On the Parish and Castle of Nunney.

BY EMANUEL GREEN.

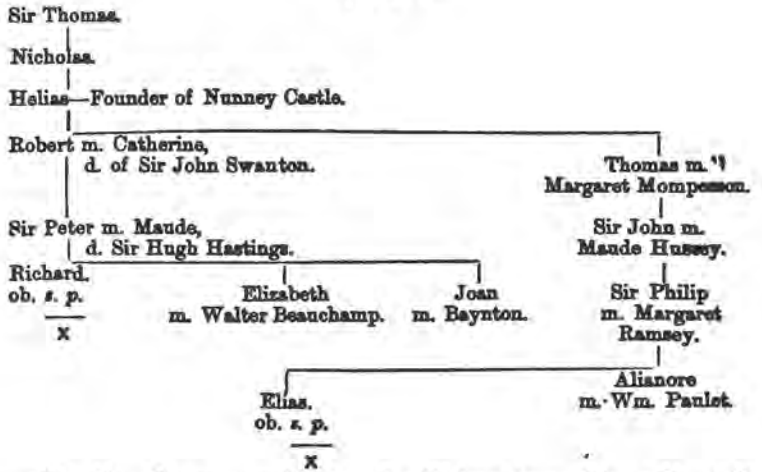
NUNNEY, "a goodly village al by Champagne Ground frutefull of corne," as Leland calls it, contains two manors, the smaller being known as Nunney Glaston, from its former connection with that Abbey. The larger is distinguished as Nunney Delamare, from the family of that name, who were for some time its lords, and to whom, as builders of the Castle, the parish owes its historical and archæological interest.

Amongst the Harleian MSS. there is given, as below, but without dates or comment, a descent of these Delamares, professing to show, but not very clearly, how their lands passed to the Paulets by a marriage with the Delamare heiress.[1]

Sir Thomas de Nony.
|
Nicholas m. Isabell,
| d. of Sir John Gifford.
Elias m. Elizabeth,
| d. of Sir Adam Basset.
| Founder of the Castle.
|
Robert m. Catherine, | Thomas m. Mompesson.
| heiress of Sir William Manton. |
| John m. Romsey.
Sir Peter m. Maude, |
| d. of Sir Hugh Hastings. | Sir Philip m. Maude Hussey.
Wilmayne m. Sir John Roche | |
or, | Alice m. William Paulet.
Wilielma. | |
| Paulet.
Eliza Roche,
m. Walter Beauchamp.

Another descent, with a difference, is given by Sir Richard C. Hoare in the *History of Modern Wiltshire*, under the parish of Fisherton Delamere, so named, like Nunney :—

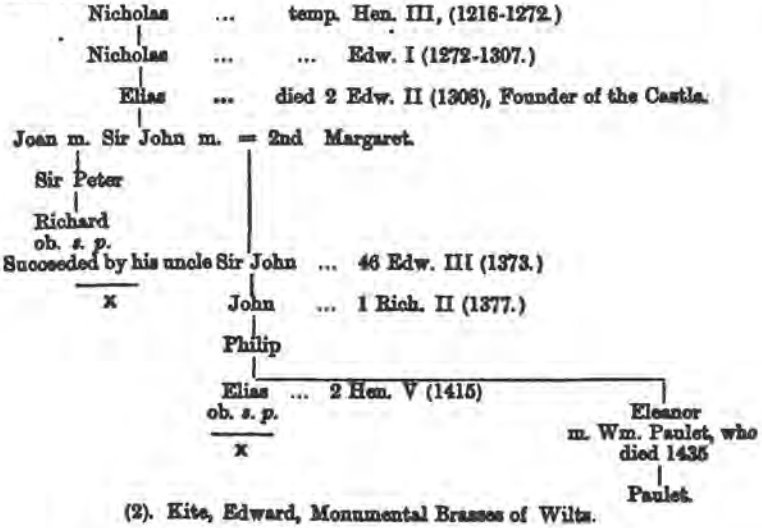
(1). Harl. MSS., No. 1,052, p. 41.



Treating the same subject under Bishopstone, this pedigree is overlooked, and Sir Peter is there given, as in the Harleian MS., an only daughter Wilmayne, also called Wilielma,[2] who in her turn has daughters only.

Why Nunney is made to pass to the younger son of the founder is not stated.

Collinson makes the descent more direct, and gives it somewhat differently, but with more attempt at truth, as he adds dates to the respective generations. Instead of Sir Thomas, he commences with—



(2). Kite, Edward, Monumental Brasses of Wilts.

There is yet another account, again differing slightly, as may be gathered from Leland, who notes that Sir Peter was a man of twelve hundred marks per annum, as quoted by Collinson, but adds what Collinson chose to overlook that he had daughters only: three, said some, but on the authority of Mr. Baynton, whose family had been connected, two only, one of whom married a St. John, and the other a De la Roche, who divided, and the Nunney lands went to St. John.[3] Mr. Baynton was soon seen to be wrong here, as in the original MS. the name St. John is crossed and over-written Paulet. There was no doubt a marriage with a St. John, but it was the lady who was of that family, as the heraldic quarterings will presently show.

These pedigrees are given simply as showing what has been said on the subject. Neither is absolutely true, although, all of them, by allowing for errors in Christian names, are remarkably near being so.

Besides those named below, others of the Delamare family, early had lands in different counties—in Berks, Devon, Essex, Gloucester, Hereford, Hertford, Oxford, Salop, Suffolk, Surrey, Wigorn, and Wilts.[4] At the time of the Domesday Survey, 1085, William de Mara was an under tenant of the Crown in Wilts.[5] In 1199, the name Nicholas de la Mare, appears in the same county.[6] In 124c, Gunnora held lands in Wilts and Oxon. In 1271, in Wilts there were Elias and Margaret his wife.[7] In 1291, Peter held lands in Wilts and four other counties. In 1308, Robert held lands in Wilts and five other counties. In 1349, Peter held lands in Wilts and other counties, and so on later.[8] Any pedigree could thus be made out, and missing links easily supplied, if direct documentary evidence were not called for.

(3). *Itinerary*, 2nd Edit., vol. vi., p. 36.
(4). Inquisitiones Post Mortem Chancery.
(5). Wiltshire Domesday.
(6). Rotuli Curiæ Regis, vol. ii, p. 9.
(7). Excerpta e Rotuli Finium, vol. ii.
(8). Inquisitiones Post Mortem Chancery, 33 Henry III, No. 38; 20 Edward I, No. 39; 2 Edward II, No. 68; 23 Edward III, No. 143, part 2.

The first record found of Nunney is in 1259 (44 Henry III), when the King, under date from Westminster, 23rd October, granted to Henry de Monteforti, that he and his heirs for ever might have one market every week on Wednesday at his Manor of Nuny, and one fair there every year, to last for three days, viz., the vigil, the day, and the morrow of St. Martin (except the said market or fair should be to the injury of neighbouring markets and fairs), and with all liberties and free customs to the same appertaining, &c. The witnesses are H. Cantuar, Archbishop; W. Wigorn, Bishop; Simon de Monteforti, Comes Leicester, Peter de Monteforti, Robert Waller, and others.[9]

The next notice is in 1273, when the King (Edward I), considering himself cheated by non-payment of rents and fees, due from the lands held of the Crown, ordered a survey of them to discover defaulters. The jury for Somerset, sitting at Briwton, found that ten acres of land in Noni, which Alexander de Monteforti, Henry de Monteforti, and Nicholas Delamare then held, with the waste of the wood, were "taken into the hands" of the late King (Henry III), and for it was rendered by each of the three tenants, to the "itinerant justices," half a mark, but "whether it went to the Exchequer or no they knew not."[10] They found also that the said tenants held or seized stray cattle and (?) rabbits ("sive cuneligges"), by old custom, but by what warrant was unknown.[11] They further found that Henry de Montforti de Nuny had assize of bread and ale in Nuny, by concession or grant from Johannis Braunche of Frome.[12]

In 1279, 8 Edward I, Nicholas Braunche, Lord of the Hundred of Frome, endeavoured to stop the market at Nunney, and summoned Henry de Montfort, on complaint that his market was an injury to the free market at Frome, on Saturday, and to the said Braunche of twenty pounds. To which de Montfort

(9). Charter Rolls, 44 Henry III, part 1, Membranes 1 and 2.
(10). Rotulorum Hundredorum, 2 Edward I, fol. 124, No. 25.
(11). Rot. Hund., extracta, fol. 127, No. 3, M. 14.
(12). Rot. Hund., extracta, fol. 129, No. 3, M. 10.

answered that he held his market on Wednesday, two days earlier than that at Frome; and that Nony being two miles and more from Frome, no injury was done. He was also attacked on behalf of the king, and summoned to show by what warrant he held assize of bread and ale and a market in Nony, to the injury of the king. He replied that Nony was in the Hundred of Frome, that there was no injury to the king, and produced his charter granted by Henry III, conceding him his privileges.[13]

This is the first notice of a Delamare in connection with Nunney, but his tenure or position there does not clearly appear. The next mention is in the 25th Edward I (1297), when, on the 24th May, by writ dated at Portsmouth, the King ordered a muster in London, on Sunday, the octave of the Feast of St. John the Baptist (1st July), to accompany him beyond the seas. Amongst those from Somerset having £20 in lands, and summoned to appear with horses and arms, were Nicholas Delamare, and Alexander and Henry de Monteforti.[14]

In 1315 (9 Edward II) a return was ordered and made, of all owners of manors, a sort of second Domesday, when Noin was found to be owned by Nicholas de la Marche, Alex. de Mountfort, and Felicia de Mountfort.[15] In 1332 (6 Edward III) Thomas de la Mare paid a subsidy in Nunney of three shillings and four pence,[16] but one John de Nony, a priest, found busy in 20 Edward II and 1 Edward III (1326—1327), getting away from Thomas le Wyte of Nacton, his lands in Lacock for the benefit of the abbey there,[17] must not be confounded with the Delamares. The Montforts now disappear, and no other notice is found of Nunney, until on his death, in 1372, it is scheduled amongst the vast estates of Humfrey de Bohun, Earl of Hereford and Essex, as held of the King in capite or chief. Under him

(13). Placita de Jur. Assis et Quo Warranto, p. 26.
(14). Harl. MSS., No. 1,192. Parliamentary Writs, vol. i, p. 725.
(15). Nomina Villarum, p. 353.
(16). Subsidies (Lay), 169—5.
(17). Court of Wards and Liveries.

was John Delamare, holding one knight's fee, which, "when it fell," was valued at 100s.[18] "Item unm ffeod milit in maner de Nony qd Johis de la Mare t et val p am cu acced 'it c$^{s.}$" [18]

This tenure by knight's service was not a very secure one, and means were sometimes found for ending it. The king, too on various pretences, often chose to take in hand and regrant his manors, thus causing the various and often changing ownership.

"Nicholas," says Collinson, "was lord here temp. Henry III, and was succeeded by Nicholas, who lived temp Edward I, and had Elias, a great warrior, who was the first projector of the Castle, which was finished by his successors," &c. No references are given nor authority quoted, except for the first assertion, for which a reference is made to some Cartæ Antiquæ. This can hardly mean the documents usually so called. Possibly it refers to certain charters or deeds, the work of Johannis, a monk of Glastonbury,[19] but which must be received with caution. Amongst them there is certainly one, but to which the reference does not help, dated the 3rd April, 47 of Henry the son of John (Henry III), by which Beatrice de Sancto Vigore is supposed to give lands in Mells to the Abbey of Glastonbury. It is signed as witnesses by Dominis Elia (not Nicholas) Delamare and Henrico de Monteforti.[20] Nunney is not mentioned, but the coupling of the names of Delamare and Montefort looks very much as if it were intended. It is curious to remark, when so much has been attached to the name, that no Elias appears amongst the names of the Delamares, in the Inquisitions, either in Chancery or the Exchequer.

Next, Collinson says that the Castle "projected" by the unknown Elias was finished by John and Jacques, the sons of Sir John, giving still no authority. Further, that it was "embellished" with the spoils of war gathered in France.

(18). Inq. P.M. Chancery, 46 Edward III, No. 10.
(19). Edit., J. Hearne.
(20). Dugdale's *Monasticon*, vol. I., p. 55.

Again, no authority is quoted for this, but the circumstances of the time just make it possible.

In June, 1369, the King (Edward III) announced his intention to resume his claim to the crown of France; asserting that the French king had broken the agreement by which it had been formerly abandoned. Preparations were promptly made; men in the several counties of England were ordered to be in readiness; the archbishops and bishops were ordered to array the ecclesiastics under them; and the sheriffs of counties to provide arrows. He also declared to Prince Edward (the Black Prince), that he would grant all lands in France, not belonging to the Crown or the Church, to any one who conquered them."[21] This last idea looks like a license for unlimited loot; and, supposing Sir John Delamare to have been there, he may have gathered some aid towards the building or the "embellishment" of Nunney Castle.

Passing to facts, he seems in some way to have so far gained the favour of the King, that after the death of Humfrey de Bohun, leaving no heir male, he appears in possession of Nunney Manor, holding without a superior lord, and actively "embellishing," as in 1373 he received a license to embattle and fortify his house there.[22] The original document reads—

"D manso Kernellando

"R omib ad quos &c. Saltm. Sciatis qd de gra nra spali concessimus e licenciam dedim p nob e heredib nris quantum in nob est, dilco e fideli nro Johi de la Mare, Chivaler qd ipe mansum sum apud Nonny in Com Soms muro de petra e calce firmare e Kernellare e mansu p'dcm sic firmatu e Kernellatu tenere possit sibi e heredib suis imppm sine occoe vel impedimento nr vel heredum nro'm Justic, Escaetor' vice comitu aut alior' ballioor' seu Ministro' nro' quor cumq. In cuj &c. T. R., apud Westm xxviii die Novembr.

P ipm Regem."[23]

(21). Rymer's *Fœdera, Syllabus*, vol. i, p. 452.
(22). Cottonian MSS. Titus, c. 2, fol. 392.
(23). Patent Rolls, 47 Edward III, part 2, Membrane 14.

"For Kernellating a Manse,

"The King to all to whom, &c., greeting. Know ye that of our special grace we have granted and given license for us and our heirs (as much as in us is) to our loving and faithful John de la Mare, chevalier, that he may fortify and crenellate his house at Nonny in the county of Somerset with a wall of stone and lime, and the aforesaid house so fortified and embattled may hold to himself and his heirs for ever without occasion or impediment of us or our heirs, Justices, Escheators, Sheriffs or of others our bailiffs or ministers whatsoever. In witness, &c., Witness the King at Westminster the 28th day of November.

By the King himself."

This word manse was used as distinctive from manor, and indicates a house with land and cottages around it, together forming a hamlet within the manor; and this seems to have been up to this time exactly the position of the Delamare property in Nunney. As Sir John was now lord, the use of the word seems almost an allusion to a previously existing building, one not known as part of the manor. Yet, unfortunately there is so far no documentary witness of the founding or commencement of the Castle. No record to determine more closely, whether the crenellating was an addition to an old building, a plan to change the manse to a fortified manor house; or only the finishing touch to a new one. In stone, by a statue in the church, there is clear evidence of the existence of a Delamare, for some reason, of no mean importance, who must have lived in the time of Edward II, immediately preceding this Sir John. His commemoration however does not directly connect him with an earlier foundation of the castle, but, by an inference to be noticed, points him out as the rebuilder of the church. It is difficult to detect in the building any evidence of an altered plan, and equally difficult to imagine it as existing without battlements; except, perhaps, that it had a wooden gallery running round it, instead of the crenellated wall of stone and lime, allowed by the license.

Licenses such as this to crenellate or embattle were simply a means for extorting a fee. It was by such devices and the constant enquiries about land that the Crown revenue was obtained, and except for them there would now be nothing to tell of the Delamares of Nunney.

The grant or holding from the king in capite altered Sir John Delamare's position, and next in 1377 (1 Richard II), he became Sheriff of Somerset. Once in possession as superior lord, he not only crenellates, but of the Delamares, the first and for the first time is found dealing with the property, and by so doing he shows of what family he was and that he had already other possessions in Wiltshire.

By deed, dated the 5th October, 49 Ed. III (1375), he granted to Henry de Forde, John de Panes of Wyke, Thomas Erlestoke, parson of the church of Fisherton juxta Wylye, John de Byry, parson of the church of Whately, Godfrey Bydyk, and John Adymot of Nony, two parts of the manor of Fisherton aforesaid, with appurtenances and the advowson, except the third life, *i. e.*, the third presentation, during the lifetime of Ralph de Norton, chevalier, &c., &c., and then he grants his manor of Nony, as well in Nony as in Clonorde, to have and to hold the same, &c., to the said Henry and the others, for ever, of the chief lord of the fee by the services therein due and accustomed. This was sealed at Nony the 5th Oct., 49 Edward III, the witnesses being Hugh Tyrel, Ralph de Cheyney, Peter de Escudamore, Knights, Nicholas de Bonham, John Elys of Co. Wilts, John de Merlaunde, Edmund de Flory, Henry de Montefort and others of Co. Somerset.[24] This was only a nominal transfer, and its exact purpose must be left to speculation. Soon afterwards, at Easter, 4 Richard II (1380), he and his wife Margaret became plaintiffs against Thomas Erlestoke and Godfrey Bydyk, deforcents, for recovery of the manors of Fisherton and Bishopstowe, except the advowson of Fisherton,

(24). Close Rolls, 50 Edward III, part 1, Memb. 22.

and of the manor of Nony with appurtenances, and the defendants then surrendered to them accordingly. At the same time the property was re-settled, and here may be the purpose of the transaction. It was agreed and conditioned as to Bishopstowe, that after Sir John and Margaret it should go to Thomas their son, and to his heirs male, and as to the manor of Nony that it should pass after them wholly to Philip their son and to his heirs male, but if they or Philip died without issue, then to the right heirs of the aforesaid Sir John, to be held of the lord in capite and by the services which to them belonged. [25]

Sir John appears to have died about or before 1389, as in that year, on the 20th November, Philip seems to have been in trouble, being called before the Privy Council, with Mr. Henry Grene, "by force of arms," to answer certain matters touching the "profit of the king." [26] Philip was certainly in possession in 1390, as in that year he endowed a chantry. Before he could do so, however, as in the case of crenellating, the permission, or license of the King, as lord in capite, was necessary.

The intention being notified, a writ was issued, and on the 16th March, 14 Rich. II (1390), an enquiry was made before a jury at Warminster, as to whether such a proceeding would be injurious to the interests of the Crown, and it was declared that a license might be granted, as it would in no way be to his Majesty's damage or prejudice.

Philip then charged a certain annual rent of ten marks, issuing from land at Fisherton, payable to the Prior and Convent of the Priory of Maydenbradley, who was to give and assign a "Capellano divina in ecclesia de Nony ad altare Sce. Katrine ibidem," for the good of the aforesaid Philip whilst he lived, and for his soul, the souls of his family, and of the King, and all the faithful deceased. [27]

For some purpose or reason not declared next, Margaret "quæ

(25). Pedes Finium, Divers Counties, case 8, No. 54.
(26). Acts of Privy Council, vol. i, p.14. Cottonian MSS., Cleopatra F. iii, f. 61.
(27). Inq. P. M. Chancery, 14 Richard II, No. 108.

fuit uxor Johannis de la Mare milit." appears in the Common Pleas, in 1393, before Johis Wadham, Rico Sydenham, and other Judges, as defendant, against Thomas de Hungerford, milit., Ralph de Cheyne, milit., Thomas Knoyel, William Stourton, John Wykyng, Thomas Bonham, John Dyker, parson of the church of Fyssherton, and John Folk, parson of the church of Nony, as plaintiffs, for the manors of Bishopstowe and Fisherton, and a moiety of the manor of Nony, which Margaret held for her life. She then surrendered her life interest to Thomas Hungerford and the others, in consideration of the payment of two hundred marks of silver.[28]

Soon after this Philip must have died, as in 1396, on the death of William de Monte Acuto, Earl of Sarum, amongst about fifty other such fees in Somerset, there is scheduled to him one knight's fee at Nony, held by John de la Mare; Nony, unum feodum, per Johem de la Mare, as attached to the Castle of Christchurch Twinham (Hants). Feod milit. pertin ad castrum de Christchurch Twinham.

This is the only record of this John, who must have been the son of Philip, and must have died without issue. The estate is next found in the hands of Constantia, who had been the wife of John Poulet, Knight, "quœ fuit uxor Johis Poulet, chiv.," at whose death, by inquest held at Yevelchester, on the Monday next before (Oct. 28) the Feast of St. Simon and St. Jude, 2 Henry VI, 1443, it was found that the said Constantia held no lands of the King in capite, nor in service, but that the said Constantia held at her death, the manor of Nuny, with appurtenances, of the hereditaments of John Poulet, son and heir of John Poulet, Kt., late her husband, from the gift and grant of Walter de Hungerford, Kt., Lord of Heytesbury, &c., and so being seized, the said Constance died, and the said manor was held of Wm. Palton, Kt., as of his manor of Corscombe, by knight's service, and that there was in the said manor a certain scite of the manor called a Motte, which was

(28). Pedes Finium, Divers Counties, case 9, No. 254, 17 Richard II.

valued at nothing beyond reprises. Also, there were in the said manor, two hundred acres of arable, valued at two pence the acre; also twenty acres of meadow, valued at twelve pence per acre, and seven pounds, rents of assize, payable on the four quarter days by the customary tenants. Constance died on Sunday, the "Feast of the Epiphany last past" (6th January, 1443), leaving John Poulet her son and heir, aged fourteen years and more, and having, after the death of John Poulet, Kt., taken "to her husband" Henry Grene, Esq., who survived her.[29]

This young John Poulet, for the purposes of dower and his marriage settlement, gave by deed of 1st Dec., 39 Henry VI (1458), the castle, manor, and advowson of Nony, "with the chantry of the same castle and manor," which were in his demesne as offee, to John Hylton and others, to hold the same by the usual services, &c., for ever, and almost immediately afterwards, viz., on the 20th of the same month, John Hylton and the others reconveyed and again "sold and demised and confirmed the said castle, manor, and advowson, to the said John, and Alianore his wife, to hold the same for ever." John died on the Friday "next after the Feast of M'Mas," 8 Henry VII (1492), leaving John a son and heir, then thirty-two years of age. At the inquisition taken at Ilchester, the 1st October, 9 Henry VII (1493), the above deeds were produced, and the widow Alianore was declared in possession of Nunney, as a free tenement in dower for life, held of the King as of his honour of Hereford, parcel of the Duchy of Lancaster, but by what services the jury knew not. That the value per annum in all was £20 beyond reprises, and that the said John was not seized of any other lands in Somerset.[30]

In 1518, John Paulet had the right of pasturage on Nunney Glaston for four hundred sheep.[31]

(29). Inq. P. M., 21 Henry VI, No. 22.
(30). Inq. P. M. Chancery, Appendix, 9 Hen. VII., No. 9.
(31). Terier, Harl. MS., No. 3961.

At the dissolution of the monasteries, in the time of Hen. VIII, their lands and revenues being taken into the hands of the King, were gradually redistributed. Thus it happened that the descendant of these Poulets having become Lord St. John, Marquis of Winchester, and Treasurer of England, received from Queen Elizabeth, under date 20th January, in the third year of her reign (1560), a grant of "all that her house or mansion of the Chantry of Nunney, and one garden and orchard to the same adjoining, with the appurtenances situate within the Castle of Nunney, to the late Chantry of Nunney, now dissolved, lately belonging and appertaining;" also, "those our two tenements and cottages, and one vergate of land, and three acres of meadow, being at Truttoxhill, in tenure of John Pye and John Chancellor, and to the said Chantry of Nunney, formerly belonging, and all that our rent of £6 13s. 4d., issuing from profits of the manor of Fisherton Delamare and the rectory of the same, parcel of the possessions of William, Marquis of Winchester, and to the said Chantry of Nunney, by the hands of the bailiff of Fisherton, annually payable. And all other lands, &c., to the aforesaid chantry in any wise belonging. In the hands of us, by virtue of a certain Act of Parliament, held in the first year of our loving brother, Edward VI." With this the Marquis received other property, out of which the chantry was valued at £7 5s 10d. clear, for which he paid in all £1,805 16s. 2d.

Before the death of the Marquis, Nunney passed into other hands, and so the Delamare holding ceased.

Amongst the Corporation documents of the City of Bath, there is one to which some Delamares were parties, and bearing their seal. Attention is called to it, hoping it may be examined when opportunity offers.

The pedigree, as now worked out by the present evidence, from existing vouchers and by actual search, can be easily seen, and may be compared with those already given.

Elia ... 47 Hen. III (1262.)
|
Nicholas ... 2 Edw. I (1273.)
|
Nicholas ... 25 Edw. I (1297). (The warrior who went beyond seas with the king.)
|
Nicholas ... 9 Edw. II (1315).
|
Thomas ... 6 Edw. III (1332).
|
Sir John m. Margaret.
Embattles in 1373. 1393.
|
Philip
Founds Chantry 1390
|
John
who held under Wm. de Monte Acuto 1396.
x

Thomas
who took Bishopstowe.
x
|
Constantia m. John Poulet
ob. 1443. ob. before her
|
John m. Alianore.
æt. 14 ... 1443.
ob. ... 1492.
|
John
æt. 32 ... 1492.
|
John, 1518.
|
William
received grant of Chantry 1560; died Marquis Winchester, 1572.
x

The ancient name of this parish, says Collinson, is Nuni, from Nunne, a nun, and Ea, a rivulet, there having been in Saxon times, "according to tradition," a nunnery on the little stream. Instead of being from tradition, this is clearly the result of similarity of sound. It is simply phonetic history. He then mentions a charter of King Edred, by which two hides in Nunney are supposed to be given to Glastonbury, marking no reference, but the statement is found in one of the "Cartæ Antiquæ" already noticed.[32] There was no such holding, however, at the Domesday Survey. If Noiun means Nony, it was then held by Wm. de Mohun. Turgis holds of William, Noiun. Colo held it in the time of King Edward and paid for five hides. The arable is three carucates. In demesne is one carucate and

(32). Dugdale's *Monasticon*, vol. I, p. 4.

four servants and three villanes, and eight cottages with one plough. There is half a mill which yields 30d.; twenty acres of meadow and as many pasture, and one hundred acres of wood. It was worth 40s., now 60s.

When Glastonbury got hold of part of this manor, with part of the advowson, or when the advowson passed from the Poulets, does not appear. No mention seems made of a second holding, until the time of Henry VIII, when, in the second year of his reign (1510), Richard Maudley died, seized of half the manor of Nunney Glaston and half the advowson, *i.e.*, the alternate presentation. The whole appears to have been 300 acres of land, 80 of meadow, 60 of pasture, and 60 of wood, with appurtenances.[33]

There is extant, in Latin, a terrier of this manor, made in the 9 Henry VIII and the 26 Richard (Beere) Lord Abbot (1518), which shows the claim of the Abbot to the alternate presentation, and gives particulars of all the lands and tenements, "omi terrar' et tenementor';" but want of space prevents more than this passing notice of its existence.[34]

In 1534, when King Henry VIII determined that the tenth of the clear income of all livings, which was usually paid to the Pope, should be paid to him, the survey of Nunney showed Richard Basyng as rector, and the value per annum from dominicals, 13s. 4d.; tithes "predial," £7; tithes of wool and sheep, £2 6s. 8d.; oblations, personal tithes, and all other casuals, £6; together, £16. The reductions were, for the Archdeaconry of Wilts, 9s. 10½d; Bishop of Bath, 9d.; together, 10s. 7½d., leaving nett, £15 9s. 4½d.; Decima inde, or a tenth therefrom, £1 10s. 11½d. The chantry, Richard Laurence cantaria, was valued at £5 19s., as being formerly received from the Priory of Bradley; a tenth therefrom being 11s. 11d.[35]

Next came the general dissolution, when parties desiring to

(33). Escheators Inquisitions, 1 and 2 Henry VIII, Mem. 12.
(34). Harleian MSS., vol. iii, p. 99, No. 3,961.
(35). Valor Ecclesiasticus, vol. i, p. 161.

purchase lands were requested to send up a schedule of those they wished to have, with a valuation attached, and then a grant was made to them.

The Earl of Hertford in 1540, 28th January, first had the rents in Nonny, parcel of the cell of Longleat, late of the Priory of Hinton, Somerset;[36] but this grant was cancelled, apparently, and the messuages belonging were afterwards sold to Robert Kelway.[37] William, Lord Stourton, 7th July, 1543, requested to purchase a close called Adnams, and this being granted, it was confirmed to him by patent on the 18th Jan.[38] The principal applicants were Thomas and John Horner, who in 1543, 22nd May, sent in their valuation for the Manor of Nunney, part of the possessions of the "attainted" Monastery of Glastonbury. This set out that Rents of Assize were payable from Wm., Lord Stourton, Roger Mawdelyn, and Edward Ruddock, valued at 32s 1d. Fee farm rents from fifteen others, amongst them being John Peckfatt, 118s. 8d.; farm rents, 46s. 8d.; casual, 5s. 6½d.—making a total of £10 2s. 11½d; from which 10s. were deducted for the bailiff's fee, leaving nett £9 12s. 11½d. The advowson, with the alternate presentation was valued at £7 18s. 7d. Attached to this document is the request, with autograph signatures, "That we Thomas and John Horner requireth to purchase of the King's highness by vertue of the King's Commission of Sale the premises of the yerely value of £9 12s. 11½d. In witness whereof we have subscrybed this byll with our hands and putte our Seales the day and the yere of the said date expressed."[39] On the 10th July, by patent, Thomas and John Horner, jun.,

(36). Augmentation Office, Inventory of Grants, 32 Henry VIII, sec. I. Deeds of Purchase and Exchange, &c., p. 245. Patent Rolls, 32 Henry VIII, part 5, No. 697. Patent Rolls, 2 Edward VI, 26th June.

(37). Patent Rolls, 36 Henry VIII, 4th Dec., Mem. 22, 23.

(38). Augmentation Office, Inventory of Grants, 35 Henry VIII, sec. I. Particulars of Grants, Miscellaneous, No. 137. Patent Rolls, 35 Henry VIII, part 18, No. 739. Fee Farm Rents Reserved, roll 35, No. 137.

(39). Particulars for Grants, 35 Henry VIII, sec. 2.

received the Manor of Nunney (Glaston) as prayed, "to hold in capite by the service of the 20th part of one Knight's fee and rendering therefor at M'Mas only, pr annum 19s. 4½d."[40]

Some other rents appear as reserved. Thus, when the enquiry into value was made, it was found that the chantry, treated separately from the advowson, was worth in lands and tenements by rental £7 10s. 4d., wherefrom was deducted 4s. 6d., leaving clear £7 5s. 10d. That there were in it ornaments prayzed at 69s., and of plate a chalice of silver, weight 13 oz.; Richard Laurence, clerk, æt 60, being incumbent. That a "tenement" or cottages worth 16s. per annum were granted towards the maintenance of the said chantry for 120 yeare, in the 8 Hen. VI, but it was not then known in whom the inheritance of the same remained. The parsonage was now valued at £15, Richard Basyng being incumbent. The partakers of the Lord's holy "sooper" were 228 persons. It was also presented that the lights founded within the church were worth yearly from lands 12d.[41] This was received from the rent of one acre called "lamp acre," granted for the use and sustenance of a "burning light" in the church, and valued at 6d. per ann.[42] Also an annual rent of 6d. reserved from a tenement called Longleat (late of John Thynne, Kt.), in the tenure of Galfridus Clymer and others, for the price of 1 lb. of wax, granted to the use and sustenance of one lamp in the church.[43] The chantry priest, Richard Laurence, received a pension of £5 per annum.

The Horners alienated their grant to Wm. Paulet,[44] owner of the castle, who was made Lord St. John, 9th March, 1539. From Lord St. John it seems to have passed to Richard Parker, and in the 19 Elizabeth, 1st May, Richard, also called John, Parker,[45] in consideration of the sum of 58s. 8d., paid to the

(40). Fee Farm Rents Reserved, bundle No. 28, roll 72, No. 166.

(41). F. F. Rts. Res., bundle No. 28, roll 80, No. 188. Certificate of Colleges, Henry VIII, Edward VI, cert. 42, No. 131.

(42). F. F. Rts. Res., bundle 28, roll 112, No. 359.

(43). F. F. Rts. Res., bundle No. 28, roll 112, No. 360.

(44). Alienation Office, Index to Licenses.

(45). Alien. Off., p. 115, 19 Elizabeth.

Queen, was licensed to alienate to Richard Prater, gentleman, all that the Lordship and Manor of Nunney Glaston, with all rights, &c., and also (half) the advowson of Nunney, valued at £8 10s., fine 6s. 8d., "which of us are held in capite," to have, and to hold the same for ever, at the usual customs, &c.[46]

This Richard Prater is the same to whom had already passed the manor and castle of the Delamares.

The Crown still held some rents in Nunney, and these, "in consideration of the good, and faithful and acceptable services of our loving servant, Edward Dier, Esq., and at his humble request, and for divers other causes, us specially moving," were granted to William Tipper and William Dawe, of London, gents., to have and to hold the same, as of the manor of East Greenwich, by fealty only, and free and common soccage, and not in capite, nor by knight's service, only rendering 6s. 8d.[47] This reserve applied to several other grants included with this, and was consequently entirely nominal.

Here may be noticed a curious squabble which occurred in 1595, ending in a chancery suit between Richard Mawdley, Esq., as plaintiff, and Joseph and Thomas Collyer, defendants. It would seem by a Bill filed on the 30th October, that Joseph Collyer, who had been parson of the rectory for ten years, had on a mortgage for £300, agreed to demise to the plaintiff the glebe lands and tithes belonging, reserving his house and tithes of land of George Prater, Esq., and one load of hay, &c. Collyer seems to have resisted payment, upon which Roger Mawdelyn, son of the plaintiff, with another, going to the glebe to seize the tithes, were arrested. Then the parson cautiously removed by night, with the help of others, "divers tithes of corn, hay, lambs, and wood," &c., &c. There were other proceedings on the same matter in the Queen's Bench, making altogether a long story.[48]

(46). Pat. Rolls, 19 Elizabeth, 11th part, Mem. 45 (2).
(47). Pat. Rolls, No. 1340, 32 Elizabeth, 4th part, Mem. 39 (2).
(48). Proceedings in Chancery, vol. ii, Elizabeth, No. 60, M. 3.

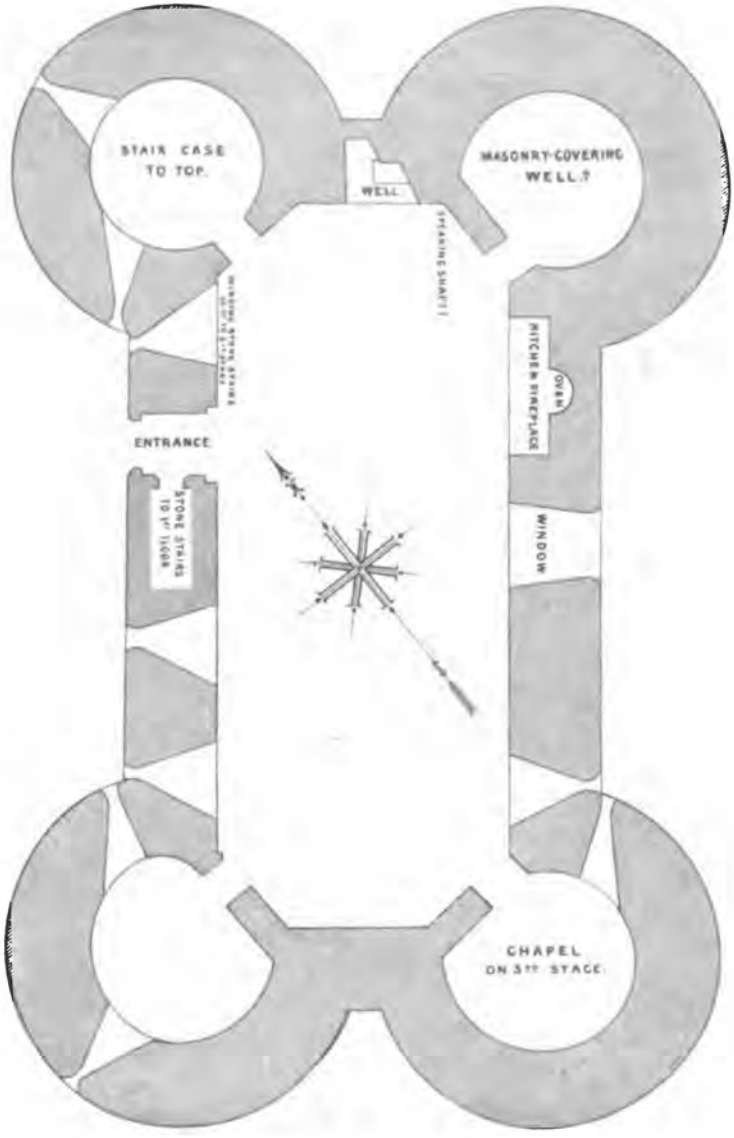
In 1635, the alternate presentation to the living was in the gift of Abraham Burrell, Esq., and George Collier was rector, value £15 9s. 4½d.[49]

The descent of the lands and manors being traced so far, it only remains to work out the destiny of the Castle, and with this will also be followed the holding of the Praters, who were the last residents within it. This, in its early days known as the Moat, the prominent object of interest now in ruins, seems so entirely planned for defence, as to be more suited to a border country than where it is. Possibly besides the warrior mind of its builder, its situation between the forests of Mendip and Selwood may have made this a necessity, as well as the occasional appearance of marauders, who in those days sometimes sallied out of Bristol. The ground plan is laid without reference to any compass bearings, and with but little care for exactness. It is oblong, not quite a double square, being in length within 61 ft. 6 in., and in breath 25 feet, but differing slightly in places, and with walls 8½ feet thick. It was divided into four stories, varying in height, but the flooring and partitions must all have been of wood, as there is no evidence of vaulting or partition wall. At each corner is a tower with walls of about 7 feet in thickness, but all differing in shape and dimensions. These project somewhat, and almost meet at the ends without, the two ends not being alike. Upon each is a turret, which was carried considerably above. The entrance, when standing in the centre of the hall, is almost due north, is extremely narrow, being but four feet wide, and about seven feet high, and bears evidence of having been well bolted and secured within. It opens into a vaulted passage, simply the thickness of the wall, but which afforded opportunities for defence. The eight ribs of the vaulting meet in a circle, enclosing a quartrefoil, and the ends of two of them are ornamented by the *plante a genest*. Turning sharply to the right, without passing

(49). Liber Institutionem, First Fruits, &c.; Series A. 2.

through this passage, were stone steps leading to the first landing; and then again, to the left, above the entrance, are seen other stone steps, leading to the second floor, where were the principal or lord's chambers. On one of the five ribs of the recess in the turn of these steps is seen a rose, and this, with that at the entrance, is the only sign of carving throughout. The northern tower alone is circular within, and in it was a staircase of wood, common to the garrison and household, and which continued its course quite to the top. Beginning close to the ground, on the right of the entrance to the tower, it rose, turning to the left, and in one round passed just clear of, and over, the embrasured opening or window, which there gives directly on the doorway without, as does a similar window in the western tower. On the second stage it passed through a blocked up window and by a closet, of which the drain is visible outside. There is a similar closet on the first floor eastward in the southern tower. Between the northern and eastern towers is the well, which could be used from the first stage above. The upper part is rectangular, being 4 feet by 2 feet 6 inches. It was cleaned out "about forty years" since. In the wall, towards the east tower, is what at first sight seems a flue, but which was probably a speaking tube, or means of communication from above. The bottom floor in the eastern tower is without light, and with but 4 or 5 feet head room, the ground being unlevel, but very firmly paved; under the soil there is a foundation wall. Close to this is the kitchen fireplace, 12 feet wide, with oven behind it. The opening next it was a window, as shown perfect in Buck's view of 1733. In the south tower, on the third storey, is an altar, the window, of the same style as throughout the building, being duly oriented, and with piscina by its side. The flat stone of the altar, straight on the edge, and projecting somewhat, is seen distinctly in the in the curve of the chamber, and beneath it is the original curved worked stone support, built in with the masonry. The chapel was specially roofed, the supports being still in place. In

NUNNEY CASTLE, SOMERSET.



GROUND PLAN.

Scale Inch to 1 Foot

JEWERS LITHO BRISTOL

the space between this tower and the western, on the second stage, is seen the upper part of a perpendicular window, built in the wall, but not visible on the outside. This with the carved flower in the entrance, if judged correctly, shows later or additional work. The doorway into the western tower is still perfect. Between this tower and the main entrance the ruined windows and walls are supposed, and with probability, as they face elevated ground, to be the result of battery by cannon. All the windows on the ground and first floors are square-headed. Some of the upper ones are so, others are pointed and cusped; but the principal, those having mullions and more than one light, are foliated, and in type tending towards the perpendicular. Round the outside of the northern tower are some square holes, equidistant, but whose purpose does not seem clear. From a fortunately preserved but somewhat rough sketch, here reproduced in facsimile, every scratch of the pen being noticed, the roof is seen to have been high pitched, and the towers also to have had a high pointed roofing, much or exactly as may be seen in old French chateaux. This is found in a little pocket



MS. volume,[50] carried by a royalist officer, who coming from Mells with the royalist army to the general rendezvous at Nunney, on Friday, the 19th July, in 1644, visited the castle, when it was perfect, and garrisoned for the king. He describes it as "four square a long square very narrow, ye towers at each end almost joyne,—four towers—a deepe moate and a wall without

(50). Additional MSS., No. 17,062, Mus. Brit.

that." This wall is said to have been twelve feet high,[51] except to the eastward, where it was absent. This may have been the case, as a lower would not have been of much service, and as similar remaining walls may help to decide. It would, also, be defended by a gate-house and drawbridge. The moat is said to have been 10 feet deep. The sketch seems to show that the doorway was reached by some sort of moveable steps, and hand-rails appear marked on either side of them. This may account for the square-cut holes in the stone at the sides and below the door without. There is no evidence of protection worked as a drawbridge. Whether there was ever a rail or gallery, supported by the machicolations running round without the top or parapet, from which missiles could be thrown on invaders, is a possibility which may lead the adventurous to an examination for proof. It was used as a kennel for hounds "about forty years ago." Traces of a wall are seen in the meadows northward; and part of one, with one projecting round still remains, running N.N.W., about square with that end of the castle. The outbuildings to these castles were sometimes without the enclosure, and sometimes, as appears to have been the case at Nunney, within it. They were often of wood, and consequently have entirely disappeared; but the meadows here are yet scored with rubble remains.

Leland visited Nunney twice. The first time, about 1540, coming from Frome, he calls it "a praty Castle at the Weste End of the Paroche Churche havynge at eche end by North and Southe 2 praty rownd Towers gatheryd by Compace to joyne in to one. The Waulls be very stronge and thykke, the Stayres narrow, the Lodginge within some what darke. It standithe in the left ripe of the Ryver (which) dividithe it from the Churche Yarde. The Castell is servid by Water conveyed into it owte of the Ryver. There is a stronge Waulle withe oute the Mote rownde about savinge at the East Parte of the Castell where it is defendyd by the Brooke. The Castell longed

(51). Collinson.

NUNNEY CASTLE. SOMERSET.



Altar and Piscina.

to the Delamares, syns to Powlett, Lord St. John."[52] This was the same Poulet who afterwards became Marquis of Winchester, and from whom Nunney passed to Richard Prater. This Richard Prater, died on the 17th April, 22 Elizabeth (1578), seized of Nunney Castle and Nunney Glaston, two dovecotes, &c., and hereditaments called chantry lands, and leaving his son George, aged 18 years 4 months and 24 days. In his will, dated 7th December, 1577, he declared that he was thus seized "in fee simple and whereof by the sufferance of God he intended to die seized," and that Nunney Glaston was held of the Queen in capite at half a knight's fee and a rent of 19s. 4½d. per ann.[53] The son, George Prater, died in 1623, and was found seized of the two manors, 40 messuages, 40 cottages, 30 lofts, 1 dovecote, 100 gardens, 1,000 acres of land, 300 acres meadow, with a mill, woods, &c., and other lands in neighbouring parishes.[54] He left a son Richard, who succeeded him, and who becomes prominent in the events next to be noticed.

In 1642 began the great civil contest between Charles I and the Parliament. What may have occurred at Nunney on the commencement of hostilities is not recorded, but it was eventually garrisoned for the king, and held for him until 1645. No doubt it could have been reduced at any time, but the Mendip Hills dividing this country from the west, it lay in no direct road to make it of importance, and was not of sufficient strength to cause anxiety. Like other small places, however, such as Witham House and Woodhouse, close by, and Farley, not far away, it served a good purpose as forming a store for arms and provisions, brought in by foraging troopers, and especially for protecting horses gathered from all parts and turned out in the meadows around. With Bath, Pershutt (Portishead), and Farley, it was subordinate to Bristol, and was placed under the treasurer and paymaster in that city, who was instructed to see

(52). Itinerary, fol. 73 b., vol. vii, part 2, p. 92, 2 ed.
(53). Inq. P. M., 22 Elizabeth, part 2, No. 86.
(54). Inq. P. M., 21 James I, part 1, No. 71, fol. 66.

the garrison duly paid, and to give an account monthly of his receipts from contributions.[55] The payment to the governor was £5 per week.

At first, fortune fairly favoured the King, but the Parliament starting in 1645 with a newly modelled army, under fresh generals, the tide of victory rapidly turned. Nunney with all similar garrisons was then strengthened to meet this increased determination, but without any marked result.

Thus it happened, that after many other victories, Sir Thomas Fairfax, and General Cromwell having conquered at Sherborne, marched on the 15th September, 1645, by Castle Cary, and Shepton Mallet, directly for Bristol. From Cary, on the 18th, two regiments under Cols. Rich and Fortescue, (one account says Cols. Hammond and Rainsborow,[56]) with three cannon were told off to attack Nunney, and on the 19th the main body of the army being advanced so far, Sir Thomas Fairfax rode over from Shepton personally to inspect it. He declared the castle "very strong, but not very large," and leaving the beseigers to do their work, returned to his head quarters the same night. All preparations being quickly made, the usual summons for surrender was sent in. This, as usual also being refused, the cannon were advanced, and after battering away for a short time, a small breach was made. Col. Prater, who was both governor and owner, not wishing to see his property uselessly destroyed, then asked for a parley,[57] and this being granted he offered to surrender, change his allegiance, and hold it for the Parliament. This arrangement being agreed to, it was given up on the second day, the 20th September, on bare quarter.

Besides arms sufficient for two hundred men, and the small quantity of only two barrels of powder,[58] the garrison, reported to be Irish, was found to consist of eighty men under Captain

(55). Harl. MSS., vol. 3, No. 6,802, fol. 260, Instructions for Edmund Turner, Esq., 4th December, 1644.

(56). Moderate Intelligencer, No. 26.

(57). Mercurius Civicus, No. 118.

(58). Perfect Passages, No. 44.

Turberville, all of whom were made prisoners. With them were some others, refugees, and above all, "a good store of papists," who were "not poor until the soldiers left them."[59]

The strong religious feeling of the time, which was one cause of the war, now showed itself. The standard on the castle which was "red and in the midst thereof a fair crucifix cross," greatly excited the wrath of the conquerors, and for fighting under such a popish symbol, the prisoners were set down as "almost all papists," and "pretty fellows to settle the Protestant Religion."[60] This trophy was sent to London, and exhibited to the Parliament at Westminster.

A little later by vote of that assembly, Nunney, with all similar strongholds was ordered to be slighted and made useless,[61] and possibly under this process it was left in a condition, not much unlike that in which it is now seen.

The war being over and the King executed (January, 1649), there came the usual little account to be paid by the losers. The estates of those who had sided with his Majesty were either sold, or possession was allowed by compounding, or payment of a heavy fine. These orders were carried out by commissioners appointed for each county.

Notwithstanding that Col. Prater, when his castle was taken, and he found the "Parliament friends to be the stronger party,"[62] foreseeing this difficulty, and hoping to save himself, changed his allegiance, he was doomed to disappointment. His property was at once sequestered, and eventually ordered to be sold, as forfeited to the Commonwealth for treason. The Col. (Richard) died in 1651, before this order was carried out, but his son George, on finding the Parliament had so resolved and inserted his name in a list for sale,[63] immediately petitioned against it, and set out that he was sequestered "upon

(59). Moderate Intelligencer, No. 26.
(60). Perfect Occurrences, No. 39.
(61). Commons' Journals.
(62). A Diary, or Exact Journal, &c., No. 67.
(63). Commons' Journals, vol. 7, p. 205, 2nd Nov., 1652.

colour" that the late King had on the 23rd June, 1645, made a garrison of Nunney Castle, "which was his and his father's inheritance," and they had lived and continued there "having no other abode," without "takeing upp armes or dooing any other act against the Parliament," yet his father dying "yor petr enters and is returned as a papist in armes which really he never was."[64]. He then prayed that the matter should be referred for examination, and if it appeared that he "never was nor ever acted" against the Parliament he might have liberty to compound. It was referred accordingly, but the prayer was not allowed and the sale proceeded.

It would appear that the commissioners or sequestrators had leased the property to Hugh Pickfatt, gent., for six years, from the 25th March, 1651, at £110,[65] and the lessee hearing of the intended sale petitioned on the 26th January, 1652, that his lease should be confirmed and the sale made subject to it. This being granted, the "manor and castle of Nunney, with the lands, &c.," parcel of the estate of George Prater, Esq., were sold to Samuel Foxley and Robert Colby of Lindisfont, and they having paid down a moiety of the purchase money to the trustees for the sale of forfeited estates, it was ordered that quiet possession should be given them.[66]

These proceedings directed against one necessarily acted on others. In consequence Jane Prater, widow, sent in her petition, stating that her husband on her marriage, 20th January, 1628, had given her a rent charge of £15 per annum, which the commissioners had at first allowed her but since refused.[67] The matter being referred to the committee in Somerset was brought before them at Wells, where Mr. George Prater appeared and produced the deed of settlement made by his father, Richard Prater, and deposed further that the amount

(64). Royalist Composition Papers, 1 ser., vol. 51, fol. 643.
(65). Certificate Comp. Pap., 1 ser., vol. 51, fol. 655.
(66). Comp. Pap., 1 ser., v. 51, f. 641.
(67). C. P., 1 ser., vol. 51, fols. 649, 662.

was for some time paid. It was also sworn in proof that the settlement was of old date and *bonâ-fide*, that by the appointment of Mr. Richard Prater it had been paid for ten years before his death as well as for some time after it.[68] The claim was consequently allowed, 7th April, 1652, especially as Mrs. Prater was "above four score years of age, and for want of it was ready to starve."[69]

Mrs. Ann Prater, being also in poverty, "notwithstanding that she was a protestant and never acted against the Parliament," petitioned on the 26th March, 1650, and claimed under an Act passed for that purpose, a fifth part of her husband's estate, with arrears from the 24th December, 1649,[70] and in a second petition, 1st May, 1651, she asked for her jointure of £40 a year, which was settled upon her on the 11th April, 1642, when she married. She declared that she was, and "ever was," a protestant, and never "acted or did any disservice to the Parliament," and prayed that her husband's sequestration might be discharged, and her settlement allowed, as she had "nooe other livelyhood for herselfe and children's maintenaynce."[71] Apparently she received no reply, as on the 20th October she again asked that her case should be examined, and allowed if true. It was then referred, and oath taken on it, as desired, but the certificate of result is not recorded.[72]

The property of Sir Ralph Hopton, who had the reversion of seven messuages in Nunney and Truttoxhill, of the yearly value before the war of £51 11s. 8d.,[73] was treated in the same way. This was purchased by Major John Wildman, "Esq.," on the 23rd January, 1651, and on the 24th March the Commissioners in Somerset were ordered to permit the said Major "quietly to enjoy the premises and take the rents thereof."[74]

The "almese Howse without Temple Gate is called Roger

(68). C. P., 1 ser., vol. 106, fol. 545.
(69). C. P., 1 ser., vol. 51, fol. 649.
(70). C. P., 1 ser., vol. li, fol. 647.
(71). C. P., 1 ser., vol. li, fol. 645.
(72). C. P., 1 ser., vol. li, fol. 659
(73). C. P., 1 ser., vol. 61, fol. 358.
(74). C. P., 1 ser., vol. 31, fol. 459.

Magdalen's of Nonney, whiche was the Founder of it," says Leland.[75] Relating to this family, Collinson falls into error, when he remarks that "the chief manor after Paulet passed temp. Henry VII into their hands. In 24 Henry VII (1508), Sir Richard Mawdley, Knight of the Bath, died seized of the manor and advowson and other lands, leaving John his son and heir aged 15 years." The reference is marked Esc., which should mean Escheats; but after a careful and repeated search no such account can be discovered. It was however probably some time in Henry VII that the Poulets parted with the advowson and some of the lands, as the whole is seen with John Poulet, who died in 1492. The first notice is of the Richard Mawdley, who died seized of half the Manor of Nunney Glaston, &c., in 1510;[76] others follow in 32, 33 Henry VIII; 7 Edward VI; 25, 26 Elizabeth, &c. In 1518, Johannis Mawdelyn had the right of pasturage for two hundred sheep on this manor.[77]

This property, like that of the Delamares, came to an heiress, and passed by her marriage to the Sambornes of Timsbury.

Maudley Samborne, the next heir, being sequestered like his neighbours, petitioned against it, 8th May, 1649, declaring that he had "done nothing nor engaged in the last war," yet doubting he may have done "some act wch may make him lyable to sequestration," he took advantage of a promise of the Parliament to favour all "such as voluntarily discover themselves," and sent in a list of his estates at Tymesborowe and Nunney. The yearly value in the latter was £180, which he had "in fee tayle in reversion" after the death of his mother.[78] In consideration of his "discovery" he was fined "a sixth," being on the whole estate £210, the first moiety of which was paid down, and the second, "with interest," was paid on the 26th August, 1650.

(75). Itinerary, fol. 70.
(76). Exchequer Inquisitions, 1 and 2 Henry VIII, Membrane 12.
(77). Harl. MSS., No. 3,961.
(78). C. P., 2 ser., vol. xxxvii, fols. 469—473.

At the same time the king's reserved rents were sold, Commissioners being appointed for the purpose. These, after setting out that King Henry VIII, 10th July, 35 of his reign, had granted the Manor of Nunney to Thomas and John Horner, &c., &c., transferred the royalty of this, with other lands, to Wm. Cox and Fras. Arthur, their whole purchase amounting to £2,528 10s. 6¾d. and half a farthing.[79]

There were other small holders whose names from time to time appear. In 1553, Katherine and Alice Turny had 22 acres in Truttoxhill, and other property in parishes around.[80] In 1577, a field called Dansing, situate at Townend, was granted with other property in various parts to John Mershe and Francisco Trencham, gentlemen, of London, it being then in the tenure of John Pecfatt.[81] In 1598 Jeronimo Pickfatt died, seized of property in Nunney, which was inherited by his son John, temp. James I.[82] Some of this family are buried in the aisle of the church.

Besides the castle, a Delamare is said to have built the church. Of what date this structure may be, is not now very clear, but the north and south windows in the side chapels have flowing tracery, of the time of Edward II, and appear original. In 1291, the living was valued at £10 6s. 8d.,[83] and at the same time six shillings were payable to the Prior of Langelet. This was returned as four shillings only in 1534.[84]

In some of the windows, in 1644, there were armorial bearings. In the east window of the south chapel were—gu., three lozenges ermine, conjoined in fesse between three martlets arg. Another was quarterly, 1—4 arg., a lion rampant gu. (Mompesson), 2—3 as the first. Another was six sprigs of, ? laurel, slipped,

(79). F. F. R., Reserved Augment. Office, bundle c. 3, No. 2.

(80). Fine Rolls, No. 5, 1 Mary.

(81). Pat. Rolls, No. 1,170, 20 Elizabeth, part 7, Memb. 6.

(82). Esch. Inq., 41 Elizabeth, part 2, No. 136. Fine Rolls, No. 54, 15 James I. Enrolments in Exchequer, fol. 107, 14 Jac. I.

(83). Taxatio Ecclesiastica, p. 196.

(84). Valor Ecclesiasticus, vol. 2, p. 98.

3, 2, and 1 or. In the north window of the north chapel were —gu., two lions pass. guard. arg., collared az. (Delamare). Arg., ten martlets sa. 4, 3, 2, and 1 (Moore).[85]

These windows were described then as "old;" both are now entirely blank. The modern window east of the chancel alone has any colour. On the tower are two curious carvings.

If evidence is wanting as to the building of the church, plenty has been adduced as to the endowing or founding of the chantry in the chapel on the north side of it, but this did not imply additional masonry. Within this chapel are three tombs.

In the north-west corner is one which formerly stood "more in the midst of the chapel," and in 1644 was "a lofty altar tomb with the statues of a man and woman and on the top divers children."[86] The statues still remain, although somewhat damaged, but the children are gone. The gentleman has armour over his breast, with thigh-pieces, supported by buckles from the waist and hips; his hair is short, and he wears a beard and moustache, and round his neck a single ruff. Beneath the thigh-pieces are seen the trunk hose or breeches, slashed, and much padded or puffed. The head lies upon a cushion; the hands, covered with gauntlets, are held as in prayer. The sword is hung, not round the waist, but from a frog or short belt on the left hip. Across the chest is a curious frill.

The lady's head is also upon a cushion, her hair twisted back from the forehead, the head being covered by a caul or net. Over this, falling back from the front, is a richly ornamented or diapered kerchief, and round the neck a single ruff. The dress at the shoulders is slashed and puffed high, and fastened by a band round the waist. These costumes are Elizabethan, of the time of Richard Prater, the first of the name, the successor to the Paulets, who, proud of his possession, expressed his determination not to part with it.

At the Visitation of Somerset made in 1623, George Prater of Nunney, Esq., was duly summoned to appear before the

(85). Symond's Diary. (86). Symond's Diary.

herald in Frome, but failed to obey, and consequently his pedigree and arms are omitted, and opposite his name is written the word "Contempt."[87] Illness may have been as much the reason as contempt, as he died in that year; but he could hardly have supposed his absence would ever be the cause of much trouble; and yet, without some guide, it is not easy to determine the owners of the shields on the sides of this tomb. There are now visible at the feet, south, quarterly, 1 and 4, a trefoil slipped between three mullets; 2, two lions rampant addorsed;[88] 3, three lions passant.[89] The next westward is a blank, and the next to it a gate.[90] Under the man's head, due west, a blank; under the lady's head, due west, three wolves' heads erased, on a chief a lion passant.[91] There are, or were, two other shields, not now visible, but which, in Collinson's time, when the tomb must have stood clear of the wall, were too much defaced to be legible.

Another is a "large white altar tomb," which, in 1644, stood clear of the last, and nearer the body of the church, but which now fills the north-east corner of the chapel. On it is the statue of a man in arms, with a lady by his side. He has a lion at his feet, spurs with large rowels not pricked, strapped on, and over plate armour, a tabard or jupon, bearing on the front and sleeves the Delamare arms, two lions passant guardant. His hands are gloved and raised in prayer. The sword belt of plain leather hangs from high on the right hip, and on the right side is a dagger. He wears the collar of SS. with jewel pendant; is without moustache or beard, and the head without a helmet, resting on a mantle, has the hair curiously cropped, and made to look extremely bushy. From his appearance it may be judged

(87). Somerset Visitation, Harl. MSS., No. 1145.

(88). Arg., 2 lions ramp. add. gu., Rogers.

(89). Borne by very many, ? arg., 3 lions pass. guard. sa., Hutchins of Sandford Orcas.

(90). Gules, a gate or, Portnew.

(91). Sa., 3 wolves' heads erased arg., on a chief or, a lion pass., of the first, Prater (Wilts).

he was a man of peace, preferring the gay assembly and the tournament to the battle field.

The lady is in a robe or gown, cut square below the throat, and a mantle or cloak loosely fastened across the chest by cords attached to ornaments on either shoulder, and terminating in tassels below the knee. From the head, falling behind and over the mantle, from beneath a richly ornamented coronet, is a long veil, reaching almost to the feet. Her hands are clasped in prayer, and round the neck is a chain or ribbon, from which hangs some jewel. The head reposes on a cushion, no hair being visible in front. These costumes show the times of Hen. IV and V (1399 to 1422). Around the borders of the tomb are the emblems of the Passion; with the key and cord, perhaps the emblems of St. Peter; but as it has all been removed and rebuilt, the intention is not very clear. Beneath, on the sides, are the following coats of arms. Now visible, at the feet, south, are two lions passant guardant in pale.[92] Next westward, quarterly, 1 and 4 three swords in pile;[93] 2 and 3 Delamare. Next, a lion rampant,[94] impaling three water bougets.[95] Then two lions rampant.[96] The next is not very readily deciphered; it appears to be, quarterly, 1 and 4 barry of ten; 2 and 3 argent, over all on a bend 2 annulets; impaling 2 lions in pale statant. There are, or were, on the opposite side, but not now visible, quarterly, 1 and 4 Delamare, 2 and 3 on a chief 2 mullets.[97] Quarterly, 1 and 4 on a bend an annulet;[98] 2 and 3 on a chief 2 mullets;[97] impaling a lion rampant.[94]

At the time of the valuation of church goods, temp. Edw. VI, besides the chalice already noticed, it was certified that there remained in the chapel of this chantry "300 lbs. of iron in bars

(92). Gules, 2 lions pass. guard. in pale argent, collared azure, Delamare.
(93). Sable, three swords in pile argent, hilted or, Paulet.
(94). ? Argent, a lion rampant sable, Mompesson.
(95). ? Sable, three water bougets argent, Wilton, Co. Somerset.
(96). This is borne by many families, differing only in colours.
(97). Argent on a chief gules, 2 mullets or, St. John.
(98). ? Argent, on a bend sable, an annulet or, St. Lo.

enclosing the Founder's tomb and worth 20s."[99] It must have been this tomb, then standing clear, which was so enclosed, and the reading plainly alludes to the founder of the chantry, who was Philip, the father of Constantia, the last of the Delamares. The heraldry also confirms this, as it shows the last alliance, and that Constance was his daughter, by bearing the arms of Delamare, 2 and 3, quarterly with Paulet.

Lastly, now hoisted into the sill of the north window, the feet eastward, is the statue of a knight in complete armour. This is the top of what was an altar monument, originally placed against the north wall, below its present position, and beneath the stone escutcheon still in the wall, bearing the Delamare arms. The statue has a lion at his feet, and under his head, upon a helmet, a mantle, with formerly a leopard's head, now gone.[100] He is without moustache, wears a close-fitting, somewhat conical, helmet or bascinet without visor, but with a camail or neck guard to the shoulders. The hands are gloved and raised in prayer, and the jupon is indented on the edge. There is no shield, but the sword, with a cross handle, hangs from a rich belt, carried low across the hips. The rowelled spurs are strapped on. Symonds, noting this effigy, says, the armour is "in ye forme of ye Black Prince," and adds further "this is the tomb of Delamare who, temp. Edward II, built the church and castle." There is a mistake in this, but one not easily passed from its mention of the Black Prince. The time of Edward II was from 1307 to 1327. The Black Prince, who died in 1376, was the son of Edward III. By his time plate armour was in general use, the fashion having passed through a period of mixed plate and chain. After repeated and careful examinations, no sign of plate armour can be here detected. On the other hand, neither can the markings of chain, except, perhaps, some slight traces on the shoulders; but the general appearance of the figure, and the absence of

(99). Certif. of Colleges, &c.
(100). Symond's Diary.

even plate on the legs, shows the intention to be complete chain. The camail would certainly be chain; and this being represented as smooth, the remainder of the armour may be considered the same. The effigy then is earlier than the time of the Black Prince, and judging by the shape of the helmet, absence of visor, and the chain armour, must be placed in the reign of Edward II, or, sometime between 1290 and 1320.

This was the time of Nicholas the warrior, and consequently it may be inferred that Nicholas is represented by it, and as the style of the window beneath which it was originally placed and in which it is now laid, is also of that time, it may be further inferred that Nicholas received this monumental commemoration as builder of the church, just as Philip received, perhaps sought, a similar distinction afterwards, as founder of the chantry.

Thus both these tombs have an ecclesiastical rather than a civil origin.

The confusion in Symonds' hurried entry is unfortunate as it is of value in deciding the date or foundation of the castle. The architecture of the structure, at least the upper part of it, is later than Edward II, being transition, tending towards the Perpendicular. This would be of the time of the Black Prince; the time of Sir John the Crenellator. But the evidence considered as a whole, suggests the existence of a house or manse before the time of Sir John, and the conclusion must be that Nicholas—the effigy, the warrior,—the builder of the church, temp. Edward II, was also the original founder of this "manse," which Sir John, when converting it into a fortified manor house, "embellished," to an extent that amounted almost to a rebuilding; the result being the present edifice, whose date is then fixed in 1373.

There is also the thought that the chapel may have been formed at the time of some alterations indicated by the later architectural insertions, and attached to the chantry in the church, with the extra endowments in 8 Henry VI, 1428.

Near the church is the old manor house or Court House, as it

is called. A part only is now occupied; the hall, with the minstrels' gallery still remaining, being used as a woodhouse, &c.; but in 1644 it was a "faire stone house in which Mr. Prater's sonne" lived.[101]

Troubled times continued for some years after the purchase of the manor by Messrs. Foxley and Colbey in 1652. It is next found held by Wm. Whitchurch, whose residence was in the house, standing at the western tower of the castle, and known as the Castle House. In Collinson's time there were large iron gates at the entrance, and over them a shield bearing, as he reads it, three lions' heads erased langued, on a chief guttée a lion passant. This coat, which is remarkably like Prater, should be gu., three talbots' heads erased or, on a chief arg., guttée de sang, a lion passant sa. (Whitchurch). In Buck's *View of Nunney in* 1733, the house and its garden front are shown as very trim and neat, and with the view, which is inscribed to John Whitchurch, Esq., this coat, or what should be it, is engraved. It is there again either wrongly given, or Mr. Whitchurch chose, without authority, to vary the Devonshire bearing when he became a Somerset man. The plate shows it as—or, three talbots' heads (very rough ones) erased sa., langued, on a chief of the first guttée, a lion pass. of the second, langued.

Collinson, who was now almost contemporary, says that from Mr. Wm. Whitchurch the property descended to his son "of the same name," and at his death was sold to discharge debts and legacies, &c. It will be noticed that this does not agree with the dedication of the view to John. It was afterwards re-purchased by the widow, who left it by Will, in 1749, to James Theobald, with whose descendants it still remains.

(101). Symond's Diary.