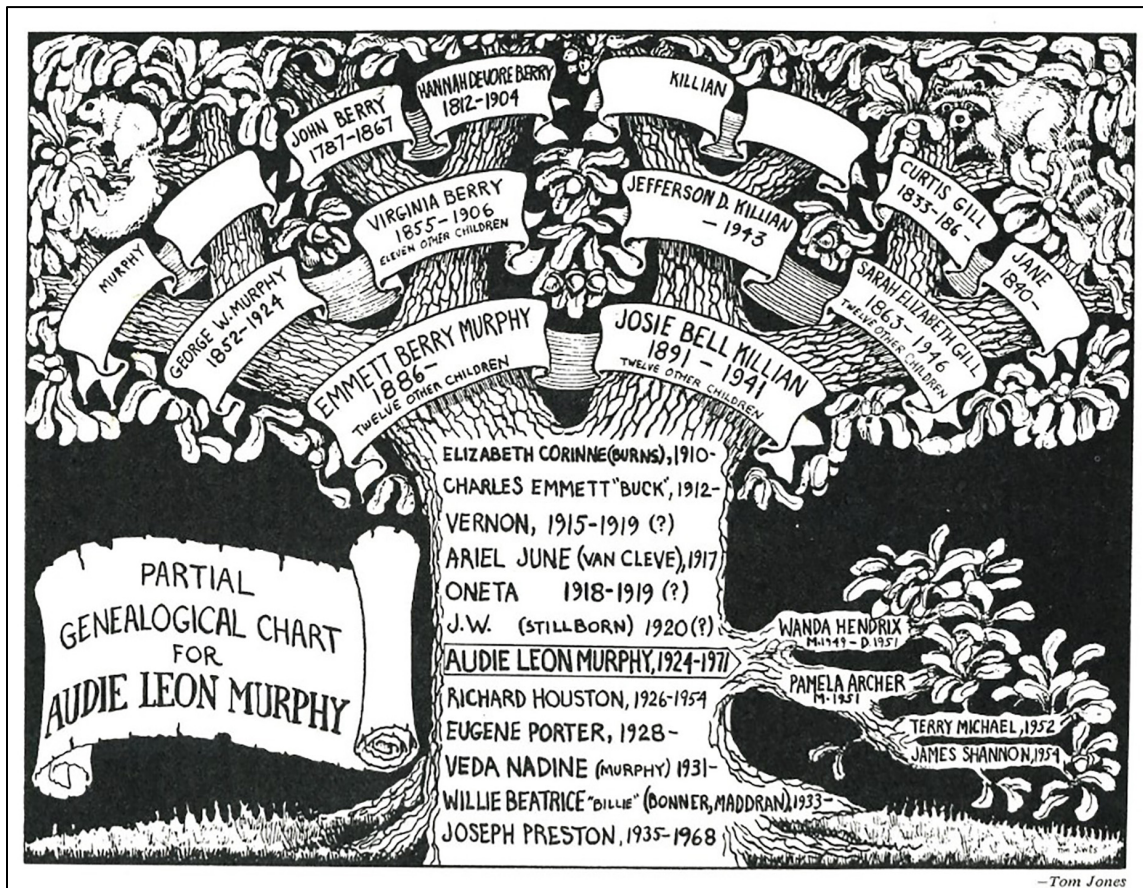


Upgrading Audie Murphy's Family Tree

By Richard L. Rodgers

Comments? Comments are welcome. Just use the link below to our message board.
<https://www.audiemurphy.com/msgb/viewtopic.php?f=1&t=4745>



Simpson's Original Murphy Family Tree. The original Audie Murphy's family tree researched by Colonel Harold B. Simpson and published in his 1975 biography, AUDIE MURPHY, AMERICAN SOLDIER. Some errors and a lot of gaps exist in the 1975 version.

COLONEL Harold B. Simpson's biography AUDIE MURPHY, AMERICAN SOLDIER written in 1975 is well-known and accepted as the

definitive biography on Audie Murphy's life. It was also the first written account of Audie's entire life. Unfortunately, the

book is no longer in print. Used copies today are rare and expensive.

When Colonel Simpson¹ began his research, he relied on old-fashioned gum-shoe detective work to document the facts surrounding Audie's life. His methods included personally locating countless newspaper and magazine articles. He met with and interviewed scores of people as an effort to locate personal documents, photographs, and letters while recording stories and accounts that would have otherwise been lost. He also made every effort to gain access to official local, state, and federal documents. Simpson's research was exhaustive. Even still, some information was elusive and escaped notice.

Simpson's 1975 family tree illustration is an example. Much of Audie's ancestral information was missing at the time of the biography's publication. In fairness to Simpson, he was only able to report the information that was available. Much of it was based on fading memories of people he interviewed, and documentation that was difficult to obtain – both of which were sometimes in error.

For these reasons, some information on the family tree is wrong. Audie's birth year is an example and shows 1924 instead of 1925. This is understandable and should not be held against Simpson since he relied on a falsified birth

certificate Audie used when he lied about his age as he enlisted in the Army. The proof needed to establish the real birth year would not be found until over a quarter of a century later – long after the year Simpson penned the biography. No published update to Audie Murphy's family tree has ever been produced – until now.

Thanks to the resources of publicly accessible Internet-based services like Ancestry.com, FamilySearch.com, and FindaGrave.com a more accurate look at the Murphy genealogy is now possible and has been made.

And the result? Well, the proof is in the pudding as the expression goes. Audie Murphy's lineage can now be traced as far back as the 8th century.

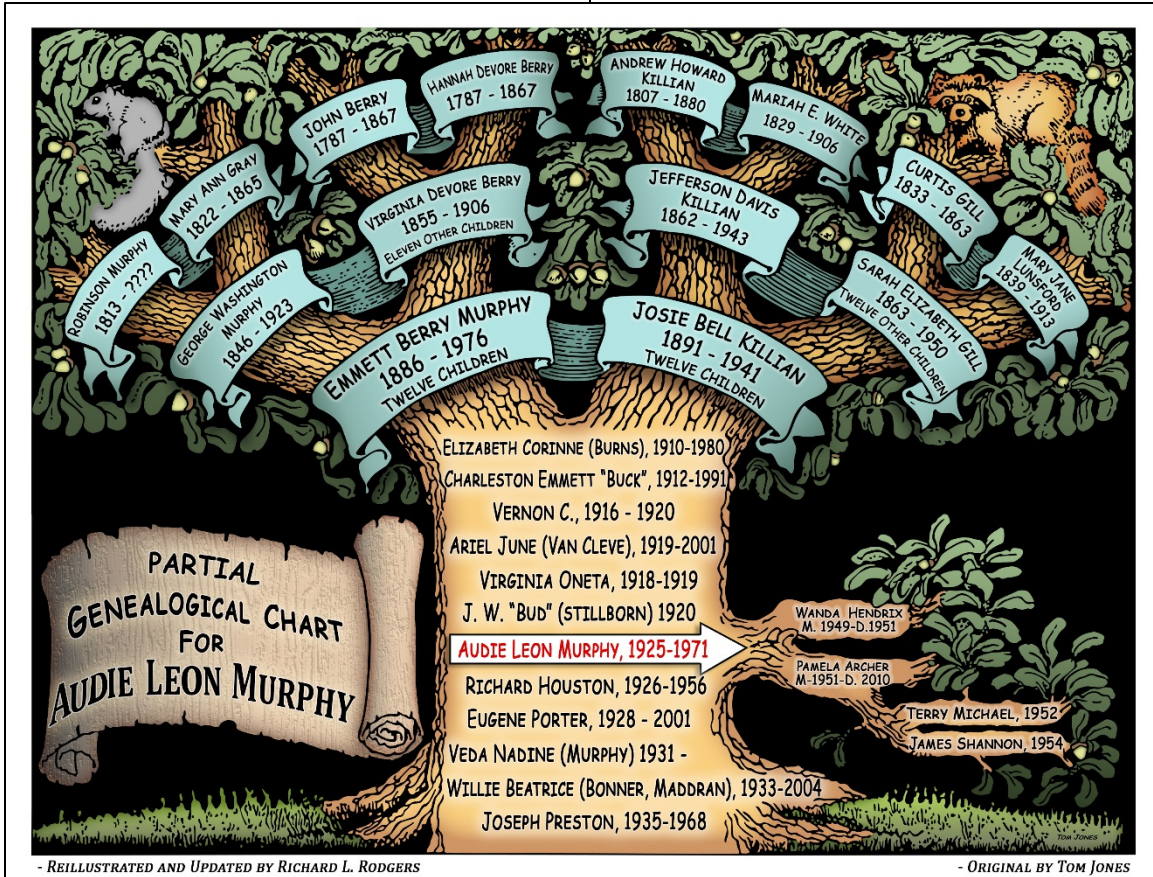
There are still holes in the data. This is should be expected. As any family tree is expanded backward over time, the probability that more gaps in data will occur increases. Even still, Audie's new family tree is remarkably detailed. Yes, there is still missing information – but not much.

So, what are the improvements?

First, the original Simpson family tree has been corrected. Missing details that were recently discovered are now included. The original drawing of the

¹ Colonel Harold B. Simpson (1917-1989) was a retired Air Force officer and a prominent historical writer from the state of Texas and the founder of the Hill College Press.

Source: <https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/entries/simpson-harold-brown>



Murphy tree was also re-illustrated and colorized.

Second, three tables – found at the end of this document – have been separately constructed which show the Murphy, Killian, and Lunsford lineages. The Murphy branch stretches back as far Ireland in the 1600's and the Killian lineage goes even farther back to Germany in the 1500's.

The new tables also include Internet links that take you to the source of the information. The tables include record numbers for genealogists to access the data.

Some interesting details surface from the expanded genealogy.

As an example, the Murphy family came out of Ireland from the area of Ulster. Later, the Murphy's ventured across the ocean and became established on the east coast in the American colonies in an area known as the "Upper Potomac Hundreds" which is found in Montgomery County, Maryland. This area historically includes the settlements of Darnestown, Dawsonville, and Seneca.²

Spelling with the Murphy family name was also an issue. Audie's great-great grandfather, born in 1780 in Maryland,

² https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Montgomery_County,_Maryland

apparently preferred the spelling of "Murphey". Perhaps spelling of one's name back in the early days of America was an arbitrary thing.

In the meantime, on Audie's mother's side, it seems that the Killian's original spelling, in Germany, was "Kilian". Once in America, the family spelling changed.

Another interesting fact is that the Killians' roots are in the German state of Bayern and include the Bavarian region. This is where Audie fought with the 3rd Infantry division.

Finally, Audie's great-grandmother, Mary Jane Lunsford Gill on his mother's side, was from the Lunsford family. The Lunsford family history can be traced as far back to 790 A.D. and has connections to British aristocracy (see the Lunsford table at the end of this document). This predates the Battle of Hastings and the beginning of the Norman Conquest on October 14, 1066 A.D.³ This earliest generation of Audie's ancestry is just

three hundred and eighty years after the departure of the Romans from England.⁴

Keep in mind that like any family tree, the quality of the genealogy is only as good as the information available and the amount of effort that goes into the research. Undoubtedly some errors are probably still present. Gaps in the information still exist today. Even still, more tiers to the family genealogy will likely be added in the future.

It can be said confidently that the quality of Simpson's original work on the Murphy genealogy was remarkably good despite the limitations of the time when the research was conducted. Simpson laid down an excellent foundation that has since been built on and refined. Today's genealogists, descendants of the Murphy family, and related family branches owe a great deal of gratitude to Colonel Simpson for his excellent work.

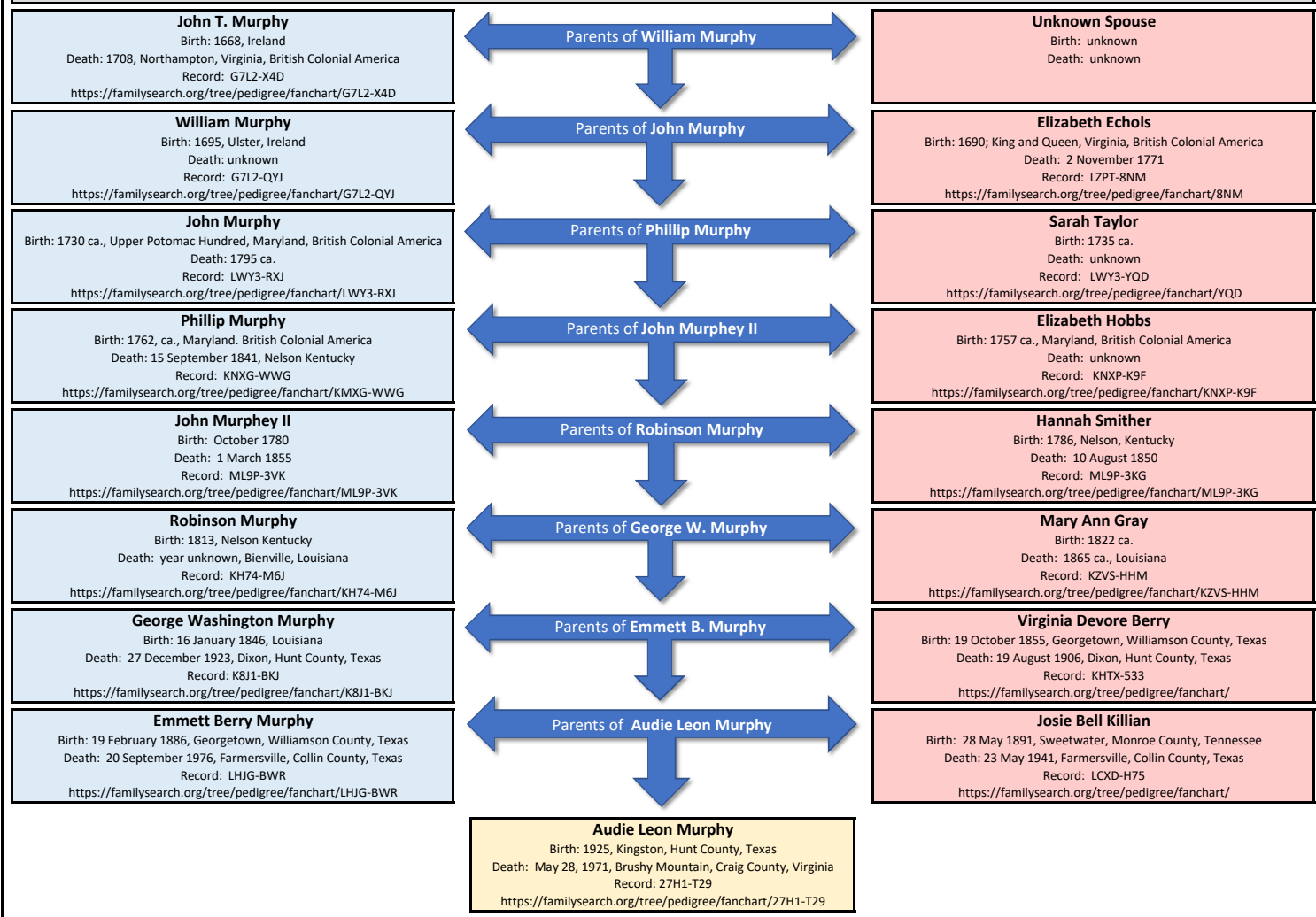
- *Richard Rodgers*

³ <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zsjnb9q/revision/1>

⁴ In AD410, the Roman Emperor Honorius sent a goodbye letter to the people of Britain. He wrote, "fight bravely and defend your lives...you are on your own now".

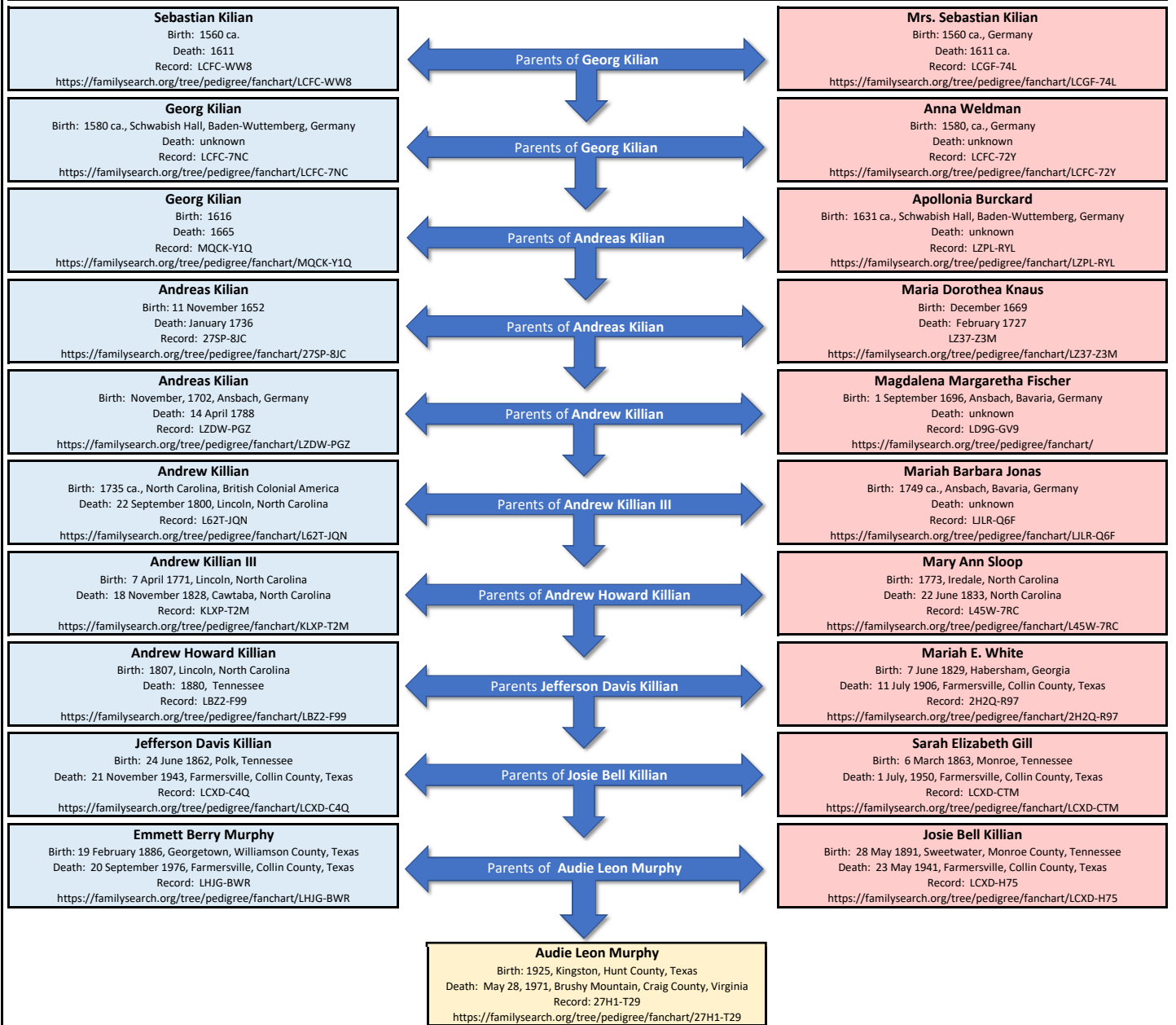
Source: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zqtf34j/articles/z2dr4wx>

Murphy Lineage of Audie Leon Murphy*



* Sources:
<https://www.familysearch.org>
 Garry Murphy, Murphy Family Geneologist
 Bill Allen, Dockery Family Reunion

Killian Lineage of Audie Leon Murphy*

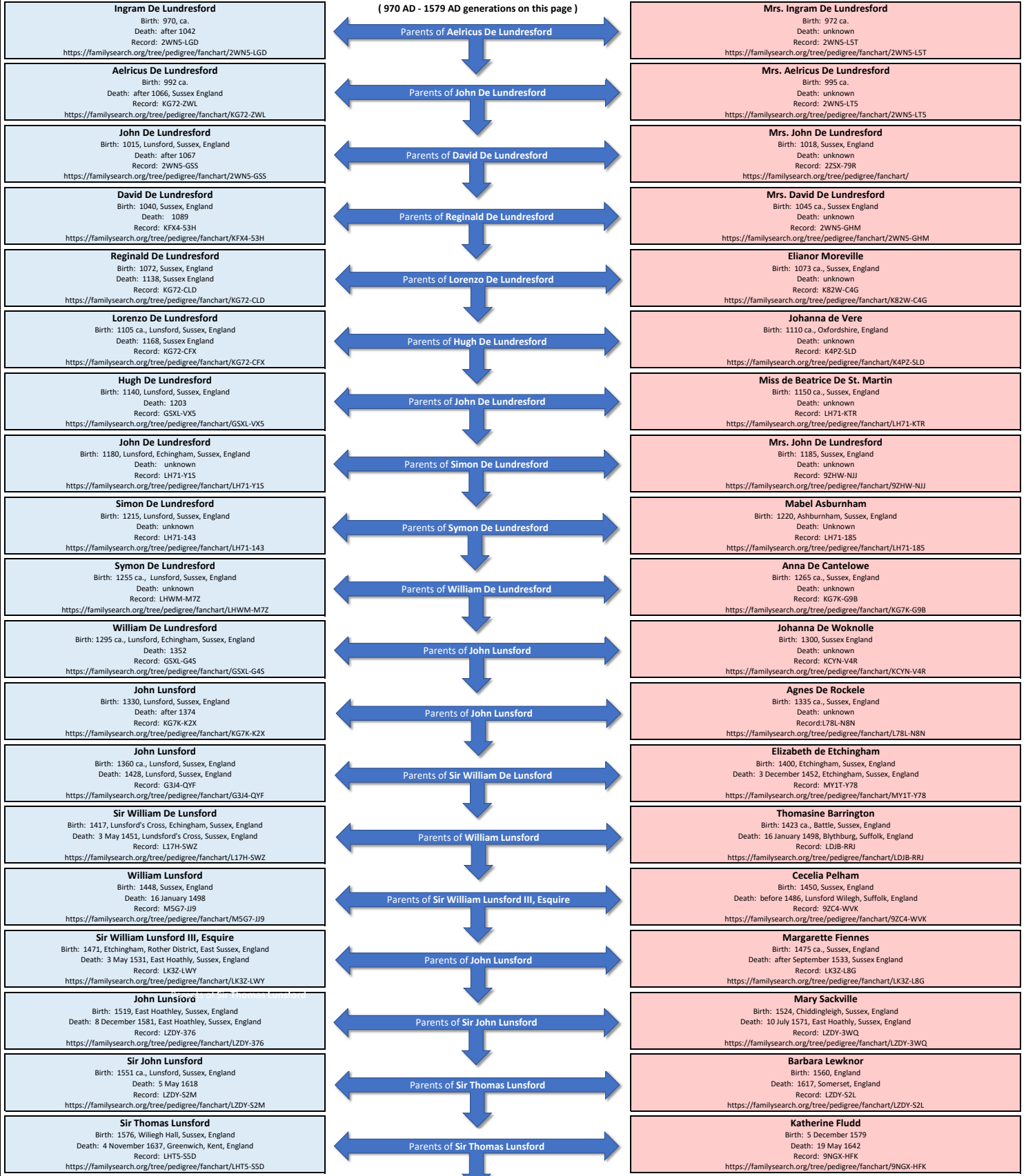


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Lunsford Lineage of Audie Leon Murphy*

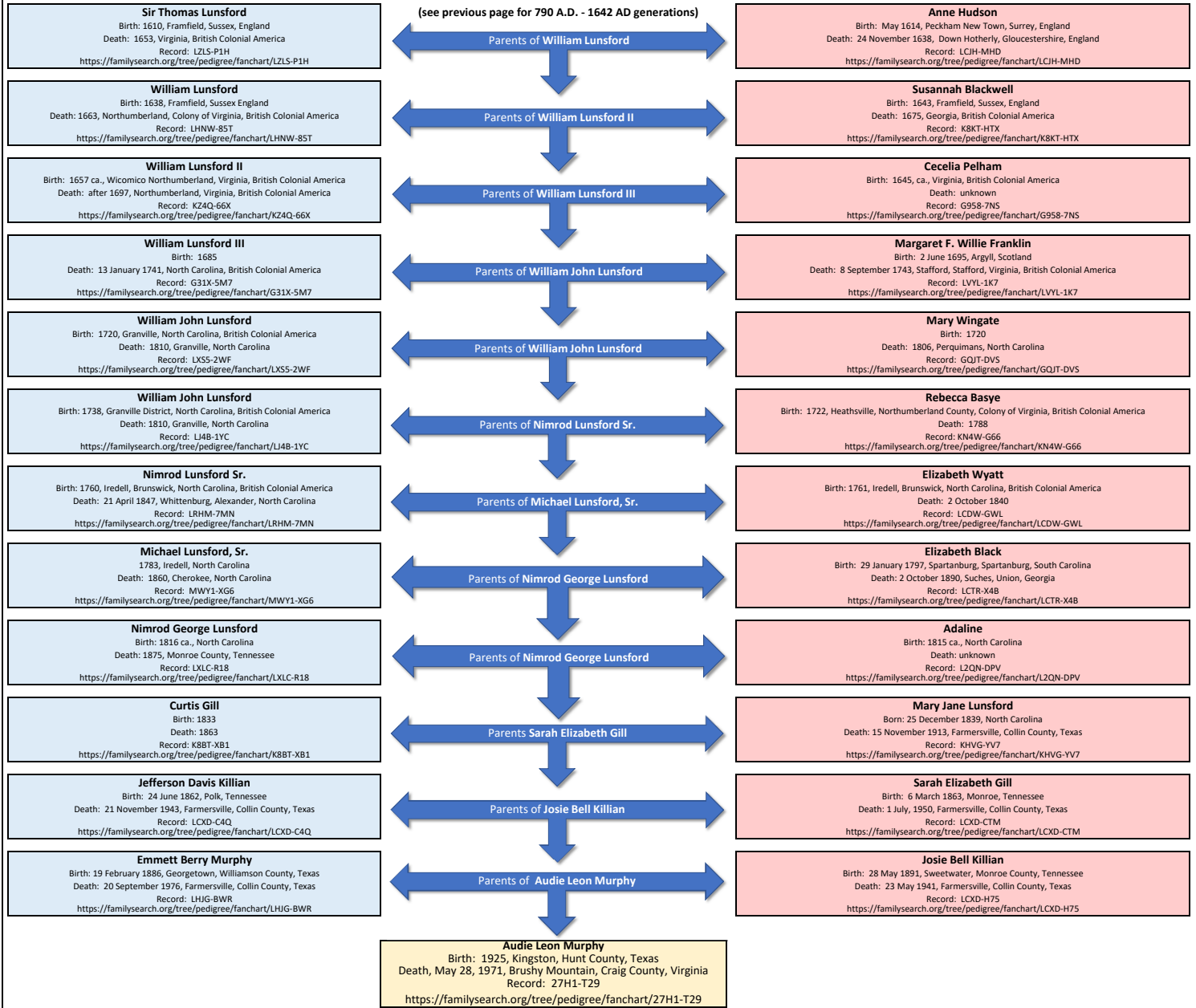
(970 AD - 1579 AD generations on this page)



(see next page for 1610 A.D. - 1971 AD generations)

* Sources:
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Lunsford Lineage of Audie Leon Murphy (continued)*



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