

Chapter 62

My Ancestral Lines Going Back to Sir Roger Pilkington II, Knight

[originally written on 23 August 2020]

Introduction

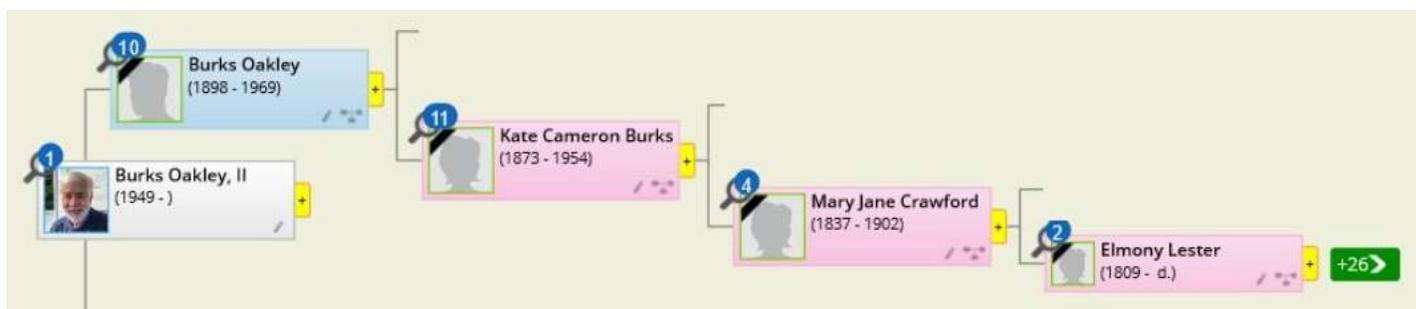
Due to self-imposed isolation during the coronavirus pandemic of 2020, I have lots of time for genealogy research. I have been going back on my ancestral lines on Geni.com to identify interesting ancestors – even as far back as the Middle Ages. For example, see:

<http://www.burksoakley.com/QuincyOakleyGenealogy/55-Sureties-MagnaCarta.pdf>

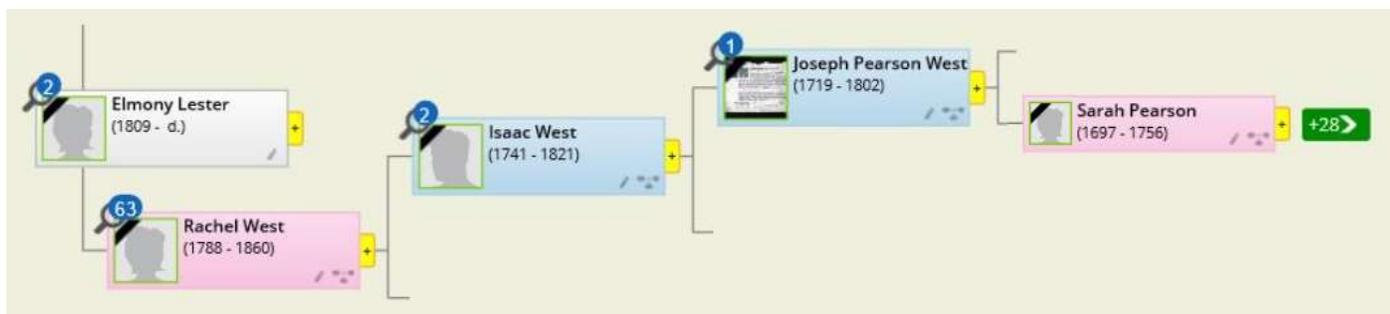
In this chapter, I'll describe one of my ancestors who was an English Knight who lived from 1291 until 1343.

Going Back on One of My Ancestral Lines

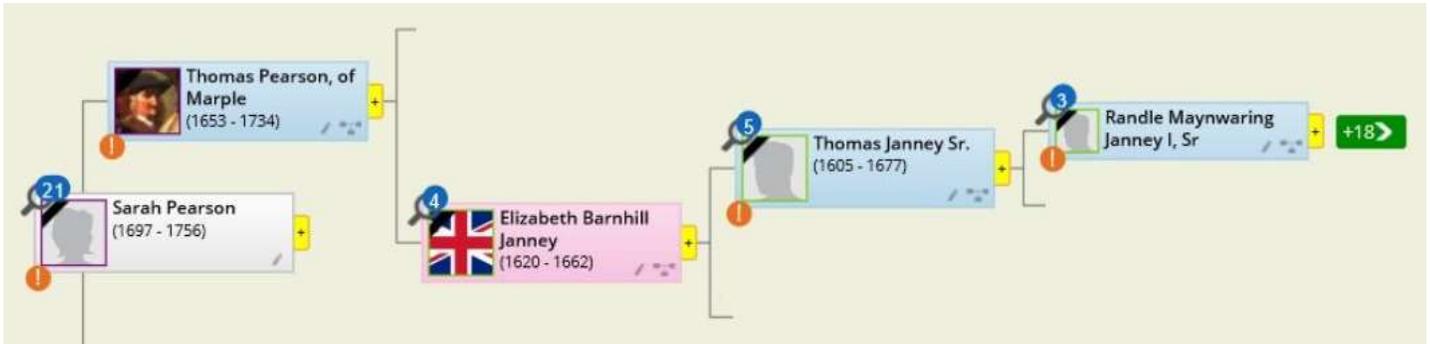
I decided to go back on an ancestral line that I hadn't previously explored in detail. Here is the first part, going from me back to my 2nd-great grandmother, Elmony Lester (born 1809):



Next is the line from Elmony Lester back to Sarah Pearson (1697-1756):

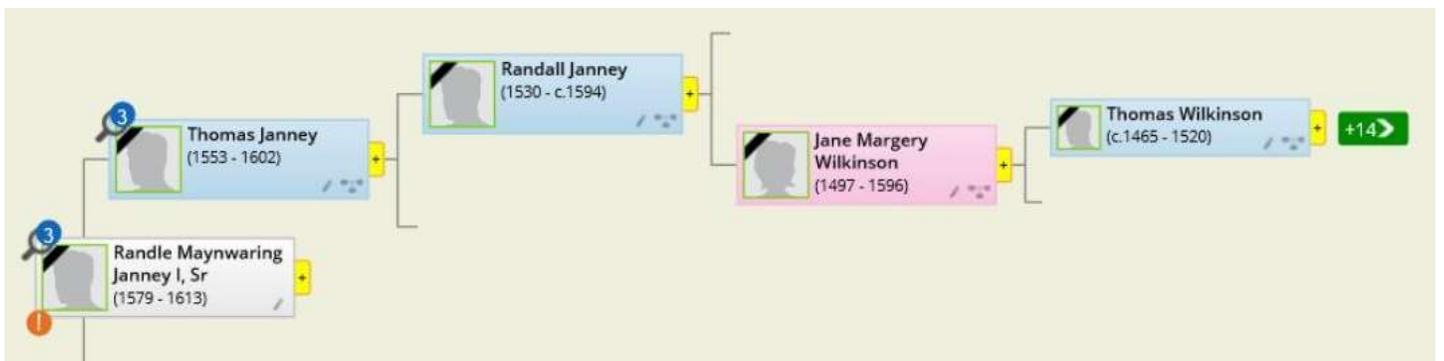


Then the line from Sarah Pearson back to Randle Maynwaring Janney, Sr. (1579-1613):

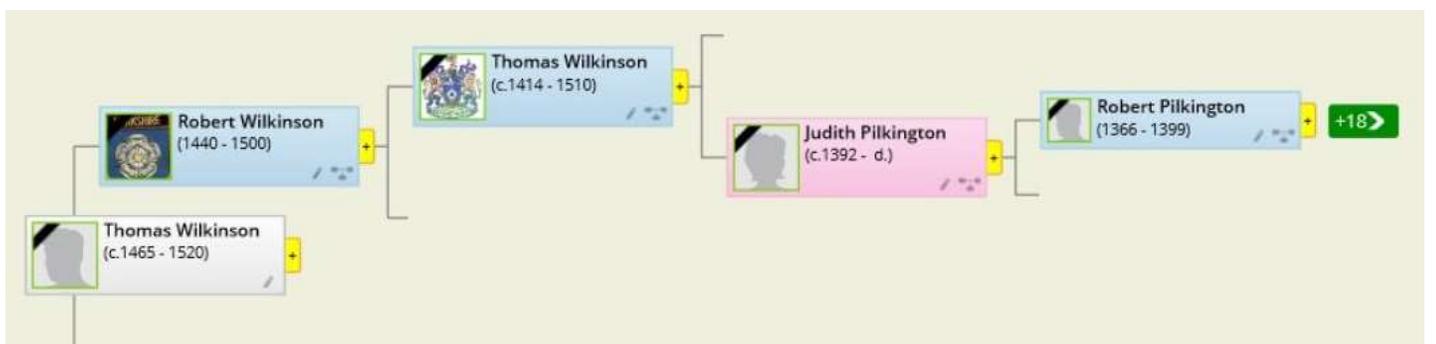


In this branch of my family tree, Thomas Pearson (1653-1734) was the person who immigrated to America. He was born in England and immigrated to Pennsylvania, where he was employed as William Penn’s surveyor.¹

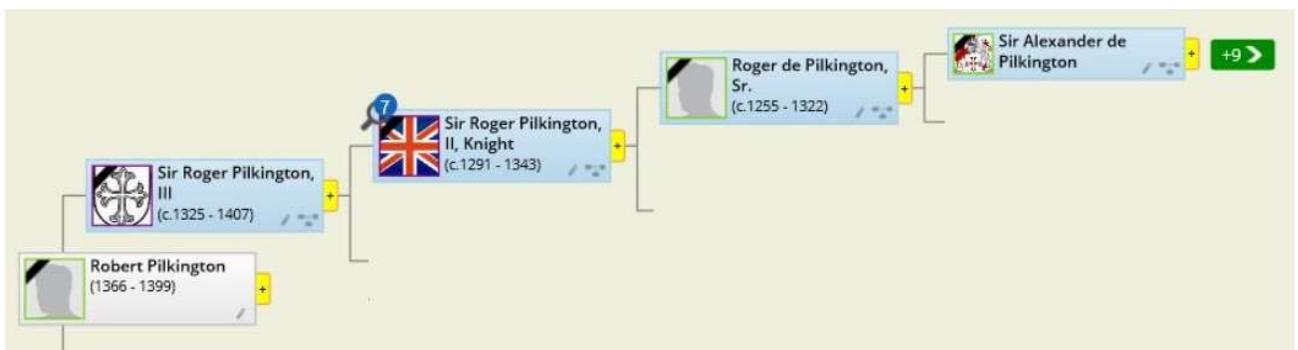
Next comes the line from Randle Maynwaring Janney Sr. back to Thomas Wilkinson (1465-1520):



Then the line from Thomas Wilkinson back to Robert Pilkington (1366-1399):

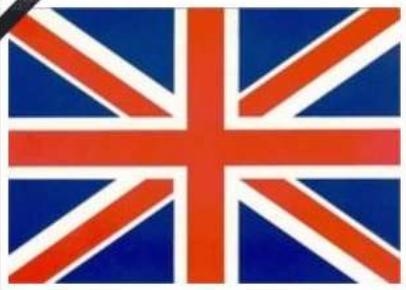


And finally the line from Robert Pilkington back to Sir Alexander de Pilkington (1225-1291):



I saw that Robert Pilkington’s paternal grandfather was Sir Roger Pilkington II, Knight (1291-1343). Sir Roger looked like an interesting person, so I decided to look at him in greater detail. Here is part of his profile from Geni.com:

¹ Note to self – you need to learn more about this man....



Sir Roger Pilkington, II, Knight

Gender: Male

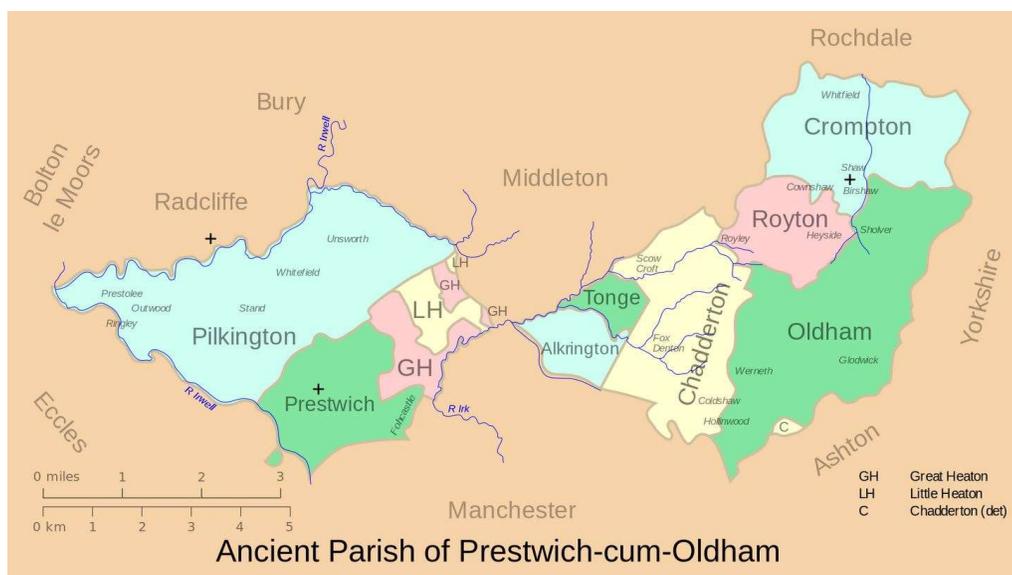
Birth: circa 1291
Pilkington Manor, Lancashire, England (United Kingdom)

Death: 1343 (47-57)
Pilkington Manor, Lancashire, England (United Kingdom)

Immediate Family: Son of Roger de Pilkington, Sr. and Amery de Barton
Husband of Alice Pilkington (de Bury)
Father of Isabella Pilkington; Margaret Pilkington; Robert Pilkington; Henry Pilkington; Richard Pilkington and 2 others

<https://www.geni.com/people/Sir-Roger-Pilkington-II-Knight/600000000700963354>

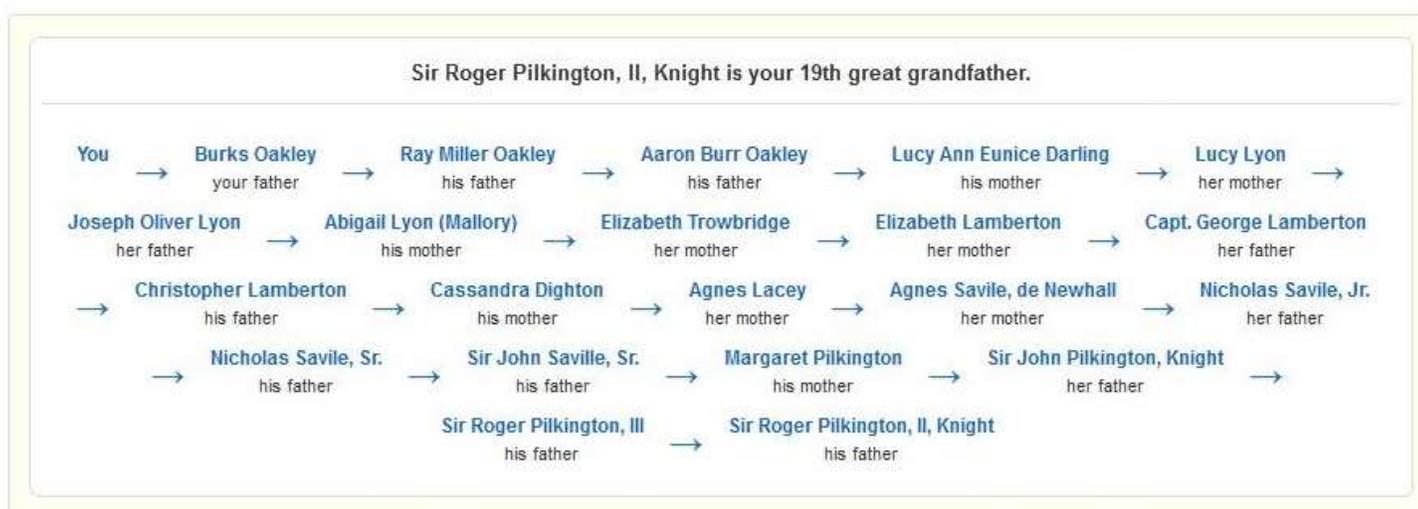
Sir Roger was born and died in Pilkington Manor, Lancashire, England. This is in the northwest of England, just north of Manchester. Pilkington is shown on the following map, just south of Bury:



It was bounded on two sides, the southwest and north, by the River Irwell, and encompassed the settlements of Blackford Bridge, Cinder Hill, Hollins, Besses o' th' Barn, Outwood, Ringley, Stand, Unsworth, and Whitefield. The township was abolished in 1894. Bury, Radcliffe, and Whitefield can be seen on the following Google map:



Before I present any information about Sir Roger, let me review my line going back to him:



Oh my! This isn't the line I took to get back to Sir Roger. This line goes through my **Oakley** ancestors, not my **Burks** ancestors. Geni.com always displays the "shortest blood line" between two people, so it would appear that I have at least two different lines connecting me back to Sir Roger. On the **Oakley** line shown above, Sir Roger was my 19th-great grandfather.

I was able to reconstruct the line I took to get back to Sir Roger, which went through Elmony Lester, Sarah Pearson, Randle Maynwaring Janney Sr., and Thomas Wilkinson:



I first took a screenshot of the line from me back to Randle Maynwaring Janney Sr., and then a screenshot of the line from Randle back to Sir Roger. With a little cut and paste in Paint, I reconstructed the ancestral line on my **Burks** side of the family. On this line, Sir Roger was my 20th-great grandfather.

It is interesting to learn that my paternal grandparents Ray Miller Oakley and Kate Cameron Burks were both descended from Sir Roger, meaning that they were distant cousins.

- Sir Roger Pilkington, II, Knight, was Ray Miller Oakley's 17th-great grandfather.
- Sir Roger Pilkington, II, Knight, was Kate Cameron Burks' 18th-great grandfather.

That would make Ray and Kate 18th-cousins once-removed (I think).

Ancestral Lines Going Back to Sir Roger

In the previous section of this narrative, I found that I have two different lines going back to Sir Roger. In Chapter 56, I found that I have eight different lines going back to Sir William Champernon, Knight. See:

<http://www.burksoakley.com/QuincyOakleyGenealogy/56-ChampernonLines.pdf>

This got me to wondering if I have other ancestral lines going back to Sir Roger. It turns out that I have at least another five!

Here is a line going back through my Miller-Woodruff ancestors on the ***Oakley*** side of my family:



Here is another line going back through my Miller-Woodruff ancestors on the ***Oakley*** side of my family:



Note that this line goes through Mary Blott, so it will have all the lines going through the various cousins who intermarried that I described in the Champernon chapter.

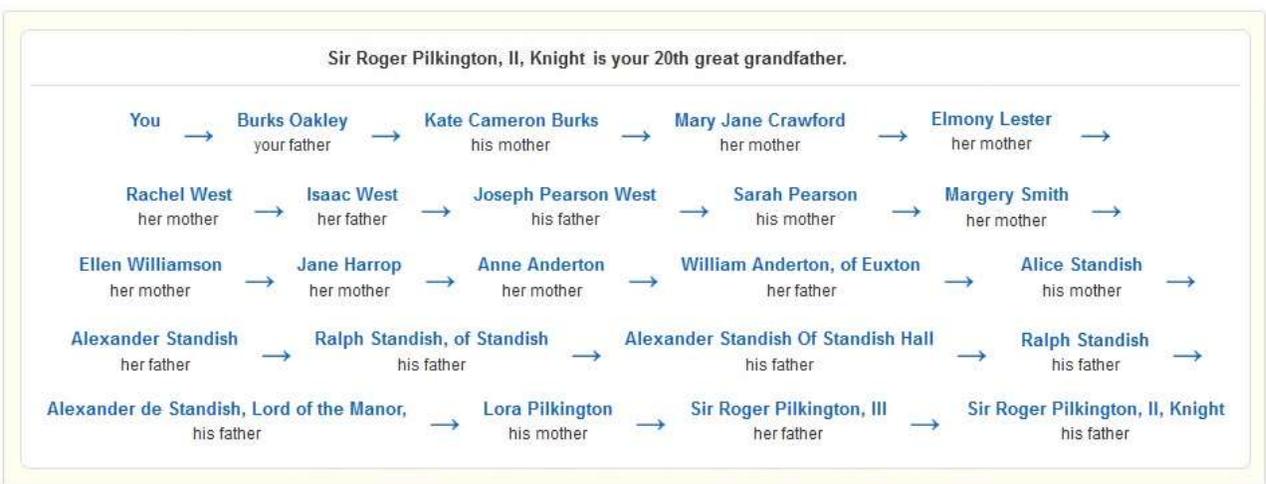
Here is another line going back through my Sanford-Gregory ancestors:



Here is a line going back through my Miller-Tripp-Mosher-Davol ancestors:



Finally, here is a line through my Standish ancestors, which goes through my *Burks* line:



It is amazing to see that I have seven different lines back to Sir Roger (and more if you count all the variations through cousins who inter-married).

These seven lines are displayed in landscape view on the next page:



Note that in columns 2 and 3, Margaret Pilkington had sons with different surnames. That is not an error. Here is some information from her profile on Geni.com:

Margaret married first Nicholas Griffin, who died in 1437, leaving five sons; and married second Sir Thomas Savile [Savell] of Howley and Thornhill, knight of the shire for County York, in 1442, by whom there were four children. Her daughter Anna Savile married Sir John Butler, knight of Brewsey and Baron of Warrington, who was murdered, it is said, out of revenge, at the instigation of Thomas Stanley, first Earl of Derby.

Five of the seven lines I have that go back to Sir Roger go through the **Oakley** side of my family, while the other two lines go through the **Burks** side of my family.

The Pilkington Ancestral Line

There is a Wikipedia article about the Pilkington family of Lancashire:

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

The Pilkington family has its origins in the ancient township of Pilkington in the historic county of Lancashire, England [in northwest England].

The Pilkington name is taken from the manor of Pilkington in Prestwich, Lancashire. The Pilkington arms consist of an argent cross patonce voided gules [whatever that means]. The Pilkington crest has a mower with his scythe and represents a legend that an ancestor of the family, being sought at the time of the Norman Conquest, disguised himself as a mower and escaped.



Pilkington Coat of Arms

Here is a version of the crest from an 1891 publication about the Pilkington family:



Note the “mower with his scythe” at the upper center in this image.

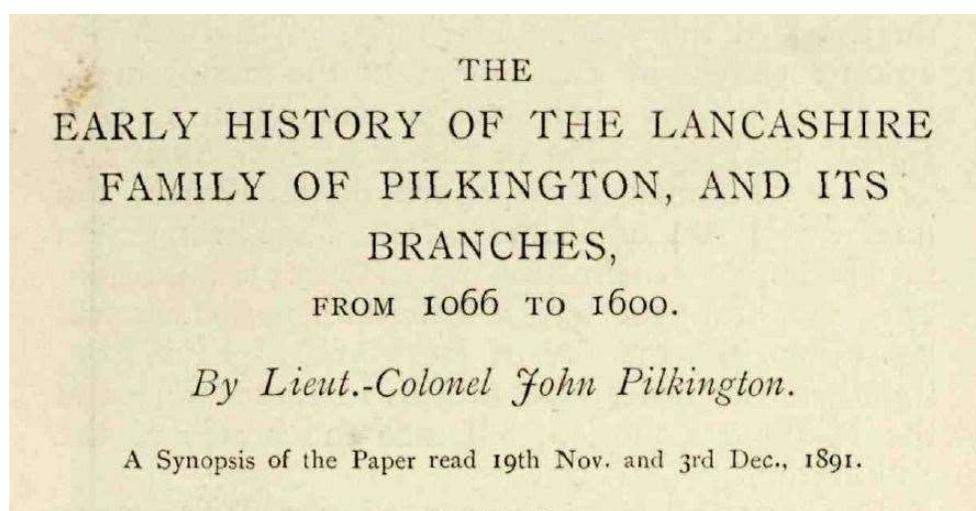
Here is some information about Sir Roger from his profile on Geni.com.

Sir Roger’s wife was Alicia, the daughter of Henry de Bury, Lord of Bury (her mother being Margery, the daughter of Richard de Radcliffe, of Radcliffe), who became heiress to her brother Henry de Bury, junior. After the death of her mother and her brother, she inherited the manor and lordship of Bury by virtue of the settlement of 1313, and so enriched the Pilkingtons of this branch. [Note that Radcliffe and Bury were on the maps shown earlier in this narrative.]

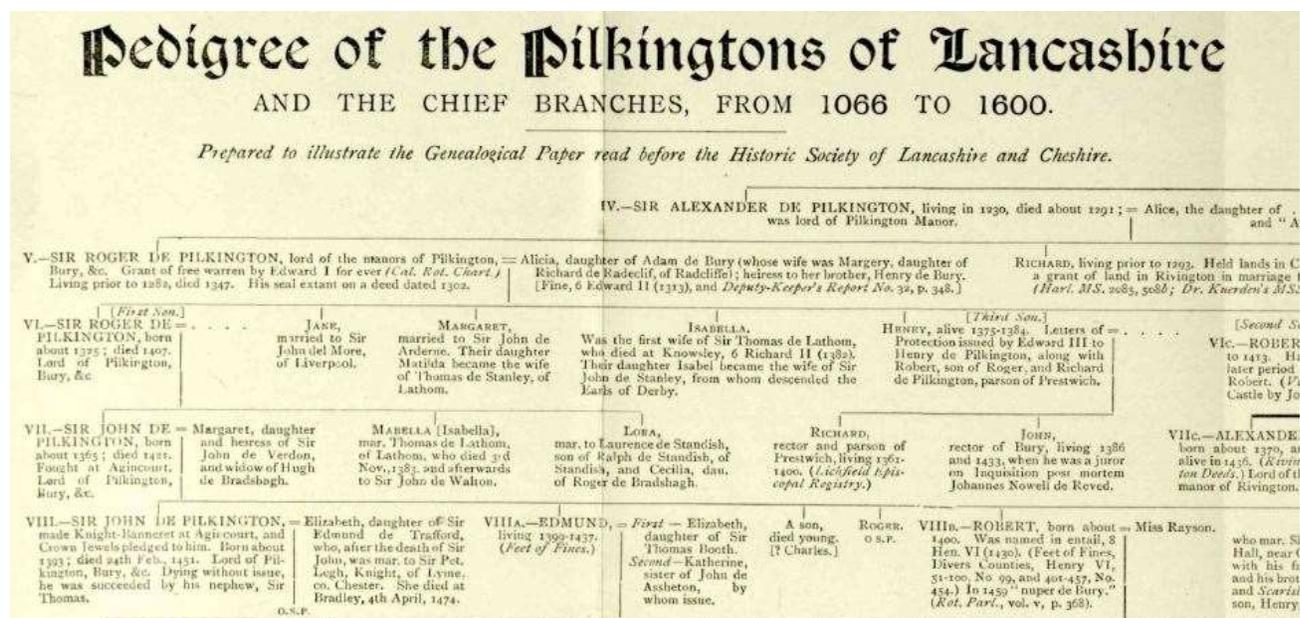
There is an interesting article about Bury Castle on Wikipedia:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bury_Castle,_Greater_Manchester

In 1891, Lieut.-Colonel John Pilkington presented a paper about the early history of the Pilkington family in Lancashire to the Historical Society of Lancashire and Cheshire:

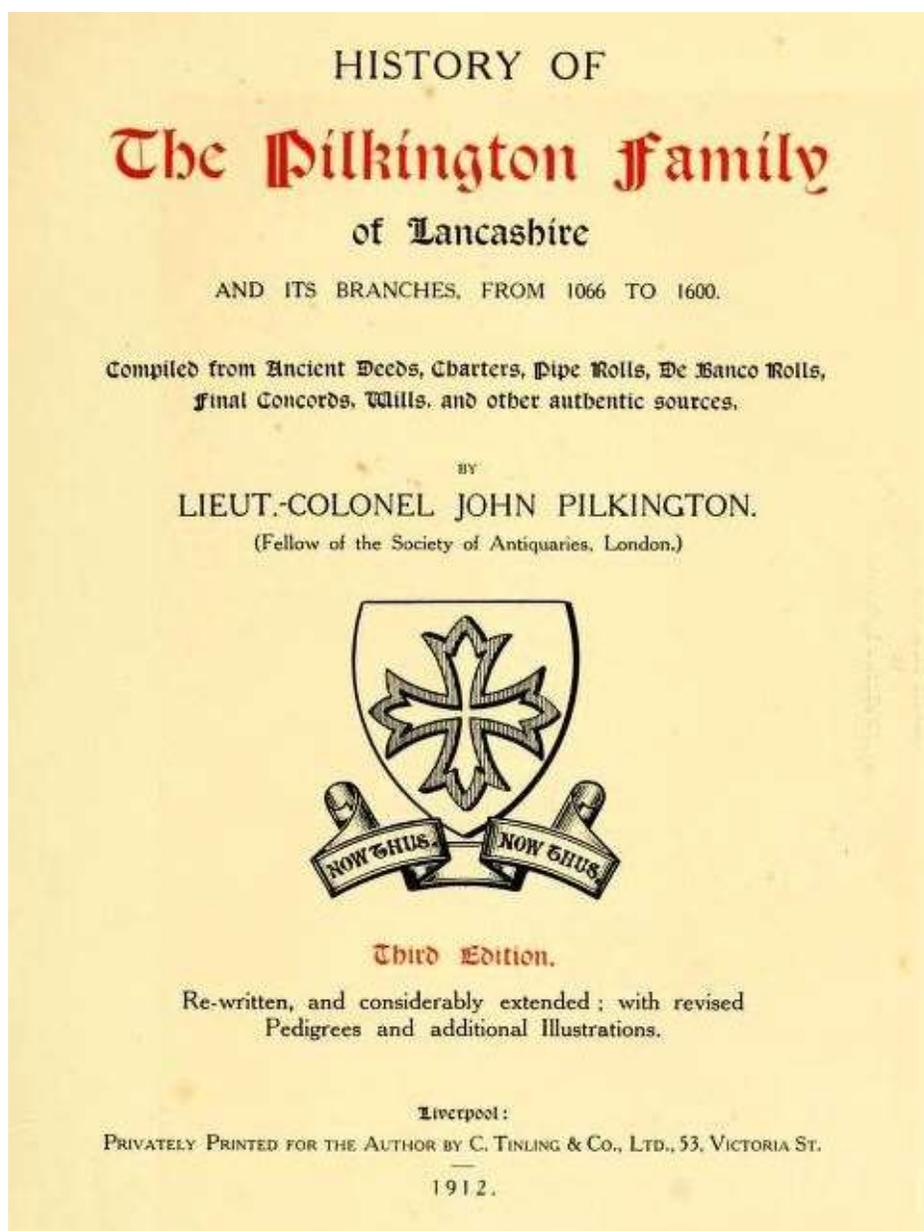


This paper was accompanied by a huge pedigree chart – here is the upper-left of the chart:



I believe that Sir Roger is listed as generation V in the upper left, although I'm not sure that his birth year and death year are correct.

Lieut.-Colonel John Pilkington went on to publish an entire book about the Pilkington Family of Lancashire. The third edition of this book (309 pages) was published in 1912:



This book has been digitized and is available online at:

<https://archive.org/details/historyofpilking00pilk>

In this book, Lt.-Colonel Pilkington discusses the origin of the family name and was able to chart the family living on the Pilkington property going back to the time of the Norman conquest.

As an aside, I note that Lt. Colonel Pilkington was a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries, London. See:

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



SOCIETY OF
ANTIQUARIES
OF LONDON

Sir Roger (1291-1343/8) appears in several places in the Pilkington book – here is his entry in the index:

Roger s. of Roger (1291-1348), 38, 141, 143, 145.

Here is his main entry on pages 38 and 39:

The Pilkington Family.

3. ALEXANDER, an only son by the second wife, Alice the daughter of, and heiress to, Sir Ralph de Otteby, lord of the manor of Otteby, County Lincoln.

His deceased mother's manor of Otteby being in the keeping of Sir Roger at the time of his attainder was seized by the King,⁸⁴ but, on the petition of Alexander, in 1323, it was recovered, and he obtained his Patent on the 6th September, 1324.⁸⁵

In 1346, he contributed, as owner of Otteby, to the Aid levied for Knighting the King's eldest son,⁸⁶ but in the next century the property was in the possession of John Laverton.⁸⁷

4. RICHARD, a son by Margery the third wife. On the 15th August, 1333, he, "Richard son of Roger, and William his brother," along with John de Radecliffe, Parson of Bury, and fourteen others, were (at this unruly period of the reign of King Edward the Third) ordered to be arrested and imprisoned in Nottingham Castle. The reason is not stated on the Roll,⁸⁸ but it would probably be a case of trespass.

According to the *Ashton Chartulary* "Roger de Pilkington and Richard his brother" were, in 1332, concerned in a suit as to waste lands in Great Lever.⁸⁹

It is possible that he was the "Richard de Pilkington, Chaplain," who is mentioned in documents of 1323.

5. ADAM, a son by Margery, the third wife. On the 1st June, 1337, "Adam de Pilkington, Roger and Richard his brothers," together with Adam the parson of the Church of Bury, numerous de Traffords and others (altogether seventy-five persons) were ordered to be tried by Commission of Oyer and Terminer, on the complaint of Queen Isabella, for entering her Free Chases in the County of Lancaster, and carrying away the Deer, &c.⁹⁰ Nothing further has been discovered concerning him.

Descent VIII.—Sir Roger de Pilkington (born about 1291; died in 1343), the eldest son of Sir Roger, succeeded to the lordship

⁸⁴. *Ancient Petitions*, File 133, No. 689.

⁸⁵. *Appendix A*, Mun. No. 9.

⁸⁶. "Feudal aids," 20 Edward II.

⁸⁷. *Ibid.* of Henry the Sixth.

⁸⁸. "Patent Rolls," 7 Edward III.

⁸⁹. *Additional MSS.*, 32,173, No. 91 (Brit. Mus.).

⁹⁰. "Patent Rolls," 11 Edward III.

Genealogy—Main Line.

of the manors of Pilkington, Cheetham, &c., in 1323; he was also the over-lord of Rivington manor.

On the 7th January, 18 Edward II (1325), Roger was summoned to perform military service in Guienne, in accordance with instructions from the King, he having rendered himself liable to assist in his foreign wars.⁹¹ It is clear from this that Roger had taken part, along with his father, in the risings of the Barons; the entry in *Rot. Fascon* includes the names of 180 persons in the County of Lancaster who were so summoned—it sets forth that Sir Roger "heretofore the King's enemy" had obtained a pardon and restitution of his lands on finding surety "to be ready to serve abroad whenever called upon, and was, therefore, commanded to repair to the King at Plymouth on the 17th March [of that year], properly mounted and equipped ready to embark to "Guienne in the King's pay"; furthermore, that he was "to certify before the first week in Lent the manner in which he purposed to "be arrayed and equipped, and the number of men he would bring "with him."⁹²

On the 24th February, 1340-1, he was one of the jurors on the Inquisition appointed to fix the value of lands in the Wapentake of Salford, for the ninths and fifteenths, granted by Parliament to the King.⁹³

Under Privy Seal, King Edward the Third granted him exemption from *Knight-service* for life on the 16th May, 1341⁹⁴; no reason is assigned for this, but it is probable that he had been wounded in the wars.

He died in 1343—in which year his eldest son, being then under age, was fined for not undertaking Knighthood.⁹⁵

His wife was Alicia, the daughter of Henry de Bury, lord of Bury (her mother being Margery the daughter of Richard de Radcliffe, of Radcliffe), who became heiress to her brother Henry de Bury, junior. After the death of her mother and her brother, she inherited the manor and lordship of Bury by virtue of the settlement of 1313,⁹⁶ and so enriched the Pilkingtons of this branch.

⁹¹. "Parliamentary Writs," vol. i, p. 1202.

⁹². *Rot. Fascon*, 18 Edward II. m. 16d.

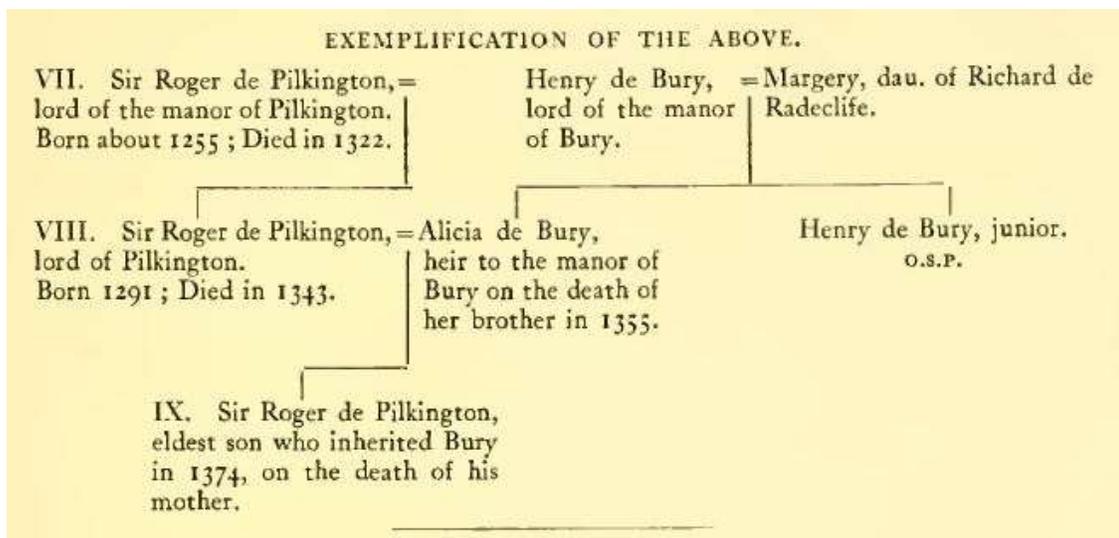
⁹³. "Inquisitiones Nonarum," p. 39.

⁹⁴. "Patent Rolls," 15 Edward III.

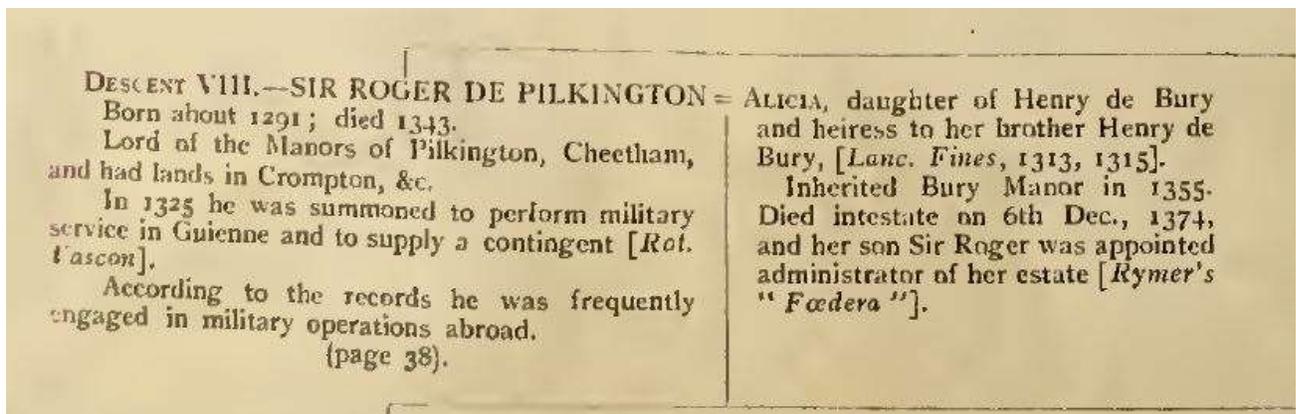
⁹⁵. *Pipe Roll of 17 Edward III.*

⁹⁶. See *Appendix A*, Mun. Nos. 7 and 8.

And here is part of the family tree in the book, showing Sir Roger (1291-1343) and his wife Alicia de Bury, as well as their eldest son, who was also named Sir Roger:



Finally, here is part of the overall pedigree chart (which by now is a little repetitive):



At this point, I think I've written enough about Sir Roger and the Pilkington family of Lancashire.

Summary

In this narrative, I went back on one of my ancestral lines to Sir Roger Pilkington II, Knight (1291-1343). I learned that I have seven different lines going back to Sir Roger – five through the **Oakley** side of my family, and two through the **Burks** side of my family. Depending on which line I select, Sir Roger was either my 19th-great grandfather, or my 20th-great grandfather, or my 21st-great grandfather.

I also discussed the Pilkington family, which has its ancestral origins in Pilkington, in the historical county of Lancashire, in northwest England. Much of the information that exists about this family came from a book written by Lieut.-Colonel John Pilkington – with the third-edition being published in 1912. This book traces the family to the time of the Norman invasion in 1066.

Once again, I find it amazing to be able to follow an ancestral line back more than twenty generations.