

Chapter 84

My Ancestral Line(s) Back to William “The Lion”, King of Scots

[originally written 30 August 2021]

Introduction

I ended Chapter 83 with a section about how I am descended from a number of Scottish kings, who ruled the country in the Middle Ages. The last person I mentioned was William “The Lion”, King of Scots.

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

William the Lion, sometimes styled William I, also known by the nickname Garbh, “the Rough”, (1142 – 1214) reigned as King of Scots from 1165 to 1214 (49 years). He had the second-longest reign in Scottish history before the Act of Union with England in 1707.

William died of natural causes in Stirling in 1214 and lies buried in Arbroath Abbey. His son, Alexander II, succeeded him as king, reigning from 1214 to 1249.

William was not known as “the Lion” during his own lifetime, and the title did not relate to his tenacious character or his military prowess. It was attached to him because of his flag or standard, a red lion rampant with a forked tail on a yellow background. This (with the substitution of a ‘double tressure fleury counter-fleury’ border instead of an orle) went on to become the Royal Banner of Scotland, still used today. It became attached to him because the chronicler John of Fordun called him the “Lion of Justice”.



According to the “World Family Tree” on the Geni.com website, my “shortest blood relationship” with William “The Lion” is through his illegitimate daughter, Margaret nic Uilliam:



On this line, William “The Lion” was my 21st-great grandfather.

Margaret nic Uilliam married Eustace de Vesci, Lord of Alnwick and Surety of the Magna Carta. I wrote about my ancestors who were Sureties of the Magna Carta previously:

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

I also wrote about Alnwick Castle:

<http://www.burksoakley.com/QuincyOakleyGenealogy/70-William-de-Tyson-AlnwickCastle.pdf>

More About William “The Lion”

The Wikipedia article about William “The Lion” includes a section about his marriage and his children:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_the_Lion#Marriage_and_issue

Due to the terms of the Treaty of Falaise, Henry II had the right to choose William’s bride. As a result, William married Ermengarde de Beaumont, a great-granddaughter of King Henry I of England, at Woodstock Palace in 1186. Edinburgh Castle was her dowry. [Wow!!!] The marriage was not very successful, and it was many years before she bore him an heir. William and Ermengarde’s children were:

- Margaret of Scotland, Countess of Kent (1193–1259), married Hubert de Burgh, 1st Earl of Kent.
- Isabella of Scotland, Countess of Norfolk (1195–1263), married Roger Bigod, 4th Earl of Norfolk.
- Alexander II of Scotland (1198–1249).
- Marjorie (1200 – 17 November 1244), married Gilbert Marshal, 4th Earl of Pembroke.

Out of wedlock, William I had numerous illegitimate children, their descendants being among those who would lay claim to the Scottish crown.

By an unnamed daughter of Adam de Hythus:

- Margaret, married Eustace de Vesci, Lord of Alnwick. [Margaret was my 20th-great grandmother.]

By Isabel d’Avenel:

- Robert de London.
- Henry de Galightly, father of Patrick Galithly one of the competitors to the crown in 1291
- Ada Fitzwilliam (c. 1164–1200), married Patrick I, Earl of Dunbar (c. 1152–1232).
- Aufrica, married William de Say, and whose great-great-grandson Roger de Mandeville was one of the competitors to the crown in 1291.
- Isabella Mac William (born c. 1165) married Robert III de Brus (1183) then Robert de Ros (died 1227), Magna Carta Suretor.

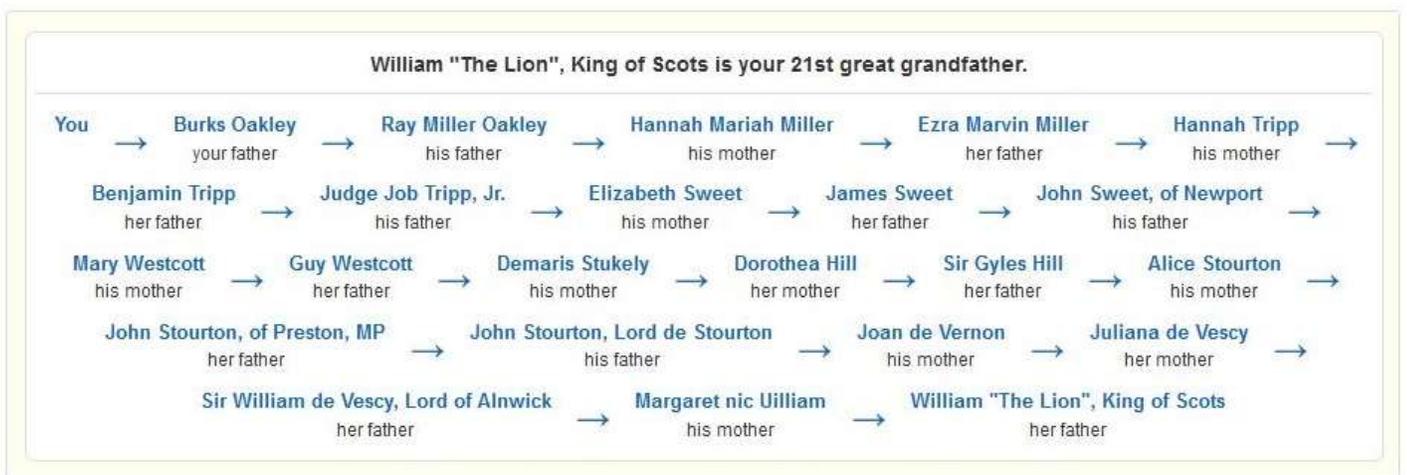
With all of these children (legitimate and illegitimate), I wondered if I had any other ancestral lines back to William “The Lion”, much as I have seen with some of my other ancestors from the Middle Ages – for example,

<http://www.burksoakley.com/QuincyOakleyGenealogy/81-Eric-the-Victorious.pdf>

This chapter is about what I found when I started looking for additional ancestral lines going back to William “The Lion”.

My Ancestral Lines back to William “The Lion”

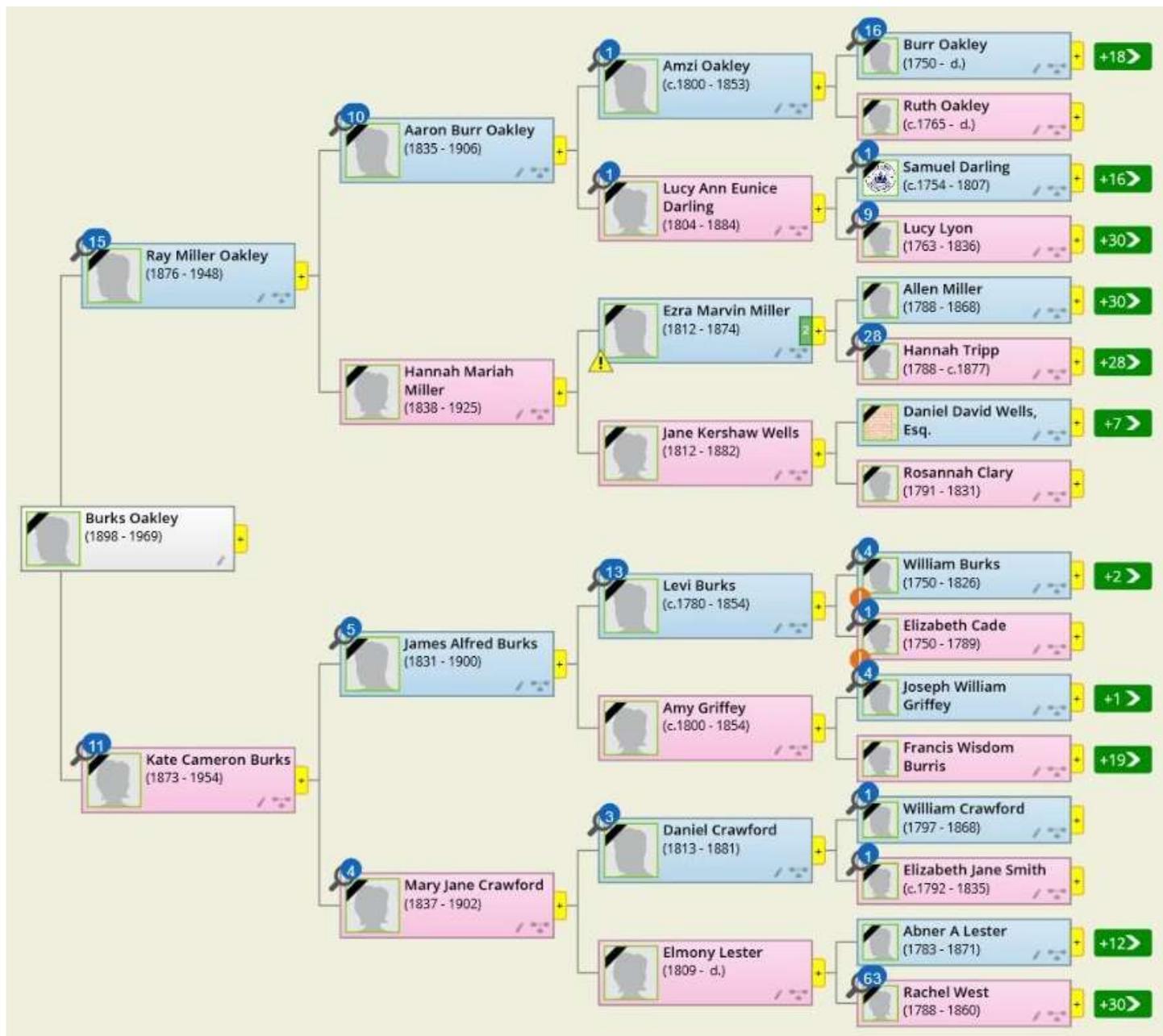
In the ***Introduction*** to this chapter, I showed the “shortest blood relationship” that I have with William “The Lion”:



This line goes back through my father, Burks Oakley, and my paternal grandfather, Ray Miller Oakley. I’ll call this Line 1.

As an aside, my mother’s four grandparents were Swedish immigrants, and she was not descended from William “The Lion” in any way, so I only needed to look at my father’s ancestors.

Here is my father’s pedigree chart, going back to his 2nd-great grandparents:



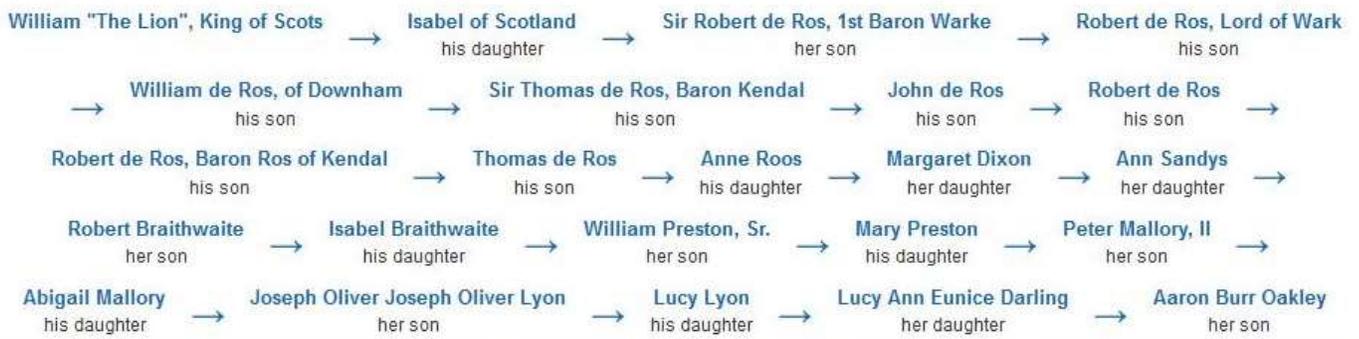
Since I know that Ray Miller Oakley was descended from William “The Lion”, I next looked at Ray’s wife, Kate Cameron Burks:



It turns out that Kate was indeed descended from William “The Lion”. On the line shown here, which I’ll call Line 2, he was Kate’s 21st-great grandfather. If my math is correct, that means that William “The Lion” was my 23rd-great grandfather on this line.

That takes care of my father’s parents, so now I’ll look at his grandparents. First is Aaron Burr Oakley:

Aaron Burr Oakley is William "The Lion", King of Scots' 20th great grandson.



Aaron Burr Oakley was descended from William "The Lion" through his daughter Isabel of Scotland. I'll call this Line 3.

Next is James Alfred Burks:

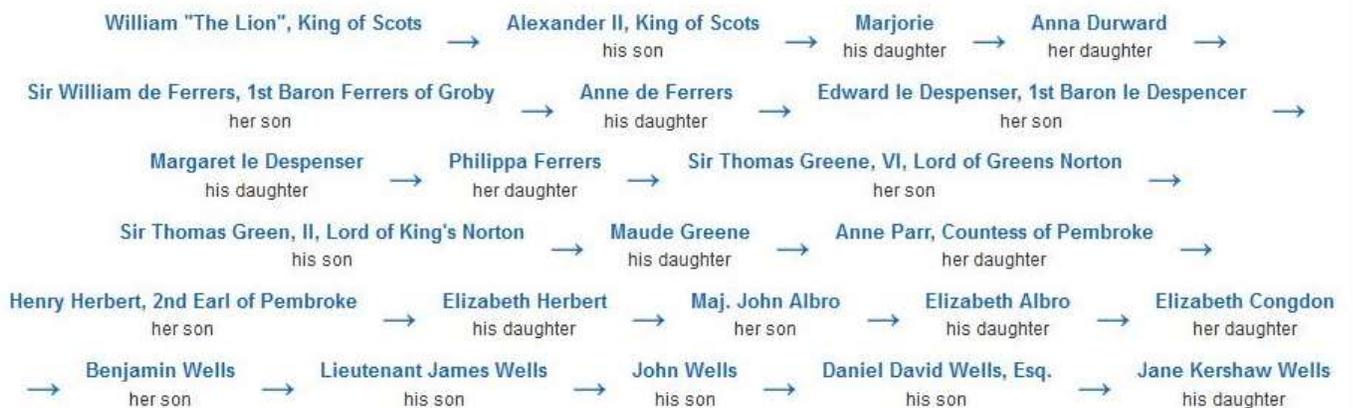
James Alfred Burks is William "The Lion", King of Scots' 21st great grandson.



Yet another distinct ancestral line! I'll call this Line 4.

Moving on to my father's great-grandparents, I will now look at Jane Kershaw Wells:

Jane Kershaw Wells is William "The Lion", King of Scots' 20th great granddaughter.



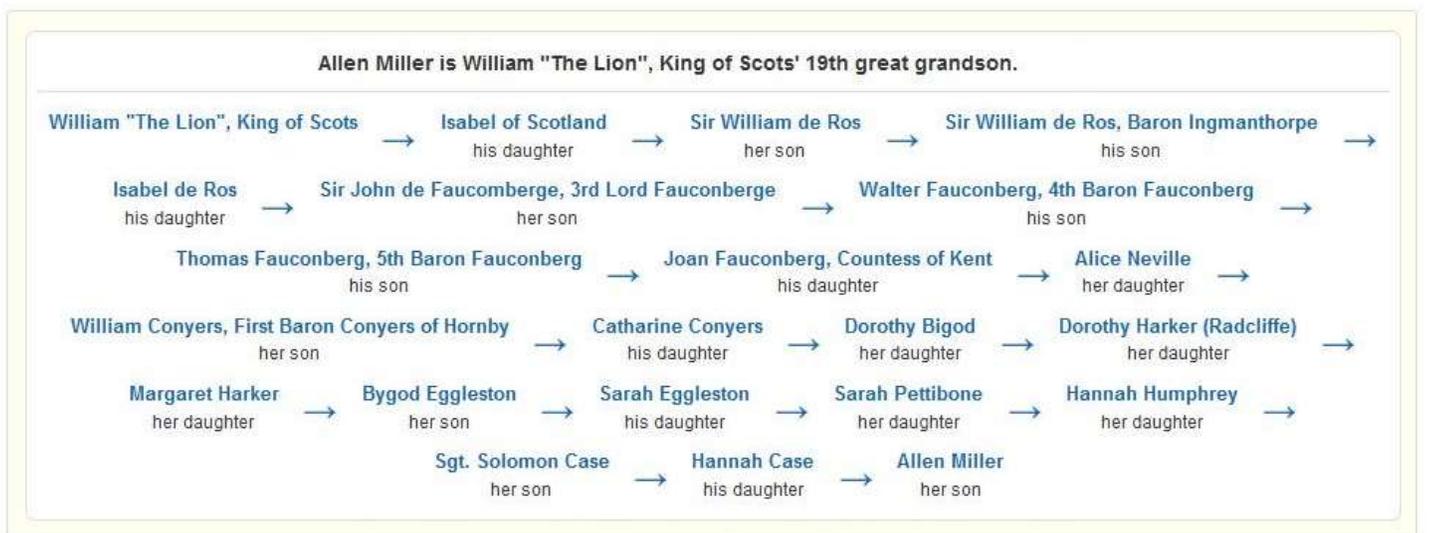
Note that this line goes through William's son Alexander II, King of Scots. I'll call this Line 5.

Finally, I looked at my father's 2nd-great grandparents. The first is Samuel Darling:



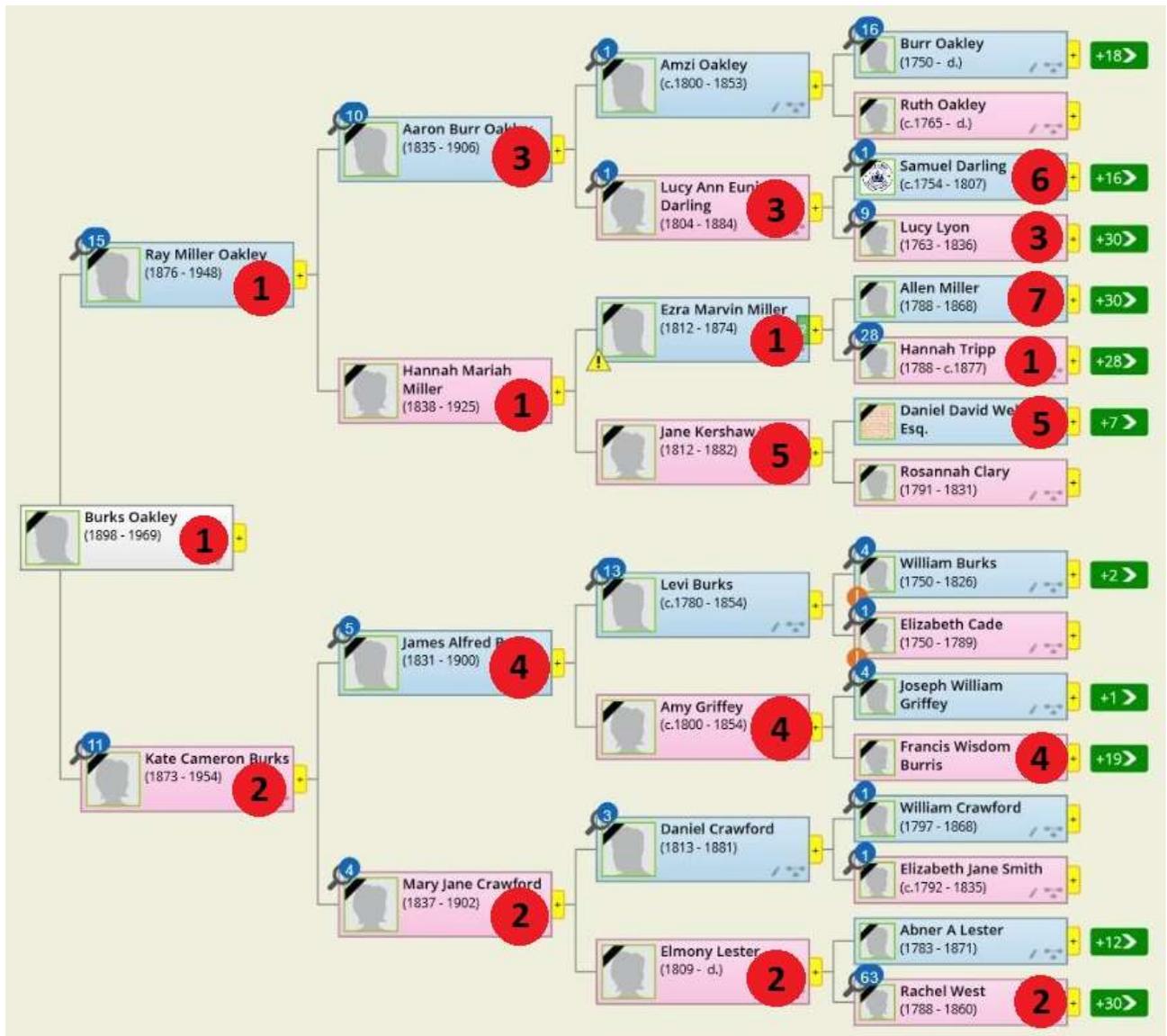
Yet another line, which I'll call Line 6.

Next comes Allen Miller:



I'll call this Line 7.

Overall, I have seven distinct ancestral lines going back to William "The Lion". I went back to my father's pedigree chart and I labelled these seven lines:

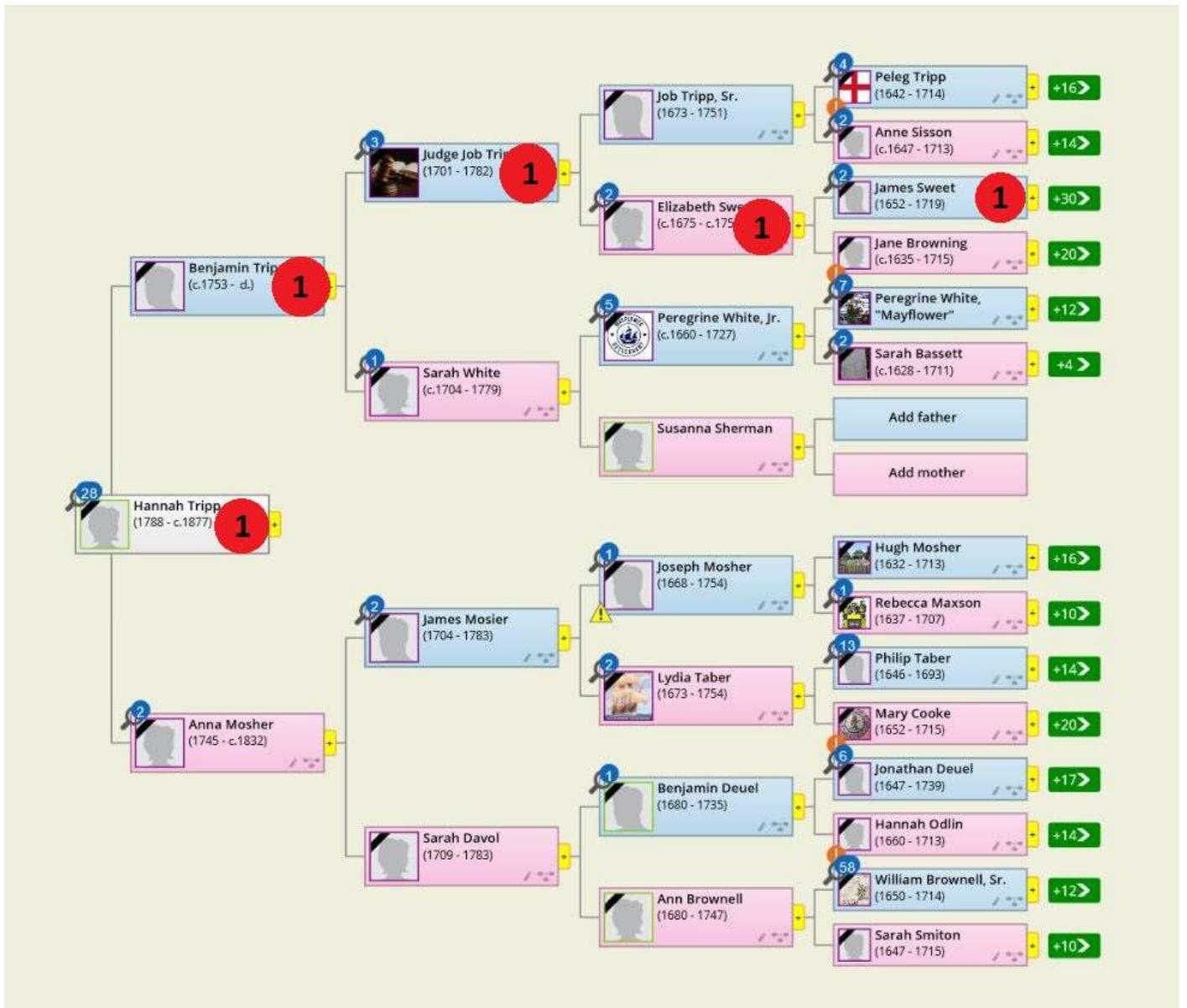


Hopefully you can follow each of these lines. For example, Line 4 begins with James Alfred Burks, and continues back through his mother Amy Griffey and her mother Francis Wisdom Burris. Of course, Line 4 extends all the way down to me, since James Alfred Burks was my great-grandfather.

Line 7 doesn't start until Allen Miller in the upper-right of the pedigree chart. Of course, it continues back to William "The Lion" and it continues down to me through Allen Miller's descendants.

The pedigree chart above goes back to my father's 2nd-great grandparents. Let me now go on to see if any of my ancestors in earlier generations were descended from William "The Lion".

I'll begin with Line 1, which goes through Hannah Tripp:



Well, rather than bore you, I'll just say up-front that nobody else in this pedigree chart is descended from William "The Lion". Darn!

Line 2 goes back through Rachel West, and here is her pedigree chart:



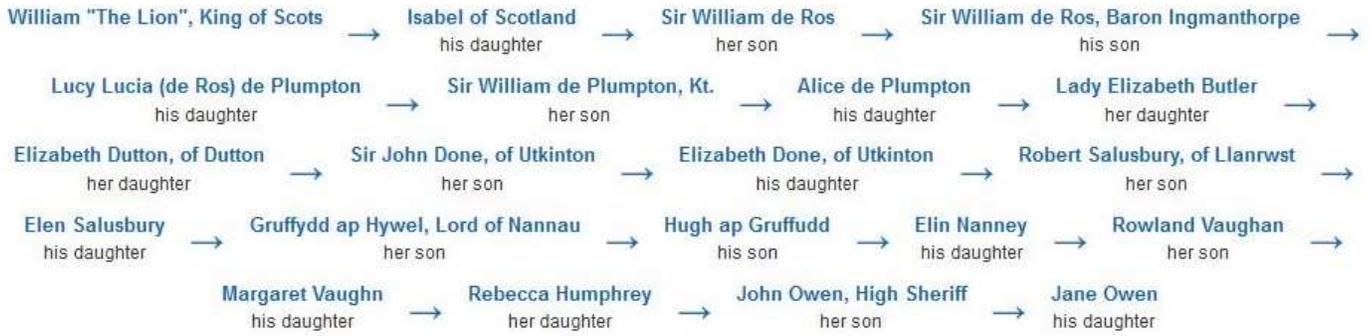
Since Line 2 goes back through Rachel West's father, I next looked at Rachel's mother, Rosanna Lewis:



I'll call this Line 8. And I now see that both of Rachel West's parents were descended from William "The Lion" (and therefore were very distant cousins on this line).

Continuing back to the next generation, I next looked at Jane Owen:

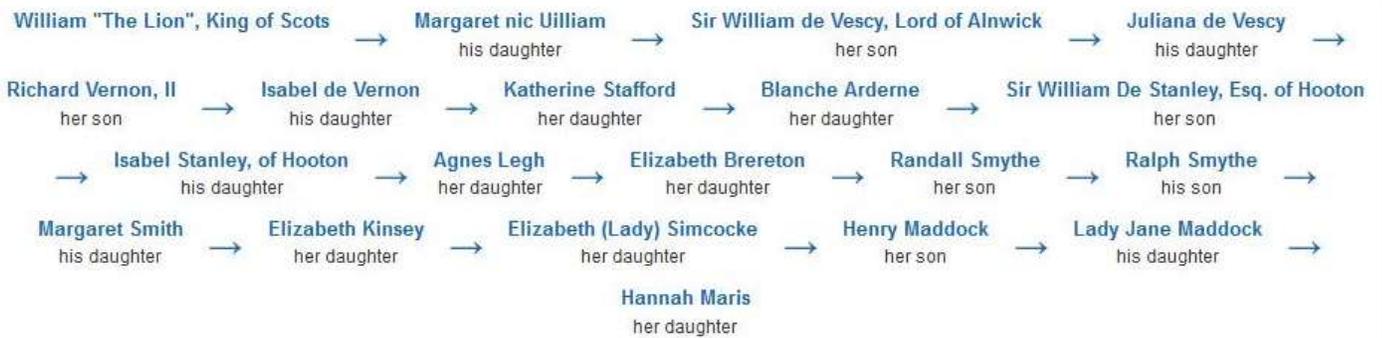
Jane Owen is William "The Lion", King of Scots' 18th great granddaughter.



I'll call this Line 9 – note that it goes through a number of Jane's Welsh ancestors.

After skipping a few ancestors, next comes Hannah Maris:

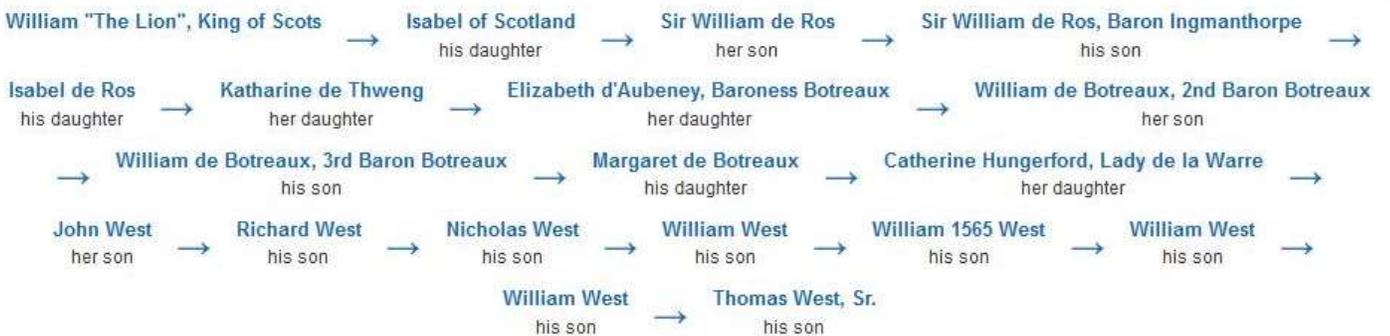
Hannah Maris is William "The Lion", King of Scots' 17th great granddaughter.



I'll call this Line 10.

Next is Thomas West Sr.:

Thomas West, Sr. is William "The Lion", King of Scots' 16th great grandson.



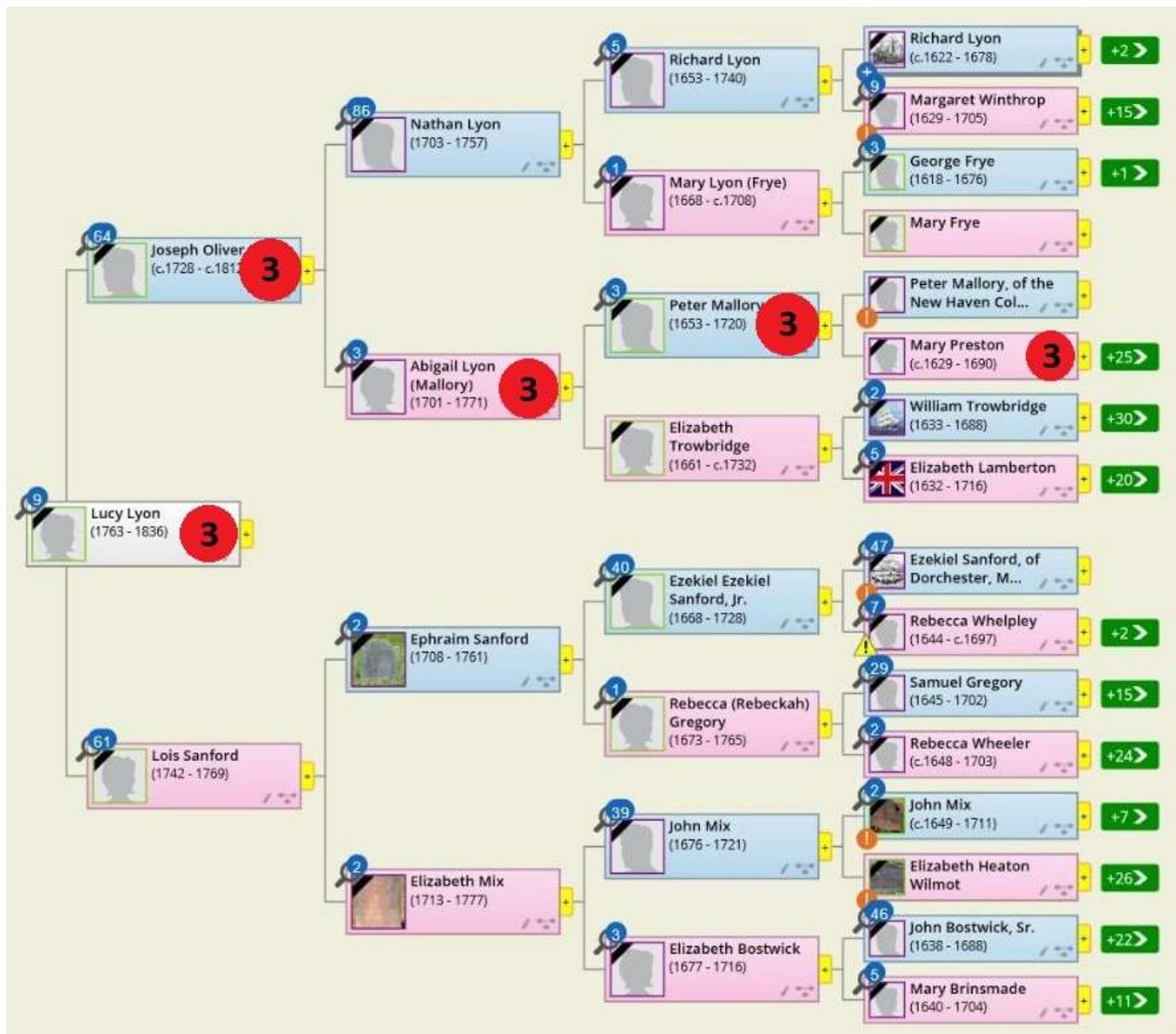
I'll call this Line 11.

For Rachel West's ancestors, I started with Line 2, and I added Lines 8, 9, 10, and 11. Here is a summary of the lines going back from Rachel West:

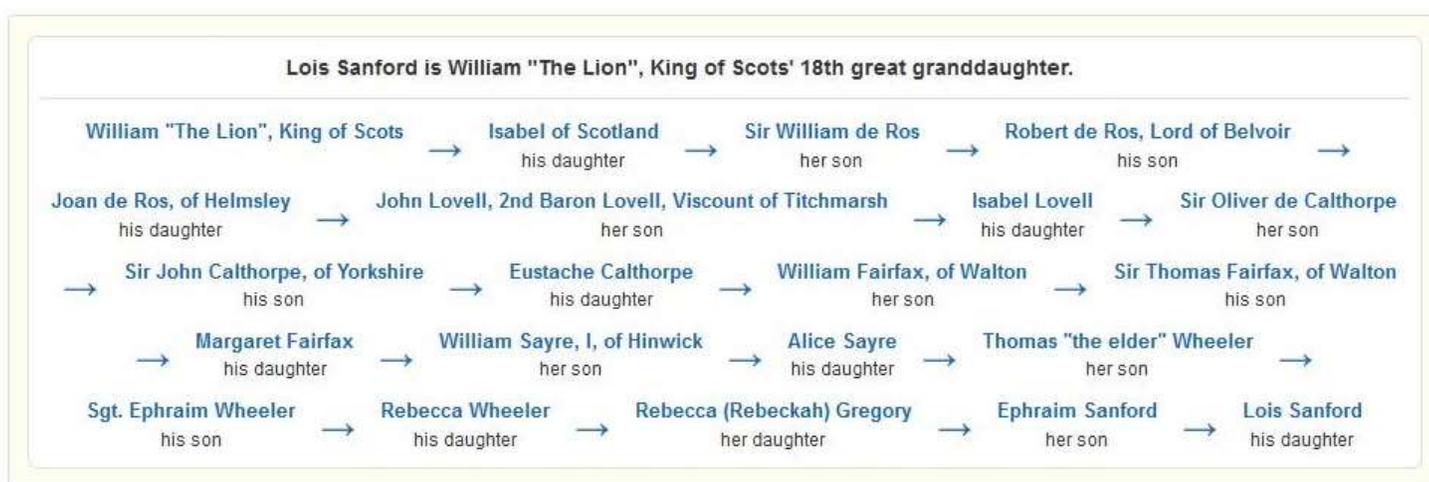


Here we see that John Owen (Line 9) and his wife Hannah Maris (Line 10) were both descended from William “The Lion”. In addition, Thomas West Sr. (Line 11) and his wife Rachel Ann Gilpin (Line 2) were both descended from William “The Lion”.

Moving on, Line 3 goes back to William “The Lion” through Lucy Lyon:

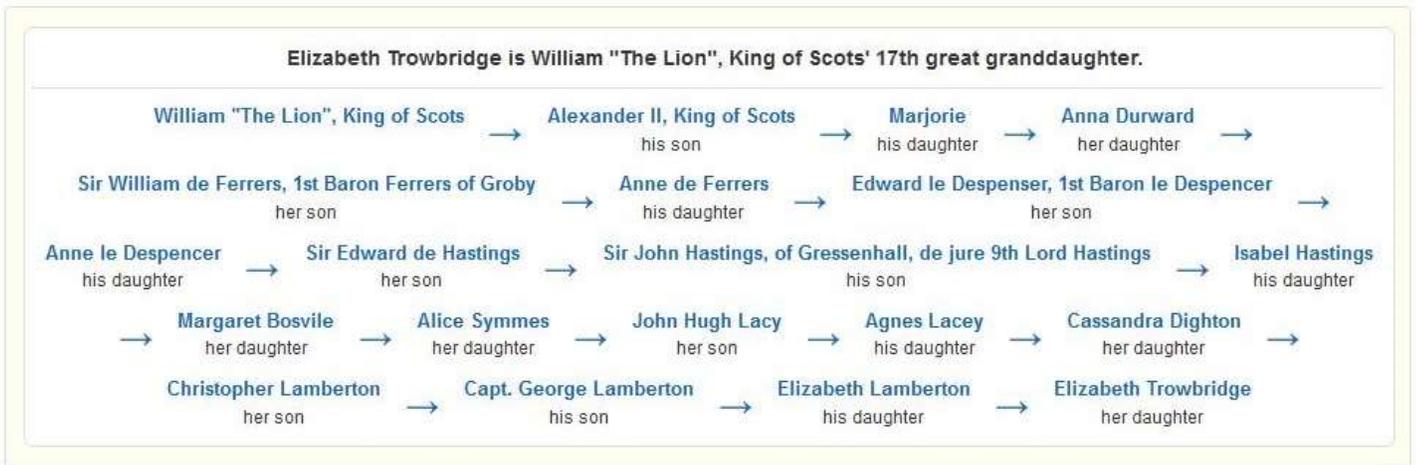


Since Line 3 goes through Lucy Lyon's father, I next looked at Lucy's mother, Lois Sanford:



I'll call this Line 12.

Continuing back through this pedigree, the next person who is descended from William "The Lion" is Elizabeth Trowbridge:



I'll call this Line 13. Note that this line goes back through Capt. George Lamberton, who I wrote about earlier:

<http://www.burksoakley.com/QuincyOakleyGenealogy/57-GeorgeLamberton.pdf>

Next is Samuel Gregory:



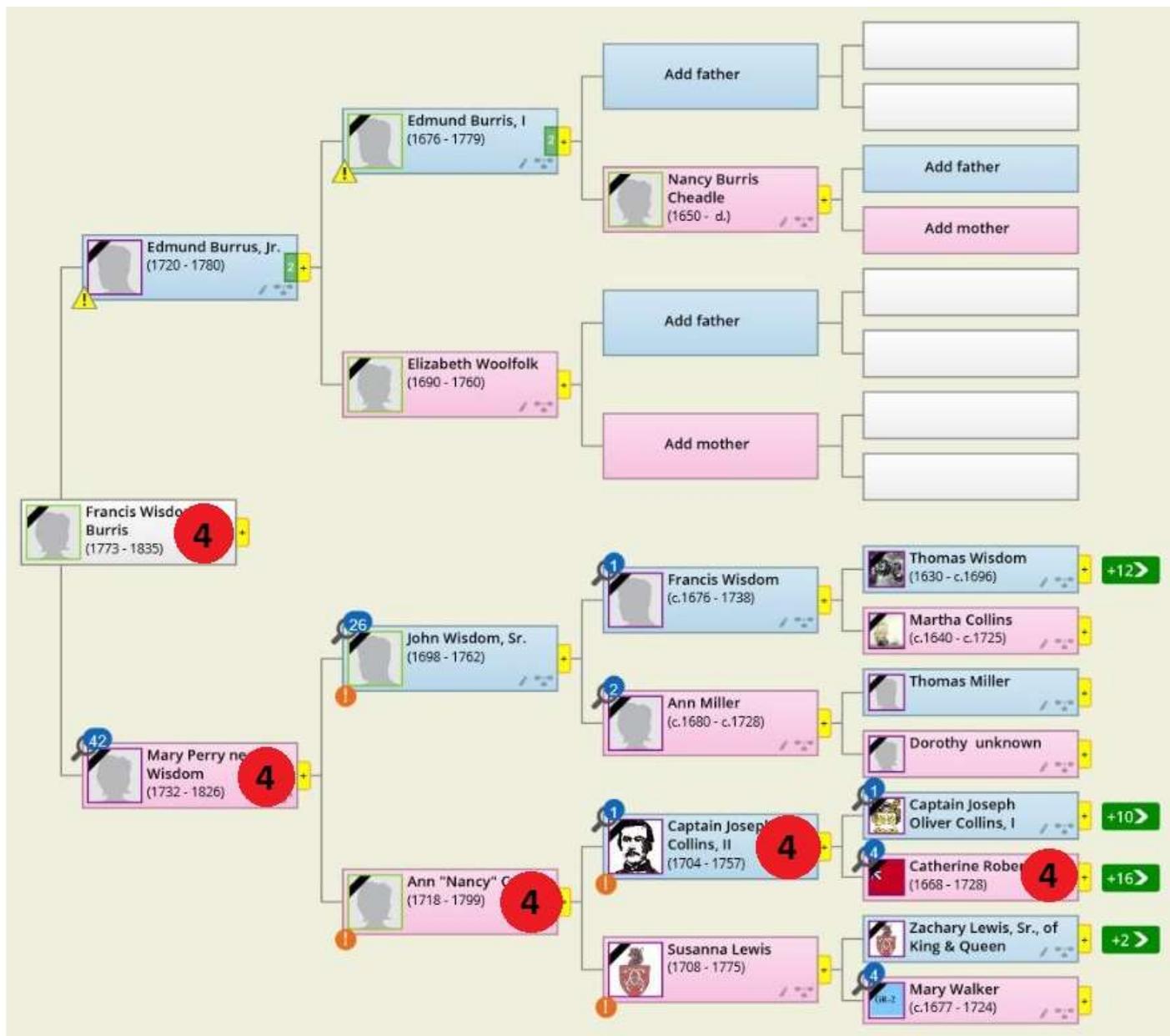
I'll call this Line 14.

Overall, in looking at Lucy Lyon's ancestors, I added Lines 12, 13, and 14. Here they are on her pedigree chart:



Of course, even though Lucy is labelled with a “3” for Line 3, she also is a part of Lines 12, 13, and 14. As am I. And here we see three couples where the husband and wife were both descended from William “The Lion”: Joseph Oliver Lyon and Lois Sanford, Peter Mallory and Elizabeth Trowbridge, and Samuel Gregory and Rebecca Wheeler.

Line 4 goes through Francis Burris:



Wow! This part of my family tree is pretty sparse. No chance of anything on the top half (the paternal branch) of this pedigree, since it is basically a brick wall (or a dead end).

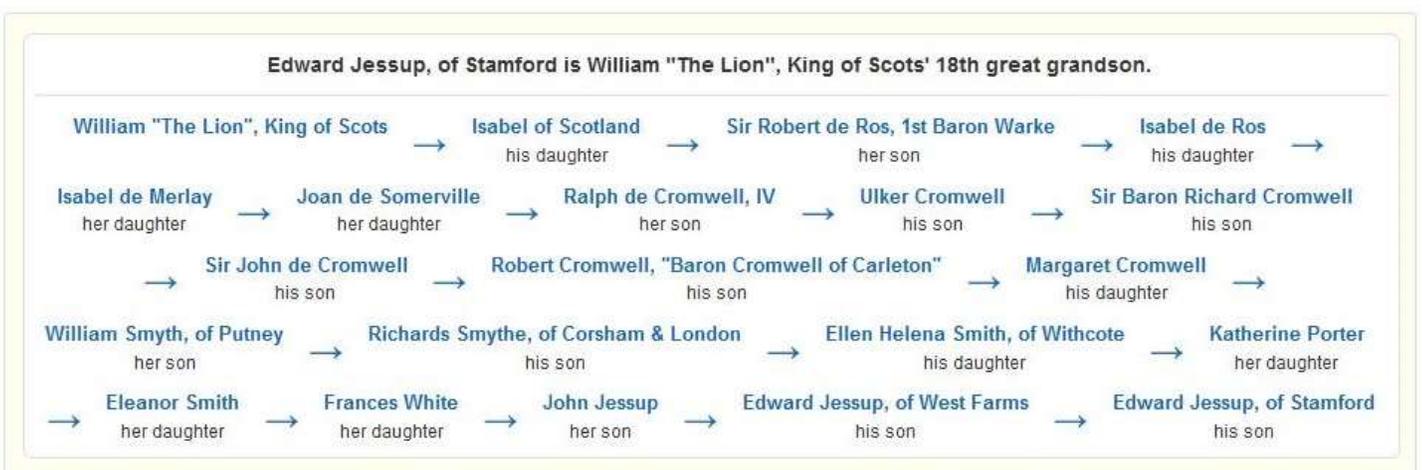
And although I looked at all the others in this pedigree, I didn't find any more lines back to William "The Lion".

Line 5 goes back through Daniel David Wells. Again, this is a very sparse part of my family tree (not shown). And I didn't find any new ancestral lines back to William "The Lion".

Line 6 goes back through Samuel Darling:

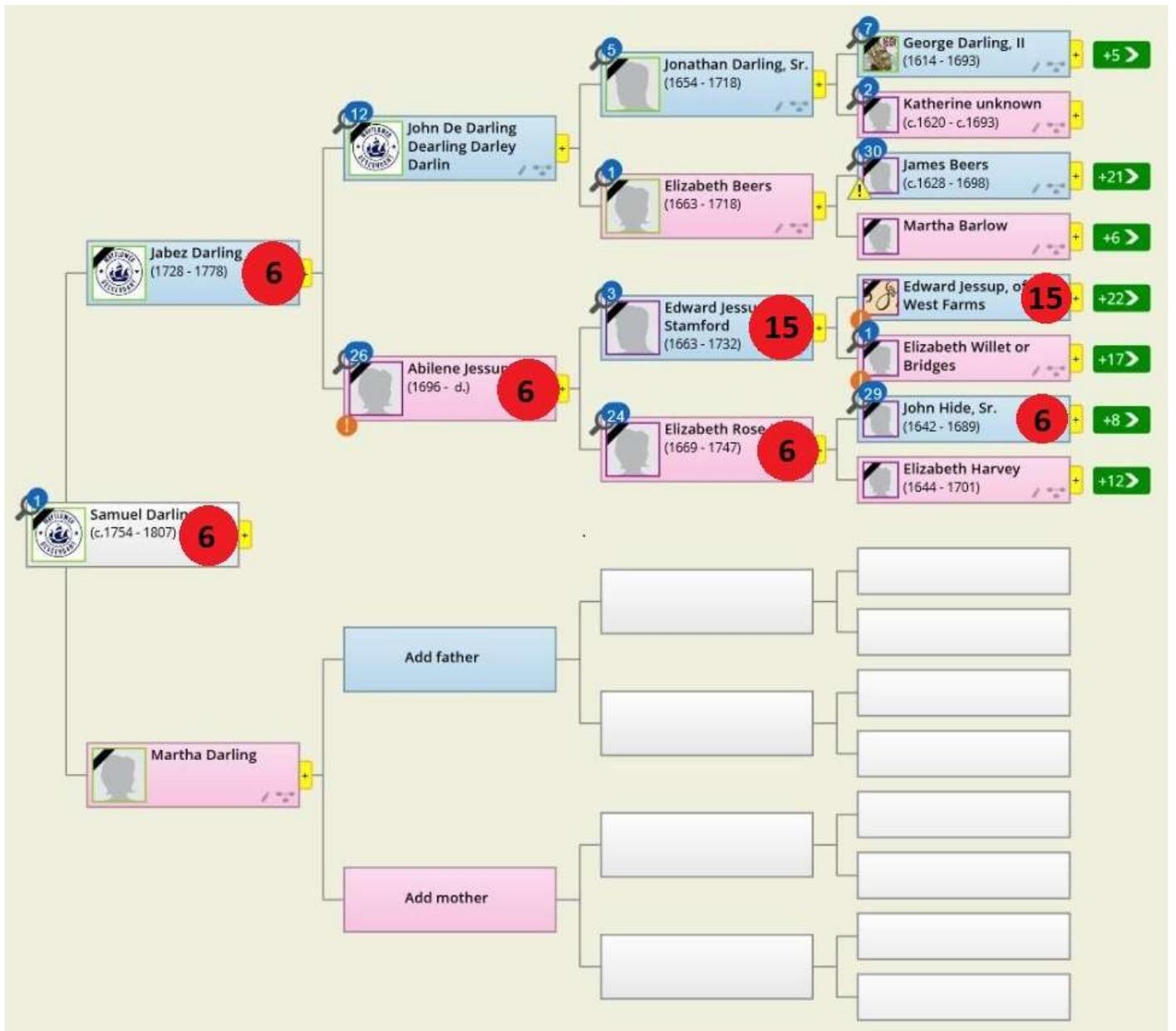


In this pedigree, there is a line going back to William "The Lion" through Edward Jessup of Stamford:



I'll call this Line 15. Interesting that it goes through a number of **Cromwell** ancestors – I'll have to look into this sometime (since **Cromwell** is a very famous British surname).

I didn't find any additional ancestral lines in this part of the family tree, so in looking at Samuel Darling's ancestors, I only added Line 15. Here is Samuel's pedigree showing his two lines:



These charts are helpful to me, in that it is immediately apparent that Edward Jessup and his wife Elizabeth Rose were both descended from William "The Lion".

Line 7 goes back through Allen Miller:



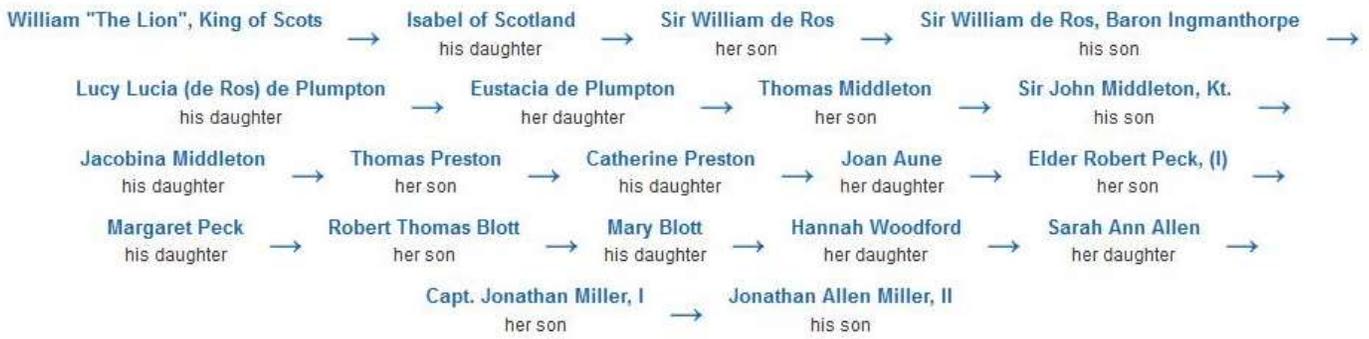
Since Line 7 goes through Allen Miller's mother, I next looked at his father, Rev. Jonathan Allen Miller III:



I'll call this Line 16.

The next ancestor who is descended from William "The Lion" is Jonathan Allen Miller II:

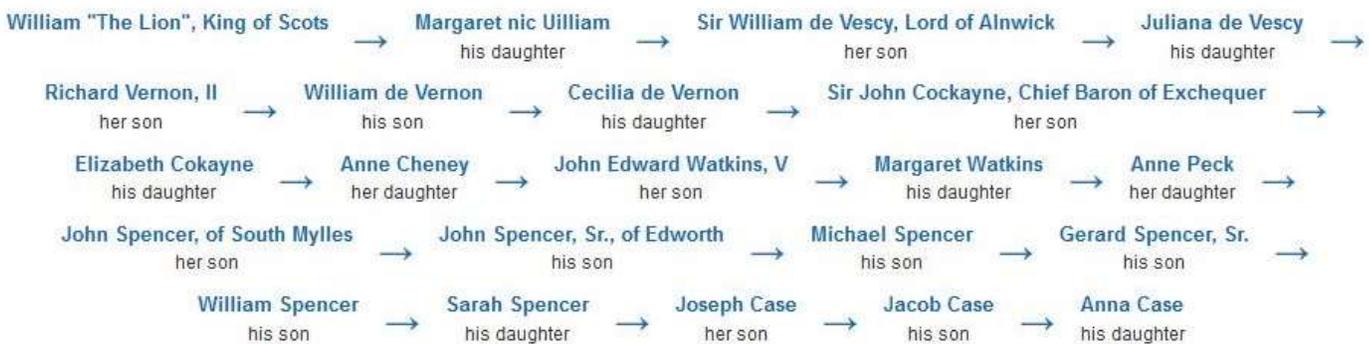
Jonathan Allen Miller, II is William "The Lion", King of Scots' 17th great grandson.



I'll call this Line 17.

Next is Anna Case:

Anna Case is William "The Lion", King of Scots' 19th great granddaughter.

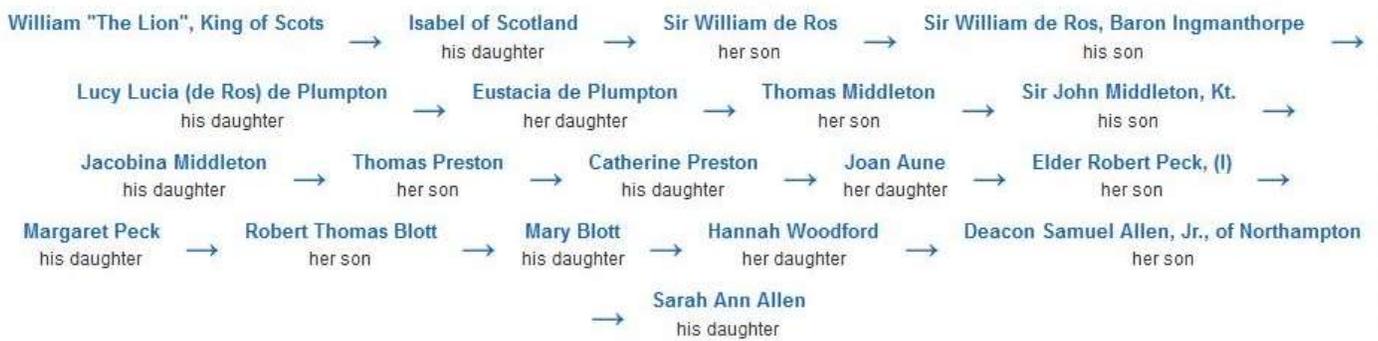


I'll call this Line 18. Note that this line goes back through John Spencer Sr., of Edworth. I visited Edworth and saw the Spencer church and plaque when I was in England in September 2019:



Next is Sarah Ann Allen:

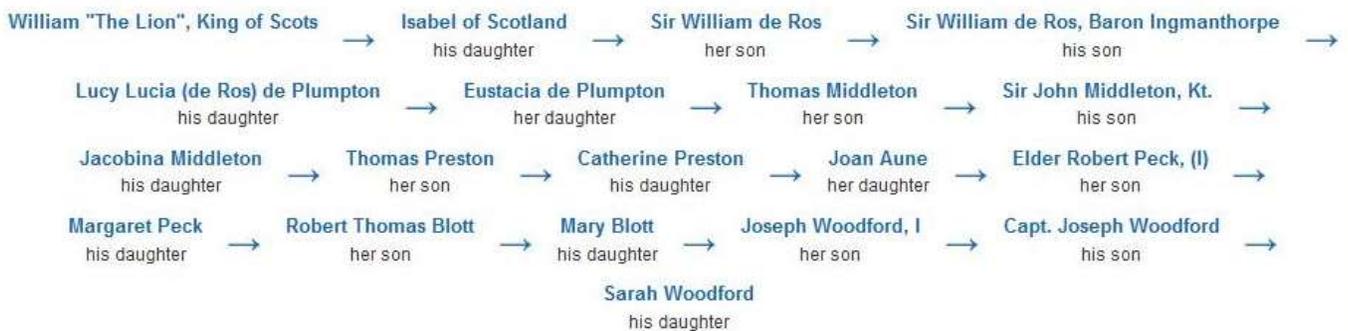
Sarah Ann Allen is William "The Lion", King of Scots' 16th great granddaughter.



I'll call this line 19.

Next is Sarah Woodford:

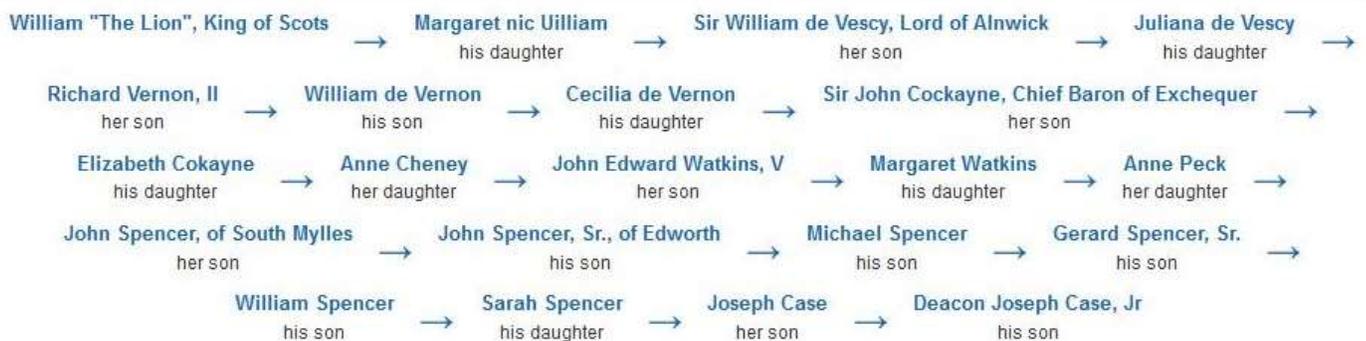
Sarah Woodford is William "The Lion", King of Scots' 16th great granddaughter.



I'll call this Line 20.

Next is Deacon Joseph Case Jr.

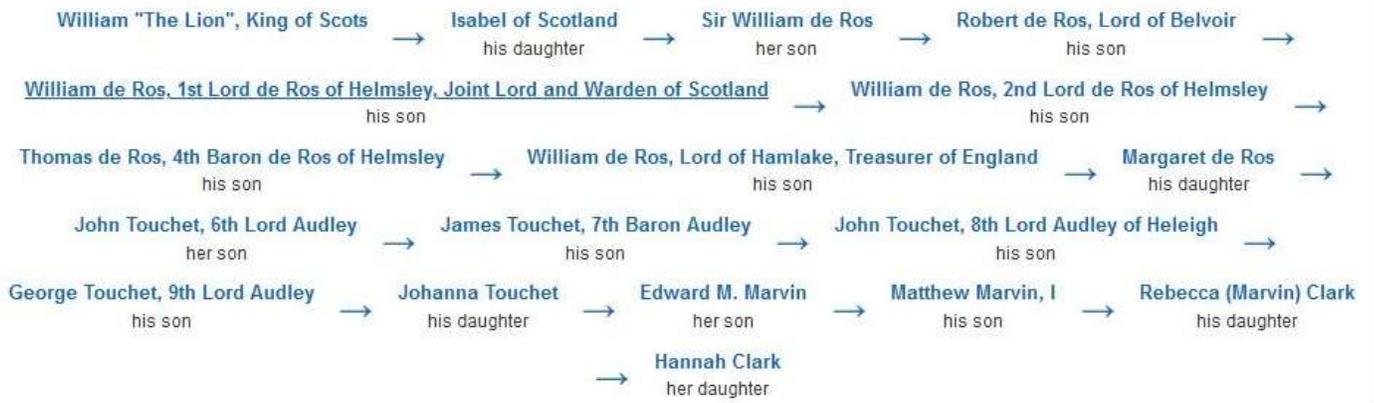
Deacon Joseph Case, Jr is William "The Lion", King of Scots' 18th great grandson.



I'll call this Line 21.

Next is Hannah Clark:

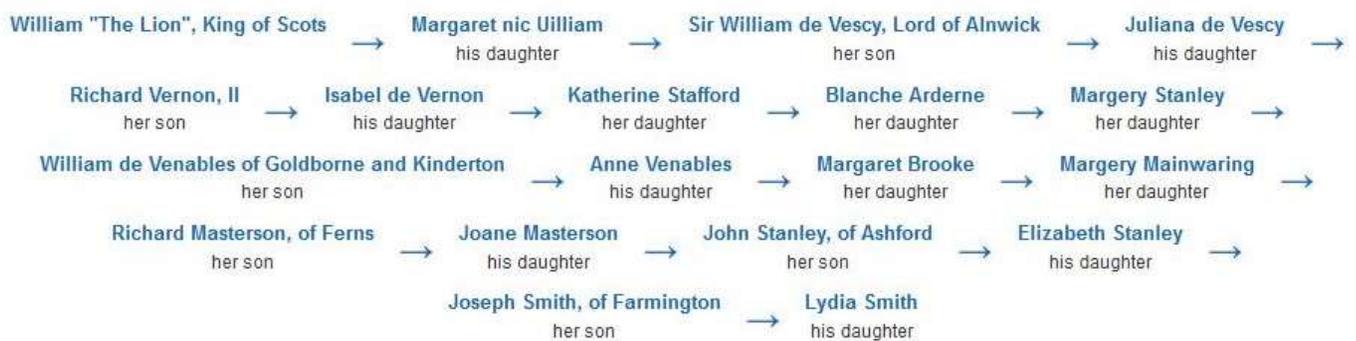
Hannah Clark is William "The Lion", King of Scots' 15th great granddaughter.



I'll call this Line 22.

Next is Lydia Smith:

Lydia Smith is William "The Lion", King of Scots' 16th great granddaughter.



I'll call this Line 23.

For Allen Miller, I started with Line 7, and I added Lines 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, and 23. These lines are all labelled in the following pedigree chart:



Overall, I found that I have 23 distinct ancestral lines going back to William “The Lion”, King of Scots. The **Oakley** side of my family accounts for seventeen of these lines (1, 3, 5, 6, 7, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, & 23), while the **Burks** side of my family accounts for six of these lines (2, 4, 8, 9, 10, & 11). Clearly many of the English immigrants in my family tree who settled in New England (the **Oakley** side of my family) were descended from William “The Lion”.

In the introduction, I listed all of the children (legitimate and illegitimate) of William “The Lion”. It turns out that my ancestral lines to William “The Lion” connect back through just three of his children:

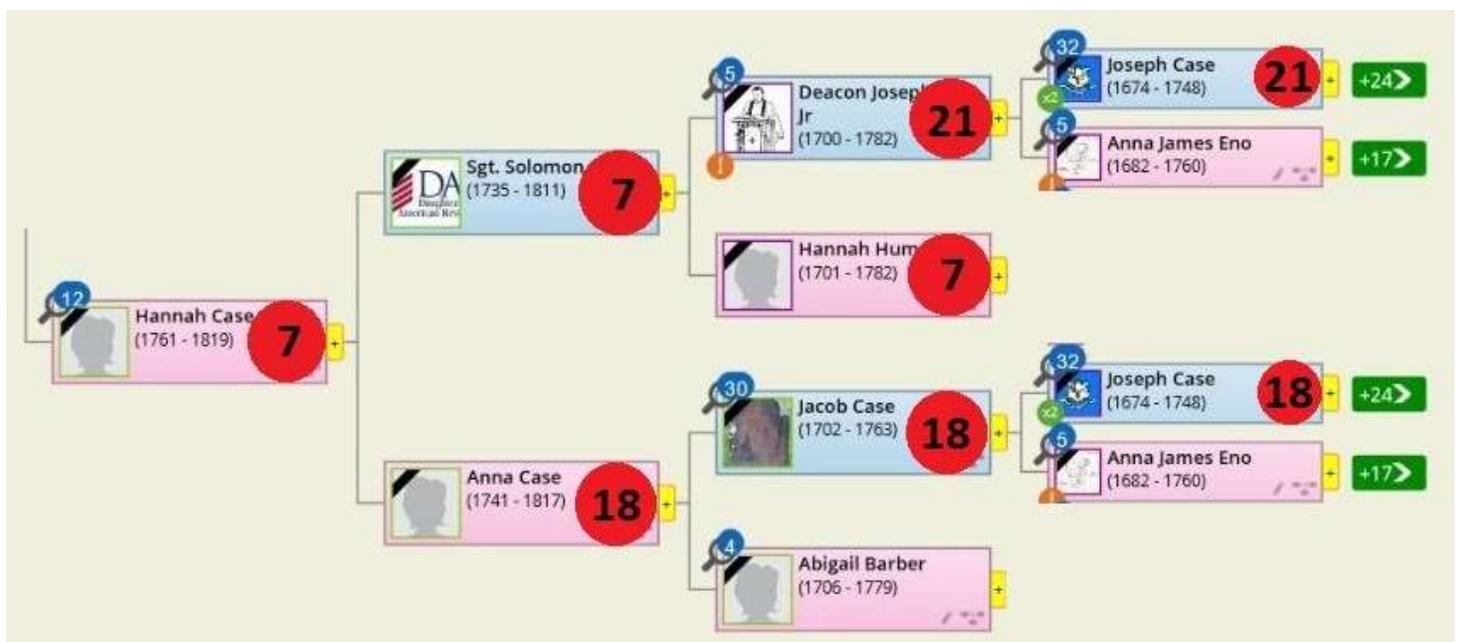
- Margaret nic Uilliam – 8 lines (1, 6, 8, 10, 14, 18, 21, & 23)
- Isabel of Scotland – 12 lines (2, 3, 4, 7, 9, 11, 12, 15, 17, 19, 20, & 22)
- Alexander II, King of Scots – 3 lines (5, 13, & 16)

I thought it would be good to check that each of these lines is distinct. So I looked at my 7th-great grandparent in each line:

1. James Sweet
2. Rachel Ann Gilpin
3. Mary Preston
4. Catherine Robertson
5. Daniel David Wells
6. John Hide Sr.

7. Allen Miller
8. Capt. Thomas Warren
9. Rebecca Humphrey
10. Lady Jane Maddock
11. Thomas West Sr.
12. Rebecca Wheeler
13. Elizabeth Lambert
14. Samuel Gregory
15. Edward Jessup
16. Joseph Woodruff
17. Sarah Ann Allen
18. Joseph Case
19. Deacon Samuel Allen Jr.
20. Capt. Joseph Woodford
21. Joseph Case
22. Hannah Clark
23. Lydia Smith

All these individuals are unique – except for Joseph Case. Note that he appears both in Line 18 and in Line 21, since in this part of the family tree, two first-cousins married (Sgt. Solomon Case and Anna Case). Here is the relevant part of the pedigree chart:

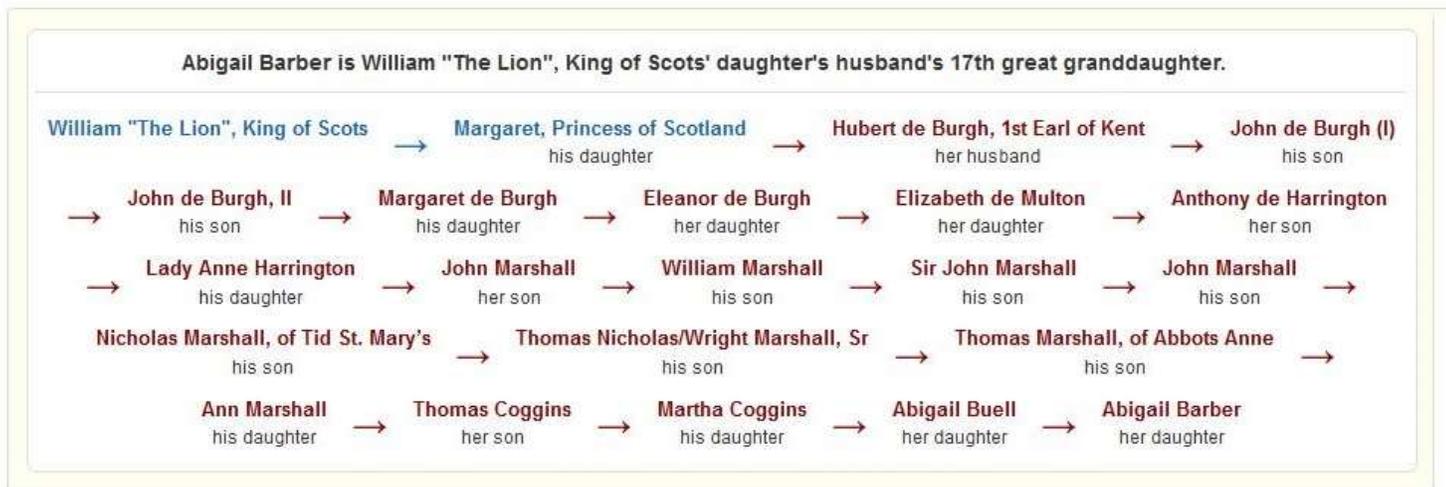


At the right of this chart, Joseph Case and his wife Anna James Eno appear twice. Their sons were Deacon Joseph Case Jr. and Jacob Case, while their grandchildren were Sgt. Solomon Case and Anna Case. Solomon married his first-cousin Anna. I maintain that Lines 18 and 21 are different, which is why I have included them in the overall count. But except for that, each of my ancestral lines back to William “The Lion” goes through a unique 7th-great grandparent.

Some Interesting In-Law Relationships

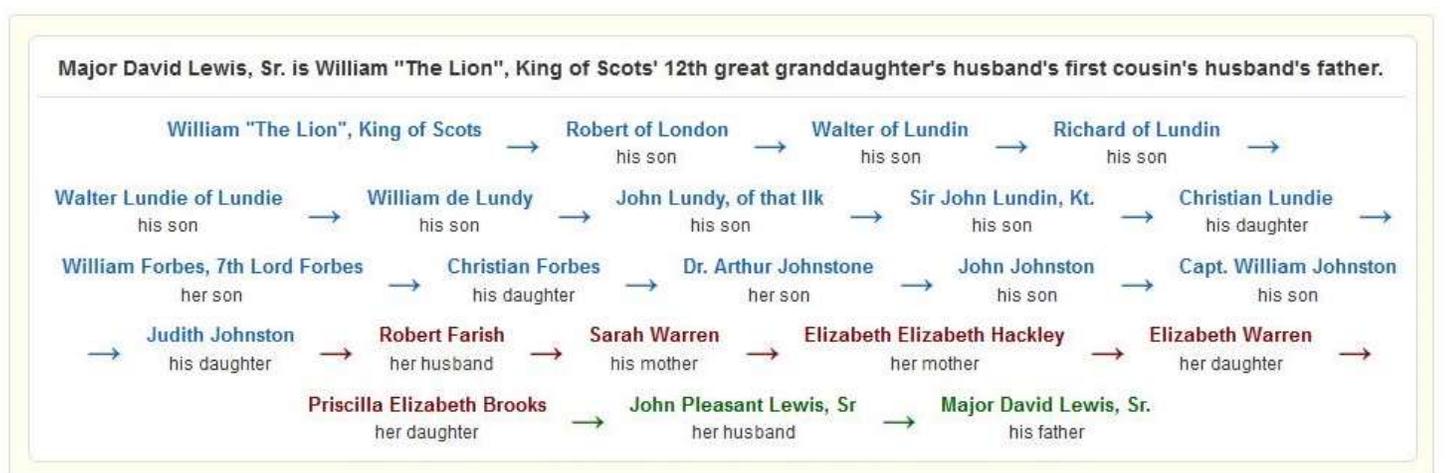
When a user wants to know the relationship between two people in the World Family Tree on Geni.com, the software on this site not only finds the “shortest blood relationship”, but it also finds the “shortest in-law relationship”. And some of the “in-law” relationships going back to William “The Lion” are interesting.

Abigail Barber appears in the pedigree chart for Allen Miller. She was the maternal grandmother of Hannah Case, and she was my 5th-great grandmother. Her “in-law” relationship to William “The Lion” is shown here:



Abigail Barber was the 17th-great granddaughter of Hubert de Burgh, 1st Earl of Kent. And Hubert was a son-in-law of William “The Lion”.

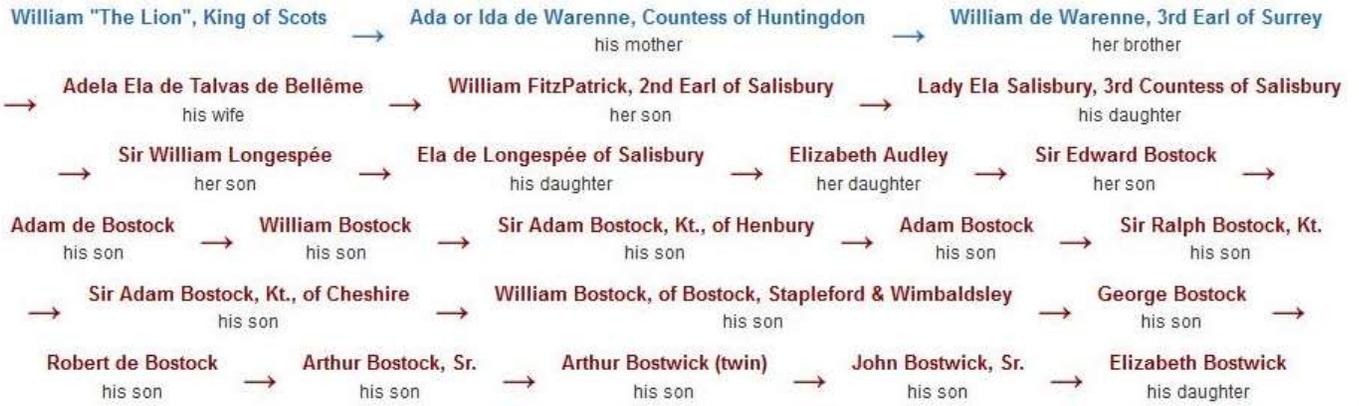
Major David Lewis Sr. was the paternal grandfather of Rosanna Lewis, which makes him my 6th-great grandfather. His “in-law” relationship with William “The Lion” is shown here:



This chart is interesting in that the line from William “The Lion” to his 12th-great granddaughter Judith Johnston (the line shown in blue) goes through William’s son Robert of London – and this was the only time I saw an ancestral line going through Robert.

Elizabeth Bostwick was the maternal grandmother of Lois Sanford, and as such, she was my 6th-great grandmother. Her “in-law” relationship with William “The Lion” is shown here:

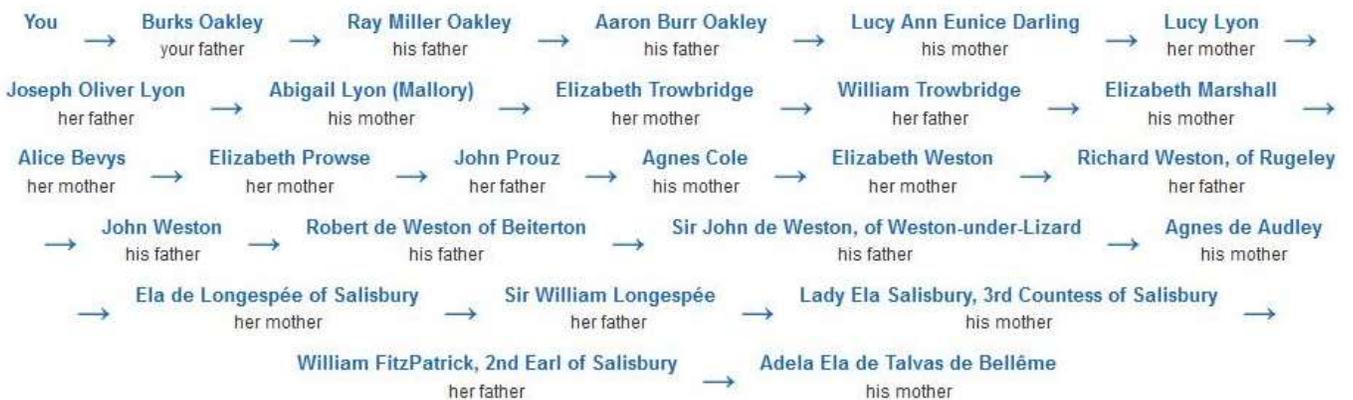
Elizabeth Bostwick is William "The Lion", King of Scots' aunt's 17th great granddaughter.



Elizabeth was the 17th-great granddaughter of Adela Ela de Talvas de Bellême, who was an aunt of William "The Lion". I guess everyone is related to everyone if you go back far enough...

And just as I wrote that, I found that Adela Ela de Talvas de Bellême is my 23rd-great grandmother, on a completely different ancestral line:

Adela Ela de Talvas de Bellême is your 23rd great grandmother.



Amazing to see all these connections!!

Summary

In this lengthy narrative, I began with William "The Lion", King of Scots. William lived from 1142 until 1214, and he reigned as King of Scots from 1165 until his death in 1214.

I used the World Family Tree on the Geni.com website to document that I have at least twenty-three distinct ancestral lines back to William "The Lion". I only searched back to my 7th-great grandparents, so it is possible (likely?) that I would have additional lines if I only looked further.

I find it really amazing that so many of my ancestors were descended from a King of the Scots.

Appendix

Mike Stangel is the General Manager of Geni.com. He is a graduate of the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering at the University of Illinois, and he was my former student. He worked for me as a graduate research assistant, helping with the coding of the CircuitTutor™ software that I was developing in the late 1980's. I always like to see if Mike is descended from a particular ancestor that I am investigating. So here is a chart showing that Mike is indeed descended from William "The Lion":



On this ancestral line, Mike is a 24th-great grandson of William "The Lion". And this is yet another way that Mike and I are related.