

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/ZPIUJnysSYo/m/RXmUaVC8uZoJ



Douglas Richardson

unread,

Mar 27, 2012, 3:55:38 PM



to

Dear Newsgroup ~

In Charles Cawley's online Medlands database, he states the following:

"RALPH de Somery (-[Jan/Jul] 1210). m as her first husband, MARGARET Marshal, daughter of [JOHN Marshal & his second wife Sibyl of Salisbury] (-after [1242/43]). The primary source which confirms her parentage and marriage has not yet been identified. The Complete Peerage names her and records her marriage but does not cite the primary source on which this information is based[1033]. The Pipe Roll 1210 records that "Margareta que fuit uxor Radulfi de Sumeri" arranged to pay an instalment of her fine for the assignment of her dower in midsummer[1034]. She married secondly Maurice de Gant." END OF QUOTE.

While Complete Peerage does claim in its Berkeley and Somery accounts that Margaret, wife of Ralph de Somery, was the sister of William Marshal (died 1219), Earl of Pembroke, I've always found that claim rather doubtful. Indeed the editor's comments in both the Berkeley and Somery accounts suggest that the identification of Margaret de Somery as the earl's sister is not at all certain.

Recently I came across John Hunt's book, *Lordship and the Landscape* (1994), which discusses the early history of the Somery family. On pages 34–35, he presents concrete evidence from the Brooksby Cartulary that Ralph de Somery's wife, Margaret, was actually the daughter of William le Gras, which William is thought to have been married to a sister of Earl William Marshal. Thus, it would appear that Margaret de Somery was the Earl's niece, not his daughter as claimed by *Complete Peerage*.

I can only provide partial abstracts from John Hunt's book as Google Books limit my view of his material. Regardless, this is what I can glean from the parts of pages 34 and 35 that I can see online:

“The Marcher connection may also be reflected in the marriage of John and Hawise's son, Ralph I de Somery, to Margaret. There is a marriage recorded before 1194 between a Ralph de Somery, of the honor of Gloucester, and Margaret, the daughter of William le Gros; William was a Gloucestershire knight who served the earl of Gloucester and was married to a sister of William Marshal I, earl of Pembroke (d. 1219). That this represents ...[part is missing here DR] The marriage of the future baron of Dudley is suggested by two documents surviving in the Brooksby cartulary. The first is the marriage contract itself, in which it is stated that William le Gros gave his land at Little Dalby to Ralph de Somery as part of the marriage agreement. The second is a confirmation charter, which may be dated to not earlier than c.1210, by which William Crassus, Margaret de Somery's brother, confirmed his widowed sister's grant of lands in ...”). END OF QUOTE.

That William le Gras' wife was the sister of William Marshal is supported to three references to kinship between the Gras and Marshal families. In the first reference below, William le Gras the elder is styled "consanguineum" by William le Marshal the younger in a letter dated 1224. In the second reference below, Anselm le Gras, Bishop of St. David's, is styled "nepos Marescalli" [i.e., kinsman of the Earl of Pembroke]. William le Gras the elder and Anselm le Gras are thought to be sons of the earlier William le Gras (living 1210, dead by 1219), who married Earl Marshal's sister. The son William le Gras is styled "the elder" or "first born" in records as the earlier William le Gras had two sons named William. The third reference below is a record dated 1221-2, in which Joan de Somery, daughter of Margaret le Gras, is styled "neptem" [kinswoman] by William Marshal the younger, Earl of Pembroke.

1. Shirley, Royal & Other Hist. Letters Ill. of King Henry III 1 (1862) (Rolls Ser. 27): 500–503 [letter of William Marshal, Earl of Pembroke dated 1224 states he had dispatched his “cousin” [consanguineum], William le Gras, the elder, to relieve Carrickfergus [“Item misimus dominum W. Grassum primogenitum consanguineum nostrum ... as Enocfergus in Ultonia”]]

2. Luard, Annales Monastici 4 (Rolls Ser. 36) (1869): 422 (Annals of Worcester sub A.D. 1231: “Anselmus nepos Marescalli consecratur apud Cantuariam in episcopum Menevensen” [Anselm le Gras consecrated Bishop of St. David’s in 1231 styled “kinsman” of [William Earl] Marshal]).

3. John Hunt's book, Lordship & the Landscape (1994): 34 and Complete Peerage refers to a record dated 1221-2 from the published Eyre Roll of 5 Henry III in which Joan de Somery, wife of Thomas de Berkeley, is styled “neptem” [i.e., kinswoman] by William Marshal the younger, Earl of Pembroke. Joan de Somery's mother was Margaret le Gras, as stated above. The Eyre Roll item is published in Selden Society, vol. lix, no. 301.

Complete Peerage 12(1) (1953): 111 (sub Somery) states that Margaret, wife of Ralph de Somery, was living in 1242-43. Actually she was living as late as 14 June 1247, as proven by a document published in Hoskin, English Episcopal Acta 13 (1997): 152. This document indicates that Margaret de Somery reached agreement on that date with Henry de Gaunt, Rector of the almonry of St. Mark’s Hospital, Billeswick, she granting the said Henry the tithes of the mill of East Quantoxhead, Somerset and the right to pasture six oxen, two cows and two horses in Margaret’s pasture; Henry quitclaimed to Margaret for the rest of her life all the land which he held at Coke (?in Stogursey, Somerset) in return for 16 pence a year.

Margaret de Somery held the manor of East Quantoxhead, Somerset in right of her dower from her 2nd marriage to Maurice de Gant.

Lastly, the A2A Catalogue includes another record relating to Margaret, widow of Ralph de Somery, this one is undated:

National Archives, E 210/2932 (undated 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) (available at www.catalogue.nationalarchives.gov.uk/search.asp).

Best always, Douglas Richardson, Salt Lake City, Utah



Douglas Richardson

unread,

Mar 27, 2012, 9:11:19 PM



to

Dear Newsgroup ~

As a followup to my earlier post, I should note that there is an interesting and well written article by the historian, Nicholas Vincent, on the le Gras family entitled “The Borough of Chipping Sodbury and the Fat Men of France (1130–1270),” which was published in Transactions of the Bristol & Gloucestershire Archaeological Society, Volume 116 (1999): 141–159.

The article is available online at the following weblink:

<http://www2.glos.ac.uk/bgas/tbgas/v116/bg116141.pdf>

Mr. Vincent identifies William le Gras [father of Margaret (le Gras) de Somery] as the man who was Seneschal (or Steward) of Normandy in 1204, at the time of its collapse as an English possession.

Although Mr. Vincent apparently saw the Brooksby Charters, he appears to have missed the two charters cited by John Hunt which prove that Margaret, wife of Ralph de Somery, was a daughter of William le Gras.



Douglas Richardson

unread,

Mar 28, 2012, 12:20:36 AM



to

Dear Newsgroup ~

For interest's sake, I've posted below a list of the enormous number of 17th Century New World immigrants that descend from Margaret le Gras, wife of Ralph de Somery and Maurice de Gant.

Robert Abell, Dannett Abney, Elizabeth Alsop, William Asfordby, Barbara Aubrey, Charles Barnes, John Baynard, Anne Baynton, Dorothy Beresford, Richard & William Bernard, Essex Beville, William Bladen, George & Nehemiah Blakiston, Joseph Bolles, Thomas Booth, Elizabeth Bosville, George, Giles & Robert Brent, Edward Bromfield, Nathaniel Browne, Charles Calvert, Edward Carleton, Kenelm Cheseldine, Grace Chetwode, Jeremy Clarke, St. Leger Codd, Henry Corbin, Elizabeth Covert, William Crymes, Francis Dade, Humphrey Davie, Jane, Frances, & Katherine Deighton, Edward Digges, William Farrer, John Fenwick, John Fisher, Henry Fleete, Edward Foliot, Muriel Gurdon, Katherine Hamby, Elizabeth & John Harleston, Warham Horsmanden, Anne Humphrey, Matthew Kempe, Mary Launce, Hannah, Samuel & Sarah Levis, Thomas Ligon, Nathaniel Littleton, Thomas Lloyd, Henry, Jane & Nicholas Lowe, Gabriel, Roger & Sarah Ludlow, Thomas Lunsford, Agnes Mackworth, Anne, Elizabeth & John Mansfield, Anne & Katherine Marbury, Elizabeth Marshall, Anne Mauleverer, Richard More, Joseph & Mary Need, John and Margaret Nelson, Philip & Thomas Nelson, Thomas Owsley, John Oxenbridge, Herbert Pelham, Robert Peyton, Henry & William Randolph, George Reade, William Rodney, Thomas Rudyard, Katherine Saint Leger, Richard Saltonstall, William Skepper, Diana & Grey Skipwith, Mary Johanna Somerset, John Stockman, Samuel & William Torrey, Margaret Touteville, John & Lawrence Washington, Olive Welby, John West, Mary Wolseley, Hawte Wyatt, Amy Wyllys.



joe...@gmail.com

unread,

Mar 28, 2012, 8:04:14 AM



to

On Mar 28, 12:20 am, Douglas Richardson <royalances...@msn.com> wrote:

> Dear Newsgroup ~

>

> For interest's sake, I've posted below a list of the enormous number
> of 17th Century New World immigrants that descend from Margaret le
> Gras, wife of Ralph de Somery and Maurice de Gant.

>

> Robert Abell, Dannett Abney, Elizabeth Alsop, William Asfordby,
> Barbara Aubrey, Charles Barnes, John Baynard, Anne Baynton, Dorothy
> Beresford, Richard & William Bernard, Essex Beville, William Bladen,
> George & Nehemiah Blakiston, Joseph Bolles, Thomas Booth, Elizabeth

This connection to Joseph Bolles from Margaret le Gras is unknown to me (and to Genealogics). What is Joseph Bolles line of descent from Margaret le Gras?



joe...@gmail.com

unread,

Mar 28, 2012, 7:54:03 AM



to

On Mar 27, 3:55 pm, Douglas Richardson <royalances...@msn.com> wrote:

> Dear Newsgroup ~

>

> In Charles Cawley's online Medlands database, he states the following:

>

> "RALPH de Somery (-[Jan/Jul] 1210). m as her first husband, MARGARET

> Marshal, daughter of [JOHN Marshal & his second wife Sibyl of

I can't be the only one amused by the fact that now that Peter Stewart is gone, here come the Medlands references...

Anyway, the document on the Crassius family you posted says that although the exact date of the marriage of William le Gras and ? Marshal is unknown, it can be inferred by the fact that none of their sons were married by 1203.

To expand on that some, even if the eldest of William & ? Marshal's children was as old as, say, 27 years old, (born 1176), that also puts the marriage of William le Gras and ? Marshall somewhere around that time. Daughter Marshal's father had two wives: Aline Pipard; and Sibyl (daughter of Walter FitzEdward). The first marriage to Pipard was annulled in 1141. This would mean even with a very high estimate of the ages of William le Gras's children, his wife Marshal is an extremely poor fit to be the daughter of John Marshal's first wife Aline, and therefore was a daughter of his second wife, Sibyl. This also means that the wife of William le Gras was a full sibling to William Marshal, Earl of Pembroke, not a half-sister

--Joe C



mk

unread,

Mar 28, 2012, 10:03:42 AM



to Douglas Richardson, gen-me...@rootsweb.com

Is this William le Gros one of the Gros/Grace/Crassus family that descended from Basilia de Clare and her second husband, Raymond le Gros? Their son William was said to be the ancestor of the Crassus family, and I note that Margaret's brother was called "William Crassus." Was the elder William, who married a Marshal, this same William?

MK

On Tue, Mar 27, 2012 at 3:55 PM, Douglas Richardson

<royala...@msn.com> wrote:

□

> -----

> To unsubscribe from the list, please send an email to

> GEN-MEDIEV...@rootsweb.com with the word 'unsubscribe' without the

> quotes in the subject and the body of the message



Douglas Richardson

unread,

Mar 28, 2012, 12:57:15 PM

□

□

□

to

On Mar 28, 5:54 am, J Cook <joec...@gmail.com> wrote:

< This also means that the wife of William le Gras was a full sibling

to

< William Marshal, Earl of Pembroke, not a half-sister

<

< --Joe C

William Marshal is known to have had two full sisters. They appear to be Maud, wife of Robert Ponte de l'Arche, and _____, wife of William le Gras, Seneschal of Mortain, Seneschal of Normandy.

Meyer, L'Histoire de Guillaume le Maréchal 1 (1891): 15 (Lines 395–398: “Si ourent deus serors mult beles E mult corteises damiseles, De grant appareil acesmées; Richement furent mariées.”), 262 (Lines 7264–7275 (“E quant il vint a la meison Seingnor Robert del Pont de l'Arche, De la outre, qu'il est en marche, Sa soer li comença a dire: 'Por Deu! que feront ore, sire .V. filles k'ai a marier? Qui lor porra conseil doner? N'est mais kui faire lor peüst.' Il dist: 'Soer, se por els ne fust E por mes autres boens amis, Jamais ne venisse al país.').

Brooks, Knights' Fees in Counties Wexford, Carlow & Kilkenny (1950): 72 states: “Histoire de Guillaume le Marshal, 1. 398. says the Earl [i.e., William Marshal, Earl of Pembroke] had two sisters richly married, one of them to Robert del Pont l'Arche; the husband of the other, William Crassus, is not named.” END OF QUOTE.

William Crassus = William le Gras

As indicated above, Maud, wife of Robert Ponte de l'Arche, had five daughters. Of these, one was definitely Juliane de Ponte de l'Arche who married Robert de Berkeley. I believe another of the five daughters was Maud de Ponte de l'Arche (living 1227) who married (1st) Philip of Brewes, and (2nd) William, Baron of Naas.

DR



Douglas Richardson

unread,

Mar 28, 2012, 1:00:20 PM



to

On Mar 28, 8:03 am, Monica Kanellis <monica.kanel...@gmail.com> wrote:
> Is this William le Gros one of the Gros/Grace/Crassus family that descended
> from Basilia de Clare and her second husband, Raymond le Gros? Their son
> William was said to be the ancestor of the Crassus family, and I note that
> Margaret's brother was called "William Crassus." Was the elder William, who
> married a Marshal, this same William?
>
> MK

Monica ~

You have the right William le Gras alright, but he wasn't the son of Raymond le Gros.

Please read the article by Nicholas Vincent I cited. I provided a weblink for you. Mr. Vincent discusses the ancestry of William le Gras.

William Crassus = William le Gras



Douglas Richardson

unread,
Mar 29, 2012, 2:05:33 PM



to

Dear Newsgroup ~

Below is a transcript of three charters concerning the le Cras (or le Gras) family which were published in London, Cartulary of Bradenstoke Priory (Wiltshire Rec. Soc. 35) (1979): 153–154. The surname le Cras is often rendered le Gras in other contemporary records. Either form seems to be acceptable. The Latin form is Crassus. The editor of the Bradenstoke Cartulary uses the form le Cras (and the Latin form Crassus), which I have followed below.

The first charter below is dated 1170x1180. It concerns land in Waleswood, Yorkshire surrendered to William le Cras (or Crassus) [which William le Cras was the father of Margaret le Cras, wife of Ralph de Somery and Maurice de Gant]. The property in question pertains to the manor of Leston, which William Taissy [Taisson], grandfather of Ralph Ierlum, gave to William Crassus, grandfather of William Crassus, as a marriage portion.

In the second charter dated 1205x1219, William le Cras, the eldest son of William le Cras, grants all the land of Wales [i.e., Waleswood, Yorkshire] to Bradenstoke Priory. The grant was made with the assent of his younger brothers, William the younger, Hamon, and Anselm, Treasurer of Exeter. The property had formerly been granted to William le Cras' brother, Robert le Cras, now deceased, who was buried at Bradenstoke. The editor dates this charter as being as early as 1199, but the earliest date possible date would be 1205, in which year the grantor's brother, Anselm, became Treasurer of Exeter [see Brooks, *Knights' Fees in Counties Wexford, Carlow & Kilkenny* (1950): 72]. This charter is witnessed by Sir William Marshal, Earl of Pembroke, who was the maternal uncle of the le Cras brothers. This charter is also witnessed by William Bluet, who presumably is the same person as the half-brother of Earl William Marshal's father-in-law, Richard Fitz Gilbert (de Clare), Earl of Pembroke.

The third charter is a gift in alms by William le Cras the younger, brother and heir of Robert le Cras, with the assent of his brothers, William the elder, Hamon, and Anselm, Treasurer of Exeter. Again this charter is witnessed by Sir William Marshal, Earl of Pembroke.

Best always, Douglas Richardson, Salt Lake City, Utah

+ + + + + + + +

517. [1170 x 1180] Notification by Ralph Ierlum, about to depart, that he has surrendered to William Crassus the land of Wales pertaining to Ralph's manor of Leston, which William Taissy, grandfather of Ralph, gave to William Crassus, grandfather of William Crassus, as a marriage portion. Since Ralph had given part of that land to Robert, son of the seneschal of Normandy, while it was in his hand, and before William Crassus had claimed it, he wished that land of the same value should be given to William in exchange for Ralph's manor of Leston. Witnesses: Robert abbot of Fountains, Henry de Tilleio, Robert son of Erneis, Robert de Cambrai, Richard Dastmel, Hugh de Clinchampo, Ranulf' de Hamarr' and Rob. his son.

518. [1205 x 1219]. Confirmation by William le Cras, eldest son of William le Cras, with the assent of William le Cras the younger, Hamon le Cras and Anselm le Cras, treasurer of Exeter, his brothers, for the soul of Robert le Cras, his brother, at rest at Bradenstoke, of all the land of Wales, which he had given to Robert for his homage and service. The canons to hold from him and his heirs in alms. Warranty. They are to be quit of all services except that owed to the chief lord of the fee. Seal. Witnesses: Sir William Marshall, earl of Pembroke, William Marshall his son, William le Cras the younger, Hamon le Cras, Anselm le Cras treasurer of Exeter, brothers of the donor, Everard the German, Frank the German his brother, Alan son of Warin, William Bluet, John de Easton, William le Printz, Ralph de Hinton, Philip de Farley. Printed in Monasticon, VI, pp. 338-9, in a shortened form, lacking the last four witnesses.

519. [1205 x 1219]. Gift in alms by William le Cras the younger, brother and heir of Robert le Cras, with the assent of William le Cras the elder, Hammon and Anselm, treasurer of Exeter, his brothers, for the soul of Robert his brother, of all the land of Wales which William le Cras, his eldest brother, had given to Robert for his homage and service. To be held of William and his heirs. Seal. Witnesses: William Marshall, earl of Pembroke, William Marshall his son, William le Cras the the donor's eldest brother.



Douglas Richardson

unread,

Mar 29, 2012, 11:36:20 PM

□

□

□

to

Dear Newsgroup ~

Below is yet another charter which involves the Marshal and le Gras family. This particular charter is dated c.1220–25 and is taken from Elvey, Luffield Priory Charters 1 (Buckingham Rec. Soc. 22) (1968): 166. It concerns land at Norton, Northamptonshire.

The charter below was issued by William Marshal the younger (died 1231), Earl of Pembroke, and was witnessed by "Willelmo le Grate et Willelmo fratre suo Hamone le Guace." The names le Grate and le Guace are surely forms of le Gras or le Cras.

The charter mentions Sir Geoffrey Fitz Peter and his wife. This is surely Sir Geoffrey Fitz Peter (died 1213), Earl of Essex, and his wife, Aveline de Clare, which Aveline held land at Towcester, Northamptonshire. The "ditch of the Countess" is mentioned in another charter dated c.1216-1225 found on pp. 174-176. The editor identifies the Countess as being Aveline de Clare, Countess of Essex.

Best always, Douglas Richardson, Salt Lake City, Utah

+ + + + +

Grant by William son of William, earl of Pembroke, to William de Clairvaux, his servant, for his homage and service, of 80 acres in a corner of his wood of Norton, rendering a pair of gilt spurs at Easter for all services. [c.1220–25].

Carta Willelmi Marescall'

Sciant presentes et futuri quod ego Willelmus Marescallus filius Willelmi Marescalli comitis Penbroc' concessi et dedi et hac presente carta mea confirmaui Willelmo de Clereuaus seruienti meo pro humagio et seruicio suo quater viginti acras terre in quodam angulo bosci mei de Norton' qui extendit se inter illam assartam quam dominus Galfridus

filius Petri fecit de terra vxoris sue et assartam quam Henricus de Pery de terra comitis Baldewini assartare fecit et abuttat super terram Galfridi de Pauely, Tenendum de me et heredibus meis sibi et heredibus suis libere et quiete imperpetuum reddendo inde annuatim michi et heredibus meis vnum par calcarium deauratorum ad Pascha pro omni seruicio. Et ego et heredes mei warrantizabimus dicto Willelmo et heredibus suis predictam terram contra omnes gentes. Et ut hoc ratum et firmum sit presens scriptum sigilli mei appositione roborauit. Hijs testibus Willelmo le Grate et Willelmo fratre suo Hamone le Guace Alano de Hyda Galfrido de Norton' Baldewino filio eius Iohanne de Burcote Roberto de Marisco Ada de Langeboruwe Thoma de Waleshall' et alijs.



wjhonson

unread,

Apr 2, 2012, 9:59:56 PM



to gen-me...@rootsweb.com

The claim that Aline de Pipard and John "the Marshall" had their married annulled in, or even about 1141 is not well founded

In fact there is no source, other than a modern silly book by a silly man tracing his own descent in a clumsy fashion

Which states this year at all in relation to Aline



jhigg...@yahoo.com

unread,

Apr 3, 2012, 12:06:27 AM

☐☐☐

to

☐

Is CP a "modern silly book by a silly man", or did you have another one in mind? You may want to look at volume 10, appendix G of CP.

**mk**

unread,

Apr 3, 2012, 9:13:59 AM

☐☐☐

to GenMedieval

Hi Douglas,

Thanks for the link to the Vincent article. I hadn't seen it before I posted as I only got your second post (and the rest of the string since) last night, all at once, though I see it was actually written nearly a week ago. We must have a sluggish service provider:(

Haven't had a chance to read it yet, but wanted to run a couple of things past you. One thing I found of interest is that William Marshal (the younger), Earl of Pembroke, married Alice Bethune, a daughter of Hawyse le Gros by her third husband. The Wikipedia piece on the William Crassus who was seneschal of Normandy 1203, says that he inherited Sodbury from "his uncle, William le Gros, 1st Earl of Albemarle" which, if correct, would make him Hawyse's cousin and his children would then be second cousins to Alice (Bethune) Marshal. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Crassus

Another thing that caught my eye recently is that Margaret's nephew, William Crassus, son of William Crassus the younger (who would appear to be the ancestor of the Graces, as there is no indication of offspring from his three brothers—one being a bishop and another dying sp), marries an Isabel Carriou. Can anyone discover if she is a descendant of Odo Carrio/Carew, brother of Raymond le Gros? Perhaps this is where the connection to the Geraldines comes in if anywhere. <http://tinyurl.com/6oz9xe3>

all the best,

MK

On Wed, Mar 28, 2012 at 1:00 PM, Douglas Richardson
<royala...@msn.com> wrote:



wjhonson

unread,

Apr 3, 2012, 1:54:17 PM



to jhigg...@yahoo.com, gen-me...@rootsweb.com

John john john...

Did you even look at this reference before you went off half-cocked?

CP absolutely does *not* state that Aline and John "had their marriage annulled in 1141".

It does not state that in Volume X and it does not state that anywhere else in any credible source.

This claim is merely once more, what we see of too much, which is turning hand-waving into fact.

Surely you can do better than a knee-jerk reaction to this very important point.

<<Is CP a "modern silly book by a silly man", or did you have another



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In fact there is no source, other than a modern silly book by a silly man
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Which states this year at all in relation to Aline

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o unsubscribe from the list, please send an email to GEN-MEDIEV...@rootsweb.com
ith the word 'unsubscribe' without the quotes in the subject and the body of

he message



mk

unread,

Apr 3, 2012, 6:56:53 PM



to Douglas Richardson, GenMedieval

There's an interesting piece (link below) about Sir Richard Siward who had,
for a short time, wardship of William the younger's son, William Crassus.
It looks as if he started out with Hawyse's 2nd husband, Wm. de Fortibus,
Earl of Albemarle, and became a retainer of the Marshal family until his
marriage to the heiress, Philippa Basset, Countess of Warwick, who divorced
him in 1242.

<http://cylchgronaucymru.llgc.org.uk/browse/viewpage/llgc-id:1169834/llgc-id:1173761/llgc-id:1173770/getText>

best, MK

On Thu, Mar 29, 2012 at 11:36 PM, Douglas Richardson

<royala...@msn.com> wrote:

□

> -----

> To unsubscribe from the list, please send an email to

> GEN-MEDIEV...@rootsweb.com with the word 'unsubscribe' without the

> quotes in the subject and the body of the message

>



Douglas Richardson

unread,

Apr 3, 2012, 11:51:42 PM

□

□

□

to

On Apr 3, 7:13 am, Monica Kanellis <monica.kanel...@gmail.com> wrote:

< Thanks for the link to the Vincent article. I hadn't seen it before

I

< posted as I only got your second post (and the rest of the string since)

< last night, all at once, though I see it was actually written nearly a week

< ago. We must have a sluggish service provider:(

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< Gros by her third husband. The Wikipedia piece on the William Crassus who

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< uncle, William le Gros, 1st Earl of Albemarle" which, if correct,
 would
 < make him Hawyse's cousin and his children would then be second
 cousins to
 < Alice (Bethune) Marshal.http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Crassus

Wikipedia is wrong. William (or Guillaume) le Gras, Seneschal of
 Normandy, was not the nephew of William le Gros, Earl of Aumale.

I recommend you read the the Vincent article.

DR.



jhigg...@yahoo.com

unread,

Apr 7, 2012, 11:24:04 PM



to

On Mar 27, 12:55 pm, Douglas Richardson <royalances...@msn.com> wrote:

> Dear Newsgroup ~

>

[snip]

> "RALPHdeSomery(-[Jan/Jul] 1210). m as her first husband, MARGARET

> Marshal, daughter of [JOHN Marshal & his second wife Sibyl of

> Salisbury] (-after [1242/43]). The primary source which confirms her

> parentage and marriage has not yet been identified. The Complete

> Peerage names her and records her marriage but does not cite the

> primary source on which this information is based[1033]. The Pipe

> Roll 1210 records that "Margareta que fuit uxor Radulfi de Sumeri"

> arranged to pay an instalment of her fine for the assignment of her

- > dower in midsummer[1034]. She married secondly Maurice de Gant." END
- > OF QUOTE.
- >
- > While Complete Peerage does claim in its Berkeley andSomeryaccounts
- > that Margaret, wife ofRalphdeSomery, was the sister of William
- > Marshal (died 1219), Earl of Pembroke, I've always found that claim
- > rather doubtful. Indeed the editor's comments in both the Berkeley
- > andSomeryaccounts suggest that the identification of Margaret deSomeryas the earl's sister is not at all certain.
- >
- > Recently I came across John Hunt's book, Lordship and the Landscape
- > (1994), which discusses the early history of theSomeryfamily. On
- > pages 34–35, he presents concrete evidence from the Brooksby Cartulary
- > thatRalphdeSomery'swife, Margaret, was actually the daughter of
- > William le Gras, which William is thought to have been married to a
- > sister of Earl William Marshal. Thus, it would appear that Margaret
- > deSomerywas the Earl's niece, not his daughter as claimed by
- > Complete Peerage.
- >
- > I can only provide partial abstracts from John Hunt's book as Google
- > Books limit my view of his material. Regardless, this is what I can
- > glean from the parts of pages 34 and 35 that I can see online:
- >
- > "The Marcher connection may also be reflected in the marriage of John
- > and Hawise's son,RalphI deSomery, to Margaret. There is a marriage
- > recorded before 1194 between aRalphdeSomery, of the honor of
- > Gloucester, and Margaret, the daughter of William le Gros; William was
- > a Gloucestershire knight who served the earl of Gloucester and was
- > married to a sister of William Marshal I, earl of Pembroke (d. 1219).
- > That this represents ...[part is missing here DR] The marriage of
- > the future baron of Dudley is suggested by two documents surviving in
- > the Brooksby cartulary. The first is the marriage contract itself, in
- > which it is stated that William le Gros gave his land at Little Dalby

> toRalphdeSomeryas part of the marriage agreement. The second is a
 > confirmation charter, which may be dated to not earlier than c.1210,
 > by which William Crassus, Margaret deSomery'sbrother, confirmed his
 > widowed sister's grant of lands in ..."). END OF QUOTE.
 >

[snip]

>
 > Best always, Douglas Richardson, Salt Lake City, Utah

The book by John Hunt cited above, which covers the early history of the family of Somery, feudal barons of Dudley, appears to indicate another CP correction (and a correction to Cawley's database as well) in the Somery family. This added correction is discussed on the page following the one excerpted above (p. 34) and in associated footnotes and the sources cited there.

Ralph de Somery (d. ca. 1201/11) and his wife Margaret (whom Hunt was the first to identify as a de Gras rather than a Marshal) had a son Roger, among other children. This Roger is identified by CP and by Cawley as having d. in 1273 after having married (1) Nicola d'Aubigny and (2) Amabil de Chaucombe (or Chalcombe) widow of Gilbert de Segrave. This version is also followed by Grazebrook's discussion of the Somery family in his extensive 1888 article on the feudal barons of Dudley (collections for a History of Staffordshire [CHS], vol. 9 pt. 2) - but with some hesitation due to evidence to the contrary, which will be mentioned below.

Hunt points out that Grazebrook's work was supplemented by a group of additions by William F. Carter, published the 1941 volume of CHS (labeled 1941 but actually published in 1942). Carter makes a strong case (which Hunt supports) that Roger who d. 1273 was actually the grandson, not the son, of Ralph and Margaret - his father being another Roger. If so, then CP and Cawley (as well as Grazebrook) have erroneously combined the two Rogers into one.

Grazebrook actually does note that the IPM of Roger who d. 1273 says that he was the grandson, not son, of Ralph. But he quickly dismisses this as "a mistake on the part of the jurors [at the IPM] (who, it must be remembered, were no scholars". Carter is less willing to dismiss this discrepancy, and he cites other evidence to indicate that there were two Rogers here, not one.

One result of this (not mentioned by Carter or Hunt) is that splitting one Roger of the "traditional" accounts into two Rogers may suggest that the assignment of two wives to the Roger who d. 1273 is also incorrect and that the first wife Nicola d'Aubigny should instead be assigned to the first Roger and thus becomes the mother of the second Roger, d. 1273). At a quick glance, this seems to make better chronological sense than the currently accepted arrangement, based on the limited dates that are known for various members of the Somery family.



Douglas Richardson

unread,

Apr 8, 2012, 1:33:29 AM



to

On Apr 7, 9:24 pm, John <jhiggins...@yahoo.com> wrote:

< One result of this (not mentioned by Carter or Hunt) is that splitting

< one Roger of the "traditional" accounts into two Rogers may suggest

< that the assignment of two wives to the Roger who d. 1273 is also

< incorrect and that the first wife Nicola d'Aubigny should instead be

< assigned to the first Roger and thus becomes the mother of the second

< Roger, d. 1273). At a quick glance, this seems to make better

< chronological sense than the currently accepted arrangement, based

on

< the limited dates that are known for various members of the Somery
< family.

Mr. Hunt is definitely wrong. 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. We can be certain there was only one Roger de Somery and he was definitely living c.1235-47. This is proven by the following two records taken from the online Catalogue of the National Archives which concern Roger de Somery and his nephew, William de Englefield. These records are available at www.catalogue.nationalarchives.gov.uk/search.asp. In the first record, we learn that Roger de Somery's mother was named Margaret. I earlier posted evidence which proved that Margaret le Gras, mother of Roger de Somery, was living as late as 1247.

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.

Alan de Englefield, father of William, was living in 1226. William de Englefield, son and heir of Alan, was an adult in 1235 [see VCH Berkshire 3 (1923): 405-412; VCH Buckingham 4 (1927): 168-170].

I might add that the evidence is absolutely iron clad that Nichole (or Colette) d'Aubeney had only four daughters. As such she can't possibly be the mother of the Roger de Somery who married Amabil de Chaucombe, as suggested by Mr. Higgins.

□



Douglas Richardson

unread,

Apr 8, 2012, 2:20:50 AM

☐

☐

☐

to

On Apr 7, 11:33 pm, Douglas Richardson <royalances...@msn.com> wrote:

< I might add that the evidence is absolutely iron clad that Nichole

(or

< Colette) d'Aubeney had only four daughters. As such she can't

< possibly be the mother of the Roger de Somery who married Amabil de

< Chaucombe, as suggested by Mr. Higgins.

My previous comments above need to be amended. I've copied below some records from the Fine Rolls of King Henry III which are available

online at the following weblink:

<http://www.finerollshenry3.org.uk/home.html>

The first record below indicates that Nichole (or Colette) d'Aubeney, 1st wife of Roger de Somery, died before 19 Oct. 1253, and that she was survived by an unnamed son who had been assigned a share of the estates of the earldom of Chester. The third record below dated 1254 implies that this son was named Roger, but if so, this son must have died young, as Nichole d'Aubeney's share of the Chester estates was subsequently divided between her four surviving daughters, Margaret, Joan, Mabel, and Maud. It is possible that the Roger de Somery in the third record below was Nichole d'Aubeney's husband, rather than her son, as her husband would have surely have held part of her inheritance for the term of his life by courtesy of England.

Source: Fine Rolls of Henry III

Available at <http://www.finerollshenry3.org.uk/home.html>

37/1401 (19 October 1253)

Concerning lands to be taken into the king's hand. Order to the king's escheator of Lindsey in Lincolnshire to take into the king's hand all the lands that fall to the share of the son of Roger de Sumery of the lands that Clemencia sometime countess of Chester held in dower in his bailiwick and to keep them safely such that he is to answer for the issues of the same at the Exchequer until the king orders otherwise.

38/55 (23 November 1253)

23 Nov. Westminster. Concerning lands to be taken into the king's hand. Order to the king's escheator of Kesteven in Lincolnshire to take into the king's hand all the lands that fell to the purparty of the son of Roger de Somery of the lands that Clemencia, sometime countess of Chester, held in dower in his bailiwick and to keep them safely until the king orders otherwise, such that he is to answer for the issues of the same at the Exchequer. Witness Queen E. and R. earl of Cornwall. By the queen.

38/531 (16 May 1254)

16 May. Windsor. For Roger de Somery. Roger de Somery has bound himself to the king by letters patent to render £82 10s. in the queen's Wardrobe on Monday next immediately after the Ascension of the Lord that are exacted from him by summons of the Exchequer for the aid towards the knighting of the king's first-born son from one knight's fee that he holds of his own inheritance and from other knights' fees that he holds of a share of the fees formerly of Hugh de Albigny sometime earl of Arundel. Order to the barons of the Exchequer, that although the aforesaid Roger pledged before them to render the aforesaid £82 10s. at the aforesaid Exchequer on the Monday next immediately before the Ascension of the Lord, to permit the same to have respite therefrom until the aforesaid Monday. Witness as above. By the queen.

☐



Douglas Richardson

unread,

Apr 8, 2012, 12:16:24 PM

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☐☐

to

Dear Newsgroup ~

As a followup to my earlier posts, I might add that Google Books has a copy of the book by Percy C. Rushen entitled History and Antiquities of Chipping Campden, in the County of Gloucester, published in 1899. The discussion which is pertinent to this thread starts on page 5. It is available at the following weblink:

<http://books.google.com/books?id=OPUVAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA5>

Mr. Rushen quotes from the inquisition post mortem of Roger de Somery (died 1273). This inquisition makes it crystal clear that the Roger de Somery who married Nichole d'Aubeney is the same man who married Anabil de Chaucombe. He shows that at the time of his death in 1273, the manor of Chipping Campden, Gloucestershire was held by Roger de Somery by his first wife, Nichole's inheritance, and that Nichole then had four living daughters, Margaret (wife of Ralph de Cromwell), Joan (wife of John le Strange), Mabel (wife of Walter de Suley), and Maud (wife of Henry de Erdington). Apparently Nichole d'Aubeney's unnamed son who was living in 1253 had died sometime before 1273 without issue.

Mr. Rushen quotes from the actual document dated 1274 which divided the manor of Chipping Campden, Gloucestershire into four shares for the surviving daughters of Nichole d'Aubeney. This is unambiguous evidence.

Elsewhere there are abstracts in print of two lawsuits which concern the inheritance of Nichole d'Aubeney. These abstracts are published in Wrottesley, Pedigrees from the Plea Rolls (1905): 531–532, 550. They may be viewed at the following weblinks:

<http://archive.org/stream/pedigreesfrompleoowrotrich#page/530/mode/2up>

<http://archive.org/stream/pedigreesfrompleoowrotrich#page/550/mode/2up>

The first lawsuit indicates that Nichole d'Aubeney was survived by a son, Ralph de Somery, who died in the lifetime of his father, Roger de Somery. Thus we have evidence that Nichole d'Aubeney's son was named

Ralph de Somery.

Nichole d'Aubeney's inheritance of the Chester estates also included the manor of Olney, Buckinghamshire. A history of this manor is included in VCH Buckingham 4 (1927): 429–439. It may be viewed at the following weblink:

<http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=62610&strquery=Olney#s3>

This source states that Ralph de Somery, son of Nichole d'Aubeney, predeceased his mother which statement is a manifest error. Ralph de Somery clearly survived his mother and was assigned her share of the Chester inheritance in or before 1253. By 1282, however, Ralph de Somery was dead without surviving issue, as the manor of Olney, Buckinghamshire was delivered to Nichole's four surviving daughters, Margaret widow of Ralph Basset the younger and wife of Ralph de Cromwell, Joan wife of John Lestrangle, Mabel (or Elizabeth) wife of Walter de Sully, and Maud wife of Henry de Erdington.

In summary, we have excellent evidence in hand that Margaret le Gras' son, Roger de Somery (died 1273), married (1st) c.1232 Nichole (or Colette) d'Aubeney and (2nd) c.1254 Amabil de Chaucombe.

☐



jhigg...@yahoo.com

unread,

Apr 8, 2012, 12:41:00 PM

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☐

to

On Apr 7, 10:33 pm, Douglas Richardson <royalances...@msn.com> wrote:

> On Apr 7, 9:24 pm, John <jhiggins...@yahoo.com> wrote:

> < One result of this (not mentioned by Carter or Hunt) is that

- > splitting
- > < one Roger of the "traditional" accounts into two Rogers may suggest
- > < that the assignment of two wives to the Roger who d. 1273 is also
- > < incorrect and that the first wife Nicola d'Aubigny should instead be
- > < assigned to the first Roger 9and thus becomes the mother of the
- > second
- > < Roger, d. 1273). At a quick glance, this seems to make better
- > < chronological sense than the currently accepted arrangement, based
- > on
- > < the limited dates that are known for various members of the Somery
- > < family.
- >
- > Mr. Hunt is definitely wrong. 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. We can be certain there was
- > only one Roger de Somery and he was definitely living c.1235-47. This
- > is proven by the following two records taken from the online Catalogue
- > of the National Archives which concern Roger de Somery and his nephew,
- > William de Englefield. These records are available
- at www.catalogue.nationalarchives.gov.uk/search.asp. In the first
- > record, we learn that Roger de Somery's mother was named Margaret. I
- > earlier posted evidence which proved that Margaret le Gras, mother of
- > Roger de Somery, was living as late as 1247.
- >
- > 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.
- >
- > Alan de Englefield, father of William, was living in 1226. William de
- > Englefield, son and heir of Alan, was an adult in 1235 [see VCH
- > Berkshire 3 (1923): 405-412; VCH Buckingham 4 (1927): 168-170].
- >

- > I might add that the evidence is absolutely iron clad that Nichole (or
- > Colette) d'Aubeney had only four daughters. As such she can't
- > possibly be the mother of the Roger de Somery who married Amabil de
- > Chaucombe, as suggested by Mr. Higgins.
- >
- > Best always, Douglas Richardson, Salt Lake City, Utah

There are two separate issues here, which shouldn't be confused:

1) Whether Roger de Somery (d. 1273) was the son or the grandson of Ralph de Somery and Margaret le Gras. Carter, followed by Hunt, makes the argument that he was the grandson, not the son.

2) Whether Roger de Somery (d. 1273) who was married to Amabil (Chaucombe) Segrave was the same Roger who was married to Nicola d'Aubigny. Contrary to what DR says above ("Mr. Hunt is definitely wrong"), neither Hunt nor Carter makes this argument.

The two pieces of evidence cited above by DR simply say that Ralph de Somery and his wife Margaret had a son Roger. They do not confirm that this Roger was the Roger who died in 1273. And the three pieces of evidence mentioned by DR don't address the parentage of the Roger they refer to at all. Accordingly they don't support an argument in either direction on the first issue - unless you presuppose that there was only one Roger here.

I agree that that the possible conclusion suggested by the second issue above is rather speculative at this time: whether Roger de Somery (d. 1273) had one wife or two. But it's worth considering, especially in light of the first issue - for which a stronger case can be made. But again the two issues are independent of one another, at least in the sense that a resolution of the first issue does not also require a resolution of the second issue.

DR also says in his subsequent post that "Nichole d'Aubeney's share of the Chester estates was subsequently divided between her four

surviving daughters, Margaret, Joan, Mabel, and Maud." What evidence supports this?



wjhonson

unread,

Apr 8, 2012, 1:10:41 PM



to royala...@msn.com, gen-me...@rootsweb.com

Iron clad vessels are vulnerable to torpedo.



Douglas Richardson

unread,

Apr 8, 2012, 1:47:54 PM



to

My comments are interspersed below. DR

On Apr 8, 10:41 am, John <jhiggins...@yahoo.com> wrote:

> There are two separate issues here, which shouldn't be confused:

Then don't confuse them.

- > 1) Whether Roger de Somery (d. 1273) was the son or the grandson of
- > Ralph de Somery and Margaret le Gras. Carter, followed by Hunt, makes
- > the argument that he was the grandson, not the son.

The contemporary records don't bear out Hunt's contention. Historians often make poor genealogists.

Hunt either ignored or suppressed evidence that Margaret le Gras' son, Roger de Somery, married (1st) c.1232 Nichole (or Colette) d'Aubeney and (2nd) c.1254 Amabil de Chaucombe.

For example, Complete Peerage (which Hunt saw) quotes the following record which shows that Margaret le Gras' son, Roger de Somery, was living in 1240:

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.

The Roger de Somery living in 1240 is clearly the one who married c. 1232 to Nichole (or Colette) d'Aubeney and (2nd) c.1254 Amabil de Chaucombe.

- > The two pieces of evidence cited above by DR simply say that Ralph de
- > Somery and his wife Margaret had a son Roger.

Actually they do. One of the pieces of property involved in these records was Bradfield, Berkshire which was held by the Somery family of Dudley (in Segdley), Worcestershire. As such, we can be certain that the Roger de Somery who had a mother Margaret and a nephew, William de Englefield, in the period c.1235-1247 is same person as

Roger de Somery, of Dudley. Furthermore, Alan de Englefield is clearly stated in the second record I cited as having married Ralph de Somery's daughter. I might add that the Englefield family were subtenants of the Somery family, of Dudley, which again confirms the identification of the people involved in these records.

<They do not confirm that this Roger was the Roger who died in 1273.

The inquisition post mortem of Roger de Somery in 1273 makes it clear that he had two wives, Nichole d'Aubeney and Amabil de Chaucombe. The inquisition also makes clear that at the time of his death in 1273, he was holding Chipping Campden, Gloucestershire in right of of his 1st wife, Nichole's inheritance. Following Roger de Somery's death, this manor was divided in 1274 between Nichole d'Aubeney's four surviving daughters. That is established fact.

<And the three piece of evidence mentioned by DR don't address the parentage of the Roger they refer to at all.

You're deliberately ignoring the evidence of the Fine Rolls which I put right in your path.

The Fine Rolls make it clear that until 1272 Roger de Somery, of Dudley, had not been succeeded by anyone. Rather he was living and controlled his own estates from c.1229 until his death in 1273.

Had there been an intervening Roger de Somery, this would have been reflected in the Fine Rolls. The Fine Rolls further indicate that Nichole d'Aubeney had been survived by an unnamed son, living c.1253, and that he subsequently disappears from the records. The name of that son, Ralph de Somery, is supplied from other records [see my earlier post and the record cited below].

Here are the records in which Fine Rolls items which record the death of Nicholas de Somery in 1229, and his succession before 1233 by his uncle, Roger de Somery (died 1273):

1. Date: 4 July 1229. Concerning the land formerly of Nicholas son of Perceval. Order to the sheriff of Worcestershire to take into the king's hand without delay all land in his bailiwick formerly of Nicholas, son of Perceval de Somery, who is dead, and to keep it safely until the king orders otherwise, saving his property and chattels found in the same land to R. earl of Chester and Lincoln.
2. Date: 4 July 1229. Concerning the land formerly of Nicholas son of Perceval. It is written in the same manner to the sheriff of Staffordshire.
3. Date: 7 June 1233. Concerning lands to be taken into the king's hand. Because at this Pentecost last past Roger de Somery did not come to the king so that he could gird him with the belt of knighthood, order to the sheriff of Worcestershire to take the honour of Dudley and the other lands of the same Roger in his bailiwick into the king's hand without delay, and to keep them safely with all chattels found therein, so that nothing is removed therefrom until the king orders otherwise. END OF QUOTE.

<Accordingly they don't support an argument in
< either direction on the first issue - unless you presuppose that
there
< was only one Roger here.

I don't presuppose anything. I go strictly by the evidence, not uninformed opinion. The evidence clearly shows that the Roger de Somery living in 1240 is the same person as married (1st) Nichole d'Aubeney and (2nd) Amabil de Chaucombe.

> I agree that that the possible conclusion suggested by the second
> issue above is rather speculative at this time: whether Roger de
> Somery (d. 1273) had one wife or two.

Actually it is not at all speculative if Roger de Somery had two wives. His inquisitions clearly states that he had two wives. That is contemporary evidence.

> DR also says in his subsequent post that "Nichole d'Aubeney's share of
> the Chester estates was subsequently divided between her four
> surviving daughters, Margaret, Joan, Mabel, and Maud." What evidence
> supports this?

I've cited clear evidence for the descent of Nichole d'Aubeney's properties.

There is additional evidence that Nichole d'Aubeney had a son, Ralph de Somery (not Roger), who died early without issue. This information is found in an ancient pedigree of the family of the Earls of Chester published in Stubbs, Chronicle of the Reigns of Edward I and Edward II 1 (Rolls Ser.) (1882): 126–127 (sub Annales Londoniensis). This may be viewed at the following weblink:

[books.google.com/books/reader?
id=GlvSAAAAMAAJ&printsec=frontcover&output=reader&pg=GBS.PA126](https://books.google.com/books/reader?id=GlvSAAAAMAAJ&printsec=frontcover&output=reader&pg=GBS.PA126)

This pedigree specifically states that Nichole d'Aubeney had one son, Ralph, and four daughters, Margaret, Joan, Elizabeth, and Maud:

"Nicholaa [d'Aubeney] nupsit Rogero [de Someri] et habuit quemdam filium Radulphum qui mortuus erat ante patrem suum, et habuit quator filias, Margaretam, Johannam, Elizabetham et Matilldam; Margareta nupsit Radulpho de Basset juniore, Johanna nupsit Johanni Lestrage, Elizabeth Waltero de [Souli], Matilda Henrico de Erdyntone." END OF QUOTE.

I wish to thank Charles Cawley for bringing this important record to my attention.

□



Douglas Richardson

unread,

Apr 8, 2012, 2:03:43 PM

□

☐☐

to

In an earlier post today, I referred to Dudley (in Segdley),
Worcestershire.

Actually Dudley is located in Sedgley, Staffordshire.

DR



Douglas Richardson

unread,

Apr 8, 2012, 2:58:23 PM

☐☐☐

to

Dear Newsgroup ~

I might add that Charles Cawley's Medlands database shows that Sir
Roger de Somery (died 1273) had two sons by his 2nd wife, Amabil de
Chaucombe, namely Roger, born in 1255, and Percival.

As evidence, Mr. Cawley cites a charter of Roger de Somery, son of Sir
Roger de Somery, dated 1277-8, which charter was witnessed by Roger's
brother, Perceval de Somery. A transcript of this charter was
published in Collections for a History of Staffordshire, Volume 8
(1887): 177. It may be viewed at the following weblink:

<http://books.google.com/books?id=JgIVAAAAQAAJ&pg=PA177&lpg=PA177>

☐

jhigg...@yahoo.com

unread,

Apr 8, 2012, 8:29:09 PM

☐

☐

☐

to

Comments are inserted below....

On Apr 8, 10:47 am, Douglas Richardson <royalances...@msn.com> wrote:

> My comments are interspersed below. DR

>

> On Apr 8, 10:41 am, John <jhiggins...@yahoo.com> wrote:

>

> > There are two separate issues here, which shouldn't be confused:

>

> Then don't confuse them.

Ummm...I've been very clear that there arr two issues here - in fact, I made this distinction and have stuck to it. However, since it seems to confuse you, I'll focus solely on the first (and more important) issue of the parentage of Roger de Somery who d. 1273 and accept the statement of CP (and other sources) that this Roger had two wives.

>

> > 1) Whether Roger de Somery (d. 1273) was the son or the grandson of
> > Ralph de Somery and Margaret le Gras. Carter, followed by Hunt, makes
> > the argument that he was the grandson, not the son.

>

> The contemporary records don't bear out Hunt's contention. Historians
> often make poor genealogists.

>

> Hunt either ignored or suppressed evidence that Margaret le Gras' son,
> Roger de Somery, married (1st) c.1232 Nichole (or Colette) d'Aubeney
> and (2nd) c.1254 Amabil de Chaucombe.

It's hard to see how you can make any educated assessment of Hunt's work since, by your own earlier statement, you've accessed the work only via snippet views in Google Books. In fact, if you had read the book rather than just the snippets and followed up on its sources, you would see quickly (as I mentioned previously) that Hunt has not "ignored or suppressed evidence" that Roger de Somery (d. 1273) had two wives. On the contrary, he agrees with this conclusion. The question is the parentage of this Roger. Before you denigrate - and misstate - Hunt's work (without reading it), you should follow up on the sources he cited. Perhaps you might reach a different conclusion.

It's also ironic that you are now so derogatory toward Hunt's work when you previously cited him, without qualification or question, to support your conclusion regarding Margaret le Gras. Could it be that your opinion of him has changed because he now disagrees with you on another matter - a matter which you haven't yet fully researched?

>

> For example, Complete Peerage (which Hunt saw) quotes the following
> record which shows that Margaret le Gras' son, Roger de Somery, was
> living in 1240:

>

> 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.

>

> The Roger de Somery living in 1240 is clearly the one who married c.
> 1232 to Nichole (or Colette) d'Aubeney and (2nd) c.1254 Amabil de
> Chaucombe.

No, it's NOT clear that this Roger is the one who married twice - unless you've already proved the non-existence of another Roger, which you haven't.

>

> > The two pieces of evidence cited above by DR simply say that Ralph de

> > Somery and his wife Margaret had a son Roger.

>

> Actually they do. One of the pieces of property involved in these

> records was Bradfield, Berkshire which was held by the Somery family

> of Dudley (in Segdley), Worcestershire. As such, we can be certain

> that the Roger de Somery who had a mother Margaret and a nephew,

> William de Englefield, in the period c.1235-1247 is same person as

> Roger de Somery, of Dudley. Furthermore, Alan de Englefield is

> clearly stated in the second record I cited as having married Ralph de

> Somery's daughter. I might add that the Englefield family were

> subtenants of the Somery family, of Dudley, which again confirms the

> identification of the people involved in these records.

>

> <They do not confirm that this Roger was the Roger who died in 1273.

>

> The inquisition post mortem of Roger de Somery in 1273 makes it clear

> that he had two wives, Nichole d'Aubeney and Amabil de Chaucombe. The

> inquisition also makes clear that at the time of his death in 1273, he

> was holding Chipping Campden, Gloucestershire in right of of his 1st

> wife, Nichole's inheritance. Following Roger de Somery's death, this

> manor was divided in 1274 between Nichole d'Aubeney's four surviving

> daughters. That is established fact.

I'll repeat my statement, which you apparently misread: "The two

pieces of evidence cited above by DR simply say that Ralph de Somery

and his wife Margaret had a son Roger. They do not confirm that this

Roger was the Roger who died in 1273" - again, unless you've already

proved the non-existence of another Roger, which you haven't.

>

> <And the three piece of evidence mentioned by DR don't address the

> parentage of the Roger they refer to at all.

>

> You're deliberately ignoring the evidence of the Fine Rolls which I

> put right in your path.

>

- > The Fine Rolls make it clear that until 1272 Roger de Somery, of
- > Dudley, had not been succeeded by anyone. Rather he was living and
- > controlled his own estates from c.1229 until his death in 1273.

The Fine Rolls do not prove that the Roger living ca. 1229 is the same Roger who died in 1273. That's an assumption.

□

None of these records prove that the Roger who was the uncle of Nicholas de Somery was the Roger who died in 1273. That's an assumption.

- >
- > <Accordingly they don't support an argument in
- > < either direction on the first issue - unless you presuppose that
- > there
- > < was only one Roger here.
- >
- > I don't presuppose anything. I go strictly by the evidence, not
- > uninformed opinion. The evidence clearly shows that the Roger de
- > Somery living in 1240 is the same person as married (1st) Nichole
- > d'Aubeney and (2nd) Amabil de Chaucombe.

No, it doesn't clearly show that - unless you want it to show that.

[snip of information regarding the two wives of Roger (d. 1273) which is not pertinent to the question of his parentage]

- > > DR also says in his subsequent post that "Nichole d'Aubeney's share of
- > > the Chester estates was subsequently divided between her four
- > > surviving daughters, Margaret, Joan, Mabel, and Maud." What evidence
- > > supports this?
- >
- > I've cited clear evidence for the descent of Nichole d'Aubeney's
- > properties.

Yes, I see that you posted this evidence, from Rushen's book on Chipping Camden, earlier this morning, at approximately the same time I was composing the post to which you are replying above. Thank you for posting this - the two posts essentially crossed in midstream, so to speak. Incidentally, Grazebrook's 1882 article on the feudal barons of Dudley has considerably more information on the IPM of Roger de Somery (d. 1273) than is provided by Rushen - including the IPM statement that Roger was the grandson, not the son, of Ralph and Margaret.

[snip of further information regarding the two wives of Roger (d. 1273) which is not pertinent to the question of his parentage]

It's unfortunate that participation in this group has dwindled to the point where there is no input from others on an issue like this - which would definitely not have been the case a few years ago. Without such additional input, i suspect that a continued discussion of this matter will not be fruitful. But perhaps I'll be proved wrong - we'll see....



suzanne...@gmail.com

unread,

Jul 25, 2014, 9:12:58 PM



to

Hello,

I am new to this whole newsgroup venue so please be kind (I know my research results differ from public opinion) but I am researching the de Somery family because my St. John lineage began holding an estate in Dinas Powys, Glamorgan, Wales once held by the de Somery family. I believe this refers to the de Somery of Dudley family. Glamorgan Archaeologist, Howard J. Thomas excavated this property, the manor house and the parish located there

and in his report he said it was once held by the de Somery family that went "extinct" in 1320; he says they held Dinas Powys - a large subfee of the original Penmark land held by the Umfreville family. Howard J. Thomas uses the word extinct to refer to the male line ending.

I'm trying to figure out how this estate ended up in the possession of John St. John. Maybe he married a de Somery daughter? I saw one married a Sutton, in a list where only 2 were listed but then I saw something in this post that there may have been 4 daughters (but possibly earlier - it was hard to follow this string).

By 1400, this John St. John built their principal manor house on this plot of land. The estate was originally recorded (circa 1254) "Hukheloleu" which roughly means "ridgeway" or "high path" but it was incorrectly translated to English in later centuries and the incorrect translation remains; often spelled phonetically Ychelley and Uchelola. The Welsh word Uchel-olau translates to "High"-"light" in English; rather than high path or ridgeway. Today, this abandoned medieval village, is commonly known as Highlight.

This John St. John d. 1429 should not be confused with the John St. John of the Fonmon de Port-St. John d. 1424 family. Somehow, when this family moved into Glamorgan Wales in the 1300s, historians / genealogists began merging them as one family with the de Port-St. Johns (I have copies of original records showing where these errors exist). These are two unrelated families until you get back to Normandy circa 1053-1100s.

I have also been bouncing around the idea that de Somery and de Sancto Johanne may be different surnames representing the same family and maybe John St. John d. 1429 obtained the property through direct inheritance. Surnames were often obtained by the properties (de Sancto Johanne means of St. John for example) held by the individual and didn't represent genetic paternal surname descent as seen today. St. John at the edge of the sea (now St. Jean-le-Thomas) and Somery / Someri were estates in Normandy held by those close to William the Conqueror.

Any insight would be most helpful. My best guess is this John St. John married a de Somery daughter and obtained the estate through marriage; because his father died without "acknowledging" him as a son, he lost his St. John family estate to his uncle so upon marriage (I speculate) he built his manor house on this new property which remained in his family until 1728. The Archaeological report believes the h-shaped manor house was built in 1400s to replace a much smaller house that was on land surrounded by a moat.

Warm Regards,
Suz

On Tuesday, March 27, 2012 12:55:38 PM UTC-7, Douglas Richardson wrote:

> Dear Newsgroup ~
>

>
>
> In Charles Cawley's online Medlands database, he states the following:
>
>
>

> "RALPH de Somery (-[Jan/Jul] 1210). m as her first husband, MARGARET

>
> Marshal, daughter of [JOHN Marshal & his second wife Sibyl of
>
> Salisbury] (-after [1242/43]). The primary source which confirms her
>
> parentage and marriage has not yet been identified. The Complete
>
> Peerage names her and records her marriage but does not cite the
>
> primary source on which this information is based[1033]. The Pipe
>
> Roll 1210 records that "Margareta que fuit uxor Radulfi de Sumeri"
>
> arranged to pay an instalment of her fine for the assignment of her
>
> dower in midsummer[1034]. She married secondly Maurice de Gant." END
>
> OF QUOTE.
>
>
>

> While Complete Peerage does claim in its Berkeley and Somery accounts
>

> that Margaret, wife of Ralph de Somery, was the sister of William

>
> Marshal (died 1219), Earl of Pembroke, I've always found that claim
>
> rather doubtful. Indeed the editor's comments in both the Berkeley
>

- > and Somery accounts suggest that the identification of Margaret de
- >
- > Somery as the earl's sister is not at all certain.
- >
- >
- >
- > Recently I came across John Hunt's book, Lordship and the Landscape
- >
- > (1994), which discusses the early history of the Somery family. On
- >
- > pages 34-35, he presents concrete evidence from the Brooksby Cartulary
- >
- > that Ralph de Somery's wife, Margaret, was actually the daughter of
- >
- > William le Gras, which William is thought to have been married to a
- >
- > sister of Earl William Marshal. Thus, it would appear that Margaret
- >
- > de Somery was the Earl's niece, not his daughter as claimed by
- >
- > Complete Peerage.
- >
- >
- >
- > I can only provide partial abstracts from John Hunt's book as Google
- >
- > Books limit my view of his material. Regardless, this is what I can
- >
- > glean from the parts of pages 34 and 35 that I can see online:
- >
- >
- >
- > "The Marcher connection may also be reflected in the marriage of John
- >

> and Hawise's son, Ralph I de Somery, to Margaret. There is a marriage
>
> recorded before 1194 between a Ralph de Somery, of the honor of
>
> Gloucester, and Margaret, the daughter of William le Gros; William was
>
> a Gloucestershire knight who served the earl of Gloucester and was
>
> married to a sister of William Marshal I, earl of Pembroke (d. 1219).
>
> That this represents ...[part is missing here DR] The marriage of
>
> the future baron of Dudley is suggested by two documents surviving in
>
> the Brooksby cartulary. The first is the marriage contract itself, in
>
> which it is stated that William le Gros gave his land at Little Dalby
>
> to Ralph de Somery as part of the marriage agreement. The second is a
>
> confirmation charter, which may be dated to not earlier than c.1210,
>
> by which William Crassus, Margaret de Somery's brother, confirmed his
>
> widowed sister's grant of lands in ..."). END OF QUOTE.
>
>
>
>
> That William le Gras' wife was the sister of William Marshal is
>
> supported to three references to kinship between the Gras and Marshal
>
> families. In the first reference below, William le Gras the elder is
>
> styled "consanguineum" by William le Marshal the younger in a letter
>
> dated 1224. In the second reference below, Anselm le Gras, Bishop of

>
 > St. David's, is styled "nepos Marescalli" [i.e., kinsman of the Earl
 >
 > of Pembroke]. William le Gras the elder and Anselm le Gras are
 >
 > thought to be sons of the earlier William le Gras (living 1210, dead
 >
 > by 1219), who married Earl Marshal's sister. The son William le Gras
 >
 > is styled "the elder" or "first born" in records as the earlier
 >
 > William le Gras had two sons named William. The third reference below
 >
 > is a record dated 1221-2, in which Joan de Somery, daughter of
 >
 > Margaret le Gras, is styled "neptem" [kinswoman] by William Marshal
 >
 > the younger, Earl of Pembroke.
 >
 >
 >
 > 1. Shirley, Royal & Other Hist. Letters Ill. of King Henry III 1
 >
 > (1862) (Rolls Ser. 27): 500-503 [letter of William Marshal, Earl of

□

> National Archives, E 210/2932 (undated 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)
 >
 > (available at www.catalogue.nationalarchives.gov.uk/search.asp).

□



Steve Barnhoorn

unread,

Jul 28, 2014, 8:19:41 PM

☐

☐

☐

to

Looks like David Crouch also came across the same conclusion, Doug:

[http://books.google.com/books?](http://books.google.com/books?id=IOihAwAAQBAJ&pg=PA174&lpg=PA174&dq=Brooksby+Cartulary&source=bl&ots=xig8HNPiZF&sig=oqd3DBTn9Hj8xRfaGmifVDGnMh8&hl=en&sa=X&ei=BOjWU9yxNsasyAS734DYCw&ved=oCDcQ6AEwAw#v=onepage&q=Brooksby%20Cartulary&f=false)

[id=IOihAwAAQBAJ&pg=PA174&lpg=PA174&dq=Brooksby+Cartulary&source=bl&ots=xig8HNPiZF&sig=oqd3DBTn9Hj8xRfaGmifVDGnMh8&hl=en&sa=X&ei=BOjWU9yxNsasyAS734DYCw&ved=oCDcQ6AEwAw#v=onepage&q=Brooksby%20Cartulary&f=false](http://books.google.com/books?id=IOihAwAAQBAJ&pg=PA174&lpg=PA174&dq=Brooksby+Cartulary&source=bl&ots=xig8HNPiZF&sig=oqd3DBTn9Hj8xRfaGmifVDGnMh8&hl=en&sa=X&ei=BOjWU9yxNsasyAS734DYCw&ved=oCDcQ6AEwAw#v=onepage&q=Brooksby%20Cartulary&f=false)

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