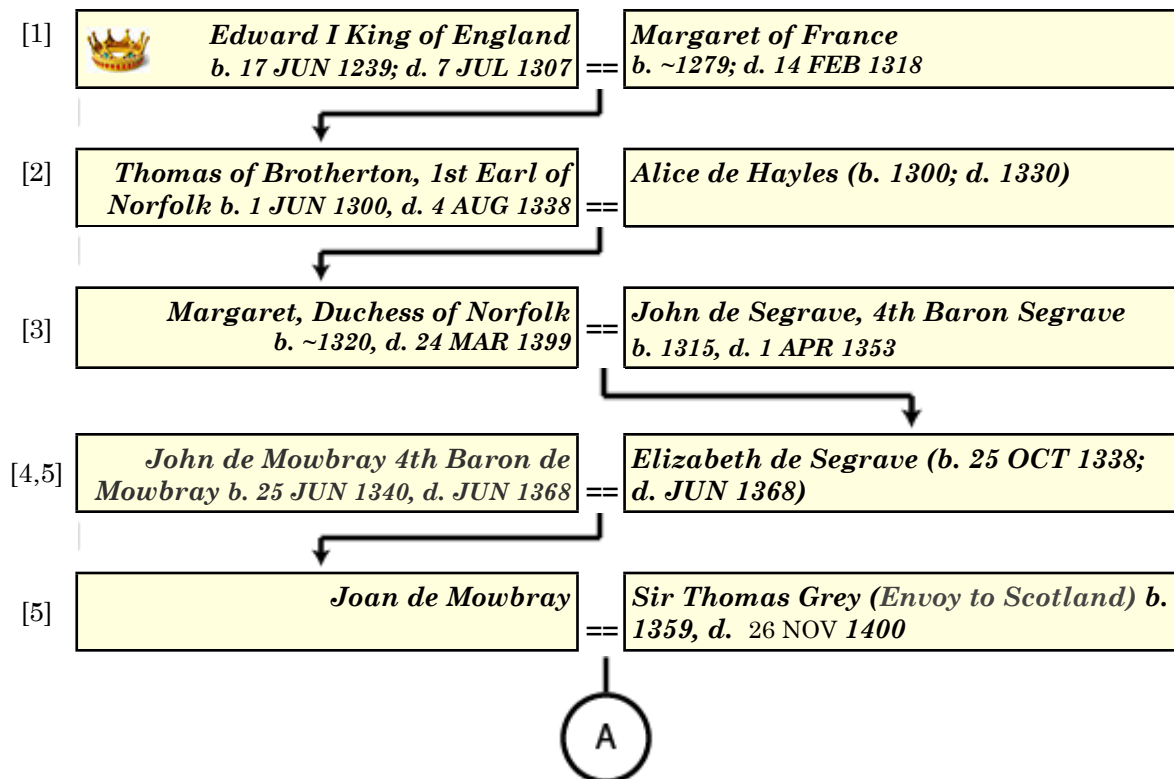


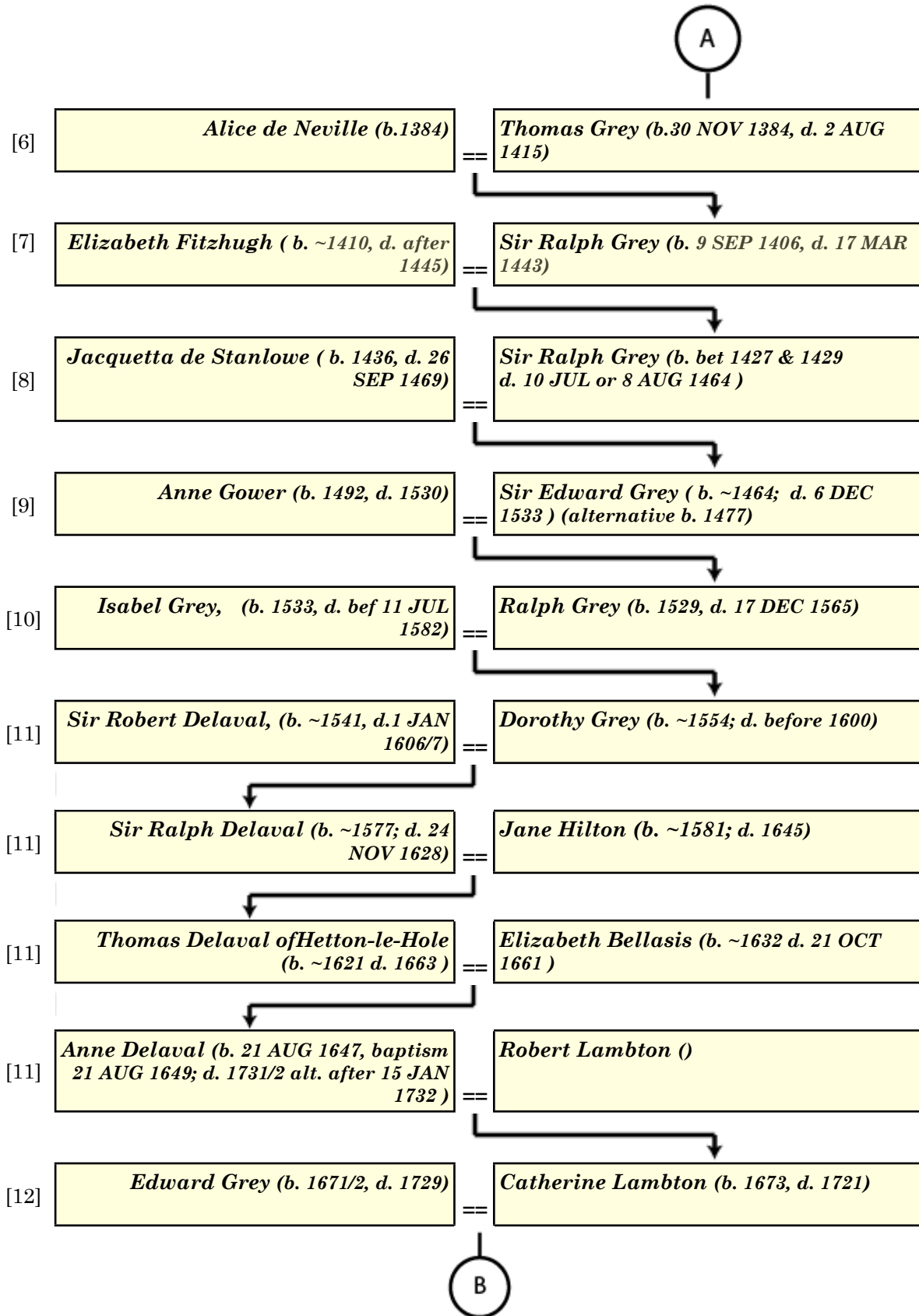
Appendix 10-D Connection to Royal Blood

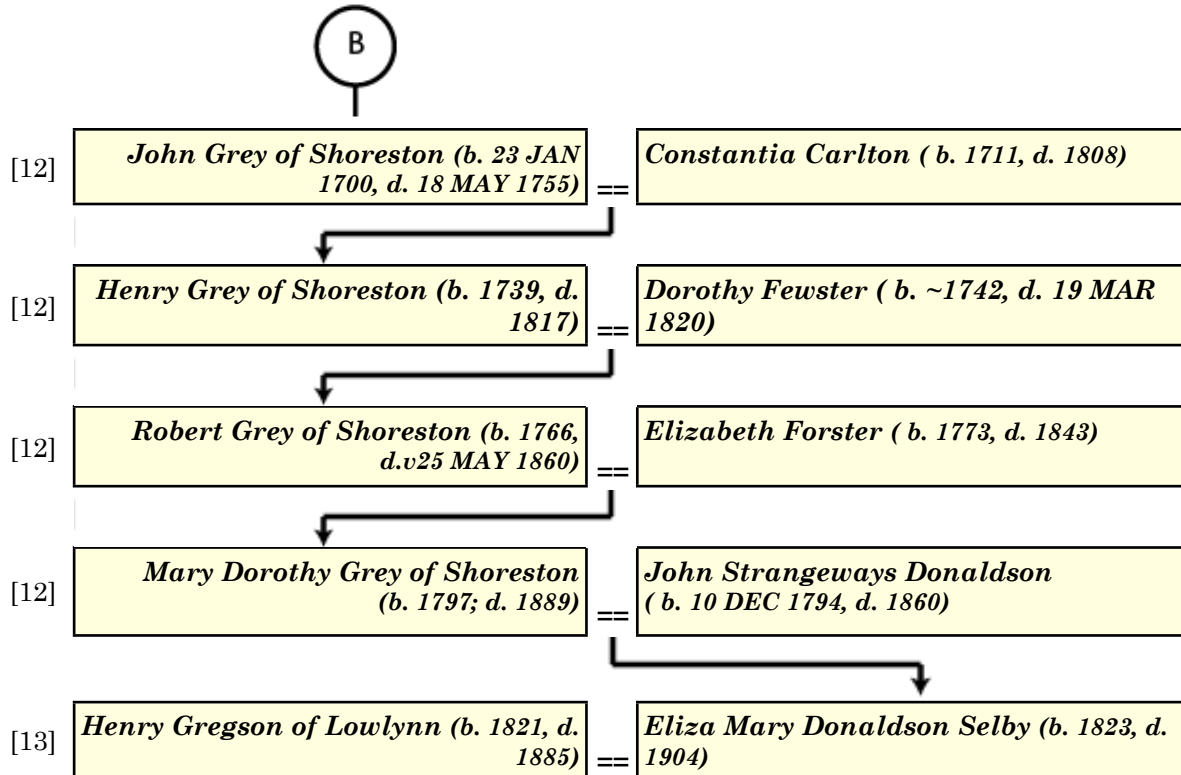
It is always exciting when we can trace our ancestry to a person of historical note. Our Knight Gregson family (my mother's family) is linked to the Royal House of Plantagenet kings. Before the twelfth century, England was largely ruled by foreign monarchs with raids from Viking kings and Norman invaders. With the House of Plantagenet, England emerged from a colonial realm into one of the most deeply engaged and mature kingdoms in Europe.

Our direct connection to Royal blood is through the family of Eliza Mary Donaldson Selby, wife of Henry Knight Gregson. Eliza was my 2-greats grandmother. Her mother was Mary Dorothy Grey. The Greys are believed to have originated in Normandy and came to England with William the Conquerer. Anchetil de Greye is named in the Domesday book of 1086 and is believed to be the ancestor of the Grey/Gray aristocratic families of England. The following table shows twenty-three generations linking the blood-line of Eliza Mary Donaldson Selby with Edward I, King of England who reigned from 1274 to 1307. Since Eliza Mary was my 2nd great grandmother, then King Edward I and Margaret of France are my 21-greats grandparents!



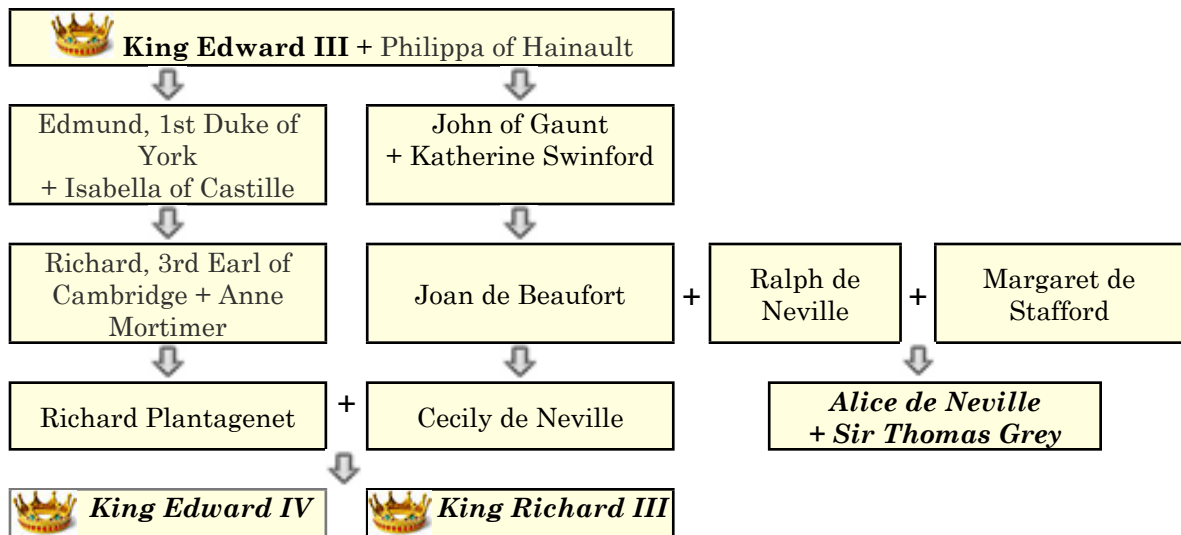
The bracketed numbers in this table refer to references at the end of this chapter.





Eliza Mary Donaldson Selby is also related to Kings Edward IV and Richard III through Ralph de Neville, 1st Earl of Westmorland. Westmorland and first wife Margaret de Stafford was one of Eliza's 14th great grandparents. Alice de Neville who married Sir Thomas Grey was the daughter of Ralph de Neville and Margaret de Stafford. After Margaret de Stafford died, Westmorland married Joan de Beaufort, daughter of John of Gaunt, 1st Duke of Lancaster who was the son of King Edward III. Cecily de Neville, the daughter of Joan de Beaufort and Ralph de Neville, married Richard Plantagenet 3rd Duke of York. Kings Edward IV and Richard III were sons of Cecily and Richard Plantagenet. This royal connection to Eliza Mary Donaldson Selby is not a blood relationship, but is linked through the second marriage of Ralph de Neville, Eliza Mary's 15th great grandfather.

Richard Plantagenet 3rd Duke of York served in various offices of state in France at the end of the Hundred Years' War—the struggle for control over the throne of France. In England he held governing power as Lord Protector during Henry VI's madness. His conflicts with Henry's court were a leading factor in the political upheaval of mid-fifteenth-century England, and a major cause of the Wars of the Roses. Richard eventually attempted to claim the throne but was dissuaded, although it was agreed that he would become King on Henry's death. Within a few weeks of securing this agreement, he died in battle.



Connection between Eliza Mary's Ancestry and King Richard III



Edward IV was born at Rouen in France, the second child of Richard, 3rd Duke of York and Cecily Neville. Edward, the eldest of the four sons who survived to adulthood, claimed the throne of England by dint of the agreement reached by his father before his death. Edward's assertion of his claim to the crown in 1460 was the key escalation of the conflict known as the Wars of the Roses. The Wars of the Roses was a series of dynastic wars fought between supporters of two rival branches of the royal House of Plantagenet: Lancaster and York whose heraldic symbols were the "red" and the "white" rose, respectively.



Richard III (2 October 1452 – 22 August 1485) was King of England for two years. When his brother Edward IV died in April 1483, Richard was named Lord Protector of the realm for Edward's son and successor, the 12-year-old King Edward V. As the young prince travelled to London, Richard met and escorted him to lodgings in the Tower of London where Edward V's brother Richard joined him shortly afterwards. Arrangements were made for Edward's coronation on 22 June 1483, but before the young king could be crowned, his father's marriage to his mother Elizabeth Woodville was declared invalid, making their children illegitimate and ineligible for the throne. On 25 June, an assembly of lords and commoners endorsed the claims. The following day, Richard III began his reign, and he was crowned on 6 July 1483. The young princes were not seen in public after August, and a number of accusations circulated that the boys had been murdered on Richard's orders, giving rise to

the legend of the Princes in the Tower. Shakespeare portrayed Richard as a physically deformed machiavellian villain in his famous work *Richard III*.

In 1485 Richard III led his troupes in *the Battle of Bosworth Field* against the House of Lancaster led by Henry Tudor, Earl of Richmond. Richard was killed in the battle and Henry would become King Henry IV. Henry ended the War of Roses by marrying Elizabeth of York the daughter of the late King Edward IV. With this negotiated settlement with Yorkist supporters, Henry symbolically joined of the House of York to the House of Lancaster and signified the end of the Wars of the Roses and a unified leadership of England.

Over 500 years after his death, the skeletal remains of King Richard III of England were discovered. The following article from the New York Times, February 4, 2013.

LEICESTER, England — Until it was discovered beneath a city parking lot last fall, the skeleton had lain unmarked, and unmourned, for more than 500 years. Friars fearful of the men who slew him in battle buried the man in haste, naked and anonymous, without a winding sheet, rings or personal adornments of any kind, in a space so cramped his cloven skull was jammed upright and askew against the head of his shallow grave.

On Monday, confirming what many historians and archaeologists had suspected, a team of experts at the University of Leicester concluded on the basis of DNA and other evidence that the skeletal remains were those of King Richard III, for centuries the most reviled of English monarchs. But the conclusion, said to have been reached “beyond any reasonable doubt,” promised to achieve much more than an end to the oblivion that has been Richard’s fate since his death on Aug. 22, 1485, at the Battle of Bosworth Field, 20 miles from this ancient city in the sheep country of England’s East Midlands.



War of Roses and the knights de Grey

Ralph de Neville, the First Earl of Westmorland and his wife the Countess Margaret de Stafford were my 17th great grandparents. Westmorland received his earldom from King Richard II in recognition of support during an unsuccessful attempt by Thomas of Woodstock, the king’s uncle, to depose the monarch. When Margaret de Stafford died, Ralph de Neville married Countess Joan de Beaufort. With this marriage Ralph became the son-in-law to John of Gaunt, 1st Duke of Lancaster. After the death of John of Gaunt, King Richard banished Henry

Bolingbroke, John's son and heir. This time instead of advocating the position of King Richard, Ralph de Neville put his support behind Bolingbroke. Westmorland was present when King Richard abdicated at the Tower of London in 1399 and participated in the coronation of King Henry IV, establishing the House of Lancaster. Westmorland was portrayed in Shakespeare's *Henry IV*. Royalty in the days of the Plantagenet kings required ruthless behavior. Those who survived to retain power indeed exemplified Darwinian evolution. This was the beginning of the War of Roses in which the Yorkist and Lancastrian cadet houses of Plantagenet kings would battle for control of the monarchy.

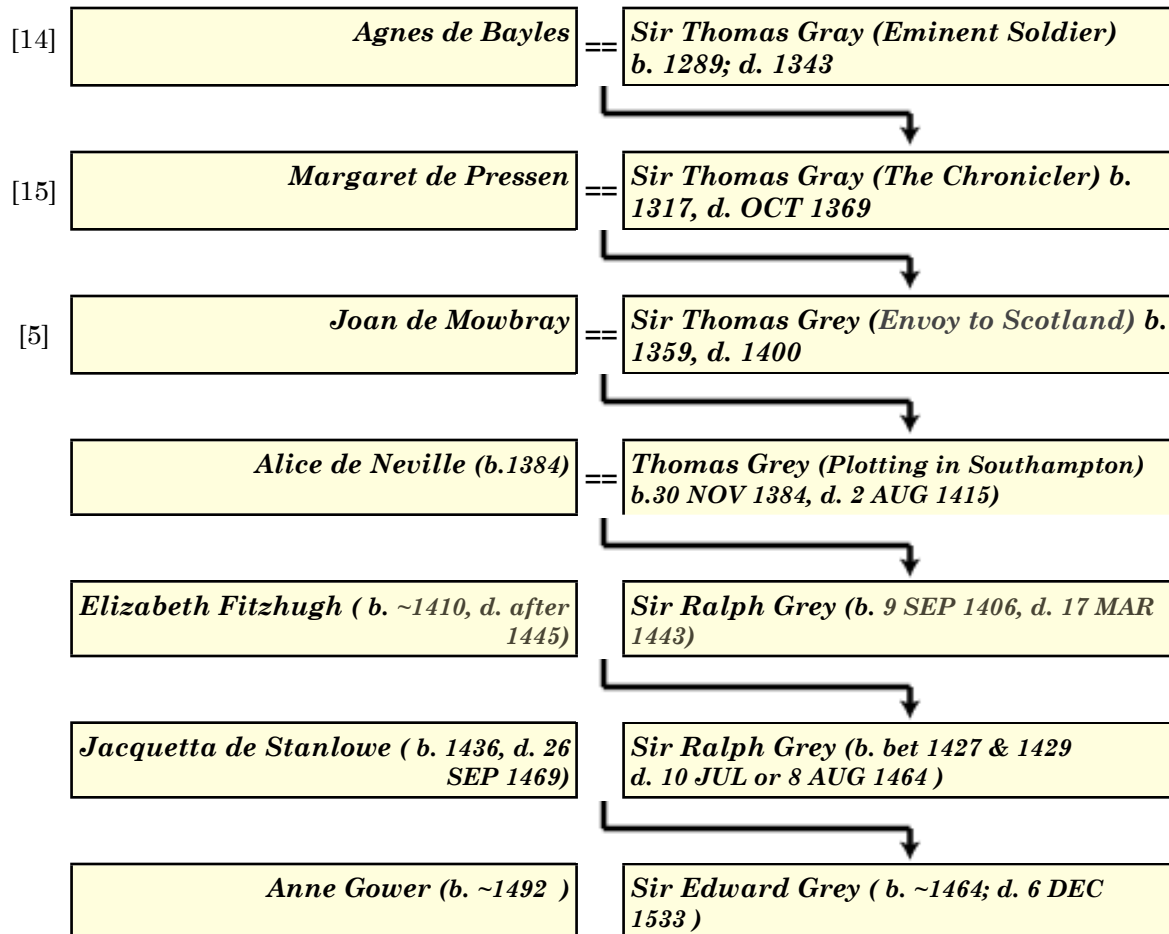
Alice de Neville daughter of Ralph de Neville and Margaret de Stafford married Sir Thomas Grey. This is the ancestral line leading to Eliza Mary Donaldson Selby. The knights de Grey, of whom this Thomas was a member, have a long history reaching back over 150 years. The story of these knights, contains tales of power and intrigue. Many served their king in distinguished military service and were knighted by the monarch. The Thomas Grey who appears in the table of ancestors at the left is the fourth Sir Thomas in a line of the Grey (sometimes spelled Gray) family. In the following table of ancestors, I have given each Sir Thomas Gray a label: Eminent Soldier, The Chronicler, etc. rather than identify them as I, II,... As the reader will see, there were many named Thomas and Ralph in this family.



*Raby Castle, home of Ralph de Neville,
1st Earl of Westmorland*



The coat of arms of Sir Thomas Gray of Heaton, Envoy to Scotland recorded in Scalacronica



The knights de Grey

Sir Thomas Gray, Eminent Soldier

Sir Thomas Gray (great grandfather of Thomas Grey who married Alice de Neville)



*Painting depicting Norham Castle
in the late middle ages*

served Edward I and Edward II, and Edward III during the Anglo-Scottish wars. He held the post of constable of Norham Castle from 1319 to 1331, and resisted two long sieges of the castle by the Scots. Norham Castle was a strategic border defense located on a ford of the Tweed separating England and Scotland.

Sir Thomas Gray, the Chronicler

It is believed that Thomas Gray, son of Thomas Gray eminent soldier, served alongside his father in the Scottish campaigns and was knighted by the king before his father's death. In consideration of Thomas' military service in France and Scotland, Edward II granted him the manor of Middlemast Middleton. Over the next few years, this young knight amassed considerable lands and fortune. Like his father, young Thomas served as constable of Norham Castle. In 1356 the Scots attacked Norham Castle and in retaliation Thomas Gray pursued Sir William Ramsay architect of the attack. Ramsay laid a trap for Gray and was captured and imprisoned in Edinburgh Castle. Gray was held captive at Edinburgh Castle. While in captivity, Gray composed the *Scalacronica*, a chronicle written in Anglo-Norman French which describes English history from the earliest times to about the year 1362. Evidently, Grey had access to the library at Edinburgh Castle which he used in his writing. The parts dealing with the reigns of Kings Edward I, Edward II, and Edward III drew from his personal experience as a soldier in the Anglo-Scottish and French wars. It is remarkable that a knight during this period of the late middle ages had the skill and the interest to record this history. The title *Scalacronica* links two words from Norman French: *scala* (a scaling ladder used in sieges to breach the walls of a castle) and *cronica* (a chronicle). [15]

Sir Thomas Grey, Envoy to Scotland

Thomas Gray was the second born son of Sir Thomas, The Chronicler. His elder brother John predeceased his father and when Thomas was ten years old, Thomas became heir to his father's estates including manors in Heaton in Wark,

Doddington, Howick, Hawkhill, Earle, Eworth and Neverton, together with land in Bamburgh, Middleton, Alnwick, Coldmartin and Lofthouse as well as properties in Newcastle-upon-Tyne. Thomas was knighted about 1385. Sir Thomas served a number of diplomatic missions to establish peace with the Scots. While engaged in peacemaking, he is reported to have lost none of the enthusiasm of the Grays to participate in illicit raiding parties into enemy territory. In about 1384 Thomas married Joan de Mowbray, daughter of Lord John, 4th Baron de Mowbray. Joan was a 2-greats granddaughter of King Edward I (Longshanks).

During the life of this Sir Thomas Gray, the dynasty of Plangent kings divided into two rival branches, Lancaster and York. The War of the Roses, which strongly influenced the affairs of the family Gray/Grey, was a thirty-three year struggle between these two cadet houses to assume what each considered its God-given right to the throne. The following is a much abbreviated version of the affairs of the times.

King Richard II, the ten-year-old grandson of Edward III, ascended to the throne on 12 JUN 1377. The monarchy was run as a regency with Richard's uncle John of Gaunt having considerable influence on the affairs of state. Sir Thomas Gray found favor with the king and was rewarded with an annuity of £50, payable for life at the Exchequer. Henry Bolingbroke, son of John of Gaunt, made a comment about King Richard that was interpreted as treasonous by Thomas de Mowbray, 1st Duke of Norfolk (brother-in-law to Sir Thomas Gray). After reporting to Richard, the king called for a duel of honor between Bolingbrook and Mowbray, but changed his mind and banished Henry from the kingdom. When John of Gaunt died, King Richard took legal action to make it impossible for Bolingbroke to inherit his father's properties. In June 1399 Henry of Bolingbroke, invaded England with a small force raised in France. He stated that his goal was to claim the properties that were rightly his. Henry's support grew as he built influence among a number of barons who were disgruntled with King Richard. It soon became apparent that Bolingbroke aimed at usurping the throne. Bolingbrook defeated Richard in battle, and took him prisoner. Although Henry's claim to the throne was weak, he deposed Richard, bypassed the rightful heir to the throne, and had himself crowned as King Henry IV. Weary of Richard's rule, Henry's usurpation was approved by Parliament and public opinion. Sir Thomas Gray was present at the Tower of London for the deposition of King Richard II and the elevation of Henry Bolingbroke to King Henry IV.

Sir Thomas Grey, Plotting in Southampton

Thomas Grey who married Alice de Neville (daughter of Ralph de Neville and Margaret de Stafford) was born in *le Midyllgathouse* at Alnwick Castle. He was the son of Sir Thomas Grey (envoy to Scotland) and Joan de Mowbray. At age 16 Thomas succeeded his father and found favor with Henry IV (Bolingbroke). Grey married Alice Neville, in 1408. After Bolingbrooke's death in 1386, the king was

succeeded by his son crowned Henry V 16 SEP 1386. Recalling that Bolingbrooke had usurped the throne and had but a weak claim to the throne, the door was open to another contest over monarchy.

In 1415 Thomas Grey was part of a plot to replace King Henry V with Edmund Mortimer, 5th Earl of March. Mortimer was a descendant of Henry III and Edward III. Edmund's father, Roger Mortimer, 4th Earl of March, was heir presumptive at the time Bolingbroke usurped the throne. Sir Thomas' son (b. 1404 who again was named Thomas) was betrothed to Isabel, daughter of Richard of Conisburgh, 3rd Earl of Cambridge (brother-in-law to Mortimer). The king found out about the plot and Thomas Grey along with other conspirators was arrested. Sir Thomas Grey was beheaded on 2 AUG 1415 in Southampton, England. Breaking this conspiracy, the Lancastrians strengthened their hold on the throne.

Sir Ralph Grey of Chillingham

Sir Thomas Grey who died as a result of the Southampton plot had seven or eight children. Of course, the eldest he named Thomas. Thomas died at the early age of 22. Second born son Sir Ralph Grey, Knight Banneret is believed to have been knighted at Leicester, on Whitsunday, in 1426 by Lancastrian King Henry VI. Sir Ralph married the daughter of William FitzHugh, 5th Lord FitzHugh, on 1 July 1435 at Ravensworth, Yorkshire, England. He was Captain of Roxburgh Castle strategically located at the confluence of the rivers Tweed and Teviot. James I of Scotland ordered a siege of Roxburgh. A huge army was assembled with cannons and including mortars manned by German gun crews. A tactical error was made in splitting the attack, causing the siege to disintegrate into a complete fiasco. Ralph Grey, then captain of the castle, with only 80 men-at-arms held off the attack against great odds until the arrival of the Earls of Northumberland with a force of northerners, at which time James and his army abandoned the attack, leaving behind his expensive arms. Sir Ralph died in Guyenne, France during a campaign by Henry VI to secure Normandy during the Hundred Years War. He is buried at Chillingham, Northumberland, England, in an elaborate alabaster tomb along with his wife. His effigy is clad in battle dress befitting a knight. [16]



The tomb of Sir Ralph Grey and his wife Elizabeth

Sir Ralph Grey Sheriff of Northumberland

Ralph Grey, Knight of Wark, Heaton, Chillingham, Doddington, etc., served as Sheriff of Northumberland 1455-6 & 1459-60, and as his father he had responsibility as the Keeper of Roxburgh Castle. He married Jacquetta Stanlow about 1451/2. Jacquetta is believed to be the damsel of Queen Margaret of Anjou, wife of Lancastrian King Henry VI. In 1461 Edward of York won a series of victories in The War of Roses gaining control of London, after which Edward had himself crowned King Edward IV; the House of York was now in control of the throne. The knights who served Henry were expected to switch their allegiance to Edward. For Sir Ralph Grey the test came in 1462 when the Lancastrians led by Lord Hastings made siege of Alnwick Castle. Sir Ralph assisted in the capture of Alnwick Castle. As a reward, Sir Ralph was made constable of that fortress. Having sworn his allegiance to the the Yorkist king, Sir Ralph was now targeted as a traitor. In the same year he joined the retaking Duinstanborough for the house of Lancaster. In 1463 he handed Alnwick Castle over to Queen Margaret, no doubt prompted by the former relationship of Jacquetta with the queen. Sir Ralph fled, but was captured by the Yorkists at Bamborough Castle. Held for treason, Sir Ralph was removed from the order of knighthood. His spurs were hacked off, his coat of arms torn from his body and his armor was broken up. For Ralph Grey, justice was meted out by beheading. The elaborate ceremony for treason of a knight included the following sentence for Sir Ralph. [16a]

"Notwithstanding, of the disgrading of Knighthood, and of thine arms and noblesse, the King pardons that for thy noble grandfather, the which suffered trouble for the King's most noble predecessors. Then, Sir Rauf Grey, this shall be thy penance: thou shalt go on thy feet unto the town's end, and there thou shalt be laid down and drawn to a scaffold made for thee, and on that thou shalt have thine head smit off; thy body to be buried in the Friars, thy head where it pleaseth the King."*

Royalty plus Royalty

Having made a connection between Eliza Mary Donaldson Selby and King Edward I opens the door to many royal connections. The royal families of England and the European continent intermarried to maintain *divine right to rule* and to form alliances expanding power and dominion. The descendants of Henry and Eliza Knight Gregson are, therefore, related to many of Europe's royal families.

Edward I descended from the royal line of Plantagenet kings including Henry II, Richard the Lionheart, John Lackland, Henry III, Edward I, Edward II and Edward III. The royal ancestry continues back to the ninth century to Charlemagne, Holy Roman Emperor crowned by Pope St Leo III on Christmas Day 800. Charlemagne's royal descendants continued thru ten generations to Matilda, Countess of Flanders who married William, Duke of Normandy (*the Conqueror*). King Henry I (1068-1135) of England was the son of the Conqueror. Henry had nine wives! His third spouse Matilda of Scotland bore a daughter Matilda of Normandy. This young Matilda would become Queen of England. Matilda's title was disputed and

she reigned for only 147 days beginning 7 APR 1141. Matilda's second spouse was Geoffrey V, Count of Anjou and Maine (1113-1151), who was father to Henry II the first of the Plantagenet kings of England.

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