

INTRODUCTION

PURPOSE and SCOPE: This book documents lines of descent for approximately 190 seventeenth-century North American colonists from the Plantagenet dynasty that ruled England from 1154 to 1485. This dynasty was founded by Geoffrey Plantagenet (died 1151), Count of Anjou. The book has been compiled for three basic audiences: (1) For those who desire a reliable reference work for events and individuals in the colonial and medieval time periods; (2) For those interested in their personal family history who seek information regarding their more remote ancestry; and (3) To help readers better understand English history from the viewpoint of family dynamics.

PUBLICATION PLAN: This book is the first in a series of volumes on the ancestry of the American colonial immigrants who have English gentry, noble, or royal ancestry. Succeeding volumes will present descents from the Magna Carta Sureties of 1215, early feudal English barons, and Emperor Charlemagne.

ORGANIZATION: The ancestral lines in this book consist of consecutive generations of married couples with the spouse of Plantagenet descent on the left margin, each such individual being the child of the previous generation. A biographical paragraph for each individual is followed by citations. The Plantagenet family account is placed first in the book. It commences with Geoffrey Plantagenet (died 1151), Count of Anjou, who is Generation 1. All successive generations are counted starting from Geoffrey, his children being Generation 2, grandchildren Generation 3, and so forth. The family accounts which follow the Plantagenet account occur in alphabetical order. These accounts each commence with a summary of previous generations. When both spouses are of Plantagenet descent, the lines are cross-referenced.

CONSTRUCTION OF LINES: The lines have been constructed according to three principles: (1) maximizing the length of patrilineal generations; (2) maintaining lines of at least two generations in length; and (3) restricting as much as practical the inclusion of grandchildren within a line. Difficulty in arranging family accounts has been caused by two factors, namely cousin marriages (indicated by cross-references to the ancestry of the spouse), and multiple marriages of individuals, with or without Plantagenet ancestry, with spouses of Plantagenet ancestry, with children by more than one marriage.

LINE NAMES: In general, lines ending with an immigrant receive the immigrant's surname. Lines not ending with an immigrant receive a surname, usually that of the first male in the line. Due to the duplication of some surnames, a place of residence or title has been used to name some accounts, as with Battle, Ollantigh, Over Peover, etc.

DESCENDANCY FOOTNOTES: Footnotes are provided throughout the text which list the names of the American colonial immigrants who descend from couples being discussed. This feature allows one to see at a glance which immigrants descend from which families, and which immigrants are closely related to one another. The descendancy footnotes were developed by the late Dr. David Faris to help the reader better understand the interconnectedness of these families.

GIVEN NAMES: Where possible, Latin forms of names such as Bogo, Matilda, Alicia, Cecilia, etc., have been avoided, as have archaic medieval forms such as Jehan, Piers, Esmon, Alyce, Cecille, etc. If a person lived in two countries, their name is displayed as it typically appears in the modern form in the country of adult residence, followed by their name as it is found in the country of origin. The exception to this are high born English women who married abroad. Their names are given in English form first, followed by their name in the language of the country of foreign residence. No attempt has been made to include all possible variations in the spelling of given names.

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION: Customary information such as dates of birth, death, and marriage, major landholdings, titles, and offices are included when known. Many individuals were leading participants

in the complex political and military activities of the times (in particular the War of the Roses). Participation in major military engagements of the period is included if known. The lives of the higher ranking individuals reveal a large number of deaths in battle or by execution (with and without trial).

MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT: The recording of a summons by writ to Parliament indicates a member of the House of Lords. “Knight of the Shire” and “Burgess” indicates a member of the House of Commons (either selected by the sheriff or by the borough). “Member of Parliament” (M.P.) indicates a member of the House of Commons from the Cromwellian period onward.

TITLES: Where possible, hereditary titles held by individuals have been verified by original documents of the time period, used in conjunction with modern secondary sources such as *The Complete Peerage* or *The Scots Peerage*.

PARISH NAMES: The spelling of parish names has been taken from *The Phillimore Atlas and Index of Parish Registers* (1984), based on James Bell, *A New and Comprehensive Gazetteer of England and Wales* (1834). In some cases, the spelling differs from that of the surname of the family resident there or from that usually included in printed sources. The spelling of names of towns has been taken principally from Samuel Lewis, *A Topographical Dictionary of England* (1831).

CHILDREN: Where possible, the names of the children of each couple are included. Spouses of daughters are named if known. Special attention has been given to immediate descendants of Geoffrey Plantagenet and later kings of England. In the cases of gentry and knightly families, heavy reliance has been placed on heraldic visitations for the lists of children. Such sources are incomplete and, on occasion, inaccurate.

ILLEGITIMATE DESCENTS: Illegitimate children are included where known. Illegitimacy is defined as birth outside of lawful marriage. In a few instances, children born out of wedlock were subsequently legitimated by either act of Parliament or by the Pope.

CONSISTENCY: An attempt has been made to treat the material drawn from many sources in a consistent fashion in such areas as spelling of names, place of residence, possession of manors, honorific titles, religious houses and the like; regardless, many inconsistencies undoubtedly remain. Many dates found ambiguously in a source have been transferred to the text as found in the source.

MEDIEVAL AND GENEALOGICAL TERMS: No glossary has been provided for the many specialized or obsolete words and phrases which appear in the text. General comprehensive dictionaries and encyclopedias contain many of them, and genealogical sections of libraries often have specialized dictionaries and other aids. Knowing the meaning of all of them, however, is not essential to understand the genealogical relationships included in this work.

KING'S KINSFOLK: To better document the family relationships found in this book, original records of the medieval and colonial periods were consulted to locate references to any and all individuals styled “king’s kinsman” or “king’s kinswoman.” Where possible, such references have been placed in the citations for the respective individual in his or her family account. If a person was a foreign-born relative of the king, or, if the person is not of identifiable Plantagenet descent, the references to “king’s kinsfolk” have been placed in the citations following the account of the king or queen in question. In most instances, English-born individuals styled “king’s kinsfolk” possess known and verifiable Plantagenet ancestry.

DOCUMENTATION: An effort has been made to provide documentation for each generation found in the book. The sources cited are to primary sources, both in original form and published abstracts, as well as secondary sources. The quality and specificity of the documentation in published secondary sources varies widely. Every effort has been made to eliminate errors. All the same, no work of this sort dealing with so many families over so many centuries can be considered as representing a final determination of family

relationships. Where possible, information from published heraldic visitations is quoted directly from the published transcripts of such records.

CITATIONS: Citations in the text have been organized chronologically so as to reveal the progressive historiography of the literature, though some series published over time such as *The Complete Peerage* have been grouped together for better readability. The following is the basic form of a citation:

Author(s): The initial(s) and surname(s) of the author(s). If there are more than three authors, “et al.” is used after the name of the first author.

“Article or Chapter Title”: Usually articles in periodicals are cited by the name of the periodical, volume, date, and pages. Only a few articles are cited directly.

Publication Title: *Publication Titles* are always italicized.

Volume #: Volume numbers follow the *Publication Title* and are not italicized. For some publications date ranges are the de facto volume numbers.

(Series #): If a publication is part of a series, the series name, and where appropriate the series volume, follow in parentheses.

(Publication Date): The publication date follows in parentheses.

Pages: Pages and page ranges follow.

(Comments): Quotations and comments follow in parentheses.

BIBLIOGRAPHY: The bibliography at the end of the text (literally “description of books”) consists of works cited as well as other works that help identify or distinguish the works cited. The bibliography is in two sections: (1) One-time publications including series, and (2) Periodicals. Where possible, Joseph Gibaldi, *MLA Style Manual and Guide to Scholarly Publishing*, 2nd edition (New York: Modern Language Association, 1998), has been followed. In general, the actual authors of edited manuscripts have been used rather than the editors. This both gives credit where due and places multiple editions of single manuscripts together. Also, where multiple editions of the same work have been cited, they have been listed together in the same bibliographic entry. Cross-references have been provided to make sure the reader can readily identify the sources. The complete bibliography will also be available for viewing online at the author’s website at www.royalancestry.net.

PREVIOUS PUBLICATION: This work is an expansion and extensive revision of an earlier work by David Faris entitled *Plantagenet Ancestry of Seventeenth-Century Colonists*. Dr. Faris’ earlier work traced the legitimate descendants of only one great-grandchild of Geoffrey Plantagenet, namely Henry III, King of England (died 1272). This current work traces the descendants (legitimate and illegitimate) of sixteen of Geoffrey Plantagenet’s great-grandchildren who left descendants.

SELECTION OF IMMIGRANTS: Immigrants have been included on the basis of published (and in a few instances unpublished) material that is believed to support the described relationship. Some of the American colonists included in the text, such as Essex Beville and Thomas Booth, have not been fully documented as being the individual with the same name in England of undoubted Plantagenet descent. The process of providing a secure basis for all the links in these descents continues.

CORRECTIONS AND ADDITIONS: The author welcomes any and all contributions of corrections and additions for future editions. Please direct correspondence to the author at his regular postal address or his e-mail address as follows:

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WEBSITE: Readers are encouraged to visit the website associated with this book. The website features the latest research discoveries, corrections and additions, reviews of books in print, helpful articles, an up-to-date bibliography, and links to other websites related to colonial and medieval topics. The website address is:

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