

C.P. Correction: Margaret le Gras (not Marshal), wife of Ralph de Somery and Maurice de Gant

 groups.google.com/g/soc.genealogy.medieval/c/qV0sHsJb9Cw/m/iYggJXtMrIAJ



Douglas Richardson

unread,

Apr 16, 2012, 3:24:18 PM



to

Dear Newsgroup ~

As I stated previously, the evidence is solid that Roger de Somery (died 1273), 3rd son of Ralph de Somery (died c.1210) and Margaret le Gras, married (1st) c.1232 Nichole (or Colette) d'Aubeney and (2nd) c. 1254 Amabil de Chaucombe. Roger de Somery's placement in the Somery family tree is proven by the following two records copied below taken from the online Catalogue of the National Archives which concern Roger de Somery, his parents, Ralph and Margaret, and his nephew, William de Englefield. These records are available at www.catalogue.nationalarchives.gov.uk/search.asp.

Source: National Archives Catalogue

E 210/2932: Confirmation by Roger de Sumeri of an agreement between Margaret his mother and William de Englefeld concerning a grant and exchange of lands at Bradfield, Berkshire.

E 210/7057: Roger de Sumery to William de Englefeld: Quitclaim of the service of one knight's fee, viz: of a hide in Humeleye and of 4 hides in Englefield, which Isabella, the grantor's sister, held in dower, so that the grantee and his heirs are not bound to render service except

for one knight in Englefield and another in Craunford, in accordance with the charter which Ralph de Sumery, the grantor's father, made to Alan de Englefeld, father of the grantee. END OF QUOTE.

While the two records above are undated, the first record apparently dates from about 1232, in which year Margaret (le Gras) de Somery arraigned an assize of novel disseisin against her grandson, William de Englefield, regarding a tenement in Bradfield, Berkshire [see Cal. Patent Rolls, 1225–1232 (1903): 524].

In the same year, the king ordered that Nichole, 1st wife of Roger de Somery, be assigned 30 librates of land from the manor of Leeds, Yorkshire, which lands had been granted to Nichole for her marriage by her uncle, Ranulph, late Earl of Chester and Lincoln [see Cal. Patent Rolls, 1232–1247 (1906): 2–3; also see Geoffrey Barraclough, *Charters of the Anglo-Norman Earls of Chester, c. 1071–1237* (Rec. Soc. of Lancashire and Cheshire 126) (1988): 437–438].

The Patent Rolls item cited above may be viewed at the following weblink:

<http://sdrc.lib.uiowa.edu/patentrolls/h3v3/body/Henry3vol3page0002.pdf>
<http://sdrc.lib.uiowa.edu/patentrolls/h3v3/body/Henry3vol3page0003.pdf>

While the assignment of these lands in 1232 does not indicate that Nichole d'Aubeney was then married, the implication is that she had married in recent time, as she did not have possession of her maritagium at the time her uncle, Earl Ranulph, died earlier in the same year.

That Nichole d'Aubeney and Roger de Somery were married in or before 1232, is further indicated by the fact that Nichole's next oldest sister, Maud d'Aubeney, was married before 1222 to Robert de Tateshale. Likewise it can be shown that Nichole's oldest daughter, Margaret de Somery, had a son Ralph Basset, who was an adult in or before 1275. Also that Nichole's 2nd daughter, Joan de Somery, had a son, John le Strange, who was born c.1253 (he being aged 23 in 1276). For Nichole d'Aubeney to have two adult grandchildren c.1275 would necessitate that she was married no later than say 1235, and probably a bit earlier.

Even though Grazebrook [see below] claimed that he could find no record of Roger de Somery between 18 Henry III [1233-4] and 27 Henry III [1242-3], Roger most certainly was alive in 1240 as proven by the following record cited by Complete Peerage:

PRO Assize Roll 1174 Staffordshire pleas, 1240, Dugdale, Warwickshire p. 608 m.4

"Descendit de Gervasio Paenel cuidam Hawisie ut sorori et heredit. Et de Hawise cuidam Radulphus ut filio et heredi. Et de Radulpho cuidam alii Radulpho ut filio et heredi. Et de isto Radulpho cuidam Willelmo ut fratris et heredi. Et de Willelmo cuidam Nicholao ut filio et heredi. Et de Nicholao isti Rogero ut avunculo quia non habuit heredem de corpore suo" END OF QUOTE.

Had there been an additional Roger de Somery living c.1232-1240, it would surely have been reflected in the pleading above or in the Fine Rolls. Instead we find no reference to a secondary Roger de Somery in this time period.

In a previous post, I indicated that Nichole d'Aubeney, 1st wife of Roger de Somery, had died sometime before 19 October 1253, by which date her son, Ralph de Somery, had been assigned her share of the Chester estates.

However, we can narrow down the death date of Nichole d'Aubeney a bit more. There is a helpful account of the Somery family by Grazebrook entitled Barons of Dudley published in Collections for a History of Staffordshire, 9(2)) (1888). On pages 18-19, he shows that Nichole d'Aubeney died before 20 Jan. 1247 (date of lawsuit), when her son, Ralph de Somery, was included in a lawsuit among the Chester heirs. I've copied a brief portion of that record below:

"Robert de Tateshale, junior, John FitzAlan, Ralph son of Roger de Somery, and Roger de Monhaut and Cecilia his wife, sue Roger de Quincy Earl of Wynton, to hold to a fine levied in the Court of the King between Hugh de Albini formerly Earl of Surrey (the uncle of the said Robert, John, and Ralph, and brother of Cecilia), whose heirs they are ..." END OF QUOTE.

The above record may be viewed at the following weblink:

<http://books.google.com/books?id=Am44AAAAIAAJ&pg=RA1-PA18>

Grazebrook adds that in this same 1247 lawsuit that Ralph de Somery (son of Nichole d'Aubeney) allegedly "complained that Roger de Somery his grandfather [sic] held the manor of Barewe, by the courtesy of England, after the death of his mother Nichola." However the identification of Roger de Somery as Ralph de Somery's grandfather in this pleading is surely in error. Lands held by courtesy of England were assigned to a woman's husband, not to her father-in-law. Hence Roger de Somery (husband of Nichole d'Aubeney) can only have been Ralph de Somery's father, especially since Ralph names Nichole as his mother.

The 1247 lawsuit further makes it clear that Roger de Somery (husband of Nichole d'Aubeney) was living in 1247. We know that Roger de Somery (husband of Nichole d'Aubeney) did not die until 1273, as proven by Roger's own inquisition post mortem. By that date, Roger and Nichole's only son, Ralph de Somery, had long been dead and Nichole's lands were subsequently assigned to her four adult married daughters.

Best always, Douglas Richardson, Salt Lake City, Utah



Douglas Richardson

unread,

Apr 19, 2012, 4:25:00 PM



to

Dear Newsgroup ~

In a previous post, I indicated that Roger de Somery and his 1st wife, Nichole d'Aubeney, were almost certainly married on or about 22 Nov. 1232, on which date the king ordered that Nichole be assigned 30

librates of land from the manor of Leeds, Yorkshire, which lands had been granted to Nichole for her marriage by her uncle, Ranulph, late Earl of Chester and Lincoln [see Cal. Patent Rolls, 1232–1247 (1906): 2–3; also see Geoffrey Barraclough, Charters of the Anglo-Norman Earls of Chester, c. 1071–1237 (Rec. Soc. of Lancashire and Cheshire 126) (1988): 437–438].

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<http://sdr.lib.uiowa.edu/patentrolls/h3v3/body/Henry3vol3page0003.pdf>

The above record implies that Nichole d'Aubeney had married in recent time (or was about to marry), as she clearly did not have possession of her maritagium at the time her uncle, Earl Ranulph, died earlier in the same year (1232).

I've since located a second record which proves that Roger de Somery was unmarried on 25 June 1229. On that date, Roger and his step-father, Maurice de Gaunt, reached an agreement, whereby Roger conveyed the manors of Dudley (in Sedgeley) and Sedgeley, Staffordshire, together with the advowsons of the churches, to the said Maurice for seven years, together with the lands which the said Roger held of the king at fee farm at Mere, Clent, and Swinford, Staffordshire, together with the advowsons of the churches; the said Roger agreed to not marry within the said term save with the consent of the said Maurice, his heirs, or assigns [see Cal. Charters Rolls 1 (1903): 97].

The above record may be viewed at the following weblink:

<http://books.google.com/books?id=iJorAQAAIAAJ&pg=PA97>

Thus it would appear that Roger de Somery married Nichole d'Aubeney sometime between 25 June 1229 and about 22 Nov. 1232. Inasmuch as Roger de Somery appears to have been acting as an adult without a guardian in 1229, it may be assumed that he was of legal age in 1229, or born in or before 1208.

In a previous post, I indicated that Nichole d'Aubeney, 1st wife of

Roger de Somery, died sometime before 20 Jan. 1247, on which date her son and heir, Ralph de Somery, was named in a lawsuit as one of the heirs to Nichole's brother, Hugh d'Aubeney, Earl of Arundel [see Grazebrook, Barons of Dudley, published in Collections for a History of Staffordshire, 9(2)) (1888): 18-19].

We can narrow down the death date of Nichole d'Aubeney even a bit more. My files notes indicate that Isabel, Countess of Arundel [widow of Nichole's brother, Hugh], sued Roger de Somery and Nichole his wife In 1244 for the third part of two carucates of land in Chipping Campden, Gloucestershire, and one third part of one carucate of land in Great Tew, Oxfordshire.

Thus, Nichole d'Aubeney, 1st wife of Roger de Somery, was living in 1244, and was dead before 20 Jan. 1247.

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