

Richard Nixon's Royal Lineage

London

Former President Richard M. Nixon has royal blood. He is a direct descendant of King Edward III of England, is related to Queen Elizabeth II, to Sir Winston Churchill and to George Washington.

The experts of "Burke's Peerage," the 150-year-old reference work on England's nobility, made these claims yesterday, in a new book that traces royal blood in the veins of 13 American presidents.

Burke says Washington was descended from four kings, and Abraham Lincoln from one — mere commoners, compared with President James Monroe with nine kings in his family tree.

Mr. Nixon is 20th in line of descent from Edward III, who died in 1377, the book said.

"Similar claims can be made by thousands of others," said Hugh Montgomery-Massingberd, editor of "Burke's Presidential Families of the United States of America," a 676-page reference book being published next week.

One is the editor — 22nd in line from Edward III.

Another is David Williamson, who

worked for seven years to compile the new book's presidential genealogies.

Williamson discovered that he and Mr. Nixon are 13th cousins once removed. Mr. Nixon's relationships with Queen Elizabeth, Churchill and Washington are even more tenuous than that, Williamson said.

The \$39 book is largely a serious study of the 37 American presidents and their families. It lists every descendant of all presidents and each president's brothers and sisters and their descendants.

An appendix of simplified presidential family trees stretching far into the past shows the White House awash in royal forbearers.

Thomas Jefferson, William Howard Taft and Ulysses S. Grant all descended from David I of Scotland, who died in 1153. James Garfield had the earliest royal ancestor traced — King Henri I of France, who died in 1060.

Presidents Lincoln, Washington, Monroe and John Quincy Adams all numbered the same king among their forebearers — Edward I of England, who died in 1307.

"But Washington's lineage is the



KING EDWARD III
Mr. Nixon's ancestor

most spectacular of all the presidents," Montgomery Massingberd said. "It goes back to 1180 at least and probably even further, to the kings of Scotland. It is a lineage the grandest peer would be proud of."

President Ford, Montgomery-Massingberd added, has no known royal blood.

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