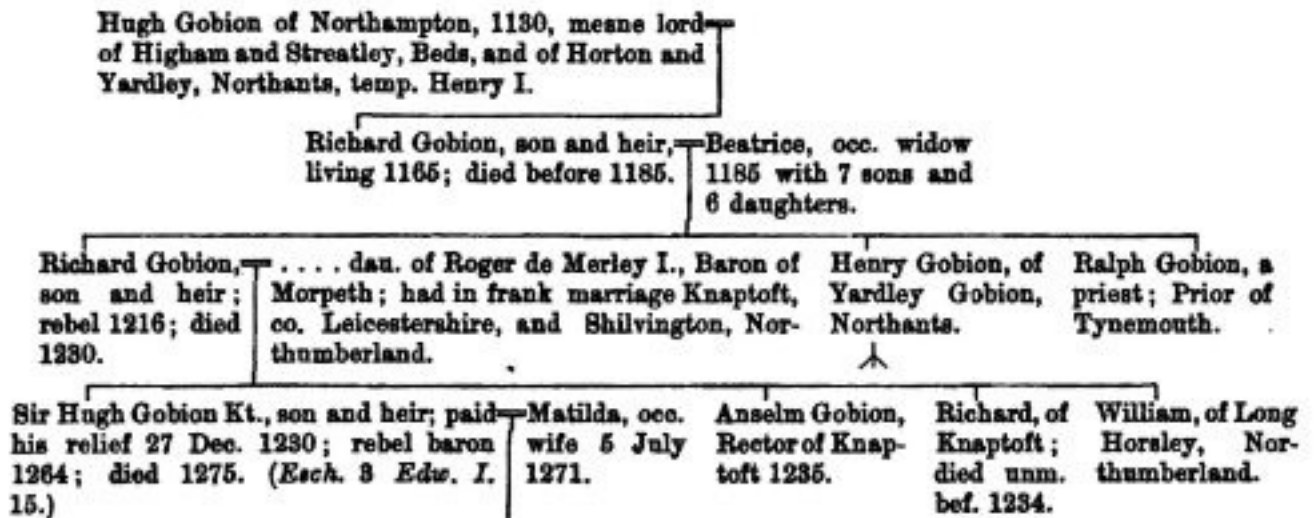
5. *Juliana*, who was given in marriage by King Henry I. to Ralph or Ranulf de Merlay, Lord of Morpeth, by a writ, in which she is described as daughter of Earl Gospatric.⁴ Her dowry consisted of Witton, Wyndgates, Horsley, Stanton, Ritton, and Lever Childe.⁵ She and her husband founded the Oistercian monastery of Newminster in 1138, and were buried there, in the north part of the chapter-house.⁶ They had issue.

7. Roger de Merlay, d. 1188; m. Alice de Stuteville, daughter of Roger de Stuteville

8. Agnes de Merlay; m. Richard Gobion, d. bef. 29 Dec 1230 in Gascony

PEDIGREE OF GOBION.

ARMS: An escutcheon quarterly argent and gules, within a bordure sable semée of fishes.



9. Hugh Gobion, d. 1275; m. Matilda, liv. 5 Jul 1271

GOBYON, Hugh (Gubiun). He and another hold Horseley, Northumb., 11 Ap. 1247 (Inq.). The Const. of Nottingham Cas. is to bring to K. him and others, taken at Northampton fighting agst. K., for exchange for men captured at Lewes, 4 June 1264 (P.R.). Holds 1 Kt. Fee of Benton Manor, Yorks., 4 Dec. 1265 (Inq.). Safe conduct, coming to K's court, provided he stand his trial, 28 Dec. 1265. Admitted to K's peace 20 Jy. 1266 (P.R.). K. has given his lands at Knaptoft, Leic., taken for his trespass in late disturbances, to Hugh Turbervill, 21 Nov. 1268 (Inq.). Writ for his Inq. 3 June 1275. He held lands at Northampton, Knaptoft Manor as 1 Kt. Fee, Leic., Hecham and Stratle Manors as 2½ Fees, Beds., and left s. h. Richard, 30 (Inq.). Qualified for Kthood.

(Biography of Hugh Gobion from *The Knights of Edward I.*)

115. HUGH GOBYUN.

Writ, 3 June, 3 Edw. I.

NORTHAMPTON. *Inq.* Thursday after St. Barnabas, 3 Edw. I.

Northampton. 2 carucates land in the suburb, held of the king in chief by service of 2s. yearly at the king's exchequer by the hands of the reeves (*prepositorum*) of Northampton.

Richard Gobion is his next heir, and of full age.

LEICESTER. *Inq.* Thursday after St. Barnabas, 3 Edw. I.

Knaptoft. The manor, held of Robert de Somirville, who married one of the heirs of Roger de Merreleye, who held the manor of the fee of the earl of Leicester by service of 1 knight's fee.

Richard Gobiun his son, aged 30, is his next heir.

BEDFORD. *Inq.* Sunday after St. Barnabas, 3 Edw. I.

Hecham and Stratle. The manors, held of Michael Pikot by service of 2½ knights' fees.

Richard Gobion the elder, his son, aged 30 and more, is his next heir.

Writ of certiorari, on the complaint of Michael Pycot that the subescheator in co. Bedford had taken into the king's hand, lands held of him by the said Hugh by knight's service, 3 June, 3 Edw. I.

BEDFORD. *Inq.* Sunday after St. Barnabas, 3 Edw. I.

Stratle and Hecham. The manors were held as abovesaid and are of the barony of Beauchamp: he held nothing of the king in chief in the county.

C. Edw. I. File 9. (12.)

(Inquisitions Post Mortem for Hugh Gobion, 1275.)

10. Joan Gobion, liv. 1312; m. (1) John de Mortheyn, of Tilsworth and Marston, co. Bedford, d. 1296

The marriage of John de Morteyn (I) and Joan, daughter of Hugh Gobion (VI), is proved conclusively by the following copy of a charter, which was furnished to me, after this article was written, by my friend, Oswald Barron, Esq., F.S.A.:

“Ego Hugo Gubiene miles dedi Johi de Morteyne filio Johis de Morteine tota terra mea de Horton cū Johanna filia mea in libero maritagio.” (British Museum, Addit. MSS., 5527, fo. 3, being a book of pedigrees compiled by an unknown author between 1595 and 1603 and containing copies of charters then extant. This grant was copied from Robert Chamberlayne’s Book of Evidence, fo. 481.)

(*New England Historical and Genealogical Register*, Vol. 79, Issue 4, October 1925; G. Andrews Moriarty, “The Royal Descent of a New England Settler.” One of the most brilliant genealogical articles I’ve ever seen.)

11. Sir John de Morteyn, of Merston and Tillesworth, co. Bedford, d. 1346; m. Joan (or Jane) de Rothwell

MORTEYN, Sr John de, Kt. (Mortain). De ermyne od le chef endente de goules. Beds. (Parl.). Sum^d to serve agst. Scots 1 Mar. 1296, and again from Beds. and Bucks. 24 June 1301. Kt. of Shire, Beds., 20 Jan. 1307, and 1309, 1313, 1321, and 1324 (P.W.). Conservator of Peace, Beds., 24 Dec. 1307, and at intervals to 1321, Northants. and Rut. 1325, Notts. 1326. Assessor, etc., of subsidy, Beds., Com^r, etc., from 26 Aug. 1309 (P.R., C.R., F.R., and P.W.). He and w. sum^d to Coronation of Edward II 8 Feb. 1308. A lord of Marston Mortaine and Tilsworth, Beds., 5 Mar. 1316 (P.W.). Protection, going to Scotland with K., 20 Jy. 1322 (P.R.). Sum^d as a Banneret or Kt. of Beds. to serve agst. Scots 24 Jy. 1322, and as a Kt. of Beds. to Gt. Council at Westminster 9 May 1324 (P.W.). Com^r to Array and lead all men of Beds., aged 16 to 60, 31 Oct. 1322, and again Com^r of Array 1 Aug. 1324. To arrest disturbers of peace in Northants. and Rut. 28 Aug. 1325, and 1326 (P.R.). Sr Jn. de M., Kt., owes 25 m. in Beds. 10 Feb. and witnesses deed of Wm. Danet 12 Mar. 1325 (C.R.). Const. of Rockingham Cas. and Custos of forests between bridges of Oxford and Stamford 12 Feb. 1325, to 10 Oct. 1326 (F.R.). To spend up to £20 in repairs of the castle and take 12 oaks for repair of the bridge 5 Oct., and to provide victuals for the castle 12 Oct. 1325. The latter is to be surveyed and munitioned under his superintendence 6 Mar. 1326 (C.R.).

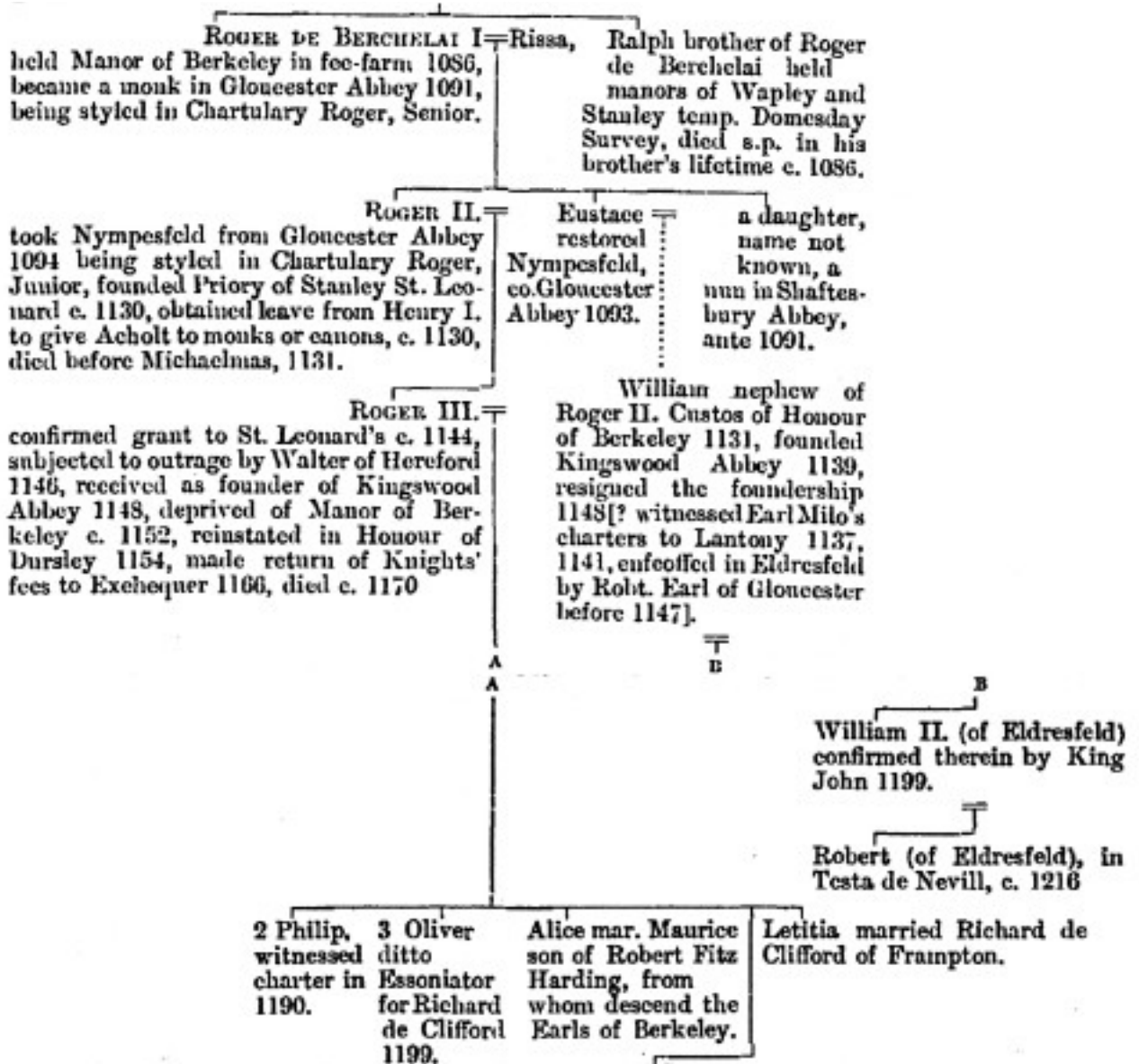
(Biography of Sir John de Morteyn from *The Knights of Edward I.*)

12. Lucy de Morteyn, liv. 8 Mar 1361; m. (his 1st) Sir John Giffard, of Twyford, co. Bucks. & Somerston, Fringford and Cogges, co. Oxford, b. 1301, d. 25 Jan 1368, fought at the Battle of Crecy 1346, son of Sir John Giffard le Boef and Alexandra de

Gardinis (Alexandra is called "Alexandra de Grandivis," dau. of Thomas and Thomasine, in *The Visitation of the County of Oxford*)

GIFFARD, Sr John, Kt. Le Boef. De goules a iii lions passanz de argent e un label de azur'. Oxon. (Parl.). Gu. 3 lions passant in pale sa. (als. arg.), a label of 5 points az. (Dering). A Kt. serving for Jn. Giffard of Brimsfield agst. Welsh 1282 (P.R.). Having £20 lands in Northants., sum^d to serve over seas 7 Jy. 1297, and having £40 lands in Som. and Dors., to serve agst. Scots 24 June 1300, and 1301. Kt. of Shire, Bucks., 30 May 1306, and in 1309, 1314, and 1316 (P.W.). Imprisoned at Aylesbury for trespass of vert and venison in Bernewood Forest, he is bailed 7 June 1314 (C.R.). A lord of Twyford, Charndon, and Pounden, Bucks., 5 Mar. 1316. Com^r of Array 26 Mar., and assessor, etc., of subsidy, Bucks., 29 Jy. 1316 (P.W.). Being very ill, he cannot serve agst. Scots 20 June 1322. He is gouty and incapable of acting, 31 Oct. 1322. Sum^d as a Kt. of Bucks. to Gt. Council at Westminster 9 May 1324 (P.W.).

[The above biography from *The Knights of Edward I* is for Sir John Giffard le Boef ("The Ox"), d. after 9 May 1324. A *fine temp.* Edward I identifies Sir John Giffard le Boef as the son of Sir Osbert Giffard, b. 10 Jun 1234, liv. 20 Aug 1297, who was grandson of Sir Elis Giffard and Maud, daughter of Maurice Fitz Robert Fitz Hardinge and Alice de Berkeley. See chart below. The parents of Sir Osbert Giffard (ca. 1234---1297) were Sir Osbern Giffard of Winterborne Houghton and Isabel de Bocland. Isabel de Bocland, daughter of Sir Alan de Bocland and Alice Murdac, was the subject of a study by G. Andrews Moriarty (*The ancestry of Isabel de Bocland*. 1924.). Alice Murdac's mother was Eve de Grey (d. 1242), Lady of Standlake and Dornford, Oxfordshire, wife of Ralph Murdac, the royal judge. Eve de Grey was the daughter of John de Greye of Standlake (d. 1192) and 2nd wife (--) Basset.]



Upon a scrutiny of the book of fees remaining in the Exchequer, there is found under the counties of Bedford and Bucks, that John de Morteyn holds of the fee of Eustace de Morteyn, 1 fee in Twylesworth of the old enfeoffment.

Chauncery Inq'n, p. m. 3 Ric. II., No. 46.

Inquisition taken at Melcheborne before John Wydenyll, Escheator in Co. Beds. on Saturday in the feast of the Translation of St. Thomas the Martyr, 4 Ric. II., (1380) by the oath of John Heryng of Carletone, William Wytir, William Campion, etc., etc., jurors, who say that John Morteyn, Knight, held of King Edw. III. the manor of Merssheton with the appurts as a particular of the Barony of Caynho by the service of one knight's fee, which said manor is worth per ann. clear £20.

The said John died so seized on Tuesday next before the feast of St. Peter ad Vincula, 47 Edward III. (1373).

The said John likewise held of the said King in chief, the manor of Tyllesworth by the service of 1 Knight's fee, which said manor is worth per ann., clear, £10.

Richard Chamburleyn, Knight, and Thomas Gyffard, Knight, are the kinsmen and next heirs of the said John Morteyn, to wit, the said Richard is the son of Joan, sister of John, father of the said John Morteyn, and is aged 60 years and more. The said Thomas is the son of Lucie, sister of John, father of the said John Morteyn, and is aged 30 years and more.

Elizabeth, relict of the said John, has taken the issues of the said manors from his death up to the present time.

Chan. Inq. p. m. 4 Ric. II. n. 39.

(An Inq. p. m. was taken on Elizabeth Morteyn in 5 Ric. II., but unfortunately the document is lost.)

[This material from *Deacon Of Elstowe And London (1898) p. 223* quoting IPMs replaces the defective Giffard/Mortyeyn connection in *The Visitation of the County of Oxford 1566, 1582, & 1634*. Sir John Morteyn, the subject of the IPM, was the nephew of Joan and Lucy.]

13. Sir Thomas Giffard, of Twyford, b. ca. 1345, d. 25 Sep 1394; m. (1) Elizabeth de Missenden, d. 1367

14. Roger Giffard, esq., of Twyford, b. ca. 1367, d. 14 Apr 1409; m. (3) Isabel Stretele

. . . filia = Rogerus Gifford = Isabella fil. & haeres Stretley de Kirslowe in Co. Bucks ar. Arms. Argent, on a bend sable three owls or.

10 . . . Seton de Twiforde ob. 10. H. 4.

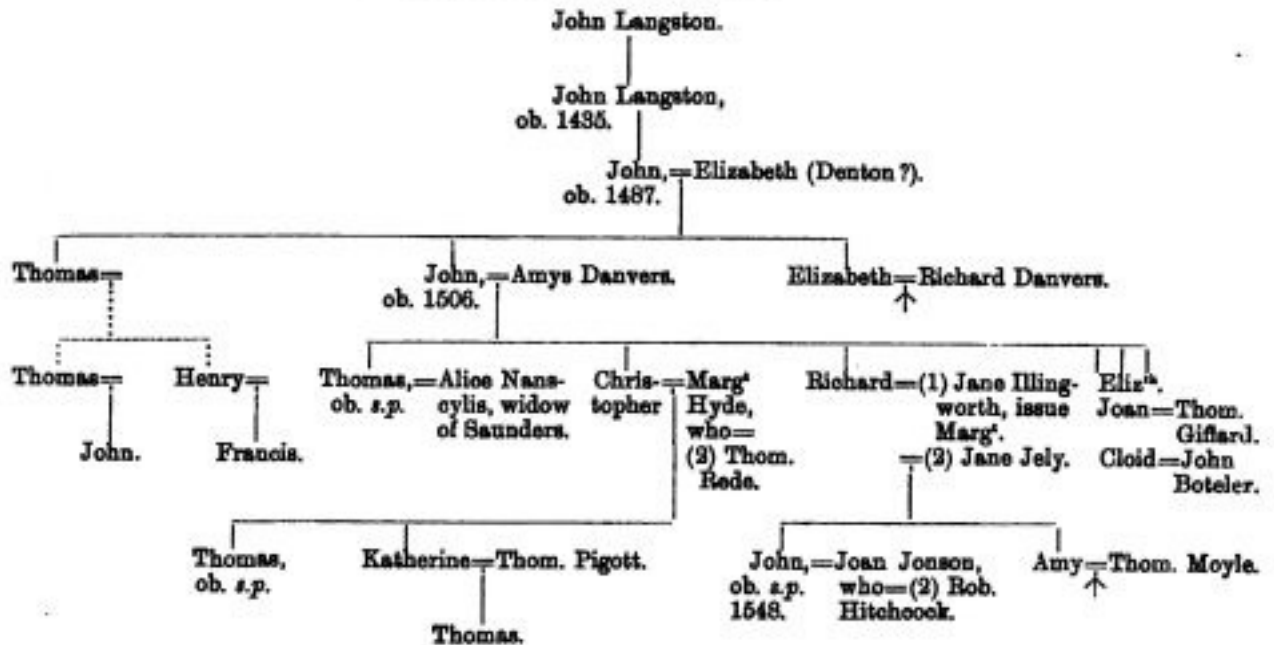
Willmus. Winslowe = Anna fil. Thomae. Poire de Cheriton, ar. 19. B. 2. mil. soc. & haeres Thomas.

15. Thomas Giffard, of Twyford, b. 1408, d. 29 May 1469; m. Eleanor Vaux, dau. of Thomas Vaux (The Gifford pedigree of generations 12-15 is confirmed by cases in the *Plea Rolls*.)

16. John Giffard, esq., of Twyford, b. ca. 1431, d. bef. 23 Sep 1506; m. Agnes Wynslowe, dau. of Thomas Wynslowe (who was d. by 6 Jan 1463) and Agnes Throckmorton, dau. of Sir John Throckmorton (ca. 1380-1445), Under-Treasurer of England, bur. at Church of St. John the Baptist, Fladbury, Warwickshire

17. Thomas Giffard, of Twyford, d. 10 Oct 1511; m. Jane Langston, d. 22 Mar 1534, dau. of John Langston of Caversfield, Buckinghamshire, and Amy Danvers, dau. of John Danvers and his 2nd wife, Joan Bruley; John Danvers was the son of Richard Danvers and Agnes Brancestre, dau. of Sir John Brancestre

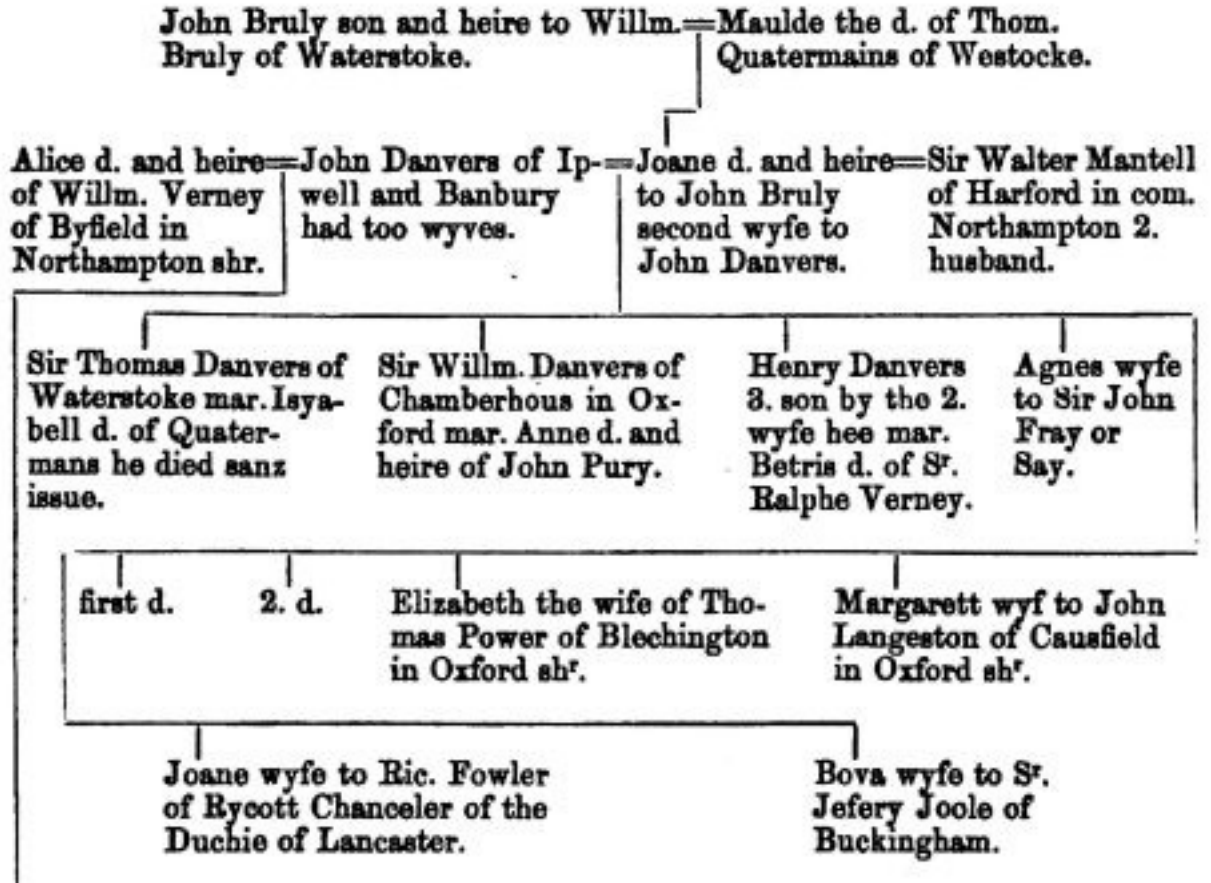
LANGSTON OF CAVERSFIELD.



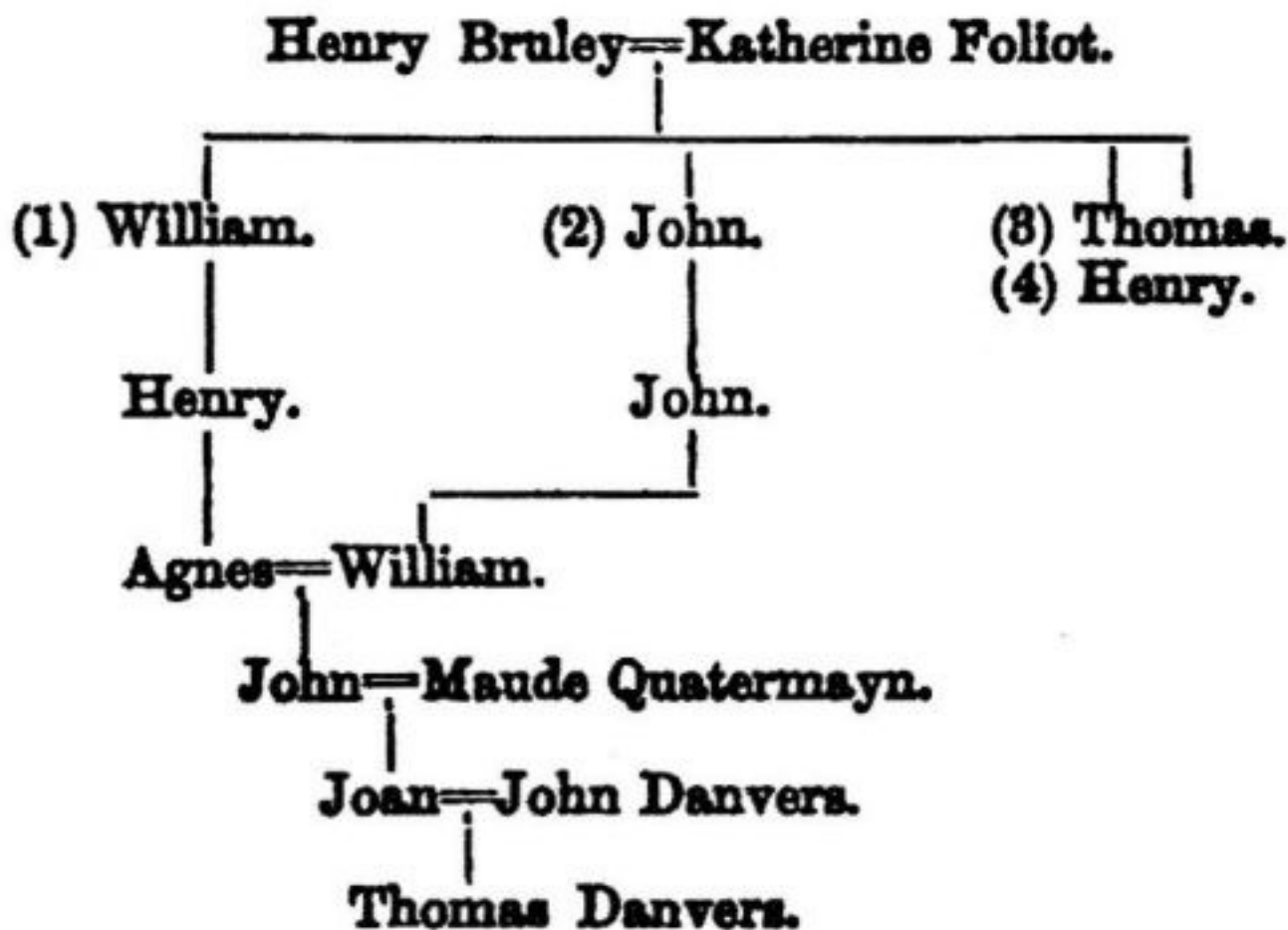
To face p. 127.]

(Danvers, of Waterstock.)

From Harl. MS. No. 1412, p. 28.



(There is an error in this chart: "John Langeston" married Amy Danvers, not "Margarett" Danvers. I've shown only the children of John Danvers' second marriage to Joan Bruley; by his first wife, Alice Verney, he also had issue.)



In Waterstoke church.

thes bj in a glas wyndow.

- I. Erm. on a bend Gu. three chevrons Or. [BRULEY.]
- II. Az. an imperial eagle displayed Arg. charged on the breast with an es-cutcheon Gu. thereon a leopard's face Or. [COTESMORE.]
- III. BRULEY, impaling, Gu. a fess between four dexter hands coupéd Or. [QUATREMAINE.]
Over it written, **Orate pro aiaibus. Thome Danbers armppr filius Johis. Danbers ac hered. Dñe. Johnis. bruley uxor suo.**
- IV. On a bend three martlets [DANVERS], impaling, BRULEY.
Over it written, **John Danbers Esqr & Jone bruley & Margret quat,maine.**
- V. Arg. a cross engrailed between four martlets Sa. impaling BRULEY.
- VI. Quarterly 1 and 4. Arg. on a bend Gu. three martlets Vt. [DANVERS.] 2 and 3. BRULEY, impaling, QUATREMAINE.
Over the shields V. and VI. is written, **John Danbers Esqr and Jone Mancell his wyffe Doughtr & heir of John bruley & Maude quatermainys wyffe to the sayd bruley patrons of this church.**

(In the old churches of England it was customary for families of local importance to make a display of their arms. These arms were recorded in 1668 as being displayed in the chancel window in Waterstock church, Oxfordshire, relating to the above Danvers, Bruley, and Quartermaine families. Evidently subsequent restorations have erased their existence. The chart above it, from *Memorials Of The Danvers Family*, illustrates why the Bruley family has been muddled: Agnes Bruley, a great-granddaughter of Henry Bruley and Katherine Foliot, married William Bruley, a great-grandson of Henry Bruley and Katherine Foliot, resulting in a crossed line.)

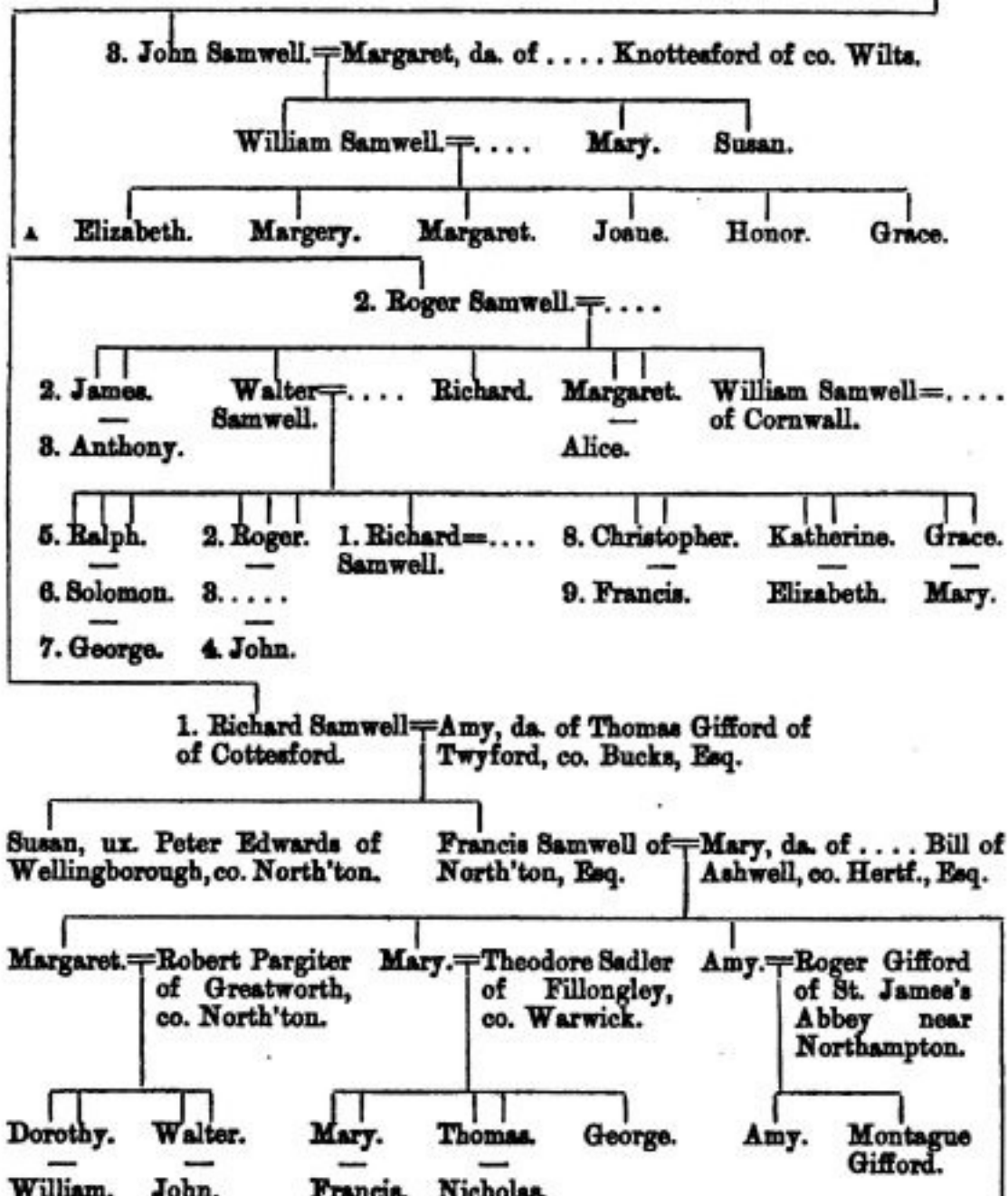
This is a case in point of gentry families intermarrying more than once over the years, with property of one branch of the family being eventually held by another.)
18. Amy Giffard, b. ca. 1485/90; m. bef. 1511 Richard Samwell, of Edgecote, co. Northampton, d. 3 May 1519

Samwell of Apton.

ARMS: Quarterly—1 and 4, *Argent, two squirrels sejant and addorsed Gules*; 2 and 3, *Gules, a lion rampant between three square buckles points downwards Argent within a bordure Azure bezantée* (Trewarthen).

CREST: *On the stump of a tree Or, leaved Vert, a squirrel sejant Gules cracking a nut of the first stalked and leaved of the second.*

John Samwell of Cottesford, co. Oxon, descendant of family of that name . . . in co. Cornwall, of whom one mar. the da. and heir of . . . Trewarthen.



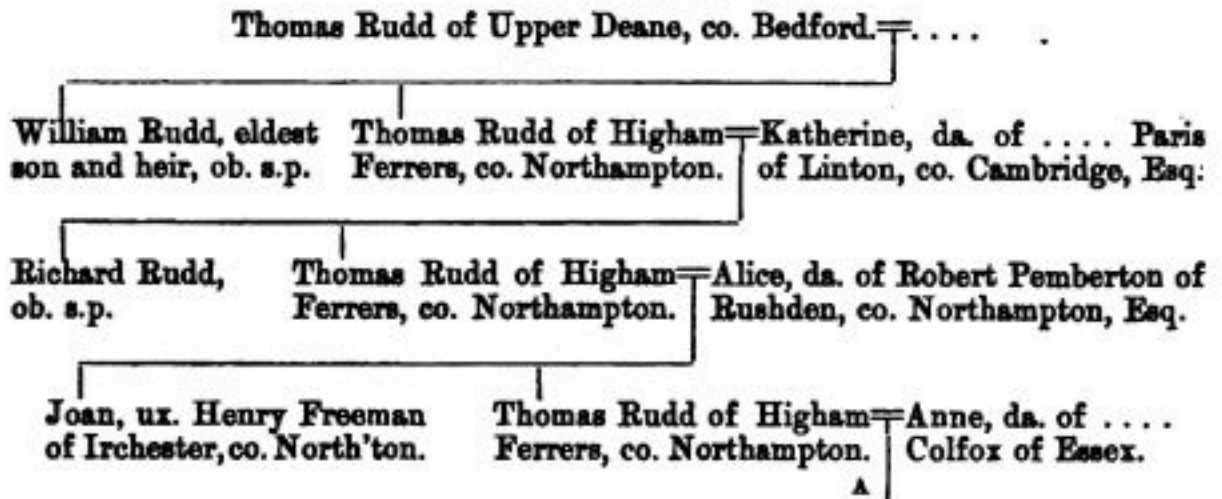
19. Susanna Samwell, b. ca. 1510/5; m. ca. 1535 Peter Edwards, of Peterborough, co. Northampton, b. ca. 1490, d. ca. 1552, son of Peter Edwards
20. Edward Edwards, gent., of Alwalton, co. Huntingdon, b. ca. 1537, d. between Christmas 1591 and 16 Sep 1592; m. Ursula Coles, buried 2 Feb 1606, daughter of Richard Coles and Jane Bond (m. ca. 1536) [will of Jane (Bond) Coles dated 22 Aug 1577; daughter of Robert Bond]
21. Margaret Edwards; m. ca. 1591 Henry Freeman, of Cranford, co. Northampton, b. 1560, son of Thomas Freeman, son of Henry Freeman of Irchester, co. Northampton and Joan Rudd

Rudd of Higham Ferrers.

ARMS : Quarterly—1 and 4, *Azure, a lion rampant Or, a canton Argent*; 2 and 3, *Argent, two greyhounds courant in pale Gules.*

CREST : *A lion rampant Or.*

P. W^m Camden, Clar.



[This chart, from *The Visitations of Northamptonshire 1564 and 1618-19*, p. 192, gives a pedigree of Joan Rudd to her great-grandfather, Thomas Rudd of Bedfordshire. Of Robert Pemberton of

Rushden, Northamptonshire, I have this, from the Rushden Town Council: "From the early 13th century until 1929, Rushden Hall was home to a succession of local squires, in particular the Pembertons, Ekins, Fletcher and Sartoris families. The Pemberton's long association with the hall (nearly 200 years) began shortly after 1460 with Robert Pemberton who was MP for Northampton (*in 1477-8*), High Sheriff (*in 1480*) and Usher of the Chamber to Richard III *. His grandson, another Robert Pemberton, lived in Rushden Hall during Elizabeth I's reign. He was one of her Gentlemen Ushers of the Wardrobe, and he and his son, Sir Lewis Pemberton, rebuilt the old, primitive hall as an elegant country house. Sir Lewis Pemberton, High Sheriff of Northamptonshire, who passed away in 1639, was the last of the

Pembertons to live at Rushden Hall." Sir Lewis Pemberton died deeply in debt and Rushden Hall became the property of the Ekins family. There was a Parris family seated at Littell Linton in Cambridgeshire. The family connections of Alice Freeman are extensive and warrant further investigation. * This is the Robert Pemberton in the above chart. He was evidently a Yorkist, as he is mentioned in May 1476 Close Roll as one of the Ushers of the King's Chamber to Edward IV.]

Pemberton of Rushden.

ARMS: Quarterly—1 and 4, *Argent, a chevron between three well-buckets Sable*; 2 and 3, *Argent, three dragons' heads erect Sable guttée de sang*.

WILLIAM PEMBERTON of Somersale (*sic*), co. Lanc., mar. and had issue,—ROBERT PEMBERTON, eldest son and heir.

ROBERT PEMBERTON of Rushden, co. North'ton, mar. *Alis*, the da. and one of the heirs of . . . (*Stephen*—Harl. MS. 1553) *Lago* of Newcastle, co. Stafford, Gent., and had issue,—WILLIAM, his eldest son and heir; Richard, died *sans* issue.

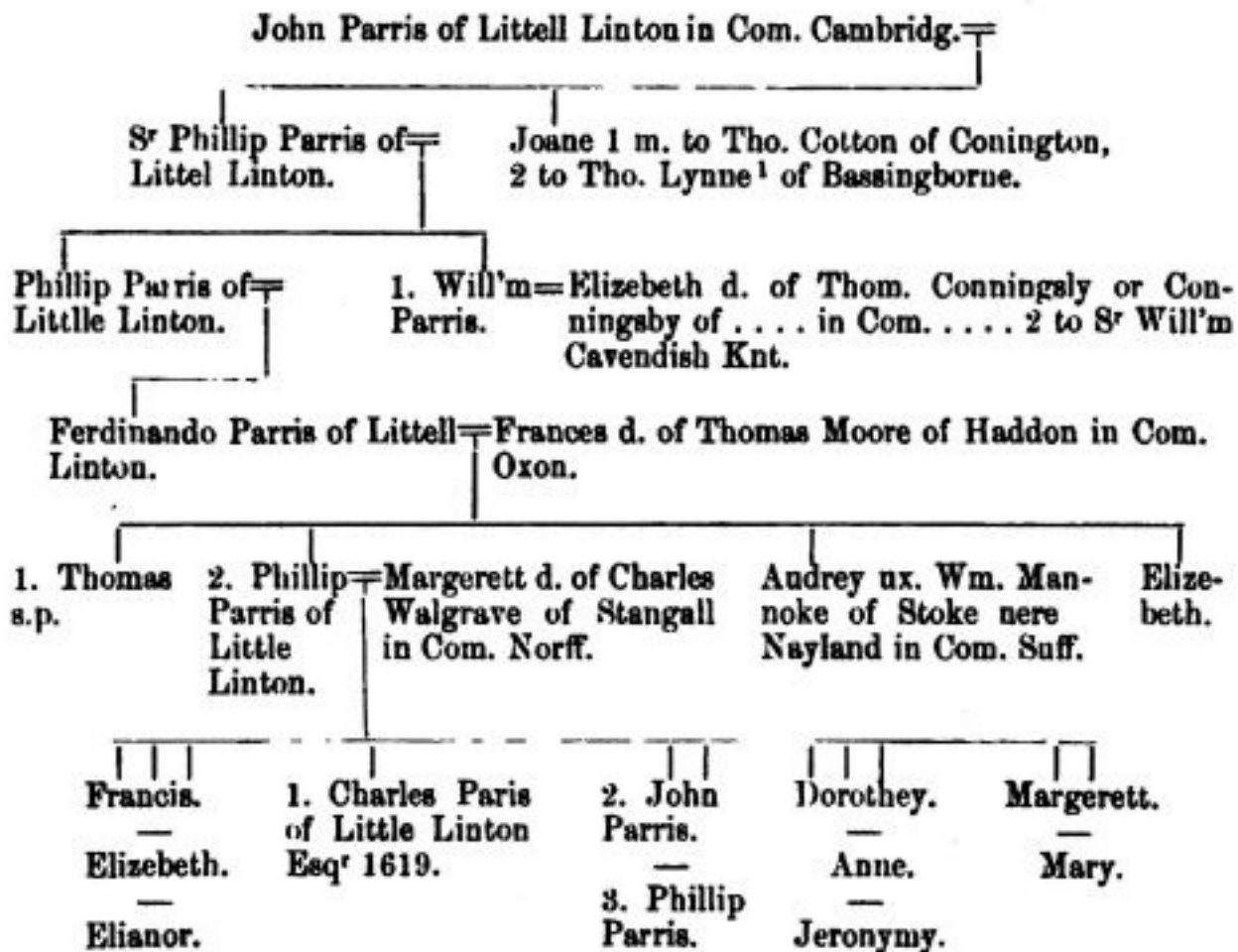
WILLIAM PEMBERTON of Rushden, Esq., son and heir of Robert, mar. *Sibbell*, da. of . . . *Pateshall* of Risley, co. Bedford, and had issue,—ROBERT, his son and heir; Agnes; Thomazin, mar. to *Thomas King* of co. Hereford.

ROBERT PEMBERTON of Rushden, Esq., son and heir of William, mar. *Margaret*, da. of *Richard Throgmorton* of Higham Park, co. North'ton, and hath issue,—Robert Pemberton, his son and heir; Raulfe, second son; John, third son; Francis, fourth son; Goddard, fifth son; Marye, mar. to *Thomas Buggayne* of Sutton, co. Warwick, Yeoman; Jane; and Anne.

(This pedigree, from the same *Visitation of Northamptonshire*, page 41, gives some further history of the Pemberton family, showing that Robert Pemberton's wife was Alis Lago, daughter of Stephen Lago. Robert Pemberton was the son of William Pemberton of Lancashire, of whom I have nothing further.)

Parris.

ARMS.—Gules, three unicorns' heads couped or.



[Referring again to the Rudd chart, which shows that Thomas Rudd married Katherine Paris, daughter of (?) Paris of Linton, Cambridgeshire, I located this chart in The Visitations of Cambridgeshire 1575 and 1619, p. 37, which is her family, though not her line. Sir Philip Paris (1492-1558) was a Catholic recusant. A chart in Blomefield (1739) shows that Elizabeth Paris (d. 1591), daughter of Sir Philip Paris, married Sir Thomas Lovell of Norfolk. Evidently the descendants of Sir Philip Parys knew nothing of their ancestors beyond John Parys. Robert Pemberton and Katherine Paris would have been approximate contemporaries of one another. The Golden Grove Book of Pedigrees shows a Ferdinando Paris of Cambridgeshire marrying Margaret Lovel, daughter of Sir Philip Lovel of Norfolk; the relationship of Ferdinando Paris to John Parris is unclear. Ferdinando Paris had a son Thomas Paris, who had two daughters: Catherine married Thomas Croft of Wigmore, and Mary married Richard Hynton.

The manors of Linton have a complex history. However, it is known that around the mid-14th century, the Parys family had acquired Great Linton. The progenitor of the Parys family of Linton was Robert Parys (d. ca. 1377). By 1428 the Parys family held the manor of Little Linton as well, the manors then becoming united in descent. A more complete chart of the family was prepared by Everard Green, Somerset Herald-of-Arms (1911-1926), entitled: A Pedigree of the ancient Catholic family of Parys of Linton in the county of Cambridge. It contains some errors. Green shows Katherine (Rudd) Paris as a descendant of Robert and Alienora Parys, but doesn't name her parents. Green indicates the family had its origins in Norfolk, but cites no documentation in support of that assertion.]



Monumental brass of Henry Parys, Esq., d. 1466, at Holy Trinity Church, Hildersham, Cambridgeshire. Such memorials were probably all from a pattern, and not a likeness of the wealthy people who ordered them.

PARYS FAMILY OF LINTON, CAMBRIDGESHIRE

ROBERT PARYS (progenitor of the Parys family of Linton; d. 1377) = ALIENORA (d. 1408)

his son,

ROBERT PARYS (d. Jul 1408) M.P. 1388; Sheriff 1386, 1390; Escheator in Cambridgeshire 1397

his son,

ROBERT PARYS (d. *via patria*)

his daughter,

CATHERINE PARYS (d. ca. 1412 *sine prole*)

Line extinct. Linton held by Catherine's grand-uncle NICHOLAS PARYS (d. 1425 *sine prole*).

After the death of NICHOLAS PARYS in 1425, the estate devolved upon:

HENRY PARYS (d. 1427, 2nd son of Robert Parys d. 1408) = MARGERY
Inquisition Post Mortem 5 Henry VI (1427) No. 48

their son,

HENRY PARYS (b. 1424, d. Jun 1466) = AGNES = THOMAS BRAMPTON

their son,

ROBERT PARYS (d. ca. 1505 PCC Will dated 29 Jan 1505 in English) = (1) JANE
(2) PHILLIPA

his son,

JOHN PARYS (d. 19 Jan 1517) = MARGARET HUNTINGDON

his son,

SIR PHILIP PARIS (1492-1558) = (1) MARGARET BOWES (d. 1551)
(2) AGNES SPRYNG (d. 1557)

[In order to better understand the Parys family of Linton (the name is variously rendered as Parys, Paris, Parris, etc.), I prepared this chart. I've kept to known facts. The elder line of the family became extinct upon the death of Catherine Parys, ca. 1412. The estates then went to Nicholas Parys, younger son of Robert and Eleanor

Parys. Nicholas Parys died without heirs in 1425, whereupon the estates passed to Henry Parys (d. 1427), younger son of Robert Parys (d. 1408). Sir Philip Paris (1492-1558) was the only member of the family to that point to achieve national prominence, profiting greatly from the dissolution of the religious houses during the reign of King Henry VIII.

The other two pedigrees cited here: that of Katherine (Paris) Rudd and Ferdinando Paris are fragmentary. Evidently both Katherine (Paris) Rudd and Ferdinando Paris are descendants, though not children, of Henry Parys (d. 1427). Unfortunately, the term "Esquire" does not have a precise meaning, but was applied to any man whose ancestors or himself had a coat of arms. That Katherine (Paris) Rudd's father is termed "Esq." and of Linton in Cambridgeshire indicates her father was of this family. It isn't absolute proof that her father was Henry Paris (d. 1466), but he is the most likely candidate as I know of no other male member of the Parys family in Linton at that time. Since the Rudd chart indicates no dates for Katherine (Paris) Rudd, checking records at Higham Ferrers may provide additional information regarding her father. The Parys family somehow emerged from obscurity and amassed enough capital to become country squires, a position they maintained well into the 17th century.]

We have presented the evidence for the Freeman line down to Henry, the father of Alice. His wife was Margaret, daughter of Edward Edwards of Allerton, co. Hunts., according to the Freeman pedigree; and although she is omitted in the Edwards pedigree, that statement is borne out by her father's will [Arch. Hunts, Peterborough, XV. 219], of which the following is a brief abstract:

The will of Edward Edwards, of Allwalton als Alarton in the Countie of Hunts gent., dated 25 Dec. 1591, proved 16 Sept. 1592. To eldest son, Peter Edwards, freehold lands in the Borough of St. Peter als Peterborough, also two tenements in Wotton, co. Northampton, Peter to pay to his brother Francis ("my second son"), a hundred marks at the age of twenty-two; also to the said Peter, after the decease of Ursula Edwards, his natural mother, half of three tenements, and another tenement, in Northampton, and lands and half a tenement in Kingsthorpe, co. Northampton, Peter to pay to his brother Richard Edwards fifty pounds at the age of twenty-six; also to the said Peter, copyhold lands in Wittlesaie, co. Cambridge, after the decease of his mother, Peter to pay to his brother Robert Edwards forty pounds at the age of twenty-six. To my son Nicholas Edwards, forty pounds at the age of twenty-four, to be paid by his mother out of the lease of my farm and mills of Alwalton. To daughter Elizabeth

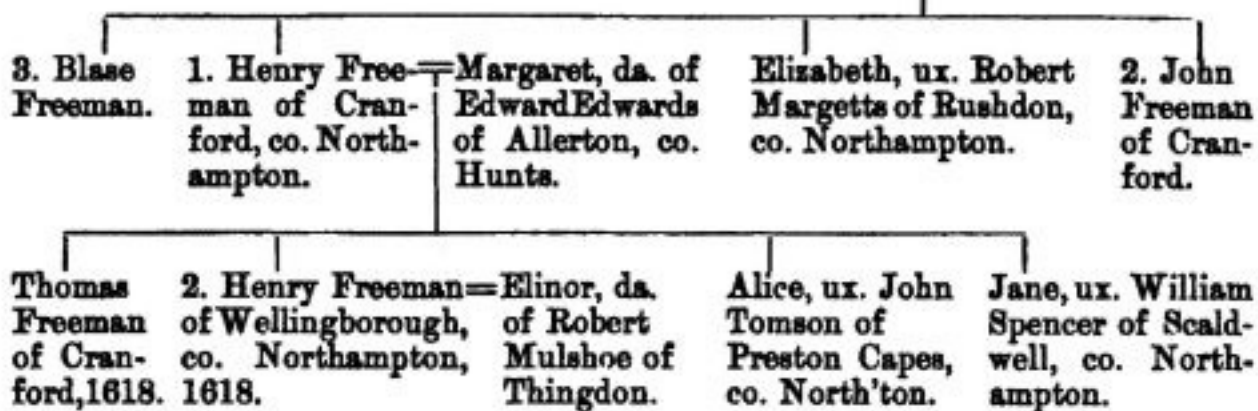
Edwards, forty pounds at marriage or at age of twenty-four. To eldest daughter, Margaret Freeman, "one hoop-ring of gold worth by estimation thirty pounds." To wife Ursula Edwards for life, and at her decease to eldest son Peter. To my brother Nicholas Edwards. To my sister Amy Ludlowe. To my cousin Thomas Knappe. To my brother Thomas Ludlowe. To every cottager dwelling in the town of Allwalton, 4d. Wife Ursula to be sole executrix, and brothers Nicholas Edwards and Thomas Ludlowe to be supervisors.

The parish registers of Alwalton, co. Huntingdon, contain an entry of the burial of Urseley Edwards on 2 Feb. 1606. She was the widow of Edward Edwards, and the grandmother of Alice (Freeman) (Tompson) Parke.

(From: "Alice (Freeman) (Tompson) Parke," by Clarence Almon Torrey, in *The American Genealogist and New Haven Genealogical Magazine*, July 1936. This article dovetails with the Moriarty article cited above.)

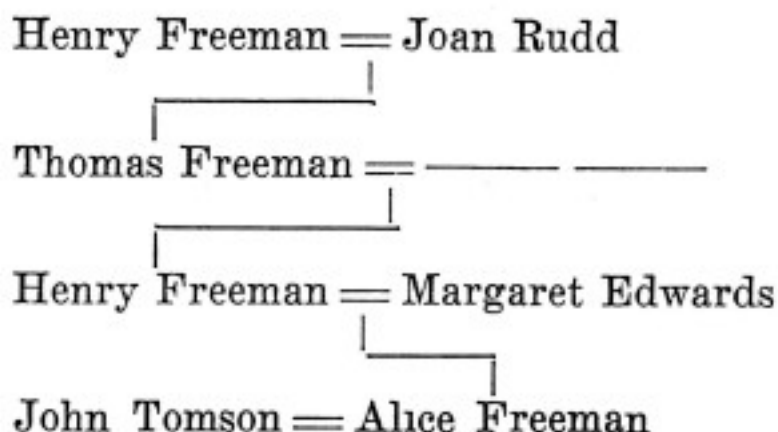
Freeman of Wellingborough.

Henry Freeman of Irchester, co. North'ton. . . .



(Visitation of Northamptonshire 1618-1619; this chart omits a generation, as Henry Freeman who married Margaret Edwards was actually the grandson of Henry Freeman of Irchester, Northamptonshire.)

A more serious omission is that of a generation in the Freeman pedigree. The Henry Freeman with whom the pedigree begins was great-grandfather, not grandfather, of Alice. He was undoubtedly of yeoman stock. The family appears to have improved in wealth and social standing by native ability and advantageous marriages. Extracts from English wills and other records, cited below, will prove that the following is the correct line of descent:



- [*Torrey (1936)* corrects the Visitation, and we can apply some dates: Henry Freeman, who m. ca. 1530/3 Joan Rudd, was b. ca. 1505/8, d. ca. 1585; and his son Thomas, who d. ca. 1586, was the grandfather of Alice Freeman.]
22. Alice Freeman, "of Cranford," b. ca. 1595, d. 11 Feb 1664/5 New London, CT; m. (1) 16 Nov 1616 (his 2nd) John Thompson, gent., of Little Preston, Northamptonshire, d. 6 Nov 1626 in London, son of John Thompson (baptisms of the Thompson children are recorded at the parish of Preston Capes) (2) Robert Parke
23. Bridget Thompson, bpt. 11 Sep 1622, d. Aug 1643; m. (his 1st) Mar 1640/1 Capt. George Denison, gent., bp. Bishop's Stortford, co. Hertford, 10 Dec 1620, d. Hartford, CT, 23 Aug 1694
24. Hannah Denison, b. 20 May 1643; m. (2) 15 Jul 1680 Capt. Joseph Saxton
25. Mary Saxton, bpt. 4 Sep 1681, d. 17 Oct 1750; m. 15 Dec 1697 Benjamin Minor, d. 28 Feb 1711
26. Mary Minor, b. 1699; m. 28 Oct 1717 James Chipman, b. 18 Sep 1697, liv. 1756
27. Stephen Chipman, b. ca. 1738, prob. in NY, d. 1772 Kent Co., DE; m. Agnes — (poss. related to Jonathan Emerson of Kent Co., DE)
28. James Chipman of Bledsoe Co., TN, b. 1771, d. bef. 1830; m. Betsy — who was living 1832
29. William Chipman, b. 1814, d. 1874 Lauderdale Co., TN; m. Milly Standifer, daughter of Benjamin and Nancy (Echols) Standifer

30. Joseph H. Chipman, b. 1852, d. ca. 1897 Madison Co., TN; m. (1) 31 Aug 1873 Sarah A. Miller, d. 1880 Lauderdale Co., TN, daughter of Howard and Leitha Caroline (Hargis) Miller

31. James Edward Chipman; m. (1) 26 Dec 1901 Allie May Oxley, b. 4 Mar 1887, d. 27 Dec 1935, daughter of Aquilla Voin and Mariah Caroline (Riddle) Oxley:

and had the following children:

Jewell Vester Chipman, m. (1) Ruby Ethel Bohannon; Lawcie Idella Chipman, m. Arvil A. Mason; Beecher Edgar Chipman, m. (1) Jewel Winifred Bailey; Winford William Chipman, m. Ada Hill; Pauline Aquilla Chipman, m. (1) Carl Davis Page.



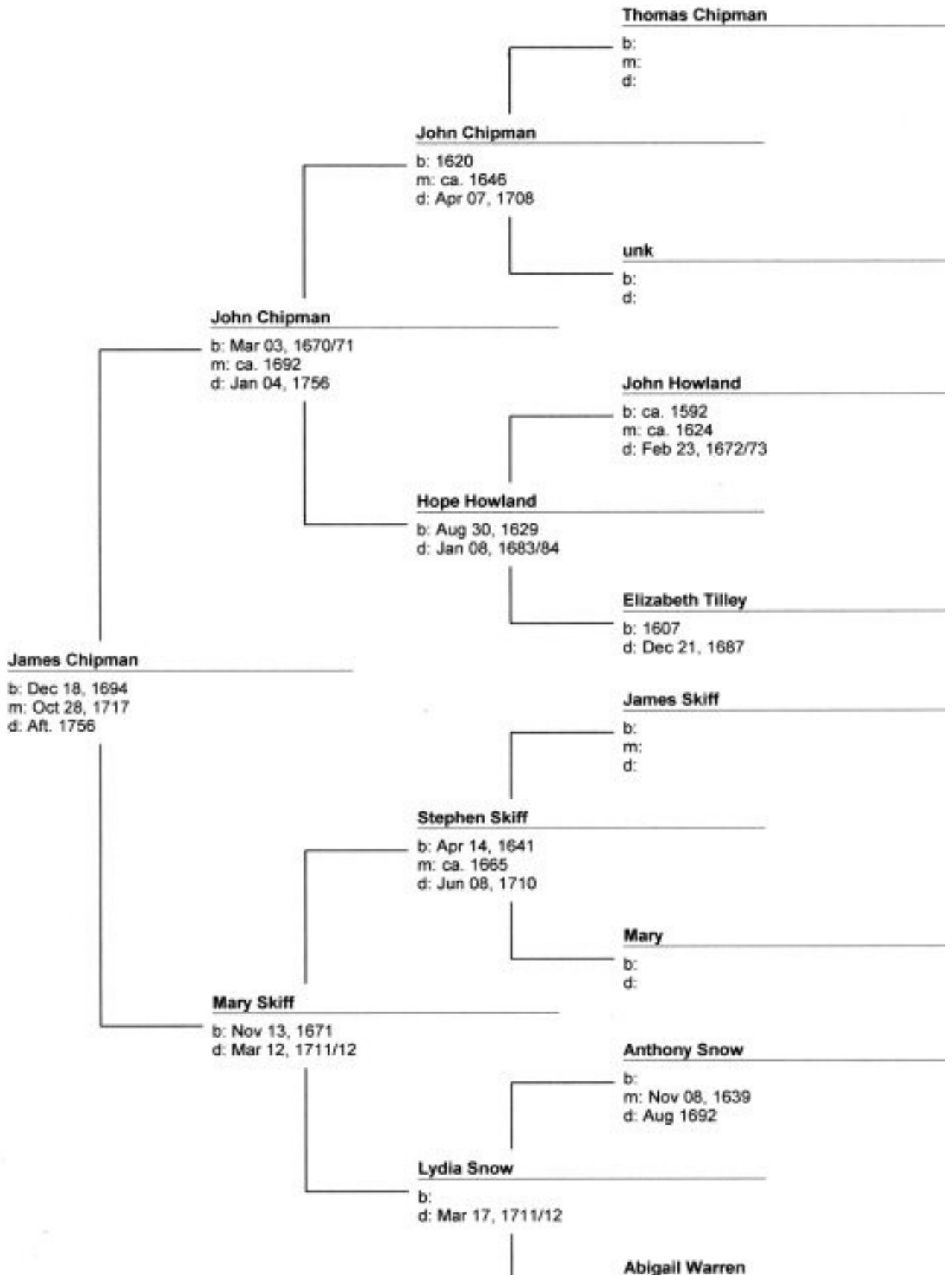
[*Wedding photo: James Edward and Allie May (Oxley) Chipman.*]

This line had gone unrecognized because, until the White & Coles article, it wasn't generally known that James and Mary (Minor) Chipman had descendants. Their first three children—James, Mary, and Deborah—were born in Stonington, CT, where their births were recorded in the town records (of which I have a copy). Deborah was probably the child who died on in New London, CT in Oct. 1725. Paris (Perez) and John were born in New London, CT. About 1730 the family moved to Smithtown, L.I., New York, where Benjamin and Stephen were probably born. About 1744 the family moved to DE.

Mary (Minor) Chipman was of a distinguished New England family. Her great-grandparents, Thomas and Grace (Palmer) Minor were ancestors of Ulysses Simpson Grant, Union Civil War general and 18th President of the United States. Thomas Minor and two other ancestors, James Avery and George Denison, played important roles in King Philip's War (1675-1676).

Drake, James D. (1999). *King Philip's War Civil War in New England 1675-1676*. Amherst: University of Massachusetts Press.

Mary (Minor) Chipman's husband James Chipman was a descendant of five Mayflower passengers: Richard Warren, John Howland, John and Joan (Hurst) Tilley, and the Tilley's daughter Elizabeth. John Tilley was Joan's 2nd husband. Chart (with corrected dates):



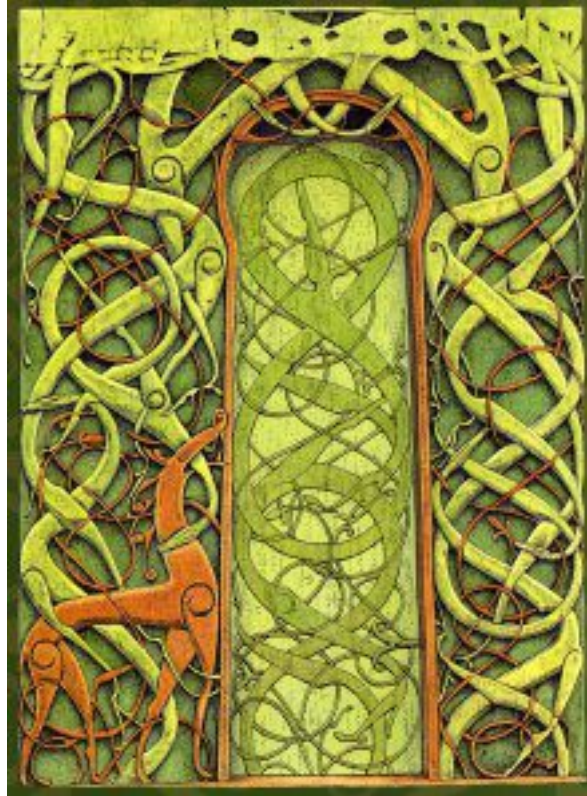
Abigail (Warren) Snow was the daughter of Richard and Elizabeth Warren. Nothing is known of the origin of Richard Warren. Elizabeth (Tilley) Howland was the daughter of John and Joan (Hurst) Tilley, who died the first winter in Plymouth. *Diana Frances Spencer, Princess of Wales, was a descendant of Alice Freeman through Dorothy Thompson, sister of 23. Bridget Thompson, as follows:*

[So how did this miracle of genealogy transpire, that a future king of England finds himself a descendant of Alice Freeman? This illustrates why I don't like Roberts' style of "scholarship." There's a story behind these numbered ciphers. I should not have had to track down the details, but in the spirit of the recent royal marriage, and the record sales of Kleenex it inspired, here goes:

Gens. 30 & 31 are the links that connect the American and British sides of this pedigree. Ellen Wood was the daughter of a wealthy Chillicothe, Ohio businessman. She married Franklin H. Work (1819-1911) in 1857. The couple moved to New York City, where Work amassed a sizable fortune trading on the New Stock Exchange. He was also fond of horses, and perhaps it was in racing circles that his daughter Frances Eleanor Work met and married James Boothby Burke Roche (1852-1920). It was a Gilded Age romance that didn't end well: after four children, the couple divorced in 1891. Frances accused Roche of desertion, a charge he denied, but which was to haunt him when he stood for Parliament in 1896 from Kerry East. Frances was never to be Lady Fermoy, as Roche didn't inherit the barony until 1 Sep 1920, about two months before his death. However, Frances' son Edmund became the 4th Baron Fermoy. The Barons Fermoy are based in Cork and Limerick in Ireland. In 1883 the family held 21,314 acres in Ireland.]



To paraphrase one prominent prosopographer, prosopography is:
The analysis of the sum of data about many individuals to learn the different types of connections between them, and how they operated within and upon the social, political, legal, economic, and intellectual institutions of their time.
PROSOPOGRAPHY OF ANGLO-SAXON ENGLAND
<http://www.pase.ac.uk>



(I have herein furnished the evidence which might be difficult to locate. It's appalling that an ancient line like this should require re-inventing the wheel. While not a line of great pomp and splendor, it has a significant advantage over most royal lines: it happens to be true.

The point of this exercise is to take the reader through various types of materials—though certainly not all—used in constructing medieval pedigrees. When researching ancestors of this period, the first steps should be to review published work on the family, evaluate the quality of evidence adduced, and then acquire extant Visitations, and the Calendars of Inquisitions Post Mortem for the reigning monarchs. If the family was of the peerage or closely associated with a peer, The Complete Peerage and The Scots Peerage are invaluable. Most of these materials, except The Complete Peerage, are available as downloads via Internet Archive or Google Books. For knights active during the reign of King Edward I, The Knights of Edward I is also useful, and of course some of those knights spill over into the reign of King Edward II. Not everyone who qualified for knighthood wished to be one; it could be a costly dignity.)

WODEN'S DAY: THE PAGAN ROOTS OF KING ALFRED'S TREE

Asser; Keynes,
Simon, trans; Lapidge, Michael, trans. (2004). *Alfred the Great Asser's Life of King Alfred and Other Contemporary Sources*. London: Penguin Books Ltd.
Bowker, Alfred. (1902). *The King Alfred Millenary A Record of the Proceedings of the National Commemoration*. London: Macmillan And Co., Limited.
Horspool, David. (2006). *King Alfred Burnt Cakes And Other Legends*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press.
Swanton, Michael J. (1998). *The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle*. New York: Routledge Taylor & Francis Group.

The account of the life of King Alfred, attributed to Asser, Bishop of Sherborne, begins with his pedigree, as follows:

Adam, Seth, Enos, Cainan, Mahalaleel, Jared, Enoch, Methuselah, Lamech, Noah, Seth, Bedwig, Hwala, Hathra, Itermon, Heremod, Sceldwa, Beaw, Taetwa, Geat (a pagan god), Godwulf, Finn, Frithuwulf, Frealaf, Frithuwald, Woden (a pagan god), Baeldaeg, Brand, Gewis, Elesa, Cerdic, Creoda, Cynric, Ceawlin, Cuthwine, Cutha, Ceolwold, Cenred, Ingild, Eoppa, Eafa, Ealhmund, Egbert, Aethelwulf, ALFRED.

I count them as 45 generations. If we grant each generation 35 years, the pedigree extends well into antiquity, but there is recorded history far older than this. Historians are inclined to accept the generations from Cerdic as more or less accurate in outline, if not in detail. Before Cerdic there are problems evident to even a casual reader. The 11 generations to Seth are names common to the Old Testament, but by the 17th generation, Sceldwa, the names aren't Hebrew. How the Hebrews gave issue to Germanic tribes isn't explained. The myth of an uber-progenitor establishing a colony in a distant land is quite common, found in Virgil's *Aeneid* and in Gerald of Wales.

(This fanciful chart shows descents from Woden of the various Anglo-Saxon kings. "Vothinn" or "Othinn" are the same as "Woden.")

The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle contains pedigrees similar to Asser's, and they don't always agree with his account. Originating as oral histories, and committed to writing at a later date, they combined and morphed with other oral traditions that are now lost. The text of Asser's biography of Alfred the Great is dated to 893 CE (Common Era, or Anno Domini).

The *Chronicle* records for the Year 519 that: "Cerdic and Cynric received the West-Saxon kingdom, and the same year they fought with the Britons, in the place now called Cerdicesford; the royal line of Wessex ruled from that day." In 530 they are recorded as seizing the Isle of Wight. In 534 Cerdic died, and his son Cynric ruled for 26 years.

Below is a chart of the various royal houses as taken from *The Anglo-Saxon Chronicles*, and we may presume that over the course of the centuries there was much intermarrigage.

A fuller account of the kings of Wessex, in narrative form:

David Horspool discusses the question of whether Asser was actually the author of the life of Alfred that bears his name. As Horspool sums it up, the case against Asser's authorship is far from conclusive. However, the invention of the printing press was many centuries in the future, and each copy of a book was copied by hand in flickering light. It seems unrealistic to expect all copies to be precisely identical, and perhaps some so-called textual anomalies may be traced to that fact, not every monk having an equal grasp of Latin or his subject, and as errors were corrected additional errors were generated.

One wonders what these people looked like. Below is a tableaux of Queen Osburh (The Lady Osburh) teaching Alfred to read, from a re-enactment during The King Alfred Millenary. Upon close examination, the background is a painted canvas.

(This Edwardian rendering of King Alfred the Great making a gift of a cloak and sword to his grandson Aethelstan probably has some truth in its depiction of royal dress ca. 899. Clothing was a visible way of measuring status. Whether or not these costumes are completely accurate, certain forms of dress were reserved for the various classes in Anglo-Saxon England, a practice that continued into the later medieval period and well into the modern era. One senses in the gaze of the royal lady dressed in yellow and red that much will be expected of this young prince.) St. Margaret, wife of the Scottish King Malcolm III, was a descendant of Alfred, and when her daughter Matilda (or Maud) married the English king Henry I, the bloodline of the Anglo-Saxon royal house eventually passed to the Plantagenets.

Undoubtedly, Henry I's motive was to bolster the legitimacy of Norman rule by co-opting a descendant of the Anglo-Saxon kings.

The list contains two pagan gods, Geat and Woden.

Woden is still with us today, though in a different guise. The day Wednesday means Woden's Day, just as Tuesday is Tewe's Day, Thursday is Thor's Day, and Friday is Freya's Day. Saturday is Saturn's Day, Sunday is the day of the Sun, and Monday is the day of the Moon. Thus, four of the days of the week derive their names from Germanic or Scandanavian gods, one from the Roman god Saturn, and two from heavenly bodies. It's quite a stew.

Woden is the god who sought self-knowledge, and may represent a religion, a political figure who achieved something in the distant past, or the aspirations of a people. Woden is ancient, but there are no contemporary records documenting how he came into being. Just as the saga of *Beowulf* embodies a much older heroic tradition that was sanitized for Christian consumption, so Woden enters Alfred's pedigree as a cultural hero, but not as an object of worship.

Scholars complain of revisionist history, but it's been around since ancient times. Exactly who revised it is the problem. And it struck me that there should be many more generations than this, and that they should not pass into the custody of strangers.