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## Tyler R. Tichelaar - Descendant of King Arthur

For, as I suppose, no man in this world hath lived better than I have done, to achieve that I have done. – Sir Thomas Malory

Tyler R. Tichelaar, Ph.D., has been in love with the Arthurian legend since he first read *The Boy's King Arthur* by Sidney Lanier with N.C. Wyeth's illustrations, and he credits Marion Zimmer Bradley's *The Mists of Avalon* with making him realize the potential for writing new versions of the legend.

Although Tyler considers himself a novelist first and a scholar second, he wrote his Master's Thesis on the Arthurian legend as a way to accomplish the research necessary for the Arthurian novel he was simultaneously writing. A chapter of his Master's Thesis was published as "Creating King Arthur's Children: A Trend in Modern Fiction" in the Spring 1999 issue of *Arthuriana*.

Although his doctoral studies at Western Michigan University led him to focusing on British Gothic nineteenth century novels, and his love for his hometown of Marquette, Michigan, resulted in his publishing a series of historical fiction and non-fiction books set in Upper Michigan, including the popular *Marquette Trilogy* and *My Marquette*, his love for the Arthurian legend has never died, and after many years his vision for a series of Arthurian novels is now coming to fruition.

In January 2011, an expanded and revised version of his initial M.A. thesis was published by Modern History Press as *King Arthur's Children: A Study in Fiction and Tradition*. Tyler is currently preparing to publish *King Arthur's Legacy*, the first novel in the Children of Arthur series, which will trace King Arthur's descendants throughout history with stunning results.

When Tyler is not busy writing his novels, or editing books for other authors (he is the owner of Superior Book Promotions), he can often be seen driving around Marquette singing out loud to his favorite musical, Lerner & Loewe's *Camelot*, which he listens to almost daily.

As for whether or not Tyler is a descendant of King Arthur, he notes that the debate over Arthur's historicity will probably never be resolved, but Tyler can trace his own ancestry back to the Plantagenet dynasty of England as well as several Welsh and Scottish families that claim descent from King Arthur, lineages Tyler discusses in detail in his book *King Arthur's Children*. Furthermore, modern research into DNA and mathematical calculations about genealogy make it clear that if King Arthur did live and have children, not only Tyler but nearly everyone in the world today would be King Arthur's descendant.

