

A SURREY CHARTER OF KING JOHN

BY

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Abbreviations

<i>D.B.</i>	<i>Domesday Book.</i>
<i>Ekwall</i>	<i>Ekwall, Eilert, Concise Oxford Dictionary of English Place-Names, 3rd edn., 1947.</i>
<i>Heales</i>	<i>Heales, Alfred, The History of Tandridge Priory, 1885.</i>
<i>Lambert</i>	<i>Lambert, A. U. M., Parish History of Godstone, 1929.</i>
<i>P.-N.S.</i>	<i>The Place-Names of Surrey, English Place-Name Society, Vol. XI, 1934.</i>
<i>V.C.H.</i>	<i>Victoria County History of Surrey, 1911.</i>

IN the Minet Library, Camberwell, is an original Latin deed (H. 127) dated 1 Dec. 1202, by which King John granted to Odo de Dammartin right of warren in twelve places in England, eight of which are in Surrey. This document, although it has, I am informed, been in the library since 1930 at latest, seems never to have been printed or even quoted; it is certainly not among the printed Patent or Charter Rolls, and was therefore probably never actually enrolled. Although it contains some interesting forms of place-names, it is not quoted by Ekwall nor in the Surrey volume of the Place-Name Society. It is one of a collection of mostly undated Tandridge deeds, but neither it nor any other is mentioned by Heales or by Lambert, although both Tandridge and Godstone are among the places mentioned in the deed. Its importance consists in the fresh light it throws on the connection of the places mentioned with the Dammartin family, and the evidence it offers for early forms of certain place-names.

The document—of whose genuineness there can, I imagine, be no doubt—is in excellent condition, except for a small hole (now repaired) in one of the folds of the parchment, which affects two letters; otherwise it presents little difficulty in transcribing. Being no expert palæographer myself, I am much indebted to Miss Gibbs, the Archivist at the Minet Library, for making the following transcription—printed by permission of the library—and translation.

“Joh[ann]es dei gr[at]i[a]. Rex Angl[ie] Dominus Hib[ernie].
Dux Norm[annie]. Aquit[annie]. et Com[es] And[egavie]
Archiep[iscop]is Ep[iscop]is Abb[a]tib[us]. Com[itibus]. Baron
[ibus]. Justic[iis]. Vicecom[itibus]. et omnibus Bailli[v]is et
fidelib[us] suis Sal[u]t[em]. Sciatis nos dedisse. et concessisse et

presenti carta confirmasse Odoni de Daumartin et h[er]edib[us] suis q[uo]d habeant Warennam p[er] terras suas de Tenregge. Welcnested'. Herewoldeste. Chepste. Warlingeham. Mikeleham. Effingeham. Occham. Suthewic'. Sumerd[en'](?). Trumeshal'. Nortun'. ad Wlpem. Leporem. Catum silvestrem. perdices. et phasianos. et p[rohib]em[us] ne quis Warennam illam sine Licentia sua intret. sup[er] decem Lib[r]as forisf[a]c[t]ure. Test[ibus] R. Com[ite] Leicestr'. Willmo' Comite Arundell'. W. Com[ite] de Ferrar'. Dat' p[er] manum. S. p[re]positi Beverl'. et Archid[iaconi] 'Well' ap[u]d Chin'. J. die Dec[embris] Regni Nostri Anno Quarto."

Plaited seal cords, seal wanting. On dorse: "Tannerygge D[e] Warrenna concess[a] p[er] D[o]m[i]n[um] Regem."

"John, by the grace of God, King of England, Lord of Ireland, Duke of Normandy [and] Aquitaine, and Count of Anjou, to the Archbishops, Bishops, Abbots, Earls, Barons, Justices, Sheriffs and all Bailiffs and his faithful men, greeting. Know that we have given and granted and by [this] present charter confirmed to Odo de Daumartin and his heirs that they may have warren through their lands of Tenregge, Welcnested', Herewoldeste, Chepste, Warlingeham, Mikeleham, Effingeham, Occham, Suthwic', 'Sumerd[en'](?)', Trumeshal', Nortun', of wolf (?), hare, wild cat, partridges and pheasants, and we prohibit anyone to enter that warren without his licence, upon ten pounds forfeiture. Witnesses: R[obert] Earl of Leicester, William Earl of Arundel, W[illiam] Earl of Ferrers. Given by the hand of S. provost of Beverley and Archdeacon of Wells at Chinon, 1 day of December, in the fourth year of our reign."

The MS. Calendar of Deeds at the library gives a translation, and it is desirable to emphasise that Miss Gibbs had not seen this when she made her own, for there is no variation of any importance between the two versions: Miss Gibbs has, with a query, translated "Wlpem" as "wolf," whereas the calendar has "foxes," its meaning in classical Latin; she has also preferred "provost" rather than "reeve" for "p[re]positi."

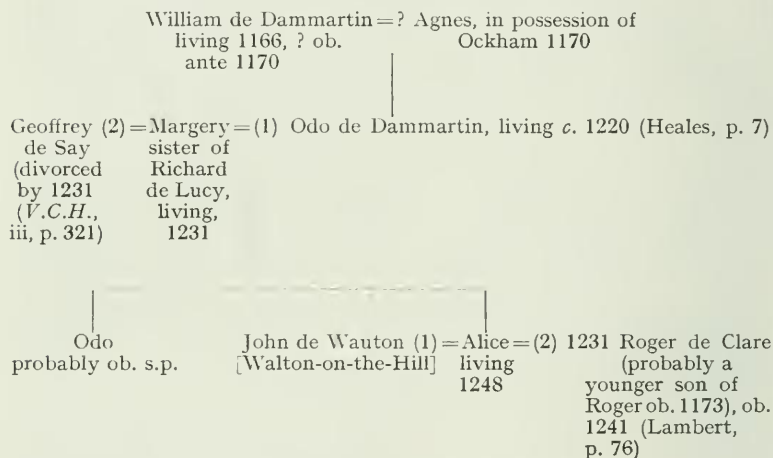
The purport of the document is too clear to need comment.

ODO DE DAMMARTIN

This Anglo-Norman family took its name from Dammartin, a

¹ Quite rightly. The Provost of Beverley—that was his title in English—was in a sense the head of the Collegiate Church of St. John, but had no spiritual authority, being concerned solely with secular matters. The Provosts of Beverley occupied a most distinguished office. They included Thomas à Becket, Cardinal Wolsey and other archbishops of York. The Provost at the time of this charter was Simon de Apulia. See Hiatt, *Beverley Minster*, 1898, p. 24. [Ed., *Sy.A.C.*]

small place some miles north-east of Paris; they had acquired land in England by the middle of the 12th century, but the English branch seems to have died out by the end of the century following. So far I have failed to find any connected account of them; many members of the family are mentioned in other deeds in the same collection at the Minet Library, but these, unlike our grant, are undated, and there are very few evidences of the degree of inter-relationship. The article on the Counts of Dammartin in the *Mémoires* of the *Société des Antiquaires de France* (xxx, 189-258) does not help with the English branch. The following brief pedigree I believe, however, to be correct as far as it goes, and it should serve to illustrate the notes that follow.



The evidence on which this pedigree is based appears in the notes following. Heales and Lambert give a good deal of information about various members of the family, but offer no pedigree. The younger Odo, though his existence is certain, is a somewhat shadowy figure, and it is not always easy to be sure whether it is he or his father that is referred to.

THE PLACE-NAMES

(a) *Surrey*

The first eight names are all in this county, and present no problems of identification; they are in their modern spelling: Tandridge, Walkingstead (the old name for Godstone), Harrowsley (in Horne), Chipstead, Warlingham, Mickleham, Effingham, Ockham. All these were already known to have some connection with

the Dammartins, who in every case except Walkingstead held their land of the de Clares. In 1166¹ William de Dammartin held 11½ Knight's Fees in Surrey and though in most cases specific evidence for their identity is lacking, it is not unreasonable to suppose that they included all the places mentioned in this deed except Walkingstead.

Tandridge. This was already held by the Dammartins in the 12th century. William de Dammartin granted to Lewes Priory land in Chartham (in Lingfield) which, in the confirmation of the grant by his son and grandson, is described as of the fee of Tandridge.² Tandridge Priory itself was founded by our Odo (see under Warlingham, below); for this and subsequent grants by members of the Dammartin family, see Heales (pp. 5 ff.), to which we may add an undated grant in the Minet Library (I, 127) by Alice, daughter of Odo. Alice held a Knight's Fee in Tandridge in 1242-3³ and sold it, with Chipstead and Effingham, to Thomas de Warblington in 1248.⁴ Our charter thus offers no new evidence either for land tenure in Tandridge or for the form of the place-name.

Walkingstead. In 1212 Richard de Lucy, who held Walkingstead in chief, gave half the vill to Odo de Dammartin with his (Richard's) sister Margery in marriage.⁵ The property descended to Odo's daughter Alice, who in 1231 granted her widowed mother Margery a yearly rent in it in exchange for Mickleham.⁶ In 1235 and 1238 she held a moiety of "Walknested,"⁷ which in 1248 she granted to Roger de St. John, who already held the other half.⁸ Our charter shows that Odo already held land in Walkingstead before 1212, and gives a form of the place-name which is apparently otherwise unknown; *P.-N.S.* quote no form between *D.B.*'s "Wachelested" and the "Wolcnested(e)" of 1212.

Harrowsley has had a most confusing history. It is now in the parish of Horley, and has occasionally been so described in the past.⁹ In fact, however, it was until recently a detached part of the parish of Horne,¹⁰ and was reckoned one of the tithings of Blechingley Manor, and as such was held in chief by the de Clares. A Dammartin

¹ *Red Book of the Exchequer*, Vol. I, 405.

² *The Surrey Portion of the Lewes Cartulary*, in *Sy.A.C.*, xliii, 84-112; Nos. 21, 35, 36. The grants included half a virgate of land in Chipstead, and one-third of the tithe of the demesne of Mickleham. *N.B.* William is described as "uncle" of the younger Odo, but this must be a mistake of the scribe.

³ *Book of Fees*, Pt. II, 684.

⁴ *V.C.H.*, IV, 323.

⁵ *V.C.H.*, IV, 285.

⁶ Lambert, *Blechingley* (1921), 66.

⁷ *Book of Fees*, Pt. II, 1362, 1377.

⁸ *V.C.H.*, IV, 285.

⁹ *E.g.*, *Surrey Hearth Tax*, 1664, Surrey Record Society, Vol. 17, p. 3.

¹⁰ *V.C.H.*, IV, 294.

connection was known for 1225, when, according to the *V.C.H.*,¹ William Earl Warenne received the manor to hold as a quarter of a Knight's Fee of William Haunsard who held it of John de Wauton and Alice his wife in right of Alice heiress of Odo de Dammartin of the Honour of Clare. Our charter thus pushes the Dammartin connection back over twenty years and also offers the earliest known appearance of the place-name. *P.-N.S.* give as their first example a document of *c.* 1220 in the British Museum, with the same spelling as here.

Chipstead. The Dammartins held land here in the 12th century² and, with Mickleham and Effingham, the manor formed part of the dower of Odo's widow Margery to whom it was conveyed in 1231³ by her son-in-law Roger de Clare and her daughter Alice, who in 1248⁴ sold it to Thomas de Warblington. Our charter offers no new evidence either for land tenure or the form of the place-name.

Warlingham. This is thought to have been the unnamed manor which in *D.B.* was held by Robert de Wateville and in 1144 given by his descendants to Bermondsey Priory.⁵ There were, however, other properties in Warlingham (possibly formed from the original manor by sub-infeudation), one of which, worth a quarter of a Knight's Fee, came into the hands of the Dammartins after 1198 and was given to Tandridge Priory as a foundation grant by Odo under the name of "all my land at Warlingham."⁶ After this grant Odo evidently held no more land in Warlingham, and our charter thus provides a *terminus a quo* for the date of the foundation of Tandridge Priory. The place-name form is not new.

Mickleham. For this, as for Chipstead, our charter adds nothing to what we already know either for land tenure or for the form of the place-name. William de Dammartin was evidently Lord of the Manor in the 12th century (Norbury Manor is suggested by the *V.C.H.*),⁷ since he was able to grant one-third of the tithes of the demesne lands to Lewes Priory.⁸ Like Chipstead, it was part of the dower of Odo's widow and was still held by Alice de Dammartin in 1242-3⁹—the last we hear of the family in connection with Mickleham.

Effingham. William de Dammartin must have been Lord of the Manor, since he was able to assign the advowson of the church of

¹ *Loc. cit.*

² See above, p. 61, note 2.

³ *Feet of Fines, Divers Counties*, Mich. 15-16, Henry III.

⁴ *V.C.H.*, III, 191.

⁵ *V.C.H.*, IV, 334.

⁶ Heales, 5, 6.

⁷ *V.C.H.*, III, 305.

⁸ See above, p. 61, note 2.

⁹ *Book of Fees*, Pt. II, 684.

Effingham to Merton Priory.¹ It was the third Dammartin manor to form the dower of Odo's widow, to whom, with Chipstead and Mickleham, it was released in 1231.² Like Chipstead, but unlike Mickleham, it was sold by Alice de Dammartin to Thomas de Warblington in 1248.³ Our charter offers no new evidence either for land tenure or for the form of the place-name.

Ockham. No mention is made in the County Histories of the Dammartins in connection with this place, but the *Pipe Roll* for 1170 gives Agnes Dammartin as holding it⁴—no doubt as a sub-fee of the de Clares; in view of our charter it looks as if Agnes may have been the widow of William and the mother of Odo. The spelling "Occham" is a valuable piece of evidence, for in the only two known earlier mentions of the place—*D.B.* and the *Pipe Roll*—the forms are "Boceham" (a well-known slip) and "Hocham" respectively. It is thus the earliest of the comparatively few examples with a double "c," and *P.-N.S.* give their rarity as a ground for giving slight preference to the derivation from *ac*, "oak-tree," rather than from a personal name "Occa." The latter is the only one given by Ekwall, and is, I am convinced, the right one. For Ockham therefore our charter is of prime importance, both as evidence of land tenure and for the place-name.

(b) NOT IN SURREY

Of these the first, third and fourth are certainly identifiable as Southwick in Sussex, Strumpshaw in Norfolk and Norton in Suffolk. Like the Surrey places, they are already known to have some connection with the Dammartins, whose chief holdings were in East Anglia, but unlike them they were not, apparently, held of the Honour of Clare.

Southwick. In 1231 Roger de Clare and his wife Alice [de Dammartin] held land there which Alice had inherited from Odo.⁵ Our charter gives a precise date to the connection, and also provides what must be by far the earliest example of this form of the name—a form which is not given at all by the *Place-Names of Sussex*.

Strumpshaw—an identification which I owe to Lambert's index. This was Dammartin property from the 12th century until at least the end of the 13th century.⁶ In 1204⁷ Odo de Dammartin "optulit se versus" Roger son of Hamo "de placito terre de Trumeshah,"

¹ *V.C.H.*, III, 325.

² See above p. 62, note 3.

³ *V.C.H.*, III, 321

⁴ *Pipe Roll Society*, 16 Henry II, 164.

⁵ *Calendar of Close Rolls*, 1227–31, 578.

⁶ Parkin, C., *Topographical History of the County of Norfolk*, 1807, Vol. VII, 255.

⁷ *Curia Regis Rolls*, III, 246.

and in 1238¹ Gilbert de Wauton, son or brother of Alice Dammartin's first husband, brought assize of novel disseisin against Roger and Alice de Clare in Trumeshal, which Alice had inherited from Odo. Ekwall quotes "Stromessaga" from *D.B.*; his next example is the *Curia Regis Roll*, than which ours is two years earlier. It is clear that the initial "s" was only temporarily dropped and that the final "t" of 1202 and 1238 is less correct than the final "h" of 1204.

Norton. There are several references to Alice de Dammartin's second husband Roger de Clare who, for example, held Norton of the king in 1230.² Our charter suggests that Norton was another of the places inherited by Alice from Odo, a supposition which is confirmed by an undated deed in the Minet Library (G. 127) by which Alberic "Comes Dommartini" grants Norton to William de Donomart' [his brother?]. Among the ten witnesses, all Dammartins, is Walter, a name which occurs also among the witnesses to the grant by William de Dammartin to Lewes Priory.⁴ Our charter offers no new evidence as to the form of the place-name, which is among the commonest there are.

It remains to consider the identity of Sumerd[en?]; the last two letters are those partly removed by the hole already referred to, and it is unfortunately one of the few places mentioned whose identity could not easily be guessed by the first syllable or two, since there is no mention in Gazetteers or in Ekwall of any place beginning with "Sumerd"—or any such form. Miss Gibbs has examined the whole document very carefully, and considers that the last two letters are very unlikely to have been anything but "en," followed by an apostrophe indicating the omission of a letter, presumably an "e," or possibly "i"; the *Calendar* has "Sumerd. . . ."

There can therefore be no reasonable doubt that the place referred to is the Somerden which gave its name to a Hundred in West Kent, and may be found on the 1-inch O.S. map about a mile north of Chiddingstone. In *D.B.* three holdings in the Hundred of "Summerdene" are mentioned, all in the section headed "Land of [Odo] Bishop of Bayeux." Two of these are held of him by Robert the Latin, one directly of the bishop; the other Robert "by new gift of the bishop has in the hand of the king of Richard son of Count Gilbert"⁵—i.e., Richard of Tonbridge, ancestor of the de Clares. The phraseology is most curious, but in any case, in view of the proved connection between the Dammartins and the de Clares, it seems extremely likely, although I have no direct evidence, that at the time of our charter Odo held this land in sub-fee of the latter family, and that it is equivalent to the manor of Millbrook

¹ *Calendar of Close Rolls*, 1237–42, 40.

² *Calendar of Close Rolls*, 1227–31, 346.

³ *Red Book of the Exchequer*, Vol. I, 411, 412.

⁴ See above, p. 61, note 2.

⁵ "De novo dono episcopi habet in manu regis de Ricardo filio Gisleberti comitis . . .," *V.C.H., Kent*, III, 241.

alias Somerden in Chiddingstone,¹ part of which parish is in the Hundred in question, which presumably took its name from the place where the Hundred Court was held. Note that Robert's two holdings are not actually named; the third holding in the Hundred is Tickenhurst, which is held by Turstin directly of the bishop.

The spelling of the name in our charter is an earlier appearance of the form quoted for the name of the Hundred in 1274,² and differs from that of *D.B.* in having only one "m."

I am much indebted to Miss E. M. Dance for help in the preparation of this article, but I am solely responsible for any errors.

¹ For information as to the site of this manor I am indebted to the Manorial Committee at the Public Record Office. Sir William Burcestre in his Will made at Southwark in 1407 mentions the manor of "Sumerden," but names no county; see *Sy.A.C.*, I, 192.

² Cam, H., *The Hundred and the Hundred Rolls*, 1930, 272.