Message from the President General

Dear Members,

As your newly elected President General I would like to thank you for the privilege of serving the Order for the 2006-2009 term, and pledge to you my best effort on behalf of the Order. A fine team of Officers was elected to serve with me that I am confident will work well together to accomplish the goals before us. I look forward to the next three years and the opportunities that they bring.

This is the first issue of “Jewels of the Crown” to be published during my administration. It contains important information about the Order. “Jewels” will be published in the Fall on an annual basis. I remind each of you to also visit the Order’s website on a regular basis as it contains updated information about the Order. Tracy Crocker is the webmaster. The address is: www.charlemagne.org.

Your Executive Board has already been busy having attended a special called Board Meeting on July 22, 2006 in Arlington, VA. A summary of that meeting appears elsewhere in this publication.

Among the projects that are well underway is completion of the Order’s long awaited Lineage Book IV, a newly designed membership certificate, creation of a Permanent Fund, and completion of the revision of the Order’s bylaws. You should have already received the newly published Membership Directory.

Membership continues to be a priority. I urge you to invite/propose qualified family members and friends.

Plans for the 2007 Annual Meeting and Dinner have been finalized. We will be meeting this year at the Metropolitan Club on Thursday, April 2, 2007. Do mark your calendar now and plan to attend. We need each of you to make our Order stronger. Formal notices will be sent nearer the event.

I look forward to meeting each of you at our Annual Meeting.

Sincerely,

Hardwick Smith Johnson, Jr., EdD
President General

Douglas Richardson to speak at April, 2007 Annual Meeting

Douglas Richardson is a professional genealogist, historian, lecturer and author residing in Salt Lake City, Utah. He has been actively involved in genealogical research for over 40 years, and has earned a well deserved reputation as one of America’s leading genealogists. He holds a B.A. in History from the University of California (Santa Barbara), and a M.A. in History from the University of Wisconsin (Madison).

Douglas is an accomplished author. He has written numerous articles for all the major genealogical journals and magazines including The New England Historical and Genealogical Register (NEHGR), The American Genealogist (TAG), New York Genealogical and Biographical Record (NYBGR), Heritage Quest Magazine, and Foundations. He is the author of three full length books, Magna Charta Ancestry (2005), Plantagenet Ancestry (2004) and Eno and Enos Family in America (Rev. ed., 1984).

Douglas specializes in medieval and royal families genealogical research. He is also experienced in research cases involving all periods of American research from colonial to the modern times. He brings a fresh creative approach to all research assignments and enjoys a reputation of “solving the unsolvable.”

Douglas is in demand as a speaker and has spoken at many genealogical conferences and workshops across the country. We are delighted to have him speak to us at our April, 2007 Annual Meeting in Washington, DC. Douglas will be signing copies of his books Plantagenet Ancestry and Magna Charta Ancestry, which may be purchased at or before the Annual Meeting. Douglas’ books may be purchased directly from him at his website: www.royalancestry.net.

Plan now to be present. Mark your calendar for April 12, 2007. Complete details and reservation information will be mailed to all members of the Order prior to the 2007 Annual Meeting.
Summary of Minutes from July, 2006 Board Meeting

A called Meeting of the Executive Board (EB) of the Order of the Crown of Charlemagne in the United States of America (OCC) was held on Saturday, 22 July 2006 at the Arlington, VA home of David A. von Nirschl. A quorum was declared with nine Officers present. A summary of the business conducted follows.

1. The Order’s bylaw amendments were adopted subject to final editing. Specific items will be reflected in copies provided to the membership when they have been edited and printed.

2. Mr. Thomas Malin Rodgers of Georgia was appointed Auditor General to replace Mr. James Dewey O’Brien who had resigned.

3. A permanent fund was established to help insure the Order’s future financial stability with a beginning amount of forty thousand dollars ($40,000.00) to be transferred from the Order’s current assets.

4. A budget for the completion of the Order’s Lineage Book IV was authorized. The Board requested an itemized budget from the editor (Tim Beard) for the completion of Lineage Book IV so that it is ready for publication. A bonus was authorized for the editor if the book is ready for publication on or before January 1, 2007 with a slightly lower bonus if the book is ready for publication on or before February 1, 2007.

5. Mrs. Paul M. Niebell, Sr. generously volunteered to become Patroness of Lineage Book IV by donating sufficient monies to underwrite the bulk of the costs associated with publishing the book. Lineage Book IV will be dedicated in memory of her brother, Mr. Grahame Thomas Smallwood, Jr. known to almost everyone as “Chips,” who was an Honorary President General of the Order.

6. The EB authorized the publication of a Membership Directory once during each three year term, and one edition of the newsletter, Jewels of the Crown, in the Fall of each year.

Lineage Book IV

to be in Memory of Honorary President General Grahame Thomas Smallwood, Jr.

Timothy Field Beard, the Order’s venerable genealogist, and editor of the forthcoming Lineage Book IV has indicated that the project is nearing the point where it will be ready to submit for publication. The Order’s Executive Board voted to self-publish this volume so that the Order may utilize all receipts from sales of the book for future publication projects.

At a meeting of the Order’s Executive Board in July, 2006, Mrs. Paul M. Niebell, Sr., Second Vice President General, became the Patroness of Lineage Book IV with a very generous financial contribution toward the project which will underwrite the majority of the costs involved in self-publishing the book. Lineage Book IV will be dedicated in memory of her brother, Mr. Grahame Thomas Smallwood, Jr. known as “Chips” to almost everyone, who was an Honorary President General of the Order.

The Order is deeply grateful to Eleanor for her most generous gift!

“The Royal Bastards”

Occasionally we profile a lineage society with similar interests and objectives.

In 1950 at a gathering of the Fellows of the American Society of Genealogists (FASGs), it was decided by various eminent genealogists, to found an hereditary society requiring and exemplifying the highest and most stringent standards of genealogical proof. This was done largely in response to the FASG’s correct assessment of the then, shall we say, less than satisfactory standards of proof observable in a number of hereditary societies. So, they founded Descendants of the Illegitimate Sons and Daughters of the Kings of Britain, a.k.a., “The Royal Bastards,” to foster the noble aim of encouraging the highest quality of genealogical research based on the highest quality of evidence. Among the Founders were Donald Lines Jacobus, John Coddington, Walter Lee Shepherd, Jr. and George Andrews Moriarty, who served as the first President. The Charter and early members of the society number many worthy, indeed famous, genealogists including Sir Anthony Wagner, later Garter King of Arms. Members of our Order who are or were members of The Royal Bastards are Dr. Hardwick Smith Johnson, Jr., Mrs. Hans Bielenstein, Mr. Lloyd Bockstruck, Mr. Frank Lee Perryman, Mr. Thomas Malin Rodgers, Mr. Barry Christopher Howard, Mr. David von Nirschl and the late Mr. Grahame Thomas Smallwood, Jr.

Readers may find additional information about the Descendants of the Illegitimate Sons and Daughters of the Kings of Britain, by referring to the article by Walter Lee Shepherd, Jr., FASG, “Descendants of the Illegitimate Sons and Daughters of the Kings of Britain,” published September, 1974, Volume 62, Number 3, of the National Genealogical Society Quarterly.

For membership information contact Mr. James R. Terzian, Secretary/Treasurer, P. O. Box 1326, Cupertino, CA 95015.

In Memoriam

Count Nicholas Bobrinskoy

Count Nicholas Bobrinskoy, of Russian royal lineage, who lived in Mount Vernon, New York, died in September, 2006. His funeral service was held at the Cathedral of the Holy Virgin in Manhattan.

Count Bobrinskoy was a great, great, great grandson of Empress Catherine the Great through her children with Count Grigori Orlov. Count Bobrinskoy held many titles and ran an exclusive design shop in the New York City.

Count Bobrinskoy was born in 1921 in Nice, France, and was educated in the arts. Upon his immigration to the United States in 1954, and after becoming a citizen, he enrolled in advanced art studies at the Fashion Institute of Technology. He and his wife opened Zina Studios, an exclusive wallpaper, drapery and fabrics shop. They provided custom-printed fabrics and wallpapers for Newport Mansions and the Nightingale Brown house, both in Rhode Island, and in the home of philanthropist Brooke Astor.

Count Bobrinskoy was a member of the Order of the Crown of Charlemagne in the United States of America, the Russian Children Welfare Society and the Russian Orthodox Theological Fund among many other organizations.

He is survived by his wife, a son, a daughter, and four grandchildren.

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Without a concrete record on which to rely, how does one strip away the myth and legend that surrounds what amounts to one of European history’s most singularly important figures? It has been nearly 25 years since academia has produced a work on Charlemagne and Derek Wilson with patient sifting through the historical record and constant vigilance for unsubstantiated fact, connects Charlemagne the individual and Charlemagne the historical phenomenon with considerable detail crowned in literary flair. Personally, as a complete and utter amateur historian, I have always been impressed with the amount of raw fact that can be deduced about Charlemagne’s life and reign when so little Prima Facie material exists. To my complete delight Derek Wilson’s latest work, Charlemagne, truly regal in its artistry, furthers my astonishment.

The book begins with a short history of Europe up until the time of Charlemagne’s birth. After which Wilson presents an interesting set of maps, one of which is the European Economic Community in the 1950’s and the other of Charlemagne’s empire in 814. Remarkably enough, the two look very similar with only the southern part of the Apennine peninsula not being included in Charlemagne’s empire. This is a noteworthy comparison and one that sets the stage for one of the more important themes in Wilson’s book: namely Charlemagne’s legacy being the idea of Europe as an ideologically and geographically unified entity.

The books proceeds with the history of Charlemagne’s life through to his death, then continuing with European history to modern day. Thankfully, Wilson consistently places Charlemagne within this historical context, from the rise of the Holy Roman Empire until its demise. This is one of the strengths of the book, but as I have to admit other than knowing certain basics about Charlemagne, i.e., he was first emperor of Western Europe; much of the detail that Wilson provides is fresh and enlightening. For instance, one fascinating bit of information regarding Charlemagne is that upon his death, he split his empire into three kingdoms for his sons. The first kingdom essentially became France, the second kingdom became Germany, and the third kingdom is the boundary less area in between which Germany and France have been struggling over for centuries. But alas, his sons were not the emperor he was and the empire Charlemagne built did not survive for more than 50 years after his death.

Intriguing details like this make Charlemagne a great read but it is the totality of the book, the sum of all its brilliant factoids that make it required reading for the OCC membership. Charlemagne is a comfortable book, but not too relaxed. If I can find any fault with the book it is the overly expansive and unrestrained range of Wilson’s final chapters. Here the author is simply exceedingly inclusive and the story is somewhat obscured by the long parade of historical narrative. Yet, Wilson salvages Charlemagne by delivering just the right amount of academics to maintain an intellectual footing combined with readability to make this a good weekend endeavor. I recommend it highly.

Welcome New Members

Dorothy Brault
Myron Smith
Donald Winslow
Donald Bailey, Jr.
Donald Brousard
Sandra Orozco
Diane Reimers
Jesse Lynn, Jr.
Wallace Smith
Richard Burd
Elizabeth Langston

Monette Cortez
Robert Hitchez
Leonora Backlund
Caroline Bowen
George Salley, Jr.
Laura Bromhal
Gloria Bruce
Elizabeth Middleton
Marie Thiele
Jaqueline Chamberlain
Phillip Tarpley

New “Gateway” Ancestor

The Order, on an occasional basis as they are discovered and reported, publishes newly discovered and well documented “gateway” ancestors. In this edition of “jewels” we introduce Dorothy (Beresford) Brodnax, wife of the immigrant Maj. John Brodnax of Virginia. Dorothy descends both legitimately and illegitimately from many Royal and Noble personages, including Charlemagne.

This new “gateway” ancestor was discovered and documented by Douglas Richardson, renowned professional genealogist and author of Plantagenet Ancestry: A Study in Colonial and Medieval Families (2004). This new “gateway” ancestor was discovered after the publication of Mr. Richardson’s Plantagenet Ancestry (2004), but has been included in his unpublished 2006 Update and will be included in future editions of Plantagenet Ancestry. Richardson wrote of her, “The ancestral line of Dorothy (Beresford) Brodnax is one of the best documented royal descents that I’ve ever encountered.” The lineage published here on pages 4, 5 and 6 documents Dorothy’s lineage from Geoffrey Plantagenet, Count of Anjou, by an unknown mistress. It also constitutes a new “Brodnax” Account in Richardson’s (2006) update to his (2004) Plantagenet Ancestry. One of the lines of Dorothy (Beresford) Brodnax from Charlemagne, may be viewed by visiting the Order’s website: www.charlemagne.org.

For complete documentation of the lineage from Geoffrey Plantagenet down to William Cromer, Esq., of Tunstall, Kent, readers may consult Richardson’s (2004) Plantagenet Ancestry. Documentation of the lineage from William Cromer, Esq., of Tunstall, Kent, down to Dorothy (Beresford) Brodnax, is cited after each generation in Richardson’s 2006 Update which follows.

Interested Brodnax descendants may contact Mrs. Mildred Ezell at ME2Atl@aol.com to obtain a copy of a CD that has been produced based on Richardson’s research, with his permission, detailing the extended royal ancestry of Dorothy (Beresford) Brodnax.

Among Dorothy’s living descendants are: Former President George H. W. Bush; President George W. Bush; Dr. Hardwick Smith Johnson, Jr., President General; Mr. Thomas Malin Rodgers, Auditor General; and Mr. Lee Perryman.
BRODNAX

GEOFFREY PLANTAGENET, Count of Anjou, by an unknown mistress, _____.

HAMELIN, 5th Earl of Surrey, married ISABEL DE WARENNE.

MAUD DE WARENNE, married HENRI OF EU, Count of Eu.

ALICE OF EU, Countess of Eu, married RAOUl D’EXOUDUN, Count of Eu.

MAUD OF EU, married HUMPHREY DE BOHUN, Knt., Earl of Hereford and Essex.

ALICE DE BOHUN, married ROGER DE TONY, of Flamstead, Hertfordshire.

RALPH DE TONY, Knt., of Flamstead, Hertfordshire, married MARY _____.

ALICE DE TONY, married GUY DE BEAUCHAMP, Knt., 10th Earl of Warwick.

MAUD DE BEAUCHAMP, married GEOFFREY DE SAY, Knt., 2nd Lord Say.

JOAN DE SAY, married WILLIAM DE FIENNES, Knt., of Herstmonceux, Sussex.

WILLIAM DE FIENNES, Knt., of Herstmonceux, Sussex, married ELIZABETH BATISFORD.

JAMES FIENNES, Knt., of Hever, Kent, married _____.

ELIZABETH FIENNES, married WILLIAM CROMER, Esq., of Tunstall (in Sittingbourne), Kent.

JAMES CROMER, Knt., of Tunstall, Kent, married KATHERINE CANTELOWE [see CROMER 14].

15. WILLIAM CROMER, Knt., of Tunstall, Kent, son and heir. He married ALICE HAUTE, daughter of William Haute, Knt., by Joan, probably a kinswoman of Henry Horne. They had one son, James, Esq., and four daughters, Jane (wife of Robert Engham), Cecily (wife of Henry Isley, Knt.), Katherine (wife of Humphrey Evis), and Elizabeth (wife of William Tyrrell). SIR WILLIAM CROMER died 20 July 1539. He left a will dated 18 July 1539, proved in 1546, requesting burial in the church of Tunstall, Kent before the high altar.


16. JAMES CROMER, Esq., of Tunstall, Kent, son and heir. He married ANNE WOTTON, daughter of Edward Wotton, Knt., of Boughton Malherbe, Kent (descendant of King John), by Dorothy, daughter and co-heiress of Robert Reade, Knt., Chief Justice of the Common Pleas [see WOTTON 14 for her ancestry]. They had one son, William, Esq. She married (2nd) before 1549 ROBERT RUDSTON, Esq., of Boughton Monchelsea, Kent, Burgess (M.P.) for Steyning, 1547, son and heir of John Rudston, Knt., Lord Mayor of London, by his 2nd wife, Ursula, daughter of Robert Dymoke, Knt., of Scrivelsby, Lincolnshire. He was born in 1514/15. They had two sons, Belknap, Gent., and Isaac, Gent., and two daughters, Ursula (wife of Martin Barnholm, Knt.) and Emma (wife of Martin Hildyard, Knt.). He was a servant of the Wyatt family before 1539. He joined Sir Thomas Wyatt on his embassy to the Emperor in 1539–1540. He traveled with the imperial court from the Netherlands to Spain, being employed by his master as a courier to Paris and London. On Wyatt’s recall, he returned to England, and his services continued to be used by Wyatt’s son, Thomas. He probably served with the younger Wyatt at Boulogne. He was appointed a justice of the peace for Kent in 1547, and again in 1558/59–1590, and a commissioner of relief in 1550. His wife, Anne, was a legatee in the 1551 will of her father, Edward Wotton, Knt. He shared Wyatt’s distaste for Queen Mary’s Spanish marriage, and, in Jan. 1554/5, he joined Wyatt’s Rebellion. Excluded from the general pardon offered to the rebels, he helped to muster their forces at Brentford, Middlesex, for an attack upon London. On 7 Feb. he took a leading part in that luckless enterprise. Within two days of the repulse, he had been committed to the Tower of London, and on 13 Feb. he was tried, found guilty and sentenced. It was through the intervention of his wife’s kinsman, Nicholas Wotton, the Queen ambassador to France, that he was reprieved, to be released shortly afterwards and pardoned on 1 April. About the middle of May, he entered into an obligation with his step-son, William Cromer, to pay £500 for their moveables and the Council wrote to Sir Robert Southwell to effect this restitution. Two months later his confiscated estates were returned to him on a 21-year lease at a fixed rent. In 1555 he and Cromer entered into a joint obligation of £1,500 for the return of their lands in full ownership, thus bringing their total indebtedness to over £3,000. This sum they paid off in half-yearly installments of £166 13s. 4d. until June 1558, when they entered into separate obligations for the amounts outstanding. Rudston continued to pay reduced installments until in 1560 the residue was remitted. When Elizabeth came to the throne, he was restored to the Kent bench. In 1564 he was rated ‘meet’ and he remained a justice until his death. On 4 Feb. 1590 he completed the division of his
property between his two sons. ROBERT RUDSTON, Esq., died shortly before 18 June 1590 (date of inquisition). He left a will dated 12 April 1588 (P.C.C., 12 Drury).


17. WILLIAM CROMER, Esq., of Tunstall, Borden, and Edenbridge, Kent, Burgess (M.P.) for Hythe, Kent, 1571, Justice of the Peace, Kent, 1559, Sheriff of Kent, 1567–8, 1585–6, son and heir, born about 1531. He was a legatee in the 1551 will of his grandfather, Edward Wotton, Knt. He was educated at Furnivall’s Inn. He married (1st) MARGARET KEMPE, daughter of Thomas Kempe, Knt. They had one daughter, Anne. He joined Sir Thomas Wyatt in 1544. He was sent to the Tower and attainted, but was soon pardoned, though he had to pay heavily to obtain possession of his lands. He was not restored in blood until 1563. He married (2nd) 1 Oct. 1561 ELIZABETH GUILDFORD, daughter of John Guildford, Knt., of Hempsted (in Benenden), Kent (descendant of King Edward I), by Barbara (descendant of King Edward I), daughter of Thomas West, Knt., K.G., 8th Lord la Warre, 5th Lord West (descendant of King Henry III) [see GUILDFORD 14 for her ancestry]. They had one son, James, Knt., and four daughters, Barbara, Dorothy, Jane (wife of George Byng), and Mary. She was a maid of honour at the funeral of Lady Anne of Cleves in 1557. In 1573 the Queen spent a night in his home at Grove End in Tunstall, Kent. He had a long career in county administration. The Archbishop of Canterbury, considering him sound in religion, employed him as a justice in arresting and examining suspected papists. There are references to him as a pirate commissioner in 1565, and as investigator of “libels and slanderous bills” posted ip in Canterbury in 1573. In Nov. 1573 the Privy Council commended his “diligence and good discretion” over preventing the illegal transportation of grain and food stuffs. He also played an active part in inspecting Kent forts and harbors, and in helping to supply and equip the Queen’s ships at Chatham. In 1581 he investigated the ploughing up of the Sittingbourne archery. He was a legatee in the 1587 will of his uncle, Thomas Wotton, Esq. In 1588 when invasion was expected, he was appointed one of the two captains of petronels (horse soldiers armed with pistols). In 1588 he was appointed an overseer of the will of his step-father, Robert Rudston. He was still acting as captain of light horse as late as 1595. Probably about 1591 he was at loggerheads with the wardsen of Rochester bridge in connection with a rent-charge. He married (3rd) CATHERINE ______. They had no issue. WILLIAM CROMER, Esq., died 12 May 1598. Administration on his estate was granted to his son, James Cromer, 26 May 1598.


18. DOROTHY CROMER, daughter by her father’s 2nd marriage, born about 1563 (aged 50 in 1613). She married (1st) by marriage settlement dated 1580 WILLIAM SEYLIARD, Esq., of Delaware (in Brasted), Kent, son and heir of John Seyliard, Esq., of Delaware (in Brasted), Kent, by Alice, daughter and heiress of Richard Franklin, Gent. He was born about 1557 (aged 39 in 1596). They had six sons, Thomas, Esq., George, John, James, William, and Francis, and two daughters, Elizabeth and Anne (wife of William Seyliard, Gent.). He was born about 1557 (aged 39 in 1596). WILLIAM SEYLIARD, Esq., died 21 March 1595/6, and was buried 26 March 1595/6 in the church of Edenbridge, Kent. He left a will dated 20 March 1595/6, proved 10 May 1596 (P.C.C., 31 Drake). His widow, Dorothy, married (2nd) (as his 3rd wife) at St. Dunstan’s in the West, London 7 Sept. 1598 MICHAEL BERESFORD, Esq., of Squerries (in Westerham), Kent, son and heir of George Beresford, of Newton-Grange, Derbyshire, Steward of the Town of Nottingham, by Helen (or Eleanor), daughter of Thomas Greene, Esq., allegedly of Derbyshire. They had one son, William, and two daughters, Jane and Mary. Michael married (1st) Rose Knyvet, daughter of John Knyvet, by whom he had other issue, including a son, Cornelius; and (2nd) before 21 May 1597 Anne ______ (died 1598), widow of Randall Camme (died 1589), Citizen and Salter of London. In 1599 he sold property at Great and Little Bentley Field (in Fenny Bentley), Derbyshire to Francis Fitzherbert, Esq., of Tissington, Derbyshire. The
same year he sold two messuages or farms in Thorpe, Derbyshire to John Milward, Gent., of Bradley Ash, Derbyshire. He served as a justice of the peace for Kent, 1599–1608. MICHAEL BERESFORD, Esq., left a will dated 26 Feb. 1607/8, proved 30 April 1608 (P.C.C., 28 Windebanck). In 1610 his widow, Dorothy, agreed to a settlement with her son, Thomas Seyliard. She died 29 July 1613, and was buried in the church at Brasted, Kent. She left a will dated 9 January 1611/12, proved 5 Nov. 1613 (P.C.C., 105 Capell).

Date: …………………….
To the Committee on Admissions:

The undersigned propose for membership in the Order:

(Full Name)…………………………………………………………………….

(Maiden Name)………………………………………………………………….

(Address)………………………………………………………………………
……………………………………………………………………
Tel. #:………………………..Email:………………………………………...
(Occupation)……………………………………………………………………

who is personally known and request that a formal invitation be sent to our friend. It is understood that upon acceptance of the invitation that lineage blanks will be sent to the prospective member on which can be recorded the requisite genealogical data relating to lineal descent from the Emperor Charlemagne.

Other Personal Recommendations
(as Genealogical Societies, Commissions, Honors)
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Name of Colonial Ancestor:
Proposed by: …………………………………………………………………
Proposed by:…………………………………………………………………

Mail to: Tracy Ashley Crocker-14115 41st Ave. N., Plymouth, MN 55446
Contributions to the Order

The Order of the Crown of Charlemagne in the United States of America is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation and all gifts are fully tax deductible. Members are encouraged to make contributions to the Order to aid the Order in defraying its operating costs and further the Order's purposes. Contributions in any amount are welcomed and will assist with projects such as publication of the Membership Directory and Jewels of the Crown, which constitute considerable expenses to the Order.

If you would like to make a cash contribution, please make your check payable to OCC and send it to: Mr. Charles William Neuhauser, Treasurer General, 8 Stable Road, Tuxedo Park, NY 10987-4025.