

NOTES ON THE SUSSEX FAMILY OF SAVAGE

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THE NAME SAVAGE

The earliest known member of the Sussex family of Savage is one Robert who is recorded in Domesday Book as holding various manors under William de Braose, tenant-in-chief of a division of the County which was later called the Rape of Bramber. Little is known of him or his successors in the next three generations, also called Robert, except that their names are recorded as witnesses to various transactions, mostly connected with the affairs of the de Braose family (see below).

The earliest records are in Latin and the name appears as [Rober-tus] *Silvaticus* or *Salvagius*. These words are adjectives derived from the Latin *silva*, meaning woodland, and could be applied to a person, animal, or place associated with wild or forest country. In Old French *silvaticus* became *sauvage* or *salvage*, and *salvagius* became an alternative Latin form. It is clear from contemporary documents that the Robert of Domesday and his successors bore the descriptive title *le Sauvage*. Probably he brought it with him from Normandy. The description presumably derived from the character of the country in which the family was established. In one document of the time of William I two witnesses (Robert and Geoffrey) are so named, indicating that the title had by then become attached to the family (France 396).¹

¹ The following abbreviations have been used in this paper:—

Abb. Plac.	<i>Abbreviatio Placitorum</i> (1811)
AD	<i>Catalogue of Ancient Deeds</i>
Cal. Gen.	<i>Calendarium Genealogicum</i>
Chichester	W. D. Peckham (ed.), <i>Chartulary of the High Church of Chichester</i> , S.R.S., vol. 46
CR	<i>Calendar of Close Rolls</i>
Dall.	J. Dallaway, <i>History of the Western Division of Sussex</i> , 2 vols., 1815-32
FF	<i>Feet of Fines</i>
FRANCE	J. H. Round, <i>Calendar of Documents preserved in France</i> , (1899)
IPM	<i>Calendar of Inquisitions post mortem</i>
Pat	<i>Calendar of Patent Rolls</i>
PN	A. Mawer and F. M. Stenton, <i>The Place-Names of Sussex</i> (1929-30).
SAC	<i>Sussex Archaeological Collections</i>
SF	L. F. Salzman (comp.) <i>An Abstract of Feet of Fines relating to the County of Sussex</i> , S.R.S. II, Ric. I-33 Hen. III; VII, 34 Hen. III-35 Ed. I; XXIII, I Ed. II-24, Hen. VII.
SPL	L. F. Salzman (ed.) <i>Chartulary of Priory of St. Pancras of Lewes</i> , S.R.S., vol. 40.
SRS	Sussex Record Society.
VCH	Victoria County History, <i>Sussex</i> .

It has been suggested that the description was originally applied to a member of the family in a figurative sense, referring to some personal characteristic for which he was known (SAC, 8, 33). This seems unnecessary. But if the suggestion were correct the word need not have been used in a derogatory sense. On the contrary, in the 13th century "savage" was used to mean "indomitable, intrepid, valiant" (Oxford English Dictionary). Its unpleasing connotation seems to have developed later.

THE RAPE OF BRAMBER AND THE SAVAGE MANORS

Following the Conquest the security and control of Sussex became matters of vital concern to King William. Situated across his most direct lines of communication with Normandy, on which he was still largely dependent, the county was an essential link in the government of both parts of his dominion. Sussex had already been divided for administrative purposes into 'Rapes,' the origin of which is uncertain. William reorganised them on feudal lines. Six Rapes were eventually established, each under a tenant-in-chief who had proved himself worthy of the royal trust. The divisions between the Rapes ran roughly from the coast to the northern boundary of the county. Each Rape was based on a town and harbour which were dominated by a fortress held by the lord.

We are concerned with the Rape of Bramber, as it came to be called. Its boundaries can be described roughly as follows: nine miles along the coast between Goring and Portslade, and nine miles along the northern boundary of the county between Stane Street and Crawley. The distance from south to north was about twenty-three miles. The east and west boundaries were irregular, depending on the shape of the Hundreds, nine of which were comprised in this Rape. The width of the area varied from nine to twelve miles. That was the region which King William entrusted to William de Braose about the year 1073 (SAC, 102, pp. 77, 86). His title derived from the lordship of Braose in Normandy (now spelt Briouze) about 16 miles south-west of Falaise, the Conqueror's home town.

The Rape was based on Steyning, then a port of some note four miles up the river Adur. On a hill commanding the port de Braose built his fortress, Bramber Castle, of which a small part survives. Bramber was a hide of land belonging to the manor of Washington.

William de Braose received in all 41 manors in Sussex, besides others in Hants and Dorset (Dall. II, 175). He conferred large benefactions on the Church, particularly the Abbey of St. Florent at Saumur in the diocese of Auger. A French document dated 1073 records that when he 'crossed the sea and went to Maine in the army with William King of the English,' he gave to St. Nicholas of Bramber (inter alia) the tithes of his revenues from, and the demesne in his possession of, the following manors: Bedinges (Upper Beeding), Eringeham (Erringham in Upper Beeding and

Shoreham), Hortone (in Upper Beeding), Sudewic (Southwick), Sorham (Shoreham), Luvenhest, Anningtona (Annington), Wassingtone (Washington), Belingetone (Bidlington in Bramber), Sicumba, Abestela, Scapeliia, Tortentona (Tottington in Upper Beeding), Bodingtona (Bunton), Fintona (Findon), Essingtona (Assington), Tacaham (Thackham), Monham (Muntham), Clopeham (Clapham). Also tithes of the tolls at Steyning and Bramber Castle (France, 405).

Thirteen years later Domesday Book (1086) was compiled, containing a detailed description of all manors, with the names of their holders—manors held directly by the lord and those distributed among his Knights and followers on feudal terms. Among the latter was a group held by the Robert who is clearly identifiable as Robert le Sauvage.

The following is a list of his holdings as recorded in Domesday:

Broadwater	18 hides 19 ploughs
Durrington	1 and 2 hides
Worthing	9 and 1½ hides
Sompting (part)	Possibly Sompting Weald, a detached part of the manor in Itchingfield, where the family held land.
Lancing	12 hides
Ashington	
(part of Washington)	5½ ploughs
Bunton	11 ploughs

(See V.C.H. I. 447 for full text)

The principal manor held by Robert was Broadwater.¹ The following Domesday description is taken from V.C.H., I, p. 447:

“ Robert holds of William (de Braose) Bradewatre.

Wigot held it of King Edward. Then it was assessed for 29 hides. Of these 9 hides are in the Rape of William de Warene (at Aldrington, Rape of Lewes) and William de Braiose has 2 hides in demesne. What Robert holds has paid geld for 6 hides. There is land for 7 ploughs. On the demesne are 2 ploughs, and there are 30 villeins and 4 bordars with 10 ploughs. There is a Church and 3 serfs, and 1 mill yielding 7 shillings, and 60 acres of meadow. Woodland yielding 20 swine. Of this land, 1 knight holds 1 hide. The whole in the time of King Edward and afterward was worth 15 pounds, now 14 pounds.”

It is interesting to note how Robert's manors dovetailed in with William de Braose's own defensive dispositions. William kept in his own hands Shoreham on the east side of the river Adur and the manors running west from Steyning (Wiston, Washington and Sullington); also Findon on the passage through the Downs from Washington to the coast. Robert's Lancing, backed by the Downs, commanded the mouth and western bank of the river. His Broadwater, with Worthing, covered the coast end of the Findon passage, while his Durrington covered the western approach from Arundel. The important cross-roads at Washington were in de Braose's hands, with Sullington on the Pulborough road, and were covered

¹ For a full description and history of Broadwater Manor see Henfrey Smail, *Notable houses of Worthing*, No. 2 (1950), pp. 49-76.

on the north and north-east by Robert's Ashington and Buncton. The association between the two men must have been pretty close.

Not mentioned in Domesday but probably dating back to the 11th century, the Lord of Broadwater also acquired a substantial holding at Sedgewick, two miles south of Horsham in the forest country of north Sussex, where the hunting provided not only a favourite sport but also an important contribution to the food supply. Horsham had provided swine pasturage for the community at Washington in Saxon times (PN, 227). The Lords of Bramber as holders of that manor now developed the association. At Chesworth, two miles from Horsham and $1\frac{1}{2}$ m. from Sedgewick the de Braoses established a residence, originally no doubt a hunting lodge, but later a mansion at which kings were entertained (SAC, 6, 48).

Particulars of the Sauvage connection with Sedgewick are given below. It formed a detached part of the manor and parish of Broadwater. An early road system connected the two areas.

Itchingfield, three miles south-west of Horsham, was another area in which the lords of Broadwater had interests. It may have been the manor of Sompting Weald, a detached part of Sompting manor mentioned in the Domesday list (above). In 1222 a later Robert le Sauvage bought the advowson from John de Keinen for 40 shillings and a rent of 12 pence per year out of a tenement on his Sedgewick property (SF, 6 Hen. III; SRS, II, 172). The earliest known presentation to the benefice was made by his daughter Hawys in 1270.

The story of Sedgewick Castle is of much interest. It will be found mainly in two articles in *S.A.C.* The first, written in 1856 by the Rev. Edward Turner (vol. 8, p. 31), contains a description and plan of the site as he knew it, abandoned for centuries to ruin and decay—a quarry for stone. The second, written in 1925 by S. E. Winbolt (vol. 66, p. 83) gives a full and illustrated account of the scientific survey and excavation carried out by himself upon the site. There is also a record of the history of the site and buildings from the 11th century to modern times. These articles may be read in conjunction with the extracts from Norman sources which are set out in the following pages. Reference may also be made to *A History of the Castles, Mansions and Manors of Western Sussex* (1876) by D. G. C. Elwes and C. J. Robinson, p. 54.

The Park was 400 acres in 1326 (Tower Records, 90). In 1608 when it was disparked it comprised 624 acres (SAC, 8, 38).

THE SAUSAGE FAMILY IN THE NORMAN PERIOD

The Domesday estates of the family of le Sauvage in Sussex were held in the direct line for six generations—five Roberts and a daughter Hawys. On her death they passed to her husband's descendants. Our knowledge of the early history of the family is limited to such

references to individuals as appear in contemporary records which have survived. These are collected in the following pages.

For convenience the five Roberts have been numbered I to V, but the dating of their respective periods, except the last, is conjectural.

The family estate in north Sussex was separated from the remainder by ROBERT (V) and passed in turn to his son, grandson and great-grandson. This is as far as we can actually trace a continuous Norman succession. But we can trace the spread of the family throughout the centuries from its original centre across a considerable part of the county.

1075. Charter of Foundation of Priory of St. Peter, Sele, Upper Beeding, by William de Braose. The numerous witnesses include ROBERTUS (I) SALVAGIUS (earliest mention of the name). (Dugdale, *Monasticon*, IV, 668).

(Probably about same date) ROBERT (I) LE SAUVAGE granted the Priory of Sele a moiety of the great tithes of Durrington (Dall., II, 16-17).

Undated letter of William de Braose to his son and all his lieges recording benefactions to St. Gervase of Braose and St. Florent. Witnesses include ROBERTUS (I) SILVATINUS (*sic*) and GAUFREDUS (Geoffrey) SILVATICUS. (France, 396-7).

1080. King William settles a dispute over title to lands, at Caen. ROBERTUS (I) SILVATICUS in King's suite. (France, 398).

1086. Domesday Book. List of manors held by ROBERTUS (I). (See above).

1096. Philip de Braose confirms gifts made by his father, William (including St. Peter Sele, St. Nicholas Bramber and Prebend of Geoffrey of Bramber). Witness: ROBERTUS (I) SALVAGIUS. (France, 401).

1130. Gifts of land at Shoreham made by William de Braose. Witnesses: ROBERTUS (II) SALVAGIUS and SALVAG. (SPL).

1164. Settlement of dispute between Abbey of Fécamp and J. de Tresgoz. Witness: ROBERTUS (III) SALVAGIUS. (France, 48-49).

1170. Gift by Simon of Edburton of 18 acres and pasture for 100 sheep. Witness: ROBERTUS (III) SALVAGIUS. (SPL).

1180-1204. Settlement of dispute re presentation to Chapel at Buncton. Witnesses included William de Broase and ROBERT (IV) SALVAGE (SPL).

1195. Resettlement of dispute of 1164 (above). Witness: ROBERTUS (IV) SALVAGIUS. (France, 48, 49).

1197. ROBERT (IV) LE SAUVAGE gave King John 20 shillings to have his plaint in the King's Court against John de Combe for the marriage of John's daughter which ROBERT claimed to be in his gift. (Madox., *Hist. Exch.*, 540).

1199. Grant of 2 shillings p.a. by ROBERT (IV) SAUVAGE to Holy Trinity, Chichester. (Chichester).

1199. Ric. de Knelle and Wife Isabella to SIBYLL LE SAUVAGE and son ROBERT (V) half hide at Durrington. Also agreement re tenure of three hides formerly owned by THOMAS LE SAUVAGE. (SF. 1 John, SRS., II, 39).

1200. ROBERT (IV) LE SAUVAGE lord of Broadwater and ROBERT (V) his son sold one virgate at Durrington to Richard de la Knelle and Isabella his wife. (Dall. II, 16-17).

1204-7. Grant to John de Sumeri. Witness: ROBERT (IV) SAVAGE 'Sergeant of the County of Sussex.' (Chichester).

1218. Four knights' fees at Thakeham and Clayton (in Washington) held by ROBERT (V) LE SAUVAGE of Stephen le Poer, who held of Reginald de Braose, chief lord, were henceforth to be held by Stephen of Robert and by Robert of de Braose. (SF, 2 Hen. III, 138; SRS, II; CR., 1242-7, 436).

- 1220.** Gift of land at Lordington to Priory. Witness: JAMES SALVAGIUS (SPL).
- 1222.** Grants of vicarage of Lancing. Witness: WILLIAM SAVAGE (Chichester).
- 1222.** ROBERT (V) LE SAUVAGE bought advowson of Itchingfield from John de Keinen for 40 shillings and a rent of 12 pence p.a. out of a tenement on his Sedgewick property. (SF. SRS., II, 172).
- 1223.** ROBERT (V) LE SAUVAGE bought house and land at Itchingfield from Hugh de Mabel and Susannah. (FF, 7 Hen. III).
- 1234.** ROBERT (V) LE SAUVAGE was appointed custodian of Pevensey, Bramber and Knepp Castles owing to danger of war with France. (Pat., 18 Hen. III, 58; SAC, 5, 144 and 18, 142, 145).
Also appointed guardian of William de Braose during minority. (SAC, 8, 31).
- 1235-41.** ROBERT DE SAUVAGE witness to settlement of dispute between Bishop of Chichester and Earl of Pembroke. (Chichester).
- 1242.** 'ROBERT LE SAUVAGE holds 4 knight's fees in Brawat (Broadwater) Sedgwyke and Garingle (Goringlee, part of Broadwater). Stephen le Poer holds 4 knight's fees of the same Robert in Techeham (Thakeham) and Clayton.' (*Testa de Nevill* II, 689).
- 1246-48.** ROBERT (V) LE SAUVAGE Sheriff of Sussex.
- 1246.** Sir ROBERT (V) LE SAUVAGE, Sheriff, witness to grant of land at Edburton (SPL).
- 1246.** Death of John Nevill, husband of HAWYS daughter of ROBERT (V) LE SAUVAGE.
- 1247.** HAWYS married Sir John de Gatesden, Sheriff of Sussex, 1235-1238.
- 1249.** ROBERT (V) LE SAUVAGE granted to John Maunsel a lease for life of the manor of Sedgewick and also 'all the land which he has at any time held of the Abbot of Fescaump in the parishes of Northurst (Nuthurst) and Horsham lying outside the park of the manor of Segewyke.' He also covenanted not to part with his interest in the manors of Broadwater, Worthing, Sedgewick and Goringlee in Sussex and Steyneby (Stainsby) in Derby. (SF, 33 Hen. III; SRS, II, 450). Maunsel was a trusted counsellor of Henry III and a notorious pluralist.
- 1256.** ROBERT (V) LE SAUVAGE granted the manor of Broadwater to John de Gatesden and HAWYS and the heirs of John. (SF, 40 Hen. III; SRS, VII, 604).
- 1258 and 1262.** John Maunsel obtained from the King grants to strengthen 'his house of Seggewick with fosses and a wall of stone and lime to crenellate and fortify it.' These were the first of such grants in Sussex. (Pat. 43 Hen. III, M.15 and 46 Hen. III, M.13).
- 1262.** John de Gatesden died. His widow HAWYS assumed the name of Nevill(e) her first husband.
- 1263.** John Maunsel was forced to flee the country.
- 1265.** He died abroad.
- 1266.** Lawsuit between JOHN LE SAVAGE and William de Braose who claimed Sedgewick as having escheated to him on the death of John Maunsel overseas. The court found for John le Savage. (Abb. Plac., 174, 52 Hen. III).
- 1267.** Dispute between JOHN LE SAVAGE and William de St. Omer about the manor of Sedgewick and its appurtenances. (CR., 51 Hen. III, 383).

We are able to identify JOHN LE SAVAGE beyond doubt as the son of ROBERT (V) and brother of HAWYS DE NEVILLE and of JOAN LA SAUVAGE. The records state that his mother was Aldeluya (or Adelmia) the wife of ROBERT LE SAUVAGE, that his wife's name was HAWYSIA and that they had two sons, ROGER, b. 1256, and JOHN, b. 1266. He died, c. 1273, possessed of properties in Sussex and of the manor of Staynesby (Stainsby), Derby, which he held of the King as tenant-in-chief. His mother and his widow received dower of his estate and the latter

obtained an order enforcing her right to administer his Derby estate. (Abb. Plac., p. 264, 2 Ed. I; IPM, 3 Ed. I (1275), No. 13 and 4 Ed. I (1276), No. 16; Cal. Gen., pp. 221, 234). The Stainsby manor had belonged to ROBERT (V), as shown by the reference to it in his lease to John Maunsell (1249 above). Further, John's relationship to Robert came directly in issue in the 1266 litigation (above). From the record it appears that Robert, who had granted to Maunsell a lease for life of the Sedgewick properties, had died before Maunsell's death in 1265. John then claimed the properties as Robert's son and heir against William de Braose who claimed an escheat. John succeeded in establishing his title and recovered possession. (Abb. Plac., 52 Hen. III, p. 174).

1268. Fine of agreement between William de Braose and HAWYS DE NEVILLE, whereby the latter's obligation for *Muragium* (contributions to fortifications at Bramber due from military tenants of William's Sussex fief) was compounded for 96 marks. The document is endorsed with a "claim" by JOHN LE SAUVAGE and JOAN his sister recording their interest in the transaction. (SF, 52, Hen. III; SRS VII, 729-730).

Here we have a view of the Savage estates in 1268 at their peak and shortly before they passed into other hands. Hawys daughter of Robert (V) le Sauvage held them in dower as widow of John de Gatesden to whose heir they would pass on her death.

The result of the fine in 1218 (*supra*) was that ROBERT (V) held eight fees of the chief lord, of which four were represented by his own inheritance—Broadwater (with Durrington) Sedgewick and Goringlee (*Testa de Nevill*)—and four by Thakeham with its appurtenances which continued as before to be held by the family of le Poer, but now under Robert.

The fine of 1268 shows that Hawys then held, clearly as in dower, all eight fees. It further lists 12 lesser estates comprised in the le Sauvage holdings. These were:—

Worthing (a hamlet belonging to Broadwater).

Walecot (probably on the borders of Durrington and Clapham).

Mondeham (probably Muntham in Findon, held of the head manor of Thakeham. Part of Muntham adjoined Itchingfield).

Hechyngefild (Itchingfield, included in the four fees of Buncton comprising Thakeham which passed to Robert as chief tenant, 1218).

Essington (Ashington, a chapelry).

Garyngeleye (Goringlee, Thakeham, PN. 181).

Launcynges (Lancing).

Annyngedon (Annington in Botolphs just south of Bramber).

Bongeton (Buncton).

Changeton le Boys (Chancton in Washington, part of Broadwater).

Thornwyke (in Storrington).

Rowedell (in Washington).

(See Article by Dr. J. H. Round in SAC, 59, 17-23).

1269. John de Gatesden deceased and HAWIS DE NEVILLE "sometime his wife." Grant by King to Robert Walerand of certain manors of the deceased (including Broadwater and Durrington) saving to Hawis her reasonable dower. (IPM, 706. 53 Hen. III).

1272. JOHN LE SAVAGE and his son ROGER exchanged Sedgewick Manor, Park and Castle with William de Braose for other lands held under the Honor of Bramber. The 'other lands' may well have been Burbuck, Lower Beeding, which was a park belonging to the lords of Bramber, about 4 miles east of Sedgewick. (Abb. Plac., 185; CR. I Ed. I; SAC, 8, 35).

1276. ROGER LE SAVAGE confirmed by release and quitclaim to William de Braose and his heirs for ever the exchange of Sedgewick (*supra*). (CR, 4 ED. I).

c. **1275-80.** HAWYS DE NEVILLE died. Her Sussex estates held in dower from her second husband reverted to Margaret de Gatesden his heir who married John de Camoys. From the Camoys family the estates eventually passed through co-heirs to the Rodmyll and Lewkenor families.

1280. EDMUND LE SAUVAGE endorsed claim re messuage and land at Ferring, Goring and Chiltington (north of Storrington) (SF, 8 Ed. I; SRS, VII, 935).

1301. Following the death of ROGER son of JOHN LE SAUVAGE (*supra*) it was found upon Inquisition (County of Derby) that the deceased held nothing of the King but the manor of Stanesby by the service of a sore-coloured sparrowhawk yearly. Fealty for the manor was then taken of JOHN, son and heir of ROGER. (CR. 29 Ed. I, p. 468; Cal. Gen., 12 Ed. I, No. 7, p. 340).

This John is the last of those bearing the family name whom we can definitely place in the line of succession from Robert (I). No doubt younger sons and their descendents, less conspicuous but distinguished by the name, had taken their appropriate places in the social order of the district during the two centuries which passed since Robert followed William de Braose to Bramber. The names of a few such have survived and have been already mentioned:—

Geoffrey, contemporary and perhaps brother of Robert (I); Thomas 1199 who held three hides at Durrington, one of the Domesday manors of the family; James 1220; William 1222; Edmund 1280 who was interested in lands in Ferring and Goring near Broadwater and at Chiltington close to the Savage holdings at Thakeham.

As the centuries pass the family name is found in growing numbers over a constantly increasing area of Sussex. Of these persons in most cases we know little but their names and it is seldom possible to group them into families. Their interest lies less in the individuals than in the picture they present of the Savage family as a whole.