

The Society of Descendants of
KNIGHTS OF THE MOST NOBLE ORDER OF THE GARTER®
BOX 4944, PHILADELPHIA, PA 19119

[Facsimile only to 011-44-1753620165]

August 20, 1996

T. C. M. O'Donovan, Honorary Secretary
The Society of the Friends of St. George's & Descendants of the Knights of the Garter
The Curfew Tower, Windsor Castle, Berkshire SL41NJ England

Dear Mr. O'Donovan:

I would first like to thank you for the arrangements at Garter Day this past June. My seat in particular was excellent and enabled me to take some excellent video film. I hope to soon have a copy which I will send to you (I am attempting to deal with the format problem). Your hospitality at the tea was enjoyed by all of the group.

I was pleased to purchase in June a small book at the Chapel Bookstore called The Order of the Garter: Its Knights and Stall Plates 1348 to 1984. It is unique in that it has an excellent listing of all of the Knights through 1984. There are 963 Knights listed as well as approximately 80 Ladies of the Garter. Initially, I have focused on the Knights and have inserted a flag in the genealogical program to identify 520 of the 963. While I have found the process time consuming, I am pleased at my progress since June. Hopefully this Fall, I will be able to continue the project which is to include the ancestry of as many Knights as possible. You might be interested that when I conduct a search based on the flagged Knights who are descended from the Emperor Charlemagne, the result is 420. When I include flagged Knights who are spouses of descendants as well as descendants of the Emperor Charlemagne, the result is 493. The inclusion of this information in the genealogical program enables a speedy determination if a particular immigrant to America is descended from a Knight of the Garter. It appears that the previous emphasis of the Society has been on the descendants of the original twenty-five Knights. If you have an additional listing of the Knights since 1984, I will endeavor to include them also.

As I mentioned in my previous letter, I was pleased last April in Washington, DC at the interest expressed by members of the Society of Descendants of Knights of the Most Noble Order of the Garter in developing local chapters. To avoid confusion, I would suggest that our organization be the focus of activities in the United States. As I mentioned previously, I would have no hesitation in suggesting that members in the U.S. both join and contribute to your organization; in fact I am pleased at the number of members of the National Society Magna Charta Dames and Barons, participating in educational tours, who have joined your organization over the past several years.

I am interested in learning more about the present Knights and their focus and am particularly looking forward to our visit next week. I would welcome the opportunity to meet one or more of the present Knights. As our organization in the United States develops, I believe that the current perspective of the Knights would be helpful to consider and given the opportunity I would like to do so.

I am looking forward to seeing you in Windsor next week for the excellent program which you have arranged. Thank you again for your help.

Sincerely,



Lewis L. Neilson Jr., Chancellor