

Alderman Historical Association

First Reunion Held in 1928
Patricia Crosby Leonard - President

APRIL, 2016

[HTTP://ALDERMANHISTORICALASSOCIATION.ORG](http://ALDERMANHISTORICALASSOCIATION.ORG)

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*****AHA Mission Statement*****

To honor our ancestral lineage and foster the continued efforts of John Thomas Alderman in compiling and recording the history of the Southern Branch of the Alderman family. We will do this by honoring Alderman descendants with an annual reunion to allow sharing of genealogical information, maintaining relationships with other Alderman family groups, the care and maintenance of the John Alderman, Sr. cemetery and other sites as may be deemed needed by the Association Board of Directors.

2016 REUNION SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 25

Reservation Form is Enclosed

GUEST SPEAKER – Pending-- we have a candidate but no commitment yet.

FAMILY ANCESTOR EDUCATION

Many of you know that we have quite a lengthy ancestry through Abigail Harris Alderman. She was the daughter of Nathaniel Harris and married Daniel Alderman in 1740 in New Jersey. Her family heritage is quite impressive and I thought we would take a minute and look at one of those ancestors—William Longespee the illegitimate son of Henry II and Ida de Tosny. Most of this is courtesy of Wikipedia.

One of our deceased family historians, Smith Banks, visited England and several of the ancestral sites and had this to say about this specific individual:

“While I was in County Dorset I decided to return to London by way of Salisbury. This is where I saw the effigy and grave of our ancestor, William Longespee, Earl of Salisbury. He was the bastard half-brother of King John and is the son of King Henry II. He is also named in the Magna Carta. Longespee helped lay the corner stone of the great and wonderful Salisbury Cathedral and was one of the first buried in the Cathedral. Here I also saw one of the rare copies of the Magna Carta. What a thrill !!”

William Longespée, 3rd Earl of Salisbury

William Longespée, 3rd Earl of Salisbury (c. 1176 – 7 March 1226) ("Long Sword", Latinised to *de Longa Spatha*) was an English noble, primarily remembered for his command of the English forces at the Battle of Damme and for remaining loyal to his half-brother, King John. His nickname "Longespee" is generally taken as a reference to his great size and the outsize weapons he wielded.

Early life

He was an illegitimate son of Henry II, King of England. His mother was unknown for many years until the discovery of a charter William made that mentions "*Comitissa Ida, mater mea*" (Countess Ida, my mother).

This Ida de Tosny, a member of the prominent Tosny (or Toesny) family, married Roger Bigod, 2nd Earl of Norfolk in 1181.

King Henry acknowledged William as his son and gave him the honour of Appleby, Lincolnshire, in 1188. Eight years later, his half brother King Richard I married him to a great heiress, Ela of Salisbury, 3rd Countess of Salisbury.

During the reign of King John, Salisbury was at court on several important ceremonial occasions and held various offices: sheriff of Wiltshire; lieutenant of Gascony; constable of Dover; and Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports; and later warden of the Welsh Marches. He was appointed sheriff of Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire about 1213.

Military Career

He was a commander in the king's Welsh and Irish expeditions of 1210–1212 and was appointed Viceroy of Ireland, jointly with John de Gray, Bishop of Norwich, when the king left for England in 1210. The king also granted him the honour of Eye in Suffolk.

In 1213, Salisbury led a large fleet to Flanders, where he seized or destroyed a good part of a French invasion fleet anchored at or near Damme. This ended the invasion threat but not the conflicts between England and France. In 1214, Salisbury was sent to help Otto IV of Germany, an English ally, who was invading France. Salisbury commanded the right wing of the army at their disastrous defeat in that year at the Battle of Bouvines, where he was captured.

By the time he returned to England, revolt was brewing amongst the barons. Salisbury was one of the few who remained loyal to John. In the civil war that took place the year after the signing of the Magna Carta, Salisbury was one of the leaders of the king's army in the south. He was made High Sheriff of Wiltshire again, this time for life. After raising the siege of Lincoln with William Marshall he was also appointed High Sheriff of Lincolnshire (in addition to his current post as High Sheriff of Somerset) and governor of Lincoln castle. However, after the French prince Louis (later Louis VIII) landed as an ally of the rebels, Salisbury went over to his side. Presumably, he thought John's cause was lost.

After John's death and the departure of Louis, Salisbury, along with many other barons, joined the cause of John's young son, now Henry III of England. He held an influential place in the government during the king's minority and fought in Gascony to help secure the remaining part of the English continental possessions. He was appointed High Sheriff of Devon in 1217 and High Sheriff of Staffordshire and Shropshire in 1224. Salisbury's ship was nearly lost in a storm while returning to England in 1225, and he spent some months in refuge at a monastery on the French island of Ré.

Death

He died not long after his return to England at Salisbury Castle. Roger of Wendover alleged that he was poisoned by Hubert de Burgh. He was buried at Salisbury Cathedral in Salisbury, Wiltshire, England.

William Longespée's tomb was opened in 1791. Bizarrely, the well-preserved corpse of a rat which carried traces of arsenic, was found inside his skull. The rat is now on display in a case at the Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum.



ANOTHER ITEM FOR YOUR READING PLEASURE

COIMETROMANIA

(n.) An abnormal attraction to and desire to visit cemeteries.

This one word, Coimetromania, probably describes most of the family researchers and genealogists who constantly visit old cemeteries. When a person begins to research their family's ancestors with great emotion, it is often said that they have been bitten by the genealogy bug. The search for cemeteries is a "hobby" that most researchers enjoy, even on a cloudy day and after occasionally having to crawl through bushes to find that elusive cemetery that contains a few or many graves. You might have discovered your ancestor's names but you will always ask "where are they buried". Thus begins your infection of Coimetromania. You have a NEED to see each tombstone, take a photo to show proof, record the stone's information. This will help to verify the information that you will eventually acquire from death certificates, marriage licenses or marriage bonds. You might find that the dates do not always match stone with paper.

Many researchers have used the website of Find-a-Grave, where volunteers have taken photos of entire cemeteries and posted them on this site with the location of the cemetery. Further information acquiring your ancestor's grave for your own virtual cemetery might be found on the website.

If you decide to search on private property, it would be proper for you to ask permission of the property owner. Always with the hopeful statement "I might have ancestors buried there". Most owners will give permission when kindly asked.

It is very disappointing to find the cemetery, whether in the woods or in a church property, but only to discover that your ancestor has no marker, no known location within the cemetery and no church record. Often times there may be only field stones laid in a grave-like position to mark someone's final resting place.

You may also discover that your unending search for your ancestors will never end because there is always an unanswered question or brick wall.

Hopefully, you will find that ancestor when they are ready for you to find them, as often is the case. There are state archives, county records and local newspapers that will help you discover records to aid in your search.

As they say "Good Hunting"!!

Patricia Leonard



ALDERMAN FAMILY ARTICLES WANTED

If any of you have articles you feel would be of interest to our group, please send them to James Alderman at alde711@aol.com for possible use in our semi-annual newsletters. You may have something that a member would love to know about.

Please send me items!!!

ALDERMAN BOOKS ARE STILL AVAILABLE

- Original “Aldermans in America” – contact Susan Bland - susan@intrstar.net
- New AIA Volumes 1&2 building on the original “Aldermans in America” – contact Susan Bland - susan@intrstar.net

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SEE YOU IN DELWAY, NC ON JUNE 25, 2016 !!!!!