

## PART II.—PAPERS, ETC.

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### Burci, Falaise and Martin.

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THE object of the following pages is firstly to explain the devolution of the property of Serlo de Burci, a tenant in chief under William the Conqueror, and secondly to give a brief outline of the descent of the baronial family of Martin. Our best antiquaries have hitherto failed to explain how the Martins acquired various manors in the west of England, which are described in Domesday Book as belonging to Serlo de Burci or to his son-in-law William de Falaise. On the other hand the numerous writers who have treated of the history of the Martin family have not sufficiently discriminated between fact and fable; erroneous statements made in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries have been constantly repeated in more recent times, as if they had been founded upon documentary medieval evidence of a trustworthy character.<sup>1</sup>

Serlo de Burci derived his surname from a place near Vire in the Calvados. At the time of the Domesday survey of

1. The story of the Martins as given below will be found to differ materially from the accounts of the family in *The Note-book of Tristram Risdon*, *Westcote's View of Devonshire*, *Pole's Description of Devon*, *Prince's Worthies of Devon*, *Vivian's Visitations of Devon*, *Collinson's History of Somerset*, *Hutchins's History of Dorset*, *Owen's Pembrokeshire*, *Felton's Historical Tour in Pembrokeshire*, *Pritchard's History of St. Dogmael's*, *Watson's House of Martin*, *Victoria County History of Devon* (vol. I, 565), and other books. No criticism of them is, however, offered here, and no use has been made of any of them, except in the very few cases in which they supply documents not printed elsewhere.

Somerset, he was tenant in chief of lands at Blagdon, Uphill, Chew Stoke, Chillyhill, Aldwick, Ridghill, Kilmington, Lovington, Wheathill, Compton, Morton, Mudford, and Stone. In Dorset he was tenant in chief of lands at Puddle and Whitcliff. While parts of his estate in these two counties had already been granted out to under-tenants, a considerable proportion was still in demesne. The course of subsequent history suggests that Serlo's principal residence in Somerset was at Blagdon. He furthermore held land under the king at Kilmington and Congresbury, under the Bishop of Bath at Banwell, and under the Abbey of Glastonbury at Low Ham, Pylle, Monkton, and Hornblotton, in Somerset, and at Tidpit in Damerham, in Wiltshire.

Serlo de Burci figures, in 1068, as a witness to a charter of William the Conqueror in favour of the Bishop of Wells.<sup>2</sup> He had issue two daughters, between whom his property would normally have been divisible at his death. One of them, however, took the veil at Shaftesbury during his lifetime, and abandoned her prospective claims. With her the abbess and convent got from him the manor of Kilmington, reckoned among his lands in the Domesday Survey, but afterwards freed from the overlordship of his heirs. The other daughter, named Geva, married firstly to a certain Martin, and secondly to William de Falaise, became the ancestress of several noble families. Before treating of Martin and his descendants, it will be convenient to bring together some scattered notices of her second husband.

Although the French word *falaise* simply means a cliff, it is likely enough that William de Falaise came from the little town of that name in Normandy, the birthplace of William the Conqueror. His original share of the forfeited lands in England was comparatively small. In Somerset he got Stoke, which was probably his ordinary residence, and Wootton, which he also retained in demesne. In Dorset he got Silton and Milton, and in Wiltshire he got Standlinch. On his marriage to the young widow, Geva, he obtained from his father-in-law, Serlo de Burci, a free grant of the manor of Worspring

2. *Proc. Som. Arch. Soc.*, XXIII, ii, 58.

in Somerset, which was consequently reckoned among his own lands in the Domesday survey of that county. Furthermore, on the death of his father-in-law, he became, in right of his wife, the temporary owner of her whole inheritance. He figures in Domesday Book as holding Dartington and other manors in Devonshire, which eventually passed to her issue by her first husband, Martin.

Serlo de Burci, who was evidently living when the commissioners of William the Conqueror held their enquiry in Somerset, seems to have died before they had completed their work in Devonshire.

Enriched with the Burci estates, William de Falaise bought Lilstock, near his own home at Stoke, and the royal manor of Williton, on the further side of the Quantock Hills. He may also have bought Cannington, another royal manor, which belonged to his descendants, the Curcis, in the twelfth century.

At some unspecified date between the years 1100 and 1107, William de Falaise and Geva his wife gave the church of St. Andrew at Stoke (Suntinstoch), with a hide of land and all the tithes of the parish and two-thirds of the tithes of Cockington, Williton and Lilstock, to the abbey of Lonley, for the maintenance of the monks. Their charter to this effect specifies other endowments in Devonshire and Wales by Robert fitz Martin, whom we shall see to have been Geva's son by her first husband.<sup>3</sup>

The early history of the manors belonging to William de Falaise in Somerset seems to show that they were eventually divided between coheireses. Although we have no categorical information as to his issue, it is practically certain that he left two daughters, Emma and Sibyl, whose names immediately follow his own in his charter to the monks of Lonley. While the former got Stoke and Wootton, the latter got Williton and the maternal estate at Worspring.

Emma the wife of William fitz Humphrey, who with him gave the advowson of the church of Wootton to the monks of Lonley, was presumably the mother of William de Curci the

3. See Appendix.

second, who describes William de Falaise as his grandfather.<sup>4</sup> She was living in 1130.<sup>5</sup> The subsequent story of the Curci inheritance will require separate treatment at some future time.

The younger coheiress of William de Falaise has been the subject of various conflicting statements. In January 1274, a jury in Suffolk found "that King Henry the Third gave the manor of Badmundesfeld, which was in his demesne, to Baldwin de Boulers with Sibyl de Valeyse, with the honour of Mungomery in marriage." Another contemporary jury likewise described the donor, King Henry, as the father of the then reigning king.<sup>6</sup> Some two years before this, in 1272, it had been found that King Henry "son of King William the bastard" had given the manor of Badmondsfield to Baldwin de Buleres in free marriage with Sibyl de Faleyse."<sup>7</sup> There had been a similar finding in 1254, Sibyl being thus correctly represented as living in the early part of the previous century.<sup>8</sup> Still working backwards, we reach, in 1248, the remarkable explanation that this lady was the niece (*neptis*) of the king's great-grandfather, that is to say Henry I.<sup>9</sup> Lastly, in 1225, there is a much fuller genealogical statement, made in connexion with a claim to the honour of Montgomery:—

"King Henry the elder gave that land to Baldwin de Bollers in marriage with Sibyl de Faleise, the niece (*nepte*) of the said King Henry. The same Sibyl had by the said Baldwin one daughter Maud, whom King Henry gave to Richard fitz Urse, who by her had one son and two daughters, that is to say Reynold fitz Urse, and Margery, the elder, and Mabel. Reynold had one daughter named Maud, wife of Robert de Curtenay and mother of William de Curtenay, who has died without issue."<sup>10</sup>

4. *Hist. MSS. Comm., Report IX*, App. i, p. 353. Mr. Round erroneously calls her Geva, *V.C.H. Somerset*, I, 414.

5. *Pipe Roll*, 31 *Hen. I*, p. 22.

6. *Rotuli Hundredorum*, II, 150, 172.

7. *Calendar of Inquisitions*, I, 275.

8. *Ibid.*, 85.

9. *Ibid.*, 42.

10. *Curia Regis Roll*, no. 88, m. 3d.; no. 92, m. 1d.

This statement, it should be observed, was not made until at least ninety years after the marriage of Sibyl de Falaise.

Eyton, recognizing in 1860 that Henry I could not have had such a niece as Sibyl de Falaise, put forward a suggestion "that the word *neptis* was sometimes an euphemism for a relationship of a nearer but less presentable character."<sup>11</sup> Following him, the late Mr. John Batten unreservedly described Sibyl de Falaise as "a natural daughter of Henry I who enriched her with the Honour of Montgomery on her marriage."<sup>12</sup> Similar statements may be found elsewhere. But Eyton lived to modify his views, and, in 1880, he dismissed the story of the connexion between Sibyl de Falaise and Henry I as merely "an old legend of the Welsh marches," and proceeded to suggest that she was in some way related to William de Falaise.<sup>13</sup> He did not get so far as to perceive that she was the daughter and coheiress of William. Before leaving this subject, it may be well to note that the lady in question is not mentioned in any list of the children, legitimate or illegitimate, of Henry I, and that he had an illegitimate daughter named Sibyl, who married Alexander king of Scots.<sup>14</sup>

At some unspecified date in the middle of the twelfth century, Reynold fitz Urse, the grandson of Baldwin de Boullers and Sibyl de Falaise, confirmed the gift of William de Falaise to the church of St. Andrew at Stoke (Sutinstoche) of two-thirds of the tithe of corn at Williton.<sup>15</sup> At another time, he conveyed to his (half-) brother Robert that moiety of the manor which was not already in the possession of the Knights Templars.<sup>16</sup> Robert fitz Urse in turn, by consent of John his heir, confirmed to the church of St. Andrew and the monks of Stoke the gifts of his predecessors in title, William de Falaise and his successors.<sup>17</sup>

11. *Antiquities of Shropshire*, XI, 120.

12. *Historical Notes, South Somerset*, 2.

13. *Domesday Studies, Somerset*, I, 63.

14. Duchesne, *Historiæ Normannorum Scriptores*, 307.

15. *Hist. MSS. Comm., Report IX*, App. i, p. 353.

16. *Report X*, App. vi, p. 72.

17. *Report IX*, App. i, p. 353.

Between the years 1209 and 1215, William de Courtenay founded a religious house in honour of St. Thomas of Canterbury, in whose murder Reynold fitz Urse had been a principal actor, and the site chosen by him was at Worspring, which, as seen above, had been given by Serlo de Burci to William de Falaise in marriage with his daughter.<sup>18</sup> Inasmuch then as William de Courtenay is known to have been the son and heir of Maud de Courtenay, daughter and heir of Reynold fitz Urse, son and heir of Maud fitz Urse, daughter of Baldwin de Boullers by Sibyl de Falaise, it seems impossible to doubt that Worspring had come to him by direct descent from Geva the wife of William de Falaise, daughter and heir of Serlo de Burci.

Enough has now been said to indicate the true parentage of Sibyl de Falaise. We may therefore revert to the first husband of Geva de Burci, and follow the story of their heirs.

In the middle of the reign of Henry VIII, John Leland, the antiquary, made the following note in Latin with regard to the abbey of St. Dogmael's, situate in the northern part of Pembrokeshire known as Cemais :—

“Fludus præcentor ecclesiæ Sancti Davidis dixit mihi Martinum de Turribus primo inter Normannos Kemesiam bello acquisisse et hoc monasterium fundavisse, ac ibidem in medio chori sepultum fuisse.”<sup>19</sup>

He also made a very similar note in English :—

“The chauntor of S. Davides tolde me that one Martinus de Turribus, a Norman, wan the countrey of Kemmeys in Wales about the tyme of King William Conqueror, and that this Martinus foundid the abbey of S. Dogmael in Kemeis and that he lyith buried in the quier there.”<sup>20</sup>

A statement of this sort, made some four and a half centuries after the period to which it refers, cannot nowadays be regarded as very important. Nevertheless some ingenuity has been wasted in attempts to determine whether the Martin thus mentioned came from Tours, where a more famous Martin

18. *Report*, X, App. vi, p. 73 ; *Dugdale's Monasticon*, VI, 414-416 ; *Proc. Som. Arch. Soc.*, LI, ii, 10.

19. *Collectanea*, I, 105. The ‘Fludus’ mentioned was obviously Thomas Lloyd ; *Le Neve's Fasti*, I, 316.

20. *Itinerary* (ed. Toulmin Smith), II, 27.

had been bishop in the fourth century, from Tour en Bressin, or from Tiron. There is no early evidence whatever as to his surname or origin. Celtic imagination, ancient and modern, has moreover sought to chronicle his victorious march, and to emphasize his zeal for religion. In point of fact, all that we really know about the first husband of Géva de Burci is that his name was Martin, that he died before the completion of the Gheld Inquest or the Domesday survey of Somerset and Devon, and that he left a son named Robert. The precentor of St. David's, or even Leland himself, may easily have con-founded the father and the son.

With reference to the tradition that Martin was the first Norman lord of the cantref of Cemais, a judicious historian says positively that "there is nothing to show that the district was conquered in his time."<sup>21</sup> So again, the documentary evidence with regard to St. Dogmael's abbey altogether negatives the idea that he had anything whatever to do with its foundation; the mother house at Tiron, from which the original monks were brought to Cemais, was not itself in existence in his day.<sup>22</sup> Unless his body was translated long after his death, he could not have been buried in the choir. Mr. Round has indeed thrown out a suggestion that the shadowy "Martin de Tours" may be the "Martinus de Walis" who figures first among the witnesses to the foundation of the priory of Totnes.<sup>23</sup> In support of this it may be noted that Geva de Burci's home in Devon was close to Totnes and that her home in Somerset was not far from the south-eastern coast of Wales. The acceptance of this conjectural identification, however, involves the ascription of a very early date to the foundation of Totnes Priory.

In the twelfth century we are on much firmer ground; notices of Robert, son of Martin and Geva, are fairly numerous, mainly in connexion with his benefactions to various religious houses. In the early part of the reign of Henry I, he con-

21. Lloyd's *History of Wales*, II, 425.

22. *Chartularium de Tirone* (ed. Merlet); *Simeon of Durham* (ed. Arnold), II, 219.

23. *Calendar of Documents in France*, p. xxxv; Oliver's *Monasticon Diocesis Exoniensis*, 241.

sented to the arrangement whereby William de Falaise and Geva his wife conveyed their interest in the tithes of Teignton and in the church and tithes of Treguz to the abbey of Lonley. In, or shortly before, the year 1117, he paid a visit to Bernard, abbot of Tiron, a man noted for his piety, and brought back with him from over the sea thirteen of the monks, whom he placed on his land in Wales.<sup>24</sup> The endowment which he provided was confirmed to the monks of Tiron by a brief charter of Henry I.<sup>25</sup> After a while the scheme was enlarged, and William abbot of Tiron gave his consent to a proposal that the cell of his monks near St. Dogmael's should be raised to the dignity of an abbey. Fulchard, the first abbot, was enthroned there by Bernard, bishop of St. David's, in September 1120.<sup>26</sup> The king also confirmed to this abbey of Cemais all the endowments provided, or to be provided, by Robert fitz Martin, and renewed the liberties granted to the humbler cell.<sup>27</sup> There is no occasion to enumerate here all the possessions of the new abbey, but it may be noted that an island called Pyr or Caldey, given to the monks by the mother of the founder, had been given to her by him, and had previously been given to him by the king. Robert fitz Martin himself granted to the monks the manor of Rattery in Devon, which had been in the possession of William de Falaise at the time of the Domesday survey of that county.<sup>28</sup>

In the account of the parish of Cockington, printed in Risdon's *Survey of Devon*, there is a strange travesty of a later charter of Robert fitz Martin, which seems to require a short notice. Cockington had belonged to William de Falaise in the eleventh century, and had passed to his step-son, Robert fitz Martin, whose grandson, Roger of Cockington, seems to have been in possession of the manor in the later part of the reign of Henry II. The chapel there was, however, affiliated

24. *Calendar*, as above; Bouquet, *Historiens des Gaulcs*, XIV, 174.

25. *Calendar*, as above, no. 995.

26. *Calendar*, as above, no. 997; *Chartularium*, as above, no. 31; Dugdale's *Monasticon*, IV, 130.

27. *Calendar*, as above, no. 996; *Chartularium*, as above, no. 25.

28. Dugdale's *Monasticon*, as above.



to the church of Rattery, which, as seen above, had been given to the abbey of St. Dogmael's. In the first decade of the thirteenth century, an arrangement was made whereby this chapel should be united to the neighbouring parish of Torre, and the Welsh monks conveyed most of their interest in Cockington to the abbot and convent of Torre. Long afterwards, in reply to an application for their founder's charter as to this place, they wrote that, by reason of the distance between the two monasteries and the perils by land and by sea, they dared not send the original document, but they sent a copy of it, authenticated by the priors of Pembroke, Haverford, and Cardigan.<sup>29</sup> Risdon's transcript may now be compared with the earlier version in the cartulary of Torre Abbey:—

“ Rob. fil. Martini omnibus sancte ecclesie filiis et omnibus hominibus tuis Francis & Anglis et Wallensibus, sciatis me dedisse Ste Marie de Camoys ecclesiam de Tregent, ecclesiam de Wadtree, & capellam de Cockington cum terra & aliis commodis. Hoc feci pro salute animarum parentum meorum qui antiquitus has donationes fecerunt, ego easdem carta mea confirmo. Valet.”<sup>30</sup>

“ Robertus Martini filius omnibus sancte matris ecclesie filiis et omnibus amicis et hominibus suis Francis et Anglicis et Walensibus, tam presentibus quam futuris, salutem. Sciatis quod dedi ecclesie Sancte Marie de Cameys ecclesiam de Treygruc et ecclesiam de Rattre et capellam de Kokynton, cum terris et omnibus pertinenciis suis in perpetuam elemosinam, pro amore dei et pro remissione peccatorum meorum, et pro animabus parentum meorum, libere et quiete tenendas, quas antiquitus dederam, et nunc iterum easdem carta mea confirmo. Hiis testibus, etc.”<sup>31</sup>

Apart from an obvious misprint and the misreading of two proper names, Risdon's version contains the false suggestion that Robert fitz Martin was confirming benefactions made by his 'parents.' Yet Risdon must have been using the version sent by the monks of St. Dogmael's, for the 'Valet' inserted by him at the end of the charter represents the words 'Valet'

29. Cartulary of Torre Abbey (P.R.O.), ff. 86, 86b, 107, 108.

30. *Survey of Devon*, 148.

31. Cartulary of Torre, f. 90.

in domino,' with which they concluded their letter to the canons of Torre.

At some unknown date, Robert fitz Martin gave, or sold, to the monks of Goldcliff half a hide of land at Compton and a like amount on Mendip.<sup>32</sup> A charter of Richard I confirms to the monks of Stanley the gift to them by Robert fitz Martin of the church of Blagdon 'in perpetual alms.'<sup>33</sup> It does not, however, quote the text of his charter, and, in the fourteenth century, the advowson of the church of Blagdon belonged to the heirs of the grantor.<sup>34</sup>

At some date not later than the year 1120, Robert fitz Martin and Maud Peverel his wife granted to the monks of Savigny the lands of William Peverel at Vengeons in La Manche, by consent of the overlord, Richard, Earl of Chester.<sup>35</sup> The wife of Robert fitz Martin may have been the relict of William Peverel. She may also have been the Maud Peverel who showed much favour to the Cluniac monks of Montacute, and seems to have founded their cell at Carswell in Devonshire.<sup>36</sup> Four members of the Peverel family, one of them named Maud, were witnesses to a charter of Robert fitz Martin whereby he granted the manor of Teignton (Teenton) to the monks of Montacute at Carswell in free alms, for the souls of Hugh, Earl of Chester, and his wife, for the welfare of Randolph, Earl of Chester, and his wife, and for the souls of his own father and mother, specifically named as Martin and Geva. The date cannot be earlier than the year 1121, and it is probably a good deal later.<sup>37</sup>

It was at the instigation of his wife, Maud Peverel, that Robert fitz Martin founded the abbey of St. Dogmael's.<sup>38</sup> At various unspecified dates, they jointly conveyed half a virgate

32. *Rotuli Chartarum*, 95.

33. Dugdale's *Monasticon*, V, 565.

34. Weaver's *Somerset Incumbents*, 28.

35. *Calendar of Documents in France* (ed. Round), nos. 796, 797, 824, 841.

36. Oliver's *Monasticon Dioecesis Exoniensis*, 135; *Cartularies of Bruton and Montacute*, M. nos. 9, 141, 142, 144.

37. *Cartularies*, etc., M. nos. 11, 151.

38. Dugdale's *Monasticon*, IV, 130.

of land at Bureton to the canons of Plympton; he conveyed land to them at Dartington, and she made an exchange with them.<sup>39</sup>

Robert fitz Martin is mentioned in a papal bull of 1128.<sup>40</sup> Two years later, he received a pardon for 16s. of Danegeld in Dorset.<sup>41</sup> He was fighting against the Welsh in 1135 or 1136.<sup>42</sup> In the civil war he espoused the cause of the Empress Maud, and he figures as a witness to several of her charters.<sup>43</sup> He may consequently have forfeited some of his lands. At any rate at least three of the manors formerly held of Glastonbury Abbey by Serlo de Burci were for a time in the possession of a certain William fitz Walter.<sup>44</sup> Restitution was made soon after the accession of Henry II, as appears by the following charter hitherto unnoticed:—

“Henricus rex Anglorum, dux Normannorum et Aquitanorum, et comes Andegavorum, omnibus archiepiscopis, episcopis, comitibus, baronibus, vicecomitibus et omnibus amicis et fidelibus Anglie et Normannie, salutem.

“Sciatis me reddidisse et concessisse Roberto filio Martini totam terram Serlonis de Burey, avi sui, ita libere et quiete et honorifice tenendam sicut unquam ipse Serlo vel aliquis antecessorum suorum illam tenuit tempore antecessorum meorum melius et liberius et quietius et honorabilius, cum omnibus libertatibus et omnibus liberis consuetudinibus, in bosco et plano, in pratis et pascuis, in aquis et extra, cum soca et saca, et toll et team et infangenoteof. Hec autem illi concedo in feodo et hereditate tenenda sibi et heredibus suis de me et heredibus meis, in terris et warennis et in omnibus aliis rebus.

“Testibus:—Toma cancellario, Rogero comite Herefordie, Hunfrido de Buhun, Warino filio Geroldi camerario, Huberto de Vallibus, Henrico Hosato, Hugone Hosato, Willelmo Malet, apud Walengeford.”<sup>45</sup>

39. Oliver's *Monasticon Diocesis Exoniensis*, 313.

40. *Liber Landavensis*, 37.

41. *Pipe Roll*, 31 Hen. I, p. 15.

42. *Brut y Tywysogion*, 159; *Annales Cambriæ*, 40.

43. *Pipe Roll Society, Ancient Charters*, 43; *Dugdale's Monasticon*, V, 107; *Round's Geoffrey de Mandeville*, 94, 95, 135.

44. *Feodary of Glastonbury Abbey*, 25, 86, 109, 113.

45. *Ancient Petitions (P.R.O.)*, no. 2978.

This completes the evidence with regard to the parentage of Robert fitz Martin. Domesday Book has shown that Serlo de Burci had a daughter married to William de Falaise; the charter of William de Falaise has shown that he had a wife named Geva; and the chartulary of Montacute has shown that the mother of Robert fitz Martin was named Geva. The charter of Henry II shows that Robert fitz Martin was the grandson and heir of Serlo de Burci.

The date of the charter is probably 1155.<sup>46</sup> By that time Robert fitz Martin was fully seventy years of age. He was dead in 1159.<sup>47</sup> The absence of any mention of relief on succession to his estate suggests that the heir may have been a minor, in the charge of some guardian appointed by the king. In 1162, the sheriffs of Devon and Somerset accounted for the scutage of Robert fitz Martin, who seems to have held five fees in each of these counties.<sup>48</sup> In 1166, the abbot of Glastonbury returned that five fees formerly held of his church by William fitz Walter were then held by an unnamed son of Robert fitz Martin. At the same time, the Bishop of Bath returned that three-quarters of a fee were held of him by Robert fitz Martin.<sup>49</sup> This does not necessarily mean that he believed Robert to be still living, for according to a common practice, the deceased was regarded as the owner of the estate until his successor had obtained actual possession. There is no mention in that year of the fees which Robert fitz Martin held of the king in chief, or of any assessment of them for the Aid of 1168.

It seems fairly clear that, after the death of Maud Peverel, Robert fitz Martin had married a second wife, very much younger than himself, and that she was the mother of his heir. After his death, she, as the relict of a tenant in chief, was reckoned as one of the widows to whom the king could tender a suitable husband, and so she continued for some years. In or before 1175, however, this lady, Alice de Nonant

46. See Eyton's *Itinerary of Henry II*, 9, 10.

47. *Pipe Roll*, 5 *Hen. II*, 21, 22.

48. *Pipe Roll*, 8 *Hen. II*, 6, 23.

49. *Red Book of the Exchequer*, 221, 223.

by name, took upon herself to marry again without royal licence. Her punishment was severe and lasting. Year after year, from 1176 to 1189, the sheriff of Devon collected for the Exchequer all the profits of her lands at Dartington, Langacre and Holne.<sup>50</sup> Two of these places had belonged to William de Falaise at the time of the Domesday survey of the county, and presumably to Serlo de Burci at a still earlier date. Langacre on the other hand had been carved out of the estate of Roger de Nonant at Broad Clyst, and it seems likely that Alice de Nonant was his daughter. Anyhow, Langacre eventually passed to her son, William fitz Robert fitz Martin, and his heirs, who continued to hold it of the Nonants in free socage.<sup>51</sup> A gap in the series of sheriffs' accounts for Devon after 1189 makes it impossible to ascertain the year of her death.

At some unspecified date between 1170 and 1183, William fitz Robert fitz Martin granted a messuage and land in the manor of Blagdon to the canons of St. Augustine's, Bristol, for the benefit of his own soul and the soul of King Henry the younger, the crowned son of Henry II.<sup>52</sup> As overlord of Uphill, which had likewise belonged to his ancestor Serlo de Burci at the time of the Domesday survey of Somerset, he confirmed a grant of land there to the church of St. Michael on the Steep Holme.<sup>53</sup> The earliest dated mention of him occurs in 1176, when he was fined for a default before the justices in Somerset.<sup>54</sup> No credence need be given to the suggested identification of him with a William Martin who was one of the justices in eyre in 1170. Under the simplified name of William fitz Martin he figures as a witness to two undated charters of Henry II.<sup>55</sup> Under the same name, he was, in 1187, assessed for scutage on more than five fees in

50. Pipe Rolls, *passim*.

51. *Cartularies of Bruton and Montacute*, M. no. 152; *Excerpta e Rotulis Finium*, I, 144; *Calendar of Inquisitions*, VI, 447.

52. *Berkeley Castle Charters* (ed. Jeayes), 22.

53. *Ibid.*, p. 43; also in *Proc. Som. Arch. Soc.*, LXII, 28.

54. *Pipe Roll*, 22 *Hen. II*, 156.

55. *Calendar of Charter Rolls*, II, 316.

Somerset, and on only three fees in Devon, Dartington and Holne being in the king's hands, as explained above.<sup>56</sup>

In 1194, not very long after the death of his expropriated mother, Alice de Nonant, William fitz Robert fitz Martin found it expedient to obtain from Richard I a charter avowedly founded upon that of Henry II :—

“ Ricardus dei gracia rex Anglorum, dux Normannorum, Aquitanorum, comes Andegavorum, archiepiscopis, episcopis, abbatibus, comitibus, baronibus, justiciis, vicecomitibus, senescallis, prepositis, et omnibus ministris et fidelibus suis, salutem.

“ Sciatis nos concessisse et presenti carta nostra confirmasse Willelmo filio Roberti filii Martini totam terram que fuit Serlonis de Burcy, avi ejusdem Roberti, ita libere et quiete et honorifice tenendam sicut unquam ipse Serlo vel aliquis antecessorum suorum illam tenuit tempore antecessorum nostrorum melius et liberius et quietius et honorabilius, cum omnibus libertatibus et liberis consuetudinibus suis in bosco et plano, in pratis et pascuis, in aquis et extra, cum socha et sacha, et toll et team et infangenetheof. Hec autem omnia illi concedimus in feodo et hereditate tenenda sibi et heredibus suis de nobis et heredibus nostris, in terris et warennis et omnibus aliis rebus, sicut carta Henrici Regis, patris nostri, testatur.

“ Testibus :—H. Cantuariensi archiepiscopo, H. Dunelmensi, G. Wintoniensi, H. Excestrensi, episcopis, comite David de Scotia, comite R. le Bygot, comite R. de Cestria, comite Willelmo de Saresberia, comite Willelmo de Vernon, Gaufrido de Say, Willelmo Marescallo, Gaufrido filio Petri, Hugone Bard', Willelmo Bruere, Henrico de Nonant, Rogero de Valle Torta, Willelmo Baucan, Willelmo de Cane', et pluribus aliis. Data per manum Willelmi Eliensis episcopi, cancellarii nostri, xxiiij die Aprilis, apud Watham, anno v. regni nostri.”<sup>57</sup>

The mention of the grantee's near relation, Henry de Nonant, and several other Devonians among the witnesses is worthy of notice.

Some years later, in 1198, William fitz Robert fitz Martin effected an exchange of land in Devonshire with Warin de Morcells, who had married his sister Sibyl.<sup>58</sup> Long before this, he himself had married Angharad, or Ankaret, a daughter of

56. *Pipe Roll*, 33 *Hen. II*, 146, 163.

57. *Ancient Petitions*, no. 2978.

58. *Fines* (ed. Hunter), II, 46.

Rhys ap Gruffyd, but he had quarrelled with his father-in-law, and had been ejected by him from the castle of Nevern in 1191.<sup>59</sup> He died in, or shortly before, 1209, leaving a son of his own name, and apparently a younger son known as Martin fitz William.<sup>60</sup> Angharad his relict survived him by about seventeen years.<sup>61</sup>

In 1209, "William son and heir of William fitz (*fili*) Martin" was entered on the great roll of the Exchequer as owing 300 marks (200*l.*) "for having the land which was of the aforesaid William his father, with the appurtenances, whereof he was seised in his demesne as of fee on the day on which he died."<sup>62</sup> The amount thus claimed by the Crown may at first sight appear excessive, but it is necessary to remember that the relief on succession to a barony had not yet been fixed at 100*l.* Furthermore the record on early Pipe Rolls of payments "pro habenda terra" alongside of payments "pro relevio" suggest a possibility that the former phrase was used in cases where the heir was slightly under age and so not strictly entitled to succeed at once. This question has yet to be investigated.

William fitz Martin was returned, in 1212, as holding Blagdon by two fees, and a fee in the hundred of Catsash of the honour of Blagdon, in Somerset, and the manor of Piddle Walterston in Dorset.<sup>63</sup> He was dead in February 1216. Avice his relict, apparently a sister of the notorious Falk de Breauté, got dower at Pylle, and probably elsewhere.<sup>64</sup> Angharad his mother was still in possession of part of the inheritance.

Early in 1216, Falk de Breauté obtained from the king a grant of the wardship of the heir of William fitz Martin and

59. *Giraldus Cambrensis*, VI, 111; *Annales Cambriæ*, 58; *Dict. Nat. Biog.*, XLVIII, 90.

60. *Rotuli Litterarum Clausarum*, II, 132.

61. *Excerpta e Rotulio Finium*, I, 120. The word '*ipsius*' has crept into the text of the writ by a very natural confusion between two Williams.

62. *Pipe Roll*, 11 *John*, Dorset and Somerset.

63. *Testa de Nevill*, 161, 162, 165. (*Liber Feodorum*, 80, 82, 93).

64. *Rotuli Litterarum Clausarum*, I, 260, 595.

of his lands in the counties of Devon, Dorset and Somerset.<sup>65</sup> Some of these lands are specified by name in records of the period.<sup>66</sup> In October 1222, the king granted "to Nicholas the nephew (*nepoti*) of Falk de Breauté" licence to have a fair lasting three days at his manor of Combe Martin in Devonshire every year until he should come of age.<sup>67</sup> This limitation of time shows clearly enough that the grant was not made for the benefit of the inhabitants, or even of the young lord, Nicholas fitz Martin, but rather for that of his guardian. After the fall of Falk, the wardship of the heir of William fitz Martin was transferred to Henry de Trumbleville, who was in charge of him as late as the year 1231.<sup>68</sup>

Contemporary mentions of Nicholas fitz Martin, the son and heir of the second William fitz Martin, are so numerous as to preclude any attempt to collect them here; a few of the more material facts concerning him must suffice.

In the first place then it may be noted that the assessments connected with the Aid of 1235 credited him with six fees and a half in Somerset and five and a half in Devon.<sup>69</sup> Blagdon, the head of his barony, represented two of the fees in Somerset.<sup>70</sup> In Wales he was usually described as 'lord of Cameis,' variously spelt. Newport seems to have been his principal place there.<sup>71</sup>

Nicholas fitz Martin obtained for himself and his heirs royal charters sanctioning markets and fairs at different places in the west of England, that is to say at South Molton in 1246, at West Lydford in 1260, and at Combe Martin in 1265.<sup>72</sup> He had acquired the hundred and the manor of South Molton by

65. *Ibid.*, p. 248.

66. *Ibid.*, pp. 293, 366, 457, 480.

67. *Ibid.*, p. 511.

68. *Excerpta e Rotulis Finium*, I, 144; *Patent Rolls*, 1225-1232, p. 105; *Close Rolls*, 1227-1231, pp. 144, 553; *Testa de Nevill*, 170, 171 (*Liber Feodorum*, 377-379).

69. *Testa de Nevill*, 166, 169, 188, 195. The number was slightly higher in both counties in 1242. *Ibid.*, pp. 159, 168, 178.

70. *Rotuli Hundredorum*, II, 130.

71. Owen's *Pembrokeshire*, I, 104, 431-454.

72. *Calendar of Charter Rolls*, I, 30; II, 27, 53.



means of an exchange with Gilbert de Turberville;<sup>73</sup> he had obtained a life-interest in West Lydford through his second wife Isabel; Combe Martin was part of the ancient inheritance of his family.

In the course of a long and active life, Nicholas fitz Martin served Henry III and his son Edward in various capacities, civil and military. Thus he was often employed upon enquiries and commissions of a semi-judicial character, and at different times he was entrusted with the charge of the castles of Totnes, Kilgarran, Caermarthen and Cardigan. When he was taken prisoner by the Welsh in 1257, his tenants were exhorted by the king to contribute to his ransom.<sup>74</sup>

Nothing whatever is known about the first wife of Nicholas fitz Martin except that she must have been the mother of at least two of his sons. Cumulative evidence goes to show that, in 1259 or 1260, he married as his second wife Isabel relict of Hugh Peverel, grand-daughter and coheirress of Ralph fitz William of Brompton Ralph and Withycombe. Her own inheritance comprised the manor of Brown in Treborough, a third of the original manor of Withycombe, and land elsewhere.<sup>75</sup> She also had a life interest in the manor of West Lydford, the reversionary right to which was vested in John Peverel, the son and heir of Hugh Peverel.<sup>76</sup>

In 1267, Nicholas fitz Martin obtained for John Peverel permanent exemption from service on juries and the like.<sup>77</sup> Some thirteen years later, Sir John Peverel presented David Martin, who is known to have been a son of Nicholas fitz Martin, to the church of Ermington.<sup>78</sup> At some unspecified

73. *Placita de Quo Waranto*, 172.

74. *Calendar of Patent Rolls, 1247-1258*, pp. 581, 601, 633; *Calendar of Inquisitions, Miscellaneous*, I, 302.

75. *Somersetshire Pleas*, 111, 117, 195, 207, 302; Pole MS. at Antony, f. 8; Mohun Cartulary; *Feet of Fines, Somerset*, 20 and 21 Hen. III (Green, I, 87, 98); *Calendar of Inquisitions*, I, 134, 314.

76. *Calendar of Charter Rolls*, II, 27; *Calendar of Inquisitions*, I, 157; *Placita de Quo Waranto*, 697; *Feet of Fines, Somerset*, 52 Hen. III (Green, I, 222); *Hist. MSS. Comm., Report on Wells MSS.*, I, 403; *Som. and Dorset Notes and Queries*, XIII, 46; *Calendar of Close Rolls, 1272-1279*, p. 490.

77. *Calendar of Patent Rolls, 1266-1272*, p. 70.

78. *Register of Bishop Bronescombe*, 134.

date, he enfeoffed Nicholas fitz Martin and his heirs of the manor of Kingston in Devonshire, in consideration of a demise to him for life of the castle of Newport in South Wales.<sup>79</sup> West Lydford seems to have been the subject of some similar arrangement between them, for it became an integral part of the Martin estate in Somerset.

Nicholas fitz Martin died shortly before March 1282.<sup>80</sup> An inquisition taken in Somerset states that Blagdon was the head of his barony, to which appertained the manors of Dartington, Combe Martin and Holne, and ten and a half knights' fees in Somerset, Dorset and Devon. No particulars are given as to his estate in Wales. He was succeeded by his grandson William.<sup>81</sup>

Before proceeding to deal briefly with the story of later generations of this family, it seems desirable to note that their surname underwent a change in the second half of the thirteenth century. We have seen above that William son of Robert son of Martin was sometimes described more briefly as 'filius Martini,' 'son of Martin,' or 'fitz Martin,' and that his grandson Nicholas was similarly described, although still further removed in descent from Martin the husband of Geva de Burci.<sup>82</sup> In his time, however, this system of nomenclature was found inconvenient, especially in Latin documents, and so a fine of the year 1268, which styles him Nicholas fitz Martin (*filius Martini*), credits his surviving sons with the simpler surname of 'Martin.'<sup>83</sup> The longer patronymic was seldom used after his time.<sup>84</sup>

Nicholas fitz Martin had issue six sons, Nicholas, Robert, John, William, David, and Warin, and a daughter Avice or Amice.<sup>85</sup> Of these, Nicholas and Robert were born of his

79. *Calendar of Inquisitions*, II, 263.

80. *Calendar of Fine Rolls*, I, 159, 160.

81. *Calendar of Inquisitions*, II, 263.

82. In one charter the form is 'Nicholaus filius Willelmi filii Martini' (Owen's *Pembrokeshire*, I, 449).

83. Feet of Fines, Dorset, 52 Hen. III.

84. *Feudal Aids*, I, 325, 335.

85. *Placita de Banco*, no. 574, m. 121.

first wife, while David, Warin, and Avice were born of his second wife, Isabel relict of Hugh Peverel. John and William presumably died young.

Nicholas the eldest son of Nicholas fitz Martin can hardly have been born much later than the year 1236, inasmuch as his own son William was found by inquisition to be over twenty-five years of age in 1282.<sup>86</sup> As his father was sometimes called 'Colin,' an equivalent of Nicholas, it is likely enough that he was sometimes called 'Colinet,' the little Nicholas, or Nicholas the younger. A Colinet Martin accordingly figures in several accounts of the family, the compilers of which have failed to realize his identity with the younger Nicholas. This Nicholas son of Nicholas predeceased his father, and we know little about him except that he made a great alliance, marrying Maud daughter and heiress of Guy de Bryan by Eve his wife daughter and heiress of Henry de Tracy, the feudal lord of Barnstaple. Surviving him, she married secondly Geoffrey de Camville, shortly before August 1274, and she died before Michaelmas 1279.<sup>87</sup> As will be seen later, her son by Nicholas Martin eventually succeeded to the Tracy inheritance.

Robert Martin, the second son of Nicholas fitz Martin, was the ancestor of a branch of the family which flourished in Dorset for several generations. In 1268, Nicholas fitz Martin conveyed his estates at Piddle Walterston and Pulston in that county to Robert Martin and the heirs of his body, with successive remainders, to his younger sons, William, David, and Warin Martin, and the heirs of their respective bodies, to be held of him and his own heirs.<sup>88</sup> Furthermore, in the same year, he and Isabel his wife conveyed two messuages and two carucates of land at Brown and Shepton Mallet to Robert Martin and Amy his wife and the heirs of her body, to be held of himself and his wife and her heirs.<sup>89</sup> This was part of

86. *Calendar of Inquisitions*, II, 263.

87. *Ibid.*, 56, 57; vol. IV, 210; vol. V, 67. *Calendar of Fine Rolls*, I, 28; *Rotuli Hundredorum*, I, 63; *Placita coram Rege*, no. 49, m. 7.

88. *Feet of Fines*, Dorset, 52 Hen. III.

89. *Feet of Fines*, Somerset, 52 Hen. III (Green, I, 214).

Isabel's inheritance. By a deed dated at West Lydford in 1280, John Peverel, son and heir of Hugh Peverel, quitclaimed to Robert Martin and Amy his wife all his right in certain lands at Withycombe and Watchet, places at which Isabel Martin's grandfather, Ralph fitz William, had held property at the beginning of the thirteenth century.<sup>90</sup> But in dealing with a messuage at Withycombe some seven years later, Sir Robert Martin had to obtain the consent of his mother-in-law, Amy.<sup>91</sup> This lady was presumably the daughter of Isabel Peverel, and it seems fairly certain that the younger Amy, the wife of Sir Robert Martin, was the grand-daughter of Isabel Peverel, his step-mother. Sir Robert Martin did military service in lieu of his father Nicholas in 1277. He was returned as one of the knights of the shire for Dorset in 1295.<sup>92</sup> He was living in 1303.<sup>93</sup> We cannot here follow the history of his descendants.<sup>94</sup>

David Martin, the fifth son of Nicholas fitz Martin, was not a graduate when presented to the rectory of Ermington by his half-brother John Peverel in 1280.<sup>95</sup> He was elected Bishop of St. David's in his own fatherland in June 1293, but, owing to some difficulties raised at the Roman court, he was not consecrated until December 1296.<sup>96</sup> There is no occasion here to follow his public career. At an inquisition taken soon after his death, which occurred in March 1328, it was found that Thomas Carew, son of his sister Avice, was his heir and thirty years of age.<sup>97</sup> His nephew, William Martin, and his brother, Robert Martin, were excluded as being of the half-blood.

Sir Warin Martin, the youngest son of Nicholas fitz Martin, seems to have lived in South Wales. He was in charge of

90. Dunster Castle Muniments, XXXII, i.

91. *Hist. MSS. Comm., Report X*, App. vi, p. 74.

92. *Parliamentary Writs*, I, 42.

93. *Feudal Aids*, II, 31, 35.

94. The pedigree in Hutchins's *History of Dorset* requires drastic revision.

95. *Bishop Bronescombe's Register*, 73.

96. Le Neve's *Fasti* (ed. Hardy), I, 293; *Calendar of Papal Letters*, I, 564.

97. *Calendar of Inquisitions*, V, 99; *Calendar of Close Rolls, 1327-1330*, p. 279; *Calendar of Patent Rolls, 1330-1334*, p. 162; *Inquisitions ad quod damnum*, file 214, no. 4.

Welsh levies in 1298, 1301, and 1303. He attended the Parliament of 1306 at Carlisle as proxy for his brother the Bishop of St. David's, and he evidently predeceased him without issue.<sup>98</sup>

Avice the daughter of Nicholas fitz Martin was, as mentioned above, the mother of Thomas Carew. Sir William Pole, who had access to many documents no longer extant, makes a definite statement that "John Peverel, knight, the last of that family, gave Weston with other lands unto Sir Nicholas Carrue, knight, with Amisia his sister."<sup>99</sup> On another page he makes a similar statement with regard to Mamhead, and official returns show that Nicholas Carew was in possession of Weston in 1285, and of Weston, Mamhead, and Ashford Peverel in 1303.<sup>100</sup> Inasmuch then as John Peverel is known to have been the son and heir of Hugh Peverel of Ermington, it is not surprising that Pole and others since his time have supposed the wife of Nicholas Carew to have been the daughter of this Hugh. They have not perceived that she was the half-sister of John Peverel, being the daughter of his mother Isabel by her second husband, Nicholas fitz Martin.

Reverting now to the main line of the Martin family, we find that William Martin, son of Nicholas, son of Nicholas fitz Martin, was born about the year 1257. Dugdale, misled by Robert Glover, a herald of the sixteenth century, says that he married Eleanor daughter of Sir William de Mohun, and his statement to this effect has been repeated times without number<sup>101</sup>: it will doubtless continue to be repeated by genealogists who neglect original authorities. In point of fact this lady's maiden name was Fitz Piers, and she was the

98. *Calendar of Patent Rolls*, 1292-1301, pp. 343, 597; 1301-1307, pp. 177, 244; *Calendar of Close Rolls*, 1296-1302, p. 208; *Rotuli Parliamentorum*, I, 190.

99. *Description of Devonshire*, 129, 333, 334. John Anstis, Garter King of Arms, seems also to have seen the deed whereby John Peverel, lord of Ermington, granted the manors of Weston, Galmton, and Mamhead, land at Ashford, and the advowson of Mamhead to Sir Nicholas Carew and Amice his wife, his 'sister.'

100. Pole, 259; *Feudal Aids*, I, 341, 347, 354.

101. *Baronage of England*, I, 729.

relict of Sir John de Mohun of Dunster. Her dower comprised the manors of Minehead and Kilton in Somerset, and Bradworthy, Torre Mohun and Ugborough in Devon, with the overlordship of a third of the fees of Mohun in the west of England.<sup>102</sup>

On the death of Nicholas fitz Martin about the beginning of the year 1282, William Martin succeeded to his estate as grandson and heir.<sup>103</sup> Within a few months, he made provision for Dame Eleanor de Mohun by assigning to her for life the manors of Kingston, Combe Martin, Langacre, and (South) Molton, in Devon, and (West) Lydford, in Somerset, at a yearly rent of 200*l.* to himself, or only a penny to his heirs in the event of her surviving him.<sup>104</sup> It was perhaps at her instigation that he purchased the manor of Staunton, between Dunster and Minehead, the overlordship of Staunton being part of her dower.<sup>105</sup> A charter of free warren granted to William Martin specified his demesne at Dartington, Combe Martin, Holne, Langacre, Beer, Marwood and Raddon, in Devon, and Lydford in Somerset.<sup>106</sup>

At some unknown date in the later part of the thirteenth century, William Martin sent up the following petition:—

“ A nostre seigneur le roy et a son conseil prie William Martyn qil puisse rehavoir sa fraunchise de Blakedon et de Lhudeford, la quele le Roy Henry dona par sa chartre a Robert filz Martyn, tresael William Martyn qui ore est,<sup>107</sup> cest asavoir heu et cry, saunc espanduz, amendement de payn et de cervoise, fourche et pole, sok et sac, tol et team, en les manoirs desusdites, les queles fraunchises le Roy Richard conferma par sa chartre, et les queles fraunchises Robert filz Martyn et ses heirs tyndrent

102. *Calendar of Inquisitions*, II, 353 ; *Calendar of Close Rolls*, 1272–1279, pp. 539–541 ; *Feudal Aids*, I, 318, 339, 340, 349, 352, 380 ; IV, 274, 302, 303, 334.

103. *Calendar of Inquisitions*, II, 263 ; *Calendar of Fine Rolls*, I, 159, 160, 198 ; *Calendar of Close Rolls*, 1296–1302, p. 27.

104. *Calendar of Charter Rolls*, II, 264.

105. *History of Dunster*, 444, 445.

106. *Calendar of Charter Rolls*, II, 433.

107. Robert fitz Martin was really a generation further removed from the petitioner, being his great-great-grandfather.

taunke qe a la dereyne eyre en counte de Somerset qe un Johan Peverel adunke tynt les manoirs semblent ove les fraunchises avaunt dites a terme de sa vye du les Nichol filz Martyn, et par le nouncleym le dyt Johan furent les dites fraunchises prises en la mayn nostre seignur le roy, dunt le dyt William Martyn prie a nostre seignur le roy qe lui pleyse graunter les fraunchises avaunt dites solom le tenour des chartres de ses progenitors, ovesqe la clause ceo qil nad mye use qil puisse desoremes user.<sup>108</sup>

Apart from any question as to the exact nature of the franchises granted by Henry II and confirmed by Richard I in their charters printed above, it is material to observe that the petitioner put the two manors of Blagdon and (West) Lydford on an equal footing, as if both of them had been part of the land of his ancestor, Serlo de Burci. But it has been seen that West Lydford was a comparatively recent addition to the Martin estate, acquired by his own grandfather long after the date of the second charter quoted. Moreover some of the very rights which William Martin claimed there had been directly challenged by the Crown before his time, in 1275 and in 1280.<sup>109</sup>

Sir William Martin was, in 1305, appointed a justice of Trailbaston, and he was for a while justice of South Wales.<sup>110</sup> From time to time he received orders to perform military service in Wales, in Gascony, and on the marches of Scotland. It is more important to observe that he was summoned to Parliament in 1283, in 1295, and in subsequent years down to 1324.<sup>111</sup> He was one of the 'ordainers' chosen in 1310, and one of the triers of petitions chosen ten years later.<sup>112</sup> Peerage-makers have accordingly styled him 'Lord Martin,' thus giving him a title which was unknown in his own day. One of the seals appended to the famous letter from the principal laymen in England to the Pope, prepared in 1301, bears a

108. Ancient Petitions, no. 12977.

109. *Rotuli Hundredorum*, II, 131; *Placita de Quo Waranto*, 697.

110. *Calendar of Close Rolls*, 1313-1318, *passim*; *Wright's Political Songs* (Camden Soc.), 233, 383.

111. *Parliamentary Writs*, I, 729; II, 1149-1151.

112. *Rotuli Parliamentorum*, I, 365.

shield charged with two bars and a legend :—" S. Will'i Martini."<sup>113</sup> In the text of the document, William Martin is styled "dominus de Camesio," his main estate at that date being still in South Wales.<sup>114</sup> Elsewhere he is styled "dominus de Staunton," and he might with equal propriety be described as 'lord' of any of the manors which he held in demesne.<sup>115</sup> On the death of his step-father, Sir Geoffrey de Camville, in 1308, he succeeded to the whole Honour of Barnstaple, comprising manors, advowsons, knights' fees, and other rights too numerous to be specified here.<sup>116</sup>

Sir William Martin had issue two sons, Edmund and William, and two daughters, Eleanor and Joan. When at Ghent, on the king's service in 1297, he made an arrangement with Sir John Hastings, similarly employed there, for a double matrimonial alliance between their respective families. Edmund, his eldest son, was, according to this, to marry Joan, or Jonette, the eldest daughter of Sir John Hastings, and William, the eldest son of Sir John Hastings, was to marry Eleanor the elder daughter of Sir William Martin.<sup>117</sup> The four persons principally concerned were at the time mere children, and both the young bridegrooms eventually predeceased their fathers. There is reason to believe that Sir William Martin conveyed his manors of West Lydford and Staunton to his son Edmund, on his actual marriage, and that, after the death of the latter, his relict, Joan, married Thomas Trivet, who seems to have been in possession of a third of both these manors for many years.<sup>118</sup>

Eleanor, the elder daughter of Sir William Martin, survived William Hastings, and, in or before 1317, married Philip de

113. *The Ancestor*, VII, 256.

114. *Rymer's Foedera*, I, 927.

115. *Feudal Aids*, IV, 302.

116. *Calendar of Inquisitions*, V, 67-69; *Calendar of Fine Rolls*, II, 30.

117. *Calendar of Patent Rolls*, 1292-1301, p. 314; *Dugdale's Monasticon*, IV, 616.

118. *Feudal Aids*, IV, 319; *Kirby's Quest*, etc. (*Som. Rec. Soc.*), 209; *Calendar of Inquisitions*, VI, 447, where he is called John Trivet (*Ibid.*, VIII, 272).



Columbers of Nether Stowey.<sup>119</sup> Surviving him also, she died without issue in 1342, and was buried at Barnstaple.<sup>120</sup>

Joan, the younger daughter of Sir William Martin, married firstly Henry de Lacy, Earl of Lincoln. At his death in 1311, she became one of 'the king's widows,' liable to be disposed of by him in marriage. Choosing, however, to disregard her oath to him, she proceeded to marry Sir Nicholas Audley of Heleigh, without royal licence. All the lands which she held in dower were therefore seized by the king's escheator.<sup>121</sup> Her second husband died in 1316, and it was probably in order to protect her against fortune-hunters that her father made her bind herself in the then fabulous sum of 10,000*l.* to be forfeited to him if she should marry without his consent. This was in 1318, and she remained a widow until her death some three or four years later.<sup>122</sup>

Sir William Martin died in, or shortly before, October 1324, and was succeeded by his son of the same name, then about thirty years of age.<sup>123</sup> A bond for a thousand marks given by John Hastings of Abergavenny to the elder Sir William Martin in 1316 may have been connected with a project for a third alliance between the two families.<sup>124</sup> At any rate it seems clear that Margaret the wife of William Martin 'le fitz' was either the sister or the daughter of this John Hastings. Her very existence has been strangely overlooked in almost every account of the Martin family.

William Martin the younger was summoned to Councils or Parliaments in 1324 and 1325, but he died before April 1326.<sup>125</sup>

119. Feet of Fines, Somerset, 11 Edw. II (Green, II, 74); *Calendar of Patent Rolls*, 1317-1321, p. 127.

120. *Calendar of Inquisitions*, VIII, 269-272; Leland's *Itinerary* (ed. Toulmin Smith), I, 170; *Calendar of Patent Rolls*, 1330-1334, p. 535.

121. *Calendar of Fine Rolls*, II, 170, 172; *Calendar of Patent Rolls*, 1307-1313, p. 535.

122. *Calendar of Inquisitions*, VI, 42, 220; *Calendar of Close Rolls*, 1313-1318, pp. 614, 617.

123. *Calendar of Inquisitions*, VI, 358; *Calendar of Fine Rolls*, III, 313.

124. *Calendar of Close Rolls*, 1313-1318, p. 442.

125. *Parliamentary Writs*, II, 1151; *Calendar of Inquisitions*, VI, 446-453.

As he left no issue, two-thirds of his great inheritance were divided between his two coheirs, his sister Eleanor Columbers and his nephew James Audley. Within a short time of his death, and before June 1326, his relict Margaret married Robert of Watevill, and with him put in a claim for dower.<sup>126</sup> She survived until July 1359, and, at an inquisition taken in the following month, it was found that John the young son of Laurence Hastings was her heir.<sup>127</sup> This boy, however, did not succeed to the Martin lands which she held in dower, and, Eleanor Columbers being dead, they passed to Sir James Audley, the eventual heir of Serlo de Burci and of Henry de Tracy. The names of Compton Martin in Somerset and Combe Martin in Devonshire preserve the memory of the family to which they formerly belonged.

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## APPENDIX.

THE Provost of Eton has recently discovered the charter of William de Falaise, hitherto known only by a too brief abstract of a copy of it in the little Cartulary of Stoke Curci, and he has kindly supplied a literal transcript of it, which may be extended thus :—

Ego Willelmus de Faleisia cum uxore mea Geva damus ecclesiam Sancti Andree de Suntinstoch<sup>1</sup> cum tota terra pertinente ad ecclesiam Sancte Marie Longiledi<sup>2</sup> et cum una hidra terre et cum tota decima parrochie et cum omnibus decimis omnium rerum quas ibi possidemus, etiam cum decima gabuli tocius terre nostre quam aqua que dicitur Perret<sup>3</sup> ab oriente secludit, et totam decimam eiusdem ville, scilicet equarum atque pecudum, et duas partes x<sup>me</sup> Coquintone,<sup>4</sup> et totam

126. *Ibid.*; *Calendar of Close Rolls*, 1323–1327, pp. 483, 572, 595–602; *Inq. ad quod damnum*, file 194, no. 8.

127. *Calendar of Inquisitions*, X, 390, 391.

1. Stoke, afterwards Stoke Curci or Stogursey.

2. Lonley.

3. The river Parret.

4. Cockington, co. Devon, miscalled 'Corniton' in a papal bull of 1204.

decimam unius falde de Combe, et ij<sup>as</sup> partes x<sup>me</sup> Wiletonie,<sup>5</sup> et ij<sup>as</sup> partes x<sup>me</sup> Lulinstocke,<sup>6</sup> abbati Rannulfo et monachis eius tam successoribus quam modo presentibus, pro salute Regis Henrici et animarum nostrarum et parentum, predecessorum et successorum nostrorum.

Damus etiam totam decimam de Tientone<sup>7</sup> et ecclesiam in Gal cum tota decima parrochie cui nomen est Treigru,<sup>8</sup> concedente Roberto Martini filio.

Concedimus etiam pastum peccoribus ipsorum in omni loco ubi nostra fuerint et ligna usui eorum necessaria cum silva que dicitur Canthoc<sup>9</sup> et capellatione nostre domus quantum in villa fuerimus.

Hec autem omnia tam libere concedimus quam quiete a rege tenemus. Si quis autem hanc donationem minuerit et iterum terram illam ab ecclesia converterit, in omni generatione sine oblivione deleatur nomen eius et cum justis non scribatur in eternum.

+ S[ignum] H[enrici] Reg[is], + S[ignum] H[enrici] co[m]itis de Garg<sup>10</sup>, + S[ignum] Heonis<sup>11</sup> dap[iferi], + S[ignum] Rog[eri] Pic[tavensis], + S[ignum] comitis Symon,<sup>12</sup> + S[ignum] Rog[eri] de Ferr[ariis], + S[ignum] Will[elmi] de Fales[ia], + Emma, + Sibyle,<sup>13</sup> + Mili Crispini,<sup>14</sup> + Geva uxores W[illelmi], + Will[elm]i filii Unfredi,<sup>15</sup> + Roberti Pinc[er]narii, + Herberti Militis.

5. Williton.

6. Lilstock.

7. Teignton, co. Devon.

8. Tresgru. *Close Rolls*, 1227-1231, p. 553. Treguz in Glamorgan, *Placita de Quo Waranto*, p. 172.

9. Quantock.

10. Henry, Earl of Warwick, died 1123.

11. Eudes, or, less probably, Hamon.

12. Simon, Earl of Northampton and Huntingdon, died before 1109.

13. Emma and Sibyl, daughters of the grantor.

14. Miles Crispin, died 1107.

15. William fitz Humphrey, who married Emma de Falaise.