

The Godiva Gazette Addendum

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The Newsletter of the Society of Descendants of Lady Godiva

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August 2022 Addendum:

Please note the following article by Alex Bannerman is complete in this mini-Gazette. For those of you who were left scratching your head after receiving the most recent edition of the Godiva Gazette and wondering where the rest of this story is hiding, here it is!

Enjoy and many apologies to you, the reader, and to our friend, Alex.

Cricket Crigler

Alexander Bannerman

As a brief introduction to the life and purpose of our ancestress, Lady Godiva (*Godgifu* in Old English), I have chosen to turn to the *Journal of Medieval History*, vol. 18, Iss. 1 (March 1992), pp. 3-19, wherein an original article, entitled "The legend of Lady Godiva and the image of the female body." The author of the article, Katherine L. French, presents a wonderful summary of the essence of Godiva's life in a remarkably interesting way. Following is a synopsis of French's article, found online at [https://doi.org/10.1016/0304-4181\(92\)90015-Q](https://doi.org/10.1016/0304-4181(92)90015-Q), 3 Jan 2012; accessed 20 July 2022:

Lady Godiva freed the city of Coventry from its burdensome tolls by riding naked through the market place. Ostensibly her legend explains how a town gained its freedom from a domineering overlord, yet the means for communicating this new civic identity are through the highly charged images of the female body. Godiva presents a complex and often ambiguous image, the meaning of which is not readily obvious from surviving medieval accounts of the legend. She simultaneously exhibits the seemingly contradictory images of the Virgin Mary, Eve, and Mary Magdalene by assuming many of their physical attributes and actions, such as mediation, nudity, and long hair. By examining the versions of this legend, and the way that Godiva is presented throughout them, we can see how the people of Coventry articulated their concerns about issues of order and disorder, social control and the function of the city.

I use this brief introduction to present the following chart illustrating only four of the most frequently seen descents of American Gateway Ancestors from this remarkable personage whose name (at the very least) is known to most of the civilized world today. There are many, many possibilities. The chart shows:

- two avenues of ascent via Sybil and Eve, daughters of William Marshal, Earl of Pembroke, who married William de Ferrers, Earl of Derby, and William de Braose (or Brewes) of Kington, Hertfordshire, &c.
- a line of ascent via the *Magna Charta* baron, Henry Bohun, Earl of Hereford, a great-great grandson of Queen St. Margaret of Scotland, and a great-grandson of St. Margaret's son, King St. David of Scotland
- an ascent via a daughter-in-law of Robert de Ros, another *Magna Charta* baron

The chart also illustrates "kinexions" to other great notables, including Rhodri Mawr, the 9th century King of Wales; Brian Boru, High King of Ireland, who reigned at the beginning of the 11th century; numerous Vikings and Valkyries, and the emperor Charlemagne.

Importantly, we know that Godiva and Leofric had only one son. While one might think this limits the possibilities for establishing descent, in truth, there are many directions of descent to our American gateway ancestors, and thus, to us. And along the way, we can see some of the other wonderful ancestors behind us.

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Lady GODIVA = LEOFRIC the Thegn, Earl of Mercia

(b. c. 1010)

(d. 31 Aug 1057, Bromley, Staffs., Eng.)

Ælfgar, Earl of East Anglia and Mercia, accused of treason in 1055
= Ælfgifu

Edith of East Anglia
= Gruffydd ap Llewellyn, Prince of North Wales, slain in 1063

Nesta of North Wales
= Osbert Fitz Richard of Hereford

Nesta of Hereford
= Bernard de Neufmarché, Lord of Brecon

Sybil de Neufmarché
= Miles Fitz Walter of Gloucester, Earl of Hereford

A 3rd great-grandson of Rhodri Mawr,
"the Great," King of Wales (d. 878)

Lucy of Hereford
= Herbert Fitz Herbert, Sheriff of
Gloucestershire

Peter Fitz Herbert of Blen Llyfni
= Alice Fitz Robert

Lucy Fitz Peter
= Sir William de Ros, Kt., Feudal Baron
of Helmsley, &c.

↓
Son of
Sir Robert de Ros, Kt.,
Magna Charta Baron
= Isabella

Bertha of Hereford
= William de Braose, 1st Baron of
Gwentland

A great-granddaughter of
Queen St. Margaret of Scotland,
via her son
King St. David of Scotland

Margaret of Hereford
= Humphrey de Bohun of Trowbridge, &c.,
Steward to Henry I, Stephen & Henry II

Humphrey de Bohun (d. 1181),
Hereditary Constable of
England
= Margaret of Scotland, Countess of Brittany

Henry de Bohun, 5th Earl of Hereford,
Magna Charta Baron, Crusader (1219)
= Maud Fitz Geoffrey de Mandeville

Sibyl de Braose
= William de Ferrers, 3rd Earl of
Derby

William de Ferrers, 4th Earl of Derby
= Agnes of Chester, Lady of Chartley

Sir William de Ferrers, Kt.,
5th Earl of Derby
= Sybil Marshal

William de Braose, 5th Baron of Corbeil
= Maud de St. Valerie

Reginald de Braose
= Grace de Briwere

Sir William de Braose, Kt., of Kington, Herts., Totnes, Devon, &c.
= Eve Marshal

Sisters. Daughters of
William Marshal, 4th Earl of Pembroke
= Isabel Fitz Gilbert de Clare



As a 3rd great-granddaughter of Henry I, King of France and his wife, Anne of Kiev, Isabel Fitz Gilbert de Clare is a descendant of numerous Vikings and Valkyries, including Eystein Glumra, “the Noisy,” (c. 830-c. 870), Jarl of the Upplands, and Eric Segersäll, “the Victorious,” Viking King of Sweden (r. c. 975-c. 995). Her ancestry also provides lines of descent from the emperor Charlemagne.

A 5th great-granddaughter of
Brian Boru, High King of
Ireland
(r. 1002-1014)
= 3rd wife, Gormflaith of Naas (d. 1030)

Sources:

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Frederick L. Weis, *Ancestral Roots*, 8th ed., lines 27, 132C, 175, 176, 178, 239, 252, 260

G. F. Cokayne, *The Complete Peerage*, 13 vols. repr. in 6 (1987)