

THE MANOR OF CHOLLINGTON IN EASTBOURNE,

WITH NOTES ON THE FAMILIES OF LA WARRE,
DE FOKINTON AND DE DIVA.

BY REV. W. BUDGEN, M.A.

THE earlier associations of the well-known family of La Warre, La Ware, now De la Warr, seem to have been mainly with the West Country, but in the 13th century they are found holding several manors in East Sussex. These were in Folkington, Excete, Isfield, Chollington, Beverington and Yeverington, the last three places being in Eastbourne.

We shall have occasion to refer to most of these manors or holdings, but this paper is intended to deal primarily with the early history of Chollington.¹ It was one of the hamlets of Eastbourne, and it has acquired a more than archaeological interest from the fact that it is now represented by Compton Place, the seat of the Duke of Devonshire. It lay within the bounds of the Hundred and Parish of Eastbourne, which were co-terminous, but it was outside the jurisdiction of the Lord of the Hundred until 1306, when it was acquired from the La Warres, together with their holding in Beverington and Yeverington, by Mathias de Monte Martini, the then holder of the Manor of Eastbourne.² Thereafter it became merged in the great manor and ceased to have any independent manorial history, although it continued as one of the "boroughs" of the Hundred until modern times.

We begin with a few references showing the La Warres' connection with Chollington, and then we

¹ The Rev. W. Hudson refers to Chollington in his paper on the "Hundred of Eastbourne" (*S.A.C.*, XLII., 180), where some of the records here dealt with were first brought to light.

² *Sussex Fines*, No. 1207.

propose to work back by stages to its pre-conquest history.

Among the claims to manorial liberties recorded on an Assize Roll of 3 Edw. I. (1275)³ we have one presented on behalf of Roger La Ware as follows:— He claims “in his manor of Fokynton, with its members, View of Frank-pledge with Assize of bread and ale. He claims the same liberties in his manor of Excete, with wreck of sea there. He claims also to have in his manor of Chollington the same liberties, with royal liberties, i.e. judgment of thieves, because in a time beyond memory a king of England gave the said hamlet to the Abbot and Convent of Westminster in pure and perpetual alms, and the said Abbot and Convent gave the said hamlet to the predecessors of the said Roger as freely and fully as they had it from the said king.”

In 1278 Commissioners were appointed to take an Assize of novel disseisin arraigned by Roger La Ware against Robert, Abbot of Westminster, and others touching a tenement in Chillington, Sussex,⁴ but no further record of this suit can be found.

In the following year in an Assize Roll of 7 Edw. I.⁵ the following interesting entry occurs:—

“The Jurors present that Roger La Ware holds 4 hides of land in Cholinton and Burne which were of ancient demesne of the lord king, they know not by what warrant. Roger comes by his attorney and says that he holds the said hides of the Abbot of Westminster, and that he and his predecessors from a time beyond memory held the said hides from the Abbot and his predecessors and before the Conquest of England.”

In the same Assize Roll there is recorded an incident arising out of Roger la Ware's lordship of Chollington, in which William Cornaleth, one of his servants, who was making a distress for rent, was set upon by the men of the neighbourhood and a rescue was effected. In the affray which ensued Cornaleth killed one of his

³ *Assize Roll* No. 918, m. 56d.

⁴ *Calr. Pat. Rolls* in 47th Report of Dep. Keeper, p. 189. The Abbot's name should be Richard (Richd de Ware).

⁵ *Assize Roll*, No. 915, De Novis Capitulis.

opponents by a bow-shot, and he forthwith fled to Folkington, his master's manor, about 4 miles distant, and took sanctuary in the Church.⁶

The strong local feeling over the question of rent is perhaps explained by our next document, which is the record of a suit before the king at Westminster in 1279-80.⁷ It was brought against Roger la Ware by 17 of his Chollington tenants, who claimed that the manor was ancient demesne of the Crown, and that, therefore, the lord should not exact from his tenants other customs and services than they ought and had been accustomed to do in times when the manor was in the hands of the king's predecessors, kings of England. And they complained that whereas they held 4 hides of land for £4 yearly for all services, and they and their ancestors in the time of St. Edward the king had held by these services, notwithstanding this, Roger distrained them to do him the service of £10 yearly for the said hides, besides various works (which are mentioned). The plaintiffs put themselves upon Domesday Book for proof of their claim, but after the Book had been examined, evidence was given by the Chancellor of the Exchequer that the said manor was not ancient demesne, and judgment was given against the tenants. As an instance of the recognition of the authority of Domesday Book on questions of land tenure, this case is of interest. The Survey was apparently in the custody of the Chancellor of the Exchequer by reason of its bearing on fiscal matters. We are unfortunately left in the dark as to the grounds upon which the Chancellor based his ruling against the claim of ancient demesne; the importance of this will be seen as we develop our argument.

In 1285 Roger la Ware received a grant of Free-warren in his demesne lands of Fokington, Tarring, Cholyngton, Yeverington, Beverington, and Isfield.⁸

There are two points to be gathered from these

⁶ For fuller details of this case, see *S.A.C.*, XLII., p. 192.

⁷ *Coram Rege Roll* 51, m. 9d.

⁸ *Cal. Charter Rolls*, 13 Edwd. I., p. 282.

references to the lands of Roger la Ware, described as Chollington, which we must specially bear in mind, viz. that they comprised 4 hides and that the superior lordship belonged to the Abbey of Westminster. An earlier reference to the lordship of the Abbey is supplied by the Testa de Nevill (p. 227) in that portion which contains extracts from the great Inquest of 1212, which is as follows: "The Abbot of Westminster holds 4 librates of land in the Hundred of Burn, but of whom and by what service is not known."

THE FAMILY OF LA WARRE.

The family of la Warre with whom we are concerned is descended from John la Warre, whose name occurs frequently on the Close Rolls for the years 1205 and 1206 by reason of his holding, at that time, the office of chief Custodian of the King's wines at Bristol.⁹ There are many entries on the Rolls of orders given to him by the King as to the disposal of the wines in his charge.¹⁰

In 1207 the King confirmed to John la Warre the land of Bristleton, (Brislington, co. Somerset), which he had granted while he was Earl of Moreton.¹¹ John la Warre died in or about 1212, and was succeeded in his lands by his son, Jordan, who paid 200 marks and 2 palfries for having seisin.¹² In the troubles between King John and the Barons in 1214-15 Jordan sided with the popular party, and his lands in Somerset were seized; he, however, recovered them in 1217.¹³

⁹ John appears to have been the son of Thomas, who was the son of William la Warre. (*Rot. Claus.*, Hen. III., p. 239, and *Rot. Cart. John*, pp. 25, 239). Neither of these members of the family is mentioned in Dugdale's *Baronage*, where the notice of the family begins with a reference to the charter confirming the grant of Bristleton in 1207.

¹⁰ For example, in 1205, there are orders to deliver to Hugh de Nevill 6 tuns; to the Bishop of Salisbury, 10 tuns (out of the 300 tuns held to the King's use); to the Abbot of Ford, 1 tun for celebrating mass. (*Rot. Claus. John*, pp. 16, 18.) At a later date the custodians were directed to sell the remainder and make the King's profit, and in 1206 a mandate was directed to the Barons of the Exchequer to take account of the proceeds (*Id.*, p. 36).

¹¹ Dodsworth MSS., Bodleian Lib., Vol. XXV., p. 147.

¹² *Pipe Roll*, 14 John (Gloucester) quoted by Dodsworth MSS., XIV., 214b.

¹³ *Cal. Close Roll*, John, pp. 235, 239, 303.

The names of three sons occur in records connected with a debt of £68 and $\frac{1}{2}$ a mark due from Jordan to one Jospin a Jew. In one (undated) Nicholas is mentioned as his son and heir.¹⁴ In 1250 the Sheriff of Dorset is directed to bring before the Barons of the Exchequer Thomas de la Warre of Rolvestune, son and heir of Jordan to answer concerning the said debt, together with John la Ware of Bristletune, son and heir of Jordan.¹⁵ Thomas is also referred to as heir of Jordan in another record touching the same debt in 1253,¹⁶ but it is evident that John was heir to the ancestral manor of Bristleton and lands in Gloucester, as these were seized to the King's use after the battle of Evesham, consequent upon John la Warre's participation in the rebellion.¹⁷ He was at Dover with 26 archers at the time of the battle,¹⁸ and he afterwards assisted in the defence of Kenilworth.¹⁹ After the defeat of the baronial forces at Evesham the East Sussex manors of Folkington and Isfield, which had already come into the hands of John la Ware, were also seized as being lands of the King's enemies. They were restored to him when peace was made, and he was succeeded therein by his son, Roger, whose claim to manorial privileges in 1275 we have set out above.

We now proceed to examine the manner of the devolution of these East Sussex lands to the la Warre family, and we shall find that they passed through the marriage of John la Ware, the father of Roger, with a certain Olympia, who was heiress to the estates of the family of de Fokinton, a name evidently derived from one of the manors, now Folkington. Roger, who inherited, was the 7th son of John la Ware and Olympia, his elder brothers, Jordan, John, Ralph, James, and Laurence having all died without issue.²⁰

¹⁴ *Cal. Inq. Misc.*, No. 492.

¹⁵ *Exch. Rem. Rolls*, 34 Hen. III., quoted by Dodsworth.

¹⁶ *Excerpt. Rot. Fin.*, p. 163.

¹⁷ *Cal. Inq. Misc.*, Vol. I., 857, 858.

¹⁸ *Blaaw's Barons' War*, p. 290.

¹⁹ *Chronicle of Robert of Gloucester*, p. 771.

²⁰ *De Banco Roll*, 14 Edwd. I. (No. 47), m. 107.

THE FAMILY OF DE FOKINTON

The earliest reference to this family that we are able to give is the occurrence of the name of Philip de Fokinton as a witness to a charter of Gilbert, Earl of Pembroke, to Lewes Priory, between 1138 and 1148.²¹ Philip was also a witness, with Gervase de Channes²² to a charter of Richard de Chaanes to Lewes Priory.²³

The most prominent member of the family was Hugh de Fokinton, the great-grandfather of Olympia, whom John la Ware married. He was party to several suits between 1194 and 1200.²⁴ He and his two sons, Hugh and Reginald, appear as witnesses to a charter of Robert Falconer (of Wooton in Folkington) granting land to the monks of Otham,²⁵ and the two sons appear in a similar capacity in the well-known charter of Ela de Saukeville to the same monks, *circa* 1205.²⁶ In 1207 Hugh was holding the Chollington lands, with which we are concerned, and was defendant in a suit by the Abbot of Westminster in respect of arrears of a yearly rent of £4 due from the said lands. He admitted liability to the extent of 60s.²⁷ Hugh died in or about 1214, leaving two sons, Hugh and Reginald; Eggeline, his widow, claimed against Hugh the son, as dower, one third of the villis of Fokinton, Isfield, Torrings, Hecsete (Excete), and Chollinton, and the lands granted to her were a moiety of Fokinton and Wanhoc (Wannock in Folkington) and a moiety of the service of half a hide in Boverungton (Beverington) and a third of Isfield.²⁸

²¹ *Lewes Cart.*, f. 73. Gilbert de Clare was created Earl of Pembroke in 1138, and died in 1148. Ralph de Dene and Robert Pincerna were also witnesses.

²² There was a Gervase, "parson of Fokinton," who gave 8s. rent to Wilmington Priory (*Mon.*, VI., 1090). And he was probably the same person as Gervas "decanus de Fokinton," who had a grant of land in Charlokestone from Richard Fitz Robert in 1226. (*Sussex Fines*, 310.)

²³ *Lewes Cart.*, f. 64d.

²⁴ *Cur. Reg.*, Vol. I., pp. 32, 71, 271; Vol. II., p. 246.

²⁵ *Bayham Cart.*, No. 65.

²⁶ *Bayham Cart.*, No. 34.

²⁷ *Cur. Reg.*, 44, m. 1.

²⁸ *Sussex Fines*, 137.

Shortly before his death, Hugh, the father, with the assent of Eggeline, his wife, and Hugh, his eldest son and heir, gave to Lewes Priory, with his body, certain lands between the public street leading from Lewes to Horsted and the grove of the monks (described), the other son Reginald being one of the witnesses.²⁹ This is doubtless the land, described in a later charter as in the manor of Isfeld, which Hugh the son "violently and wrongfully" took away from the Priory, but afterwards restored.³⁰ It would appear that this younger Hugh also displayed his rapacity in another way, for in 1216 the King commanded the Sheriff of Sussex to give seisin to Roger de Mortimer of the lands of Berewice (Berwick) and Wikenton (Wington), which were the marriage portion of his mother, of which Hugh de Fokinton disseised him.³¹ Hugh's activities for good or ill must, however, have been cut short very soon by his death, for in 1217 a mandate was directed to the Prioress of Cella and Stephen Henndon to give to the Earl of Winchester (S. Com. Winton) the (custody of the) son and heir of Hugh de Fokinton who was of his fee.³² This is followed by a mandate to the Sheriff to give to the Earl of Winchester seisin of the land which was Hugh de Fokinton's.³³

Who was this infant heir of Hugh the younger in 1217? The descent of certain lands in Rougham, Norfolk, which Hugh de Fokinton the elder inherited from his mother, Levina, as given in a suit by Roger la Ware, makes Geoffrey the son and heir of Hugh the younger, and this is quite consistent with the fact that

²⁹ *Lewes Cart.*, f. 65.

³⁰ *Id.*, f. 70d.

³¹ *Cal. Close Rolls*, Hen. III., p. 259a.

³² *Id.*, p. 328b. Stephen de Hendon was one of Hugh de Fokinton's pledges in the suit with the Abbey of Westminster.

³³ *Id.*, p. 299b. Is it only a coincidence that in this same year a grant was made by the king to the Bishop of Winchester of the manor of Burne, where some of Hugh's lands lay, or is it possible that there is some scribal confusion between the Earl and the Bishop of Winchester?

³⁴ *De Banco Roll*, No. 47, m. 107.

Geoffrey was holding Excete, one of the family manors, in 1220, when he was a party to a suit concerning the advowson of Excete church.³⁵ On the death of Hugh the elder there must have been some division of his manors, for Reginald his younger son appears to have held Yeverington and Beverington and also Beven-dean. He died without issue, and in 1230 his widow, Maud, claimed one third of the above-named lands as dower. The claim was against Ernald, Clerk, in the case of Bevendean³⁶ and against Ralph de Willinton in regard to Yeverington and Beverington.³⁷ We shall have something to say about Ralph de Willinton, but of Ernald we know nothing.³⁸

Geoffrey de Fokinton had issue Olympia, who married John la Ware, and Ralph, who died without issue. Geoffrey had a younger brother, Hugh, who appears in two Fines concerning some of the lands already mentioned. The first, in 1243, was between Hugh and John la Ware and Olympia his wife, whom William de Englefeld vouched to warrant; by this Fine Hugh quit-claimed to John and Olympia 50 acres of land in Isfield for 40s.³⁹ By another Fine in 1249, John and Olympia granted to Hugh de Fokinton 1 knight's fee in Bevendean and $\frac{1}{2}$ a knight's fee in Yfrington and Beverington, for which he was to do suit at the court of John and Olympia at Fokinton.⁴⁰ The occasion of these proceedings may possibly have been the death of Maud, the widow of Reginald, and the consequent termination of her dower rights.

A record of a transaction which must have taken

³⁵ *Cur. Regis Roll.*, 72, m. 20. See also *S.A.C.*, LVII., 141.

³⁶ *Sussex Fines*, 245.

³⁷ *Id.*, 257.

³⁸ The name of Ernald de Bosco occurs in 1250 as the guardian of John, son and heir of William de Diva. *Coram Rege Roll*, 78, m. 9.

³⁹ *Sussex Fines*, 411.

⁴⁰ *Id.*, 507.

place between 1248 and 1256, is of interest as showing the use of a monastery as a place of safe deposit. It is contained in the Lewes Cartulary,⁴¹ and runs as follows:—

“To all the faithful in Christ to whom these present letters shall come John la Ware and Olympia his wife, greeting in the Lord. Know ye that we have received by the hands of William de Russeldon,⁴² then Prior of Lewes, six charters and two chirographs and two letters patent and three letters of agreement which sometime Hugh de Fokinton placed in deposit in the House of Lewes, which were read before the full county of Sussex, and there delivered to us with the assent of the said county. On account of which we have promised to hold the said Prior and his successors and their house indemnified concerning the aforesaid writings against all people.”

The writings here mentioned were doubtless the title deeds to the estates of the de Fokintons, and the transaction indicates that Olympia was the only member of the family left. It is evident from the position accorded to her in the Fine of 1249 and other documents that her husband held the lands in Folkington and elsewhere in Sussex in her right, and that she was the connecting link between the de Fokinton family and the la Warres. This appears again in a Fine in 1252,⁴³ between William de Englefield and Margaret his wife against John la Warre and Olympia in a claim of dower by Margaret. The holdings in question were a messuage and a carucate of land in Isefeld, 10 marks rent in Cholinton and 40s. rent in Torringses, and it was agreed that John and Olympia should hold the said tenements of William and Margaret for the life of Margaret at a rent of 37 marks yearly, and if John and Olympia should pre-decease Margaret, the reversion was to the heirs of Olympia. There is no direct evidence as to which member of the de Fokinton family was the first husband of Margaret,

⁴¹ Fo. 79d.

⁴² Prior of Lewes from 1248 to 1256.

⁴³ *Sussex Fines*, 524.

but it seems probable that it was Hugh, the grandfather of Olympia, who died in 1217.

We return to Ralph de Wilinton, the respondent in the suit for dower by Maud, late wife of Reginald de Fokinton, and the first point that we would notice is that he had a wife named Olympia.⁴⁴ The re-currence of this uncommon name in the daughter and heiress of Geoffrey de Fokinton can hardly be a pure coincidence, but must point to some family connection; the possibility of the same Olympia being first the wife of Ralph de Wilinton and afterwards of John la Ware is ruled out by the dates, and one was inclined to guess that Ralph's wife might have been a daughter of Hugh and Eggeline de Fokinton, but this was not the case. Her ancestry for three generations is given in the record of an action concerning land in Immesmere, co. Wilts., in which Ralph and Olympia were plaintiffs, and this makes her to be the daughter of William, who was the son of John, who was the son of Humphrey Franc, chivaler, who held the land in question in the time of Henry II.⁴⁵ From 1224 to 1227 Ralph de Wilinton was holding office under the Crown as Constable of Bristol Castle, with the special custody of the King's cousin, Eleanor,⁴⁶ and in this capacity his name frequently occurs in the public records. In 1224 he is exempted from castle guard service due from him to the Castle of Devizes, so long as he remains in the King's service at Bristol; in 1225 he is given an order for two jars of old wine for the use of the King's cousin and others staying in the Castle of Bristol; the following year a mandate was given to the Constable of

⁴⁴ This appears from a charter of King John dated in 1205, which confirms a grant to Ralph and Olympia by Robert de Every. (*Cal. Rot. Cart.*, Vol. I., pt. i., p. 158.) In *Annales Monastici*, IV., 404, it is stated that Ralph de Wileton had married the heir of R. de Overei.

⁴⁵ *Cur. Regis Roll* (No. 77), Michs. 4 and 5 Hen. III., m. 20.

⁴⁶ This Eleanor was the daughter of Geoffrey, King John's elder brother, and sister of the unfortunate Arthur of Brittany. John shut her up in Bristol Castle in 1203, when she was 18, and she seems to have remained a prisoner until her death.

Pevensey Castle not to enforce "heckage" from Ralph so long as he remained in office at Bristol.⁴⁷ Then in 1227 authority was given for him to retain 22 foot serjeants in Bristol Castle; the sheriffs of London were directed to let him have 50 lbs. of almonds, 50 lbs. of raisins and a frail of figs for the use of Eleanor, the King's cousin; similarly the bailiffs of Bristol were ordered to supply 50 ells of linen cloth and 3 wimples for the use of the same distinguished prisoner, and 10 tuns of wine to be placed in the castle and 100 swine to make lard in the castle.⁴⁸ An order in 1227 to the Clerk of Bristol Castle to provide a key for the Chamber of the King's cousin and to keep it until the King should send thither Warin, the Chaplain, or some other person for the purpose, leaves little room for doubt as to the reality of the princess's close confinement.⁴⁹

What the relation of Ralph de Wilinton with the de Fokinton family was which led to his becoming a feoffee of some of their lands, still eludes us—perhaps it was on his mother's side—but the probability is great that the association of Ralph de Wilinton with the la Ware family at Bristol had some influence in bringing about the marriage which carried the de Fokinton lands to John la Warre.

In 1242 Olympia de Wilinton is returned as holding one fee at Poulton in Gloucester, which would indicate that her husband was then dead.⁵⁰ Ralph, son of Ralph de Wilinton, in 1247, accounted for a fine of 100 marks imposed upon him for trespass in the forest of Chepham, and his name occurs not infrequently after 1242.

The probable relation of the members of the de

⁴⁷ *Cal. Close Rolls*, Hen. III., f. 5b, 22b, 132.

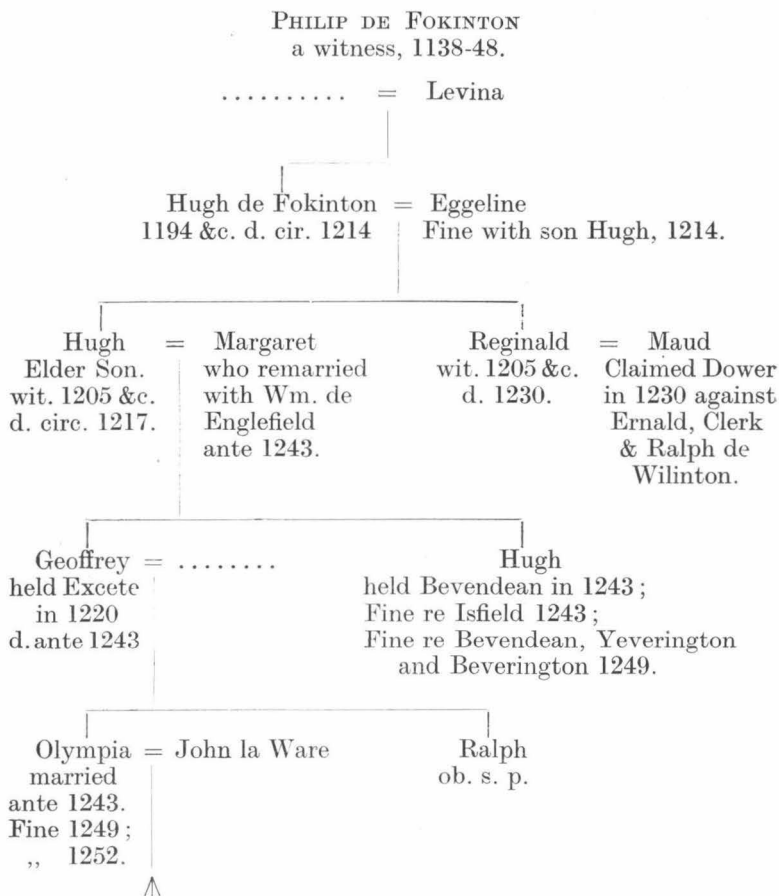
⁴⁸ *Librate Rolls*, Vol. I. (1227).

⁴⁹ *Cal. Close Rolls*, f. 168.

⁵⁰ *Pipè Roll*, 21 Hen. III., Wiltshire.

Fokinton family is given in the following sketch genealogy:—

THE FAMILY OF DE FOKINTON.



THE ABBEY OF WESTMINSTER AND CHOLLINGTON.

We now proceed to consider the history of the Chollington lands before they are found in the possession of the de Fokinton family, and first we must deal with the lordship of the Abbey of Westminster. In regard to this Domesday Book affords us little help,

for the only holding in Sussex ascribed to the Abbey in that Survey consists of 7 hides at Perham (*i.e.* Parham, in West Sussex). But when we examine the early grants to the Abbey we are more fortunate. In the great Charter of King Edgar (959-975),⁵¹ we find among his gifts to the Abbey certain lands called Cillingtun.⁵² The charter as given by Dugdale (*Mon. I.* 291) reads as follows:—

We, therefore, to the glory of the name of God and to the honour of S. Peter have given the lands here written, Holewell, Decwrth, Waltun, Cillingtun.

Of course there is nothing in the charter to indicate that these lands of Cillingtun were in Eastbourne, or even in Sussex, but as there are very good grounds for believing that Eastbourne was a royal manor in King Alfred's time (871-901), and that it was given by his will to his nephew, Æthelm—the form of the name being Burnham⁵³—one is quite prepared to meet with a royal donation of lands at that place.

Turning next to Edward the Confessor's charter to the Abbey (*Mon. I.* 294) we find among the donations of his royal predecessors which are confirmed by Edward the following:—

“in Wercham, 7 hides, in Fillingtune, 3, in Cillingtun, 4.”

In the copy of the charter contained in the Abbey Cartulary⁵⁴ these three manors (if we may call them such) appear thus:—“in Pereham, 7; in Colintune 3, in Eillingtune, 4.” Here Eillingtune must be a misreading of Cillingtune. It is strange that the name Colintune, so nearly approaching the later form Cholinton, should appear in the place of Fillingtune, and we might have suspected a transposition of the

⁵¹ The fact that doubts are cast upon the genuineness of this charter does not affect our argument.

⁵² This form of the name need not give rise to any difficulty in the identification with Chollington. Prof. Skeat shows that though the Anglo-Saxon “c” had the sound of “k,” in passing into English it softened into “Ch” when followed by “e” or “i,” cf. A.S. *cild*, Eng. *child*, A.S. *cealc*, Eng. *chalk*.

⁵³ I am indebted to my friend Mr. J. E. Ray for this interesting suggestion.

⁵⁴ *Cott. Faust.*, III., f. 28.

names, but Mr. Alfred Anscombe tells me that phonologically Colinton cannot equate Cillington.

We then come to a very important reference in a charter of William the Conqueror to the Abbey, dated in 1067, which is not given in the *Monasticon*.⁵⁵ In this document William first acknowledges the Divine help and the aid of the apostle S. Peter, by which he attained the kingdom of the English, having subdued Harold and his accomplices, who strove to take away the kingdom destined to him by Providence, and the grant of his lord and kinsman, the glorious King Edward. He then proceeds to confirm in detail the gifts made to the Abbey by King Edward and those before him, and after a long list of benefactions these words occur:—

“Lastly, the vill of Cillinctune which Boselin de Diva heretofore took away from him (the Abbot) by force, . . . I order to be restored.”

In the Westminster Abbey archives there is a document belonging to the period 1117 to 1140, in which the rent from Cillentona is included among the revenues of the Chamberlain's department,⁵⁶ and in the Chamberlain's Account for the year 1382-3 there is the item: “Et de Cholyngton in parochia de Burne, £4.” There is a similar entry in the account for 1392-3, but the item does not occur in 1401 nor in 1428. Neither do we find any reference to Cholyngton in the possessions of the Abbey as given in the *Valor Ecclesiasticus* of Hen. VIII., although the revenues from Dodington (Lincoln), Suleby (Northants), and Cypeham and Burneham (Bucks), which are associated with Cholyngton in the Chamberlain's Accounts, do occur in the *Valor* under the heading “Office of Chamberlain.”

THE FAMILY OF DE DIVA AND THEIR LANDS.

The reference to Boselin de Diva in the Conqueror's charter affords a useful clue in our investigation, and

⁵⁵ There is an early copy of this charter in the British Museum (*Cott.*, VI., 3), and the text also occurs in an *Inspeximus* and confirmatory charter of Edwd. III., dated May 26, 1335. (*Calr. Close Rolls*, 1335, p. 330.)

⁵⁶ Westminster Abbey Records, No. 5670.

it leads us next to collate certain facts concerning the de Diva family. We reserve some details to be dealt with in a Supplementary Note, and shall confine ourselves here to matters affecting the question immediately before us.

Boselin de Diva had a brother, Hugh, and both were contemporary with the Norman Conquest.⁵⁷ We need have no hesitation in recognising one of the brothers in Boselin, who is entered in Domesday Book as holding 5 Burgages in Pevensey,⁵⁸ but he must have died before the completion of the survey, otherwise his wife would not have appeared as a tenant of lands in Cambridgeshire.⁵⁹ The identification of Hugh with some of the holdings ascribed to a tenant of that name requires more consideration. Each of the brothers had a son of the name of William, but for the moment we concern ourselves with William the son of Boselin.

In Domesday Book many holdings in the rape of Pevensey and elsewhere in Sussex are ascribed to William de Cahaignes, the representative of the de Keynes family, which was widely spread in the county in rather later times. In other cases the tenant is simply named "William" without any further designation. In some of these cases the circumstances warrant the suggestion that "William" was William, son of Boselin de Diva.⁶⁰ The D.B. holdings are as follows:—

The "son of Boselin" held 2 hides of the Archbishop's manor of Mellinges (South Malling),⁶¹ and we suggest that these hides are represented by the vill of Isfield, which in 1210-12 was held of the Archbishop by Hugh de Fokinton.⁶² William held half a hide in Alfriston,⁶³ and William, son of Boselin, gave a similar

⁵⁷ *Calendar of Documents*, France, p. 159.

⁵⁸ *Suss. D.B.*, Xa.

⁵⁹ *Cambs. D.B.*, f. xxvii.

⁶⁰ It is obvious that all the references cannot relate to William de Cahaignes, for among the holders of Burgages in Pevensey we have "William" as a distinct person mentioned alongside Wm. de Cahaignes. *S.D.B.*, Xa.

⁶¹ *Suss. D.B.*, Ib.

⁶² *Red Book of the Exchequer*.

⁶³ *Suss. D.B.*, XIIb.

holding to Lewes Priory.⁶⁴ William held 1 hide of the manor of Burne (Eastbourne).⁶⁵ This may be represented by half a hide in Lamport (Eastbourne) given by Turstan de Hodinges to the monks of Otham, of which William son of Boselin is stated to have been the owner,⁶⁶ and by the rent of 17s. 4d. in Burne, given by William de Diva to Lewes Priory for his mother, Cecily.⁶⁷ William held Wannock, Folkington, and 3 hides in Excete⁶⁸; all were afterwards held by Hugh de Fokinton. This last holding is probably represented by the $3\frac{1}{2}$ fees of the fee of the Earl of Leicester ascribed to the "heirs of Hugh de Diva" in the Testa de Nevill,⁶⁹ for in the partition of the fees of Henry, Duke of Lancaster, in 1361, among those assigned to his daughter, Blanche, are $3\frac{1}{2}$ fees in Fokynton, Wannok and Excete held by John la Warre⁷⁰; the Feudal Aid Return of 1401-2 shows that these la Warre fees belonged, like those of Hugh de Diva, to the Honour of Leicester. Another record⁷¹ makes it evident that these fees were held of the de Keynes family, so it is uncertain whether William, the Domesday tenant of these Wannock, Folkington and Excete lands, was William de Cahaignes, the chief lord of the fee, or William de Diva as his sub-tenant. The probability of the de Diva family being sub-tenants of the more important Norman family are very strong. The two families were near neighbours in Normandy, and we find them closely associated in the charters.

When we look at the holdings of the Domesday tenant "Hugh" we have similar grounds for thinking that in some cases he was Hugh de Diva. It is a remarkable fact that all the holdings in the rape of Pevensey of the pre-conquest tenants Cana and Frane were held at the time of the survey by Hugh alone or in association with a tenant named Morin, who one

⁶⁴ *S.A.C.*, XI., 77.

⁶⁶ *Bayham Cart.*, No. 52.

⁶⁸ *Suss. D.B.*, XIb., XIa., XIa.

⁷⁰ *Cal. Close Rolls* (1360-64), p. 204.

⁷¹ *Cal. Close Rolls* (11 Edw. I.), p. 225.

⁶⁵ *Suss. D.B.*, Xa.

⁶⁷ *Cal. Docts. France*, p. 511.

⁶⁹ P. 227.

may conjecture from the following circumstances to have been the predecessor of the family of Hereward. The holdings are these: Beverington and Yoverington (in Eastbourne), $2\frac{1}{2}$ hides, held T.R.E. by Cana and Frane, held in 1086 by Hugh and Morin.⁷² Probably there is included in these $2\frac{1}{2}$ hides the Langport half-hide described as being of the fee of Hugh de Diva, which was given by the Herewards to Lewes Priory, the grant being confirmed by William son of Hugh,⁷³ Radetone, 3 hides, held by Morin⁷⁴; probably the Herewards tenement known later as the manor of Ratton-Hereward. At Claverham, Hugh and Morin held 4 hides⁷⁵; by the same Charter in which he confirmed the Langport $\frac{1}{2}$ hide, Rich Hereward gave to Lewes Priory a rent in Claverham.⁷⁶ Morin and Hugh held 2 hides at Flescinges.⁷⁷ In 1197 there is a fine concerning a pond and watercourse to the mill of Shifeld (in Fletching) in which Maud de Dive and Hugh her son are plaintiffs,⁷⁸ and Hugh de Fokinton was a party to a suit in 1194, relating to "Feskinges" of the fee of Terringe,⁷⁹ which other references indicate to be Fletching. These constitute the whole of Cana and Frane's holdings in the rape of Pevensey.

There are two further de Diva grants to which we would refer; the first is a gift to Lewes Priory by Hugh de Diva and his son William of the land of "Burneham que adjacet Chirlacestone," which is confirmed by Robert, Earl of Leicester.⁸⁰ Here we take Burneham to be Eastbourne and Chirlacestone to be Charlston in West Firle, but what the relation of the two places is we cannot say. The other is a charter by which Hugh de Dive, son of William de Dive, confirms to the Abbey of Suleby, his father's gift of the church of Haddon (Northants), and adds as his own donation, "the tithe of his demesne in Sypfeld and the tithe of his demesne

⁷² *Suss. D.B.*, Xb.

⁷⁴ *Suss. D.B.*, XIb.

⁷⁶ *Lew. Cart.*, f. 95.

⁷⁸ *Suss. Fines*, No. 8.

⁸⁰ *Lewes Cart.*, f. 88.

⁷³ *Duchy of Lancs. Misc. Bk.*, 112, f. 51d.

⁷⁵ *Id.*, XIIIb.

⁷⁷ *Suss. D.B.*, XIVb.

⁷⁹ *Cur. Reg. Roll*, Vol. I., p. 32.

in Cherlakestone.” The witnesses include Reginald de Trussenvill, Robert de Isefeld, Ralph de Dive, brother of the grantor, Maud de Dive and Phillip de Esetes.⁸¹ The charter is not dated, but is ascribed to the time of Richard I. The Sussex territorial surnames of two of the witnesses, de Isefeld and de Esetes, *i.e.* Excete, are noticeable; both of the places were manors belonging to the families with which we are concerned and their occurrence here gives some justification for identifying Sypfeld with Sheffield in Fletching,⁸² (see Fine by Maud de Dive and Hugh in 1196, referred to above) and Cherlakestone with Charlston in West Firle, which we have just mentioned.

It seems a reasonable conclusion, from all these circumstances, that the greater part of the lands in Sussex which came to Hugh de Fokinton had been held by one or other of the de Divas, either directly of the Count of Mortain or as sub-tenants of the de Keynes family, from the time of the Conquest.

This, however, was not the case in regard to Chollington.

THE DEVOLUTION OF CHOLLINGTON.

So far as our investigation has proceeded at present we have traced 4 hides of land called Cillington as a lordship belonging to the Abbey of Westminster from the time of King Edgar to the Conquest. We have also shown the devolution of the estate in possession of 4 hides called Chollington from Hugh de Fokinton, who held the lands in 1207, to Roger la Ware, who acknowledged that he held of the Abbey of Westminster. We have also given some evidence that other lands held by Hugh de Fokinton, and later by the la Ware family, were derived from the family of de Diva. But at present we have had no mention of either Cillington or Chollington between 1067, the date of the Conqueror's charter, and 1207. We now proceed to

⁸¹ *Add. Ch.*, 21879.

⁸² The *D.B.* form is Sifelle, and a Mill is mentioned.

bridge this gulf and to show, as far as we can, that the two names refer to the same place.

It will be remembered that in 1067 King William ordered that the vill of Cillinctun, which had been taken away from the Abbey by Boselin, should be restored. Now, what happened? Was the King's mandate obeyed, or not? We have already mentioned that Domesday Book (1086) does not give any such lands as a possession of the Abbey. But there is in the Survey a tenement called "Clotintone," comprising 2 hides, which is associated with a group of unquestionable Eastbourne holdings, including those of Beverington and Yoverington already referred to, all of which, however, are entered under the heading of Totnore Hundred, and not Borne Hundred.⁸³ We fully believe that this name "Clotintone" is a scribal perversion of "Cholintone."⁸⁴

In the time of Edward the Confessor Clotintone was held by one Haiminc, and he was still in possession at the time of the Domesday Survey, having weathered the stormy period of the Conquest. Now, this fact alone affords strong circumstantial confirmation of the identity of Clotintone with the lands whose history we are tracing. Instances of a Saxon tenant retaining his lands after the Conquest are quite uncommon, but if, as we believe was the case, Haiminc held of the Abbey of Westminster, a foundation specially favoured by William the Conqueror, this would at once account for his non-disturbance. The retention by Haiminc of his holding would also be quite consistent with its identification as the vill of Cillinctune mentioned in the Conqueror's charter, and would supply an affirmative answer to our question as to whether or no Boselin de Diva restored the lands to their pre-conquest tenant. The same fact would equally agree with what we know of the early history of Roger la Ware's manor of

⁸³ *S.D.B.*, Xb. Although these lands were within the territorial limits of the hundred of Eastbourne, they were not subject to the jurisdiction of the lord of the hundred.

⁸⁴ It will be noticed that only two letters need be mis-read, "l" for "h," which is quite possible, and "t" for "l," which is not so easy of explanation.

Chollington, which, it was said, had been held by him and his predecessors from a time beyond memory and before the conquest of England. (ante p. 112).

Haiminc also held, both before and after the conquest, lands in Excete, Sherrington and Firle in all of which he was succeeded by his son, Richard fitz Hamming. Richard fitz Hamming granted the tithes of his demesne lands in Excete, Sherrington and Clotintone to the Abbey of Grestein,⁸⁵ who already, by the gift of Robert, Count of Mortain, before the compilation of Domesday Book, held the neighbouring manor of Wilmington, where their Priory was afterwards established. If, as we have suggested, Clotintone in Domesday Book is a scribal error, it is strange that the same perversion should be found again in connection with this later record.⁸⁶ But while this second occurrence of the name under this form may seem to weaken our argument, the existence of this grant goes a long way towards the suggested identification. For, when we ask whether there is any mention of these tithes in any later records of Wilmington Priory, which would connect them with Eastbourne, we are not disappointed. The only early extent of the possessions of the Priory of which we are aware is one taken in 1371,⁸⁷ and in this we find what would appear to be the tithes given by Richard fitz Hamming referred to in the following terms :—

Item, He (the Prior) used to have at Selmeston in Sherynton and Telton tithes to the value of 40s., which the Rector of (*blank*) now detains.

Item, for certain tithes in Estborne detained by the Rector there, which are worth yearly 100s.

We have no record of any Eastbourne tithes being given to Wilmington Priory other than those comprised in Richard fitz Hamming's grant, and we cannot but conclude that the reference in the second item is to the

⁸⁵ *Charter Roll*, 9 Edwd. II., No. 21.

⁸⁶ Mr. Salzman makes the ingenious suggestion that perhaps the monks of Wilmington had lost their original charter and fabricated another, using the name as it appeared in Domesday Book.

⁸⁷ Add. MSS., 6164, p. 417.

tithe of Cholington (otherwise Clotintone) in Eastbourne.⁸⁸

Richard fitz Hamming was succeeded in his estates, in part at least, by his son, William fitz Richard, who was also known as William de Essete, and thereafter several persons appear with this family name. To mention only some whose names occur at the end of the 12th and beginning of the 13th centuries, there was Walter fitz William de Essete, who was a witness to his father's charter to Lewes Priory⁸⁹; Richard de Essete was a defendant, with Hugh de Fokinton, in a suit by Alice, wife of Roger de Reimfer, in 1199⁹⁰; Phillip de Essetes was a witness to a charter of Hugh de Diva, temp. Richard I.⁹¹; Robert de Excetes was concerned in a suit about the advowson of Excete Church in 1220⁹²; Thomas de Essetes was a witness to a charter of William Gulafre, circ. 1200-1215.⁹³

The Excete and Sherrington estates remained in the de Essete family until the latter part of the reign of Henry I., but we get no mention of Chollington until we find it in the possession of Hugh de Fokinton in 1207. Our conjecture is that the ancestor of Hugh was one of the de Essete family, who probably inherited Chollington, and then he acquired from the de Diva family, either by descent, marriage or purchase, their holdings in Folkington, Excete and Wannock, and adopting the surname of de Fokinton he became the founder of the family of that name.⁹⁴

But we still have a difficulty. Haiminc's Clotintone holding is only assessed at 2 hides, whereas the Abbey of Westminster's holding was 4 hides, and in all the references to Hugh de Fokinton's and the la Warres,

⁸⁸ The value of this tithe must be greatly exaggerated; if it represented the tithe of the whole 2 hides it would be excessive, much more so, if it covered only the demesne lands.

⁸⁹ *Lewes Cart.*, f. 77d.

⁹⁰ *Cur. Reg. Roll*, 1 John (printed), Vol. II., p. 7b.

⁹¹ *Add. Ch.*, 21879.

⁹² *Cur. Reg. Roll*, 72, m. 20.

⁹³ *Cat. of Robertsbridge Abbey Charters*, No. 62.

⁹⁴ This seems to be more likely than that the founder of the de Fokinton family was a de Diva or a de Keynes, both of which possibilities have been considered.

tenement in Chollington it is described as 4 hides whenever the Abbey is concerned.

In Domesday Book the next holding following Haiminc's 2 hides in Clotintone is another of 2 hides in Beverington and Yoverington; these were two other sub-divisions of Eastbourne, and lay actually adjacent to Chollington. The tenant-in-chief at the time of the Survey was William de Cahaignes. These 2 hides were held by the de Fokintons in the 13th century, and, like Chollington, passed to the la Warre family. It seems probable that they represent the other half of the Abbey's holding, and that they were held by one of the de Diva's as sub-tenants of William de Cahaignes. We are prepared to admit that this explanation is not entirely satisfactory, but, without taking this into account, we think that the considerations we have put forward go a long way towards establishing the identity of Chollington with the Clotintone of Domesday Book and the Cillingtune of the Saxon Charters.⁹⁵

⁹⁵ I have to acknowledge my indebtedness to our Editor, Mr. L. F. Salzman, F.S.A., for several references to records made use of in this paper.