

Descent of the Manor of Sandford Orcas.*

BY EDW. ALEX. FRY AND J. W. DISNEY THORP.

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Brictric Algars-son, a Saxon, Lord of Tewkesbury, was Lord of Sandforda in the time of Edward the Confessor, 1042-1066. Together with Cary (now Lyte's Cary) it formed part of the Honour of Gloucester. Under Brictric were three Saxon Tegni, or Thanes, who held the manor equally (pariter). William the Conqueror bestowed the estates of Brictric on Queen Matilda, who gave Sandforda together with many other estates and lordships to Humphrey Camerarius, an officer of the King's Camera or Treasurer. At the time of the great Survey of Domesday, 1086, this Humphrey (brother of Aiulphus Camerarius, Sheriff of Dorset) was lord of the manor, which consisted of 6 hides, or about 800 acres, and was valued at £9 0s. 0d., of which $3\frac{1}{4}$ hides and 3 ferlings were held in demesne. Among many other holdings Humphrey held the manor of Stures in Dorset (now called Stour Payne).

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The first of the family of whom we have any account was HENRY DE ORESCUILZ; he was living in the reign of Henry I (1100–1135), was lord of the manor of Sanforda and held a knight's fee of the Abbot of Glastonbury.¹

HELIAS DE ORESCUILZ, his son, held Sanforda and also the same knight's fee from Glastonbury as his father. He was also lord of the manor of Shernechote in Wiltshire and of Stures. Helias left a son and two daughters. Of the son RICHARD DE ORESCUILZ we get the information from the Cartulary of Christchurch Twynham² that he had a wife named Ida and a daughter Eva, who died before her mother. From the same source we gather that he gave that monastery several rents and property in Stures as well as the advowson of that church in the time of Hubert, Bishop of Salisbury, 1188–1193, and that these gifts were confirmed in 1233 by Robert, Bishop of Salisbury and also by Richard's nephews, Payn Fitz William and Roger de Vilers.

In the Wiltshire Feet of Fines of 1199³ is a concord between Richard Orescuilz, tenant of half a fee in Cernecote, and William Fitz John (father of the above Payn Fitz William) and Matilda Orescuilz his wife and Alice. (Matilda and Alice were sisters of Richard).

We have no record of the date of Richard's death, but from a De Banco Roll⁴ of a much later date he is said to have presented a certain Robert de Ely to the living of Sanford in the time of Henry III (1216–1272). He must therefore have died after 1216 and would seem to have been buried at Christchurch if the words 'cum corpore meo' have this signification, when he presented to that monastery the advowson of Stour Payne "for the health of his soul and his ancestors."²

Richard de Orescuilz left no issue; his only daughter, Eva, died in her mother's lifetime, as stated above. His two

1. Eyton, *Somerset Domesday*, I, 67.

2. B.M. Cott. MSS., Tiberius, D. vi, Vol. I, 49, 49d, 123, 123d.

3. Wilts Feet of Fines, File 250/1, No. 32.

4. De Banco, No. 294, m. 53.

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sisters, Matilda and Alice, were his co-heirs, and the manor of Sanford was held between them undivided, together with the right of presentation to the rectory and parish church (*alternis vicibus*). Frequent legal proceedings took place during the next three centuries between the holders of the two moieties of the manor, on the question as to whose turn it was to present to the vacant living; but it is not the purpose of this article to go fully into the advowson question or to give all the names of the incumbents over whom there was such a struggle.

Richard's elder sister, Matilda, who inherited one moiety of the manor married William Fitz John (II) of Harptree and Ferenton, co. Somerset. She was married before 1199 as will have been seen in the Wiltshire fine³ above mentioned. She is named in several documents down to 9 Henry III, 1225, but must have been dead by then, as may be gathered from a Foot of Fine⁵ of that date. Her husband was son of William Fitz John (I), Seneschal of Normandy and Lord of Tilly, by Dionisia de Mandeville. There are many references to him. We gather that in 1175⁶ he was fined £100 for trespassing in the King's forests in Dorset, and in 1194 he gave 100 marks to make his peace.⁷ With the consent of his wife he granted to the Nunnery of Kingston St. Michael, Wilts, the second tithes of corn from lands in Sanford and Stures, by a charter unfortunately not dated.⁸ He presented to the living of Sanford, one Albertus, on the deprivation of Hubert of Wells by the Papal Legate Otto.⁹ An Assize roll¹⁰ of 1242 tells us that "Albertus the parson of Sanford has obstructed a certain path in Sanford and has diverted a certain watercourse in the same vill. Let the obstruction be removed and the watercourse restored as it ought and was wont to be. The Sheriff is notified." William Fitz John (II) died in 1232 when Robert de Gournay—son of his elder son Thomas de Harptree (who died

5. Dorset *Feet of Fines*, 147.

6. Rot. Pipe, 22 Henry II, 1175, *Pipe Roll Soc.*, 159.

7. Rot. Pipe, 6 Rich. I, 1194 (Collinson, II, 138).

8. Dugdale's *Monasticon*, IV, 399.

9. *Somerset Pleas*, 1384.

10. *Somerset Pleas*, 945.

before his father), by Eva de Gournay—made homage to King Henry III for his grandfather's property in Harptree.¹¹ It was this Robert de Gournay, who, as guardian of his cousin William Fitz Payne, was defendant in two suits in 1248, given in Somerset Pleas.¹² From this Robert descended the Gournays of Harptree. Their descent does not further concern the manor of Sanford, except that they were chief lords of the fee till between 31 Edward I, 1303, and 10 Edward II, 1316 (*see* Feudal Aids).

William Fitz John (II) had a younger son PAGANUS, generally known as PAYNE FITZ WILLIAM. In a Curia Regis roll¹³ of 1220 there is a case between him and Peter de la Grene (or Grave) in which "Paganus is accused of going armed on a horse to the house of (his nephew) Robert de Gournay at Farendon and wounding him in the head with an arrow by which he lost his eyesight, by which he is deteriorated 30 marks and of robbing his master Maurice de Gaunt of a super tunic and a sword, etc., value 40 marks." His name next appears in the Dorset and Somerset Feet of Fines of 1225 already mentioned. This is printed in full in Dorset Feet of Fines on page 147;⁵ it gives a good deal of genealogical information and states that Pagan son of William was present at the time of making this concord and acknowledged that he had no right in any of the lands, etc., of the inheritance of William and Matilda (his father and mother) either in England, Ireland or Normandy; but he received the reversion of 20 librates of land which his father had in Edmundsham, Sutton (in Ower Moyne) and Stures, in Dorset, and all the land which the said William held in Sanford in Somerset, and on the death of his father doing therefor the service of 3 knight's fees to Robert de Gournay.

In an Assize Roll of 1242¹⁴ the name of Payne Fitz William occurs together with that of his relative Roger de Vilers in a list of defaulters. He was dead by 1248,¹⁵ his son William

11. *Fine Roll*, 226.

12. *Somerset Pleas*, 1379, 1383, 1384.

13. Curia Regis Roll, no. 76, Mich., 4/5 Henry III, 1220, m. 5.

14. *Somerset Pleas*, 946.

15. *Somerset Pleas*, 1348.

Fitz Payne being then under age and in the custody of Robert Gournay as stated before.

WILLIAM FITZ PAYNE the son of Payne Fitz William (Paganus) was under age in 1248, the date of the two Somerset Pleas when his guardian Robert de Gournay pleaded and won the two suits claiming the next presentation against Peter de Ryville guardian of Roger de Vilers the holder of the other moiety of the manor, and grandson of Alice de Orescuilz.¹⁵

He next appears as a juror in an Inquisition¹⁶ concerning Gillingham Forest in 1278, where he is described as of Stures where, presumably, he lived. In one of the three charters found at the manor house of Sandford Orcas in 1873,¹⁷ when it was being restored by Mr. Herbert Hutchings, William Symund remits and quitclaims to William Fitz Payne half an acre of pasture for 4s. Unfortunately there is no date to this document. In the Feudal Aid of 1284 he was holding Sanford from Anselmus de Gournay. He died before 1296 leaving a son and heir Bartholomew.

BARTHOLOMEW PAYNE (I) in a De Banco Roll of 1296¹⁸ describes himself as son and heir of Payne (*i.e.* William Fitz Payne). He claimed the right of presentation to Sandford Orcas¹⁹ against Roger Stutescombe and Thomas Danvers and Agnes his wife, who, as will be shown later on, were the descendants of Alice, the younger sister of Matilda Orescuilz. He won his case and £100 damages and presented his brother, Richard Payne, to the living. He is mentioned in the Feudal Aid of 1303 as holding a quarter part of one knight's fee in Sandford Orcas; and again in the Feudal Aid of 1316. In the Subsidy Roll of 1327²⁰ he paid 18 pence here, at Edmundsham 4s. and at Stour Payn (amount illegible). His name appears as a juror on several inquisitions post mortem. Ap-

16. *Som. & Dor. N. & Q.*, IX, 102.

17. *Som. & Dor. N. & Q.*, V, 54.

18. De Banco Roll, 115, Mich. 24/5 Edw. I, 1296, m. 198d.

19. This is the first time the manor is called Sandford Orcas; hitherto it has been plain Sanford or Sanforda. It is of course derived from Orescuilz, a name that is spelled in a variety of ways, Orchoys, etc., till in later times it became S. Orcus and Orcas as it is at present.

20. *Som. Rec. Soc.*, III, 217.

parently he did not marry early in life for at the date of his inquisition post mortem, taken²¹ in 1332, his son Richard was 30 years old, thus fixing approximately his marriage at about 1302. He married Maud (otherwise Matilda), daughter of Matthew Furneaux and heiress of her brother, John Furneaux, of Chilteton (now Chilton Furneaux) in Thorverton, Devon, whose inquisition post mortem of 1317 proves this.²² From entries in the Parliamentary Writs of 1324²³ and Close Roll of 1327²⁴ he is described as being impotent and old and infirm, so that we shall not be far wrong in assuming him to have been about 70 years old at this date, born therefore about 1257.

His inquisition post mortem²⁵ was taken 6 Edward III (1332) and states that he held the manors of Stour Payne, lands in Edmundsham, Dorset, and the moiety of the manor of Chilton Furneaux, Devon, in right of the inheritance of his wife Matilda who predeceased him; but there is no inquisition of any Somerset property. Just before his death in August, 1332, he presented his son Nicholas to the living of Sanford Orcas.²⁶

Bartholomew Payne had three sons. The eldest who was his heir, named Richard, was aged 30 at his father's death, but being a cleric did not inherit. He held the following livings in Somerset: East Pennard in 1330, Ashington in 1335 (Patron, Sir Simon de Furneaux), Kingston juxta Taunton in 1339, Winsford between 1343 and 1348, and Heathfield in 1348.²⁷

Nicholas the second son was also a cleric and was presented to Sandford Orcas by his father in 1332,²⁴ as above stated.

SIR BARTHOLOMEW PAYNE, the third son, is described as heir of his brother Richard in Bishop Bubwith's Register.²⁸

21. Chanc. Inq. p.m., Edw. III, File 31. No. 14 (*Printed Vol.*, p. 305. No. 417).

22. C. Inq. p.m., 11 Edw. II, File 58(17).

23. *Parl. Writs*, Vol. II, Div. 2, p. 653.

24. *Close Rolls*, 1 Edw. III, p. 58.

25. C. Inq. p.m., 6 Edw. III, 1332, File 31(14).

26. *Bp. Ralph's Register*, *Som. Rec. Soc.*, IX, 101, and *Som. Incumb.*, 179.

27. *Som. Incumbents*, pp. 9, 161, 375, 389, 467.

28. *Bp. Bubwith's Reg.*, *Som. Rec. Soc.*, XXIX, 175.

In Easter, 1349, there is a reference in a De Banco Roll²⁹ to a suit in which he claims against Walter de Haywode the right to present to the vacant living of Sandford Orcas; this suit is postponed to the morrow of Ascension in the same term, but a careful search fails to shew any further reference to it, while the roll for Trinity of that year is missing, nor is there any mention of the suit for several rolls after this one. Apparently there was a compromise or perhaps the suit was withdrawn, for in Bishop Ralph's Register³⁰ Sir Bartholomew presented his clerk, Edward Hurgon, who is admitted on iii Id., July, 1349. (There had been a caveat concerning this presentation earlier in the year, *see* p. 585).

At a date at present unknown Sir Bartholomew sold his moiety of the lordship and advowson to Thomas Homere as described in Bishop Bubwith's Register,³¹ "Thomas Homere adquisivit sibi medietatem de Sampford predicta cum advocacione ecclesie ejusdem alternis vicibus, a quodam Bartholomeo Payne, milite, fratre et herede Ricardi Payn." This transaction must have, however, taken place after 1349 since he presented Edward Hurgon in that year. There are several de Homere's and de Thomere's in the Horethorn Hundred in the Subsidy Roll of 1 Edward III,³² showing that this family was of this locality.

Thus ended the interest that the Payne family had in Sandford Orcas, but it may be of interest to note that Sir Bartholomew was living in 1360 when he served on a jury on the inquisition post mortem³³ of William Bohun, Earl of Northampton. By his wife Matilda he had a son, Edward Payne, whose daughter and heir, Joan, married Thomas Champayne of Shapwick, Dorset.³⁴

This moiety of the manor came to the Jerrard family by the

29. De Banco Roll, 358, m. 12.

30. *Bp. Ralph's Reg.*, *ut supra*, X, 585 and 614.

31. *Bp. Bubwith's Reg.*, *ut supra*, 175.

32. *Som. Rec. Soc.*, III, 216-222.

33. *Som. & Dor. N. & Q.*, X, 223.

34. Hutchins' *Dorset*, III, 160.

marriage of Richard Jerrard, of Dyberworth in the parish of Broadwonsor, with Agnes, daughter and heir of the above named Thomas Homere, as her first husband. (She married secondly John Babbecary and thirdly Thomas Hillary). It remained in that family till 1675 passing by purchase to one Thomas Littleton, who sold it to Richard Willoughby in 1680. Richard Willoughby's wife's niece, Elizabeth, brought it to her husband, John Hunt, of Compton Pauncefoote. It was in the Hunt family till 1809, when it was sold to Mr. John Hutchings (together with the alternate right of presentation to the living) who already owned the other moiety. The manor thus became united again after 600 years.

The other moiety of the manor of Sandford Orcas came to the younger of the two sisters of Richard de Orescuilz, ALICE, who married ROGER DE VILERS (I). At the date of the Wiltshire Foot of Fines 10 Richard I (1199), already mentioned,³ she was unmarried and she probably died in 1210.³⁵ Her husband, of whom we know very little held 1 knight's fee of the Honour of Gloucester in 1166.³⁶ He was possibly son of the William de Vilers who is mentioned in Curia Regis Roll of 1224.³⁷ We have reference to him (Roger) in a Curia Regis Roll of Mich., 6 John (1204),³⁸ and Trinity, 9-10 John (1208),³⁹ that he was too ill to appear in a suit versus his brother-in-law, William Fitz John and Matilda his wife which seems to have concerned half a hide of land in Stures.

Roger de Vilers and Alice had two sons, Roger and William. ROGER DE VILERS (II), presumably the elder brother, inherited his mother's moiety of Sandford Orcas paying 20 marks in 1210;⁴⁰ and, like William Fitz John, by a charter already mentioned,⁸ he gave to the Nunnery of Kingston St. Michael, Wilts, the second tithes of his lands in Stures and Sanford

35. Pipe Roll, 12 John (quoted by Eyton, *Som. Domesday*, I, 67).

36. Eyton, *Som. Domesday*, I, 67.

37. Curia Regis Roll, 88, 9 Hen. III, 1224, m. 16.

38. Curia Regis Roll, 62, m. 1, 11.

39. Curia Regis Roll, 48, m. 9.

40. Eyton, *Som. Domesday*, I, 67.

“ just as his uncle Richard son of Helias Orescuilz had done.” By a Foot of Fine⁴¹ in 1227 he acquired from Robert de Gournay 3 hides of land in Saunford and 3 hides of land in Stures, and in the next year Richard de Vilers claims half a hide in Sandford against him.⁴² (This Richard de Vilers cannot be placed at present).

The other son, William de Vilers, occurs in a Liberate Roll⁴³ of 24 Henry III (1240) in which is an entry “ to pay to William de Vilers brother of Roger de Vilers, the King’s late Serjeant, who was lately slain, £4 3s. 0d., to be distributed for the soul of the said Roger, for his pay for 83 days, to wit from Friday after the Invention of Holy Cross to Thursday after St. James ” (26th July, 1240). This presumably fixes the date of Roger’s death.

He had married a certain Isabella ; she married as her second husband, William Aguillun, who was a witness to the charter found at the manor house of Sandford Orcas in 1873.¹⁷ William and Isabella were concerned in the lawsuits about the presentation to the church which appear in Somerset Pleas of 33 Henry III (1248),⁴⁴ which give a great deal of genealogical information. Roger de Vilers and Isabella had three children, Roger (III), Mabilla and Matilda.

ROGER DE VILERS (III), his son and heir, at the date of these suits (1248), was under age and in the custody of Peter de Ryvil (or Russell) ; this has been referred to in the account of William Fitz Payne. The date of his death is uncertain. His sister MABILLA married ROGER DE STUTESCOMBE and had a son Roger. The other sister MATILDA, whose husband’s name is not known, had a daughter AGNES who married one THOMAS DANVERS (dead in 1328).⁴⁵ A De Banco Roll of 1296⁴⁶ shows that Roger de Vilers (III) must have died without issue, as Mabilla and Matilda are mentioned as the daughters and heirs of their father Roger.

Thus Mabilla and Matilda each held half of the moiety of the

41. Dorset *Feet of Fines*, 147.

42. Som. *Feet of Fines*, VI, 71.

43. Liberate Rolls, 497.

44. *Somerset Pleas*, XI, 1383, 1384.

45. *Close Rolls*, 2 Edw. III, 1328, p. 420.

46. De Banco, No. 115, Mich. 24/5 Edw. I, m. 198d.

inheritance of their grandmother, Alice de Orescuilz ; that is to say, one quarter of the whole manor. The last mentioned De Banco Roll gives an account of a law-case between Mabilla's son and heir, ROGER DE STUTESCOMBE (II), and Matilda's daughter and her husband Thomas Danvers, representing one moiety of the manor, as against Sir Bartholomew Payne, the owner of the other moiety. It was a dispute as to whose turn it was to present to the vacant living of Sandford, as stated under the account of Sir Bartholomew. Bartholomew won his case and presented his brother Richard Payn.

Mabilla's husband, Roger de Stutescombe, was possibly a Devonshire man ; there was a manor of that name in Devonshire mentioned in an inquisition post mortem of the Pomeroy family.⁴⁷ He evidently died before 1296 as in the De Banco Roll⁴⁶ of that date referred to above, Roger de Stutescombe (II), Mabilla's son and heir, was one of the defendants. Possibly it was Roger (I) who is mentioned in Kirby's *Quest*,⁴⁸ 1286, as holding a quarter knight's fee in Lytes Cary and Sanford.

Roger Stutescombe (II) held quarter part of a knight's fee in Sanford, as did Thomas de Aunvers, in 1303⁴⁹ ; he occurs in the Subsidy Roll of 1 Edward III (1327)⁵⁰ and again in that of 6 Edward III (1332-3).⁵¹ He was again a defendant in a suit⁵² about the presentation to the living in 1334, when he had to acknowledge that the turn belonged to one JOHN TREVAIGNON, who, with his wife Joan and his sons Ralph and William, had purchased the quarter share of the manor from Agnes Danvers in 1329.⁵³ He was dead by 1346, as in the Feudal Aid⁵⁴ of that year his name does not occur, his quarter share of the manor being held by one WALTER DE HAYWODE. By a Foot of Fine⁵⁵ of 1326 an agreement had been made that

47. Henry de la Pomeroy, 34 Edw. I, 1305/6, No. 52.

48. *Som. Rec. Soc.*, III, 21.

49. *Feudal Aids*, 299.

50. *Som. Rec. Soc.*, III, 217.

51. *Som. Lay Subsidy*, File 169/6.

52. De Banco Roll, 294, Easter, 7 Edw. III, m. 53.

53. *Som. Feet of Fines*, XII, 134.

54. *Feudal Aids*, 342.

55. *Som. Rec. Soc.*, XII, 105.

in case of Roger's death without heirs, a certain messuage and lands (which perhaps represented the quarter of the manor), should remain to Nicholas de Haywode and Isabella his wife and the heirs of Nicholas.

There is also a Foot of Fine⁵⁶ of 1334 by which a certain John de Welesle grants 2 messuages and 30 acres land in Sanford Osky to John de Trevaignon (senior), and afterwards, by same fine, in 1336, John de Trevaignon (senior), having died, the property is granted to John de Trevaignon, his son and heir. This was probably only an increase of his estate in the manor. John de Welesle appears to have been real owner of the property thus transferred.

From this point it is impossible, without further investigation and research, to show how the moiety held by Walter de Haywode descended to THOMAS KNOYLE, which he was undoubtedly holding in 1414 (*see* Bishop Bubwith's Register, pp. 174-178) though he was already possessed of some property here in 1362⁵⁷ and in 1388⁵⁸ with Joan, his wife, doing homage for it to Agnes Babbecary, widow of Richard Jerrard and daughter and heir of Thomas Homere.

All that can be stated at present is that the Knoyle family continued in possession till 1674, when Thomas Knoyle sold the moiety to Francis Cheeke whose great-niece, Jane Cheeke, brought it by marriage to Sir Thomas Webster, Bart. In 1735 Sir Thomas Webster sold it to Mr. John Hutchings, of Sherborne (grandfather of the John Hutchings, who, in 1809, bought the other moiety from the Hunt family, thus re-uniting the whole manor).

The present Lord of the Manor is Sir Hubert Medlycott, Bart., great-great-great-grandson of the first John Hutchings. Unfortunately the advowson of the church passed into other hands in 1862. It was sold by Mr. Hubert Hutchings, who thus severed the ancient connection between Church and Manor.

56. *Som. Rec. Soc.*, XII, 173.

57. *Inq. ad. q. d.*, File 339(4).

58. *Som. Rec. Soc.*, XVII, 137.