



The Honour *of the* Eagle (de Aquila)

de l'Aigle Holdings in England

**"As an eagle stirreth up her nest, fluttereth over her young, spreadeth
abroad her wings, taketh them, beareth them on her wings."**

Deuteronomy 32:11



de l'Aigle de Montagne

Compiled by Virginia Sanders Mylius, 2009



The HONOUR of the EAGLE [Aquila]

and the Holdings of the de l'Aigle's in England

The family founded by Fulbert de Biene de l'Aigle was often the subject of Orderic Vitalis' memoirs. We are familiar with "Castle de l'Aigle" in France as built by Fulbert and passed down to his succeeding generations. Engenulf de l'Aigle was a well-known companion of William the Conqueror, and Engenulf was, in fact, one of the few nobles known to have been killed when the Normans invaded England in 1066.

But what about the holdings of the de l'Aigle's in England? This is an attempt to pinpoint as many of those holdings as possible. Several historians in their speculation on the status of the de l'Aigle's, both in France and in England, have stated that they were minor nobles with little property. But was that true?

The de l'Aigle's held two properties as mentioned in the Domesday Survey in 1086: Witley and Mildenhall. These were the properties given by William the Conqueror to the "descendants of Engenulf de l'Aigle" who was killed at the battle of Hastings, as stated by Orderic Vitalis. Gilbert de l'Aigle II [died 1112/1118], son of Richer [died 1085] - son of Engenulf, held them. They were held by the de l'Aigle's until between 1231 and 1235, when Gilbert de l'Aigle III decided to relinquish all of his English holdings and returned to France.

The "Honour of the Eagle" was the name given to the Rape of Pevensey due to it's ownership by the de l'Aigle's... or de Aquila's...*on and off* from 1106 until about 1234. Gilbert de l'Aigle II [4th baron de l'Aigle] was given the Rape of Pevensey after he had proven himself time again and again as a fierce yet courageous warrior. In 1090 Gilbert was a key participant in the battle at Rouen when he "led a body of men to the relief" of William II.¹ In 1097 he was charged with the keeping of the city of Mans after its surrender to William II. In 1104, the new King Henry I came to Normandy to restore order to the duchy. William de Mortain, a half-nephew to the Conqueror, held the rape of Pevensey at that time, but opposed Henry at the battle of Tinchebrai in 1106. Upon William de Mortain's defeat, Henry I gave Gilbert de l'Aigle the Rape.

This was not an inconsiderable thing. Pevensey Castle was of key strategic importance and a formidable fortress. It was awarded to the half-brother of the Conqueror, Robert de Mortagne de Conteville, count of Mortagne in Normandy, and sometimes called Earl of Cornwall in England. Orderic calls Robert one of the most important Norman magnates. He contributed no less than 120 vessels to his brother William's conquest fleet. He was never far from his brother's side, whom he served faithfully and far better than the other brother, Odo. And he was "second only to Roger of Montgomery amongst the lay magnates in terms of his landed wealth in post Conquest England." Robert died by 1090, and was buried in the abbaye de Grestain. His son William inherited the Rape of Pevensey.

William de Mortagne was certainly not as wise as his father. As Robert's only son, he undoubtedly inherited considerable property. But he wanted more and petulantly demanded from King Henry the earldom of Kent which his uncle Odo had held, and declared that he "would not put on his robe or mantle till the inheritance he derived from his uncle should be restored to him." Within ten years of his father's death he was in open rebellion against Henry, and was defeated at the battle of Tinchebrai. Held captive for many years, he eventually died a monk in 1120, leaving no direct heirs.

Henry or William Rufus undoubtedly had many nobles they could have awarded the Rape of Pevensey, but they chose Gilbert de l'Aigle II. Gilbert fought by Henry's side and according to historians "stood high in favor" with him, as well as his brother William II [who was king of England]. As with his father Richer and grandfather Engenulf, he was always closely involved with the Conqueror's family. Matters were turbulent in Normandy as the Conqueror's sons fought for prominence. Gilbert certainly couldn't have spent much time at his properties in England [as mentioned in Domesday, 1086] as he was seemingly constantly involved in the warfare taking place in France.

¹ A History of England Under the Norman Kings, by Johann Martin Lappenberg, page 228. William Rufus. "When Gilbert, supported by Henry and the loyal portion of the townsmen, had obtained possession of the south gate, a fearful slaughter ensued within the city, and Conan was soon captured, when all resistance was at an end." In 1108, Gilbert was a ducal justiciar in Rouen.

ANOTHER LINE of de l'AIGLE'S heretofore unknown: It is interesting to note that about this time, during the upheavals caused by the sons of William the Conqueror, there was a **William de l'Aigle**. In particular, when William Rufus attacked the French king Louis, son of Philip, there is the following interesting quote found in *Medieval Sourcebook*: "After his elder brother Robert was disinherited, he was fortunate to succeed his father William; then, after Robert's departure for Jerusalem, he obtained the duchy of Normandy. There he put so much pressure on the Norman frontiers of the French kingdom that wherever he could he forced the renowned young prince to fight. In these encounters many captives were taken on both sides; the famous youth and his men captured among many others, the count Simon, the noble baron William de l'Aigle, an equally illustrious figure in England and in Normandy..." He held them until they swore allegiance.²

The tantalizing glimpses we find of a William are usually mentioned in connection to **Richard d'Aquila**, who in several instances states he was the "son of William," and that William was the son of "Alured" [Alfred, I suppose we would say today]. *So, who were these de l'Aigle's?* They were certainly related to Gilbert de l'Aigle who was given the Rape of Pevensey, as all mentions of that Richard are in relation to the Honour of Aquila and the lands known to have been part of the Mortagne holdings that were given to Gilbert II in 1106, which he granted to a priory [possibly dated around 1078]. He was not Gilbert's son Richer II, who is so well-known, as he died in 1161. It is also not possible to confuse *Richard* with Richer III who died in 1176, known to be the son of Richer II, although he is seemingly contemporaneous with that Richer. There is no way that Richer III would have said he was the son of William!

Further research will hopefully tell us who this other line of de l'Aigle's were.

But to get back on point, given Pevensey's strategic importance as a possible landing site for rebellious barons, it had to be held by someone of unquestioned loyalty and ability. Gilbert's position as a ducal justiciar in Rouen shows the measure of respect and trust in which he was held, and his status as a nobleman. The granting of the Rape of Pevensey in 1106 shows it, as well. It would be called *The Honour of Aquila*.

But it is always important to keep in mind that the Laigle stronghold in Normandy, though burned at least 3 times, was always of prime importance to the de l'Aigle's. They rebuilt it time and again, and eventually the main line of the de l'Aigle's in England, in the person of Gilbert, abandoned all of his holdings in England and returned there. As we have seen, however, there was at least one other line of de l'Aigle's in England. Perhaps that line was the foundation for the Egle's, Eagle's, and other variations of the name de l'Aigle, who eventually emerge there? And perhaps that line had members of the family who also returned to France?

ENGLISH HOLDINGS of the de l'AIGLE's:

The de l'Aigle's held lands in Sussex, Surrey, Hampshire, Essex, Kent, Dorsetshire, and Norfolk, in England. Some of the specific English lands found mentioned in connection with the de l'Aigle's include:

Pevensey; Whitley; Mildenhall; Wynford Eagle; Toller [Toltam]; Tollerford [Colford]; Willingdon; Ackworth; Crofton; Warmfield; Woolverton; Sowerby; Hidney in Willington; Chinting in Seaford; Hailsham; Laughton; The Wishe; The Dicker (extends into Arlington, Chiddingly and Hellingly parishes); and woods in Sussex [including Ashdown Forest]; manor of Greywell (Hants); Chalvyngton and Ekyngton manors; Hadleigh [alias Hawley]; Stisted in Essex; Marden Hundred, Ospringe, Darford, Havering, and Fordham in Kent; Also, Aquilate in Staffs comes from the family of Aquila, the Latin rendering of the Norman surname l'Aigle.

² Medieval Sourcebook; Abbot Suger: Life of King Louis the Fat. *I cannot place this William de l'Aigle in the family genealogy, so far.* Available online at: <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/basis/suger-louisthefat.html>

When Richer de l'Aigle [III] made a report of his knight's fees in 1165, properties held by various knights *as tenants* included these properties: "Chauinton"[Chalvington], and "Eghinton" [Eckington] "Exete," "Pykeden" [in East Dean], "Hertfeld," "Horstede," "Alfrecheston, and "Albricheston" "manor de Preston," "Aumbefeld, [Ottenham] and "Teliton" [in Sussex]. *There were several manors that seem to all have been named "Geuington," or something close to that.* There was 1) "Geuington in Cherleton", 2) "Geuyugton duo feoda" in Burton Dytton and Sydenore; 3) "Geuyngton in Willyndon," 4) "Geuington [in Northampton]; 5) "Geuyngton In Crawelynke," 6) "de Queuyngton in Preston," [Sussex] and 7) "Geuyngton in Bourne." *There were also:* "Albricheston and Isecombe [under tenants] in Isecombe." *Tenants* in "Pegheton," "Hertefeud Beueringetou Bourne," "Blachington," and a couple of tenants in "Beuerington;" "Sutton," "Erlyngton" [in Wilyndon], and "Sekynton."³

The *Terre Normannor* is a list of properties whose former holders were described in English royal records as either a Norman, as with the king's enemies, or as having left the king's faith (fealty). It also lists properties known to have been held in demesne by a person or family whose estates were confiscated on account of the loss of the Angevin lands in northern France. **The de l'Aigle's have 19 properties listed.**

Gilbert de l'Aigle's holdings as listed in the *terre Normannor* were: Ackworth [Yorks], Chinting in Seaford [Sussex], Crofton [Yorks], The Dicker [Sussex] Greywell [Hants], Hailsham [Sussex], Langney [Sussex], Laughton [Sussex], Pevensey [Sussex], Ripe [Sussex], Sowerby [Yorks], Waldron [Sussex], Warmfield {Yorks}, Westcott in Dorking [Surrey], Willingdon [Sussex], Witley [Sussex], Wynford Eagle [Dorset].

Richer de Aigle is listed with the following properties: Toller Fratum and Tollerford in Maiden Newton [Dorset].



PEVENSEY: In 1066 William the Conqueror landed his army in the bay of Pevensey. Pevensey Castle, or the Roman fortress there and had been in use by the Saxon's. The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle states: "*Then Count William came from Normandy to Pevensey on Michaelmas Eve, and as soon as they were able to move on they built a castle at Hastings.*" A representation of the landing is one of the designs in the Bayeux tapestry. The embroiderers take no count of William's fall as he stepped ashore, on ground now grazed upon by cattle, an accident deemed unlucky until his ready wit explained, as he rose with sanded fingers, "See, I have seized the land with my hands."⁴ When Harold II was killed at

³ Sussex Archaeological Collections Relating to the History and Antiquities of Sussex. [The complete text of all of these properties, and the knight's who held them, is at the end of this report]

⁴ Highways and Byways in Sussex, by E.V. Lucas; Illustrator: Frederick Griggs; [The coastline has since receded.]

battle of Hastings, he was originally buried at Pevensey, later reburied at Waltham Abbey. There is evidence that there was a pre-Conquest chapel at Pevensey Castle, and at Hastings.⁵

At this time, there were six “rapes,” which were military districts designed for the supply of the castles. These rapes were: Chichester, Arundel, Bramber, Lewes, Pevensey, and Hastings. The rapes of Hastings and Pevensey are known to have been founded shortly after the Conquest.⁶ The lords of these rapes could appoint their own sheriff’s and hold courts, if they desired. A history of Michelham says that Gilbert took up the position of overlord of the rape of Pevensey in the thirteenth century where his administrative headquarters and large estates in Sussex were known as the ‘Honour of the Eagle’.

Historie de l’Aigle states to reward the services of the de l’Aigle’s, “Guillaume gives to the *children of Engenouf* several lands in England, and specially the domain of Pevensey close to Hastings.”⁷ In point of fact, William the Conqueror apparently did give several holdings to Richer, son of Engenulf, which were held by his son Gilbert (II) at the time of Domesday. But he did not give them Pevensey. This was granted to Gilbert de l’Aigle II in 1106. Warfare in France led to Laigle castle in France being burned to the ground in 1118, and it was in that year that Gilbert’s son Richer II succeeded to it, and his lands in England. But in 1119 RICHER de l’AIGLE, alienated by Henry I’s refusal to grant him his father’s English lands, raided Normandy with his neighbours Eustace de Breteuil and William de la Ferte-Arnaud. Henry apparently refused on the excuse that Richer’s brothers were serving in the royal household troops and were expecting the honor. It was eventually granted to him after the intervention of his uncle Rotrou de Mortagne, Comte de Perche.⁸

Richer remained loyal to Henry I once he had regained his English inheritance. Richer was one of Thomas Becket’s father’s rich friends, and a mentor to young Thomas a Becket. But troubles arose during the reign of Stephen. Possession of the castle fell to Henry II in 1154-5 and he returned it to Richer II. Richer III was the successor of his father and held the baronnie for fifteen years, until his death in 1176. It was apparently Richer III’s son Gilbert III who held the Honour of Aquila and the de l’Aigle English holdings until 1234, when he returned to Normandy.

The town of Pevensey has an eagle crest, obtained in post-William times from the Aquila’s.⁹

Pevensey’s history included several sieges. One was by William Rufus in 1088, when Odo, Bishop of Bayeux, was a supporter of Robert Curthose. Robert, earl of Mortagne, was the defender. As soon as “the king laid siege thereto, [Robert] rendered it up to him and made his peace.”¹⁰

It was again sieged in 1144 by Stephen, the fortress being held by Maude, who gave in eventually to famine. “The fortress at this time was under the command of Gilbert de Clare. In the treaty which followed between Stephen and Henry, it was stipulated that Pevensey and the other possessions of the outlaw, Richard de Aquila, should be settled upon William, son of King Stephen, who held them until Henry II’s accession in 1154. This sorereign with great generosity reinstated Richard de Aquila in the honur of Pevensey, and the old rebel, growing penitent, gave to the Abbey of Grestein his manor of Willingdon, the herbage in his forest of Pevensey (Ashdown), and the titles of Pevensey.”¹¹

Gilbert de Aquila succeeded to the Honour of the Eagle in 1176. “He appears to have been of a more tranquil nature, the only mention of him being that he paid £21 17s 6d towards the fund collected for the redemption of Richar Coeur-de-Lion

⁵ Anglo-Norman Studies XIV, by Marjorie Chibnall, page 20

⁶ The Medieval Castle in England and Wales, by Norman John Greville Pounds, page 33

⁷ *Historie des Antiquites de la Ville de l’Aigle et des ses Environs*

⁸ Norman Nobility, Foundation of Medieval Genealogy. Note: Rotrou was the brother of Juliana, Gilbert II’s wife, Richer II’s mother. Juliana’s father’s knights had murdered Gilbert I de l’Aigle, and in about 1090 Count Geoffrey of Mortagne pacified the injured party by marrying his daughter to the dead man’s nephew, Gilbert II the lord of l’Aigle, and according to Orderic Vitalis the resulted in an ‘alliance between the two lines of cousins.’ The name Mortagne is spelled any number of ways: Mortaine, Mortan, etc. Rotrou was called “Le Grande” – count of Perche.

⁹ [I have been unable to find a picture of this] The town of Pevensey states this on a website.

¹⁰ The Parochial History of Cornwall, by Davies Gilbert, William Hals, Thomas Tonkin, page 348

¹¹ A Compendious History of Sussex, by Mark Antony Lower, page 93; [note that the text in the book says that the Honour was held by William, Stephen’s son, until the accession of Henry II in 1254, but of course that is a mistake, for Henry acceded in throne 1154 and ruled for 35 years.] This reference therefore says that Pevensey was out of the family for a period of about 10 years.

out of the hands of his Austrian captors. In 1205 a third Gilbert de Aquila, son of the preceding lord, succeeded, but being guilty of many excesses, and having gone over to Normandy without royal license, he forfeited all his estates, which were never restored to the family.”¹²

Pevensay was seized by Simon de Montfort and the Barons in 1265 when supporters of Henry III took refuge in the castle and successfully held out against the besieging force.

In 1399, Henry, Duke of Lancaster and son of John of Gaunt claimed the English throne and Pevensay had to withstand a siege by Richard II (of York) and his royal troops. Sir John Pelham was then constable of Pevensay Castle and had joined the Duke's army, and his wife, Lady Joan Pelham, successfully defended it for the Rose of Lancaster. The castle was also armed as one of the country's defences at the time of the Spanish Armada.¹³

In Pevensay church, which has none of the interest of Westham, is a little collection of curiosities relating to Pevensay—a constable's staff, old title deeds, seals, and so forth—is kept in a glass case. Pevensay church is to the east of the ruins of the castle; the interior is graceful and it has some interesting details. Westham was the overflow settlement from the walled town; this has a much finer church with Norman remains dating from the Conqueror's time, and the tower is noble in its massive proportions.¹⁴



Pevensay Church



Westham

SIGNET of AQUILA and the ownership of Pevensay after the de l'Aigles:

¹² A Compendious History of Sussex, by Mark Antony Lower, page 93

¹³ English Heritage Education pamphlet, August 2004

¹⁴ Seaward Sussex, The South Downs from End to End, by Edric Holmes

On March 12, 1447 King Henry VI signed his will and used the seal of his duchy of Lancaster which he called the “Royal Signet of the Eagle.” The devise was an eagle with two heads; and the legend read: “*b’ sicut aquila proucans ad boland um p, i.e. pullos,*” being the commencement of the 11th verse of the 32nd chapter of Deuteronomy. The verse from Deuteronomy reads:

“As an eagle stirreth up her nest, fluttereth over her young, spreadeth abroad her wings, taketh them, beareth them on her wings.”¹⁵



“The stone in the Signet was a medieval gem, many years older than the setting.” The setting rose about it and bore the legend. The letters in the impression were faint, as if in 1447 the Signet had been a long time in use. Speculation is that the gem may have been a medieval oriental gem, perhaps Saracen.¹⁶

“The existence of a Royal Signet called the Eagle [or Aquila] has been for some years known to modern antiquaries. As a work of art, the seal is by no means what might have been expected for a Royal Signet of that period.” It was undoubtedly the seal of the “Honor of the Eagle” which was annexed to the crown by King Henry III in 1268, and it was used in various ways on documents relating to the Earldom of Chester, the Ducky of Cornwall, and the Palatinate of Lancaster.

Henry III granted the Honor of Aquila temporarily to Gilbert Marshal, Earl of Pembroke, who surrendered it in 25 Henry III [cal 1241] when it was granted to Peter de Savoy. Peter de Savoy was the guardian of the heir(s) of Gilbert de l’Aigle, and the uncle of Queen Eleanor. “After his death some provision seems to have been made of it for the Queen herself. In 53 Henry III [cal 1269], that King, with her consent, granted to their eldest son, Prince Edward, afterwards Edward I “*le honur del EGLE ove tutus les apurtenaunces a avoir a tenyr a luy e a sea eyrs Reys de Engleterre emay ke enterement remayne a la corune quitement et enterement par droyt heritage a tuz jurs.*” It continued in the royal family until 46 Edward III [cal 1373], when his son John of Ghent had it in lieu of a very ample grant of manors and lands.

1372: Pevensey was included in the estates given by Edward III to his son John Gaunt, the Duke of Lancaster, by a charter dated 46 Edward III (25th of June). This Charter was made between King Edward III and his “most dear son John” [of Gaunt] who was then “King of Castille” Edward did advance John to be Earl of Richmond, and by charter gave him all the honors, castles, manors, lands and tenements which John, late Duke of Brittany and earl Richmond had, to be held by John of Gaunt and his heirs. Various holdings are mentioned including the “honor of Tichill,” “the church of Maresfield and free chapel there, of the free chapel within PEVENSEY castle,” the priory of Wilmingdon, [with the

¹⁵ Thanks to Kevin DeLaigle for looking this up in the Bible!

¹⁶ The Archaeological Journal, by British Archaeological Association and Royal Archaeological Institute of Great Britain, pages 49-55. The chapter, “Examples of Medieval Seals,” speculates that it was not the seal of the Honour of Aquila, claiming that the de l’Aigle’s did not use that symbol; but of course they did., as evidenced by the seal of Chateau de l’Aigle, and other heraldic symbols known to have been used by de l’Aigle’s or their descendants in Normandy and Bretagne.

previous de l'Aigle holdings of] “the castle and leucata of Pevensey, and the manors of Willingdon and Maresfield, and also the bailiwick of Endelenewick, in the county of Sussex.”

Some holdings had apparently not been stated clearly enough in the first charter of June 1372, for in 1377, 51 Edward III (4th of June): “Recital that estates had been given to **John Duke of Lancaster** in exchange for the earldom of Richmond, and that the Duke had afterwards petitioned the King that certain towns, which, though not specially mentioned in the charter, had been included in the valuation, might by name be granted to him, together with the liberties, etc., enjoyed by Queen Philippa, the former tenant for life of the said estates.” “Grant that the said Duke may retain the towns of Grinstead (parcel of the manor of Marsfield), Seaford (parcel of the castle and leucata of Pevensey), and Laughton-in-le-Morthen (parcel of the honor of Tickhill), with the other estates given to him in exchanged for the said earldom of Richmond.” So it is repeated that the Castle of Pevensey, and the towns of Grinstead, Seaford, and Laughton were now John’s (as had previously been held by the late Queen Philippa).¹⁷ John of Gaunt, in receiving the holdings of the Honour of Aquila, gained the properties that his grandson, a de l’Aigle descendant, would inherit.

John of Gaunt [1340-1399], a very powerful man, was created 2nd Duke of Lancaster by his father Edward III in 1362. John recovered many of the Lancaster possessions that had been lost in 1322. He also made valuable additions to the Duchy, including the Honors of Tickhill, Knaresborough, PEVENSEY and High Peak, which he received in exchange for surrendering the Earldom of Richmond in North Yorkshire to his father in 1372. On 28 February 1377, Edward III recreated the Palatinate for John's lifetime. In 1390, this grant was extended to include John's heirs. The Duke of Lancaster had become one of the most important figures in the country. His son by Blanche Lancaster was Henry IV, King of England.

The lordship of Pevensey passed to John of Gaunt’s son, Henry IV [1367-1413]. Henry VI married Mary de Bohun. Henry IV perhaps granted the Honour of Aquila, or parts of it, to Sir John Pelham, but no copy of a grant has ever been found. To make matters more interesting, in 1415 Thomas West, Lord de la Warr, died possessed of the Honour of Aquila, and Ripe in Sussex, as well as other manors.¹⁸ His father does not seem to have had them, and his heir was his brother Reginald, who does not seem to have possessed the Honour at the time of *his* death, although he did possess Ripe. In 1478 the Castle of Pevensey was settled on Elizabeth, queen-consort of Edward IV, for life. After that date records are scanty. In 1650 a survey was made when the property was sold to John Warr of Westminster. At that time the property was described as “the manor of Pevensey, sometimes styled the Honour of Aquila, and included the parishes of Pevensey, Westham, Haylsham, Bexhill, etc.” In 1660 Pevensey was settled upon Henrietta, the queen-dowager. It was held as royal property until William III granted it to the Bentincks, who sold it to Spencer Compton, Earl of Wilmington and Viscount Pevensey. It 1755 it descended to his son Charles, Earl of Northampton, whose daughter married in 1782 Lord George Augustus Cavendish, the Earl of Burlington, who conveyed it into the family of the Duke of Devonshire, the last private owner.¹⁹

There is an interesting twist regarding those Royals who claimed the Honour of Aquila after Gilbert de l’Aigle left England, particularly with regard to Henry V. Gilbert de l’Aigle [last lord of Pevensey who returned to Normandy and lost the Honour of the Eagle] and Isabel de Warenne had a daughter, Alice. Alice married John de Lacy, Constable of Chester. Alice died young, before her father had left the country. But Alice and John had two daughters, Matilda and Idonia (Alice) de Lacy. Countess Matilda de Lacy married Richard de Clare. Their daughter Margaret de Clare married Bartholomew deBadlesmere. Their daughter Elizabeth de Badlesmere married William de Bohun. Their son Humphrey de Bohun married Joan FitzAlan (Arundel). Their daughter Mary de Bohun married Henry IV Plantagenet, King of England. Henry IV and Mary’s son was Henry V who married Catherine de France, and their son was Henry VI.

There is evidence the Aquila signet as used by Henry V in 1421, *the earliest known example*. This is very interesting when you consider that Henry V *was* a de l’Aigle descendant through his mother, and so used the signet almost 200 years after the Honour was lost by Gilbert. Apparently Henry V’s father, Henry IV, did not use it, even though he was granted some of the holdings of the Aquila Honour. But then Henry VI wasn’t a de l’Aigle descendant, as his son *was*. As for Henry VI’s use of the signet at the time of his will, his greatx7 grandfather was Gilbert de l’Aigle. Henry V, VI, and VII

¹⁷ The Charters of the Duchy of Lancaster, by the Duchy

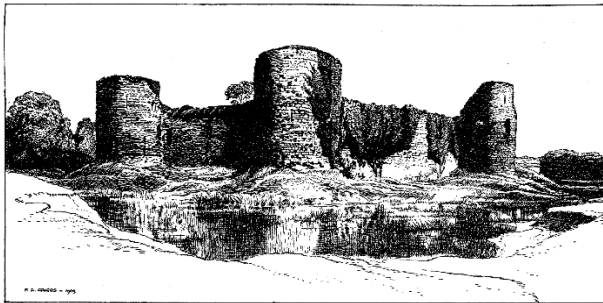
¹⁸ Peerage of England, by Arthur Collins, page 6

¹⁹ A compendious History of Sussex, by mark Antony Lower, page 94-95 - “Pevensey”

used the Aquila signet. The last known instance of the use of the signet was for the will of Henry VII, and what became of it afterwards is unknown.

An interesting side-note with regard to the history of PEVENSEY states: Joanna of Navarre (c. 1370 – 10 June 1437) was a daughter of Charles the Bad, King of Navarre, and Joan of France. [She was also a descendant of Marguerite de l'Aigle who married Garcia VII, king of Navarre]. She was accused of conspiracy by her stepson Henry V King of England, imprisoned at Pevensey Castle, but finally released in 1425 by King Henry VI. "Queen Joan of Navarre, the last wife of Henri IV, and step-mother of the reigning king, being accused, with her confessor, of the practice of necromancy and sorcery, with intent to take away the monarch's life, was committed to the charge of Sir John Pelham [son of John]. Here she remained prisoner for nine years, until the second year of Henry VI, when she was restored to her dower."²⁰ There is a legend that a female ghost haunts Pevensey, and that perhaps it is Joanna's ghost.

The last private owner of Pevensey Castle was the Duke of Devonshire, "who by virtue of the possession was entitled to call himself Dominus Aquilæ, or Lord of the Eagle." He presented it to the State in 1925.



**DETAILS on some the *English Holdings* of the *DE L'AIGLE'S*,
starting with the two properties owned by Gilbert at the time of Domesday,
and continuing with some of the other main properties, as researched so far.**

In 1086 Domesday, the l'Aigle holdings in England are found to be only in Witley and Mildenhall in Surrey. They were held by Gilbert de l'Aigle at that time. Details about the other holdings can be found in legal and historical documents and texts. These properties would be held by de l'Aigle's until lost, or forfeited, by *another* Gilbert de l'Aigle in the early 13th century, at the same time he lost the rape of Pevensey, called the Honour of Aquila.

WITLEY is in Surrey, [south of London], near the coast. Witley appears in Domesday Book as 'Witlei.' Gilbert de l'Aigle held the manor of Witley [Godalming]. Earl Godwin, the powerful minister to King Edward the Confessor, owned it prior to Gilbert de l'Aigle. Its Domesday assets were held by "*Gislebert, son of Richere de l'Aigle.*" It rendered 12 hides, 1 church, 15 ploughs, 3 acres of meadow, woodland worth 30 hogs, and rendered £16. There were 37 villagers and 3 cottagers. Witley was a larger estate than Mildenhall, the other property owned by Gilbert at the time of the Domesday Survey.

A History of the County of Surrey has a wonderful chapter on the history of **WITLEY MANOR, which was one of the first, and was probably the primary, property of the de l'Aigle's in England.** The most interesting thing is that it

²⁰ A Compendious History of Sussex: Topographical, Archæological & Anecdotal, by Mark Antony Lower

firmly states there was an heir to the last Gilbert de l'Aigle, lord of Pevensey, and "it is most likely that it was **the heir who sacrificed his English [property] in order to retain his French lands**, for Gilbert's widow had dower in his English lands, which were nevertheless accounted for among the 'Terrae Normannorum.'"



“WITLEY MANOR was a possession of Earl Godwin, and after the Conquest was among the lands of Gilbert son of Richer (Richerius) de Aquila, whose grandfather Engenulf de Aquila had accompanied William the Conqueror and fell at the battle of Hastings. Gilbert's son Richer demanded his father's lands in England; these were at first refused him, but were temporarily restored upon his invoking French aid. For his complicity in the rebellion of William Clito his whole honour of Aquila escheated to the Crown, and was only fully regranted in 1154. He died in 1176 and was succeeded by a son of the same name. The latter's son Gilbert went away into Normandy shortly before 1200, at which date the sheriff accounted for his lands at Witley. The custody of this manor was given first to Stephen de Turnham, and afterwards, in 1204–5, to William, Earl de Warenne, Gilbert's brother-in-law, who obtained the grant on behalf of his sister. The lands had probably been restored to Gilbert before 6 April 1226, when he had licence to cross to Normandy, but they were again taken into the king's hands in September of the same year, perhaps as a pledge for his loyalty to Henry III, for they were restored in the following spring on payment of a fine. Gilbert de Aquila was dead before January 1231–2, and his lands escheated to the king, probably owing to his or his heir's adherence to French interests, for in 1232 Henry III granted his barony to Peter de Rivaulx, the Poitevin favourite, promising that, if he should restore it to Gilbert's heirs by a peace or of his own free will, Peter should not be dispossessed without compensation. Peter de Rivaulx, however, seems to have lost the lands at the time of his deprivation in 1234, for in December of that year the king granted them with a similar promise to Gilbert Marshal, Earl of Pembroke. He exchanged them almost immediately with the king's brother Richard, but temporarily only, for he surrendered them to the Crown in June 1240. In the year following Henry granted the honour of Aquila to Peter of Savoy, uncle of Queen Eleanor, and entailed it on his heirs in 1246. It was doubtless the general dislike of foreigners which caused the ill-feeling that arose between Peter of Savoy and his tenants at Witley. They roused his anger by neglecting the homage due to him, and he in revenge increased their rents. On the baronial victory in 1264, Peter of Savoy having fled from the country, Witley was granted to the custody of Gilbert de Clare, Earl of Gloucester. But after Evesham, Peter's lands were restored, and on his death in 1268 Queen Eleanor received Witley in accordance with a settlement made by Peter her uncle. The king and queen granted the manor to their son Edward, who surrendered it to his mother for her life.

“She granted the tenants a release from the oppressive exactions of her predecessor on condition that they should cause a yearly service to be held in Witley Church for the souls of her husband and of Peter of Savoy. In 1275 she gave the manor for life to her steward Guy Ferre, who surrendered it to the Crown c. 1279. In 1283 Queen Eleanor was again in possession, for she then had a grant of a weekly market on Fridays at her manor of Witley, and her charter to Guy Ferre was confirmed in 1289. She died in 1291.

“Edward I visited Witley in June 1294, and in 1299 assigned the honour of Aquila, and possibly Witley also, but there is no definite proof that Witley was parcel of the honour, in dower to Queen Margaret, who was in actual possession of Witley in 1313, and possibly earlier, for Guy de Ferre the former tenant for life had died before 1303. Witley seems to have been assigned with the honour to the next queen, Isabella, who was in possession in 1329. Queen Isabella

surrendered it with her other lands in 1330, and it formed part of Philippa of Hainault's dower in January 1330–1. During the latter's life Andrew Tyndale held the manor in lease, and after her death, in 1369, the lease was renewed for twenty years. He died c. 1377, and the manor was thereupon granted by Richard II to his nurse Mundina Danos for life, the grant being afterwards extended to her and her husband Walter Rauf, the king's tailor, in survivorship. They seem to have renewed the exactions of Peter of Savoy, whereupon the tenants of the manor raised a subscription among themselves and brought a plea against Mundina and her husband, and though they were not at the time successful they were able in the next reign to obtain an exemplification of the Domesday entry relating to Witley, and a confirmation of Queen Eleanor's charter. Walter Rauf died 12 June 1421, but Mundina survived him, at any rate till 1423, when she had confirmation of the former grants of Witley. The reversion of Witley Manor was given to John Feriby, king's clerk, for life, in 1422; Henry VI also granted a life-interest in the manor to Sir Bryan Stapilton, kt., with remainder after his death to James Fiennes, afterwards Lord Say, who was in possession of it in 1450, when he was executed by Cade's mob. His lands fell to the king, who bestowed Witley on his brother Jasper Tudor, Earl of Pembroke, in 1453. On the accession of Edward IV, the Earl of Pembroke was attainted and forfeited his lands to the king, who granted Witley to the Earl of Kent in tail male, and at the earl's death without heirs male in January 1462–3 to George, Duke of Clarence, his ill-fated brother. On the duke's execution Witley was again seized by the Crown, the stewardship of the manor being granted in 1478 to Sir George Brown, kt., for life. Jasper Tudor's attainder was reversed in 1485; probably he regained Witley. At his death in 1495 Henry VII was his heir. Again in 1511 the stewardship of the manor was given to William Fitz William and William Cope, and in 1527 to Sir William Fitz William and Sir Anthony Browne. The demesne lands were held in 1547–9 by Thomas Jones, son of Thomas, Server of the Chamber to Henry VIII (buried in the church), the manorial rights being reserved to the Crown.

The lords of Witley seem to have had a park there early in the 13th century, but it is not specially mentioned in the grants of the manor till after April 1247, when Peter of Savoy obtained free warren in his demesne lands of Witley.

“In 1551 the manorial rights and the park were given in exchange for other lands to Edward Fiennes, Lord Clinton and Say, who almost immediately conveyed them to Sir Richard Sackville, Chancellor of the Court of Augmentations. The latter conferred the stewardship on William More of Loseley. Queen Mary evidently resumed the manor. In 1599 Queen Elizabeth sold the whole manor and park together with courts leet and baron to trustees for Elizabeth Egerton, widow of Sir John Wolley and sister of Sir George More, her favourite maid of honour. Her son Sir Francis Wolley sold it in 1605 to Sir George More his uncle, who in 1613 sold the park to his brother-in-law Sir Edward More, and the manor to Henry Bell of Rake. It was settled on his great-nephew Anthony Smith the younger. It descended in the Smith family till it passed by the marriage of Philip Carteret Webb in 1763 with Mary Smith to his family. Mr. Robert William Webb of Milford House sold the manor to Mr. Whitaker Wright of Lea Park. Since his death part of the waste has been acquired by trustees, to preserve the open ground for public enjoyment, and other parts separately sold. Mr. G. H. Pinckard of Combe Court bought the quit-rents of the manor.”²¹

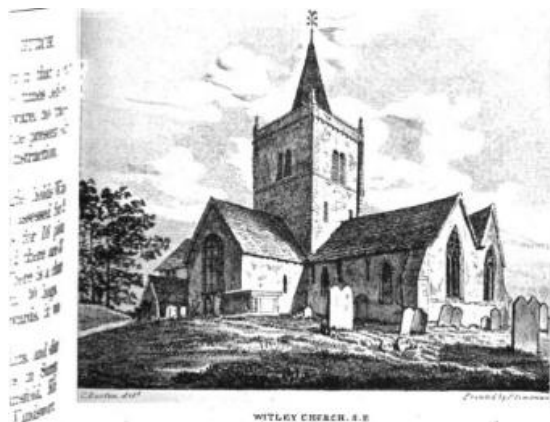
This source says that confirmation of the last Gilbert's death can be found in Cal. Pat. 1225–32, p. 458. Proof that his lands escheated to the crown can be found in Excerpta e Rot. Fin. (Rec. Com.), i, 119

Of key interest are these statements (as seen above) **“...1232 Henry III granted his barony to Peter de Rivaulx, the Poitevin favourite, promising that, if he should restore it to Gilbert's heirs by a peace or of his own free will, Peter should not be dispossessed without compensation. Peter de Rivaulx, however, seems to have lost the lands at the time of his deprivation in 1234,** for in December of that year the king granted them with a similar promise to Gilbert Marshal, Earl of Pembroke.” Footnotes for these statements: *Cal. Chart. R. i, 162.* – to quote: “It is interesting, in face of Peter de Rivaulx's deprivation, to note that Hubert de Burgh pledged himself to resist any possible attempt of the king to violate the charters granted to the Poitevin (ibid. i, 165).”

It's important to view these statements with regard to what was happening in the country at that time, and its state of unrest. When William Marshal died in 1219 **Hubert de Burgh** took control of the country as Henry III was still too young to rule. **de Burgh drove the foreign mercenaries, who had supported king John, out of the country.** He regained important castles for the king (which ??) and dealt with the rebellious barons. He was driven from his position in **1232** by the Bishop of Winchester. **Peter des Rievaulx, the nephew of the Peter des Roches, Bishop of Winchester,** was made treasurer of the Henry III's household and keeper of the king's wardrobe. This moved him into an extremely

²¹ A History of the County of Surrey: Volume 3 (1911), pp. 61-69, “Parishes: Witley”

important position for controlling the king's affairs. King John's eldest son Henry was crowned King Henry III at the abbey church of Gloucester by Bishop Peter des Roches. **Late in 1232**, Henry III was persuaded to remove Hubert de Burgh. Hubert escaped from prison and took refuge in a church at Devizes. After being dragged from the church Hubert was re-imprisoned. The bishop of Salisbury forced the Government to return Hubert to the church where his supporters rescued him. **In early 1233**, with the introduction of Peter de Roches as justiciar and the removal of Hubert de Burgh, the control of the Exchequer was under Poitevin control and possibly reversed the gains created by the Magna Carta in 1215. Henry was given control of central administration. This angered the Barons and a group led by Richard Marshall, Earl of Pembroke opposed the changes. Henry was able to deal with the Barons. In November 1233, Henry III's army was camped at Grosmont Castle when they were attacked in the night by a force of Welsh and English rebels. Several of Henry's supporters were captured and the castle was returned to Hubert de Burgh, one of the rebels.



The church at Witley was dedicated to All Saints, and was there in Saxon times; probably originally made of timber, but some of the stonework survives. It was transformed by the Normans and enlarged into a cruciform shape towards the end of the 12th century. There was obviously a manor there at the time of Gilbert, as it is mentioned in the records. From the de l'Aigle's it "passed through the hands of several important families (e.g., the Mareschals of Pembroke, the Warrens of Surrey), until Henry III bestowed it on Prince Edward and his heirs. Thenceforward it seems to have been part of the usual dower of the Queens of England."²² "In 1235 we find that Witley was in the hands of the Earl Marshal, having been part of the Terra Normanorum which had been held by Gilbert de Aquila."²³



In drawings of the church, you can see that it was a good-sized church, the oldest part built in the late 11th century during the times of Gilbert de l'Aigle. "The chancel of this early Norman period occupied the site of the present Central Tower. There is a Norman doorway in the south wall of the nave, working in Burgate stone. The central tower, transepts and chancel belong to the period between Norman and early English, about 1190. A fine description of the church and its many features can be found in Surrey Archaeological Collections.

²² Some West Surrey Villages, by E.A Judges and Laurence Davis, page 101.

²³ Surrey Archaeological Collections, page 79

MILDENHALL: This was the 2nd property stated to belong to Gilbert de l'Aigle, son of Richer, in the Domesday book. To quote from Domesday: " Clackclose Hundred. Mildenhall Aethelgyth held TRE. Then 2 ploughs; now 1. Always 15 villans and 5 bordars. Then 4 slaves; now 2. Then 2 ploughs belonging to the men; now 1. Then 1 horse. Then 16 pigs; now 8. And 2 head of cattle. Always 29 sheep. And 10 acres of meadow. Then it was worth £5 ; now £4." An analysis of Domesday states: The only other land held by Gilbert was a smaller manor in Suffolk. Note that Suffolk information, recorded in the Little Domesday, records more detail about the manor: horses, cattle and sheep as well as plough-teams and pigs.

There are some interesting Norman ruins at Mildenhall.



The following quote is interesting, and surely disputable: "The fact that Gilbert held just two manors directly from the King worth £20 suggests that Gilbert was a knight of King William's household of moderate means, certainly with more wealth than a common man-at-arms, but probably a knight who brought a very small retinue to the King's service. With Witley being a much larger manor than Mildenhall, it is likely that Gilbert was one of the few Norman tenants-in-chief primarily resident in Surrey."²⁴

Another explanation could simply be that the de l'Aigle's had not made a concerted effort to establish larger holdings in England, up to this time. After all, it was Gilbert who warned William that allowing the barons to have holdings in both Normandy and England was not wise. Laigle in Normandy frequently was a base for the operations of the Norman dukes and kings of England, and it was a significant holding for the family. The family in Normandy was allied with other important families, such as the marriage of Richer I with Judith d'Avranches. Richer, seemingly more concerned with his affairs in Normandy, was killed in 18 Nov 1084/1085, only shortly before the Domesday survey. Gilbert II was a relatively young man at the time of Domesday; he didn't marry Juliana du Perche de Mortagne until about 1091. The family was also, about this time, establishing itself in Italy, where Richard de l'Aigle, brother of Gilbert II, became Count of Fondi and Gaeta. Gilbert II & Juliana's daughter Marguerite would marry Garcia VII, king of Navarre; hardly something a lowly knight's daughter could have been expected to do, even with the help of such a distinguished uncle as Rotrou, Count of Perche. Marguerite's grandson William II of Sicily would marry Joanna Plantagenet, daughter of Henry II of England.

²⁴ http://www.users.waitrose.com/~epmolineux/domesdaybook_00001e.htm



Mildenhall Church, St. Mary's, “dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary, affords good examples of the various styles of architecture which succeeded to the Byzantine or Norman.” The plan consists of a tower at the west end of the nave, a nave with two aisles and two porches, and a chancel with a side chapel. The tower, which is quite a landmark to the surround country, is 112 feet high, 30 feet square at the base, and contains 6 bells. The church is Norman, but with the usual renovations and alterations over the year. There is an arch between the nave and chancel that are a fine example of the Early English style. The little chapel is also Early English, with lancet windows and ribbed ceiling.²⁵

ACKWORTH, CROFTON, HOUNDSHILL, WESTSCOTT & WARMSFIELD were all dower lands of Isabel [Elizabeth] de Warenne [Plantagenet], daughter of Hamelin d'Anjou [Plantagenet] and Isabel de Warenne, countess of Surrey, from her first marriage to Robert de Lacy. Isabel's second marriage was to Gilbert de l'Aigle III. In 1201 there was a Plea between Roger de Lacy and Gilbert de Laigle and Isabel his wife over Isabel's dower; including Ackworth, Warnefeld (sic), and Crofton. All were lands late of Robert de Lacy. Another property mentioned as part of the dower of Isabel was Westcott in Dorking: “The earl Warenne now holds Westcott in Dorking, late of Gilbert de l'Aigle, and which had been assigned to l'Aigle's wife, who was Warenne's sister, in dower.”

During the disputes over Isabel's dower lands, Gilbert de l'Aigle testified that [Robert] and Isabel had been “married in another county in the lifetime of Henry de Lascy, Robert's father, and that Robert had dowered her at marriage with a third of his prospective inheritance.”²⁶ This statement would mean that Robert and Isabel married before 1187, which is when Henry de Lacy died.

Ackworth is a village in Yorkshire, and its ecclesiastical jurisdiction is in the Deanery of Pontefract, Archdeaconry of West Riding, and Diocese of York. In Domesday it was called ‘Aceurde’. There was a Saxon church, and the remains of an ancient Norman Chapel were found in 1852 on the south side of the present nave. The living has remained in the patronage of the Crown, as Dukes of Lancaster, from the time of the de Lacy's.²⁷ Ackworth Manor was part of the lands of Ilbert de Lacy who built Pontefract Castle; his son Robert built Nostell Priory.

1209 there is an important deed between Roger [de Lacy] Constable of Chester, plaintiff, and “Guilbert de Aquila & Isabell his wife, of one knight's fee in the wood of Roinhay (Rounday). *Isabella disponata fuit in Hoiland in alio Com. Robto. De Lascy filio Henrico ode Lasey quem p. Fuit dos huius Isabellae het in dotem in Warmefield, Croston (Crofton) in Akeworth & in Roindhay quo Robtus habuit.*”²⁸ It is important because Isabel was the childless widow of Robert de Lacy, the last of the first house. By her marriage with Gilbert de Aquila, she became the mother of a daughter, Alice, who ultimately became the first wife of John [de Lacy] the Constable, son of the present plaintiff.”²⁹ Roger de Lacy, as

²⁵ Proceedings of the Bury & West Suffolk Archaeological Institute, by the Institute, page 269

²⁶ Early Yorkshire Charters, The Honour of Marenne [Extra Series V.6] by William Farrer and Chales Travie Clay, pg 21

²⁷ The Parochial History of Ackworth, Yorks, by Joseph Lemuel Saywell and Richard Vickerman Taylor

²⁸ ‘Ex Rotulo Pli-itar in dorso ter Pascha, II John, Rol 7; EE20 [Vol. 124]

²⁹ Vide Arch & Top. Journal. Part XXXVIII, page 256 [see footnote in The Parochial History of Ackworth, Yorks, page 43]

successor, the first of the second house, sued for the restoration of her dower, forfeited by her remarriage. I believe he was eventually successful in his suit.

Alice de l'Aigle, Isabel and Gilbert's daughter, married as his first wife, John de Lacy, Constable of Chester. They had two daughters, Matilda and Itonia (Alice) de Lacy. After Alice de l'Aigle's death [by 1221 – she was buried in Norton Abbey where her uncle raised a monument to her memory], John married second Margaret de Quincy, who gave him his heir, Edmund de Lacy, 9th baron of Halton. Edmund had one son, Henry de Lacy; and Henry de Lacy had one daughter Alice de Lacy, who married 3 times but had no issue. In 1310 Ackworth manor passed from the de Lacy's by the marriage of Alice de Lacy to Thomas, Earl of Lancaster, nephew of Edward I. Thomas Plantagenet, earl of Lancaster, was convicted of treason, executed, and his lands and titles forfeited in 1322, and left no direct heirs. As we have noted, the duchy of Lancaster later belonged to Henry V, *who used the Aquila signet*.

Crofton and Warmfield are mentioned in the disputes of 1201, as well: “Crofton, the land late of Robert de Lacy; and Warmfield, also land late of Robert de Lacy.” Robert de Lacy [1187-1193] attended the coronation of Richard I. He was only a child when he married Isabel, a not unusual thing for that time [she could have been slightly older]. Robert died without issue on 21st August 1193. Robert II was interred at Kirkstall Abbey near Leeds. He was the last of the original or true De Lacy line. His properties were in Pontefract Rape. The Pontefract lands held by the de Lacis were purposely interwoven with the lands granted to the Warrens of Wakefield Manor by William I. Both Ilbert de Lacy and Warrene were present at the Battle of Hastings and were consequently rewarded with such large estates, the latter family having their main seat at Lewes in Sussex.

ALFRISTON is near Eastbourne and Pevensey, and was undoubtedly “Alfrecheston” as mentioned **belonging to Richer de l'Aigle** when he provided a list of various properties included in his knight's fees in 1165. “The church has a very common legend associated with it; the foundations are said to have been again and again removed by supernatural agency from another site to the spot where the solemn and stately old building now stands. It is a Perpendicular cruciform church and has an Easter sepulchre and three sedilia. The register is said to be the oldest in England, its first entry bearing the date of 1512. A few years since as many as seventy 'virgins' garlands' hung in Alfriston Church at once.”³⁰ Medieval Alfriston in the heart of the East Sussex South Downs is a main centre in the South Downs. The South Downs Way National Trail runs through the town, with shorter walks around Alfriston including riverbank walks along the Cuckmere. Alfriston High Street is lined with the finest of Sussex specialist shops featuring a choice of books and antique shops, fine food shops selling organic and locally produced food and an outstanding choice of restaurants and character country pubs. Historic medieval buildings in Alfriston include the National Trust's first purchased property The Clergy House, a 14th century medieval hall. Overlooking the old Clergy House sits the stunning Cathedral of the Downs, St Andrews Church dating from 1360.³¹

BRAMBLETYE & MARESFIELD in Sussex: **Brambletye and Maresfield (sic) were part of the Honour of Aquila.** “Between East Grinstead and Forest Row, on the east, just under the hill and close to the railway, are the remains of Brambletye House, a rather florid ruin, once the seat of the great Sussex family of Lewknor. On the slopes of Forest Row was ‘of old’ a settlement of hunting lodges belonging to the great lords who took their pleasure in Ashdown Forest. Maresfield is near Tunbridge Wells, in the Sussex rock country. Franciscus [Francis] Aldeham, who was executed as one of the rebel Norman barons, was an ancestor of the St. Clairs’. He is mentioned in one of the Harleian manuscripts as holding fifteen military fees from the Honour of Morteine (sic). Mortayne or Morteine was escheat and practically demesne of the crown since its early forfeiture by William the Conqueror's nephew. Francis also held other baronies, Aquila for one, and Aldham. In 1326, after Francis de Aldham's execution, John Sinclair, his cousin, is in possession of Brambletye in Sussex, as heir of Francis de Audham, who had been holding it of the crown by knight's service as the Honour of Aquila, “one of the great baronies then in the hands of the king. The Norman family from Aquila had been dispossessed; and Francis of Audham's position as baron is further illustrated by the fact that he held of

³⁰ Seaward Sussex: The South Downs from End to End, by Holmes and Edric, 1873 [an amusing reference]

³¹ Website: iknowsussex

this honour, as well as of the fifteen knights' fees of the Honour of Mortayne (sic), besides his own demesnes."³² "And it was declared that the said John Sinclair recognized that the said Francis of Aldham held the manor of Wodepreston from the king by service of middle fee of one knight, the manor of Chiselberg with its pertinents by the service of one military fee as from the honour of Moretayne, and the manor of Brambeltye as from the honour of Aquila by the service of middle fee of one soldier."³³ In addition, John Sinclair received from Queen Philippa, the queen of Edward III, her manor of Maresfield "which is from the honour of Aquila, together with the king's park in the same place, the town of Grinstead, and the keepership of her forest of Ashesdoune (sic), and her other properties in the county of Sussex, to be held to the end of her life, returning thence annually thirty pounds to his lady the queen for the military fees." These properties were still being held in 1408 by his grandson.

CHALVYNGTON [Chalvington], BUCKHURST & RIPE were part of the Barony of the Eagle, and belonged to Richer de l'Aigle at Domesday, and were at one time considered as part of the dower of a de l'Aigle wife [either Odeline or Isabel]. It is probable that they were not, however, ever a part of the Honour of Aquila.

The village of Chalvington is named "Calvintone" or "Caveltone" in Domesday Book. Before 1066 it was owned by Earl (King) Harold II who was killed at the Battle of Hastings in 1066. **The Domesday Book mentions 'Rype' and 'Echentone' which were owned by Richer de Aquila**, and the church is also mentioned in 1291 in an ecclesiastical tax survey.³⁴ In 1273 Chalvington was found to have been held by the de Sacqueville's in service of knight's fees to the barony of the Eagle.

There is a fascinating document dated about 1136 in the Abbey of Cluny Charters,³⁵ number #1391. It is a Charter of King Stephen, and the introductory section explains: "...Stephen, by the grace of God king of the English...confirms, for his weal and that of his predecessor whatever his barons and other subjects, French and English, have given the monastery of St. Pancras, namely, in Devon the church of Berry Narbor...with the lands and tithes belonging to it, and the land of "Brunescota"... at which point there is an incredibly long list of lands, or the tithes belonging to those lands, as given by his barons, etc., to the monastery. It is too long to transcribe here, but there are some donations that are of particular interest: "a hide of land which count Rotrou [of Perche] gave," "in Surry the tithe of Sutton, which the count of Mortain gave," "the tithe of Shalford in all things which Gilbert the son of Richard gave," "one hide of land of the manor of Ripe, in the hundred of Greenstead, which the count of Mortain gave, and a virgate of land at Laughton," "the church of East Grinstead, with lands and other appurtenances and tithes, with Alvred the butler gave," "in the castelry of Pevensey, the tithe of Preston which Alvred the butler gave," "the land of Seaford which Rainbert de Suthtona gave," "at Eckington two hides from Roger bishop of Salisbury, in exchange for the land which Hervey of Wilton gave when he became a monk, which is at Netheravon," "the church of Eckington, with two virgates of land and the tithes belonging to it, of the gift of William Malfet," "at Stock (Stokingeam) 10 solidates of land which Richer de Aquila gave," "the chapel of Chalvington which Robert the butler gave, with the tithe of the vill." Stephen further directed that the monks of Lewes should not be compelled to pay tolls or dues in the marketplace, etc. And he confirmed that all of the gifts (and there were many) "may endure forever."³⁶ There is a lot to be learned from this charter about the holdings of English lands by Frenchmen at that time.

Chalvyngton manor is in the civil parish of *Chalvington with Ripe*, in the Wealden District of East Sussex, England; it is made up of the two villages, *Chalvington* and *Ripe*. The Romans built a road through the two villages, and the remains of the layout can still be seen. In Medieval times the area had a profitable wool trade. Ripe is located eight miles east of Lewes, and was mentioned in Domesday Book by a number of names, including "Alchitone, Achiltone, Achintone, Echenton and Eckington. The name Chalvington is from the Saxon "Caelfa's Farm." The Shiplake Hundred in the Rape of Lewes included six manors, the names of which are recognisable today: Rype (Ripe), Cavelton (Chalvington),

³² The Sinclairs of England, by Family of Sinclair, Thomas Sinclair, page 299

³³ The Sinclairs of England, by Family of Sinclair, Thomas Sinclair, page 301

³⁴ Wikipedia: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ripe,_East_Sussex

³⁵ Ancient copy in Collection de Bourgoyne LXXXX, 225 ; Duckett's *Cluny Charters I*, 69.

³⁶ Calendar of Documents Preserved in France, by Great Britain Public Record Office.

Esthothelegh (East Hoathly), Lestone (Laughton), and Waldere (Waldron). All of these can be traced back to the 13th century. The early location is believed to have been on the border of Eastbourne and Willingdon.

- **Manors of CHALVINGTON AND BUCKHURST:** The manor of Chalvington seems to have been part of the dower lands of Odeline de Beaumont de St. Suzanne, wife of Richer de l'Aigle, 6th baron [who died young in 1176]. She also seems to have held the manor of Buckhurst in like manner. Considerable confusion has resulted from various usually reliable sources stating that "Edeline, the wife of Gilbert de l'Aigle" held them in dower. Edeline was Gilbert's mother, not his wife (who was Isabel de Warenne). I believe they should be considered Odeline's, however, and not Isabel's, as they were part of the barony of de l'Aigle, and were thus held before Gilbert's acquisition of the rape of Pevensey.
- In 1234, and *this is a quote*: "the custody of the manors of Chalvington and Buckhurst, Sussex, which Jordan de Saqueville held of the Honor of Aquila and the service of which Ediline (sic), *late wife of Gilbert de Aquila*, had held in dower, were upon Edeline's death committed to the custody of Ralph Fitz-Nicholas," who had been granted some of the lands of Jordan upon his death in 1233.³⁷ As we know, Odeline was Gilbert's mother, not his wife! The name seems to have definitely been "Ediline," and not "Isabel" who was Gilbert's wife. It is possible that Odeline lived this long, although she would have been quite old, having been born about 1145.

When Jordan de Sauqueville died in 1233, his eldest son William was not of age and became the King's ward. His uncle, Guy de Saqueville had the use of his lands, including Chalvington, Buckhurst, and Pevensell, which he settled on William and his wife Clara, daughter of Matthew de Hastings, and their heirs. But William de Sauqueville died in 19 Henry III [cal 1235]. A very interesting quote in *Peerage of England* states that William's son and heir, Jordan, "having been in the guardianship of Edeline, late wife of Gilbert de Aquila, who had the manors, etc., of the said Jordan, assigned for her dower, and being then dead, the King grants the wardship of the said Jordan, and his lands, to Ralph, son of Nicholas his steward."³⁸ All of this confuses the years, and *Peerage of England* makes the same [mistaken] reference that Edeline was Gilbert's wife, not his mother, which seems to lead to more questions than answers.

But to continue from those confused years of 1233-1235: it seems there was a Jordan de Sacqueville who was summoned in 40 Henry III [cal 1256] to take the degree of knighthood. He was one of the rebellious barons of 1265, and was taken prisoner at the battle of Evesham. He died 1 Edward I [cal 1273] and left by his wife Margery de Aguillon a son and heir, Andrew, who was seized of manors of Buckhurst, Chalveton (sic), and Buggeley in Sussex, as well as manors in Essex and Oxfordshire. "On an inquisition of the extent of the manor of Bockhurst (sic), made on February 14, 1273-4, it was found that "Jordan de Sakeville held the Manor of Bockhurst (as then wrote) of the BARONY of the EAGLE, by knights service, containing two knights fees; and that Andrew de Sakeville was his son and heir," and aged 19 at the death of his father. It further said that Jordan had held "six knights fees of the Honour of Pevensee." Andrew was underage at the time of his father's death in 1273, and the manor of Buckhurst was seized by the Queen for her own use. Andrew had the king as his guardian, who kept him "in custody of Stephen de Penecester, constable of Dover Castle" for two years. Andrew finally received his lands upon knightly service to the king, both against Llewellyn in Wales, and at the siege of Calais where he obtained a grant of free warren for his manors, including Buckhurst and Chalvington. He died before 1297, when his widow Lady Ermytrude [Malyns] held his lands in Sussex, and his son and heir Andrew held his lands in Suffolk and Norfolk. This Andrew was also knighted, in 1306, but died in 1316. He had married Joan de Mortimer, and left a son and heir also named Andrew.³⁹

When Andrew de Sauqueville II died in 1316 he held Chalvington and Buckhurst "as his ancestors had held them." On 11 February 1327, his son Andrew received livery of his lands upon obtaining age, as tenant in chief of Edward II. He was knighted before 1334, and he was 'of the Manor of Chalvington' when he was granted the drowsing in 1346-7. In 1368 he was sheriff of Sussex and Surrey. There are demesne accounts available for that time, as well, that stated

³⁷ Honors and Knight's Fees, by William Farrer, page 212. In 1230, Jordan, son of Geoffrey de Saqueville, was "one of a great number who had letters of protection in 1230 upon going beyond seas in the king's service.: He died in 1233 and some of the lands from the Honour of Peverel were granted to Ralph Fitz-Nicholas. The same mistaken quotes about Odeline being the wife of Gilbert are also repeated in Collin's Peerage of England.

³⁸ Peerage of England, by Arthur Collins, page 95

³⁹ Peerage of England, by Arthur Collins, pages 96-99

roughly one-quarter of the total acreage at Chalvington was sown with beans.⁴⁰ And there was a high mortality rate in the 1430's that induced the servant in charge of Chalvington manor to hire more women harvesters.⁴¹ One interesting quote says that in the 13th century there were "no cows and eleven oxen, and in the next account of 1338-39 there were 18 cows and 16 oxen."⁴² And another interesting aside note is that the official seal of the Dean of Battle was once lost, but was found at Chalvington.⁴³ The manor of Chalvington stayed in the Sacqueville family for many years. In 1524 Richard de Sackville left the manor to his wife Isabel. In 1557 it is mentioned in the will of John Sackville. Thomas Sackville, born 1527, was Lord Buckhurst and became 1st Earl of Dorset. His eldest son, Robert Sackville, was called Lord Buckhurst & 2nd Earl of Dorset, and he died in 1609 possessed of the manor and barony of Buckhurst, as well as the manor of Chalvington.

The little **church at Chalvington, St. Bartholomew**, is thought to have been dedicated to Thomas a Becket because a stained glass light in one of the windows portrays the Saint. There is in the Rolls of the Manor of Chalvington a record of a court held before the next Feast of St. Thomas the Martyr in 1364.⁴⁴



St. Bartholomew's Church

In 1554 'The Booke of Rent Hens' recorded the names of the tenant, and said that: "theym that dwell in Chalvynton and have agreed wythe the Lord of Laughton to have common of pasture in the Dyker and to paye rent [of] capons hens and eggs att Hallantyd."⁴⁵

- **RIPE**, as we have seen from the charter at the Abbey of Cluny, belonged to the Count of Mortain in 1136. Therefore it is possible that this property could have been part of the rape of Pevensey as acquired by Gilbert de l'Aigle, and thus was part of the Honour of Aquila. However, Ripe is also mentioned as belonging to Richer at the time of Domesday.

There is a 13th century **parish church at Ripe dedicated to St. John the Baptist**. The advowson of St. John the Baptist, was presented to the St Pancras priory, Lewes in 1100. The church is on the edge of the village of Eckington Corner. The church remained in the possession of Lewes Priory until the dissolution of monasteries under Henry VIII in 1539. The old Rectory lies to the right with Eckington Manor opposite. The nave and south porch date from the late 13th century. The chancel is perpendicular and has windows on the north and south side a great east window. On either side of the east door is a carving of an inverted Pelham Buckle. This was an honour granted to John de Pelham for his part, along with Roger de la Warre, in the capture of the King of France at the Battle of Poitiers in 1356. The beautiful west window has three cinquefoiled lights and perpendicular tracery. The south porch has a fine arch leading to an identical inner arch. On the right inner jamb is a votive cross and on the left jamb is another cross, attached to a rough shield on

⁴⁰ The Agrarian History of England and Wales, page 270

⁴¹ Britain and Ireland 1050-1530, by R.H. Britnell, page 378

⁴² Before The Black Death, by Bruce M.S. Campbell, page 93

⁴³ Sussex Archaeological Collections, pages 205 and 236.

⁴⁴ Website for St. Bartholomew, Chalvington, East Sussex, 2004, sponsored by Roughwood British Churches Album.

<http://www.roughwood.net/ChurchAlbum/EastSussex/Chalvington/ChalvingtonStBartholomew2004.htm>

⁴⁵ National Archives # CHR/1/4, December 2, 1554

which is a chevron between three Pelham Buckles. The buttress to the east of the porch has the remains of a mass dial. Inside the church tower is a small original door and stairs leading to the bell chamber and thence to the battlements.⁴⁶

Ripe was, according to the Sussex Archaeological Society, a place of some importance in the 14th century. It was then the center of the **barony of Mortain**, and three weekly manorial courts were held as early as 1364.

CHYNGTON in SEAFORD. Seaford itself was part of the rape of Pevensey, and the Honour of Aquila. [Chyngton or Chington Manor] is a member of the Cinque port of Hastings, in the Rape of Pevensey, and is about 9 miles from Lewes. Chyngton and Sutton were formerly regarded as a *vills* of Seaford, and the Corporation seal contains the legend “Sigillvm Burgensium de Staffordia - with Suttonii et Chyngton.” Statements about a device for Seaford says the it has an Eagle for De Aquila, and [of more recent date and on the reverse] a three-masted ship. The eagle on the arms has only one head, so does it actually represent the de l’Aigle’s, or perhaps some other family? It is interesting to note that the legend for the device contains no reference to Aquila. “Soon after the Conquest Seaford became the lordship of William de Warenne, and continued in his descendants down to the reign of Edward III. CHINGTON, however, an important manor and vill in the parish, was held first by the Count of Mortain, with Pevensey rape, and by the family of de Aquila, lords of Pevensey. Gilbert de l’Aigle gave it to the priory of Michelham. The area became important as a port for coastal trade. When John came to claim the crown in 1199, he landed at the port.



An interesting historical note mentions Gilbert de l’Aigle, and gives further proof that Gilbert had decided to give his allegiance to Louis of France by 1216: “More significant, however, was the role played by Seaford during the invasion of England by Prince Louis of France in May 1216. This saw the desertion of King John by Gilbert of Laigle, an Anglo-Norman Magnate who held lands in England and France that included Seaford. The port remained loyal, however.” King John with his suite passed the night of the 23rd May 1216 in this town, and in September sent a thankful letter to the town.⁴⁷ Seaford was a member of the Cinque Ports, possible as early as 1229.”⁴⁸ “The important manor of Chyngton (vulgo “Chinting”) belonged to the baronial house of de Aquila; under them a family, who took their surname from the parish (de Saford) held half a knight’s fee in this place in the reign of King John. The manor, about one mile east of town, was an early appendage to the priory of Michelham in Sussex, and had a Chapel. The chapel at Chyngton (sic) was dependent upon Michelham Priory. SEAFORD, soon after the Conquest, was under the lordship of William de Warenne, and continued in his descendants down to the reign of Edward III when the family became extinct in the elder line.

Chington in Seaford as a holding of Gilbert de l’Aigle is listed in the *terre Normannor*.

⁴⁶ Website for Chalvington with Ripe, “History of Our Churches” - <http://www.thelocalchannel.co.uk/chalvingtonwithripe/page743839.aspx>

⁴⁷ Seaford Historic Character Assessment Report, pages 13 to 25

⁴⁸ A Compendious History of Sussex, by Mark Anthony Lower, pages 143- 145; Chington is repeatedly called an important manor and vill in the parish, and a point is made that it was held, with Pevensey rape, by the family of de Aquila, lords of Pevensey.



- **Chyngton House**, set in a conservation area, is a Grade II listed building with an 18th century appearance which belies its medieval origins. **“Chyngton, was in Norman times a Manor of the Aquila's, Lord of Pevensey.** Early in Henry III's reign Gilbert De Aquila bestowed it with other lands "for his soul's health" on his new Priory of Michelham. The monks established a grange and chapel here on the site now occupied by Chyngton House, which embodies some of the fabric, including several Early English windows. The Prior was acquitted of the usual feudal dues in regard to Chyngton, so that the manor gained little when it was later united with Seaford, although the latter enjoyed the privileges of a Cinque Port. The union is indicated on the Town Seal of Seaford which still bears part of the Aquila's coat of arms. A replica of the Aquila's coat of arms hangs in the house. On the dissolution of Michelham Priory the manor was granted to Sir Anthony Browne, who in 1541 was proposing to exchange it with the King for the lands in Kent. Fifty five years later and the estate figures in a Report drawn up by Queen Elizabeth's Privy Councillors on "The Defence of Sussex and the South Coast from Invasion". During the eighteenth century and up to recent times the estate was the property of the Pelham family, Earls of Chichester.

“On the western edge of the property is a rift in the cliff, now weathered down to a series of ledges, traditionally known as Puck Church Parlour. Here, said the country-folk, the King of Elfland assembled his kind. It is clear from Mr Kipling's "Puck of Pook's Hill" how intimately Puck knew the De Aquilas, and therefore seemly that a haunt of his should be found on the lands of their manor.

“The Manor House and surrounding buildings originally formed a small outlying rural hamlet, and included in its property portfolio were the Coast Guard cottages perched at the bottom of the cliff and featured frequently in the pictures of the Seven Sisters. Although the house has been divided in two, and the outbuildings converted into habitable dwellings, the Dovecote, where doves were bred for Michelham Priory, and the barn that was rebuilt in the 18th century after the local peasants revolted and set fire to it, can still be seen.”⁴⁹

⁴⁹ Chyngton House South Bed & Breakfast, Hamsey Lane, Seaford, BN254DW; tele# (44) 01323 873038; andrewwburrell@btconnect.com



Medieval Dovecote at Chyngton

THE DICKER, was formerly an enclosed ground called “Dyker waster,” but originally a forest, extended into the parishes of Chiddingly, Hellingly, and Arlington. Gilbert de Aquila, temp. Henry III, gave to the priory of Michelham right of pasture ‘in Dykera,’ and in 13 Henry VI, the priory had a right of pasturage for 60 beats and 100 hogs here and in ‘broleo de Leighton’ (the Broyle in Laughton).⁵⁰

EAST GRINSTEAD [Greensted] was part of the Honour of Aquila: The Hundred of East Grinstead (Grenestede, Estgrensted) was in the possession of the Count of Mortain in 1086, but no mention of a vill or manor of East Grinstead is made in the Domesday Survey. In the reign of Henry III, the Hundred was part of the Honour of Aquila, then in the king’s hands.

“Apart from its history as a parish, East Grinstead has a very distinct and interesting history as a borough. At one time the town formed a part of the Royal possessions which went with the Castle of Pevensey, and it is still in the Pevensey Rape, one of the ancient divisions of the county of Sussex, now used principally for excise and ecclesiastical purposes. Henry I gave the estate to Gilbet de Aquila, whose son forfeited them by engaging in a rebellion, when the King re-took possession and settled them on his grandson, who afterwards became Henry II. This monarch assigned them to William, son of King Stephen, who held them until Henry came to the thorne and four years later surrendered them back to his lord, conditionally that he should have an hereditary right to all longs belonging to his father, King Stephen, before he became King of England. The King thereupon returned the estate to the family of de Aquila, who appear to have enjoyed them quietly for some years. In the reign of Henry III the head of this family made himself obnoxious to the King, and, as he went over to Normandy without the Royal license, the King seized all his property, which included his manor of East Grinstead, and in 1234 granted it to the Earl of Pembroke, but seems to have taken it back six years later, when he gave it to Peter de Savoy, who was the uncle of his consort.”⁵¹

“A few years later the property appears to have once more reverted to the Crown, and the King then gave it to Prince Edward and his heirs, Kings of England, on condition that it should never be severed from the Crown – a condition not long observed. In the thirteenth century the mother of King Edward I held the Barony of the Eagle and with it the Borough and Hundred of East Grinstead. The Hundred of East Grinstead was described as an escheat of the Normans, an escheat being a property reverting to the Crown by reason of the failure of lawful heirs or the offences of the owners. The jurors of the Hundred of East Grinstead reported about the same time that there were in the “Barony of Aquila,” 62

⁵⁰ The Parks and Forests of Sussex, Ancient-Modern-Historical-Antiquarian, by William Smith Ellis, page 93

⁵¹ The History of East Grinstead, by Wallace Henry Hills, page 9 - The Honour was granted to Peter of Savoy, through whom it passed to his niece Queen Eleanor.

knights' fees which pertained to the Castle Guard of Pevensey. A "Knight's fee," as applied to land, represents no definite quantity, but anything between one and five hundred acres of cultivable land."

"In the next reign the king's mother held the borough of East Grinstead as parcel of the honor of Aquila. It was included in a grant by Edward III to John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster, where it remained as part of the duchy until James I granted it to Sir George Rivers, until it was obtained by the Sackvilles, earls of Dorset."⁵²

The manor of Grinstead is not mentioned in Domesday. The first record of it was in September 1284. It went through the hands of several owners, and interestingly enough was, in 1565, conveyed by the Queen to Sir Richard Sackville (Under Treasurer of the Exchequer), and his heirs forever; and he also held the manor and demesnes of Wilmington by service of a 20th part of knight's fee, etc. The manor of Wilmington was afterwards charged with £20 a year for the support of Sackville College, East Grinstead. It later formed part of the possessions of the Duke of Devonshire [he who was the last private owner of Pevensey].⁵³ Brambletye and Lavertye are East Grinstead manors.

"Although the first mention of a church at East Grinstead is subsequent to the founding, in 1078, of the Priory of St. Pancras at Lewes, it is possible that a church had existed in the town long prior to that date." "No mention of a church in East Grinstead is made in the Domesday survey, but this is no argument for its non-existence, as churches are known to have been then existing, though not mentioned," the reason being that Domesday dealt only with rateable lands, and churches were exempt from taxation. Greensted Church is believed by many to be the oldest wooden church in the world. The east end, of brick construction, dates from the sixteenth century, while the brick footings, visible below the timber walls, are a feature of extensive restoration undertaken in the nineteenth century."⁵⁴

This mention of a church at East Grinstead in association with the Priory of St. Pancras at Lewes is very intriguing. Richard de Aquila, "son of William, son of Alvred [Alfred] gave and confirmed all the gifts "which my father and mother and my other ancestors or my men have given to the church of St. Pancras Priory and the monks of the same place, namely the church of Grenested [East Grinstead], with a half a hide of land and all its appurtenances."⁵⁵ Was the date of this charter 1078? He gave various other tithes, etc., as well. However..... who was Richard, son of William son of Alfred? He was undoubtedly related to Richer I de l'Aigle, who was 3rd baron de l'Aigle [died 1085], whose son Gilbert owned land in England at the time of Domesday [1086]. We know there was a church or chapel at Grenested, for there is a charter to the monastery of St. Pancras, Lewes, from Seffrid II (who was Bishop of Chichester from 1180 to 1204), and the church is mentioned.

⁵² Online Encyclopedia, http://encyclopedia.jrank.org/DRO_ECG/EAST_GRINSTEAD.html

⁵³ The History of East Grinstead, by Wallace Henry Hills, page 109

⁵⁴ Wikipedia, which also had the picture of St. Andrew's Church/Greensted.

⁵⁵ Lewes Chartulary was a manuscript used to track charters and deeds with regard to the ownership or tenancy of land. In it there was one declaration by **Richard Baron d'Aquila**. It reads: "**I Richard son of William son of Alvred** give and confirm in free alms all the gifts which my father and my mother and my other ancestors or my men have given to the church of St. Pancras Priory and the monks of the same place, namely the Church of Grenested with half a hide of land and all its appurtenances, and the tithes of Prestetona and of Aluericestona and of Berwyca. And moreover I grant and confirm the gift of William Malfet, namely half a hide Posingewrda and five shillingsworths of land at Lamberst and one hide of land at Sydenore of the fee of Roger de Borchune....Of this gift are witnesses: Master Theodoric, Thomas the priest, W. Limel, Simon the uncle of Richard, William Malfed, Hugh de Liued, W. de Renefeld, Godard de Bortune, William de Wannoc" - ALSO: "All there things aforesaid I grant and confirm to the church of Lewes and the monks there dwelling, for the welfare of my soul and of my wife and of all my relations, ancestors or successors and of my children....Witnesses: Hugh de Crudolaco, Robert the Butler and his son Ralph de Dene, Anketil de Rey, Henry de Monstrol, William Maufey, Robert de Horstede, Richard de Hertfeld, Martin the Clerk, Ralph de Brade, Humphrey de Manekesne, Richard Truflet."



Greensted Church

In **Downlands, Uckfield, East Sussex**, there was discovered the site of a possible medieval manor house, possibly the “capital messuage” of the **Honor of Aquila**.⁵⁶

EASTBOURNE was part of the rape of Pevensey, and the Honour of Aquila. It is on the seacoast immediately southwest of Pevensey. There is an area near it called “Norman’s Bay.” There was a Norman castle at Eastbourne that has long since disappeared. The area is peppered with streets, businesses, etc., called Aquila.



Eastbourne coast

ECKINGTON, [Eccyncgtune (x cent.); Aichintune, Akinton (xii cent.); Ekenton, Ekinton, Ekyngton (xiv cent.)] **was owned by the de l’Aigle’s at the time of Domesday**. Lies on the left bank of the Avon. There is an interesting paper about the Malfet family. This source concludes that William Malfet was a knight in the service of Richer/Richard (?) d’Aquila. “The Lewes Chartulary extracts record Richard’s approval and confirmation of gifts William made to the Lewes Priory in the form of land at Lamberst and Posingewrda, as would have been required from William’s feudal overlord.” [This was from Richard, son of William, son of Alfred]. Besides this and the simple fact the main concentration of Maufe Sussex possessions are found in the Laigle Barony, there is another compelling piece of evidence of the L’Aigle-Maufe connection: **namely the manors of Chalvyngton and Ekyngton. Both were listed as owned by Richard de L’Aigle in the Domesday Book** while later records indicate this ownership passed on to the Maufe family.⁵⁷

⁵⁶ Cultural Heritage Dataset, item # 7; Grid Ref: TQ4695 2369 SMR# ES4597 - Source: ESCC

⁵⁷ “Preliminary Findings Morffew Family History,” May 2005 <http://morpheweb.com/morffew/morffewpartonetext.doc>

It further says: “**Richer de l’Aigle was listed as main tenant of the Chalvyngton and Ekyngton manors.** After a conflict with his original appointee King William had repossessed an area of Sussex called the Rape of Pevensey and handed this into the care of Gilbert D’Aquila, a relative of Engenoulf and Richard de l’Aigle. This implied a great deal of trust, as Sussex remained the Norman gateway to England and base from which to deal with possible Saxon uprisings. Richard d’Aquila at some point lost the lands that made up the Laigle Barony due to questionable loyalty. The latter can be explained by the fact that most Barons held lands in both England and Normandy, and were therefore due loyalty to both the King of England and the King of France (which regained possession of Normandy), which was problematic when the royals were at loggerheads. However, Richard did regain the land, evidence of which is presented by the registration of the Knight’s Fees in 1166, which found Richard dictating records of land and properties which he had gifted to the church or sublet to his knights. Although the *Lewes Chartulary* is not mentioned by name as the actual written record of the 1166 registration the extracts correspond with this event. Richard left his possessions to his son Gilbert D’Aquila, who died without having an heir to leave the land to. The name Laigle still occurs in the Southeast.”

GREYWELL [Graiwella (xii cent.); Graiwell (xiii cent.)] is in Hampshire, and seems to have been granted to Odeline (wife of Richer III de l’Aigle). It certainly was not part of the rape of Pevensey, so therefore not part of the Honour of Aquila. It was “probably included under Odiham in the Domesday Survey of 1086. In an inquisition taken on the death of Isabel Basset in 1260 it is stated that it was the ancient demesne of Henry II who gave it to Juliana de Aquila, said to be 'mother of Gilbert de Aquila.' However, Mr. Round is of the opinion that this finding was wrong, since Gilbert de Laigle (Aquila) is known to have been son of Richer by Edeline, while Juliana (daughter of Geoffrey, Count of Perche) was the wife of another and earlier Gilbert (son of Richer) who held Witley (Surrey) as a young man in 1086, and mother by him of two sons, Richer and Gilbert, the elder of whom, Richer, paid one mark into the king's treasury for Greywell in 1167. He it was who married Edeline and became father of Gilbert de Laigle (Aquila). This Gilbert de Aquila *went to Normandy shortly before 1200*, and in 1204 King John granted the issues of the manor of Greywell to his favourite, Alan Basset, the founder of the family of Basset of Wycombe (co. Bucks).”⁵⁸

To examine the above quote, if the property was granted by Henry II, he reigned from 1154 for 35 years, and only Odeline would have been alive at that time, and she was the mother of a Gilbert (III). Conversely, Juliana [the wife of Gilbert II], being two generations prior to that, died sometime after 1132 when she recognized the rights of Saint-Denis de Nogent by a charter dated to [1122/33], specifying that she was governing Perche while the count was absent in Spain. This charter was witnessed by "Gislebertus puer filius prefate Juliane," Seigneur du Lac. So Juliana, as well, had a son named Gilbert, but he became the master captain of Apulia and Terra di Lavoro, and was the “powerful” comte di Gravina, for a time.⁵⁹

“After the death of Alan Basset in 1233 Henry III granted these lands, described as 'late of Gilbert de Aquila,' to Gilbert Marshal, Earl of Pembroke, to hold during the king's pleasure. The earl subsequently granted Greywell to his niece Isabel, daughter of William de Ferrers, Earl of Derby, on her marriage with Gilbert Basset son of Alan. Gilbert died about 1241 leaving a son who did not long survive him; his widow held the manor in dower and married as her second husband Reginald de Mohun of Dunster (co. Somers.). She died in 1260, and as she left no issue by Gilbert the manor escheated to the king. However William de Mohun, her son by her second husband, obtained a grant of the manor and died seised of it about 1281 leaving a son Reginald aged six. Sir John de Mohun died in 1376 and Greywell then passed in accordance with the marriage settlement of 1348 to his widow Joan, who died in 1404, leaving as her heirs two daughters, Philippa, wife of Edward Plantagenet, Duke of York, and Elizabeth, widow of William Montagu, Earl of Salisbury, and a grandson, Sir Richard L'Estrange, son of Maud a deceased daughter, who had married Sir John L'Estrange. Philippa was dealing with Greywell in 1431.

⁵⁸ 'Parishes: Greywell or Grewell', A History of the County of Hampshire: Volume 4 (1911), pp. 76-79. :

⁵⁹ Arabic Administration in Norman Sicily: The Royal Diwan, by Jeremy Johns, Page 227-229

“Greywell is a small parish of 876 acres, situated on the River Whitewater 2 miles south-west from Hook. Immediately south of Butter Wood, which takes up nearly the whole of the north of the parish, is Greywell Hill Park, with Greywell Hill House on rising ground, the seat of the Baroness Dorchester. The village, which is unusually picturesque, is situated in the east of the parish. It is built mainly on the west side of a branch road connecting Odiham with the Basingstoke and Alresford Road. The church lies a hundred yards or so south-east of the village near the Whitewater, and the churchyard contains some fine beech trees.”



The church of St Mary the Virgin is a chapel of ease. The little church has been much changed over the centuries, however a large part of the building dates from the 12th century. The guide book to the church mentions that the main body of the church has hardly been altered since around the year 1200. Around the Norman doorway are a dozen or more curious carvings of crosses similar to those which adorn the Church of the Holy Sepulchre at Jerusalem. It is thought that these may be the signatures of men from Greywell who went to the Holy Land as part of the Crusade of Richard the Lionheart in the 1190's or of Edward I in 1270's.

HADLEIGH [Hawley] in Essex. It is listed, at one time, **as part of the Honour of Aquila**. Bishop Odo, the Conqueror's brother, is known to have plundered 40 of the 90 Essex Saxon lordships.⁶⁰ I find very little other reference to the de l'Aigle's in this area other than one mention that it was part of the Honour, and can only assume any holdings were not in the family long. There is a Norman Church at Hadleigh, St. James the Less, and it remains largely unaltered, "as good an example of a complete and small Norman church as any in England."⁶¹ It likely was built between 1135-54. "Within the splay of a window is a figure with the inscription "Beatus Tomsa" below it. This is by some supposed to have been painted between the years 1170 and 1173, the dates of the martyrdom and canonization of Thomas a Becket." The church was built about 100 years before nearby Hadleigh castle, "and the thickness of the walls suggest that in addition to its religious purposes, it was also built with defense in mind."⁶² The interior is of smooth plaster, and it is believed that at one time it was covered in colorful paintings. The church is still the heart of the town today. "Hadleigh is today most famous for its castle, built in 1231 by the nobleman Hugh de Burgh. The settlement, however, dates back much further than that, with evidence of Saxon, Roman and even Iron Age occupation."⁶³ Two dilapidated round Norman towers for the castle still stand. The ruins of the castle, "consisting of fragments of walls and broken towers, stand upon the brow of a steep hill commanding an extensive prospect of the county of Kent. The length of the ballium, from east to west, is about 840 feet, and its extreme width 170 feet. It was built of Kentish ragstone."⁶⁴

⁶⁰ Memorials of Old Essex, by Albert Clifton Kelway, page 6

⁶¹ Essex Churches

⁶² The Archaeological Journal, page 277

⁶³ Hadleigh Past, by Ian Yearsley

⁶⁴ Tourist's Guide to Essex, by Edward Walford, page 114



St. James Church, Haldeigh



Castle at Hadleigh

HAILSHAM [also Haylesham or Hamelsham] was part of the rape of Pevensey and the Honour of Aquila: The parish of Hailsham extends from the marsh of Pevensey to the Weald. Hailsham was part of the property held by Robert, earl de Mortain, and his son William. It appears to have passed with the Barony of Pevensey when that noble estate was granted by Henry I to GILBERT de AQUILA on its escheating to the Crown by the Earl of Mortaine's rebellion. In Henry II's time, however, Burrell states that Sir Eichard Covert, of Bradbridge, was Lord of the Manor of Haylesham. This may have been during the time that the Barony or Honor of Aquila, as it was called from its connection with the family of AQUILA, was in the King's hands before he regranted it to RICHARD de AQUILA, as it was in the hands of GILBERT III de Aquila in 1228, at which date he granted the advowson of Heilsham Church to Michelham Priory; his lands were forfeited to the Crown in 1235.

“The manors found in Hailsham are Downash, WILLINGDON, Otham, and MICHELHAM. Part of the parish lies within the liberty of the corporation of Pevensey, and is called Otham quarter. Here stood, in ancient times, the Abbey of Otteham, afterwards removed to Bayham. The church (St. Mary's) was anciently a chapel to Hellingly, and is a large and rather commanding building, consisting of a western tower with crocketed pinnacles, nave with north and south aisles, and high chancel with north and south chancels of unequal lengths. Temp. Henry III, Gilbert de Aquila gave this church to the Priory of Michelham, but it was afterwards given to Bayham Abbey.”⁶⁵ Downash is a small hamlet on the edge of Pevensey marshes spread along the small lane to Rickney. There is a picturesque Downash Farm, and Downash House

In 1251 the manor was certainly in the possession of PETER of SAVOY, who held the Honor of the Eagle at that time, for in that year he obtained a charter for a market to be held in his manor of Heylesham.⁶⁶

⁶⁵ A Compendious History of Sussex, by Mark Antony Lower

⁶⁶ Pat., 13th Henry III. 25 The Court of the Cinque Ports. *calculated 1229*

Otham [Ottenham] and St. Lawrence's Chapel was a premonstratensian abbey which about 1208 became united to Bayham Abbey, and was thereafter a grange of Bayham Abbey.



HORSTED [Horstede] Parva Horsted was part of the Honour of Aquila, and is mentioned specifically when Richer de l'Aigle submitted his list of knight's fees in 1165. Horsted (Keynes), Sussex.

KENT. Various holdings in Kent are known to have been part of the Honour of Aquila. These included Marden Hundred, Ospringe, Dartford, Havering, and Fordham. However, I have found no proof that these properties were actually held by the de l'Aigle's, themselves. They were not listed as Gilbert's property in the *terre Normannor*.

- **OSPRINGE in Kent**, on the southeast coast of England, in the Hundred of Faversham. In Ospringe is "Maison Dieu," or "God's House," which was the medieval name for a hospital. The Tudor building of that name at Ospringe incorporates part of a thirteenth century hospital for the sick and shelter for pilgrims. It was endowed by Henry III in 1234, the exact year that Gilbert de l'Aigle returned to Normandy. The manor of Ospringe is mentioned in 20 Edward I endorsed as **Aquila Honor** and **Ospringe Manor**. It was long under the purview of the royal family.

LAUGHTON ["Lestona" or Leighton] in Sussex, is mid-way between Hailsham and Lewes: Michelham Priory was subsequently endowed with the churches from Laughton and Chinting by the house of Laigle (de Aquila), and was confirmed by Henry II. It also had forest rights from Laughton. **Laughton Place** is an historic building near Lewes, Sussex owned by the Landmark Trust.

The following shows the disposition of Laughton by 1325: 27 August 1325: Extent of the manor of Laghtone (Laughton), which John de Ouedale held for life with reversion to Bartholomew de Badelismere, made before Humphrey de Waledene and William de Northo, on the oath of John Gifford, Henry Hendeman, William Colkyn, John Ballard, Simon le Frie, William atte Forde, Walter Woest, John atte Felde, Robert atte Feld, Thomas Pinsonn, Robert de Welyngeham and Richard Hamound.⁶⁷

The Pelham family bought Laughton Place, an old fortified manor in 1466. The old manor was rebuilt in 1534 by William Pelham. In 1813 there are numerous legal documents regarding the enclosure of Laughton, including surveys

⁶⁷ National Archives # CHR/1/1, gives a full description of all income including the services of customary tenants.

and the Act of Enclosure that are in the National Archives.⁶⁸ **Laughton Tower** (see photo) was restored under the supervision of architect John Warren in the 1980s.



Laughton Place Tower

MICHELHAM PRIORY: Michelham Priory is near Hailsham, through Willingdon. Gilbert de l'Aigle endowed the abbey of Michelham before returning to France. The name is supposed to have been derived from "Gislebertus Magnus (Anglo-Saxon "Micel") and "ham," abode or home. The foundation charter confers on the canons his lordship of Michelham, with its park, villains, and rents, and lands in Hailsham, Willingdon, the Dicker, the Broyle, and other woods in Sussex. "To this new foundation many knightly and gentle families afterwards became benefactors, giving lands in "la Knocke", Kelle, Jevington, Brighthelmston, Ditton, Willingdon, Isinghurst," etc. The churches of Laughton and Hailsham were also attached to the foundation.



A history of Michelham states that, "like many of the wealthy and leading figures of the Middle Ages, Gilbert founded the Augustinian Priory of the Holy Trinity at Michelham to demonstrate his devotion to God. Around 1220, Gilbert obtained help from the Priory at Hastings to set up his new community and a small group of canons traveled from Hastings to start work on the land that Gilbert had endowed." It further states that Gilbert also gave the churches of Laughton and

⁶⁸ National Archives: <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/A2A/records.aspx?cat=179-pelham&cid=-1&Gsm=2008-06-18#-1>

Hailsham to the Priory, but as a result started a 10 year quarrel between the Prior of Michelham and Abbot of Bayham Abbey. The Abbot claimed that Hailsham was a chapel of Hellingly, which was already under his jurisdiction. Whoever was in the right, the Prior of Michelham backed down, but only after securing compensation equal to £16-67p per annum. Although Gilbert provided the vast majority of the estate and the leadership for the venture, the community was seen as an act of piety by the men and women of East Sussex.

“From the royal license of foundation it would seem that Michelham was in a manner a daughter house of the Augustinian New Priory at Hastings—afterwards removed to Warbleton—as the prior of that establishment appears to have been entrusted by Gilbert de Aquila with the settlement of his new monastery:

"The King to his well-beloved Gilbert de Aquila greeting &c. We have heard that for the welfare of our soul &c. you have proposed to our beloved in Christ the prior and canons of Hastings to give, 80 acres of land with appurtenances in Michelham, and your wood of Peverse, and 38" rent, and 80 acres of marsh in Heylesham and the parsonage of the church of Heylesham and of the church of ""I/acton, and 20 acres of meadow in Wilendon, and pasture in Brul and Diker and pannage for their pigs in the coppice (brulliis) of Lacton, to found a house of religion at Michelham. And as we are given to understand that without our consent and goodwill you would by no means think of making this grant, be it known to you that we have agreed that your proposal have our royal consent and favour. In witness of which these our letters patent.

Witness my hand; at Westminster 10th day of March 13'h year of our reign.

The actual charter of endowment is given by Dugdale:

“I, Gilbert, Lord Aquila, by the permission of King Henry III., for the welfare of my soul and the souls of Isabella my wife and of my children, of my brothers and sisters, of my ancestors and my descendants, have given to God and the church of the Holy Trinity of Michelham, and to the prior and convent of canons serving God in that place; all my demesne of Micheleham and my park of Peverse with the bondmen, rents and other appurtenances; and 80 acres of marsh in Haylesham; and 20 acres of meadow in Wilendune ; and pasture in the Diker and in the Broyle of Legton and other woods in Sussex for 60 head of cattle; and pannage for 100 pigs in my said woods; and timber for the building and repair of the said church and buildings and for fences, to be taken under the view of my foresters; and the advowsons of the churches of Legton and Haylesham. And because the memory of man is treacherous, in order that this my gift may be for ever valid and unshaken I have affixed my seal to this charter.

“Witness: Simon de Echingham, Wm. de Munceux, Jordan de Saukeville, Eobert de Alberville, Wm. Botevillayn, Helias de Gaugi, Walrand Maufe, John Gulafre, Eobt. de Horstede, Eobt. de Manekesye, Thos. de Bistenover, Bic. de la Gare, Eemigius de Bosco, Simon Burgedse.

“Of the donations thus made, part of the land at Michelham had been recovered by exchange from the Abbey of Bayham in 1219 by Gilbert, whose father had been a benefactor of that Abbey while at Otham; concerning the park of Pevensey Mr. Cooper says: "Vestiges of this ancient park may even yet be traced in the earthen embankment, about twenty five feet wide and six feet high, by which it was once enclosed and which still remains entire to a very considerable extent. Beginning at the Upper Dicker it runs westward to Wick Street, and after some interruption resumes its course to the south at Sessingham Bridge till it reaches Cane Heath; there turning eastward it skirts Milton Hide to the stream which separates the demesne from Tilehouse farm; this stream running north till it joins the Cuckmere forms the northern and north-west boundary as far as the priory."⁶⁹

⁶⁹ The History of the Parish of Hailsham, by Louis Francis Salzman, pages 199-203



It should be noted that Louis Salzman in his *History of Hailsham* gives a brief pedigree of the de l'Aigle's and states that Gilbert who married Isabella de Warrenne was the son of a Gilbert who died in 1205, that Gilbert being the brother of Richer, Engenulf the clerk, and Nicholas, Dean of Chichester. He does not name the wife of that Gilbert, but states that there were other sons and daughters of the Gilbert who died in 1205, and that it was Gilbert the son who forfeited his lands by going over to Normandy in 1235.

The order of clergy at Michelham was that of the Black Canons of St. Augustine – a kind of intermediate order between the regular and the secular clergy. They wore a white rochet over a long black cassock, with a black cloak and hood, and they wore a black cap and cultivated beards, hence their name: “black canons.” It flourished for 300 years. Michelham was among the first to be sacrificed at the dissolution of monasteries by Henry VIII, who granted it to Lord Cromwell. It afterwards went to the Fitz-Alans, earls of Arundel, then to the Pelhams, the Sacquevilles, and the de la Warr's. “**Michelem**” Priory is set on a tranquil island surrounded by England's longest water-filled medieval moat.

NUTLEY and ASHDOWN FOREST: Nutley is a small village within **Ashdown Forest**. “**A chapel was built here after the Norman invasion by Richard de Aquila** one of William the Conquerors men. He granted 60 acres of land on the Ashdown Forest near Wych Cross to the chapel. The chapel was attached to the church at Maresfield. In 1372 the Chapel of Notlye and its land was given by Edward III to his son John of Gaunt, both of whom were frequent visitors to Ashdown Forest for the hunting.”⁷⁰

“In nearby in Duddleswell and Maresfield the Romans had a working on the iron ore to be found in the local weald clay in bloomeries. Roman coins and waste from furnaces has been found at these locations. When the Romans left Britain in the 5th century AD Saxon settlers lived on the site of Nutley. “Hnut's leagh” means “Hnut's Clearing”, and is the most likely origin of the village's modern-day name.

Following the Norman Invasion of 1066, Nutley became part of the Rape of Pevensey. In 1176 a chapel was built by Richard de Aquila, one of William the Conqueror's men. It was built in an area known as Chapelwood, along the Chelwood Gate road, just outside Nutley's borders. 60 acres (24 ha) of land near Wych Cross on Ashdown Forest was granted to the chapel. It was attached to the church at Maresfield. The chapel went out of use after the English Reformation.

⁷⁰ Website for Nutley: <http://www.villagenet.co.uk/ashdownforest/villages/nutley.php>

In 1372 Edward III gave the Chapel of Notlye (as it was called at the time) along with almost 1,400 acres (5.7 km²) of land to his son, John of Gaunt. They were both frequent visitors to Ashdown Forest (then known as Lancaster Great Park; it would keep that name for the next three centuries) because of the hunting.”⁷¹

Ashdown Forest is most famous for its connections with Winnie-the-Pooh and the author A.A .Milne. Milne lived with his family, including son Christopher Robin, in a farmhouse at Hartfield, just a short walk from Ashdown Forest.

OTHAM ABBEY is in the parish of Hailsham and was founded by a Ralph de Dene, a Norman, in the latter half of the 12th century. The abbey of Ottenham or Hottenham was dedicated to St. Laurence, and was endowed with lands and tenements in Sussex. Among the subsequent benefactors to the house were the families of de AQUILA, de Brode, De St. Leger, and others. Ela de Sackville was the founder’s daughter. It was in a poor location, however, and the brethren were transferred to Bayham. OTHAM COURT was in Dill hundred, near Hailsham. Recorded in 1279, held by A of Begeham [Bayham], it was stated that the fair ought to be held by Queen Eleanor, the king's mother, as part of the barony of Aquila.

OXENFORD GRANGE: within Peper Harrow Park, but in the parish of Witley, was a part of the manor of Witley until Richer de Aquila granted it to the abbey of Waverley early in the 12th century. His gift is mentioned in the bull of Pope Eugenius III, dated 1147, confirming to the abbey all its property, and the grange of Oxenford with land at Rihella was included in the lands confirmed to the abbey by Richard I. Richer's grandson, Gilbert de Aquila, in confirming his grandfather's gift, mentioned the right of the abbot to inclose so much of Witley Park as belonged to Oxenford. In the 'Taxatio' of 1291 Oxenford was rated at £1, and the abbot seems to have objected to paying the tenth for it, but his claim to exemption was disallowed. The grange remained among the possessions of the abbey till the Dissolution, at which time it was valued at £4 13s. 4d.⁷²

The remains of the Grange are now included in Peper Harow Park. They consist of only part of a cottage, the rest having been pulled down in 1775 when the present mansion-house at Peper Harow was approaching completion.

SHOPWYKE AQUILA [Shapwick, Schapwicke Egle] is in Sussex and was part of the Honour of Aquila. The ancient manor of Shopwyke or Shapwicky held originally by the Honour "de Aquila," and hence sometimes styled Shopwick Eagle. This has been called an important estate. Having reverted to the Crown, it was granted by Henry I to one Reginald Hareng, whose heirs held it till the reign of Henry III, when it was annexed to the Earldom of Arundel. Shopwyke was never church property like others. Dallaway says, “It is a very ancient Manor, originally held in capite by the Crown by the Knight’s Service, as of the honour ‘de Aquila.’” Reginald Hareng was a veteran soldier who had been wounded and whose heirs held it in the reign of Henry III. The name meant “Sheep-village” in Saxon times.⁷³ In 1378 John Borcas died possessed of the manor of Shapwick [Whitley Hundred], a messuage and a dovecot at Blatchington in the Rape of Pevensey, with a listing of various acres of land. The ancient manor was apparently torn down and another built in its place in Tudor times [it’s now an hotel].

A 2008 article in *Medieval News* discusses extensive research done by academics as a part of “the Shapwick Project.” They discovered that the layout of the village streets and surrounding field systems show a planned development by 10th century monks of Glastonbury Abbey that was to be the centre of their sheep-rearing activities. Shapwick has been called the most studied village in England. “It has been under exhaustive examination by academics from the Universities of Bristol, Winchester, and Durham led by Mick Aston, best known for his starring role in the BBC's 'Time Team'. The 'Shapwick Project' has tested the hypothesis that although seemingly a typical English village, Shapwick was actually a

⁷¹ Wikipedia

⁷² 'Parishes: Witley', A History of the County of Surrey: Volume 3 (1911), pp. 61-69

⁷³ A History of the Castles, Mansions, and Manors of Western Sussex, by Dudley George, Cary Elwes, Charles John, pg 159

very early experiment in the forcible movement of labour for economic development and financial gain.”⁷⁴ Learning more about the results of their research could prove very interesting.



Shapwick Church, St. Bartholomew's

SOWERBY in Yorkshire was the **property of Isabel [sometimes called Elizabeth] de Warenne as inherited from her father, Hamelin d’Anjou Plantagenet, earl de Warenne and 5th Earl of Surrey.** This property probably would not have been involved in any of the later disputes regarding Isabel’s dower lands with the de Lacy’s, Isabel’s first husband being Robert de Lacy. Her second husband was Gilbert de l’Aigle III, 7th baron de l’Aigle, son of Richer & Odeline. Anglo-Norman Studies XVIII states that Gilbert significantly advanced the English fortunes of his family by his marriage with Isabel. We find reference to the extensive dower lands she brought from her marriage with Robert de Lacy, but many of these were eventually returned to Roger de Lacy, the successor. Isabel’s father, Earl Hamlin, was the illegitimate son of Geoffrey Plantagenet, count of Anjou, and was therefore half-brother of Henry II, and as such had a rich and varied involvement with the royal family. He was one of the treasurer’s for King Richard’s ransom, and he was present at King John’s coronation.⁷⁵ Isabel’s mother, also named Isabel de Warenne, was the heiress of one of the most successful of the cross-Channel aristocratic families. These connections were to prove almost as valuable to the family in the thirteenth century as the link with the Rotrou counts had been in the twelfth.”⁷⁶ Hamelin died in April 1202, and was succeeded by his son William de Warenne. Legal event: Plea of land between Gilbert de Laigle and John de Brikin and Serlo de Verneuil concerning Sowerby [not dated].

SULLINGTON [Sulintone] is in the parish of the Hundred of East Easwirth, rape of Bramber. **Soon after the Norman Conquest Sullington appears to have been held by the family of Aguillon (de Aquila),** and about the middle of the 13th century to have passed with the only daughter and heir of Thomas or Richard d’ Aguillon to William de Covert, who, by his marriage, became possessed of two knights’ fees in Sullington and Broadbridge. It was probably known earlier as Cilletuney and was situated within the domain of William de Braose. There can be no doubt that the latter and his descendants claimed paramount lordship over Sullington, the owners of which owed certain services to the lords of Bramber.

There is a very interesting reference to Sullington in *A Compendious History of Sussex* that says the property belonged to “Richard” de Aquila, whose name was, at times, spelled “Aguillon.” We know there was a Richard de l’Aigle, in England, that cannot be accounted for in the family genealogy, although assuredly he belongs, as the property discussed in connection with him were family holdings; and one can’t help but wonder who else we might be missing if the records spelled their name “Aguillon.” I believe it important to include the entire quote about Sullington and its ownership, from that source:

⁷⁴ Website: <http://www.fylde.demon.co.uk/TV/shapwick.htm>

⁷⁵ Dictionary of National Biography, pages 362-363; this source mistakenly calls Isabel’s husband “Guy de Laigle”

⁷⁶ Anglo-Norman Studies XVIII, by Christopher Harper, page 192

“Sullington lies partly on the South Downs, but the greater portion consists of arable land. Its length from north to south is 3½ miles, and its breadth of a mile. The soil varies from chalk to sandy loam. Like Beeding, it has a detached portion in the forest district near Horsham, called Broadbridge Heath, about twelve miles to the north, with a population, in 1861, of 86. From Domesday, Sillintone appears to have been among the smallest of manors, possessing only one villein with half a plough, and valued at 2s. Ulward held it of the Confessor, and Robert of Earl Roger de Montgomeri. **Soon after the Conquest the family of Aguillon, or De Aquila, held it, and Richard de Aguillon's only daughter carried it by marriage to William de Covert, who had two knights' fees in Sullington and Broadbridge.** Several disputes respecting game in this manor are recorded. In 1275, Hugh, son of Otho, brought an action against Roger de Covert, for unlawfully detaining a falcon valued at £10, an immense price in those days; and in 1288, William de Braose prosecuted him for killing two hares in his free-warren in Washington and Findon. Roger pleaded that he had always hunted there for hares and foxes, and cut sticks in the woods to carry hares on. The manor house of this ancient sporting squire was valued at 3s. 4d. per annum. He had a park, two watermills, one windmill, and the advowson of the church. His descendants continued in possession for several generations, till Baldwin de Covert,* in 1379, granted the reversion of the manor, after his death, to Richard, Earl of Arundel, who gave it to his Hospital of the Holy Trinity at Arundel. After the dissolution of that house, it passed through the families of Lee, Shelley of Warminghurst, Apsley, and Shelley of Lewes. The manor-house close to the church has some traces of antiquity. The name of the park is still retained by a portion of the estate, and two watermills now exist, probably on the Domesday sites.”⁷⁷

A footnote states that there was a “very curious will of Margaret, wife of John de Covert, and mother of Baldwin, 1366,” which was in the possession of W. Smith Ellis, Esq of Hydecroft (it had been translated and printed in Cartwright’s Rape of Bramber).” In the church there is the effigy of a knight in armor that still shows traces of excellent workmanship, from the time of Henry III, and is believed to represent William de Covert, lord of the manor.

TOLLER FRATRUM in Dorset, was the property of Richer de l’Aigle: This village, near Wynford Eagle, is called Toller Fratrum [“Toller of the Brethren”] because it anciently belonged to the brethren of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem [Knights Hospitallers].⁷⁸ It was in the hundred of Tollerford, diocese of Salisbury, archdeaconry of Dorset. The church of St. Basil is a long narrow building, consisting of a chancel and nave, without tower. It is well known for its ancient font, which is covered with sculptures of human faces, believed to be Saxon, or even Roman. There would have been a manor house, but the one there now was built later.⁷⁹ This property, as well as Tollerford, were listed as the property of Richer de l’Aigle in the Terre Normannor.



St. Basil at Toller Fratrum

⁷⁷ A Compendious History of Sussex, by Mark Antony Lower, pages 191-193

⁷⁸ The Knights Hospitallers in England, by Philip de Thame, Lambert Blackwell Larking, John Mitchell Kemble, Camden Society, page 223

⁷⁹ The Archaeological Journal, page 346

WESTCOTE in DORKING [Westcott]. “In the 13th century Westcote (villa de Westcote) was terra Normannorum held by Gilbert de Aquila and taken into the hands of King Henry III. The Earl of Warenne and Surrey had paid a fine and held it for his sister the wife of Gilbert.”⁸⁰

The hamlet of Westcot is situated about two miles from Dorking, on the Guildford road. There was anciently a manor here of considerable extent, of which the following account is given in the Domesday Book : — " Ralph [de Felgeres] holds Wescote. Abbot Alsi held it of King Edward, when it was assessed at 10 hides; now, at 3 hides. The arable land amounts to 7 carucates. There is 1 carucate in demesne ; and there are fourteen villains, and five bordars, with 7 carucates.

The following quote points to a Gilbert de l'Aigle who died in 1205: “In the sixth of John, Gilbert de Aquila died seized of the manor of Westcot, and his son Gilbert afterwards held it until 19 Henry III., when he forfeited all his estates in England by quitting the kingdom and going to Normandy without the King's license. The manor was then granted to Gilbert Marshall, Earl of Pembroke, and it was held in succession by the families of Yalenoe and of Hastings, Earl of Pembroke, until the death of John, Earl Hastings, which took place in 1390, in consequence of a wound which he received in tilting at a tournament held before Richard II at Woodstock a few days previously. This nobleman was only seventeen years of age, and though married, he had no child, in consequence of which the manor of Westcot, with other estates, passed to William Beauchamp, a younger son of Thomas, Earl of Warwick, in pursuance of a settlement made by the father of Earl John ; but the widow of the latter held this manor as a part of her dower. On her decease in 2 Henry IV., Beauchamp obtained possession of the property, which from his family was transferred to the Nevils. The manor at length descended to Henry Nevil, Lord Abergavenny, who, jointly with the Earl of Dorset and others, by deed of bargain and sale dated 4 Charles I., conveyed "Westcot, with other estates, to Sir Francis Stidolph and George Buncombe, Esq., as trustees, for sale. This manor was then purchased by Richard Evelyn, of "Wotton. In Westcot Street are several good houses and a small chapel.”⁸¹

WILLINGDON [Wylindon, Wyilyngdon] was the property of Odeline, wife of Richer de l'Aigle. Willingdon parish adjoins Hailsham parish in East Sussex.

The earliest mention I can find is: “Richer de Aquila, for he, 12 Henry II [cal 1166], on collection of the aid for marrying the king's daughter, certified that he held 35 ½ knight's fees, of which he had been enfeoffed in the time of Henry I. This Richer gave the monks of Grestine, in Normandy, the lands and woods lying in the manor of 'Willindone, in Sussex' with the tythes of his mill there, as also herbage in his forest, and also tythes of his lordship and castle of Pevenesel, and other lands of great value in Sussex. He died 22 Henry 2, 1176, and was succeeded by Gilbert de l'Aigle.”⁸² The same source goes on to state that Gilbert married (blank) the sister to Wm. E. of Warren, and died in Normandy 6 John [cal 1205] and was succeeded by his son Gilbert who married Isabel and forfeited his estates.

There were three legal events of interest regarding Willingdon: The first is not dated, but was in the reign of King John, 1199-1216: Grant: Edeline mother of Gilbert de Laigle holds land in Willingdon; John has granted all the lands held by Gilbert de Laigle's mother to William d'Aubigne, earl of Arundel. Obviously Gilbert obtained the return of the lands, for there was another legal event, not dated, that states: Plea of novel disseisin between Richard de Hidney (pl) and Gilbert de Laigle (def) concerning land in Hidney in Willingdon. The third event was in 1229, when Gilbert de Aquila conferred on the canons of Michelham his lands and rights of pasture in Willingdon in Sussex, along with the Dicker, the Broyle, and other lands and manors. When the church of Willingdon was appropriated to the abbey of Grestain, in 1204, the vicar's portion was a messuage and a third part of the issues. 1420 Sir John Pelham, of “Wylindon” – as Warden of Pevensey Castle and grantee of the Honor of Aquila, answered to Sir Walter Hungerford, chief steward of the Duchy of Lancaster, why he had allowed the solar of the chapel at the castle of Pevensey to be out of repair.

⁸⁰ 'Parishes: Dorking', A History of the County of Surrey: Volume 3 (1911), pp. 141-150.

⁸¹ A Topographical History of Surrey

⁸² An Historical and Descriptive Account of the Coast of Sussex, by John Docwra Parry, Robert Martin, Charles John Smith, page 259

- **HIDNEY, was seemingly a part of Willingdon, one of the original holdings of the de l'Aigle's in England:** Hidney was a very small town in Sussex in the parish of Willingdon "about a mile and half from the church," and a member of the Cinque Ports. "Hastings, the chief of the Cinque Ports, had several members or "limbs," that is subsidiary territories, parochial or otherwise. Of these, Seaford and Pevensey were the chief – the others being Bulverhithe, Hydoneye, Iham, Beakesbourne, Greenhithe, and Northeye. Several of these have become greatly diminished in importance, and at least two of them have left scarcely a vestige above ground, these being Hidney [Hidney] and Northeye. Both are situated in the marshes of East Sussex, between Hastings on the east and Willingdon on the west. The small town (for it could never have been very large) probably stood upon Court Hidney, where the surface is very uneven and broken, doubtless by human agency, and within the memory of old men stones and other debris of the extinct town were occasionally turned up."⁸³

For such a small holding, there are some very interesting legal documents regarding its ownership by Gilbert de l'Aigle that give us a clue as to his whereabouts in 1200. The following records from the *Curia Regis Rolls* describe the legal events regarding this property:

November 4, 1200: Plea of novel disseisin between Richard de Hidney (pl) and Gilbert de Laigle (def) concerning land in Hidney in Willingdon. [Sussex] The assize of novel disseisin between Richard de Hidney (pl) and Gilbert de Laigle (def) re a free tenement in Hidney in Willingdon, Sussex is put in respite until the quindenes of Martinmas because none of the jurors came except for Geoffrey de St-Ledger, William de Keynes and Baldwin de Wdetun. They have the same day in the bench and the other jurors, named on a schedule (now lost) are to be attached. Robert Burnard, juror, essoined himself. Also: [Sussex] The assize of novel disseisin between Richard de Hidney (pl) and Gilbert de Laigle (def) re a free tenement in Hidney in Willingdon, Sussex is put in respite until the quindenes of Martinmas because none of the jurors came except for Geoffrey de St-Ledger, William de Keynes and Baldwin de Wdetun. They have the same day in the bench and the other jurors, named on a schedule (now lost) are to be attached. Robert Burnard, juror, essoined himself. November 25, 1200: [Sussex] A day is given for the octaves of Hilary in the assize of novel disseisin between Richard de Hidney (pl) and Gilbert de Laigle (def). January 23, 1201: [Sussex] The assize of novel disseisin between Richard de Hidney (querentem) and Gilbert de Laigle (dissaisitorem) is put in respite until three weeks after Easter, because Robert de Firle, Godfrey de St-Ledger, Simon de Wertling, Ralph French, William de Keynes, jurors, have not come nor essoined. Attach them to come on that day and the same day is given to those jurors who did come or essoin themselves. April 16 - 22, 1201: 1) [Sussex] Richard de Hidney comes on the fourth day against Gilbert de Laigle in an assize of novel disseisin of his free tenement in the marsh of Willingdon; and lord Geoffrey fitzPeter orders the justices of the bench by writ that Gilbert is to have peace on account of his crossing overseas; and the king orders a perambulation to divide the lands of Richard de Heidene and Robert Burnard and the lands of Edeline de Laigle and Gilbert her son, and that meanwhile they are to have peace regarding this land. 2) [Sussex] An assize of novel disseisin comes to recognise whether Gilbert de Laigle unjustly etc disseised Richard de Hidelee of his free tenement in Hidney [Hidele] within the assize etc. The jurors say that Richard Wildebos, Geoffrey de Upton and Hugh de Bromham, sergeants of the said Gilbert, disseised Richard de Hidenay but not Gilbert himself. Gilbert's steward claims that Gilbert was not even in England at the time, and offers 2m for an inquest whether Gilbert was in the country or not. Inquire by lawful men of the neighbourhood. The jurors are to come on the octaves of Trinity. 3) [Sussex] Richard de Hidney comes on the fourth day against Gilbert de Laigle in an assize of novel disseisin of his free tenement in the marsh of Willingdon; and lord Geoffrey fitzPeter orders the justices of the bench by writ that Gilbert is to have peace on account of his crossing overseas; and the king orders a perambulation to divide the lands of Richard de Heidene and Robert Burnard and the lands of Edeline de Laigle and Gilbert her son, and that meanwhile they are to have peace regarding this land.⁸⁴

WOLVERTON [WOOLVERTON] in Hampshire in southern England. As it was in Hampshire, it was not part of the rape of Pevensey. A legal grant (undated) says that "King John granted Woolverton, late of Gilbert de Laigle, to Matthew fitzHerbert." Wolverton is known to have been a royal demesne manor until alienated by King John in 1215,

⁸³ A Compendious History of Sussex, by Mark Antony Lower, pages 233-234

⁸⁴ Pleas found in the *Curia Regis Rolls*, as related in *The Lands of the Normans, 1204-1244*

which was perhaps the time of the grant from Gilbert to Matthew fitzHerbert. The royal manor there was usually farmed out, so presumably Gilbert held it as a tenant.

In the reign of Henry II (1154-1189) there was a royal residence and deer park there; and repairs to the King's House at Wolverton can be found in the Pipe Rolls, 1158-1167. In 1165 Eleanor, the wife of Henry II, resided there while Henry was in Normandy. Matthew fitzHerbert was one of the barons who had strenuously supported the cause of King John, and he was sheriff of Sussex from the 12th to 17th of John, and from the first to the 13th of Henry III. He was a descendant of the Herberts, earls of Pembroke. His father was Herbert Fitz-Herbert, chamberlain to Henry II. King Henry III gave him the Manor of Warblington sometime between 1216 and 1230, by which time it is assume Matthew had died.⁸⁵

In Domesday Book it was called *Wluerinton* or *Ulvretune*. It was also called Ulfertona, Olferton, Wlfrinton, Wulfrestone, Wifferton, Wolverston, and Wolferton. In Domesday it was held by Alvred the priest of the Conqueror. There was an old Saxon Church, Church of the Holy Trinity, that was rebuilt in 1819. It still sits next to an old Norman motte and bailey site; only the earthen mound remains. Wolverton Manor is known to have had a moat around, it at one time.

There are two interesting mentions of Wolverton in 1428: 1) {Hundredum de] Cleileey: “De Ricardo Wodevyle, armigero, pro quarta parte j.f. in Wykehamunde, quod Johannes de Wolverton tenuit de baronia de Wolverton.” And 2) “de Willelmo Fortho pro di f in Fortho **de Honore de Aquila**, que (sic) tenetur de castro de Gynyngton (sic) per servitium xiiij.s.iiij.d per annum ad wardam dicti castri, quod Henricus Fortho tenuit....”⁸⁶

And we find that in 1066 Robert count of Mortain, held 3 estates in **Furtho**. “After the caputre of Count Robert's son at Tinchebray in 1106, the Mortain fee was dismembered and divided between the honors of Berkhamsted, Leicester, and Aquila. The Furtho portions of the estate thereafter appear to have descended with the former Mortain manor of Cosgrove. In 1235-6 William de Montagu held one fee in Furtho belonging to the Honor of Aquila, and about the same time was in dispute with Michael son of Ralph and his wife Catherine concerning the estate. Furtho was returned under the Honor of Aquila in 1242. Thomas de Aldeham died in 1275 holding, of the inheritance of his wife, two carucates in Furtho of the Honor of Aquila for half a knight's fee, paying 40d yearly towards the keeping of Pevensey Castle.”⁸⁷

WYNFORD EAGLE in Dorset. As it is in Dorset, it is difficult to believe it was part of the Honour of Aquila, but it does seem to be so. Tollerford was part of the Terre Normannor of Richer de l'Aigle. It is a hamlet and small parish in Dorset, anciently in the hundred of Tollerford, and now in the district of West Dorset. In Domesday it was called 'Wynfort.' One quote says its additional name is “derived from the Honor de Aquila, or the Eagle, of which it was formerly held. This great “Honour” or Barony of Eagle had its seat in Sussex, but derived its name from a Norman family named Aquila, or Aigle, from a town in Normandy; Aigle, whence they came. The first holder was Gilbert de Aquila of Pevensey, who had other possessions in other counties. The “Honour” passed afterwards to the Crown, and was regranted by Edward II to the family of Lovel.”⁸⁸ In a legal event, not dated: “The vill[age] of Wynford Eagle owes 4m tallage. Pardoned to Gilbert de Laigle.”

The little church, St. Lawrence's of Wynford Eagle, is a chapelry belonging to the mother church of Toller Fratrum, two miles off, and later annexed to it as a perpetual curacy. The original chapel must have been of great antiquity, as it contained portions of supposed Saxon architecture. It was re-built in 1842, but evidence of its predecessor is the re-used 15th-century chancel arch and a Norman doorway decoration. The church stands opposite the manor house, which was the home of the Sydenham family.

The church preserves a striking Norman tympanum, carved with two wyverns, probably intended to represent eagles, as a pun on the name of Matilda de l'Aigle*, who presumably commissioned it, according to one of the two inscriptions; the

⁸⁵ A History of the County of Hampshire, Vol. 4; “Wolverton”

⁸⁶ Inquisitions and Assessments Relating to Deudal Aids, by Anthony Story Maskelyn, page 43

⁸⁷ A History of the County of Northampton, Vol. 5, by Philip Riden and Charles Insely (Editors) “Furtho”

⁸⁸ Thomas Sydenham, by Joseph Frank Payne, page 4

other names the sculptor, Alvy or Alvi. “Dorset has few Norman tympana, some of them plain, some with a concave underside, and – as for figural work – only Wynford Eagle has two affronted bird monsters and the signature ‘Alvii me fecit’.”⁸⁹



***Matilda [Matilde or Maud] de l’Aigle:** Matilda [born about 1078- died after 1130] was the daughter of Richer I & Judith le Goz d’Avranches. This was *Maud* de Aquila, who had “had little joy of her marriage[s].” “Mathildis de Aquila, whose demesnes as a tenant-in-capite were 3 hides, was a noble Lady, a daughter of the Norman House of L’Aigle. Her father and grandfather had both fallen in the service of William the Conqueror – the grandfather, Ingenulf, on the field of Senlac in 1066 – her father, Richer, at the siege of St. Susanne in 1081. In 1095 Mathildis married Robert de Mowbray, Earl of Northumberland, who, in the very year of their espousals, rebelling against William Rufus, was outlawed and condemned to perpetual imprisonment. Mathildis, thus free to remarry, took for her second husband, Nigel de Albini, nephew to her first husband, and permitted to succeed him in most part of his vast possessions. Pope Pascal II had allowed the remarriage of Mathildis; but on the death of her brother, Gilbert de Aquila, the legality of the remarriage was brought into question. In all probability the questions was raised because Mathildis was childless; the ostensible ground was the consanguinity of her first and second husbands. Since he waited until after Gilbert’s death to cast-off Matilda, it’s natural to think he was too much of a coward to do so before that! Nigel de Albini remarried, and thus became ancestor of the House of Mowbray. Mathildis remained a widow. In the doorway of a retired village-church of Dorset, there is, or lately was, a curious tympanum, whose inscription shows it to have been erected by Mathildis l’Aigle. She was living, we see, in 1130. She was probably a resident in Dorset, where her demesnes, apparently 14 hides, are exempted from Danegeld in the self-same year. Her Dorset estates were Winford and Little Toller; the former still known as Winford Eagle, the latter usually called Toller Fratrum, by reason of its sometime possession by Knights Hospitallers of St. John, on which order it was bestowed by Mathildis herself or one of her kindred.”⁹⁰

The early de l’Aigle’s who owned lands in England:

ENGENULF, 2nd Baron de l’Aigle, son of Fulbert: Engenulf de l’Aigle accompanied the Conqueror, and was one of only 32 men proven to have accompanied him. He was killed near the battle of Hastings in 1066, ‘the only prominent Norman who lost his life in the battle.’ The most famous quote about Engenulf was: **‘He came with shield slung at his neck, and with his lance fiercely charged the English’** Wace doesn’t mention his death at Hastings, but Orderic Vitalis writes that he was killed at the Malfosse, during the chase of the Saxons at the end of the battle. Engenulf &

⁸⁹ Dorset, by John Newman and Nikolaus Pevsner, page 16

⁹⁰ Collections for a History of Staffordshire, by William Salt Archaeological Society & Staffordshire Record Society, pg 13

Richeveride's sons: Richer & Gilbert, and Robert who died young. *Historie de l'Aigle* states that the descendants of Engenulf were given "many manors in England." It is Engenulf who is represented in the Bayeux Tapestry.

RICHER I de L'Aigle, Engenulf's son, 3rd Baron de l'Aigle, was listed as being a companion of William the Conqueror in 1066 and **"was given many Manors in England and noted in 1081 as being "Maximi Consules" therefore the King's most important councillor."** Richer married JUDITH d'Avranches, daughter of Richard le Goz d'Avranches & his wife Emma de Conteville. It is important to note here that Emma de Conteville was the daughter of Herleve - who was also William the Conqueror's mother - so Judith was a half-niece of William. Wace says Richer's courage and fidelity to the Duke... he served him faithfully "in all his wars," "won from him brilliant promises." He was killed during the siege of the castle of Sainte-Suzanne, Maine on 18th November 1085, by an arrow just below the eye fired by a boy who had hidden behind a bush. Orderic describes him as "more pious, more liberal, more skillful in the handling of matters, more eloquent, more courteous, and most soft in conversation," and relates how so many mourned his tragic death. Orderic also insinuates that it was because of Richer's service that the family received Pevensey. Richer's son Gilbert was the owner of two properties in England at the time of the Domesday survey, a mere year after Richer's death.

GILBERT, [first of the name] another son of Engenulf, was a favorite of Robert III Duke of Normandy, who awarded him the castle of Exmes for his courage. Gilbert also accompanied the Conqueror. From Puck's Tales by Rudyard Kipling [in his fictionalized account]: 'At Santlache, over the hill yonder'- he pointed south-eastward towards Fairlight – "we found Harold's men. We fought. At the day's end they ran. My men went with De Aquila's to chase and plunder, and in that chase ENGERRARD of the EAGLE was slain, and his son GILBERT took his banner and his men forward."⁹¹ He was called GISLEBERT, knight of a big valor, son of Engelnufe of the Eagle, who received of Robert, duke of Normandy, the castle of Exmes to defend the country.⁹² It was this Gilbert who warned William the Conqueror that allowing the Norman barons to hold lands in both England and Normandy would cause trouble. In 1089 Orderic makes it clear that it was the elder Gilbert of Laigle to whom Robert Curthose granted the castle of Exmes in recognition of his service. **Gilbert was Viscount of the Hiemois (Exmes)**. Gilbert was killed in 1092 by soldiers of Geoffroi du Perche, while returning from a visit to "pay his respects to Duda," daughter of Waleran and 2nd wife of William de Moulins. He never married.

GILBERT II, 4th Baron de l'Aigle, lord of the Honour of Pevensy [Honour of the Eagle] [born circa 1061-died circa 1118] son of Richer I & Judith le Goz d'Avranches, was lord of Witley in Surrey (20 William I – cal 1086), as found in Domesday. His father had been killed 18 Nov 1084/1085 in the battle of St. Suzanne, Maine, France. Gilbert followed William "Rufus" and Henry I, sons of William I. **It was this Gilbert who was awarded Pevensey in 1106.** This Gilbert was high in favor to Henry I. Laigle in Normandy was burned to the ground in 1118 by the French; it is possible this is when Gilbert died. He was actively engaged in the opposition to Robert de Belesme in Normandy. He married Juliana du Perche de Mortagne, daughter of Geoffrey du Perche de Mortagne de Chateaudun, count of Mortagne, establishing an important alliance. There are many instances when the Mortagne's are mentioned in connection with de l'Aigle holdings.

RICHER II, 5th Baron de L'Aigle – [born about 1100 – died about 1161]. He was the son of Gilbert D'Aquila, lord of the honour of Pevensy in Sussex; and his wife Juliana, daughter of Geoffrey, Count of Mortaigne and Perche, and was probably only about 18 years old when his father died. He married **Beatrix**, daughter of Hildwin de Roucy, Count de Roucy, by Adela, daughter of Eblo I, Count de Roucy, by Beatrix, daughter of Raynerious V, Count of Hainault, by Hedewige, daughter of Hugh Capet, King of France: which Eblo, Count de Roucy, derived his descent, both in the male and female line, from Charles the Simple, King of France, by his Queen Edgina, daughter of Edward, King of England before mentioned, son of Alfred the Great, first absolute monarch of England. Richer de L'Aigle was a friend of the young Thomas Becket, and a biography of Thomas says that Richer was attracted to the sisters of Thomas. He often

⁹¹ Puck's Tales, by Rudyard Kipling

⁹² Orderic Vitalis

invited Thomas to his estates in Sussex. There, Thomas learned to ride a horse, hunt, behave, and engage in popular sports such as jousting.

Richer followed Robert Curthose of Normandy's son William Clito in 1118 and forfeited his lands. He claimed his father's lands in England from King Henry but was refused on the excuse that his brothers were serving in the royal household troops and expecting the honor.

In 1119 Richer de l'AIGLE, alienated by Henry I's refusal to grant him his father's English lands⁹³, raided Normandy with his neighbours Eustace de Breteuil and William de la Ferte-Arnaud, who was a prominent lord in the northernmost part of the diocese of Chartres. Under Richer, the de l'Aigle fortress was taken and devastated 3 times in 50 years. Richer rebuilt it every time. He was allied sometimes with the French king, sometimes with the English king.

On intercession of Rotro [Rotrou du Perche de Mortagne] his uncle, the lands were restituted. In 1127 he forfeited them again for following William Clito. In 1137 he returned his allegiance to King Stephen after the gift of Bonmolins.⁹⁴ Richer of L'Aigle witnessed the Evreux charter, and Orderic stated that at Evreux, Stephen "won to his side ... Richer of L'Aigle." Had Richer not yet been won to Stephen's side, it is highly unlikely he would be witnessing Stephen's charters.⁹⁵ Richer was made prisoner and confined 3 years to the castle of Breteuil.⁹⁶ In 1147, Richer leaves for the 2nd crusade with the France King Louis VII. On his return, he constructed the léproserie of The Madeleine.⁹⁷

Richer styled himself, "by the grace of God lord of l'Aigle, in an act issued in his name in 1136, and even 'prince of l'Aigle...in his great charter of confirmation for the abbey of Saint Lomer de Blois in 1155." Act of 'Richerius Aquilensis filius Gilberti', but naming 'Richerio principio Aquilensi' amongst those present (l'Aigle, 22 September 1155)⁹⁸

In 1155 he enunciated the numerous donations done by his ancestors to Saint-Sulpice.⁹⁹

This Richer died about 1161, although he is often confused with his son Richer III who died in 1176.

RICHER III, 6th Baron de l'Aigle, succeeded on his father's death in 1161, died in 1176. There are only a few charters that specifically point to Richer III. In one, he added to the gifts made by his father to the leprosy of the Madeleine. By another, in which he says he was the son of Richer, who was son of Gilbert, he confirmed several rights and exemptions with the monks of Saint- Evroult. And one act was made in presence of his wife Odeline, of Gilbert and Richer, his sons, of Gilbert de Tillieres and others.¹⁰⁰

In 1172 Henry II took a record of the number of knights who owed service to him and to his barons, known as the "Infeudationes Militum" Richer de l'Aigle is listed as lord of l'Aigle, although he was recorded for Crepon near Bayeux.¹⁰¹ He married Odeline de Beaumont de Sainte Suzanne le Maine. Odeline was the daughter of Roselin V de Beaumont-au-Maine and his de Crépon wife. She is mentioned in several charters done by their son Gilbert. And Odeline, herself, had several holdings, probably in dower. Richer is buried in Saint-Sulpice [with a sépulture in Chaise-Dieu, where his wife raised a magnificent tomb in the middle of the choir]. During this period the family was in possession of Pevensey.

⁹³ Those English lands lay in the counties of Surrey and Norfolk. "The Ecclesiastical History of England and Normandy" By Ordericus Vitalis, Léopold Delisle, Guizot (François)

⁹⁴ Bonmolins was a castle built by Henry I in 1100. Some sources say it was given to Richer in 1135.

⁹⁵ King Stephen's Norman Itinerary, 1137

⁹⁶ Richer was taken prisoner on September 8, day of the Nativity of the Virgin, 1140 by Robert of Bellême. L'art de Yérifier les Dates, by David Baillie Warden, Saint-Allais (Nicolas Viton), Maur François Dantine, Charles Clémencet, Ursin Durand, François Clément

⁹⁷ Histoire des Antiquités de la Ville de l'Aigle et de ses Environs: Comprenant des Recherches ... by Jean François Gabriel Vaugeois

⁹⁸ The Norman Frontier in the Twelfth and Early Thirteenth Centuries, by Daniel Power

⁹⁹ Saint-Sulpice charters

¹⁰⁰ Histoire des Antiquités de la Ville de l'Aigle et de ses Environs: Comprenant des Recherches ... by Jean François Gabriel Vaugeois

¹⁰¹ The Norman Frontier in the Twelfth and Early Thirteenth Centuries, by Daniel Power.

And now we come to the final Gilbert's. There is considerable confusion regarding Gilbert III and his son Gilbert IV. It was certainly one of these Gilbert's who lost the rape of Pevensey, the Honour of Aquila in England when he returned to Normandy.

GILBERT III, 7TH Baron de l'Aigle, Lord of Witley. *Historie de l'Aigle* states that Gilbert "mourut vers 1230. » Having found the *Historie* to be confirmed in almost every instance, this must be the basis for believing it was Gilbert III who lost the rape of Pevensey. And certainly the most conclusive evidence seems to come from Gilbert himself in his 1229 charter to Michelham, when he said: "I, Gilbert, Lord Aquila, by the permission of King Henry III., for the welfare of my soul and the souls of Isabella my wife and of my children, of my brothers and sisters, of my ancestors and my descendants, have given to God and the church of the Holy Trinity of Michelham." Unless Gilbert IV also had a wife named Isabella, then it must refer to Gilbert III.

However, *The History of the Parish of Hailsham*, by Louis Francis Salzman, states that Gilbert died in 1205, which is interesting. In 1207 his brother-in-law William de Warenne held Pevensey, but Gilbert seems to have reclaimed it after that. Another source, *The Victoria History of the County of Sussex*, edited by William Page, seems to confirm that Gilbert III had died by 1209, as when his brother Nicholas de l'Aigle, dean of Chichester, was elected bishop, it states that at that time Nicholas's nephew was the lord of Pevensey.

Gilbert III (or Gilbert II if you discount the first outstanding Gilbert, son of Engenulf, who was killed in 1092) made a brilliant marriage to Isabel de Warenne, daughter of Hamelin d'Anjou Plantagenet – the illegitimate son of Geoffrey Plantagenet, Count d'Anjou and Maine.

Anglo-Norman Studies XVIII has the complete text of Kathleen Thompson's "*Lords of Laigle*." I will quote only parts of it. In it, she states it was his marriage that considerably increased the family's fortunes in England. While I agree it certainly had to increase his properties, much of it was involved in dower disputes. And the de l'Aigle's had, by that time, long held the rape of Pevensey and all the property it included, as well as their properties at Witley and Mildenhall and any property held by earlier de l'Aigle wives.

It further states that "Gilbert's activities in the 1190's have proved almost impossible to recover, but he can be found among the following of William, earl of Salisbury, who was Isabel's uncle, and it is possible that Earl William arranged the match. From the year 1199, when Gilbert witnessed a charter of King John at Le Mans, there is a remarkable recovery in the fortunes of the family and Gilbert's career takes on the appearance of that of his great-grandfather and namesake. Gilbert found favour with a new king who had unexpectedly succeeded his brother and needed reliable men. During the early years of John's reign royal favour to Gilbert in the form of exemptions from tallages and scutage is apparent, and when Gilbert confirmed the foundation of Otteham in Sussex, he did so for the spiritual and bodily salvation of his lord King John.¹⁰² While Gilbert may have possessed some of the talents and abilities of his great-grandfather, King John was not to be as successful as his great-grandfather, and just as Gilbert was beginning to appreciate the benefits of access to the court the Norman and English components of John's realm fell apart in 1204. Gilbert, left with the choice between his English and his Norman holdings, apparently left the king's presence without royal leave in October 1203, and his English property was taken into the king's hand. A number of important Norman magnates, most notably Robert, count of Alencon, had already deserted John, and Gilbert must have feared he would lose Laigle as King Philip fought his way into Normandy. Fortunately, the grand connections of the Laigle family could be brought into play to alleviate the situation, for Gilbert was able to call upon his influential brother-in-law Earl William de Warenne. In 1207 William undertook to pay 3000 marks to hold Gilbert's lands in custody and throughout John's reign William can be found paying scutage on them, ostensibly holding them in trust for his sister, Isabel."

To continue with Ms. Thompson's account: "Gilbert may thus have found a means of enjoying the revenues of his English estates although he was no longer welcome in England. It might have seemed the perfect arrangement for a Norman baron, but Gilbert was not satisfied, and during the political turmoil of King John's final years he took the opportunity to return in person. Around 1215 Gilbert repossessed his family lands, celebrating the resumption of his

¹⁰² Gilbert gave a piece of swamp land away in 1229 near his land called "THE WISHE" to Otteham Priory.

property by donating a rent from the Sussex manor of Willingdon to the Fontevraudine priory of La Chaise-Dieu du Theil. The marriage of his daughter, Alice, to John de Lacy, a prominent opponent of King John, linked Gilbert with John's enemies and it was therefore perhaps natural that, when Prince Louis invaded in the summer of 1216, Gilbert should take his side.¹⁰³

"As the normally peaceful Sussex estates of the family became the frontline, Gilbert failed to secure control of the castle of Pevensey from King John's supporter, the earl of Arundel, and became alienated from the royal party. When the king died in October 1216, the regent, William Marshal, wasted no time in opening negotiations in the hopes that Gilbert could be persuaded to Henry III's side."

"During the early months of Henry's III's reign [his reign started in 1216] William Marshal was sufficiently anxious about Gilbert's designs on the castle at Pevensey to offer a series of concessions to win him over. Gilbert was to fight with the king of England's forces at Montgomery in 1225 and in the summer of 1231." [Gilbert would have been middle-aged, by this time].

Gilbert obviously made plans to leave England, perhaps well in advance. He began work on Michelham in 1220. It would not be chartered until 1229, probably just before his final departure from England. He gave quite a lot of the land acquired by the de l'Aigle's to Michelham. Various grants (information about which is provided in this document) include: 1) manor of Chinting in Seaford 2) his park of Peversey [later Michelham park]; 3) 80a marsh in Hailsham; 4) 20a meadow in Willingdon; and pasture for 60 animals, 100 pigs, and timber for the church in Dicker, Laughton and his woods in Sussex; 5) manor of Michelham; 6) Hailsham; 7) Willingdon; 8) Laughton; 9) The Dicker. Henry III confirmed these grants. It is doubtful he would have done so had he known what Gilbert planned. One source states that the founder of Michelham was "fifth in descent from the Hastings warrior."¹⁰⁴

Some of the other de l'Aigle's lands disposed of *after* Gilbert returned to Normandy were: 1) the castle of Pevensey; 2) the manor of Witley; 3) the manor of Westcott; 4) the manor of Greywell (Hants), and 5) Woolverton. These lands were forfeited to the Crown in 1235.

His daughter Alice had died in 1221. His sons were Gilbert IV; Richer IV; and William, the Templar Commander in Normandy. His sons Gilbert and Richer would both inherit the barony de l'Aigle in Normandy, and were called eighth and ninth barons of the Eagle in *Historie de l'Aigle*.

NICHOLAS de L'AIGLE was Dean of Chichester. He was another son of Richer III and Odeline. The chronicles of Dunstaple and Osney record the election of Nicholas in 1209 as bishop of Wells. "Nicholas was of one of the leading Sussex families, his nephew being at this time lord of Pevensey; he is spoken of as bishop in the instrument of ordination of Henfield vicarage in 1209, but how long he held the see is not known; it was, however, vacant in 1214 when the interdict was removed, and it is possible that he resigned his bishopric and retired abroad, as he appears in 1220 as dean of Avranches" in France.¹⁰⁵ Quite interesting, considering that his brother Gilbert began his work on Michelham the same year.

GILBERT IV de l'Aigle, 8th baron de l'Aigle. Gilbert was the son of Gilbert III & Isabel de Warenne. **He had a brother named Richer (IV), and a sister named Alice** who married John de Lacy. Another **brother was Guillaume**, who was master of the Knights Templar [who died after 1231].¹⁰⁶ The oldest example in France of the two-headed eagle is that of the seal affixed by a Knight Templar, Guillaume de l'Aigle, Temple Commander in Normandy, 1222-1223.

¹⁰³ It was "Richer II's grandson Gilbert de Aquila III" who in 1215 joined the rebel Barons against King John but after Magna Carta he got a letter on the 28th December 1216 from King Henry III who urged him to return his allegiance and promised him that he would lose none of his land.

¹⁰⁴ Homely Herbert's Eastbourne Guide and Visitor's Directory, page 64

¹⁰⁵ The Victoria History of the County of Sussex, edited by William Page.

¹⁰⁶ Anglo Saxon Studies XVIII

That there was an heir to Gilbert III is evident, for in 1241 Gilbert's heir was the ward of Peter of Savoy (Queen Eleanor of Provence's uncle). The heir was to receive the lands when aged 29 or 30 together with the Castle of Pevensey. In 1251 the manor was certainly in the possession of PETER of SAVOY, who held the Honor of the Eagle at that time, for in that year he obtained a charter for a market to be held in his manor of Heylesham.¹⁰⁷ There is much that could be said about Peter of Savoy, who seems to have been an unpleasant man, but not here!

THE HONOUR OF AQUILA was recapped in The Golden Falcon:

The Honour of Aquila, l'Aigle or Eagle.

Eugenulph de L'Aigle died at Hasting in 1066 >:

(a) Roger de L'Aigle Richer de L'Aigle = Judith, d. of Richard of Avranches & sister of Hugh "Lupus", earl of Chester.

(b) Richer helped William I in Maine and died there > Gilbert, Eugenulph & Maud.

(c) Gilbert de L'Aigle, lord of Witley, Surrey (20 William I). He followed William "Rufus" and Henry I >:

1. Geoffrey de L'Aigle

2. Eugenulph & Gilbert de L'Aigle died in the wreck of the "White Ship" 26.Nov.1120 [note: this is wrong... Geoffrey [Godefro] and Engenulf were the brothers who died in the White Ship]

3. Richer de L'Aigle > heir who followed Robert Curthose of Normandy's son William Clito in 1118 and forfeited his lands. On intercession of Rotro his uncle, the lands were restituted. In 1127 he forfeited them again for following William Clito. In 1137 he returned his allegiance to King Stephen after the gift of Bonmolins. He = Edeline (d. 1176) >:

a. Richer de L'Aigle

b. Eugenulph de L'Aigle, a clerk

c. Juliana de L'Aigle = William, baron Courci of Stoke Courcy, Somerset

d. Gilbert de L'Aigle (d. 6 John [cal 1205]), eldest son & heir, Lord of Witley = Isabelle, widow of Robert de Lacy I (d. 1193) & d. of Hamelin, earl Warenne & Surrey (illegitimate son of Geoffrey Plantagenet) [note: this reference, as well, states that Gilbert died in 1205]

>: 4 sons. Gilbert de L'Aigle, eldest son = Isabel. William d'Albini or Aubigny, received the grant of Witley during Gilbert's minority and the lands of Gilbert's mother. Gilbert got his lands in 1227 but in 1235 he forfeited them for going into Normandy without Henry III's permission. In 1241 Gilbert's heir was ward of Peter of Savoy (Queen Eleanor of Provence's uncle). The heir received the lands when aged 29 or 30 together with the Castle of Pevensey. The honour of Aquila went to Gilbert de Clare, earl of Gloucester & Hertford and later to the king.

A CHRONOLOGY OF THE HONOUR OF AQUILA, with CITATIONS RELATIVE TO THE DE L'AIGLE'S

1066: ROBERT de MORTAIN given Pevensey: "Immediately after the Norman conquest the barony of Pevensey, together with the castle, was granted to the earl of Moreton(sic - Mortain), brother-in-law of the Conqueror, but it was forfeited by his son, after the battle of Tenerchebrai, to King Henry I, who granted it to Gilbert de Acquila (sic), the descendant of a distinguished Norman family, whose grandfather had perished at the battle of Hastings. From this family

¹⁰⁷ The History of the Parish of Hailsham; the Abbey of Otham and the Priory of Michelham

the barony took the name of the “Honor of the Eagle.”¹⁰⁸ Robert was also called Count of Eu. He built onto the remains of an old Roman fort that was at Pevensey. Ashdown Forest was part of the rape of Pevensey.

"William I granted Pevensey to his half brother **Robert de Mortain**, the Roman walls became the outer bailey of the timber castle erected within at it's south-eastern corner. It was besieged four times, having been held by Robert of Mortain against William Rufus in support of Odo's, the Bishop of Bayeux, attempt to put Robert of Normandy on the throne in 1088 and the castle was only surrendered when supplies ran out."

Date 1086

Dept Records of the Exchequer, and its related bodies, with those of the Office of First Fruits and Tenths, and the Court of Augmentations

Place name: Reigate, Surrey; Folio: 30r Great Domesday Book

Domesday place name: Cherchefelle

People mentioned: Abbess of St Mary of Barking; Albert the clerk; Gausbert, Abbot of St Martin of Battle; Burgesses of London; Canons of Church of St Paul of London; Church of St Mary of Lambeth; Earl Harold; Roger de Montgomery, Earl of Shrewsbury; Edward of Salisbury; Eustace, Count of Boulogne; Geoffrey Orlateile; Geoffrey de Mandeville; Gilbert Crispin, Abbot of St Peter of Westminster; Gilbert Maminot, Bishop of Lisieux; Gilbert fitzRicher de l'Aigle; Hamo the sheriff; Humphrey the chamberlain; Ida, Countess of Boulogne; King Edward as landholder; King Edward as lord; King William as donor; King William as landholder; King William as monarch; Abbot of La-Croix-Saint-Leufroy; Lanfranc, Archbishop of Canterbury; Miles Crispin; Odard the crossbowman; Odbert; Odo, Abbot of St Peter of Chertsey; Odo, Bishop of Bayeux; Osbern; Osbern, Bishop of Exeter; Osweald, brother of Wulfweald, Abbot of St Peter of Chertsey; Queen Edith; Ralph de Feugeres; Ranulph the clerk; Ranulph the sheriff; Reeve of Bramley; Reeve of Gilbert Maminot, Bishop of Lisieux; Reeve of Odo, Bishop of Bayeux; Reginald fitzErchenbald; Richard of Tonbridge, son of Count Gilbert; Riwallon, Abbot of St Peter of Winchester; Robert Malet; Robert de Watteville; Robert, Count of Mortain; Abbot of Saint-Wandrille; Servants of King William; Stigand, Archbishop of Canterbury; Theodric the goldsmith; Tovi, reeve of Guildford; Urk; Waleran; Walkelin, Bishop of Winchester; Walter de Douai; Walter fitzOther; Wife of Tovi, Reeve of Guildford; William; William de Braose; William fitzAnsculf de Picquigny¹⁰⁹

Date 1086

Place name: Kingston upon Thames, Surrey

Folio: 36r Great Domesday Book

Domesday place name: Chingestone/Chingestun/Chingestune

People mentioned: Aelfhere; Alweard; Alwine; Ansculf de Picquigny, the sheriff; Ansfrid; Azur; Baldwin; Beorhtsige; Daughter of Geoffrey de Mandeville; Ealdraed; Earl Godwine; Edward of Salisbury; Esger the staller; Eskil; Fulcwig; Geoffrey Orlateile; Geoffrey de Mandeville; Geoffrey, son of Count Eustace of Boulogne; Gerard; Gilbert fitzRicher de l'Aigle; Hugh; Hugh, man of William fitzAnsculf de Picquigny; Huscarl; King William as arbiter; Leofwine brother of Swein; Ordwig; Ranulph; Swein brother of Leofwine; Tezelin; Thorbiorn; Walter de Douai; Walter fitzOther; Walter the vineyard-keeper; Wesman; William fitzAnsculf de Picquigny; William, smith of King William the Conqueror; wife of William, smith of King William the Conqueror; Wulfric; Wulfweard¹¹⁰

1088: A coalition of great lords headed by Odo bishop of Bayeaux tried to put Duke Robert on the English throne instead of his brother, Henry. The revolt collapsed, and Henry crossed to England and formally requested the grant of his mother's lands. But he returned to Normandy in the company of Robert de Belleme, where the two were arrested and Henry remained in prison six months. Henry finally managed to escape Robert's clutches, and so matters stood until 1090, when there was a rebel revolt in Normandy to deal with. In 1088 Pevensey castle was held against William Rufus by Robert of Mortain's brother, Odo, Bishop of Bayeux, on behalf of William's elder brother, Robert, Duke of Normandy, and was taken by siege.

1090: Henry was in Rouen on 3 November and, "as **Gilbert de l'Aigle** rode in from the south to support the duke, Reginald de Warenne with a force of 300 men loyal to Rufus attacked the west gate. Duke Robert and Henry meanwhile attacked the rebels inside the city; Robert was advised to withdraw and retreated to the priory of Notre-Dame-du-Pre

¹⁰⁸ The Penny Cyclopaedia of the Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge, page 345

¹⁰⁹ National Archives, Catalogue reference E 31/2/1

¹¹⁰ National Archives, Catalogue reference E 31/2/1 [samples only, more references such as this listed]

across the river, leaving Henry and Gilbert to crush the revolt with a great deal of bloodshed,” capturing the leading rebels.¹¹¹ But William Rufus and Robert “sidelined” their brother Henry, who seems to have returned to England. Could Gilbert have been given some benefit for his support in crushing the rebels?

Robert de Mortain died about 1090/1. Pevensey passed to his son William.

November 1095 Pope Urban II preached the first crusade at the council of Clermont. Many nobles from northern France decided to join the crusade. Duke Robert took the cross. William Rufus was not prepared to go, nor was Henry. In 1097 William Rufus and Henry began to try to take back Norman holdings that had been lost in the Vexin and in Maine. In 1099 they were back in England. In July 1099, Robert and his crusaders had captured Jerusalem and were on their way back to Normandy, “crowned in glory.” On 15 July 1100 King William Rufus was “shot by an arrow by one of his own men.” Henry began his battle with his brother Robert, duke of Normandy. In 1102, King Henry besieged Arundel castle where Earl Robert of Belleme had fled. The castle garrison begged to surrender, which the king allowed, and he “received them kindly and honored them with many gifts.”¹¹²

1101-6: WILLIAM de MORTAIN rebels against Henry I, loses his lands: “Robert de Mortain de Conteville, comte de Mortain, Earl of Cornwall, was the half-brother of William the Conqueror. Robert de Mortain’s son William lost the vast estates of his father when he joined the rebellion against Henry I and fought against his king at Tinchebrai, where he was captured.” The battle at Tenchebrai was 28 September 1106. His lands were confiscated by Henry, and he himself died many years later, blind and without a male heir, in retirement in the Cluniac priory of Bermondsey.

Several sources state that **Gilbert de l’Aigle obtained Pevensey in 1101 or 1104.** However, if he gained the estate when William de Mortain lost it “after the battle of Tinchebrai” the date would be 1106. This seems confirmed by the following quote: Pevensey was lost by Robert de Mortain’s son “in **1106**, when Henry I disposed the supporters of his brother Robert after the battle of Tinchebrai. Henry gave it to a dependable follower, Gilbert de Laigle.”¹¹³ The addition of Pevensey in 1106 “considerably augmented the relatively small estates he had held in 1086.”¹¹⁴

Gilbert de l’Aigle, like his father before him, had been a member of the king’s military household. As a result of Gilbert II’s services the family finally secured a substantial interest in England, for Gilbert was given property around Pevensey in Sussex, which had been forfeited in the opening years of the twelfth century by William, son of Robert count of Mortain (sic). Kathleen Thompson states that apparently this didn’t involve the castle itself, but rather than Gilbert (II) was its constable, and that the position was not inherited by his descendants. But later grants and legal events dispute this. *The Sussex Archeological Collections* states that when the possessions of William, Earl of Moreton (sic) [read Mortagne], became escheated by his rebellion and attainder, the **castle and town of Pevensey**, with the lands and privileges attached to the lordship, were conferred by King Henry the First [to Gilbert]. This portion of the honours and vast estates of the Earls of Moreton then took the name of the “Honor of the Eagle.” from the Norman title (de Aquila) of its new possessor.”¹¹⁵ *Puck’s Tale* says that Gilbert “was Lord of Pevensey and of the Honour of the Eagle.”

“**After the death of Gilbert de Laigle [II]**, recipient of Henry I’s gift of Pevensey, his son, another Richer, was eventually able to gain possession of his father’s lands from the king, even though his record of loyalty was imperfect, and he held Pevensey until the start of the civil war in England under Stephen.”¹¹⁶ Gilbert’s death between 1114 and 1118 seems confirmed by comments made relative to Thomas Becket: “Richer’s father, Gilbert I, was the grandson of Engenulf killed at the battle of Hastings, and his mother, Juliana, was the sister of Rotrou II of Perche and Mortagne, a survivor of the First Crusade. Gilbert received from Henry I the English honour of Pevensey in Sussex after it had been forfeited by William or Mortain in 1106; and Richer made good his claim to this, despite a serious quarrel with the king, some time after his father’s death in 1114-1118, only to lose it once more during Stephen’s reign.”¹¹⁷

¹¹¹ Henry I, by Judith A. Green

¹¹² *The Ecclesiastical History of Orderic Vitalis, edited and translated by Marjorie Chibnall, Volume VI, (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1978).*

¹¹³ *England Under the Norman and Angevin Kings, 1075-1225*, by Robert Bartlett

¹¹⁴ *The Aristocracy of Norman England*, by Judith A. Green, page 134

¹¹⁵ *Sussex Archaeological Collections Relating to the History and Antiquities of the County*, by Sussex Archaeological Society

¹¹⁶ *England Under the Norman and Angevin Kings, 1075-1225*, by Robert Bartlett, page 15

¹¹⁷ Thomas Becket, by Frank Barlow

Some sources say that Pevensey was given to Richer by 1102, but it was given to his father, Gilbert, and it would not have gone to Richer until after Gilbert's death between 1112/1118. For instance: "After William, Count of Mortain joined Robert de Bellesme's rebellion against Henry I in 1101, Pevensey was forfeited and given by the King to RICHARD de AQUILA, and it was about this time the keep was built." However, Richer wasn't born until after 1093, the approximate time of his parents' marriage. Even if he was born *in that year of 1093*, he would have only been about 9 years old in 1102, when it is said he forfeited the Honour of the Eagle. Whereas by the time of his father's death, and in 1118, he was a young - but full grown - man.

- **1107-1115:** Charter of Henry I notifying that from love of divine worship and for the benefit of his soul and those of his wife queen Maud, his father and mother, his predecessors, and for the weal and safety of his son William and his daughter Maud, he confirmed the church of Holy Trinity, Lenton, to the Cluniac monks. Gisleberti de Aquila was one of those who signed. [date not specific]¹¹⁸

Date unknown: **Richer de Aquila** to The Prior and convent of Lewes: Agreement by Richer to repay to the prior and convent any loss to them resulting from a trenchatura which they have granted to him to make in the marsh of Langney (Langeleia)¹¹⁹

- **Copy charter of Richard de Aquila to Lewes Priory**¹²⁰ **References from the Lewes Chartulary.** Sydnor (Sydenore, Sidenora, Sydenoura, and Sydenora) appeared as a place name in a series of deeds dated circa 1150-1170. These have been quoted below, but they seem neither to confirm nor confute any theory about placing Sydnor. The Lewes Cartulary was a well-known document from about the end of the twelfth century from which the quotations below were taken.

[IMPORTANT NOTE, I do not know who this Richard could have been, but the lands he mentions were lands held by the de l'Aigle's] **The date of this was perhaps around 1078.**

"I RICHARD [de Aquila, baron] son of WILLIAM son of ALVRED [Alfred] give and confirm in free alms all the gifts which my father and my mother and my other ancestors or my men have given to the church of St Pancras Priory and the monks of the same place, namely the church of Grenested [East Grenstead], with half a hide of land and all its appurtenances, and the tithes of Prestetona [Preston, probably near Brighton] and of Aluericestona [Alfriston] and of Berwyca [Berwick]. And moreover I grant and confirm the gift of William Malfet, namely half a hide [at] Posingewrda [Possingworth]; and five shillingsworths of land at Lamherst [Lamberhurst] and one hide of land at Sydenore of the fee of Roger de Borctune [Buncton]. And besides these gifts of my ancestors I Richard give in free alms to the said church the land of Hamwde [Home Wood] which was of Walder [Walter] and other land del hest de Grenested [East Grinstead] which is called Wederesfeld.. This my gift I grant to the church so freely that it may be quit both against me and against all men from everything except danegeld*.[24] And these gifts and confirmations I have made to the said church and monks as to my brothers and they of their charity have given me 6 marks of silver and gold and a riding horse worth 1 mark. Of this gift are witnesses: Master Theodoric, Thomas the priest, W. Limel, Simon the uncle of Richard, William Malfed, Hugh de Liued [Lovel];, W. [William] de Renefeld [Renfield], Godard de Bortune [Buriton], William de Wannoc [Wannock].

I Richard [de Aquila] son of William son of Aluered [Alfred] give and grant in free alms to God and St Pancras and the monks . . . one hide of land in Sydenora [Sydnor] which Roger de Brustona [Bruxton] my man had given to the said monks freely as his free fee, and his heirs with him. So that the said Roger and his heirs shall do service to me from his other land for the same hide and the monks shall hold freely quit and discharged from all things except danegeld*, and this have done at the request of the same Roger [de Bruxton]. Witnesses: Anscher the chaplain of Reigate, Richard the Chamberlain, John Sproth, William de Renefeld [Renfield], Hugh de Crulay, John son of Oddo, Adam de Sudwercha [Southwater], Rannulf the Steward, Ralph Waleys, Richard de la Mara.

¹¹⁸ Original with fragment of seal in Collection de Bourgoyne LXXIX, 170. MS.lat.5459,fo.118d.

¹¹⁹ National Archives, Exchequer: Treasury of Receipt: Ancient Deeds, Series AA E 41/474/(c)

¹²⁰ National Archives, AMS6270/80 c1150, c1750 – document held at the East Sussex Record Office

I Richer [Richard?] de Aquila grant and confirm to God and the church of Lewes [St Pancras] Priory and the monks . . . all the lands and holdings which they have of the fee of the Count of Mortain or of my fee or of my men, of whosever gift they be, in pure and perpetual alms, namely, all their land in Langeneya [Langney] with the pasture of the sea shore and the land of Runechinges [Rimeching]. and the land of Thorie [West Thorney] and the land of Entenie [Antye Farm] with the surrounding marsh and the land of Achinton [Ashington] and of Crolle [Cralle Place] and the land of Langport [Landport Farm]. I confirm also to the church of Lewes and the monks . . . all their marsh with appurtenances which lies between Langenia [Langney]; and the ditch which is called Mistlinghe [Mistling]; in length from Scana as far as Elhous [Eelhouse] and from Elhous as far as the street of Torne. I will also and firmly ordain that the monks and their men of Langeneia [Langney] be quit of suit of my hundred [____ Hundred] and of all other exactions and demands. I also grant and confirm to the monks for the good of my soul all the gifts which Count Eustace made to them of the service of the land of Robert De Horsted [Horsted], as much as they have thereof, and of the fishery near Langenia [Langney], and of hundred pennies*[30] and all other demands. I confirm also and grant to the church and monks of Lewes the land of Sydenore [Sydnor] and a hide of land which is called Haldelleya [Hairley (farm), Haldelee] (see Hairley Farm); with appurtenances, and the grove which is called Hamwode [Home Wood] and the land which is called Maplet and the land of Stokyngeham [Stokingham] and a villein*[31] with land whom Richard son of Hemming de Essete [Exceat] gave them. The churches also of Grenested [East Grinstead] and of Hekyntone [Hechinton] with the lands and tithes belonging to them, and the tithes* of Brembeltie [Brambletye] and of Prestone [Preston] and the land of Bochingelee [Beckley] and the land of la Felde [La Field]. All these things aforesaid I grant and confirm to the church of Lewes and the monks there dwelling, for the welfare of my soul and of my wife and of all my relations ancestors or successors and of my children, in pure and perpetual alms free and quit of all secular exactions and demands which belong to me and my heirs. [Sealing Clause] Witnesses: Hugh de Crudolaco [Crulay], Robert the Butler and his son Ralph de Dene, Anketil de Rey [Rye], Henry de Monstrol, William Maufey, Robert de Horstede [Horsted], Richard de Hertfeld, Martin the clerk, Ralph de Brade [Broad], Humphrey de Manekesne [Manxey], Richard de Truflet [Truefleet].

1118: l’Aigle in Normandy and Pevensey: “**After Gilbert’s death**, the relations of the lords of l’Aigle with the ruler of Normandy passed from cooperation to hostility. Richer II rebelled against Henry I in 1118 because he was denied his English lands, including part of the honour of Pevensey; he turned for help to Louis VI, who took control of l’Aigle even though King Henry had quickly acceded to Richer’s demands. Richer remained loyal to *Henry I once he had regained his English inheritance*.”¹²¹ *The Castles of England, Their Story and Structure*, states that **Gilbert’s son “lost it in 1127”** by rebellion against Henry I; and that the young King Henry II “restored the place to the Aquila family.”

1135-1154, reign of King Stephen: “The period following the death of Henry I in 1135 and prior to the rule of Henry II were somewhat chaotic in England, dominated by the struggle between King Stephen and his cousin, the Empress Matilda, who was the daughter of Henry I and the mother of Henry II. Local nobility used the conflict to usurp power in many areas, taking advantage of the lack of a strong monarch.”¹²² It is reasonable to assume that Richer de l’Aigle sided with Henry (II), and as a result maintained the Honour of the Eagle as obtained from his father.

1135-8: This is the period when Thomas Becket is known to have been a friend to Richer de l’Aigle. “Richer, a wealthy baron and Lord of Pevensey Castle, was clearly attracted by the handsome, capable and adaptable boy, and initiated him into the lore of hunting with hawks and hounds.” “Thomas, it would seem, spent much time with Richer at Pevensey and elsewhere, and thus picked up the sports and interests of the higher levels of Anglo-Norman society.... Besides being Richer’s protégé he was also, so one biographer tells us, his notary or confidential secretary, and with him made acquaintance with the royal court, in Stephen’s restless days.”¹²³

1137: Bonsmoulins: Richer “extorted” the castle of Bonsmoulins from Henry in 1137. But by 1152 relations had broken down, and Duke Henry burned Bonsmoulins and demanded hostages from Richer. “Duke Henry was then at war with Count Robert of Dreux, regent of Perche,” and it “likely that the family alliance between l’Aigle and Perche, rather than ensuring peace upon the southern Norman march, had eventually brought Richer and the duke into conflict.” Six years later, Henry II capitalized upon this relationship by forcing Richer to give up Bonsmoulins at the same time the count of Perche surrendered Moulins, but Richer was allowed to recover the English lands which he had lost in Stephens reign.

¹²¹ The Norman Frontier in the 12th and early 13th Centuries, by Daniel Power

¹²² The Medieval Source Book, 2002 Britannia.com

¹²³ Thomas Becker, by David Knowles

RICHARD de l'AIGLE forfeited The Honour: “Richard, son of Gilbert, having joined the rebellion of Robert de Belesme, the honor and barony were once more forfeited, and granted to Henry Fitz-Empress, afterward Henry II. That king, after his accession to the throne, reinstated Richard de Aquila, and the Honor of the Eagle remained in that family till the time of his grandson, who passed over to Normandy without the king’s license, and the barony was seized by Henry III, by whom it was granted to Gilbert Marshall, earl of Pembroke. The earl, however, fell into disfavour, and surrendered the barony to the crown.”¹²⁴

“Thereafter, although Richer II was implicated in the Young King’s revolt, the lords of l’Aigle were generally more amenable to the authority of the ruler of Normandy, and Gilbert II de l’Aigle (d. 1231) probably fought for King John to the end of his regime in Normandy.”¹²⁵

1140: “At some point in the 1140’s, Pevensey was acquired by Earl Gilbert fitz-Richard of the house of Clare. Although he was a supporter of Stephen, and presumably received Richer’s lands because of that support, Earl Richard fell out with the king, and in 1147, was besieged by him in Pevensey Castle.” After the fall of the castle, Stephen granted the lands first to his own older son, Eustace, until Eustace’s early death.

One quote says that Pevensey didn’t receive the picturesque title of 'Honour of the Eagle', until 1147, but that is highly doubtful. It had to have been called that when Gilbert de l’Aigle had it. There would have been no reason for either Gilbert de Clare or King Stephen to name it that. It was in 1147 that Gilbert de Clare, Earl of Pembroke was besieged at Pevensey by King Stephen, when again only famine caused the garrison to surrender. Pevensey was then given by King Stephen to his son Eustace.”¹²⁶

1147: Sometime before 1147 **Richard de Aquila granted Oxenford to Waverley Abbey**, and this grant was continued in 1147 by a papal bull. From then until 1536 Oxenford was a Cistercian monastery farming for Waverley Abbey.

1153, at Westminster: November, 1153, Stephen negotiated for the endowment of large lands estates for his second (younger) son William, which comprised the Warenne lands in England and Normandy, a further grant of land and rights in Norfolk, and the honour of Pevensey. William was to perform liege homage to Henry FitzEmpress (Henry II), saving only his fealty to his father Stephen, and key castles were to be handed over to agreed castellans.¹²⁷ **William de Warenne’s “of Boulogne”** rights were explicitly recognized in the treaty of 1153 between Stephen and Henry of Anjou. William held Norwich *and* Pevensey. “The king eventually assumed possession of them, as he also did the de Warenne castles in Sussex, East Anglia and Yorkshire.”¹²⁸ Pevensey, at that time, was one of the six lordships into which Sussex was divided.

There is an interesting mention of the Rape of Pevensey found in Sussex Archaeological Collections, as written by J.H. Round, a contributor:

“THE RAPE OF PEVENSEY: In my recently issued "Studies on the Red Book of the Exchequer," I have quoted (p. 7) from the Lewes Cartulary (Cott. MS., Vesp. P. xv., fo. 73) a charter of Earl Gilbert of Pembroke, in which he grants to the Monks of the Priory " quicquid ipsi tenent in rapo de Peveneshelle de cujuscunque feodo sit quamdin ego inde dominus et potens fuero aut heredes mei." The only other hint, I believe, of the Earl's possession of the Rape (." Honor de Aquila ") is found in the statement by the author of the " Geata Stephani" (Rolls Series, pp. 128-9) that Pevensey was one of his castles when he rebelled against Stephen.

¹²⁴ The Penny Cyclopaedia of the Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge, page 345

¹²⁵ The Norman Frontier in the 12th and early 13th Centuries, by Daniel Power

¹²⁶ Norman Nobility

¹²⁷ The Aristocracy of Norman England, by Judith A Green, page 322

¹²⁸ The Medieval Castle in England and Wales, by Norman John Greville Pounds, page 31

Later in the reign, Pevensey and its castle, with all the rights of Richer " de Aquila," the hereditary Lord of the Honour, passed into the hands of Count William, King Stephen's surviving son, by permission of Duke Henry, afterwards Henry II. This we learn from the final treaty between Stephen and Henry in 1153 :

" Item ad roborandam graciā meam et dilectionem, dedit ei (i.e., Willelmo) dux et concessit quicquid Richerus de Aquila habebat de honore Peveneselli, et preter hec castrum et villam (or castra et villas) Peveueselli."

The possession of the honour by Count William (who was also, through his wife, the heiress of the Warennes, Lord of the Rape of Lewes) is illustrated by the charter which he granted to the famous Richard de Luci. Although chiefly relating to Essex, it also grants to Richard " de Rapo de Peveneselle Lcstona et Centinges quod inde habet Warnferijus de Fenni" (?). It is proved by the witnesses' names that this charter (Cart. Antiq., II., 10) was granted between December, 1153, and October, 1154. The three Sussex witnesses are William prior of Lewes, Reginald de Ware[nne] and Hngh de Pierpoint (a Warenne tenant). The places granted, I take it, are Langhton, and Chinting, in Seaford (its earliest mention), from both of which Michelham Priory was afterwards endowed by the house of L'aigle ("de Aquila"). Pevensey was surrendered to the Crown by Count William, in 1157 (Robert of Torigny).¹²⁹

1160's: Richer de l'Aigle finally recovered possession of Pevensey in the 1160's, "during Henry II's reign, possibly at a time when Thomas Becket was still influential. Consequently he was one of those members of the royal court who declared the Constitutions of Clarendon in 1164. Two of his younger brothers, Geoffrey and Engenulf, while serving Henry I's military household, were lost with the king's heir in the White Ship disaster, Geoffrey clinging to a spar in the freezing water off Barfleur almost until rescuers arrived. By the 1130's, Richer was a soldier of considerable experience, perhaps a little wild, but respected by his neighbor, Orderic Vitalis, the Anglo-Norman historian at St. Evroult, as an honourable and God-fearing knight. Richer, we are told, lodged with the Bekets (sic) when he was in London, and, as we have noticed, Gilbert may have been born not far from some of the family's estates."¹³⁰ *Once again*, this quote confuses the two Richer's of the time. It refers to Richer as dying in 1176. If so, he was Richer III, the son of Richer II [died about 1161] and Beatrix, and husband of Odeline. Geoffrey and Engenulf de l'Aigle who drowned on the White Ship in 1120, were children of Gilbert de l'Aigle and Juliana du Perche, and thus were his father's brothers.

That Richer did regain the land is found in evidence presented by the registration of the Knight's Fees in 1166, which found Richard dictating records of land and properties which he had gifted to the church or sublet to his knights. Although the *Lewes Chartulary* is not mentioned by name as the actual written record of the 1166 registration the extracts correspond with this event. Richard left his possessions to his son Gilbert D'Aquila.¹³¹

1165: Richer de Aquila made a certified return, "Carta" in which he listed various properties and his service by [35] knight's fees. This is a fascinating record, and is included in its entirety as taken from *Sussex Archaeological Collections* [pages 191-200]. The information contained there is important enough to repeat in full:, confirming the de l'Aigle **Honour of Aquila** holdings as previously held by the Mortagne's. It lists the knights who owed service for their tenancy of properties held of the Honour. The properties themselves are at times hard to decipher as the spellings are so unusual!

Chapter VI. Knights' Fees of the Honours of Mortain and Aquila.

As already observed, Burne itself was not a member of the Honour of Aquila. But it was part of the Rape of Pevensey, of which at that time the Barony of Aquila was the most prominent feature. I may be held therefore not to be exceeding the limits of our subject if I take up the story of the Honour of Mortain, where we left it in the earlier part of this Paper, and make a few comments on the changes which had taken place in the distribution of lordship throughout the Rape.

¹²⁹ Sussex Archaeological Collections, Relating to the History and Antiquities of the County, Vol XLII.

¹³⁰ Thomas Becket, by Frank Barlow, pages 21-21

¹³¹ Morffew Family History, <http://morpheweb.com/morffew/morffewpartonetext.doc>

The outward expression of lordship, as we have noted, had long taken the form of knights' fees. The Jurors of the Hundred of East Grensted, in their reply to the enquiries recorded in the Hundred Rolls (circa 1275), say⁷⁴ that in the Barony of Aquila there were at this time " 62 knights' fees which pertained to Castle Guard of Pevensey." If this number was correctly given it could hardly have been true of the Barony of Aquila, and must have included all the knights' fees held in the Rape by the holders of the liberties outside the Barony. A contemporary list to be referred to gives 46£ in the Rape, meaning those which had originally belonged to the Count of Mortain.

In any case there is distinct evidence that the number reckoned as belonging strictly to the Barony of Aquila was 35J, and the devolution of these furnishes an interesting chapter of local history. We may clearly trace them at three periods.

The first record is the "Carta," or certified return made by Richer de Aquila in 1165. The original of this is printed in the Paper before mentioned in our Vol. XXVII., p. 31. It runs as follows :

"To his most beloved lord H[enry] King of England Richer de Aquila greeting and faithful service. Know that I have a fee of thirty and live knights and one half. And the whole fee I had on the day and year on which King H. your grandfather was alive and dead. Nor since that day have I enfeoffed anyone: of these then:

- (a) Richard Fitz William holds a fee of 15 knights
- (b) Ralph de Dene 6 knights
- (c) William Malet 4 knights' fees
- (d) William Fitz Richard 3 knights
- (e) William Malfed 3 knights
- (f) William de Akingeham 2 knights
- (g) Robert de Horstude 2 knights
- (h) Andrew de Alvrichestoi half a knight."

Here we have a statement that Richer de Aquila owed King Henry II the service of 35 knights, the responsibility for which was distributed among eight tenants; and, moreover, he states that all these subinfeudations had been in existence in the lifetime of King Henry I., who died in 1135. These minor fiefs therefore were in existence within a generation after the forfeiture of the 2nd Count of Mortain, and some at least may have been created in the time of the Mortains. For convenience of comparison with the later documents I have distinguished them by eight letters.

Our next document is taken from the "Testa de Nevill." It comes under a heading which states that "Peter de Savoy holds the Honour of Aquila." This would limit its date to between 1241 and 1269. It runs thus:

"These hold of the same Honour, viz.:

- (a) The Heirs of John de Monte Acuto hold 15 knights' fees of the same Honour whereof 2 are in the County of Northampton
- (b) The Heirs of Guy de Sakevill. 6 fees in Chauinton
- (e) Witt de Engelfeld, with the heirs of Walram Maufe.... 3 fees in Chiuinton
- (d) Witt de Exete 3 fees in Exete
- (f) Witt de Echyngham 2 fees in Pykeden [in East Dean]
- (c) Hen: de Hertfeld 4 fees in Hertfeld
- (g) Witt Davy 2 fees in Horstede
- (h) Walter de Alfrecheston J fee in Alfrecheston"

It is manifest that we have here exactly the same grouping of the 35 knights as in the earlier list, though not quite in the same order. The identity of the groups in each list cannot admit of much doubt, especially if we correct a manifest confusion of the original compiler of the list. A comparison with the next document to be given shows that "Chivinton," assigned as the site of the third manor must be meant for " Jevington" and has been misplaced

from the first group, to which it belongs. "Chauinton" is "Chalvington," rightly assigned to the second group. The true site of the third manor, "Eckington," has dropped out altogether.

The third document is one of such value for the early history of this part of Sussex that local students may be glad to have it for reference. It is classified in the Public Record Office as the second of the Sussex Subsidy Rolls. It is more correctly a "List of Knights' Fees in the Rape of Pevensey." In the Office Catalogue its date is conjecturally assigned to 31 Edw. I. (1303). Several of the names occur in the Subsidy Roll of 1296. So it may fairly be dated at about 1300.

Unfortunately, in several places the MS. is very much defaced and portions of the parchment are torn away. Consequently some gaps are unavoidable and some of the names are difficult to decipher and may have been misread. Local knowledge will perhaps suffice to correct such errors. The entries have been numbered for convenience of reference.

" Inquisitio de feodis militum In Rapo de Pevensey facta per subscriptos videlicet per Johannem de Barkham Robertuin le h . . stor Johannom de Holyndalo Willelmum atte halle Hugouem de la chaumbre Robertuin le Coker Philippum de Cessynghame Galfridum de ff-ham Johannom de Cakkestokk Henricum Gileberd Osbertum Gyffard Walterum Warden Thomam de Lulleham Thouiam Grisilon Eobertum Davy Walterum de Ryp Robertum de Yweregge Simonein de Chirenton Juratos qui dicunt super sacramentum suuni quod

1. Domina Regina Anglie tenet Baroniam de Aquila de domino Rege In capite pro duobus feodis et dimidio militum et debet defendere omnia feoda subscripta In Baronia predicta, viz. (a)
2. Nicholaa que fuit uxor Baldewyni de Aldeham tenet xv feoda In manerio de Geuington undo dominus Rex tenet In Comitatu Norhamton In manerio de Preston unum feodum nomine Warde filii heredis dicti Baldewyni.
3. Walterus Peche tenet de dicto manerio de Geuington In Comitatu Norhamton duo feoda
4. Johannes de Lacy tenet de dicto manerio de Geuington In Willyndon in Comitatu Sussex unum feodum
5. Item Tenentes Tenement! quod vocatur Holyndale tenent de dicto manerio de Geuyngton In Willyndon in Comitatu predicto unum feodum vidz Aufridus Coleman Robertus Jop Henricus Rector de Geuyngton Johannes de ffulchinge Hugo de Okie Ricardus de h . . tenentes de dicto manerio
6. Richer de Refharn tenet de dicto manerio de Geuington In Cherleton In Comitatu Sussex unum feodum
7. Andreas de Saukevill tenet In Aumbefeld farnscrett Otteham et Teliton In Comitatu Sussex de predicto manerio de Genyngeton duo feoda
8. Regngius atte Wode Walterus de Home Girardus dePyggeferl, Prior de Michelham et Simon de Horstede tenent de dicto manerio de Geuyugton duo feoda In Burton Dyton et Sydenore
9. Witts de Echingham tenet de dicto manerio de Geuyngton In Crawelynke duo feoda
10. Robertus de Passelegh Robertus Wodelond et Walterus Euenyng et ceteri tenentes tenent de dicto manerio de Geuyngton In Bourne unum feodum militis
11. Witts Maufe tenet de dicto manerio de Geuyngton In manerio suo de Chougelegh unum feodum dimidium et j quarterium et in borne . . berforde et Albricheston et Isecombe unde tenentes de Isecombe tenent sextam partem unius feodi Et Prior de Lewes tenet In . . berhorne quartam partem unius feodi Et Abbas de Ponte Boberti et Roggerus dp Cobbeford tenent . . feodi Et Roggerus Maufe octavam partem unius feodi In Wenge . . et Albricheston Et P . . de . .
12. Laurentius de Mepharn tenet terciam partem unius feodi Et idem Witts Maufe unum quarterium unius feodi
13. Michael do Ponyng tenet de dicto manerio de Geuyngton In Preston in Comitatu Sussex unum feodum Et predicta Nicholaa In dicto manerio de Geuyngton dimidium feodum et unum quarterium j feodi
14. Andreas de Saukevill tenet In manerio de Chalvinton sex feoda unde Johannes Herengaud tenet de dicto manerio In Westdene friston et Sutton tria feoda et dimidium Et dictus Andreas in dicto manerio de Chalvinton Boggelegh et Bokherst duo feoda et dimidium
15. Witts Maufe tenet In manerio suo de Eghinton tria feoda unde Ricardus de Hured tenet In Comitatu Norhamton j feodum Et Radulfus de Horsye et tenentes de Lamporte tenent terciam partem unius feodi Et Robertus de Burghersh tenet terciam partem feodi in Libertate quinque portuum apud Pevenese Et Abbas de Begham tenet terciam partem j feodi . . Witts Paynell tenet apud Walderne dimidium feodum Et dictus Witts Maufe tenet in predicto manerio dimidium feodum . .
16. Thomas Peverel et Nicholaa de Aldeham tenent In Exete et Bourne unum feodum . . feodum Item idem Thomas tenet In Graneherst Chreyngel et ffrogferle unum feodum

17. Witts de Eghingeham tenet In Pegheton duo feoda mil it is
18. Witts de Brom Horet de Hertefeud Et prior de Michelham Et Robertus Yweregge et Walterus de la Lynde Thomas Peverel Et Johannes de Radomelde tenent quatuor feoda In Hertefeud Beueringetou Bourne et Albricheston unde (h) dimidium feodi quod fuit Walteri de Albricheston in Albricheston est inter predicta quatuor feoda
19. Robertus Dauy tenet in Horsted ij feoda unde prior de Lewes In Langeneye et Horstede tres partes unius feodi Et Relicta . . de Albricheston tenet tres partes unius feodi Et Witts de Eohingeham tenet In Pekeden j quarterium Et dictus Robertus Dauy tenet In parva Horsted unum quarterium unius feodi. Et sciendum quod pmnia predicta feoda . . feodo Moretyn Isti subscript, tenent de Domino Rege In capite In Rapo de Pevenese Mortyns
20. Thomas Peuerel tenet In Blachington duas partes unius feodi
21. Simon Euenyng Witts le Bat et Ricardus de Hamme et alii tenentes de tenemento quod fuit Gilberti le frank tenent In Beuerington terciam partem unius feodi
22. Johannes de Rademelde tenet In Beuerington de tenemento quod fuit Ricardi et Philippi de Beuerington terciam partem unius feodi
23. Heres Johannis de Say scilz Witts de Lymfeld tenet tenementum quod fuit Jonis In ffernthe vidz unum feodum
24. Emmeric de Croun tenet In manerio de Bourne unum feodum quod fuit ffulconis de Cantelupe
25. Abbas de Ponte Roberti tenet In Sutton duo feoda militis que fuerunt Walteri de Auerigges Feoda de Leicestr" In rapo predicto de feodo de Mortyns.
26. Rogerus de sancto Andrea et Nicholas de sancto Mauro . .de Radynden et Alicia de Mucegrose . . food". Nicholas de sancto Mauro tenet j feodum. Johannes de Radinden dimidium feodi . . C . . ham Haddon in Comitatu Norhamton j feodum et Alicia Mucegros in Redd . .in dorso Adhuc de feod' Leycestr' In Rapo predicto
27. Nicholaa de Aldeham tenet In Lanerketye dimidium feodi
28. Witts Paynell tenet In fflechyng terciam partem unius feodi
29. Johannes le Warre et Gilbertus Sakelfot tenet sextain partem unius feodi
30. Witts de Woghe tenet in Horsted et Retherfeud unum feodum
31. Ricardus Hereward tenet In Erlyngton et Wilyndon unum feodum unde prior de Lewes Robertus Qrinte et Robertus Gubbe tenent de eodem feodo de dicto Ricardo Et similiter Hospit' sci Johannis de Okelyng de Witto Goldyng set de eodem feodo
32. Robertus de Lewkenor tenet tria feoda militis in dicta Baronia de Pevenese De quibus Abbas de Bello et Abbas de . . tenent unum feodum In Sekynton Et alia duo feoda jacent unum In Heghton et Aliud In Shirenton . . In cuius testimonium predicti Jurati present! Inquisitioni Sigilla sua apposuerunt Summa feodorum istius Rapi xlvj feoda preter elemosinas finis Rapi. xlvj feoda [? et di.] et tercia pars unius feodi de feodo Mortyns.

This last document plainly deals with the knights' fees which had belonged to the Honour of Mortain. They are here divided into three classes. In the first and third " The lands held in pure almonry by the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Prior of Lewes, the Abbot of Battle, &c. they are said to be " de feodo Mortyns. The same is implied in the second. If any more definite description was applied at the end of the first class it is unfortunately lost.

The three groups of tenants areL Firstly, those who held the 35 fees belonging to the Barony of Aquila; secondly, those who held of the King " in capite; " and thirdly, those who held under the Honour of Leicester.

The Fees of the Honour of Aquila: It is evident on examining this list that it follows the second of our former lists in exactly the same order, with the single exception that Walter de Alfriston's half-fee (h) is joined to the four fees of (c).

The only difficulty is with (a) which, as the list is made out, contains more than 15 fees. Yet that is the number assigned to Nicholaa de Aldeham in the second entry as of her Manor of Gevington, and that number seems required for the total number accounted for,78 viz.: Honour of Aquila, 35 J; Tenants in capite, 5^-; Honour of Leicester, 6; Total, 46 J fees and one-third. The half-fee is omitted. Possibly the Aquila Barony only paid for 35. That was certainly the case in the " Aid " of the 14 Henry II., where Richer de Aquila, who had acknowledged 35 knights in his "Carta," pays £14. 11s. 8d. at the rate of 8s. 4d. for each knight, which accounts for the 35 without

the half. Or perhaps as stated in entry 18, Walter de Alfriston's half-fee was no longer reckoned, being absorbed in the four fees of (c).

But, leaving the question of how Nicholaa's 15 knights are to be counted, we may notice with interest that with the help of this list we may feel our way back to the " Carta " of 1165, and localise all the eight groups of fees there mentioned. There had doubtless been some subinfeudations created during the thirteenth century. But the eight main groups remained constant from first to last, that is, as we have seen, from at least as far back as the reign of Henry I.

The first of them (a) has the most suggestive history, for it may be traced with reasonable probability to its original founder, Baldwin de Aldeham, the husband of Nicholaa, was son of Thomas de Aldeham and his wife, Isabella, who had previously been wife of Robert de la Hay. Isabella de Aldham and her sister, Margery, wife of William de Echingham, were co-heiresses of Sir William de Montacute. On Margery's death Isabella de Aldham became her heir. This Sir William was brother of John de Montacute, whose heirs were holding this fee at the time of our second record, the Testa de Nevill. John appears to have been dead in 12 Henry III. The link which connects the Montacute family with the " Ricardus filius Willelmi," who held the fee when Richer de Aquila made his return to Henry II., in 1165, is not so clear, but there certainly was some link, as we gather from the succession of lordship in the case of the Manor of Preston in Northamptonshire, here mentioned.

Richard FitzWilliam is further described in the Lewes Chartulary as " Ricus fil Will fil' Aluredi" in a deed in which he grants to the Priory a hide of land in Sidenore, a manor by Sehneston, mentioned in the eighth parcel of Nicholaa de Aldeham's fee. Now Mr. Round identifies Richard FitzWilliam's grandfather with Aluredus who was " pincerna" of Robert, the first Count of Mortain, and who occurs in Domesday Book as the holder of manors in various counties under the Honour of Mortain. It is reasonable therefore to conclude that it was he who first laid the foundation of this extensive and scattered fee. A strong confirmation of this is found in the fact that certain manors in Northamptonshire are reckoned as belonging to it. Of the one mentioned in the second entry of the above list, Preston, we find that it belonged to the Moreton Fee and the Honour of Aquila ; that in Domesday Alured held 11 virgates " in Prestetone; " that in 1222 it was held by John de Montacute, and that it then followed the same succession as that just recorded down to Baldwin de Aldham and Nicholaa.

Whether we may connect Alured's grandson, Richard, with the Richard de Lamport, who was charged so heavily for the "Aid" in 1168, and with the land at Hecton, described as "terra vigillum de Pevenesel et de Muntagu," there is hardly sufficient evidence to show.

It seems strange that an estate held on the service of 15 knights and partly in a distant county should be called the "Manor of Jevington." There is no reason to suppose that any of Baldwin de Aldham's ancestors had ever made a home there, or that it ever had the importance which this document would lead one to suppose. The Montacutes held lands there. William de Montacute gave to the Priory of Michelham " the chapelry of Jovington,⁸⁴ with lands and rents." We may probably explain the title as an illustration of the changed meaning which the word " manor" had now assumed. It is observable that the groups of holdings under the Honour of Aquila, which are here called manors, were in no sense similar to the great agricultural organisations held by the Counts of Mortain. Each one of them was a manor in the old sense, but not the whole as one unit. Nor can we suppose that the scattered tenants were summoned to a manorial court at Jevington. If, however, it was a bailiwick, administered as the Queen's holdings were by Luke de la Gare, it would matter little which of the separate rent-paying units gave its name to the whole. Some temporary cause may have first led to the use of " Jevington" as the title of the "caput manerii."

The entries marked 15, 16 and 18 probably deal with the minor manors of Burne, but so indefinitely that it is useless to discuss them here.

The Tenancies in capite: These are very few in number, but they closely concern Eastbourne and its neighbourhood. Number 24 is the principal Manor of Bourne. Numbers 21 and 22 were also certainly partly in Bourne. In the Eyre of 1288,⁸⁵ under the heading of the " Hundred of Estbum," Gilbert Franck was called to account for sub-dividing the lands which he held as one-sixth part of a knight's fee. The Manor of Radmell Beverington long existed in Eastbourne, and one of its "boroughs" had the name of Beverington.

The Honour of Leicester: When this portion of the Honour of Mortain took this name I have not succeeded in ascertaining. The separation was evidently subsequent to the connection between Sussex and Northamptonshire, and it might have taken place any time after the forfeiture of the 2nd Count of Mortain. The Northamptonshire manors named at the beginning of this section of the list (in entry 26) are apparently not to be counted amongst the 46^ fees of the rape, and any further discussion of them is outside the object of this Paper. They are, however, of great interest to Sussex enquirers, for East Haddon and also Preston, Brampton and Haldenby were all held by Sussex tenants or in conjunction with lands in Sussex.

After 1189: *Norman Nobility* states that it was Gilbert III who obtained possession of the castle when it fell to Henry II in 1154-5 and he returned it to Gilbert *de Aquila*. "His namesake grandson sided with Louis of France against King John to which Pevensey was forfeited once more, but returned to him by Henry III. [*note: Henry II died in 1189]. During the 1220's the gatehouse was probably built by (namesake) Gilbert de Aquila to further strengthen the castle, this however, was the last time he or the family held Pevensey."¹³²

1192 forward – (of the documents, some dates are known, others aren't):

- A deed from William de Averanches and Cecily his mother sent to William, Earl Warren, William, Earl of Sussex, and Gilbert de Aquila to be witnesses to their charters granting the manor of Sutton to the Abbot of Robertsbridge.¹³³
- **[date calculated between Dec 1192 and March 1194]** Gilbert de Laigle owes 31s 3d towards the scutage to ransom king Richard. Paid into the treasury and he is quit.¹³⁴
- The vill of Wynford Eagle owes 4m tallage. Pardoned to Gilbert de Laigle. [The de l'Aigle family held this little village in West Dorset.]¹³⁵
- **August 30, 1199:** Confirmation of various grants to the Hospitallers, including that of Toller Fratrum [*Toltam*], Tollerford [*Colford*], and the woodland of Wynford Eagle by **Matilda de Laigle and Richer** **[special note: was this Matilda a daughter or a wife?]**
- **[date calculated after 1199*]** Edeline mother of Gilbert de Laigle holds land in Willingdon; John has granted all the lands held by Gilbert de Laigle's mother to William d'Aubigne, earl of Arundel¹³⁶
- Grant: John granted Greywell, late of Gilbert de Laigle, to Alan Basset to hold during pleasure
- Grant: John has ordered that Stephen de Thornham be compensated for the manor of Witley from the other Laigle lands in Surrey and Hampshire
- Grant: **John has granted that Roger de Lacy may recover the land that Gilbert de Laigle** held of his fee in Yorkshire by right of Gilbert's wife [Isabel de Warenne and the land presumably refers to her dower from her first marriage to Robert de Lacy]
- Grant: John has granted Woolverton, late of Gilbert de Laigle, to Matthew fitzHerbert

¹³² Norman Nobility

¹³³ National Archives, held at East Sussex Record Office; SUTTON: A 17th cent. Abstract of deeds concerning Sutton and Sandore including additional grants to the Abbey of Robertsbridge SAS-M/1/671

¹³⁴ King Richard was captured while returning from the Third Crusade. His ransom was 150,000 marks, and weighed three tons of silver. Richard was captured at Vienna December 20, 1192. He didn't return to England until March 1194.

¹³⁵ Wynford Manor House is a beautiful building of the early seventeenth century. Under the stone eagle that surmounts the centre gable is the date 1630. It would be interesting to see if this was a two-headed eagle.

¹³⁶ * King Richard died April 6, 1199, which is when John became king.

- **January 23, 1201:** Plea between Roger de Lacy and Gilbert de Laigle and Isabel his wife over Isabel's dower; Ackworth. Also: Crofton, the land late of Robert de Lacy; and Warmfield, also land late of Robert de Lacy.¹³⁷ Gilbert de l'Aigle testified that he [Robert] and Isabel had been "married in another county in the lifetime of Henry de Lascy, Robert's father, and that Robert had dowered her at marriage with a third of his prospective inheritance."¹³⁸
- **April 22, 1201:** [Sussex] Richard de Hidney comes on the fourth day against Gilbert de Laigle in an assize of novel disseisin of his free tenement in the marsh of Willingdon; and lord Geoffrey fitzPeter orders the justices of the bench by writ that Gilbert is to have peace on account of his crossing overseas; and the king orders a perambulation to divide the lands of Richard de Heidene and Robert Burnard and the lands of Edeline de Laigle and Gilbert her son, and that meanwhile they are to have peace regarding this land.

1204-1240 grants and legal events state that the **Barony of Laigle in the rape of Pevensey**, was held by **Gilbert de l'Aigle** for 30.5 [knight's] fees.¹³⁹ Gilbert [died abt 1231] was 7th Baron de l'Aigle, husband of Isabelle de Warrenne. Their children were: Gilbert, Richer, William, and Alice de l'Aigle. Robert de Lacy [died about 1193] was the first husband of Isabelle. Records show that Gilbert's lands were in King John's hands by early June 1204.¹⁴⁰

- **September 28, 1204:** Grant: Order to the sheriffs of Sussex and Surrey to value, by view of lawful men or others assigned by Ralph de Neville, bishop of Chichester, to value all the chattels and stock in the lands late of Gilbert de Laigle, and to value the lands themselves and deliver them to the bishop to keep, answering at the Exchequer. The same re all the lands confiscated by reason of Normandy.
- **October 13, 1204:** Order to the sheriff of Sussex to deliver to the earl of Arundel all the lands and fees late of Gilbert de Laigle in your balliwick and also all the lands that Gilbert's mother formerly held, to hold as fully as Gilbert and his mother did on the day that Gilbert left the king's service.
- **October 15, 1204:** Order to the sheriff of Surrey to deliver to William d'Aubigne, earl of Arundel, the manor of Witley, late of Gilbert de Laigle and which the king had previously granted to Stephen de Thornham. Stephen is to be compensated to the value of Witley from the other Laigle lands in Surrey and, if this is not sufficient, from the Laigle lands in Hampshire
- **November 24, 1204:** Order to the sheriff of Yorkshire to deliver to Roger de Lacy, constable of Chester, the land that Gilbert de Laigle formerly held of the constable's fee by right of his wife [Isabel de Warenne and the land in question is presumably her dower from her first marriage to John de Lacy]. Roger is to answer for £60 pa at the Exchequer or more if the land is worth more.
- **January 15, 1205:** Order to the sheriff of Somerset that the king has granted to Matthew fitzHerbert £40 land from the lands of the Normans, and the sheriff is to assign it in Woolverton, late of Gilbert de Laigle, and Kilmersdon, late of Hasculf de Suligny. If the two are worth more than £40, then retain them in the king's hands and inform the king; if they are worth less than £40, inform the king of the deficit
- Legal event: Appointment of justices to hear an assize of novel disseisin, which Juliana de Pevensey brought against Gilbert de Laigle and Richard de Combe
- Legal event: Plea of land between Gilbert de Laigle and John de Brikin and Serlo de Verneuil concerning Sowerby

¹³⁷ Robert de Lacy was Isabel (Elizabeth) de Warenne's first husband. Most sources state he died in 1193.

¹³⁸ Early Yorkshire Charters, The Honour of Marenne [Extra Series V.6] by William Farrer and Chales Travie Clay, pg 21

¹³⁹ The Lands of the Normans in England (1204-1244) <http://www.hronline.ac.uk/normans/viewPerson.jsp?id=121>

¹⁴⁰ The Norman Frontier in the 12th and Early 13th Century, by Daniel Power

- Legal event: Plea of novel disseisin between Richard de Hidney (pl) and Gilbert de Laigle (def) concerning land in Hidney in Willingdon
- Legal event: Plea of novel disseisin between Richard de Hidney (pet) and Gilbert de Laigle concerning a free tenement in the marsh of Willingdon
- Tenure: Gilbert de Laigle holds land in Willingdon
- Tenure: Gilbert de Laigle holds Wynford Eagle
- Gilbert, Lord Aquila to Otford Priory [in Hailsham. See Monasticon under Bayham, VI.910] : **Grant of turf from his manor of Pevensey**, etc. : (Sussex).¹⁴¹
- Robert IV de Beaumont, earl of Leicester granted 100s rent in the prefecture of Leicester to Master Gilbert de Laigle.

1207-1216: William de Warenne [brother of Isabel de Warenne]: “William de Warenne took over the l’Aigle lands around Pevensey in **1207**, as brother-in-law of Gilbert de l’Aigle. Gilbert’s lands preserved their identity and he eventually recovered his lands in the rape of Pevensey, holding them almost uninterrupted until his death.”¹⁴² A passage in *A Compendious History of Sussex* states that William, sixth Earl of Warenne, was in temporary possession of Pevensey castle in **1216**, “but having sided with the Dauphin of France against King John, the latter sent him a precept to deliver it up to Matthew FitzHerbert, who was dommanded to demolish it, but happily that order was not fulfilled.”¹⁴³

- **William earl Warenne** holds 30.5 fees in the rape of Pevensey, **late of Gilbert de l’Aigle**.¹⁴⁴
- The earl Warenne now holds Westcott in Dorking, late of Gilbert de l’Aigle, and which had been assigned to l’Aigle’s wife, who was Warenne’s sister, in dower.
- Tenure: Daniel the king’s butler has 7l rent from the demesne late of Gilbert de l’Aigle in Seaford

1216: Lands comprised in the Honor of Aquila. The membranes of the document are filed in the reverse order of their dates: [Sussex] Willingdon: [Sussex] ? Laughton (Lecton): [Sussex] Maresfield: [Sussex] [Pevensey Lowey] (Leucata): [Sussex] Seaford: [Sussex] Grinstead: [Sussex] Ashdown Forest: [Sussex] Milton Hundred: [Kent] Marden Hundred: [Kent] Ospringe: [Kent] Dartford: [Kent] Havering: [Essex] Hadleigh: [Essex] [Pevensey Lowey] Leucata: [Sussex] Eastbourne: [Sussex] Willingdon: [Sussex] Laughton: [Sussex] Maresfield: [Sussex] Ellenewyk Bailiwick: [Sussex] Ashdown (Essexdon): [Sussex] Seaford: [Sussex] Grinstead: [Sussex] Rye: [Sussex] Milton, (i.e., Milton, Marden, Ospringe, Dartford, Havering, Hadleigh, Pevensey Lowey, Laughton, Willingdon, Ashdown, Grinstead, [East]bourne, Maresfield and Rye) &c.: [Kent, Essex, and Sussex] Milton, (i.e., Milton, Ospringe and Dartford) &c.: Kent Havering: Essex Hadleigh: Essex Fordham: Essex Pevensey, (i.e., Pevensey Lowey and Castle, [East]bourne, Willingdon, Seaford, Laughton, Maresfield, Ashdown, Grinstead, and Rye) &c.: Sussex Milton: Kent Ospringe: Kent Fordham, (i.e., Fordham, Havering, Hadleigh, Ashdown Forest, Pevensey Lowey, [East]bourne, Willingdon, Laughton, Maresfield, Seaford, Grinstead, and Rye) &c.: Essex and Sussex Maresfield, (i.e., Maresfield, [East]bourne, Laughton, Ashdown, Seaford, Willingdon, Grinstead, and Pevensey Castle and Lowey) &c.: [Sussex] Milton: [Kent] Ospringe: [Kent] Fordham: [Essex] Eastbourne, (i.e., Eastbourne, Willingdon, Pevensey Lowey and Castle, Grinstead, Laughton, Maresfield, Ashdown and Seaford) &c.: [Sussex] Ospringe: [Kent] Fordham: [Essex] Laughton, (i.e., Laughton, Eastbourne, Grinstead, Maresfield, Willingdon, Ashdown, Seaford and Pevensey Lowey) &c.: [Sussex] Ospringe: [Kent] Fordham: [Essex] Description of Officer: Bailiff, &c. [dates recited in the following years of 1284-1291: 12 Edw I 12 to 13 Edw I 13 to 14 Edw I 14 to 15 Edw I 15 to 16 Edw I 16 to 17 Edw I 17 to 18 Edw I 18 to 19 Edw I]¹⁴⁵ *Further research on all of these lands might yield further information of interest.*

May-July, 1218: From: Peter, prior of St Gergory's Priory, Canterbury, papal judge delegate; Henry de Sandford, archdeacon of Canterbury, papal judge delegate; Mgr John, penitentiary of Canterbury, papal judge delegate Recites

¹⁴¹ The National Archives, Exchequer: King's Remembrancer: Ancient Deeds, Series D E 210/3640

¹⁴² The Norman Frontier in the Twelfth and Early Thirteenth Centuries, by Daniel Power, page 227

¹⁴³ A Compendious History of Sussex, by Mark Antony Lower, page 93

¹⁴⁴ The Lands of the Normans in England (1204-144) <http://www.hrionline.ac.uk/normans/viewPlace.jsp?id=421>

¹⁴⁵ National Archives, Kew: Subseries within SC 6 GENERAL SERIES, Bundles 740-1124

commission of Pope Honorius III, dated at St Peter's Rome 13 Dec 1216, appointing them judges delegate in a case between the prior and convent of Canterbury Cathedral Priory and the abbess and convent of Guînes ('Gînes') [Pas-de-Calais], **Mgr G de Aquila, rector of Gillingham** and others in the dioceses of Canterbury and Rochester concerning tithes and other matters. There has been a dispute between the priory and Mgr Simon, rector of Brook, concerning parochial payments and tithes at 'Flotham' [Ham in Snargate?], tithes of 58 acres of salt marsh, enclosed after Edmund the clerk took the land, where Aluric Curteys lives, and a third of an annual payment of 4s 5d, all of which the priory say belongs to the church of Fairfield following a transfer ('translatio') between it and Lambert, rector of Brook, Simon's predecessor. The dispute came before Archbishop Stephen Langton, acting as an ordinary, not as a judge delegate. Simon gave 40s for the repair of the almonry to O[sbert?], the almoner, and the priory allowed him to hold the property for life, reserving the question of right and ownership ('ius et proprietas') after his death. The agreement is personal, not perpetual. Dated the year in which Stephen returned from the general council held by Innocent III [ie 4th Lateran Council] and 2nd year of Honorius III. [Stephen returned to England in May 1218 (K Major (ed), Acta Stephani Langton, p165) and Honorius's 2nd year ended on 23 Jul 1218.] Given at Canterbury Cathedral. Endorsed with description (partly obliterated) in mid 13th cent hands.¹⁴⁶

1220: Michelham: Around 1220, Gilbert obtained help from the Priory at Hastings to set up his new community at Michelham, and a small group of canons traveled from Hastings to start work on the land that Gilbert had endowed.

1229 : [A history of Michelham states that it was founded by Gilbert in 1229. This was actually when King Henry III gave his permission for the community. Michelham lay in the rape of Pevensey]. Gilbert also gave the churches of Laughton and Hailsham to the Priory, but as a result started a 10 year quarrel between the Prior of Michelham and Abbot of Bayham Abbey. The Abbot claiming that Hailsham was a chapel of Hellingly, which was already under his jurisdiction. Whoever was in the right, the Prior of Michelham backed down, but only after securing compensation equal to £16-67p per annum.¹⁴⁷

- Gilbert de Laigle granted the manor of Chinting in Seaford to his foundation of Michelham priory. Gilbert de Laigle grants all his demesne at Michelham; his park of Peversey [later Michelham park]; 80a marsh in Hailsham; 20a meadow in Willingdon; and pasture for 60 animals, 100 pigs, and timber for the church in Dicker, Laughton and my his woods in Sussex to Michelham priory
- Gilbert de Laigle granted the manors of Michelham and Chinting to Michelham priory
- Henry III confirms the gift by Gilbert de Laigle of the manor of Chinting to Michelham priory
- Gilbert de Laigle proposed to found a house at Michelham with the following properties [mentioned]: Michelham, Hailsham, Willingdon, Laughton, The Dicker (extends into Arlington, Chiddingly and Hellingly parishes), and Laughton.
- Gilbert de Laigle grants all his demesne at Michelham; his park of Perverse [later Michelham park]; 80a marsh in Hailsham; 20a meadow in Willingdon; and pasture for 60 animals, 100 pigs, and timber for the church in Dicker, Laughton and my his woods in Sussex to Michelham priory
- Henry III grants freedom from suits to local courts and sheriff's aid to Michelham priory and the men of their manors of Michelham and Chinting
- Henry III confirms a charter of Gilbert de Laigle, granting various lands to Michelham priory
- Michelham priory holds the manors of Michelham and Chinting by the grant of Gilbert de Laigle

- Petitioners: Prior and convent of Michelham.

Addressees: King.

Nature of request: The prior and convent request remedy as they were granted the livery of sufficient timber to build and repair their church and houses, and housebote and haybote in the woods of Gilbert de Laigle by him, but now the keeper of the woods will not make livery to them by any writ of Chancery.

Nature of endorsement: They should sue the process to its conclusion.

Places mentioned: Michelham, Sussex; Eagle honour, Sussex.

¹⁴⁶ Canterbury Cathedral Archives, # CCA-DCc-ChAnt/F/151 May 1218x23 Jul 1218; Further document in Report CCA-DCc-ChAnt/F/31

¹⁴⁷ <http://home2.btconnect.com/Crusader-Product/Michelham-Priory.html>

People mentioned: Gilbert [de Laigle], late lord of the Honour of Eagle; John de Redeswelle, keeper of the woods of the honour of Eagle.¹⁴⁸

1231: Covering dates Westminster, 1231. Scope and content Confirmation of grants to Hubert de Burgh, earl of Kent, and Margaret his wife, by William de Ferrars, earl of Derby, Baldwin count of Guînes, castellan of Bourbourg, Gilbert de Laigle, Robert Arsic, Roger son of Nicholas, Reynold de Sancto Walerico, Henry de Monegedene, William le Wyte, John de Braiose, the prior and convent of Monkton Farleigh, co. Wilts, Nigel de Mowbray, Alexander de Bernes, Philip de Duneye, William de Cerytone and Nicholas de Ottinges.¹⁴⁹

- **[calculated 1231]:** Gilbert de Laigle granted Wynford Eagle to Hubert de Burgh. [There is an original royal charter regarding this property dated 1231 in favour of Hubert de Burgh, who was a leading figure in young King Henry III's government. "De Burg was well-placed to build up his landed estates, and the royal charter in question confirms some of his gains. These included the terre Normannorum manors of Wynford Eagle (recently confiscated from the Norman lord Gilbert del Aigle) and Hatfield Peverel."]¹⁵⁰ [note: *Hubert de Burgh (a 1180-bef May 1243) was Earl of Kent, Justiciar of England and Ireland, and one of the most influential men in England during the reigns of John and Henry III. He married 3 times, first to Beatrice de Warenne, 2nd to Isabel of Gloucester, ex-wife of King John, and third to Margaret of Scotland, daughter of King Wm I of Scotland and Ermengarde de Beaumont*]

December 1234-1240: Gilbert Marshal: "In 1235 Henry III granted the lordship [of Pevensey], with conditions, to Gilbert Marshal, Earl of Pembroke, **but he was deprived 24th Henry III [cal 1240]**, and in the following year lost his life in a tournament."¹⁵¹ Those conditions involved possible restitute to the de l'Aigle's:

December 9, 1234, Reading: "Grant to Gilbert Marshal, earl of Pembroke, and his heirs, of all the land late of Gilbert de Aquila with the advowsons of churches, services of knights and free men and all other things pertaining thereto, and the castle of Peveneshe with the wards belonging to the said castle and the services of knights and free men holding of the castlery, to hold by the service of two knights, until the king restore it to the right heirs of his free will or by a peace, in which case he shall first assign to the said earl and his heirs 800l of land and as many knight's fees as are held of the *honor of Laigle* to hold until the king restore to the said earl or his heirs his inheritance in Normandy, whereupon the said grant shall revert wholly to the king."¹⁵²

- Grant: Henry III grants all the lands late of Gilbert de Laigle and the castle of Pevensey to Gilbert Marshal. Gilbert, earl Marshal has retained the castle of Pevensey, as well as the knight service and advowsons pertaining to the barony of l'Aigle, which he granted to Richard of Cornwall at will.
- Tenure: Gilbert, earl Marshal holds the manor of Witley, late of Gilbert de L'Aigle
- Tenure: Gilbert, earl Marshal holds the manor of Westcott [in Dorking], late of Gilbert de l'Aigle
- Tenure: John de Gaddesden holds Westcott [in Dorking], worth £15, late of Gilbert de l'Aigle
- Tenure: Gilbert Marshal, earl of Pembroke, holds Witley
- Gilbert Marshal released the lands of Gilbert de Laigle, including the castle of Pevensey but excluding certain lands granted out in fee, to Henry III
- Grant: Henry III has granted the castle of Pevensey to Peter de Rivallis, to hold to him and his heirs.
- Grant: Henry III has granted the keeping of Pevensey castle, late of Peter de Rivallis, to Humphrey de Bohun, earl of Hereford and Richard de Argentan. Peter de Rivallis holds the castellany of Pevensey by royal gift.

¹⁴⁸ National Archives, reference SC 8/267/13331

¹⁴⁹ National Archives, Duchy of Lancaster, Royal Charters, Henry III – the date of the charter was December 9, 1234.

¹⁵⁰ A photo of the Royal Charter can be found at: <http://www.hrionline.ac.uk/normans/sources.shtml>

¹⁵¹ A Compendious History of Sussex, by Mark Antony Lower, page 93

¹⁵² Calendar of the Charter Rolls Preserved in the Public Record Office, Membrane 16.

- Grant: Henry III has granted the manor of Greywell (Hants), late of Gilbert de Laigle, to Peter du Bois during pleasure
- Grant: Henry III orders Humphrey de Bohun and Richard de Argentan to deliver the castle of Pevensey to Robert Savage to keep during pleasure.

Peter of Savoy held the Honour of the Eagle 1241-1269: “Gilbert got his lands in 1227 but in 1235 he forfeited them for going into Normandy without Henry III’s permission. In 1241 Gilbert’s heir was ward of Peter of Savoy.” In 1241, the Honour of the Eagle was granted to Peter de Savoy, uncle of Queen Eleanor, “for his better support; and soon after his death, in 53rd Henry III [cal 1269] the whole honor was given to Prince Edward and his heirs.”¹⁵³ Sussex, from its position, was constantly the scene of preparations for invasion, and was often concerned in rebellions. Pevensey and Arundel play a great part in rebellions and forfeiture during the troubled times of the early Norman kings. In the barons’ wars the county was a good centre for the king’s forces; Lewes being in the hands of the king’s brother-in-law, John de Warenne, earl of Surrey, Pevensey and Hastings in those of his uncle, Peter of Savoy. The forces of the king and of Simon de Montfort met at Lewes, where the famous battle and ‘Mise of Lewes’ took place in 1264.¹⁵⁴ John de Warenne was a nephew of Isabel de Warenne de l’Aigle.

- September, 1241: “during pleasure to Peter of Savoy of the lands of John de Warenne in Sussex and Surrey, and of the **Honour of Laigle**.
- Grant: Henry III has granted the keeping of the lands late of **Gilbert de Laigle** to Peter of Savoy for ten years from 2 February 1242
- 1242, Peter of Savoy holds the Honour of l’Aigle of the king in chief by the services of 2.5 knights fees.
- February 16, 1242: Grant to Peter of Savoy, the king’s uncle, of the keeping of the lands late of William de Warenne, earl of Surrey in Sussex and Surrey, which lands are in the king’s hands by reason of the wardship of the lands and heirs of the said earl. Peter is to hold these lands for ten years from the Purification 26 Henry III [2 February 1242]. The king has *also* granted Peter the keeping of the lands late of Gilbert de Laigle, to hold during the same term. April 4, 1242: Request to the tenants, free and otherwise, of the honours of Richmond and Laigle, and of the lands late of William de Warenne in Sussex, to make a competent aid to Peter of Savoy, the king’s uncle, as Peter is crossing overseas with the king, where he will inquire expenses of every kind. 1244: Peter of Savoy stills the “barony of l’Aigle.” In 1246, Peter of Savoy held the Honour of Richmond.
- **1263**, Tower Assize Rolls, No 36, m 7, 47 Henry III: “In 47 Henry III, there was a suit between John de Warren, lord of the barony of Lewes, and Peter of Savoy, lord of the honor of Aquila, as to the right to wreck which came ashore near Seaford, and the boundary of the respective liberties was in dispute.”¹⁵⁵

1264-5: “In 1264-65, the third and most famous siege of Pevensey took place. The supporters of Henry III, fleeing from their defeat by the Barons at Lewes, took refuge in the castle, which was invested by Simon de Montfort the younger, son of the earl of Leicester. On this occasion the castle stood firm, and the besiegers had eventually to abandon the attempt.”¹⁵⁶

1268: Peter of Savoy dies. Queen Eleanor inherited the Rape from Peter of Savoy.

1269-1291: The Rape of Pevensey was in the hands of Queen Eleanor, as attached to the Barony of Aquila, by grant from her son, the then reigning king, Edward I. Queen Eleanor retired to a nunnery in 1276 and remained there until her death in 1291. Complaints in the Hundred Rolls precede her entry into a nunnery, for the **grant had originally been made by King Henry on the death of Peter de Savoy, the Queen’s uncle, in 1269.** One source says Pevensey was granted to Prince Edward in 1269, and it remained in the hands of the Crown until the 14th century.¹⁵⁷ The Queen

¹⁵³ The Penny Cyclopaedia of the Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge, page 345

¹⁵⁴ Knowledge Rush, online encyclopedia, on Sussex: <http://knowledgepush.com/kr/encyclopedia/Sussex/>

¹⁵⁵ A History of the Foreshore and the Law Relating Thereto, by Stuart Archibald Moore, Matthew Hale, Robert Cream Hall, page 39

¹⁵⁶ Pevensey Castle – The Roman Fort of Anderita. <http://www.forumancientcoins.com/historia/sites/pevensey/pevensey.htm>

¹⁵⁷ The Castles of England, Their Story and Structure, by James Dixon Mackenzie, page 84

received the profits from the Barony.¹⁵⁸ **1279:** “An unauthorized court was held at Pevensey Castle Gate. The Hundred of Faxbrewe says, “In the time of Gilbert de le Hegle (sic) at the gate of the Castle of Pevensey there was no court; then Gilbert le Maresscall came and set up one from 3 weeks to 3 weeks, and still it is held and distrains are made [to compel men] to answer.” At the Eyre of 1279 Richard de Pevensey was presented by the Jurors of Burne for holding this court “to which come all the free holders of this Rape, whereas they were never wont to come.” Richard claimed to have so received it from the Queen.”¹⁵⁹

1272: From: Bartholomew, archdeacon of Amiens, chaplain to Pope Gregory X, auditor of contradictory **letters Reginald de Aquila, proctor general of the Hospital [of St John] of Jersusalem**, obtained papal letters on behalf of the prior and brothers of the Hospital in England. Recites the letters of Pope Gregory X, addressed to the precentor of [St Paul's Cathedral,] London, dated 21 Jul 1272, at Orvieto. The pope grants his protection to the Hospitallers' possessions and other goods, but anyone who troubles them is not to be suspended, interdicted or excommunicated unless papal letters to this effect are obtained. This protection is to last for at least ('minime') 3 years. Philip de Pomonte and James de Trebis, Canterbury Cathedral Priory's proctors, objected to ('contradico') this on behalf of the priory and its officers but withdrew their objection on condition that nothing arising from these letters would be to the priory's prejudice. The Hospitallers have agreed to this. Given at Orvieto [Treni, Italy]. Endorsed with description in late 13th cent hands.¹⁶⁰

1287-1288: The abbot and convent of Shap to hold a rent in Strickland, granted by Richard de Aquila, deceased, to the abbot. Westmorland. Isabel late the wife of Roger de Clifford the younger, Nicholas de Arturet, Roland de Patton, and Robert de Winton to grant the advowson of the church of Warcop and a messuage and land in Reagill to the said abbot and convent. Westmorland. Covering dates 16 EDWARD I.¹⁶¹

- **Circa 1288:** Petitioners: Abbot of Shap.

Addressees: King.

Places mentioned: Shap, Westmorland.

Other people mentioned: **Richard del Egle (Aquila), priest**; Richard de Latona (Laton), knight; William de Stykeland; Margaret de Ros.

Nature of request: The Abbot of Shap states that Richard del Egle, priest, before the Statute of Mortmain purchased a dry rent from Richard de Latoun, knight, to receive annually from the hands of William de Stykeland for lands which he held of him in Westmorland, for the sustenance of a chaplain to say mass in perpetuity for the souls of all Christians; and after the Statute of Mortmain he gave this chantry to the Abbot. The Abbot was seized of this rent for a year and a half, but then Margaret de Ros, who had acquired the tenement from which the rent issued, disseised him by reason of the statute, leaving him charged with the chantry, without receiving anything for it. He requests a remedy, as because of the length of time that has passed, the benefit of the statute has passed from the lady to the king.

Endorsement: He is to have a writ of novel disseisin in Chancery.

1291: “In 1291, Birling was a manor in the parish of East-Dean-cum-Firston, hundred of Willington and rape of Pevensey, giving name to Birling Gap on the coast. The Honour, of which the castle of Pevensey was the chief seat, was afterward designated the Honour of L’Aigle from the family which possessed it in the reign of Henry I. In one inquisition Birling is described to be held of the Honour of Aquila and eventually this Honour became parcel of the Duchy of Lancaster.”¹⁶²

1291: Pevensey Lowey (Roll endorsed as "Aquila Honor" and "Ospringe Manor"): [Sussex] Seaford Town: [Sussex] Grinstead Town: [Sussex] Endleuewyk Bailiwick: [Sussex] Maresfield: [Sussex] Willingdon: [Sussex] Ashdown Forest: [Sussex] Westtheth: [Sussex] Ospringe: [Kent.]¹⁶³

¹⁵⁸ Sussex Archaeological Collections, page 188

¹⁵⁹ Sussex Archaeological Collections, page 186

¹⁶⁰ Canterbury Cathedral Archives, #CCA-DCC-ChAnt/I/253, Parchment, 1m, slits for seal tag, slightly dirty

¹⁶¹ Chancery: Inquisitions Ad Quod Damnum, Henry III to Richard III, C143/11, held by The National Archives, Kew

¹⁶² De Antiquis Legibus Liber, by Arnold Fitz-Thedmar and Thomas Stapleton

¹⁶³ The National Archives, Special Collections: Ministers' and Receivers' Accounts SC 6/1027/21

It became the custom to grant the Honour of Pevensey to the Queens of England, and in this way Margaret, second wife of Edward I, and Philippa, queen of Edward III, became responsible for appointing Constables of the castle.

1303, October 23, Skene. “To the treasurer and barons of the exchequer. Order to cause John de Wyntersell, keeper of the honour of L’Aigle, in Sussex, to be acquitted of the portion of his term for the manors and lands of the honour except the castle of Pevenese from 20 February last, when the king granted to Queen Margaret, his consort, the honour in Sussex, with the hundreds, chaces, and other appurtenances in that county, saving to him the castle of Pevenese with the services, wardships and all other things pertaining to it, during the king’s pleasure, and ordered John to deliver to her the honour with the manors, hundreds, chaces and other appurtenances except the castle as aforesaid.”¹⁶⁴

1305, November 12, Staines. “To John de Dovedale, keeper of the manor of Baghton, co Sussex. Order to permit the abbot of Begeham to receive one oak and one beech in the wood of Clenrugg, which is within the bounds of the forest of Asshedoune of the honour of l’Aigle, which came to the king’s hands by escheat, and to have twenty swine in the forest quit of pannage, as the king lately, at the abbot’s petition – suggesting that he ought to have these things by the charter of Gilbert, formerly lord of that honour, and that Richard, the late abbot, his immediate predecessor, and all other his predecessors were wont to have and receive such profits.... And he learns by inquisition taken...that the predecessors were siesed of the said oak and beech (etc) of the gift of said Gilbert, until Walter de Bestane, then bailiff of the honour, in the 21st year of the reign hindered the said Richard from receiving those things by reason of his bailiwick, and that the abbot has been thus hindered for 12 years.”¹⁶⁵

1321: 14 Edward II: A. 4198. Finding of a jury (names given) on an inquisition held by Edmund Maubank, bailiff of the honor of Aquila, in the court of Pevensey viz. that the prior of Lewes does not owe suit at that court for land called 'Hodleghe' parcel of the land of Langeneye alias Langenhey. 1 December, 14 Edward II. Five seals, one of arms; fragments of two others.¹⁶⁶

1322: Robert de Brom, William Dalynnegregg and Alice his wife and others hold one fee in Chichester Rape and Arundel Rape of the Honour of Aquila. In 1322 John de Dalyngrugge grants land in Westham, Sussex to the prior and convent of Michelham (C 143/153/4). In 1324-5 John had a seventh part of a fee in Hertfield and one and a half fees in Sheffield of the Honour of Leicestre and one military fee in Parva Horsted of the Honour of Aquila (Feudal Aids).

1326: John “of Igham” was the cousin of baron Francis de Aldham, and became John of Aldham [St. Clere]. About 1326-1327 he inherited his cousin’s estates, which included Brambletye in Sussex, which Francis de Audham had been holding of the crown by knight’s service as of the honour of Aquila, one of the “**great baronies then in the hands of the king.**” Francis de Audham had also held fifteen knight’s fees of the honour of “Mortayne,” besides his own demesnes.¹⁶⁷

1342-1362: Petitioners: **Prior and convent of Norton.** [note: **Alice de l’Aigle, daughter of Gilbert & Isabel, is buried at the convent of Norton**] Addressees: King - Nature of request: The petitioners request restitution of the rent and arrears from land and tenements granted to them by Aquila, which lands are now in the hand of Langley in whose times the rent has been detained. They have sued to Langley and his council for restitution but they have answered that the petitioners should sue to the king. Nature of endorsement: Let Langley’s council be called to inform the king’s council on this business in the presence of the petitioners.

Places mentioned: **Norton, [Cheshire]; Soureby (Sowerby),** [West Riding of Yorkshire].

People mentioned: **Gilbert de Aquila; Edmund [of Langley], son of Edward III.**

Date derivation: The petition is likely to date to 1342-1362 because Edmund of Langley is not styled as earl of Cambridge, and it is likely that the petitioners would have used the title had it been bestowed. In addition it is Langley’s council that is referred to in the petition and response suggesting that we are dealing with his council during his minority.¹⁶⁸

¹⁶⁴ Calendar of the Close Rolls Preserved in the Public Record Office: 1296-1302, page 62

¹⁶⁵ Calendar of the Close Rolls Preserved in the Public Record Office: 1296-1302, page 303

¹⁶⁶ Deeds: A.4101 - A.4200', A Descriptive Catalogue of Ancient Deeds: Volume 3 (1900), pp. 30-41

¹⁶⁷ The Sinclairs of England, by the Family of Sinclair, Thomas Sinclair, pages 298-302

¹⁶⁸ National Archive, Special Collections, Catalogue Reference SC8/64/2170, Ancient Petitions

1371/2: John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster and son of Edward III, acquired the Honour of Pevensey. The Honour remained in the crown until 44 Edward III [cal 1371], when John of Gaunt, duke of Lancaster, obtained a grant of it in tail general. On the accession of Henry IV, the king, by letters-patent dated 12th February, 1400, granted the office of constable of the castle (an office created by John of Gaunt), together with the honor, to Sir John Pelham and his heirs, in consideration of his valuable services. The office of constable was held by the Pelhams till 4 Henry V [cal 1417], but other constables were afterwards appointed; and in 1600 the honor was once more in the crown, forming part of the duchy of Lancaster. Subsequently it was granted by King William, in 1706, to William Bentinck, duke of Portland, who sold it in 1730 to Spencer Compton, earl of Wilmington; and his granddaughter marrying Lord George Henry Cavendish, afterwards earl of Burlington, carried the castle and honor to that noble family, in whom they still remain.”¹⁶⁹

- **1381: Petitioners: Nicholas de Aquila, Master of the Hospital of Writtle.**

Name(s): de Aquila, Nicholas

Addressees: King.

Occupation: Master of the Hospital of Writtle

Nature of request: Nicholas, master of the hospital of Writtle, requests that the 34s for which he has been assessed by the sheriff of Essex for the last subsidy be cancelled and annulled, as the hospital has always been exempt from such charges from the time of King John.

Nature of endorsement: [On face] The king has granted this.Oxford.

Places mentioned: Writtle, [Essex].

People mentioned: John, King of England; Sheriff of Essex; [Robert de Vere, Earl of] Oxford.

Date derivation: Dated on the guard to c. 1385, with reference to close roll entries relating to Master Nicholas and his dealings with the hospital's mother house in Rome. However, Nicholas may well have been master for a number of years before that date (the last reference to the previous master appears to be from 1376 (VCH)), while the references to the 'last subsidy' probably relates to one of the poll taxes levied between 1377 and 1381, and most probably the last of these, granted by both laity and clergy in December 1380. Moreover, the Earl of Oxford, who appears to have signed the document, was chamberlain of the household from January 1381.¹⁷⁰

1554: In 1554 the Crown granted letter patent to John Gage, Lord Chamberlain of the Queens Household, in consideration of his good services to King Henry and then to King Edward, parts of the Honour, which included the lordship and manor of Duddleswell and part of the bailiwick of Endlewick.¹⁷¹ - the Honour itself and its many holdings were obviously broken up over the years.

1556: In Sussex: the manor of Heighton St Clere, held of the crown as of the Honour of Aquila by one-fortieth of a knight's fee and 3s 4d rent; value £20; The manor of Eckington, held as of the honour of Aquila by one-fortieth of a knight's fee, 21s 6d rent to the bailiff of Endlewick and 2s to the bailiff of Ripe for court suit; value £7 19s 2d; The manor of Maresfield, held as of the Honour Aquila by one-twentieth of a knight's fee; value £24 15s 11d; The manor of Newenham, held as of the Honour of Aquila by one-twentieth of a knight's fee; value 58s 6d; 200a Called Southcourt in Exceat, held of the Honour of Aquila, rent 6s 8d; value 73s 4d; 100a In Exceat called Peverells, held of Honour of Aquila, rent 23s 4d; value 16s 8d

2 Jul 1628: For the alienation of the **Manor of Chalvington** without the king's licence, the manor being, it was supposed, held of the king in chief Richard, Earl of Dorset, was similarly proceeded against in 16 James I and on this occasion it was shown that the manor was not held of the king in chiefe, but of the Honour of Aquila, parcel of the Duchy of Lancaster¹⁷²

Finally, there was a Richard de **Aquila**, first Baron Stalbridge (1837-1912)!

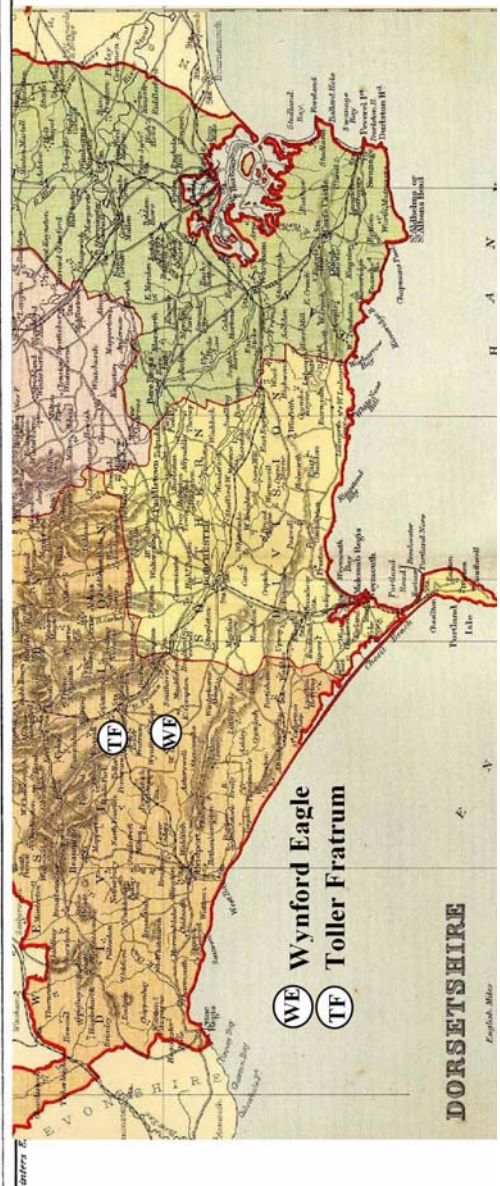
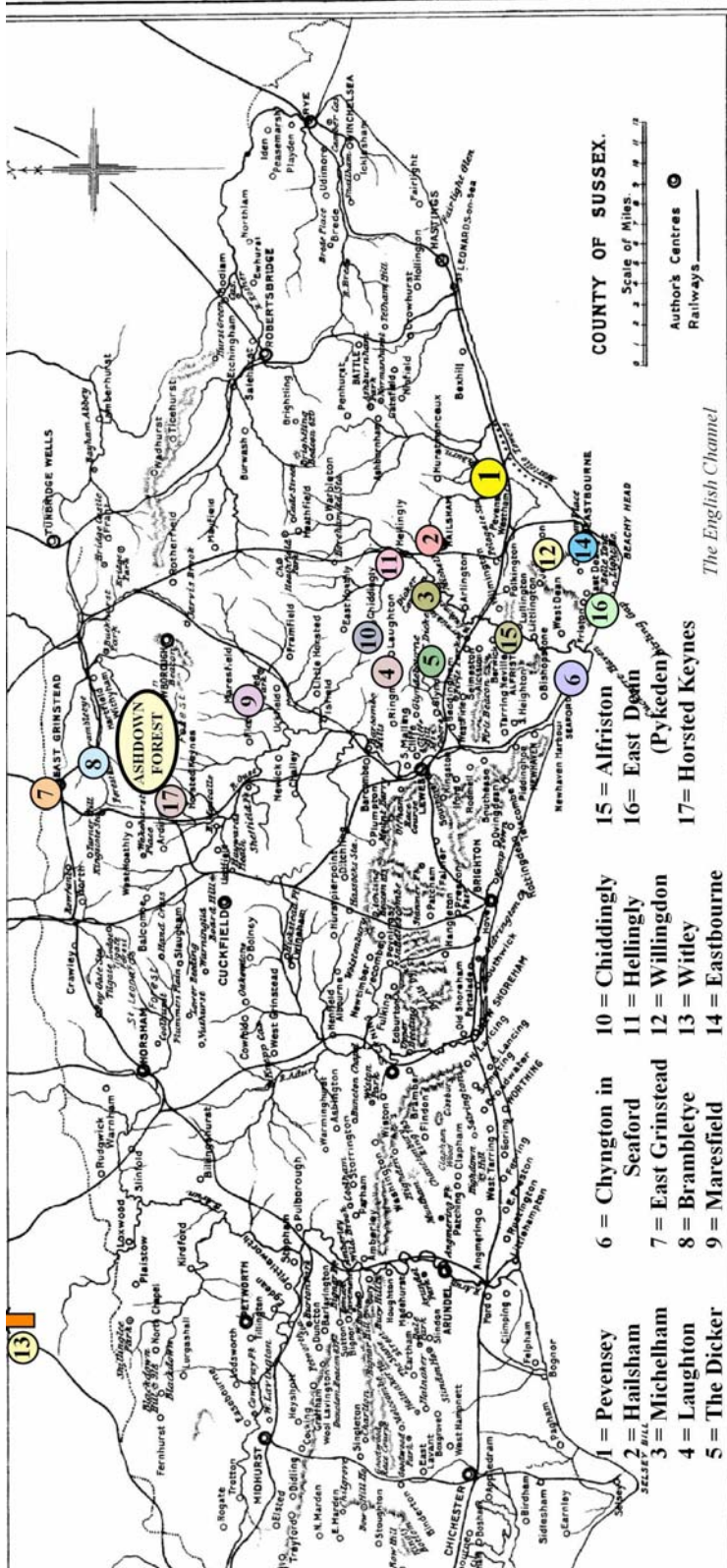
¹⁶⁹ The Penny Cyclopaedia of the Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge, page 345

¹⁷⁰ National Archive, Special Collections, Catalogue Reference SC 8/223/11102, Ancient Petitions

¹⁷¹ Crown Grant (letters patent) SAS/G19/6 - 15 June 1554

¹⁷² Exemplification of Proceedings in an action by the Crown against Thomas Trayton and Ambrose Trayton, gents SAS-RF/12/52 - The National Archives of UK. Therefore it was decided that the said Thomas Trayton and Ambrose Trayton might 'go without a day by virtue of the premises: (A long document comprising 3 large membranes in court hand)

Maps showing some of the de l'Aigle Holdings



This document was prepared by Virginia Sanders Mylius, 2009

For my DeLaigle family

Any additions or corrections are always welcomed.

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