

Chapter 55

My Ancestors Who Were Sureties of the Magna Carta

[originally written 27 July 2020]

Introduction

I have been using the Geni.com website to learn about my ancestors who lived in Europe in the Middle Ages. Geni.com has what they call the “World Family Tree”. Unlike Ancestry.com, where everyone has their own complete (or incomplete) family tree, Geni.com is having its users collaboratively build just a single family tree. On Ancestry.com, there can be one thousand or more duplicate entries for the same person – and these entries often have conflicting information. On Geni.com, there should only be one entry on the entire website for any given person. Individual users on Geni.com can add their ancestral lines until they connect with people already in the World Family Tree. And then their lines immediately become part of this enormous family tree. As of late July 2020, there are over 145 million individuals in the World Family Tree – see:

<https://www.geni.com/worldfamilytree>

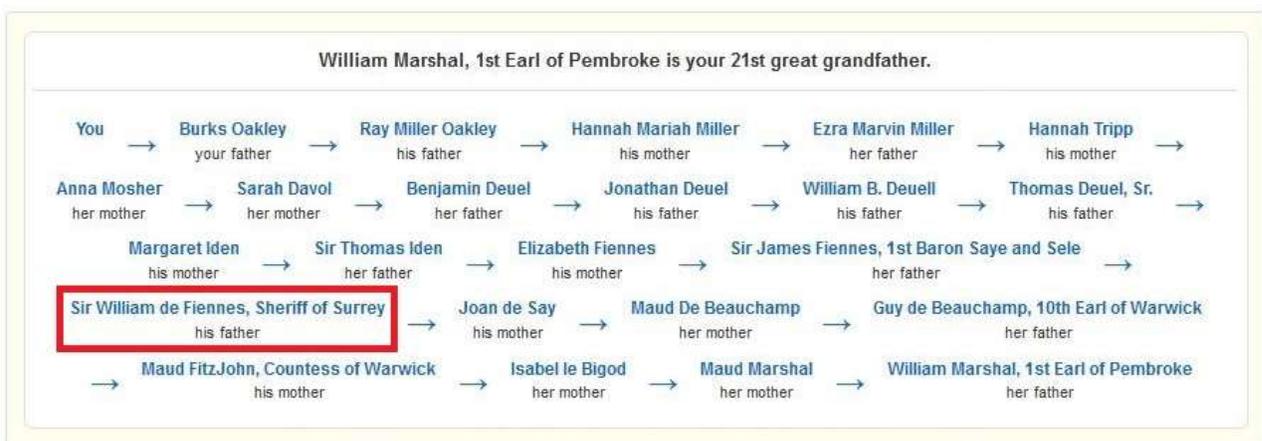
Over the past year, I have added various lines from my family tree to Geni.com, and then connected these lines to individuals already in the World Family Tree. Using Geni.com, I have found a number of my ancestral lines that go back twenty or even thirty generations into the past.

I recently wrote about Sir William Marshal, 1st Earl of Pembroke – “The Best Knight that Ever Lived”. See:

<http://www.burksoakley.com/QuincyOakleyGenealogy/54-WilliamMarshal.pdf>

Sir William Marshal was my 21st-great grandfather, and he lived from 1146 until 1219.

Here is my ancestral line back to Sir William Marshal:



The line back to Sir William Marshal included Sir William de Fiennes, Sheriff of Surrey. I was intrigued by the “Sheriff of Surrey” designation, so I decided to look at him in greater detail.

Sir William de Fiennes, Sheriff of Surrey

Here is some information about Sir William de Fiennes (1357-1402) from his profile on Geni.com:

	Sir William de Fiennes, Sheriff of Surrey
Birth:	before August 01, 1357 Hurstmonceux Sussex, Herstmonceux, East Sussex, England, United Kingdom
Death:	1402 Chevening, Kent, England, United Kingdom
Place of Burial:	Hurstmonceaux, Sussex, England
Immediate Family:	Son of Sir William Fiennes, Knight and Joan de Say Husband of Elizabeth Battsford Father of Sir Roger Dacre Fiennes ; Sir James Fiennes, 1st Baron Saye and Sele and Richard Fynes Fiennes

It appears that his son was responsible for building Herstmonceux Castle where they lived in Sussex. See:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Herstmonceux_Castle

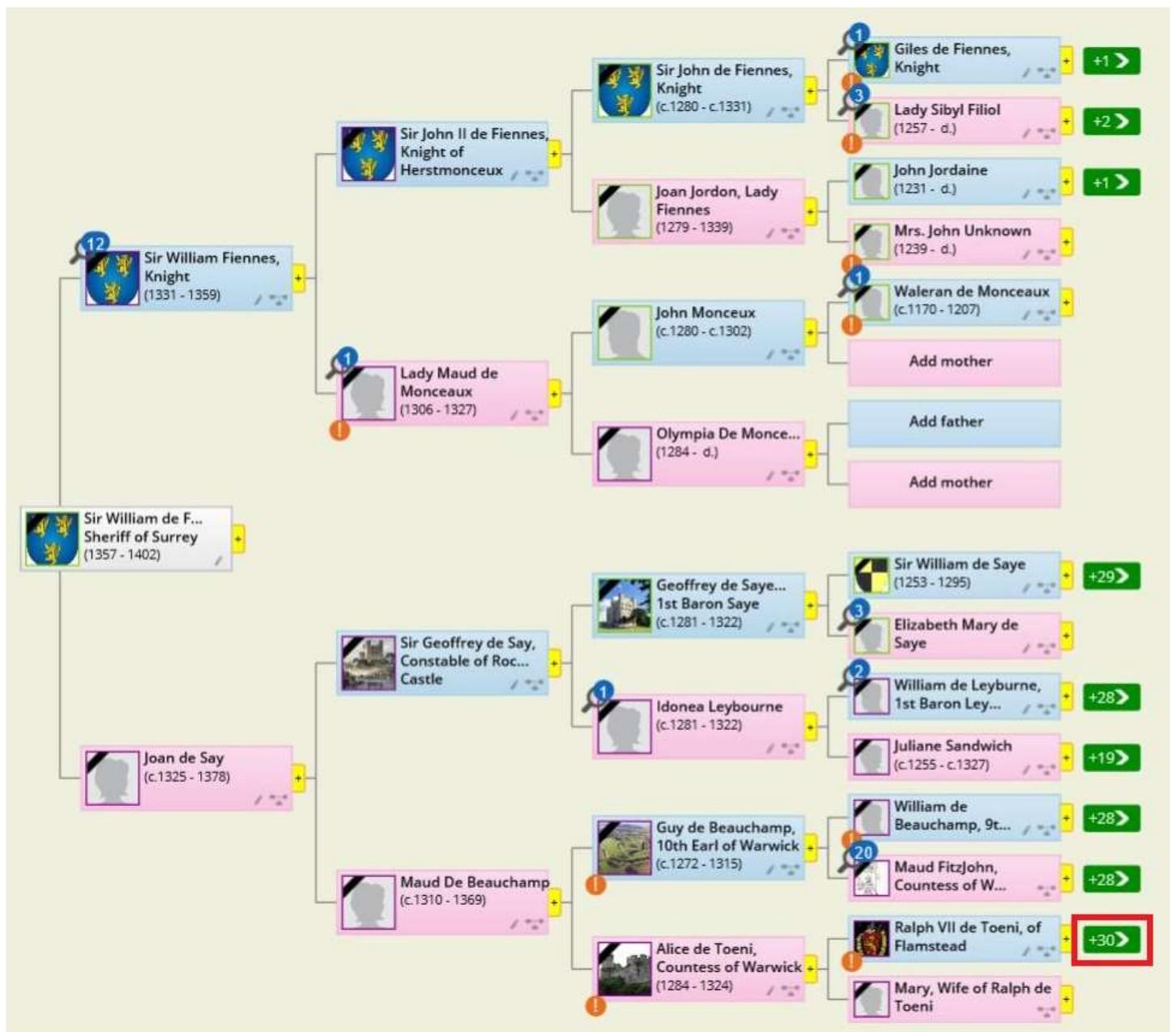
Herstmonceux Castle is a brick-built castle, dating from the 15th century, near Herstmonceux, East Sussex, England. It is one of the oldest significant brick buildings still standing in England. The castle was renowned for being one of the first buildings to use that material in England and was built using bricks taken from the local clay, by builders from Flanders. It dates from 1441. Construction began under the then-owner, Sir Roger Fiennes, and was continued after his death in 1449 by his son, Lord Dacre.



Herstmonceux Castle

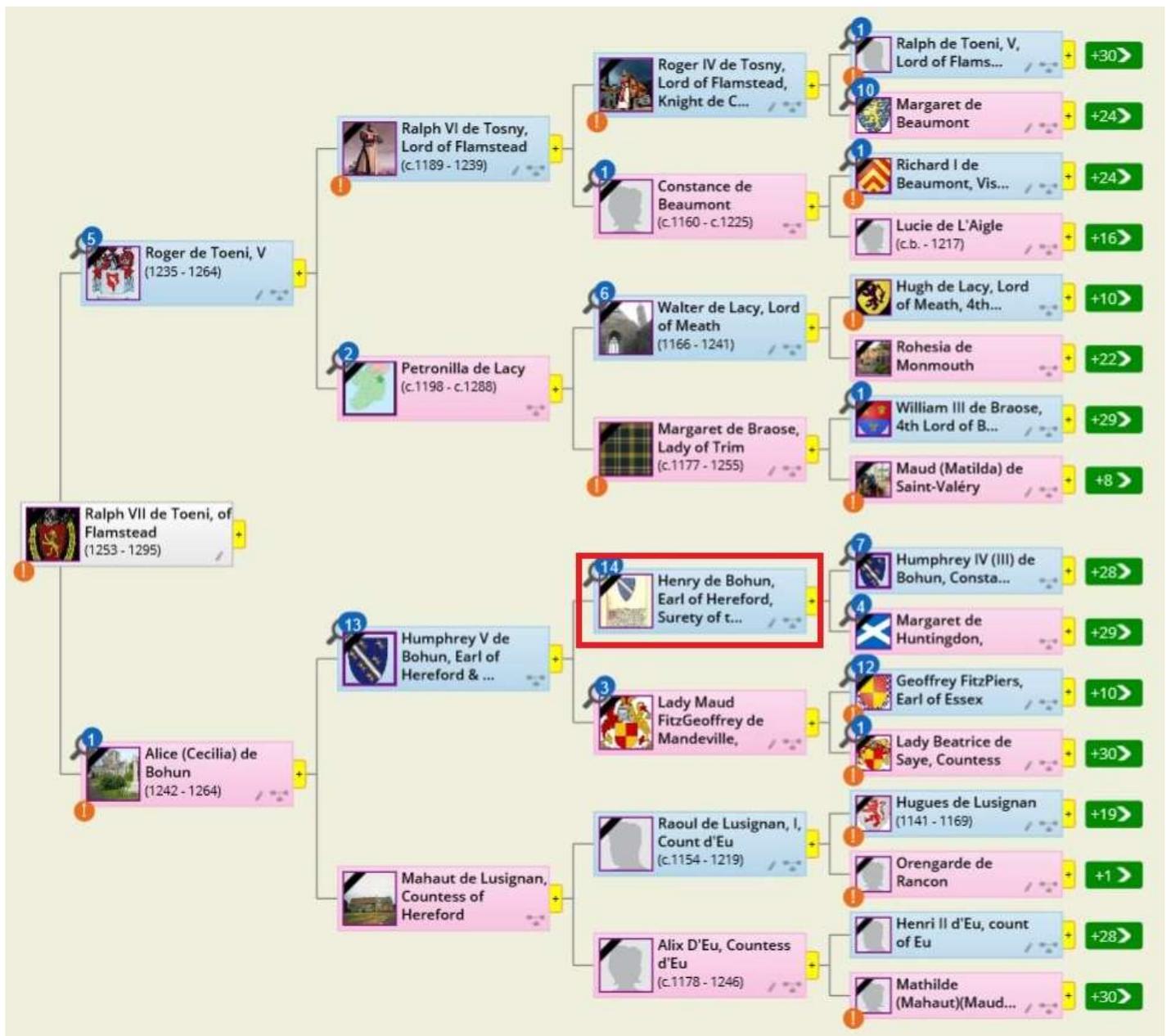
More at: <https://www.herstmonceux-castle.com/about/>

I next looked at Sir William's pedigree:



Wow! His pedigree is amazingly complete, considering how far back into the past it goes. Recall that the numbers in the green boxes at the right side of this pedigree chart are the number of "new" ancestors that one will view on the "next" screen. At this resolution, the maximum number of new ancestors is +30.

I saw that the number in the green box for Ralph VII de Toeni, of Flamstead, was +30 (see the red box in the lower right corner of the pedigree above). I decided to follow this line and see where it took me. Here is the pedigree chart for Ralph VII de Toeni (remember that these people are also MY ancestors):



It is amazing to see all the spaces filled in this chart. And there are several lines at the right with +29 or +30, meaning that there still are lots more ancestors to view in earlier generations. But I stopped when I saw Henry de Bohun, Earl of Hereford, Surety of the Magna Carta (red box in the middle of the chart above):



Henry de Bohun, Earl of Hereford, Surety of the Magna Carta

Gender: Male

Birth: circa 1176
Warwick, Warwickshire, England

Death: June 01, 1220 (39-48)
Holy Land, Palestine (The 5th Crusade, during pilgrimage to the Holy Land)

Place of Burial: Chapter-house of Llanthony Abbey, Gloucestershire, England

Immediate Family: Son of Humphrey IV (III) de Bohun, Constable of England, Earl of Hereford and Margaret de Huntingdon, Princess of Scotland
Husband of Lady Maud FitzGeoffrey de Mandeville, Countess of Essex
Father of Sir Ralph de Bohun and Humphrey V de Bohun, Earl of Hereford & Essex

I've seen several other ancestors who had the designation "Surety of the Magna Carta". I have to confess that I didn't know what that meant. At this point, I needed to step back and look first into the Magna Carta, to make sure I understood what it was and what it represented.

The Magna Carta

Of course, I went straight to the Wikipedia entry for the Magna Carta, and here is a short excerpt (edited lightly for clarity):

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Magna_Carta

Magna Carta Libertatum (Medieval Latin for “Great Charter of Freedoms”), commonly called Magna Carta, is a royal charter of rights agreed to by King John of England 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, and all this was to be implemented through a council of twenty-five barons.

After John’s death, the regency government of his young son, Henry III, reissued the document in 1216, stripped of some of its more radical content, in an unsuccessful bid to build political support for their cause. Henry reissued the charter again in 1225 in exchange for a grant of new taxes. His son, Edward I, repeated the exercise in 1297, this time confirming it as part of England’s statute law. The charter became part of English political life and was typically renewed by each monarch in turn, although as time went by and the fledgling Parliament of England passed new laws, it lost some of its practical significance.

At the end of the 16th century, there was an upsurge in interest in Magna Carta. Lawyers and historians at the time believed that there was an ancient English constitution, going back to the days of the Anglo-Saxons, that protected individual English freedoms. They argued that the Norman invasion of 1066 had overthrown these rights, and that Magna Carta had been a popular attempt to restore them, making the charter an essential foundation for the contemporary powers of Parliament and legal principles such as *habeas corpus*.

The Magna Carta influenced the early American colonists in the Thirteen Colonies and the formation of the United States Constitution, which became the supreme law of the land in the new republic of the United States.

The Magna Carta still forms an important symbol of liberty today, often cited by politicians and campaigners, and is held in great respect by the British and American legal communities. Lord Denning described it as “the greatest constitutional document of all times – the foundation of the freedom of the individual against the arbitrary authority of the despot”.

In the 21st century, four exemplifications of the original 1215 charter remain in existence, two at the British Library, one at Lincoln Castle and one at Salisbury Cathedral. The four original 1215 charters were displayed together at the British Library for one day, 3 February 2015, to mark the 800th anniversary of Magna Carta.

Another Google search turned up:

What is the Magna Carta in simple terms?

The Magna Carta was a document signed by King John after negotiations with his barons and their French and Scots allies at Runnymede, Surrey, England in 1215. ... It is one of the most celebrated documents in the history of England. It is recognized as a cornerstone of the idea of the liberty of citizens.

While that seems like an oversimplification, I now have a better idea what the Magna Carta was.

Surety of the Magna Carta

I next looked up the definition of surety:

sur·e·ty

noun: surety; plural noun: sureties

a person who takes responsibility for another's performance of an undertaking, for example their appearing in court or the payment of a debt.

I then did a Google search on:

surety of the Magna Carta

One of the top hits from this search was "The 25 Barons of Magna Carta" from the magnacarta800th.com website:

magnacarta800th.com › schools › biographies › the-25... ▼

The 25 Barons of Magna Carta | Magna Carta Trust 800th ...

The committee of Twenty Five were a group of barons in the forefront of the opposition to King John who were entrusted by the terms of clause 61 of **Magna ...**

[John de Lacy](#) · [Robert de Ros](#) · [Roger Bigod and Hugh Bigod](#) · [Robert Fitzwalter](#)

You visited this page on 7/25/20.

This article was a good introduction to the topic, and included the following:

<https://magnacarta800th.com/schools/biographies/the-25-barons-of-magna-carta/>

The committee of Twenty Five were a group of barons in the forefront of the opposition to King John who were entrusted by the terms of clause 61 of Magna Carta to ensure the king's compliance with its terms.

From the outset, the opposition barons had been aware of the danger that, once King John had left Runnymede (where he signed the Magna Carta), he would renege on the Charter on the grounds that it constituted an illegitimate infringement of his authority. The barons came up with a novel solution to the problem in the famous clause 61, the security clause. In this, King John conceded that 'the barons shall choose any twenty-five barons of the realm as they wish, who with all their might are to observe, maintain and cause to be observed the peace and liberties which we have granted'. Any infringement of the charter's terms by the king or his

officials was to be notified to any four of the committee; and, if within forty days no remedy or redress had been offered, then the king was to empower the full committee to 'distrain and distress us in every way they can, namely by seizing castles, lands and possessions' until he made amends. In this remarkable clause, then, the charter introduced the novelty of obliging the king to sanction and institute armed action against none other than himself.

Since the clause anticipated the election of the twenty-five at some time in the future, their names are not actually listed in the charter. Consequently, the committee's composition is known principally from the list given later in his chronicle by Matthew Paris, the celebrated chronicler of St. Albans Abbey.

It is noteworthy that these men were all layfolk, and for the most part members of the hardline baronial opposition to the king. The committee was seen in clear terms as a committee of enforcers, a group whose main responsibilities were to be of a military nature.

Another result on the first page of the Google search was:

[www.geni.com](#) › projects › Magna-Carta-Sureties-and-... ▼

[Magna Carta Sureties and Witnesses - Geni](#)

The **Magna Carta** was an English charter, originally issued in the year 1215. The charter first passed into law in 1225. The 1297 version, with the long title (...

You've visited this page 4 times. Last visit: 7/25/20

Oh my! There is an entry about the Magna Carta Sureties on Geni.com. See:

<https://www.geni.com/projects/Magna-Carta-Sureties-and-Witnesses/6>

In addition to repeating the descriptive material about the Magna Carta from Wikipedia, this page has a listing of the twenty-five barons (the astute reader will immediately recognize the name of Henry de Bohun, Earl of Hereford, who prompted all of this in the first place):

Historical Persons to be Included

The 25 Barons (Sureties for the enforcement of Magna Carta)

[William d'Aubigny, Lord of Belvoir Castle](#)

[Roger Bigod, Earl of Norfolk and Suffolk](#)

[Hugh Bigod, Heir to the Earldoms of Norfolk and Suffolk](#)

[Henry de Bohun, Earl of Hereford](#)

[Richard de Clare, Earl of Hertford](#)

[Gilbert de Clare, heir to the earldom of Hertford](#)

[John FitzRobert, Lord of Warkworth Castle](#)

[Robert FitzWalter de Clare, Lord of Dunmow Castle](#)

[William de Fortibus, Earl of Albemarle](#)

[William Hardell, Mayor of the City of London](#)

[William de Huntingfield, Sheriff of Norfolk and Suffolk](#)

[John de Lacy, Lord of Pontefract Castle](#)

[William de Lanvallei, Lord of Standway Castle](#)

[William Malet, Sheriff of Somerset and Dorset](#)

[Geoffrey de Mandeville, Earl of Essex and Gloucester](#)

[William Marshall Jr, heir to the earldom of Pembroke](#)

[Roger de Montbegon, Lord of Hornby Castle, Lancashire](#)

[Richard de Montfichet, Baron of Stanstead](#)

[William de Mowbray, Lord of Axholme Castle](#)

[Richard de Percy, Baron](#)

[Saire/Saheer de Quincy, Earl of Winchester](#)

[Robert de Ros, Lord of Hamlake Castle](#)

[Geoffrey de Saye, Baron](#)

[Robert de Vere, heir to the earldom of Oxford](#)

[Eustace de Vesci, Lord of Alnwick Castle](#)

The name of each of these twenty-five barons is a hyperlink, going to the person's profile page on Geni.com. I recognized several of these names from my earlier research into my English ancestors who lived during the Middle Ages. That got me to wondering – how many of these twenty-five barons are my ancestors?

Would you like to venture a guess?

Five?

Ten?

Fifteen?

Scroll down to the next page.....

The Twenty-Five Sureties of the Magna Carta

I went to the profile page for each of the twenty-five barons. Here is what I found:

1. William III "Brito" d'Aubigny, Lord of Belvoir, Surety of the Magna Carta, is your 23rd-great grandfather.
2. Roger Le Bigod, 2nd Earl of Norfolk, Surety of the Magna Carta, is your 21st-great grandfather.
3. Sir Hugh Bigod, 3rd Earl of Norfolk, Surety of the Magna Carta, is your 20th-great grandfather.
4. Henry de Bohun, Earl of Hereford, Surety of the Magna Carta, is your 21st-great grandfather.
5. Richard de Clare, 3rd Earl of Hertford, Surety of the Magna Carta, is your 21st-great uncle.
6. Gilbert de Clare, 4th Earl of Hertford, 5th Earl of Gloucester, Surety of the Magna Carta, is your 22nd-great grandfather.
7. John Fitzrobert de Stokes, 3^d Baron Warkworth, Surety of the Magna Carta, is your 20th-great grandfather.
8. Robert FitzWalter of Woodham, Baron of Little Dunmow, Surety of the Magna Carta, is your 22nd-great grandfather.
9. William de Forz, comte d'Aumale, Surety of the Magna Carta, is your second cousin 22-times removed.
10. No path found to William Hardell, Lord Mayor of London, Magna Carta Surety. Note – He was the only commoner whose signature appears on the Magna Carta. Nothing is known (on Geni.com) about his descendants.
11. William de Huntingfield, Lord of East Brandenham, Magna Carta Surety, is your 23rd-great grandfather.
12. John de Lacy, 2nd Earl of Lincoln, Magna Carta Surety, is your 22nd-great grandfather.
13. William III de Lanvaley, Lord of Walkern, Surety of the Magna Carta, is your first-cousin 21-times removed.
14. William Malet, Baron of Curry Mallet and Surety of the Magna Carta, is your 22nd-great uncle and your 21st-great grandmother's husband.
15. Geoffrey de Mandeville, Earl of Essex and Gloucester, Surety of the Magna Carta, is your 20th-great uncle.
16. William Marshal, 2nd Earl of Pembroke, Magna Carta Surety, is your 21st-great uncle.

17. Roger de Montbegon, Surety of the Magna Carta, is your 23rd-great uncle.
18. Richard II de Montfitchet, of Stanstead, Surety of the Magna Carta, is your 22nd-great uncle.
19. William de Mowbray, Baron of Thirsk, Surety of the Magna Carta, is your 22nd-great grandfather.
20. Richard de Percy V, Magna Carta Surety, is your 20th-great grandmother's 1st husband and your second cousin 21-times removed.
21. Saier de Quincy, Earl of Winchester, Surety for the Magna Carta, is your 22nd-great grandfather.
22. Robert de Ros, 1st Lord Ros of Helmsley, Surety of the Magna Carta, is your 22nd-great grandfather.
23. Geoffrey II de Saye, 1st Lord of West Greenwich, Magna Carta Surety, is your 22nd-great grandfather.
24. Robert de Vere, 3rd Earl of Oxford, Surety of the Magna Carta, is your 23rd-great grandfather.
25. Eustace de Vesci, Lord of Alnwick Castle and Surety of the Magna Carta, is your 20th-great uncle.

Oh my! This is incredible. Of the 25 Barons:

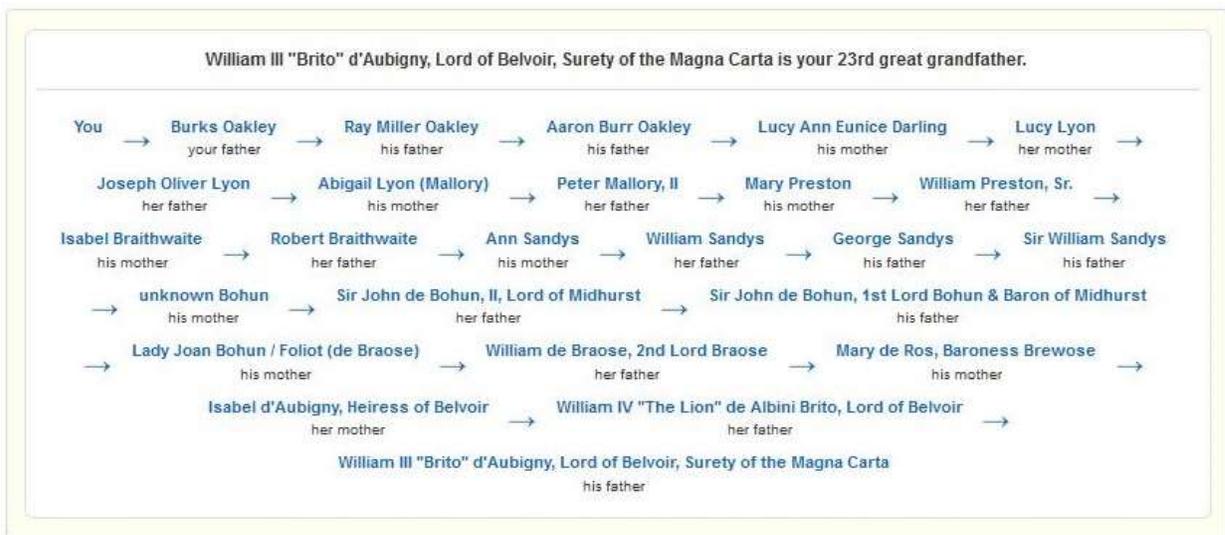
- 14 are my direct ancestors – my Nth-great grandfathers (N=20, 21, 22, or 23)
- 7 are great-uncles – a brother of one of my great-grandfathers or great-grandmothers.
- 1 is a first cousin 21-times removed.
- 1 is a second-cousin 21-times removed.
- 1 is a second-cousin 22-times removed.
- 1 (a commoner) has no connection to me.

These numbers do add up to 25. Of the 25, 14 are my grandfathers and another 7 are great-uncles. And three are first- or second-cousins X-times removed. I can't believe that so many of my ancestors were involved in guaranteeing the Magna Carta in 1215! The only one of the 25 that I am not related to is the commoner, who doesn't have any descendants listed on Geni.com.

My Ancestral Lines Going Back to These Barons

Since I have connections to essentially all of these barons, I next wondered what ancestral lines are responsible for these connections. In this section, I'll show each of the lines back to the 24 Barons (excluding the commoner who has no descendants on Geni.com). [I apologize for the length of this section.]

1. William III "Brito" d'Aubigny, Lord of Belvoir, Surety of the Magna Carta, is your 23rd-great grandfather:



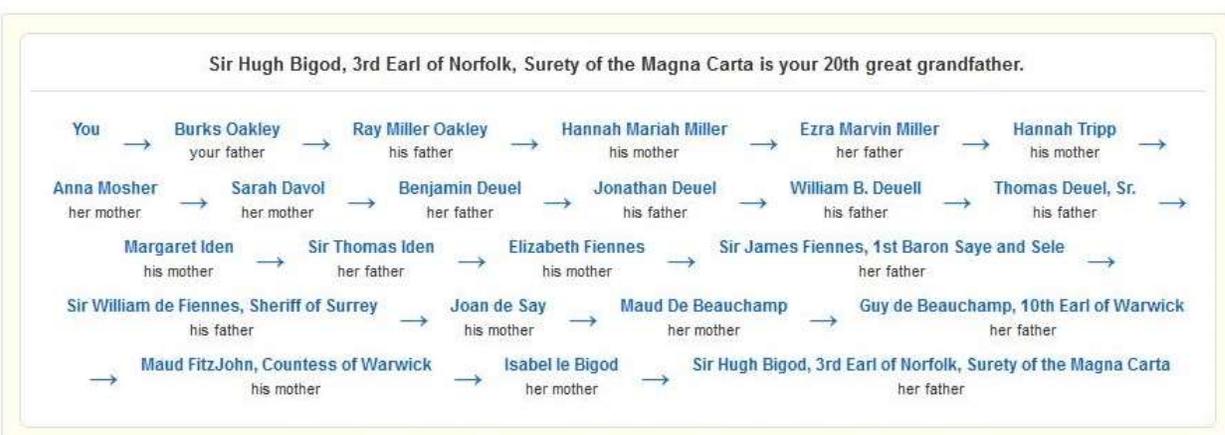
This is my Oakley-Darling-Lyon-Mallory line. The immigrants were William Preston (1590-1649) and his daughter Mary Preston (1629-1690).

2. Roger Le Bigod, 2nd Earl of Norfolk, Surety of the Magna Carta, is your 21st-great grandfather:



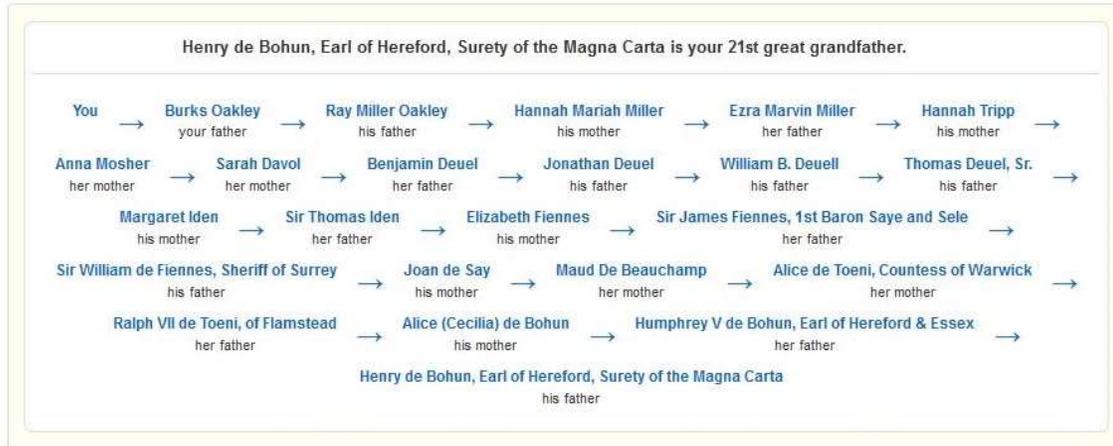
This is my Oakley-Miller-Tripp-Mosher-Davol line. The immigrant was William B. Deuell (1615 - 1680).

3. Sir Hugh Bigod, 3rd Earl of Norfolk, Surety of the Magna Carta, is your 20th-great grandfather:



This is my Oakley-Miller-Tripp-Mosher-Davol line – it is the same line as for #2, since Hugh was a son of Roger.

4. Henry de Bohun, Earl of Hereford, Surety of the Magna Carta, is your 21st-great grandfather:



This is my Oakley-Miller-Tripp-Mosher-Davol line, like #2 and #3.

5. Richard de Clare, 3rd Earl of Hertford, Surety of the Magna Carta, is your 21st-great uncle:



This is my Oakley-Miller-Tripp-Mosher-Davol line, like #2, #3, and #4.

6. Gilbert de Clare, 4th Earl of Hertford, 5th Earl of Gloucester, Surety of the Magna Carta, is your 22nd-great grandfather:



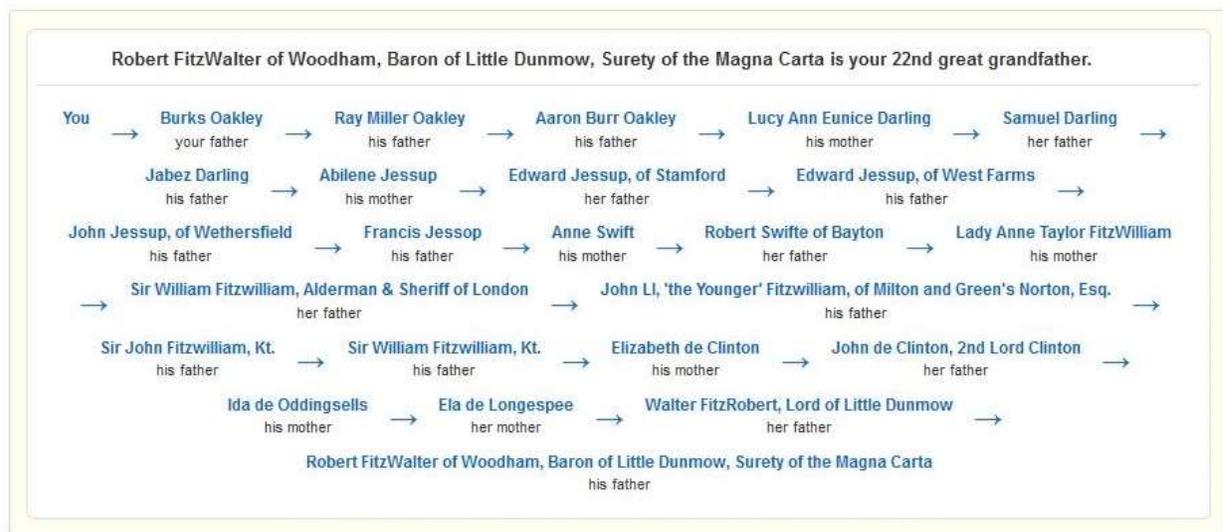
This is a new line – Oakley-Darling-Lyon-Mallory-Trowbridge. The immigrant was Capt. George Lamberton (1604 - 1646) and his daughter Elizabeth Lamberton (1632-1716).

7. John FitzRobert de Stokes, 3rd Baron Warkworth, Surety of the Magna Carta, is your 20th-great grandfather:



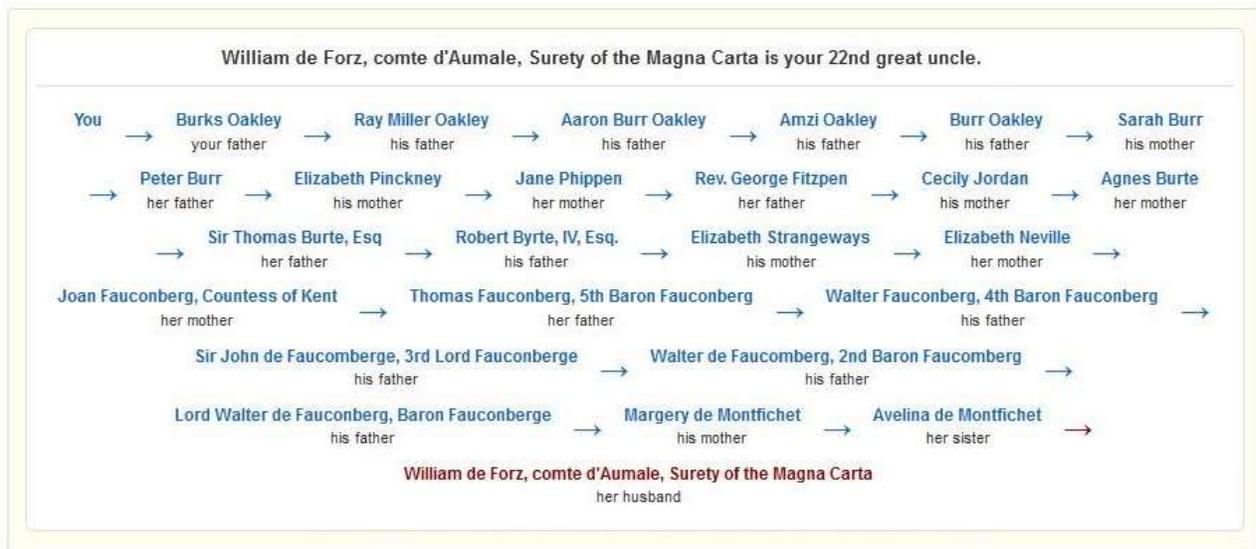
This is a new line – Oakley-Darling-Lyon-Sanford-Gregory. The immigrant was Sgt. Ephraim Wheeler (1618 - 1670).

8. Robert FitzWalter of Woodham, Baron of Little Dunmow, Surety of the Magna Carta, is your 22nd-great grandfather:



This is another new line – Oakley-Darling-Jessup. The immigrants were John Jessup (1602-1638) and his son Edward Jessup (1624-1666).

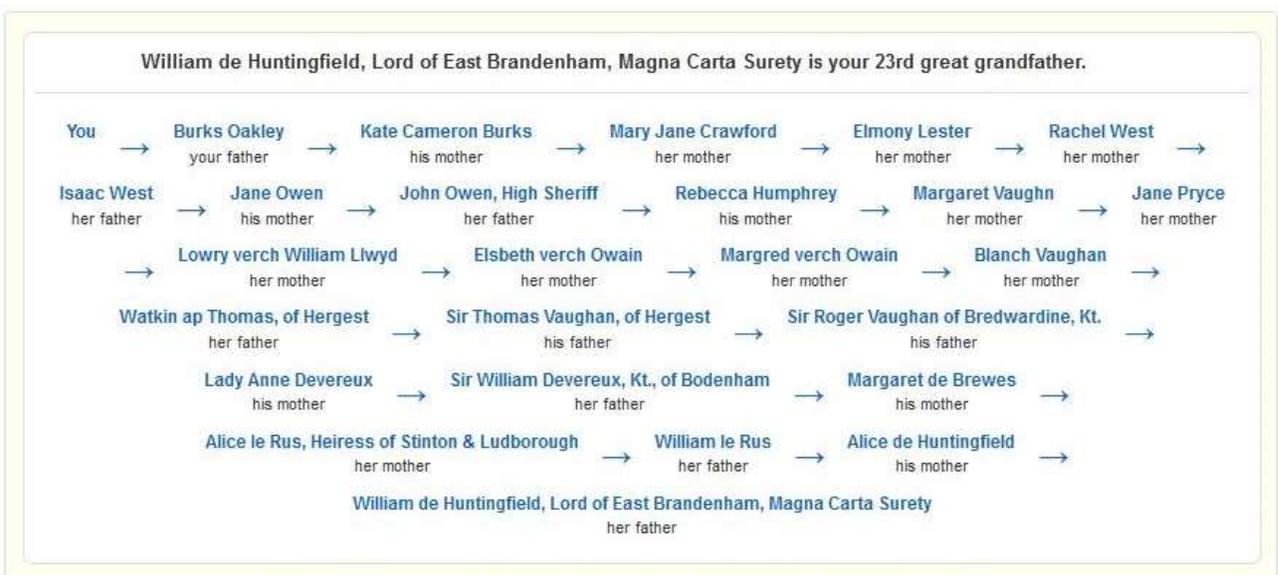
9. William de Forz, comte d'Aumale, Surety of the Magna Carta, is your second cousin 22-times removed.



This is a new line – Oakley-Burr-Pinckney-Phippen. The immigrant was Rev. George Fitzpen (1584-1650).

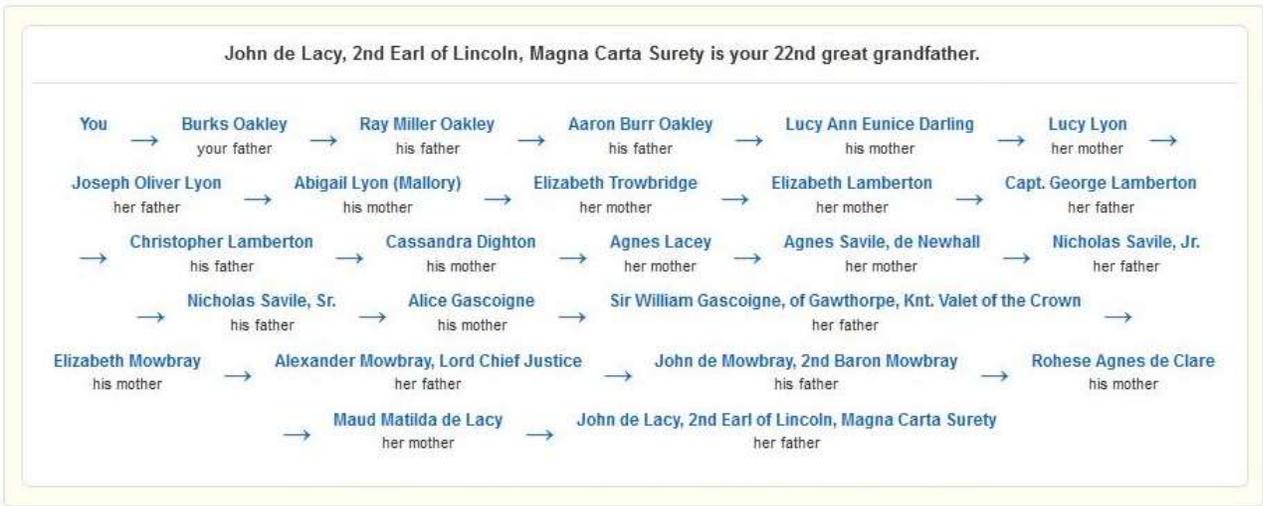
10. No path found to William Hardell, Lord Mayor of London, Magna Carta Surety. Note – He was the only commoner whose signature appears on the Magna Carta. Nothing is known (on Geni.com) about his descendants.

11. William de Huntingfield, Lord of East Brandenham, Magna Carta Surety, is your 23rd-great grandfather:



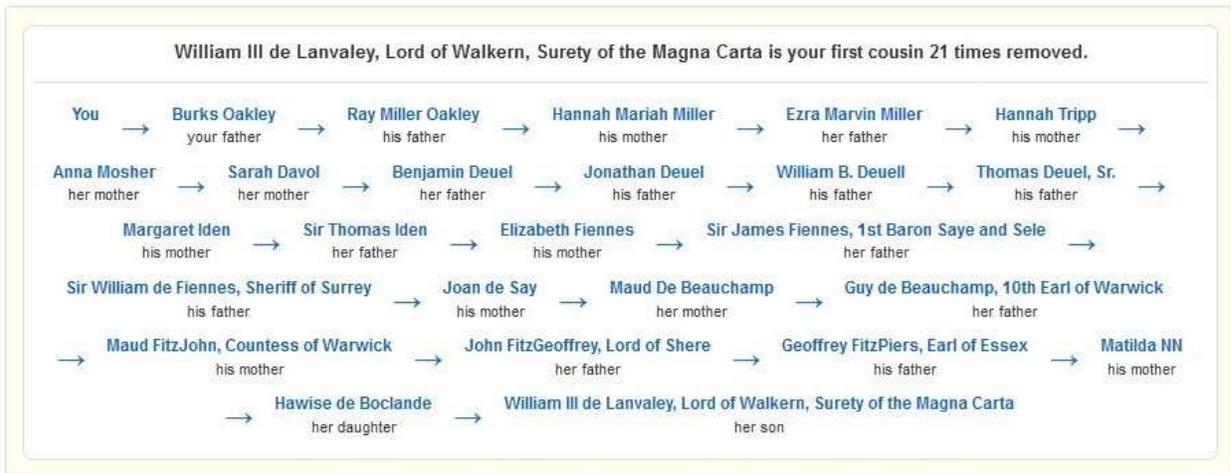
Another new line! Oakley-Burks-Crawford-Lester. The immigrant was Rebecca Humphrey (1663 - 1697).

12. John de Lacy, 2nd Earl of Lincoln, Magna Carta Surety, is your 22nd-great grandfather:



This is Oakley-Darling-Lyon-Trowbridge line, and is the same as #6. The immigrants were Capt. George Lamberton and his daughter Elizabeth Lamberton.

13. William III de Lanvaley, Lord of Walkern, Surety of the Magna Carta, is your first cousin 21-times removed:



This is the Oakley-Miller-Tripp-Mosher-Davol line, like #2, #3, #4, and #5.

14. William Malet, Baron of Curry Mallet and Surety of the Magna Carta, is your 22nd-great uncle and your 21st-great grandmother's husband.



This is Oakley-Miller-Darling-Lyon-Trowbridge, and is the same as #6 and #12. The immigrant was Capt. George Lamberton (1604 - 1646) and his daughter Elizabeth Lamberton (1632-1716).

15. Geoffrey de Mandeville, Earl of Essex and Gloucester, Surety of the Magna Carta, is your 20th-great uncle:



This is the Oakley-Miller-Tripp-Mosher-Davol line, like #2, #3, #4, #5, and #13.

16. William Marshal, 2nd Earl of Pembroke, Magna Carta Surety, is your 21st-great uncle:



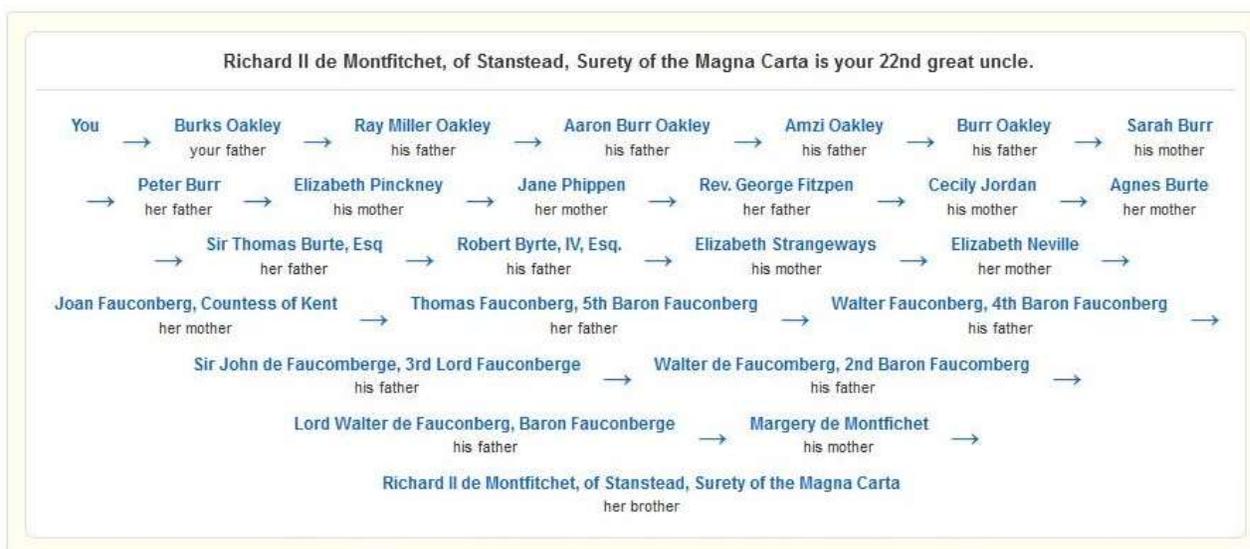
This is the Oakley-Miller-Tripp-Mosher-Davol line, like #2, #3, #4, #5, #13, and #15.

17. Roger de Montbegon, Surety of the Magna Carta, is your 23rd-great uncle:



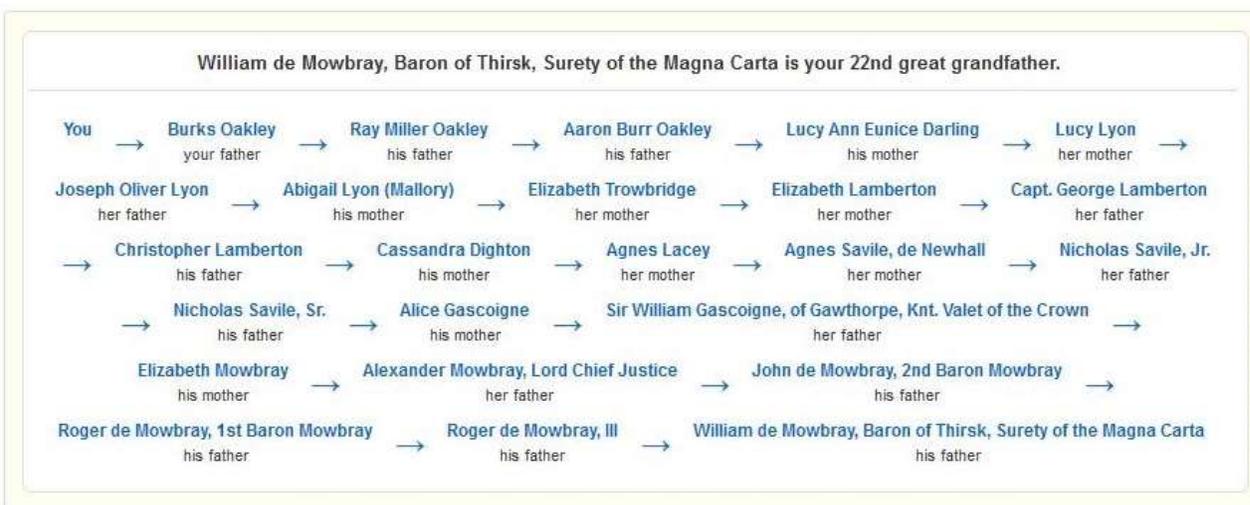
This is a new line – Oakley-Darling-Lyon-Sanford-Mix. The immigrants were Arthur Bostwick (1603-1680) and his son John Bostwick Sr. (1638 - 1688).

18. Richard II de Montfitchet, of Stanstead, Surety of the Magna Carta, is your 22nd-great uncle:



This is Oakley-Burr-Pinckney-Phippen, like #9. The immigrant was Rev. George Fitzpen (1584-1650).

19. William de Mowbray, Baron of Thirsk, Surety of the Magna Carta, is your 22nd-great grandfather:



This is Oakley-Darling-Lyon-Trowbridge-Lamberton line, and is the same as (#6, #12, and #14).

20. Richard de Percy V, Magna Carta Surety, is your 20th-great grandmother's 1st husband and your second cousin 21-times removed:



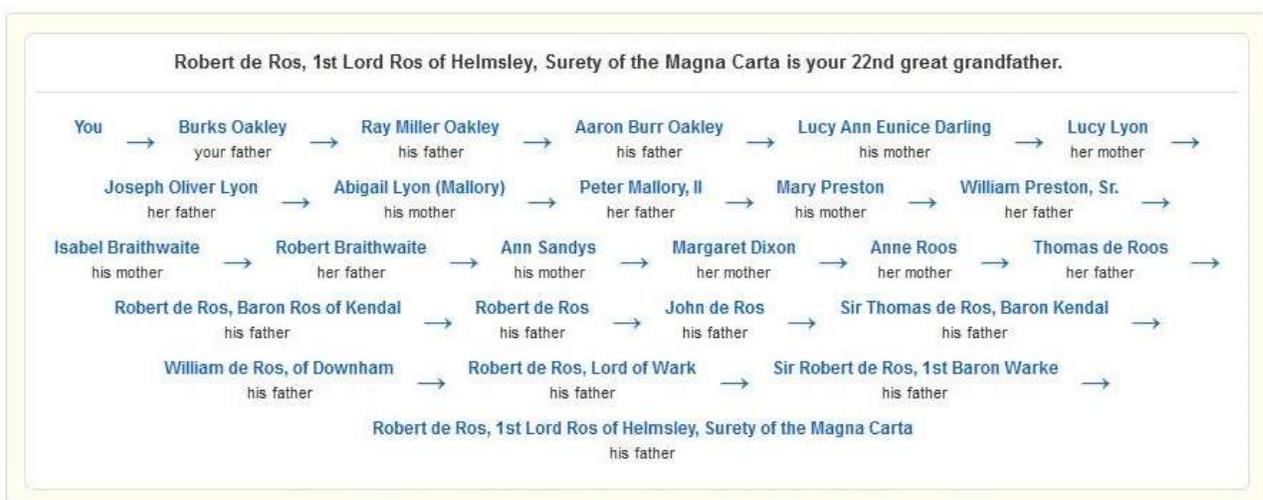
This is my Oakley-Miller-Tripp-Mosher-Davol line, same as #2, #3, #4, #5, #13, #15, and #16.

21. Saier de Quincy, Earl of Winchester, Surety for the Magna Carta, is your 22nd-great grandfather:



This is a new one – the Oakley-Darling-More line. The immigrant was Captain Richard More, *Mayflower* passenger (1614-1692).

22. Robert de Ros, 1st Lord Ros of Helmsley, Surety of the Magna Carta, is your 22nd-great grandfather:



This is Oakley-Darling-Lyon-Mallory, same as #1. The immigrants were William Preston (1590-1649) and his daughter Mary Preston (1629-1690).

23. Geoffrey II de Saye, 1st Lord of West Greenwich, Magna Carta Surety, is your 22nd-great grandfather:



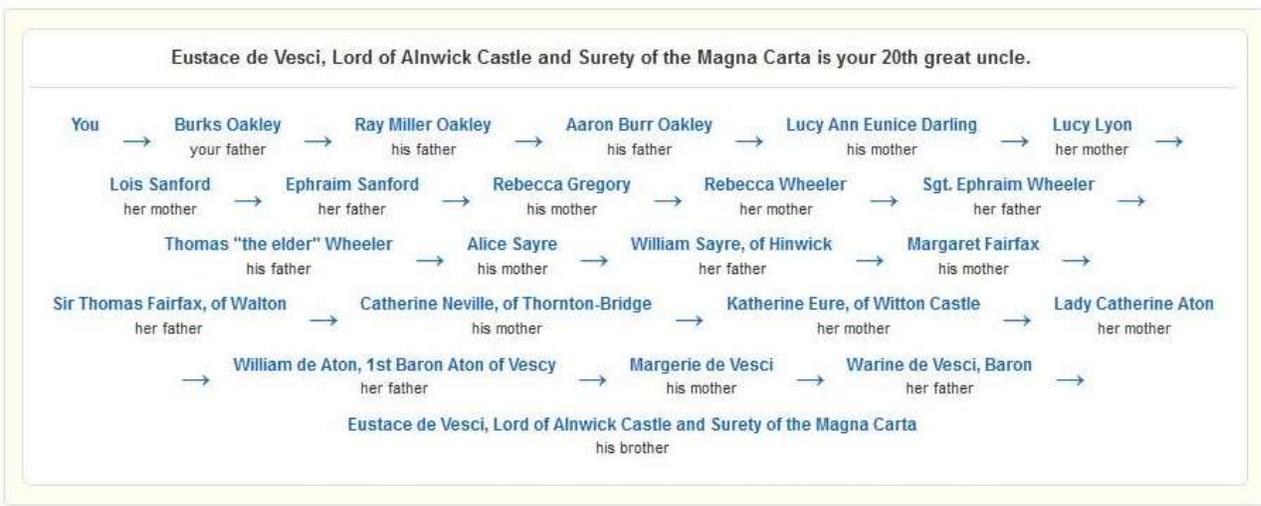
This is Oakley-Miller-Tripp-Mosher-Davol, same as #2, #3, #4, #5, #13, #15, #16, and #20.

24. Robert de Vere, 3rd Earl of Oxford, Surety of the Magna Carta, is your 23rd-great grandfather:



This is Oakley-Darling-Lyon-Sanford-Mix, same as #17. The immigrants were Arthur Bostwick (1603-1680) and his son John Bostwick Sr. (1638 - 1688).

25. Eustace de Vesci, Lord of Alnwick Castle and Surety of the Magna Carta, is your 20th-great uncle:



This is the Oakley-Darling-Lyon-Sanford-Gregory line, same as #7. The immigrant was Sgt. Ephraim Wheeler (1618 - 1670).

Phew! That was a lot of material. Let me now try to summarize the various ancestral lines. By my count, I have identified nine different ancestral lines going back to the 24 Barons:

- Oakley-Darling-Lyon-Mallory (#1, #22)
- Oakley-Darling-Lyon-Trowbridge (#6, #12, #14, #19)
- Oakley-Darling-Lyon-Sanford-Gregory (#7, #25)
- Oakley-Darling-Lyon-Sanford-Mix (#17, #24)
- Oakley-Darling-Jessup (#8)
- Oakley-Darling-More (#21)
- Oakley-Burr-Pinckney-Phippen (#9, #18)
- Oakley-Miller-Tripp-Mosher-Davol (#2, #3, #4, #5, #13, #15, #16, #20, #23)
- Oakley-Burks-Crawford-Lester (#11)

There is no #10 on this list – recall that he was the commoner with no known descendants.

So this all checks out. All the immigrants except for the Burks-Crawford-Lester line immigrated to New England.

The immigrants in these nine lines were born in England in the late 1500's or early 1600's.

Making Sense of the Various Ancestral Lines – Part I

I identified 6 different lines that go back through Lucy Ann Eunice Darling:

- Oakley-Darling-Lyon-Mallory (#1, #22)
- Oakley-Darling-Lyon-Trowbridge (#6, #12, #14, #19)
- Oakley-Darling-Lyon-Sanford-Gregory (#7, #25)
- Oakley-Darling-Lyon-Sanford-Mix (#17, #24)
- Oakley-Darling-Jessup (#8)
- Oakley-Darling-More (#21)

How did she happen to have twelve Barons as her ancestors? Well, it turns out that there was a convergence of various family lines in Fairfield County, Connecticut. Here is her pedigree chart:



Here are some of the key ancestors in the Darling lines:

- Peter Mallory II - died in Stratford, Fairfield County, Connecticut
- Peter Mallory II's mother, Mary Preston, immigrated from England and died in Fairfield, Fairfield County, Connecticut.
- Peter Mallory I's mother was Elizabeth Trowbridge - she died in Stratford, Fairfield County, Connecticut.
- Rebecca Gregory (married a Sanford) died in Redding, Fairfield County, Connecticut.
- Jabez Darling was born in Fairfield, Fairfield County, Connecticut.
- His father Jonathan Darling I died in Fairfield County, Connecticut, and is buried in Fairfield, Connecticut.
- Elizabeth Mix (Sanford) died in Redding, Connecticut.
- Elizabeth Bostwick was born in Stratford, Fairfield County, Connecticut.
- Ephraim Sanford was born in Fairfield and died in Redding.

- Joseph Oliver Lyon was born in Redding, Connecticut (and was a Tory and fled to New Brunswick, Canada, after the Revolutionary War).

And the Burr line that I identified above connected with the Darling line when Amzi Oakley married Lucy Ann Eunice Darling. Again, they lived in Fairfield County, Connecticut. Elizabeth Pinckney (mother of Peter Burr) was born in Fairfield and died in Fairfield.

The Darling lines account for SIX different lines going back to TWELVE of the 24 Barons. And the Burr line accounts for connections to another TWO of the Barons. Overall, a number of lines going back to the Barons all converged with my ancestors in Fairfield County, Connecticut, in the 1700's and early 1800's.

Making Sense of the Ancestral Lines – Part II

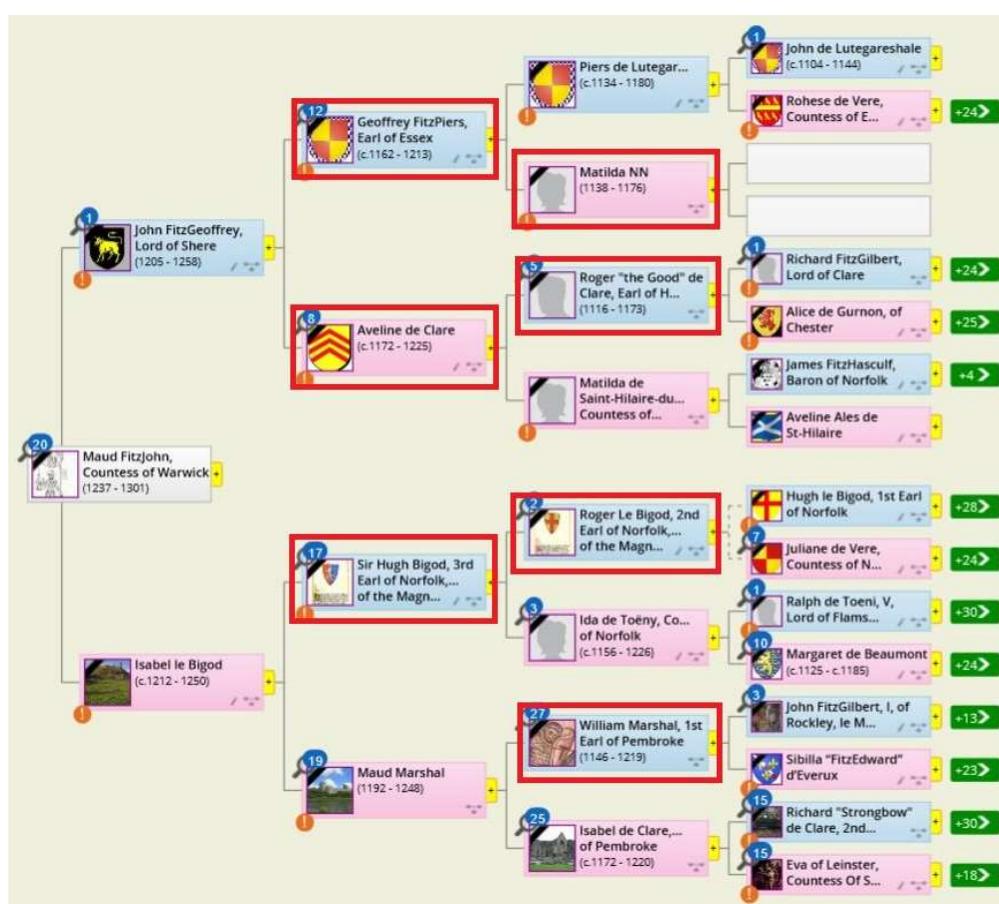
The Oakley-Miller-Tripp-Mosher-Davol ancestral line accounts for my connections with NINE of the 24 Barons. This line came through Rhode Island.

All of the Oakley-Miller-Tripp-Mosher-Davol lines connecting to the Barons go back through Sir William de Fiennes, Sheriff of Surrey. If you don't believe me, go back and look at #2, #3, #4, #5, #13, #15, #16, #20, #23. And remember, looking at Sir William's ancestors got me to the first Baron who was in the group of 25. But it turns out that nine of the Barons were Sir William's ancestors.

Then eight out of nine of these lines (except #23) go back to Sir William's mother Joan de Say (1325-1378) and her mother Maud De Beauchamp (1310-1369).

Then seven out of those eight go back through Guy de Beauchamp, 10th Earl of Warwick.

Guy de Beauchamp's mother was Maud Fitzjohn, Countess of Warwick (1237-1301) – here is her pedigree:



Oh my! She accounts for the following lines: #2, #3, #5, #13, #15, #16, and #20. Several of these lines connect to great-uncles or cousins – not all are direct to great-grandfathers.

Since nobility married other nobility, it turns out that Maud Fitzjohn accounts for seven of my 24 matches. And all nine of the Oakley-Miller-Tripp-Mosher-Davol lines go through Sir William de Fiennes.

In this case, the convergence of the ancestral lines happened much earlier, in England, and was completed with the birth of Sir William de Fiennes.

Making Sense of the Ancestral Lines – Summary

There are two very different scenarios here that account for most all of my ancestral lines back to the twenty-four Barons.

The first scenario is a convergence in Fairfield County, Connecticut, of a number of ancestral lines; these lines were brought to America from England by multiple immigrants. When the families ended up in Fairfield County, various marriages connected these ancestral lines together. Interestingly, the common ancestor was my great-grandfather, Aaron Burr Oakley (1835-1905), who was born in Redding, Fairfield County, Connecticut.

The second scenario is the Oakley-Miller line that goes back to Sir William de Fiennes, Sheriff of Surrey, then his mother and her mother. Maud Fitzjohn accounts for my connections back to seven of the Barons. In this case, the convergence of the lines was completed by Sir William de Fiennes, Sheriff of Surrey (1357-1402); he was my 14th-great grandfather.

Overall, Aaron Burr Oakley (born in 1835) appears in my ancestral lines back to fourteen of the Barons, while Sir William de Fiennes (born 1357) appears in my ancestral lines back to nine of the Barons. Quite different scenarios, for sure!

King John I – Another of My Ancestors

I also need to add that King John I, who signed the Magna Carta, was my 21st-great grandfather:



Again, this goes back on my Oakley-Darling-Lyon-Trowbridge line, which by now you should know went through Fairfield County, Connecticut.

Baronial Order of Magna Charta

In searching for information about the Barons and the Magna Carta, I learned that there is an organization named the Baronial Order of Magna Charta.

Here is a short excerpt from the Wikipedia entry:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Baronial_Order_of_Magna_Charta

The Baronial Order of Magna Charta (“BOMC”) is a scholarly, charitable, and lineage society founded in 1898. The BOMC was originally named the Baronial Order of Runnemedede, but the name was subsequently changed to better reflect the organization’s purposes relating to the Magna Charta and the promulgation of “freedom of man under the rule of law.”

The BOMC is a Pennsylvania 501(c)3 corporation with research, charitable, and educational purposes. Among other things, the BOMC, and the related Magna Charta Research Foundation, seek to “encourage the study and practice of the Magna Charta, within its historical context, and the evolution of its meaning as represented in the concepts of self-determination and the rule of law.” Towards this end, the BOMC preserves documents and literature relating to the Magna Charta, sponsors scholarships and educational programs, and works with the Magna Charta Trust in the United Kingdom in furtherance of that organization’s preservational and educational goals.

Membership in the BOMC may be extended to men and women of good moral character who can establish through genealogical proofs (i.e., primary or acceptable secondary sources) their descent from one of the twenty five Magna Charta Surety Barons.

I guess I should apply for membership! <https://www.magnacharta.com/bomc/>

The Magna Charta Barons and Their American Descendants

In looking for information about the Magna Carta Barons, I found a book from 1898 entitled:

“The Magna charta barons and their American descendants with the pedigrees of the founders of the Order of Runnemedede deduced from the sureties for the enforcement of the statutes of the Magna charta of King John”

This book was digitized by Google and is available online at:

<https://archive.org/details/magnachartabaro00browgoog>

Here is the cover page:

The Magna Charta Barons and their American Descendants together with the Pedigrees of the Founders of the Order of Kunnemedede deduced from the Sureties for the Enforce- ment of the Statutes of the Magna Charta of King John

By
Charles H. Browning

Member of the American Historical Association, American Authors
Guild, etc.; Editor of "Americans of Royal Descent"



Here are some quotes from the preface:

"There is no transaction in the ancient part of our English history more interesting and important than the rise and progress, the gradual mutation and final establishment of the Charter of Liberties."—WILLIAM BLACKSTONE.



"It is called Magna Charta, not that it is great in quantity, but in respect of the great importance and weightiness of the matter."—EDWARD COKE.



"Perhaps there is no event of the history of England which is more popularly remembered and referred to, than the Granting of the Great Charter of King John."
—RICHARD THOMSON.

An interesting quote from page 44:

44

THE MAGNA CHARTA BARONS

The aforesaid twenty-five [*Barons*] shall swear, that they will faithfully observe, and with all their power, cause to be observed, all the things mentioned above.

I downloaded a PDF copy of the full book – fascinating reading!

At this point, I've worked enough on this – time to finish up!

Summary

In this rather lengthy narrative, I started out by looking on Geni.com at the profile of Sir William de Fiennes, Sheriff of Surrey (1357-1402). There is an extensive pedigree for Sir William, and following it back took me to Henry de Bohun, Earl of Hereford, Surety of the Magna Carta (1176-1220). Henry de Bohun was my 21st-great grandfather.

I then discussed the Magna Carta, which was signed by King John I in 1215, as well as the twenty-five Barons who were “sureties” of the Magna Carta.

I took on the ambitious task of looking at all twenty-five Barons, and I found that I was a direct descendant of fourteen of them, and another seven were my great-uncles (a brother of one of my direct ancestors). Three more Barons were cousins. The only Baron I am not related to was a commoner with no known descendants.

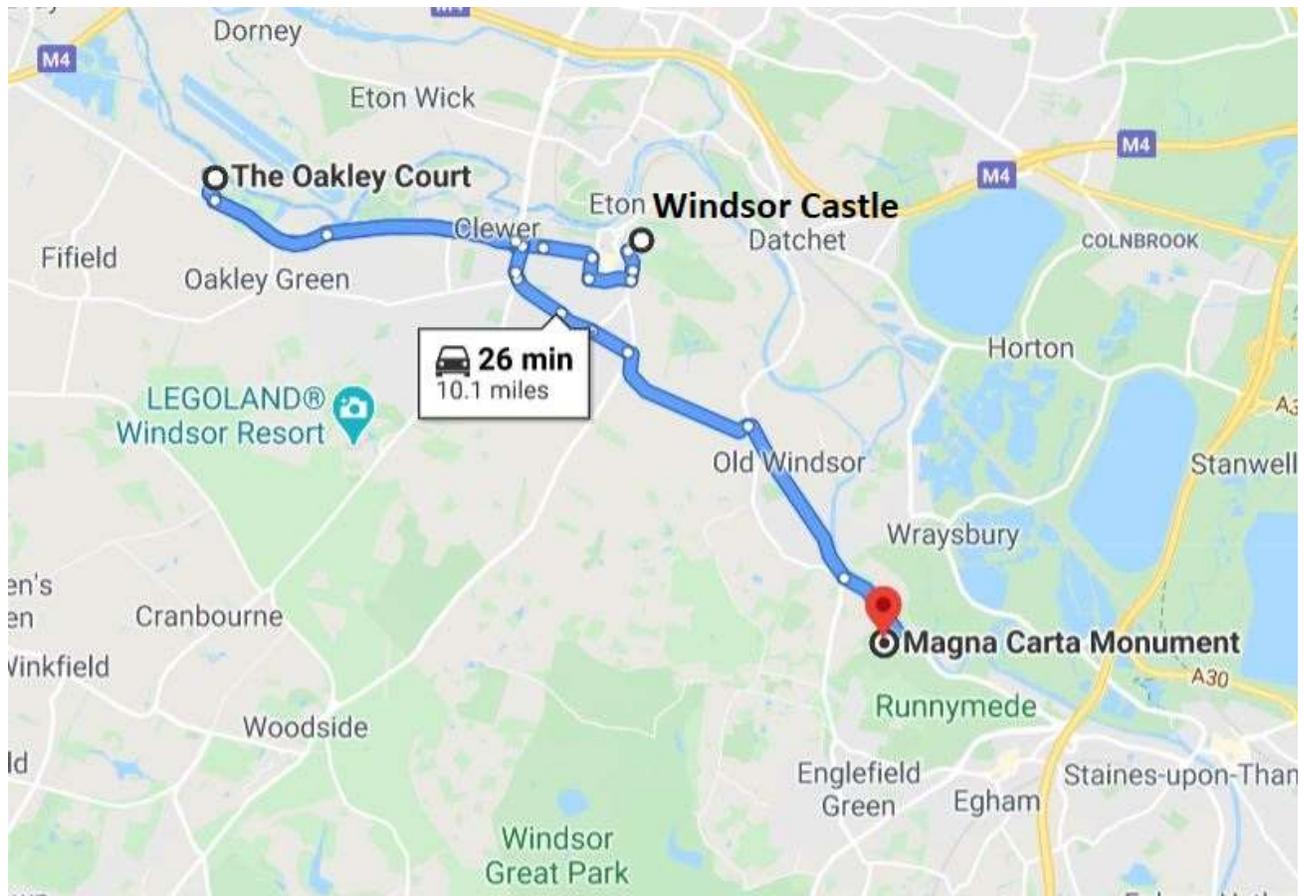
Finally, I discussed my ancestral lines back to the Barons. One set of lines all converged in Fairfield County, Connecticut, in the early 1800's, while another set of lines all converged in England in the 1350's.

Addendum

I mentioned that the Magna Carta was signed by King John I at Runnymede, which is located in the English county of Surrey. Runnymede is adjacent to the River Thames. I also mentioned that it is near Windsor Castle.

I neglected to mention that Runnymede is just 10 miles from the Oakley Court Hotel, where I stayed in September 2019.

Here is a Google Map showing these locations:



Here is a photo that I took of the Oakley Court Hotel:

