

Two Deeds Relating to Stavordale Priory and the Family of Sanzaver.

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BY the kindness of Mrs. Heneage I am enabled to publish two deeds from the large collection in the muniment room at Coker Court. Its contents have recently been carefully sorted and arranged in boxes, and provided with an excellent catalogue. While examining this I was interested to find that there were two documents relating to Stavordale older than any yet discovered, giving the name of a Prior hitherto unknown. The references to the Sanzaver family were equally curious; and it seemed worth while to put together a history of the family so far as it was connected with Somersetshire. A short account of Stavordale will be found in the *Proceedings*, L, ii, 94, to which these notes may be considered as an appendix.

I.

No. 993 in Coker Court muniments. Size, 9½ins. × 8ins.; good condition but seal missing. Indented at the top through cyrograph.

Omnibus Christi fidelibus presentem cartam visuris vel auditoris Willielmus divina permissione prior ecclesie sancti Jacobi de Stavordel et ejusdem loci canonici salutem in Domino. Noverit universitas vestra nos divine pietatis intuitu et specialiter ob favorem domini Hugonis sine averio et heredum suorum, et pro anima Eve quondam uxoris sue et antecessorum suorum et sucessorum, quo multa bona

contulit ecclesie nostre, concessisse de consensu et voluntate venerabilis patris nostri Jocelini episcopi Bathoniensis quod unus canonicus ecclesie nostre imperpetuo pro animabus dicti Eve et dicti Hugonis et antecessorum suorum et successorum singulis diebus quibus licitum est celebrare pro defunctis divina celebret inperpetuum pro eisdem. Ita videlicet quod idem canonicus qui dicere officio preerit, in ullo sit dicto Hugoni vel heredibus suis subjectus; sed, cum de ipso humanitus contigerit, ut gratiam dicti Hugoni et heredibus suis in hac facie videamus et de ipsa sint certi, obligamur nos eisdem Hugoni et heredibus suis quod infra quindecim dies post mensem ad tardius postquam ipso canonicus infata decesserit, aliquem solitarem virum ydoneum ad predictum officium supplendum eisdem presentabimus quum in ecclesia nostra canonizabitur, quem recusare non poterunt dictus Hugo vel heredes sui qui pro tempore fuerint si ydoneus fuerit. Si vero tunc morati fuerimus presentandi, episcopus Bathoniensis qui pro tempore fuerit vel ejus officialis nos ad primam summonitionem dicti Hugonis vel heredum suorum per censuram ecclesiasticam et sequestrationem omnium bonorum nostrorum mobilium et immobilium, omni appellatione, cavillatione, et regia prohibitione postpositis ad presentandum dicto viro si necesse fuerit compellet. Nichilominus per unum canonicum ecclesie nostre celebrabitur quolibet die pro animabus predictis quousque canonicus vero predicto servicio in ipsa ecclesia subrogatur.

Et ut perpetue commendetur memorie volumus quod ipsa nostra permissio ponetur in martilogio nostro et quolibet menso (sic) semel ad minus in capitulo legatur et simili donationis recitatione, et dicatur psalmus De profundis cum oratione dominicali, et oratione speciali pro animabus predictis. Dictus vero Hugo attendens quod sibi et heredibus suis gratiam fecimus in premissis specialem, nolens quod ecclesia nostra in premissis gravetur, sed indemnitatem ecclesie nostre prospicere cupiens, ad unius canonici in dicta ecclesia sustentationem dedit ecclesie nostre et canonicis Deo et beate Marie et sancto Jacobo ibidem servientibus pure libere in puram et perpetuam elemosinam pro animabus dicto Eve et antecessorum et successorum dicti Hugonis, triginta solidos

annualis redditus in villa de Batecumbe cum homagio Willielmi le Esware et heredum suorum : salvo servicio Domini regis et forinseco, prout in carta domini Hugonis super hoc nobis perfecta plenius pertinetur. Omnem quod obligationem et premissorum donationem ad petitionem nostram et dicti Hugonis et heredum suorum dominus nostri dictus Jocelinus Bathoniensis episcopus auctoritate pontificali sicut pie et proinde sanctum est confirmavit. In cujus rei testimonium presens instrumentum in modo cyrographi confectum sigillo nostro et dicti domini Jocelini Bathoniensis episcopi fuit sigillatum.

Prior William desiring to make a return for all the kindness received from the lord Hugh Sine averio, and to benefit the souls of his late wife Eva and their ancestors and successors has obtained permission from Jocelin Bishop of Bath that a daily mass for the deceased shall be celebrated by one of the canons, who shall be subject to Hugh and his heirs ; on the death of the canon another shall be chosen within fifteen days under penalty of ecclesiastical censure and sequestration. This permission is to be entered in the martilog and recited once a month in chapter. In return for this special favour Hugh has granted to the said canon thirty shillings of annual rent out of the village of Batcombe together with the homage of William le Esware and his heirs.

The document is not dated. Eva Sanzaver was alive in 1233, and Bishop Jocelin died 19th November, 1242.

II.

No. 994 in Coker Court muniments. Size, 7½ins. × 3ins. ; good condition, but seal missing.

Sciant presentes et futuri ego Willielmus prior ecclesie sancti Jacobi de Staffordel et fratres nostri ibidem Deo servientes tenemur acquietare imperpetuum dominum Radulfum sine averio et heredes suos de regali servicio et forinseco de terra quam habemus ex dono Amugerii sine averio fratris ejusdem Radulfi in villa de Rakincham, videlicet quantum pertinet ad tantam terram de eodem feudo in eadem villa ; et ut hic nostra regalis servicii et forinseco recognitio prout accidit rata

et stabilis imperpetuum permaneat hic carte nostre de communi assensu fratrum nostrorum sigillum nostrum duximus apponendum. Hiis testibus: domino Hugone sine averio, domino Willielmo de Hystenestham, domino Drugone de halta ripa, domino Willielmo Godmanestham, magistro Willielmo sine averio, Johanne de Hescite, Robert. Bosse, et multis aliis.

Prior William acknowledges that the Convent is bound to acquit the lord Ralph Sine averio of the royal and foreign service due from their land at Rackincham which his brother Amuger had given to them.

The charter is not dated. Ralph has succeeded his father who was alive in 1243; and Walter was prior in 1249. Rackincham was somewhere in the neighbourhood; and in the next century had become Rackington, as Godmanestham had become Godmanston. In the Buckland chartulary (*S.R.S.*, xxv) charter no. 230 mentions Briclm which the editor identifies with Bruton. So here are three cases in the same district where the —ham termination has given to place to —ton. Amuger is a very unusual personal name; due one would imagine to a misspelling of Mauger, with one letter transposed.

Spargrove the Somerset home of the Sanzaver family is now only a farm-house in the parish of Batcombe, to which the benefice was annexed in 1564. There was a church here in Norman times, as sundry architectural fragments, piously collected by Bishop Hobhouse and deposited in Batcombe Church testify.

Spargrove is not mentioned in Domesday and apparently was not yet separated from the parent manor of Batcombe, the property of Glastonbury Abbey. The only portion recorded as taken from that manor was a holding of Roger Corcelle rated at two hides, which became the curiously named manor of Twohyde, and was held with Spargrove in 1232. The Feodary of the Abbey,¹ drawn up in 1342, records that at some date previous to 1255 Robert de Bruwes (of Staple Fitzpaine) obtained the mesne lordship of Spargrove by concession from Thomas de Bruton. As the same authority states that before this transaction Saunzaver held Spargrove “imme-

1. *Som. Rec. Soc.*, XXVI, 111.

diate" of the Abbot, it is not easy to understand why the Abbot should have allowed Bruton and Bruwes to step between him and his tenant.

The earliest reference to Spargrove appears in an entry in the *Liber Ruber*, p. 222, under the date 1166. The Abbot of Glastonbury included in his list of tenants Sanson de Spertegrave; he had held the fee of one knight, which was then held by his son. This anonymous individual may have been the father of Richard son of John, who according to the *Feodary*, p. 111, held Spertegrave "in antiquis" of the Abbot for one knight's fee. Of him it can only be said that he was dead by 1232, leaving a son Henry, and a widow Eva who became the wife of Hugh Sansaver (*see post*).

The surname of Saunzaver (with many variations) represents the French *St. Sauver*, which is Latinized as *Sine averio*, the English equivalent of this being *Lack-cattle*. There has been considerable discussion on the origin of this peculiar surname.¹ One theory is that it is due to the efforts of a scribe to give a Latin form to the place-name of *St. Sauver* or *Sever*, in the department of *Calvados*. If the memory of the Saint was still fresh in the land, this somewhat profane handling of his name might have placed the rash scribe under ecclesiastical censures. I am not aware that *St. Sauver* is found in English records, except in *Charles' Roll*: *Hugh de St. Sauveur* bears *Azure three crescents or*.

Another view is that *Sine averio* is really a nick-name, of the same class as *Lackland*; which the Normans were notoriously given to fastening on each other on very small provocation, in this case apparently some unfortunate farming operations. It appears from some references in the *Lewes* chartulary that *Sanzaver* was so to say appendant to certain members of the great *Sussex* family of *Kahaignes*, *Keynes*, *Cheyney*, etc. *Kahaignes* like *St. Sauveur* is also in the department of *Calvados*, south-west of *Caen*. *Ralph* the third son of *William de Kahaignes*, *ob.* 1219, is styled *Sanzaver* "*dictus sine averio*," as is also his son *Hugh*, in a *Lewes* charter.² We shall meet these two again.

1. *Sussex Arch. Collections*, XXIV, XXV.

2. *Sussex Arch. Collections*, I, 128, article by Mr. W. S. Walford.

In this case the alternative name must have become appendant immediately after the Norman Conquest. Banks (*Baronies in Fee*, II, 131) records a Walter Sensavior as one of the first crusaders in 1096; "he afterwards perished miserably in that expedition of holy infatuation." The name does not occur in the list of tenants of the Earl of Arundel in 1166, but in 1186, when a scutage was levied for the expedition to Galwey,¹ Ralph Sanz Aver was pardoned thirty shillings among the tenants of the Honour of Arundel.

He may have been the Ralph Sanz Aver who in 1166 held one knight's fee of the king in capite in Devonshire. He paid one mark the following year, and twenty shillings in 1171, but after this date his name drops out of the Devon lists altogether.

In Sussex Ralph had an uncle William son of Richard de Kahaygnes, whose possessions are found in so many counties as to make it doubtful whether there were not several men bearing the same name. Uncle and nephew were both living in 1186-7; but at a later date Ralph Sanzaver and Matilda his mother confirmed the gifts made by his uncle William de Cheyney to Boxgrove Priory in Sussex. Ralph also made donations to Dureford Abbey, which was situated in his own parish of Biknor in Sussex, within the period 1180-1204 (*Sussex Arch. Collections*, VIII, 51, 53, 60).

Within the same period Ralph Sansaver appears at least as a visitor in Somersetshire. His name occurs among the witnesses to an *Inspeximus* and confirmation of a deed relating to land in Wells, to be dated 1184-88; and to another deed by which Henry Abbot of Glastonbury granted to Reginald Bishop of Bath the church of South Brent to form a prebend in Wells Cathedral.²

In the Montacute chartulary are two deeds relating to gifts of lands at Babcary to the Priory, to which Ralph Sanzaver is a witness. The deeds may be dated about 1195.³ In the

1. *Liber Ruber*, 58; Eyton's "Henry II," 269.

2. *Calendar of MSS. of Dean and Chapter of Wells*, I, 48; II, 548. The thanks of all students are due to the Hist. MSS. Commission for this enlarged and revised edition in two volumes.

3. *S.R.S.*, VIII, 149, 150.

Bruton chartulary is an *Inspeximus* and confirmation by Bishop Savaric (to be dated 1192-6) of the grant by the younger William de Moyun to the Canons of Bruton of the churches of Cutcombe and Luxborough. Among the witnesses are R. Sine averio, H. his son.

We cannot now tell what brought R. and H. into Somersetshire, where they held no land, to witness ecclesiastical transactions; but it may be noted that Bruton is only three miles from Spargrove; and when after a considerable interval we again meet "H. his son," (of Ralph Sanzaver we hear nothing more), he is settled at Spargrove as the second husband of Eva widow of Richard son of John.

A final concord for settling family affairs, dated Easter, 1233, is unusually full of detail.¹ Henry son of Richard son of John transferred all his rights in the manors of Spargrove and Twohyde to his mother Eva and to her husband Hugh de Sanzaver. His stepfather gave him in exchange the manor of Newham in Oxfordshire and his tenement at Lokinton in Sussex.

But it is quite possible that Henry son of Richard did not leave the neighbourhood after all. In 1238 the Prior of Bruton granted to the noble man Henry son of Richard permission to have a free chapel in his court of Charlton Adam. To this deed as well as to another by the said Henry giving a very satisfactory *quid pro quo*, *dominus Hugo sine averio* stands first in the list of witnesses.² At this period there was another Henry son of Richard, the lord of Buckhorn Weston in Dorsetshire, who died about 1243. His predecessor at Weston, John Fitzhamon gave the church of Charlton to the Priory of Bruton, and sold the manor to William son of Adam, who called it after his own name. There is nothing on record to lead one to suppose that these two individuals are really the same person.³

The contents of charter no. 1 show that Eva Sanzaver had predeceased Bishop Jocelin, whose death occurred on 19th

1. *S.R.S.*, VI, 366: 17 H. III, *divers cos.*, 103.

2. "Bruton Cartulary," nos. 205-7; *S.R.S.*, VIII, 48.

3. J. Batten, "Historical Notes on South Somerset," 124.

November, 1242. By 1243 Hugh de Sanzaver had remarried Emma grand-daughter and heiress of John de Suleni lord of Kilmersdon.¹ She had previously been the wife of Alexander de Arsyk' and of Walter de Tywe; and in the Inq. p.m. of her cousin Ralph de Suleni taken in 1243 she is styled de Praus.²

Hugh was succeeded by Ralph Sanzaver some time before 1249. Charter no. 2 shows that William is Prior of Stavordale, and Walter was Prior in 1249 (Ped. Fin., 33 Hen. III, 142). In 1256 after the grand assize had been summoned, Ralph and Matthew de Stratton made an agreement about their respective rights of pasture in Spertegrave and Stratton. Some of the bounds ran by the foot of the hill called Smaldon and the water called Alum (Ped. Fin., 40 Hen. III, 146). In the same year Sir Ralph and Sir Hugh his son, being present in the Lady Chapel at Bruton, witnessed the agreement whereby William de Carevilla gave up certain rights of way over the Prior's fields (Brut. Cart., no. 35).

According to Banks, in 1261 Sir Ralph was summoned to a Parliament to be held in the Tower of London, but it is hardly surprising that there was a general disinclination to attend except at Westminster (*D.N.B.*, xxvi, 25).

Shortly after this date the Priory of Bruton and the Abbey of Trouarn in Normandy made an exchange of their properties in Normandy and England "seeing that both houses could not have the issues of their possessions without very great difficulty and no small expence" (Brut. Cart., 313).

One of the English manors was Runcton in the parish of North Mundham near Chichester. As his Sussex property was in this neighbourhood, it is quite likely that Sir Ralph was aware of the troubles of the French monks and may have suggested the exchange to the Prior of Bruton.

In 1262 Sir Ralph obtained a charter of free warren for all his lands in Spargrove and Bicknor in Sussex. Before the end of the reign of Henry III he was succeeded by his son Sir Hugh.

1. *S.R.S.*, VI, 121; Ped. Fin. 27 Hen. III, 84.

2. Lord Hylton, "History of Kilmersdon," p. 6.

In 1272 he granted a holding in Spargrove to Ralph de Heselt for his life (Ped. Fin., 56 Hen. III, 153). An entry in the Hundred Rolls records that he was accused of having encroached on the King's highway at Croxton in Cambridgeshire by digging a ditch and thereby lessening the breadth of the road. Sir Hugh died on the Monday before the Festival of the Annunciation, 12 Ed. I (20th March, 1284). He owned lands and rents in Somerset, Southants, and Sussex. Ralph his son and heir was 22 between the Feasts of the Assumption (15th August) and the Nativity of the B.V.M. (8th Sept.), 1283.

In 1294 Sir Ralph was summoned to attend the King to advise on affairs of state apparently "a court or parliament held on 5th June" (Banks).

In 1296 he granted lands in Batcombe to Adam de la Rokele for his life.

Sir Ralph died in the autumn of 1314. The inquisitions are extant for his lands in Huntingdon, Sussex, and Cambridgeshire. In Hunts he held Great Grantisden of the Earl of Gloucester; in Cambridgeshire Croxston jointly with Christina his wife as the gift and grant of John de Helpiston and Alice his wife and subject to their life interest. Ralph his son and heir was 22 at the last Ascension Day; and was born in 1292. The rule that the head of the family should be Ralph and Hugh alternatively seems to have been dropped, but an elder son may have died young.

In the taxation roll of 1327 Ralph and his mother Christina are set down for thirty shillings under Batcombe¹; among the many taxpayers here was John de Spertgrove payer of twelve pence, whose connection with Sansom de Spertgrove cannot even be surmised. In 1337 Ralph sued Henry de Gray for the next presentation to the church of Croxton, when the pleadings disclose his pedigree back to Ralph Sanzaver temp. Ric. I.² The information given in his father's inquisition would imply that Croxton had come to him from his mother. In the same year the manor and advowson of Spargrove and

1. *S.R.S.*, III, 228.

2. *Genealogist*, n.s., IX, 79.

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lands in Sussex and Hunts were settled on Ralph Sanzaver and Elizabeth his wife, remainder to his heirs for ever.¹

Ralph was dead by 1344 as in that year Spargrove and lands in Huntingdon and Kent were settled on Thomas son of Ralph Sanzaver and Elizabeth his wife; subject however as regards Spargrove to the life interest of Elizabeth who was the wife of Ralph Sanzaver.² Of Thomas we hear nothing further. The Black Death is about to pass through the land, and probably he and his wife and family perished in the visitation. His mother survived; as Elizabeth who was the wife of Ralph Saunt Zavoit she presented William de Schurchulle to the benefice of Spargrove on 26th February, 1349, when the mortality was at the highest; and on the 6th August in the same year she appointed his successor. From this time the family ceases to appear in the records of the county; and their property passed into the possession of Richard Earl of Arundel, who at his death in 1376 was reckoned to be the richest man in the realm. In 1382 the ancestral manor of Bignor in Sussex belonged to the Earl of Arundel.³ In 1412 the patron of Spargrove rectory was John Lord Maltravers, grandson of John the Marshall of England younger son of Earl Richard, who eventually succeeded to the title and estates. In the Subsidy Roll⁴ of 1428 the Earl of Arundel paid 6*sh.* 8*d.* for one knight's fee in Spertegrave which Elizabeth late the wife of Ralph Sanzaver formerly held.

1. Ped. Fin., divers cos., 10 Ed. III, 192 (*S.R.S.*, XII, 243).
2. Ped. Fin., divers cos. 19 Ed. III, 354 (*S.R.S.*, XII, 252).
3. Dallaway's "Sussex," II, i, 215.
4. *Feudal Aids*, IV, 385.