ANGLO-SAXON PEDIGREES ANNOTATED – PART 1

***transcribed by Michael Wood*[1]**

EDITOR'S NOTE

As explained by the transcriber in his introduction, this is a little known, but useful source of reference material on 10th and 11th century families, especially of the non-royal lines. It should be read in conjunction with Searle's original publication, a scanned copy of which is available to FMG registered users on our website. In view of the length of the material it will be serialised over several issues of *Foundations*.

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The article "The House of Aethelred" by David Kelley (1989) brought to my attention that the London Library copy of *Anglo-Saxon Bishops, Kings and Nobles* (Searle, 1899) [hereafter referred to as ASBKN] contains additions in pencil that are worth careful study. Kelly says (p.64) they were made by "*a still anonymous commentator*", and when citing him calls him APC, "*anonymous pencil commentator*" (p.79). David Williamson told me the notes were made by Searle himself, but I could not form an opinion in his lifetime because I did not have the opportunity to see this copy until January 2004.

Although I should like to accept that APC was Searle himself, William George Searle was born in 1829 and died in 1913, so could not have written all these notes. On page 346 is reference to a book by R L Poole published in 1934, on page 302 to a letter dated 1956, while on pages 359 and 411 there are citations that seem to be from the edition of *Liber Eliensis* published only in 1962. The notes must have been made by members of the London Library. So to avoid confusion I too am ascribing all the notes to APC.

These notes are far more extensive than I had expected, too many to transcribe into my own copy of ASBKN, and probably too faint to photocopy legibly. I have now transcribed all the notes and am delighted to offer it for publication by the FMG for permanent reference by a wider readership.

This transcription can only be fully understood in conjunction with a copy of ASBKN. To have done otherwise would have required a full recapitulation of nearly all of Searle's pedigrees, a task too huge. As the work is out of copyright, the FMG has kindly provided a scanned copy of the original text on their website[2], accessible by FMG registered users and members.

In my transcription each pencil entry has been copied in bold type. My own explanatory notes are in normal font. These indicate exactly where each pencil note appears in the London Library copy. Several are in the form of extensions to the printed pedigrees, and a few are new chart pedigrees. As I have described them in narrative form I have, for clarity, preceded siblings with (1), (2) etc., in normal font,

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[2] http://fmg.ac/ - select the "Users Area" (password needed).

for example, in my notes to Beorhtric, p.299[3]. When inserting an additional child into a printed pedigree, did APC always place them according to their seniority of birth, or sometimes merely use a convenient space in the layout? Researchers can only judge this when they know APC's placing, so this is always described.

As a general rule, the notes have been transcribed in the same order as in the book. However, many notes are too long to be placed adjacent to their subject, so a sign was placed against that subject, and an identical sign elsewhere on the page precedes the note. The sign of first choice was a cross with dots in each angle, resembling *. Subsequent signs on the same page are usually the Greek letters alpha, beta and gamma, the last looking like Y. I consider it pedantically distracting to describe each sign when all a researcher needs to know is that "A sign beside Aelfheah leads to" the note in question, although I do give the location of the note too. Only when my recording of the sign and its note are not consecutive (as when the subject is itself part of a pencil note) do I describe it.

The pedigrees are printed on alternate double pages, the in-between pages having only page numbers at the foot and on the right page a description such as ANGLO-SAXON NOBLES (20) of the following double opening. Some of these in-between pages have pencil notes that were too long to be put beside their printed subjects. Sometimes I have transcribed them immediately after notes pertaining to the same subject on the pedigree page, ahead of other notes on that pedigree page. Thus the P note on p.408 is entered above most of the notes on pp. 406-7. Also, this particular double-page pedigree is so crowded with notes it was more sensible to record the notes at the top of p.407 ahead of those pertaining to later generations lower down on p.406: a practice I have resorted to several times[4].

Many of the persons appear on more than one pedigree, and APC has added numerous cross-references. This means several pieces of information appear in more than one pencil note several pages apart, hence the many references to "*Geny xx*", sometimes to "*No. xx*". This is especially true of the families of the Halfking and of Aethelred the Chronicler.

Almost all the notes are accompanied by abbreviated references to the sources. A full list of those used by Searle is in his *Onomasticon Anglo-Saxonicum* (1897). Thus "*Pauli*" , cited on p.342, refers to one of three works by Reinhard Pauli. NSA, frequently used, is amplified in ASBKN p.xii to "*Napier-Stevenson, Anecdota Oxoniensia, 1895*", and is more fully described in *Onomasticon Anglo-Saxonicum* p.xlviii. "*Searle On*" refers to his *Onomasticon*.

I consider it inappropriate to add comments of my own on the accuracy of the notes, because such intrusions would divert attention from the notes themselves. Where I have done so, usually to clarify a cited reference, looked up when the writing was unclear (seldom) or to check the spelling of place names (more often), I have put them in square brackets. Nevertheless, when clear, I have retained APC's spelling even when different from his source, and have also copied his apparent mis-spellings, such as some names beginning "*Eahl-*" on p.401, just in case they were deliberate. Here I add only that Searle (*Onomasticon*, p.490) is cited on p.447 as equating Wimarc, mother of Robert the Staller, with "*Wigmearc*", a plausible Anglo-Saxon name, whereas recent research has shown her to have been Wimardis, wife of Ansfrid the

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[3] See p.272 of this article.

[4] The transcripts of notes for Section B *The Anglo-Saxon Nobles* (p.382 onwards) will appear in future issues of *Foundations.*

steward, who when a widow was a nun at the abbey of Montivilliers near Le Havre when she made a gift attested by her son Robert (Keats-Rohan, 1999).

After checking some of the references to Dugdale's *Monasticon Anglicanum* (1655) I have added the volume and sometimes page number when omitted by APC. According to the bibliography in *Onomasticon* the only edition of *Liber Eliensis* available to Searle was Vol.I, edited by Stewart (1848), yet APC frequently cites vol.II, which so far as I can tell is that published by the Camden Society (Blake, 1962). If, however, APC was writing that late, it is curious that he makes no mention of the definitive edition of, translation of and commentary on Anglo-Saxon Wills by Dorothy Whitelock (1930), in which many place names are identified.

Barbara Yorke (1990) constructed all the royal pedigrees from the sources alone. It is therefore noteworthy that only once does her construction differ from Searle's. In her pedigree of the rulers of the East Saxons [p.52] she shows Saebbi (c.664-694), who ruled at the same time as Sigeheri, as son of Seaxred and first cousin of the father of Sigeheri, whereas Searle [ASBKN, pp.274-5] shows S(a)ebbi as son of Seaxred's brother Saeward and uncle of Sigeheri. The otherwise total agreement with ASBKN which she apparently did not consult (it is not in her 15½ page long bibliography of about 500 books and articles) is a tribute to the care and accuracy of both writers, and inspires confidence in their conclusions. Yorke is not alone: ASBKN is rarely, if at all, mentioned by other expert and prolific writers, such as David Dumville, D P Kirby, (whose pedigree of the kings of the East Saxons is the same as Yorke's), Cyril Hart and Ann Williams, presumably because ASBKN is not a primary source. Whether or not Searle himself was the APC of any of these notes, I believe they are as worthy of notice as the fine monographs in scholarly periodicals. Even the many conjectural additions to the pedigrees, liberally qualified by "?", should be considered carefully. Those that are untenable should be refuted, not ignored, because Searle and APC have attempted to reconstruct more comprehensively the non-royal families, especially of the 10th and 11th centuries, than anybody else, more even than Hart and Williams between them.

References

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Kelley, David H (1989). The House of Aethelred. In: *Studies in Genealogy and Family History in Tribute to Charles Evans on the Occasion of his Eightieth Birthday* (Brook, L L, editor). Salt Lake City, Utah: ASPG, pp.63-93.

Kirby, D P (1991). *The Earliest English Kings.* London: Unwin Hyman, p.222.

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Whitelock, Dorothy (1930). *Anglo-Saxon Wills.* Cambridge: University Press.

Yorke, Barbara (1990). *Kings and Kingdoms of Early Anglo-Saxon England.* London: Seaby.

Additions to W G Searle: *Anglo-Saxon Bishops, Kings and Nobles* (Cambridge, 1899)

Transcription of pencil notes in the copy in London Library. Many pages, especially of the Royal pedigrees, have no notes. There are none before p.286.

A. The Anglo-Saxon Kings and Princes

p. 286. East Anglia (2).

To the right of the last line under Beorhtric is: **p. 299.**

At the bottom left, below Beorhtric, are: **Beorhtsige son of Beorhtnoth, atheling, was killed with Aethelwold 905. It would seem likely that Beorhthelm was the son of this Beorhtric? Brihthelm, father of Beorhtnoth (k. 991), was very possibly a grandson?**

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p. 290. Mercia (1).

To the left of Peada is: **Berhfirth kinsman of Wulfhere BCS 32, d. 674.**

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p. 294. At the top left, the date below Beornred has been altered in ink from 775 to 755.

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pp. 294-5. Mercia (2).

To the right of Offa is: **né Winfrith (v. Mat P. VII Offe)**

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p. 299. Mercia (3).

At the top left, the word nephew below Aelfheah has been deleted, and above is: **his uncle's son.**

Beside the last line below Beorhtric, son of Beorhtwulf, is: **p. 286.**

A line leads down from Beorhtric to his son **Beorhtnoth, aetheling**, and others to two sons of Beorhtnoth: (1) **Beorhthelm**, who has a vertical line from him to his son **Beorhtnoth, ald. k. 991**; (2) **Beorhtsige, k. 905**. To the right of this pencilled pedigree is **?**

To the left of Burgred is: **20.**

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pp. 302-3. Bernicia.

In the top left corner is: **Professor Kenneth Jackson – letter of 29 Oct 1956 gave dates as below.** These dates are entered above or below each of these kings: 3. Clappa **559-560.** 2. Adda **560-568.** 8. Aethelric **568-572.** 7. Theodric **572-579.** 6. Freothulf **579-585.** 4. Hussa **585-592.**

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p. 303. Vertical lines ascribe these descendants, in parent to child succession, to Ecgfrith, the first starting below "SymD": **Alfric, Ella, Etheldreda, Edulf Earl, Osulf Earl.** To the right of this is: **Palgrave, Eng. Com. II.**

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p. 315. Below the statement "This Guthric is identical..." is: **No he isn't.**

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p. 339: Wessex and England (3).

Vertical lines ascribe these descendants to Beorhtric and his wife Eadburh, in father to son succession: **Beorhtnoth Aetheling, Beorhtsige, Beorhthelm, Beorhtnoth or Byrhtnoth, ealdorm of Essex, k. at Maldon 991.**

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p. 342. Wessex and England (4).

To the left of Aethelstan, 839-c.850 is:

Not the son of Osburh. There must have been a previous marriage. Pauli.

The wife of Aethelred I is: **Wulfthryth. BCS 520, KCD 1061.**

Beside Aethelflaed, Lady of the Mercians, is: **b. 866**, and a sign leads to: **Already married in 880 (KCD 310). K. Aelfred must have been about 18 when she was born, and she must have been married at 14!!**

Her daughter Aelfwynn was **b. c.885**, and a sign leads to this note below: **Aelfwynn was probably born before 885 so when dispossessed by Eadweard in 919 she was 34 at least, ten years older than Aethelstan ½ King!! She was probably married long before and may have been the ancestress of some of the king's kinsmen, i.e. Aelfhere & co.**

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pp. 346-7. Wessex and England (5)

Beside Aethelhild, lay sister (dau. of 7. Eadweard I), listed beneath Eadgifu I wife of Charles the Simple, is **A.** leading to this note in the top left corner: **She apparently married thegn Aelfsige and was mother of Aelfwine and perhaps of Aelfhere and Aelfheah. I believe Aelfsige afterwards became Archbishop of Canterbury 958.**

Beside Eadhild, wife of Hugh the Great, is: **Ethilda.**

Below Aelfgifu = N.N. a prince near the Alps, is: **Conrad of Burgundy. See R.L. Poole, Studies in Chronology and History** [Oxford, 1934, pp. 115-122].

A horizontal line to the right of Eadburh allocates to Eadweard I another child: **Aelfwine LVH p. 14.**

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p. 347. Above Aelfgifu, first wife of Eadmund I the Elder, a sign leads to: **Her mother's name was Wynflaed. BCS 1186, d. 966.**

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pp. 354-5. The Genealogy of the Anglo-Danish Kings.

Small circles are added above the second "a" of Har**å**ld and the first "a" of Bl**å**tand. Beside him is: **= Cyrid.**

Sigrid, The first wife of Swegen, has **(1)** in front, and Swegen's second wife is **(2) Gunhild of Poland**. Of Swegen's children, N.N. wife of Wyrtgeorn, Harald k. of Denmark, Gytha, wife of Eric Jarl of Norway, and Astrith-Margaret wife of Ulf jarl and Robert I duke of Normandy are assigned to wife **(1)**, and Cnut to wife **(2)**, these numbers being in brackets above their names. There is no number above Santslave.

? is beside the second Northampton below Aelfgifu, first wife of Cnut. The two youngest daughters of Harald Blatand are named as **Thyri** wife of Olaf Tryggvason and **Thyra** wife of Styrbiorn.

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pp. 358-9. The Genealogy of the House of Earl Godwine.

Top left corner: **Freeman considers that both Eadric Streona & Wulfgeat rose to favour by the influence of Arp. Oswald.**

A sign beside Aethelric leads to this, at the top right:

Freeman is inclined to think that Aethelric belonged to the church. This might account for the running down of Eadric's family by the monks. Aethelric's mother was possibly a relation of Wulfric Spot? See his will, KCD 1298.

The sign beside Aethelric seems to lead also to this, at the foot of p. 358: **Liber Eliensis: Chs 66, 67, 68 the following relationships are shown.** Lines join three siblings and the children of two of them:

(1) **Oswig de Bec**[h]**e = Leofleda dau. of Dux Byrhnoth** (parents of) **Aelfwine etc. see Geny 28.** To the left beside Leofleda is **Gave lands to Ely 995x1006**; (2) **Uva, gave lands to Ely**; (3) **Aedericus (= Aethelric?)**, father of **Aethelmaer "filius amatissimus" = N.N.** who had an unnamed **dau. = N.N.**, and perhaps other children, their number and names not suggested.

Eadric Streona is described as **"The Grabber"**, and **signs as min 1001. KCD 705.** Above the year of his marriage (a. c.1007) is **EAF 1009.**

Below Beorhtric is: **min KCD 698 (997) to 1306 (1009).**

Below Aelfric is: **min KCD 707 (1002).**

Below Goda is: **min KCD 709* (1004) to 723* (1016).**

Below Aethelwine is: **min KCD 1294 (1000) to 736 (1021-23).**

Below Aethelweard is: **min KCD 1296 (1002) to 1313 (1017).**

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p. 359. Beside Wulfnoth a sign leads to this note at the foot:

EAF i note MM. The nephew of Eadric was not Child Wulfnoth of the S. Saxons.

Beside Godwine a sign leads to this note to his left, on p. 358:

Freeman maintains that Earl Godwine cannot possibly have been the great nephew of Eadric. He inclines to the view that he was the son of the South Saxon, Wulfnoth Child, and it must have been another Wulfnoth who was son of Aethelmaer.

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pp. 370-1. The Genealogy of the Earls of Northumberland.

Below Uhtred, br. of Ealdred: **signs as dux 934 to 946 & in 949. Rec'd grant of land in Stafford 949. [Birch 884] NSA pp. 74, 75.**

[to be continued]