

## Sir Ralph de Midelney :

OBIT 1363.

---

BY THE REV. D. MELVILLE ROSS, M.A.

---

SIR RALPH DE MIDEENEY was one of the most noted of the Somerset Knights of his day, and had considerable possessions in Somerset and Dorset. He served under the famous leader, Sir Wm. de Montacute, Earl of Salisbury, and under his son, the second Earl, both of whom were high in favour with Edward III.

He was out in both the Scotch and French wars, and received honours and rewards for his services from the King. We know little of his family. His rise to prominence must have been materially assisted by his connexion with the de Montacutes, under whom he held a quarter part of the manor of Curry Rivel, and by his marriage into the baronial family of de Lortv. His brother John was rector of Curry Rivel, and may have been trained at Muchelney Abbey.

Midelney, on the River Ile, was one of the manors of the Abbey. In 1328<sup>1</sup> Abbot John of Muchelney granted the rent of a tenement in Middelney and the tenement itself after the death of Matilda, widow of Robert Mathew, to Ralph de Midelney for life by fine of half a mark. In 1338 Sir Ralph alienated a rent of 6s. 8d. out of lands called Randolfscroft in Middelney to Muchelney Abbey to keep the obits of his father and mother in the Church of St. Peter of Muchelney. Probably both they and he were buried in that same Abbey Church, for he was commemorated in the Calendar<sup>2</sup> on June 15th.

1. *Patent Rolls.*

2. Ancient Service book of Muchelney Abbey, now in Taunton Castle.

The Manor House at Midelney, which was probably Sir Ralph's home, is in Drayton Parish about a mile to the south of Drayton Village.<sup>3</sup>

By his marriage with Elizabeth, sister of Sir J. de Lorty, Sir R. de Midelney held the manors of Pitney of the King for 20s. yearly, and with it Knowle in Long Sutton of the Abbot of Athelney by homage and fealty.<sup>4</sup> He held Earnshill under de Montacute;<sup>5</sup> three mills in Martock from John de Fiennes;<sup>6</sup>

3. At the Dissolution, Midelney came to the Earl of Hertford. The copy (held by the Trevilians) of the Surrender of the Rectories, Parsonages and Advowsons, by the Earl of Hertford, of Abbott's Ile, Ilmynster, Meryett, Ilcombe, Hortcn, Somton, Fyffehead, Myddelney, Moreton and Drayton, has: "they were granted unto me to hold of the King's Highness in the 29th year of His Highness reign." The third Earl sold Midelney 1 James I to Ed. Danyall, who in the same year sold it, together with Westover and lands in Kingsbury, to Raffe Trevillian, of Drayton, under the great Seal, with all its rights and appurtenances, for £558 5s. 8d.

The Manor house, now standing, was originally in the form of the letter H, and appears to be of early Tudor date, containing Ham stone arches of that period. Possibly parts of it go back to Sir Ralph de Midelney's time. The first Trevillian, of the Drayton branch in this neighbourhood known to us, was a Richard Trevillian, 4th son of John, who died 1489, and whose son, Nicholas, was in Martock in the early years of 1500. The family occupied Midelney before 1552. John Trevillian, of Kingsburie, in his will, dated 28 Aug. 6, Ed. VI, speaks of his 2nd son, Richard, as "of Myddelney." This Richard, in his own will (1567), calls himself "of Mydelney in Drayton," and leaves "my great chest in the Hawle with all the hangings of the house," amongst numerous other household goods between his two sons, John and Raffe. Raffe married Mary Jennings, dau. of Robert Jennings, of Burton, and bought the manor in 1603. His son, Richard, rebuilt part of the north wing of the house. A beam in the Barn bears the date 1666. Richard's son, John, made alterations in the south wing, and he added the present charming "new" staircase. He laid out the garden, which still contains some of his tall gate pillars in line with the grand gate-way to the deer park on the Midelney side of the River Ile. John Trevillian's nephew, Maurice Ceeley, succeeding to the estate on the death of his elder brother, took the name and arms of Trevillian under the Royal Sign Manual in 1774, in addition to his own. He had lived for the greater part of his life as a merchant in Bristol, and never removed to Midelney, where he laid waste the deer park. His son, John, resided there after 1784. After John's death, his brother, Captain Wm. Trevillian, greatly altered the house, taking down parts which had fallen into disrepair. From 1800 it has always been let as a farm house. (*For these details we are indebted to Mrs. E. B. Cely Trevilian.*)

4. Patent Rolls, 1340.

5. Som. & Dor. Notes and Queries; S.R.S., Bp. Drokenford's Reg.

6. Close Rolls, 1339.

land in East Lydford and the advowson of its Church ;<sup>7</sup> and land in Langport Westover leased from the Master of Buckland Priory for 2s. and a pair of gloves.<sup>8</sup> In 1320<sup>9</sup> he received pardon for acquiring the bailiwick of West Peret for life without royal license, after being fined 20s., and he received another license to demise it to whom he would for his life, as he was so much occupied with the business of his lords. He also held under Athelney in West Lyng ;<sup>10</sup> and the Manor of Blakeford under Montacute Priory.<sup>11</sup>

An arrangement was made between him and the Dean and Chapter of Wells, 12 Edw. III, as to the bounds between his land and theirs.<sup>12</sup> In 1352 (*Patent Rolls*) he was pardoned for entering upon the Manor of Purstoke without license. Sir Ralph also obtained the manor of Ham from the widow Sybil le Venour and her son John, who received the royal pardon for selling it without license.<sup>13</sup>

It seems impossible to disentangle all the references to High Ham and Nether Ham (Low Ham) lands as to the succession of the mesne tenants under the Abbey of Glastonbury. We know that the Norman, Serlo de Burci, held Nether Ham. The Rector Schael in Tudor days explodes the old wives' fables, which would have dared to make Nether Ham Church even older than High Ham.<sup>14</sup> He also mentions that the Manor House at Nether Ham (that is the present farm-house west of the Church) was then called Burcy's Court. We can trace a long succession of Burcys in the Parish, but it is not clear what was their connexion with the Manor House and Church. The Nether Ham Manor went with the important forest barony of Petherton and with Exton.

After the tenancy of de Wrotham the lands in High and Nether Ham were divided amongst his married daughters as

7. *Patent Rolls*, 1336.

8. *S.R.S.*, XXV.

9. *Patent Rolls*.

10. *S.R.S.*, XIV.

11. *S.R.S.*, VIII.

12. *Wells MSS.*

13. *Patent Rolls*, 1315 and 1339.

14. *Som. Arch. Soc. Proc.*, XL.

co-heiresses, one of whom married le Blund,<sup>15</sup> and an heiress of this family married le Venour.<sup>16</sup> Some misunderstanding arose between the Venours and Burcys about Nether Ham Chapel, for we find Bp. Drokenford writing in 1315:<sup>17</sup>

“In granting a Chantry to J. de Burcy in the Chapel of Nether Ham we were abominably deceived by him. Finding how hurtful it is to the Church of High Ham and to Wm. le Venour [husband of the above Sybil], we now recall it, and enjoin the Chaplain not to celebrate in presence of J. de Burcy who is removed, but to say Mass for W. le Venour as in times past.”

It may be well here to point out some of the references to the Burcy family which cover some three centuries from Serlo. About 1190 Wm. de Burci joined with Raher, parson of Aller, as a witness to a Charter.<sup>18</sup> Robert le Burcy, 47 Henry III, gives land at Netherham with a messuage to Peter de Combe for a sore sparrow hawk, part of which land was formerly held by Geoffrey the Vicar.<sup>19</sup> In 1275 Robert Burcy witnesses a grant by Philip de Erlegh.<sup>20</sup> In 1321<sup>21</sup> the Inquisition P.M. of Sir Peter de Hamme, to whose family also by marriage had come part of the Wrotham estate, mentions that he held Exton of the King in chief, High Ham, and also a messuage with 40 acres arable and a windmill [the still existing High Ham Mill?], and land held in socage of John Burcy by service of 12*d.*, two pairs of gloves price 2*d.*, and 1*lb.* cummin price 2*d.* His grandson Peter, being a ward of the King had his marriage granted in 1335<sup>22</sup> to Sir R. de Midelney for a fine of 20 marks. Did Sir Ralph marry him to a daughter and so get Exton and its advowson (*Patent Rolls*, 1339)? In 1322 the Sheriff of Gloucester is ordered to pursue and imprison John de Bursy

15. *I.P.M.*, 48 Henry III, Nether Ham and Exton, held by John le Blond, 19 Edw. I, *Cal. Inq.*

16. *Fine Rolls*, 1301.

17. *S.R.S. Reg.*, vol. I.

18. *Wells MSS.*

19. *S.R.S.*, VI.

20. *S.R.S.*, XXV.

21. *Cal. Inq.*, 15 Edw. II.

22. *Patent Rolls.*

of the Marsh (? Morton Hampine) and John de Bursy of Hamme.<sup>23</sup> Land in "Over Ham," 18 Edw. II, is granted to John son of Wm. Burey for life, Richard le Venour and Emma his wife being among the tenants.<sup>24</sup> In 1335 Wm. son of Wm. Burey granted 2s. yearly from his land at Ham to Taunton Priory.<sup>25</sup> Richard Burey, 20 Edw. III, grants one-third of the manor of Nether Ham to Geoffrey Gras for life to revert to his brother John Burey or to Richard.<sup>24</sup>

We hear of Gras or Cras in the Feudal Aids, 1346, when Sir Ralph de Midelney with Galfrid Cras pay 20s. aid to the King at the knighting of the Black Prince for two fiefs in Netherham, formerly le Blund's. Finally in 1377-1378 after the Berkeleys had received Netherham from de Midelney, John Burey and Agnes his wife sell land in Netherham and Ham-Burey to Lady Berkeley, and thereupon buy lands in Curry Rivel, Drayton, etc.<sup>26</sup> As early as 1347 we find Lord Thomas Berkeley stocking Netherham, Ham Burci, Bere and a fourth part of Exton after his marriage with the Aller lady, Katherine, widow of Sir Peter de Veel.<sup>27</sup> Apparently Sir Ralph de Midelney had demised these manors to Maurice, younger son of Lord Thomas, who married his daughter Katherine. When Maurice died young, Lady Katherine de Berkeley obtained the manors for her son Sir John Berkeley. She also bought land in "Nether Hampine and Over Hampine" from Henry and Katherine Calfe. Sir John alone of her sons survived, and became the ancestor of the Berkeleys of Beverstone. He held Exton and Cheddar also. His son Sir Maurice was often styled "of Netherham," and was several times Sheriff of Somerset. His family held Netherham to the reign of Elizabeth when they sold it to George Hext.

The Drokensford judgment referred to above will show that Sir Ralph de Midelney and not de Burci held Nether Ham Chapel. In the Inquisition P.M. it is stated that Sir Ralph held Hampnie Bursy of Sir James de Audley by mili-

23. *Close Rolls.*

24. *S.R.S.*, XII.

25. *Som. Arch. Soc. Proc.*, IX.

26. *S.R.S.*, XVII.

27. MacLean, "Lives of Berkeleys"; *Patent Rolls*, 1355; "Feudal Aids," 1428.

tary service. The two bells still in use at Nether Ham are pre-Reformation bells, one older than the other. The older bell has the inscription : " Sancta Maria hora (*sic*) pro nobis " with an unusual cross character. This cross is not found elsewhere, except on a Pitney and a West Chinnock bell. These two last bells have the same dedication : " Sancta Katerina de Monte Acuto," and the lettering is of the same period as on the Nether Ham bell. Mr. Walters of the British Museum holds that the three bells are all about the same date and by the same maker, *i.e.* 1350 A.D. We pointed out to him that Sir Ralph was patron of two of the Churches, and that he also held under Montacute, if he wished to hear of a Montacute bell-founder. We should not be surprised if the Pitney and Nether Ham towers, and perhaps also the High Ham tower with its Virgin and Child are of that period and owed much to Sir Ralph de Midelney, and it may be also to the Berkeleys.

If we would understand rightly the surroundings of Sir Ralph's life, we must remember that he belonged to a turbulent age when it often happened that might was right ; and that Sir Ralph was not better than his neighbours. There was a darker as well as a brighter side to that age. On the one hand we see England in the vigour of youth, engaging with zest in the Hundred Years' War, settling her political constitution, spreading her commerce, building noble churches, and laying the foundations of a national literature. On the other hand we have a century beginning with the ferocious murder of Edward II, and ending with the ferocious murder of Richard II by men of the upper class ; private wars waged with one another in the same class ; and superstition and ignorance going hand in hand with simplicity and devout faith. The century began with the utter breakdown of Government and social order, as all parts of the land and Somerset amongst the rest knew to their cost. The regicides, Maltravers and Gournay, were Somerset knights by whose connivance the murder of Edward II took place in the Castle of Lord Thomas de Berkeley.<sup>28</sup> It was to a son of this Lord

28. See this established in MacLean's " Lives." Langland and Chaucer will give us the besetting sins of the age, the opposites of those virtues which poets and preachers mostly extol, and which Froissart teaches belong to true knights.

Thomas that Sir Ralph de Middelney married his daughter, whilst a daughter of Sir Ralph's neighbour, de Clyvedon of Aller, was taken by Lord Thomas as his second wife. The leader whom Sir Ralph followed to the wars was Sir Wm. de Montacute, confidant of Edward III when he attacked Mortimer, to whom being at the Queen's side Berkeley had sent the news of Edward II's murder the day after the event. Yet Berkeley became one of the most important leaders and statesmen under Edward III.

The turbulence of the age is illustrated by events in which we meet Sir Ralph from time to time. We first hear of him in a charge brought against him (1322) that he and his brother John, Parson of Curry Rivel, with others broke into the manors of R. Tilly at Ashcot and Nether Ham, entering houses and fields and carrying away goods.<sup>29</sup> The Sheriff of Gloucester was ordered to pursue, arrest, and imprison them, together with John de Acton of Aller, and John de Bursy of Nether Ham. In 1336 the biter was bit, for Sir Ralph had to complain that John Reyney of East Lydford, Philip de Wellesley and others had broken into his close at East Lydford and taken away 100 oxen and 400 sheep.<sup>30</sup> Sir Ralph's brother-in-law, John de Lorty, on going to the Scots' War caused Sir Ralph to act as his attorney, but the brother John de Middelney, Parson of Curry Rivel, was accused of hunting and carrying away deer from de Lorty's park at Stoke Trister together with the Parson of Trent.<sup>31</sup> Already three years before, Sir Ralph had been put on a commission to judge concerning a complaint by de Lorty against certain persons breaking into Stoke Trister.<sup>32</sup>

In the same year he was ordered with Richard de Acton, to arrest and imprison in the Castle of Nottingham certain Wells and Kingsbury men, and to enforce the Statute of Nottingham against suspected persons. Later<sup>33</sup> as Justice of the Peace he with others was ordered to examine a charge made

29. *Patent and Close Rolls.*

30. *Patent Rolls.*

31. *Patent Rolls, 1340.*

32. *Patent Rolls, 1337.*

33. *Patent Rolls, 1344.*

by Sir James de Audley, who owned land in Nether Ham, that certain men had carried away his goods, and assaulted his servant, John de Ashe, and kept him in prison till ten marks was paid for his deliverance; and that Vautort, Parson of the Church of Merton, and others broke his park near Bovey Tracey, hunted his deer, and assaulted his servants, so that their lives were despaired of and their service lost for the time. This de Audley was the redoubtable warrior at Poitiers, whose exploits were so highly commended by the Black Prince, as Froissart relates at length. We should have thought it rather a dangerous matter to offend such an one.

Sir Ralph sat on Commissions of a similar kind between 1350 and 1355 in conjunction with Hugh, Earl of Devon, Richard de Burton,<sup>34</sup> John de Clyvedon of Aller and others (1) concerning outrages committed against the widow of Leredekne by Gyan of North Curry and others, who had driven away her sheep and oxen, eaten down her pastures, and assaulted her servants; (2) about robberies and assaults made to the loss of John de Montacute at Dartmouth; and (3) concerning a charge against John Horselegh that he had broken into the house of Christina de Offynton near Frome, and taken her goods, charters and writings.<sup>35</sup>

So much for the disorders of the day; we pass to another office of Sir Ralph. In 1333<sup>36</sup> he was made Escheator to the King in the four counties of Somerset, Dorset, Devon, and Cornwall. As his office required, we hear of his doings constantly in all parts of the West. We may cite instances which will illustrate ecclesiastical or other customs of the day.

In 1335<sup>37</sup> in consideration of his valuable services in the war against Scotland—Edward had forced Balliol on Scotland, and when the Scots expelled the English nominee, Edward invaded the land to restore him—it was ordered by the King

34. This Richard was allowed to build a manorial chapel (Cantaria) by Papal Bull in Curry Rivel, and maintain a chaplain who s<sup>t</sup> swear allegiance to the Rector. His son was allowed a limited use of the chapel (at Burton Pynsent?) *S.R.S.*, Reg. Drokenford.

35. *Patent Rolls*, 1350—1354—1355.

36. *Patent Rolls*; *Som. & Dor. N. & Q.*, passim.

37. *Patent Rolls*.



that Sir Ralph's office as Escheator in the four counties should be made permanent during good behaviour, and only be taken from him by reasonable cause whereof the King was to be certified before his removal.

In 1336<sup>38</sup> he was ordered to see that corn belonging to the Prebend of Combe St. Nicholas and Winsham should be kept for the King's use, "as much as may seem necessary for the safety of the soul of Robert de Tanton, Provost of Wells, the Keeper of the King's wardrobe who has not accounted for monies of the wardrobe to the King." In this unblushing subjection of Church revenue to royal advantage, at least that master passion of the day, religion, is kept in sight. It would be interesting to have a Dante's account of de Tanton's lot in the Inferno.

In 1337<sup>38</sup> when the war with France was beginning, Sir Ralph was ordered to take into the King's hand £500 of the two yearly tenths granted by the Clergy of the Province of Canterbury, and deliver it to Anthony Bache, merchant. (A John Bache was Sheriff of Somerset 1392). The order was sent twice, and he was warned that if remiss in the execution, the King would punish him as disobedient. He was also ordered<sup>39</sup> to hand over to the King £500 collected from the Clergy of Exeter, part of the sixth yearly tenth imposed on the Clergy by the Pope. The King was not going to allow so large a sum to go to the Pope at Avignon. In the same spirit Edward seized Montacute in 1338, being an alien priory attached to the house of Cluny in France, and on their complaint<sup>39</sup> that certain people had carried away their goods, so that they could not pay the royal demands, Ralph de Midelney was sent to enquire. In 1340<sup>39</sup> he had a mandate to deliver the Priory to Wm. Earl of Salisbury, whenever by reason of war with France, the priory should come into the King's hands.

In 1338<sup>39</sup> Sir Ralph was under the Earl's banner in France, and received royal license to employ a deputy to execute his office of Escheator. He was back in 1339, being more fortunate than the Earl, about whom we read in the Chronicle of

38. *Close Rolls.*

39. *Patent Rolls.*

London (1339-40) that he was taken prisoner with others in the neighbourhood of Lisle, and sent to the King of France who promised that the men of Lisle should be well rewarded for the good service they had done him. The King said to the prisoners: "Traitors you shall be hung, since you cannot mend the harm which you and your king have done to my land." "Certainly, sir (said Salisbury), you are wrong and our king is right. I will prove that against all who come like a loyal knight in a foreign land." Then the Queen swore she would never be happy again if they were not vilely done to death. The old blind King of Bohemia said that would be great sin and madness to slay such lords, for then if the King of England ever happened again to enter France, and took any peer of our realm, we could not give these in exchange. Salisbury was eventually exchanged, but not until with Edward's consent he had agreed never again to take arms against France. Salisbury was so trusted by the King that he had been retained in his service for life after the affair of Mortimer, and we can understand how a knight of his following, like Sir Ralph, would benefit by his lord's favour with the king.

After his return from France the office of Escheator was conferred on Sir Ralph for life, in consideration of his services in the French war, notwithstanding any ordinance to the contrary. He was to receive the fees pertaining to the office for life and could discharge the office by deputy.<sup>40</sup> But in 1340<sup>41</sup> a serious charge was made against him by Sir Thomas de Marlberge, an important person in the County, who often held the office of Sheriff and of Knight of the Shire. The charge was that he with his brother John, the Parson of Curry Rivel, Thomas de Midelney, Walter le Venour, Stephen le Tailleur and other malefactors had attacked Marlberge who was appointed to keep the King's peace, and to sell sheaves, fleeces and lambs lately granted to the King, and to collect the King's wool, whilst he was executing his office near South Petherton. They wounded him so that his life was despaired of; they carried away goods to the value of £40; and they assaulted and wounded his men and servants.

40. *Patent Rolls*, Nov. 1339.

41. *Patent and Close Rolls*.

It was further said that Sir Ralph de Middelney and Thomas de Middelney made assemblies of armed men for war, and caused commotions amongst the people of these parts, whilst the King was absent beyond sea in the French War. Apparently the action went against Sir Ralph, and he was deprived of his office in 1341.<sup>42</sup> Further, a royal writ was sent to Bishop Ralph of Bath and Wells to distrain John de Middelney and Ralph de Middelney touching goods and chattels to the value of £23, belonging to John de Lorty on the day he died at Stoke Trister.<sup>43</sup>

But in June, 1341, Sir Ralph, was restored again at the request of the Earl of Salisbury, and was pardoned by the King concerning all his trespasses and excesses as well against the King as against the men of the four counties, whereof he had been indicted before the justices appointed to hear and determine oppressions inflicted by the King's ministers. He paid a fine of £200 to stay further process, which fine was given by the King to the Earl.<sup>44</sup>

In 1345 and in several subsequent years Sir Ralph was elected Knight of the Shire. In 1346 he was appointed steward of the young Earl of Salisbury's lands,<sup>45</sup> and in the next year<sup>46</sup> was under his banner in the French War, and it was ordered that all assizes arraigned against him should be stayed. He was pardoned for exporting wool in the King's first passage to Brabant, to raise money for himself and his men then in the King's Service.<sup>47</sup>

In 1350 Sir Ralph went on pilgrimage to Santiago (St. James of Compostella)<sup>47a</sup>—one of the three great pilgrimages of the world—with his friends John de Crukern and Nicholas de Somerton. This John de Crukern was apparently the same man who makes complaint that he, an attorney for many of

42. *Patent Rolls.*

43. Bp. Ralph's Register.

44. *Patent and Close Rolls, 1341.*

45. *Patent Rolls.*

46. *Close Rolls, 1347.*

47. *Patent Rolls, 1347.*

47a. An excellent article in *Blackwood's Magazine*, Nov., 1914, describes these pilgrimages.

the King's lieges, was besieged in his house a whole day at Crukern by Wm. Mareschall of W. Chinnock and others, and then chased out of his dwelling and his goods carried off.<sup>48</sup>

In 1356 Order was made to pay Sir Ralph £10 per annum for himself and his clerk, out of fines levied at Sessions of the Justices, for his work as Justice in keeping the Statute of Labourers.<sup>49</sup>

In 1357 Sir Ralph obtained exemption for life from all public appointments of Escheator, Sheriff, Coroner and the like, and from serving on juries and assizes.<sup>50</sup>

In 1358 the old suit of 1341 was revived against him,<sup>50</sup> and other misdemeanours were added to the charge—that he had obtained £400 from the Provostship of Wells;<sup>51</sup> that he had levied £1000 in five years; and that he had entered upon property at Huish Champflower by reason of the nonage of the heir, and taken the issues. The King in consideration of his former pardon and a fresh fine of £200 granted him pardon in full.

He died in 1363. The Inquisition P.M. taken for the County of Dorset, August 7th, 1363, states that he held in conjunction with his wife Elizabeth, who is still surviving, the Manor of Purstoke, held of the King in Chief by the service of rendering £18 and a pair of gold spurs, and that the Manor is worth 100*s*. The heirs are said to be his four sisters, Alice atte Orchard, aged 50 years and more; Alice atte Patte who has deceased, and her son is 23 years and more; Matilda atte Welle, deceased, whose daughter Cecilia Corbyn is 22 years and more; and Isabell frye, aged 23 years and more. Sir Ralph's son John had married Sibyl daughter of John de Lorty, his first cousin, and had a child John, but both son and grandson seem to have died.

The Inquisition for Somerset was taken at Yeovil by John de Bekynton on August 4th, 1363, by oath of Wm. Welde, John Ledred, Roger Warmwelde, John Peytenyn, John Forster, John Clerk of Lotesham, Richard Large, John Botor,

48. *Patent Rolls*, 1362.

49. *Close Rolls*.

50. *Patent Rolls*.

51. *Close Rolls*, 1324.

Wm. Cloke, John of Thorn, Robert of Warton, and Walter Hillary, who found that Sir Ralph conjointly with his wife Elizabeth held by military service of the King in chief the Manor of Netherhampnie worth near £10; and of Simon de Wardeney by the service of xii pence yearly the Manor of Morton<sup>52</sup> worth nearly 100 shillings; and of Sir James de Audley by military service the Manor of Hampnie Bursy worth nearly xl shillings. Sir Ralph also held of the Abbot of Athelney by military service two messuages, two carucates of arable and 40 acres of pasture in Lyng worth 100 shillings; and of the Earl of Salisbury by military service one messuage, one carucate, 12 acres of pasture, and 12 of wood in Cory-ryvel worth 50 shillings. He held also conjointly with his wife in chief by military service the quarter of the manor of Exton with the advowson of the church worth 50 shillings, and the manor of Puteneye Lorty with the advowson of the church, with remainder to his son John and his wife Sibil, and to the heirs of Sibil, and then to the heirs of Elizabeth; and he held the manor of Knolle by military service of the Abbot of Athelney worth 20 marks; and it is further added that the manor of Pitney which was of the inheritance of his son John and Sibil was worth six pounds; and that the reversion of the lands in Lyng, Chademedede, and Curry Rivel belonged to Katherine, wife of Thomas de Berkeley, senior; and that the four sisters of Sir Ralph are his heirs.

Pitney Manor<sup>53</sup> and the advowson of its Church with Knolle were held by his widow Elizabeth, who married Sir Robert de Ashton. After her death Sir Robert married Philippa, who after Sir Robert's death carried these lands by marriage to Sir Matthew de Gourney of Stoke-under-Ham, son of the Sir Thomas de Gourney the regicide.<sup>54</sup>

The following extract gives the heraldic seal of Sir Ralph de Midelney, as well as a notice of land once held by him: "Sciانت, etc. Radulphus de Middelnaie dedi, etc., Willelmo

52. Another name of this was Morton Hampnie, probably for "Moor-town," tenements close to the moors in the parish of the island of Ham.

53. *Patent Rolls*, 1363.

54. *Proc. Som. Arch. Soc.*, XLII, ii, 55.

de Spicer de Welles et Elisabeth uxori sue messuagium, terras, prata, etc., apud Hibroke (in Somerton) que ego tenui de perquisito Roberti patris mei. Testibus Johanne de Perham, Reginaldo Huseye, Johanne Bysshopp, Johanne le Knight, Johanne le Hare." (No date.)

Heraldic seal : SIGILLUM . RADULFI . MIDELNIE—3 snayles (Ex. Pole. MS. at Anthony, Cornwall).