

# Chapter 49

## Some of My Ancestors Who Were European Nobility

[Originally written 29 June 2020.]

### Introduction

I recently have started using the Geni.com website for building my family tree. The folks at Geni.com have taken a unique approach to building a family tree – it is what could be called the “World Family Tree”. Unlike Ancestry.com, where everyone has their own complete family tree, Geni.com is having its users collaboratively build just a single family tree to which anyone can connect. On Ancestry.com, there can be one thousand or more duplicate entries for the same person – and they often have conflicting information. On Geni.com, there should only be one entry on the entire website for any given person. Users on Geni.com can add themselves and one of their ancestral lines until it connects with a person already in the “World Family Tree”. And then their line immediately becomes part of this enormous family tree. I believe that there now are over 200 million people in the “World Family Tree” on Geni.com.

Here is the first part of my pedigree on Geni.com:



My family tree is connected to the “World Family Tree” on Geni.com, and some of these lines go way back into the past. For example, I recently was helping my cousin Don Baker with his family tree. While looking at his ancestors in the “World Family Tree”, I found that Don is descended from King Edward I of England (1239-1307). See:

[http://www.burksoakley.com/genealogy/DEB-HelmickAncestors\\_18Jun20.pdf](http://www.burksoakley.com/genealogy/DEB-HelmickAncestors_18Jun20.pdf)

Edward was King of England from 1272 until his death in 1307. See:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edward\\_I\\_of\\_England](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edward_I_of_England)

In looking at Don’s line back to King Edward I, I found that I also am descended from King Edward I – here is my line:



Wow! How cool is this??!!! King Edward I was my 20<sup>th</sup>-great grandfather. And this line goes through his son, King Edward II, and his grandson, King Edward III.

I wondered if this connection is just a one-in-a-million chance, or if I have other European nobility in my lineage. I decided to see if I could find others, and that is what this chapter is about.

I should add that the oldest surviving royal genealogies in Europe go back to the sixth century A.D. for Gothic sovereigns, to the seventh century for their Irish, Lombardic, Visigothic, and Frankish counterparts, and to the eighth and ninth centuries for Anglo-Saxon and Carolingian kings. I’m certainly not going to find anything earlier than those times. Or am I?

I’ll now go through a series of my connections to European kings, a few Earls, Barons, Knights, and even a few Saints.

## English Kings

I'll start with some English kings. Here is King Edward IV:



### Edward IV Plantagenet, King of England

Gender: Male

Birth: April 28, 1442  
Haute-Normandie,, Rouen, Seine-Maritime, Normandy, France

Death: April 09, 1483 (40)  
Westminster Palace, London,, Greater London, England, United Kingdom

Place of Burial: St. George's Chapel, Windsor, Berkshire,, Windsor and Maidenhead, England, United Kingdom

King Edward IV lived from 1442 until 1483, and he was my 17<sup>th</sup>-great grandfather:



My line to King Edward IV goes back on my Oakley-Miller-Case-Barber line.

My next ancestor is King Edward III:



### Edward of Windsor

Gender: Male

Birth: November 13, 1312  
Windsor, Berkshire, England (United Kingdom)

Death: June 21, 1377 (64)  
Sheen Palace, Surrey, England (United Kingdom) (stroke)

Place of Burial: Westminster Abbey, Westminster, London, Middlesex, England (United Kingdom)

King Edward III lived from 1312 until 1377, and was my 18<sup>th</sup>-great grandfather:



Wow! This is interesting!! My line back to Edward IV goes through my Oakley-Miller-Case ancestors, but my line back to Edward III goes through my Oakley-Burr-Pinckney ancestors. Amazing that I have two different ancestral lines back to English kings.

King Edward III was the son of King Edward II,<sup>1</sup> so of course he was my ancestor. And Edward II's father was Edward I:



**Edward of Westminster** MP  
 Spanish: Eduardo I, Rey de Inglaterra  
 Gender: Male  
 Birth: June 17, 1239  
 Westminster Palace, London, Middlesex, England (United Kingdom)  
 Death: July 07, 1307 (68)  
 Burgh by Sands, Cumberland, England (United Kingdom) (Dysentery)  
 Place of Burial: Westminster Abbey, London, England (United Kingdom)

Edward I lived from 1239 until 1307 and was my 20<sup>th</sup>-great grandfather:



Amazing that the "World Family Tree" on Geni.com has one of my ancestors who was born in 1239. But wait, it gets better!

The next English king I'll look at is King John I:

<sup>1</sup> By many measures, King Edward II was not a very successful king. According to Wikipedia, "Debate over his perceived failures has continued into the 21st century".



**John, I** MP  
 French: Jean, I  
 Gender: Male  
 Birth: December 24, 1166  
 Beaumont Palace,, Oxford, Oxfordshire, England, United Kingdom 📍  
 Death: October 18, 1216 (49)  
 Newark Castle, Newark,, Nottinghamshire, England, United Kingdom (Dysentery) 📍  
 Place of Burial: Plot: The Quire, Worcester Cathedral, Worcester, Worcestershire, England 📍

King John I lived from 1166 until 1216. He was the King of England from 1199 until his death in 1216. He was my 21<sup>st</sup>-great grandfather:



Oh my! This is a different ancestral line – it goes back on my Oakley-Darling-Lyon line – yet another line back to English kings.

King John led a remarkable life – see:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John,\\_King\\_of\\_England](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John,_King_of_England)

King John I is remembered for the Magna Carta, which he signed in 1215. The document was charter of rights agreed that he agreed to at Runnymede, near Windsor, on 15 June 1215. First drafted by the Archbishop of Canterbury to make peace between the unpopular king and a group of rebel barons, it promised the protection of church rights, protection for the barons from illegal imprisonment, access to swift justice, and limitations on feudal payments to the Crown, to be implemented through a council of twenty-five barons.

Imagine – my ancestor, King John I, signed the Magna Carta!

Moving on back in time, we get to William the Conqueror:



**William "the Conqueror" FitzRobert, Duke of Normandy, King of England** MP

French: Roi d'Angleterre Guillaume FitzRobert, le Conquérant

Gender: Male

Birth: October 14, 1024  
Château de Base-, Falaise, Calvados, Normandie, France

Death: September 09, 1087 (62)  
Prieuré de Saint-Gervais, Rouen, Seine-Maritime, Haute-Normandie, France (Wounds suffered at the siege of Mantes)

Place of Burial: Abbatiale Saint-Étienne, Abbaye aux Hommes, Caen, Calvados, Basse-Normandie, France

William the Conqueror lived from 1024 until 1087. He was my 25<sup>th</sup>-great grandfather:



There is a lot to read about William the Conqueror – he is just a short excerpt:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William\\_the\\_Conqueror](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_the_Conqueror)

William I, usually known as William the Conqueror and sometimes William the Bastard, was the first Norman King of England, reigning from 1066 until his death in 1087. He was a descendant of Rollo and was Duke of Normandy from 1035 onward. His hold was secure on Normandy by 1060, following a long struggle to establish his throne, and he launched the Norman conquest of England six years later. The rest of his life was marked by struggles to consolidate his hold over England and his continental lands.

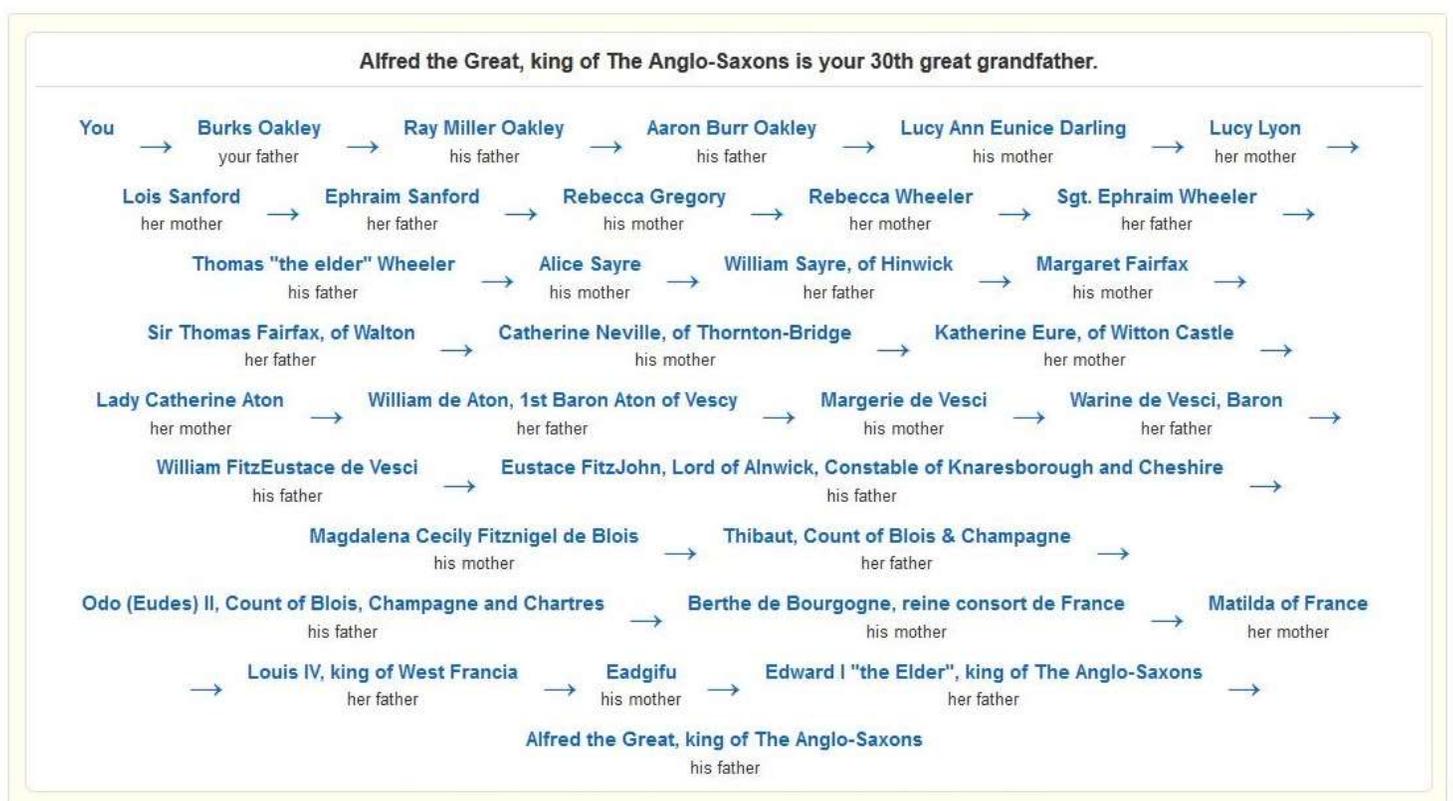
William should be known to all for leading the Norman army at the Battle of Hastings in 1066. His defeat of the English army under the Anglo-Saxon King Harold Godwinson began the Norman conquest of England.

Continuing on back in time, I got to Alfred the Great, who lived from 849 until 899:



**Ælfrēd** MP  
 Lithuanian: Alfredas  
 Gender: Male  
 Birth: 849  
 Wessex Kingdom, Modern Wantage, Berkshire, England (United Kingdom) 📍  
 Death: October 26, 899 (49-50)  
 Winchester, Hampshire, England (Illness. Possibly Crohn's disease.) 📍  
 Place of Burial: Winchester Cathedral, Winchester, Hampshire, England, United Kingdom

Alfred the Great, King of the Anglo-Saxons, was my 30<sup>th</sup>-great grandfather:



Wow! This is yet another ancestral line. It goes through my Oakley-Darling-Lyon line, but then through Lucy Lyon's mother, Lois Sanford, whereas an earlier line went back through her father, Joseph Oliver Lyon. This is my fourth different line back to English kings!

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alfred\\_the\\_Great](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alfred_the_Great)

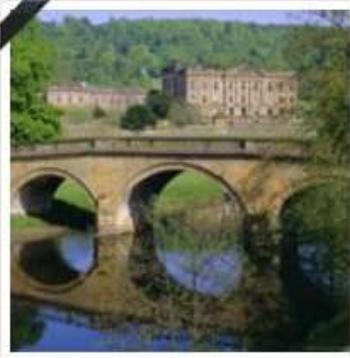
Alfred the Great was King of the Anglo-Saxons from 886 to 899. After ascending the throne, Alfred spent several years fighting Viking invasions. He won a decisive victory in the Battle of Edington in 878 and made an agreement with the Vikings, creating what was known as the Danelaw in the North of England. Alfred also oversaw the conversion of Viking leader Guthrum to Christianity. He defended his kingdom against the Viking attempt at conquest, becoming the dominant ruler in England.

Alfred had a reputation as a learned and merciful man of a gracious and level-headed nature who encouraged education, proposing that primary education be conducted in Anglo-Saxon rather than Latin and improving

the legal system and military structure and his people's quality of life. He was given the epithet "the Great" during and after the Reformation in the sixteenth century and remains the only king of England to be given such a name.

### **English Earls, Lords, Barons, and Knights**

Let me shift gears a little and present a few interesting ancestors who were English nobility. One is William de Ferrières, 3<sup>rd</sup> Earl of Derby:



#### **William de Ferrières, 3rd Earl of Derby**

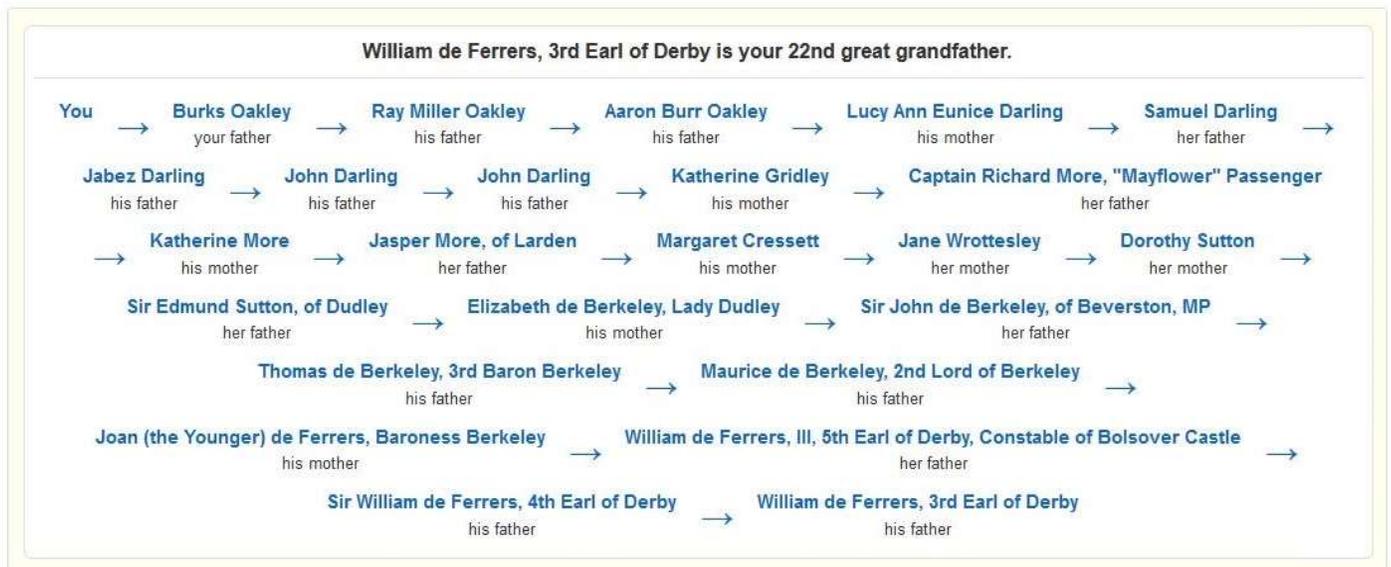
Gender: Male

Birth: circa 1136  
Tutbury Castle, Tutbury, Staffordshire, England

Death: December 31, 1189 (49-57)  
Battle Of Acre, Jerusalem, Palestine, Holy Land  
(Seige Of Acre, Jerusalem, Palestine)

Place of Burial: Jerusalem, Israel

William de Ferrières was my 22<sup>nd</sup>-great grandfather:



I see that this is yet another line back to my English ancestors. This one goes through my Oakley-Darling-Gridley-More line. Richard More was a passenger on the *Mayflower* – see:

<http://www.burksoakley.com/QuincyOakleyGenealogy/48-RichardMore-MayflowerAncestor.pdf>

I only am including William de Ferrières because he died at the Battle of Acre, near Jerusalem, in 1189. He was in the Holy Lands as a Crusader.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William\\_de\\_Ferrers,\\_3rd\\_Earl\\_of\\_Derby](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_de_Ferrers,_3rd_Earl_of_Derby)

William was a 12th-century English Earl who resided in Tutbury Castle in Staffordshire and was head of a family which controlled a large part of Derbyshire known as Duffield Frith. He was also a Knight Templar. The Siege of Acre was the first significant counterattack by King Guy of

Jerusalem against Saladin, leader of the Muslims in Syria and Egypt. This pivotal siege formed part of what later became known as the Third Crusade. The siege lasted from August 1189 until July 1191. It was a key victory for the Crusaders and a serious setback for Saladin.

The second English ancestor I'll include in this section is Eustace FitzJohn, Lord of Alnwick and Constable of Chestershire and Knaresbrough:



**Eustace FitzJohn, Lord of Alnwick, Constable of Chestershire and Knaresbrough** MP

Gender: Male

Birth: circa 1088  
Knaresborough, North Yorkshire, England, United Kingdom

Death: July 10, 1157 (64-73)  
Consyllt, near Basingwerk, Wales or Alnwick Castle, Northumberland, England (United Kingdom)

Eustace FitzJohn lived in England from 1088 until 1157, and he was my 21<sup>st</sup>-great grandfather:



I selected this ancestor in part for his cool name....

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eustace\\_fitz\\_John](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eustace_fitz_John)

Eustace Fitz John was a powerful magnate in northern England during the reigns of Henry I, Stephen and Henry II. From a relatively humble background in the south-east of England, Eustace made his career serving Henry I, and was elevated by the king through marriage and office into one of the most important figures in the north of England. Eustace acquired a great deal of property in the region, controlled Bamburgh Castle, and served jointly with Walter Espec as justiciar of the North.

Another example of English nobility is William de Ferrers, 3<sup>rd</sup> Baron Ferrers of Groby:



**William de Ferrers, 3rd Baron Ferrers of Groby**

Gender: Male

Birth: circa February 28, 1333  
Groby, Leicestershire, England

Death: January 08, 1371 (33-41)  
Stebbing, Essex, England

Place of Burial: Ulverscroft, Leicester, ENG

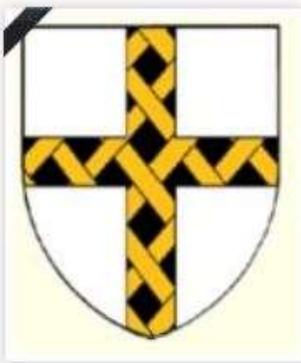
This man, who lived from 1333 until 1371, was my 18<sup>th</sup>-great grandfather:



[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William\\_Ferrers,\\_3rd\\_Baron\\_Ferrers\\_of\\_Groby](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Ferrers,_3rd_Baron_Ferrers_of_Groby)

William Ferrers, 3rd Baron Ferrers of Groby (1333–1371) was a Leicestershire-based nobleman in fourteenth-century England who took part in some of the major campaigns of the first part of the Hundred Years' War. The eldest of two sons to Henry Ferrers, 2nd Baron Ferrers of Groby (d. 1343), he was ten years old when he succeeded his father to the Barony.

My next ancestor in this group is Sir Matthew de Lovaine, Knight:



**Matthew de Lovaine, Knight** MP

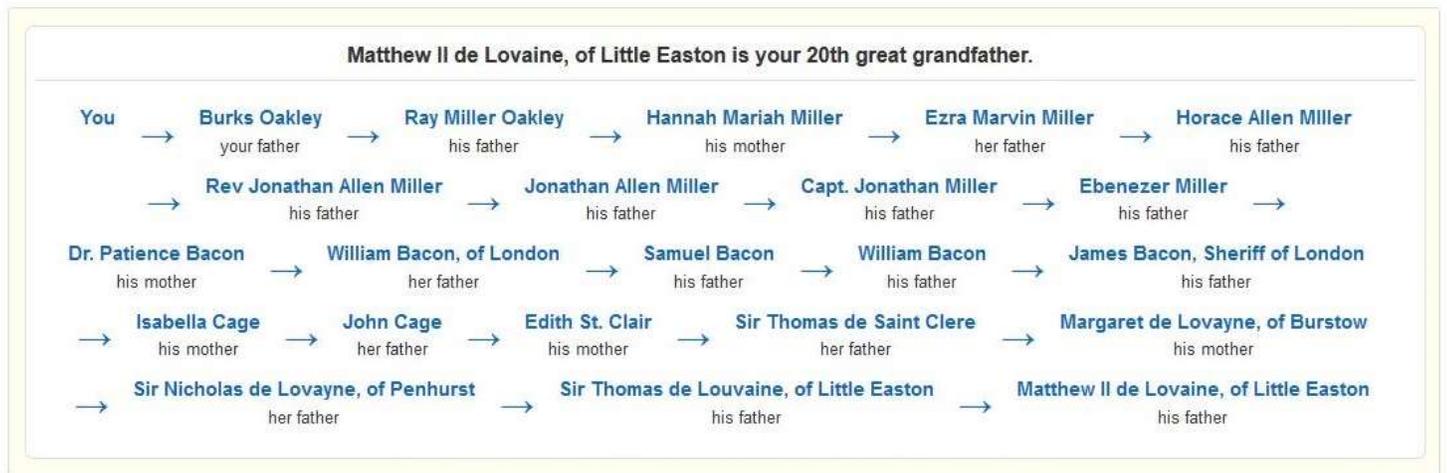
Gender: Male

Birth: circa 1175  
Dunmow, Essex, England, United Kingdom

Death: before November 11, 1261  
Little Easton, Essex, England

Immediate Family: Son of Sir Godfrey de Lovaine, of Little Easton and Alice de Hastings, heir of Little Easton  
Husband of Muriel (Amy) de Lovaine/de Grey

Sir Matthew de Lovaine was my 20<sup>th</sup>-great grandfather:



Oh my! This is a new ancestral line!! This goes back on my Miller line to Dr. Patience Bacon (1631-1716), who immigrated to Massachusetts and with her husband William Miller, was one of the founders of Northampton, Massachusetts, in 1653. Patience was the first woman physician and surgeon in New England, and possibly in the New World.

I didn't find anything all that noteworthy about Sir Matthew de Lovaine, but it is cool to see a new line going through Dr. Patience Bacon.

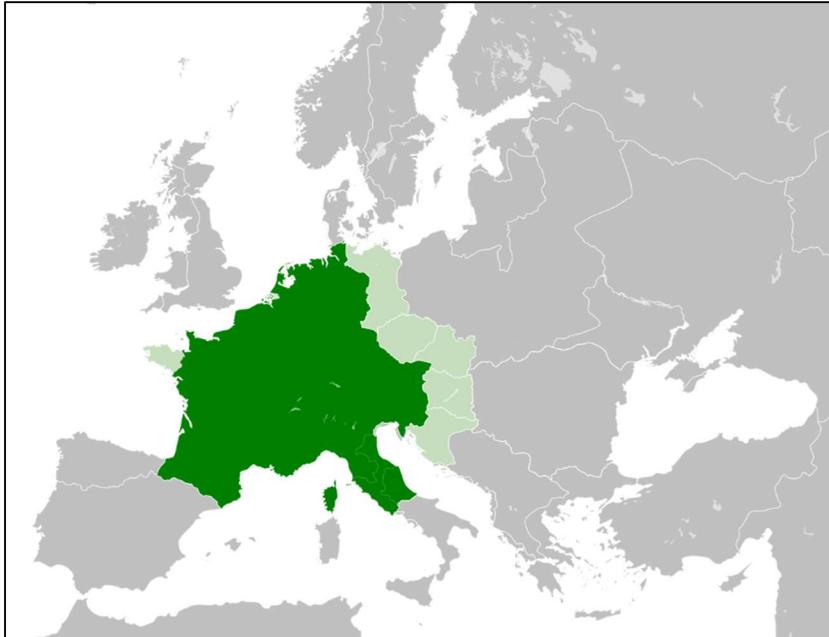
### ***Francia – The Kingdom of the Franks***

When I started looking into my ancestors who were European nobility, I never dreamed that I would need to learn about the history of Europe in the early Middle Ages. But I soon found out that I was way over my head and didn't have the background to understand who some of my ancestors were. Here are some basics that should help others with all this.

The Franks were a group of Germanic peoples whose name was first mentioned in 3rd century Roman sources. They were associated with tribes between the Lower Rhine and the Ems River, on the edge of the Roman Empire. Later the term was associated with Romanized Germanic dynasties who eventually commanded the whole region between the rivers Loire and Rhine. They imposed power over many other post-Roman kingdoms and Germanic peoples. Still later, Frankish rulers were given recognition by the Catholic Church as successors to the old rulers of the Western Roman Empire.

Francia, also called the Kingdom of the Franks, was the largest post-Roman kingdom in Western Europe. It was ruled by the Franks during Late Antiquity and the Early Middle Ages. It is the predecessor of the modern states of France, Belgium, The Netherlands, Luxembourg and Germany. After the Treaty of Verdun in 843, West Francia became the predecessor of France, and East Francia became that of Germany.

Here is a map of Francia at its greatest extent in 814:



There were three parts to Francia – Eastern, Middle, and Western.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/East\\_Francia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/East_Francia)

East Francia or the Kingdom of the East Franks was a precursor of the Holy Roman Empire. A successor state of Charlemagne's empire, it was ruled by the Carolingian dynasty until 911. It was created through the Treaty of Verdun (843), which divided the former empire into three kingdoms.

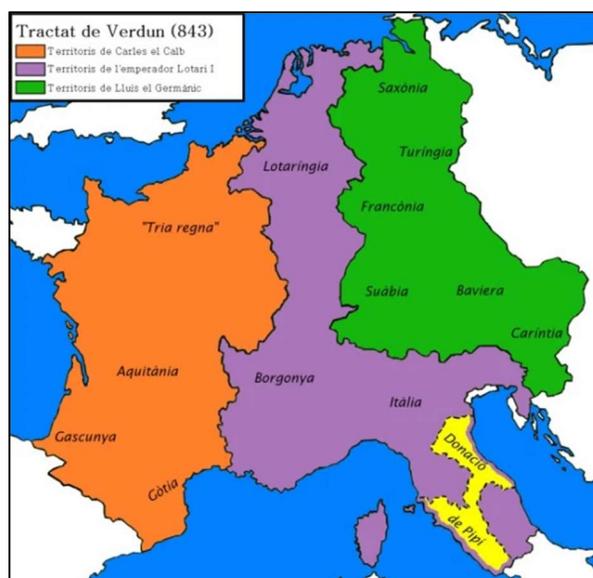
The east-west division, enforced by the German-Latin language split, "gradually hardened into the establishment of separate kingdoms", with East Francia becoming the Kingdom of Germany and West Francia the Kingdom of France.

Similarly, here is a description of West Francia:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/West\\_Francia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/West_Francia)

In medieval history, West Francia or the Kingdom of the West Franks was the western part of Charlemagne's Empire, ruled by the Germanic Franks, and formed the earliest stage of the Kingdom of France, lasting from about 840 until 987.

Of course, there also was a Middle Francia, which is today's Belgium, Austria, and northern Italy.



## *Pépin II, Mayor of the Palace of Austrasia*

Let me start with Pépin II, Mayor of the Palace of Austrasia:



**Pépin II "the Fat" d'Héristal, Mayor of the Palace of Austrasia** MP

Dutch: Peppin II Van Herstel, Mayor of the Palace of Austrasia, Russian: Пипин 2 Геристальский Каролинг, Mayor of the Palace of Austrasia, Lithuanian: Mayor of the Palace of Austrasia Pépin II "the Fat" d'Héristal, Mayor of the Palace of Austrasia

Gender: Male

Birth: circa 635  
Herstal, Liège, Walloon Region, Belgium MP

Death: December 16, 714 (74-83)  
Jupille-sur-Meuse, modern Belgium MP

Place of Burial: Liège, Walloon Region, Belgium MP

Pépin lived from 635 until 714, and was my 35<sup>th</sup>-great grandfather:



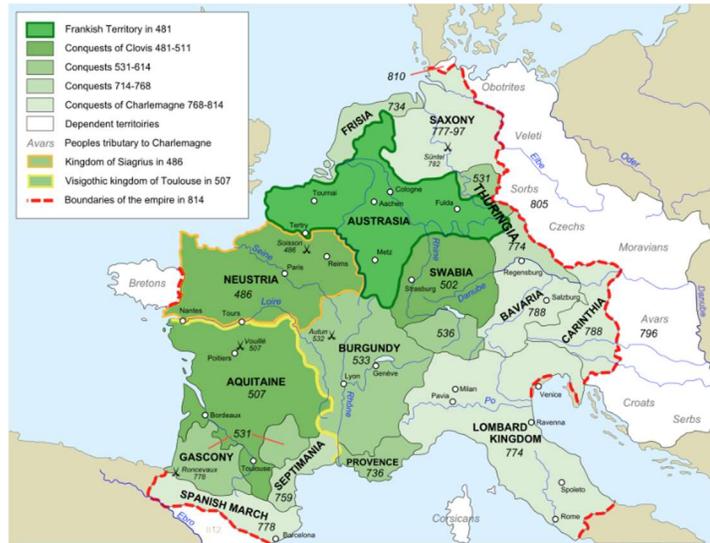
Wow! This is really going back a long way!!

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pépin\\_of\\_Herstal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pépin_of_Herstal)

Pépin II (c. 635 – 16 December 714), commonly known as Pépin of Herstal, was a Frankish statesman and military leader who de facto ruled Francia as the Mayor of the Palace from 680 until his death. He took the title Duke and Prince of the Franks upon his conquest of all the Frankish realms.

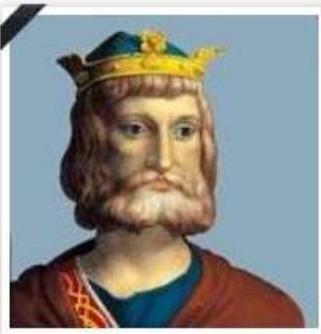
The son of the powerful Frankish statesman Ansegisel, Pépin worked to establish his family, the Pippinids, as the strongest in Francia. He became Mayor of the Palace in Austrasia in 680. Pépin subsequently embarked on several wars to expand his power. He united all the Frankish realms by the conquests of Neustria and Burgundy in 687. In foreign conflicts, Pépin increased the power of the Franks by his subjugation of the Alemanni, the Frisians, and the Franconians.

Here is a map showing Austrasia, which was part of Middle Francia:



### Charles Martel

Moving on one generation, I get to Charles Martel, Mayor of the Palace:



#### Charles "Martel", Mayor of the Palace

Dutch: Karel "Martel", hofmeier van het Frankische Rijk, French: Charles "Martel", Duc des Austrasiens, Prince des Français, German: Karl "Martell", fränkischer Hausmeier, Latin: Carolus "Martellus", Maior domus, Russian: Капрн Мартелл, Mayor of the Palace

Gender: Male

Birth: August 23, 676  
Herstal, Liege, Walloon Region, Belgium

Death: October 22, 741 (65)  
Quierzy, Aisne, Nord-Pas-de-Calais-Picardie, France

Charles Martel was a son of Pépin. He lived from 676 until 741, and he was my 34<sup>th</sup> grandfather:



[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charles\\_Martel](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charles_Martel)

Charles Martel was a Frankish statesman and military leader who, as Duke and Prince of the Franks and Mayor of the Palace, was the de facto ruler of Francia from 718 until his death in 741. He was a son of the Frankish statesman Pépin of Herstal. Charles successfully asserted his claims to power as successor to his father as the power behind the throne in Frankish politics. Continuing and building on his father's work, he restored centralized government in Francia and began the series of military campaigns that re-established the Franks as the undisputed masters of all Gaul. Charles was "a warrior who was uncommonly [...] effective in battle". Alongside his military endeavors, Charles has been traditionally credited with a seminal role in the development of the Frankish system of feudalism.

At the end of his reign, Charles divided Francia between his sons, Carloman and Pépin. The latter became the first king of the Carolingian dynasty. Charles' grandson, Charlemagne, extended the Frankish realms, and became the first emperor in the West since the fall of Rome.

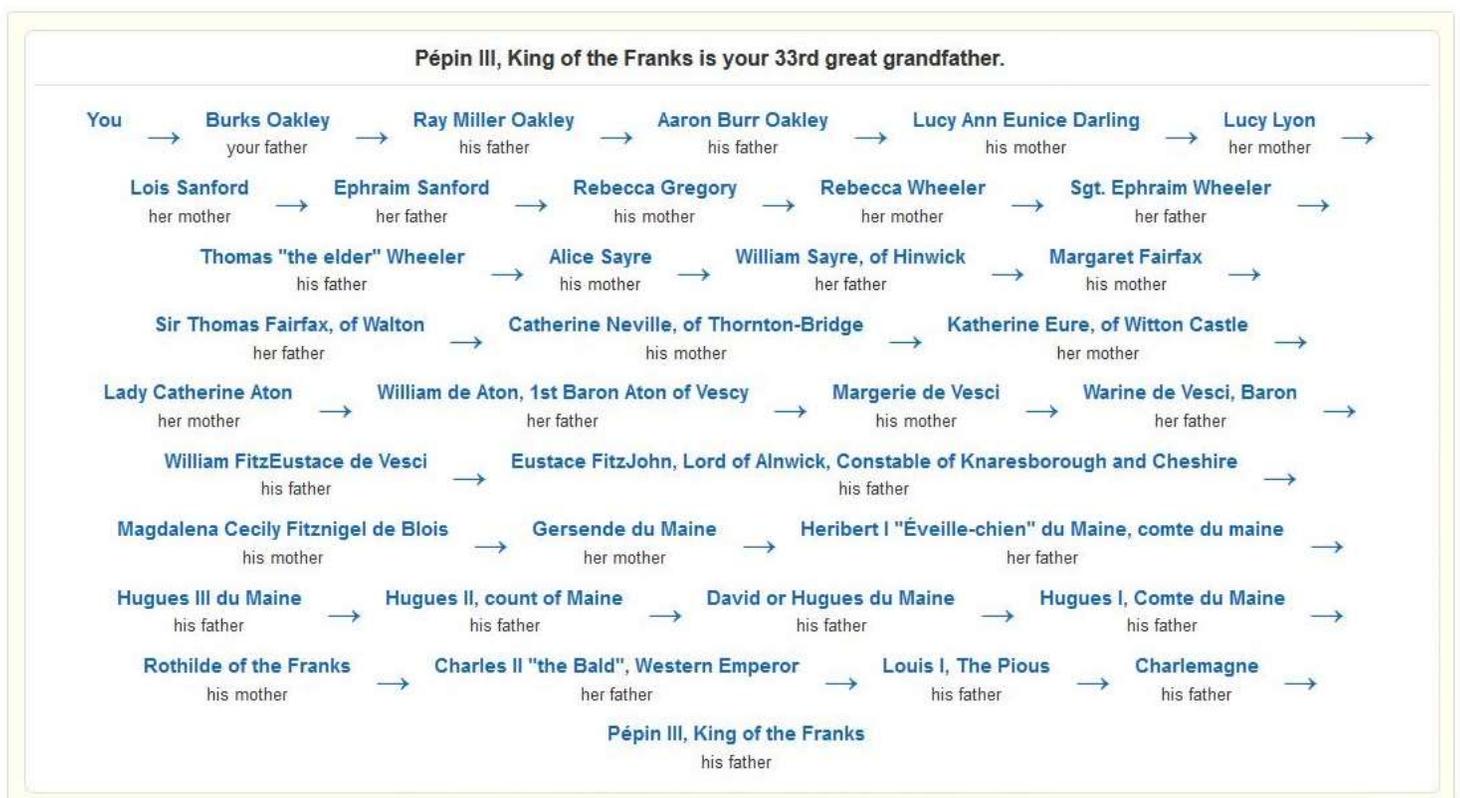
### ***Pépin III, King of the Franks***

Next I get to Pépin III, King of the Franks, who was a son of Charles Martel.



**Pépin** MP  
Dutch: Peppin, German: Pippin, Russian: король франков Пипин  
Gender: Male  
Birth: 714  
Jupille-sur-Meuse, Liège, Liege, Walloon Region, Belgium 📍  
Death: September 24, 768 (53-54)  
Saint-Denis, Seine-Saint-Denis, Île-de-France, France 📍

Pépin III, King of the Franks, was my 33<sup>rd</sup>-great grandfather:



One of Pépin's sons was Charlemagne.

## *Charlemagne, King of the Franks, the King of the Lombards, and the Emperor of the Romans*

While you might not have heard of Pépin or Charles Martel, my guess is that you have heard about Charlemagne. Well, Charlemagne was a son of Pépin III. He lived from 742 until 814:



### Carolus 'Magnus', Rex Francorum & Imperator Romanorum MP

Latin: Karolus 'Magnus', Rex Francorum & Imperator Romanorum, French: Carolus, Magnus, Portuguese: Carlos Magno, Rex Francorum & Imperator Romanorum, Estonian: Karl Suur, Rex Francorum & Imperator Romanorum, Finnish: Kaarle Suuri, Rex Francorum & Imperator Romanorum

Gender: Male

Birth: April 02, 742  
Unknown - Likely in present day Belgium or Germany 📍

Death: January 28, 814 (71)  
Aachen, North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany 📍

Place of Burial: Royal Church of St. Mary (present Aachen Cathedral or Kaiserdom), Aachen, Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany 📍

Charlemagne was my 32<sup>nd</sup>-great grandfather:



<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charlemagne>

Charlemagne was the King of the Franks from 768, the King of the Lombards from 774, and the Emperor of the Romans from 800. During the Early Middle Ages, he united the majority of western and central Europe. He was the first recognized emperor to rule from western Europe since the fall of the Western Roman Empire three centuries earlier. The expanded Frankish state that Charlemagne founded is called the Carolingian Empire.

Charlemagne has been called the “Father of Europe”, as he united most of Western Europe for the first time since the classical era of the Roman Empire and united parts of Europe that had never been under Frankish or Roman rule. His rule spurred the Carolingian Renaissance, a period of energetic cultural and intellectual activity within the Western Church.

Charlemagne died in 814 and was laid to rest in Aachen Cathedral in his imperial capital city of Aachen. He married at least four times and had

three legitimate sons who lived to adulthood, but only the youngest of them, Louis the Pious, survived to succeed him. He also had numerous illegitimate children with his concubines.

### *My Ancestors in the House of Capet*

The House of Capet ruled the Kingdom of France from 987 to 1328. The Capets were sometimes called “the third race of kings” (following the Merovingians and the Carolingians). The first Capetian monarch was Hugh Capet (c.939-996), a Frankish nobleman from the Île-de-France.

In 987, following the death of the last Carolingian King, Louis V of France, Hugh Capet secured the throne of France by election. He then proceeded to make it hereditary in his family, by securing the election and coronation of his son, Robert II (972–1031), as co-King. The throne thus passed securely to Robert on his father’s death, who followed the same custom – as did many of his early successors.

As I just mentioned, the original Capetian king was Hugh (or Hugues) Capet, who lived from 940 until 996:



**Hugues Capet, roi des Francs** MP

French: Hugues Capet, Roi de France, Spanish: Rey de Francia (987-996), Duque de Francia (956-987), Conde de Paris (956-987) Hugo Capeto de Robertiens, roi des Francs

Gender: Male

Birth: circa 940  
Paris, Île-de-France, France

Death: October 24, 996 (51-60)  
Prasville, Eure-et-Loir, Centre, France

Place of Burial: Basilique de Saint-Denis, Saint-Denis, Seine-Saint-Denis, Île-de-France, France

Hugh Capet was my 27<sup>th</sup>-great grandfather:



Oh my! This is another line back to European nobility! It goes through my Oakley-Miller-Tripp-Mosher line – this one is a new one for the present narrative.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hugh\\_Capet](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hugh_Capet)

Hugh Capet was the King of the Franks from 987 to 996. He is the founder and first king from the House of Capet. The son of the powerful duke Hugh the Great and his wife Hedwige of Saxony, he was elected as the successor of the last Carolingian king, Louis V. Hugh was descended from Charlemagne's sons Louis the Pious and Pépin of Italy through his mother and paternal grandmother, respectively, and he was also a nephew of Otto the Great.

Hugh Capet died on 14 October 996 in Paris and was interred in the Saint Denis Basilica. His son Robert continued to reign.

Most historians regard the beginnings of modern France as having initiated with the coronation of Hugh Capet. This is because, as Count of Paris, he made the city his power center. The monarch began a long process of exerting control of the rest of the country from there.

All monarchs of the Kingdom of France from Hugh Capet to Philip II of France were titled 'King of the Franks'. Philip II was the first to use the title 'King of France'.

Of course, once I got back to Hugh Capet, I also connected with his son Robert II Capet, "the Pious", King of the Franks:



**Robert II Capet, "the Pious" king of the Franks** 📄

French: Robert II Capet, "le Pieux" roi des Francs, Spanish: Roberto II Capeto, "el Piadoso" rey de Francia, Danish: Robert II Capet, "den Fromme" kong Frankrig, Italian: Roberto II Capeto, "il Pio" re di Francia

Gender: Male

Birth: March 27, 972  
Orléans, Centre, France 📍

Death: July 20, 1031 (59)  
Château de Melun, Melun, Île-de-France, France 📍

Place of Burial: Basilique Saint-Denis, Saint-Denis, Île-de-France, France 📍

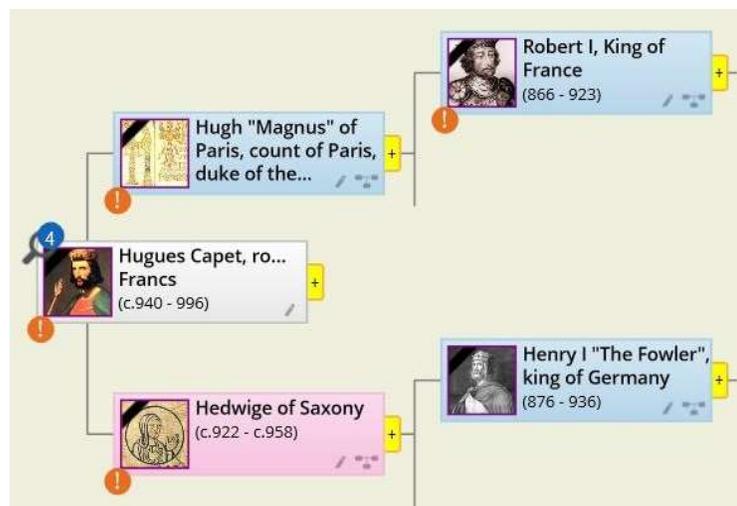
Robert II Capet was my 25<sup>th</sup>-great grandfather:



[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robert\\_II\\_of\\_France](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robert_II_of_France)

Robert II (27 March 972 – 20 July 1031), called the Pious, was King of the Franks from 996 to 1031, the second from the House of Capet. Robert distinguished himself with an extraordinarily long reign for the time. His 35-year-long reign was marked by his attempts to expand the royal domain by any means, especially by his long struggle to gain the Duchy of Burgundy. His policies earned him many enemies, including three of his sons. He was also known for his difficult marriages: he married three times, annulling two of these and attempting to annul the third, prevented only by the Pope's refusal to accept a third annulment.

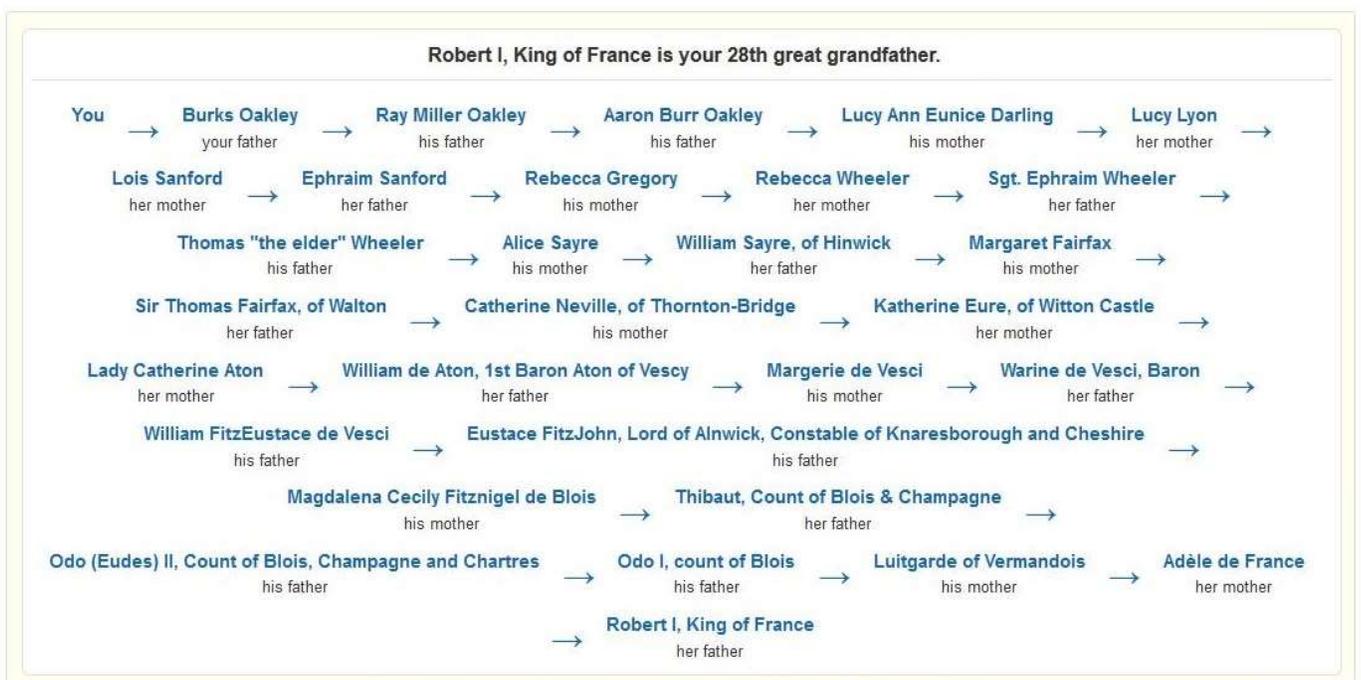
I also connect back to all of Hugh Capet's ancestors, including:



His paternal grandfather was Robert I, King of France:

**Robert de Robertiens**  
English (default): Robert, French: Robert, Roi des Francs (922-923), Spanish: Rey de Francia (922 - 15 de junio 923), Conde de Paris (898 - 15 de junio 923) Roberto II de Robertiens  
Gender: Male  
Birth: August 15, 866  
Anjou, Isere, Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes, France  
Death: June 15, 923 (56)  
Soissons, Aisne, Nord-Pas-de-Calais-Picardie, France (Killed in battle. )

Robert I lived from 866 until 923, and he was my 28<sup>th</sup>-great grandfather:



These lineage charts always show the “Shortest blood relationship”. It is interesting to see that the line to Robert I is a totally different line than the line to his grandson Hugh Capet. So it appears that I have multiple lines going back to these ancestors.

Returning to Hugh Capet, his maternal grandfather was Henry I “the Fowler”, King of Germany:



**Henry** MP  
 German: Heinrich, I  
 Gender: Male  
 Birth: 876  
 Memleben, Herrschaft Ostfalen (Present Burgenlandkreis), Herzogtum Sachsen (Present Sachsen-Anhalt), Ostfrankenreich (Present Deutschland)  
 Death: July 02, 936 (59-60)  
 Memleben, Herrschaft Ostfalen (Present Bugenlandkreis), Herzogtum Sachsen (Present Sachsen-Anhalt), Ostfrankenreich (Present Deutschland)

King Henry lived from 876 until 936, and was my 28<sup>th</sup>-great grandfather:



[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Henry\\_the\\_Fowler](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Henry_the_Fowler)

Henry the Fowler was the Duke of Saxony from 912 and the King of East Francia from 919 until his death in 936. As the first non-Frankish king of East Francia, he established the Ottonian dynasty of kings and emperors, and he is generally considered to be the founder of the medieval German state, known until then as East Francia. An avid hunter, he obtained the epithet “the Fowler” because he was allegedly fixing his birding nets when messengers arrived to inform him that he was to be king.

Now let's look at a more modern ancestor in France:

Philip Auguste, King of France:



**Philip Auguste** MP

English (default): Philip, French: Philippe II Auguste, roi de France, Russian: Филипп Август, II, Norwegian: Filip August, II

Gender: Male

Birth: August 21, 1165  
Château de Gonesse, Gonesse, Val-d'Oise, Île-de-France, France

Death: July 14, 1223 (57)  
Mantes, Yvelines, Île-de-France, France

Place of Burial: Abbaye royale de Saint-Denis, Saint-Denis, Seine-Saint-Denis, Île-de-France, France

Philip Auguste lived from 1165 until 1223, and he was my 24<sup>th</sup>-great grandfather:



[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philip\\_II\\_of\\_France](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philip_II_of_France)

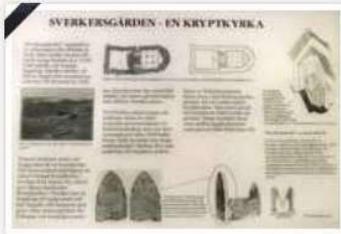
Philip II, known as Philip Augustus (French: Philippe Auguste), was King of France from 1180 to 1223. His predecessors had been known as kings of the Franks, but from 1190 onward, Philip became the first French monarch to style himself "King of France". The son of King Louis VII and his third wife, Adela of Champagne, he was originally nicknamed Dieudonné (God-given), because he was a first son and born late in his father's life. Philip was given the epithet "Augustus" by the chronicler Rigord for having extended the crown lands of France so remarkably.

---

I now am going to change gears once again and show a number of other of my ancestors who were European nobility.

### ***Sverker the Elder, King of Sweden***

Sverker the Elder lived from 1100 until 1156, and he was the King of Sweden from 1132 until his death in 1156.



**King of Sweden Sverker the Elder av Sverige** MP

English (default): King of Sweden Sverker the Elder, Swedish: Kung Sverker den äldre av Sverige, då

Gender: Male

Birth: 1100  
Kaga, Östergötland, Sverige (Sweden)

Death: December 25, 1156 (55-56)  
Alvastra, Alebäcks bro, Västra Tollstad, Östergötland (Murdered by his own coach)

Place of Burial: Alvastra klosterkyrka

King Sverker the Elder of Sweden was my 26<sup>th</sup>-great grandfather:



Even though my mother’s ancestors all were Swedish, my connection back to King Sverker goes through my Oakley-Darling-Lyon line – my father’s side of the family! But wait! This is a different line than previous ones. It goes back through the English immigrant Thomas Sanford.

This line also includes King Sverker’s son King Charles VII Sverkersson of Sweden, and then his son King Sverker II of Sweden.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sverker\\_I\\_of\\_Sweden](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sverker_I_of_Sweden)

Sverker I or Sverker the Elder was King of Sweden from about 1132 till his death in 1156. Of non-royal descent, he founded the House of Sverker, the rulers of which alternated with the rival House of Eric over the next century.

It appears that Sverker was murdered in his own coach at the Alebäck bridge near Alvastra priory, going to the early religious service on Christmas Day, 1156. The assassin was his trusted servant, a detail that is confirmed by a papal letter. This was considered a shocking crime, even by medieval standards. According to Saxo, the pretender Magnus Henriksson, a Danish prince, “made the servant commit this murder out of clandestine desire to become king”. However, Sverker’s son Charles VII emerged as king in Östergötland by c. 1158.

## Malcolm III, King of Scots

Malcolm III lived from 1031 until 1093, and was King of Scots:



**Máel Coluim lii mac Donnchada, III** 📄  
Lithuanian: Malkolmas III, Škotijos Karalius, French: Malcolm III Ceanmor, Roi d'Écosse

Gender: Male

Birth: March 26, 1031  
Dunkeld, Perthshire, Scotland (United Kingdom) 📄

Death: November 13, 1093 (62)  
Slain Alnwick Castle, Alnwick, Northumberland, England (United Kingdom) (killed in battle near Alnwick, Northumberland ) 📄

Place of Burial: Dunfermline, Fife, Scotland, United Kingdom

His Gaelic name was Máel Coluim mac Donnchada. He was my 25<sup>th</sup>-great grandfather:



[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malcolm\\_III\\_of\\_Scotland](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malcolm_III_of_Scotland)

Malcolm III (1031-1093) was King of Scots from 1058 to 1093. He was later nicknamed “Canmore” (“ceann mòr”, Gaelic for “Great Chief”). Malcolm’s long reign of 35 years preceded the beginning of the Scoto-Norman age. Henry I of England and Eustace III of Boulogne were his sons-in-law, making him the maternal grandfather of Empress Matilda, William Adelin and Matilda of Boulogne. All three of them were prominent in English politics during the 12th century.

## King of Jerusalem

Now let’s move on to the King of Jerusalem. Time for another quick history lesson.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/King\\_of\\_Jerusalem](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/King_of_Jerusalem)

The King of Jerusalem was the supreme ruler of the Kingdom of Jerusalem, the Crusader state founded by Christian princes in 1099 when the First Crusade took the city.

Godfrey of Bouillon, the first ruler of the Kingdom of Jerusalem, chose the title Defender of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. In 1100, Baldwin I, Godfrey's successor, was the first ruler crowned as king. The city of Jerusalem was lost in 1187, but the Kingdom of Jerusalem survived, moving its capital to Acre in 1191. The Kingdom of Jerusalem was finally dissolved with the fall of Acre and the end of the Crusades in the Holy Land in 1291.

### *Fulk V, of Anjou*

Fulk V was the King of Jerusalem. He was from Anjou, a French province straddling the lower Loire River.



**Fulk of Anjou, V** MP  
 French: Foulques d'Anjou, V  
 Gender: Male  
 Birth: between 1089 and 1092  
 Anjou, Isere, Rhone-Alpes, France 📍  
 Death: November 10, 1143 (50-54)  
 Acre, The Holy Land (died from riding accident while hunting near Acre) 📍  
 Place of Burial: Church of the Holy Sepulcher, Jerusalem, Israel 📍

Fulk V, who lived from 1089 until 1143, was my 24<sup>th</sup>-great grandfather:



Fulk V died in the Holy Land in a riding accident.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fulk,\\_King\\_of\\_Jerusalem](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fulk,_King_of_Jerusalem)

### Fulk, King of Jerusalem

Fulk (Latin: Fulco, French: Foulque or Foulques), 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.

Note that he goes back on the King John "Lackland" line.

## Baldwin II, King of Jerusalem

Another of my ancestors who was King of Jerusalem is Baldwin II, who lived from 1060 until 1131:



**Baldwin** MP

French: Baudouin, Dutch: Boudewijn, Latin: Balduinus

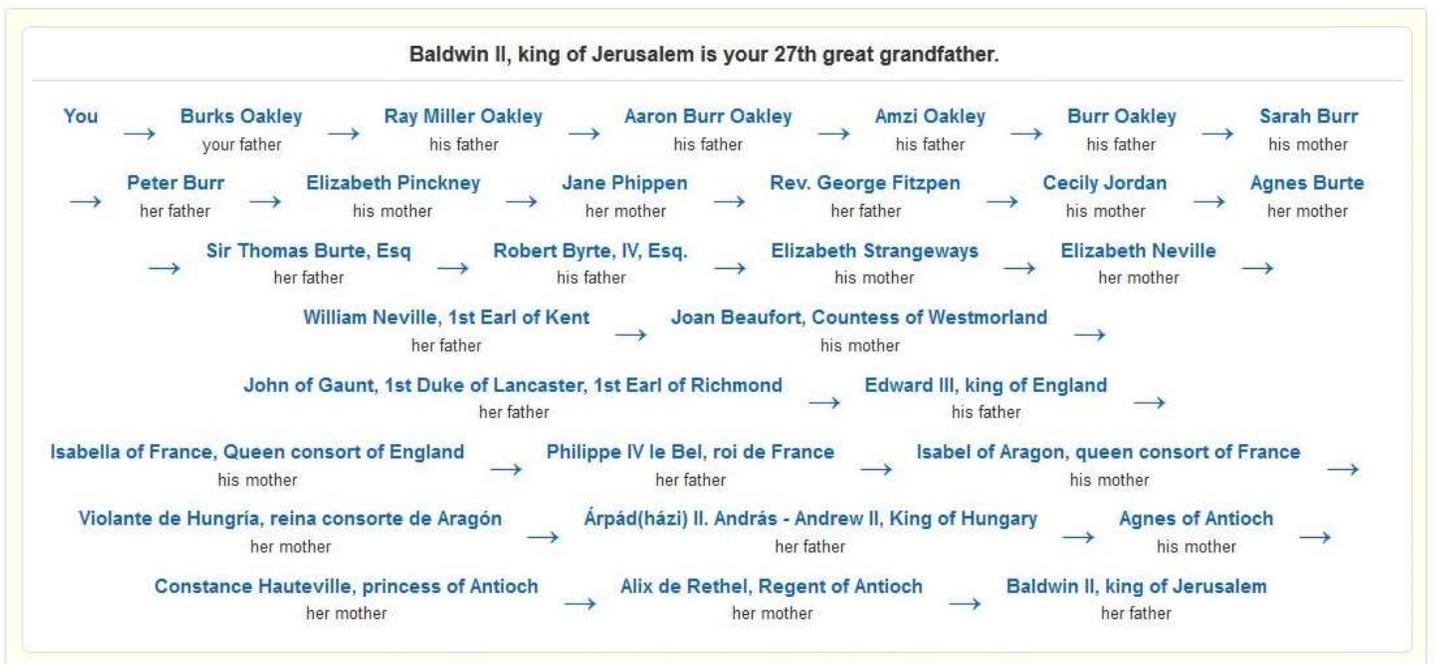
Gender: Male

Birth: 1060  
Bourg Rethel, Bourg Fidèle, Ardennes, Grand Est, France

Death: August 21, 1131 (70-71)  
Jerusalem, Israel

Place of Burial: Church of the Holy Sepulcher, Jerusalem

Baldwin II was my 27<sup>th</sup>-great grandfather:



It is interesting that my line back to Baldwin II goes on my Oakley-Burr-Pinckney line. It includes some interesting royalty, including King Edward III of England, Philippe IV le Bel, King of France, and Andrew II, King of Hungary.

## John Stanley II, King of Mann

This one is a little different (and much more recent in time). John Stanley II, was the titular “King of Mann”:



**John Stanley, II** M

Gender: Male

Birth: 1386  
Lathom, Lancashire, England M

Death: November 27, 1437 (50-51)  
Anglesey, Wales M

Place of Burial: Unknown

John lived from 1386 until 1437 and was my 17<sup>th</sup>-great grandfather:

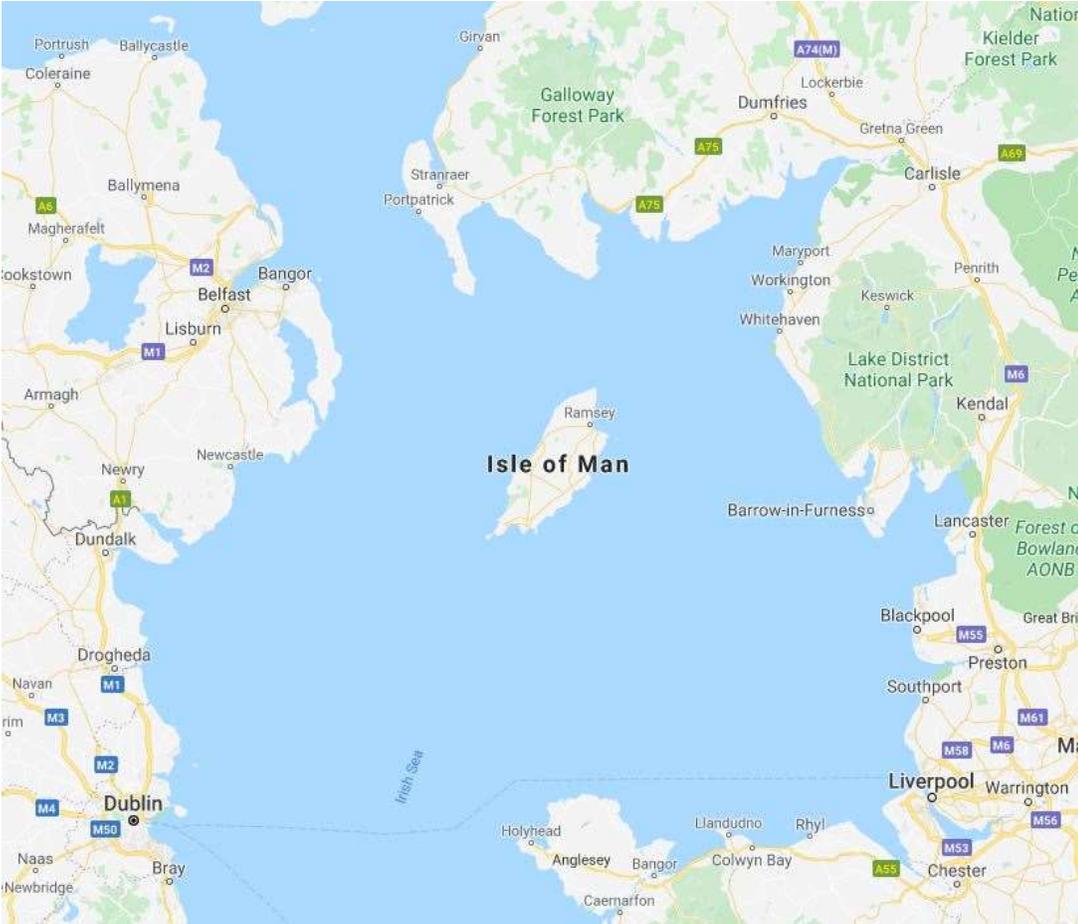


Oh my! Here is yet another ancestral line – this one goes back on my Burks-Crawford-Lester line. Wow! Another line back to European nobility that I hadn't seen previously.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sir\\_John\\_Stanley\\_\(died\\_1414\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sir_John_Stanley_(died_1414))

Sir John Stanley, KG (c. 1350–1414) of Lathom, near Ormskirk in Lancashire, was Lord Lieutenant of Ireland and titular King of Mann, the first of that name. The Stanley family later gained the title Earl of Derby and remained prominent in English history into modern times. He married a wealthy heiress Isabel Lathom which, combined with his own great abilities, allowed him to rise above the usual status of a younger son.

Here is a map showing the location of the Isle of Man (Mann), in the Irish Sea between Ireland and England:



## Saints

In looking at all my ancestral lines, I learned that several of these lines went back to Catholic Saints! I am descended from Saint Itta of Nivelles:



**Itta** MP

French: Itte

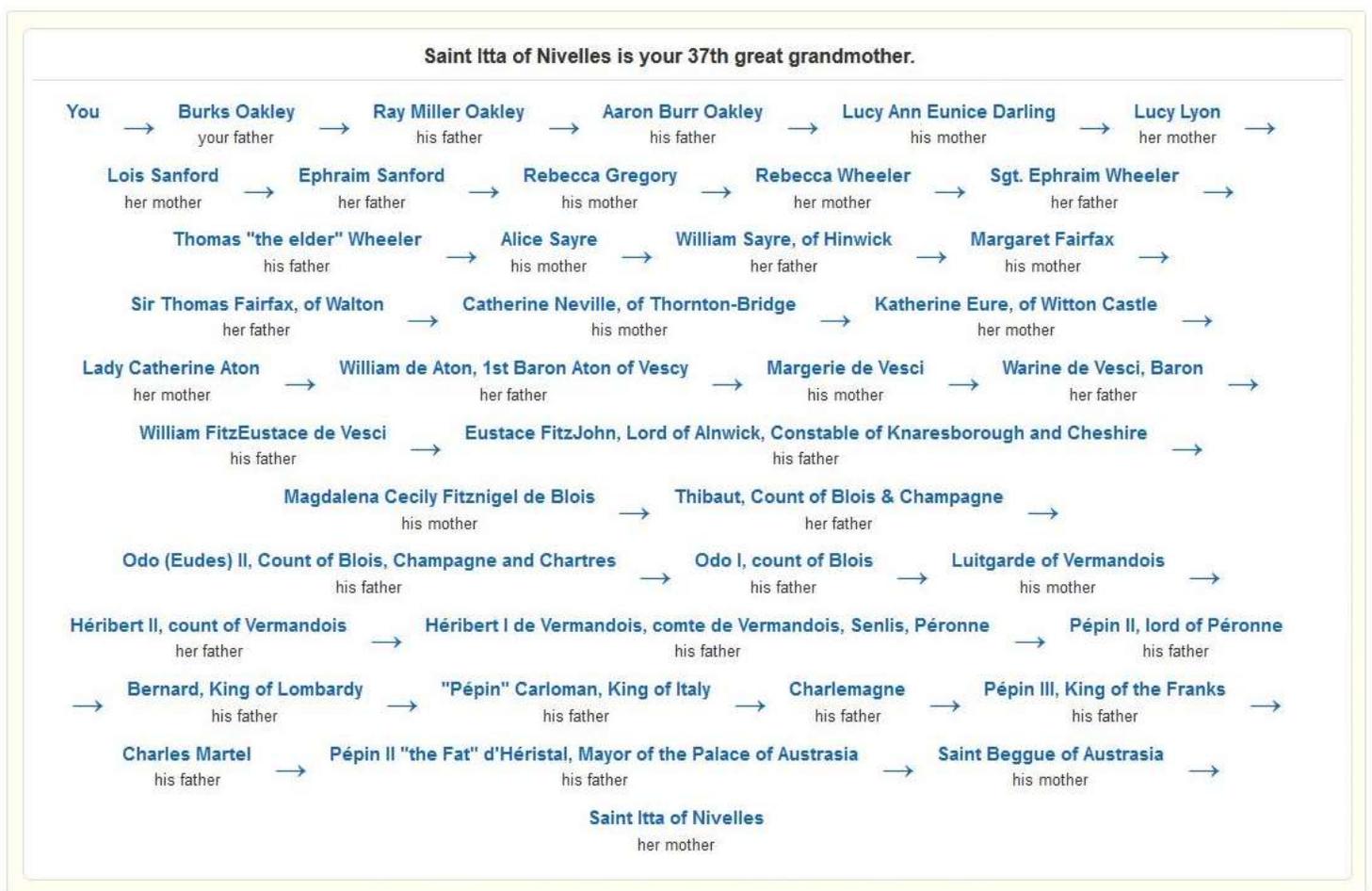
Gender: Female

Birth: circa 592  
Landen, Flemish Brabant, Flanders, Belgium

Death: May 08, 652 (55-64)  
Nivelles, Walloon Region, Belgium

Place of Burial: Abbey of Nivelles (present St. Gertrudes Collegiate Church), Nivelles, Walloon Brabant, Belgium

This one goes a long way back – Itta lived from 592 until 652, and she was my 37<sup>th</sup>-great grandmother:



[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Itta\\_of\\_Metz](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Itta_of_Metz)

Itta of Metz, O.S.B. (also Ida, Itte or Iduberga; 592–8 May 652) was the wife of Pépin of Landen, Mayor of the Palace of the Kingdom of Austrasia. After his death, she founded the Abbey of Nivelles, where she became a Colomanian nun along with her daughter, Gertrude of Nivelles. Both are honored as saints by the Catholic Church.

Nivelles is just south of Brussels. Note that my line back to her includes Charlemagne, Pépin III, Charles Martel, Pépin II “the Fat”, and her sainted daughter. A very impressive line, for sure!



Saint Itta – from <https://www.geni.com/people/Saint-Itta-of-Nivelles/6000000001867425629>

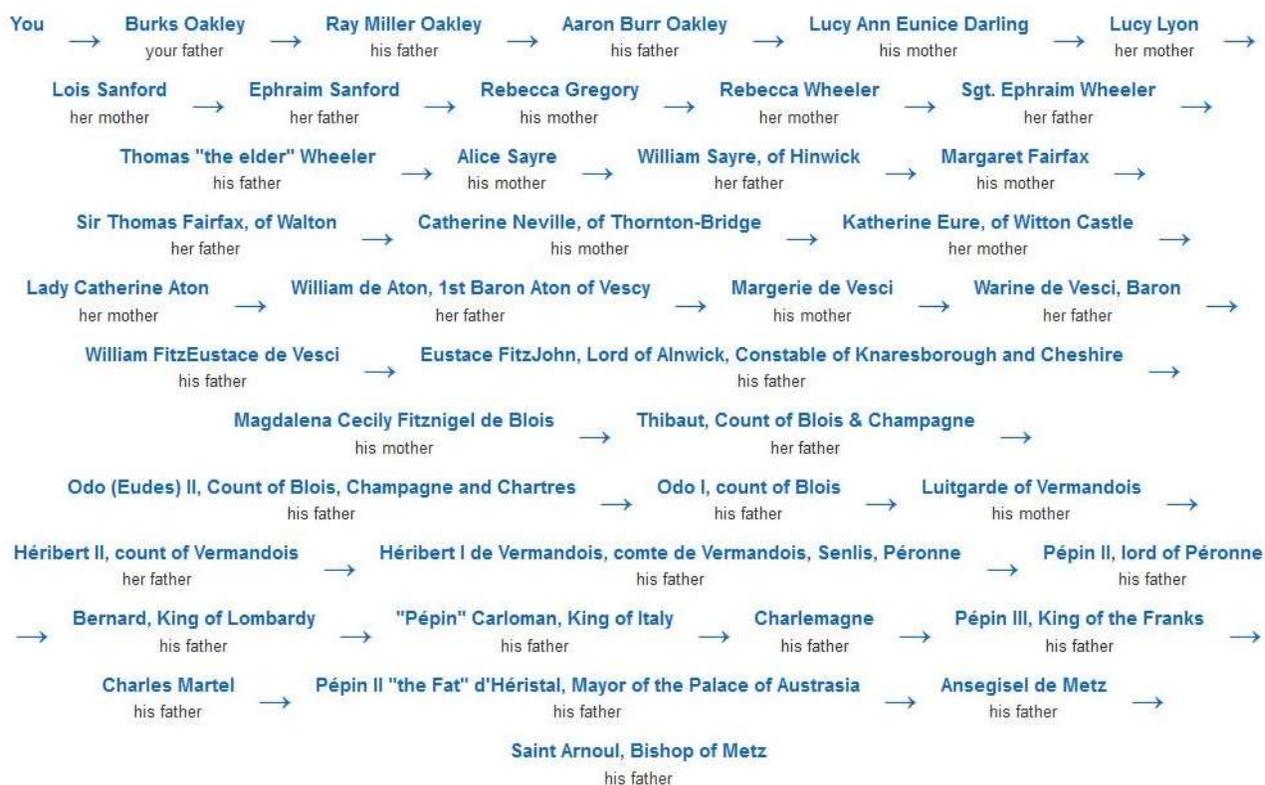
### ***Saint Arnoul, Bishop of Metz***

A second ancestor who was a saint is Arnoul, Bishop of Metz:

|   |  |
|---|--|
|  | <b>Arnoul, Bishop of Metz</b> ⓘ  |
| Gender:   | Male   |
| Birth:  | circa August 13, 582<br>Nancy, Lorraine, Frankish Kingdom ⓘ                                  |
| Death:  | July 18, 640 (53-61)<br>Remiremont Church of the Apostles, Metz, Austrasia, Lorraine, France |
| Place of Burial:  | Church of the Apostles, Metz, Moselle, Lorraine, France                                      |

He lived from 582 until 640, and was my 37<sup>th</sup>-great grandfather:

Saint Arnoul, Bishop of Metz is your 37th great grandfather.



Arnoul was the paternal grandfather of Pépin II "the Fat".

It was July 642 and very hot when the parishioners of Metz went to Remiremont to recover the remains of their former bishop. They had little to drink and the terrain was inhospitable. At the point when the exhausted procession was about to leave Champigneulle, one of the parishioners, Duc Notto, prayed "By his powerful intercession the Blessed Arnold will bring us what we lack." Immediately the small remnant of beer at the bottom of a pot multiplied in such amounts that the pilgrims' thirst was quenched and they had enough to enjoy the next evening when they arrived in Metz. **For this reason he is known as the patron saint of Brewers.**

Arnulf was canonized as a saint by the Roman Catholic Church. In iconography he is portrayed with a pastoral staff or a rake in his hand.



## Frederick II, the Holy Roman Emperor

I'm not sure where this fits in, but I learned that I am descended from Frederick II, the Holy Roman Emperor:



### Frederick II Hohenstaufen, Holy Roman Emperor

Lithuanian: Frederikas II Hohenstaufen, Šventosios Romos imperatorius, Spanish: Federico II Hohenstaufen, Sacro Emperador Romano Germánico, Italian: Federico II Hohenstaufen, Sacro Romano Imperatore, German: Friedrich II Hohenstaufen, Heiliges Römisches Kaiser

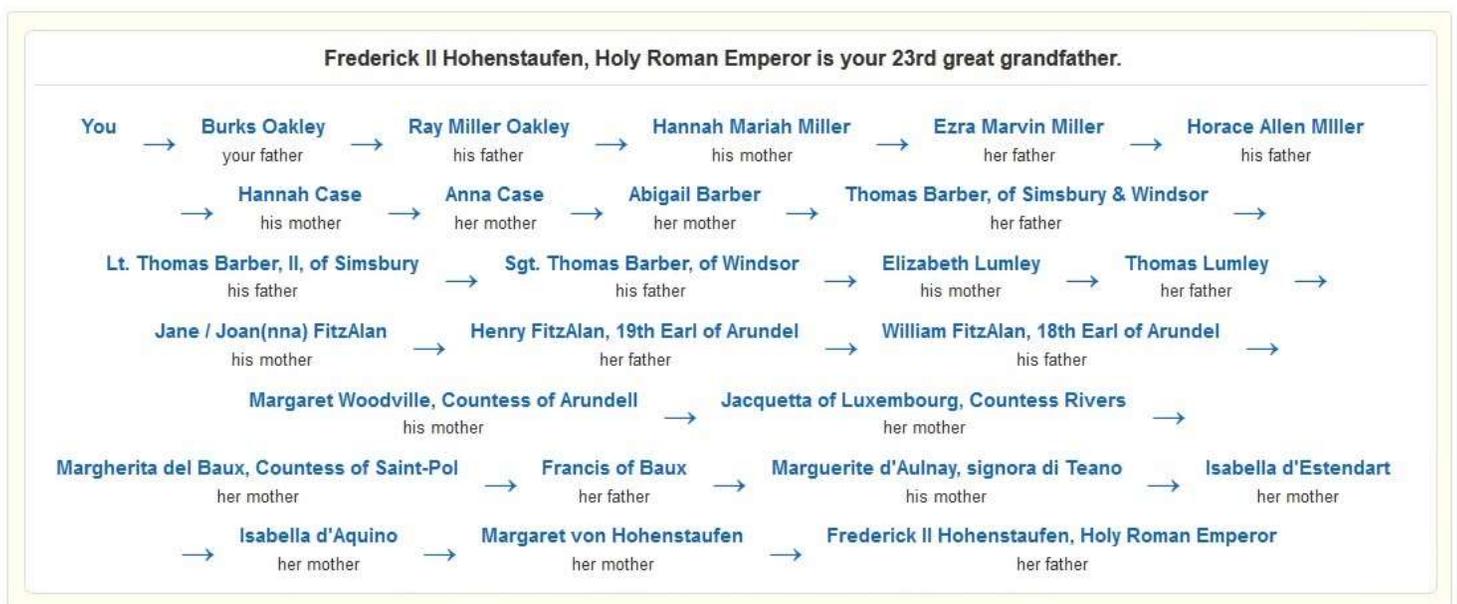
Gender: Male

Birth: December 26, 1194  
Jesi, Province of Ancona, Marche, Italy

Death: December 13, 1250 (55)  
Castel Fiorentino, Torremaggiore, Provincia di Foggia, Puglia, Italy

Place of Burial: Cathedral, Palermo, Sicilia

Frederick II was my 23<sup>rd</sup>-great grandfather:



My connection to Frederick II goes back on my Oakley-Miller-Case-Barber line (same as King Edward IV).

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frederick\\_II,\\_Holy\\_Roman\\_Emperor](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frederick_II,_Holy_Roman_Emperor)

Frederick II (1194-1250) was King of Sicily from 1198, King of Germany from 1212, King of Italy and Holy Roman Emperor from 1220 and King of Jerusalem from 1225. He was the son of emperor Henry VI of the Hohenstaufen dynasty and of Constance, heiress to the Norman kings of Sicily.

His political and cultural ambitions were enormous as he ruled a vast area, beginning with Sicily and stretching through Italy all the way north to Germany. As the Crusades progressed, he acquired control of Jerusalem and styled himself its king. However, the Papacy became his enemy, and it eventually prevailed. Viewing himself as a direct successor to the Roman emperors of antiquity, he was Emperor of the Romans from his papal coronation in 1220 until his death; he was also a claimant to the title of King of the Romans from 1212 and unopposed holder of that monarchy from 1215. As such, he was King of Germany, of Italy, and of Burgundy.

Frequently at war with the papacy, which was hemmed in between Frederick's lands in northern Italy and his Kingdom of Sicily (the Regno) to

the south, he was excommunicated three times and often vilified in pro-papal chronicles of the time and after.

Speaking six languages (Latin, Sicilian, Middle High German, Langues d'oïl, Greek and Arabic), Frederick was an avid patron of science and the arts. He played a major role in promoting literature through the Sicilian School of poetry. His Sicilian royal court in Palermo, beginning around 1220, saw the first use of a literary form of an Italo-Romance language, Sicilian. The poetry that emanated from the school had a significant influence on literature and on what was to become the modern Italian language. He was also the first king to formally outlaw trial by ordeal, which had come to be viewed as superstitious.

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### ***Who were the immigrants who connect me with European nobility?***

I have described a number of different ancestral lines in this narrative – what do they all have in common? They all descended from English immigrants, right? I'll now review the various ancestral lines.

#### **Oakley-Miller-Case line – Thomas Barber (immigrant)**

- King Edward IV – 17GG
- Frederick II, the Holy Roman Emperor – 23GG

| <b>Sgt. Thomas Barber, of Windsor</b> |   |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Gender:                               | Male  |
| Birth:                                | December 21, 1612<br>Stamford, Lincolnshire, England      |
| Death:                                | September 11, 1662 (49)<br>Windsor, Hartford, Connecticut |

#### **Oakley-Burr-Pinckney line – George Fitzpen Phippen (immigrant)**

- King Edward III – 18GG
- King Edward II – 19GG
- King Edward I – 20GG
- Baldwin II, King of Jerusalem – 27GG

| <b>George Fitzpen Phippen, A.M.</b> |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Gender:                             | Male  |
| Birth:                              | circa 1584<br>Melcombe Regis, Weymouth, Dorset, England |
| Death:                              | March 01, 1650 (61-70)<br>Truro, Cornwall, England      |

#### **Oakley-Darling-Lyon line – Elizabeth Lamberton (immigrant)**

- King John I – 21GG
- Fulk V, King of Jerusalem – 24GG

| <b>Elizabeth Lamberton</b> |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| Gender:                    | Female   |
| Birth:                     | November 05, 1632<br>London, Middlesex, England                           |
| Death:                     | May 07, 1716 (83)<br>West Haven, New Haven County, Connecticut<br>Colony  |

## **Oakley-Darling-Lyon-Trowbridge** – William Trowbridge (immigrant)

- William the Conqueror, King of England

| <b>William Trowbridge</b> |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| Gender:                   | Male  |
| Birth:                    | 1633<br>Exeter, Devon, England   |
| Death:                    | November 01, 1688 (54-55)<br>New Haven, New Haven County, Connecticut<br>Colony  |

## **Oakley-Darling-Lyon-Sanford line** – Ephraim Wheeler (immigrant)

- Alfred the Great, King of the Anglo-Saxons – 30GG
- Eustace FitzJohn, Lord of Alnwick – 21GG
- Pépin II, Mayor of the Palace of Austrasia – 35GG
- Charles Martel, Mayor of the Palace – 34GG
- Pépin III, King of the Franks – 33GG
- Charlemagne, Emperor of the Romans – 32GG
- Robert I, King of France – 28GG
- Henry I “the Fowler”, King of Germany – 28GG
- Saint Itta of Nivelles – 37GG
- Saint Arnoul, Bishop of Metz – 37GG

| <b>Ephraim Wheeler</b> |  |
|------------------------|--|
| Gender:                | Male   |
| Birth:                 | circa 1618<br>Bourne End, Cranfield, Bedfordshire, England<br>(United Kingdom)             |
| Death:                 | November 01, 1670 (47-56)<br>Stratford, Fairfield County, Connecticut,<br>Colonial America |

## **Oakley-Darling-More line** – Richard More (immigrant)

- William de Ferrières, 3<sup>rd</sup> Earl of Derby – 22GG
- Philip Auguste, King of France – 24GG

| <b>Captain Richard More</b> |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Gender:                     | Male  |
| Birth:                      | before November 13, 1614<br>Shipton, Shropshire, England                                     |
| Death:                      | 1692<br>Salem, Essex County, Massachusetts, Colonial<br>America (Date on tombstone is 1692)  |
| Place of Burial:            | Old Burying Ground, Salem, Essex County,<br>Massachusetts, United States                     |

### **Oakley-Miller-Tripp-Mosher line – William Deuell (immigrant)**

- Hugh Capet, roi des Frans – 27GG
- Robert II Capet, King of the Franks – 25GG

| <b>William B. Deuell</b> |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| Gender:                  | Male  |
| Birth:                   | June 04, 1615<br>Spalding, Lincolnshire, England, United Kingdom  |
| Death:                   | August 29, 1680 (65)<br>Newport, Aquidneck Island (Present Newport County), Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations |
| Place of Burial:         | Newport, Newport County, Rhode Island, United States of America   |

### **Oakley-Darling-Lyon-Sanford line – Thomas Sanford (immigrant)**

- Sverker the Elder, King of Sweden – 26GG

| <b>Thomas Sanford</b> |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| Gender:               | Male  |
| Birth:                | August 1607<br>Hatfield Broad Oak, Essex, England |
| Death:                | October 09, 1681 (74)<br>Milford, New Haven, CT   |
| Place of Burial:      | Milford, New Haven County, Connecticut            |

### **Oakley-Darling-Lyon-Mallory line – Mary Preston (immigrant)**

- Malcolm III, King of Scots – 25GG

| <b>Mary Preston</b> |  |
|---------------------|--|
| Gender:             | Female   |
| Birth:              | circa December 13, 1629<br>Chesham, Buckinghamshire, England  |
| Death:              | December 1690 (56-65)<br>Fairfield, Fairfield County, Connecticut Colony   |

### **Oakley-Burks-Crawford-Lester line – Thomas Warren**

- John Stanley II, King of Mann – 17GG

| <b>Thomas Warren</b> |  |
|----------------------|--|
| Gender:              | Male   |
| Birth:               | May 25, 1604<br>Poyton, Stockport, Cheshire, England  |
| Death:               | December 20, 1677 (73)<br>James City County, Virginia  |

This is the first immigrant to go from England to Virginia and not to New England! And note that this was the only line to go through the Burks side of my family – everyone else was on the Oakley side of my family. And the Burks family immigrated through Virginia.

## Oakley-Miller-Bacon line – Dr. Patience Bacon (immigrant)

- Matthew de Lovaine, Knight

|   |   |
|---|---|
|  | <b>Dr. Patience Bacon</b>   |
| Gender:   | Female  |
| Birth:  | circa 1631<br>Of Ipswich, Essex, England  |
| Death:  | November 29, 1716 (80-89)<br>Northampton, Hampshire County,<br>Massachusetts    |
| Place of Burial:  | Bridge Street Cemetery, Northampton,<br>Hampshire, Massachusetts, United States |

I believe that covers all the ancestral lines presented in this narrative. Several things stand out to me. First, all of these lines all go back to English immigrants who came to America in the 1600's – in most cases, the early 1600's. Even though many of the ancestors described in this narrative were from other European countries, all had descendants who ended up in England and at some point, their descendants immigrated to America. In addition, all but one of the English immigrants ended up in New England – the single exception being someone who went to Virginia. Finally, I am amazed at all the different lines that I have that go back to European nobility. It isn't just one or two family lines that connect me to nobility, but by my count, eleven different ancestral lines. I'm sure that there must be more.

---

### *How far back is my oldest ancestor?*

As I was looking at all of my ancestors going back to the early Middle Ages, I wondered who would be the greatest number of generations back. By trial and error, I found Grimoald I, Duke of the Lombards, who was born in 610 in Italy:

|                                 |   |
|---------------------------------|---|
| <b>Grimoald</b> <span>MP</span> |   |
| Italian: Grimoaldo              |   |
| Gender:                         | Male  |
| Birth:                          | circa 610<br>Cividale del Friuli, Province of Udine, Friuli-<br>Venezia Giulia, Italy |
| Death:                          | 671 (56-65)<br>Pavia, Provincia di Pavia, Lombardia, Italy                            |

He was my 40<sup>th</sup>-great grandfather:



[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grimoald,\\_King\\_of\\_the\\_Lombards](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grimoald,_King_of_the_Lombards)

Grimoald was born in 610 A.D. as the heir of Duke Gisulf II of Friuli and the Bavarian Princess Ramhilde, daughter of Duke Garibald I of Bavaria. From 641 to 642, he and his brother Radoald served as regents to Duke Aiulf I,[2] their adoptive brother. In 647, Grimoald succeeded Radoald as Duke of Benevento.[2] In 662, he assassinated King Godepert and proclaimed himself King of the Lombards. He married Princess Theodota, daughter of King Aripert I.

Geni.com has his father and grandfather in the "Word Family Tree" – so his grandfather is my 42<sup>nd</sup>-great grandfather:



Gisulf I was born in 540, almost 1500 years ago.

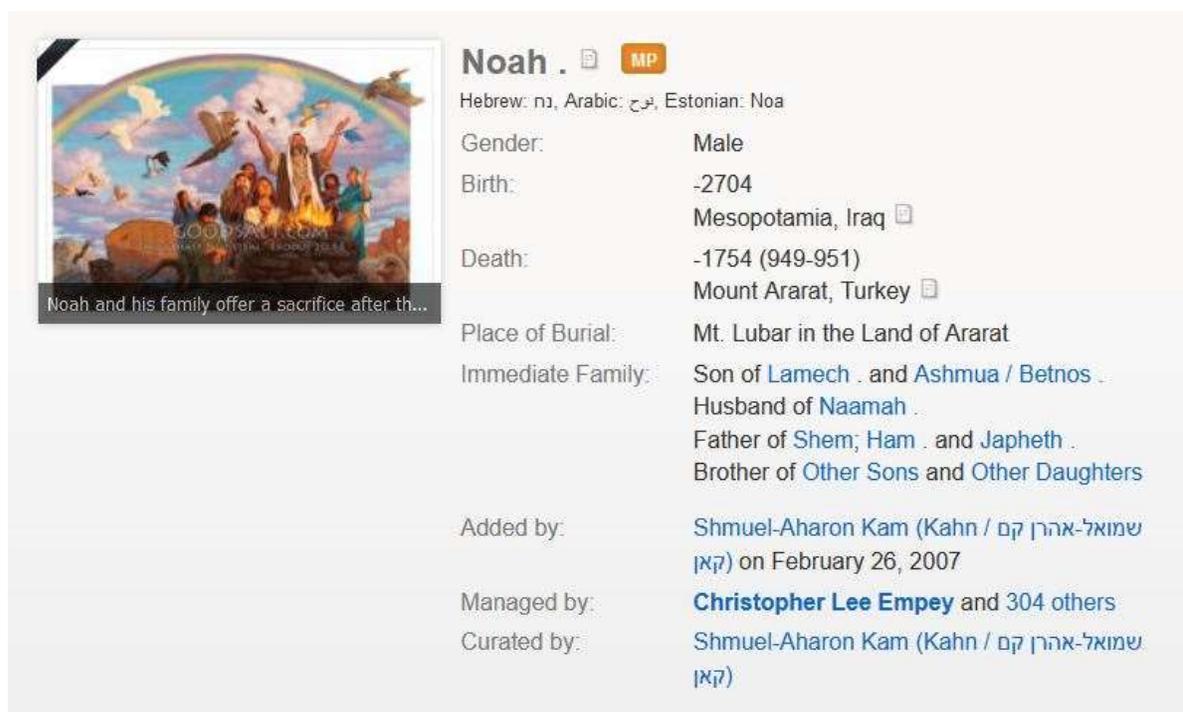
***How Far Back Does Geni.com Go?***

It was really cool to see all of my connections to European nobility in the early Middle Ages. I can't believe how far back some of these lines go. Out of curiosity, I sent an e-mail to Mike Stangel, who is the General Manager of Geni.com – and

one of my former students in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering at the University of Illinois. Mike worked for me as an undergraduate student employee (and maybe as a graduate assistant). I asked him how far back it was possible to go on Geni.com. Mike wrote back and informed me that I was descended from Adam (of the Garden of Eden and the book of Genesis in the Bible):



Wow! This is pretty amazing (but not very believable). I followed this line, and found that it included Noah:



Noah lived from -2704 to -1754, a life of some 950 years. I noticed that Noah was descended from Adam, and it turns out that Noah was my 114<sup>th</sup> great grandfather:



I won't bother showing the line, but it includes Vladimir Monomakh Vsevolodich (26GG), 'Ubayd bin 'Adi bin Usama (46GG), Imaam Ma'ad Imaam 'Adnaan (62GG), and Patriarch Abraham (105GG). How cool is this – I'm descended from Abraham, Noah, and Adam!!!



## *Summary*

In this incredibly lengthy narrative, I discussed the “World Family Tree” on Geni.com, and how once I connected to this tree, it showed my ancestral lines to a wide range of European nobility from the Middle Ages. My ancestors include kings from England, France, Sweden, Scotland, Germany, and even the Kingdom of Jerusalem. There are numerous knights, barons, and earls among my ancestors, and I highlighted a few of them in the narrative. I also found ancestral lines back to several Catholic saints, one of whom is the patron saint of brewers.

Interestingly, all of my ancestral lines back to European nobility connect back through English immigrants who came to America in the early 1600’s. The most “prolific” line was the Oakley-Darling-Lyon-Sanford line going back through the English immigrant Sgt. Ephraim Wheeler (1618-1670). Ephraim Wheeler was born in Bourne End, Bedfordshire, England,<sup>2</sup> and he died in Stratford, Fairfield County, Connecticut. Through him, I connect back to Alfred the Great, Pépin II, Charlemagne, and Saints Itta and Arnoul, among others.

One of the lines I found connected me to a 42<sup>nd</sup>-great grandfather, who was born nearly 1500 years ago. I also found that the “World Family Tree” on Geni.com connects me to Abraham, Noah, and Adam, which was good for a few laughs.

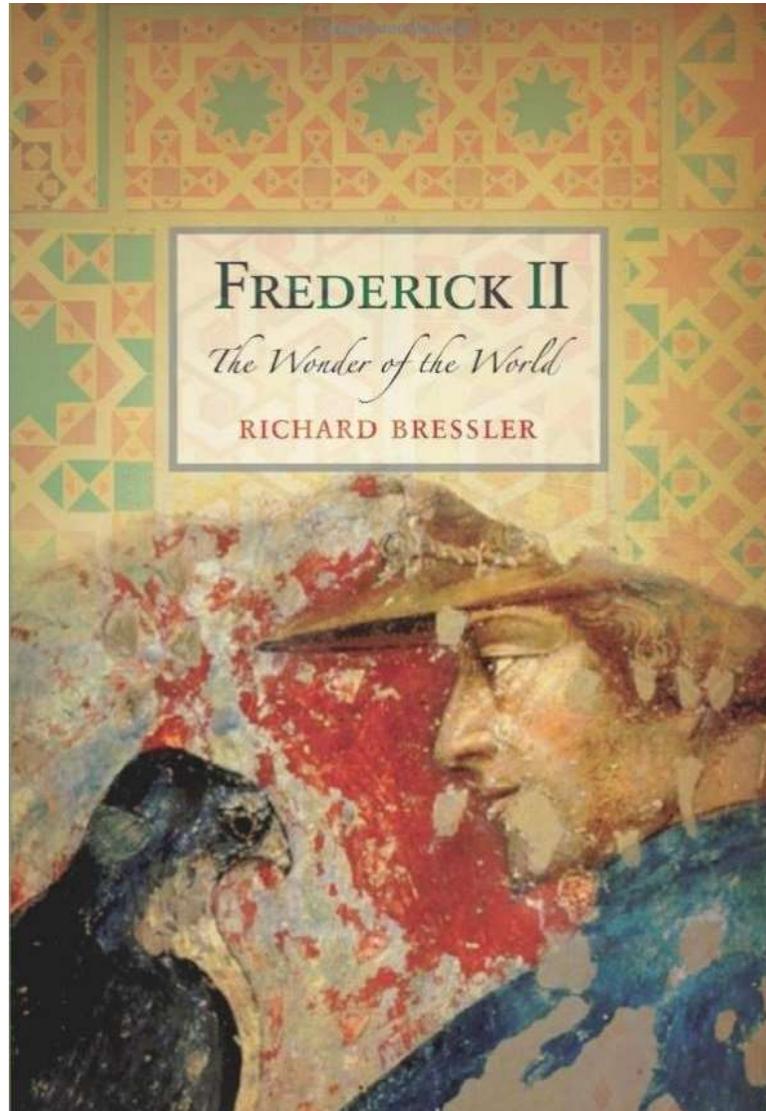
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<sup>2</sup> Bourne End is less than a 10-mile drive from Oakley, Bedfordshire, where I visited in September 2019. I enjoyed a wonderful Sunday roast at the Bedford Arms in Oakley on that visit.

## *Appendix*

### Frederick II – The Holy Roman Emperor

In this narrative, I showed that I am descended from Frederick II, the Holy Roman Emperor. In fact, he was my 23<sup>rd</sup>-great grandfather. This is pretty cool, since my golfing buddy for many years was Rich Bressler, and in 2015, he wrote a book about Frederick II:



*Frederick II: The Wonder of the World* – publish October 6, 2015  
by Richard D. Bressler (Author)

#### A Medieval King Who Embraced the Arts and Sciences

One of the most remarkable personalities of the Middle Ages, Frederick II of Hohenstaufen was born in 1194. His parents — the reigning Holy Roman Emperor and the heiress to the Kingdom of Sicily — belonged to two of the leading ruling families in medieval Europe. The lands controlled by these two families extended from southern Denmark to Sicily, from modern Belgium to Bohemia. Frederick II eventually ruled the joint kingdom, and the story of how he gained and maintained this status is the primary thread running through his life. As a child in Sicily, Frederick was a ward of Pope Innocent III. When he came of age, he sought to be crowned Holy Roman Emperor, but only succeeded in 1220 after many years of negotiations with the Vatican, which was reluctant to give up or share power. Resenting the influence and pressure from the papacy, Frederick became its leading opponent. As a result, the new pope, Gregory IX, condemned Frederick as

the Antichrist. However, Frederick believed he was a sincere Christian, and led the Sixth Crusade to the Holy Land while under excommunication.

As a ruler, Frederick was unusually modern in his sensibilities. Sicily was a cultural melting pot in the thirteenth century and Frederick ended up speaking several languages. He protected Jews and Muslims in his realms and prosecuted Christian heretics throughout his thirty-year reign. Frederick was married three times and had four legitimate and eleven illegitimate children. He was a polymath with interests ranging from sculpture, architecture, and poetry to mathematics and science in many forms, earning him admiration from his contemporaries who called him *Stupor mundi*, "Wonder of the World." His lifelong interest in hunting with birds of prey led to the writing of the classic work *De Arte Venandi cum Avibus* (The Art of Falconry), which is still in print. Based on the latest scholarship and written for the general reader, *Frederick II: The Wonder of the World* by Richard Bressler provides the complete story of this complex and fascinating man.

This book is available from [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com).