

MEDIEVAL TURNING POINTS

INFLUENCED BY MY ANCESTORS

Such as King Alfred the Great



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INTRODUCTION

This is a sequel to my manuscript, *Medieval Quest, My Ancestors' Involvement in Royalty Intrigue*. The concept for this writing became readily apparent after listening to the newest *Great Courses* lectures about these turning points in Medieval history and realizing that my ancestors were key persons in many of the covered events.

For instance, Eleanor of Aquitaine was one of the most remarkable women of the time, having married two kings and being the mother of two kings. Her son, King John, signed the Magna Carta, which wasn't generally recognized as an important event until much later. Such turning point events shaped and continue to shake the world today.

Medieval Quest was written in the journalistic form of "interviews in the period" with five key women, whereas this manuscript is written as normal history to a much greater research depth. It will include the historical impact of many others, extending back to Charles Martel (688-741). King Alfred the Great (849-899) is shown on the cover page. This is his statue, located where he was buried in Winchester, UK.

The number of greats, stated in this manuscript, varies slightly from those in *Medieval Quest*.

My following royalty ancestors were key participants in Medieval turning points:

Joan Plantagenet, called "The Fair Maid of Kent" (1335-1385)

King Edward I of England, called "Long Shanks" (1239-1307)

King John of England, called "Lackland" (1166-1216)

Eleanor of Aquitaine (1122-1203)

William 1 of England, called "The Conqueror" (1027-1087)

Saint Margaret of Scotland (1045-1093)

Saint Vladimir of Kiev, Called "The Great" (958-1015)

Saint Olga of Kiev (890-969)

King Alfred the Great of England (849-899)

Rurik the Viking (830-879)

Charlemagne of the Franks (742-813)

Charles Martel of the Franks, Called "The Hammer" (686-741).

EXPANDED ROYALTY LINEAGE CONNECTIONS

<p>King Alfred the Great – 899</p> <p>King Edward I 875–924</p> <p>King Edgar I 943–975</p> <p>King Ethelred (The Unready) 968-1016</p> <p>King William I (The Conqueror) 1027-1087. End of Anglo-Saxon reign and beginning of the Norman after battle of Hastings in 1066.</p> <p>King Henry I 1068-1135 m. Edith of Scotland 1079-1118, d. of Scottish King Malcolm III -1093 and Saint Margaret. Margaret 1045-1093 was paternal granddaughter of Saxon King Edmund II (Ironside) 989-1016 and maternal ? granddaughter of King Stephen of Hungary.</p> <p>English Queen Matilda (of Germany) 1104-1169m. 2 Geoffrey V. Plantagenet</p> <p>Henry II 1132-1189 m. 2 Eleanor of Aquitaine 1122-1203.</p> <p>King John (Lackland) 1166-1216</p> <p>King Henry III 1207-1272</p> <p>Edmund Plantagenet 1304-1334 (executed), son of English King Edward 1239-1307 and Margaret Capet 1278-1317 d. of French King Phillip III 1245-1285.</p> <p>Joan Plantagenet 1335-1385 m. Thomas Holland 1320-1360</p> <p>Eleanor Holland 1380-1405</p> <p>Joyce Tiptoft 1430-1470</p> <p>Edmond Dudley 1425-1448 (executed)</p> <p>Thomas Dudley 1576-1653, Served 4 terms as governor of the Mass. Colony. Mercy Dudley 1621-1691</p> <p>Benjamin Woodbridge 1650-1710</p> <p>Deborah Clark 1699-1742</p> <p>Eunice Dean 1790-1875</p> <p>Eliza Moulton 1822-1898</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">→</p> <p>To Sweden→</p> <p>To Scotland →</p> <p>To Hungary→</p> <p>To France→</p> <p>Same period→</p> <p style="text-align: center;">→</p>	<p>On back to the earliest Saxon kings</p> <p>On back to the earliest Swedish royalty in Uppsala.</p> <p>On back to the earliest Scottish royalty.</p> <p>(See next page)</p> <p>William White 1591-1619 m. Susannah Fuller 1594-1680. She m. 2 Edward Winslow, governor of the Plymouth Colony. They came on the Mayflower and it's claimed to be the first Caucasian marriage in the New World.</p> <p>(To the present)</p>
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Charles Martel of the Franks 688-741

Charlemagne of the Franks 742-813, the first Emperor of the new Holy Roman Empire

Pippin III of the Franks 714-768

French King Louis I 778-768

French King Charles II 823-877

French King Hugh Capet 938-996

Henry I 1005-1060 m. Anne of Kiev 1019-1075 d. of Yaroslav of Kiev 1000-1054

King Phillip I 1052-1108

King Louis VI 1077-1137

King Louis VII 1120-1180

King Phillip II 1165-1223

King Louis VIII 1187-1226

King Louis IX (Saint) 1226-1270



To Kiev →

On back to the earliest Franks in the fourth century.

Haarik Godfredsson of Denmark 800-879

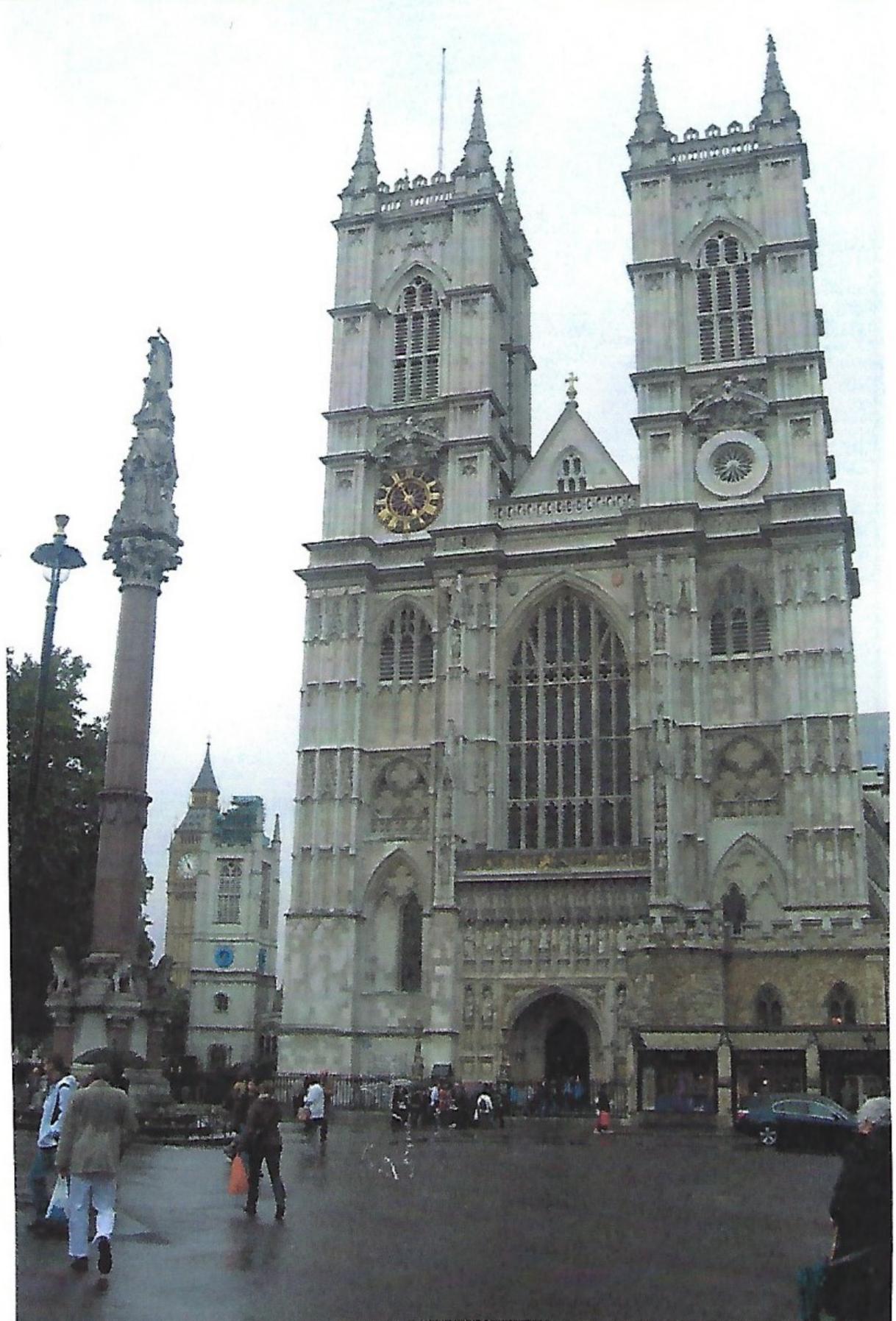
↑ (To Denmark)

Rurik the Viking 830-879

Igor of Kiev 878-945 m. Saint Olga of Kiev 910-969

Svatislav of Kiev 973

Saint Vladimir of Kiev 956-1015



Westminster Abbey in London—built originally by Edward the Confessor. Big Ben is in the left background. Most royalty has since had their coronation and burials here.

TURNING POINTS

Joan Plantagenet, called “The Fair Maid of Kent” (1335-1385), is my 18th great grandmother. She is my key link into royalty. Her father was Edmund of Woodstock, the 1st Earl of Kent, who was the son of King Edward 1 “Long Shanks” of England and his second wife, Margaret Capet, the daughter of King Philip III of France and granddaughter of King Louis IX (Saint).

Joan married Edward, the Black Prince, October 10, 1361, a year after my ancestor, Thomas Holland, 1st Earl of Kent and a knight, died. She had four children by Holland—one, Thomas, the 2nd Earl of Kent, being my ancestor.

Her son by the Black Prince became King Richard II at age ten and Joan initially became the power behind the throne before the influence of the king’s advisors took over.

I have visited The Black Prince’s effigy, which is the main tourist attraction in Canterbury Cathedral, along with the shrine of Saint Thomas Becket. The Black Prince was admired for victoriously leading in many battles of the One Hundred Years War with France.

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 its 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, by inferring a homosexual lifestyle with unpopular friends and describing the lurid details of his demise by a red hot poker. His wife was referred to as, “The She-Wolf of France.”

Edmund had remained loyal to his half-brother in spite of the king’s unpopularity. Queen Isabella therefore considered Edmund a threat and had him executed. I visited where the beheadings actually took place in the Tower of London.

Isabella’s son was then crowned as King Edward III and reigned for 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, near one of today’s London subway stops, 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, Edward the legendary 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 Edward. After two previous marriages she would eventually marry him and become mother of the 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, 1st 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 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 to Holland, could lead to his 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.

She then lived with Holland for eleven years and had four children before his death in 1360. One was my ancestor, Thomas, 2nd Earl of Kent, who married Alice de Arundel. Alice's 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 in about 1381, 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. This revolt came in the wake of the Black Death plague that had resulted

in the death of up to 50% of the population, causing a radical shift in the relationship between the surviving peasants and nobles.

Her son, Richard II, later followed his powerful advisors counsel however and very aggressively resisted the uprising. He had many hung and ordered them to be left hanging there to decay as an example. I saw this described in the city of St. Albans about 50 miles northwest 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, 2nd 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.

King Edward I of England, "Long Shanks" (1239-1307), is my 20th great grandfather. He was the grandfather of Joan "the Fair Maid of Kent" by Margaret Capet who was the daughter of King Philip III of France--my entry into French royalty.

This was Edward's second marriage, when he next married the nineteen year old Margaret at age 60, many years after the death of his first wife, Eleanor of Castile. He was the eldest son of King Henry III and Eleanor of Provence and had married Eleanor of Castile 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 about 20 miles NE of London and at Charing Cross in central London. I have been near both locations.

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 probably was that the Jews were the main source of loans to barons and royalty who didn't want to repay their loans.

He was one of the most important of all English kings because he indeed was a very tall, healthy, strong and powerful warrior—one of only a few kings that personally led his armies into battle. Because of this, he was called "The Hammer of the Scots". He was called 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.

Before becoming king, he was in the Third Crusade where he succeeded in liberating 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 of dysentery, preparing to again fight Robert Bruce 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 coronation chair.

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, became a judicious ruler, a ruthless conqueror, a tournament champion and a cunning diplomat. He was also a great administrator and was thus referred to as the "Lawgiver", "the Father of the Parliament", and the "English Justinian". Through his marriages to Princess Eleanor of Castile and, after her death, to Princess Margaret of France, he played a major role in relations between those countries during his reign.

In Wales, he completed Rhuddlan Castle in 1282 and a year later started Harlech Castle.

King John of England (1166-1216) is my 22nd great grandfather and son of Eleanor of Aquitaine. He was called "Lackland" because he inherited no land and lost all in France. He signed the Magna Carta at Runnymede under protest after he had succeeded Joan's older son, King Richard I, "The Lion Heart" after his untimely death.

King John's reign became very unpopular due to his poor judgment and tyranny that led to an open revolt of the nobles. He had an uncontrolled temper, like his father, but he apparently did have a good side, by being occasionally generous, kindly and energetic.

The Magna Carta became a turning point in the medieval world that limited the power of the monarchy, such as to levy taxes on his nobles too often. Today, it is considered differently--as a landmark turning-point for justice and equality for the common man. When King John was forced to sign, it by the nobles, he still considered it invalid because the king's power was being limited by his vassals for the first time. He appealed to Pope Innocent III, to declare it unenforceable who in-turn issued a papal bull, nullifying the document.

The document actually primarily protested the interests of only about 10 %, who were at the top of society, rather than those of the common man. Only article 40 of the 63, buried in the middle of the document, refers to the rights of all the people stating "To no one will we sell, to no one deny or delay right or justice." It then refers to merchants moving in and out of the country, forest rights, whether the Crusading movement should continue, etc.

King John died of dysentery less than a year later, leaving his nine-year-old son, Henry III, to succeed him. William Marshall, the popular knight, gave the

Magna Carta a new life though, by having the document reissued in the name of Henry III and cleverly amending the noble's objections. The English system of law and justice, as well as that in our country and even the United Nations, was influenced by this document.

Eleanor of Aquitaine (1122-1203) is my 23rd great grandmother. She was one of the most remarkable women in the medieval world, because she impacted the culture of the time with of her strong personality, force of will, and speaking her mind, comparable only to Queen Elizabeth I.

She had been influenced by her troubadour grandfather, with his musical poetry emphasizing "courtly love" and her father, Duke of Aquitaine, William X, who flouted church hierarchy and structures. Interestingly her religious councilor was St. Bernard of Clairvaux, the greatest influence on royalty of that time--being the primary builder of the reforming Cistercian Order.

She was a key figure in the medieval world, though, primarily because of her status as the heiress to Aquitaine, the largest duchy in France. Also, she had divorced King Louis VII of France and then married Henry II of England. She became the mother of three kings --Henry "the Young King", Richard "the Lion Heart" and John "Lackland" (my ancestor) who was forced to sign the Magna Carta.

Eleanor's life was intriguing, 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 was known for her beauty and perseverance.

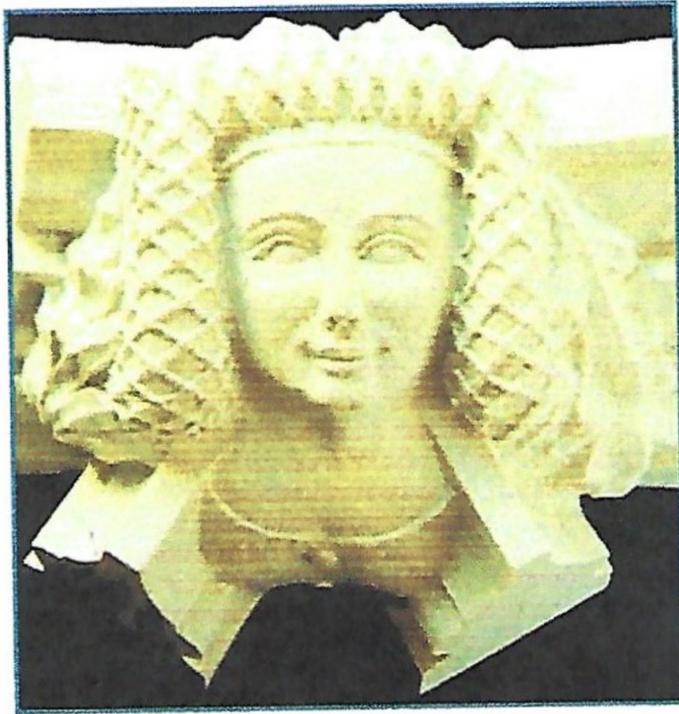
She succeeded her father, William X, as Duchess of Aquitaine. In 1137, she first married (arranged as normal for political advantage at age 15) and fifteen years later divorced King Louis VII of France—supposedly because they were too closely related.

Actually they were a total misfit of personalities. The marriage was even annulled by the Pope. She had born him two daughters and had joined him on the Second Crusade from 1147 to 1149. Historians comment that that divorce set off a ripple effect that was still felt centuries later by changing, not only the shape of nations, but their religious practices and beliefs, literary traditions, royalty inheritance customs and military conflicts.

Her crusade 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".

During the crusade there was idle gossip about her alleged romantic involvement with her favorite uncle, Count Raymond, Prince of Antioch, and even with the Saracen leader, Saladin. Ultimately, morale and cooperation broke down and the crusade ended in failure.

She had agreed with her uncle against her husband that Antioch should receive military help before proceeding on to Jerusalem. Eventually the Saracens captured and beheaded her uncle.



Joan Plantagenet, called "The Fair Maid of Kent" (1335-1385)

This is her smiling face, that I saw in the basement of Canterbury Cathedral, located below the bronze effigy of her last husband, Edward the Black Prince. It is placed on one of the ceiling bosses in a crypt, later use by the French descendents of the Protestant Huguenots.

King Edward I of England, called "Long Shanks" (1239-1307)

He was the grandfather of my ancestor, Joan Plantagenet by his second wife, French Princess Margaret Capet who he married at age 60 after the death of his greatly loved Eleanor of Castile.



King John of England, called "Lackland" (1166-1216)

He was the son of Eleanor of Aquitaine who became the unpopular king after the death of his brother, King Richard "The Lionheart", and signed the Magna Carta under protest.

Eleanor of Aquitaine (1122-1203)

She was a key figure in the medieval world primarily because of her status as the heiress to Aquitaine, the largest duchy in France. Also, she had divorced King Louis VII of France and then married Henry II of England. She was the mother of King Richard "the Lionheart" and King John.

During the return trip home, her ship became separated from Louis and the rest during a violent storm and finally landed safely on the northern coast of Africa.

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 ultimately grew strained because of his infidelities and he then held her in home confinement for about sixteen years because she supported a revolt by her sons against his rule. I saw where she was held captive much of that period at the windy hill-site of Old Sarum, now in ruins, about five miles north of Salisbury.

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 the third crusade, she administered the government with prudence and discretion.

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

Most historical writings focus more on her young romantic escapades rather than on her mature years. She became the mother of three kings, Regent of England, Countess of Aquitaine and was in retirement at the Fontevraud Abbey in Anjou, France 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 and his wife are also buried next to them.

William the Conqueror (1027-1087) is my 26th great grandfather.

William of Normandy's defeat of Anglo-Saxon King Harold II (Godwinson) at the Battle of Hastings on the afternoon of October 14, 1066 was the greatest of all medieval turning points. King Harold was killed by an arrow through his eye and England would be changed drastically. The Normans completely replaced all Anglo-Saxon nobles and took ownership of their properties. I walked over the battle ground in 2007 and read the various historical on-site descriptions.

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, the legendary Queen Emma, was the common thread.

During this momentous transitional span of only fifty years there were four short reigns with the 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 hundred years.

My ancestor, King Ethelred II "the Unready", destroyed that peace by strangely massacring many of his Danish subjects. This amazingly included beheading Gunhildes, a Christian and her son. She 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.

One genealogical source claims that an ancestor of mine, a Ladd, married Estreth, the daughter of this same Danish king and was the 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 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 King Harold II.

The English were exhausted after having defeated the Dane, Hardrada, and his rebellious brother, Tostig, about a week earlier at the Battle of Stamford Bridge which is a few miles east of York, and having force-marched about 250 miles (as a crow flies) from there to the next battle with the Normans.

I visited the battle site and pictured where they took the defensive position on the top of the hill near the village of 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. This could have ended either way until Harold was killed.

William had an abbey built near where Harold was killed. I saw where Harold was buried but later was probably reburied behind Waltham Abbey, north of London which I also visited.

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, completed and presented to him at Old Sarum on Lammas Day in 1086. He also set aside "The New Forest", a popular recreation area today, on the south coast near Southampton. His son, Rufus (King William II) was killed there in 1100 by an arrow from "one of his own." William's younger son then became King Henry I and married my ancestor, Edith of Scotland. She was the daughter of my ancestor St. Margaret, who was married to King Malcolm III of Scotland.

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 nickname. He was supported by King Henry I of France, his overlord, who married my ancestor, Anne of Kiev who was the daughter of Yaroslav I, "The Wise", Grand Prince of Kiev and Novgorod.

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.

Saint Margaret of Scotland (1045-1093) is my 26th great grandmother. When she married King Malcom III of Scotland, she became the bridge connecting the royalty lines of the Anglo Saxons, Normans, Scots and Hungarians. Her daughter, Edith, married William's son who became Henry I of England.

Historians treat Margaret with great respect but show little interest in pointing out her unique lineage. 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 there.

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).

Henry I set a record for fathering possibly 25 illegitimate children--but only Edith's son, William, was in line to become the next king. Unfortunately William perished in the famous sinking of the "White Ship" in 1120. This left his sister, Matilda (my ancestor), to become the next queen for only a contentious few months and later become the mother of Henry II who married Eleanor of Aquitaine. Matilda's was a very strong willed woman leader whose history is very active and complex.

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 then 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 built at Dunfermline, they were later reburied in 1673 at a specially built tomb in the Escorial about an hour's drive south of 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.

Saint Vladimir of Kiev, "The Great" (958-1015) is my 30th great grandfather. Also known as Vladimir Sviatoslavich the Great, he was the great grandson of Rurik the Viking. He was also the grandfather of my ancestor, Anne of Kiev, who married King Henry I of France and therefore is my link into Russian royalty.

After the death of his father, Sviatoslav of the Rurik dynasty in 972, he was forced to flee to Scandinavia in 976 after his brother Yaropolk had murdered his other brother. With the help of his relative Ladejarl Sigurdsson, ruler of Norway, he assembled a Varangian army and re-conquered Novgorod from his brother, Yaropolk. By 980, he had consolidated the frontiers against incursions of Bulgarian, Baltic and Eastern nomads.

He ruled from 980 to 1015 and was one of the most important grand princes of Kiev. He was known for his skills as a warrior, defending Kievan Rus eastern frontier against nomadic invaders and expanding its western borders.

In 988, nineteen years after the death of his grandmother, he converted to Christian Eastern Orthodoxy and encouraged a mass baptism in the Dnieper River by his people under the religious influence of Constantinople rather than of Rome. Under the urging of his grandmother, Princess Olga, who was the first member of Kievan nobility to accept the Christian faith, he had decided to abandon the old pagan beliefs and adopt a new religion that he thought would help the eastern Slavs become a more powerful civilization. He was particularly impressed by the beautiful ceremony in the splendid Byzantine church of Hagia Sophia in Constantinople. It was later converted into a mosque by the Turks and is now used as a museum in Istanbul, Turkey.

Saint Olga of Kiev (890-969) is my 32nd great grandmother. She is probably the best-known women in Russian history because of her firm action, strong Christian devotion and persistence in influencing her grandson, Vladimir, to bring Orthodox Christianity into Kievan Rus before the establishment of Russia. She was proclaimed a saint in 1547 and even considered equal to the apostles--claimed to be one of only five women to be so honored with this status in the history of Christianity.

Olga was probably of Scandinavian heritage and married Prince Igor I of Kiev at about age nineteen. Igor was the son of my ancestor, Rurik who is considered the founder of Russia. Igor became the ruler of Kiev, a state which includes parts of what is now Russia, the Ukraine, Beloruse and Poland. He was murdered by the Drevlians in 964 and Olga assumed the regency for her son, Svyatoslav, until he became of age.

Olga was known as a firm and effective ruler by having the murders and their followers killed in an unusual way. The Drevlians even tried to persuade her to marry their prince but she instead invited many of them to a funeral feast and had them burned to death in a bath house.



William 1 of England, called "The Conqueror" (1027-1087)

William of Normandy's defeat of Anglo-Saxon King Harold II at the Battle of Hastings October 14, 1066 was the greatest of all medieval turning points--with the Normans completely replacing all Anglo-Saxon nobles and taking ownership of their properties

Saint Margaret of Scotland (1045-1093)

I saw this illustration prominently displayed in the Edinburgh Castle and where Margaret's body was secretly lowered down the back way over a cliff to prevent the enemy at the gate from getting her body.

When she married King Malcom III of Scotland, she became the bridge, connecting the royalty lines of the Anglo Saxons, Normans, Scots and Hungarians.



Saint Vladimir of Kiev, Called "The Great" (958-1015)

He was the great grandson of Rurik "the Viking". He was also the grandfather of my ancestor, Anne of Kiev, who married King Henry I of France and therefore is my link into Russian royalty.

Under the urging of his grandmother, Princess Olga, he eventually decided to abandon the old pagan beliefs and adopted Christian Orthodoxy--ordering a mass baptism in the Dnieper River.

Saint Olga of Kiev (890-969)

She is probably the best-known women in Russian history because of her great deeds, strong Christian devotion and persistence in influencing her grandson, Vladimir, to bring Orthodox Christianity into Kievan Rus before the establishment of Russia.

King Alfred the Great of England (849-899) is my 32nd great grandfather. He was king of Wessex from 871 to his death and was the only sovereign of England to be called "The Great". He was the youngest of four sons of Osburga, the first wife of King Aethelwulf. All three of these sons had reigned in sequence for short periods. He then reigned for thirty years.

He was a learned and merciful man who encouraged education and improved his kingdom's legal systems and military structure. He collected and revised laws of the Anglo-Saxons in accordance with Christian morals and principles and they became the basis of early English jurisprudence. He was the beginning of England's prose literature. He wrote, "I do not know whether I, after parting of the body and soul, shall ever know more than now of all that I have long wished to know. I cannot find anything better than to know and anything worse than to be ignorant."

For six years, he fought the Danes heroically at the head of his brave warriors, at times being forced to take refuge in the western marshy area of Wessex. During this period of refuge, legend states that he burnt a peasant woman's cake while not revealing who he was. He eventually prevailed against the Danes and built forts wherever he won a strip of country. In 871 alone, he fought nine battles against the Danes.

Then he built a fleet of more than a hundred warships that carried a huge sail and had space for sixty or more rowers to guard the coast against the invaders. This was the beginning of the English navy.

Finally in 878, a treaty left the Danes in control of the eastern half of England, known as The Danelaw which remained for nearly a hundred years. Their principle city was York, that have visited.

This treaty was the result of Alfred's decisive victory at the Battle of Edington in Wiltshire that led to the Dane leader, Guthrum, and 29 of his chief men converting to Christianity and being baptized at Alfred's court altar near Athelney.

He captured London in about 886 and received submission of the Angles and Saxons to become recognized as Sovereign of all England. From 893 to 897 he again fought the Franks, Vikings and Danes, forcing them to withdraw.

Rurik the Viking (830-879) is my 33rd great grandfather and the great grandfather of Saint Vladimir. The red-haired Viking—thus called the Rus--was considered the first Czar of Russia and the Grand Duke of Novgorod, where his 19th century bronze statue stands today in the center of that city. 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."

In 850, he came from Denmark to what became Russia--perhaps invited there by native Slavic tribes who were constantly warring with each other. He made himself ruler of Kiev and became the ancestor to many of the royal houses of Europe. The house of Rurik was Russian royalty until the death of Fedor Ivanovich about 750 years later in 1598 but historical documentation is scanty.

Charlemagne (Charles the Great or Carlus Magnus in Latin) **of the Franks** (742-813) is my 38th great grandfather. He was the illegitimate son of Pippin II, the mayor of the palace who governed Austrasia. My lineage is through one of Charles's series of wives, Desiderata, (AKA Emengarde) who became the mother of Louis I (the Pius) of France, the next Holy Roman Emperor after being co-emperor with his father. Interestingly, my genealogy records reveal that she was married in 774 at age sixteen, was divorced about 779 and died shortly afterward at age twenty two!

Charlemagne came to the throne in 768, annexed Lombardy and Bavaria, pushed a series of long campaigns and was crowned in Rome as the first Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire on Christmas day, 800, to rule much of Western Europe and ward off threats from the Muslim and Viking intrusions.

His empire, referred to as the Carolingian dynasty, was the direct foundation of most of the societies to be found in Western Europe over the following centuries. It combined a Roman, Christian and Germanic past. Some of its legal and political institutions, such as counties and fiefs, were important elements in all later kingdoms.

The books from his palace library at Aachen, Germany, were copied during the Carolingian dynasty, and formed the basis of later libraries. The books included Latin classics and the works of the Church Fathers--the minuscule script became the basis of modern printed type.

The unity of Charlemagne's empire, however, started to break apart after his death in Aachen, because his grandsons divided the empire among themselves and it eventually fragmented into France, Germany and Italy over the following 150 years.

Charles Martel of the Franks, "The Hammer" (686-741) was the grandfather of Charlemagne and is my 40th great grandfather. As king of the Merovingian kingdom, he played a key role in turning back the Muslim invasions of Europe. He finally stopped them near the city of Poitiers at the Battle of Tours, France in 732. Although this battle was just a series of small engagements, there were no more great Muslim invasions, so it was a major turning point in European history.

The Muslim Umayyads first came north in 711 and were defeated by Odo at the Battle of Toulouse. Charles decided that a professional army was needed to defend against further invasions by the Muslim horsemen. So, when the Muslims again invaded with about 80,000 men and had plundered Aquitaine, Charles mobilized his army of about 30,000 Frankish troops and moved over secondary roads toward the town of Tours--avoiding detection and selecting the battlefield. It was on a high, wooded plain which would force the Muslims to charge uphill, where he formed a large square, causing the Muslims to pause, considering their options.

Seven days later, Charles' infantry repulsed repeated Muslim cavalry attacks until they finally broke through and attempted to kill Charles. He was quickly surrounded by his personal guards who repulsed the attack and Charles' scouts, that he had sent out earlier, infiltrated the Muslim camp and freed prisoners.

A large number of the Muslims, thinking that they were losing, retreated to protect their camp. When their leader, Abdul Rahman, attempted to stop the retreat, he was surrounded and killed by the Franks. The Muslims continued their retreat to Iberia and never returned.

Charles spent the next three years securing his eastern borders and moved south to stop an invasion in Provence. In 736, he routed the Muslims by using cavalry. From 737, until his death in 741, he divided his lands between his sons, Carloman and Pippin "the Younger", who later fathered the great Carolingian leader, Charlemagne.



King Alfred the Great of England (849-899)

He was the only sovereign of England to be called "The Great". For six years, he fought the Danes heroically, at times being forced to take refuge. He collected and revised laws of the Anglo-Saxons in accordance with Christian morals and principles and they became the basis of early English jurisprudence. He was the beginning of prose literature of England.

Rurik the Viking (830-879)

He was considered the first Czar of Russia and the Grand Duke of Novgorod, where his 19th century bronze statue stands, as in this illustration, today in the center of that city. He made himself ruler of Kiev and became the ancestor to many of the royal houses of Europe.



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He came to the throne in 768, annexed Lombardy and Bavaria, pushed a series of long campaigns and was crowned in Rome as the first Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire on Christmas day, 800, to rule much of Western Europe.

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He played a key role in turning back the Muslim invasions of Europe by stopping them at the Battle of Tours in 732, a major turning point in European history.