NOTES CONCERNING THE FIEF D'ANNEVILLE, GUERNSEY

1. Sampson d'Anneville and the grant to de Cheney [1]

The Fief d'Anneville has a greater legendary tradition than any other Guernsey fief, especially so regarding its foundation. The often-repeated story is that William the Conqueror in 1061 granted a fief amounting to a quarter of the island to his esquire Sampson d'Anneville, in recognition of his leading a band that, with the assistance of William's almoner the Abbot of Mont St Michel, expelled pirates from Guernsey and fortified its castles. The origin of this legend is accounted for later in this report.

As for the facts, as far as these may be recovered, before the English King John's loss of continental Normandy in 1204, Sampson d'Anneville had enjoyed the Guernsey fief that takes his name. Little is known of this Sampson, though he probably originated at Anneville-en-Saire (Manche) and he is recorded in the Norman Exchequer Roll for 1180 as paying a fine *pro concordia duelli,* namely for the peaceful settlement of a judicial duel.[2]

At the *commise de fief* of 1204 Sampson d'Anneville (this was perhaps, for reasons suggested below, not the same person, but a like-named heir of the Sampson *fl.* 1180) chose allegiance to the conquering French king, Philip Augustus, no doubt to preserve the Anneville mainland estates.[3] The Guernsey fief – the Fief d'Anneville - was lost and returned to the proprietorship of the English Crown.

King John's son, Henry III, by charter of 15 May 1248, granted to the fief to William de Cheney.[4] A confirmatory Charter of Henry VIII (see below) recited this charter of 1248. The version (in French doubtless from a Latin original) supplied in connection with a Royal Commission of 1597 reads, in English, as follows:

> Henry by the grace of God King of England Lord of Ireland Duke of Normandy and of Aquitaine and count of Anjou to all archbishops bishops abbots priors counts barons justiciars viscounts prefects and ministers and to their bailiffs and to all his faithful subjects greeting. Know you that we have given ceded and by this Charter confirm to our beloved and faithful

[1] Dates throughout this note are Old Style, adjusted to a year beginning 1 January.

[2] V. Moss (ed.), *Pipe Rolls of the Exchequer of Normandy for the reign of Henry II 1180 and 1184* (London, 2004), p. 26. On what little is known of the Anneville family see T.W.M. de Guerin, "An account of the families of de St Martin and de la Court (Seigneurs of Trinity)", Société Jersiaise *Bulletin* xliv (1919), 54-95, pp. 79-80.

[3] "Guernsey Assize Roll 1299: Prof. Le Patourel's translation and notes" - Typescript supplied to the present writer by Joan Stevens, Jersey, 1985: f. 18; Société Jersiaise, *Rolls of the Assizes held in the Channel Islands in the second year of the reign of Edward II AD 1309* (Jersey, 1903), p. 38. cf. W. Stevenson, "English Rule in the Channel Islands in a period of transition 1204-1259", *Transactions* of la Société Guernesiaise xx (1977), 234-258.

[4] *Calendar of Charter Rolls* Henry III, i, 1226-1257 (London, 1903), p. 331. The enrolment should be found under the National Archives' reference C53/40, membrane 4, first entry (32 Hen. III 15 May, at Woodstock).

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> William de Cheney the revenue of £10 tournois with its appurtenances in the island of Guernsey which belonged to Sampson d'Anneville which have escheated from our Norman lands to hold and be held by the said William and by his heirs of us and of our successors for as long as the lands of England and of Normandy shall remain not joined together in rendering to us and to our successors the services due and customary. Therefore, we will and firmly command for us and for our successors that the said William and his heirs shall have and hold the said revenue of £10 tournois with all its appurtenances from us and from our successors well and peaceably and entirely for as long as the aforesaid lands of England and Normandy remain joined [*sic*] upon making to us and to our successors the services due and customary. Given under our hand at Woodstock on 15 June of the 32nd year of our reign [1248].[5]

The calendared version of this Charter records that by it Henry III granted to William de Cheney "a rent of 10l. of Tours in the isle of Gernere, late of Sampson de Aundevill, which was the king's escheat of the lands of the Normans to be held by the said William, his heirs and assigns, by rendering to the king the services due therefrom, until the lands of England and Normandy be one".[6] This version may be more accurate than that given above in that there is in the latter a contradiction, perhaps to be accounted for by a copying error, in the penultimate paragraph concerning the re-joining, or not re-joining, according to an earlier paragraph, of England and Normandy.[7]

The *extente* of Crown revenues of that same year, 1248, notes, without naming any *seigneur*, that the two *carucates* of fief d' Anneville owed the King, by the terms of its tenure, the duty of keeping a prison.[8] The jurors of the parish of St Sampson gave evidence contributing to inquisitions of 1274 that the heirs of (William) de Cheney held those two *carucates* from the escheat of Sampson d'Audeville, though at that date there was some question as to ownership, probably pending the settlement of de Cheney's estate, causing the fief temporarily to be in the hands of the King's *Prévôt*.[9]

Later records suggest that before the time of the reversion of the fief to John (1204) it had been owned not solely by Sampson d'Anneville but by Sampson *and John* d'Anneville. These presumably were the heirs of the Sampson named in 1180. In 1299, Philip de Cheney, son and one of the heirs of William de Cheney, asserted before assizes that he enjoyed the tenements and their appurtenances once held by Sampson d'Anneville and John d'Anneville, although he could not for the moment exhibit the charters to the judges because these were kept in England. He was given time to present

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[5] Greffe, Guernsey; Greffe Coll. no. 10, p. 98, an eighteenth-century copy.

[6] *Calendar of Charter Rolls* vol. i, p. 331.

[7] Another eighteenth-century copy of the charter at the Priaulx Library, St Peter Port (d'Anneville file), similarly contains the paragraph contradicting the re-joining, or not re-joining, of England and Normandy.

[8] H. de Sausmarez, *The Extentes of Guernsey 1248 and 1331 and other documents relating to the ancient usages and customs in that island* (Guernsey, 1934), p. 26.

[9] Société Jersiaise, *Extente des Iles de Jersey, Guernesey, Aurigny et Serk suivie des Inquisitions dans les Iles de Jersey et Guernesey 1274 Edouard I* (Jersey, 1877), p. 33.

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these when the judges were in Jersey.[10] By the time of the assizes of 1309 the fief was partly in the hands of the same Philip de Cheney and partly of his brother Nicolas. Upon being questioned how they claimed the twelfth sheaf (*champart*) of all corn grown upon the four *bouvées* of their land in the parish of St Sampson they referred to Henry III's charter to their father William de Cheney described above. This matter was referred to a jury and the brothers required to present the charter in England. In the meantime, the jury reported that John and Sampson d'Anneville had indeed collected the *champart* as alleged.

The descent of the fief to modern times is well known and in fact recited in some of the title deeds. This report turns to some detail of the Fouaschin period of ownership.

2. The Fouaschin seigneurs and the Tudors

By contract of 16 February 1510 Lord Brooke, a descendant of the Cheneys, conveyed the Fief d'Anneville (together with fiefs le Comte, Carteret and Beuval and other property in Guernsey) to Nicholas Fouaschin, the son of Thomas.[11] This Nicholas was a Guernsey merchant based in Southampton and one of the gentlemen ushers at the court of King Henry VIII.[12] Nicholas's son, Thomas (d. 1558), became mayor of Southampton, and to him Nicholas conveyed the Fief d'Anneville (and the others) on 31 October 1535.[13]

Thomas Fouaschin (or Fashion to use the name and its variants by which the family was known by this date) was challenged as to his title to his fiefs, including Anneville, by a Royal commission of Elizabeth I of 1597. He supplied some imaginative material, particularly a purported act of the Norman Exchequer of 1061 telling the story of the expulsion of pirates from Guernsey by Sampson d'Anneville and his consequent reward. Not only in that there is no original or any other such early reference to the Norman Exchequer known, Fouaschin's submission to the Commissioners also referred to payments due in 1061 in *livres tournois*, which was not the currency at that time.[14]

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[10] Assize Roll 1299, f. 18; *Rolls of the Assizes ... 1309*, pp. 38-39.

[11] Priaulx Library: Fashion family file.

[12] T.W.M. de Guerin, "Feudalism in Guernsey", *Transactions* of the Guernsey Society of Natural Science, vi (1909), 58-82, pp.77-78. E.F. Carey, "Historical Pitfalls for Students of Local History" *Transactions* of la Société Guernesiaise xx (1925), 435-455, pp. 448-449; M. Fauroux, *Recueil des Actes des Ducs de Normandie (911-1066)* (Caen, 1961), p. 29 n. 47.

[13] Island Archives, Guernsey: AQ 110/7. On Thomas see C. Butler, *The Book of Fines: the annual accounts of the Mayors of Southampton* ii (1540-71), (Southampton, 2009), p. 108. A transcription of his will, of 1558, which mentions the fief, may be found at https://ibequeath.wordpress.com/2020/04/11/thomas-fasshin-fouaschin-1558-of-southampton-merchant/ (accessed 20 Sept. 2022).

[14] Island Archives: Royal Court Library *Historical Documents*, vii, 35r-62v, ff. 45r-46v.

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Nicolas' connection with the court of Henry VIII was mentioned above and doubtless this helped Thomas gain confirmation of the (authentic) Charter of 1248 by letters patent of Henry VIII of 30 June 1546.[15] We turn to another connection in relation to the Wolfe map, below.

3. The historical rights and revenues of Fief d'Anneville

The principal honour and obligation attaching to the seigneurship of the Fief d'Anneville, which does not attach to all fiefs, is the attendance of the Seigneur before sessions of the Royal Court's Chief Pleas (*Chefs Plaids*). This Court is held three times a year, although seigneurs attend only annually, paying Suit of Court, acknowledging their ownership. Dinner follows. Homage to the Crown in certain circumstances might also be requested.

Notable amongst other privileges of Fief d'Anneville are the rights of warren and of chase. By charter of Prince Edward (later King Edward I) of 9 June 1261, Sir William de Cheney, seigneur of Anneville, was given rights of hunting throughout Guernsey and the liberty of keeping a rabbit warren.[16] A warren – the *Garenne d'Anneville* – survives, the property of Garenne Property Limited (formerly Garenne Holdings Limited) as purchaser from John de Putron on 25 July 1985. Its area, recorded on the States of Guernsey Cadastre to be seven *vergées,* thirty-three *perches*, is maintained as a nature reserve by La Société Guernesiaise.[17]

There were three dependent fiefs:

Fief de Fauville, despite having its own *livres de perchage* from 1801 and being sold separately from Fief d'Anneville in 1964, undoubtedly was the principle sub-fief of Fief d'Anneville.[18] It probably took its name from the hamlet of Fauville near Saint-Mère-Église, its tenancy having been granted by the d'Anneville family to someone of that district or name. Historically, Fief de Fauville contained eleven bouvées of land, each property on it owing to the Seigneur eight denerels of wheat and two *sous* annually; those with houses built thereon yearly owing two chickens (*poulage*). In the 1331 *extente* William de Cheney's revenue from *la caruee de Foville* was set out and it was noted that he did not exact hearth tax (*fouage*) from his tenants.

[15] Recited *Historical Documents*, vii ff. 49r-50r. I cannot find any enrolment of this; certainly, it is not recorded in the *Letters and Papers Henry VIII* (21 vols and addenda, London, 1864-1932).

[16] The charter, as confirmed by Henry IV, is printed in W. Berry, *The History of the Island of Guernsey* (London, 1815), 141. On the *garenne* see E. Carey, *Essays on Guernsey History* (Guernsey, 1936), pp. 24-26.

[17] States of Guernsey Cadastre, ref. B014990000; Société Guernesiaise website: https://societe.org.gg/wp/nature-reserves/ accessed 23 Sept. 2022.

[18] https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-guernsey-30249257 accessed 22 Sept. 2022.

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The *livres de perchage* (which supply the names and extent of the holdings of tenants of the sub-fief of Fauville) survive for the years 1594, 1663, 1683, 1745, *c.* 1790, 1801, 1829, 1855, 1877, 1899, 1918, and 1938.[19]

La Croute Bouilleuse is a small sub-fief. Its extent is set out in successive *livres de perchage* of the main Fief d'Anneville. It owed the Seigneur 24 *sous*, four loaves, four hens and eighty eggs, save that by agreement of 27 April 1717 that part of the estate of the Grandes Capelles which lies upon La Croute Bouilleuse is exempt from *chefrentes*. This sub-fief probably derives its name from the large field upon it, the Courtil de la Croute Bouilleuse, a name that might to a spring at that location.

The *extente* of 1331 follows the Fauville entry with one relating to Franc Fief de la Rosière, recording that it also belonged to de Cheney, who collected the like revenues from its tenants as he did from those of Fauville, in this case amounting annually to *five sous tournois* and one quarter of wheat, due at the Feast of St Michael (29 Sept.)[20] Although its area is known, the sub-fief of la Rosière has left few records save for that description of 1331. It remained, like Fauville, a dependency of the Fief d'Anneville. Its name, if not referring to a surname or a rose garden, may relate to reed beds.[21]

The extent of the lands of the fief upon which the Seigneur charged rents was periodically set out in *livres de perchage*, which identified both the *tenant(e)s* of the fief and their holdings. Those *livres* which survive for the Fief d'Anneville are dated 1594, 1663, 1683, 1745, 1758, *c.* 1790, 1801, 1829, 1855, 1878, 1898, 1918, and 1939.[22] These lands, amounting to seventeen *bouvées* of *villain fief*, owed *chefrente* of two bushels of wheat rent for each *bouvée* and, for each house erected thereon, two chickens.[23] The *livre* was arranged by *bouvées*, designating the *chef de bouvée* of each, with responsibility each in turn to act as *prévôt*, collecting these dues.

As the fourteenth-century and other records indicate, tenants also owed *champart*, the twelfth sheaf of grain crops, as was the case on most other fiefs.[24] Minor dues such as *pesnage* (on keeping pigs) may also have been paid. Any income from the manorial demesne, whether for rents of land or otherwise, would have been accounted for separately.

Treizième was owed to the Seigneur upon any cash transfer of property on the fief. Although referring to a thirteenth this usually was commuted for a lesser sum (*congé*), invariably so in the twentieth century, of two *per cent* of any purchase price. In turn, upon any transfer of the fief, the incoming

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[19] Island Archives: AQ 1324/02 (J.H. Lenfestey's *livres de perchage* collection).

[20] de Sausmarez, *Extentes of Guernsey,* p. 114.

[21] Cf. C. Stevens *et al*., *Jersey Place Names* (2 vols, Jersey, rev. edn, 2017), i, p. 466.

[22] Island Archives: AQ 1324/02 (J.H. Lenfestey's *livres de perchage* collection).

[23] On the 'villain' aspect see R. Hocart, *The Country People of Guernsey and their Agriculture 1640-1840* (Guernsey, 2016), 26-27.

[24] Berry, *The History of the Island of Guernsey*, p. 125.

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seigneur (or dame) owed the Crown *relief* in the amount of four shillings and one penny, besides *treizième*.[25]

Aveu was also due on any change of ownership, amounting to the new tenant attending the *Chef Plaids* of the manorial court. acknowledging the Seigneur and paying a fine said by Berry to be five *sous tournois*.[26] He or she was thereafter required to answer to the Court at least once every three years, on pain of temporary confiscation of the tenement.[27]

This Court was held annually on the Mondays after Chief Pleas of the Royal Court after St Michel (29 Sept.) at 11.30 am. It met at the manor house of Anneville (in its ancient porch in the nineteenth century) and comprised the *Seneschal*, appointed by the Seigneur, two *vavasseurs* (jurymen), two *prévôts* (one for Anneville and the other for Fauville) and a *greffier* who kept the written record.[28] *Douzaines* of tenants of the fiefs Anneville and Fauville were periodically (approximately every twenty years) sworn to produce up-to-date *livres de perchage*.

There is no record of common lands of the Fief d'Anneville and its dependencies: in Guernsey these tend to be along the seacoasts (and perhaps parochial rather than manorial) and no part of Anneville extends to the sea.

Note however that the *Feudal Dues (Guernsey) Law, 1980* (as amended) included – amongst other provisions - the provision that *treizièmes*, *chef-rentes*, escheats, *varech* (or wreck of the sea), *poulage*, *quarantaine* (eggs) and any other incidents of feudal tenure payable in money or money' s worth were abolished, transferring the right of any person to any feudal dues by virtue of that person holding an interest in a private fief to the Crown and any obligation correlative to such right was thereby extinguished.[29]

The Chapel

The chapel of St Thomas d'Anneville attached to the fief, in or near its manor house.[30] This is known from the appointment in 1498 by the Bishop of Coutances of Dom John Hardy, following the death of the previous chaplain, Dom John Ettur. This was at the request of the *Dominus temporalis* of the Fief, Edmond de Cheney.[31]

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[25] Eg see the receipt of 20 Sept. 1951 in the file Island Archives: AQ 1324/03.

[26] Berry, *The History of the Island of Guernsey,* p. 125.

[27] Hocart, *Country People of Guernsey,* p. 25.

[28] J.F. Hutchesson, *Vestiges de la Féodalité dans les Iles Anglo-Normandes* (Paris, 1932), p. 64.

[29] https://www.guernseylegalresources.gg/CHttpHandler.ashx?documentid=56385 accessed

[30] Cf. J.A. McCormack, *Channel Island Churches* (Chichester, 1986), pp. 289-299.

[31] G.E. Lee, "Extraits des registres du Secrètariat de l'Évêché de Coutances 1487-1557", Société Jersiaise *Bulletin,* ii (1889), p. 416.

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4. The Manor House on ancient maps

The manor house of Fief d'Anneville has been prominent on several printed maps of Guernsey including those of Gerard Mercator (1595) and Herman Moll (1724), being marked "Syr Dawne Ville".[32] This is puzzling: the house is ancient and interesting. It does not, however, warrant the same sort of label as parish churches and fortifications. A solution may be found by reference to a manuscript map sold in 2020 (https://www.raremaps.com/gallery/detail/54904/guernsey-wolfe).[33] The creator of this manuscript map was Reynold Wolfe (d. in or before 1547), a Netherlandish printer and bookseller, with connections to the Court of Henry VIII. It supplied the precedent for Mercator, Moll, and others. The best explanation is that Nicolas Fouaschin, Seigneur of Anneville from 1510, gentleman usher to Henry VIII, or (less likely) his son or grandson, was Wolfe's informant about the island, and, not unnaturally, ensured that his own manor be given some significance.

Darryl Ogier
23 Sept. 2022

[32] E. Harris and K. Fisher, *Guernsey on the Map* (Guernsey, 2004), pp.9-21.

[33] accessed 23 Sept. 2022. I am grateful to Dr Philip de Jersey for drawing my attention to this.

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