

# The Legend detective

Legends are legends but they hold the truth



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True tales from Ma'at  
The Goddess of truth

## Found King John's lost treasure

They seek it here they seek it there, that damned elusive treasure, lost they say to the incoming tide, which swept it away on the 12<sup>th</sup> October 1216.



But did the tide do it? Why did the King of England have his treasure with him? Who was after him? What could make him say the tide had taken it, when good detective work will show the King was lying and he stole it himself? Oh poor John, once you had proclaimed it lost, why was it you only had five days to live?

So have we found it, who took it, who fenced those jewels and gold, as it would be difficult in spending the odd diamond or gold crown. So where can it be found? For the answer to this is yes , but read on.

Now it came to pass that I invited my faithful companion, a certain Mrs G, onetime soldier, a speaker of 5 languages, an Israeli beauty, endowed



with wisdom, knowledge and understanding, she who had accompanied me on many of my past archaeological adventures, to come to England's fair and pleasant land to solve one of England's puzzles and find a treasure.

England, this royal throne of kings, this sceptered isle, this earth of majesty, this seat of Mars, this other Eden, this demi-Paradise, this fortress built by nature for herself against infection and the hand of war. This happy breed of men, this little world, this precious stone set in a silver sea, this blessed plot, this realm, this England.

This England, where King John says he lost his treasure, due to the incoming tide of the Norfolk Wash, a treasure not only we, but you, my gentle readers are going to find, for although I had a theory, it will be you who will see the logic, the motive and the opportunity for this to be a treasure, stolen and not

lost. To find this treasure I had a cunning plan of detailed research and the eye of a detective, for as you read on, you'll find all is not what it seemed.

Yes I know half the world has been looking for it, but will it hurt if one more of those, that the God's have made mad, go a searching, besides what better things to do, than doing something with a beautiful intelligent woman, of walks, talks and discovery, during our English summer months and then dinners in restaurants, to chew upon our findings.

So what better place to start than Lincoln, for it was here in 1216 that King John came to relieve Lincoln from his enemy's? So why was a king in his own land, going to the aid of Englishmen?

Now what most folk know of King John, was he was wicked and the mortal enemy of that famous fellow Robin Hood. But few realize just what a pickle our King, the brother of Richard the Lion Heart, was in. Richard was dead and John was King but not quite so. By the summer of 1216 Prince Louis of France was in London with an army of Scots rebels and his noble Lords, seeking to oust King John from his throne. John in turn hurries eastwards reaching Lincoln on the 28th of September and it's here we seem to lose him, although we can hazard a guess, as he eventually arrives in Bishops Lynn, now named Kings Lynn. So he's heading south, no doubt down that Roman road we know as Ermine Street, the A15, most certainly still a good road in medieval Britain, Thus logic says he stays on this ancient road as far as Grantham. Then I suggest he must have turned east on the A52 still on another Roman road, down to Swinehead Abbey.

We then learn that he's in Spalding, south of Swinehead and if he is to get to Bishops Lynn, then he must go east again to pick up the A17. If he did this then he would have missed crossing at Fosdyke, one of the places put forth as the place where the tide came in to swamp his treasure wagons.

You will see from your maps that the A17 now crosses The Wash to get to Bishops Lynne, where he is destined to stay but not for long. I say the A17 but I see no reason why this modern road wasn't built on a more ancient one, for the simple fact it's in a straight line from Spalding to King's Lynn. If there was a road further inland, then there'd be a town of some substance half way along it and of course there is and that town is Wisbech. But the fact that King John says later on his return from Kings Lynn that he took this safer route to Wisbech and then onto Swinehead, means there was a route nearer the Wash, and this can only be the present day A17.

But poor harassed King John is in big trouble. Firstly in 1207 he'd managed to upset the Pope Innocent III, all over the election of the Arch Bishop of Canterbury, with John refusing to accept the Popes nominee, so the Pope excommunicated him and the people of England. Sounds trivial, but it meant no more baptisms, no burial rites, no marriages and no Holy sacrament. The priesthood are now on an official strike. Secondly because John was considering converting to Islam, which in turn upset the nobility of England for they too would be heading for hell. Then in 1213, John reconciles himself with the Pope by selling him England and promising to pay the Pope an annual rent. Amazingly the Pope fell for it. So here we have a mortgage deal, where the Pope becomes the landlord of England and John the tenant of this fair and pleasant land. Now as all landlords know, you might expect the first months rent but you have to push for the second and King John the tenant, was no better, for he paid once then paid no more. But we should also consider you don't buy a business, house or country and then pay a yearly rent if, in this case the Pope hadn't paid King John a sum for this England. So it is possible some of this money, paid by the Pope in 1213 was still in part of King John's treasure. Is it possible with him loosing his treasure, being a good way of crying out of his debt to the Pope, for as any judge will tell you, you might owe the money but 'You can't get blood out of stone'. I should add here, that the Crown of England, sold with all due legal documentation, is still legally the Vatican's to this day. But as the Pope has no vast army to make this case stick, the case still rests a moldering in the Vatican archives.

So here we be and the year that every school boy should know is 1215. The Barons are having none of it and call John to account at Runnymede, with the writing up of that great Charter of human rights, the Magna Carta. To which a reluctant King John signed and then immediately applied to the Pope (now his Lord), to have it annulled, which the Pope promptly did. For we must remember John had paid the Pope the annual rent for 1214 and the Pope, the new owner of England was expecting a second, so he is going to annul this Magna Carta, as he didn't like the sound of all this liberalism either.

We know John has his treasure with him, so he must have taken this from the Tower of London but more likely Westminster Abbey, although some say held by his bankers, the Templars, before Louis, the French king's son had arrived. The Templars seems interesting for we shall bump into them again. So here we have a monarch with his treasure, hot footing it northwards, a treasure that the French King would have known all about and a very good reason, apart from killing John, who was, as were the people of his realm, excommunicated from the pleasures of the hereafter and the protection of God. In short by being excommunicated, King John was an outlaw and so could be murdered or killed with God's blessing by any man, even if he succeeded or not..

We are also told that John, even in this great crisis of his life, still took time off to plunder a few abbeys, which must have swelled his treasure chests and annoyed the holy brethren.

So here we have Prince Louis, proclaimed King of England by the Barons. Proclaimed yes, but not crowned because that sacred crown of St Edward the Confessor was needed, to make you that 100% king and that crown, was part of King John's treasure and he wasn't going to give it up, a good reason why Louis, sitting on the throne of England was after it hot foot. So here is the motive and a reason to how to lose that crown of kingship, get Louis off his back and make it impossible for Louis to be crowned. The only problem was how.

However in those days that A17 would have been no more than logs and branches, forming a rough road over these marches and would have been prone to being covered every now and then by a Spring tide, not just a high tide and even then if the wind was behind it. It was also well recorded that to cross this in those days you needed a guide, when that unusual tide did come in. Nevertheless it was considered a reasonable safe route, otherwise if too dangerous, then there wouldn't have been a route or a guide, ready to take a chance on losing his own life. Likewise John must have heard stories of people and cattle lost in crossing the wash, made more horrendous in the telling by whoever was your guide, for the greater the danger, then hopefully a greater fee for the guide. So I think that hearing these stories and spending the night at Bishop's Lynn, now called King's Lynn, John formulates his cunning plan, of losing his treasure but not losing it.

However we should not forget this incoming tide. For a good powerful swift acting tide, we need a Spring Tide. Was there one on or near to the 13th of October 1216 when John reaches Kings Lynn some 15 days after leaving Lincoln? This I cannot find but I'm sure we could calculate the moons position at this time to add substance to it or not. We also need a strong easterly wind blowing that tide into the Wash. If we have these then one can expect the waters to come in rapidly but then the locals and especially the guide would have been aware of what to expect and refused to go. The locals might not have known about the mechanics of Sun and Moon that caused Spring Tides but folklore would have told them so.

So I present to you a situation that as King John came over this track to King's Lynn he would have heard what could happen if the tide came rushing, flooding in and it was these thoughts that gave him a cunning plan. What we can be sure of, was that King John didn't know this route was dangerous when he first started to cross, then once he was on it, I suspect this is the time the guide, who must have had the King's ear, as the guide was now in charge of this crossing, would he have dropped the hint of the possible dangers involved in this crossing. I think we can say that had the King heard of these dangers beforehand, he wouldn't have taken his treasure over in the first place.

Now one of the reasons he was being harrowed around his England was that he was dragging his vast wealth with him. Could he have thought, if only I could be rid of this impediment, he'd be given some peace and time to get the English barons back on his side? If so, it was at King's Lynn that he thought about it and it was at King's Lynn some 790 years later that Mrs G and I thought up another story as to what happened to this treasure.

We considered it possible that King John could have thought up this cunning scenario. A story where he can say he lost not by a band of outlaws such as our Robin Hood because they can be found but what if it was by a power greater than anything, the power of Neptune himself. Is it possible he can say he'd lost his treasure to the incoming tide, yet still have it? So he weaves a story whereby he will say that he instructs his retainers to take his treasure back over the wash to Swinehead Abbey, along that

A17, the dangerous route, but he will take the safe route and go to Wisbech then come down towards the coast and meet up with them at Swinehead. Sounds good, except it's ridiculous, for he actually records the one route to be safe and the other dangerous and no one, especially cunning John is going to do this except that he wants this emphasised.

Full of flaws this may be but the biggest flaw is he'll need help and the help he's got, is the loyal barons who are still with him. But are they loyal?

Now I put it to you, you and your companions are being chased by some muggers and in your back pocket is a thousand pounds. You know it's that thousand pounds they're after and if you hadn't got it, they just might leave you alone. So you give out the story that you've sent your companions with that thousand pounds, back along the dangerous route, where the muggers hang out. I put it to you, would any man part with this wealth to anyone, to take it down a dangerous route, where everyone is telling him he will lose it. But you see by telling the muggers you're sending the money their way, you can go another way with your money intact and in this case the mugger's is that incoming tide.

We next read that John says he gets to Swinehead and discovers not only has he lost his treasure but there wasn't even a survivor to tell the tale, which brings up the question who was it that told him? You will also notice that John who is alive, has got to have a reason why he wasn't washed away with this tide and that's why he has to have his two routes, the safe one for him, and the dangerous one for his treasure. Although in mitigation he does say that he saw the disaster happen from the high ground at Wisbech.

Now there are two places where archaeologists suggest John lost his treasure. One is at Sutton Bridge and the other is further along the A17 at Fosdyke, another bridge over the river Welland. If John wants to see this then he's got good eyes, for Fosdyke is 16 miles from Wisbech, whilst Sutton Bridge 7 miles from Wisbech. So to see it disappear at Fosdyke he'd need to see over the horizon. Whilst 7 miles from Wisbech to Sutton Bridge, again over the horizon and one would need to be able to see a 2mm ant, from a distance of 12 meters.

We should not forget, that if he does see this, then the tide is in. But if the tide is in, then it was well on its way to coming in when his wagon train left King's Lynn. If this was so, everybody in King's Lynn, including the guide, would have warned him not to go, for trouble was on its way.

Likewise if he could see the disaster from Wisbech then the route taken by his wagon from Kings Lynn to Sutton Bridge was 9 miles and the distance from Kings Lynn to Wisbech was 12 miles, so for the want of 3 miles, why didn't the wagons go with him, the safe route? There is only one answer, King John was lying, so why should he lie? He is lying to endorse the fact that the most truthful witness one could ask for, was the King himself and if he says it happened, then it's got to be true.

I also like the fact there were no survivors, for its true, dead men tell no tales. Better still to our scenario, he never goes back to where this disaster was supposed to have happened, to search for what might be left, why? Is it because he knows there's nothing going to be found?

As for the Fosdyke crossing of the tidal river Welland, we should remember that if John was coming from Spalding to King's Lynn, he would not have crossed the Welland at Fosdyke, but have continued east and so it will be at Sutton Bridge that he'd have been told this was the dangerous spot. Yet on John's return west going to Swinehead Abbey he would have crossed the river Welland at Fosdyke

Now Mrs G and I did go to where the tide comes in, not to search for treasure but to see what the tide does. So there we were being blown to pieces as the wind came hurtling over the North Sea and there was the rubbish, dumped years ago, still sticking up in the mud. I say years ago for these items were years old but we should remember John's lost treasure would only be two days old. Surely something would have been left, something that floated, for as we observed the tide as it went out, anything that floated went with it, but on the incoming tide we noticed it brought back much of what it took out and would do so for many days to come. As to items that would have floated, may I suggest man, beast and broken carts?

We should also examine that tide. We know that a tide comes in twice a day and goes out twice a day. So assuming our low tide is out a midnight it will be in again at 6am and going out up until noon, then coming back by 6pm and out again at Midnight, except, there is a 15 minute variation on each tide, due to the moon's rotation around the earth. So give it a day and low tide will be 30 minutes after

Midnight. So one can see there is only a narrow window when one can cross Sutton Bridge, if one is to start walking from King's Lynn, which is 9 miles from Sutton Bridge, say 3 hours of travel. If they leave at sun rise, say 7-00 am in October, then it's logical that the guide will get them there and hope to cross for 10-00am, when the tides is out. So we can say that they crossed it a low tide and that it was daylight at 10am. Another thing we can say is that Kings require the best advice. So the King would have had the best local guide available and it would be he who would say when they crossed.

.. However if one insists that this treasure could have crossed the Welland at Fosdyke, this is 24 miles from Kings Lynn so if we use the same times as above and leave at 7-00am and it will roughly take 8 hours to get to Fosdyke, then we're going to be there at 3-00pm, if we want our tide to be out. But if this is now low tide at Fosdyke it's also low tide at Sutton Bridge. Now this is the complicated bit, to stick to this time schedule then they must be crossing Sutton Bridge, some 9 miles from Kings Lynne at 10-00am and here it would be a tide well on its way to being a high tide. So you see, due to the time taken to travel from Sutton Bridge to Fosdyke if you want Fosdyke to be low tide as you pass by Sutton Bridge, it will be nearly high tide and a place to stay away from.

Mrs G and I have put down these distances from the map and assumed they are walking at 3 miles per hour but we suggest it could be slower, for there is one thing we've nearly forgotten and that is those oxen. Oxen unlike horses, need to stop to chew the cud, so you can't whip oxen on all day. So we suggest that due to the slower pace it could be its high tide at Sutton Bridge if they want to reach Fosdyke at low tide. Therefore I can't see how they crossed both crossings at low tide and in one move. Yet if you want to get to Swinehead Abbey, by a direct route this is the way you must go.

So the way we see it is, that on the return trip, none of the crossing points took place, because John had his treasure with him all the time, at Wisbech. Now for his progress to Swinehead Abbey and here we suggest John starts sending messages far and wide, especially London, to declare his treasure lost and how it got lost and for this to work the barons who are with him have to be in on the plot. Also because this is high politics he certainly wouldn't have made his plan privy to the lowly wagon drivers or his soldiers because they would have known this to be untrue. So John, alive and well arrives at Swinehead Abbey and there he sits himself down to feasting.

Oh John, oh John, what you don't realise is, you've told the world that your treasures been lost, the very true words of a King and now you're real troubles are about to begin, for your treasure is now about to be stolen by others and the beauty of this is, it can't be stolen and nobody is going to look for a thief, when you've proclaimed it's already been carried away by that tide. Worse still the only way this can be done is to kill the King.

But one thing is certain, John is still alive when they get to Swinehead Abbey on 12/13th and is as dead as the proverbial Dodo, at Newark, on 18/19th of October 1216.

It is said, John was feeling ill at Kings Lynn but this could have been added in later, to prolong the so called illness, not the sudden dearth that would come 5or 6 days later, for at Swinehead he's eating well. Well enough to over indulge or to get poisoned. So between Kings Lynn and Swinehead, John's got time to spread his cunning story, of his treasure and the tide, especially in the direction of London.

So John arrives at Swinehead Abbey gets stuck in to a large portion of lampreys and was immediately ill, followed by diarrhoea, a good sign of some form of poison and that he wasn't that ill to be put off by a large dish.

We next get the story that Brother Simon of that Abbey says, the King was poisoned. If this was local tittle-tattle, why was it recorded? Then it is recorded that some 'Spin doctor' says. 'It was Brother Simon that poisoned him and ran off with the treasure to France'. But how could he, when the king has proclaimed he lost it in the tidal Wash. Even that doesn't make sense, for how could a lowly priest do this with all the Kings supporters around? How could he organise wagons and oxen to do this and not be caught next day? He couldn't but somebody could and he would have had to have been very powerful indeed.

But did Simon poison the King? The story goes that Simon was once a Knight Templar, interestingly in the same order as William Marshall, and as they were both at Swinehead abbey, is it possible they conversed, if only upon their adventures in the Holy Land? We read that the Abbott of

Swinehead was a certain William, who had a beautiful daughter Judith, a nun and chaste, whom King John took a fancy to this maid, instructing the Abbot William to have her brought to his private quarters at the Abbey. Now if John was ill at Kings Lynn, he couldn't have been that ill when he got to the Abbey, if his thoughts turned to carnal matters. Nevertheless we read that Simon seems to have a care for this very same Judith as does William her father who now absolves Simon of any sin if he kills the King. I trust you can see that this arrangement, if the story is true, means both William and Simon must have collaborated for some time on this plot. Nevertheless Simon decides to poison the king. He goes about this by making up a number of dishes or fruits, which he convinces the King to eat. But John is wary and tells Simon to take one himself. This Simon does, for he has prepared one fruit or dish, to be free of poison but John is still wary and tells him to eat two more. Again Simon does and so convinced is the King, that he consumes the other. Simon we are told now leaves the room and promptly dies. A good story and you'll notice William Marshall's name is never mentioned, yet here are two Knight Templar's, living under the same roof. True I'm guessing but that's what detectives are supposed to do. Could it therefore be that Bishop William was but a name change for William Marshall? Could it be, Judith was

Whoever passed on this rumour obviously didn't think it was lost in the Wash. Here I think someone or even two, have shot themselves in the foot, for let me put it this way, perhaps Simon is telling the truth, the King had been poisoned and to quell this, a report goes out from high authority, rather like the false reports given out by Tony Blair and his need for the Iraq war, saying it was the monk who poisoned the King and it was he that ran off with the treasure, when the simplest answer should have been. 'The monk's a fool, it was lost in the Wash, just as the King said it was'.

We know the King feasted well at King's Lynn, perhaps he did have tummy upset but Mrs G and I don't consider it wasn't here he was poisoned, but it was here that he thought up the grand plan and in thinking, he would have to have confided in those closest to him.

Now I want you to imagine you are listening intently to the King, explaining this faked loss of his treasure. How long would it take you to realise that once it was proclaimed lost, then it doesn't exist, so if it now gets stolen, where is the proof, if the King himself has already proclaimed this loss. So what we propose is, someone, high in the Kings authority, does think of this and is immediately presented with a number of problems. That he will need assistance, the King must die and that this can't happen until the King has crossed the tidal wash.

True it is recorded that John felt unwell at Kings Lynn but this could have been added in later to give substance to a longer illness than what it was, being the 5 days from Swinehead to Newark. In fact if you think about it, the King can't have been ill at King's Lynn, otherwise he'd have stayed there longer. But for Brother Simon to know about the poisoning then it must have taken place at Swinehead Abbey, simply because if Simon is reporting it, and it's at Abbeys, you find monks.

So I'm going to suggest that Brother Simon worked in the kitchens of Swinehead Abbey, for poisons in those days generally came in your food. Now working in the kitchens might not have been Simon's normal job but we do know that when the King feasted with all his followers, there was an awfully lot of cooking going on, definitely a case of every monk to the kitchen.

But is there another killer in the background? You remember John sold England to the Pope then defaulted on the deal. How would the Pope feel about this? Can we say at least revengeful? So how could the Pope added to this scenario? What we know is William Marshall was a Knight Templar, whether brother Simon existed, we can't be sure but if he did, then as the story goes, he too was once a Knight Templar. But who were the Knight Templar's? They were the personal body guard to the Pope. True the Pope wasn't there but this defaulting business had happened 3 years before, so its rational and logical that the Pope has put the word about, 'Get me King John' and here is the perfect situation for the Pope to get his revenge via the Abbott William and the two loyal Templar's.

My thoughts turned on, if the Pope ordered this 'Hit' then naturally he'd have asked for the treasure and if so then it would be in Rome we would find it. So was the Pope ordering this 'Hit'? I don't think so, as the situation arose so quickly that the Pope in Rome couldn't have been told and replied in such a short a time. But William the Abbot could certainly talk on the Pope's behalf. Besides by the time King John gets sick, he has already proclaimed the treasure is lost to the tide. Therefore there is no

need for his loyal Templars to enlighten him and if brother Simon is now dead, that leaves only one. One indeed but the one who is now King in all matter, except in name, William Marshall

But John isn't dead yet and although ill and getting sicker, he is transported back up north probably heading for his loyal supporter at Nottingham, except he only gets to Newark where he dies on the 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> of October. It is when this happens, that Brother Simon puts two and two together and blurts out that the King was poisoned. I wonder what happened to Brother Simon, did he end up committing suicide like Dr Kelly of 2003 AD or was he allowed to go on saying the King was poisoned. What we do know is those in authority gave out the story that went into every school book thereafter, that King John lost his treasure in the Wash .

We also read that on the King's death his royal household were more concerned with plundering his possessions, than with mourning him.

Initially we did think this story of the monk running off with the treasure, far fetched but then again was it? Somewhere a long the line the Kings treasure has got to disappear. We would suggest if King John is poisoned at Swinehead then his first concern is where to get better. As far as he's concerned, his treasure is in good hands with his loyal followers. Then again the King might already be dead when he leaves Swinehead Abbey, for surely the Abbey was the best hospital for the Kings recovery. The removal of the Kings strikes us as suspicious for this reason. After all it will be William Marshall whose word will now be taken as to where the King dies. So back to the story of that the monk who ran off with it. What isn't, said is how far he went with it. Now the monk is a Templar, William Marshall is a Templar, are they both in the scam? I think we can say that the treasure wasn't at Newark where the King is supposed to have died, 4 days after leaving Swinehead, for the simple reason it's already proclaimed as lost. So if it wasn't lost in the tide then it was secreted away at Swinehead Abbey and we suggest that the treasure was broken up here, sold on through an unsuspecting Fence, who you'll read upon later. So we suggest to any future treasure hunters or archaeologist, that they might one day, find the remains of this at Swinehead Abbey.

So who could have stolen John's treasure and get away with it. To find him we need to find someone powerful enough to get away with it and become a big spender. It is here we should eliminate one of the prime suspects and that was is his queen, Isabella of Angouleme. If she'd have been present then it would have been her who would have been in command but she wasn't, she was at Bristol. So who was the next in command?

Enter William Marshall, 1st Earl of Pembrookeshire, the greatest knight in combat and chivalry in Europe. He grew to prominence in Henry II reign, was loyal to King Richard the Lion heart and now a loyal follower of Richard's brother, King John, or was he?

We read that John had a bad habit of upsetting his nobles by sleeping with their wives. On one occasion a certain noble substituted a prostitute for his wife and when John taunted him next day, on his wives talents, the noble enlightened his monarch as to whom he's slept with, then fled the court and country. We read John trusted no one and treated them with disdain. We are told that John was accused of killing off his relatives to keep his throne. Worse still John sent a force to Ireland to lay waste to William's lands, burning down the town of New Ross. We are told that John liked to taunt William Marshall but are told William bore the taunts, but did he feel the slights. What we are not told, is what did William and the nobles really think of our wicked King John?

So was William staying loyal to John because John was the last surviving son of King Henry II, William's true friend? Staying loyal because he wanted to see John's son, the future Henry III on the throne, rather than the French King! Staying loyal until he discovered John's plan of pretending to lose the great treasure in the sea but in reality keeping it for himself. Was this the straw that broke William's loyal back? Perhaps and in this turmoil of would John be king or not, with the English barons considering taking the French Prince Louis as their English sovereign, William considers his chances of absconding with that treasure, that to all intents and purposes no longer existed, which can only be done once the King was dead.

William was certainly present at the king's death, he certainly had the power at his death, as King John's son, the next king, Henry III, was only 9 at the time and of course it was William Marshall

who became the regent, until Henry was 16 and old enough to rule. So William looks like our thief but was he a big spender? He was, for it is now he converts Caversham manor, near Reading into a castle which in turn need big money.

Yet there is one tantalizing snippet, there was one piece of treasure that didn't get lost or stolen, the Great Crown of England, the crown of Edward the Confessor. Why didn't that go into the drink with the rest of John's treasure or later into the melting pot of William Marshall? Was it because it was old and venerable, as to be almost a relic, for by 1216, it would be some 150 years old? This was the crown every King was crowned with, since William the Conqueror. Perhaps this crown was with John all the time, never out of his sight, simply because no King could be rightfully crowned without it? Whatever the answer, this crown was not used to crown young Henry III, seven years hence. For this, a chaplet or small crown was used, possibly to support the story that this crown was also lost with the King treasure. But why, when it turns up to be used to crown Henry VIII's second wife, Anne Boleyn. Why, when it was still in existence in c 1650, when it was sold by Parliament, during Oliver Cromwell's protectorate. Could it be that to present it in 1221 would create questions, to which there were no answers, except theft?

One thing for sure, if William Marshall is the regent, a powerful noble indeed, he's not powerful enough to crown himself king. If he wants to stay powerful then it's to be regent to the young prince, the future king Henry III. Logic tells us that this crown was an important part of King John's treasure, it also tells us whoever had it or saved it, also had the rest of that treasure. As William Marshall never mentions this was found or recovered or that he received it from anyone, then that crown must have come directly from William. In short, he was in possession of goods supposedly lost. If he was, then it stands to reason he must have been in possession of the rest.

Of course one could say William would have needed help, in secreting this treasure away. He'd need men and carts so why didn't someone 'spill the beans'. I think William's position was such that he had very loyal retainers, who couldn't hope to gain a thing by revealing the truth and might have lost their lives in doing so. After all who would believe them when King John had already proclaimed his treasure was now in 'Davy Jones's locker' and lost forever.

Apart from stealing this so called lost treasure there was another important fact we can not dismiss. King John is hot footing it around his England trying to rally support so that he can kick the French King off his throne in Westminster but this was going to be hard for most of the English barons were supporting this very King. How could John get them to support him? The only way was for John to die and his youthful son to become the next King. With the hated King John dead the barons would come back and I'm pretty sure this point hadn't been missed by William Marshall. So with the loss of that treasure, that he would keep, here was another reason why the King must die.

Now after all that we've nearly forgotten the most important guy in this scenario, known in the trade of moving on 'tricky' goods, he's known as the 'The Fence'. For I put it to you there is no way, William is going to pay the builders of Caversham Castle with jewels, yet jewels there will be, so who could be the 'Fence', who would convert these precious stones into cash. Like that film with Gregory Peck, 'The Million pound note', a note no one can spend, because no one has the change to give you. Likewise there's no way William or whoever the thief was, going around with a nudge, nudge, wink, wink, saying, 'Who wants to buy my baubles'.

Now at that time there was one race of people in this land, well established at Bristol, Cambridge, York, and many other budding cities, who were well travelled, well connected and used to converting jewellery into cash. They were the Jews, who were first brought to England by William the Conqueror to stimulate trade and commerce. I suppose you could call them bankers to the nobility. It is also well documented that they flourished even more so in the reign of Henry III and that Henry's reign of 50 odd years was a prosperous reign for our nation, due to them and their financial system, which allows Kings to raise cash. Also and not without merit any 'Fencing' done by anyone, needs to be done in secret and one thing about Jews, they knew how to be discrete, certainly not prone to go spilling the news to all and sundry. So here is the perfect person for William to deal with.



Now comes the tricky bit, can we name after some 800 years, our 'Fence'? I think we can, for it is known that in 1240, right in the midst of Henry III's reign, was the most prosperous Jew of them all, Abraham of Berkhamstead and you'll notice Berkhamstead is a town only 26 miles north of Caversham and it was at Caversham that William Marshall died in 1219. Time enough from 1216 to 1219 to build his castle and launder that treasure. You'll also notice that Abraham didn't become notoriously rich until 1240, which suggests this resulted in the accumulation of deals he could have done with William Marshall, when he was regent from 1216. William was still was Regent of all England until 1219 so for the next 20 years Abraham had time enough for that profit to have matured into making Abraham rich. .

Let us therefore look more closely at Abraham. Records show he was Jewish, lived at Berkhamstead and was moved from there to Wallingford, probably forcibly with the rest of the Jewish community living at Berkhamstead, by Prince Richard, Earl of Cornwall, brother to Henry III. Richard became rich himself for he had been granted the tax that all Jews must pay on being in this country. So Wallingford became the new Jewish community.

But why were Jews rich so much so that it turned the world against them. They were rich because of a Christian doctrine that said it was a sin to lend money. Now, we all know that if you can borrow money, and your project is worthy of that loan, then you, and of course your country can prosper. We all know the property market is one way to get richer but we'd never get onto the property ladder if we couldn't get a loan. Likewise who wants to take the risk of lending you that lone if there isn't a reward, called interest? It is interest that offsets the loss, if that project went wrong. So Christians couldn't loan if they wanted to get to heaven, but Jews who were the followers of Moses but not Jesus, could. So it was the Jew you turned to for some ready cash.

And a footnote to this is, if Jews had been treated more kindly, how prosperous Britain would have been today if they had been allowed to become bankers some 700 years before banking was accepted in Britain. How fortunate Hitler would have been, if instead of persecuting the Jews he'd have worked with them, for it was Albert Einstein, a Jew who fled Nazi persecution to America who was the father of the atomic bomb and it was Oppenheim a Jew, who made it. But then on reflection it was just as well Hitler did what he did otherwise he'd have won.

But how can I connect Abraham to knowing William Marshall? Its Abraham's future life that tell us there is a strong connection with this lad and the royal family. I put it to you how can a Jew get these connections? They have to start somewhere, someone of royalty has to have been introduced to him and the only way that will happen is, if some royal or noble person does the introductions. Also without doubt the only reason for this introduction is to borrow money, bet it for the selling of jewels or buying them.

Richard was born in 1209 so he'll be 7 when his father, King John dies, in 1216. Now the interesting thing is, Richard marries in 1231, the Lady Isabella Marshall, the daughter of our very own William Marshall. Isabella Marshall was the wealthy widow of Gilbert de Clare Earl of Gloucester whom she had married in 1217 when she was 17, she was therefore too old to marry Richard who at the time would be 8. When they did marry it was much to the displeasure of his brother Henry III, who feared the Marshall family, because they were rich, influential and often opposed him. Once again up pops this business of the Marshall's being rich and for anyone especially a King in those days, to get worked up about your riches, meant you were seriously rich.

Could it be that it was Isabella who was the contact? What we do know is Isabella dies at Berkhamstead castle in 1240. If she was there then Richard was there and we do know Abraham was there. To which you'll agree it's a bit more than a coincidence.

Where Richard was, after his wife's death we don't know but in 1249 Richard builds his own castle at Wallingford and I suggest it now that Richard moves all the Jews from Berkhamstead to Wallingford. So is it possible that Richard Duke of Cornwall knew our Abraham? He most certainly did, for in 1254 Abraham is accused by Simon De Montfort of financial misappropriation and is imprisoned in the Tower of London. Why the Tower, what was wrong with Wallingford jail? I think we can say the Tower was for important persons. So it's in the Tower that Abraham is sent but it is by the grace of Richard, Duke of Cornwall that he gets released. Why, because, as it says, Richard was a good friend of Abraham.

Interestingly after Abrahams release he's now known as Prince Richard's personal Jew, personal banker perhaps.



**Henry III crown at Gloucester Cathedral**

There is another story of why Abraham was sent to the Tower and that was because he murdered his own wife Floria. The story goes that Abraham was not happy with the Christian faith, having no belief that Jesus was the messiah of his people. So it is said he kept a picture of the Virgin Mary and child in his toilet. When he found his wife Floria had cleaned the picture, he flew into a rage and strangled her, which is as far as you can get, from fiddling the financial books, to murder.

Besides if it was murder you have to have a body so what happened to Floria's body? This to me smells of a trumpet up charge of blasphemy and I suggest this is was trumpet up by Simon De Montfort to get Abraham the Jew, in his pocket as his personal Jew. Whether it was or it wasn't, Abraham the Jew gets released, which in those days was a miracle for a Jew.

So here I suggest is the prime suspect of who received the goodies of King John's treasure. I suggest it was Abraham who was instructed to take the jewels abroad to his fellow countrymen, to get them sold, re-cut, re-fashioned and then sent via the network of Jewish merchants, to the rich courts of Europe to make some noble lady happy. For who were the workers of precious jewels, who were the cutters and shapers of diamonds, who were the gold smiths who could do all these things? The Jews. I trust you can see, that there has to be a number of expensive transactions taking place for Abraham to become rich and I trust you can see that without this Jewish network there will be no hard cash coming in to pay the craftsmen building your castle.

But then again if my story holds water, somebody one day, might stumble upon a secret stash of 'goodies' not in Berkhamstead but in Wallingford for that's the town where Old Abraham ends up. There some archaeologist just might find a little stash of something that old Abraham forgot to tell his children or the Duke of Cornwall, before he too became part of history.

As for Caversham castle, we're told it was once situated in what is now Caversham Park. It has long since gone but there was a new mansion built and after a number of fires rebuilt again and now it's the BBC World Monitoring station, as well as Radio Reading, except even the truthful BBC is not telling the whole the truth, for Radio Reading is broadcast from Oxford.

So it was with some satisfaction that Mrs G and I retired, of course to separate rooms, for the night, to consider here is a scenario that might detour men with spades, going off to dig in the Wash, for we consider Caversham castle, is the residue of King John's treasure.

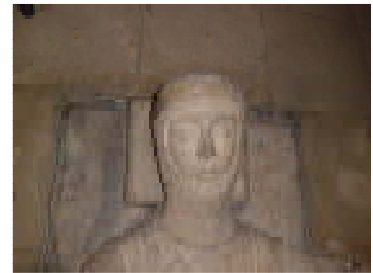
And as a final farewell to this story, if you want to visit King John you'll find his body now lies in Worcester Cathedral. It was John's last request that he should be buried here, rather than at Westminster. This was probably because the French Prince Louis was still in control of London and would be until 1217. However and here is another puzzle, I said his body but his entrails were removed at his death and taken by the Canons of the order of Premonstratensians of St Norbert, to be buried at Croxton abbey and the question must be, why? Could this business of John being poisoned have anything to do with it? Could it be they, whoever the prisoners' were didn't want the Bishop of Worcester to notice anything suspicious?

So if you're ever there, go and visit him, for I'm sure he'd be happy to know you still thought of him, if only for his cunning, Robin Hood and his treasure.

Willia



As for William Marshal, go to London; take the underground train to the Temple tube station, then find the Temple church, set in the great Inner Temple complex of the legal profession. As you enter this 12<sup>th</sup> century church, the church of that religious warrior order, the Knights Templar, you will as you enter this ancient church building, built by the Knights, as a replica of the Holy Church in Jerusalem, find the First Earl of Pembroke, Sir Williams Marshal's armoured effigy, lying next to his son William the Second Earl of Pembroke .



**William Marshal First Earl Pembroke**

Here are the characters of our story. Look into his eyes; do you think he had the guts to kill a King for his wealth? If in doubt, remember to be buried in this Cathedral, you needed serious money

**William Marshal Second Earl Pembroke**