



The Royal Descents of 600 Immigrants to the American Colonies or the United States

by Gary Boyd Roberts

MY NEW BOOK, A REVISION AFTER TEN years of my 1993 *RD500*, delineates the best royal descents — those from the most recent, usually medieval, king — of 95 “new” immigrants, eliminates the lines of fifteen, and considerably revises or massively overhauls such descents for 90 more. Colonial New Englanders found to be of royal descent (*RD*) in the last decade include Mrs. Abigail Brewster Burr of Stamford, Conn., Mrs. Joan Price Cleeve of Maine (wife of Portland founder George Cleeve), Mrs. Elizabeth Haynes Cooke of Cambridge, Archibald Dunlop of Stratford, Conn., Patrick Falconer of New Haven (and New Jersey), Mrs. Sarah Woodward Henschman and Thomas Lechmere, both of Boston, Percival Lowell of Newbury (forebear of the Boston Brahmin Lowells), brothers Philip and Thomas (Jr.) Nelson of Rowley, Increase Nowell of Charlestown, Mrs. Rose Stoughton Otis of Dover, N.H., Mrs. Frances Woodward Oxenbridge (first wife, dying in England, of Boston minister John Oxenbridge, and a sister of Mrs. Henschman), Rev. William Skepper/Skipper and William Snelling, both of Boston, Mrs. Anne Derehaugh Stratton of Salem, James Taylor of Lynn, John Umfreville/Humphreville of New Haven, Mrs. Elizabeth Mansfield Wilson (wife of yet another Boston minister), Emmanuel Woolley of Newport, R.I., and Peter Worden of Yarmouth on Cape Cod.

As in my 1993 work, I have used no places, dates in years only for notable immigrants, and death years only for kings. The references, however, are complete, often much revised, and include commentary about all caveats. This stringency was much noticed by reviewers of my 1993 volume, so I am pleased to report that David Faris’s 1996 and 1999 first and second editions of *Plantagenet Ancestry of Seventeenth-Century Colonists* (both out of print) and the also new, and mammoth, *Plantagenet Ancestry* by Douglas Richardson, David’s chosen successor, supply known dates and places for every generation treated therein (covering about 205 of the 650 immigrants in *RD600*, but the first ten or more generations for many more). These works also summarize Parliamentary or government service, local offices, military careers, historical roles in various medieval events, graduation from Oxford or Cambridge, etc. Thus I have “stuck” with my former format, and my introduction once more covers the phenomenon of royal descent generally, plus a kind of miniature history of English gentry evolution, a discussion of pertinent sources and of my life’s work, *The Mowbray Connection*, and comments on geographical mobility, immigrant “clusters,” and the descent of most modern middle-class Americans from one of these 600 (650).

Once again, too, I have included more than the stated number of immigrants. In 1993, I included 570, thinking ten to twelve percent might be radically altered or disproved in the next decade. Only fifteen were disproved — mostly Quakers from the mid-Atlantic reinvestigated by Col. Charles Hansen, Stewart Baldwin or Neil D. Thompson — but fully 90 were revised or overhauled. For this edition I included an “extra” 50, plus — in an “Addendum for 2004” — a 651st *RD* immigrant, James William Maitland of New York City, great-great-grandfather of recent Democratic contender Howard [Brush] Dean [III]. In the last appendix to the introduction, moreover, I listed 20 immigrants for whom a royal descent has been proposed but not fully proved.

The new twenty-four volume 1999 *American National Biography (ANB)* covers notables who died by the end of 1995. I was surprised to find playwright Noel Coward, novelists Robert Louis Stevenson and Aldous Huxley, humorist [Sir] P. G. Wodehouse, and philosopher Alfred North Whitehead therein, but was delighted to add the first four, plus Mrs. Whitehead, to my list of “new” immigrants. Also covered in *ANB* were Edward Hyde, proprietary governor of North Carolina (with his parents identified); the painter Mrs. Henrietta de Beaulieu Dering Johnston of South Carolina (with an early siter identified as her first husband’s nephew, John Percival, 1st Earl of Egmont); Lygon/Ligon descendant Henry Norwood, treasurer of Virginia; Babington descendant and astronomer Arthur Storer of Maryland; and Kay Summersby, Eisenhower’s driver and frequent companion during World War II.

Various scholars and Society members developed a wide variety of new lines. *Register* editor Henry Hoff brought Mrs. Burr, Mrs. Lydia M. Latrobe Roosevelt, and Jan Otten van Tuyl to my attention. Southern scholar and long-time member John Anderson Brayton told me of Mrs. Mary Batt Ash(e) (Livingston) of S.C., and published new lines for Christopher Calthorp and Daniel Dobyns, both of Va. Former NEHGS trustee Brice McAdoo Clagett revised the Bulkeley, John Cra(y)croft of Md., Dundas of Pennsylvania, Eltonhead of Va., and James Neale of Md. descents, and developed new lines for Mrs. Elizabeth Mallory Rivers of S.C., Henry Sewall, secretary of Md., Leighton Wilson of Georgia, and Francis and Robert Yonge of South Carolina. David Curtis Dearborn developed James Taylor; Marshall K. Kirk developed the new probable paternal *RD* for Gov. Thomas Dudley and speculated on Thomas Bradbury and the Winslows especially; Jerome E. Anderson developed Increase Nowell;