

The Manor of Poyntington.

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THE following pages are largely based upon Calendars issued by the Public Record Office and unprinted documents preserved there. Much information has also been derived from *The Cartæ Antiquæ of Lord Willoughby de Broke*, edited by the Rev. J. Harvey Broom, despite of the many misreadings therein. Footnotes preceded by the mark § refer to sections in the volume on *The Honour of Dunster* which I edited for the Somerset Record Society in 1921. Although Poyntington is now in Dorset, it belongs historically to Somerset.

While it is possible to compile a fairly complete list of the successive lords of the manor of Poyntington, the early history of their feudal superiors is very perplexing.

At the time of the Domesday survey, William de Lestre, a Norman, held two hides and a half at 'Ponditone' of the Count of Mortain. He gave two thirds of the tithes therefrom to the priory of Montagu, which had been founded by his overlord.¹

Before the death of Henry I, part of the estate had fallen into the hands of a family which took a surname therefrom, and, in 1166, Richard de Lestre returned Roger of 'Puintone' and Hugh of 'Puntintone' as each holding a third of a fee of him in the county of Somerset.²

In 1198, Geoffrey of 'Pundinton' acquired from Peter Fulcher some land at 'Pundinton', 'Kaninger' and Ewyas, to be held of him by the service of one knight at Ewyas.³

¹ *Bruton and Montacute Cartularies*, pp. 119, 120, 122, 124, 125.

² *Red Book of the Exchequer*, p. 232.

³ Feet of Fines, Somerset, 10 Ric. I.

After him came Peter, who is described in one place as a knight, and in another as lord of Poyntington.¹

In 1248, John son of Peter of Poyntington and Baldwin of Wayford jointly confirmed to Roger of Childehey and his heirs a rent out of the mill at Poyntington.² In the following year, John of Poyntington conveyed to Baldwin of Wayford, possibly his half-brother, two carucates of land at Poyntington and his reversionary right in other lands there which were then held by Scolastica the relict of Peter of Poyntington.³ Some five years later, he tried to repudiate the transaction, alleging that it had been made when he was of unsound mind and under age. Wayford, however, got the valuable support of the sheriff, and judgment was given in his favour in the King's court. Afterwards, he solemnly undertook that, if John of Poyntington would come to live in his house, he would provide him with food and raiment as honourable as those of any of his esquires, and that he would also supply all necessaries for Scolastica the relict of Peter of Poyntington. Failing any such amicable arrangement, he offered to pay John 4 marks a year.⁴

At the very time when Baldwin of Wayford was thus defending his rights under the agreement of 1249, he was trying to raise money, and there is record of his mortgaging his lands at Middleton and Horswell to Reynold de Mohun for 100*l*.⁵ It seems fairly clear that he furthermore sold to him all his interest in Poyntington.

Reynold de Mohun, lord of Dunster, having no occasion to retain his newly acquired estate in demesne, granted to William de Cheney, for his homage and service, the manor of Poyntington, with the advowson of the church and all such of its rights as had not been assigned to religious uses.⁶ The purchaser was careful to obtain from John son of Peter of Poyntington a deed waiving any claim that he might still have in

¹ *Curia Regis Rolls*, vol. vii, p. 181 (A.D. 1214); *Cartæ Antiquæ*, 1793.

² *Ibid.* 1794.

³ Feet of Fines, Somerset, 33 Hen. III.

⁴ *Curia Regis Roll*, 154, m. 31.

⁵ *Ibid.* mm. 1, 2.

⁶ *Cartæ Antiquæ*, 1799.

the manor.¹ Furthermore, the Prior and Convent of Taunton, in 1257, ordered their 'homage' to recognise Cheney as lord.²

Several documents still extant show Sir William de Cheney and Felice, his wife, making small purchases of land at Poyntington.³ In 1258, he obtained for himself and his heirs a royal charter of free warren in the manors of (Steeple) Morden, co. Cambridge, Cottered, co. Hertford, and Poyntington, co. Somerset.⁴ Six years later, he found it necessary to bring a suit against Robert Tregoz and John, his son, with regard to the advowson of the church of Poyntington.⁵ He must have been successful in this, for, in the next year, his nominee, another William de Cheney, was duly instituted to the rectory.⁶ Nevertheless, as will be seen below, the Tregoz claim was not abandoned.

Sir William de Cheney is described as blind in 1267, and he seems to have died about two years later, leaving as his heir a son of the same name, who was under age.⁷ Inasmuch as some of his land, in Cambridgeshire, was held of the Honour of Boulogne, the wardship of the boy and of his inheritance in England fell to the King, who ere long made it over to the Queen.⁸ She in turn gave, or sold, it to the widow, Felice, who also continued in possession of the manor of Roridge, in Devon, and of lands in the Channel Islands which had belonged to her late husband.⁹

In 1280, Benet (*Benedicta*) the relict of Baldwin of Wayford sued Felice de Cheney, as guardian of the land and the heir of William de Cheney, for a third of two thirds of a messuage, of two carucates of land, of 12 acres of meadow, of 6*l.* of rent,

¹ *Cartæ Antiquæ*, 1803, 1804.

² *Ibid.* 1800.

³ *Ibid.* 1802, 1805, 1810; Feet of Fines, Somerset, 42 Hen. III.

⁴ *Cal. Charter Rolls*, vol. ii, p. 8.

⁵ Patent Roll, 48 Hen. III, part 1, m. 21 *d.*

⁶ *Reg. Gifford, &c.*, p. 2.

⁷ *Cal. Patent Rolls*, 1266-1272, pp. 172, 365, 438; *Cartulaire de Jersey*, p. 167.

⁸ *Cal. Patent Rolls*, 1272-1281, p. 45; *Cal. Close Rolls*, 1272-1279, p. 35; *Cal. Inq.*, vol. i, pp. 207, 225.

⁹ *Cal. Close Rolls*, p. 215; *Cartulaire*, pp. 178, 207, 211, 240, 440-442; Assize Roll, 758, m. 17; *Cal. Inq. Misc.*, vol. ii, p. 263; *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1340-1343, p. 188.

and of a water-mill at Poyntington. At the same time, she sued Richard of Portesheye and Scolastica his wife for a third of a third of a messuage, of a carucate of land, of 6 acres of meadow, and of 3*l.* of rent in Poyntington and Wayford. As this couple vouched Felice de Cheney to warrant their title, she had practically to defend both actions, and, for this purpose, she vouched Queen Eleanor to warranty.¹ It is clear that the plaintiff was claiming dower in the whole manor of Poyntington, not only in the two thirds which Sir William de Cheney had held for many years, but also in the third which had been assigned in dower to Scolastica, the relict of his predecessor, Peter of Poyntington, and which she had brought to a second husband. At a later stage of the proceedings, the Queen-mother vouched to warranty John son of John de Mohun, a minor in the King's wardship, and a charter was produced whereby the elder John had bound himself and his heirs to warrant the premises to William de Cheney. The judges thereupon determined to consult the King before coming to any decision.¹

Dame Felice de Cheney married secondly John of Hardington who had on several occasions acted as attorney for her husband or herself.²

About this period, there is a kind of reference to the overlordship of Poyntington in an inquisition taken in 1281, after the death of John de Pavely, who had succeeded to the estate of Joan daughter and heiress of William de Lestre. It was then found that certain tenants of Richard of Childeheye held of him two thirds of a fee at Poyntington.³

At the inquisition taken in 1280, after the death of Sir John de Mohun, the jurors reported that William de Cheney held two fees of him at Poyntington.⁴ The amended inquisition of 1285 describes this estate more correctly as one fee, and credits it to the heirs of William de Cheney.⁵ The younger William

¹ *Somerset Pleas*, vol. iv, pp. 43, 44, 125.

² *Feet of Fines, Devon*, vol. ii, p. 45; *Cal. Patent Rolls, 1266-1272*, pp. 172, 438, 656.

³ *Cal. Inquisitions*, vol. ii, p. 281.

⁴ § 74.

⁵ §§ 76, 77.

de Cheney was by that time dead, and the inheritance had devolved upon his brother, Nicholas, also a minor, a ward of his mother, Dame Felice.¹ The official return known as 'Kirkby's Quest' has a blundering entry:—"The heir of William Cheney holds Pudington of John Tregoz, and the same John of the King by barony, but the heir of the said John is under age and in ward of the King (*regis*) the King's mother."²

Early in the reign of Edward I, John Tregoz presented a petition to the King and Council, stating that Sir William de Cheney and his predecessors had been wont to do service to his father, Sir Robert Tregoz, at his castle of Ewyas, for their lands at Poyntington, and that Sir Robert had enjoyed the rights of wardship and marriage until the late King gave them to the Queen, his wife, who had transferred them to the relict of Sir William de Cheney. He therefore prayed for restitution, and he obtained a writ out of Chancery, probably ordering an enquiry as to the facts.³ By an inquisition taken in 1302, it was found that he had a knight's fee at Poyntington, which was held of him by Nicholas de Cheney, and the advowson of the church.⁴ In the very next year, however, Nicholas de Cheney was returned as holding a fee at Poyntington of John de Mohun, by serjeanty, the nature of which is not specified.⁵

Thus, while some documents represent Poyntington as held of Mohun, others represent it as held of Tregoz. Neither Mohun nor Tregoz were heirs of Lestre, and there is no indication that either of them held of the other. In default of any better explanation, it may be suggested that there were two fees at Poyntington, one held of Mohun, as of his castle of Dunster, and the other held of Tregoz, as of his castle of Ewyas under the agreement of 1198 mentioned above. Such rights as John Tregoz had in the manor passed successively to Sibyl, his younger daughter, and William de Grauntson, her husband,

¹ *Cartulaire*, pp. 168 ; *Feudal Aids*, vol. i, p. 136.

² *Feudal Aids*, vol. iv, p. 289.

³ *Ancient Petitions*, 4850.

⁴ *Cal. Inquisitions*, vol. iii, p. 456.

⁵ *Feudal Aids*, vol. iv, p. 299.

to John de Grauntson, their son, and to Sir John of Montagu, who died in 1390.¹

Reverting now to the family which unquestionably had actual possession of the manor of Poyntington, we find that Nicholas de Cheney, son and eventual heir of Sir William, held several important administrative posts in the reigns of Edward I and II. In 1294, he was appointed to act as Governor of the Channel Islands, during a short illness of Henry of Cobham, and, in July 1297, he was definitely constituted Governor.² Nevertheless, he came to England from time to time, leaving attorneys to act for him. He was Sheriff of Somerset and Dorset from 1298 to 1299, from 1307 to 1308, and from 1318 to 1320, and Sheriff of Devon in 1321.³ From Scolastica of Wayford he, in 1314, obtained a confirmation of his right to all her lands, rents, men, and services, in the manor of Poyntington, and he was a party to various deeds relating to that place.⁴ He had the advowson in 1315.⁵

Sir Nicholas de Cheney died in 1326, and John atte Water, rector of Poyntington, thereupon obtained episcopal leave of absence for two months, in order to attend his patron's funeral in Guernsey.⁶ By an inquisition taken soon afterwards it was found that the manor of Poyntington was held of John de Mohun by service of one fee.⁷ A third of it was assigned in dower to Dame Eleanor the relict.⁸ She may probably be identified with the Eleanor of Colebere, who, in 1346, was in possession of the estate at Pinford and Puddle, co. Dorset, which had belonged to Sir Nicholas de Cheney.⁹

William de Cheney, son and heir of Sir Nicholas, was born at his father's house at Upottery, co. Devon, in August 1307.¹⁰

¹ *Cal. Inquisitions*, vol. iii, p. 456; *Cal. Close Rolls*, 1296-1302, p. 562; *Placita de Banco*, 152, m. 126 d; *Inq. ad quod damnum*, 358 (3); *Cal. Patent Rolls*, 1364-1367, p. 312; *Inq. post mortem*, 13 Ric. II, 34.

² *Cal. Patent Rolls*, 1292-1301, pp. 76, 80, 82, 295.

³ *List of Sheriffs*, pp. 34, 122, 123.

⁴ *Cartæ Antiquæ*, 1821, 1823, 1825, 1826, 1828.

⁵ *Reg. Drokensford*, p. 94.

⁶ *Ibid.* p. 260.

⁷ *Cal. Inq.*, vol. vi, p. 475.

⁸ *Escheator's Enrolled Accounts*, 1/17.

⁹ *Feudal Aids*, vol. ii, p. 58. Cf. p. 57.

¹⁰ *Cal. Inq.*, vol. vii, p. 135.

When he was about fourteen years of age, his father arranged that he should marry Joan daughter of Sir John of Clevedon, and, in 1325, royal licence was obtained for the settlement of certain lands in the counties of Cambridge and Hertford on the young married couple and the heirs of the husband.¹ On the death of Sir Nicholas de Cheney, his son and successor became a ward of the King for about two years. He was knighted in due course. His heraldic shield shows five fusils in fess, each charged with an escallop.² He died in October 1345, and, by an inquisition taken soon afterwards, it was found that he had been seised of two thirds of the manor and the advowson of the church, alike held of John de Mohun by knight service.³ The other third of the manor was still in the possession of his mother, Dame Eleanor de Cheney. A third of his two thirds were, in January 1346, assigned in dower to his second wife and relict, Joan sister and coheir of Sir Ralph de Gorges, whom he had married in 1334.⁴ The heir being under age, the custody of the other two thirds of his two thirds was sold by the King, for 200*l.*, to William Fitzwaryn, who was accordingly entered, in 1346, as holding a fee at Poyntington until the majority of the heir.⁵

Edmund de Cheney, son of Sir William, by his first wife, was born at his mother's old home at Clevedon, in November 1325, when his father was a little over eighteen years old. After proving his age in 1348, he obtained livery of his inheritance in four counties, subject to the dowers of his step-mother and his grandmother.⁶ In the same year, he effected a settle-

¹ *Cartæ Antiquæ*, 1827; Inq. ad quod damnum, 182 (8); *Cal. Patent Rolls*, 1324-1327, p. 187.

² *Cartæ Antiquæ*, 1829. While the field of the Cheney coat was always *gules*, and the fusils on it always *argent*, the number of these fusils varied, being sometimes five, but oftener four. Cf. Burke's *General Armory*, under 'Cheney' and 'Cheyney'; Papworth's *British Armorials*, pp. 892, 893; Foster's *Feudal Coats* (1902), p. 51; *Som. Arch. Proc.*, vol. xxxv, p. 133; and the plate in Rogers' *Strife of the Roses*, which shows also the Cheney badge, or crest, a ship's rudder.

³ *Cal. Inq.*, vol. viii, pp. 423-425.

⁴ *Cal. Close Rolls*, 1333-1337, p. 332; 1346-1349, p. 82.

⁵ Escheator's Enrolled Accounts, 3/49; *Cal. Fine Rolls*, vol. v, p. 467; *Cal. Patent Rolls*, 1345-1348, p. 124; *Feudal Aids*, vol. iv, p. 342.

⁶ *Cal. Inq.*, vol. ix, p. 68; *Cal. Close Rolls*, 1346-1349, p. 187.

ment of the manor and advowson of Poyntington on himself and Margaret his wife in tail with remainders to his (half-) brothers, Ralph and Nicholas.¹ On the death of his grandmother, Dame Eleanor, in 1350, he succeeded to the third of the manor of Poyntington which she held in dower, and, in the same year, he completed an arrangement whereby he obtained from his step-mother, Dame Joan de Cheney, a surrender of all her interest in land there, in consideration of an annuity.² Sir Edmund de Cheney was appointed Keeper of the Channel Islands in 1358, and he held that office for several years.³ In England, he was Sheriff of Somerset and Dorset in 1368, and Member of Parliament for the former county in 1370.⁴ Late in life, he married a second wife named Catherine, and, in 1374, the manor of Poyntington was settled on them in tail, with remainder to his (half-)brother, Sir Ralph Cheney.⁵

There is in Poyntington church the recumbent effigy of a knight, which probably represents Sir Edmund Cheney.⁶ The exact date of his death is not known, but it seems to have occurred in the spring of 1376.⁷ Dame Catherine, his relict, was, in July 1386, the wife of Sir John Strecche of Wambrook.⁸ Under the settlement of 1374 and an arrangement made with Sir Ralph, she continued in possession of the manor and advowson of Poyntington.⁹ Sir John Strecche died seised in her right in August 1390, but she survived him by many years.¹⁰ Under the name of Catherine Cheyne, she presented a parson to the church of Poyntington, in 1413.¹¹ Dying at a very ad-

¹ Feet of Fines, Somerset, 21 Edw. III.

² *Cal. Inq.*, vol. ix, p. 387; *Cartæ Antiquæ*, 1744, 1745, 1748, 1832-1834.

³ *Cal. Patent Rolls*, 1358-1361, pp. 39, 40, 191, 325; 1361-1364, p. 140; 1364-1367, p. 302; *Cal. Close Rolls*, 1364-1368, pp. 34, 105.

⁴ Lists of Sheriffs, Members of Parliament, and Escheators; *Cal. Close Rolls*, 1269-1374, p. 657; *Cal. Fine Rolls*, 1369-1377, p. 443.

⁵ *Inq. post mortem*, 1 Hen. VI, 29.

⁶ *Som. Arch. Proc.*, vol. xlii, p. 21; vol. lxxvii, p. 36.

⁷ *Cal. Fine Rolls*, vol. viii, p. 377.

⁸ *Cartæ Antiquæ*, 1789.

⁹ *Ibid.* 1836; *Reg. Bubwith*, p. 143; Assize Roll, 1527, m. 9.

¹⁰ *Inq. post mortem*, 14 Ric. II, 42.

¹¹ *Bishop Bubwith's Register*, p. 143.

vanced age in December 1422, she was buried at Poyntington.¹

It is clear that a knight's fee at Poyntington was one of those which were regarded as passing to Sir Hugh Luttrell with the castle of Dunster, and, in a list prepared for him in the early part of the reign of Henry IV, it is entered as held of him by Catherine Cheney.² In another list it is credited to Maud the relict of Sir John Strecche, the compiler having evidently got confused between this knight's two wives.³ So far, there is nothing to show that the lord of Poyntington owed suit to the court of the Barony of Dunster. He was not one of those who were entered as compounding for suit in 1379, and it is difficult to believe that he used to send his bailiff all the way to Dunster, to appear at meetings of little importance to himself. Sir Hugh Luttrell's bailiff seems, however, to have extracted a fine of 2s. for respite of suit from Poyntington, in 1417, and he debited himself with similar sums in 1419 and 1420.⁴

On the death of Dame Catherine Strecche, her whole estate at Poyntington passed to Edmund Cheney, grandson of Sir Ralph Cheney, the half-brother of her second husband.⁵

This Sir Ralph Cheney, son of Sir William by his second wife, Joan Gorges, mentioned above, had married Joan daughter and co-heir of Sir John Pavely, and had died in November 1400.⁶ Part of their chantry at Edington in Wiltshire survives, although denuded of their effigies.⁷ Sir Ralph had been succeeded by a son, William, then about twenty-six years of age.⁸ William, who was knighted in due course, had married a wealthy widow, Cecily daughter and heir of Sir John Strecche and relict of Thomas Bonville, and had died in September 1420.⁹

¹ Inq. post mortem, 1 Hen. VI, 29.

² § 133.

³ § 126.

⁴ §§ 159, 162, 166.

⁵ Inq. post mortem, 1 Hen. VI, 29.

⁶ *Cal. Close Rolls*, 1364-1368, pp. 456-458; Inq. post mortem, 2 Hen. IV, 52; *Placita de Banco*, Trin., 6 Ric. II, m. 111; *Rogers's Strife of the Roses*, pp. 8, 9.

⁷ *Rogers's Strife of the Roses*, pp. 8, 9, and illustration.

⁸ Inq. post mortem, 2 Hen. IV, 52.

⁹ *Somerset & Dorset Notes & Queries*, vol. xiii, pp. 2, 3, 6, 9; *Cal. Close Roll.s* 1419-1422, pp. 159, 160, 177, 210, 212; Inq. post mortem, 8 Hen. V, 46; 9 Hen. VI, 42; *Cal. Close Rolls*, 1429-1435, p. 138.

Edmund, son and heir of Sir William and Dame Cecily Cheney, appears to have been born at Salisbury in March 1402, but he did not prove his age before the escheator until 1424.¹ At the principal court of the Barony of Dunster for the year 1423, the bailiff seems to have debited himself with 2s. as a fine for respite of suit of the unspecified tenants at Poyntington, as in previous years. Before long, however, he had to crave allowance of that sum, because the heir was under age and a ward of the King.² In 1424, the fine for respite of suit was entered as usual, but orders were made that 100s. should be levied by way of relief from 'John' Cheney, and that he should be distrained to do homage and fealty.³ Edmund Cheney paid 2s. for respite of suit in 1425 and several subsequent years.⁴ His estate at Poyntington was returned as one fee in 1428.⁵ He was knighted in due course.

After the death of Sir Edmund Cheney, which occurred in May 1430, it was found by inquisition that he held the manor of Poyntington and the advowson of the church, jointly with Alice his wife, of James Luttrell, by services unknown to the jurors. His heirs were his three daughters, Elizabeth aged about six, Anne aged about three, and Cecily aged about one year. The youngest of these survived her father by a few months only.⁶ The widow, Dame Alice Cheney, a daughter of Sir Humphrey Stafford, of Hook, co. Dorset, soon married another husband, Walter Tailboys, of Lincoln.⁷ She was returned, in 1431, as the tenant of a quarter of a fee at Poyntington, an obvious underestimate.⁸ Walter Tailboys was, in 1447, entered as liable to the lord of Dunster for lands at Poyntington held by him in right of his wife.⁹

When about fourteen years of age, Elizabeth, the eldest

¹ Inq. post mortem, 2 Hen. VI, 57; *Cal. Close Rolls, 1422-1429*, p. 115.

² § 176.

³ § 178.

⁴ §§ 178, 182.

⁵ *Feudal Aids*, vol. iv, p. 375.

⁶ Inq. post mortem, 9 Hen. VI, 42, 53, 14 Hen. VI, 30; *Cal. Close Rolls, 1429-1435*, p. 138.

⁷ Inq. post mortem, 28 Hen. VI, 14; *Cal. Close Rolls, 1429-1435*, p. 223.

⁸ *Feudal Aids*, vol. iv, p. 422.

⁹ § 203.

daughter and coheir of Sir Edmund Cheney, married Sir John Coleshill.¹ Anne, her sister, who had been born in 1428 at Broke, near Westbury, the ancient seat of her Pavely ancestors, married John Willoughby.² Alice, their mother, died on the 11th of March, 1448, and, in the following month, Sir John Coleshill and John Willoughby and their respective wives received royal licence to enter upon all her manors and lands.³ Coleshill was entered as holding a fee at Poyntington in 1475.⁴ Between the years 1451 and 1483, he presented no less than five parsons to the church there.⁵ He died in March 1483[-4], and was buried at Duloe in Cornwall.⁶ His relict seems to have been living in 1490.⁷ At her death, the whole of her ancestral estate passed to her nephew, Sir Robert Willoughby.

From this point onwards it is unnecessary to trace, in detail, the story of the successive owners of the manor and advowson of Poyntington. They lived far away.

Sir Robert Willoughby was created a Knight of the Garter, about 1489, and he was, in 1491, summoned to Parliament as Robert Willoughby of Broke, knight. Dying in 1502, he was buried at Callington, in Cornwall, where he had acquired property by his marriage to Blanche daughter and heiress of Sir John Champernowne.⁸ His estate at Poyntington was found to comprise 30 messuages, 200 acres of land, 150 of pasture, 20 of meadow, 40 of wood, 400 of furze and heath, and a rent of 5*s*. This was stated to be held of Sir Hugh Luttrell, as of his Barony of Dunster, by suit of court for all services, no mention being made of any substitution of monetary rent for feudal service.⁹

This nobleman was succeeded by a son of the same name, who was styled indifferently 'Robert Willoughby of Broke, knight', 'Robert Willoughby, knight, Lord of Broke', or

¹ *Inq. post mortem*, 17 Hen. VI, 70 ; § 204.

² *Ibid.* 23 Hen. VI, 52.

³ *Cal. Patent Rolls*, 1446-1452, p. 155.

⁴ § 215.

⁵ Weaver's *Somerset Incumbents*, pp. 168, 169.

⁶ Rogers's *Strife of the Roses*, p. 6.

⁷ § 221.

⁸ Rogers, pp. 22, 23, and illustration.

⁹ *Cal. Inq. Hen. VII*, vol. ii, pp. 376, 402, 503, 556.

simply 'Robert, Lord Broke'. Dying in November 1521, he was buried at Beer Ferrers, co. Devon, his mother's old home. His estate at Poyntington was at that time in the hands of feoffees to the uses of his will. As he left no legitimate male issue, his title fell into abeyance, and it was found by inquisition that Elizabeth, Anne, and Blanche, daughters of his deceased son, Edward, were his coheirs.¹

These three girls were at the time under age and in the wardship of Sir Edward Greville.² Elizabeth married Fulk Greville, the second son of her guardian, and Blanche married Sir Francis Dawtrey.³ After the death of their sister, Anne, these two ladies, as "cosyns and heys of Robert, late Lord Broke", seem to have been, with their respective husbands, the joint owners of the manor of Poyntington, in the reign of Edward VI.⁴ Sir Francis Dawtrey presented a parson to the church there in 1547.⁵ The land had, however, been in the hands of lessees for more than half a century.⁶

Sir Fulk Greville died in November 1559, and was buried at Alcester, co. Warwick.⁷ His son and successor of the same name was, in 1581, entered as liable for a rent of 2s. a year to Dunster Castle.⁸ By an inquisition taken after his death, which occurred in 1606, it was found that Poyntington was held of George Luttrell by fealty and suit of court.⁹ According to modern doctrine, he might, on proof that his Willoughby ancestors had not neglected their writs of summons to Parliament, have claimed and obtained a seat in the House of Lords. His son and successors, a third and more famous Sir Fulk Greville, was, in 1621, created 'Baron Brooke, of Beauchamp's Court', in the county of Warwick, with a special remainder,

¹ Inq. post mortem, E. II, 912 (17); *Letters & Papers, Hen. VIII*, vol. iii, part ii, p. 1135; Nicolas, *Testamenta Vetusta*, p. 563.

² *Letters & Papers, Hen. VIII*, vol. iii, part ii, pp. 696, 1545.

³ *Ibid.* vol. iv, part i, p. 954; Rogers's *Strife of the Roses*, pp. 27, 28.

⁴ *Letters & Papers*, vol. iv, part ii, p. 2169; Court of Requests, Proceedings, 17 (51); *Cartulaire*, p. 459.

⁵ Weaver's *Somerset Incumbents*, p. 169.

⁶ *Cartæ Antiquæ*, 1839.

⁷ Rogers, pp. 28-30, and illustration.

⁸ § 290.

⁹ Inq. post mortem, C. II, 300 (172).

in default of issue, to his cousins, Robert and William Greville.¹ He presented a parson to the church of Poyntington in 1623.² He died at Brooke House, Holborn, in September 1628, of wounds inflicted by a former servant.³

The estate in South Somerset then passed for a short time to his sister, Margaret, the wife of Sir Richard Verney, of Compton Murdac, co. Warwick.⁴ Their grandson, Greville Verney, had the advowson of Poyntington in 1643.⁵ The manor, however, had 'suffered many changes' in the earlier part of the seventeenth century.⁶

Such brief abstracts of the title-deeds as have been printed seem to show that George Tilly, esquire, obtained a long lease of it in 1566, and that he acquired a temporary right to the advowson, in 1570.⁷ He died in 1590, and his relict, Mary Tilly, was buried beside him in the chancel of Poyntington church. They are commemorated by a monument set up there by Sir Edward Parham, who had married Elizabeth, their daughter and coheir.⁸ John Parham is described as 'of Poyntington' in 1613 and 1618.⁹

The manor-house seems to have passed, in 1630, into the possession of Thomas Malet, who was appointed a judge of the King's Bench and knighted in 1641.¹⁰ He was buried at Poyntington in December 1665, and his will was proved in February following by his relict, Dame Joan, to whom he had bequeathed all his lands and tenements at that place. Sir John Malet, their eldest son, describes himself as 'of Poyntington' in a will executed in 1678, but he was buried in London. Baldwin Malet, his son and heir, went to live at West Quantoxhead, and sold all his interest in Poyntington. From about 1680, until

¹ *Complete Peerage* (1912), vol. ii, p. 332; *Dict. Nat. Biography*, vol. xxiii, pp. 159-163.

² Weaver.

³ *Complete Peerage*, vol. ii, p. 333.

⁴ *Collins's Peerage* (1812), vol. vi, pp. 693-696.

⁵ Weaver.

⁶ Gerard's *Description of Somerset*, p. 167.

⁷ *Cartæ Antiquæ*, 1841, 1842.

⁸ Brown's *Somersetshire Wills*, vol. iv, p. 133; *Cartæ Antiquæ*, 1844.

⁹ Weaver, pp. 132, 169.

¹⁰ *Cartæ Antiquæ*, 1851-1855; *Dict. Nat. Biography*, vol. xxxv, pp. 420, 421.

the early part of the present century, the manor-house seems to have been occupied by a series of tenant-farmers.

In 1685, Col. Francis Luttrell, of Dunster, claimed a feodary rent of 2s. from Sir Richard Verney, the heir of the Grevilles, the Willoughbys, and the Cheneys, but it is unlikely that he obtained payment.¹ This Sir Richard set up a claim to a Barony of Broke, unrecognised since 1521, and, although he failed to obtain that dignity, he was, by an extraordinary decision, in 1696, held to be entitled to a writ of summons as 'Lord Willoughby de Broke'.²

Successive holders of that title have been possessed of the manor and advowson of Poyntington. The eighth of them was, in 1883, credited with 588 acres in the county of Somerset.

The manorial rights and the advowson were alike sold in 1907, the latter being purchased by Mrs. Amy Mary de Ledesma, of River Bank, Brockenhurst. It has changed hands several times since. The parish has, moreover, been united to that of Osborne, and transferred from the diocese of Bath and Wells to that of Salisbury.

¹ § 341.

² Round's *Peerage and Pedigree*, vol. i, pp. 221, 225; *Complete Peerage* (1898), vol. viii, p. 152.