

## Chapter 7 - The Ancient Scottish Pedigree, Anglo-Norman Ancestors

**Introduction:** This is a continuation of Chapter 5, but it is the narratives for our Anglo-Norman ancestors.

### **Duke Richard II of Normandy (963-1026)(our 29<sup>th</sup> great grandfather)**

Richard II (963-1026) of Normandy, called the Good, was the eldest son and heir of Richard I the Fearless and Gunnor. He was born in Normandy. He was a Norman nobleman of the House of Normandy. He was the paternal grandfather of William the Conqueror.

Richard succeeded his father as Duke of Normandy in 996. During his minority, the first five years of his reign, his regent was Count Rodulf of Ivry, his uncle, who wielded the power and put down a peasant insurrection at the beginning of Richard's reign.

Richard had deep religious interests and found he had much in common with Robert II of France, who he helped militarily against the duchy of Burgundy. He forged a marriage alliance with Brittany by marrying his sister Hawise to Geoffrey I, Duke of Brittany and by his own marriage to Geoffrey's sister, Judith of Brittany in about 1000. He and Judith were known to have three sons and three daughters.

In 1000–1001, Richard repelled an English attack on the Cotentin Peninsula that was led by Ethelred II of England. Ethelred had given orders that Richard be captured, bound and brought to England. But the English had not been prepared for the rapid response of the Norman cavalry and were defeated at the Battle of Val-de-Saire.

Richard attempted to improve relations with England through his sister Emma of Normandy's marriage to King Ethelred. This marriage was significant in that it later gave his grandson, William the Conqueror, the basis of his claim to the throne of England. The improved relations proved to be beneficial to Ethelred when in 1013 King Sveinn “Forkbeard” Haraldsson (our 28<sup>th</sup> great grandfather in the Ancient Icelandic Pedigree) invaded England.

Richard II commissioned his clerk and confessor, Dudo of Saint-Quentin, to portray his ducal ancestors as morally upright Christian leaders who built Normandy despite the treachery of their overlords and neighboring principalities. It was clearly a work of propaganda designed to legitimize the Norman settlement, and while it contains numerous historically unreliable legends, as respects the reigns of his father and grandfather, Richard I and William I it is basically reliable.

In 1025 and 1026 Richard confirmed gifts of his great-grandfather Gungu-Hrolfur (Rollo) “Rolf the Ganger” Rognvaldsson (our 28<sup>th</sup> great grandfather in the Ancient Icelandic Pedigree) to Saint-Ouen at Rouen. His other numerous grants to monastic houses tends to indicate the areas over which Richard had ducal control, namely Caen, the Éverecin, the Cotentin, the Pays de Caux and Rouen. Richard II died August 28, 1026. His eldest son, Richard III, became the new

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duke. We descend from his daughter Eleanora.

### **Count Fulk III of Anjou (970-1040)(our 29<sup>th</sup> great grandfather)**

Fulk III, the Black (970–1040) was an early Count of Anjou celebrated as one of the first great builders of medieval castles. He was the son of Geoffrey I of Anjou, also known as Geoffrey Grisegonelle, and Adélaïde of Vermandois. Fulk III was born about 970 in Anjou in Auvergne Rhone-Alpes, France. It is estimated Fulk constructed approximately 100 castles, along with abbeys throughout the Loire Valley in what is now France.

Fulk was a natural horseman and fearsome warrior with a keen sense of military strategy that bested most of his opponents. He was allied with the goals and aims of the Capetians against the dissipated Carolingians of his era. With his county seat at Angers, Fulk's bitter enemy was Eudes II of Blois at Tours. The two men traded towns, followers and insults throughout their lives.

Fulk finished his first castle at Langeais on the banks of the Loire. Like many of his constructions, it began as a wooden tower, and was eventually replaced with a stone structure, fortified with exterior walls, and equipped with a thick-walled tower called a donjon in French. He built it in the territory of Eudes I, Count of Blois, and they fought a battle over it in 994. But Eudes I died of a sudden illness, and his son and successor, Eudes II, did not manage to evict him.

Fulk continued building more towers in a slow encirclement of Tours: Montbazou, Montrésor, Mirebeau, Montrichard, Loches, and even the tower of Montboyau, erected just across the Loire from Tours in 1016. He also fortified the castles at Angers, Amboise, Chateau-Gontier, Chinon, Mayenne and Semblançay, among many others.

Fulk married Hildegarde de Sundgau, whose family was from Lorraine, around December 1005. They had two children: Geoffrey and Ermengarde-Blanche.

Fulk was a devout Christian, who built, enlarged or endowed several abbeys and monasteries, such as the Abbey of Beaulieu-les-Loches, Saint-Florent-le-Vieil, Saint-Aubin, and a convent, Notre Dame de la Charité at Ronceray in Angers. Although he never learned to write, he endowed a school with revenue to provide poor students with an education.

While Fulk and Eudes II fought many skirmishes over territory and alliances, their biggest battle occurred in July 1016 at Battle of Pontlevoy. Eudes marched 10,000 men southward toward Fulk's tower at Montboyau; meanwhile, Fulk and his much smaller group attacked him from behind. Fulk's men were routed, retreated, and Eudes, thinking the battle won, went for a swim in the Cher River. Reinforcements led by Herbert Wake-Dog of Maine arrived to help Fulk, fought and routed Eudes' surprised men. Several thousand were reported killed.

Fulk also undertook four pilgrimages to Jerusalem--first and second as a penitent seeking forgiveness for sins and third and fourth to protect pilgrims. In 1003, Fulk traveled to Jerusalem for his first pilgrimage. The journey was across the Alps at the Grand Bernard Pass in today's Switzerland, over land to Bari in the southern Italian peninsula (a stop in Rome was usually made), by ship to the Holy Land. The travel took as long as six months, through deeply dangerous territory.

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Fulk made a second pilgrimage in 1008, obliged to do so by the king as punishment after Fulk ordered the murder of an enemy. For his third and fourth trips, Fulk had a moral obligation to protect pilgrims in the years following the desecration of Jerusalem by the "Mad Caliph" Al-Hakim bi-Amr Allah, and provided armed security against robbers, murderers and enslavers along the route. In 1035, the third pilgrimage with Robert I, Duke of Normandy and in 1038, he made his final pilgrimage. He died on June 21, 1040 in Metz, Haut-Savoire, Rhone-Alpes, France. He was on his return from that trip, and was buried in the chapel of his monastery at Beaulieu.

### **Count Baldwin V of Flanders (1012-1067)(our 27<sup>th</sup> great grandfather)**

Baldwin V (1012-1067) was count of Flanders from 1035 until his death. He secured the personal union between the counties of Flanders and Hainaut and maintained close links to the Anglo-Saxon monarchy, which was overthrown by his son-in-law, William the Conqueror, near the end of his life. Baldwin was born into the House of Flanders, the son of Baldwin IV of Flanders and Ogive of Luxembourg (our 28<sup>th</sup> great grandparents in the Ancient Icelandic Pedigree).

Baldwin married Adela, daughter of King Robert II of France, in 1028 in Amiens, Somme, Picardie, France. At her instigation Baldwin rebelled against his father but in 1030 peace was sworn and the old count continued to rule until his death. The couple had three children: Baldwin VI, Matilda, who was married to William the Conqueror, and Robert I. We descend from all three.

During a long war (1046–1056) as an ally of Duke Godfrey the Bearded of Lorraine against Emperor Henry III, Baldwin initially lost Valenciennes to Count Herman of Mons. However, when the latter died in 1049, Baldwin had his son, Baldwin VI, marry Herman's widow Richilde, and arranged that the children of her first marriage were disinherited, thus de facto uniting the County of Hainaut with Flanders. Upon the death of Henry III this marriage was acknowledged by treaty by Agnes of Poitou, mother and regent of Henry IV.

Baldwin V played host to a grateful Emma of Normandy, the exiled queen dowager of England, at Bruges. He supplied armed security guards, entertainment, comprising a band of minstrels. Bruges was a bustling commercial center, and Emma fittingly grateful to the citizens. She dispensed generously to the poor, making contact with the monastery of Saint Bertin at St Omer, and received her son King Harthacnut of England at Bruges in 1039.

From 1060 to 1067 Baldwin was the co-regent with Anne of Kiev for his nephew Philip I of France, indicating the importance he had acquired in international politics. As count of Flanders, Baldwin supported the king of France in most affairs, but he was also father-in-law to Duke William II of Normandy, who had married his daughter Matilda. Flanders played a pivotal role in Edward the Confessor's foreign policy when the king of England was struggling to find an heir. Count Baldwin V died on September 1, 1067 in Lille, nord-Pas-de-Calais, France.

### **Hugh de Vermandois (1030-1101) (our 26<sup>th</sup> great grandfather)**

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Hugh (1057- 1101), was the first count of Vermandois from the House of Capet. Hugh was born on September 5, 1030 at Clermont in Olse, France. He was a younger son of King Henry I of France and Anne of Kiev and younger brother of Philip I. He married Adelaide of Vermandois, the daughter of Herbert IV, Count of Vermandois and Adele of Valois. The couple had five daughters and three sons. We descend from three of their daughters : Mahuat or Matilda, Isabel or Elizabeth, and Agnes.

In early 1096 Hugh and Philip began discussing the First Crusade after news of the Council of Clermont reached them in Paris. Although Philip could not participate, as he had been excommunicated, Hugh was said to have been influenced to join the Crusade after an eclipse of the moon on February 11, 1096. In late August 1096 Hugh and a small army left France and traveled via the Alps and Rome to Bari, where he would cross the Adriatic Sea into territory of the Byzantine Empire, unlike most crusaders who traveled over land.

Hugh had reached the coast of Longobardi and dispatched twenty-four envoys to the Doux of Dyrrhachium with the following message: "Be it known to you, Doux, that our Lord Hugh is almost here. He brings with him from Rome the golden standard of St. Peter. Understand, moreover, that he is supreme commander of the Frankish army. See to it then that he is accorded a reception worthy of his rank and yourself prepare to meet him." Whilst sailing the Adriatic Sea from Bari towards Illyricum, Hugh's fleet was overtaken by a heavy storm and most ships were lost. His own ship was thrown upon the shore near Epirus. When Hugh was found and brought to Dyrrhachium John Komnenos treated him to a banquet and he was allowed to rest. By order of the emperor Hugh was closely escorted by Manuel Boutoumites. Eventually Hugh was given an audience by the Eastern Roman Emperor Alexius I Comnenus, who persuaded him to become his liegeman.

Hugh tried to persuade Godfrey of Bouillon to pledge allegiance to Alexius. Godfrey however refused, saying: "you left your own country as a ruler ... with all that wealth and a strong army; now from the heights you've brought yourself to the level of a slave. And then, as if you had won some great success, have you come here to tell me to do the same?" Hugh replied: "we ought to have stayed in our own countries and kept our hands off other people's ... but since we've come thus far and need the emperor's protection, no good will come of it unless we obey his orders."

After the Crusaders had successfully made their way across Seljuk territory and, in 1098, captured Antioch, Hugh was sent back to Constantinople to appeal for reinforcements from Alexius. The emperor was uninterested, however, and Hugh, instead of returning to Antioch to help plan the siege of Jerusalem, went back to France. There he was scorned for not having fulfilled his vow as a Crusader to complete a pilgrimage to Jerusalem, and Pope Paschal II threatened to excommunicate him. He joined the minor Crusade of 1101, but was wounded in battle with the Turks led by Kilij Arslan I at the second battle of Heraclea in September, and died of his wounds on October 18, 1101 in Tarsus, Turkey.

### **Count Fulk IV of Anjou (1043-1109)(our 27<sup>th</sup> great grandfather)**

Fulk IV(1043 - 1109), was the Count of Anjou from 1068 until his death. Fulk IV born

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about 1043 in Anjou, Maine-et-Loire, Pays de la Loire, France. He was the younger son of Geoffrey II, Count of Gâtinais (sometimes known as Aubri), and Ermengarde of Anjou. Ermengarde was a daughter of Fulk the Black, count of Anjou, and the sister of Geoffrey Martel who preceded Fulk and his brother Geoffrey as Count of Anjou.

When Geoffrey Martel died without direct heirs he left Anjou to his nephew Geoffrey III of Anjou, Fulk IV's older brother. Fulk IV fought with his brother, whose rule was deemed incompetent, and captured him in 1067. Under pressure from the Church he released Geoffrey. The two brothers soon fell to fighting again, and the next year Geoffrey was again imprisoned by Fulk, this time for good. Substantial territory was lost to Angevin control due to the difficulties resulting from Geoffrey's poor rule and the subsequent civil war. Saintonge was lost, and Fulk had to give the Gâtinais to Philip I of France to placate the king. Much of Fulk's rule was devoted to regaining control over the Angevin baronage, and to a complex struggle with Normandy for influence in Maine and Brittany.

Fulk IV was known to have been married four times. In about 1088 he married his fourth wife Bertrade de Montfort. However, in 1092 Bertrade left Fulk to live with King Philip I of France who married her on May 15, 1092. We descend from Fulk and Bertrade's son Fulk V.

In 1096 Fulk wrote an incomplete history of Anjou and its rulers titled *Fragmentum historiae Andegavensis* or "History of Anjou." The authorship and authenticity of this work is disputed. Only the first part of the history, describing Fulk's ancestry, is extant. The second part, supposedly describing Fulk's own rule, has not been recovered. If he did write it, it is one of the first medieval works of history written by a layman. Fulk IV died on April 14, 1109 in Anjou.

### **Count Stephen Henry de Blois II (1045-1102)(our 28<sup>th</sup> great grandfather)**

Stephen Henry (1045 - 1102), Count of Blois and Count of Chartres, was the son of Theobald III, count of Blois, and Gersent of Le Mans. Stephen Henry was born on January 1, 1045 at Blois in Loir et Cher, Champagne, France. In about 1080, he married Adela de Normandy, daughter of King William I "the Conqueror." In 1089, upon the death of his father, he became the Count of Blois and Chartres, although Theobald had given him the administration of those holdings in 1074. He was the father of King Stephen of England, whom we descend from.

Count Stephen was one of the leaders of the First Crusade, leading one of the major armies of the Princes and often writing enthusiastic letters to his wife Adela of Normandy about the crusade's progress. Stephen was the head of the army council at the Crusaders' siege of Nicaea in 1097. He returned home in 1098 during the lengthy siege of Antioch, fleeing the battlefield, without having fulfilled his crusading vow to forge a way to Jerusalem. He was pressured by Adela into making a second pilgrimage, and joined the minor crusade of 1101 in the company of others who had also returned home prematurely. On May 19, 1102, Stephen was killed at the Second Battle of Ramla in Palestine at the age of fifty-seven.

### **Count Baldwin II of Hainaut (1056-1098)(our 28<sup>th</sup> great grandfather)**

Baldwin II (1056–1098) was count of Hainaut from 1071 to his death. He was an

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unsuccessful claimant to the County of Flanders. Baldwin II was born about 1056 in Hainaut, Belgium. He was the younger son of Count Baldwin VI of Flanders and Countess Richilde of Hainaut. He became count of Hainaut after the death of his older brother, Arnulf III of Flanders, at the battle of Cassel. The County of Flanders was then claimed by their victorious uncle Robert the Frisian. During Baldwin's minority, which lasted until 1083, Richilde constantly fought against Robert to recover Flanders for her son, but she was unsuccessful. In order to obtain funds, she exchanged lands to the county and to the Bishopric of Liege. With the funds obtained in the transaction, around 1072, she assembled a coalition that included the duke of Bouillon, the counts of Namur, Louvain, Montaigu, Chiny, Hautmont and others, all to no avail: Robert defeated the coalition decisively at Broqueroie.

Baldwin II married Ida, a daughter of Count Henry II of Leuven and sister of Count Godfrey I of Leuven, in 1084. They were known to have 6 sons and 3 daughters. We descend from their sons Arnould and Count Baldwin III.

Baldwin joined the First Crusade in the army of Godfrey of Bouillon, after selling some of his property to the Bishopric of Liège. In 1098 he was sent back to Constantinople with Count Hugh of Vermandois (our 26<sup>th</sup> great grandfather) after the siege of Antioch, to seek assistance from Byzantine emperor Alexius I. However, Baldwin disappeared on June 8, 1098 during a raid by the Seljuk Turks in Anatolia, and was presumably killed. Baldwin's fate remained uncertain for a long time. While on a pilgrimage to Jerusalem in 1106, Baldwin's wife Ida organized a search for her lost husband in Anatolia, which was inconclusive.

### **Godfrey van Leuvan (1060-1139)(our 29<sup>th</sup> great grandfather)**

Godfrey van Leuvan I (1060 - 1139), called the Bearded, the Courageous, or the Great, was the landgrave of Brabant, and count of Brussels and Leuven (Louvain) from 1095 to his death and duke of Lower Lorraine from 1106 to 1129. He was also margrave of Antwerp from 1106 to his death. Godfrey was born on January 25, 1060 in Brabant-sur-Meuse, Belgium. He was the son of Henry II (1020–1078) and Adela of Orthen (or Betuwe), a daughter of Count Everard of Orthen.

He first came into conflict with Otbert, Bishop of Liège, over the county of Brunengeruz that both claimed. In 1099, Emperor Henry IV allotted the county to the bishop, who entrusted it to Albert III, Count of Namur. Godfrey arbitrated a dispute between Henry III of Luxembourg and Arnold I, Count of Loon, over the appointment of the abbot of Sint-Truiden.

Godfrey married Ida of Chiny (1078–1117), daughter of Otto II, Count of Chiny and Adelaide of Namur. They had three sons and three daughters. We descend from their son Godfrey II and their daughter Adeliza.

Godfrey was in favor with the emperor and defended his interests in Lorraine. In 1102, he stopped Robert II of Flanders "the Crusader", who was invading the Cambrais. After the death of the emperor in 1106, his son and successor, Henry V granted the confiscated Duchy of Lower Lorraine to Godfrey.

In 1114, during a rift between the emperor and Pope Paschal II, Godfrey led a revolt in Germany. In 1118, the emperor and the duke were reconciled. In 1119, Baldwin VII of Flanders

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died heirless and Flanders was contested between several claimants, one of whom, William of Ypres, had married a niece of Godfrey's second wife. Godfrey supported William, but could not enforce his claim against that of Charles the Good. Also dead in that year was Otbert. Two separate men were elected to replace him and Godfrey again sided with the loser.

Godfrey spent his last years in the abbey of Affligem, Belgium. He died of old age on January 25, 1139 and was buried in the left aisle of the abbey church.

### **Philip de Braose I (1070-1134)(our 25<sup>th</sup> great grandfather)**

Philip de Braose, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lord of Bramber (1070 - 1134) was an Anglo-Norman nobleman and Marcher Lord. Philip was born about 1070 in Bramber, Sussex, England. He was the son of William de Braose, 1<sup>st</sup> Lord of Bramber by his wife Agnes de St. Clare. William de Braose had participated in the Norman conquest of England. He had been rewarded with the feudal barony of Bramber in Sussex and smaller holdings in Dorset, Wiltshire, Berkshire and Surrey.

Philip as heir consolidated his paternal lands, and expanded them. In 1096 he confirmed his father's gifts to the Abbey of St. Florent. Philip de Braose conquered the Welsh borderlands at Builth and New Radnor and established new Norman lordships over them. At Builth, he constructed a Motte and Bailey fortification at the site where King Edward I later built Builth Castle in the 13<sup>th</sup> century.

Philip married Aenor de Totnes in 1098, sister and co-heiress of Alfred de Totnes, son of Juhel de Totnes feudal baron of Totnes and of Barnstaple both in Devon. They were known to have two sons and three daughter. We descend from their son William and daughter Aveline.

Philip went on the First Crusade in 1103. He supported King Henry I against the claim to the English throne made by his elder brother Robert Curthose, Duke of Normandy, but then in 1110 he revolted against Henry, who then confiscated his estates. He regained his lordships and lands in 1112 and was thereafter able to retain them, but in 1130 settled them intact onto his eldest son William de Braose, 3<sup>rd</sup> Lord of Bramber. Philip died on Crusade in about 1134 in Palestine.

### **Count Baldwin III de Hainault (1087-1119)(our 27<sup>th</sup> great grandfather)**

Baldwin III (1087 -1119) was count of Hainaut from 1098 to his death. Baldwin was born about 1087 in Mons of Hainault, Belgium. Baldwin was son of Count Baldwin II of Hainaut and Ida of Louvain. He succeeded to the County of Hainaut in 1102.

In about 1107, Baldwin married Yolande of Guelders when she was eighteen. He had been betrothed to Adelaide of Maurienne, a niece of Countess Clemence of Flanders. The broken betrothal caused a scandal, and Countess Clemence brought the issue before her brother Pope Calixtus II. The pope declared that the marriage was legal and could not be dissolved. Baldwin and Yolande had two sons and three daughters. We descend from their son Baldwin IV of Hainault and also their daughters Richilde and Ida Gertrude.

Baldwin died at a young age of 32 on June 17, 1119, and was buried in Mons, Belgium. His eldest son, Baldwin IV, succeeded him.

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### **King Fulk V Anjou (1089-1143) of Jerusalem (our 26<sup>th</sup> great grandfather)**

Fulk V Anjou (1089 - 1143), also known as Fulk the Younger, was the Count of Anjou (as Fulk V) from 1109 to 1129 and the King of Jerusalem from 1131 to his death. During his reign, the Kingdom of Jerusalem reached its largest territorial extent.

Fulk was born at Angers, on February 19, 1089, the son of Count Fulk IV of Anjou and Bertrade de Montfort. In 1092, Bertrade deserted her husband, and bigamously married King Philip I of France.

Fulk became count of Anjou upon his father's death in 1109. In the next year, he married Ermengarde of Maine, cementing Angevin control over the County of Maine. They were known to have two sons and 2 daughters. We descend from their son Geoffrey Plantagenet and their daughter Sibylla of Anjou.

Fulk was originally an opponent of King Henry I of England and a supporter of King Louis VI of France, but in 1118 or 1119 he had allied with Henry when he arranged for his daughter Matilda to marry Henry's son and heir, William Adelin. Fulk went on crusade in 1119 or 1120, and became attached to the Knights Templar (Orderic Vitalis). He returned, late in 1121, after which he began to subsidize the Templars, maintaining two knights in the Holy Land for a year. Much later, Henry arranged for his daughter Matilda to marry Fulk's son Geoffrey of Anjou, which she did in 1128.

After his first wife Ermengarde died in 1126, Fulk was preparing to return to Anjou when he received an embassy from King Baldwin II of Jerusalem. Baldwin II had no male heirs but had already designated his daughter Melisende to succeed him. Baldwin II wanted to safeguard his daughter's inheritance by marrying her to a powerful lord. Fulk was a wealthy crusader and experienced military commander, and a widower. His experience in the field would prove invaluable in a frontier state always in the grip of war.

However, Fulk held out for better terms than mere consort of the Queen; he wanted to be king alongside Melisende. Baldwin II, reflecting on Fulk's fortune and military exploits, acquiesced. Fulk abdicated his county seat of Anjou to his son Geoffrey and left for Jerusalem, where he married Melisende on June 2, 1129. Later Baldwin II bolstered Melisende's position in the kingdom by making her sole guardian of her son by Fulk, Baldwin III, born in 1130.

Fulk and Melisende became joint rulers of Jerusalem in 1131 with Baldwin II's death. From the start Fulk assumed sole control of the government, excluding Melisende altogether. He favored fellow countrymen from Anjou to the native nobility.

These "natives" focused on Melisende's cousin, the popular Hugh II of Le Puiset, count of Jaffa, who was devotedly loyal to the Queen. Fulk saw Hugh as a rival, and it did not help matters when Hugh's own stepson accused him of disloyalty. In 1134, in order to expose Hugh, Fulk accused him of infidelity with Melisende. Hugh rebelled in protest. Hugh secured himself to Jaffa, and allied himself with the Muslims of Ascalon. He was able to defeat the army set against him by Fulk, but this situation could not hold. The Patriarch interceded in the conflict, perhaps at the behest of Melisende. Fulk agreed to peace and Hugh was exiled from the kingdom for three years, a lenient sentence.

However, an assassination attempt was made against Hugh. Fulk, or his supporters, were



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commonly believed responsible, though direct proof never surfaced. The scandal was all that was needed for the queen's party to take over the government in what amounted to a palace coup. The result was that Melisende held direct and unquestioned control over the government from 1136 onwards. Sometime before 1136 Fulk reconciled with his wife, and a second son, Amalric was born.

For many years, Fulk engaged in expanding and protecting the borders of the Jerusalem kingdom. In 1137 and 1142, Byzantine emperor John II Comnenus arrived in Syria attempting to impose Byzantine control over the crusader states. John's intention of making a pilgrimage, accompanied by his impressive army, to Jerusalem alarmed Fulk, who wrote to John pointing out that his kingdom was poor and could not support the passage of a large army. This lukewarm response dissuaded John from carrying through his intention, and he postponed his pilgrimage. John died before he could make good his proposed journey to Jerusalem.

On November 13, 1143, while the king and queen were in Acre, Fulk was killed in a hunting accident. His horse stumbled, fell, and Fulk's skull was crushed by the saddle, "and his brains gushed forth from both ears and nostrils", as William of Tyre describes. He was carried back to Acre, where he lay unconscious for three days before he died. He was buried in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem. Though their marriage started in conflict, Melisende mourned for him privately as well as publicly. Fulk was survived by his son Geoffrey of Anjou by his first wife, and Baldwin III and Amalric I by Melisende.

### **Knight Templar Gilbert de Lacy (1095-1163)(our 24<sup>th</sup> great grandfather)**

Gilbert de Lacy (1095 - 1163) was a medieval Anglo-Norman baron in England. Gilbert was born in about 1095 in Ewywas Herold of Herefordshire, England. His parents were Robert de Lacy and Emma St. Hilary. Gilbert married Agnes Gaunt in about 1119.

Gilbert de Lacy was the son of Roger de Lacy, who in turn was the son of Walter de Lacy who died in 1085. Roger de Lacy was banished from England in 1096, and his estates were confiscated. However, Roger de Lacy's lands in Normandy, however, were not confiscated, as they were held of the Bishop of Bayeux in feudal tenure. Gilbert de Lacy had inherited his father's lands in Normandy by 1133, and by 1136 was in England with King Stephen of England. Although de Lacy recovered some of his father's lands, the border lands near Wales were not recovered. Among the lands Gilbert recovered were lands about Weobley. He also was granted some lands in Yorkshire that had been in dispute.

Although de Lacy had spent time at King Stephen's court, during the civil war that occurred during Stephen's reign, he switched sides and served Stephen's rival, Matilda the Empress. De Lacy led an army in an attack against Bath in the service of the Empress, along with Geoffrey Talbot, which also occurred in 1138 and which some historians have seen as the opening act of the civil war.

De Lacy gave land to the cathedral chapter of Hereford Cathedral. He also gave a manor at Guiting to the Knights Templar and two churches, at Weobley and Clodock to Llanthony Priory, which was a monastery founded by his family.

Around 1158 de Lacy surrendered his lands to his eldest son Robert when the elder de

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Lacy became a member of the Knights Templar. He then traveled through France to Jerusalem, where de Lacy became precentor of the Templars in the County of Tripoli. In 1163, de Lacy was one of the crusader army commanders fighting against Nur ad-Din.

Gilbert de Lacy died sometime after 1163 in Ewias Lacy, Herefordshire, England, We descend from his son Hugh de Lacy.

### **Hugh Le Brun de Lusignan VIII (1106-1169)(our 27<sup>th</sup> great grandfather)**

Hugh VIII the Old of Lusignan (1106-1169) or Hugh III of La Marche was the eldest son of Hugh VII and of Sarrasine or Saracena de Lezay. He became Seigneur de Lusignan, Couhé, and Château-Larcher and Count of La Marche on his father's death in 1151. He was born in Lusignan, Poitiers, Poitou-Charentes, France on November 10, 1106.

He married in about 1129 Bourgogne or Burgondie de Rancon, Dame de Fontenay, daughter of Geoffroi or Geoffroy de Rancon, Seigneur de Taillebourg and wife Fossefie (Falsifie), Dame de Moncontour, by whom he also became Seigneur de Fontenay. In 1163 or 1164 Hugh went on pilgrimage and on crusade to the Holy Land and participated in the Battle of Harim, where he was taken prisoner. He died on April 11, 1169 in Aleppo, Syria.

### **Count Geoffrey V Plantagenet of Anjou (1113-1151)(our 25<sup>th</sup> great grandfather)**

Geoffrey V (1113 – 1151), called the Handsome or the Fair and Plantagenet, was the Count of Anjou, Touraine and Maine by inheritance from 1129, and also Duke of Normandy by conquest from 1144. His marriage to the Empress Matilda, daughter and heiress of Henry I of England, produced a son, Henry Curtmantle, who succeeded to the English throne as King Henry II (1154–1189) and was the first of the Plantagenet dynasty to rule England. We descend from Henry II. The name "Plantagenet" was taken from Geoffrey's epithet. Geoffrey's ancestral domain of Anjou gave rise to the name Angevin for three kings of England (Henry II his son and heir, and Henry's sons Richard and John), and what became known as the Angevin Empire in the 12<sup>th</sup> century.

Geoffrey was born on August 24, 1113 in Angers, Maine-et-Loire, Pays de la Loire, France. He was the elder son of Fulk V of Anjou and Ermengarde of Maine. Geoffrey received his nickname from the yellow sprig of broom blossom (*planta genista*) he wore in his hat.

King Henry I of England, having heard good reports on Geoffrey's talents and prowess, sent his royal legates to Anjou to negotiate a marriage between Geoffrey and his own daughter, Empress Matilda. Consent was obtained from both parties, and on June 10, 1128 the fifteen-year-old Geoffrey was knighted in Rouen by King Henry in preparation for the wedding. The marriage took place on June 17, 1128. The marriage was meant to seal a peace between England/Normandy and Anjou. She was eleven years older than Geoffrey. Their marriage was a stormy one with frequent long separations but she bore him three sons and survived him.

When his father in law, King Henry I of England died in 1135, Geoffrey supported Matilda in entering Normandy to claim her inheritance. The border districts submitted to her, but England chose her cousin Stephen of Blois for its king, and Normandy soon followed suit. In

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1139 Matilda landed in England with 140 knights, where she was besieged at Arundel Castle by King Stephen. In the "Anarchy" which ensued, Stephen was captured at Lincoln in February 1141, and imprisoned at Bristol. A legatine council of the English church held at Winchester in April 1141 declared Stephen deposed and proclaimed Matilda "Lady of the English."

During 1142 and 1143, Geoffrey secured all of Normandy west and south of the Seine, and, on January 14, 1144, he crossed the Seine and entered Rouen. He assumed the title of Duke of Normandy in the summer of 1144. In 1144, he founded an Augustine priory at Château-l'Hermitage in Anjou. Geoffrey held the duchy until 1149, when he and Matilda conjointly ceded it to their son, Henry, which cession was formally ratified by King Louis VII of France the following year.

Geoffrey died suddenly on September 7, 1151. According to John of Marmoutier, Geoffrey was returning from a royal council when he was stricken with fever. He arrived at Château-du-Loir, collapsed on a couch, made bequests of gifts and charities, and died. He was buried at St Julien's Cathedral in Le Mans France.

### **Holy Roman Emperor Frederick Barbarossa I (1122-1190)(our 27<sup>th</sup> great grandfather)**

Frederick Barbarossa (1122 – 1190), also known as Frederick I, was the Holy Roman Emperor from January 2, 1155 until his death 35 years later. He was elected King of Germany at Frankfurt on March 4, 1152 and crowned in Aachen on March 9, 1152. He was crowned King of Italy on April 24, 1155 in Pavia and emperor by Pope Adrian IV on June 18, 1155 in Rome. Two years later, the term sacrum ("holy") first appeared in a document in connection with his empire. He was later formally crowned King of Burgundy, at Arles on June 30, 1178. He was named Barbarossa by the northern Italian cities which he attempted to rule: Barbarossa means "red beard" in Italian; in German, he was known as Kaiser Rotbart, which has the same meaning.

Before his imperial election, Frederick was by inheritance Duke of Swabia (1147–1152, as Frederick III). He was the son of Duke Frederick II of the Hohenstaufen dynasty and Judith, daughter of Henry IX, Duke of Bavaria, from the rival House of Welf. Frederick, therefore, descended from the two leading families in Germany, making him an acceptable choice for the Empire's prince-electors.

Historians consider him among the Holy Roman Empire's greatest medieval emperors. He combined qualities that made him appear almost superhuman to his contemporaries: his longevity, his ambition, his extraordinary skills at organization, his battlefield acumen and his political perspicacity. His contributions to Central European society and culture include the reestablishment of the Corpus Juris Civilis, or the Roman rule of law, which counterbalanced the papal power that dominated the German states since the conclusion of the Investiture Controversy.

In early 1147, Frederick had joined the Second Crusade and returned successfully. Frederick married Beatrix of Burgundy on June 9, 1156 at Wurzburg, Uterfrank, Germany. They were known to have had 11 children. We descend from their son Felipe de Swabia.

Frederick later set out on the third crusade, departing on April 15, 1189. His crusade was "the most meticulously planned and organized" up to that time. According to one source written

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in the 1220s, Frederick organized a grand army of 12,000–15,000 men, including 3,000–4,000 knights. The Crusaders passed through Hungary, Serbia, and Bulgaria before entering Byzantine territory. The armies coming from western Europe pushed on through Anatolia, where they were victorious at the Battle of Philomelium and defeated the Turks in the Battle of Iconium, eventually reaching as far as Cilician Armenia. The approach of Barbarossa's victorious German army greatly concerned Saladin, who was forced to weaken his force at the Siege of Acre and send troops to the north to block the arrival of the Germans. Frederick died on June 10, 1190 in Palestine or Asia Minor.

### **Richard (Strongbow) de Clare (1130 - 1176), 2<sup>nd</sup> Earl of Pembroke (our 24<sup>th</sup> great grandfather)**

Richard de Clare, 2<sup>nd</sup> Earl of Pembroke, Lord of Leinster, Justiciar of Ireland (1130 – 1176) was an Anglo-Norman nobleman notable for his leading role in the Anglo-Norman invasion of Ireland. Like his father, Richard FitzGilbert has since become commonly known by his nickname Strongbow. Richard de Clare was born about 1130 at Tonbridge, Kent, England. He was the son of Gilbert FitzGilbert, 1<sup>st</sup> Earl of Pembroke, and Isabel de Beaumont.

Richard's father died in about 1148, when he was roughly 18 years old, and Richard inherited the title Earl of Pembroke. Although, he succeeded to his father's estates he was deprived of the title by King Henry II of England in 1154 for siding with King Stephen of England against Henry's mother, the Empress Matilda. But he saw an opportunity to reverse his bad fortune in 1168 when he met Diarmait Mac Murchada, the deposed King of Leinster.

In 1167, Diarmait Mac Murchada was deprived of the Kingdom of Leinster by the High King of Ireland – Ruaidrí Ua Conchobair. To recover his kingdom, Mac Murchada solicited help from the King of England – Henry II. He met Henry in Aquitaine in the Autumn of 1166. Henry could not help him at this time, but provided a letter of comfort for willing supporters of Mac Murchada's cause in his kingdom. He eventually met the Richard (Strongbow) de Clare and other barons of the Welsh Marches. Mac Murchada came to an agreement with Richard de Clare: for the Earl's assistance with an army the following spring, Richard could then take Aoife, Mac Murchada's eldest daughter in marriage and the succession to Leinster. Richard obtain King Henry's specific consent to travel to Ireland. The licence he got was to aid Mac Murchada in the recovery of his kingdom of Leinster.

Mac Murchada and Richard de Clare raised a large army, which included Welsh archers and arranged for Raymond FitzGerald (also known as Raymond le Gros) to lead it. The force took the Norse-Gaelic towns of Wexford, Waterford, and Dublin in rapid succession between 1169 and 1170. Richard de Clare, however, was not with the first invading party and arrived later, in August 1170.

In May 1171, Diarmait Mac Murchada died and his son, Donal MacMurrough-Kavanagh, claimed the kingdom of Leinster in accordance with his rights. Richard de Clare also claimed the kingship in the right of his wife. At this time, Strongbow sent his uncle, Hervey de Montmorency, on an embassy to Henry II. Upon his return, de Montmorency conveyed the King's terms – the return of Richard de Clare's lands in France, England, and Wales as well as leaving

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him in possession of his Irish lands. In return, Richard de Clare surrendered Dublin, Waterford, and other fortresses to the English king. Henry's intervention was successful and both the Gaelic and Norman lords in the south and east of Ireland accepted his rule.

On August 26, 1171 in Reginald's Tower, Waterford, Richard de Clare married MacMurrough's daughter, Aoife MacMurrough. We descend from their daughter Isabel.

King Henry crossed over to Ireland in October 1172 and stayed in Ireland six months. He put his own men into nearly all the important places, Richard keeping only Kildare. In 1173 Richard went in person to France to help Henry II during the rebellion by his sons, being reinstated in Leinster as a reward. In 1174 he advanced into Connaught and was severely defeated, but subsequently Raymond FitzGerald re-established his supremacy in Leinster.

Richard de Clare died on April 20, 1176 at Dublin, Ireland. The Anglo-Norman invasion of Ireland that he participated in would put Ireland in possession of England for the next 750 years.

### **Robert de Sable la Luze IV (1150-1193)(our 27<sup>th</sup> great grandfather)**

Robert IV de Sable (1150 - 1193) was Lord of Sable, the 11<sup>th</sup> Grand Master of the Knights Templar from 1191 to 1192 and Lord of Cyprus from 1191 to 1192. He was known of as the Grand Master of the Knights Templars and the Grand Master of the Holy and Valiant Order of Knights Templars.

Robert was born about 1150 at Sable-sur-Sarthe, Pays de la Loire, France. His parents were Robert de Sable III and Hersende d'Anthenaise. He was born to a respected military family in Anjou and was "a leading Angevin vassal of the King". His lordship was based in a cluster of lands in the River Sarthe valley, which he inherited in the 1160s. He married Clemence de Mayenne in about 1174. He was succeeded in Anjou by his daughter Marguerite de Sable who we descend from. By marriage Marguerite passed the entire estate to William des Roches, also a knight of the Third Crusade.

In 1173, Robert supported Henry the Young King, heir apparent to the throne of the Kingdom of England and duchy of Normandy, in a revolt against his father Henry II during the Revolt of 1173-1174. The uprising was crushed but Robert must have remained in favor with the Angevin Kings, as Richard would later be instrumental in his appointment as Grand Master. He contributed money to French monastic houses in 1190 as a way of making amends.

Before his election as Grand Master, Robert led King Richard I's navy from England and Normandy to the Mediterranean, getting involved in the Reconquista in the passage. The combined might of Richard the Lionheart's strategy, seasoned troops, and the elite Templar knights scored many victories. During the Third Crusade, they laid siege to the city of Acre, which soon fell. Throughout August 1191, they also recaptured many fortresses and cities along the Levantine coast in the Eastern Mediterranean, which had been lost previously.

The new coalition's finest hour was the Battle of Arsuf, on September 7, 1191. Saladin's Muslim forces appeared to have become far stronger than the Christians, and a decisive victory was desperately needed. Pooling all of the crusaders' strength, the Knights Hospitaller joined the ranks, plus many knights from Sable's native Anjou, Maine, and Brittany. They met Saladin's

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troops on the dry plains and soon broke his ranks. Those who stayed to fight were killed, and the remaining Islamic troops were forced to retreat.

At the end of 1191, Richard the Lionheart agreed to sell Cyprus to the Templars for 25,000 pieces of silver. Richard had plundered the island from the Byzantine forces of the tyrant Isaac Comnenus of Cyprus some months earlier and had no real use for it. The Hospitallers would later establish solid bases on the islands of Rhodes and Malta, but Sable failed to do the same with the island of Cyprus. He was lord for two years, until he gave (or sold) the island to Guy de Lusignan, King of Jerusalem, as he was without a kingdom.

Sable was lucky to have been Grand Master at all, as at the time of Gerard de Ridefort's death, he was not even a member of the Templar Order. However, the senior knights had become increasingly opposed to Masters fighting on the front line, and the capture and beheading of Grand Master Gerard de Ridefort became the final straw. They delayed elections for over a year so that the rules regarding active service of Grand Masters could be reviewed. During this hiatus, Sable did join the order, just in time to be considered for election. When he was made Grand Master, he had been a Templar knight for less than a year. Robert de Sable died in the Holy Land on September 23, 1193.

### **William de Braose (1153-1211) 4<sup>th</sup> Lord of Bramber (our 26<sup>th</sup> great grandfather)**

William de Braose, 4<sup>th</sup> Lord of Bramber (1153 – 1211), court favorite of King John of England, at the peak of his power, was also Lord of Gower, Abergavenny, Brecknock, Builth, Radnor, Kington, Limerick, Glamorgan, Skenfrith, Briouze in Normandy, Grosmont, and White Castle. William was born about 1153 in Bramber, Sussex, England. He was the son of William de Braose, 3<sup>rd</sup> Lord of Bramber and his wife Bertha of Hereford, also known as Bertha de Pitres, (born 1130) daughter of Miles FitzWalter, Earl of Hereford and his wife, Sibyl, daughter of Bernard de Neufmarche. From his father he inherited the Rape of Bramber, in Sussex, and through his mother he inherited a large estate in the Welsh Marches area of modern-day Monmouthshire.

William was married to Matilda (Maud) de St. Valery. They were known to have seven children. We descend from their daughter Margaret and also their son Reginald.

In 1175, William de Braose carried out the Abergavenny Massacre, luring three Welsh princes and other Welsh leaders to their deaths. After having invited the Welsh leaders to a Christmas feast at Abergavenny Castle under the pretense of peace and the start of a new era at the end of the year, he had them murdered by his men. This resulted in great hostility against him among the Welsh.

In 1192 William de Braose was made sheriff of Herefordshire, a post he held until 1199. In 1196 he was made Justice Itinerant for Staffordshire. In 1195 he accompanied King Richard I of England to Normandy and in 1199, William de Braose fought beside Richard at Châlus, where the king was mortally wounded. He then supported King John's claim to the throne of England, and represented the new king, making various royal grants.

In 1203, William de Braose was put in charge of Arthur of Brittany. William was in attendance at the time of Arthur of Brittany's imprisonment and it was alleged that Arthur

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suffered the same fate as the Welsh princes at William's hand, although this has never been proven. After Arthur disappeared, De Braose served in the war of 1204 against King Philip II of France in France.

William was greatly favored by King John early in his reign. John granted him all that he might conquer from the Welsh in Radnorshire, gave him lordship over Limerick in Ireland (save for the city itself), possession of Glamorgan castle, and the Lordship of Gower with its several castles.

In 1206, after his service in France, King John gave William de Braose the three great neighboring trilateral castles of Gwent (Skenfrith Castle, Grosmont Castle, and White Castle). These have been interpreted as bribes encouraging silence on the demise of Arthur, seen by many as a rightful heir to the throne occupied by John of England.

Soon after this, William de Braose fell out of favor with King John of England. The precise reasons remain obscure. King John cited overdue monies that de Braose owed the Crown from his estates, but the King's actions went far beyond what would be necessary to recover the debt. He distrained (seized) de Braose's English estates in Sussex and Devon, and sent a force to invade Wales to seize the de Braose domains there. Beyond that, he sought de Braose's wife, Maud de St. Valery, who, the story goes, had made no secret of her belief that King John had murdered Arthur of Brittany.

De Braose fled to Ireland, then returned to Wales as King John had him hunted in Ireland. In Wales, William allied himself to the Welsh Prince Llywelyn the Great, and helped him in his rebellion against King John.

In 1210, William de Braose fled Wales disguised as a beggar, to France. His wife and eldest son were captured. William died the following year on August 9, 1211 at Corbeil, France. He was buried in the Abbey of St. Victor in Paris. William's wife, Maud, and eldest son, William, once captured, were allegedly murdered by King John, possibly starved to death while incarcerated at Windsor Castle and Corfe Castle in 1210.

### **King Louis Capet VII (1119-1180)(our 25<sup>th</sup> great grandfather)**

Louis VII (1119 – 1180), called the Younger, was King of the Franks from 1137 to 1180. He was born on September 5, 1119 in Reims, Champagne-Ardenne, France. He was the son and successor of King Louis VI and Adelaide de Savoy.

The early education of Prince Louis anticipated an ecclesiastical career. As a result, he became well-learned and exceptionally devout, but his life course changed decisively after the accidental death of his older brother Philip in 1131, when he unexpectedly became the heir to the throne of France. In October 1131, his father had him anointed and crowned by Pope Innocent II in Reims Cathedral. He spent much of his youth in Saint-Denis, where he built a friendship with the Abbot Suger, an advisor to his father who also served Louis well during his early years as king.

He first married Duchess Eleanor of Aquitaine, one of the wealthiest and most powerful women in western Europe. The marriage temporarily extended the Capetian lands to the Pyrenees. In June 1147, in fulfillment of his vow to mount the Second Crusade, Louis VII and his

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queen set out from the Basilica of St Denis, first stopping in Metz on the overland route to Syria. Just beyond Laodicea at Honaz in Turkey, the French army was ambushed by Turks. In the resulting battle of Mount Cadmus, the Turks first bombarded the French with arrows and heavy stones, then swarmed down from the mountains and massacred them.

Louis VII and his army finally reached the Holy Land in 1148. His queen Eleanor supported her uncle, Raymond of Antioch, and prevailed upon Louis to help Antioch against Aleppo. But Louis VII's interest lay in Jerusalem, and so he slipped out of Antioch in secret. He united with King Conrad III of Germany and King Baldwin III of Jerusalem to lay siege to Damascus; this ended in disaster and the project was abandoned. Louis VII decided to leave the Holy Land, despite the protests of Eleanor, who still wanted to help her doomed uncle Raymond. Louis VII and the French army returned home in 1149.

His marriage to Eleanor was annulled in 1152 after no male heir was produced. He then married Constance de Castile from Spain in 1154. We descend from their daughter Alys Capet. Just five weeks after Constance's death on October 4, 1160, Louis married a third time to Adela de Champagne. We descend from their son King Philip Capet II.

Louis VII's reign saw the founding of the University of Paris and the disastrous Second Crusade. Louis and his famous counselor, Abbot Suger, pushed for a greater centralization of the state and favored the development of French Gothic architecture, notably the construction of Notre-Dame de Paris.

By 1179 Louis was stricken with paralysis and could not be present at the coronation of his son Phillip. Louis died on September 18, 1180 in Paris and was buried the next day at Barbeau Abbey, which he had founded. His remains were moved to the Basilica of Saint-Denis in 1817.

### **King Phillip Capet III (1245-1285) (our 22<sup>nd</sup> great grandfather)**

Philip Capet III (1245 – 1285), was King of France from 1270 to 1285. Phillip was born on April 30, 1245 at Poissy, Yvelines, Ile-de-France, France. He was the son of King Louis IX and Margaret of Provence. As a younger son, Philip was not expected to rule France. At the death of his older brother Louis in 1260, he became the heir to the throne. His father Louis IX, died in Tunis during the Eighth Crusade. Philip, who was accompanying him, returned to France and was anointed king at Reims in 1271.

Philip inherited numerous territorial lands during his reign, the most notable being the County of Toulouse, which was returned to the royal domain in 1271. Philip's mother Margaret made him promise to remain under her tutelage until the age of 30, however Pope Urban IV released him from this oath in 1263. From that moment on, Pierre de La Brosse was Philip's mentor.

According to the terms of the Treaty of Corbeil, concluded on March 11, 1258 between Louis IX and James I of Aragon, Philip was married on May 28, 1262 to Isabella of Aragon in Clermont by the archbishop of Rouen, Eudes Rigaud. Phillip and Isabella were known to have five children. We descend from both their son Phillip and their son Charles. After Isabella's death, Phillip married Marie de Brabant on August 21, 1274 in Vincennes, Val-de-Marne,



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France. We descend from their daughter Margaret.

Following the Sicilian Vespers, Philip led the Aragonese Crusade in support of his uncle. Initially successful, Philip, his army racked with sickness, was forced to retreat and died from dysentery in Perpignan, France on October 5, 1285. His son, Philip IV of France the Fair, succeeded him as king of France. The attempt of Philip to conquer Aragon nearly bankrupted the French monarchy, causing financial challenges for his successor.

### **Count Charles de Valois (1270-1325) (our 22<sup>nd</sup> great grandfather)**

Charles de Valois (1270 – 1325), was a member of the House of Capet and founder of the House of Valois, whose rule over France would start in 1328. Charles de Valois was born on December 12, 1270 in Fontainebleau, Seine-et-Marne, Ile-de-France, France. He was the third son of Philip III of France and Isabella of Aragon.

Charles married Margaret of Anjou on August 16, 1290. She was the eldest daughter of Charles II, titular king of Sicily and Mary of Hungary. Charles and Margaret were known to have six children. We descend from their daughter Joan Capet. Charles would marry for the second time to Catherine I of Courtenay in 1302 and a third time to Mahaut of Chatillon in 1308.

In 1284, the Pope recognized him as King of Aragon (under the vassalage of the Holy See), as son of his mother Isabella of Aragon. Charles also ruled over the counties of Valois, Alençon and Perche. He became in 1290 count of Anjou and of Maine by his marriage with Margaret.

Charles dreamed at the same time of the imperial crown through his second marriage in 1301 to Catherine de Courtenay, who was a titular empress. But it needed the connivance of the Pope, which he obtained by his expedition to Italy, where he supported Charles II of Anjou against Frederick II of Sicily, his cousin. Named papal vicar, he lost himself in the imbroglio of Italian politics, was compromised in a massacre at Florence and in sordid financial exigencies, reached Sicily where he consolidated his reputation as a looter and finally returned to France discredited in 1301–1302.

Charles was back in shape to seek a new crown when the German king Albert of Habsburg was murdered in 1308. Charles's brother, who did not wish to take the risk himself of a check and probably thought that a French puppet on the imperial throne would be a good thing for France, encouraged him. The candidacy was defeated with the election of Henry VII as German king, for the electors did not want France to become even more powerful. Charles continued to dream of the eastern crown of the Courtenays.

Charles did benefit from the affection which his brother Philip the Fair and he found himself given responsibilities which largely exceeded his talent. Thus it was he who directed in 1311 the royal embassy to the conferences of Tournai with the Flemish; he quarreled there with his brother's chamberlain Enguerrand de Marigny, who openly flouted him. Charles did not pardon the affront and would continue the vendetta against Marigny after the king's death.

In 1324, Charles commanded with success the army of his nephew Charles IV to take Guyenne and Flanders from King Edward II of England. He contributed, by the capture of several cities, to accelerate the peace, which was concluded between the king of France and his niece,

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Isabella, queen-consort of England.

Charles de Valois died December 16, 1325 at Nogent-le-Roi, leaving a son who would take the throne of France under the name of Philip VI and commence the branch of the Valois: a posthumous revenge for the man of whom it was said, "Son of a king, brother of a king, uncle of three kings, father of a king, but never king himself." Had he survived for three more years and outlived his nephew, Charles would have become King of France in his own right. Charles was buried in the now-demolished church of the Couvent des Jacobins in Paris – his effigy is now in the Basilica of St Denis.

### **Joan (Jeanne) Capet de Valois (1294 - 1342)(our 21<sup>st</sup> great grandmother)**

Joan of Valois (1294 – 1342) was a Countess consort of Hainaut, Holland, and Zeeland. She was born about 1294 in Longport, Alsne, France. She was the second eldest daughter of the French prince Charles, Count of Valois, and his first wife, Margaret, Countess of Anjou. As the sister of King Philip VI of France and the mother-in-law of Edward III, she was ideally placed to act as mediator between them.

Her paternal grandparents were Philip III of France and Isabella of Aragon. Joan was one of six children. In 1299, Joan's mother died, probably in childbirth, and her father married his second wife, Catherine I of Courtenay, Titular Empress of Constantinople.

Joan married William I d'Avesnes of Hainault on May 23, 1305. They were known to have nine children. We descend from their daughter Catherine.

Joan was a supporter of her cousin Isabella of France in her struggle against Edward II. In December 1325, she traveled to France to attend the funeral of her father and had talks with Isabella and Charles IV of France. This brought about an alliance between Hainault, Isabella, and the English exiles, who were in opposition to the English king and his favorite, Hugh Despenser the Younger. Isabella's son became engaged to Joan's daughter Philippa and Isabella raised an army in their lands. It was also from there that Isabella and her lover, Roger Mortimer, began their invasion of England.

After her husband died in 1337, Joan took the veil and entered into Fontenelle Abbey in Maing. In 1340, her son-in-law dealt her brother Philip a heavy blow by defeating him at sea near Sluys. Edward then went on to besiege Tournai, but was beset by financial problems. Pope Benedict XII then asked Joan to mediate. She first went to her brother, whom she had begged for peace. Then she went to Edward in his tent and begged him for peace as well. The pleas of their relative Joan, sent by the Pope, allowed the two men to sign a truce without loss of face.

Joan died on March 7, 1342 in Fontenelle Abbey.

### **Sources:**

- *Scotland, The Story of a Nation*, Magnus Magnusson, Grove Press, New York, 2000.
- Various Wikipedia articles. Most of the narratives are extractions from Wikipedia articles which I have abridged and edited.
- Family Tree on Familysearch.org. By searching on some of the above named individuals

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on the Family Tree database, you will encounter what I refer to as the “Ancient Scottish Pedigree.” I have had to make some corrections in my own personal database for information in Family Tree that seemed erroneous. I did this by using what I believed was more reliable information found in Wikipedia.

- Information on the above named persons can also be found in The Public Members Trees on Ancestry.com; the Geni.com database; and Wikitree.com database.

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