

Crusaders Serving the Order of St Lazarus in Europe per Cartulary with Traceable Direct or Collateral Descendants

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Abstract

This review supplements the study started in the previous issue of *Acta Historiae* that identifies crusaders with traceable descendants named in the St Lazarus cartulary of the Latin Orient who served the Order in some manner. This continuation examines crusaders named within the St Lazarus cartulary of Europe and Britain from the 12th and 13th Centuries. As before, these charters list the names of individuals who rendered some sort of service as patrons to the original Order of St Lazarus, either as a donor or by granting their consent to a donation, or as the legal authority or sovereign sanctioning that transaction, or by being a charter witness. Some charters also name brethren and Grand Masters of the Order within their respective European countries. To be regarded as a 'Crusader' their status as a member of a crusade to or within the Latin Orient must also be established. Once an identity is confirmed, their family and/or extended family might also be identified. From there, various authoritative genealogy sources may be consulted to determine if it is possible to trace either direct or collateral descendants to the present time.

Keywords

Order of St. Lazarus, genealogy, Outremer

Introduction

The previous article in *Acta Historiae* examined traceable direct and collateral lines of descent from crusaders who served the original Order of St Lazarus with their service documented in the Order's cartulary of

forty charters from the Latin Orient.¹ This article is a continuation of that same study, though now focused on the St Lazarus cartulary from France, Britain, Italy, Germany and Hungary. These European cartulary offer their own advantages and challenges.

One of the challenges with the European cartulary is to establish whether or not the individuals named in them ever took part in a crusade to the Holy Land, 1098-1291. In the previous study, cartulary originating in the Outremer named crusaders who were obviously present in the Latin Orient at the time the charter was created there. This is not necessarily the case with European cartulary, since all of those named were present in Europe at the time those charters were created, but they did not necessarily take part in a crusade to the Holy Land. Therefore an extra step is necessary to check if they were crusaders by cross-referencing their names and positions or titles with authoritative sources listing known crusaders.²

An advantage is that the lines of descent are more numerous and are free from the constraining genealogical bottleneck of requiring a descent from at least one of six known 'Crusader Bridge Ancestors' that the crusaders named in the Outremer cartulary require. Lines of descent from the visiting European crusaders are separate from the Outremer genealogies, since these crusaders returned home to Europe leaving families there. Their lines of descent also have the added advantage of

¹ David S. Raese. Crusaders serving the Order of St Lazarus in the Holy Land per Cartulary with Traceable Direct or Collateral Descendants, *Acta Historiae Sancti Lazari Ordinis*, 5 (2022), 115-135; Arthur de Marsy (editor). Fragment d'un cartulaire de l'ordre de Saint-Lazare en Terre Sainte. *Archives de l'Orient Latin*, 2 - Chartes, (1884), charters I-XL.

² D.S. Raese, *ibid.*

being separate from each other. Thus, their numerous descendants are usually easier to trace in authoritative genealogy sources.³

St Lazarus Cartulary in Europe and Britain

Formats vary considerably within the sources consulted for this study of the European and British cartulary. Some sources are direct transcriptions of the original charters in Latin and in their respective language forms from the middle ages, and others are either abstracts in modern language or are mere cursory summaries within the context of a broad written history. A review of these various sources follows at the end of this article compiled within a table.

The table's centre column lists the sources as an alphanumeric abbreviation. Mapping those abbreviations to the reference sources is as follows:

1. F:(charter #) – Denotes “Fragments,” the Outremer cartulary of 40 original charters, with the roman numeral representing the charter number in “Fragments.”⁴ There are only three crusaders that appear in both the Outremer cartulary and in the European cartulary. They are: Louis VII, King of France; Roger de Mowbray, Knt.; and Frederick II Hohenstaufen, King of Jerusalem & Sicily, Holy Roman Emperor.
2. S:(charter #) – Denotes “Sibert,” a collection of 36 surviving charters from Boigny, France with the letter “S” followed by the charter number.⁵ These are direct transcriptions of the original charters. While many date from the crusader period, others date well past the end of the crusader era and are

³ D.S. Raese, *ibid*.

⁴ A. Marsy, *op. cit*.

⁵ Pierre E.G. Sibert. *Histoire des Ordres Royaux, Hospitaliers-Militaires de Notre-Dame du Mont Carmel et de Saint-Lazare de Jérusalem*. (Paris, Imprimerie Royale, 1772).

out of scope for this study. Only a few names from these charters can be confirmed as taking part in a crusade to the Holy Land.

3. B:(page #) – Denotes “Barber,” an historical account of the Order of St. Lazarus in the Holy Land that mentions numerous patrons to the Order in a summary manner. It is well annotated with footnote references to where additional detailed accounts may be found.⁶
4. W:(page #) – Denotes “Walker,” a doctoral thesis identifying English patrons of the Order of St. Lazarus and Templars in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries.⁷ This study contains an historical account of the Order of St. Lazarus in England that identifies patrons to the Order who were confirmed crusaders. Those named are also well annotated with footnote references to where additional detailed accounts may be found. However, only a slightly smaller subset of these crusaders left traceable direct or collateral descendants in England. Those who left descendants have an extensive progeny.
5. M:(page #) – Denotes “Marcombe,” another historical account about the Order of St. Lazarus that identifies patrons to the Order in a summary manner and is annotated with footnote references to where additional detailed accounts may be found.⁸
6. S-V:H – Denotes “Savona-Ventura:Hungary,” an historical account of the Order of St. Lazarus in Hungary that identifies several Hungarian patrons to

⁶ Malcolm Barber. Order of Saint Lazarus and the Crusades. *Catholic Historical Review*, 80 (vii.1994), 3: 439-456.

⁷ John Walker. *The Patronage of the Templars and of the Order of St. Lazarus in England in the Twelfth and Thirteenth Centuries* (PhD Thesis, University of St. Andrews, U.K., 1990), +323pp.

⁸ David Marcombe. *Leper Knights - The Order of St Lazarus of Jerusalem in England, c.1150-1544*, (Suffolk, U.K., Boydell Press, 2003), +320pp.

the Order.⁹ However, only one can be positively identified as a crusader so far, Andrew II, King of Hungary and a leader of the 5th Crusade.

7. C:(Chapter #) – Denotes “Capua” (or “Colonna”), a review of the history and cartulary of the Order of St. Lazarus in Capua, Italy.¹⁰ Each chapter offers a detailed historical review of a charter and/or period in the history of the Order at Capua. Very few individuals mentioned in this compilation can be confirmed as participants in a crusade to the Holy Land. Most of the later chapters refer to events that occurred centuries after the crusader era had ended.
8. S-V:G – Denotes “Savona-Ventura:Germany,” an historical account of the Order of St. Lazarus in the Holy Roman Empire (Germany) that identifies several German patrons to the Order.¹¹ This study focuses primarily on the two most significant holdings of the Order in Germany, namely the Order’s leprosarium at Gotha, Thuringia established in 1223 by St. Elizabeth of Hungary and her husband Ludwig IV, Landgrave of Thuringia, as well as the chapel and holdings at Braunsroda, Thuringia established in 1231 by the brothers von Heldrunen. The brothers von Heldrunen were members of the Teutonic Knights going on crusade in the Baltics and later traveling to the Holy Land where Hartmann von Heldrunen became the 12th Grand Master of the Teutonic Knights headquartered in Acre.

⁹ Charles Savona-Ventura. *The Order of St. Lazarus in Hungary*, (Malta, Office of Grand Archivist & Historian, 2015).

¹⁰ Jannotta Domenico. *Notizie Storiche della Chiesa, e Spedale di San Lazzaro di Capua*, (Napoli: Giuseppe di Domenico, 1762).

¹¹ Charles Savona-Ventura. *The Holy Roman Empire – Kingdom of Germany*, (Malta: excerpt within an email regarding the crusader period German preceptories, dated 12.iii.2022)

Establishing descent from a Crusader who served the Order

The likelihood that anyone living today who has even a drop of European or Levantine Middle Eastern ancestry might also be a direct or collateral descendant in some manner from a Crusader who had served the Order of St Lazarus is actually surprisingly quite high. At first glance this may seem to be a rather astonishing claim. However, with the passage of so much time, namely eight or nine centuries, there are many millions of descendants living today dispersed across the globe.

The basic theory is that eventually, if we each trace our ancestry back far enough in time, the family trees of nearly everyone will converge on the same individuals, with the possible exception of only the most remote and isolated populations on earth, although those remote peoples will eventually connect as well much further back in time. However, the populations of Europe, Western Asia and North Africa have undergone extensive migrations, often by way of the Middle East, throughout recorded history over the past several thousand years. These innumerable migrations include both voluntary relocations and forced removals as captives. There are also documented cases of bloodlines introduced into the broader populations of Europe and the Mediterranean region from much further away as a consequence of invading armies from the Far East, the Arabian Peninsula or due to the Sub-Saharan slave trade. In short, we are all descendants of the population living nine centuries ago that had families and left descendants, with perhaps a regional emphasis and also with some sort of smaller admixture of the broader population of people then living. After all, if we go back far enough in time, we discover that we are all descendants of the same family, the human family.

To better illustrate this concept, consider the 2018 article in *Nautilus* by Adam Rutherford titled, *You're Descended from Royalty and So Is*

Everybody Else.¹² Essentially, Rutherford eloquently explains the theory that any local population of people living today in Europe, or are of European descent, would statistically have been descended from about everyone living in Europe a thousand years earlier, if those earlier ancestors left descendants at all. He uses Charlemagne as an example, who lived about 1200 years ago. Charlemagne is often called the “father of Europe” for a reason. Another excellent explanation of this theory is offered by Matt Baker in a YouTube video titled, “Is Everyone a Descendant of Royalty?”¹³ While the crusades were a bit less than a thousand years ago, it is still highly probable that most people who have any Western or Southern European or Middle Eastern ancestry, likely have some sort of distant descent from a Crusader who served the Order of St Lazarus, as well as everyone else.

While being descended from Royalty or from a Crusader is rather unremarkable, since nearly everyone else is as well, what can be regarded as remarkable is discovering exactly how you are descended from a Crusader (or Royalty), and then documenting that connection using sound practices and authoritative genealogy methods based upon contemporary evidence. Serious researchers may wish to have their work validated by a leading and credentialed professional genealogist recognized in their field, and then certify the results. Taking this final step confirms your research is verified as factual, within reason, and elevates it above being little more than a notional, unverified claim. Researchers are cautioned to beware of web sites or any other sources that do not

¹² Adam Rutherford. You’re Descended from Royalty and So Is Everybody Else, *Nautilus*, (2.i.2018) available online at <https://nautil.us/youre-descended-from-royalty-and-so-is-everybody-else-6946/> (accessed 13.i.2024).

¹³ Matt Baker. Is Everyone a Descendant of Royalty? *YouTube video* (2020) available online at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=15Uce4fG4R0> (accessed 13.i.2024).

support genealogical assertions with authoritative documentation. Some online family trees are little better than fantasies.

Documenting a line of descent from a Crusader can be challenging, but with a bit of luck, it is not impossible. It can be done. If you are successful in discovering and documenting your own descent from a Crusader, consider submitting your research to a Hereditary Society genealogist for review and certification. Three such societies follow below, with links in the bibliography on how to contact them. No doubt, other similar organizations exist as well.

- The Military Order of the Crusades (MOC) was founded in 1934 with membership by invitation open to men and women of proven lineal descent from one or more crusaders of Knightly or higher rank who participated in a crusade between 1096 and 1291.¹⁴
- Order of Three Crusades 1096-1192 (OTC) was founded in 1936 and consists of men and women with a proven lineal descent from an ancestor who took part in one of the first three crusades between 1096 and 1192.¹⁵ Membership is available by invitation to candidates who are personally known by two members of the Order and are acceptable to the Order.
- Order of the Kings and Queens in the Holy Lands (OKQHL) was founded in 2018 and is by invitation available to persons descended

¹⁴ Military Order of the Crusades. *Baronial Order of Magna Cart & Military Order of the Crusades* (2024) available online at <https://www.magnacharta.com/moc/> (accessed 13.i.2024).

¹⁵ *Order of Three Crusades 1096-1192* (U.S.A., Hereditary Society Community, 2024), available online at <https://www.hereditary.us/directory-alphabetical-select> from the alphabetical list (accessed 13.i.2024).

from a monarch resident in the Holy Lands, regardless of the status of their monarchy at the time of occupancy.¹⁶

Conclusion

The primary principles of the Military and Hospitaller Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem are firmly based upon the Christian principles of faith, service and humility. The modern Order is a charitable, serving, ecumenical Order of chivalry. Founded in 1098 in Jerusalem, it also has a very long history. That history includes service by numerous illustrious men and women from long ago who in turn left an extensive progeny living today, dispersed throughout the globe.

The purpose of this study is to assist members in the modern Order of St Lazarus in identifying their own descent from a crusader who served the original Order and in documenting that descent if they should wish to join an existing crusader heritage society and have that descent validated. Another purpose is perhaps to encourage members already in these heritage societies to consider joining the Order of St. Lazarus.

Some members in the Order will find it personally satisfying if they are able to meet the challenge of discovering and documenting a genealogical connection to ancestors who were devoted to serving the Order of St Lazarus. Doing so is a way of remembering and honouring their ancestors as well as by being a member in the Order themselves. They are continuing an ancient family tradition. Also, it is perhaps a way to connect with a stirring period in world history regardless of how controversial or remote in time that history may be.

¹⁶ Order of the Kings and Queens in the Holy Lands (U.S.A., Order of Kings and Queens in the Holy Lands, 2018) available online at <https://www.kingsandqueensinholylands.com/> (accessed 13.i.2024).

An additional ancillary purpose is to encourage the Order to capitalise on the general population's interest in history, namely the history of the Crusades, and utilise that interest as a recruiting tool. If potential candidates have even a little European or Levantine ancestry, emphasise the likelihood that they too very probably descend from a Crusader that had served the Order of St Lazarus in some capacity. Whether or not that connection can ever be fully documented for each generation, or if that connection remains entirely notional, it really doesn't matter for the purposes of recruiting or for membership. This study is intended to demonstrate that such connections exist, either broadly notional or as a detailed line of descent, and how those connections may offer another way to appeal to a potential candidate's interest in joining the Order of St Lazarus.

This article and the previous article conclude this study intended to identify Crusaders serving the Order of St Lazarus named in Outremer or European cartulary with traceable direct or collateral descendants. Perhaps additional crusaders also named in the charters can be identified in time and possibly additional genealogy links can be discovered that will open more pathways to the past.

Crusaders Documented in European Cartulary serving the Order of St Lazarus		
Crusaders serving the Order of St Lazarus in Europe with direct or collateral descendants		
Name & Identity	Documented Service	Lines of Descent
Louis VII, King of France, a leader of the 2nd Crusade, a founder of the Order at <u>Boigny</u>	F:XII [1154 donor in Jerusalem]; B:447 [1154 donor in France]; C:2 [1154 donor in France]; S:27 [1172 authority in France];	Direct descendants via 3 marriages in vast numbers
Philippe II Augustus, King of France, a leader of the 3rd Crusade	S:7 [1195 patron in France];	Direct descents & collateral descents via ½-sisters in large numbers
Louis IX, Saint, King of France, a leader of the 7th & 8th Crusades (d. Tunis)	B:449 [1249 authority & donor in Egypt];	Direct descents & collateral descents in large numbers
Thibaut V, Comte de Blois, Seneschal of France	S:27 [1172 witness in France] S:4 [1185 patron in France]	Direct descents & collateral descents in vast numbers
Odo of Burgundy, Count of Nevers, Crusader (d. Acre)	B:448 [1266 donor in Acre];	Direct descents & collateral descents in vast numbers
Robert [II] d' <u>Harcourt</u> "the valiant," Crusader	S:7 [1195 witness in France];	Direct descents & collateral descents in large numbers
Richard "the Lionheart," King of England, a leader of the 3rd Crusade	W:52 [patron in England]; S:5 [1189 patron in France]; S:7 [1195 patron in France]	Collateral descendants via his siblings in large numbers
Edward I, King of England, a leader of the 9th Crusade	W:54 [patron in England]; S:13 [1282 patron in France]	Direct descents & collateral descents in large numbers

Crusaders Documented in European Cartulary serving the Order of St Lazarus		
Crusaders serving the Order of St Lazarus in Europe with direct or collateral descendants		
Name & Identity	Documented Service	Lines of Descent
Roger de Mowbray [Rogerius de Mombrai], Knt., a founder and donor to the Order at Burton Lazars	W:52,119 [donor in England]; M:35 [c1157 donor in England]; F:XXII [1164 witness in Jer.]	Direct descendants in large numbers; in the Holy Lands 3+ times
Nigel de Mowbray, (son of above)	W:52 [c1166-1186 donor in England]; M:37 [patron in England];	Direct descendants in large numbers
William de Mowbray, Knt., Magna Carta Surety (son of above)	W:54 [bef.1223 patron in England]; M:59 [patron in England];	Direct descendants in large numbers
William I de Ferrers, 3rd Earl of Derby, Templar Knt.	W:52 [patron in England]; M:43,46,197 [patron in England]	Direct descendants in large numbers
William II de Ferrers, 4th Earl of Derby, (son of above)	W:54 [patron in England];	Direct descendants in large numbers
Robert III de Beaumont, 3rd Earl of Liecester	W:52 [patron in England]; M:46,48-49 [patron in England];	Direct descendants in large numbers
Simon V de Montfort, 5th Earl of Liecester (grandson of above)	W:54 [patron in England];	Direct descendants in large numbers
William Marshal, Earl of Pembroke, Templar Knt.	S:5 [1189 witness in France];	Direct descendants in vast numbers

Crusaders Documented in European Cartulary serving the Order of St Lazarus		
Crusaders serving the Order of St Lazarus in Europe with direct or collateral descendants		
Name & Identity	Documented Service	Lines of Descent
Henry de Lacy, Baron Pontefract (on Crusade 1158 & 1177, d. 1177)	W:52 [patron in England]; M:46 [patron in England];	Collateral descendants in large numbers
Andrew II, King of Hungary, a leader of the 5th Crusade	S-V:H [1228 authority for consolidating donated estates in Hungary];	Direct descendants in large numbers
Frederick II, King of Jerusalem & Sicily, Holy Roman Emperor, a leader of the 6th Crusade, authority for founding the Order at Capua	F:XXXIV, XXXV [1228 patron in Acre]; C:1 [1228 authority for founding the Order at Capua, Italy];	Direct descendants in large numbers
[Saint] Ludwig IV, Saint, Landgraf von Thüringen (joined the 6th Crusade, d. 1227 en route)	S-V:G [c1223 donor & authority for founding the Order at Gotha, Thüringen]	Direct & collateral descendants
Hartmann von Helderungen, 12th G.M. of the Teutonic Order (d. Acre)	S-V:G [c1231 donor to the Order at Braunsroda, Thüringen]	Possible collateral descendants, genealogy is fragmented
Hermann von Helderungen, (brother of above, he joins the Teutonic Order in 1234)	S-V:G [c1231 donor to the Order at Braunsroda, Thüringen]	Possible collateral descendants, genealogy is fragmented

Crusaders Documented in European Cartulary serving the Order of St Lazarus		
Crusaders serving the Order of St Lazarus in Europe with direct or collateral descendants		
Name & Identity	Documented Service	Lines of Descent
William Burdet, Knt. (ca.1124 – bef.1184), Crusader	W:53,291 [patron in England]; M:46 [patron in England];	Probable direct descendants, conflicting genealogies are confused & fragmented