

# ON THE EARLY HISTORY OF THE HONOR OF PETWORTH.

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RECENTLY the Rev. S. P. H. Statham called my attention to the importance of two charters in the Lewes Chartulary for the early descent of the Honor of Petworth, and kindly placed at my disposal his own notes on the subject. These I have been able to amplify to some extent from other sources, and it is possible that the publication of my results may lead others to carry the research still further.

The estates that formed the Honor of Petworth were held of Earl Roger at the time of the Domesday Survey by Robert Fitz-Tetbald, sheriff of Arundel. Mr. Round has shown that almost immediately after this date, in 1087, Robert died, leaving a son Hugh as his heir.<sup>1</sup> Of Hugh, nothing more appears to be known. He may have adhered to Robert of Belesme (the rebellious son of Earl Roger) and have forfeited his lands in 1102 when Robert's entire fee was escheated to the crown; but it seems more probable that the Petworth fee passed on Hugh's death to an heiress, (probably his daughter), Aveline. By a charter of about 1135 (printed by Mr. Dawtrey in *S.A.C.* LIII, 189) Reginald de Windsor, then tenant of the Honor of Petworth, regranted to Lewes Priory the church of Petworth and certain other churches and chapels, which had been given to the monks by "Alan my predecessor." His knowledge of Alan's gift is expressly stated to have been obtained "by the assertion and confirmation of Aveline my wife and of all my barons and other honest men," and the regrant is made with the assent of Aveline. This indicated that Reginald

<sup>1</sup> *Cal. Docts. France*, 233; *V.C.H. Sussex*, i, 378.

held the Honor in right of his wife Aveline, but left her relationship to Alan, and his identity, obscure. In the Public Record Office, however, is a charter<sup>2</sup> by which Bishop Seffrid I, of Chichester (1125-45) confirmed the grant to Lewes by Alan son of Ivo, Aveline his wife, and Eudo his son, of the churches of Petworth, Tillington and Lurgashall, the chapels of Duncton and "Treue," the church of Stedham and the chapel of Heyshott.

From this we learn that Alan was Aveline's previous husband, and that he was the son of Ivo,—presumably that Ivo who is recorded in Domesday Book as holding Mid-Lavant and Racton direct from Earl Roger and land in Pulborough and Hardham from Robert Fitz-Tetbald. In another charter<sup>3</sup>, Alan son of Eudo (*sic*) and Eudo his son, grant to Lewes Priory the churches of Sutton and "Helingeham" (i.e. Hardham). The witnesses to this charter were William the Chaplain, Robert son of Turstan (probably son of Turstin who held of Robert Fitz-Tetbald at Grittenham in Tillington and apparently witnessed Robert's death-bed gift of Toddington to Sééz Abbey as "Turstin de Petehorda"),<sup>4</sup> Geoffrey son of Alan, and Eustace nephew (*nepos*) of Fulco; and it may be noted that two of these, namely Robert son of Turstan and Geoffrey son of Alan, were also witnesses to Reginald de Windsor's charter. Alan was presumably dead by 1130, as in the Pipe Roll of that year, under "Honor de Arundel," is entered: "Mainer de Waipreda accounts for 10 marks of silver for Cecily daughter of Alan son of Eudo with her dower and marriage portion."

We next come to a charter entered in the Lewes Chartulary,<sup>5</sup> the original of which does not appear to have survived:—

"Omnibus fidelibus ecclesie Christi clericis atque laicis baronibus militibusque Idonis filius A. salutem de de (*sic*) Arundel sciatis

<sup>2</sup> *Anct. Deeds*, A. 14135.

<sup>3</sup> *Anct. Deeds*, A. 14163; and *Cott. MS. Vesp.*, F. xv., f. 134.

<sup>4</sup> *Cal. Docts. France*, 233.

<sup>5</sup> *Cott. MS. Vesp.* F. XV., f. 138.

quatinus do et concedo in elemosinam domino meo Sancto Pancratio virgatam terre de Suttune que fuit Willelmi filii Fulconis quam Toftinus ad opus sui nepotis custodit et hoc francam et quietam ab omnibus serviciis. Teste Avelina sua matre et Willelmo presbitero de Pete' et Gildewino filio Sanzau' et Willelmo de Querceto et Willelmo filio Rain' et Main' de Cotehurst et Rodberto Belet."

The first thing to notice about this charter is that the scribe in copying it into the book made several blunders: although the charter is in the first person, Aveline is styled "his," instead of "my," mother; Gildewin "son of Sanzaver" should, almost certainly, be "son of Savaric,"—that is to say, Geldewin son of Savary, heir of Enjuger and father of Franco de Bohun of Midhurst. In the salutatory clause, not only is *de* repeated, but the identifying words "de Arundel" are clearly out of place; they may belong to the name of the grantor—"Idonis filius A. de Arundel,"—but that they might equally well qualify the "baronibus militibusque" is suggested by a charter of Ailwin de Mellers addressed to: "Omnibus baronibus ceterisque suis amicis tam francis quam Anglis clericis et laicis totius honoris Arundelli."<sup>6</sup> Who is the grantor? At first sight "Idonis" appears to be a genitive form, in which case "A." must be expanded as "Alanus"; but Aveline is styled his mother, and we have seen that she was wife of Alan and mother of Eudo; it is therefore clear that we must read "Idonis filius Alani."

Before dealing further with Eudo son of Alan we may consider one or two other points in the charter. The Fulk whose son William had held this land in Sutton was probably the Fulk (*Fulcoius*) who in 1086 held land in Selham and Marden and had before the Conquest held Racton, where he had been succeeded by Ivo.<sup>7</sup> He may have been one of the "three Frenchmen" who held land in Sutton from Robert Fitz-Tetbald.<sup>8</sup> His nephew,—or grandson, for *nepos* will bear either interpretation,—Eustace, as we have seen, was one of the witnesses to Alan's charter. Another witness to that charter, "William the Chaplain,"

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*, f. 135.

<sup>7</sup> *V.C.H. Sussex*, i., 423, 425.

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.*, 424.

may be identical with the "William the priest of Petworth," who witnesses Eudo's charter, but the name is too common to make this at all certain. On the other hand Mainer is a name perhaps sufficiently rare to suggest the possibility of Mainer de Cotehurst being identical with Eudo's brother-in-law, Mainer de Waipreda, mentioned above. William de Cheyney (*Querceto*) was one of the tenants of Geldwin<sup>9</sup> and was connected, rather remotely, by marriage with the family of Belet.<sup>10</sup>

Eudo son of Alan is found, with his stepfather Reginald de Windlesores, witnessing a charter<sup>11</sup> by which William (de Albini) Earl of Lincoln confirms to Reading Abbey the grant of the manor of Easton (Herts.), made by his wife, Queen Adeliz. This charter is assigned to 1139-40, and it is worth noting that Eudo is the first of the lay witnesses, Reginald being almost the last. Whether he is the Ivo, son of Alan, who gave the manor of Shavecombe (Devon) to Dunkeswell Abbey.<sup>12</sup> I cannot say, but I have not been able to trace any connection. It might have been supposed that on the death of his mother and her husband, Eudo, or his heir, would have succeeded to the Honor of Petworth, but this was not the case. Aveline and Reginald disappear during that obscure period of history, the reign of Stephen, and in some way the Honor escheated to the over-lord, Adeliz, widow of Henry I, who held the Honor of Arundel in dower. She bestowed it upon her brother Josceline, who married Agnes, heir of William de Percy, from whom his descendants took their name, and it remained for centuries in the hands of the Percies.

For our next step we must go outside Sussex. The manor of Malden, in Surrey, was held in 1086 by Robert and William de Watevile, and the Wateviles continued, apparently, to hold the lordship until at least 1225.<sup>13</sup> They must, however, have parted with

<sup>9</sup> *S.A.C.*, LXV., 33.

<sup>10</sup> *Ibid.*, 24.

<sup>11</sup> Add. Ch. 19586, reproduced in *B.M. Facsimiles of Charters*, 14.

<sup>12</sup> Dugdale, *Mon.*, V., 678.

<sup>13</sup> *V.C.H. Surrey*, III., 523.

much of the estate by sub-infeudation at an early date, as in the reign of Henry II Eudo de Malden, son of William, granted the advowson of the church and land in Malden to Merton Priory, with his body. The grant, however, was disputed in 1206 by Brian son of Ralph and Gunnor, his wife, sister of Eudo, on the ground that Eudo was a monk at the time when he made the gift.<sup>14</sup> A dispute between the Abbey of Séez and Brian and Gunnor over the advowson of Cocking church yields the information that Alan, "grandfather of Gunnor's father," held the advowson of Cocking in the time of Henry I.<sup>15</sup>

In 1195, Brian, son of Ralph, and Gunnor were evidently disputing the claims of Henry de Percy to the Honor of Petworth, as by a fine levied on 16th August of that year, they remitted to Henry their claims to the Honor, in return for a payment of 80 marks.<sup>16</sup> They were also to retain the whole of the vill of "Kokkinges," except 2 virgates which Henry de Hessel held appurtenant to half a knight's fee in Hessel (i.e. Heyshott); also Wlenchmere<sup>17</sup> (i.e., Linchmere), except the holding of Robert de Hellested; also the fees of two knights and the twentieth part of a knight, namely, half a fee which Elias Moraunt held, and half a fee which William de Minford held, and one fee which Philip de Seleam held, and a twentieth part which John (*sic*) held. And as it could not be arranged that Brian and Gunnor should hold these estates of Henry de Percy,—presumably because there was some bitterness over the question of the overlordship of the Honor,—it was agreed that they should hold them of the Archbishop of Canterbury, who should hold them of Henry.

Brian and Gunnor left two sons, Brian and Eudes, both of whom died without issue, and at least two daughters, Aveline and Sarah,<sup>18</sup> of whom more shortly.

<sup>14</sup> *Ibid.*; Cur. Regis, 42, m. 3d.

<sup>15</sup> *Abbrev. Placit.*, 62; Farrer, *Honors and Knights' Fees*, III., 21.

<sup>16</sup> *Percy Chartulary* (Surtees Soc.), 412-3.

<sup>17</sup> Cf. *Feet of Fines* (Suss. Rec. Soc.), No. 37.   <sup>18</sup> Farrer, *op. cit.*, 22.

The elder Brian himself had been married twice, Gunnor being his second wife; by his first wife he had a son, Ralph son of Brian.<sup>19</sup> During the war at the end of John's reign, Brian took the side of the Barons and forfeited his lands, which he did not recover until 1218.<sup>20</sup> A suit touching land in Stapledon (Essex) gives us an interesting sidelight on this matter.<sup>21</sup> It informs us that his son by his second wife (Gunnor) was Brian, formerly husband of Isabel, wife (in 1227) of William de Wytefeld; "and because the same Brian at the time of the War placed himself in the prison of the Bishop of Winchester in exchange for Brian, his father, therefore Brian the father gave all that land in Stapleton to Brian the son to dower Isabel his wife, because Hugh Sanzaver, the father of Isabel had acquitted Brian the father of his ransom, namely, £250; and as evidence of this he produces witnesses, John le Cunte, Ralph Saunzaver, Thomas de Hayshet, Umfrid de Planis and William le Salvage."

Aveline, daughter of Brian and Gunnor, married John de Sey, and died before 1239, in which year Roger de Bavent and Sarah his wife, sister of Aveline, obtained from John de Sey his interest in Aveline's lands in Essex, Surrey, Sussex and Kent.<sup>22</sup> Next year Roger de Bavent and Sarah<sup>23</sup> made an agreement with Peter de Codington, whom Walter de Merton had called to warranty. Peter is said to have been "cousin and heir" of Eudo, son of Brian<sup>24</sup>; he gave the manor of Malden to Walter de Merton and it subsequently became part of the endowment of Merton College, Oxford. By this agreement of 1240 Roger and Sara made over to Peter land in Malden, Chessington and "Pisteleghe" in Surrey, and also the reversion of a knight's fee in Farlegh (Surrey), which William de Whitefeld and Isabel his wife, held in dower of Isabel of the grant of Brian son of Brian, formerly her husband, and the reversion of one-third of the above-named

<sup>19</sup> Curia Reg. 98, m. 6d.      <sup>20</sup> Farrer, *loc. cit.*      <sup>21</sup> Curia Reg. 98, m. 6d.

<sup>22</sup> *Feet of Fines* (Suss. Rec. Soc.), No. 356.

<sup>23</sup> *Ibid.*, No. 357.

<sup>24</sup> *V.C.H. Surrey*, III., 523.

Surrey estates, held by Cicely de Gravenel in dower of the grant of Eudo son of Brian, formerly her husband and brother of the said Brian. In return, Peter gave up to Roger and Sarah and her heirs in right of Gunnor de Maudon, sister of Eudo son of Alan, all his rights in the manor of Cocking. From this time the manor of Cocking descended in the Bavent family until, in the middle of the fifteenth century, their estates passed with an heiress to the Shirleys, but no more is heard of any challenge to the Percy Lordship of the Honor of Petworth.

