

# THE PEACH TREE

*Celebrating 25 years of bringing the  
Peach heritage into homes throughout the  
world.*

*John H. Peach, Editor*

*221 Geronimo Rd., Knoxville, TN 37934*

*Ph: 865-675-5956*

*Email: Peachroot@aol.com*

## Bartholomew Peche Henry III's Special Friend

King Henry III was born October 1, 1207, at Winchester Castle. When he was a mere nine years old, he was crowned as the first child king of England since the Norman Conquest. However, as a kid he was more interested in playing and having fun than he was in trying to rule a whole herd of rebellious people. At his coronation as king, only a handful of noblemen and three bishops were there. Instead of a crown, he only had a little golden band put on his head. The Archbishop of Canterbury was supposed to officiate, but even he wasn't there.



in the presence  
of the king

### *Volume 1 – Peche Heroic Conquests*

This is the title of my new book. It's the beginning of an arduous adventure which will meticulously build the structural bridges between the early Peche of Normandy in the 11<sup>th</sup> Century and those who wear the unique names of Peach and Peachey today.

Once this title came to me, I couldn't shake it. This is because many of the Peche of the medieval times in England were closely tied to the king. This has really blown my mind! How in the world could such a noble family with such a significance to the royal crown be ignored by historians for 1000 years?

Among those who were the closest to the king was Bartholomew Peche, shown on this same page. However, there were many others, including Baron John Peche, whom the king made into one of the most powerful men of all England. Whoever happened to occupy the throne seemed to have a member of the Peche clan closely associated with him. Therein lies the reason for the title: *In the Presence of the King*.

Through the extensive research done for this project, brand new material has surfaced that show my previous book, *The Peach/Peachey Migrations, 1066-1990* as just scratching the surface. This book is written simple enough for children to understand, as well as those who are highly educated adults.

Bartholomew Peche (cont. from p.1) – providing a *BRIDGE* to the Marblehead and Southern Maryland branches.

What's a boy going to do when it seems like no one wants him to be their ruler? He's going to look for some faithful friends who will stand by him no matter what the cost.

One of these would be Bartholomew Peche. He was believed to be around 16 when Henry III became the new king. Being seven years older than Henry, he had more maturity and experience to bring to the table. Bartholomew came from a long line of knights, going all the way back to Guillaume Peche, a knight under William the Conqueror.

Bartholomew was in knight's school at the time of Henry's coronation. Within a year or two, he would graduate and become a knight. With the king now being his good friend, he probably rushed his friend so that he could graduate early. This seems evident because when Bartholomew was only 17, King Henry III gave him the manor of Basingstoke, Hampshire, for him to have as his home.

When Henry's father, King John, was on the throne, he was so unpopular that many of the most important barons stormed into London to require John to sign articles of agreement of the barons, which was called the Magna Carta. This greatly diminished the power of the king, giving the barons legal rights to sharing the authority. This would later be the model for the Constitution of the United States.

King John quickly nullified the Magna Carta after the rebellious barons left

London. This caused a civil war in England that ended when John died the next year. The 9-year old King Henry III quickly captured the hearts and allegiance of the barons when he revived the Magna Carta. This took a lot of pressure off the young king and made the job easier for his good friend, Bartholomew Peche.

Another thing that took the pressure off Henry III and Bartholomew was that the king had a regent who stood as the head of state until the king reached adulthood. By this time Bartholomew Peche had been knighted as Sir Bartholomew and had established himself as not only a loyal friend, but as capable of being a mighty warrior.

In 1233, Richard Suard, an enemy of Henry III, burned the manor homes at Headington, Oxford, and escaped. The king sent for his good friend, Bartholomew, to chase him down and issued a writ for aid to be used for this purpose.

By 1236 Bartholomew Peche was proven to be a valiant knight fighting wars in the British Isles. Therefore, King Henry III rewarded him by sending him to France, where he served as Commander of a Division of the Army. As a reward for his service in France, he was granted all the lands formerly held by Baron Helias Gifford in Wiltshire, Northamptonshire, Gloucester, Dorset, Somerset, Berkshire and Oxford. Later, he also gave him the manor of Lollingdon in Cholsey, Berkshire.

About 1240, King Henry III leaned on his dear friend, Bartholomew, for a service few could provide in a trustworthy  
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## So.MD Branch

Jeanne (Peach) Wilcox of Sterling, IL, contacted me for the first time in Nov., 2009, saying, "I am the daughter of Marvin and Janis (Renner) Peach. I (Jeanne) was born in 1953, brother John in 1954, James in 1956 and Judy 1959. Marvin Peach had sisters Dorothy and Lorene, brother Virden, Marian, Harold and can't remember all from Walnut." Jeanne bought three Peach books for Christmas presents saying, "I am so excited about buying gifts with special meaning instead of peanuts in a can." What a thought!

Speaking of Walnut, IL, it's local librarian recently bought three books for the library there. Hopefully, they will get a lot of use by the many Peaches there.

Willa Mae Davis says that she and her husband, Paul, have moved from Texas to Kentucky. She announced the birth of a new So.MD Peach in the person of their great grandson, Brent Davis Hardison. He was born 10/26/2009 in Paducah, KY, to the parents of Chris and Sarah Hardison.

## Texas-Tenn Ties

Henderson Peach, founder of the Texas Branch, was born abt. 1824 in Tennessee. He married Elizabeth Chapman on Jan. 4, 1844 in Madison Co., TN. They had 3 children born in that county before they moved to Texas.

The question is still on the table. Did Henderson have any ties to the South Carolina Branch located in middle Tennessee? Although there seems to be no connection, yet the question

remains, "If not from the SC tree, who were his ancestors?" Madison Co. is located between Nashville and Memphis with Jackson being its main city. There is no indication the Peaches of middle Tennessee lived there in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. This question still remains a mystery, and if you have any suggestions, please offer them. You can read about the Texas Branch and its beginnings in Chap. 8 of *The Peach Heroes* book.

## S.C. Branch

We were saddened to hear the news that Rev. Lesley Allen of Prairieville, LA is no longer with us. His faithful wife, Ortha, announced that "Les went HOME to be with Jesus on Nov. 30, 2009...He has no more pain, no more heart problems, no more Parkinson's disease, and he can walk again." Editor: these folks have been faithful supporters of the Peach Tree project for over 20 years, and Les will be greatly missed.

Tina Kail of Memphis, TN contacted me for the first time on 12/7/2009, sharing how she descended from Reuben Peach of middle Tennessee. She ordered two Peach books and is really excited about being a part of this project. It's new folks like Tina that keep this Peach Tree going forward.

## Kentucky Branch

We were also saddened to hear that Bonnie Kennedy of Louisville, KY, has passed onto her eternal reward. She has also been a long-time supporter of this Peach Tree and will be dearly missed. Our condolences are sent to all her loved ones.

(continued from page 2) manner. The king began to depend upon his friend as a guardian over properties held by minors until they came of age to inherit or to take possession of them.

This practice began on the Isle of Wight and in Dorset, the two locales from which the Southern Maryland Branch and the Marblehead Branch of Peaches descended respectively. Leslie Osman Peach of Grantham, Lincolnshire, has been a primary source for digging up this information, and to him this author is deeply indebted for what is to follow.

Knighton Manor on the Isle of Wight belonged to the Morvilles, while Powerstock, Dorset was in the possession of the Gorges family. The main residence of the Morvilles was at Bradpole, Dorset, just three miles from the Gorges, who lived at Powerstock. The village of Symondsbury, home of the branch of Marblehead, Massachusetts (USA) branch, was only another three miles on the other side of Bradpole.

Both the surviving heirs of these two estates were minors. Ellen de Morville was born about 1234 while Ralph de Gorges' birth was about 1230. King Henry III arranged for two-year old Ellen to be married to six-year-old Ralph. Now that was a wedding ceremony worth seeing. One wonders who the ring bearer might have been. Fortunately, they did not have a honeymoon.

In those days, there was what was called a "wardship". This was to give authority to an adult to be the lord over their persons and property until they became an adult. King Henry III called

upon his trusted friend, Bartholomew Peche, to become the ward for the newly married Ellen de Morville to Ralph de Gorges. This placed the Peche on the Isle of Wight for the first time, which along with Dorset, led to a long line of the Peche descendants living there up to the present day.

In 1240 Bartholomew Peche also became the keeper of Corfe Castle in Dorset. This would be his primary place of residence from 1240 to 1253. Here he was in close proximity to keep the king's peace and protect the properties on each side of the castle including those at Knighton Manor, Isle of Wight, and those at Powerstock, Dorset.

This was the same castle where his distant cousin, Baron John Peche, would live between 1325 and 1329. Both of them have their arms prominently on display on the wall of the museum at Corfe Castle (in the middle of photo below). They shared the original arms of the Peche of Bourn, indicating they both descended from Guillaume Peche.



. (article continued in Chapter 5 of *In the Presence of the King*.)

## Marblehead Branch

Page 131 of The Peach/Peachey Migrations, 1066-1990, tells of the westward migration of the Marblehead Branch of Peaches to northeast Indiana. It all began with Henry Gerrish Peach in 1855, relocating to Lake Co., IN. Three years later, his father, Dr. Thomas Peach moved his medical practice from Boscawen, New Hampshire, to Lake Prairie, IN.

I recently found a most interesting biography on Mrs. Susann Morey of Lake County, who was Dr. Peach's daughter. You can find this 3-page most enlightening biography by going to [www.genealogytrails.com/ind/lake/history\\_chapter4\\_pg3.html](http://www.genealogytrails.com/ind/lake/history_chapter4_pg3.html). The article says:

Dr. Peach was a doctor who never went to medical school per se. "He studied under the direction of Dr. McKinster of Newbury, Vermont...He practiced acc. to the allopathic school and was reasonably successful. He was a surgeon in the war of 1812...Politically he was a Republican, and in a religious sense he and his wife (Sukey Gerrish) were members of the Congregational church...He was one of the prime movers in the great temperance reform. His remains are interred in the Lake Prairie cemetery, where a beautiful stone marks his last resting place...His wife traced her ancestry to England, as Gerrish is an English name. Mrs. Susann Morey (their daughter) was born, reared and educated at Boscawen, NH. She attended the academy at Boscawen and was a teacher in her native state. She wedded Ephraim Noyes Morey, Nov. 26, 1846 and had two sons and two daughters.

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## Peachey Bridges

The new book I am working on, *In the Presence of the King*, has as its primary purpose to build bridges between the original William de Peche I (aka Guillaume Peche) of Normandy and those with the Peach and Peachey surname. The first bridges are presently under construction with the Peacheys. So far, I can establish basically how they are directly related to Guillaume.

The following are helping in the construction of the Peachey bridges: Jon Block of Canada, Mike Peachey, Karen Hughes and Judy Brodie of Australia, Ed Peachey of New Zealand, Keith Soberhill of England, and K. Peachey Robinson, Anita C. Horne and David Peachey of parts unknown. We already have Lou Peachey of Sonoma, CA, and Jean Peachey of Columbia, SC, who have been long-time supporters of the P.T. project. Ed Peachey has a fantastic web page you can access at: [www.peach-tech.co/nz/peachey](http://www.peach-tech.co/nz/peachey).

The Peachey bridges begin with Baron John Peche III, Warden of the Cinque Ports, and one of the most powerful men in England. The lineage continues from John III down to what would be John VIII, with a John in each generation. John VIII had a son, William Peche, who died in Soham, Cambridgeshire in 1559. He is believed to be the father of at least six children, whose name was first referred to as "Pechie" and then eventually "Peachey." They were all in the same area of Mildenhall, Suffolk and Soham, Cambridgeshire, some going to Oving, Sussex, of which were descended the Baron Peacheys of Selsey, Sussex.

## Marblehead Peaches on the Mary & John

Here is brand new information I discovered recently that is really exciting. We often speculated as to how John Peach, Sr. and John Peach, Jr., founders of the Marblehead Branch came to America. According to a document at [MaryandJohn1630.com](http://MaryandJohn1630.com) on the passengers of the ship, both Peaches were listed as probably on this boat. I quote in part:

“The Mary & John left Plymouth, England, Mar. 20, 1630 with her unknown Master, arriving in Nantasket Point, now Dorchester, Mass., at the entrance of Boston Harbor... These families and passengers were recruited by the Rev. John White of Dorchester, Dorset. Nearly all of the Mary & John 1630 passengers came from the West Country counties of Somerset, Dorset, Devon, and West Country towns of Dorchester, Bridport, Crewkerne and Exeter.

“They passengers of the Mary & John 1630 founded one of the first towns in New England – Dorchester, Mass. – in 1630 and also founded the town of Windsor, Connecticut five years later in 1635. Other information says the master was Thomas Chubb, and they landed in Dorchester.”

The list of probable passengers included  
John Peach, Sr. 22 probably  
Symondsbury, Dorset  
John Peach, Jr. 17 probably  
Symondsbury, Dorset

If this is true, then both Peaches came on the same boat! Exciting news!

## Special Sale Prices

Here's the listing of regular prices on the books by John H. Peach. There are several that are **on sale** as noted below.

1. The Peach Genealogies, Volume 1 - \$39.95 + \$7 shipping. My latest book on the Southern Maryland Branch. Save \$10 off this price by ordering now.
2. The Peach Genealogies, Volume 2 - \$49.95 + \$7 shipping. My latest book on the South Carolina Branch. Save \$10 off this price by ordering now.
3. The Peach/Peachey Migrations, 1066-1990 - \$39.95 + \$7 shipping. Tracing all the Peach/Peacheys back to William de Peche I in 1066 A.D. Save \$10 off this price if you order a slightly damaged book.
4. The Peach Tree Handbook, Vol. II, Southern Maryland Branch - \$39.95 + \$7 shipping. Save \$10 off this price by ordering now.
5. The Peach Tree Handbook, Vol.III, Marblehead - \$62.95 + \$7 shipping.
6. The Peach Heroes - \$59.95 + \$7 shipping. This is 740 pages hard bound, fully indexed, and includes all the Peaches in the Revolutionary and Civil Wars and the War of 1812. All known descendants of the Kansas, Kentucky, Minnesota, Pennsylvania and Texas Branches are included. Also, detailed updates of the Marblehead, South Carolina and the So. Maryland branches are included.

*The Peach Tree* – to subscribe to this newsletter, \$15 for 18 months (6 issues) You can access our website at <http://www.thepeaches.com/genealogy/> I plan on putting each of the upcoming *Peach Trees* online so that they will be accessible to all who enter the website.