

# MEDIEVAL QUEST

INTO MY ANCESTORS INVOLVEMENT  
WITH ROYALTY INTRIGUE

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# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

**This research could not have started without being able to build upon the meticulous genealogy completed by my cousin, Raymond Clark, in 1982. His work extended back twenty-four generations to royalty through the key linkage of our great grandmother, Eliza Moulton to King Edward I of England.**

**Raymond had no interest in this linkage to royalty, though, because he wouldn't accept another person's genealogy works as accurate enough. It was also before the advent of computer programs and the internet, so his work was manual and based only on his own meticulous research--typical of a Certified Public Accountant.**

**I used his work as a launching pad to continue on beyond his imposed horizon. I could now enter his data into such software programs as *Family Tree Maker* and *Family Origins*, which included a royalty data base of all western civilization. Then it became a study of royalty history in current books and on-site research at many UK historic sites and museums to gain a perspective that helps me to visualize my writing.**

# INTRODUCTION

After completing my genealogy manuscript, *Hello Ancestors*, I decided the next step should delve deeper into medieval history that involved my ancestors. During preparation for a five-week research trip to sites in the UK in September and October, 2007, I soon found myself getting immersed in a world of culture that is now dead but has shaped ours in subtle ways.

A major change began in the late 1400s, about 100 years after my period of focus. A rebirth of cultural achievement started with the quest for innovation and knowledge by such as the universal genius, Leonardo da Vinci.

While studying those historical events, involving my ancestors who were key links to royalty, I wondered what they were really like and how best to make them become more real. How did they later respond to scientific discoveries by such as Copernicus, Galileo and Newton? Were there other motivating factors other than to simply gain power and possessions?

Then I realized that various factions of the fledgling Christian reformation movement, later enabled profoundly by the newly invented printing press, like today's internet, were a prime factor. Religious ideas and attitudes mattered profoundly. Character and actions could be gauged based on how they responded to these theological and doctrinal changes. Historical records seem to merely repeat opinions of the time--for instance by simply labeling such movements as radical and rebellious. They tend to overlook the power of ideas that reformed the society of this period.

The person who most changed the pattern of Christian thought during the middle-ages by stressing the love of God was Bernard de Clairvaux (1090-1153). He was later made a saint. His writings were used widely-- second only to the Bible, especially in France and Germany. He was quoted almost as frequently as St. Augustine. Many present-day hymns such as "O Sacred Head Now Wounded", use his words. French King Louis XIII built a church over his birth place at Fontaine in 1652.

Among those to whom he gave council were my ancestors, King Henry I of England, King Henry II of England, and Eleanor of Aquitaine as well as her first spouse, King Louis VII of France. He was especially concerned about the worldly corruption of the church and the political organization of the Second Crusade.

He was born into a wealthy Burgundy family but his mother influenced him to seek a life of poverty and complete devotion to God. He became a White Robe in the Cistercian Order which grew to 350 abbeys.

As I studied royalty lines of succession that involved my ancestors I noted the length of reigns and their often violent endings. Then I compared this to the everlasting reign of the king of all kings, Christ our Lord.

I was surprised to learn about the earliest writings of the period, such as the *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle*, and *Plantagenet Chronicles* by Gervase, a monk in Canterbury Cathedral and Ralph, Abbot of Coggeshall. Although written shortly

after the described events, these works and others hadn't been fully translated and printed until the current generation. So modern-day historians are still probing these scanty sources of early writings to better differentiate fact from propaganda, legend or myth. The early prime-source writings describe places and culture of my ancestor's time. They also emphasize God's purpose in events-- pointing out moral and religious lessons from the Bible.

Upon return from my medieval journey to the UK, I wondered how to best record my new insights into life behind names. Then the answer crystallized. Why not take a personal discussion approach similar to getting oral "his story" accounts from war veterans for my earlier book, *Faithful Warriors*? The challenging difference is that these ancestors lived during the middle ages! Then I realized that this is actually similar to asking questions of persons at historical sites who are dressed and talking "in the period."

My intent is to achieve greater insight in the form of first-person dialogue that reflects more personal details about their involvement, emotions, family, etc. I have selected only the most interesting of many ancestors and organized each into a separate chapter, extending chronologically to the past.

I eventually realized that the persons to focus on are all women because they are the key connecting links by marriage between each of the various royalty dynasties. Others are less interesting key links that substantiate entry into royalty. Refer to the diagram in chapter 1 that shows how these key ancestors fit into an expanded royalty lineage encompassing many kingdoms. The saying goes that a picture is worth a thousand words. That principle can be well applied here to help our brain visualize a very complex array of data in a photographic memory mode.

Each discussion follows a profile of basic historical information about the individual as a starting point for questions. The dialogue is crafted, using journalistic license. However it is based soundly on differing historical accounts and the latest available information I obtained from personally visiting many museums, castles, abbeys and cathedrals. They also reflect my observations and discussions with knowledgeable persons during my five weeks walking in the footsteps of these ancestors in the UK in 2007.

This medieval research trip was a tension-filled adventure and a great challenge for an 87 year-old traveling alone. The adventure was similar to twenty-five years earlier when I had re-traced my own footsteps on many Pacific islands where I had fought as a WW II Marine. That became the book, *Faithful Warriors*, which I have had rewritten for publishing by *The Naval Institute Press*. This manuscript about my ancestors is intended to preserve the latest research information for others of like interest to build upon.

## CHAPTER 2

### ELIZA MOULTON

Eliza (1822-1898) was my great grandmother and the initial connection that I was surprised to discover led to royalty starting with Joan Plantagenet, the granddaughter of English King Edward I, called Long Shanks.

I will let her tell about her life in New Hampshire where my father was born and lived in an extended family with her. I have her family Bible with her entries going back to the birth of her father, Jacob Moulton in 1787. That date is shortly after the Revolutionary War. My father wrote in the Bible, "The wonderful grandmother".

King George IV reigned 1820-1830 during her life.

#### Discussion with Eliza Moulton

In the period 1897 when she was age 75, living in Melvin Village, NH.

(Dean) Hello Eliza-- You are my great grandmother whom my father, Myron Ladd, mentioned so lovingly. I have your Moulton family Bible with all of the detailed recordings that you hand-entered. The dates extend back to the births of your father Jacob Moulton in 1787 and mother Eunice Dean in 1790. I doubt that you knew your ancestry goes back into royalty, starting with King Edward I of England. Can you tell me anything about the Dean line?

(Eliza) Hello Dean—I'm pleased to see that sir-name was carried down from your dad, who's middle name was also Dean as I had suggested. I knew little about our ancestors though much further back than my great grandparents. My mother Eunice was a Dean and had mentioned that the Dean line went way back to somewhere in England like all of my ancestors I guess.

(Dean) I have learned a lot about our ancestors-- thanks to research done by your great grandson, Raymond Clark, the son of your grand daughter, Agnes. Also, my father often reminisced about life in Melvin Village, on Lake Winnepesaukee.

I have been inside the home there where three generations of Ladds had lived. The current owner even showed me the inside of the door to the backyard shed. He knew I would be interested because it was a man's funny face scribbled by my father shortly before he went west. My father included many variations of this example in his letters for the rest of his life. I have recorded many of them into his biography.

I have a photo taken in about 1885 that shows you and your husband, Gordon, sitting in front of that home with your extended family. Another photo of about the same date shows a gathering of pastors at the Melvin Village Community Baptist Church, with Gordon standing in front next to his son (my grandfather George). I

also have your son, George's, diary. This must bring back many fond memories for you.

(Eliza) I am so pleased that his diary has been preserved for our descendants to read. I remember watching him reflecting on each day's activity, especially our finances. That showed his bookkeeping training. My husband, Gordon, bought that place when it was unfinished. Trees from our own land were sawed at the nearby Horner's mill to provide lumber for repairs and additions.

I was very happy living there with my son, George's, family. He had learned accounting but didn't practice it due to a bout with poor health. I cared for him to recovery and, since the economy was very poor, he decided to stay home and take over running the farm.

In those days we primarily lived off the land and helped each other by exchanging labor. We grew wheat, oats and barley as well as garden vegetables for the market twenty mile away. Horses and oxen were indispensable. There was much less need for money then except at the store or to buy needed clothing and farming necessities.

The winters were often severe though and especially hard on the older people. We often sat up through the night with the sick and dying. Life was full of sorrow in those difficult times. Last year was particularly hard on our family with the death of your father's sister, Bertha, at age 11 with scarlet fever. But there were fun times as well in the winter such as sleigh riding and skating.

(Dean) Those sad times of sitting-up with the sick and dying were main entries in George's diary. He also mentioned church sermons. I have sat in possibly the same church pew your family sat in.

(Eliza) Gordon and I joined that church in 1868 and my son, George, in 1877. George's wife, Juliette, joined later in 1880. We all regularly attended that Church. In those days we called it "going to meeting." We loved to sing and usually sat in a certain pew. Juliette was small, erect, lively and was always working busily and quickly.

Probably your father has told you that my husband, Gordon, and his older brother, Samuel, married sisters who were daughters of Harris Young and when they died, Gordon and Samuel married sisters again—me and my sister, Sara Moulton. So that's why there are many double cousins! Gordon's three grown children from his first marriage, Woodbury, Harvey and Clarabell also spent much time visiting us as you notice in the photograph you mentioned. Harvey especially liked your father.

Gordon was quite head-strong. He even remembers when he was only 4 and wanted to attend the funeral of his father, Samuel in 1817. His grand mother refused to let him go though so he allegedly called her, "an old bitch", for which he got a good licking. Your father went to the same Melvin Village County Grammar School as his father and grand father before and ate their lunches under the same large oak tree.

## CHAPTER 3

### MERCY DUDLEY

Mercy (1621-1691) has become like a magnet to my searching mind. That is because of my discovery that she is the key link to the Dudley family line that leads further on into royalty. There are hundreds of references to her in genealogy websites, such as genealogy.com.

I will let her tell about her husband, John Woodbridge, and her father, Thomas Dudley, who served four terms as governor of the Massachusetts Colony. She will also tell about her siblings who have many well known descendants. This information could be very useful for others (my distant cousins) interested in this connection to royalty.

The Dudleys were born and many died at Dudley Castle over a period of 350 years. I looked toward that site about ten miles to the west from my train as it left the Birmingham train station.

Many kings reigned during her life such as James I 1603-1625 ( King James Bible), Charles I 1625-1649 ( executed), Oliver Cromwell 1649-1660, Charles II 1660-1685, James II 1685-1688 and Mary II 1688-1694.

In my earlier research I mistakenly had thought that John Dudley, Duke of Northumberland, was her great grandfather because he had the same name and about the same birth and death dates as the correct one.

I have decided however to still include this research information for other likely close relatives to build upon. Another reason is that It is a well known event in history—one that tells about Lady Jane Grey’s great faith in God as she faced execution by her cousin,” Bloody” Queen Mary. This event became especially emotional as I stood next to the spot of her execution in the Tower of London. Then I looked at her nearby residence where she had contemplated her destiny, especially after watching her headless husband being carted away.

After I returned home from that emotional experience and realized my data error, I actually was glad that this John Dudley wasn’t my ancestor. Perhaps someone else will claim him!

This John Dudley, as Duke of Northumberland, was at one time the most powerful man in England but of questionable character like most others in his station of life. After the death of King Henry VIII in 1547 he used his influence to place fifteen year-old Lady Jane Grey on the throne for nine days until Bloody Mary overthrew her. He used intrigue to the ultimate to gain power but in the end met his own demise. This is a repeating process of history from the beginning of man.

History records the sad saga of innocent Jane Grey, a short, freckled- face girl who was a very well educated and devout Christian of demonstrated unwavering faith right up to the instant the executioner’s ax fell. The main difference between

her and Joan of Arc was that the latter very aggressively led a movement whereas Jane was merely an innocent pawn of power-hungry leaders jockeying for position.

All of this was in the vacuum left by the death of ruthless King Henry VIII. One of his first acts had been to execute Edmund Dudley, minister of the previous king, Henry VII. He was possibly a cousin of this John Dudley.

When Edward VI, the sixteen-year-old boy-king with frail health was crowned, Dudley began scheming. First he wanted to become the king's Protector, the power behind the throne. Then he wanted to force the marriage of his son, Guildford, on Jane Grey. Dudley had maneuvered her into a position to succeed the sickly king in a few years.

Dudley was a formidable tournament performer and soldier, having distinguished himself at the Battle of Pinkie Cleugh near Edinburgh, the last battle fought between the Scottish and English royal armies. He had also disposed of a rebellion that protested worshipping restrictions being imposed on the established church. Dudley thus undermined the position of his adversary, Duke of Somerset, who was the current Protector. Somerset was eventually accused of treason and conspiracy to poison members of the Privy Council. The young king died shortly after Dudley had succeeded Somerset and had convinced the young king to sign Somerset's death warrant.

Next, Dudley arranged for an immediate coronation of Jane Grey as Queen to head off her Catholic cousin, Mary. Jane didn't want to be Queen and was surprised when they afterward kneeled before her as Queen. Mary quickly gathered a formidable force though and took over as Queen nine days later.

John Dudley and his son were the first to be beheaded in the reign of "Bloody" Mary. Jane had grown up as friends with her cousins, Mary, Elizabeth (the future queen) as well as the current boy-king and could have saved her life if she had renounced her difference of Christian faith to Mary. John Dudley and his contemporaries on the other hand compromised their faiths and allegiances to further their worldly aspirations or to attempt to save their heads.

John Dudley's son, Earl Robert of Leicester, later became the favorite suitor of Queen Elizabeth I. A painting shows her dancing a hopping-type of dance with him.

## **Discussion with Mercy Dudley**

**In the period 1689 when she is age 68, living in Boston MA**

**(Dean) Hello Mercy--I am your 10th great grandson who would like to discuss some key points of your life. I am especially interested because you are my key genealogical link into royalty. You and five of your siblings are also ancestors of many famous persons.**

**Your family life certainly was extra ordinary. You were the daughter of the very popular governor of the Massachusetts Colony and as the spouse of a minister who served sixteen years in England which was where all your children were born.**

**(Mercy) Yes, my family life was indeed extraordinary. My father, Thomas Dudley, was governor of Massachusetts Colony four terms starting in 1634. He was also one of twelve who founded Harvard College and signed the college charter as Governor.**

He had come from England on the “Arabella” to Salem and then, in company with Governor Winthrop, to Charleston. He had six children with Dorothy Yorke, my mother—all being born in Northampton, England. My grand parents were Edmond Yorke and Katharyn. He previously had three children by Catharine Deighton (or Hackburn) all born in Roxbury, MA.

My brothers and sisters were:

Samuel m. Mary Winthrop

Anne m. Simon Bradstreet III

Sarah m. Benjamin Keayne

Joseph m. Rebecca Tyng (Could be instead from 1<sup>st</sup> marriage)

Paul m, Mary Leverett ( “ “ “ ” )

Thomas m. ? (Could be added)

Patience m. Daniel Dennison (Could be added)

(Dean) I have read that the mansion where you lived was torn down and replaced by a fort which in-turn was replaced by the Universalist Church in Roxbury. His tomb is next to that church.

(Mercy) That’s correct.

(Dean) I realize that you couldn’t remember all the dates of birth so I will add them from what I have read. Your husband was ordained as a minister after your marriage.

(Mercy) That’s correct. I married John Woodbridge in 1637 in Stanton, Wiltshire, England and had eleven children by him--all born when we had returned to serve in England as follows:

Rev. John b. abt. 1638

Sarah b. 1640

Lucy b, 1641 m. 1 Simon Bradstreet and 2 Capt. Daniel Epps

Capt. Thomas b. abt. 1648

Dorothy b. 1649 m. Nathaniel Fryer

Benamin b, 1650 m. Mary Ward (Your ancestor I understand )

Anna b. abt. 1653

Timothy b. abt. 1655

Joseph b. abt. 1657

Martha b. 1608 m. Capt. Samuel Ruggles

Mary b. abt. 1660 m. Samuel Appleton

My husband came to New England in 1634 with his uncle, Rev. Thomas Parker and settled in Newbury, CT where he was the first town clerk until 1638.

In 1637 the Court appointed him surveyor of the armies at Newbury.

In 1643 he taught school in Boston.

In 1645 he was ordained as a minister. That was a career change that took us to England where all our children were born

In 1647 he returned to England where he was appointed Chaplain to the

**Parliamentary Commissioners, treating with the King at the Isle of Wight.  
Later he served as minister at Andover and Barford, St. Martins in Wiltshire.  
In 1663 he again returned to America at Boston when the Bartholomew Act  
terminated his ministry in England.  
From 1683 to 1684 he was the assistant to the Massachusetts Colony**

## CHAPTER 4

### SUSANNA (FULLER) WHITE

After completing all of the other chapters, I was reading further about the Mayflower Separatist Pilgrims and realized that it fits chronologically after the chapter about Mercy Dudley and her father, Thomas Dudley, who was governor of the Massachusetts Colony Puritans. That was in the same period as the Plymouth Colony Pilgrims about fifty miles to the south at Cape Cod who arrived 13 years after the Jamestown Colony down in Virginia. Although this was a watershed time of Christian differences, there was still common objection to the then radical proposition by Copernicus that the sun—not the earth—is the center of the universe!

Susanna, 1594-1680 (or earlier death), was my ancestor through my mother's side whereas all the others are from my father's side. A pregnant Susanna came on the Mayflower with her husband, William White, and their son, Resolved, (my ancestor). My genealogy, going back to the Mayflower, was done by my mother's first cousin, Dorothy Mae (Pratt) Dahl. She paid a professional genealogist to research this lineage during the late 1930's for her application into The Mayflower Society, National No. 31,526. I subsequently used this lineage for my application into the Sons of the American Revolution, National No. 146,826.

Susanna was possibly the sister of another influential passenger, Deacon Samuel Fuller, a doctor who left from Leiden, Holland with his wife, Bridgett who was a mid-wife. Fuller did have a sister recorded as Anna which could be a variant of Susanna. But this remains a debated issue due to other more recent conflicting records that raise the question whether the Whites came from Leiden or perhaps joined the Mayflower at Southampton, England with other passengers who hadn't lived in Holland.

They eventually arrived at Cape Cod on December 26, 1620 after having been at sea for sixty-six days, crowded into a relatively small 160-ton ship. Scanty records indicate that the ship was up to 110 feet long and about 25 feet wide with an average speed of only two knots. Ship captain, Christopher Jones, died in 1622 and the ship could have been scrapped a year later in London.

Shortly after seeing land, William White was one of the forty-one men who signed the "Mayflower Compact" aboard ship--the first self-governing agreement in America. Fifteen of the signers were Pilgrims. That very original document would provide guiding principles for our founding fathers while pondering the wording of our country's constitution many years later.

There is now general agreement that widowed Susanna later married widower Edward Winslow, an influential member of the colony and it is considered the first marriage in New England. He later became governor of the colony and finally he died at sea while serving as a commissioner for Oliver Cromwell. Cromwell was a leading Puritan figure and had become England's Lord Protector for five years after the English Civil War.

## **Discussion with Susanna (Fuller) White**

**In the period 1677 in the Plymouth Colony area.**

**(Dean) Hello Susanna--I am your 12<sup>th</sup> great grandson who has read a lot about you, your husband, William White, and your five year old son, Resolved, coming to this country on the Mayflower with the religious break-away group known as the Pilgrims to live a new life with freedom to worship God according to your own firmly held beliefs. I know that your beliefs followed the new reformation theology that was sweeping Europe, rather than the leadership of the Church of England as ordered by Queen Elizabeth and later King James. I would like to discuss some memories of your life.**

**(Susanne) The Lord has certainly tested me through many very difficult times in my life, striving to glorify God, but I'm now satisfied that it all worked out according to God's plan for starting a new country.**

**We eventually decided there was no future for us in England so we decided to separate from the Church of England. Royalty considered this as traitorous and made life increasingly difficult for us—to the point of even having some of our leaders hung. The tyranny became unbearable.**

**Finally members of our congregation decided to go into exile to Holland where there was religious freedom. They first tried living in Amsterdam but, after about eight months, found it too difficult to adjust to making a living in such a city of business and trade.**

**So our people moved on to the city of Leiden which had a University of equal stature as Cambridge. They lived there for about eight more years until the leaders became concerned about the increasing adverse influence from the local culture.**

**The next move would be very difficult –starting a new colony across the Atlantic. We realized that it was going to be dangerous and we would probably never again see the family and friends we would leave behind.**

**(Dean) So your congregation had to determine who would take the risk from those in Leiden and those still back in England. Then a group, called Merchant Adventurers, recognized a business opportunity and financed use of the Mayflower. Another group, referred to as the Strangers, provided a variety of skills needed for building a new colony but didn't share the Pilgrim's beliefs.**

**(Susanna) That's correct, but realize that only three of the original congregation from Scrooby in England actually got to Cape Cod —William Bradford, William Brewster and his wife, Mary.**

**They bought another smaller ship, the sixty-ton Speedwell, to use in addition to the Mayflower for the voyage and to later use for trading business with other colonies. So those from Leiden left from Delftshaven on that ship to Northampton, England to join the Mayflower. This added members from other Puritan congregations and also Captain Miles Standish and fifty Strangers. They set out to sea August 5,1620, with Bradford sadly deciding to leave his young son behind.**

**(Dean) Then there was a problem with the Speedwell.**

**(Susanna) Yes, the Speedwell started leaking and was put in at Dartmouth, England for repair before continuing on. They again set out but, after about three hundred miles, the crew of the Speedwell determined that the ship was un-seaworthy so they went back to Plymouth, England. About twenty of the passengers decided to not continue and then the Mayflower finally left on September 6 with 102 passengers and up to thirty crew members.**

**(Dean) That stormy voyage was very hard for the passengers.**

**(Susanna) The ship had two decks. The main deck held a poop house and forecastle, which housed the crew. The crew seemed to have little respect for us passengers who lived on the lower deck. The hold for all the supplies was located below us. We cooked our inadequate meals over fire boxes made from an iron tray with sand on the bottom.**

**We went through many storms, worried if the ship could stand the strain of the waves and if the sails would rip apart. Then the main beam in the middle of the ship cracked and there was a desperate time setting it back into position. There was much praying and we thanked God on our knees for finally revealing the shore of Cape Cod on Friday, November 20 after that long beating at sea. Then the captain revealed that we had drifted about 160 miles north of where we were contractually supposed to land at the mouth of the Hudson River.**

**(Dean) There were a number of deaths before landing at Cape Cod.**

**Susanna) William Brewster's wife fell overboard and drowned--another passenger was also buried at sea. Then my dear ill husband died aboard ship shortly after arriving off Cape Cod. I gave birth to our second son, Peregrine, shortly after his death--sadly he never saw his new son.**

**(Dean) I have wondered about the rest of the story for such an unusual name as Peregrine. His cradle is displayed in the Plymouth museum and a full-size replica of the Mayflower is moored nearby.**

**(Susanna) There indeed is a very good reason beyond simply saying it meant pilgrim or one who has come a long way! You know about the Mayflower Compact, that was prepared and signed aboard ship soon after anchoring off the shore of our new home. William signed that document along with the rest of the male colonists but note that he signed as "Peregrme" White rather than William! As an ill man, soon to die, his mind remained focused on attaining the goal God had for him as a pilgrim going into a strange land like Abraham in the Bible. He was also looking forward to the birth of our new child. But that was not to be—so when I saw that signature I realized that signed name was very appropriate for a son who would carry on his father's unmet dreams.**

**(Dean) You continued to live on the ship until shelters were built.**

**Susanna) We first dropped anchor inside the harbor near the north tip of Cape Cod peninsula and eventually, after investigating several sites, we decided to build our colony at the location of a deserted Indian village where there was fresh water and adequate farming land. We later learned more about what had happened to the former inhabitants from the sole surviving Indian. Squanto had been to England while his tribe was wiped out by smallpox. He remained with us the rest of his life and was certainly a God-send. He and Chief Massasort showed us how to grow crops, fish and helped us communicate with the various nearby Indian villages. We likely could not have survived without their friendly help.**

**We lived on-board the ship until huts were completed enough to move into on December 21. Because of living in such close quarters, we had an outbreak of contagious disease that could have been a mixture of scurvy, pneumonia and tuberculosis.**

**Eventually the settlement consisted of a stockade with three gates that enclosed clapboard--sided huts with fireplaces and thatched roofs. The governor's house was located in the center on a cross street. He had a council that was chosen yearly. By November, 1621, crops had been harvested and conditions were greatly improved so we had an Indian-type fall harvest festival, joined by our friendly Indians, to give thanks to God. (We started observing that event as Thanksgiving Day during the Civil War.**

**By 1627 there were 32 houses and 180 inhabitants. In 1630 the last of the Leiden congregation arrived. A total of thirteen ships arrived that year with 1,000 new colonists, tripling the Plymouth population.**

**We had to be constantly on guard against possible Indian attack. So, six cannon were placed on top of a large flat-roofed building. The interior was used as a church and where men, dressed in their cloaks, would quickly assemble with their muskets or fowling-pieces at the beat of a drum in front of Captain Standish. He was a professional soldier--a short redhead with a fiery temper who died in 1656.**

**(Dean) That first winter must have been very difficult--building a new place to live, while many grew weak and died from sickness and lack of adequate food. Then more ships arrived with additional Pilgrims over the next several years creating a continuing food shortage. But, in comparison with all the other colonies, Plymouth was the first to succeed and provided a model for the others.**

**(Susanna) That first winter was cold and many died from hunger, scurvy and other diseases, including Edward Winslow's wife, Elizabeth. They were buried at night and the graves were leveled flat to conceal the colonists weakened situation from the Indians. By spring only about half survived.**

**Less than two months later Edward and I were married on May 12, 1621. That was the first wedding in our colony and perhaps in all the colonies. So William's two young sons would have a new and famous father who later became governor of the Plymouth Colony.**

**(Dean) Those were such difficult times compared to your present comfortable life. What a testing of your faith!**

**Then life with Edward Winslow was a completely different story. You had four children by him. He was very prominent in the colony and became very capable in working with other colonies and finally as a commissioner for Oliver Cromwell on a mission to retake the island of Hispaniola where he died at sea in 1655.**

**(Susanna) You have done some reading about Edward I see! I remember some more high-lights about him. He was born in Droitwich, Worcester in 1595, worked as a printer in London and then became acquainted with the Pilgrim's church in Leiden, Holland where he married his first wife, Elizabeth in 1618.**

**After we were married at the Colony, he went on many explorations to establish trade with the Indians which he wrote about. In 1623 he went back to England for additional food and supplies. He defended various colonies from adversaries in England--involving several trips to England. He was elected governor of Plymouth on three occasions: 1632/3, 1635/6 and 1644.**

**Later he again went to England to serve on several Parliamentary committees and finally served as a commissioner for Oliver Cromwell on an expedition to Hispaniola where he died at sea. His will is dated eleven months before his death, at the start of that expedition. So I again became a widow and enjoyed being with all my children and grandchildren.**

**(Dean) There is much more that could be said about that very energetic and capable man. But I am equally interested in the mature life of Resolved because he is my 11<sup>th</sup> great grandfather. His first wife, Judith Vassall, is my ancestor.**

**(Susanna) Resolved was only five on the Mayflower. We moved to Marshfield in the greater Plymouth area for more room and later to nearby Scituate where he married Judith Vassall on November, 5, 1640. They had eight children. (of whom Elizabeth is my ancestor) Judith died thirty years later on April 3, 1670 and is buried in Marshfield where they again lived. He married widow Abigail Lord four years later in Salem and became a soldier in the King Philip's War of 1676.**

## CHAPTER 5

### **JOAN PLANTAGENET (The Fair Maid of Kent)**

Joan is my key link into royalty. Her father, Edmund of Woodstock, the 1st Earl of Kent, was a son of King Edward I (Longshanks) and his second spouse, Margaret Capet. Not much is written about Margaret, other than she was the daughter of King Philip III of France. Joan's great grandfather, King Henry III, had Westminster Abbey rebuilt, where all coronations from then on were held. I stood in awe, while gazing at the coronation throne and recognizing the historical significance.

Her father's half-brother, Edward II, became the next king and reigned twenty unpopular years from 1307 to 1327 before he was dethroned with the involvement of France and the intrigue of his estranged wife, Queen Isabella and her lover, Lord Roger Mortimer. They eventually had him murdered in Berkeley Castle. Today the castle is a plush tourist site, a short freeway drive north of Bristol.

English historians tell of his half-brother's non-kingly excesses, infer a homosexual lifestyle with unpopular friends and describe the lurid details of his demise by a red hot poker. His wife was referred to as, "The She-Wolf of France."

Edmund remained loyal to his half-brother in spite of the king's unpopularity. Queen Isabella therefore considered Edmund a threat and had him executed.

Isabella's son was then crowned as King Edward III and reigned fifty years from 1327 to 1377. He served justice well by having his mother's lover, Mortimer, hung as a common criminal near Nottingham Castle. He also exiled his mother to the Manor of Castle Rising where she lived out her life another thirty years.

King Edward III also became very much a part of Edmund's daughter, Joan's, life. He is most remembered as the great warrior who, with his son, the Black Prince, won victory after victory during the beginning of the Hundred Years War with France.

King Edward III and his tender wife, Queen Philippa, took responsibility for the family and looked after them well. Joan grew up at court with her royalty cousins, including the king's son, Edward, who became known as the legendary Black Prince. After two marriages she would eventually marry him and become mother of a future ten-year old, King Richard II, who became legend in Shakespeare's play, King Richard II.

When Joan was only twelve she had secretly married my ancestor, Capt. Thomas Holland, a knight of Broughton, without getting the necessary royal consent. The following year, while Holland was in military service, her family forced her into marrying William Montacute, 2<sup>nd</sup> Earl of Salisbury. I saw his effigy above his tomb in Salisbury Cathedral and realized that she had thus become Countess of Salisbury as a teenager.

During this period, legend has it that she dropped her blue velvet garter while perhaps dancing with the king. He picked up the garter and proclaimed the

beginning of the Order of the Knights of the Garter that has continued to the present day.

She feared that, disclosing her previous marriage, could lead to Holland's, execution for treason. Several years later, when Holland returned from crusade service, the earlier marriage was revealed. He appealed to Pope Clement VI for the return of his wife and confessed it to the king. Montacute confined Joan to her home until the Pope annulled the second marriage to him.

She then lived with Holland for eleven years and had four children before his death in 1360. One was my ancestor, Thomas, 2<sup>nd</sup> Earl of Kent, who married Alice de Arundel. Her family was very prominent with their Arundel Castle on the south coast, west of Brighton.

Joan, now the widowed Countess of Kent, was still strikingly beautiful at age 32--with perfect features, thick honey blond hair, and violet eyes. She was regarded as one of the most beautiful women in the country—thus being known as “The Fair Maid of Kent.”

The Black Prince had been in love with Joan for many years but his father and mother had disapproved their marriage because they were too closely related. They were finally married however in 1361 at Windsor Castle with approval of the Pope and went to live in France where he became prince of Aquitaine. They had two sons while living there, the elder one named Edward after his father and grandfather, and the younger one who died at age six.

The Black Prince was admired for victoriously leading in many early battles of the One Hundred Years War and excelling in tournaments. By 1371 his health started failing and he died June 8, 1376 at age 46 in his bed at Westminster. Meanwhile the long war continued off and on for another 82 years when French King Charles VII eventually gained possession of Gascony in 1453--primarily by effectively using artillery in innovative ways.

His son was crowned Richard II at age ten, with Joan becoming the power behind the throne. She was well-loved for her influence over the king. For example, while returning to London from a pilgrimage to the Becket shrine at Canterbury Cathedral, she was stopped by Wat Tyler, a leader of the Peasants Revolt, and his band of rebels. But he not only let her through unharmed but saluted her with kisses and provided an escort for the rest of the journey.

Her son, Richard II, later followed his powerful advisors counsel though and very aggressively resisted the uprising. He had many hung and ordered to be left there to decay as an example. I saw this described in the city of St. Albans just north of London. Joan likely objected to her son's brutality. He was later overthrown and subsequently murdered while in prison, the first casualty of the Wars of the Roses between the Houses of Lancaster and York.

In 1385, Sir John Holland, another son (not my ancestor) from Joan's first marriage was campaigning with the king in Edinburgh, Scotland when a quarrel broke out between him and Hugh Stafford, 2<sup>nd</sup> Earl of Stafford, a favorite of the new Queen Anne of Bohemia. Stafford was killed and Holland sought sanctuary at the shrine of St. John of Beverley. Upon the king's return, he was condemned to death. Joan pleaded with her son-king for four days to spare his half-brother until

she died five days later at Wallingford Castle. The king pardoned him and sent him on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land.

Joan was buried beside her first husband, Sir Thomas Holland, at Greyfriars--the present-day site of a hospital in Stamford, Lincolnshire.

## **Discussion with Joan Plantagenet**

In the period 1384 when she is age 49, living in Wallingford Castle, England.

**(Dean)** Hello your majesty--I am your 17th great grandson. Historical writings treat you kindly. All readers about royalty would love to have known you personally. I am even greater interested to learn more about you, since you are my genealogical link into royalty that extends back to the beginning of the recorded royalty lines of many western civilizations.

If it pleases you—may we discuss some events from your perspective that extend beyond historical writings? Today we refer to it as “telling the rest of the story.” For instance--your first love and spouse, Sir Thomas Holland, is my ancestor. I can imagine the circumstances of your secret marriage and the anguish you went through keeping it secret while Thomas was away on military duty.

**(Joan)** That’s a good place to start. Tom was my first-love when I was an impressionable twelve year-old. It was love at first sight when I first saw him while he was home on leave from military service. He was truly my handsome hero and knight in shining armor. He was a professional knight and remained that until his death. He never talked much about his military life but it was typical for those times.

Then to my surprise he asked me, still a child, to be his wife. We both knew that the king would never approve because Tom wasn’t royalty. Royalty women, especially pretty ones, were supposed to marry to best gain power, land, and wealth--primarily for their king’s benefit. So we took the drastic step of a secret marriage, realizing that we would later face serious consequences.

This soon happened when I was forced into marrying William Montacute, the Earl of Salisbury and didn’t see Tom for over seven years while he was away on military service. Then, when he finally returned, Tom insisted that he had to risk the chance of his execution and reveal the secret marriage. So we appealed to the Pope and, to our relief, he ruled that the Montacute marriage be annulled. From there on I’ll let history continue with the rest of that secret marriage.

**(Dean)** The story about the dropped garter sounds like a fairy tale. Was it you or perhaps your then mother-in-law who lost her blue silk garter while dancing in the court of King Edward III. Was that event legendary or truly the beginning of the Order of the Garter?

**(Joan)** I was a really embarrassed 19 year-old who had been cutting some very lively hopping-type of dancing that we did in those days. I remember it very well

because we were celebrating in Calais, France our victory a few months earlier at the battle of Crecy.

We were at a grand ball in 1347, dressed in all our finery. Then everyone started laughing before I realized what had happened. The king was picking up my garter from the floor with a mischievous smile! I'm sure everyone was wondering what sort of a smart remark he would make. He then remarked in French something like, "Shame on him who thinks shameful thoughts."

Who could have realized how this crazy event would go down in history, leading to something of such lofty honor? The following year, at Windsor Castle, the king made the blue silk garter the focus of an extraordinary ceremony when he founded an order of chivalry, The Order of the Garter. The badge symbolizes a lasting bond of friendship and honor and the integrity and purity of its members.

It started with a brotherhood of about twenty-four knights who would serve as a virtual Round Table as in the legendary days of King Arthur. Each knight has his stall in St. George's Chapel, Windsor with his arms on a plate above his seat. The Black Prince was one of the first to receive this recognition for his military valor during the Battle of Crecy.

(Dean) Your childhood sounds very happy living with the family of King Edward III

(Joan) I have wonderful childhood memories of living in the household of my half-cousin King Edward III, his wonderful wife Philippa, and their children. I was especially fond of their eldest son, Edward, who would later become the legendary Black Prince.

They took my family in after Queen Isabella and her lover, Roger Mortimer, had my father, Prince Edmund executed because of his allegiance to his half-brother, King Edward II, whom they had directed to be murdered. I never knew my father since I was only two when he was executed by that terrible Queen Isabella.

(Dean) A little more that I have read about the family of King Edward III—He was only seventeen when their first son, Edward, was born and Philippa was nineteen. She had thirteen children in 27 years. The last one was Thomas, born in 1355.

Young Edward eventually became England's most famous knight and your husband after Thomas Holland died.

(Joan) Edward was truly my new knight in shining armor, five years older than me. He was born at Woodstock Palace. He received the peerages of Earl of Chester, Duke of Cornwall and the first Prince of Wales as a youth. We were married at Windsor Castle October 10, 1361 a year after my first husband, Sir Thomas Holland, had died.

Edward was an exceptional military leader and very popular. When in England, we lived at Wallingford Castle. He served as the king's representative in Aquitaine where we kept court in France.

He made contributions to Canterbury Cathedral throughout his life and he had requested in his will to be buried in the Chapel of Our Lady Undercroft, ten feet

from the altar. However, this was overruled after his death from cancer in January, 1371 and his bronze effigy was placed instead in the Trinity Chapel on the south side of the shrine of Saint Thomas Becket.

(Dean) I have visited a crypt, later used by the French descendants of the Protestant Huguenots, located below in the basement with your smiling face placed on one of the ceiling bosses.

I might add that The Black Prince and Saint Thomas Becket are the major tourist attractions today in Canterbury Cathedral. I have also added the following information about some of the Black Prince's major campaigns at the beginning of the Hundred Years War with France:

Flanders in 1345, which was of little significance.

Crecy in 1346 where the English, using their long-bow against the enemy knights, defeated a much larger French army.

The Great Raid of 1355 which crippled the southern French army.

Poitiers, which crippled the French army for the next thirteen years.

Reims which led to the Treaty of Bretigny

Najera on the Castilian Front to keep Spanish dedication to the Prince's Cause, but instead resulted in financial troubles that in-turn created resentment among those in Aquitaine, who had to pay higher taxes.

Siege of Limoges in 1371 on the Aquitaine Front where so many of the village residents were massacred.

(Joan) I was very saddened to hear about that tragedy of Limoges. The only explanation I have is that Edward had an uncontrollable Plantagenet temper which could have been provoked, especially in a battle where he thought that civilians were assisting their soldiers.

(Dean) History is critical of the excessive actions taken by your son, King Richard II, to quell the Peasants Revolt such as happened in St. Albans and other places. You apparently initially had some calming influence over their leader, Wat Tyler, so I assume you may not have agreed with your son's influential advisors--at least until the revolt turned very menacing .

(Joan) That rebellion was indeed a very difficult time for me. Let me give you a little background.

My son was crowned king when only 10. His coronation was an elaborate affair, with him dressed in white robes like an angel. I remember that the ceremony was so long that he became exhausted and had to be carried from the Abbey to the Westminster Hall. While en route, he lost one of his shoes, one of his spurs, and the crown fell from his head. Some considered all of this to be a bad omen.

I initially had some influence in advising him but then the established powerful advisors soon took over. I detested them all! I could normally get along well with everyone—even with Wat Tyler the leader of the peasants' uprising that finally got out of hand. I agreed the complaints had to be resolved to prevent escalating bloodshed.

So I feel they did many cruel things to the most down-trodden in my son's name, with him taking the blame. I'll admit that he some times lost his temper--a typical Plantagenet trait. But don't overlook the great impact of that devastating epidemic we called the Black Death that started to ravish all levels of society, with perhaps over a third of the population dying.

Some rumored that my son was homosexual. Similar allegations had been previously made about my uncle, King Edward II. But in comparison, my uncle had created his own scandals by having disliked close friends such as Piers Gaveston and by likely banishing many women from his court. However, circumstances regarding my son were totally unlike.

How unfounded and inconsistent were the charges of homosexuality and cruelty! He desired affection and was very devoted to his wife, Anne. Yes, he had his court favorites with whom he may have been overly affectionate and he delighted in extravagant dress--as did most royalty, I might add.

(Dean) Let's talk about your grandfather, King Edward I, who ruled long and well to the displeasure of the Scots. At Westminster Abbey I looked at the coronation chair he had commissioned to contain the Scottish Coronation Stone of Scone that he had captured from the Scots. The stone has been returned to Scotland. I contemplated all the monarchy coronations in this chair over the past 800-plus years.

(Joan) My grandfather was one of the most important of all English kings, referred to as Long Shanks. That was because he indeed was very tall, healthy, strong and a powerful warrior—one of only a few kings that personally lead his armies into battle. Because of this, he was called, "The Hammer of the Scots." He was also a great administer and thus was referred to as the Lawgiver, the Father of the Parliament, and the English Justinian.

He was the eldest son of King Henry III and Eleanor of Provence, born in 1239 after his father had reigned for twenty years. Edward I married Eleanor of Castille in 1254 when he was only fifteen and she was only thirteen. Their marriage was one of the greatest love matches in history for 36 years until her death in 1290 after giving birth to sixteen children.

She died while traveling north to meet with her husband in Scotland. He was so devastated that he established very elaborate Eleanor Crosses at twelve sites wherever her body had rested each night on the way back to London. The best ones are at Waltham and Charing Cross.

By coincidence, this was also about when he allowed possibly hundreds of Jews to be arrested and hung on grounds of coin-clipping. It's claimed that eventually over 16,000 were expelled from England on grounds of usury. The real reason though was that Jews were the main source of loans to barons and royalty who didn't want to repay.

Their son, Edward II, became the next king but that's another story that led to the execution of my father when I was only two years old.

After mourning Eleanor for nine years, Edward I married again at age 60 to Princess Margaret Capet, the nineteen year-old daughter of French King Philip III.

Edward also lived during the time of her grand father, French King Louis IX (later Saint), and acknowledged fealty to him. My ancestry goes back into French royalty through that marriage.

I should tell more about my grandfather, Edward's, warrior record. Before becoming king he was in the third Crusade where he succeeded in relieving Acre and achieving victory at Haifa in 1270. Eight years later he defeated the Scots at Falkirk, Scotland when William Wallace led them in revolt. Fighting continued off and on with the Scots until he died in July, 1307, near his Carlisle Castle, of dysentery at age of 68 while preparing to battle Robert Bruce.

(Dean) Very little has been written about your grandmother, Margaret, who was the daughter of French King Philip III.

(Joan) She died when I was eighteen so I was fortunate to see more of my grandmother than most children of my time. She greatly influenced my non-confrontational outlook on life.

She had two children--the eldest being my father, Prince Edmund to whom I previously referred. The other was Eleanor who was named after Queen Eleanor and died as a child.

My grandmother was a devoted wife and a good stepmother. Their age difference was the greatest ever between monarch and consort. She was never crowned Queen. I believe this was due to the king's respect for his very much missed Queen Eleanor. My grandmother kept a low profile, recognizing that she was destined to humbly fulfill her expected position to foster peaceful relations between France and England.

(Dean) I have added further historical information about her grand father, King Edward I, to Joan's interview as follows:

He was known as Long Shanks because of being 6 feet 2 inches and the way he gripped the saddle. He was described as looking splendid with great muscular strength for wielding a sword. He had a broad forehead, reddish hair, a long hooked nose, flashing eyes, and had a slight lisp.

He was a very strong military ruler and one of the great generals of the medieval world. Very few of more recent rulers have personally led in battle that involved a civil war and campaigns in Nazareth, France, and Scotland. He was referred to as the English Justinian because of his legal codes.

From his days as Prince of Wales until his death, he was noted for many scenarios. He led a small army in the Crusades, feuded with the Arch Bishop of Canterbury, and became a judicious ruler, a ruthless conqueror, a tournament champion and a cunning diplomat.

He completed Rhuddlan castle in 1282 and a year later started Harlech Castle. He died preparing to again fight the Scots as a white-haired ailing man of 68 on July 6, 1307 a short distance from the Scottish border at Burgh-on Sands near Carlisle. I stayed overnight in Carlisle across the street from his castle. He is buried in Westminster Abbey where I saw his tomb. His marriages to Princess Eleanor of

**Castile and, after her death, to Princess Margaret of France (my ancestor), played a major role in relations between those countries during his reign.**

**I have also added the following information to Joan's interview about a key ancestral link to the present time. Refer to the ancestral diagram in chapter 1 which notes that Joyce Tiptoft 1430-1470 is where the lineage branches off maternally from Dudley and leads to Joan Plantagenet. That lineage extends from Tiptoft through Charlton to Holland, who was Joan's first husband and my ancestor. Joyce was the sister and co-heir of John Tiptoft, Earl of Worcester.**

## CHAPTER 6

### ELEANOR OF AQUITAINE

Eleanor of Aquitaine's life was very interesting, reading like a romance novel. Her passion for adventure was legendary. The ballads and chronicles of her contemporaries praise the queen's "nobility of mind" as well as being "indefatigable for every undertaking."

She succeeded her father, William X, as Duchess of Aquitaine. In 1137, she first married and fifteen years later divorced King Louis VII of France--supposedly because they were too closely related. She had born him two daughters and had joined him on the 2nd Crusade to the Holy Land from 1147 to 1149.

Her female retinue was described as, "Forming a brilliant squadron with helmet and hauberk, golden crosses embroidered on the left shoulder, gilt slippers, glittering spurs and silver-sheathed falchions (swords) suspended from the side and were mounted on richly-caparisoned steeds". They called themselves, "The bodyguard of the Golden-footed Dame".

She then married Henry Plantagenet in May 1152 and he was crowned King Henry II of England in 1154. She bore him three daughters and five sons. There was then a long struggle between the English and French kings (her husband and ex husband). Her relations with Henry also grew strained because of his infidelities and he held her in confinement for twelve years because she supported a revolt by her sons against his rule.

She outlived Henry by twenty years, however, and eventually ruled as Regent of England and head of the house of Aquitaine. She spent most of her last years in acts of mercy and beneficence. While her son, King Richard the Lionheart, was on crusade, she administered the government with prudence and discretion.

Her eight children with Henry II were William, Henry, (the Young King), Matilda of England, Richard (the Lionheart), Geoffrey-Count of Brittany, Eleanor of England, John I (Lackland), King of England and Joanna. There was conflict between her two sons King Richard who was succeeded by King John.

Most historical writings focus more on her young romantic escapades rather than on her mature years. She became the mother of future kings, Regent of England, Countess of Aquitaine and final retirement in the French Convent of Frontevault during the final three years of her 83-year life. Strangely, her effigy, contently reading the Bible, is placed side by side in that abbey with the husband who caused her so much grief! Her favorite son, Richard, is also buried next to them.

## **Discussion with Eleanor of Aquitaine**

**In the period 1202 when she is age 82, living in the French Convent of Frontevrault**

**(Dean) Hello your majesty--I am your 25th great grandson. Historical writings focus primarily on the hormone-driven impulses of your romantic youth and your marital difficulties with King Louis VII of France and then King Henry II of England. You lived a long, complex, and very interesting life that I feel still needs to be told from your perspective rather than being distorted by opinionated writers.**

**If it pleases you, may we discuss some events from your personal perspective that extends beyond historical writings? I have read that the foremost theologian, Bernard de Clairvaux, was your Christian counselor.**

**(Eleanor) Bernard certainly exerted the greatest Christian influence on the royalty of my time. I was too young and self-centered though when he counseled me during my marriage problems with Louis. But Louis had been educated as a monk and naturally was very much influenced by Bernard.**

**I was only fifteen in 1137 when pressed by my father, William X, Duke of Aquitaine, into marrying seventeen-year old future French King Louis. This was an arranged marriage because he had no male heir. Then court life became increasingly boring for a very energetic and well educated person like me. Besides, I felt that I had married a monk, as he had been educated. Even though he showed love for me, he didn't show much sexual interest.**

**(Dean) You were determined to participate in the Second Crusade.**

**(Eleanor) Looking back now-- my involvement in that Crusade was an unrealistic fantasy. In fact, the whole campaign was doomed to failure due to lack of reality and no strong coordinated leadership. Bernard supported the cause but was concerned about the way it was being led.**

**By 1147, ten years after our marriage, I had born two girls. Then the Second Crusade began and I impulsively determined that women should participate along with the men. So I saw this as an exciting adventure and opportunity. Bernard couldn't change my mind. I guess I was too much like my grandfather, Duke of Aquitaine William IX, who was well known as a risqué poet troubadour. He was a man of action, adventurous, and impetuous.**

**(Dean) Some writings say that you had some romantic escapades during the that Crusade with your uncle and Saladin, the Saracen leader.**

**(Eleanor) There was a lot of idle gossip about me, as in every place and time, and I possibly brought some of that onto myself. I was well known and was blessed with an attractive face and an athletic body which created plenty of difficult situations for me, which I controlled acceptably.**

**All the allegations regarding any romantic involvement with my uncle, Count Raymond, and Saladin were politically motivated gossip by those who disagreed**

with my being there and with the prosecution of the Crusade. I recognized some good qualities of Saladin and admired my uncle, thus causing the false accusations.

Ultimately morale and cooperation broke down, and the crusade resulted in failure. I agreed with my uncle against my husband that Antioch should receive military help before proceeding on to Jerusalem. Eventually the Saracens captured and beheaded my favorite uncle. That is a very sad memory. Louis had become so angry with my actions that he even considered getting a divorce. Abbot Sugar convinced him against it though, since I held Aquitaine in my name.

(Dean) Your voyage home from the crusade was a disaster too.

(Eleanor) That's correct-- we were heading home when a violent storm struck and my ship became separated from Louis and the rest. They safely reached the lower east coast of Italy while I finally landed safely on the northern coast of Africa. Louis was concerned that I may have drowned until we eventually got back together.

(Dean) Your marriage to Louis was eventually annulled by the Pope. Then you were quickly attracted to Henry II.

(Eleanor) Basically Louis and I were a total misfit of personalities as I previously mentioned. The fact that we were distant cousins was a mere legality of the time for royalty.

Henry and I, in comparison, were very much attracted to each other during our early years of marriage. He was thickset, broad-shouldered, with mighty arms and legs. He had a large head, short neck, reddish hair, and freckled skin.

(Dean) What was your first two years like, living with Henry at Anjou in the pleasant Loire Valley of France before he became King of England?

(Eleanor) Let me begin by mentioning my grandfather since I can relate to him in enjoying an exciting life. He was William IX, Duke of Aquitaine, from 1086 to 1126. He was one of the first poet troubadours that became prevalent in that community with a rich cultural life. His life style, however, was considered outrageous and too risqué by many of his contemporaries. Although he was a great crusader, he lost influence in his duchy of Aquitaine. Ironically I, a woman, was later able to accomplish what neither my father nor grandfather could.

Life in Anjou was idyllic. It was known as the garden of France, lying in the fertile valley of the Loire River with a gentle climate that's tempered by cool ocean breezes. The city of Angers, in a commanding position with ancient and elaborate buildings, was the capital of the Angevin dynasty which preceded the Plantagenets.

(Dean) Then as your sons reached maturity, marital problems developed between you and Henry.

(Eleanor) Then, our sons caused an irreconcilable rift when we took opposite sides as they reached maturity and started thinking about power and territory. Henry

also started flouting his sexual relations with mistresses like his grandfather, King Henry I, was noted for.

John wasn't my favorite son mainly because of his uncontrolled Plantagenet temper like his father. I'll admit though that he did have a good side, being intelligent, and occasionally generous, kindly and energetic.

Richard was my favorite but he caused me much worry and impact on my life when he became king. I administered England for him, while he was away fighting in the third Crusade and then was held captive for over a year until I could raise ransom money that exceeded the amount in our country's treasury.

But I'll admit that Henry accomplished much as king. Under his reign, many castles and cathedrals were built, such at Canterbury, Ely, Oxford and Wells. Commerce increased, towns grew, and London Bridge was built over the Thames River. (It was the first stone one and has been moved stone by stone to Lake Havasu in Arizona.)

(Dean) Tell about the circumstances of your extreme marital confrontation with Henry that resulted in your confinement off and on in Winchester and Sarum for about fifteen years because of his anger about your siding with your sons against him. I wonder what sustained you during that boring time of confinement.

I have stood on the exact site where you were detained in Sarum, a village on a site too small for expansion. The ruins, now called Old Sarum, are located just a few miles north of Salisbury that later replaced it with a new cathedral that was completed in a record time of fifty years.

(Eleanor) That place on the hill top of Sarum was a very windy, bleak, and inhospitable place but I was treated well during those boring years. I had plenty of time to contemplate God as Bernard's close friend, William of St. Thierry, had shared with his monks. It was certainly a time of introspection, yearning, struggle and frustration for me.

I wanted to cry out-- How long O Lord? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me? How long must I bare pain in my soul and have sorrow in my heart? I have been here too long. How wretched this has made me. But deep within my heart the truth of God's consolations and truth spoke to me that God remains in control.

I was finally freed after Henry died and my son Richard had succeeded him. But that was not until after our oldest son, Henry, (The Young King) had been designated king of England at age fifteen by Henry. He didn't survive to actually inherit the throne though, due to coronation objections. They came from Arch Bishop Thomas Becket and the King of France, whose child daughter, Margaret, was married to the young Henry.

My husband's unilateral actions regarding that son also raised serious concerns by my former husband, the French king. He had always distrusted Henry's real power intentions--especially in this instance, since Henry had urged the marriage of his daughter, Margaret, to his five year-old son. This action also further disturbed

the then exiled Becket who would later be murdered by three of Henry's over-reacting knights.

Henry and I started out very much in love but as our children began reaching maturity, angry tempers started to erupt and our family life deteriorated into animosity.

(Dean) So royalty life is far from a bed of roses!

(Eleanor) You wouldn't believe the complex ever-changing intrigue I've experienced. Those were very turbulent times in many ways. Henry started to get increasingly angry with me because I had sided with young Henry in his objection about transferring some castles from him to his youngest brother, John. The sensitive part was that John was my husband's favorite and Richard was mine. This rift became the underlying reason for my imprisonment.

Since living in this Convent, I look back on a full life of worldly striving and turmoil and have come to fully realize, as Bernard counseled, that only God can truly satisfy our desires and lead to contentment.

(Dean) After Henry died Richard became king.

(Eleanor) As king, Richard had little interest in the administrative demands of English government and instead was invested with the duchy of Aquitaine, inheritance from me. He had one main passion in life, the thrill of battle. He was trained as a knight and was champion of the tourney. He spent several years battling rebellious barons.

Then in 1191, he went on the third Crusade along with the kings of France, Germany and Austria. They re-conquered the Holy Land from Saladin's Saracen forces and also the Island of Cyprus in spite of divisive intrigue between the kings.

He became known as "The Lionheart" because of his military skill. He was tall, handsome and red haired. I journeyed to meet him at Sicily with a new bride, Berengaria of Navarre. After complications too complex to explain here, they were finally married at Sicily.

(Dean) Richard was captured and held for a huge ransom as he was returning from the crusade.

(Eleanor) A year after his marriage, Richard was returning home when his ship became shipwrecked. This forced him to travel in disguise overland through the territory of his friend, turned enemy, Duke Leopold of Austria. He was discovered, however, and was held captive at Durrenstein Castle on the Rhine fifteen months until a huge amount was paid that nearly broke England's treasury. Richard had lived a charmed life and died in 1199 at the age of 41 from infection a few days after receiving an arrow wound.

(Dean) Then John became king.

**(Eleanor) John's reign followed Richard's untimely death and became very unpopular. His poor judgment, tyranny and wickedness led to an open revolt of the barons. He finally met with them at Runnymede, a flat meadow on the Thames River near Windsor Castle and signed an early version of the Magna Carta, or Great Charter That was the beginning of safeguarding the ancient rights and privileges of the people and of course of the complaining barons!**

**(Dean) I provide the following historical information about the parents of Henry II, Geoffry Plantagenet and Matilda.**

**Count Geoffrey, the Fair, was the first of his line to bear the surname Plantagenet, an epithet he gained from the sprig of broom (genet) he wore in his hat. In 1129 he had become count of Anjou in France after his father, Fulk V, had gone to become king of Jerusalem. He was tall, graceful and strong.**

**Geoffrey was married at age twelve to Matilda, age 26 who was the widow of Henry V, Emperor of Germany. It was an arranged match, planned by her father, King Henry I of England to assist her chances of succeeding him in Normandy and England. It was a loveless marriage with both despising each other but using it for mutual political gain. They did however have a son, Henry II, who became king of England and acquired an expanding dominion in France.**

**Matilda was an attractive, brave and powerful woman but managed to alienate all she should have wooed during her short attempted rule of England in 1141-42.**

## CHAPTER 7

### EVENTS LEADING UP TO WILLIAM THE CONQUEROR

The short reigns of royalty during the years between King Canute and William the Conqueror are complicated and difficult to sort-out. Surprisingly, one very influential woman is the common thread. That was legendary Queen Emma.

During this momentous transitional span of only fifty years there were four short reigns with powerful king-maker, Earl Godwin of Wessex, being behind much of the intrigue. He took advantage of the power vacuum remaining after the death of King Canute.

The reigns following Canute's of 1016 to 1035 were:

**Harold Harefoot---1035 to 1040. He was Canute's eldest son from his first wife.**

**Harthacnut---1040 to 1040. He was Canute's favorite son from Queen Emma, the widow strangely of his previous enemy, King Ethelred. He was the end of the Danish line.**

**Edward, the Confessor---1040 to Jan.1066. He was also the son of Queen Emma but from her marriage with previous King Ethelred.**

**Harold Godwinson---Jan. 1066 to Dec. 25, 1066. He was the son of Earl Godwin and Queen Emma.**

King Alfred had left England united as one kingdom under local control and finally at peace with the Danes. The Danes would now rule the eastern half of the land, called the Danelaw, for the next 100 years.

My ancestor, King Ethelred II, however shortly destroyed that peace by strangely massacring many of his Danish subjects. This amazingly included beheading Gunhildes, a Christian and her son, who was the sister of Danish King Sweyn Forkbeard, father of future King Canute. Paradoxically the name, Ethelred, supposedly meant "good council" which he didn't follow! Interestingly, some genealogical sources also claim that an ancestor of mine, Ladd, married Estreth, the daughter of this same Danish king and therefore sister of future King Canute.

The outraged Danes invaded England again in 1013 and killed many English before besieging London. Ethelred died in 1016, leaving his son, King Edmund II, (Ironside), to carry-on the war to an ultimate truce. Edmund, however, died later that same year.

The Saxon leaders of Wessex then wisely chose Canute, King of Norway and Denmark, to also be their next king. He ruled fairly and promoted Christianity until his death at age forty in 1035. This left a new royalty power vacuum to be ultimately decided by the military prowess of William the Conqueror.

Ethelred's widow, Queen Emma remained a very important part of the coming power struggle. She lived on to marry King Canute until his natural death and then

married powerful Earl Godwin to his death from choking at a banquet. Two of her sons from three of the marriages became kings.

Alfred, her eldest son from Ethelred, had also claimed the throne but was murdered by direction of Earl Godwin. Her younger son, Edward by Ethelred, eventually turned against his stepfather and had him exiled until he returned again with new power but died shortly afterward. Edward also had married Godwin's daughter from the previous marriage but had her confined to a monastery in 1051

William felt strongly that King Edward had promised succession of the throne to him. He had also named his half-brother, Alfred, who died mysteriously shortly afterward. So when the English leaders instead selected Harold Godwinson as King Harold II, William decided to immediately take the throne by force using his Normandy power base. This resulted in the battle-death of Harold II in 1066 at the famous Battle of Hastings. I have walked over this battle site to visualize the action as a military historian.

The English were exhausted after having defeated Danes and his rebellious brother a few days earlier at the Battle of Stamford Bridge a few miles east of York and having force-marched about 450 miles from there to next battle the Normans.

They took a defensive position on the top of the hill above Senlac with their spears and mighty battle axes. The attacking Normans, wearing chain mail, advanced up the slope led by William with a banner blessed by the pope and bellowing out orders. Then half-way up, the Normans were repulsed and William immediately saw that as an opportunity to counter-attack with cavalry to surround that group of Saxons.

That afternoon a Norman cavalry attack was repulsed by the English. But the English broke ranks, against Harold's orders, to strip the fallen Normans of their expensive chain mail and William again saw this as another opportunity to take the English command post where Harold was killed. The battle could have ended either way until Harold was killed. English history could have been much different. William had an abbey built where Harold was killed. I saw where Harold is probably reburied behind Waltham Abbey, north of London.

He then immediately marched to London where he was anointed king of England on Christmas Day. What a Christmas present for all the Saxon leaders who were totally displaced from their estates and positions! He ruled with a very firm hand by building many garrisoned fortresses to control the conquered Saxons who greatly outnumbered his men.

He had a detailed survey made that recorded all the belongings and income of the entire kingdom. This was entered into two large volumes called the Domesday Book that was completed and presented to him at Old Sarum on Lammas Day in 1086. He set aside "The New Forest", a popular recreation area today, on the south coast near Southampton.

The result of this conquest was the establishment of a strong centralized government and eventual closer relations with the countries of continental Europe. He revamped English law, altered the language, founded feudalism in England and built the Tower of London.

William I, now "the Conqueror", had previously been called "the Bastard" in Normandy. He was son of Duke Robert who was called, the "Devil of Normandy."

He was described as “being medium height, corpulent but majestic in person, choleric, mendacious and greedy.” No doubt he was a great soldier, governor, centralizer, legislator and innovator.

William had become Duke of Normandy in 1035. He suppressed a revolt by the nobility of Normandy about 1047--possibly the reason for his previous nick-name. He was supported by King Henry I of France, his overlord, who married my ancestor, Anne of Kiev. Her lineage continues after the following description of William's death.

William I died of injuries in 1087, when his horse stumbled and threw him while in battle near Mantes, France. He was buried at the Church of St. Stephen, which he had built for his burial place in Caen, France.

Anne of Kiev was the daughter of famous Yaroslav of Kiev 1000-1054. Kiev was the greatest city of the time in Kievan Rus (before the consolidation of Russia). His father was Saint Vladimir of Kiev 956-1015 whose father, in-turn, was Svatislav I of Kiev? -973.

Svatislav's father and mother were Igor of Kiev 878-945 and Saint Olga of Kiev 910-969. She is probably the best known women in Russian history because of her strong Christian devotion and persistence in influencing her grandson, Vladimir, to bring Orthodox Christianity into that country.

Vladimir's great grand father was Rurik the Viking 830 879, the Grand Duke of Novgorod and considered the first Czar of Russia. He came from Denmark to Russia, perhaps invited there by native Slavic tribes who were constantly warring with each other.

His 19<sup>th</sup> century bronze statue stands today in the center of the city of Novgorod. It memorializes him as a mighty prince, holding a shield and sword as symbols of his military might and political power. A fur cape sweeps over his shoulders. He is known as the founder of nations-- a Viking warrior proclaiming a glorious past.

This sets the stage for the interview with St. Margaret of Scotland in the next chapter.

## CHAPTER 8

# SAINT MARGARET QUEEN CONSORT OF SCOTLAND

All of the interviewed ancestors are unique in different ways. Historians treat Margaret with great respect but seem to show little interest in pointing out her unique lineage. She was the bridge connecting the royalty lines of the Anglo-Saxons, Normans, Scots, and Hungarians. I have found no other such linkage in my royalty research. I was very pleased to stumble onto this linkage by accident but it no doubt is well known by royalty historians.

Margaret was born about 1045 at Castle Reka in Southern Hungary. She died on Nov.16, 1093 at Edinburgh Castle and was originally buried at Dunfermline Abby (now destroyed) in Fife, Scotland. Fife is just north of Edinburgh, across the Firth of Forth. The oldest structure at Edinburgh Castle is her chapel which I visited while a marriage was in progress.

She was that bridge between royalty lines in the following way: She was the daughter of Edward (The Exile), who was the brother of King Edward (The Confessor) who had the original Westminster Abbey built. They were both the sons of the great warrior Anglo-Saxon King Edmund (Ironside).

She was also the mother of Edith, who married Norman King Henry I, the son of William the Conqueror. Henry I set a record for fathering possibly 25 illegitimate children--so only Edith's son, William, was in line to become the next king. Unfortunately William perished in the famous wreck of the White Ship in 1120. This left his sister, Matilda (my ancestor), to become the next queen for only one contentious year of civil war.

Margaret was also the bridge to Scottish royalty. This was because she married, Scottish King Malcolm III Canmore (also called Bighead) and thus became Queen Consort of Scotland. Due to that union, my royalty ancestor lineage also extends back into the complex line of Scottish kings.

Shakespeare's play, *Macbeth*, adds dialogue to history and legend of that period's momentous change in leadership but takes license with historical facts. Macbeth killed Duncan I in battle and was in-turn killed in battle by Duncan's son, Malcolm III.

When Malcolm III was an elderly 62, he and his eldest son, Edward, by Margaret were killed in ambush by Robert of Moray who was the Earl of Northumberland, November 13, 1093. They had been reconnoitering the best approach to again attack the Normans near the town of Alnwick. Margaret was very ill at the time in Edinburgh Castle and when she was informed of their deaths by another son she died of grief three days later at age 48.

I have walked the parapet wall of Alnwick Castle that King William I built near there a few years after the ambush and visualized the approximate site of their deaths.

In Edinburgh, I also saw where Margaret's body was secretly let down the back way over a cliff from her castle to prevent the enemy at the gate from getting her body. Although both she and Malcolm were buried at the abbey, she had had built at Dunfermline, they were later reburied in 1673 at a specially built tomb in the Escorial at Madrid, Spain.

She had been canonized in 1251 by Pope Innocent IV in recognition of her caring life of holiness and faith. Her death is marked to the present day by the Roman Catholic and Anglican churches on November 16th as the Feast of St. Margaret.

## **Discussion with St. Margaret**

In the period 1092 at age 47, living in Edinburgh Castle, Scotland

(Dean) Hello your majesty--I am your 32<sup>nd</sup> great grandson. I didn't realize until shortly before my research trip to your country that you were the unique bridge that connects the royalty line of your Anglo-Saxon birth to Norman royalty though your daughter, Edith, who married King Henry I the son of William the Conqueror. Then, when you married King Malcolm III, it also established the connection to Scottish royalty.

If it pleases you, may we discuss some events from your personal perspective that extends beyond historical writings? You went through very trying times and are revered as a wonderful example for truly living according to your deep Christian convictions. Your family went through very trying times after the death of your uncle, King Edward. Historians refer to him as "The Confessor" because of his devout religious faith.

(Margaret) That was indeed a time of great royalty intrigue among those seeking the throne. When my uncle Edward died in 1066 my brother Edgar Atheling (means the noble) became heir to the throne of England for only about two months. Unfortunately, others were also waiting in the wings to fight for that seat and he submitted to the overlord of Norman King William I. Then the greatest turning point in English history began.

So my wise widowed mother, Agatha, became very concerned for our family's safety and decided to leave Northumberland with my brother and me and return to the safety of relatives in Hungary where her father, King Stephen, reigned. She was understandably fearful because my father, King Edward (The Exile) had been previously mysteriously murdered in 1053. I believe that King Harold II was responsible and that God reckoned with him at Hastings.

(Dean) God had a greater plan for your life.

**(Margaret)** As fate would have it though, a storm drove our ship instead to the village of North Queensferry, on the outskirts of Edinburgh, where we sought the protection of Scottish King Malcolm III.

He had had three children by his previous wife, Ingibjorg Finnsdottir, and was now a widower. I soon discovered that he recognized the advantage of remarrying one of the few remaining members of the Anglo-Saxon royal family—me! So we were married and had six sons and two daughters.

**(Dean)** My research provides the following information because she died before their reigns:

**Edward, who was killed at Alnwick with her husband in 1093.**

**Edmund, who became King Duncan V reigned (r.) 1094**

**Ethelred, who became abbot of Dunkeld.**

**Edgar, who became king r. 1097-1107**

**Alexander, who became king r. 1107-1124**

**David, who became king r. 1124-1153**

**Edith (also called Matilda) who married King Henry I of England, son of William, the Conqueror. Margaret was eight years younger than William and lived six years after his death.**

**Mary, who married Eustace III of Boulogne**

**(Dean)** I have read that your husband constantly tried to expand his territory.

**(Margaret)** Let me tell you something about Malcolm's way of diplomacy--leading up to William the Conqueror's conquest in 1066 and for another 27 years.

He began his reign by establishing alliances with such as his father's former enemy, Thorfinn, Earl of Orkney. Then, when Thorfinn died, Malcolm married his widow, Ingibjorg, and established an alliance with her sons who became the new earls of Orkney. She then bore him three children before she died around 1069.

This alliance brought him into closer relations with Norway's King Harald Haardraada. Then in 1066, Tostig, a rebellious thug, gained the support of Haardraada for an invasion of England to defeat his brother, King Harold Godwinson .

Malcolm had been raised in the Anglo-Norman court of Edward The Confessor so he had English sympathies as well as close relations with many Norman soldiers. Therefore, he was astute about revealing who he supported the most. Soon both Haardraada and Tostig were killed in battle near York at Stamford Bridge by King Harold II and a few weeks later, Harold, in-turn, was killed by William the Conqueror at the Battle of Hastings.

**(Dean)** All of this striving for power and territory must have been very disturbing to you.

**(Margaret)** I was very unhappy that my brother, Edgar, kept thinking he could still somehow retake the throne from King William I and talked my husband into supporting his effort. He made an unsuccessful attempt in 1069 along with King

**Swein of Denmark. Then he made a series of raids throughout northern England for the next few years. This enraged William I to eventually invade Scotland in 1072 and seek Edgar's submission. So Edgar again became an exile and my stepson Duncan was held as a hostage to discourage further raids.**

**Duncan was finally set free fifteen years later after William's death in 1087 and, to my shock, my husband again started planning an expansion of his territories. My brother, Edgar, also recognized the opportunity and joined my husband in invading England again but was this time defeated by William's son, Rufus.**

**(Dean) I wonder how your husband reacted to your deep faith in God and your passion in caring for the orphans and poor.**

**(Margaret) From what I mentioned before, Malcolm had quite aggressive ways of trying to constantly expand his territory—usually with disastrous consequences. He was a strategist who seemed to always be making new complex alliances. That's why he was referred to as "Bighead." For instance, it greatly disturbed me to see him periodically attacking the Normans in northern England. I feared for his life and may have mellowed him somewhat.**

**Thankfully, he was very devoted to me though and had a soft side that respected my deep Christian beliefs. He didn't show much interest in applying Bible scripture to his life though, in spite of my constant urging.**

**I prayed earnestly several times each day for him and for God's will in my own life. I had a driving passion for the caring of the orphans and poor. I directed the building the abbey at Dunfermline. That was a very great undertaking that compared with Westminster Abbey in London that Edward the Confessor had completed seven years earlier. I also restored the monastery at Iona.**

**(Dean) Your great grand father, King Ethelred; grand father, King Edmund II, and King Canute, the Dane, lived during a fast changing time of strife and short reigns.**

**(Margaret) Most of my knowledge of that period came from what my mother told me.**

**Ethelred was a weak ruler that relied on poor advice in facing the raiding Danes. This is partly because he was crowned at age ten. So he was called "The Unready".**

**He didn't get credit though for being a good administrator. For instance he promoted construction of new monasteries, updated laws, and reorganized local government.**

**His main problem, though, was how to stop the continuing Danish raiders who plundered if they weren't paid protection money. Finally he ordered the killing of all Danes in England except the resident ones. This resulted in the Danes seeking revenge by causing much destruction across southern part of our country and forcing Ethelred to flee to Normandy. He returned to again battle Canute but became worn out by the constant fighting and died in London at the age of 47.**

**His second son, Edmund, carried on the struggle for survival--clashing five times in battle with Canute another seven months. He continued fighting even though**

wounded and finally died in London of wounds at the young age of 27. I heard one unfounded rumor though that he was murdered by being disemboweled from below while sitting on the latrine!

English nobles then decided to settle the constant costly fighting by agreeing to accept Canute as their King. He then reigned surprisingly well for nineteen years over England as well as Denmark and Norway until his death in 1035 at age about forty. As compared to Ethelred, he was a strong ruler, and was recognized as one of the most important rulers of that time. Both Scottish Kings, Malcolm I and Macbeth, had submitted to him as well.

Later in his reign, Canute mellowed and strongly supported the church. Surprisingly, but wisely, he married Elhelred's influential widow, Emma of Normandy. She was indeed exceptional for having been married to two kings as well as to king-maker Earl Godwin, and becoming mother of two kings.

