

Internet Surfing Through 50 Generations

PART III

English Chicanery (1066-1650)

The Norman conquest of England in 1066 was an invasion and occupation of England by armies of Norman, Breton, and French soldiers led by Duke William I of Normandy, later English King William I (The Conqueror). The lands of the resisting English elite were confiscated. Many Anglo-Saxons, including nobles, fled to Scotland, Ireland, or Scandinavia.



My 26th Great-grandfather, Gospatric mac Maldred, younger brother of killed Lord Maldred MacCrínán I Canmore, bought the Earldom of Northumbria from William the Conqueror. The cost was high: the betrayal of his first cousin, Malcolm III King of Scotland. Malcolm III was using Cumberland and Westmoreland as a base for raids against William the Conqueror in 1070. To prove his loyalty to William the Conqueror, Gospatric plundered Cumberland and slaughtered the inhabitants. He then returned with his plunder to his fortress at Bamburgh Castle. Malcolm III took his revenge, not against his cousin Gospatric, but against the people of Northern England. He slaughtered what few inhabitants were left or took them as slaves.

This incident became known as “King Malcolm’s Revenge.” Then after William the Conqueror discovered that Gospatric was secretly in league with William’s enemies, he stripped him of his English titles and lands. Gospatric, in exile in Scotland, was then made the First Earl of Dunbar by Malcolm III! And my lineage thus goes forth!



Over time my Scottish male ancestors through the Washington family line rose to English prominence, by marrying English women (notably rich widows!) and making connections to royalty such as Henry VIII. Then came Oliver Cromwell and the English Civil War in 1642, which greatly diminished their opportunities in England.



The Durham Years

Gospatrick mac Maldred
Maldred Lord of Allerdale Fitz Maldred
1st Lord of Raby, 1st Earl of Dunbar
c. 1045 - 1075

[My 26th Great-grandfather]



Born in 1045 in Durham, he married Aethelred Princess of England de Wessex in Dunbar, East Lothian. Gospatrick held sizable estates around Dunbar. In 1061 he made a pilgrimage to Rome. In 1067 Gospatrick paid William The Conqueror, new King of England, a large fee so he could become Earl of Northumberland, although he did have a hereditary claim through his mother's family. However, in early 1068, a series of uprisings in England, along with foreign invasion, faced King William with a dire threat. Gospatrick was found among the leaders of the uprising. For Gospatrick, this meant the loss of his English earldom and exile in Scotland. Gospatrick joined the invading army of Danes, Scots, and Englishmen under Edgar the Aetheling

in the next year. Though the army was defeated, he afterwards was able, from his possession of Bamburgh castle, to make terms with William the Conqueror, who left him undisturbed until 1072. However, in 1072 William the Conqueror stripped Gospatrick of his Earldom of Northumbria. Gospatrick fled into exile in Scotland and not long afterwards went to Flanders.



When he returned to Scotland, he was granted the castle at "Dunbar and lands adjacent to it" by his cousin, Scottish King Malcolm III Canmore. This earldom without a name in the Scots-controlled northern part of Bernicia became the Earldom of Dunbar. As a defeated exile in Scotland, Gospatrick "fell into decline" and died circa 1075 at age 35.

Uchtred FitzMaldred
2nd Lord of Raby, 2nd Earl of Dunbar
c. 1075 - 1120
[My 25th Great-grandfather]

Uchtred Fitz Maldred was born in 1075, the same year of the death of his father, Gospatric mac Maldred. He inherited the title of 2nd Earl of Dunbar. He married Lady Eggfrieda of Northumberland in 1104 in Durham. He died 1128 in Yorkshire, aged 53.



Raby Castle, ancestral home of Earls of Dunbar and the Neville Family

Uchtred FitzMaldred was present at the foundation of Scone Abbey in 1115 by King Alexander I and Holyrood Abbey in 1128 by King David (both 3rd cousins).



Dolfin FitzUchtred Neville
Lord of Raby, 3rd Earl Dunbar
c. 1100 – 1136

[My 24rd Great-grandfather]

Dolfin FitzUchtred was born in 1100 in Durham. married Adilicia (Alice) of Durham, whose father was Walcher, Bishop of Durham who was burnt to death in 1080 when a mob set alight a church he was in. Dolfin fitz Uchtred was appointed Lord of Raby in 1131 and died in 1136. The “Dolfin” part of his name is a reference to “the House of Dunbar”. They had one child during their marriage, Patric FitzDolfin. Dolfin FitzUchtred died in 1136 at the age of 36.



Patric FitzDolfin de Offerton
Lord of Raby, 3rd Earl Dunbar
c. 1130 – 1182

[My 23nd Great-grandfather]



He was born about 1120 in Durham, the child of Dolfin (Lord of Raby, 3rd Earl Dunbar) and Alice (Adilicia) of Durham. He married Cicily De Offerton in 1150. They had one child during their marriage. Patric FitzDolfin de Offerton joined the Third Crusade with King Richard I (Lionheart) and died in Turkey in 1182.



The Wessyngton Years

**William FitzPatric de Hertburn (de Wessyngton)
c. 1150 – 1194**

[My 22nd Great-grandfather]

The Washington family name was acquired in 1183 when William Fitz Patrick de Hertburn assumed tenancy of the Washington (formerly de Wessynton) lands from the Bishop of Durham. He accepted Washington land in exchange for his Stockton lands since he was already heir to his mother's lands at Offerton, which lies just across the River Wear from Washington. It was upon his acquisition of the Washington lands in 1183 that Sir William Fitz Patrick de Hertburn became William de Wessyngton. William FitzPatric married Princess Margaret Huntington, Countess of Richmond and Hereford.

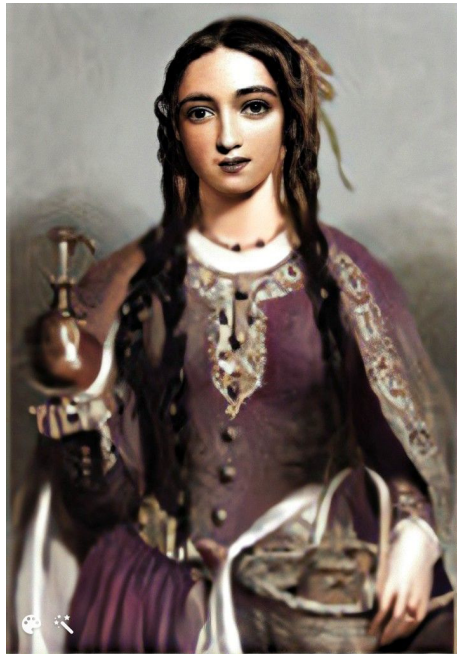


**Princess Margaret Huntington
Countess of Richmond and Hereford
c. 1140-1201**

[My 22nd Great-grandmother]

She was a Scottish princess and Duchess of Brittany. She was the sister of Scottish kings Malcolm IV and William I. wife of Conan IV, Duke of Brittany, and the mother of Constance, Duchess of Brittany.

In 1160, Margaret became Duchess of Brittany and Countess of Richmond by marrying her first husband, Conan IV, Duke of Brittany, Earl of Richmond. She was the mother



of Constance, Duchess of Brittany. Margaret's husband died in February 1171, leaving her a widow at the age of twenty-six.

In 1171, she married her second husband, Humphrey III de Bohun, Hereditary Constable of England (c. 1155–c. 1181). Hereafter, she styled herself Countess of Hereford. Her second husband died in 1181.

Her third husband was Scottish nobleman Sir William FitzPatrick Hertburn who had acquired the lands of Washington in Durham in 1183. This marriage produced three children.

Margaret died in 1201 and was buried in Sawtry Abbey, Huntingdonshire.



William de Wessyngton II
c. 1180 – 1239
[My 21th Great-grandfather]

He married Alice de Lexington in 1211.

Walter de Wessyngton
c. 1212 – 1264
[My 20th Great-grandfather]

He married Joan de Whitchester. Walter died on 14 May 1264, killed in action in the Battle of Lewes.

William de Wessyngton
c. 1240 – 1288
[My 19th Great-grandfather]

He married Margaret de Morville and they had two sons, Robert in 1265, and Walter in 1270.



The Cumbria-Lancashire Years

Robert de Wessyngton, Sr.

c. 1265–1324

[My 18th Great-grandfather]

Married Joan de Strickland (1272-1352), an heiress born of noble parentage in Syzergh Castle,

Cumberland. Her brother Walter Strickland gifted her an estate including the parish of Natland. Robert de Wessyngton developed her lands, which he received *jure uxoris* (in

right of his wife). He was a Member of Parliament for Westmoreland.



Robert de Wessyngton, Jr.

c. 1296 – 1348

[17th Great-grandfather]

His wife, Agnes LeGentyl, was born c.1300, Westmoreland, England.

John de Washington, Sr.

c. 1346 – 1408

[My 16th Great-grandfather]

John de Washington, Jr.

c. 1380 – 1423

[My 15th Great-grandfather]

Robert Washington, Sr.

c. 1404 – 1483

[My 14th Great-grandfather]

Robert Washington, Jr.

c. 1455 – 1528

[My 13th Great-grandfather]

Married Elizabeth Westfield 1444-1470

John Washington

c. 1478 – 1528

[My 12th Great-grandfather]

Married Margaret Kitson 1482-151



The Rotterdam Years

Nicholas Washington

c. 1502 – 1288

[My 11th Great-grandfather]

He was born in 1502 in Tewitfield, Warton, Lancashire, England. Nicholas married Ellyn Radcliffe, born in 1511 in Skerton, Morecambe, Lancashire, England. Ellyn was the daughter of John Radcliffe of Skerton. Her sister Margaret married Nicholas' brother Lawrence.

Nicholas moved to Skerton, Morecombe, on the coast of Lancashire to become knowledgeable about the merchant shipping trade. He and new his wife then moved to Rotterdam, The Netherlands. He established a successful shipping and mercantile company in Rotterdam. During the 16th century the Dutch port of Rotterdam became the center of the European trading empire, which eventually spanned the globe. Nicholas Washington and his wife Ellyn both died in 1568 in Rotterdam.



Lawrence Washington

c. 1548 – 1619

[My 10th Great-grandfather]

He was born in 1548 in Skerton, Lancashire, England. Lawrence married Jenel Colton, born in 1557. They moved to Rotterdam to manage his father's shipping business, then returned to England. Jenel died in 1590 in Dalton In Furness, Lancashire at age 33. Lawrence died in 1619 in Dalton-In-Furness, Lancashire, England at age 71.

Lawrence Washington

c. 1548 – 1619

[My 9th Great-grandfather]

He was born in 1580 in Rotterdam, Zuid-Holland, Netherlands. Lawrence married Elizabeth Fisher in 1607. He worked in his family shipping business in Rotterdam, returning in 1610 to Dalton-In-Furness, where he died in 1639 at age 59.



The Northampton Relatives

Lawrence Washington c 1500-1583 [My 11th Great-Uncle]

Lawrence Washington, the brother of my 11th Great-grandfather Nicholas Washington, came from Lancashire and began his rise to wealth and prominence in the employ of Sir William Parr, the uncle of Catherine Parr, sixth and final wife of Henry VIII. The Parr family had ties to the Strickland-Washington family in Lancashire. In 1529 Washington, he moved to Northamptonshire, where Sir William had business interests. Washington's cousin John Spencer of Althorp was at that time making a very good living in the burgeoning wool trade, and Washington was convinced that he should do the same. He left Parr's employ and set himself up as a wool merchant.



Washington married Elizabeth Gough, a well-to-do widow. Washington's new venture flourished so quickly that by 1532 he was elected mayor of Northampton, a post he would fill again in 1545. When Elizabeth died in childbirth Lawrence remarried, this time to Amy Pargiter, who was herself twice-widowed. She was the daughter of Robert Pargiter whose estates bordered Sulgrave. She was to have 11 children with Lawrence.

When the Abbey of St Andrew was “dissolved” by Henry VIII, Washington was able to purchase Sulgrave from the Crown. At that time there was no manor house on the property, but Lawrence soon built a manor in the Elizabethan longhouse style, a comfortable country house for a wealthy wool merchant. Sulgrave Manor was finished in 1560, and Lawrence Washington lived there until his death in 1584.



Robert Washington
Baron Washington of Maidstone
c 1544-1623

[My Cousin 10x Removed]

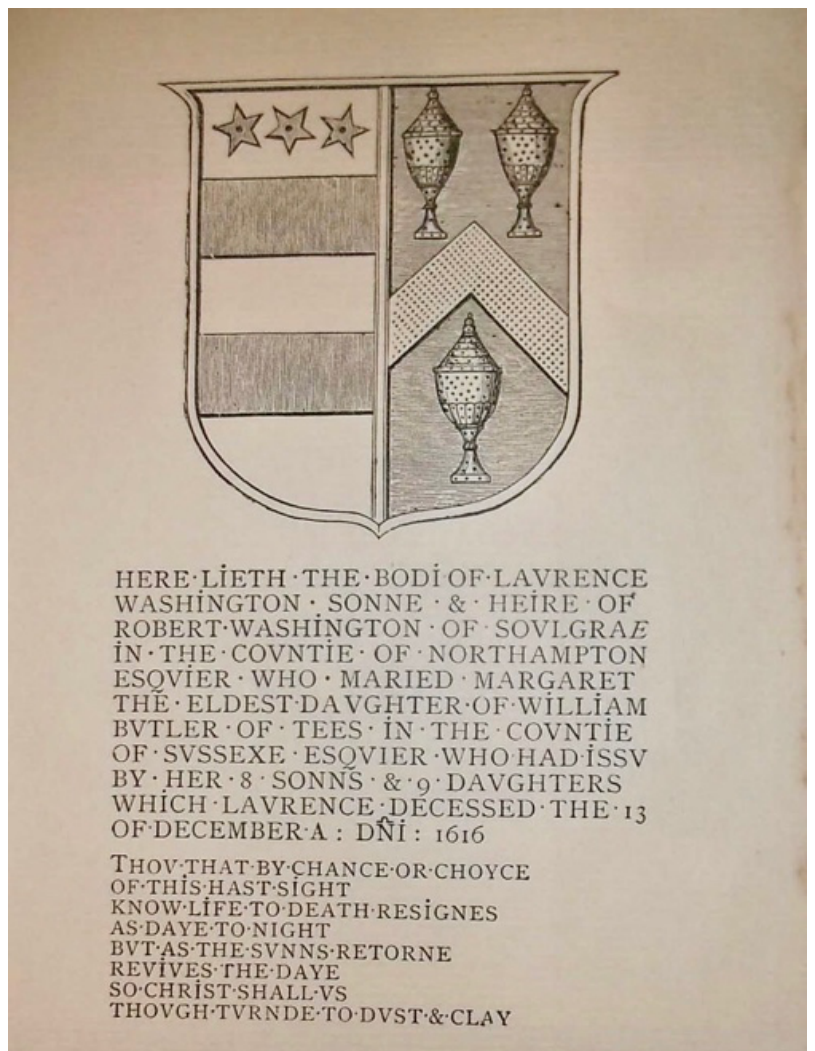
He married Elizabeth Lyte, 1547 – 1599. He was Registrar of His Majesty's Court of Chancery.



Lawrence Washington
c. 1566-1616

[My Cousin 11x Removed]

Lawrence Washington was born about 1568 in Sulgrave Manor, Northampton, England. He married Margaret Butler, daughter of William Butler and Margaret Greeke, in 1588 in St. Leonard's Church, Aston le Walls, Northamptonshire, England. Lawrence's marriage to Margaret gave the family some of the noble luster that was well coveted in those times. She came from a well-connected family who descended from the Plantagenet Kings of England.



Reverend Lawrence Washington

c. 1602-1653

[My Cousin 12x Removed]

Lawrence Washington was admitted to Brasenose College, Oxford in 1619. He graduated in 1623 with a Bachelor of Arts,[6] and within a few days was elected a Fellow of the College. In 1626 he was awarded a Master of Arts, in 1627 appointed university lecturer.



and



On 26 August 1632 the Archbishop of Canterbury William Laud made Washington proctor at Oxford. In alliance with King Charles I, the Supreme Head of the Church of England, Laud sought to rid the university of its Puritan clergy, and Washington was instrumental in carrying out the archbishop's purges.[7] Washington's services to Laud earned him an appointment to the well-compensated rectory of Purleigh in Essex, a position he assumed in 1632. The appointment enabled Washington to marry Amphilis Twigden, a literate, wealthy young widow. Oxford dons were forbidden from marrying, and Washington had risked his post at the university by courting her.

During the English Civil War more than one hundred priests of the Church of England referred to "as scandalous, malignant priests" were deprived of their livings for alleged treason or immorality by order of the Puritan Parliament. In 1643 Washington was censored on trumped-up charges of being "a common frequenter of ale-houses" who "[encouraged] others in that beastly vice."

Following his ejection from Purleigh, Washington became rector of the impoverished parish of Little Braxted in Essex. Lawrence Washington died in poverty in 1653, leaving an estate of insufficient value to require the issuance of "letters of administration" and was buried in the churchyard of All Saints' Church in Malden, Essex.

NOTE: Neither his wife Amphilis nor their children had accompanied him in exile to Little Braxted, as they were given shelter by the wealthy children of Sir Edwin Sandys, sympathetic relations whose patriarch had served as treasurer in the Virginia Company. Through the Sandys, Lawrence's son John secured an apprenticeship with a London merchant where he learned the tobacco trade.

In 1556, John Washington and his brother Lawrence hired a ship to America to purchase tobacco in the Virginia Colony, where he met and married Anne Pope, daughter of a wealthy planter. John was the great-grandfather of President George Washington.

