“From a Meadow Called Runnymede”

Magna Carta 800th

June 15, 1215 ~ June 15, 2015

by

Joan R. Gibson, Member
National Society Magna Charta Dames & Barons
Unveiling of Queen Elizabeth Statue at Runnymede, June 14, 2015

A little Medieval Music

WV Gov. & Mrs. Earl Ray Tomblin at Runnymede on the Thames!?

Adding to the atmosphere, Medieval craft plyed the Thames

High Sheriff of Surrey
Elizabeth Kennedy & husband

Daniel Hannan
Member of European Parliament

Everything Magna Carta!
Luncheon at The Runnymede on the Thames Hotel ~following the statue unveiling
Early morning arrival at the meadow called Runnymede

London Philharmonic plays in the ampitheater

The Royal Family has arrived for the festivities

We are seated... 107 of us

Society of Magna Charta Dames & Barons
Chancellor
Lewis L. "Ted" Neilson, Jr.

Magna Carta
Foundation of Liberty
Runnymede 800
15 June 2015

The Royal Family has arrived for the festivities
The Princess Royal Anne rededicates ABA Memorial

June 15, 2015 ~ eating lunch on the meadow just as they did 800 years ago, June 15, 1215

ABA Memorial ~ Temple Choir & Knights Templar
...the Knights were here 800 years ago

3 Magna Charta Dames
Walking down the road to our next event
High Tea in a meadow

Eleven Baron bars!!

Chancellor Lewis “Ted” Neilson, Jr. laying wreaths at the only monument to the Bishops & Barons of 1215
Floral pieces for Barons
Roger & Hugh Bigod
Royal Holloway College Chapel,
London
June 15, 1215, King John seals Magna Carta at Runnymede.

Copies were sent to Bishops instead of Sheriffs as the Sheriffs were noted in Magna Carta and not positively. Four copies are known today. Many were likely discarded after Pope Innocent III, siding with King John, declared Magna Carta “null and void”.

Lincoln Cathedral
3rd largest in England
Lincoln Cathedral’s Magna Carta

Medieval England
The 25 Barons of Lincoln 2015

Station Master Baron

Truck Driver Baron

Wild Flower Statue Baron
Lincoln Cathedral tour from the Norman exterior to the Gothic interior with a fantastic guide.

Chancellor, Ted Neilson comes by with the head of Lincoln Cathedral. He announces several tickets for the afternoon roof tour. Did I get one? Wait and see....

Lincoln Cathedral  
Begun 1072 ~ Norman  
Rebuilt 1210 ~ Gothic  

Medieval stone mason
I DID get a ticket

Norman stairway

Gothic stairway

12th century oak beams over ceiling vaults

Onward to Lincoln Castle
Magna Carta Surety Baron Shields
Lincoln Castle Magna Carta Vault

1213 letter to Bishop Hugh of Lincoln Cathedral from King John announcing his peace with the Church after the interdict

Lincoln Cathedral’s Magna Carta

Lincoln Cathedral’s 1217 copy
The Charter of the Forest
King John seals Magna Carta 1215
Pope Innocent III declares it “null & void” in 6 months
King John dies in 1216

The 1217 Charter of the Forest by King Henry III under regency of William Marshal required The King to give up possession of lands designated Royal Forest, thus making them available to commoners.

The Charter of the Forest is deemed as important as Magna Carta in gaining liberties.
Edward Coke
1552 ~ 1634
English Barrister & Judge

Edward Coke wrote the Virginia Charter in 1606.
The Mayflower Compact applied
English Common Law to the
Pilgrims. They carried a copy of
Magna Carta with them.
Other colonies followed these
principles in their charters.

Coke promoted Magna Carta as precedent
establishing English “Common Law”.
Thus, the rule of law applies to all, including
the King.
Common Law played a major role in
establishing the new colonies and later
a new country.

In 1775, on the eve of
the American Revolution,
Massachusetts adopted
a seal showing a soldier
with a sword in one hand
and a copy of Magna Carta in the other.
Magna Carta & The United States of America

July 4, 1776
Thomas Jefferson uses Magna Carta principles in the Declaration of Independence:
~ all men created equal
~ we possess certain basic rights from God
~ government power comes from the consent of the governed
Abuses of royal power are enumerated.

The Constitution, 1787, is written to reflect Magna Carta ideas.
“We the People” makes clear that power is in the hands of the people.

1791 ~ The Bill of Rights Amendments show most clearly the influence of Magna Carta’s Clauses in the founding of the principles & laws of the United States of America: Liberty under the law.

Clause 1 & 1st Amendment: freedom of religion

Clauses 30, 31, 39 & 4th Amendment: protection against illegal search and seizure

Clauses 39, 40 & 5th Amendment: due process of law

Clause 40 & 6th Amendment: right to speedy trial by jury of peers
“From a Meadow Called Runnymede to the United States Constitution and Back in 800 Years”
Magna Carta June 15, 1215 - June 15, 2015

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"Some people have said to me, 'ah, it is just about the Barons and their taxation' and I say 'yes' and much later it was called no taxation without representation and England lost a colony called America on that basis."
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