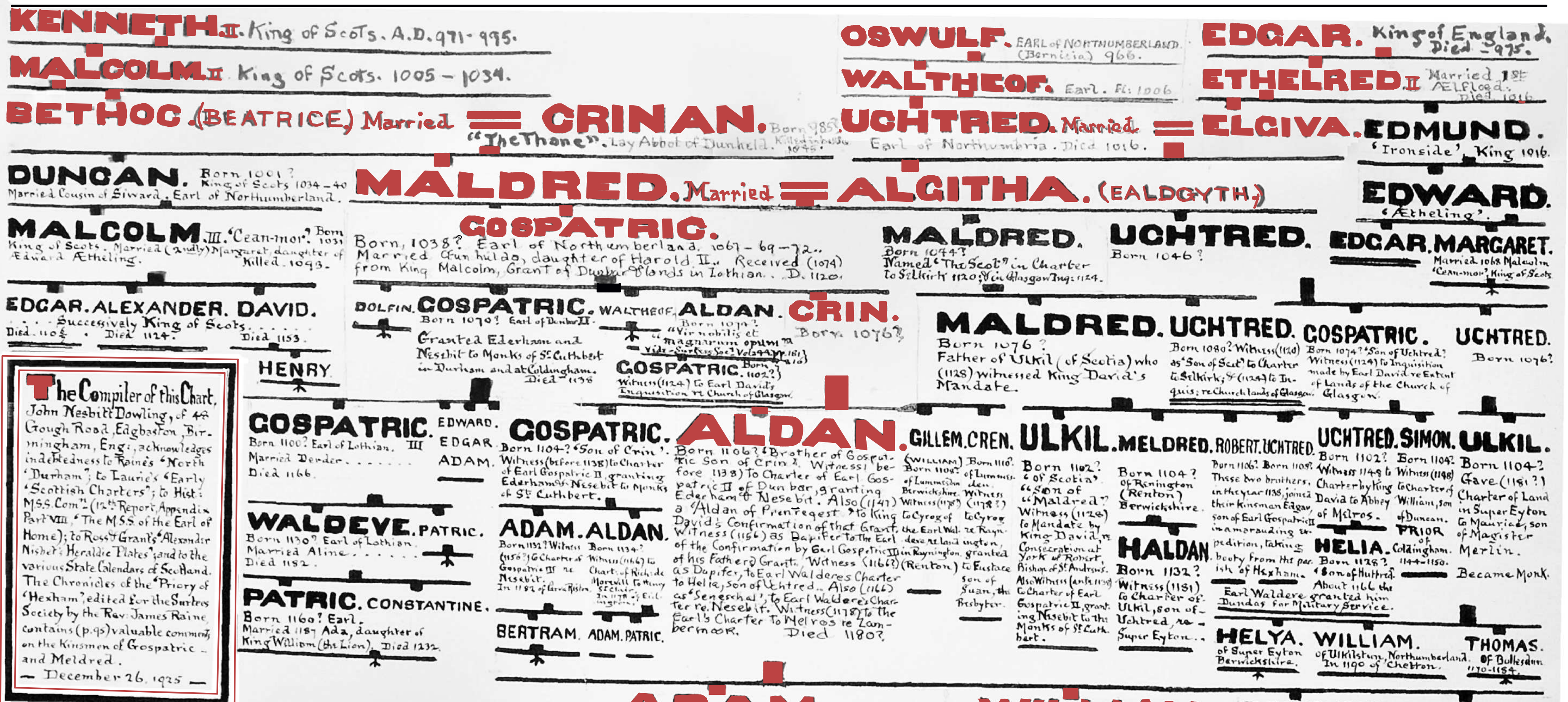
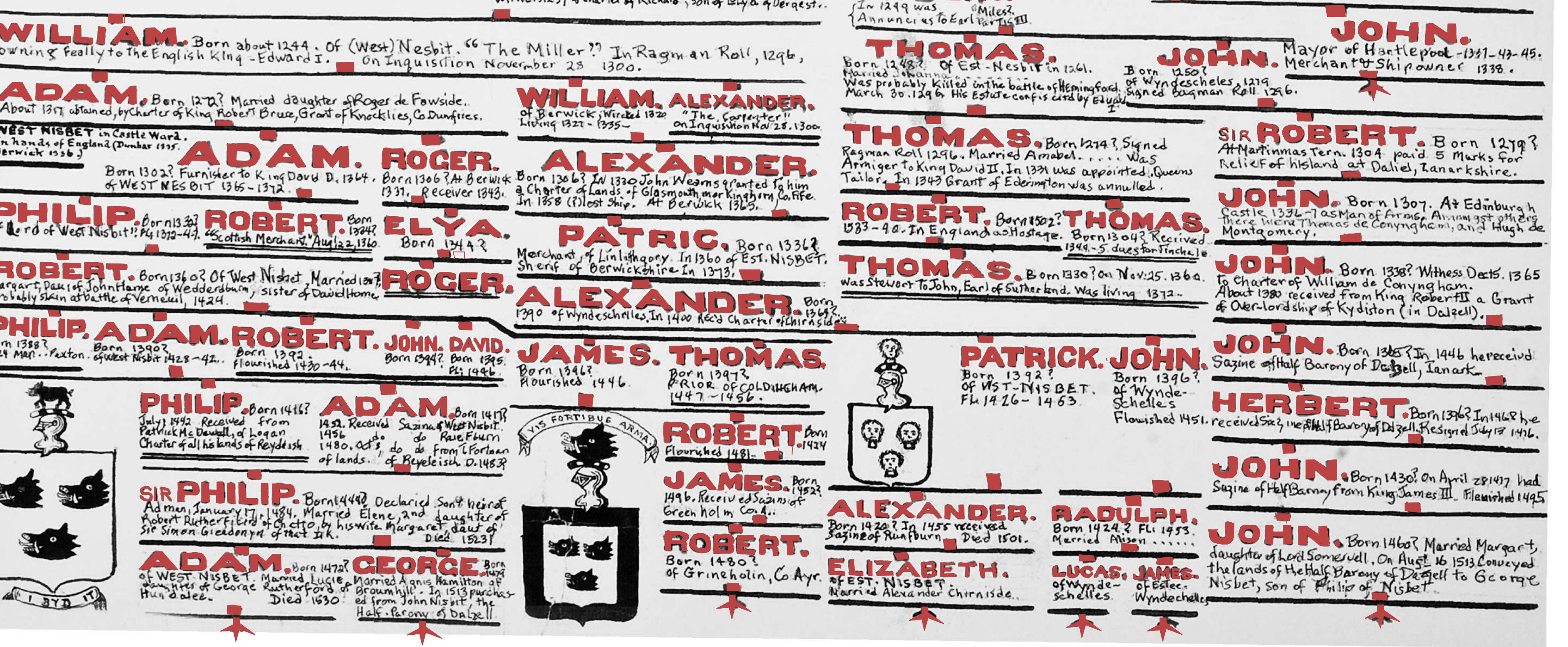


Chart of the Descent of the Family of Nisbet

The Manor, or Manse, of Nisbet, situated in Berwickshire (Scotland), was in Saxon times known by the name of *Dilster-halle, Dylster-hale, or Dilhestre*. By the first of these names the estate appears in the Charter of Edgar, son of Malcolm King of Scots, by which he granted many lands for the benefit of the Church of Durham and the Monks of St Cuthbert. This Grant was confirmed by William Rufus, King of the English, as Over-lord of Lothian, in which territory stood the several estates. The third description is given when Edgar assumed the title of 'King of the Scots' (1067). The barony and manor of Coldingham, together with all the originally named lands, is then with the permission of the English King, by whose assistance Edgar subsequently gained the throne, included in a Charter in favour of the monks. 'Dilster' was the Saxon term for a saw's udder, and was used as the figurative description of the ridge which forms a conspicuous feature of the estate of Nisbet. Subsequently, when Edgar's brother David, with Norman ideas, came to the throne, he persuaded the Earl Gospatric, who kept a hold upon the estate, to change the name. The Nose-piece of the helmet, then in use, was adopted as the designation, and therefore later charters bear the name — 'NESEBITE'.



The Compiler of this Chart.
 John Nesbitt Dowling, of 44 Gough Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham, Eng., acknowledges indebtedness to Lauries "North Scottish Charters" to Hist. MSS. Com. (1875 Report Appendix Part VII. "The MSS of the Earl of Home"); to Ross & Grant's "Alexander Nisbet's Heraldic Plates" and to the various State Calendars of Scotland. The Chronicles of the "Priory of Hexham" edited for the Surtees Society by the Rev. James Raine contains (p. 19) valuable comments on the Kinsmen of Gospatric and Meldred. — December 26, 1925.



There is no doubt that the family of Nesbitt, or Nisbet and its various spellings, had its roots during the twelfth century, on the Scottish Borders. There are, however, conflicting opinions as to whom the progenitor of the family was. One theory is that Crin, a son of Gospatric, the Second Earl of Dunbar, was the first to use the name. A second theory is that Aldan a son, or nephew of Gospatric adopted the name. Yet a third theory puts forth the thesis that Willielmus, the son of Thor Longus, a Saxon noble, was the first to adopt the name.