

THE LYDDALL & BACON FAMILIES

As much as I would like to include the history of these two families in this book, I find it a task too large to try to incorporate into the Thompson family. The Bacon family alone has several books already written concerning the history from the time of William the Conqueror of England to the present day. So, I will begin the history basically with our American founding fathers, Colonel George Lyddall and Captain Edmund Bacon.

However, I must make mention of some things regarding the history of these families, since they figure largely into European history and especially English History from the middle ages. They also figure into the very foundations of the United States of America, as I hope to point out.

LYDDALL FAMILY SUMMARY

The **LYDDALL** family can be traced back through various males and females to around the year 500 AD and King Chlotheric of Cologne. Descendants include a range of personages from King Charlemagne of the Franks, Holy Roman Emperor (742-814) to Matilda of Flanders (1032-1083) who married King William I, the Conqueror of England, Duke of Normandy (1027-1087). William had defeated his cousin, Harold II, in 1066 at the battle of Hastings, and thus founded the Norman and Plantagenet Dynasties of England. Of course there were also connections to the ancient Anglo-Saxon English Dynasty of the House of Wessex dating back to about 804 AD.

It is too complicated to try to list here all the connections, but suffice it to say that most of the Royal Houses of Europe were connected and related, including the Kings of England, France, Spain, Italy and Germany, as well as those of the Scandinavian countries. The most interesting ancestor I found was Henry II, King of England (1154-1189) and his wife Eleanor of Aquitaine, for whom I have the utmost respect. We can trace our family back to Henry II and his mistress, Rosemunde de Clifford whose son, William Longspee, was a signer of Magna Charta (1215) and advisor to his half brother, King John. Magna Charta figures heavily into our family history. Twenty-five Barons forced King John to sign Magna Charta. We can trace our family's roots to sixteen of the signers including; Roger Bigod, Earl of Norfolk, Hugh Bigod, the Earl of Norfolk's heir, Henry de Bohun, Earl of Hereford, Richard de Clare, Earl of Hertford, Gilbert de Clare, the Earl of Hertford's heir, John FitzRobert, Lord of Warkworth Castle, Northumberland, Robert FitzWalter, Lord of Dunmow Castle, Essexshire, John de Lacie, Lord of Halton Castle, Cheshire, Saire de Quincey, Earl of Winchester, Robert de Vere, Earl of Oxford, and William Marshall, the Earl of Pembroke's heir to mention a few. And a signer for King John acting as surety was

William the Marshall, Earl of Pembroke (considered to be the greatest knight in all of Christendom) who's five daughters were married to the Barons who were signers.

Magna Charta is one of the most important documents in English and American history because it gives us our present judicial system based on *trial by jury!* What a thrill it was for me to see a copy of this original document in the British Museum, knowing that some of my ancestors had signed it. For those in the United States who are interested, there is a copy at the Huntington Library in San Marino, California.

Coming down from the time of Magna Charta (1215), we have the Beauchamp family who designed and built the outer walls around the tower of London (1390s), some of the Dukes of Arundel, the Wyclif family and down to the Anderson-Woodward-Lyddall-Bacon families in the late 1500s and early 1600s.

BACON FAMILY SUMMARY

The **BACON** family does not have the noble ancestry of the Lyddall family but it is of historic importance, nonetheless. The first Bacon we can trace back to is named **GRIMBALDUS**, who is listed as a Norman gentleman related to William de Warenne, Earl of Surrey, who came to England at the time of the conquest and had grants of land at Letheringsete, near Holt, in the county of Norfolk. His son Reynolds or Ranulf resided at Thorp, County of Norfolk and he seems to have taken the surname of **BACONSTHORP**. Within a generation or two, the name became simply **BACON**.

One of the first members of the Bacon family to make a name was **ROGER BACON** who was born in Ilchester around 1214 and died around 1294. He was educated at Oxford and in Paris, receiving a doctorate in Theology. He joined the Franciscan Order of the Roman Catholic Church. Roger Bacon was considered to be one of the greatest scholars of the 13th century and is compared with Albertus Magnus and Thomas Aquinas. In addition to his religious teachings and writings, he was also an expert in the fields of geography, astronomy, chemistry, physics and mathematics. He even corrected the Julian calendar and is sometime credited with discovering an explosive "black powder" which later became known as gunpowder. He wrote his "Opus Majus" which was a collection of his theological ideas. This work later brought about his imprisonment for his protest against certain theological attitudes and forms of life he found practiced among the clergy. He was finally released from prison by order of the Pope but died shortly thereafter.

SIR NICHOLAS BACON was a minister to Henry VIII and when the crown dissolved and confiscated lands belonging to the Catholic Church during the English reformation, many of these lands came into the hands of the Bacon family. One of these properties was the monastery of St. Edmunds Bury, the ancient capitol of Anglo-Saxon Britain, which went to Sir Nicholas Bacon. A few years later, when Elizabeth I came to the throne of England, the first person she sought out was her father's trusted aide and minister, Sir Nicholas Bacon. He became "Lord Keeper of the Great Seal", counselor to the Privy, and a member of Gray's Inn (law). It appears that our Bacon family is descended from James Bacon (1510-1573) who was the brother of Sir Nicholas Bacon.

Sir Nicholas had a son, **SIR FRANCIS BACON** who was born in 1560. He was educated at Cambridge University and in Paris and was considered by all accounts to be the most learned man of his time. He became immortal through his philosophical endeavors, which may be defined as the foundation of all modern natural science.

There has also been a movement within the literary community which gives him credit for writing the works of William Shakespeare. He took a seat in Parliament in 1593 and later became a counselor to Elizabeth I, knighted by her in 1603. He too became "Keeper of the Great Seal" as his father had, and he became Chancellor of England in 1619 under James I. He died in 1626 bearing the title of Sir Francis Bacon, Viscount of St. Albans.

It should also be noted that Sir Francis Bacon authored, *Bacon's Essays* in which he outlined how to properly establish and maintain a colony, which he called a "plantation." Bacon's ideas were incorporated into the Charter of the London Company and in turn comprised the force behind the founding of the Virginia Colony at Jamestown in 1607.

The Bacon families enjoyed the favor of the Henry VIII, Elizabeth I, and James I accumulating much wealth and property in Norfolk and Suffolk counties as well as status among those at the Court of St. James. Being a landed and wealthy family, the Bacons tended to marry young and have large families. It has been noted that one Bacon owned 22 manor houses and had as many children. But, it must be noted that under the English laws of primogeniture, only the oldest son inherited the land. The larger Bacon families saw many younger sons go to the New World (Virginia and Massachusetts). Also, another event took place and that was the coming to power of Oliver Cromwell, Lord Protector of England in 1653. The Roundheads (Puritans) took over Parliament and the new government executed Charles I, King of England. Many who held titles and land came into question by the government and many fled to the New World.

The first person of the Bacon family to settle in the New World was Bartholomew Gosnold who was the Captain of the *Godspeed*, one of the three ships which brought the original settlers to Jamestown in 1607.

Bartholomew was the son of Dorothy Bacon of Hessett, County Suffolk. He did not survive the first winter but died in 1607 in Jamestown. It is interesting to note that when I visited Jamestown in 1997, I found a replica of the *Godspeed*. It was so small, about the size of a large school bus. It was the mid-sized of the three ships that came to Jamestown. It was incredible to me, that they could have survived crossing the Atlantic in such small ships, let alone brought passengers and supplies enough for establishing a colony.



Replica of The Godspeed in Jamestown.

The earliest Bacon birth recorded in North America is 1619 in Jamestown. His name was Nathaniel Bacon. Alas, his parents' names have been lost, but there is little doubt that he was probably connected to our Bacon family in some way. In 1649, Nathaniel Bacon married Ann Jones; another Nathaniel Bacon was born in Jamestown in 1649, parents unknown but likely Ann and Nathaniel.

There are two more Nathaniel Bacons of whom I wish to make mention. And to end the confusion that sometimes arises when these two names are brought up in history. We have Colonel Nathaniel Bacon (1620-1692) who was the acting Governor

of Virginia in 1689-1690. He was the son of the Reverend James Bacon. He came to Virginia around 1650 and accumulated land and became quite wealthy and influential. When he died without any children, he left everything to his niece, A. Burwell.

The other Nathaniel Bacon is best known in history as "The Rebel". He was the only son of Thomas Bacon, being born in 1647. He came to Virginia in 1674 and settled two plantations: one at "The Curls" near Jamestown and the other at "The Falls" which is now a section of the City of Richmond, Virginia. He came to Virginia as a result of his marriage to Elizabeth Duke, daughter of Sir Edward Duke. Nathaniel married Elizabeth against the wishes of her father. Sir Edward Duke threatened to kill Nathaniel, so they fled to Virginia to escape the wrath of Elizabeth's father. Nathaniel and Elizabeth had two children, both daughters.

NATHANIEL BACON AND BACON'S REBELLION

The so-called "rebellion" started when Indians started harassing the northern settlements in Virginia in 1676. The people of that region rose up against them, but one band escaped to the mountains to the east and incited hostility among the tribes along the southwestern frontier. In May of 1676, Nathaniel Bacon led a group of neighbors against the hostile savages. Bacon's organizing this group without a commission from Governor Berkeley led to the Governor's denouncement of Bacon as a "rebel." Bacon, in turn, denounced the Governor and the Home Government and demanded changes in local administration of the colony. In the contest that followed, the people supported



"Bacon's Castle" in Virginia. The first brick home in America.

Bacon. Had it not been for Nathaniel Bacon's premature death in late 1676, many of the reforms he asked for would have been granted. The reforms he sought did come about eventually, but it was a hundred years later when the colonies fought England — the American Revolution.

During the time of the Rebellion, Nathaniel Bacon was headquartered in a plantation house in Surry County, Virginia. Though he never owned the property, the place has been known ever since as Bacon's Castle. It is considered to be the oldest brick home in the United

States, being built about 1667. Recent excavation of the grounds has given great insight into an English style garden of the colonial period.

THE BACON AND LYDDALL FAMILIES IN AMERICA

Several families were related in England (Suffolk/Norfolk Counties) and when they came to Virginia, they settled along the Pamunkey River in New Kent County. They were said to have been Royalists, and the move to Virginia began during the Commonwealth, 1649-1659, to avoid persecution from Cromwell. Among the families represented in the migration were the Woodwards, Lyddalls, Bacons, Honniwoods, Izards, Harwoods and others, and they all lived near each other in St. Peter's Parish, New Kent County.

Captain George Lyddall was in command of the Fort at Mattaponi during Nathaniel Bacon's Rebellion in 1676. From that time until his death on January 10, 1705 George was established in New Kent County. His will was proved January 28, 1705 in New Kent County court.

Major George Lyddall was Fort commander on the Pamunkey River in 1678. It was during this time that he also became known as "The Great Indian Fighter". Land grants were made to George Lyddall in 1654, 1657 and 1662.

Colonel George Lyddall was a member of the ruling council of the Commonwealth and was appointed Military Governor of Virginia in 1699 for a period of about a year.

Our first direct Bacon ancestor in America was **CAPTAIN EDMUND BACON** of New Kent County, Virginia. Exactly who his parents were is a matter of conjecture and debate. Some sources give his parents as being William Bacon, son of Sir James Bacon and Elizabeth Bacon, daughter of Sir Francis Bacon and Ann Drury. Others say his father was Thomas Bacon. It is extremely hard to sort out since so many records were destroyed over the years. But whatever his parentage, he was obviously related to Col. Nathaniel Bacon (1620-1692), acting governor of Virginia in 1690 and Nathaniel Bacon (1647-1676) who is also known as "The Rebel."

Our Captain Edmund Bacon was probably born in England about 1660 and came to Virginia sometime after that. The first record we find for him is regarding his marriage to Ann Lyddall, daughter of Colonel George Lyddall and Barbara Bowker about 1680 in New Kent County, Virginia. He owned about 700 acres of land on the "upper side of Black Creek, St. Peter's Parish, New Kent County" which was given to him by his father-in-law, Col. George Lyddall, on the 15th of May, 1682. We also know that he and wife Ann were members of St. Peter's Parish Church. They helped establish the church in 1680 and helped build the first church in 1684, which became known as the "Swaybacked Church* ". Because this church was flawed in its design, it was torn down and rebuilt in 1703 and is still in use today. Edmund Bacon held the title of Captain of the Virginia Militia. He died about 1705 and may be buried in the churchyard of St. Peter's Parish. It is not known when his wife, Ann Lyddall Bacon, died. She too is probably buried at St. Peter's Parish Church.

* *It has also been called the "Broken-backed Church". Both names arise from a time when the main beam of the roof broke. It was replaced, but the repairs left the roof swaybacked, or broken-looking.*

BACON FAMILY NAMING PATTERNS: LYDDALL, LANGSTON, PARKE, IZARD, AND HARWOOD

The Bacon families of Virginia often used surnames of ancestors when choosing baptismal names for their children. The surnames of **LYDDALL**, **LANGSTON**, **PARKE**, **IZARD**, and **HARWOOD** and others were first used in the early 1700s and then repeated down into the present generations.

COL. GEORGE LYDDALL came from England, probably during the Cromwell era of the 1650s, along with the families of **PARKE**, **BACON**, **HOMMIWOOD**, **LUDWELL**, **LANGSTON**, **WOODWARD**, **HARWOOD** and others. These families settled along the Pamunkey River, St. Peter's Parish, New Kent County, Virginia.

The children of **GEORGE LYDDALL** were: **JANE LYDDALL**, who married **JOSEPH HARWOOD**, **ANN LYDDALL**, who married **EDMUND BACON**, and **SARAH LYDDALL**, who married **GEORGE WILKINSON**.

The **LANGSTON** name comes into the family when John Bacon, son of Edmund, married his first wife, Sarah Langston, daughter of John Langston who had a grant of 1,600 acres in New Kent County as early as 1672. Because John Langston was a follower of Nathaniel Bacon, the Rebel, he was prohibited from holding office. His rights were restored about 1681.

Records indicate that **MRS. FRANCES IZARD** was a grandmother to Sarah Langston. Frances (male) IZARD is shown on the Quit Rents of 1704 and owned 1,233 acres of land in New Kent County, Virginia. The records never say that Frances IZARD was the grandfather to Sarah Langston. Mrs. Frances IZARD may have had children before or after her marriage to Frances IZARD. But the IZARD and Bacon names are put together through land transfers. In 1681 Mrs. Frances IZARD patented 1,600 acres in Henrico County along the Chickahominy Swamp and Uppernam Brook. In 1717, John Bacon patented those same 1,600 acres. Upon the death of John Bacon in 1742 the land passed to his son, Nathaniel, who died in 1743, and the land then passed to *his* sons, Nathaniel, Langston and Lyddall Bacon. Nathaniel's only son, IZARD Bacon (1740-1816), lived all his life on the tract called "the Brooke." Langston lived on the Chickahominy until his death in 1755.

After the death of his first wife, **SARAH LANGSTON**, **JOHN BACON** married **SUSANNA PARKE** in 1710. Her father was **JOHN Parke** and her mother was **REBECCA LUDWELL**. (The Parke family later connected to the Custis family and Daniel Park Custis married Martha Dandridge. After his death Martha married General George Washington in St. Peter's Parish Church in New Kent County, Virginia.)



*Martha
Dandridge
Custis*

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ADDITIONAL RESEARCH WORK DONE BY:

Edith Winifred Thompson Ames (a Bacon descendant)

Daniel H. Bailey (a descendant of Captain Edmund Bacon)

