

# Chapter 81

## My Ancestral Lines to Eric the Victorious, the First King of Sweden

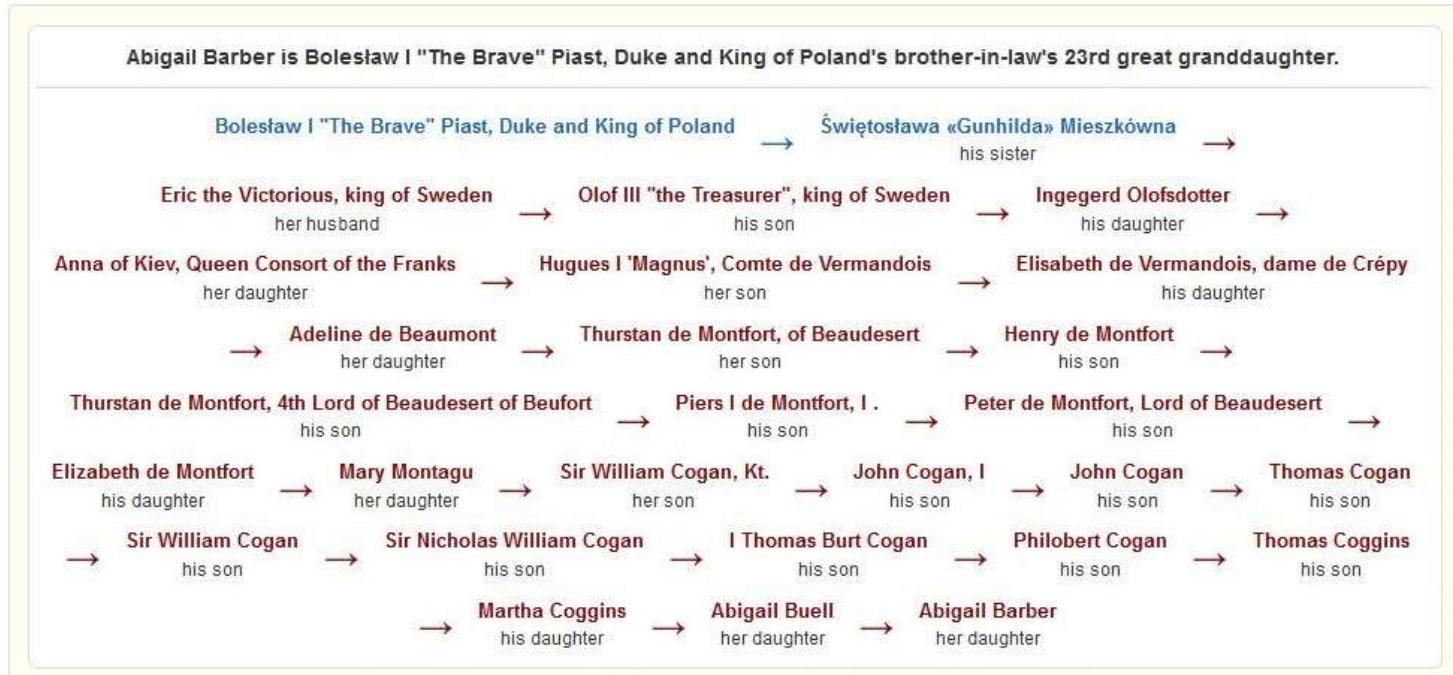
[originally written 3 August 2021]

### Introduction

In Chapter 80, I wrote about the fifteen (or more) distinct ancestral lines that I have going back to Bolesław the Brave (967-1025), King of Poland. I used the “World Family Tree” on the Geni.com website to see which of my ancestors on my father’s side of the family were descended from Bolesław. See:

<http://www.burksoakley.com/QuincyOakleyGenealogy/80-Boleslaw-I-TheBrave.pdf>

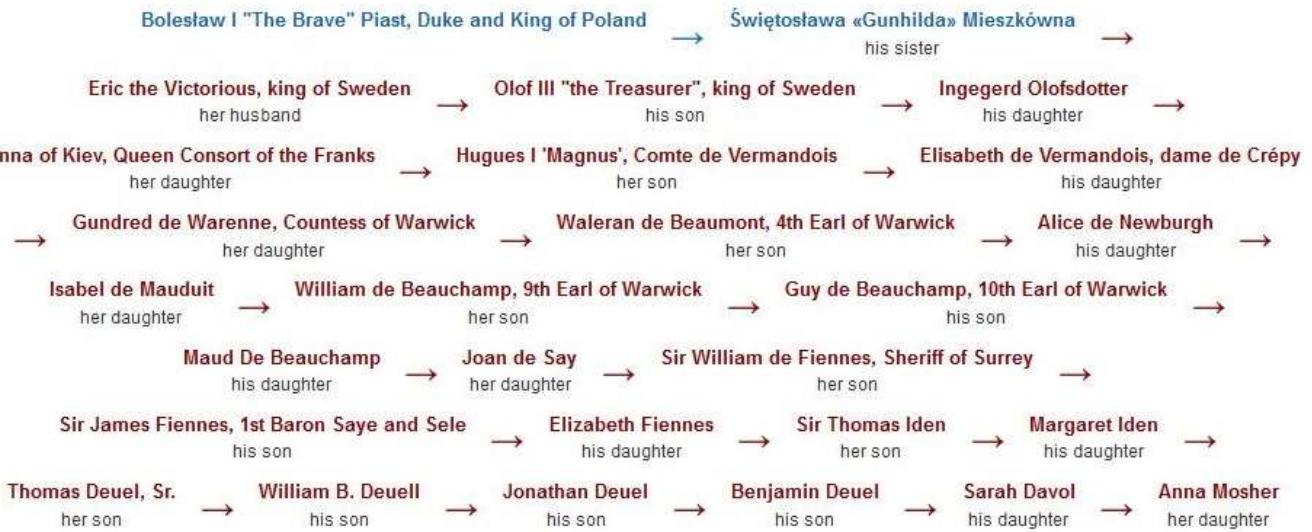
In looking at several of my ancestors, I found that they were not descended directly from Bolesław, but instead were descended from Bolesław’s brother-in-law, Eric the Victorious, King of Sweden. For example, here is the line from Bolesław down to Abigail Barber:



Abigail Barber was my 7<sup>th</sup>-great grandmother on the **Miller** side of my family. The ancestral line shown above goes from Bolesław to his sister, and then to her husband Eric the Victorious. The rest of the line then continues down to Abigail Barber. This is what the folks at Geni.com call my “shortest in-law relationship” (there isn’t a blood line connecting Bolesław to Abigail Barber).

Another example involves Anna Mosher, who was my 4<sup>th</sup>-great grandmother on the **Miller** side of my family. Here is the line from Bolesław to Anna Mosher:

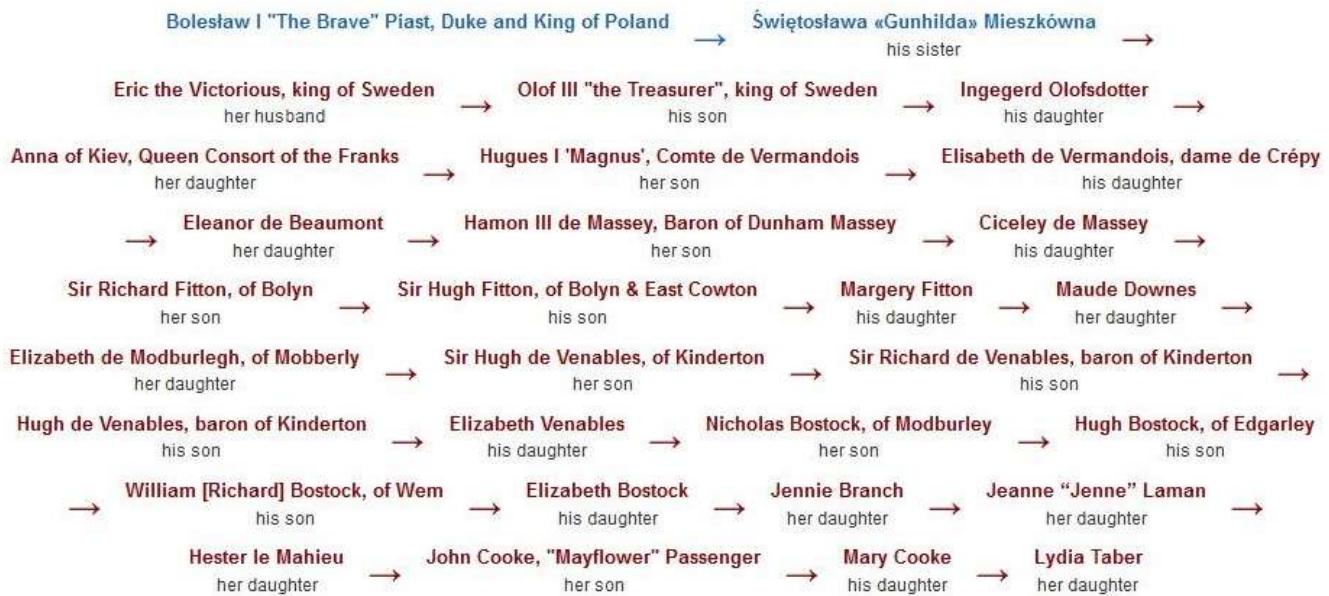
Anna Mosher is Bolesław I "The Brave" Piast, Duke and King of Poland's brother-in-law's 22nd great granddaughter.



Once again, this ancestral line goes from Bolesław through his sister to Eric the Victorious, and then continues down to Anna Mosher.

One last example – here is the line from Bolesław to Lydia Taber:

Lydia Taber is Bolesław I "The Brave" Piast, Duke and King of Poland's brother-in-law's 25th great granddaughter.



Note that this line goes through Lydia's maternal grandfather, John Cooke, who was a Pilgrim who came to America on the *Mayflower* in 1620. And even though Lydia Taber was Anna Mosher's paternal grandmother, this is a totally different line back to Bolesław the Brave than the one for Anna Mosher.

Let me now beat a dead horse, so to speak, and show just the relationship between Eric the Victorious and Bolesław the Brave:

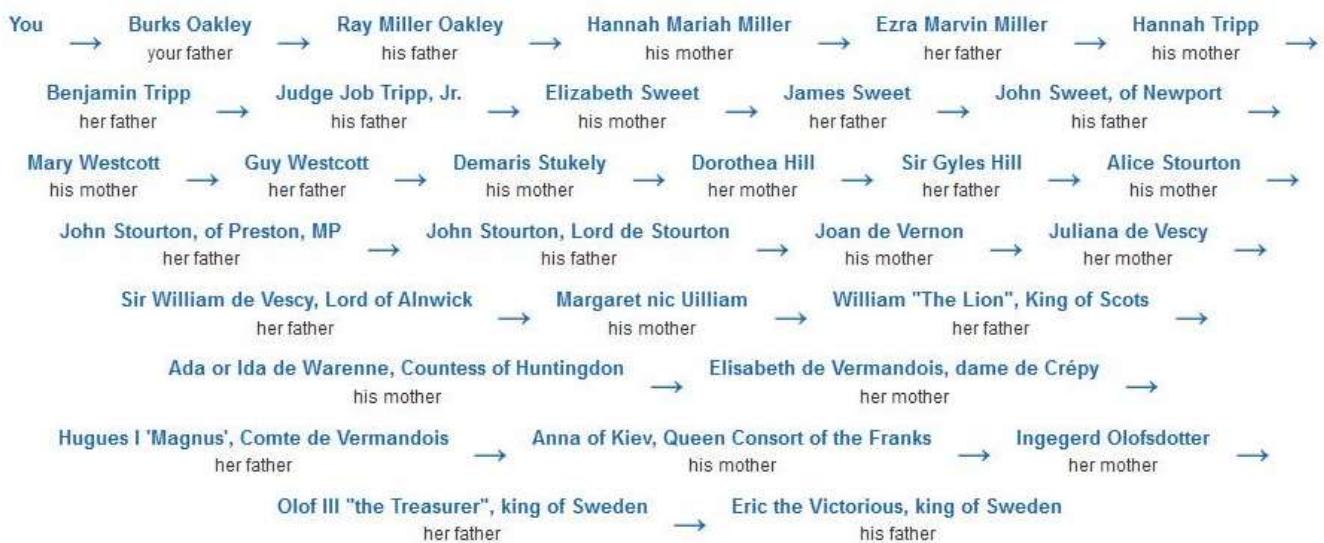
Eric the Victorious, king of Sweden is Bolesław I "The Brave" Piast, Duke and King of Poland's brother-in-law.



Bolesław's sister was Świętosława «Gunhilda» Mieszkówna (970-1015), and she was married to Eric the Victorious.

Here is my “shortest blood line” back to Eric the Victorious:

Eric the Victorious, king of Sweden is your 28th great grandfather.



This line goes back on my ***Oakley-Miller-Tripp*** line, and on this line, Eric the Victorious was my 28<sup>th</sup>-great grandfather. I'll call this Line #1 (because, as you might expect, there are a lot more to come). Note that this line is different than the lines back to Eric the Victorious going through Abigail Barber, Anna Mosher, and Lydia Taber.

### ***Eric the Victorious***

Let me now turn to Eric the Victorious. Here is an excerpt from the Wikipedia article about him:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eric\\_the\\_Victorious](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eric_the_Victorious)

Eric the Victorious (Old Norse: Eiríkr inn sigrsæli; Modern Swedish: Erik Segersäll; c. 945 – c. 995) was a Swedish monarch as of around 970. Although there were earlier Swedish kings, he is the first Swedish king in a consecutive regnal succession, who is attested in sources independent of each other, and consequently ***Sweden's list of rulers usually begins with him.*** [my emphasis]

Some sources have referred to Eric the Victorious as either King Eric V or Eric VI, modern inventions by counting backwards from Eric XIV (1560–1568), who adopted his numeral according to a 16th-century work on the

history of Sweden. Whether or not there were any Swedish monarchs named Eric before Eric the Victorious is disputed, with some historians claiming that there were several earlier Erics, and others questioning the reliability of the primary sources used and the existence of these earlier monarchs. The list of monarchs after him is also complicated and sketchy in some early periods, which makes the assignment of any numeral problematic, whether counting backward or forward.

[Refer to the Wikipedia article for more information about Eric the Victorious.]

Here is a drawing of King Eric in fantasy art, published by Gustaf Henrik Mellin in 1850:



So Eric the Victorious, who was my 28<sup>th</sup>-great grandfather, was the first ruler of Sweden – that's pretty cool!

### ***Other Ancestral Lines to Eric the Victorious***

In Chapter 80, I wrote about the fifteen different ancestral lines I have going back to Bolesław the Brave. I wondered if I would find something similar involving Eric the Victorious. Well, to make a long story short, yes, I did! Let me start with my paternal grandfather, Ray Miller Oakley. Here is his pedigree back to his 2<sup>nd</sup>-great grandparents:



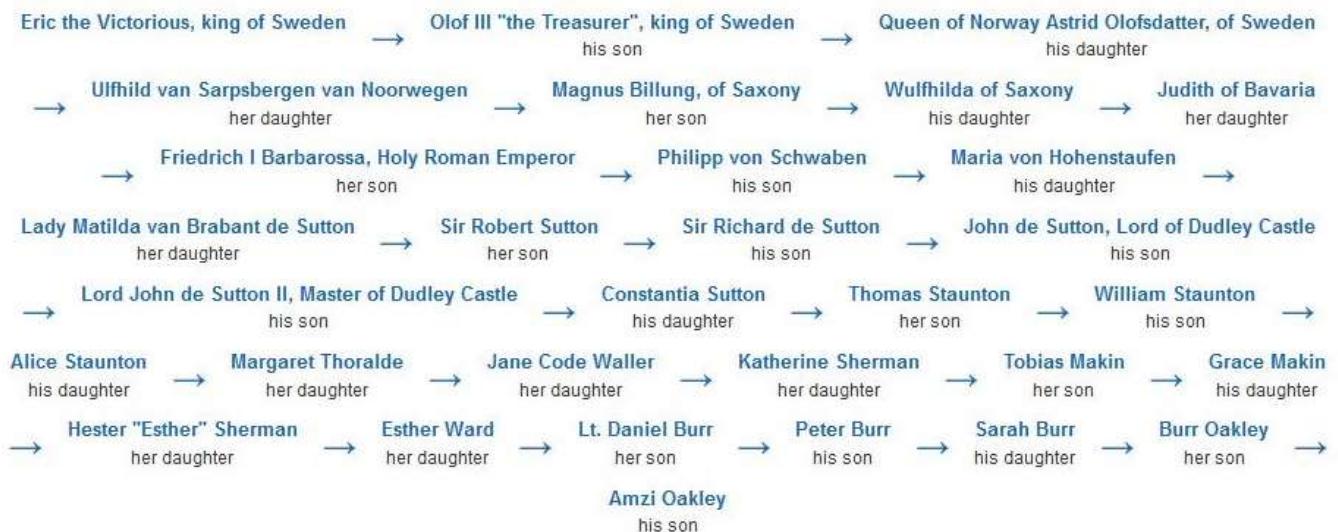
My line back to Eric the Victorious (Line #1) goes through Ray Miller Oakley, then Hannah Mariah Miller, Ezra Marvin Miller, Hannah Tripp, and Benjamin Tripp.

Since Line #1 goes through Ray's mother, I next looked at Ray's father, Aaron Burr Oakley:



This line goes through Aaron Burr Oakley's mother, Lucy Ann Eunice Darling. I'll call it Line #2. I next looked at Aaron's father, Amzi Oakley:

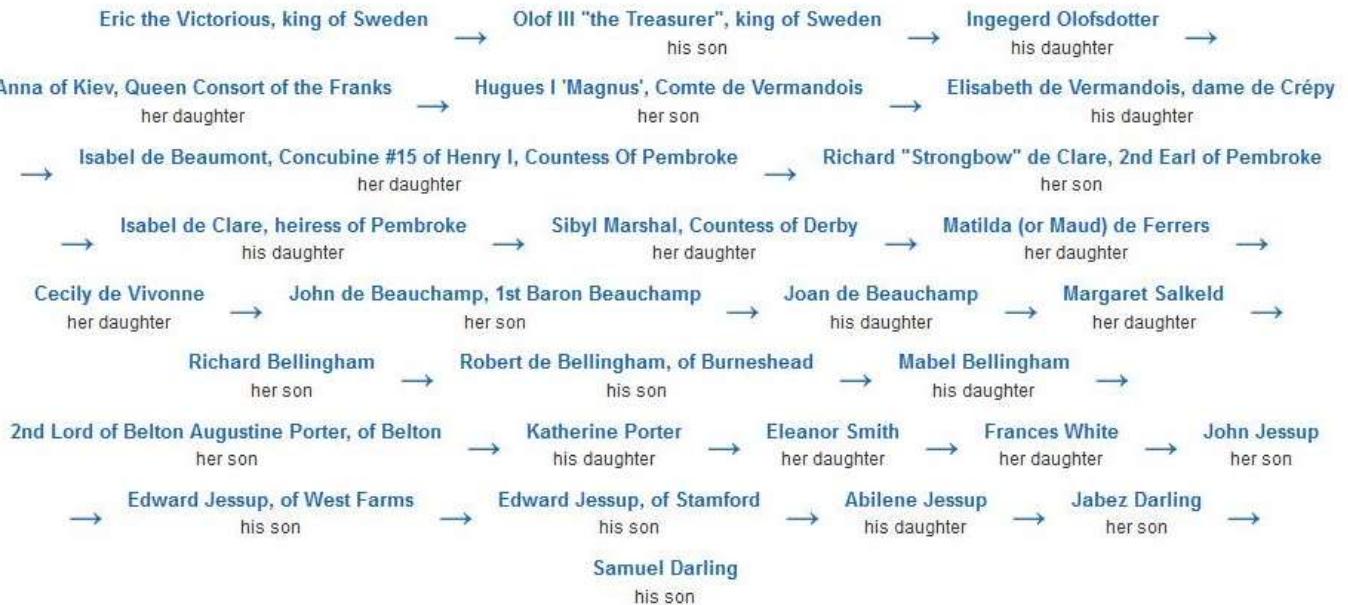
**Amzi Oakley is Eric the Victorious, king of Sweden's 28th great grandson.**



This line (Line #3) goes back through the **Burr** family. And note that it also goes through Queen of Norway Astrid Olofsdatter, of Sweden, who was a granddaughter of Eric the Victorious.

I looked at several more ancestors in the “Aaron Burr Oakley” branch of my family tree. First was Samuel Darling:

**Samuel Darling is Eric the Victorious, king of Sweden's 25th great grandson.**



I'll call this Line #4.

I next looked at Lois Sanford:

**Lois Sanford** is Eric the Victorious, king of Sweden's 24th great granddaughter.

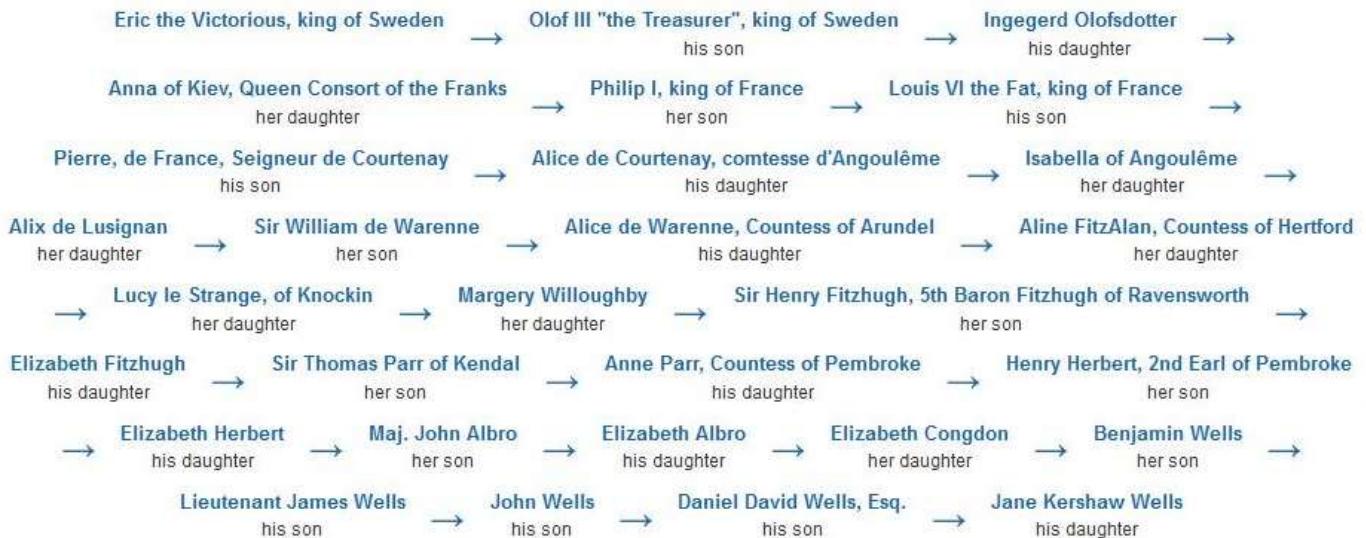


I'll call this Line #5.

That takes care of all of Aaron Burr Oakley's ancestors in the pedigree chart for Ray Miller Oakley. Let me now move to the Hannah Mariah Miller side of Ray's pedigree. Recall that my line to Eric the Victorious (Line #1) goes through Hannah, Ezra Marvin Miller, Hannah Tripp, and Benjamin Tripp.

I next looked at Ezra Marvin Miller's wife, Jane Kershaw Wells:

Jane Kershaw Wells is Eric the Victorious, king of Sweden's 26th great granddaughter.



Another interesting line (Line #6), going through Louis VI the Fat, King of France, and his father, Philip I, King of France. Wow!

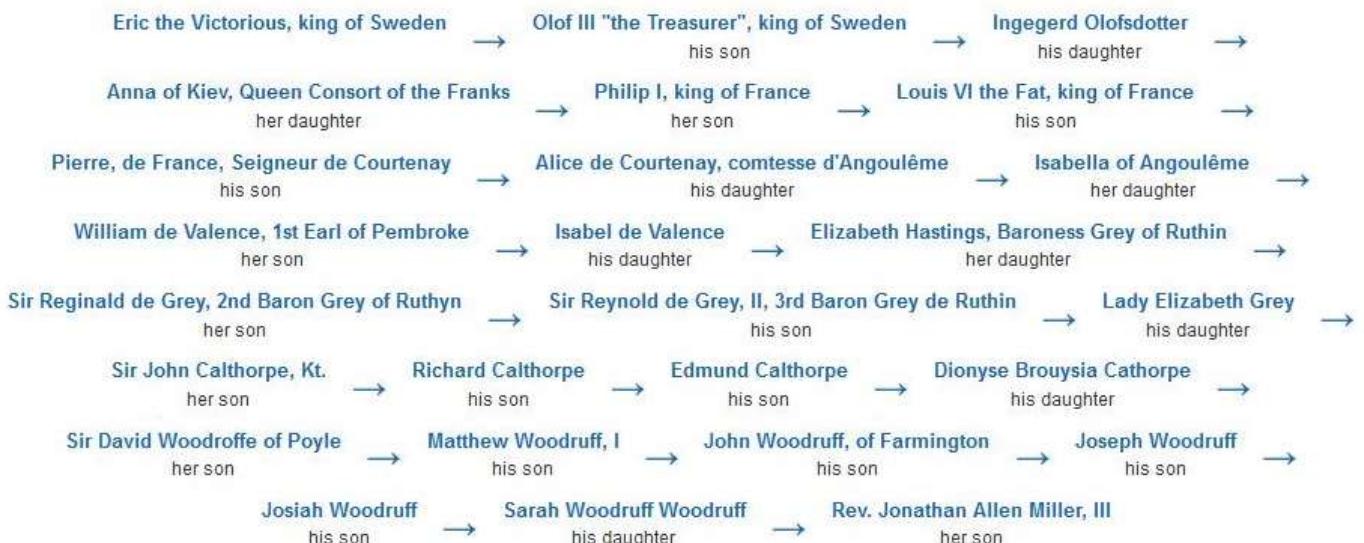
Next in the pedigree chart is Allen Miller:

**Allen Miller is Eric the Victorious, king of Sweden's 24th great grandson.**



Since Allen Miller's line (Line #7) goes through his mother, Hannah Case, I next looked at Allen's father, Rev. Jonathan Allen Miller III:

**Rev. Jonathan Allen Miller, III is Eric the Victorious, king of Sweden's 23rd great grandson.**



I'll call this Line #8. It also goes through several kings of France.

I mentioned Anna Mosher in the **Introduction**. Here is her line:

**Anna Mosher is Eric the Victorious, king of Sweden's 22nd great granddaughter.**

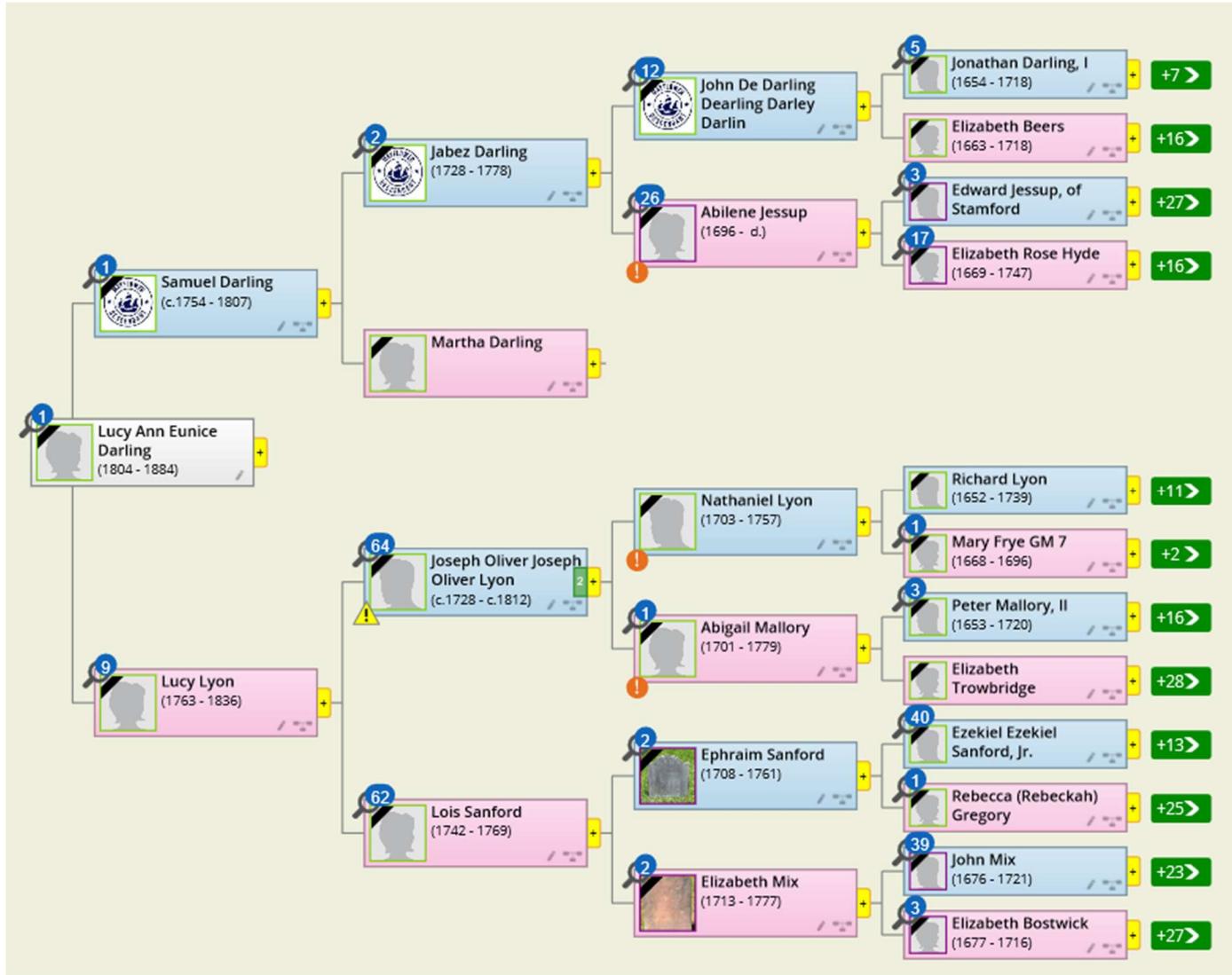


I'll call this Line #9. I believe that this completes everyone in Ray Miller Oakley's pedigree chart through his 2<sup>nd</sup>-great grandparents. I went back to that chart and added a red circle to all the people in his pedigree who are descended from Eric the Victorious. I also added the number of the ancestral line to each red circle:



Oh my! Almost everyone in this chart is descended from Eric the Victorious! In fact, everyone who is not a "dead end" (or "brick wall") is descended from Eric except Jeremiah Oakley. Overall, there are nine ancestral lines that go back to Eric the Victorious through Ray Miller Oakley. These nine lines pass through Ray's 2<sup>nd</sup>-great grandparents at the right of this pedigree chart. Note that Line #1 starts at the left with Ray Miller Oakley, while Line #9 doesn't start until Anna Mosher on the far right of this chart.

I thought that I should go back a few more generations to see if Ray Miller Oakley had additional ancestral lines back to Eric the Victorious. I looked at Lucy Ann Eunice Darling first. Here is her pedigree chart:



Recall that Lucy Darling's line (Line #2) went through Lucy Lyon, Joseph Oliver Lyon, Abigail Mallory, and Peter Mallory II. Samuel Darling's line (Line #4) went through Jabez Darling, Abilene Jessup, and Edward Jessup. Lois Sanford's line (Line #5) went through Elizabeth Mix, and Elizabeth Bostwick.

I next looked at Nathaniel Lyon:

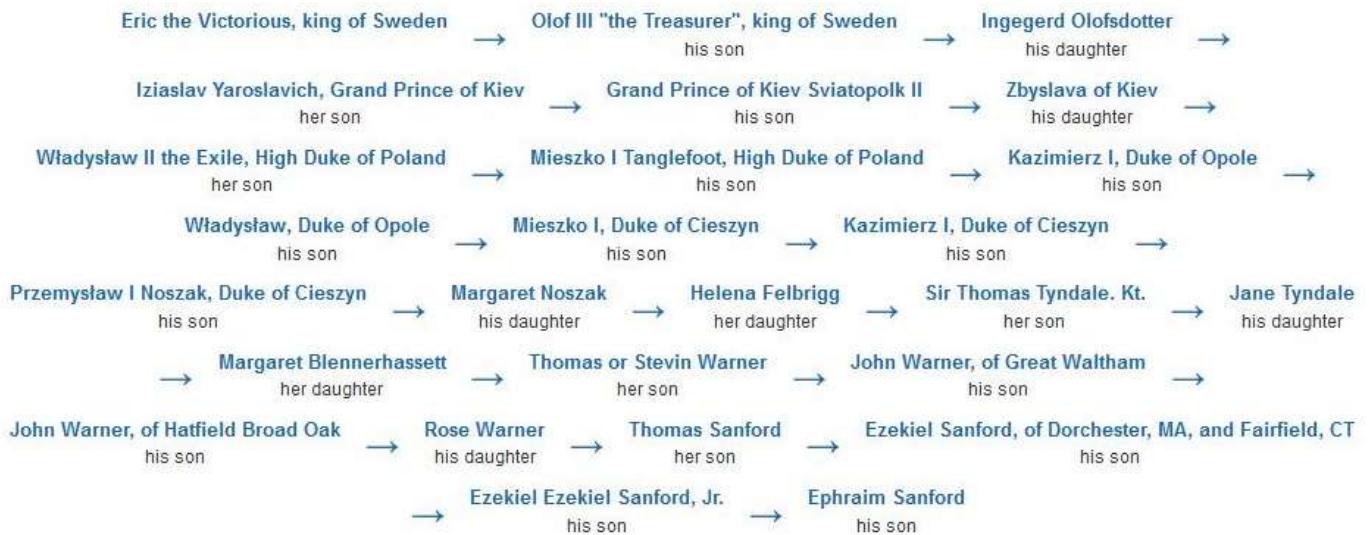
Nathaniel Lyon is Eric the Victorious, king of Sweden's 22nd great grandson.



I'll call this Line #10. Note that it goes through ancestors with titles such as "Grand Prince of Kiev" and "High Duke of Poland", and four English knights. Impressive ancestry!

Next is Ephraim Sanford:

Ephraim Sanford is Eric the Victorious, king of Sweden's 23rd great grandson.



I'll call this Line #11. Again, a number of Russians and Poles in this line.

Next is Elizabeth Rose Hyde:

Elizabeth Rose Hyde is Eric the Victorious, king of Sweden's 22nd great granddaughter.



I'll call this Line #12. This line includes the "King of Scots" and "Lord of Alnwick".

Next is Elizabeth Trowbridge:

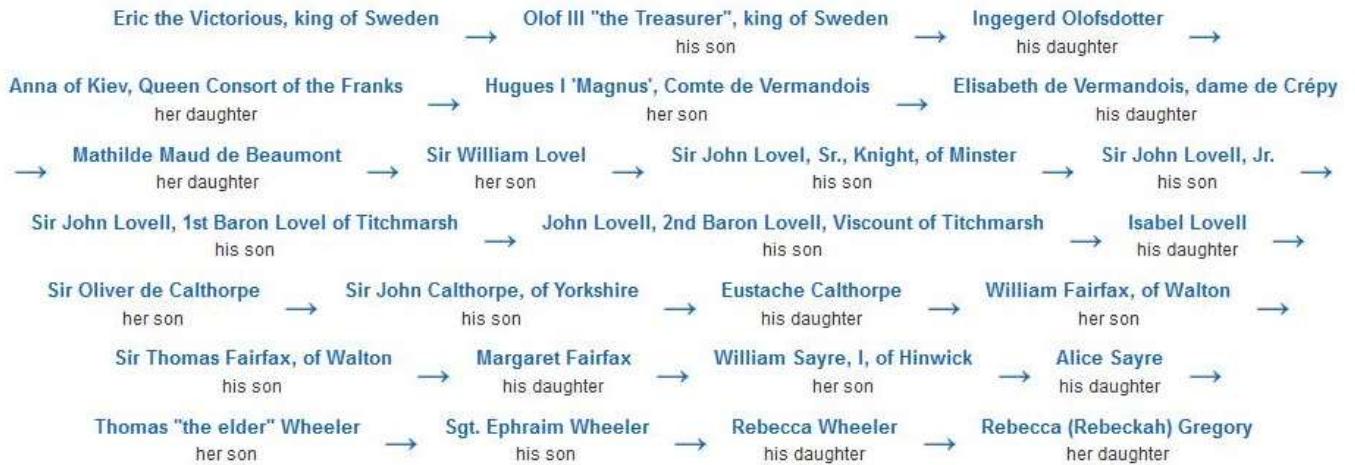
Elizabeth Trowbridge is Eric the Victorious, king of Sweden's 22nd great granddaughter.



I'll call this Line #13. This line includes a Knight who was Earl of Leicester and Justiciar of England. Wow!

Next is Rebecca Gregory:

**Rebecca (Rebeckah) Gregory is Eric the Victorious, king of Sweden's 22nd great granddaughter.**



I'll call this Line #14. Several “barons” in this line.

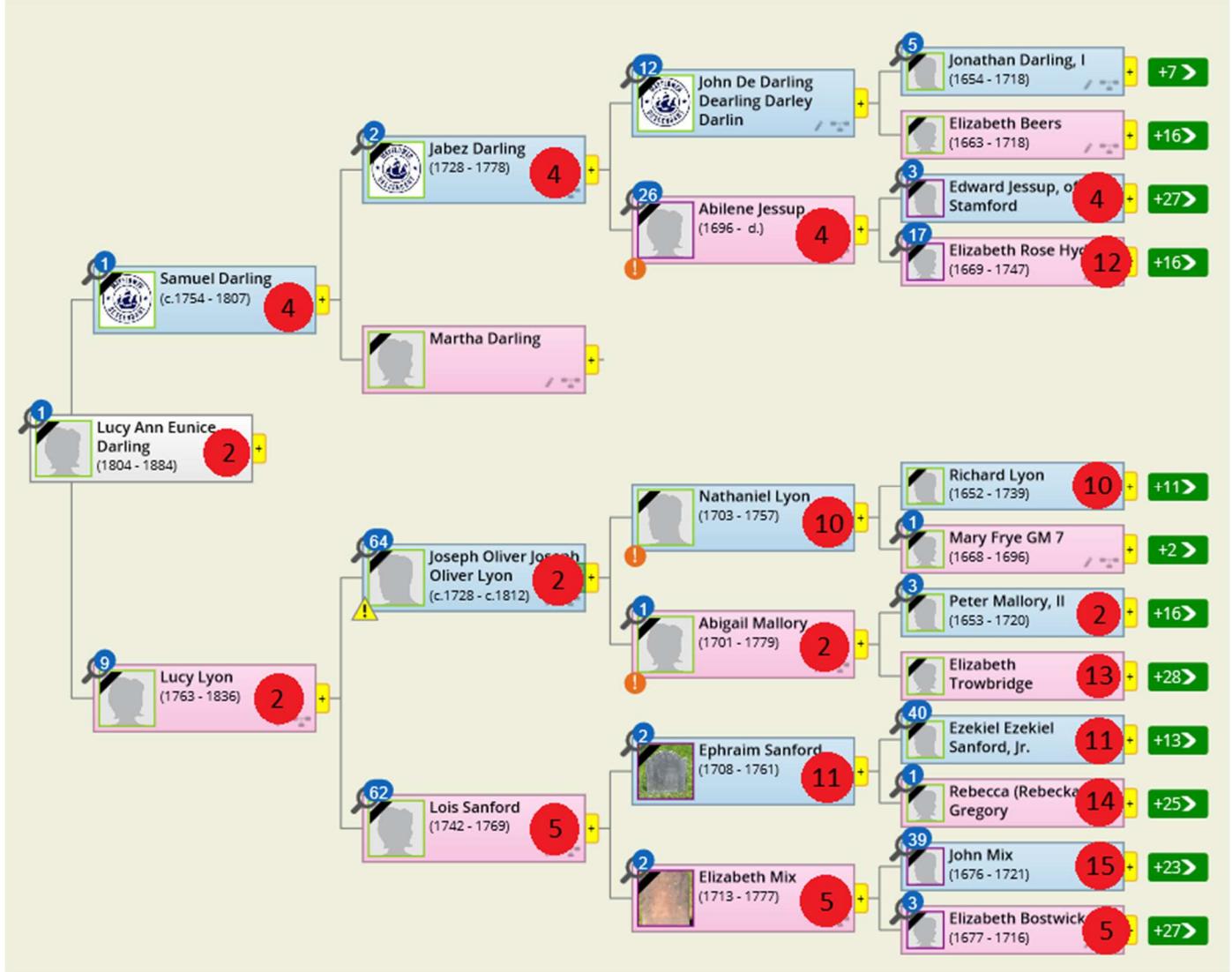
Next is John Mix:

**John Mix is Eric the Victorious, king of Sweden's 23rd great grandson.**



I'll call this Line #15. Featuring a “dame”, a “countess”, and a “Feudal Baron”.

I think that I now have covered everyone who is descended from Eric the Victorious in the pedigree chart for Lucy Ann Eunice Darling, going back to her 2<sup>nd</sup>-great grandparents. As before, I went back to this chart and added a red circle to each of her ancestors who are descended from Eric the Victorious, and I added the ancestral line numbers. Here is that annotated chart:



Lucy has nine ancestral lines going back to Eric the Victorious, and these lines are represented by the nine red dots at the far-right of this chart. Amazing to see all the lines back to Eric the Victorious!! Up to this point, there are fifteen distinct lines connecting me back to Eric the Victorious. Again, note that Line #2 starts at the far left with Lucy Darling, while Lines #12, #13, #14, and #15 don't start until someone in the far-right column.

I next decided to look at Ezra Marvin Miller's pedigree, since there were a number of lines going through his ancestors. Here is his pedigree chart:



Recall that my line back to Eric the Victorious (Line #1) went through Ezra Marvin Miller, Hannah Tripp, Benjamin Tripp, Judge Job Tripp Jr., and Elizabeth Sweet. The line through Allen Miller (Line #7) went through Hannah Case, Sgt. Solomon Case, and Deacon Joseph Case. The line through Rev. Jonathan Allen Miller III (Line #8) went through Sarah Woodruff and Josiah Woodruff. The line through Anna Mosher (Line #9) went through Sarah Davol and Benjamin Davol (or Deuel).

The next ancestor I looked at was Jonathan Allen Miller II:



I'll call this Line #16. With a "Countess", the "King of Scots", and a "Baron Ingmanthorpe".

Next is Anna Case:



I'll call this Line #17. Note that it goes through our **Case-Spencer** line. I visited the ancestral home of our **Spencer** family in England in September 2019.

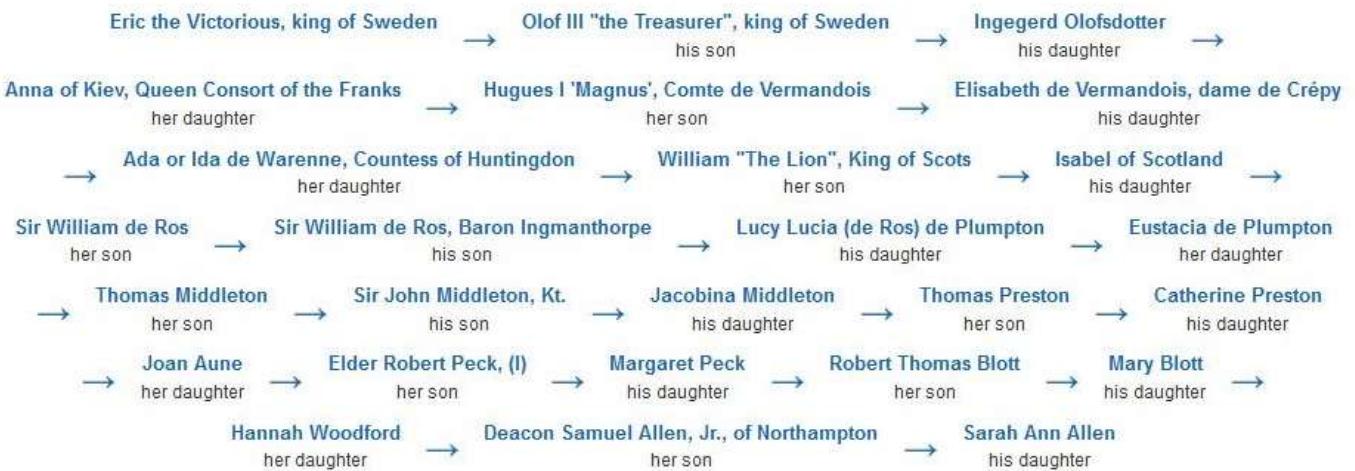
Next is James Mosier (Mosher):



I'll call this Line #18. This is essentially the same as the Lydia Taber line that I presented in the **Introduction**. It goes through John Cooke, a Pilgrim who came to America on the *Mayflower* in 1620.

Next is Sarah Ann Allen:

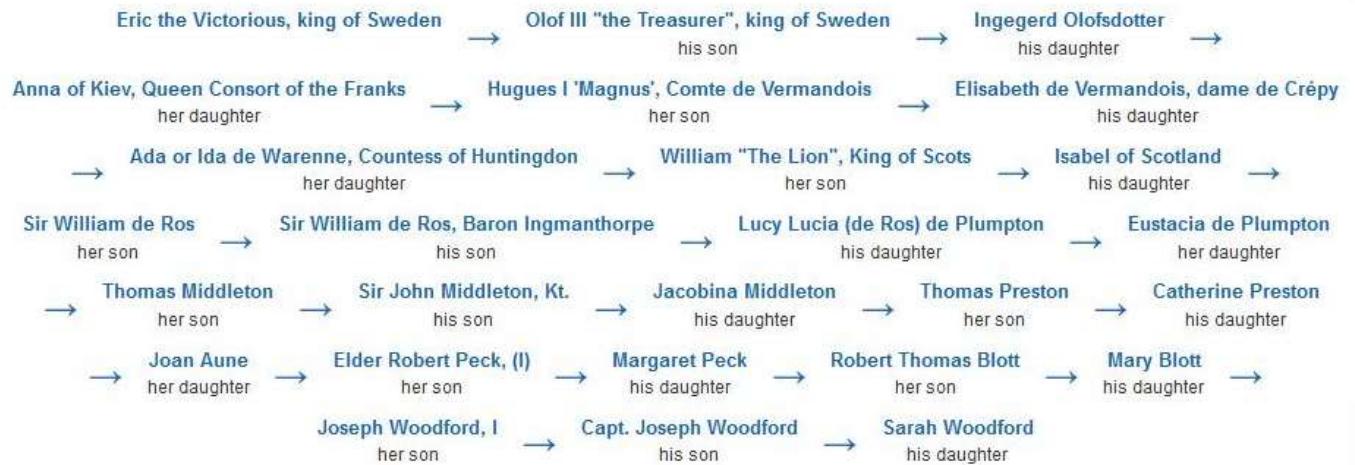
Sarah Ann Allen is Eric the Victorious, king of Sweden's 23rd great granddaughter.



I'll call this Line #19. Another line through the “King of Scots”, plus a Baron and a Knight.

Next is Sarah Woodford:

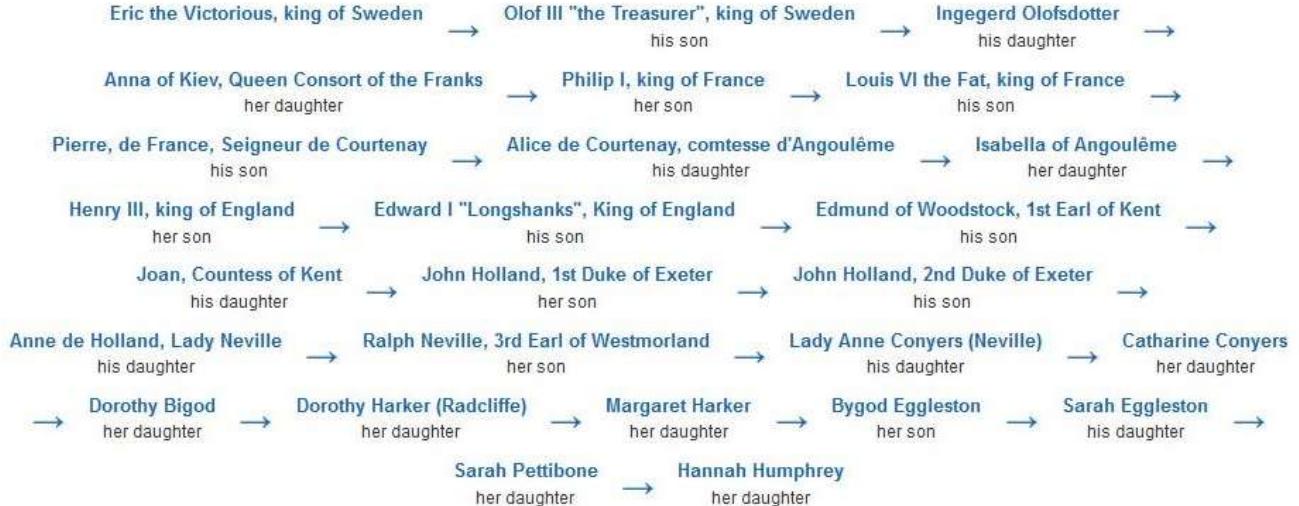
Sarah Woodford is Eric the Victorious, king of Sweden's 23rd great granddaughter.



I'll call this Line #20. Through the “King of Scots” and several “Sirs”.

Next is Hannah Humphrey:

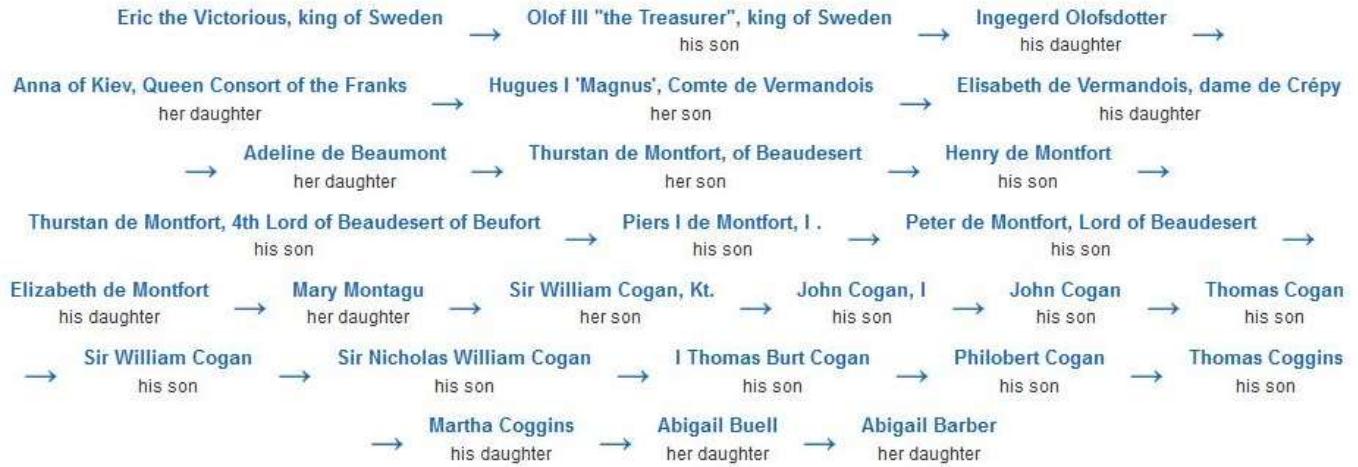
Hannah Humphrey is Eric the Victorious, king of Sweden's 23rd great granddaughter.



I'll call this Line #21. Another line through Philip I, King of France, and his son Louis VI the Fat, King of France.

Next is Abigail Barber, who was mentioned in the ***Introduction***:

**Abigail Barber is Eric the Victorious, king of Sweden's 23rd great granddaughter.**



I'll call this Line #22. This line has several Lords, a Knight, and several "Sirs".

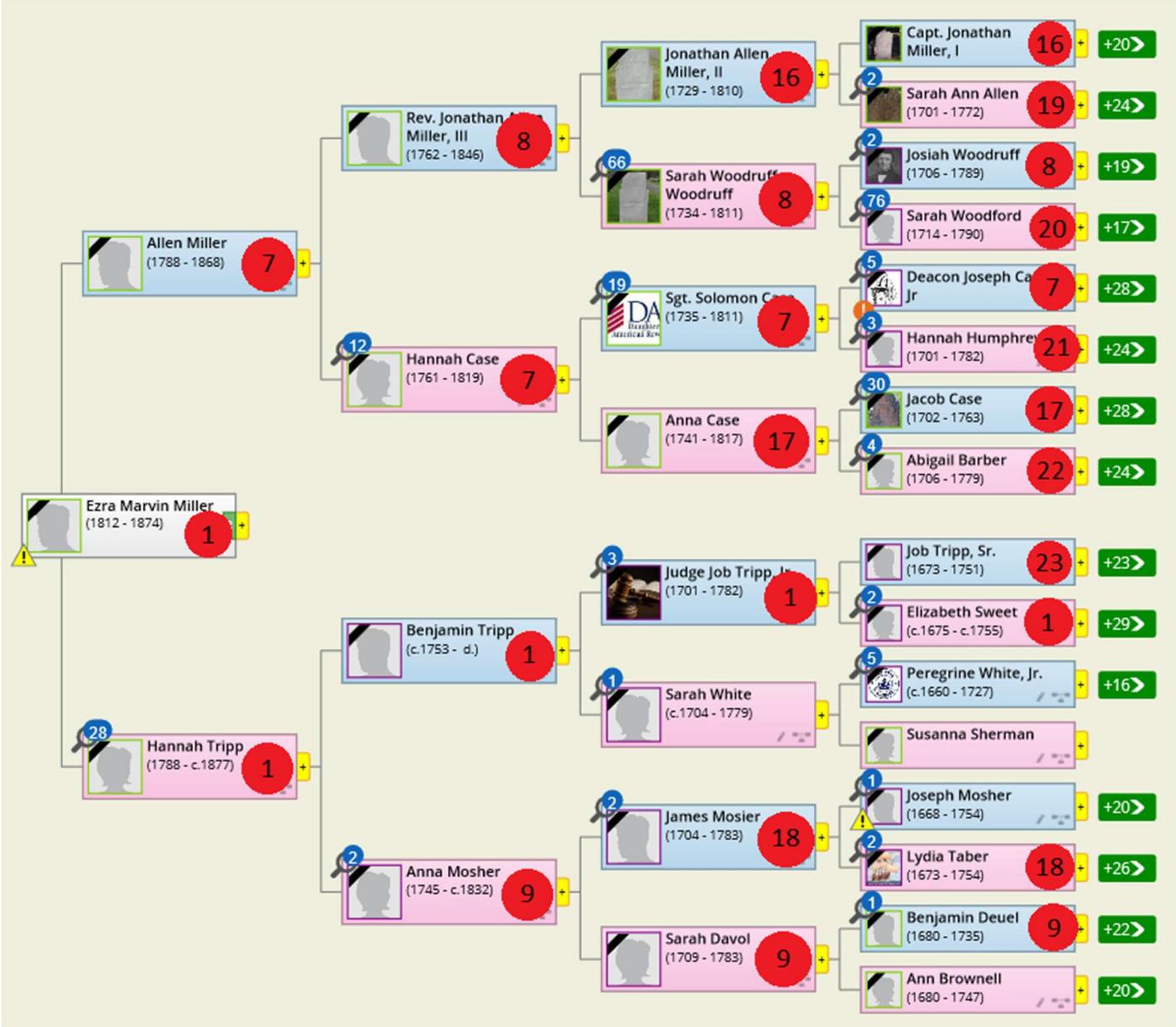
Next is Job Tripp Sr.:

**Job Tripp, Sr. is Eric the Victorious, king of Sweden's 23rd great grandson.**



I'll call this Line #23. Most of this line includes ancestors I have never heard of previously.

I think that I now have covered all of the ancestors in Ezra Marvin Miller's pedigree through his 2<sup>nd</sup>-great grandparents. Here is his annotated pedigree chart with the red dots and numbered lines:



So up to here, I have found twenty-three distinct lines back to Eric the Victorious. I randomly selected a few more of **Oakley** ancestors.

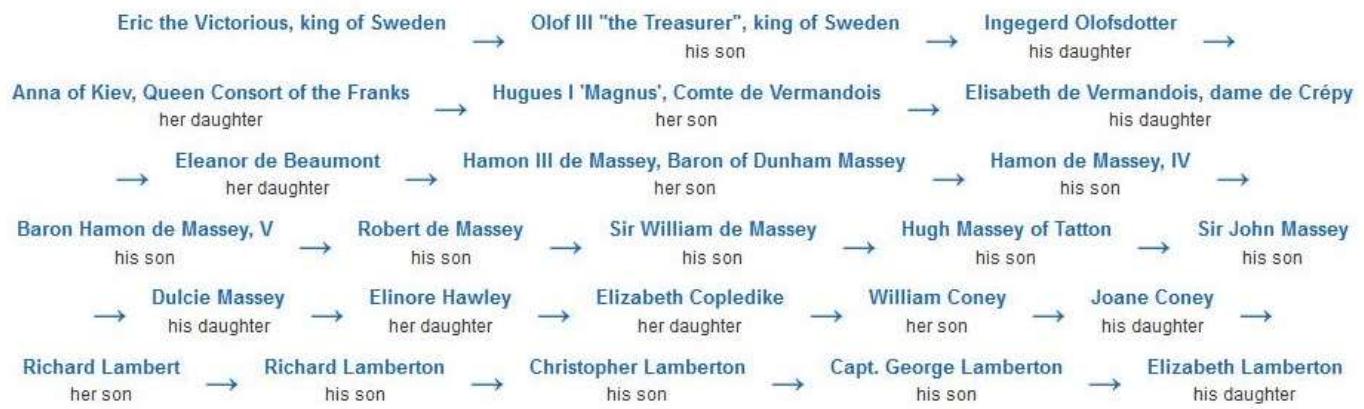
Josiah Woodruff appeared in Line #8. His maternal grandmother was Rebecca Marvin, and here is her line back to Eric the Victorious:



I'll call this Line #24. Another line back through Philip I, King of France, and his son, Louis VI the Fat, King of France.

Elizabeth Trowbridge appeared in Line #13, which went through her father William Trowbridge. So I looked at her mother, Elizabeth Lamberton:

Elizabeth Lamberton is Eric the Victorious, king of Sweden's 21st great granddaughter.



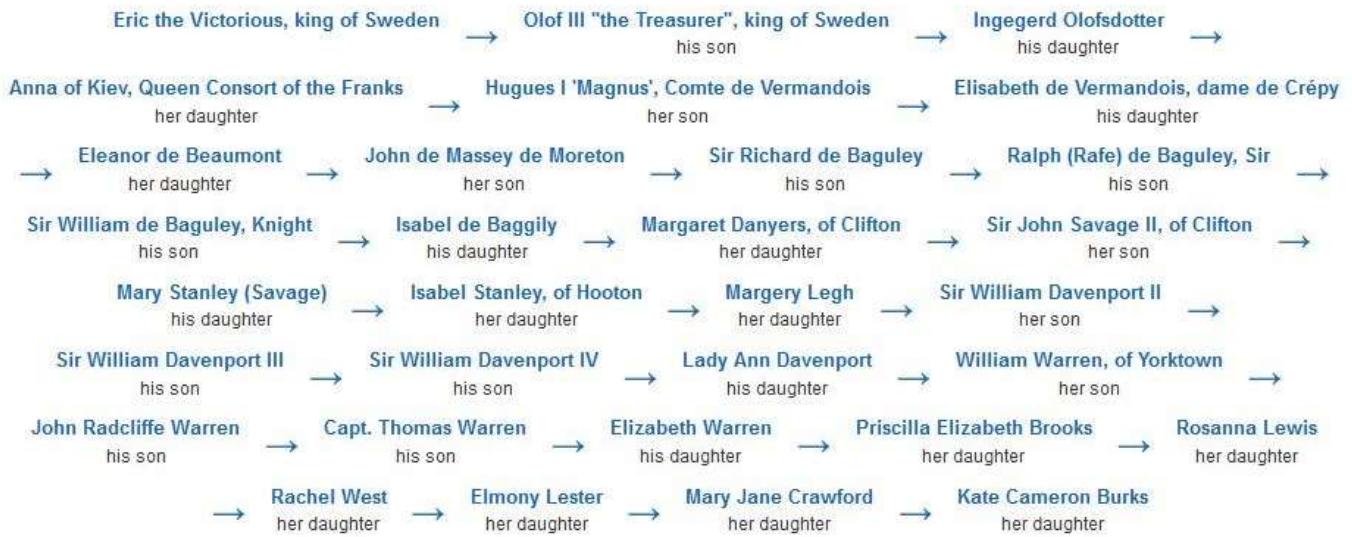
I'll call this Line #25. I'm sure if I kept going back, I would find more lines, but I think twenty-five is enough.

Now I'll move to the **Burks** side of my family. My paternal grandmother was Kate Cameron Burks. Here is her pedigree going back to her 2<sup>nd</sup>-great grandparents:



I'll start with Kate Cameron Burks herself:

Kate Cameron Burks is Eric the Victorious, king of Sweden's 28th great granddaughter.



I'll call this Line #26. Note that the first six generations in this line going back from Kate are all women. Since this line went through Kate's mother, I'll next look at Kate's father, James A. Burks:

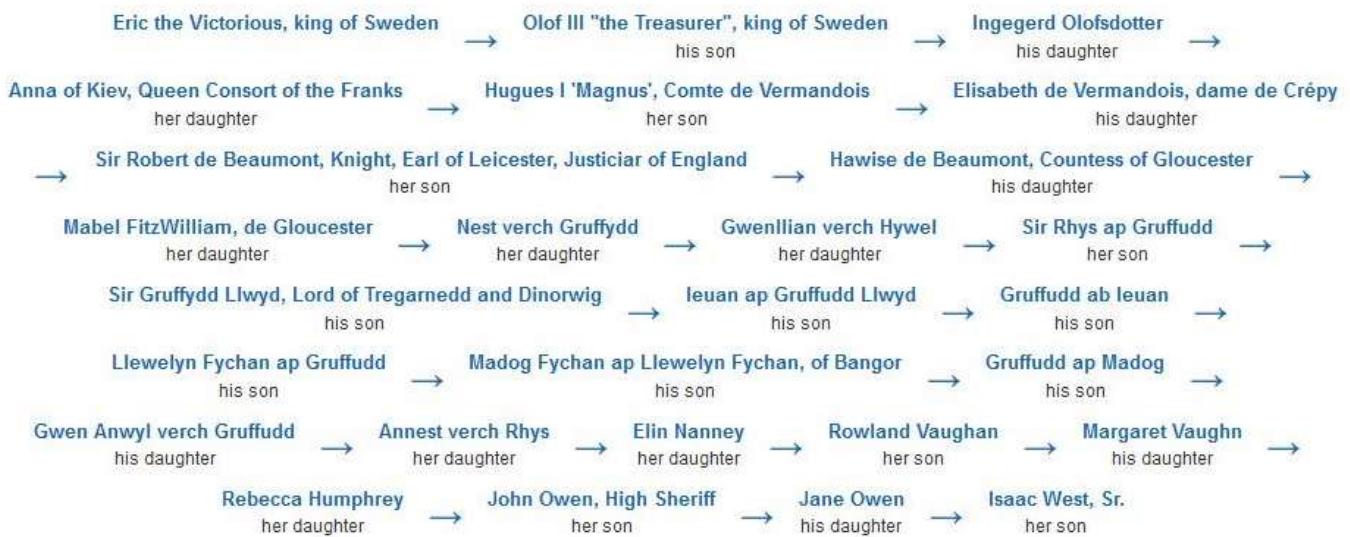
James Alfred Burks is Eric the Victorious, king of Sweden's 28th great grandson.



I'll call this Line #27. Once again, this line has ancestors I've never heard of.

Next is Isaac West Sr.:

Isaac West, Sr. is Eric the Victorious, king of Sweden's 24th great grandson.



I'll call this Line #28. Isaac West Sr. was of Welsh descent, and Line #28 shows many generations of his Welsh ancestors.

I now have covered all of Kate Cameron Burks' ancestors through her 2<sup>nd</sup>-great grandparents. I only found three new lines. Here is her annotated pedigree chart, showing the descendants of Eric the Victorious (red dots) and the numbered lines:



Note that Line #26 starts with Kate at the far-left of the chart, while Line #28 starts with Isaac West Sr. at the far-right of the chart.

I next looked at the pedigree chart for Elmony Lester, going back to her 2<sup>nd</sup>-great grandparents:



Since there aren't any lines through her father, Abner Lester, I left his part of the pedigree out.

The line back through Rachel West (Line #26) went through Rosanna Lewis, Priscilla Elizabeth Brooks, and Elizabeth Warren. The line through Isaac West Sr. (#28) went through Jane Owen and John Owen (High Sheriff).

I next looked at Joseph Pearson West Sr.:



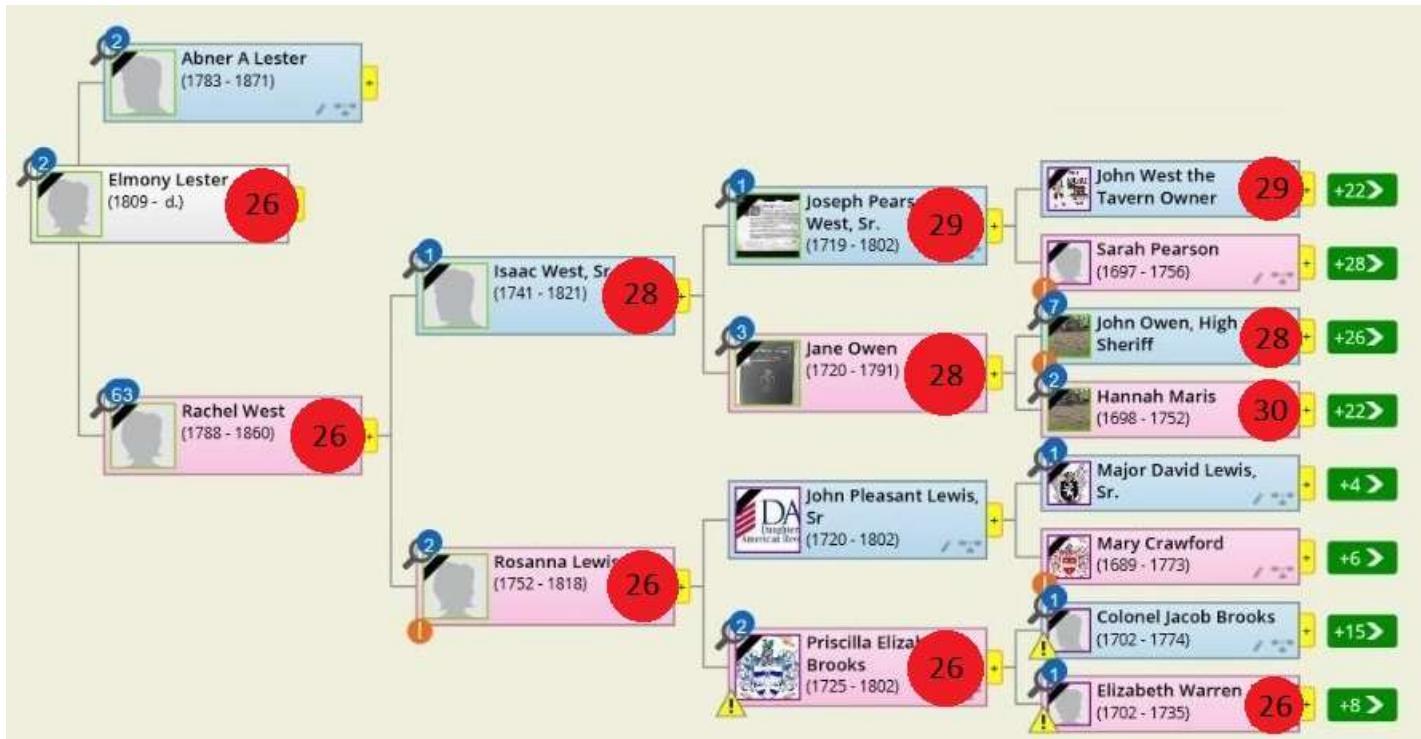
I'll call this Line #29. Note that this line goes through several Barons Scrope, and I wrote about this family in Chapter 52 – see:

Next is Hannah Maris:



I'll call this Line #30. This is yet another line with ancestors I never have heard of.

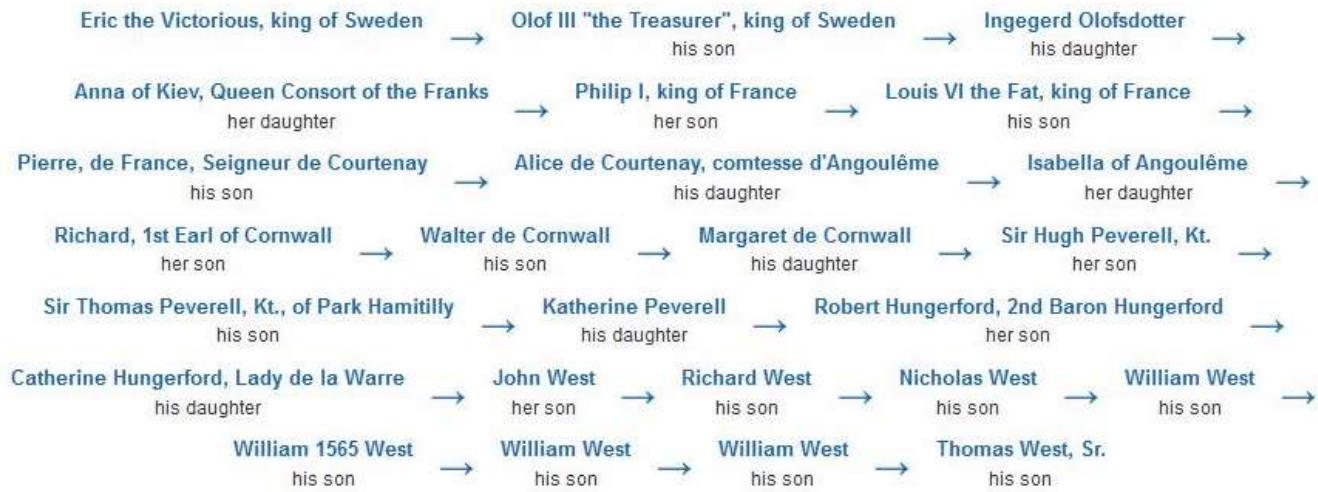
Here is a summary of Elmon Lester's ancestors who were descended from Eric the Victorious:



Line #26 starts at the left with Elmon Lester, while Line #30 doesn't start until the far-right with Hannah Maris.

Line #29 went back through John West the Tavern Owner and then his mother. So look at his father, Thomas West Sr.

Thomas West, Sr. is Eric the Victorious, king of Sweden's 22nd great grandson.



This is Line #31. This line goes through several English knights and the 1<sup>st</sup> Earl of Cornwall. And this is as good a place as any for me to end my search.

Thirty-one distinct ancestral lines going from me back to Eric the Victorious, King of Sweden. Amazing!!

### ***Why So Many Lines to a Swedish King?***

Most of the ancestral lines start out the same:

1. Eric the Victorious, King of Sweden
2. Olof III, "The Treasurer", King of Sweden
3. Ingegerd Olofsdotter
4. Anna of Kiev, Queen Consort of the Franks

After that, some lines have:

5. Philip I, King of France
6. Louis VI the Fat, King of France

or

5. Hugues I "Magnus", Comte de Vermandois

Another version starts:

1. Eric the Victorious, King of Sweden
2. Olof III, "The Treasurer", King of Sweden
3. Queen of Norway Astrid Olofsdatter, of Sweden

and several generations later

Friedrich I Barbarossa, Holy Roman Emperor

Another version starts out:

1. Eric the Victorious, King of Sweden
2. Olof III, "The Treasurer", King of Sweden
3. Ingegerd Olofsdotter
4. Iziaslav Yaroslavich, Grand Prince of Kiev
5. Grand Prince of Kiev Sviatopolk II

It would appear that just the first two or three generations in these ancestral lines were in Sweden. Eric the Victorious must have been considered to be European royalty, and that led to intermarriage with other royal families in Europe. Recall that I only "discovered" Eric the Victorious because I was looking for lines back to Bolesław the Brave, King of Poland, and subsequently learned that Bolesław's sister was married to Eric the Victorious.

While it is nice to claim all these lines back to the first King of Sweden, these lines are hardly "Swedish". And in each of these lines, one of my ancestors from continental Europe eventually immigrated to England, and at some point, a descendant immigrated to America.

I find it amazing to see all the couples in the pedigree charts where both the husband and the wife were descended from Eric the Victorious.

### Rachel West

In searching for my ancestors who were directly descended from Eric the Victorious, I came across an interesting ancestral line – and this line involved Rachel West. Recall that she was in Line #26, which started with Kate Cameron Burks. But the interesting line was the "shortest in-law relationship" connecting Rachel West to Eric the Victorious. Here is that line:



Note that this "in-law" line goes from Eric the Victorious to his sister, then to her son Cnut the Great, King of Denmark, England, and Norway, and then to his wife, Emma Ælfgifu of Normandy. The line then continued down to Rachel West.

More about Emma Ælfgifu of Normandy on the Wikipedia website at:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emma\\_of\\_Normandy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emma_of_Normandy)

She was my 27<sup>th</sup>-great grandmother, and I guess I should find out more about her when I have time.

### ***Summary***

In this chapter, I wrote about my ancestral lines back to Eric the Victorious, King of Sweden, who lived from c. 945 to c. 995. He was arguably the first king of Sweden.

Using the World Family Tree on the Geni.com website, I learned that I have at least thirty-one ancestral lines going back to Eric the Victorious. Twenty-five of these lines go back through my paternal grandfather Ray Miller Oakley, while six of these lines go back through my paternal grandmother, Kate Cameron Burks.

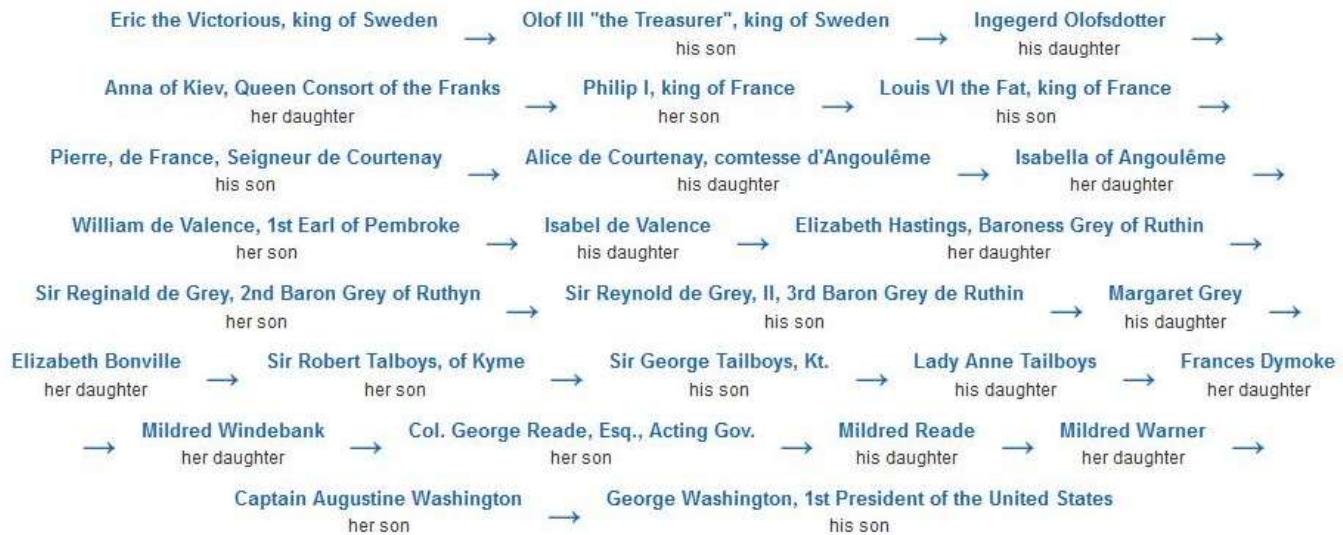
These lines connect me back to a multitude (plethora?) of ancestors who were nobility who lived in continental Europe. But ultimately someone in each of these lines immigrated to England, and subsequently one of his/her descendants immigrated to America.

## Appendix

In Chapter 80, I wrote that George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, and Mike Stangel (one of my former students at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and now the General Manager of Geni.com) were all descended from Bolesław the Brave. What are the odds that all three of them are also descended from Eric the Victorious?

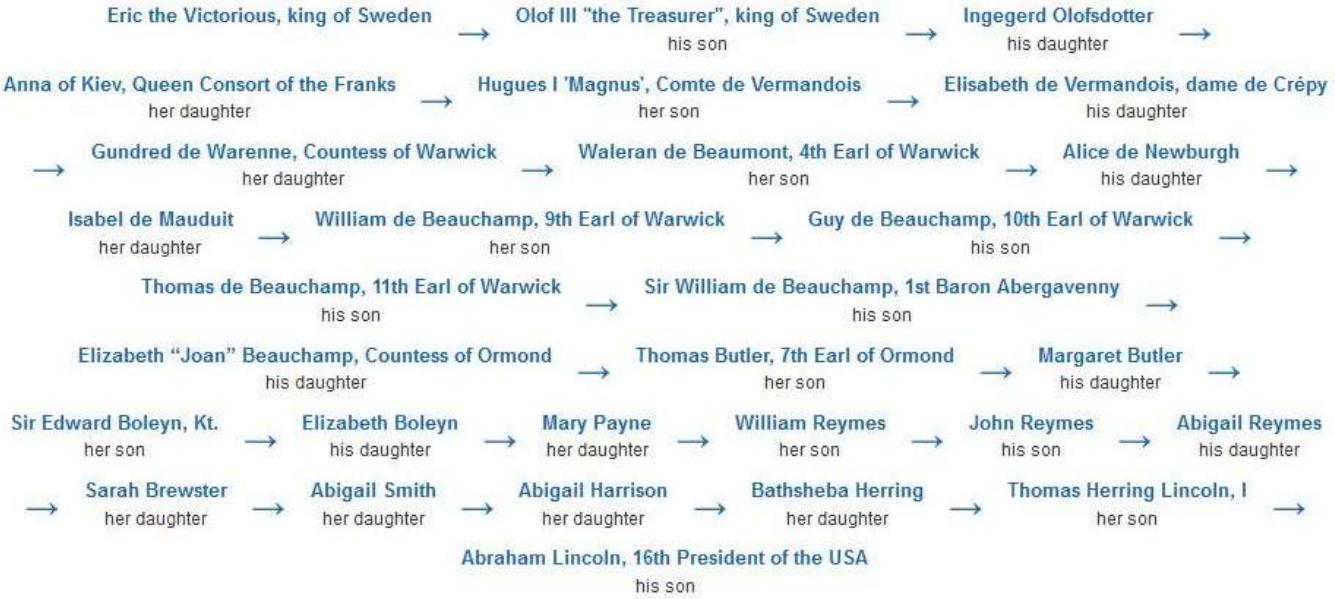
George Washington:

**George Washington, 1st President of the United States is Eric the Victorious, king of Sweden's 23rd great grandson.**



That's a YES for George. Now on to Abraham Lincoln:

**Abraham Lincoln, 16th President of the USA is Eric the Victorious, king of Sweden's 26th great grandson.**



Another YES for Abe. Now on to Mike Stangel:

Mike Stangel is Eric the Victorious, king of Sweden's 30th great grandson.



Yes! A perfect trifecta – George, Abe, and Mike are all descended from Eric the Victorious!

If you read the Appendix for Chapter 80, you probably are wondering about Donald Trump. Well, he is NOT descended from Eric the Victorious – just as he is NOT descended from Bolesław the Brave:

**Eric the Victorious, king of Sweden is connected to Donald J. Trump, 45th President of the USA.**



*No in-law relationship was found.*

*No blood relationship was found.*