



By Edward Sorel for The Washington Post

Descended From Kings

By Judith Martin

Richard M. Nixon was descended from King Edward III of England and is related to Queen Elizabeth II, Sir Winston Churchill, George Washington and Hugh Montgomery-Massingberd.

The member of this family group who discovered and made public this information is Hugh Montgomery-Massingberd, editor of a new \$39 book called "Burke's Presidential Families of the United States of America," which is itself descended from the 150-year-old reference book on British nobility, Burke's "Peerage."

Montgomery-Massingberd, an Englishman, is the 13th cousin once removed of Mr. Nixon. Queen Elizabeth and Mr. Nixon are cousins even further removed—how much further, even Montgomery-Massingberd hasn't worked out—which may explain why they never greeted each other with kisses on state occasions.

Mr. Nixon's alleged ancestor, Edward III, had a 50-year reign, the highlight of which was his starting the Hundred Years' War.

Burke's, a recognized authority in discovering people after they have arrived and demonstrating that they

were on the way all along, has found several American Presidents with royalty in their backgrounds.

George Washington, with a lineage going back to 1180—before that, it was only a dotted line—might have been King of Scotland if there hadn't been several thousand closer relatives and a better job offer had not intervened.

Presidents Washington, John Quincy Adams, Monroe and Lincoln were all descended from Edward I, the book says, a monopoly which was not previously disclosed to American voters. Monroe had nine kings altogether on his family tree.

Presidents Jefferson, Taft and Grant were all descendants of King David I of Scotland, who died without realizing this. President Garfield was descended from King Henri I of France, who died in 1060, before the Garfield administration had even begun.

The other royal presidents were the two Presidents Harrison and President Buchanan. Mr. Nixon was by far the most recent prince elected to the Presidency.

But President Gerald Ford, however noble he may be personally, is, to Montgomery-Massingberd's knowledge, a commoner. At least, the book states, he has no known royal blood.