

Chapter 1 (11-01-11)

Queen Elizabeth could act any part she pleased but so could the Floyd Family biographers-- Davis Floyd's Unlikely Ancestors.

Was there a John Floyd who was one of Davis Floyd's ancestors, who was born in Wales in 1570, fought against the Spanish Armada under Queen Elizabeth in 1588, who was knighted by her, who married one of her ladies-in-waiting, and who had children by the latter?

Was this person a Jesuit priest?

What was England like when John Floyd supposedly lived there in the late 16th and early 17th centuries.

Understanding Davis Floyd

This book is about Davis Floyd but in order to understand his character, temperament, personality, passions, disposition, spirit, moral fiber, and makeup, it is imperative that an examination be made of his ancestry including both facts and myths. The first three chapters of this book provide the foundation to understand the personage of Davis Floyd. Floyd had three immense setbacks in his life. The first was the result of his involvement with Aaron Burr in 1805-1807 and with the slavery issue in the young Indiana Territory in 1800-1808. Because of these factors in 1808 he lost his clerkship in the Territorial House of Representatives, his commission as a major in the Indiana militia, and his commission as a pilot at the Falls of the Ohio. Gov. William Henry Harrison got his revenge against Floyd. The second event was the death of his first wife, Suzanna "Suzie" Johnston Lewis. When Floyd married her in 1794 he was twenty years of age and she was fourteen years old, a widow, and pregnant. History does not record the circumstances of her death in 1808. She lived in

Clarksville and Jeffersonville with her husband and family from 1800 until her death. When she died she left Floyd with her first child born to her and her first husband and three children born to her and Floyd. Floyd wasted no time in marrying the widow of Judge Thomas Terry Davis, Elizabeth Robards Davis, born on April 24, 1776. They were married on March 20, 1809 in Jessamine County, Kentucky, where her father and his second wife were living. Elizabeth or "Betsey" as she was called was 32 years of age and he was 35. The third event was the Panic of 1819. Indiana grew from about 60,000 inhabitants in 1815 to about 140,000 inhabitants in 1820. These were boom times in the young state and for Floyd. In 1817 he was appointed the President Judge of the Second Judicial Circuit in Indiana which included the central section of Indiana from the Ohio River north. New counties were routinely being added or old counties divided. Floyd had business interests which included a mercantile store in Corydon, he was a director of the Corydon branch of the Indiana Bank at Vincennes, he owned a brick kiln, he may have made gunpowder, he owned farm land, and he built two houses in Corydon, one in which he and his family lived. Floyd lost everything in the Panic of 1819 and the following depression. He and his family partially recovered in 1823 by moving permanently to the brand new Florida Territory where he would die in 1831, the owner of one or more slaves.

John Floyd Born in Wales

Davis Floyd can supposedly trace his ancestry to a John Floyd who was born in Wales around 1570. It is confusing who this John Floyd was. It is believed that John Floyd's sons landed in Jamestown, Virginia, about sixteen years after its settlement in 1607. Their names were Nathaniel and Walter. Nathaniel was born around 1599. There is a record of Nathaniel Floyd, a Welshman, and sixteen other persons arriving in Jamestown in 1623 in a vessel owned by him. The vessel's name was recorded as the "Nova." According to the Floyd family biographer and genealogist, N. J. Floyd, "there is no record found of any other

Floyd landing upon the shores of Virginia.” A list of ship passengers for the period 1538 through 1825 entitled *Ship Passenger Lists--The South*, Edited and Indexed by Carl Boyer, 3rd, Newhall, California, 1979, for that period shows an inhabitant in Virginia in 1624/1625 whose name was Nathaniell Floid and who came over on a ship named the “Bona Nova.”

A John Floyd Both Knighted by Elizabeth I and a Jesuit Priest?

In his book entitled *Biographical Genealogies of the Virginia-Kentucky Floyd Families*, author N. J. Floyd asserted the following

The father of the two young men, Nathaniel and Walter, was a man of some wealth and distinction. His name was John Floyd, born in Wales about 1570. From information and intimations gathered, here and there, in an exhaustive and persistent search into old historical and genealogical writings, it is gathered that when less than eighteen years of age he fought [in 1588], as a volunteer, with the forces of Queen Elizabeth in the destruction of the Spanish Armada, which fearfully menaced the existence of the English government. In the extreme national peril Queen Elizabeth had appealed to every subject, able to bear arms, to offer his life upon the altar of patriotism. The young man was knighted by the Queen, and later married a lady of her household, who lived only a few years, and left him with a family of small children. He had already become a writer of some note and his proclivities being entirely of a literary character he became deeply interested in the writings of Ignatius of Loyola, whose doctrine had been recently promulgated, and he finally became a writer and lecturer in the Society of Jesus.

During the same period we find Henry Floyd, probably a brother—doing earnest and able work in England as a Jesuit missionary.

Floyd, N. J., *Biographical Genealogies of the Virginia-Kentucky Floyd Families*, William and Wilkins Company, Baltimore, Maryland, 1912, p. 7.

In another publication on one of the members of the Virginia Floyd family, author Charles H. Ambler, Ph.D., wrote in his book entitled *The Life and Diary of John Floyd Governor of Virginia, an Apostle of Secession, and the Father of the Oregon Country*, Richmond Press, Richmond, Virginia, 1918, p. 10, “John

Floyd...was knighted at the hands of Queen Elizabeth, and later became a writer of some note and a lecturer in the Society of Jesus.”

Jesuit Priest Unlikely to Have Been Knighted by Elizabeth I

It seems unlikely that a soldier or sailor knighted by Elizabeth I, Queen of England from 1558 through 1603, would have been a man of wealth, a Catholic cleric, and allowed to marry one of her ladies-in-waiting. There was a documented John Floyd, an English Jesuit, who was born in 1572 in Cambridgeshire, England, and entered the Society of Jesus when at Rome in 1592. Later, he wrote many books in defense of the Catholic cause against the English Protestants. It stretches the imagination that one of Queen Elizabeth’s knights honored for his participation in the defeat of the Armada would be in Rome four years later. *The Catholic Encyclopedia*, John Floyd Website, p. 1, states that the Catholic John Floyd was at the English College at Reims, France on March 17, 1588. This is proof positive that this John Floyd was not a participant in the defeat of the Spanish Armada which occurred in the summer of 1588. In fact, he would have been in France rooting for the other side. The Society of Jesus was founded by Ignatius of Loyola who was born in Spain in 1491. He and six companions bound themselves to vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience in Paris, France in 1534. When the Catholic John Floyd entered the Society of Jesus as a Jesuit he would have taken the same vows. A Jesuit priest would not have been a man of wealth, he would not have married and fathered children, and most certainly he would not have been obedient to Queen Elizabeth.

Who was Henry Floyd?

Apparently, there was another documented Jesuit priest whose name was Henry Floyd. He was born in 1560 and died in 1641. It is unknown whether he was a brother or relative of the Jesuit John Floyd. There is a reference to Friar Henry

Floyd in an article about Friar Francis Page, a Jesuit and a member of the Society of Jesus. The article appears on the *2000-2006 Jesuit Singapore Website* and says as follows:

When he returned to his cell after his [Fr. Page's] death sentence, he told Fr Henry Floyd, a Jesuit in a nearby cell: "Share my joy in such a happy outcome, which opens up the way to unending happiness."

On the eve of his execution [April 1602] Fr Page was allowed to visit Fr Floyd and the two priests spent the night in prayer and early the next morning, Fr. Floyd celebrated Mass.

2000-2006 The *Jesuit Singapore Website*, pp. 1-2.

It is possible the Henry Floyd referred to next above is the Henry Floyd referred to in author Floyd's family biography. It is possible that the Jesuit John Floyd and the Jesuit Henry Floyd were brothers or, at least, related—they had the same family name, they were born just ten years apart, they ministered at the same time, and they were both Jesuits and members of the Society of Jesus.

Notable Catholics in Virginia in the 1830's

The Catholic Encyclopedia, referring to notable Catholics in Virginia, states as follows:

The conversion to the [Catholic] Faith about 1832 of Mrs. Letitia Floyd Lewis, daughter of [Virginia] Governor John Floyd, which, owing to her prominence, caused a sensation throughout the state, was followed by that of her two sisters, Mrs. Lavalette Floyd Holmes, wife of the erudite Professor George F. Holmes of the University of Virginia; Mrs. Nicotai Floyd Johnston, wife of Senator John W. Johnston, and three of her brothers, Hon. Benjamin Rush Floyd (a formidable opponent of Knownothingism), Dr. William Preston Floyd, and Colonel George Rogers Floyd. Then followed the conversion of her father, John Floyd, when ex-governor, and of her mother, Mrs. Letitia Preston Floyd, their son, John B. Floyd, like his father, becoming governor of the state, and also later secretary of war under President Buchanan. Mrs. Letitia Preston Floyd was herself the sister of General Francis Preston, who valiantly served his country in the War of 1812 and in the halls of Congress. The conversion of the

Floyd and Johnston families led in the Catholic Church other members of the most distinguished families of the South.

Catholic Encyclopedia: Virginia Website, Notable Catholics, p. 12.

Davis Floyd was a blood first cousin to the first Governor Floyd mentioned above and was probably present when this future Governor was born at Floyd's Station on Bear Grass Creek near Louisville, Kentucky, in 1783, a couple of weeks after his father, Colonel and Judge John Floyd (another John Floyd), was killed by Indians. Did the Floyds mentioned in the foregoing article know anything about the Jesuit priests, John and Henry Floyd, in England? The answer to this question is unknown.

The quoted article mentions the first name of one of Governor Floyd's daughters, Nicotai. This is probably a misspelling of the Indian name, Nickette, who as will be discussed in Chapter 2, was, arguably, an ancestor of the two Virginia Governors and Davis Floyd. Davis Floyd married a widow in Louisville in 1794 whose maiden name was Susanna Johnston. She was the sister of General Washington Johnston. Were they related to Senator John W. Johnston? That has not been determined.

The persons identified in the article cited next above from *The Catholic Encyclopedia* were a distinguished group of citizens. George F. Holmes was a member of the faculty at the University of Virginia and held a Doctor of Law degree. John W. Johnston was a U. S. Senator from Virginia from 1870 through 1883. Benjamin Rush Floyd attended Georgetown College and studied and practiced law in Wytheville, Virginia, for many years. Dr. William Preston Floyd was a physician. Col. George Rogers Floyd was a West Virginia politician and businessman. Gen. Francis Preston fought in the War of 1812 and served in Congress.

No Credible Evidence of Any Floyd Being Knighted by Elizabeth I

An exhaustive search of any John Floyd having been knighted by Queen Elizabeth I has failed to produce any credible evidence of such knighthood being conferred. There have been numerous "John Floyds" down through the ages. However, Author N. J. Floyd claimed he made an "exhaustive and persistent search into old historical and genealogical writings" and determined among other things the existence of a knighted, married, and paternalistic John Floyd.

Floyd Lineage

The following information appears in Burke's *Genealogical and Heraldic History of the Peerage and Baronetage and Knightage & Order of Precedence*:

Lineage—The family of Floyd is of ancient Welsh descent, and was sometime resident at Beeston Castle (destroyed 1645), and Prestbury, Cheshire, and Shrewsbury. Of this family was John Floyd, of Calais and Batrichosey, Surry, Asst. Comptroller, of the Exchequer 1623, grandson of Hugo Floyd, of Calais, *temp.* [in the time of] Henry VIII, and also David Floyd, of Foss-y-Bleidied, Capt. in 1685 in the Earl of Oxford's Regt. (Horse Guards Blue), Groom of the Bedchamber to James II. He previously served afloat in the Dutch Wars. He went into exile with The King, and carried despatches between St. Germain and this country....

Burke, John and Sir Bernard, C.B., *Burke's Genealogical and History of the Peerage Baronetage and Knightage Privy Council and Order of Precedence*, 99th Edition, Burke's Peerage Limited, 1949, London, England, pp. 773-774.

From this information it appears that Hugo Floyd, the grandfather of another John Floyd, lived in the time of Henry VIII, who reigned from 1509 through 1547. The grandson John Floyd served as the assistant comptroller of the Exchequer in 1623. This would have occurred near the end of the reign of James I, of Kings James Bible fame, who died in 1625. The aforementioned David Floyd served as a captain in 1685 in the Earl of Oxford's Regiment, who was the Groom of the Bedchamber to James II. James II lived from 1685 until 1701. While James I was a lifetime Protestant, James II converted to the Catholic faith in 1668 or 1669. He was king of England from 1685 until 1688.

He abdicated in the latter year and permanently returned to France in exile in 1690. He died in St. Germain, France in 1701 and it is likely that David Floyd went into exile with him and carried dispatches between France and England for the exiled king until his death. James II prior to becoming king commanded the fleet in the opening campaigns of the Second and Third Dutch Wars. These wars are probably the Dutch Wars in which David Floyd participated. They occurred in the middle 1660's and the early 1670's, respectively.

There is a reference to Beeston Castle in a book on the life of John Bunyan, the author of *The Pilgrim's Progress*, and a great English preacher. Bunyan lived from 1628 until 1688. He fought in the English Civil War at a young age. The book, entitled *John Bunyan*, refers to Bunyan being bivouacked in 1647 near the fallen Beeston Castle. (See Wellman, Sam, *John Bunyan, Author of The Pilgrim's Progress*, Barbour Publishing, Inc., Uhrichsville, Ohio, 1996, p. 68, p. 77.) Beeston Castle still stands in ruins today.

"Perhaps Acquiring Information Is Second to Acknowledging Possibility"

Recently, a visual art interpreter said "Perhaps acquiring information is second to acknowledging possibility." Therefore, it will be assumed there was a John Floyd who was knighted by Queen Elizabeth for his bravery in defeating the Spanish Armada and who married one of her ladies-in-waiting and fathered children by her. The possibility of these facts needs at least to be acknowledged and examined. Maybe someday information on this elusive Floyd will be discovered in some out-of-the way place.

It is interesting to look back at the schism between the Roman Catholic Church and England that began when Henry VIII decided that he needed a male heir, needed to divorce his first wife, Catherine of Aragon, who had produced only a

female child, and lusted to marry one of her supposedly fertile ladies-in-waiting, Anne Boleyn.

Henry VIII, Catherine of Aragon, and Anne Boleyn

Henry married Catherine after she was widowed by his brother and he became king. The origin of Henry's schism began when Catherine had given birth to several children, none of whom survived infancy, except a girl child named Mary. Catherine, while pretty in her youth, had turned plump and old-looking for her age. On the other hand Ann Boleyn's youth, black eyes, luminous skin, and spirited personality created a natural vessel for Henry's hope for a male child, and she was convenient to him as one of Catherine's ladies-in-waiting. He cast aside Catherine and in 1532 Henry and Anne started living together even though his six-year divorce suit against Catherine had not culminated in an official dissolution of their marriage by the Catholic Pope. Early the next year they were secretly married. Conveniently, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Thomas Cranmer, who was appointed by the Catholic Pope but controlled by Henry, found that Henry's marriage to Catherine was null and void and his marriage to Anne was not. Henry then broke with the Catholic Church and declared himself head of the Church of England. It is important to note that Henry remained loyal to the Catholic faith until his death. He merely rejected the Pope's authority over him and England. He even wrote a book defending the "true faith" against Martin Luther's edicts. In rejecting the Pope's authority over him, Henry eventually seized all of the real and personal property of the Catholic Church in England. Many Catholics and Protestants were martyred during his reign. John Foxe's *Book of Martyrs* published in 1563 (there was a second edition in 1570) is a well documented chronicle of hundreds of men and women who were murdered on Henry's orders. He had Protestant heretics burned and Catholic abbots hanged, drawn, and quartered to achieve his shameful goals.

Births of Elizabeth I and Edward

On September 7, 1533 Anne gave birth to a girl child who was named Elizabeth. No other children were born to Henry and Anne. Anne soon became a liability rather than an asset because there was still no male heir. In 1536 Henry's first wife, Catherine, died and on May 2, 1536 Anne was accused of adultery with five men including incest with her brother and sent to the Tower of London. Seventeen days later after a series of trials in which she and the men were found guilty she was beheaded. Whether she was guilty of adultery and incest is still debated. At the minimum she flirted and committed indiscretions with men in Henry's court. Elizabeth was two years old at the time. In 1537 Henry's third wife, Jane Seymour, who had been conveniently one of Anne's ladies-in-waiting, gave birth to a son, Edward, who would succeed his father as king of England upon the latter's death. Henry died in 1547 and Prince Edward became king. Because of his youth England was ruled by a Regency Council. However, in 1553 Edward died and Henry and Catherine's daughter, Mary, succeeded him to the throne as England's Queen. Mary was 38 years old and Elizabeth 20 years old.

Queen Mary

Queen Mary was half-Spanish, a devout Catholic, and unmarried. A confidante advised her to marry Prince Phillip, a widower from Spain. Such a marriage would bring England under the influence of Spain and keep it out of France's control. Mary actually fell in love with Phillip, they were married in 1554, and he became joint sovereign of England with her. Phillip was never in love with Mary and he was never able to get her pregnant. During her reign she reintroduced the Catholic Church's religious practices into English society. She and others were responsible for having many Protestants who opposed the return to Catholicism executed. These included Archbishop Cranmer who found that Henry's marriage to her mother was null and void. That is how she got

even and how she got her name "Bloody Mary." Mary was sickly from youth and died in 1558.

Elizabeth I Succeeds Queen Mary on Throne

Henry and Anne Boelyn's daughter, Elizabeth, succeeded Mary to the throne as Queen of England in 1558. She had been raised a Lutheran. The King James Version of the *Holy Bible* only mentions one Elisabeth. It is spelled with an "s" rather than a "z." The New Testament Elisabeth was a godly woman, wife of Zacharias, and mother of John the Baptist. She was also a kinwoman of Mary, the mother of Jesus, but the exact relationship cannot be determined. There is no doubt but that Elizabeth I was named for the New Testament Elisabeth.

Old Testament Deborah

During Elizabeth's coronation parade in London she was compared in a pageant along the parade route to the Old Testament Deborah. Coincidentally, there was an Old Testament Deborah, who was a nurse to Isaac's wife, Rebekah, but she was not the Deborah to whom Elizabeth was likened. This Deborah was a prophetess, a judge, and the inspirer of Barak in the conflict with the Canaanites. She encouraged Barak to fight with Sisera and she accompanied him to battle. After the conflict, she sang with Barak a song of triumph. Many times thereafter Elizabeth was called Deborah because she was a female in a male's world. And the encounter she had with the Spanish Armada can be compared to Deborah's encounter with the Canaanites. Elizabeth at great peril to herself went to her Army's front lines on the coast of England while the Spanish Armada threatened England and encouraged her subjects to fight bravely. After the unexpected defeat of the Armada, she celebrated her nation's great victory in London with her subjects. Because of the frequent references by contemporary writers of Elizabeth I to Deborah there is no doubt that she

nurtured these comparisons by overt conduct on her part. She knew her Bible. She could act any part.

Protestant/Catholic Conflicts

The circumstances between the English Protestants and the Catholics in Europe including England continued to disintegrate during the reign of Elizabeth. In the beginning Elizabeth was tolerant of Catholics in England. On this subject she said "There is but one Lord, Jesus Christ. One faith. All else is a dispute over trifles." A popular movie on her life has Elizabeth saying "There is one Jesus Christ. The rest is trifles."

On May 8, 1559 the Act of Supremacy became the law of England. It ordained Elizabeth as the Supreme Governor of the Church of England and made the use of the *Book of Common Prayer* mandatory as the exclusive prayer book in England. In 1570 Pope Pius V excommunicated her from the Roman Catholic Church calling her the "pretended queen of England." This Papal action placed every English Catholic in more danger. The battle lines were drawn. Elizabeth had abandoned the Catholic faith that her father, Henry, had held onto until his death. The schism was now complete.

Mary Queen of Scots

In 1561 when her French husband king died, Mary Queen of Scots (not Queen Mary referred to above), a practicing Catholic, returned to Scotland. At the time Scotland was controlled by a council of Protestant nobles. This Mary married and had a male child by the name of James who would succeed Elizabeth on the throne in 1603. James was removed from the possession and control of Mary from infancy and raised as a Protestant. Mary ended up getting involved in intrigues to dethrone Elizabeth and as a result spent the last nineteen years of her life incarcerated by the English authorities, part of which time was spent in

the Tower of London. Elizabeth labored over what to do about her cousin. Finally, on the advice of her counselors, which she often ignored and with much anguish, she signed the death warrant of Mary, the Queen of Scots. She was beheaded in 1587.

Spanish Armada

The Spanish Phillip who had been married to Queen Mary (not Mary, Queen of Scots) before her death, who preceded Elizabeth on the throne, returned to Spain where he served as king until his death in 1598. He finally convinced himself that Spain needed to send a flotilla of ships to England and remove the "pretended queen" and replace her with a Catholic king. The "murder" of Mary, Queen of Scots, the constant attack of British privateers on Spanish merchant ships and ports, and the desire to unseat Elizabeth all combined to convince the Spanish to attack England.

Philip sent the entourage of Spanish galleons to England in 1588. The galleons were high, wide, clumsy ships which were designed to carry soldiers and not many cannons. They were not very maneuverable. They were intended to transport soldiers from Spain and the Netherlands to the shores of England and then engage the Army in England. In reality there was no standing Army in England other than county militias. Elizabeth and her military counselors knew the Spanish Armada was coming and that an attack on land was possible. Therefore, an attempt was made to organize the militia units into a national fighting force at Tilbury. The naval situation was different; there was a national navy that was run competently under the direction of professionals. The English ships or men-of-war were narrow ships, highly maneuverable, and were loaded with cannons and just enough men to operate the ships and cannons. The Spanish fleet approached England from the southwest near the Cornwall Peninsula and traveled along England's southern coast in an easterly direction.

The English men-of war allowed the Spanish galleons to pass by them on the southern coast in order to get behind them and then followed them at a distance moving in sporadically to fire at them. The wind was to the back of the galleons so they could not turn around to attack the English. When they stopped to take on supplies in the Straits of Dover near the southeast corner of England, ships set on fire were sent in by the English sailors and when the galleons tried to get underway, the men-of-war attacked with the wind to their backs. There was no place for the Spanish to go but up the English Channel on the east coast of England and there was no way to pick up the soldiers in the Netherlands to take them to England for a land invasion. What happened to the Spanish Armada was a combination of unfavorable winds, the superiority of the British men-of-war, the sending in of fire ships, the weather encountered by the Spanish galleons in the English Channel, and the inability of landing an invasion force in England. All of these factors resulted in a total defeat for Spain. Worse yet when the Spanish galleons tried to escape by going around the north ends of England, Scotland, and Ireland they encountered more severe weather which finished off over half of their ships. It was said the west coast of Ireland was strewn with the bodies of Spanish sailors and soldiers.

The Spanish believed that the Catholics in England would come to the aid of the Armada. That turned out to be a gross miscalculation. The death of Queen Mary of Scots actually secured their allegiance to Elizabeth. English Catholics were not interested in a Spanish king for England and Elizabeth had trounced the notion to remove weapons from the Catholics. And to end it all a Catholic from Effingham, Lord Howard, commanded the English fleet as its lord high admiral.

While waiting for the Spanish Armada to arrive in the English Channel, Elizabeth visited her troops in Tilbury where her favorite counselor, Robert "Robbie"

Dudley, the Earl of Leicester, commanded the soldiers while waiting for a land invasion. There she made a famous speech:

I have always behaved myself, that under God, I have placed my chiefest strength and safeguard in the loyal hearts and good will of all my subjects; and therefore I come amongst you, as you see at this time, not for my recreation and disport, but being resolved, in the midst and heat of the battle, to live or die amongst you all, to lay down for my God and for my kingdom, and for my people, my honour and my blood, even in the dust. I know I have the body of a weak and feeble woman, but I have the heart and stomach of a king, and of the king of England too....

Fraser, Rebecca, *A People's History of England*, Chatto & Windus, London, England, 2003, pp. 301-302.

Later on Pope Sixtus V said of Elizabeth "She is only a woman, only mistress of half an island, and yet she makes herself feared by Spain, by France, by the [Holy Roman] Empire, by all." Again the comparison to the Old Testament Deborah occurs. Like Deborah she went to the battle front where her favorite councilor and maybe lover, Robert Dudley, her Old Testament Barak, was commanding the Army.

As previously stated Elizabeth's treatment of the Catholics in the beginning was relatively mild. Beginning in 1574, priests were sent to England to secretly carry on the fight in favor of Catholicism. In 1580 two Jesuits were sent and most of the priests thereafter were Jesuits. Elizabeth maintained that the only Jesuits she ever persecuted were priests who committed treason against her and her country. She always claimed that she never persecuted them because of their religion. However, the distinction between the two positions became clouded. The Jesuit John Floyd came back to England in 1606 as a missionary priest. Shortly thereafter, he was arrested when he attempted to visit a Jesuit priest who was to suffer martyrdom the next day. He was imprisoned for a year and thereafter with forty-six other Jesuits he was banished from England for life.

It is unlikely that the fictional John Floyd, who was knighted by Queen Elizabeth and married one of her ladies-in-waiting, was in the Army since the Army was never engaged. It is more likely that he commanded one of the English men-of-war and even held a higher command position. It is not known when he was born. However, his age reported age of 18 or under would probably limit him to a captain of a man-of-war who played a key role in the destruction of the Armada. Elizabeth was very frugal with her knighthoods and they were sparingly bestowed. Since the lord high admiral was a Catholic it is possible that a John Floyd could have been a Catholic but not a Jesuit priest.

Elizabeth's Ladies-in-Waiting

Elizabeth was equally guarded about the selection and service of her ladies-in-waiting or her maids of honor, which are the same. These ladies or maids were girls of good birth and the court served as a finishing school or school of manners for them. Sir Walter Raleigh got one of these ladies pregnant, without the benefit of the Queen's approval and marriage. They were both imprisoned in the Tower of London for their adulterous sins but were eventually released. In author J. E. Neale's book of Elizabeth's life, *Queen Elizabeth-A Biography*, the author says:

...Elizabeth was *in loco parentis* to her maids of honour, and for them to belie their name was an offence like the lapse of a Vestal Virgin. They enjoyed a coveted position, in daily contact with the Queen, with the chance of earning her intimate, lasting friendship, and with unequalled facilities for making a brilliant marriage. Like their manners and morals, their marriage was a royal responsibility, and it was a breach of duty as well as a gross personal affront to their sovereign to marry without her leave.

Elizabeth's interference in their affairs, of which there are several well-known stories, was simply the exercise of this peculiar relationship, not the jealousy of a lascivious or envious old maid—

though, indeed, a “mixture of a lie doth ever add pleasure”. The Court was high-spirited, the age free; attractive young men, like the Earl of Essex, sowed their wild oats, and gossip told of ‘goings-on’. But the moral tone of the Court was quite different from that in, say, France. Elizabeth would no more condone sexual laxity than Queen Victoria; and a spell in the Tower or the Fleet prison was the almost invariable punishment awaiting offenders who were found out.

Neale, J. E., *Queen Elizabeth-A Biography*, Doubleday & Company, Inc., Garden City, New York, 1957, p. 340.

Conclusion on Search for a Knighted John Floyd

For John Floyd to be both knighted by Queen Elizabeth and allowed to marry one of her maids of honour signified that he was very special in her eyes. Author Floyd’s biography says that John Floyd’s son, Nathaniel, was born in 1599 and his mother, a former lady of honour, “lived only for a few years, and left him [John Floyd] with a family of small children.” Eight or nine years could certainly be interpreted as a “few years” or the widower Floyd could have married again. The search for a John Floyd who was knighted by Queen Elizabeth, married one of her ladies-in-waiting, and had children by her, remains as illusive as ever. John Floyd’s biographers apparently relied too heavily on family myths--they confused the facts or did they?

Harmony in Death

As has been seen Henry had two female children who both became queens of England, Queen Mary, the daughter of Henry and his first wife, Catherine, who reigned from 1547 until 1553, and Queen Elizabeth, the daughter of Henry and his second wife, Anne Boleyn, who reigned from 1558 until 1603. James I, the son of Mary Queen of Scots, reigned from 1603 until 1625. Catherine, Ann, and Mary Queen of Scots gave birth to heirs who reigned in England for a total of eighty-two years.

It is possible that the knighted and married John Floyd was buried in Westminster Abbey alongside his deceased wife. Most of Westminster Abbey, as it exists today in the heart of downtown London, was built between 1245 and 1272. The abbey was closed down in 1540 during Henry's reign but it was reopened by Elizabeth in 1560. Records at Westminster Abbey document there are approximately 3,300 people buried there, most of them unidentified. Among the identified and prominently displayed are Queen Mary, Queen Elizabeth, and Mary Queen of Scots. The three queens are buried in a section of the Abbey known as the Lady Chapel. The Lady is the name of another Mary, the Blessed Virgin Mary. A publication entitled *Westminster Abbey, A Short Tour* says:

Although [Queen] Mary has no monument of her own, part of the Latin inscription of [Queen] Elizabeth's tomb reads: "Partners both in throne and grave, here rest we two sisters [actually half-sisters], Elizabeth and Mary, in the hope of one Resurrection." The burial place of these two queens, divided in life by their religious convictions but in death resting together in Christian hope, provides a fitting setting for an inscription carved in the floor in 1977 to commemorate all those "divided at the Reformation by different convictions who laid down their lives for Christ and conscience sake."

Trowles, Tony, *Westminster Abbey, A Short Tour*, Scala Publisher, London, England, 2007, p. 11.

The tour book goes on to say:

James' most extravagant tomb was for his mother, Mary Queen of Scots (1542-87), who spent the last nineteen of her years of her life imprisoned on the orders of her cousin Elizabeth I, by whom she was regarded as a dangerous rival claimant to the throne. Elizabeth eventually agreed to Mary's execution, insisting that she then be buried with great solemnity in Petersborough Cathedral. When Mary's son...succeeded to the English throne as James I, he commissioned tombs at Westminster for both his mother and Elizabeth I. It is noticeable, however, that his mother's tomb which dominated the centre of the [south] aisle [in the Lady Chapel], is taller and more flamboyant than that of [Elizabeth's] in the north aisle.

Trowles, *Westminster Abbey, A Short Tour*, p. 15.

Incidentally, to the east and beyond the Lady Chapel is a small chapel honoring 1,497 pilots and crew members who died in the Battle of Britain. Stained glass windows there show the badges of the fighter squadrons who took part in the battle. Winston Churchill immortalized their contributions to defending England at the beginning of World War II when he said: "Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few." Elizabeth I probably said a similar thing about the men who defended England against the Spanish Armada. And if there was a knighted John Floyd in 1588, he would have been one of those men.

Books and references relied upon other than those cited in this chapter:

- (1) Lacey, Robert, *The Life and Times of Henry VIII*, Praeger Publishers, New York, New York and Washington, D. C., 1974.
- (2) Ridley, Jasper, *Elizabeth I--The Shrewdness of Virtue*, Viking, 1987.
- (3) Clark, Sir George, *English History--A Survey*, Oxford University at the Clarendon Press, 1971.
- (4) *New Catholic Encyclopedia*, Second Edition, Thompson Gale, Detroit et al.

Images:

- (1) Engraving of Queen Elizabeth I.
- (2) Prayer Card of St. Ignatius of Loyola.