



**in this issue >>>**

- *A possible identification of Ralph St. John, living in 1053.*
- *Follow-up to an Adoption solved with DNA.*
- *George St. John & Nancy Bryan*



**Volume 2  
Issue 2**

February, March & April 2019

An Insight into the St. John Family of Highlight



**current topics >>>**

**Why a family newsletter**

*By Suzanne St. John*

The St. Johns of Highlight, Glamorgan, Wales are *lost* in Modern History. The individuals of this family, their ancestors and descendants have been merged, confounded, and obliterated into non-existence by well-meaning researchers, heralds, and family before us. It is our responsibility and right to honor our ancestors based on the primary records that have been left for us. We owe it to them as genealogical preservationists to correct the historical record and the public's understanding.

**For more information go to**  
[www.stjohngenealogy.com](http://www.stjohngenealogy.com)  
 or email [stjohngenealogy@gmail.com](mailto:stjohngenealogy@gmail.com)



**George St. John & Nancy Bryan**  
*Discovered Information to explain NPEs*

*by Suzanne St. John*

The descendants of George St. John and Nancy Bryan have been challenging to sort out. Before DNA testing came along, and before researchers realized there were St. John and de Port-St. John families living in America, it seemed logical to conclude that any St. Johns found in a general vicinity of one another were biologically related. This was certainly true for the researchers for George and Nancy.

What we found with DNA testing created a lot of drama, confusion, and conflict. Test results matched de Port-St. John, St. John and unknown non-paternal events. Through DNA testing, we were able to separate St. Johns from de Port-St. Johns and follow other leads to help identify where those branches fit. The NPE results were the hardest to interpret.

George and Nancy Bryan were married 2 Mar 1793 in Campbell County, Virginia. George was born between 1761-1770.

George was previously married to Evaline Jolly and had two children John St. John and Evaline St. John. Descendants of John are a match to the descendants of Mathias St. John 1601-1669 and Mary Tinker.

The children of George and Nancy are claimed to be Berry, Thomas, Arthur, William, Martin, Abner, Elizabeth, Sarah and Martha. It seemed

logical that the children, that appeared to have been born after 1793, were both George and Nancy's children but exact birth dates are unknown.

Berry, Thomas, William, Elizabeth, Sarah, and Martha do not have any descendants who have tested in our project. However, for Arthur, Martin and Abner we do have 7 test subjects and they don't match their brother John's descendants. They all do however match one another. To determine if the other children are NPEs we need more test subjects. A non-paternal event can occur when social factors influence the paternal relationship between an alleged father and his child. These include rape, adoption, name change, spelling differences, and incorrect genealogical linking from historical records.

It is believed Nancy Bryan may have had these children from a prior marriage before George or the birth parents are relatives of either George or Nancy. According to a document filed under Alabama Surname Files at the Alabama Department of Archives and History, Nancy Bryan was previously married. If Nancy Bryan brought children into her marriage with George it would certainly explain the NPE results.

To know for sure, we need more test subjects.

Write for us >>>

# Submitting articles for future publications

The articles will be sent in Word Format to:  
[stjohngenealogy@gmail.com](mailto:stjohngenealogy@gmail.com)

## Focus

We seek articles on the St. John families that are direct ancestors or descendants of the St. Johns of Highlight, Glamorgan, Wales. This forum encourages descendants and avid researchers with any level of writing skill to participate. We can always find persons to help edit and improve submissions. The family tree at [www.stjohngenealogy.com](http://www.stjohngenealogy.com) is the primary tree we use, update, and correct.

## Types

- Immigrant origins with a genealogical summary.
- Problem solving articles with genealogical summary.
- Genealogical accounts of families, especially families for which no genealogy now exists.
- Source Material
- Current Events
- Common Bonds
- Brick walls
- Help requests
- DNA discoveries
- Phonetic variations
- Newly discovered branches
- Persons or Events of Interest
- Biographies

## Writing Guidelines

- Microsoft Word, 12-point type
- Citations for each statement of fact that is not common knowledge. Each should be cited to one or more reliable sources; primary sources preferred.

## Submission Guidelines

- Submit a description of your article in advance.
- Limit to 6000 words or less
- Consider including digital copies or scans of original documents
- Do not submit articles that have been published before
- Do not submit articles you are submitting elsewhere
- Include author's direct lineage up to Christopher St. John 1547-1616 of Highlight, Glamorgan, Wales if known.
- A PDF digital copy of your article once published will be attached to your person record on our website



## Primary records >>>



# Primary Records and Documents for Genealogy

Primary source materials include such resources as vital records (birth, marriages, and death), abstracts of wills, court records, town records, city directories, church (parish) registers, census, newspapers, land deeds, military lists, passenger list, heraldry trees, Visitation reports, tax rolls, archeological reports, and family folklore.

## Evaluate the Evidence

- How helpful is the evidence?
- How reliable is the evidence?
- Is it valid for meeting the research objective and does it produce some level of proof?
- Is it objective evidence
- Does it answer questions
- Does it stand on its own merit?
- Do others interpret it differently



Remember all records are not equal

# St. John Genealogy & DNA

*Social Media is a great way to connect with other St. Johns, share information, ask questions, and learn. In addition to this newsletter, we have a Facebook page and group!*



[www.facebook.com/groups/stjohngenealogy](http://www.facebook.com/groups/stjohngenealogy)



## Preserve your DNA for the future

*We are looking for DNA test subjects with a documented and provable St. John lineage to participate in our ongoing Genealogical and DNA study. Collections kits obtain saliva for testing. They are non-invasive, painless and private.*

**Groups Insights**

<b>64</b> +3.1K% New Members Last 28 Days	<b>590</b> +37% Posts, Comments and Reactions Last 28 Days	Julie Kaufman, Jeff St John and others are top contributors.
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**Events** | Calendar | Settings | + Create Event

September 2017

- St. John Family Reunion**  
Sunday, September 24, 2017 at 11 PM CDT  
Jason J St. John and 74 other guests | You hosted.
- International Talk Like a Pirate Day 2017**  
Tuesday, September 19, 2017 at 12 AM  
1 guest | You hosted.

### ask the experts >>>

**Q:** *How do you find unknown family using DNA?*

**A:** *Known and unknown family will appear as matches to yours or another family member's DNA results. These matches usually direct a researcher to his/her ancestors such as a 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> great grandparent. From there, one works forward with genealogical tools, specialized databases and strategic testing of other people to confirm a biological family.*



## Volunteer Job Role openings

- Writer:** A writer is someone who uses descriptive and engaging written language to create historical profiles and summaries of our St. John ancestors.
- Technical Author:** A writer that specializes in explaining genealogical and other technical processes in a simple, easy to understand, manner.
- Copy Editor:** makes sure that published or soon to be published works are free of spelling and grammar errors.
- Editorial Assistant:** helps with the general running of the newsletter, from administrative to editorial.
- Art Editor:** creates an overall look of the newsletter, making sure it's both attractive and easy to read.

If any of these VOLUNTEER job roles interest you, please submit a brief resume and portfolio sample to [stjohngenealogy@gmail.com](mailto:stjohngenealogy@gmail.com)



# *A possible identification of Ralph St. John, living in 1053*

## *A Collaboration & Research effort with Lynne Morris*

*By Suzanne St. John*

### **Introduction**

Identification of Ralph St. John, of St. Jean-le-Thomas in 1053 probably cannot be fully determined because of the scarcity of available records; but based on the clues for him and his descendants, we can draw logical conclusions. We know the St. Johns held considerable status, heraldry and land. We know the names of some of these lands. And, records survive for these same lands. And we know generally how the feudal system under William the Conqueror worked using gavelkind, primogeniture and clan behaviors. In my earlier research, I believed Ralph St. John could have been Raoul/Ralph/Roger d'Ivry of Bayeux. The problem with him was an extensive timeline between when he lived and when the brothers of St. John lived. The timeline between suspected parent and child was just too great for me to be fully satisfied. Using these same clues, and all the records available to me, I will show you why I now believe Ralph St. John is Ralph de Conteville and I will show how he fits the timeline and how his children could have come to possess the lands they held.

### **Tenants-in-chief or vassals-in-chief**

Tenants-in-chief denoted a person who held his lands under various forms of feudal tenure directly from the king or territorial prince to whom he did homage, as opposed to holding them from another nobleman or senior member of the clergy. Their duties were to pay scutage to the king. Scutage was shield money and was a form of a tax collected from vassals in lieu of military service. Once a tenant-in-chief received a demand for scutage, the cost was passed on to the sub-tenants and became known as a universal land tax. When an English tenant-in-chief died, an inquisition post mortem was held in each county in which he held lands and his or her land temporarily escheated to the demesne of the crown until the heir paid a sum of money (a relief) and was then able to take possession (livery of seisin) of the lands. In the Domesday book both Tenant-in-chiefs and their subtenants or Lords are listed for each land holding.

### **The Village of St. John at the end of the sea**

Saint-Jean-le-Thomas, formerly called St. John at the end of the sea, is a commune in the Manche department in Normandy in north-western France. Their neighbor, Mont-St-Michel, was founded by Aubert of Avranches in the eighth century. The origin of the St. John family appears to begin in 1053, when William the Conqueror witnessed a charter making a man identified only as Ralph as one of the 'men' of St. John. He became then known as Ralph de Sancto Johanne, or Ralph of St. John. It is said the men of St. Johanne were with the Conqueror during the Norman Conquest and were awarded vast lands; however, the surname, St. John, does not appear in the Domesday book leading many scholars to believe this was just family lore. It was fifty-three years following the Battle of Hastings that another identified as St. John appeared in the record. This suggests there were no additional records regarding St. Johns, or they were identified under other names or without the 'surname' de Sancto Johanne. It was in this time, in the twelfth century, we now find Thomas St. John and his brothers John and Roger were living at St. John and causing quite a mess for themselves. Family lore names the father of these three brothers as William St. John. Other claims give Thomas, John and Roger a brother named William. And, additional claims make Ralph the father of the three or four brothers. None of these claims for the parentage of the brothers is sourced with primary genealogical evidence. It seems most logical that Ralph is the ancestor of the brothers, but this speculation offers no hint to his identity before he took on St. John.

Without these details, it seemed impossible to say exactly how and when the St. Johns rose to a feudal class of landed gentry or higher in England. What can be confirmed is the St. Johns had land, heraldry and significant status when they arrived in England. The best way to understand the make-up of this family is to understand the lands they possessed and lost over time. By 1120, or earlier, Thomas St. John came to possess the village of St. John as at the end of the sea as its lord or under-tenant. This property was granted by charter on December 25, 1053 to a man named Ralph who was probably considered the tenant-in-chief. The charter was placed on the altar of Rouen Cathedral marking the day Ralph became Ralph de Sancto Johanne. Assuming he was aged at least 14 years old we can put his birth at before 1039. We find Thomas in the record many years later because he angered the monks of nearby Mont-Saint-Michel. He attempted to build a castle by destroying forests that were not necessarily his to destroy. He apologized and made amends and the monks agreed to stop clamoring to God about him and his family if he, his family and their

heirs forever promised to honor the land of the abbeys and take up its knight service, for the fee of £12, in perpetuity. Thomas named John and Roger as his brothers and indicated, without naming them, that even his mother and father were both still alive. During this time, he also named a nephew, Ralph de Port. From this, it can be assumed the brothers had at least one sister. For the sister to name her son Ralph, it seems highly likely Ralph was the name of their father. Now, we know Ralph had to have lived into 1106-1120 time period to be alive when Thomas made amends to the monks which occurred before 1120, per J. H. Round's conclusions. Assuming Ralph was at least 14 in 1053 he would have been 81 by 1120. This seems to leave a decade or more for Ralph to be born before he becomes too old to be alive in 1120. At best we can estimate Ralph was alive after about 1030 to about 1130, assuming he could have lived long enough to reach 100 years old.

In 1106, Thomas St. John blockaded Tinchebrai on behalf of King Henry I. This battle related to King Henry I. feuding with his brother Robert Curthose, the Duke of Normandy. Henry invaded Normandy in 1105 and took Bayeux and Caen but broke off his campaign for a time and returned in 1106. Henry's army was organized into three groups, Ranulf of Bayeux, Robert de Beaumont, and William de Warrene commanded the two primary forces and Elias I of Main commanded the third. In 1108, Thomas de Sancto Johanne witnessed the charter under which Henry I. King of England confirmed the foundation of Holy Trinity in London. The Chronicle of Abingdon records that King Henry I. appointed Thomas de Sancto Johanne and Richard de Mont as sheriffs of Oxfordshire in 1111. Thomas also gave some land to Gloucester Abbey in 1112, "Thomas de St. John gave to the Monks of St. Peters in Gloucester, his lands called Rugge, lying in Standisch." At lent 1116, notification was made to Thomas St. John and the vassals of Oxfordshire about the confirmation of the church of Abingdon and land at Fencott. Between 1117 to 1121, Thomas, Lord of St. John, rebuilt or upgraded the original castle at St. John, situated at the edge of the cliff and had trouble with the monks who accused him of destroying St. John forests. Thomas destroyed his fortress, made amends with the monks, and gave the village a new name. The village St. John at the end of the sea became then known as St. Jean-le-Thomas, a name that survives today. Between 1123-1129, Thomas St. John witnessed a donation by King Henry I. to Mont-Saint-Michel. It is through these records that it becomes obvious Thomas St. John held a considerable status that allowed him proximity to Henry I and his alleged father to William the Conqueror. William Hunt stated, "Thomas de St. John, apparently of the family of the lords of Harptree. One of his name was a benefactor to Gloucester...". The Domesday Book records Harptree as Harpetreu indicating it was part of the land of the Count of Mortain in Somerset.

By 1140, Thomas St. John had died without issue and his brothers John and Roger succeeded him. John in Oxfordshire and Roger at St. Jean-le-Thomas.

### **Stanton-St. John, Oxfordshire, England**

By 1140, we find John St. John succeeding his brother Thomas in Oxfordshire, England. What is hard to ascertain is what lands John St. John acquired from his brother. All we know is his brother Thomas was Sheriff of Oxford. We don't know what, if any, lands he held in chief there. John paid 160 marks of silver for these lands. This seems to be a considerable amount which is equivalent to 106.67£ (1 mark = 2/3£) and Stanton-St. John was valued at 14£ in 1066 and 11£ in 1086. For this amount, he could have held 8 properties in 1066 and 10 in 1086. We also don't know for sure what lands John may have acquired through his own marriage. It seems possible that John St. John married (Hawsi) Plugenet the daughter of Hugh Plugenet, of Headington, Oxfordshire and Sybil de Dinant, of Lambourne. In the Domesday Book Headington was held by King Edward in 1066 and King William as Lord and Tenant-in-chief in 1086. It isn't clear how Hugh Plugenet came to hold it or lands there (if he held any at all) but a marriage in Headington between two neighboring tenants would certainly benefit the St. Johns who were taking up residence there. In my earliest research into the St. Johns I came across something that indicated the first John St. John of Stanton-St. John had a wife named Hawsi. When I discovered this Plugenet bride, I learned Sybil de Dinant had a sister also named Hawsi, so it seems reasonable that she might have named her daughter after her sister. Her name is enclosed in parenthesis because for now, this is just speculative.

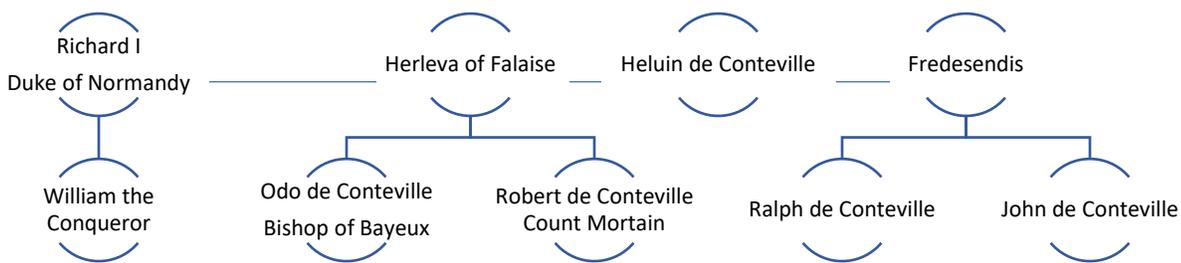
The recorded history of Stantone (Stanton-Harcourt and Stanton-St. John) and Bartone (Steeple Barton) begins it seems with the Domesday book. Following the Conquest of England, a census was ordered which became known as the Domesday book. This name came from the claim that whomever was listed in the census as holding these lands, including their rightful heirs, were holders until the end of time. This suggests if a person this close in time to the Domesday book's records of 1066 and 1086 held said lands, as tenant-in-chief or a subtenant, they were a rightful heir of the individual(s) listed. Stanton-Harcourt recorded as Stantone contained 3 mills and 2 fisheries and was held by Bishop of Bayeux. Stanton-St. John also recorded as Stantone was held by Ilbert from Bishop of Bayeux. Steeple Barton, called Bartone, was held by William from Roger d'Ivry [of Bayeux]. For Stanton-St. John, this means Odo de Conteville, Bishop of Bayeux was the tenant-in-chief and Ilbert de Lacy was the sub-tenant or lord. Ilbert de Lacy held 10 hides in Stanton. He also held two other tenements in Stanton each assessed at one hide. These later became attached to Forrest Hill, and their descent is traced in the history of that parish. Ilbert's lands were forfeited by his son Robert when he was expelled the country by Henry I in 1100 and were probably detached from the Honour of Potefract about this time. In 1097, the

tenant-in-chief Odo de Conteville also died and likely following an IPM his lands were distributed to his next heirs. Odo had a son named John of Bayeux that died in 1131 who probably inherited her father’s lands. Since we know the St. Johns ended up with Stanton no later than 1149 but probably as early as 1030-1035, the St. Johns were probably heirs to Odo de Conteville and his son John. This suggests Ralph St. John paid the relief to acquire Odo/John’s lands. At Ralph’s death around 1130-1135, they passed to his son Thomas. When the lands passed to the St. Johns, they became part of the large feudal barony called the Honour of Gloucester.

To understand this, the family needs to be explained. The Bishop of Bayeux in 1086 was Odo de Conteville. Odo was the half-brother of William the Conqueror. Odo died in 1097. Prior to his death, he was second in power after the King of England. He was the Earl of Kent and Bishop of Bayeux. He was made Bishop of Bayeux in 1049. It is suggested he was born about 1035, making him about 14 when he became the Bishop of Bayeux. To make him older, historians have pushed his supposed birth back to 1030 making him closer to 19. This seems to fit the likely age range of Ralph of St. John in 1053. Odo was an ordained Christian cleric. He is best known as a warrior and statesman. He was memorialized in the Bayeux Tapestry that depicted the Battle of Hastings in 1066. Above him it says [Translated to English] “Here Odo the Bishop holding a club strengthens the boys”. Odo was accompanied by William the carrier of his crozier and a retinue of servants **and members of his household**. In 1076, at the Trial of Penenden Heath, Odo was tried in front of a large and senior assembly over the course of three days for defrauding the Crown and the Diocese of Canterbury. At the conclusion of the trial he was forced to return several properties and his assets were re-apportioned. He was imprisoned in 1082 for having planned a military expedition to Italy; some speculate to make himself pope. On his deathbed, King William I persuaded his half-brother Robert, Count of Mortain to release Odo. Odo returned to England but in 1088, he supported Robert Curthose’s claim to England. By 1086, it seems he continued to hold several lands including Stanton. William Rufus permitted Odo to leave the kingdom. Afterwards, Odo remained in the service of Robert in Normandy. Odo joined the First Crusade and started in the duke’s company for Palestine but died on the way in 1097.

Odo’s father was Herlewin (Herluin) de Conteville the second husband of Robert I, Duke of Normandy’s concubine, Herleva. Herlewin had several children with Herleva of Falaise: Emma, Odo de Conteville, Bishop of Bayeux, Robert de Conteville, Count of Mortain, Muriel, and Isabelle. With another wife or concubine Fredesedis he had more sons Ralph de Conteville, Richard de Conteville and John de Conteville. His other children without an identified mother include: Ingernolda, Baldwin, Geoffrey, William, and Herlewin.

Robert I, the Magnificent died in July 1035, his son William [the Conqueror], born about 1028, was about 7 years old. Herleva married Herlewin de Conteville about 1031. Some accounts maintain that before Robert died, he married her off to one of his favorite noblemen. All these children were in Odo’s ‘household’ and probably served with him at Hastings. The Somersetshire Archaeological and Natural History Society in The Descent of the Manor of Allerton says, “Although little is known of Ralph, beyond the fact of his being the **eldest son of Herluin de Conteville**, and that he accompanied William in the invasion of England, it is stated that it was he who built the tower of the Basillica of the Priory of St. Vigor in Normandy which was overthrown in the year 1579.”



It seems reasonable, given the relaxed marriage obligation among these nobles that the children of Herlewin were all born between 1030 and 1050. According to Robert of Torigni, Herleva was buried at the Abbey of Grestain, which was founded by Herlewin and their son Robert, Count of Mortain around 1050. For Ralph to be the eldest son of twelve children, his birth probably occurred between 1030 and 1040. As previously stated Odo de Conteville, Bishop of Bayeux died in 1097. His brother, Robert de Conteville, Count of Mortain died about 1095. Their next heirs were their own children, if they had any, and then their other siblings and their nieces and nephews. Therefore, it seems highly likely the lands in Stanton were granted to Ralph de Conteville following the deaths of both Odo and Odo’s son John. If Ralph de Conteville was the same Ralph to become the man of St. John in 1053, then as the father of Thomas, William, John and Roger it would make sense how they came to also hold Stanton in Oxfordshire. We should

also keep in mind that for Thomas to be of the family of Harptree, then he would be closely related to Robert de Conteville, Count of Mortain. If Thomas St. John was the son of Ralph de Conteville, then he would have been the nephew of Robert de Conteville, Count of Mortain of Harptree, Somerset, England.

Interestingly, the Domesday book, has numerous entries for Ralph de Conteville as well as Ralph son of Herlewin or Ralph Fitz Hurluin. Ralph of Conteville is associated with zero places before the Conquest and four after the conquest. 1) Chapel and Stone Allerton, Bempstone, Somerset, 2) East Brent and Brent Knoll, Bempstone, Somerset, 3) Huish, Bempstone, Somerset, and 4) Adber, Horethore, Dorset/Somerset. Under Ralph son of Herlewin he is associated with zero places before the conquest and ten after the conquest. 1) Bexwell, Clackclose, Norfolk, 2) Downham Market, Clackclose, Norfolk, 3) Great and Little Massingham, Freebridge, Norfolk, 4) Stanford, Grimshoe, Norfolk, 5) Sturston, Grimshoe, Norfolk, 6) Snetterton, Shropham, Norfolk, 7) Hunstanton, Smethdone, Norfolk, 8) Ringstead, Smethdon, Norfolk, and 10) Tottington, Wayland, Norfolk. He may have held other lands under other name descriptions.

In 1129-1130, Ralph son of Herlewin, was named as one of the 'Four sheriffs' of London. We can now be assured this Ralph was alive when Thomas St. John made amends to the Monks of Mont-Saint-Michel.

Ralph de Conteville had two wives or concubines. One was Helewisa Plaiz, the daughter of Hugh de Plaiz. They had three children, namely, Simon Fitz Ralph, Maud/Mathilda de Huntsman who married Rolland le Strange, and Reginald le Brun. The other was Mary of Arras. She was the daughter of Baldwin V, of Arras, Count of Flanders and his wife, the daughter of Algar, son of Cole. Mary of Arras was the half-sister to William the Conqueror's wife Matilda of Flanders. With her it seems he had Robert de Conteville, Bernard Fitz Ralph de Conteville, William fitz Ralph de Conteville (or possibly St. John), Thomas St. John, Roger St. John, a daughter that married a de Port, and John St. John. Not only would the St. John brothers be the nephews of Robert, Count of Mortain, but they would be the nephews of William the Conqueror through his wife, if their father was in fact Ralph de Conteville even though Ralph de Conteville is not a biological brother to William the Conqueror.

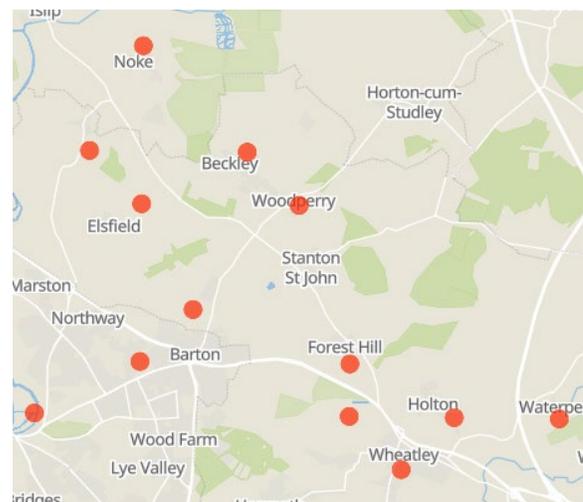
Domesday People states Odo was not a man to miss an opportunity to promote his own so his half-brother Ralph [and his children] would have been given extensive lands in England. Orderic Vitalis stated the sons of Herlewin, including Ralph, were given extensive lands in England.

Ralph de Conteville's sister Ingerolda married Roger, nephew to Hubert, the Queen's Chamberlain. They became the parents of Gervase de Cornhill. Ralph's nephew Gervase de Cornhill was named Sheriff of London, like his uncle, in 1155 with a man named John. Again in 1156 but this time John is identified as John son of Ralph. In 1157 only Gervase was sheriff. And in 1160 only John son of Ralph was listed. Another entry 1160-1161 names Gervase de Cornhill. Finally, in 1188, Henry de Cornhill (son of Gervase) was sheriff. It seems we can place a son named John for Ralph de Conteville, sheriff there in 1129/30. If this is John St. John, the man who survived his brother Thomas at Stanton-St. John, then the remaining brothers also fall under this Ralph. And we know Thomas St. John was named sheriff of Oxfordshire with his relative Richard de Mont in 1111.

Records for a Thomas fitz Ralph, William fitz Ralph and Roger fitz Ralph have yet to be found. But we can know with almost certainty that Raoul de Conteville had a brother and son named John and a brother named William. There was a William fitz Ralph, High Sheriff of Nottinghamshire from 1169-1177, but it isn't clear if he belongs with this family. With all the other circumstantial evidence it seems likely Ralph also fathered William, Thomas and Roger St. John and was the 'man' of St. John with William the Conqueror in 1053. (Any sources to support the claims made herein can be found at <https://www.stjohngenealogy.com>.)

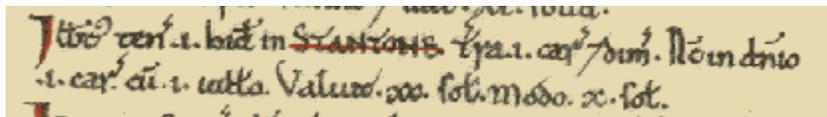
## Acknowledgements

A special thank you to Lynne Morris for email correspondence and help researching random St. John related topics with me to work through ideas and new discoveries.

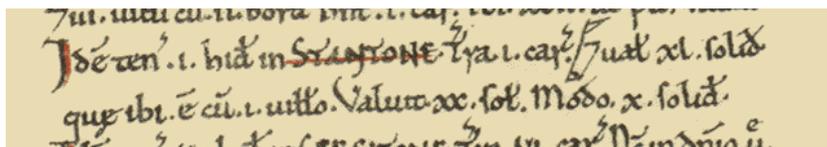


## STANTON [ST JOHN]

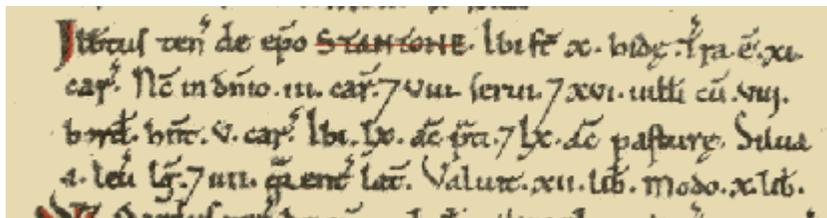
- **Hundred:** [Headington](#)
- **County:** [Oxfordshire](#)
- **Total population:** 34 households (quite large).
- **Total tax assessed:** 12 geld units (very large).
- Stanton [St John] appears in 3 entries in Domesday Book



- **Taxable units:** Taxable value 1 geld units.
- **Value:** Value to lord in 1066 £1. Value to lord in 1086 £0.5.
- **Households:** 1 villager.
- **Ploughland:** 1.5 ploughlands (land for). 1 lord's plough teams.
- **Lord in 1086:** [Ilbert \(of Lacy\)](#).
- **Tenant-in-chief in 1086:** [Bishop Odo of Bayeux](#).
- **Phillimore reference:** 7,30



- **Taxable units:** Taxable value 1 geld units.
- **Value:** Value to lord in 1066 £1. Value to lord in 1086 £0.5.
- **Households:** 1 villager.
- **Ploughland:** 1 ploughland (land for).
- **Lord in 1086:** [Ilbert \(of Lacy\)](#).
- **Tenant-in-chief in 1086:** [Bishop Odo of Bayeux](#).
- **Phillimore reference:** 7,63



- **Taxable units:** Taxable value 10 geld units.
- **Value:** Value to lord in 1066 £12. Value to lord in 1086 £10.
- **Households:** 16 villagers. 8 smallholders. 8 slaves.
- **Ploughland:** 11 ploughlands (land for). 3 lord's plough teams. 5 men's plough teams.
- **Other resources:** Meadow 60 acres. Pasture 60 acres. Woodland 1 league \* 4 furlongs mixed measures.
- **Lord in 1086:** [Ilbert \(of Lacy\)](#).
- **Tenant-in-chief in 1086:** [Bishop Odo of Bayeux](#).
- **Phillimore reference:** 7,20

# Adoptee Searched for and Found Birth Family using DNA

## Part II: Identification and meeting the birth father for one of the half-siblings

By Beverly St. John-Rose

Previously I wrote an article about using DNA to locate birth parents for an adoptee and her half-brother. The adoptee matched me as a second-third cousin on Ancestry. I will continue to call her F. She and her brother, P., shared a birth mother, but had different fathers. By following the matches, and plenty of messages and phone calls to Suzanne, the birth mother was identified, a 2<sup>nd</sup> cousin of mine. She confirmed she gave up 2 children for adoption, so the mystery of one parent was solved. As of this writing, she still does not want contact with either child.

By eliminating all the maternal matches, you are left with paternal. To do this, you must create a maternal tree. This may seem like a daunting task; however, the more you research the more things make sense. Logic plays an important role here. F has a different father than her brother. Ancestry had one other DNA second cousin match who was not related to me. F also had a very high percentage of Italian. 38%! Logic told me that most likely this was due to either a recent immigrant (within a few generations) or high Italian marrying high Italian. I sent a message to the other 2<sup>nd</sup> cousin match and did not get any reply. The tree that she created was limited, but it was a start. By reviewing what she did have, her father was born in Italy and immigrated at 3 years old with his parents and siblings. They settled in Pennsylvania.

During this time, another 2<sup>nd</sup> cousin match showed up, sister to the other 2<sup>nd</sup> cousin match, who was more than willing to correspond. She revealed what she knew, however, the family spread out, moving to different states and lost touch.

F was born in North Carolina. P was born in Kentucky. North Carolina has closed adoptions and other than an act of God, will not open them. The only information that was able to be obtained was the county and state F was born in. P had a bit more information available, such as a biography written by birth mother, including her first name, and the name of the adoption agency. With this information, we were able to find out that the birth mom was born and raised in Michigan, went out of state for delivery and placed the children up for adoption. With the second child, she requested he be placed with her first child.

Now, looking at paternal matches. Birth mom was born and raised in Michigan, so I needed to research where this Pennsylvania immigrant family went and determine if they moved anywhere. By creating a family tree for each child of the original immigrants, I found the youngest son (a brother to the grandfather of the Italian 2<sup>nd</sup> cousin matches to F.) moved from Pennsylvania, to Dearborn, Michigan, and married a woman who was born in Italy and immigrated at 1 year old with her parents.

This couple, S & A I will call them, had 7 children, though I only was able to locate 5. Three were boys. Remember, I am looking for paternal/father. I already had the birth year of birth mom, and out of the three boys, one was only 2 years older. I went out on a limb; I stalked Facebook, google, the white pages, every web-site I could to find anyone with this uncommon last name. The white pages had a list of relatives for one son, and I located a son and daughter. I checked what year he was married – although that really isn't a factor. I wanted to piece together whatever I could to see what made the most sense. I did find the daughter on Facebook – sent a friend request and messaged her on what I was doing. What a sweetheart – she accepted my friend request – poor girl didn't know I also stalked her Facebook pictures! F. looks very Italian, dark hair, dark eyes, the exact opposite of me and my side! My new friend, G. I will call her, was young, 22, and didn't know how F could be related. Seeing her picture, I knew they were related! That was as far as this went. I probably scared her! Later I found out I did, she did not know how to approach her uncles/father on what I was saying. This turned out to be a blessing, which I will explain later.

Back to the research! G's uncle, the youngest son of S & A's children, was the closest in age to the birth mom, and lived in a neighboring community to her. According to birth mom, who claimed she did not know the birth father for F because she was at a party in May when she conceived her. During this time, I did so much research on him, to the point I could recall his date of birth from memory. I located a picture of him, I found both his wife and son's pictures, where he worked, and in my heart, I knew it was him. Of course, I had doubts! I could have been wrong. I went back and re-did the research to find out if I missed something. For the 2<sup>nd</sup> cousin match to be accurate (it was DNA matched), it had to be this family. Could a 26-year-old sleep with a 17-year-old? Absolutely. Could a married 29-year-old sleep with a 17-year-old? Again, absolutely! I kept going back to bio-mom's comment about being at a party. Was she truthful? Having never met her, I couldn't be positive.

F. lives in Florida and during my last trip there I met her in Miami. I turned over all my research and told her who I believed her biological father was. I like to use the term "alleged". The rest of the story was up to her. Within a few months, she sent a registered letter. It was returned. She sent a second one, also returned. At this point, she was frustrated and not sure what to do – yep, I called Suzanne! She recommended just sending a letter through the regular mail, which changed the outcome! S jr., birth dad, received the letter, which his wife read to him over and over. He did not, and does not today, remember birth mom. This was almost 40 years ago, so it is understandable. From reading between the lines, this was not a relationship. F sent a picture of herself, which birth dad says looks just like his sister. They began a phone relationship, with both agreeing to a paternity test. In February 2019, the results came back. 99.9997%. You are the father! Prior to the results, they kept in contact because S jr. knew they were related somehow and didn't want to wait for the results. I think he knew in his heart the truth!

S jr., and his wife, who has been a complete angel during this time, drove from Michigan to Florida to meet F. During my conversations with F., she was amazed at how quickly they bonded. They are very much alike. F was amazed at seeing someone who has the same nose and ears she

has. They even have the same big toe! Something non-adoptees probably cannot understand! S jr and his wife have spent the last few weeks with their new daughter, have met her family and have bonded like they were always a part of each other's lives!

F's adoptive mom, H., is alive and well, and has been a trooper during this time! She tells S. jr that F is "our daughter." She has been completely supportive during every aspect of the research, even though the truth of the adoption wasn't revealed until F was 35. I don't blame her; I'm not sure what I would do. Don't confuse DNA with family! H is her mom, no doubt about it! Now she adds a new dad!

Below is a picture of F and her newly discovered birth father:



*"I believe helping people discover and share their adoption stories can only help those in our community who are struggling, to humanize their own experiences, and reaffirm that they are not alone"*



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## DNA isn't just for scientists

The St. John Genealogy & DNA project has been an ongoing DNA effort since 2002. Suzanne St. John became the volunteer administrator for the project in 2013.

In this role, she documented the lineages, where known, of each test subject. She has compared DNA results, compiled reports, and documented genetic family trees. Test subjects are identified by kit numbers not names.

### FTDNA projects:

St. John Family DNA Project: 140 members.  
<https://www.familytreedna.com/groups/st-john/about/background>

Glamorgan Wales Cousin Project: 445 members.  
<https://www.familytreedna.com/groups/glamorgan-wales-cousins/about/background>

AncestryDNA share results with THEPOETZ

Contact us at [stjohngenealogy@gmail.com](mailto:stjohngenealogy@gmail.com)

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coming soon >>>

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- *The St. John Family Website*
- *Pedigree Reports*