

## Chapter 69

### My De Carteret Ancestors in Jersey [the Jersey in the Channel Isles, that is]

[Originally written 27 October 2020]

#### **Introduction**

I have started using the Geni.com website to expand my knowledge of my family tree. A key feature of this website is its “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 October 2020, there are almost 150 million individuals in the World Family Tree – see:

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

A number of my ancestral lines in the World Family Tree on Geni.com go back twenty or thirty generations into the past. This chapter is about one particular ancestral line, which goes back to the *de Carteret* family in Normandy and Jersey in the Middle Ages.

#### **Going Back Many Generations on an Ancestral Line**

I previously have written about my ancestral lines going back from Lucy Ann Eunice Darling (1804-1884) – Lucy was one of my 2<sup>nd</sup>-great grandmothers. Here is my line back to Lucy Darling:



This past week, I randomly picked an ancestral line going back from her; it seemed to lead to some interesting people, which prompted additional research, as well as the writing of this narrative. Here is the path I took: I went back from Lucy Darling to one of her 2<sup>nd</sup>-great grandmothers – a woman named Elizabeth Rose Hyde (1669-1747):



I don't believe that I have gone back on this line previously. Elizabeth Hyde lived her entire life in Samford, Fairfield County, Connecticut, and multiple generations of her descendants also lived in Fairfield County.

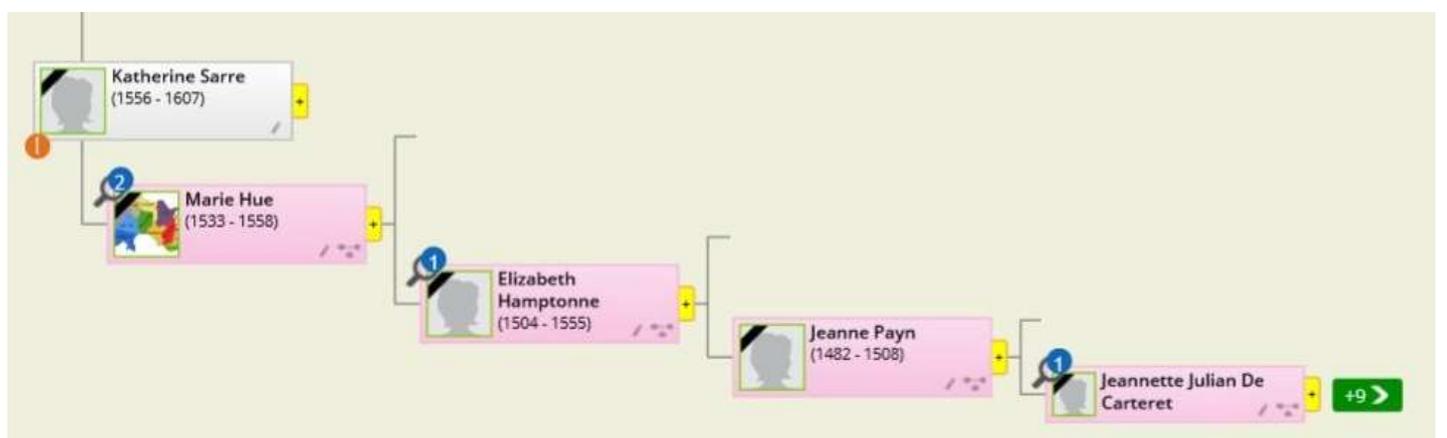
I next went back from Elizabeth Hyde to one of her 2<sup>nd</sup>-great grandmothers – a woman named Katherine Sarre (1556-1607):



Katherine lived in Herefordshire, England.

On the line going from Elizabeth Hyde back to Katherine Sarre (above), Richard Harvey II immigrated from Derbyshire, England, to Stratford, Fairfield County, Connecticut, in 1635. He sailed on the ship *Planter*. This was part of the Puritan Great Migration, which took place from 1620 to 1640.

I next went back from Katherine Sarre to one of her 2<sup>nd</sup>-great grandmothers – a woman named Jeannette Julian De Carteret (1451-1493):



Interestingly, while Katherine Sarre lived in Herefordshire, England, all of her ancestors in the pedigree shown above lived on the island of Jersey, in the Channel Islands. Here is the profile for Jeannette De Carteret on the Geni.com website:

**Jeannette Julian De Carteret**

Gender: Female

Birth: December 1451  
St Ouen, Jersey, Channel Islands

Death: 1493 (41-42)

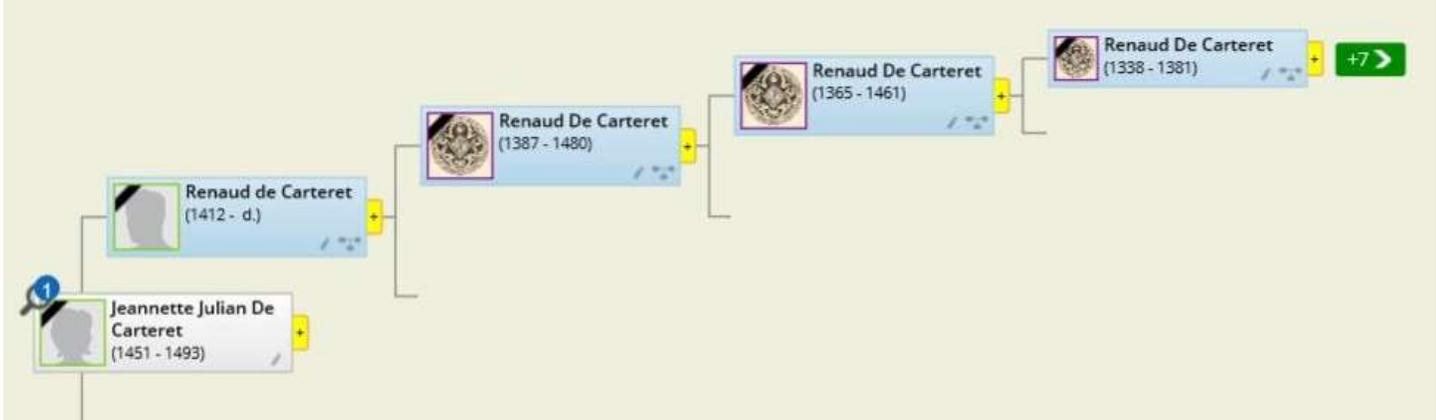
Immediate Family: Daughter of Renaud de Carteret and unknown De Carteret  
Wife of Michel Payn  
Mother of Jeanne Payn; Philippe Payn; Raulin Payn; Catherine Payn and Jean Payn

I'm not sure that I had previously known that I had ancestors who lived on one of the Channel Islands. Jeannette was my 14<sup>th</sup>-great grandmother on the ancestral line shown below:



I'll write more about the Channel Islands later in this narrative. Even though they are just off the coast of Normandy, France, they are a self-governing dependency of the United Kingdom, with a mix of British and French cultures.

Now I'll go back from Jeannette De Carteret on her De Carteret line. Her 2<sup>nd</sup>-great grandfather was Renaud De Carteret (1338-1381):



Here is part of Renaud's profile on Geni.com:



**Renaud De Carteret**

Gender: Male

Birth: 1338  
St. Ouen, Jersey

Death: 1381 (42-43)  
St. Ouen, Jersey

Immediate Family: Son of Philippe De Carteret and Lucia de Vinchelez  
Husband of Jenelle de St Martin  
Father of Renaud De Carteret  
Brother of Guillaume de Carteret

Renaud was my 18<sup>th</sup>-great grandfather on the following line:



Renaud's profile page on Geni.com contains the following:

## About

[edit](#) | [history](#)

### Renaud de Carteret (1338-1381)

Inherited from his Brother Philippe who died a minor, became Siegneur of St Ouen

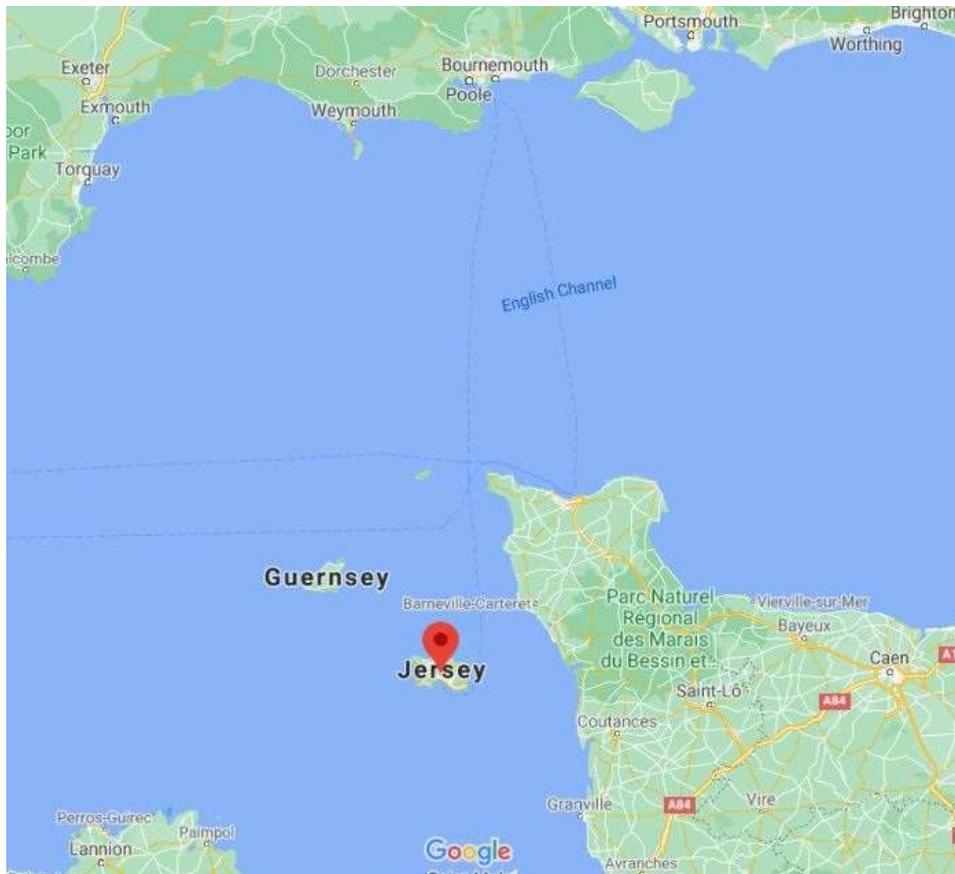
**He led the defence of Mont Orgueil Castle against Bertrand du Guesclin, Constable of France in 1374.** Du Gruesclin, whose encounters with the English had generally been crowned with success, crossed suddenly from Brittany to Jersey in 1374, with an army of 10.000 men, including the Duke de Bourbon and the elite of the chivalry of France.

**Sir Renaud, however, having secured the castle, defended it with such distinguished skill and valour that the French general, after many fruitless assaults, finally withdrew his forces, decimated by sword and disease. For this gallant achievement, De Carteret and his seven sons were knighted in one day by Edward III.** He died in 1381, and was succeeded by his son Renaud.

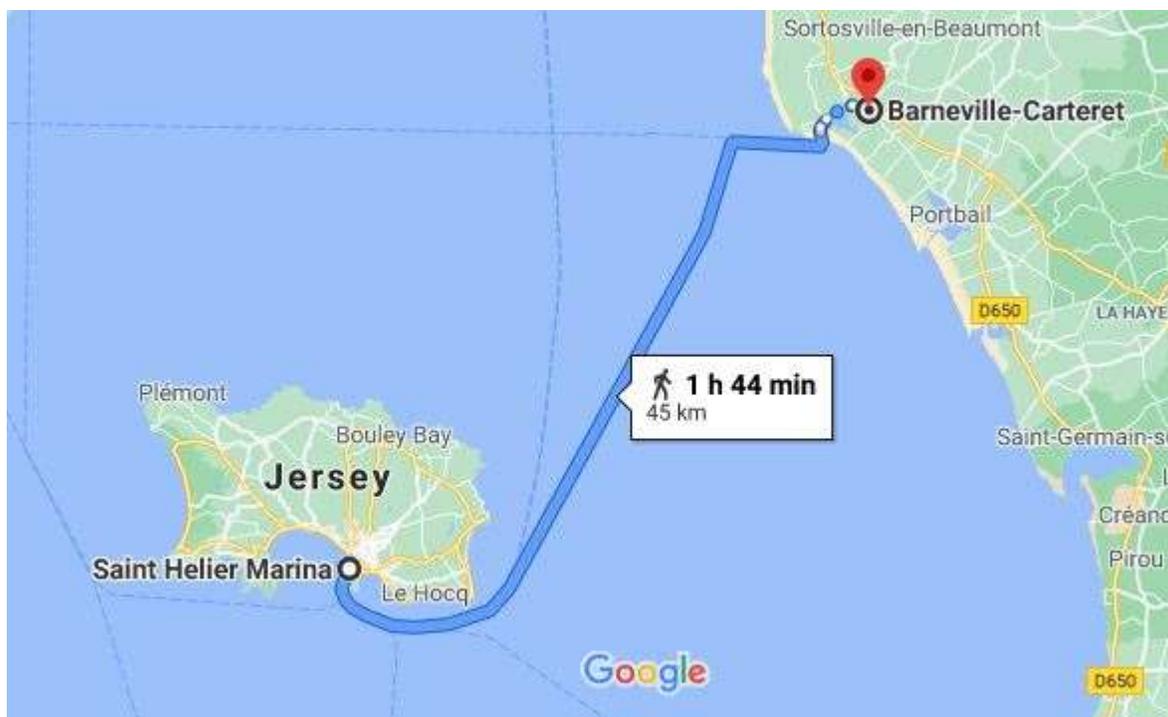
[http://www.theislandwiki.org/index.php/De\\_Carteret\\_biographies](http://www.theislandwiki.org/index.php/De_Carteret_biographies)

Oh my! It appears that Renaud was an important person – he was knighted by King Edward III. He was the Siegneur of St. Ouen – and a siegneur (in case you are wondering) was the title given to the feudal lord of a manor. So what was St. Ouen?

First, let's have a little geography lesson. Here is a Google Map showing the location of the island of Jersey:



Zooming in for a closer look, Jersey is off the west coast of Normandy, and in fact, it is off the coast of Barneville-Carteret, as shown in the following map:



I'll come back to Carteret, Normandy, France, later.

Here is some information about St. Ouen from Wikipedia:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saint\\_Ouen,\\_Jersey](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saint_Ouen,_Jersey)

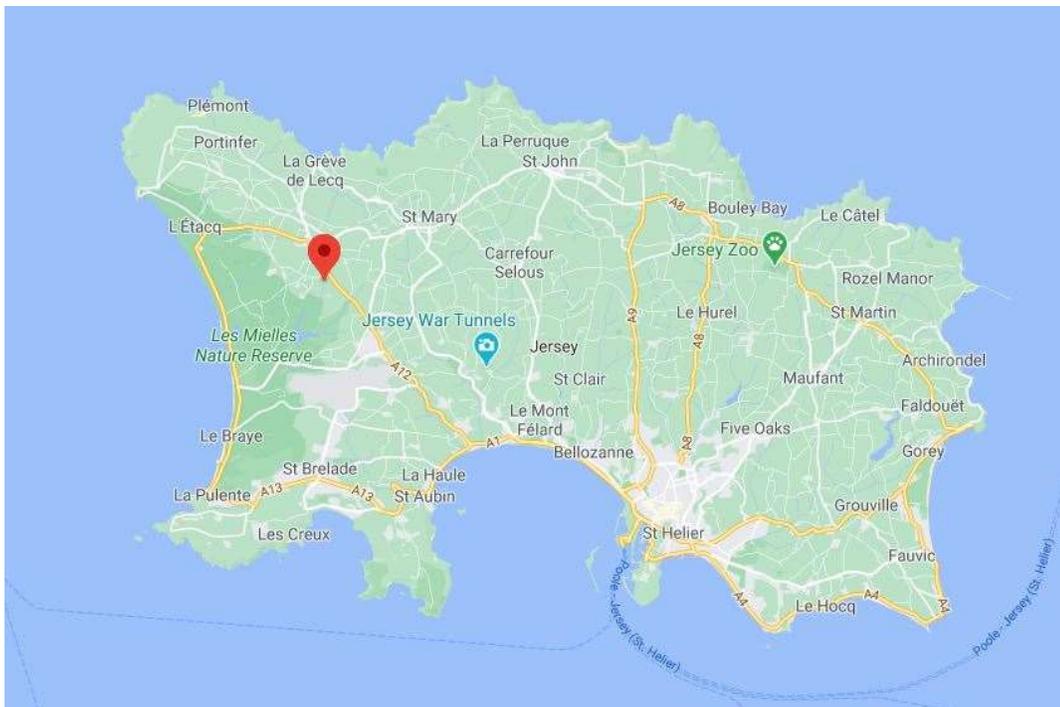
Saint Ouen is one of the twelve parishes of Jersey in the Channel Islands. It is in the north west of Jersey. The parish is the largest parish by surface area, covering 15 km<sup>2</sup>. It is reputed to be the most traditional of the parishes, being the farthest from Saint Helier and with much of the territory of the parish forming a peninsula. Its manor, Saint Ouen's Manor, the seat of the de Carteret family for over eight centuries - is the senior fief

in the island, and the influence of that family has also been a factor in the parish's independent-minded approach to its affairs.

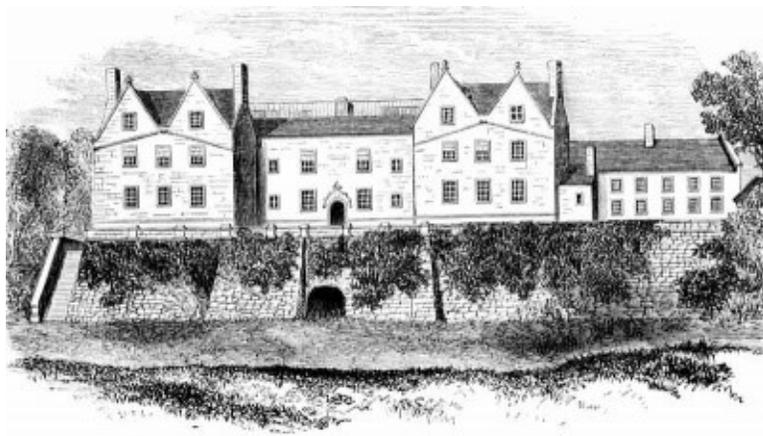
Saint Ouen parish is shown in red in the following map of Jersey:



The location of St. Ouen's Manor is shown in this Google Map:



And now that we know where St. Ouen's Manor is located, let's look at the manor itself:



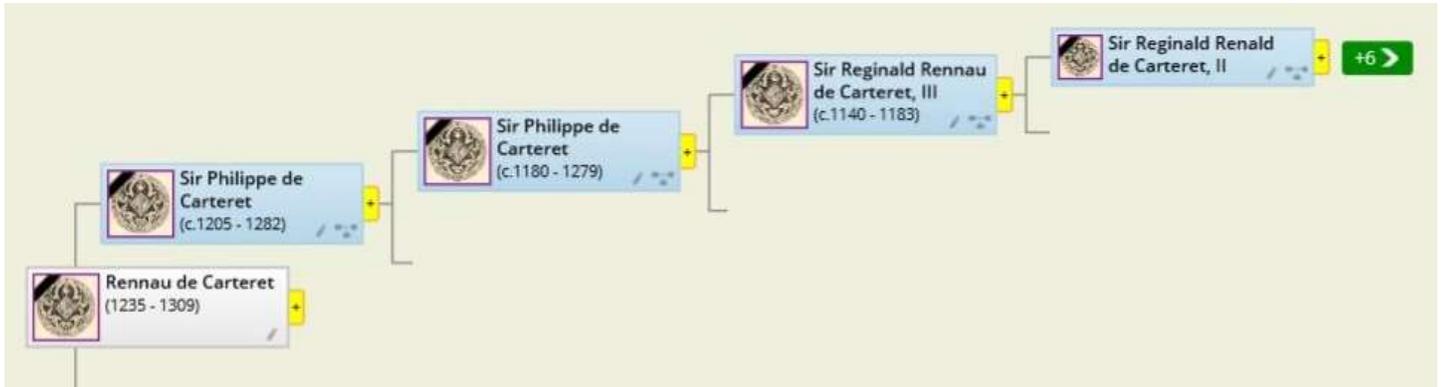


This is pretty cool! My 18<sup>th</sup>-great grandfather was a knight and was the feudal lord of St. Ouen's Manor on the island of Jersey.

Now let me go back farther on the De Carteret line. Renaud's 2<sup>nd</sup>-great grandfather was Rennau de Carteret (1235-1309):



Next is the line from Rennau de Carteret back to his 2<sup>nd</sup>-great grandfather, Sir Reginald Renald de Carteret II (1107-1130):



On this line, we have Sir Renaud (Reginald) De Carteret III (born 1140). Here is an excerpt from the Wikipedia article about him:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Renaud\\_De\\_Carteret\\_III](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Renaud_De_Carteret_III)

Sir Renaud de Carteret III, Seigneur of Carteret [France] (1140–1214) was the son of Renaud de Carteret II, and father of Philippe and Godefroy.

With the separation of Normandy from England (1204), Renaud de Carteret had to choose (with many others) between his possessions in Jersey and those in continental Normandy. Although he had far greater lands on the continent, of which the town of Carteret still bears the name, he chose to throw in his lot with Jersey and remain faithful to the Duke of Normandy in the person of John of England. Had he decided otherwise, there can be no doubt that the history of Jersey would have been a different one. It would probably have been won over by the king of France and placed on the same footing as the Chausey Islands, dependencies of France not differing from the mainland in government or speech.

Continuing on back, here is the line from Sir Reginald back to his 2<sup>nd</sup>-great grandfather, Godfrey de Carter-et (981-1047):



Sir Reginald's paternal grandfather was Sir Renaud de Carteret (1063-1125):

[https://www.theislandwiki.org/index.php/Descendants\\_of\\_Guillaume\\_de\\_Carteret\\_960](https://www.theislandwiki.org/index.php/Descendants_of_Guillaume_de_Carteret_960)

The first de Carteret to bear this name, Sir Renaud is said to be the first of the family to go to Jersey, where he took the western parish of St. Ouen by the sword and founded St. Ouen's Manor. Although his name is frequently found anglicized as Reginald, he would not have been known by that name. According to a manuscript roll, formerly preserved in the Cathedral of Bayeux, he was present, among other knights, under Robert Courteheuse, and Godfrey De Bouillon, Duke of Lorraine, at the taking of Jerusalem [this was part of the crusades]. In 1125, he gave to the Abbey of Mont St. Michel in Normandy, the Church of St. Germain of Cartrait, with all its



This [the family tree on this webpage] is probably the single most important Jersey family tree, because it starts so early, and so many families can connect to the tree via their female lines over the seven centuries covered by the tree. Because of this, the lineage of Guillaume de Carteret has been researched by many family historians, and they rarely agree with each other about the details of the tree.

The first of this family of whom connected record is given is Guillaume (Guy) De Carteret or Carterai, who was Lord of the Barony of Carteret, in Normandy, circa AD 1000, and who, from his skill in the chase, was surnamed *L'Oiseleur*, or the Fowler, to Richard II, Duke of Normandy. Guillaume died in 1004. He is usually recognized as having two sons, Guillaume, and Godefroi (Godfrey), but some researchers add two further sons, Jean and Pierre.

### ***Renaud de Carteret (1338-1381)***

Let me now go back to my 18<sup>th</sup>-great grandfather, Renaud de Carteret (1338-1381). Recall that his profile page on Geni.com contains the following:

#### About

[edit](#) | [history](#)

#### **Renaud de Carteret (1338-1381)**

Inherited from his Brother Philippe who died a minor, became Siegneur of St Ouen

**He led the defence of Mont Orgueil Castle against Bertrand du Guesclin, Constable of France in 1374.** Du Gruesclyn, whose encounters with the English had generally been crowned with success, crossed suddenly from Brittany to Jersey in 1374, with an army of 10.000 men, including the Duke de Bourbon and the elite of the chivalry of France.

**Sir Renaud, however, having secured the castle, defended it with such distinguished skill and valour that the French general, after many fruitless assaults, finally withdrew his forces, decimated by sword and disease. For this gallant achievement, De Carteret and his seven sons were knighted in one day by Edward III.** He died in 1381, and was succeeded by his son Renaud.

[http://www.theislandwiki.org/index.php/De\\_Carteret\\_biographies](http://www.theislandwiki.org/index.php/De_Carteret_biographies)

This text mentions that he led the defense of Mont Orgueil Castle against an invading French army. So I naturally had to look into this castle. Here is an excerpt from the Wikipedia article about Mont Orgueil Castle:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mont\\_Orgueil](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mont_Orgueil)

Mont Orgueil (French for Mount Pride) is a castle that has guarded Jersey's east coast since the 13th century; it overlooks the harbor of Gorey. It is also called Gorey Castle by English-speakers, and lé Vièr Châté (the Old Castle) by Jèrriais-speakers.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Jèrriais is the form of the Norman language spoken in Jersey, one of the Channel Islands off the coast of France. It [Jèrriais] has been in decline over the past century as English has increasingly become the language of education, commerce and administration.

The site had been fortified in the prehistoric period, but the construction of the castle was undertaken following the division of the Duchy of Normandy in 1204. The castle was first mentioned in 1212.

The castle was the primary defense of Jersey until the development of gunpowder, which then rendered the castle ultimately indefensible from Mont Saint Nicholas, the adjacent hill which overlooks the castle. Mont Orgueil was updated with platforms for artillery constructed in 1548 and 1549 under the direction of Henry Cornish, Lieutenant of the Earl of Hertford in Jersey.

Mont Orgueil was to be superseded by Elizabeth Castle off Saint Helier, the construction of which commenced at the end of the 16th century. Walter Raleigh, Governor of Jersey in 1600, rejected a plan to demolish the old castle to recycle the stone for the new fortifications with the words: “twere pity to cast it down”.

During the English Civil War, from March 1643 the then Lieutenant Governor and Bailif of the island, Sir Philippe de Carteret, held out for the Royalists in Elizabeth Castle, leaving his wife Anne de Carteret and their son Philippe de Carteret to occupy Mont Orgueil. It was from Mont Orgueil that the Royalists under Sir George Carteret retook the island from Parliament in November 1643.

Note the references to the de Carteret family in this article.

Here are some photos of the castle as it appears today:



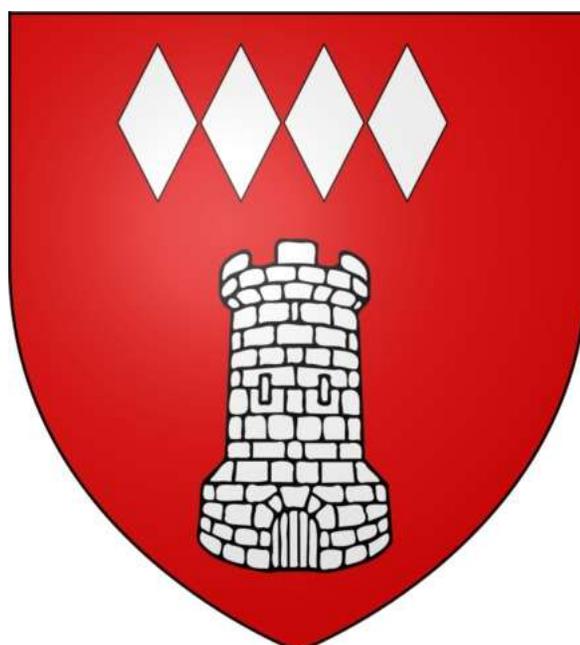


The Mont Orgueil Castle appeared on the £ 50 bank note that was issued by Jersey in 2010:



### *The De Carteret Coat of Arms*

Here is the De Carteret Coat of Arms:



It consists of a Blazon of Gules, with Four Silver Lozenges (fusils). In this case, the “blazon” is an “escutcheon” (shield) in the color red (“gules”). And the “Lozenges” are the diamond shapes at the top of the shield.

The following is the “Sieigneur’s Arms” from de Carteret of Vinchelez de Bas:



### ***Family Roots in Carteret, Normandy, France***

There are a large number of entries on Wikipedia.com with information about the de Carteret family. Here is an excerpt from one such entry:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Barneville-Carteret#Ancient\\_Families](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Barneville-Carteret#Ancient_Families)

#### **Ancient Families**

The famed de Carteret family of the Norman nobility played powerful roles in English history. They held many possessions on the continent, the Channel Islands, and later, in the American colony. Their surname stems from Carteret, the stony anchorage site in Normandy. Guy de Carteret, a.k.a. “The Fowler”, (circa 960-1004) was the first Lord of the Barony of Carteret in Normandy for which there is record. They also held the lordship of St. Ouen on the Isle of Jersey. Family members assisted William the Conqueror at Hastings and took part in the Crusades alongside Robert, son of the duke of Normandy. “Three times has the Island of Jersey been rescued by the valor and sagacity of members of this family from the dominion of the French, events of unequaled importance in its history...”

It seemed like every time I did a new Google search for one of the de Carteret family members, I would find a new and interesting source. One such source was a book entitled ***Jersey: An Isle of Romance***, by Blanche B. Elliott (published in 1923). This book has been digitized by Google and is online at:

[https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=uc1.\\$b117545&view=1up&seq=9](https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=uc1.$b117545&view=1up&seq=9)

Here is the title page:

JERSEY: *An Isle of  
Romance* ~ By BLANCHE B.  
ELLIOTT ~ *Illustrated with Etchings  
by H. V. EDGE and with a Frontispiece  
by EDMUND BLAMPIED* ~ ~

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Chapter XIV (14 if you don't like Roman numerals) is "The Famous de Carteret Family". Here is how it begins:

*Chapter XIV* THE FAMOUS DE CARTERET FAMILY

**T**HERE are few families, if any, who can show a record as famous and remarkable as that of the noble family of de Carteret, and the fame of their deeds is recorded alike in French and English chronicles.

Their history through succeeding generations is closely interwoven with the history of Jersey; their most striking characteristic has been a deep loyalty to their Dukes of Normandy, embodied in the persons of the monarchs of England. Nor is it too much to say that this, the most important of the Channel Islands, has been held steadfast and loyal to the English throne largely through the extraordinary patriotism and exceptional qualities of this family.

The de Carterets are of ancient Norman descent. The name Onfrey de Carteret is mentioned amongst those who followed William the Conqueror to England, and he was probably one of the Seigneurs of Normandy even at that early time.

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Wow! Amazing to see such words written about my ancestors!!

*Yet Another Site with Information about de Carteret*

<http://www.4crests.com/de-carteret-coat-of-arms.html>

The surname of DE CARTERET was a locational name 'of De Carteret' a parish adjoining Barnville in the arrondissement of Valognes in Normandy. The name meant the dweller at the castle or fortified place. The name was also used as an occupational name for a carter, a transporter of goods, originally rendered in the Latin form CARRUM. The earliest French

hereditary surnames are found in the 12th century, at more or less the same time as they arose in England, but they are by no means common before the 13th century, and it was not until the 15th century that they stabilized to any great extent; before then a surname might be handed down for two or three generations, but then abandoned in favour of another. In the south, many French surnames have come in from Italy over the centuries, and in Northern France, Germanic influence can often be detected. Originally the coat of arms identified the wearer, either in battle or in tournaments. Completely covered in body and facial armour the knight could be spotted and known by the insignia painted on his shield, and embroidered on his surcoat, the draped garment which enveloped him. Between the 11th and 15th centuries it became customary for surnames to be assumed in Europe, but were not commonplace in England or Scotland before the Norman Conquest of 1066. They are to be found in the Domesday Book of 1086. Those of gentler blood assumed surnames at this time, but it was not until the reign of Edward II (1307-1327) that second names became general practice for all people. Early records of the name mention Philip de Cartaret, Jersey, during the reign of Edward I (1272-1307). The associated arms are recorded in Rietstaps Armorial General. Registered in Guernesey. A notable member of the name was Philip CARTERET who died in 1796. He was the English navigator, and sailed as lieutenant in John Byron's voyage round the world (1764-66) and commanded the 'Swallow' in Samuel Well's expedition round the world in 1766. He discovered Pitcairn and other small islands (one bears his name) and returned round the Cape of Good Hope to England in 1769.

### ***Jersey Folklore - The Faithful Black Horse***

I think I've presented enough material about the de Carteret family. But this one is too good to pass up:

[http://www.bbc.co.uk/jersey/about\\_jersey/folklore/horse.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/jersey/about_jersey/folklore/horse.shtml)

Long ago, Jersey was ruled by French soldiers. Many islanders strongly opposed the French rule - among them Philippe de Carteret, the Seigneur of St. Ouen.

In return, the French didn't want Philippe causing trouble - so they decided to kidnap him. Whilst Philippe was fishing in St. Ouen's pond, the French soldiers crept along to capture him.

But Philippe saw them and leapt on his black horse. He raced towards his manor, but the soldiers cut him off. He turned into Val de la Charriere, but there was only one way out - across a deep wide ditch.

His horse jumped it, and landed on the other side, and Philippe continued towards home. Once he reached home, and was safe, his faithful horse collapsed and died.

Philippe ordered that his horse be buried in his garden, and today you can see a painting of the black horse in St. Ouen's Manor.

## ***St. Ouen's Manor Today***

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saint\\_Ouen%27s\\_Manor](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saint_Ouen%27s_Manor)

St. Ouen's Manor is a manor house in the parish of St. Ouen, Jersey, and is the traditional home of the Seigneur of St. Ouen, and the ancestral home of the De Carteret family.

The earliest record of the house dates from 1135.

The house and grounds remain intact today, and the house is a private home for the De Carteret family. It is occasionally open to the public.

I note that the article contains a link to a page listing all important members of the De Carteret family, including several of my ancestors mentioned in this narrative:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/De\\_Carteret\\_family](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/De_Carteret_family)

## ***More about the Carteret Family Name***

Finally, let me conclude with an excerpt from the Wikipedia article about the Carteret family name:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carteret\\_\(name\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carteret_(name))

Carteret (earlier, de Carteret) is a surname of Norman origin. It derives from Carteret, Normandy, France, an inhabited place on the northwest coast of the Cotentin peninsula, facing the Channel Islands. The Channel Islands are the only remnant of the Duchy of Normandy, the original territorial holding of William the Conqueror, who invaded England in 1066. Historically, members of the Carteret family have occupied influential positions in the Channel Islands, notably as hereditary Seigneurs of Sark and hereditary Bailiffs of Jersey.

## ***Summary***

In this chapter, I went back on an ancestral line through my 2<sup>nd</sup>-great grandmother, Lucy Ann Eunice Darling (1804-1884). I eventually ended up with my de Carteret ancestors, who lived on the Isle of Jersey and in Normandy, France, in the Middle Ages. They were an important family in the history of Jersey and included the Seigneur of Ouen. In fact, the St. Ouen's Manor is the ancestral home of the De Carteret family.

The World Family Tree on Geni.com is able to trace the family line back to Guillaume (Guy) de Carteret, a.k.a. "The Fowler" (960-1004), who was my 31<sup>st</sup>-great grandfather.

I guess I now need to add visiting the Isle of Jersey to my bucket list, so that I can see St. Ouen's Manor and the Mont Orgueil Castle.