

**THE JOCELIN FAMILY  
DURING THE MIDDLE  
AGES**

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## **THE JOCELIN FAMILY DURING THE MIDDLE AGES.**

### **1. INTRODUCTION.**

The earliest attempts to establish a history of the Jocelin family were made in a series of pedigrees written by the College of Arms following the Visitations of Essex, Hertfordshire and London which took place between 1585 and 1634. The Josselin Society has recently (February 2007) circulated to its members the 'Visitations of Essex' edited by Walter C. Metcalfe published in London in 1878 which includes, among a number of shorter pedigrees, two long pedigrees of the Jocelin family. The first follows the 1612 Visitation of Essex by Raven; the second, Metcalfe notes, is "an addition to the manuscript" and was published in 1627. The 'Raven' pedigree, in English, starts (in about 1130) with a James Jocelin and his son Henry married to Jane Chastelyn. The second 1627 pedigree, in Latin, traces a line back to a Gaufridus or Geoffrey brother of St. Gilbert of Sempringham. A number of other Genealogical Memoranda of the Jocelin family have been published, based upon pedigrees in the Harleian manuscripts and other sources. They chart various branches of the family and do not differ in any important respects from the Metcalfe pedigrees.

Parts of these pedigrees were no doubt based on a study of old charters and other documents. Other parts probably arose from the recollections, traditions and ambitions of the Jocelin family in the late 16<sup>th</sup> and early 17<sup>th</sup> century, responding to the enquiries of the visiting inspectors. Although not always accurate and sometimes speculative, a study of contemporary documents shows that the Jocelin lines of descent outlined in these pedigrees are substantiated for the most part by documentary evidence dating from the 16<sup>th</sup> back to the 13<sup>th</sup> century. The five prior generations, Gaufridus, William, Robertus, Jacobus, Henricus and their wives are entirely undocumented. A Gaufridus or Geoffrey fitz Jocelin who heads the family line in the 1627 pedigree is nowhere to be found in the numerous charters of the period documenting the benefactions to monastic foundations by the family of St. Gilbert of Sempringham. This Geoffrey is said to be a son of Jocelin a tenant of Alfred of Lincoln in Lincolnshire Domesday and a brother of St. Gilbert of Sempringham. We know that Jocelin had three children Gilbert, Roger and Agnes. It is clear that neither Gilbert nor Roger had surviving children. Agnes held the family fees in 1166 which passed to her son Roger de Mustel and to his son William. The descent from this Jocelin is clearly described in *Early Yorkshire Charters Volume VI 'The Paynel Fee'* (1939) edited by C.T. Clay pages 252 and 253. There is also an excellent biography of St. Gilbert by Brian Golding (Clarendon Press 1995). Geoffrey/Gaufridus Fitz Jocelin is alas! fictional.

A preface to the 1627 Pedigree, an extract from the *Chronicles of Abingdon*, recounts the benefactions of Jocelinus and his son Radulphus to the abbey. This Jocelinus was a son of Walter de la Riviere from Berkshire Domesday and a ward of Walter's brother Jocelinus. Their line leads to the Rivers (de Ripariis) family of Wiltshire and has, as far as one can make out, no connection either with the Jocelin family of Wiltshire or any other Jocelin family.

Lodge's Peerage of Ireland, published during the 18<sup>th</sup> century goes much farther than the 1627 pedigree in suggesting a parentage for the Domesday Gozelinus, the father of St Gilbert, and a connection through Lambert Count of Louvain to Charlemagne. This is pure fiction. He confuses two Domesday Gozelins one of whom, unconnected to the father of St. Gilbert, was indeed the son of a Lambert, but clearly not a Lambert Count of Louvain.

In 1917 Elizabeth French wrote the first full account of the Jocelin family for the New England Historical and Genealogical Society. Its purpose was to discover the lineage of the Jocelin/Joslin family of New England. It is a work of some scholarship based largely on the College of Arms pedigrees and published transcriptions of ancient documents, deeds, wills, court hearings and charters. Her treatment of the College of Arms' pedigrees was not uncritical, but should perhaps have been more so. She took a wrong turning in the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries which the discovery of the wills of John of Sheering and his brother Thomas among Mr. Allnutt's translations (see below) has allowed us to correct. But every subsequent researcher into the Jocelin family is greatly in her debt.

Some time before the 27 May 1979 another search was made of the UK National Archives and other repositories and a very large number of documents concerning the Jocelin family were transcribed. Frustratingly, I have not been able to discover either the name of the researcher or the location of the transcripts. Fortunately, they were entrusted to a Mr. RB Allnutt of Ipswich who translated them from the original Latin. His typescript, generously given to me by Jim O'Dea, is a mine of information which has allowed me to enlarge and, in some places, to correct Elizabeth French's work. In order however to double check the information provided in Mr. Allnutt's translation, which is on the whole poorly referenced, a further search of the Charters and other documents available at the National Archives in Kew and elsewhere should be, but has not yet been, carried out. This paper should therefore be read with this *caveat* in mind, although I have checked the increasing number of transcripts of old documents now available on the internet.

The Victoria Histories of the Counties of England, published from the 19<sup>th</sup> century onwards, and still in the process of revision and publication, provide valuable information about the religious houses, parishes and manors of England during the Middle Ages although they vary greatly in quality and coverage. I am very grateful to Dr. Averil Snodgrass for combing through the Wiltshire and Berkshire volumes on my behalf. Some parts of the County Histories have now been digitalised and can be searched through British History on Line. This has enabled me to track down Jocelins living in Middlesex and Wiltshire in the 13<sup>th</sup> century... The account of the Manor of Hyde Hall in Sawbridgeworth in the Hertfordshire History is particularly good, although dating from 1912. The on-line search facility of the National Archives website to documents held in other repositories has also been helpful.

In sorting out the stories about the Jocelin family in the period before the documented appearance of Ralph Jocelin in 1201, Domesday Descendants by KSB Keats Rohan was invaluable. Domesday People and Domesday Descendants are together 'a prosopography

of persons occurring in English documents 1066-1166' that is, from the Norman Conquest to the Cartae Baronum (a survey of tenants in chief and their under-tenants carried out for Henry II). The importance of the Cartae, although parts are now missing, is that it allows one to trace the changes and developments of land holdings, mostly in England, that had taken place since the Domesday Book of 1086, a period of 80 years. Domesday Descendants (the Boydell Press 2002) is a massive and important work of reference over 1000 pages long culled from a huge number of documents of the period. It is not easy to use as there is no index, and there are (unsurprisingly in such massive enterprise) a number of errors. But it is the essential starting point for those seeking to trace a family's origins and its development in the 100 years after the Conquest.

Domesday Descendants gives precise references to transcripts of Pipe Rolls and other medieval records. The first Pipe Roll dates to the end of the reign of Henry I (1129/30). Later extant Rolls cover much of the reign of Henry II (1154-89) although those from the reign of King Stephen have been lost. They were originally transcribed, indexed and published by the Pipe Roll Society in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries together with Feet of Fines from the reign of Richard I. A good number of these have now been digitalised and are available on the internet. They are an invaluable source for the discovery of instances and locations of early surnames although, it must be said, there are no instances of the use of Jocelin as a surname before the appearance of Ralph Jocelin in the 3<sup>rd</sup> year of King John. The family of Ralph's wife Beatrice de Boseville is however well represented from 1130 (see Appendix A).

In the 17<sup>th</sup> 18<sup>th</sup> 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries many learned antiquaries (including country clergymen, exiled on marriage from Oxford and Cambridge) produced local and national histories of lasting value from manuscript sources. These were of special value to my research on the family of Beatrice de Boseville. Some such as R.H.Round's Geoffrey de Mandeville, A Study in Anarchy are still standard works of reference.

In addition to Mr. C. T. Clay's work dealing with the family of St Gilbert he also wrote extensively about the descendants of Joislan de Amunderville (The Family of Amunderville, Lincolnshire Architectural and Archaeological Society, 1945). His account of the Amunderville family (who used Joislan as a Christian name for repeated generations through to the 13<sup>th</sup> century) is interesting but does not, as Jim O'Dea thought it might, provide an obvious route to the Jocelins of Essex and Northamptonshire.

My cousin Angus Heron kindly transcribed for me a passage from a copy of Dugdale's Monasticon Anglicanum (Volume V page 414) in the Bristol Public Library dealing with benefactions made to the Abbey of Louth in Lincolnshire in the early 12<sup>th</sup> century by three separate families with the Christian name Jocelin. I am alas now certain that we can claim none of them as our ancestors.

I am very grateful to members of the Josselin Society – many of them mentioned above - and particularly Ben Joscelyne, for their comments and queries on the various drafts and false starts which this article has been through; and in general for much patience, help

support and hospitality. They are however in no way responsible for my mistakes, misinterpretations or omissions.

A note on spelling. There are of course dozens of variations on the spelling of the family name from the simplest Joslin or Jollan to the most elaborate Joscelyne. Most people transcribing old documents over the last several hundred years have standardised the spelling to Jocelin. The actual spelling of the name in the documents from which these transcriptions have been made has therefore often been obscured. The Domesday Book very often abbreviates the name to 'Gozel' and seems to make a distinction between the names Gozelinus/Goscelinus and Goislanus, which both appear as Jocelin in most transcriptions. I have used the spelling Jocelin throughout except when the text I am quoting uses another spelling (i.e. the Wiltshire Gascelyns and the Lincolnshire Joislans). Of course, the main branches of the family were not distinguished by the spelling of their surnames until the 18<sup>th</sup> century at the earliest.

## **2. THE FIRST JOCELINS.**

Josselin is a form of the Celtic name Judoc. St. Judoc, a son of the 7<sup>th</sup> century Breton King Juthael, was popularly known as St. Josse. He lived part of his life near Ponthieu in Normandy and was buried in the Abbey of St. Josse sur Mer. In AD 902 a group of refugee monks from the Abbey took the Saint's relics to the New Minster of Winchester where they were much venerated. Joce, Joislan and Gozelin were popular names in Brittany and Normandy in the 11<sup>th</sup> century; the Domesday Book records a number of the Breton and Norman settlers in England named after the Saint. The Christian names Joce, Josse (the modern Joyce) and their diminutives Jocelin and Josselin were particularly popular in England in the two hundred years following the Norman Conquest.

Surnames as we use them today – permanent family names generally indicative of the descent of the male line - began to appear towards the end of the 12<sup>th</sup> century but were not widely used for a further 100 years. Before that many prominent landowners of Norman, Breton or Flemish origin used names which identified them with their ancestral places of origin in continental Europe. Other families identified themselves with their properties in England but this is a much less reliable guide to a family's origins as the ownership of land changed hands over time from one family to another. Other names used to identify individuals lasted by their nature for no more than one generation (Jocelin son of Lambert, Jocelin the Lorimer, Humphrey the Bearded). When it gradually became necessary with the growing complexity of administration in England to identify families by the use of a surname some people chose to use their father's name with the addition of the words 'son' or 'fitz' or by itself (thus Williamson, Fitzwilliam and Williams). There is little doubt that the surname 'Jocelin' derives from the Christian name. It is used in the 12<sup>th</sup> century Pipe Rolls only as a Christian name. It is never used in a way which might be taken to indicate a place of origin in continental Europe. There is no substance in the notion that the Jocelin name in England refers back to the family ownership of lands or castles in Josselin in Brittany or Josselies in Belgium.

As noted above, the College of Arms carried out Visitations of Essex, Hertfordshire and London during the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries after which the genealogical trees of the Jocelin family were drawn up. They can be substantially verified from the appearance of Ralph Jocelin and his wife Beatrice de Boseville in 1201, but not before that.

The earliest reference to Jocelin as a surname in PH Reaney's Dictionary of English Surnames is to a Robert Goselin recorded on the Templar Rolls for Lincolnshire (1185). This is probably Robert Fitz Jocelyn who had a plea against Roger de Saint Liz and Emma his wife concerning eight bovates of land and a mill in Dunston in Lincolnshire in 1199. Robert may have been a son of Joslan de Engleby who is mentioned in the Cartae Baronum of 1166 as a tenant of the de la Haye family. A William Fitz Jollan (fl.1212) was certainly a son of Joslan as he was also a tenant in the same property of the successors to the de la Haye family. Disputes over the manor and lands of Engleby recorded in final concords ('fines') of 1245 and 1247 suggest that Joslan/Jollan, although used by successive generations of this family as a Christian name, had not by these dates at least become its surname. A connection between this family and that of Joislan the Domesday tenant of the bishops of Lincoln and Durham and his son Joislan de Amunderville the Dapifer of the bishops of Lincoln is possible but unproven.

This Joislan is quite distinct from the two Gozelins/Goscelins in Lincolnshire Domesday with whom he has often been confused: Gozelin, son of Lambert, lord of the honour of Redbourne, and Gozelin, a tenant of Alfred of Lincoln and the father of St. Gilbert of Sempringham. The last two families can be traced through a female line to the Cartae Baronum of 1166 but do not lead from there to any known instances of the surname Jocelin (2).

In the 13<sup>th</sup> century there are, however, several instances of people adopting their fathers' Christian name Jocelin as a surname. William of Windsor in the year 1203 granted a virgate of land in Stanwell in Middlesex to Jocelin Fitzhugh, rector of Stanwell, and his heirs. 'Richard son of Jocelin' held land in Stanwell Park by 1231. In 1253 Richard Jocelin son of Ralph leased the Park to Westminster Abbey; in 1271 Ralph Jocelin gave his house, a close called the Park and a carucate of land to Ankerwyke Priory in Buckinghamshire.

'Jocelin, son of Osbert' was Bailiff of the Hundred of Calne in Wiltshire in the middle of the 13<sup>th</sup> century holding 1 ½ virgates in Bishopstrow in the Hundred of Warminster, Wiltshire; his son Robert Gascelyn held Bishopstrow in about 1280. Robert left a son John Gacelyn who was 'of Bishopstrow' in 1311; Osbert Goscelyn lived there in 1319. Edmund Gacelyn was a Warden of the Royal Forest of Clarendon 1282-91 and Walter Jocelyn held the same post 1313-1324. Walter Gascelyn (presumably the same person) and Annice his wife asserted their disputed claim to a moiety of the manor of Norridge and held it until 1333, when it passed to his son William and then his sister Julia. There is also a Gilbert Jocelin witnessing a lease in Berkshire in about 1250 and Roger Jocelin a Burgess of Bristol in 1280 (3).

I have found no evidence to show that any of these Jocelin families were related to one another or that Ralph Jocelin, who, in 1201, is the first person in the pedigrees at the College of Arms mentioned in contemporary documents, was related to them. Ralph was then married to Beatrice de Boseville in the manor of Aston le Walls and Appletree in Northamptonshire (4).

Beatrice de Boseville descended from a family who were early tenants of Geoffrey de Mandeville in the Domesday Scelga (present day Shellow Bowells) (5) and in Aston le Walls with Appletree (6). They were family of some distinction, being closely associated with (and perhaps related to) Faramus de Boulogne, whose grandfather Geoffrey was an illegitimate son of Count Eustace II de Boulogne and the husband of Beatrice de Mandeville (**Appendices A-C**).

We have no certain knowledge of Ralph's parentage although it is probable, as I have argued above, that his father's Christian name was Jocelin or a variation of it. The Bosevilles came from Essex and Northamptonshire and it is likely – although not certain - that Ralph Jocelin also came from one of these two counties. Late 12<sup>th</sup> century documents from Essex and Northamptonshire offer some intriguing clues to Ralph's possible forebears.

Goscelino de Rumeille is on an Essex Pipe Roll of 1180/1 (26 Henry II) (7). Rather later, on 13 October 1198, Richard son of Goscelin and Katherine his wife appear in a case recorded in the Feet of Fines over an inheritance of land in Springfield. Springfield Hall had been a principal residence of the Boseville family since at least the 1140s and remained so into the 13<sup>th</sup> century. It is tempting to speculate that a younger brother of Richard, Ralph son of Goscelin, might have been apprenticed to the Boseville family in neighbouring Springfield Hall and that there met and married Beatrice de Boseville.

Josce or Joce de Botindon came from the village now called Boddington in Northamptonshire (8). This is barely a mile from the manor of Aston le Walls with Appletree which Ralph and Beatrice held as tenants of the Mandevilles in 1201. A small debt (half of one mark) owed to the exchequer by 'Willelmus filius Joscei' is repeated in the Northamptonshire Pipe Rolls 1175-80. It is again possible that William had a younger brother Ralph who was apprenticed to the neighbouring family of Boseville and who adapted his father's Christian name to form the family surname of Jocelin (or 'little Joce').

In either case, it is fairly certain that Ralph Jocelin was, through his marriage to Beatrice, the founder of the family fortunes; and through the adoption of his father's Christian name, the originator of the family name.

Ralph and Beatrice died sometime before 1218 while their son John was still a minor. John was made a ward of William de Duston (named from the Northamptonshire manor of Duston). On reaching his majority in about 1125, John inherited the three manors of Aston le Walls with Appletree in Northamptonshire, the Hide in Hertfordshire, and Shellow Bowells in Essex all of them most probably previously in the hands of the Boseville family.

### **3. JOHN 1203 TO 1248:** the reigns of John and Henry III.

John's parents must have died when he was quite young as he had become a ward of William de Duston some time before 1218. William had died by that date and his estates in five counties, including the three manors of Aston, the Hide and Selewes which we believe were inherited by John through his mother Beatrice de Boseville, were taken into the king's hands to pay for the debts William owed both to King John and the young Henry III. John had probably reached his majority by about 1225 and it is clear that that part of William's estate which rightfully belonged to John was at some stage handed back to him. (1).

There is an early document in which John the chaplain, son of Michael of Sawbridgeworth gave to Simon, the son of Roger of the Hide, all the land which he held of John, son of Ralph Jocelin (*'of the'?*) Hyde (2). In the 14<sup>th</sup> year of the reign of Henry III (1229/30) John was give letters of protection 'for as long as he shall be in the service of the lord king beyond the seas' (3). This is the date of Henry III's war in France. John gave his lands in Aston-le-Walls and Appletree to the Prior and Canons of Bradenstock in Wiltshire (4). There is a document of 1248/9 between the Prior of Blakemere, plaintiff, and Herbert a tenant of 100 acres in Shellows in which 'it is to be known that the aforesaid Herbert has given up to the aforesaid Prior all the charters and muniments which he had of the gift of John Jocelin, William Springfield &c' (5). Finally John's grandson Thomas II 'granted to God and to the church of Blakemore &c. all that land, with houses, orchards and all other things pertaining, which Richard Pickcott once held of John the father of the father of Thomas, in his town of Shellows, to be granted in pure and perpetual alms. And also he has granted to the same canons &c. all the land and possessions &c. which he has of the fee of his father Thomas, in the parish of Willingall.' (6)

According to the Pedigrees at the College of Arms John was married to Katherine Battell/Bataille.

### **3. THREE THOMASES 1248 to 1297:** the reigns of Henry III and Edward I.

The son, grandson and the great grandson of John were all called Thomas. The first of the three Thomases was living in the 33<sup>rd</sup> year of Henry III (1248/9) when he appeared in a suit against one Robert Gregory, a villein who had run away (1). In 1274/5 he claimed to have View of Frankpledge in Shelewe and administration of the assize of bread and ale in the same town (2).

Thomas I was married to Matilda/Maud. The 1627 pedigree suggests that this was Maud Hyde. Elizabeth French in NEHGR wrongly suggest that this marriage brought Hyde Hall into the family. The Raven pedigree states, also probably in error, that Maud Hyde married Thomas's Grandfather Ralph; it would have been as his second wife. We only



know for certain that Thomas's wife was called Maud. The first Thomas probably died in about 1277. Maud married Nicholas de Villiers as her second husband and was still living in 1286/7 (3).

The second Thomas disposed of a part of the family lands in Scelewes and Willingall (4). He married Joan, the daughter of John le Blunt from the neighbouring Sawbridgeworth manor of Blunt possibly as his second wife as the College of Arms pedigrees have him also married to Alice Liston (5). He enfeoffed all his land in the Hide to John Horne (6).

He claimed to have View of Frankpledge in the manor of Shellows in 1284/85 (7). He died soon afterwards leaving two young sons, a third Thomas and Ralph, who were 11 or 12 years old (see notes for Ralph below). During the minority of young Thomas the rent from the Hyde was granted by the Tenant in Chief, Humphrey de Bohun, earl of Essex, to Sir Walter de Essex (8). In 1284 Ralph de Bygod, the executor of the will of Sir Walter, granted to Adam de Stratton the giving in marriage and the guardianship of the body of Thomas (9).

. The 1627 Pedigrees suggests that Joan married Thomas Marshall as her third husband: a Robert Marshall was in possession of the manor of Shellows in 1340/41.

A rental for the Hyde dated 1284, quoted in the Victoria History, shows that there was *'a house (curia) with garden and courtyard, 140 acres of arable land in the fields called Langeland, La Doune, Wrechewellefeld, Hallefeld, Hydewode, Suthfeld and Wodeleye; nine free tenants of whom four paid a yearly rent, another four paid a rent and owed suit of court, and one paid a rent and came to view of frankpledge on St. Andrew's Day and owed two capons at Christmas; six 'molmen' who paid rent and owed suit of court, two of them being tallaged with the customary tenants; and four customary tenants who paid a rent and two works a week from Michaelmas to the Gules of August (forty-one weeks), and five works in the summer for mowing 2 acres of meadow, and sixteen works from the Gules of August to Michaelmas for cutting 4 acres of corn and two acres of oats, and also paid eight eggs and owed tallage and redemption of their blood and suit of court.'*

**4. RALPH II, GEOFFREY I and RALPH III 1297 to 1383:** the reigns of Edward I, Edward II, Edward III and Richard II. The Black Death from 1349.

The life of Ralph II is exceptionally well-documented. He had livery of his father's lands in 1297 having proved his age (1). At the Inquisition Post Mortem (2) 'Ralph de Merk of Roothing.... stated that Ralph Jocelin, son of Thomas, was twenty-one years old on the Feast of St. Lucy the Virgin previous, that he was born at Shellow and was baptized in the church of Willingale Doe on the fourth day after his birth and that he, the deponent, held him at the font and gave him his name'. He held court at Shellows in 1298 (3). He held one and a half Knights fees in Shellow and Sawbridgeworth (4). He was a commissioner to collect tax in Hertfordshire for the war in Scotland (5). He was in arrears of 'ferm' (rent) for the manor of Spishe (probably the later Pishobury Manor, rebuilt in Tudor times and given by Henry VIII to Anne Boleyn) which he ("the lord Ralph") owed from the time when he was Keeper ('Custos') of the aforesaid manor by grant of the king.

The same document shows that he and his wife Matilda were jointly enfeoffed of the manor of Hide in Sawbridgeworth and a messuage and land in Scelewes before he became a debtor of the king (6).

The second Ralph was thus born in 1276 a year or two after his brother Thomas. Thomas III died a minor and Ralph II inherited his father's estates on reaching majority in 1297. The holding of an Inquisition Post Mortem confirms that he was tenant in chief of the manor of Shellows where he 'held court' in 1298 although some of his land was evidently still held in fee of the earls of Essex. He must have married Maud, the daughter of Sir John Sutton, when he was still a minor as his son Geoffrey was evidently born in 1293 (Geoffrey signed his first charter in 1314 when he must have been at least 21). Ralph seems to have died in about 1314. Maud survived him by some forty years marrying secondly Roger de Berners and dying in 1354.

As seems to have happened not infrequently during the minority of an heir, Ralph's inheritance may have been put into some peril during the guardianship of Adam le Stratton, a notoriously corrupt official of Edward I. Both The Hyde and Shellow Bowells are mentioned in later documents as coming to the Jocelin family as gifts of Sir John Sutton.

It is likely that Sir John Sutton became Ralph's guardian after the fall from grace of Adam le Stratton in 1290. As we have seen Ralph married Sutton's daughter Matilda while they were both minors and Shellow Bowells and The Hyde were returned to Ralph and Matilda by Sir John when they reached their majority. The widows of both Thomas I and Thomas II, both of whom remarried, had granted their rights of dower in The Hide and probably Shellows to Adam le Stratton (7) and it is possible that he had placed some kind of an entail or lien on the properties. A conflict over the tenancy of Shellow Bowells persisted until 1341 when it was resolved through the King's Court (see below) and sold to the incumbent tenant, Robert le Morlee, Marshall of Ireland.

Sir John de Sutton is listed as a knight of the shire of Essex attending Edward I's 1305 Parliament. He and his father Richard held the manors of Suttons in Stapleford Tawney and Theydon Mount in the early 14<sup>th</sup> century. A search for the Suttons through the British History On-Line shows that the Raven pedigree and a number of internet genealogies (which are not of course to be wholly relied upon) were probably right in proposing that he was the same person as the Sir John Sutton who inherited the castle and estates of Dudley Castle in Staffordshire through his wife Margaret de Somery. The first Baron Dudley, the great grandson of this Sir John de Sutton, carried the banner of Henry V back from France after the King's death and was an important figure in the Wars of the Roses in the Lancastrian cause; the Suttons were also direct ancestors of Elizabeth I's favourite Robert Dudley, earl of Leicester. The Sutton tenants who succeeded the Jocelins in the manor of Aston le Walls from some time before 1271 and held it until the 16<sup>th</sup> century were most likely a branch of the same family as Edward Sutton, Baron Dudley, levied a fine on the manor in 1531. This suggests an older connection between the two families.

Ralph's son Geoffrey was a witness to various charters from 1314 to 1361/2. In 14 Edward III (1340/41) there is a record of a 'proceeding and a suit which was in the court of the lord king, between Geoffrey Jocelin of Sawbridgeworth, plaintiff, and Robert le Marshall (7) and Margery his wife tenants of the manor of Shelewe Jocelin, which ought to descend to the aforesaid Geoffrey as son and heir of Ralph Jocelin by the terms of a gift made by John Sutton, knight, to the aforesaid Ralph and Matilda his wife'. Geoffrey in the same year made acquittance to Robert (referred to in an indenture of 1339/40 as Robert de Morlee, Marshall of Ireland) for money received for the purchase of the reversion of the manor of Scelewes; he gave up to Robert and Margery his right in the manor excepting a payment of £6 a year to his mother; Matilda also ceded them one messuage and certain land in Willingale (8).

In compensation Geoffrey seems soon after to have acquired the Tenancy in Chief of Great Hormead as he held his first court there 'on Friday next after the feast of St. Mark the Evangelist in the year of 16 Edward III' (26 April 1342). This is the only mention of the family's ownership of the manor of Great Hormead in the Edwintree Hundred of Hertfordshire.

We do not know the name of Geoffrey's wife: The Raven Pedigree suggests that she was Margaret daughter of Robert Rokell. There was a family connection: in 1407 Robert de la Rokell esquire gave up to Geoffrey's grandson Thomas Jocelin and others all his rights in the manor of Hyde Hall.

Matilda de Berners lived until 1354/5. Her son Geoffrey died sometime after the 35<sup>th</sup> year of the reign of Edward III (1361/62), when his name appears on a Charter relating to a land transfer. Both Geoffrey and Ralph his son evidently survived the Black Death.

Geoffrey's son Ralph III married Margaret the daughter and one of the heirs of John Patmer (9). In 1373/4 Ralph is recorded as holding a moiety of one knight's fee in the Hide near Sawbridgeworth. His name appears on various charters throughout the remaining years of the reign of Edward III and the first six years of Richard II. He granted to John Ketteringham and Joan his wife all lands and tenements in the marketplace of Sawbridgeworth in 1382/3 and there is a charter of the same Ralph for delivery of seisin of the aforesaid land in the same year (10). He seems to have died soon afterwards.

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## **5. THOMAS IV and GEOFFREY II 1383 to 1425**, the reigns of Richard II, Henry IV, Henry V and Henry VI.

In a charter dated the 8<sup>th</sup> year of Richard II (1384/5), Thomas the son and heir of Ralph Jocelin of Sawbridgeworth granted to Thomas Maudeule, knight, one piece of meadow &c. in the town of Sheering. A year later he was witness to a charter of Thomas Duke. He is mentioned also in a charter of 1396/7. In 1398/9 Stephen Frith and John Clerke gave

to Thomas Jocelin and others 12 acres of land &c. which they had of the manor of Hide of the feoffment of Geoffrey Jocelin &c. Robert de la Rokell, esquire, gave up to Thomas Jocelin and others all his right in the manor of Hydhall, with land &c, by a charter dated 18 October 1407. Finally, in a Charter dated in the 9th year of Henry IV (1407/8), John Goldington, lord of Hunsdon, and Thomas Jocelin and others granted to Geoffrey Jocelin the manor of Hide Hall in the parish of Sawbridgeworth. Thomas seems to have died soon afterwards.

The College of Arms pedigrees state that Thomas IV was married to Maude of Braintree. They had no surviving sons as Thomas's estates passed to his younger brother Geoffrey II.

Geoffrey's name is found on numerous charters as a principal or witness from 1388/89 to 1394/5. On 13 August 1394 there is an indenture between Thomas de Percy, steward of the king's household, and Geoffrey Jocelin, esquire, for the maintenance of Geoffrey with two archers to serve in the kingdom of Ireland. On the same day a document witnessed by King Richard II gave to Geoffrey Jocelin letters of protection of the king for half a year.

He returned safely from the wars and was concerned with further charters during the reigns of Richard II, Henry IV, Henry V and Henry VI. In particular, he was first witness in a series of charters concerning Shingle Hall between 1401/2 and 1410/11. A charter of Richard Ketteringham was witnessed by Geoffrey and his son Thomas in 1423/4. Robert House and others gave up their right in the manor of Hyde Hall by a charter dated on the morrow St. John the Apostle and Evangelist in the third year of the reign of Henry VI (28 December 1424). Three days later Geoffrey made a charter giving to John Berley and others his manor of Hyde Hall. A letter of attorney dated the following 4 January gave delivery of seisin of the manor in conformity with the charter. On 7 January following he made his will. Although Elizabeth French in NEHGR notes that 'it is now missing' Allnutt quotes a large extract from it which is of special interest as it marks the starting point for three branches of the family (1).

*'The last will of the aforesaid Geoffrey Jocelin, made on the Sunday in Epiphany, the 7<sup>th</sup> day of January 1424/5 and the third year of Henry VI, by which he willed that the aforesaid John Berley and others, his feoffees of the aforesaid manor of Hyde Hall &c, should surrender their right &c into the hands of Thomas Jocelin, his son and heir, to be held by him and by the heirs of his body in conformity with the charter made by John Sutton, knight, to Ralph Jocelin and Matilda his wife, daughter of the aforesaid John Sutton, knight, provided that Joan the wife of the same Geoffrey should have one third part of the manor aforesaid by way of dower &c. Item, he willed that his feoffees aforesaid should grant his other lands to Joan his wife for the term of her life; remainder therein to Geoffrey his son and to the heirs of his body; and (if these should fail) the remainder to William his son &c; the remainder to Ralph his son &c; and if (he should die without heir) then the remainder to Margery and Elizabeth his daughters (2).*

## 6. THE CHILDREN OF GEOFFREY II.

Geoffrey (d.1424/5) gave birth to three distinct branches of the family: the heirs of his eldest son Thomas V and the two lines descending from Geoffrey's second son, Geoffrey III, through his sons John II and Thomas VI. The elder Geoffrey's two younger sons William and Ralph IV had no surviving children. William may have become a clergyman; Ralph, as the youngest son, had to set out to make his own fortune which he did very successfully. He was a member of the Company of Drapers, sheriff, and auditor and elected Lord Mayor of London in 1467 and 1476. In 1471 he thwarted the attempt by Thomas Neville, 'the Bastard of Faulconbridge' to release Henry VI from captivity in the Tower. He died on 23 March 1478/9 leaving his nephew George as his heir. Nothing further is known of Geoffrey's daughters Margery and Elizabeth (1).

## 7. THOMAS V AND HIS HEIRS.

**Thomas's** name first appears with his father as a witness in a charter of 5 March 1423. He is the chief beneficiary of his father's will nearly two years later. In a charter of 1442 John Burley and others made over to George Jocelin, the son of Thomas the son of Geoffrey Jocelin of Sawbridgeworth the manor of Hyde Hall with all its lands &c.

Thomas probably died in that year. He was married according to the College of Arms pedigrees to Alice a daughter of Lewis Duke.

**George** seems to have been their only child. It is fairly certain that he was born in about 1428 as there is evidence that he was 50 or more at the time of the death of his uncle Ralph in 1478. He must have died in or after 1481/2 when his name is last seen as a witness on a charter. The College of Arms pedigrees state that he married Mathilda/Maud the daughter of Edmund Bardolph. They had three sons Ralph, John and Philip who became a clergyman.

George's name first appears as a witness on charters in the 23<sup>rd</sup> year of the reign of Henry VI 1449/50 when he must have attained the age of 21, although, as noted above, John Burley who had been given the tenancy of Hyde Hall by George's Grandfather Geoffrey II in 1424, gave it to George, then aged about 13, before his father Thomas's death in 1442. In a 1454/5 charter witnessed by Peter Arderne, Chief Baron of the Treasury and John and Thomas Leventhorpe, George gave the manor of Hyde Hall with all its lands &c. to Thomas Partrich; but this must surely have been a legal or financial manoeuvre as shortly afterwards Partrich gave it to George's uncle Ralph 'citizen and draper of London'. Hyde Hall remained in Ralph's possession until he willed it back to George his nephew and heir in 1478 who gave it to his eldest son Ralph two years later.

A number of charters suggest that George developed a land holding in Halingbury. In 1456/7 Nicholas Wright gave to Walter Wittell, George Jocelin and others lands and tenements in Halingbury; in 1480 John Gawser alias Wells granted George and Ralph his

son and others certain land in Halingbury; later in the same year Ralph Hamond gave to George and his son Ralph his right in land in Halingbury; and in 1490 (after George's death) Richard and William Clerke gave up to Ralph Jocelin and Katherine his wife, John Jocelin gent and Philip Jocelin clerk all their lands and tenements in Halingbury. Halingbury may have become their principal place of residence.

Elizabeth French in NEHGR notes that he was said to have been called 'Jocelyn the Courtier': it would have been in the unsettled courts of Henry VI and Edward IV.

With the coming of the Tudors in 1485 some ambitious members of the family became people of more than local importance. George's second son John (c.1460-1525) was evidently a person of outstanding ability and ambition. He amassed a large fortune. The manor and lands of Hyde Hall were passed to him by his nephew George a clergyman, the son and heir of John's elder brother Ralph. It is from this John of 'Newhall Jocelin in High Roding' that the senior line of the Jocelin family descends (1).

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## **8. GEOFFREY III AND HIS HEIRS.**

Geoffrey would have had the remainder of his brother's estate if Thomas had died without heirs. He would however have received a portion of Geoffrey II's inheritance on the death of his mother Joan. Assuming that the brass in Sawbridgeworth Church commemorates his father, we do not know the name of his wife. He may still have been a minor when his father died. He had two sons John and Thomas.

He was witness to a charter in 1439/40 and in 1444/5 was first witness in a charter of William Estfield, knight. In 1449/50 he was a witness with his nephew George of a charter between the lord Scrope of Battle and John Leventhorp. Finally, in 1452/3 he was witness to another charter of John Leventhorp again with his nephew George and with William Peche.

He had died by 9 January 1467/8 when John Bonke made a charter giving certain lands in Sawbridgeworth to John 'son of Geoffrey Jocelin deceased.' (1).

His eldest son is generally known as '**John of Sheering**' to distinguish him from 'John of Newhall Jocelin' in High Roding who was the second son of his cousin George. He was married to Ann, had three sons, Ralph, Philip and Geoffrey, and made his will on 27 March 1513, dying on the following 9 April.

A long and complex series of charters from 1513 show that 'divers lands' in Sawbridgeworth and Halingbury came to John through the wills or charters of his father and grandfather which he eventually passed on to his son Ralph. These lands then

reverted, after Ralph's death to his second cousin John of Newhall Jocelin. The latter John in his will of 1525 left all his property to his only surviving son Thomas, with reversion to his nephews and then to his kinsmen, John of Sheering's three sons Ralph, Philip and Geoffrey. Thomas lived on, and had heirs. This gathering of the family properties into the hands of a single heir, not necessarily the elder son but the one with most ability shows how the family managed to retain the same property of Hyde Hall in the family for over 700 years.

There is a story of uncertain provenance that John of Sheering fought in the Wars of the Roses for the Lancastrian cause and at one stage had his property confiscated by the Yorkists.

While both Ralph and Philip had male heirs, their descent peters out after the second or third generation. The descent from John of Sheering is through his third son Geoffrey and leads to the family of **Josselin of Little Horkesley** (1).

It is a fair assumption that Geoffrey III's second son Thomas was the **Thomas of Stortford** who died on 5 May 1514 leaving a wife Joan and sons John and Richard, although the only documentary evidence we have is John of Sheering's will of 27 March 1513 which names his brother Thomas as an executor.

Thomas of Stortford's elder son John left a will dated 9 January 1525 leaving a wife Eleanor; and a young family: John the elder, Simon, John the younger and Thomas his sons; Alice and Agnes his daughters; and Richard his brother. This line leads to the Joslin family which left for New England in 1631; Ralph Josselin of Earls Colne, the Diarist; and the Joslin families who lived in Felsted, Rayne and Braintree during the 17<sup>th</sup> century, some of whom later adopted the surname Joscelyne (2).

## The Appendices.

### **Appendix A: The Boseville family.**

Our interest in the family of de Boseville arises from the marriage of the Jocelin family's first certain ancestor Ralph to Beatrice de Boseville; and in the history of the properties which their son John Jocelin inherited when he came of age in the period 1223 to 1225.

The silent French 's', the frequent use by early scribes in Latin texts of the lower case 'u' instead of 'v', and the similarity between the letters 'e' and 'o' in many documents, has led to many variations of the name Boseville in documents of the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> centuries, among them Boseville, Bosville, Boville, Bouille, Bouil and Beseville, the last being closer to what is thought to be the place of origin of the family, Beuzeville-le-Giffard in Normandy (1).

Documents of the 12<sup>th</sup> century show that three generations of Bosevilles/Besevilles/Bovilles living in Essex and Northamptonshire from about 1130. There is also a related family living in Suffolk and Norfolk from the reign of Henry II as tenants of the Glanvilles. The origins in England of the Bosevilles and their parentage are unknown (2).

The first generation, Ralph, Hugh and William, is associated with three of the great names in the conflicts of King Stephen's reign: Earl Simon II de Senlis of Northampton, Geoffrey de Mandeville and Faramus de Tingry/de Boulogne, all supporters of the king during the years of anarchy. Ralph was an elder brother of Hugh; William was certainly a close relative, their contemporary and probably their brother.

A second generation appears in the Carta of William de Mandeville of 1166 and other documents transcribed from the Red Book of the Exchequer and from Henry II's Pipe Rolls 1164-1180. The Carta has Willelmus de Beseville (possibly a son of the elder William), Otvel de Boville and Lambeth de Buelle. The Essex Pipe Rolls have Otuel and William 1164 to 1169; Philip de Bouill in 1169-70 and Michael de Bosevill/Boesevill in 1176-77. Ralph II (Radulfus) de Beseville appears both in the Red Book and the Pipe Rolls in the manor of Springfield Hall from 1174 to about 1190. Robert the son of Hugh appears on a charter of Faramus de Boulogne possibly in 1156. Richard de Beseuill is in Northamptonshire Pipe Rolls in 1177- 1180.

A third generation consists of a third William, probably a son of the younger Ralph; a younger Robert, the son of Robert the elder, and his sister Maud; Thomas, a grandson of the elder William, and his sister Beatrice who married Ralph Jocelin; and a younger Richard in Northamptonshire.

The earliest references are to William. A William de Boeulla is located in Essex in the earliest extant Pipe Roll, that of 31 Henry I (1129/30). A charter of about 1130 between Faramus, son of William de Boulogne and Hugo son of Ulger about land in 'Afladewich,' is witnessed by William de Boseville(3). Some ten years later, King Stephen's famous



charter of 1141 restoring to Geoffrey de Mandeville the lands and tenancies taken from his father William by Henry I, refers to 'the service of William de Boseville for two knights.' This charter is quoted in full by R.H.Round in 'Geoffrey de Mandeville. A Study in Anarchy.' In a footnote, Round states that the reference is to the tenancy of Springfield Hall in the honour of 'Peverill of London'. William is also a witness to a charter (given in full in Round op.cit.) of Earl William II in 1166. There are further references to William in the Pipe Rolls 1165-1178 and in the Cartae Baronum of 1166. A charter of Thomas de Boseville granting the advowson of the church of Aston-le-Walls to the Friary of Chaucombe was in confirmation of his 'antecessor' William's charter. This establishes the connection between Thomas and Beatrice and William – probably their grandfather (4). William may have died between 1166 and 1177 when Ralph came into the possession of the tenancy of Springfield Hall although this long life span suggests that there may have been a second William between the elder William and Ralph his successor at Springfield.

In the period 1198-1202 Hugh de Burgh, the great civil servant of the reigns of King John and Henry III made a charter confirming the gift of his 'antecessor' William de Boseville of the church of Newton All Saints in Norfolk to the neighbouring Priory of Castle Acre. This suggests that the elder William had a daughter Alice who married the father of Hubert de Burgh. The Bosevilles were tenants of the Glanville family in Suffolk and Norfolk from the reign of Henry II; they held the manor of Letheringham in Suffolk of the Glanvilles. The 12-year-old son of Matilda/Maud de Colville (Robert's daughter) was a ward of Ranulph de Glanville in 1185. It is this which suggests that the families in Norfolk and Suffolk and in Carshalton in Surrey may have been related. In addition in 1186 Matilda/Maud and her second husband William le Fleming were involved in a Norfolk Fine (5).

Ralph appears with his younger brother Hugh in a charter of Earl Simon, which must date from the period 1138 to 1153 when Simon II de Senlis held the earldoms of Northampton and Huntingdon. In another charter probably of the same period Ralph and Richard (one guesses his son) gave a large fishpond to the Cluniac nuns of the abbey of Delapre on the outskirts of Northampton. This branch of the Bosevilles held land in the hamlets of Cotton-end and Far-Cotton in the parish of Hardingstone also just outside Northampton, most probably in the fee of Earl Simon. Richard de Beseuill who appears in the Northamptonshire Pipe Rolls 1177-80 may have been a son of the elder Richard (6). In 1223 Richard de Beseville and Joan his wife brought an assize of novel disseisin against 36 villagers of Ravensthorpe, north east of Northampton, who had cultivated and grazed their cattle on their fallow land without permission.

Hugh, his wife and his son Robert are all witnesses to a charter of Faramus de Boulogne (possibly of 1156) confirming his grandfather's gift of a hide of land in Balham to the abbey of Bec. The other witnesses to the charter are Faramus's brothers Simon and Eustace which gives the impression that the event was in the nature of a family affair. The holding of land in Carshalton by Robert's heirs and in Aston-le-Walls by William's heirs strengthens the impression that the Boseville brothers and Faramus were somehow related. Both of these properties were held before 1130 by William de Boulogne as a

tenant of the Mandevilles. William's father Geoffrey, an illegitimate son of Count Eustace II of Boulogne, had married Beatrice a daughter of Geoffrey I de Mandeville before 1086 and received the manor of Carshalton as a wedding portion. The tenancy of Aston-le-Walls seems to have been granted to Geoffrey or William de Boulogne by the Mandevilles at a later date (7).

Perhaps the mother of the three brothers was a sister of Faramus's father William de Boulogne. If this were so, the Bosevilles would have been descended from both the Boulogne and Mandeville families. But the evidence is purely circumstantial.

The most important figure of the second generation was Otuel de Boville. He is a witness to a charter of the same William of 1157-8 confirming a grant of land in Sawbridgeworth by William's tenant Warine Fitz Gerold and his brother Henry to Robert Blund of London; and is at the head of the list of tenants of William II de Mandeville in his 'Carta' of 1166 holding his land for the service of 6 knights. The charter of 1157/8 may locate him as a Mandeville tenant in Sawbridgeworth, possibly in the Hide. His unusual first name may relate him (perhaps as a godson) to Otuel Fitz Hugh who (succeeded by his son William) was tenant in chief of the Mandeville estates in Sawbridgeworth 1116-1141 (see Appendix B).

It may seem far-fetched to suggest that the variant spellings Beseville, Boville and Buelle (the latter probably a textual error for Bouelle or Boville) in the same text (William de Mandeville's Carta of 1166) refer to closely related members of the same family. But William, Otwell and Lambert had probably earlier possessed the three manors which John Jocelin held on reaching his majority in about 1225. Aston was certainly held by William de Beseville; the Hide was possibly held by Otuel de Bosville; and Selewes probably by Lambert de Buelle. The assumption must be that Ralph and Beatrice Jocelin had inherited all three properties before their deaths. During his minority John and his property would have been placed by the king or by their Tenant in Chief into the guardianship of their Northamptonshire neighbour William de Duston; William should have paid a substantial sum of money for the rights of guardianship and was then entitled to incorporate John's three properties into his extensive portfolio for the period of his minority. . They were among the properties taken into the king's hands after William's death as a debtor of the king in 1217/18. (8). They may then have been put in the hands of another guardian whose name we do not know; but we do know that they were restored to John when he reached his majority.

The principal place of residence of the Boseville family in Essex seems to have been the manor of Springfield Hall just outside Chelmsford which successive descendants of William de Boseville held for two knights' fees from the reign of Henry I until the reigns of King John or Henry III, about 100 years. Thomas Boseville and his sister Beatrice may have been younger children of William II; Springfield Hall would have gone to William's eldest son Ralph II and then to his son William III. There is a document of 1248/9 between the Prior of Blakemere, plaintiff, and Herbert a tenant of 100 acres in Shellows in which 'it is to be known that the aforesaid Herbert has given up to the aforesaid Prior all the charters and muniments which he had of the gift of John Jocelin, William de Springfield &c.' This William must surely have been John Jocelin's cousin William III

de Boseville. Why they gave all their charter's and muniments away to Herbert is a mystery. Their study would no doubt have solved a number of problems in the complex relationships of the Boseville family and their various land holdings which on present evidence we can merely guess at.

### **Appendix B: the de Mandeville Family.**

Geoffrey de Mandeville was one of the great magnates in England following the Norman Conquest. The bases of his wealth were the numerous properties previously owned by Asgar the Staller spread over 10 counties of England. His main wealth was concentrated in the county of Essex. He was Constable of the Tower and the Sheriff of four English counties. His origins in Normandy were relatively obscure but his services to King William were generously rewarded. He had two children at least: William succeeded him, and Beatrix married Geoffrey a natural son of Eustace Count of Boulogne. William succeeded his father as Constable of the Tower. In 1101 he incurred the wrath of King Henry I by allowing Ranulf bishop of Durham to escape and his properties in Walden, Great Walden and Sawbridgeworth were taken into the king's hands. After William's death in about 1116, his widow Margaret married Otuel an illegitimate son of earl Hugh of Chester; William's confiscated lands were given to Otuel; they were restored to Geoffrey II de Mandeville by King Stephen in 1141.

William had two children, Geoffrey II who succeeded him and Beatrix who married first Talbot and second de Say.

Geoffrey II was a major and treacherous figure in the anarchical years of King Stephen during which time he sided both with Stephen and the Empress Maud before becoming an outlaw in Ely and the surrounding marshes. At first a powerful supporter of King Stephen, in 1141 he received back from him the lands which his father had lost and was created earl of Essex. He had three sons Ernulf who was banished and disgraced after his father's death, Geoffrey III and William II who both succeeded their father in the earldom and were faithful servants and courtiers of Henry II. Neither had living heirs and the earldom lapsed.

The vast de Mandeville estates then passed to their aunt Beatrix de Say who had two sons by her second husband, William and Geoffrey de Say. A part of the manor of Sawbridgeworth passed with a part of the Mandeville estates to the younger son Geoffrey whose heirs possessed the manor later known as Sayesbury. The elder son William de Say received the larger part of the Mandeville inheritance in Sawbridgeworth and elsewhere. His heir was his daughter Beatrix. She married Geoffrey Fitz Piers de Lutegareshale who, coming from relatively modest circumstance in the manor of Cherhill in Wiltshire, became Justiciar of England under King Richard I and Chief Justiciar in the early years of King John.

Geoffrey Fitz Piers assumed the title of earl of Essex by the right of his wife (later confirmed at King John's Coronation) and inherited the larger part of the Mandeville lands. His two sons were Geoffrey and William. Geoffrey took the family name of de

Mandeville and succeeded to the earldom of Essex in 1213. He married Isabel Countess of Gloucester the divorced wife of King John. After Geoffrey's death in 1216 Isabel married thirdly Hubert de Burg, the trustee of her estate, as his second wife; however she died two months later. William died heirless in 1229 and the Mandeville inheritance then passed to his sister Maud who married Humphrey de Bohun 'the Surety,' earl of Hereford. In due course the earldom of Essex was again recreated for the de Bohun family who became earls of Hereford and Essex. The de Bohuns remained as tenants in chief of the Jocelin family in Hyde Hall into the 14<sup>th</sup> century, when the male line died out.

### **Appendix C. The de Boulogne family.**

Count Eustace II of Boulogne (d.1087), unlike Geoffrey de Mandeville, belonged to a family which was powerful before the Conquest: he was not dependant on King William's patronage although his properties in England were given him (and at one point taken away) by the King. He was the son of Count Eustace I of Boulogne and his wife Maud/Matilda a daughter of Lambert I Count of Louvain. Eustace II's first wife was Goda a daughter of Ethelred the Unready and a sister of King Edward the Confessor. His legitimate children, Eustace III, Godfrey and Baldwin were however born to his second wife Ida of Lorraine. Eustace III married Mary of Scotland a daughter of Malcolm III. He died in 1125 His only legitimate child, Matilda, then Countess of Boulogne, married Stephen of Blois, Count of Mortain later King Stephen (reigned 1135-54). Godfrey and Baldwin were notable Crusaders, Godfrey becoming Guardian of the Holy Sepulchre and Baldwin King of Jerusalem.

Geoffrey was an illegitimate son of Eustace II. Judging by the landholdings of his grandson Faramus, Geoffrey received from his father the tenancies of a number of manors in Essex. From his wife Beatrix, a daughter of Geoffrey de Mandeville, he received as a marriage portion the tenancy of 6 hides of land in Carshalton, Surrey. Through Beatrix at a later date, Geoffrey and his son William seem to have received the tenancy of other Mandeville lands, including the manor of Clapham, the remainder of the Mandeville lands in Carshalton (including the mill) and the manor of Aston le Walls and Appletree the last two of which passed into the de Boseville family.

Geoffrey's son William married twice, secondly to Noverca whose appearance as the stepmother of William's son Faramus on the Pipe Role of 1129/30 allows us to date William's death fairly exactly. By his first wife, whose name we do not know, he had three sons Faramus, Eustace and Simon.

Nothing further is known of Eustace and Simon. Faramus married Matilda and had a son William, who died before his father, and a daughter Sibyl. He was Guardian or 'Chatelain' of the Castle of Tingry near Boulogne sur Mer and was a benefactor of several monastic foundations including the Abbey of Bec, Ogbourne priory in Wiltshire (the administrative centre of the Abbey of Bec in England) and the abbey of St. Josse. He

was a vigorous supporter of his kinswoman Queen Maud during the reign of King Stephen, her husband, especially during the period when Stephen was held in captivity, and appears to have been guilty, as many of his contemporaries were, of some atrocities during the years of anarchy. However, he later managed to find favour with Henry II. He held the manors of Clapham and Wanborough in Surrey of the de Mandevilles, Magdelen Laver and Lambourn in Essex of the honour of Boulogne and also received the manors of Wendover and Eaton Bray in Buckinghamshire as gifts from Henry II. All of these, with the exception of Wanborough which he gave to Waverley Abbey, eventually went to his daughter Sybil de Fiennes. Sybil, often known as Sybil de Tingry married Enguerrand de Fiennes who died at the siege of Acres in 1191 during the Third Crusade.

Sybil was her father's heir by 1183/84. Her son William was in possession of the manor of Carshalton in the early 13<sup>th</sup> century. This William's great grandson, also William, sold the manor in the early 14<sup>th</sup> century to William de Ambesas the husband of Joan de Boseville, Hugh's great-great granddaughter.

Most internet genealogies of this family have Beatrix de Mandeville married to Geoffrey's half-brother Godfrey de Bouillon, later the Guardian of the Holy Sepulchre. This was very clearly not the case. They have confused the name 'Gaufridus' with 'Godfroi'.

**Early Jocelins.****(1) Pedigrees and the College of Arms.**

There is a good discussion of the problem of early pedigrees at [www.mediaevalgenealogy.org.uk](http://www.mediaevalgenealogy.org.uk) under 'Heralds' Visitations and the College of Arms'.

**(2) Joslanus de Engleby and his Family.**

K.S.B. Keats Rohan Domesday Descendants, page 446 quoting the Red Book of the Exchequer ed. Hall (1897) and The Book of Fees HMSO (1920-31) 192; and page 692 quoting the Feet of Fines, 10 Richard I, PR Society vol.12, p.227. Also, P.H Reaney Dictionary of English Surnames. The two Lincolnshire Final Concords are from 30 April 1245 and 20 October 1247, with references Case 130, File 32, No. 81 and File 33, No. 13. The first concerns Jocelin of Ryskinton who manages to reclaim the manor of Engleby for his lifetime; the second, also concerning land in Engleby, refers to Walter, Jocelin and Hugh, sons of Basil and to Basil's brother in law Jocelin Coteril.

**(3) Jocelins in Middlesex, Wiltshire and elsewhere.**

Richard son of Jocelin and his family are referred to in VCH Middlesex Vol. 3 pp. 36-41. There is mention of the same family, as descendants of Jocelin Fitzhugh in Daniel Lyson's 'An Historical Account of ... Parishes in the County of Middlesex ...' (1800). The Wiltshire Jocelins are referred to in VCH Wiltshire Volume VII pages 2, 8 and 81. The Wardens of Clarendon Forest are in Appendix B of Volume IV page 441. There are further references to this family in the Temple and Money-Kyrle Family Archives in the Wiltshire Record Office. The reference to Roger Jocelin is to be found at the Bath and NE Somerset Record Office BC 151/2/89; to Gilbert Jocelin in the Berkeley Castle Muniments BCM/B/1/1/83.

**(4) Ralph Jocelin and Beatrice Boseville.** Allnut quotes from 'The Fines of the Bench,' later to be called the 'Court of Common Pleas,' which has a case of 3 John (1201/2) between Ralph Jocelin, plaintiff, and Adam de Eston, tenant of land in Eston, Northamptonshire; and another in 4 John between Abraham the son of Ralph, and Ralph Jocelin and Beatrice his wife, tenants of land in Eston aforesaid. We know Beatrice to be a Boseville from Bracton's Notebook, a Collection of Cases in which John Jocelin under the guidance of his Guardian William de Duston seeks to reverse charters of Beatrice's grandfather William de Boseville and her brother Thomas Boseville granting the advowson of Eston to the abbey of Chaucombe.

**(5) Jocelins in Shellow Bowells.** The Victoria History of Essex in an edition probably published during the 19<sup>th</sup> century, notes that Shellow Bowells is 'a small parish on the south eastern extremity of the hundred of Dunmow bounded on the north by Roding Berners, and southwards by Willingale Doe. The name in records is written Shelewe, Schelewe, Schelowe, Scelga, Selges and Schelve. If, as is believed, what appears in the Domesday Book under Scelga refers to this parish, it was at that time much larger than at present, containing three large manors, holden by Eudo Dapifer, and Geoffrey de Mandeville, and had in the Confessor's reign, belonged to Harol Uluric, his undertenant, a freeman and others. At that time part of it extended to the Rodings, and much of it is supposed to have been annexed to the contiguous manor of Torrel's Hall in Willingale Doe. There is now only one manor and the house is near the church westward; its earliest possessors were a family named De Bowel, Boel, or Bowles, from whom it took its distinguishing appellation. Sir John Sutton succeeded, who gave it in 1301 to Ralph Jocelyn of Sawbridgeworth who married one of his daughters; Geoffrey Jocelyn his son made a grant of it to Robert le Marshall and Margery his wife during their lives; but it soon passed to the Torrel family.'

My research shows that Shellow Bowells was a possession of the Boseville/Boville family (of whom the other names are corruptions) from 1166 or earlier and that it passed into the Jocelin family through the marriage of the heiress Beatrice Boseville to Ralph Jocelin in about 1200. During the minority of Ralph's great great grandson Thomas it was taken over by his guardian Adam de Stratton and repurchased by John de Sutton after Adam's disgrace in 1190. Sutton returned it to his daughter Maud and son in law Ralph Jocelin. Maud married Roger de Berners as her second husband and had a son also Roger. It is from this family that Roding Berners is named.

(6). The village of Aston le Walls and the neighbouring hamlet of Appletree lie on the Oxfordshire border of Northamptonshire. At Domesday it was held by Mauger of Geoffrey de Mandeville. Later tenants of the Mandevilles were the family of Geoffrey de Boulogne, an illegitimate son of Count Eustace II of Boulogne, who married a daughter of Geoffrey de Mandeville. Their grandson William de Boulogne held it before his death in 1130. It seems to have passed perhaps as the gift of William's son Faramus de Boulogne to William de Boseville whose grandchildren Thomas and Beatrice held it towards the end of the 12<sup>th</sup> century. Whelan's Northamptonshire Directory 1881 edition is my only source for a history of this manor. His information was probably based upon the work of two earlier antiquaries Bridges and Baker writing in the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries.

(7). Rumeille. R.H. Round notes in a Study of Anarchy that this is an unusual name. Keats Rohan op.cit. has a Robert de Rumelio who came from Remilly, Manche, Normandy and held the barony of Skipton. His heir was his daughter Cecily who married William de Meschin of Egremont. She had two sons Ranulf and Matthew and two daughters Alice and Avis. Ranulf and Matthew must have predeceased their mother as the inheritance passed on her death in 1151/55 to their sisters. Keats Rohan notes separately a Matthew de Rumilly whose father's lands were confirmed to him in the Empress Maude's Charter to Geoffrey de Mandeville of 1141. He occurs as a benefactor of Biddlesdon priory to which he gave land in at Helmdon Northamptonshire, confirmed by Robert bishop of Lincoln in 1148/51. Given that this name is an unusual one, it seems likely that Goscelino de Rumeille was related to this family, although the exact line of descent is obscure.

(8). Joce de Botindon. Keats Rohan, Domesday Descendants page 342. She refers to W. Farrer, Honours and Knight's Fees (Manchester 1923-25); and Franklin, Cartulary of Daventry Priory (1988), No. 434.

### **John (1203-1248).**

1. The Henry III Fine Rolls Project. Reference C60/15. It is puzzling that Allnutt quotes a later order of Henry III dated 1225/6 in which Aston and Scelewes are taken from John Jocelin into the king's hands. This has not yet been recorded by the Fine Rolls Project. We know that John was a ward of William de Duston through a case quoted in Bracton's Notebook: A Collection of Cases. This is a key document as it shows that John's mother was Beatrice de Boseville and his grandfather William de Boseville. See Appendix A.
2. Quoted in Allnutt.
3. 'John the chaplain, son of Michael of Sawbridgeworth, has given to Simon, the son of Roger of the Hide, all the land which he held of John the son of Ralph Jocelin in the Hide.' (An undated Charter quoted in Allnutt).
4. Charter Rolls 1226 to 1257 page 166 HMSO. Quoted in The New England Historical and Genealogical Register (NEHGR) July 1917 page 237, footnote. Research of Miss Elizabeth French.
5. Patent Roll 14 Henry III (1229/30) (Allnutt). It is likely that 'William de Springfield' was William de Boseville a cousin of John whose family held Springfield Hall in the Honour of Peverill of London into the 13<sup>th</sup> century.
6. Quoted in Allnutt.

### **Three Thomases (1248- 1297).**

1. 'On the fourth day Thomas Jocelin sued against Robert Gregory, whom the same Thomas claims as his villein who has run away &c. And the aforesaid Robert did not come. Judgement that he should be attached.' 33 Henry III (1248/49); Roll 17 in the Treasury. (Allnutt).
2. Quoted in Allnutt.
3. See John note 6 above.
4. NEHGR 1917 page 237 citing Ancient Deeds vol.3 no. A5130 (HMSO).
5. 'Thomas son of Thomas Jocelin de la Hide has granted to John Horne &c. all his land of the Hide in the parish of Sawbridgeworth in Co Hertford'. (Allnutt).

6. 'Thomas the son of Thomas Jocelin de la Hide has granted to John Horne &c. all his land of the Hide in the parish of Sawbridgeworth in Co. Hertford.' (Allnutt).
7. 'Thomas Jocelin claims to have view of Frankpledge in the manor of Shelewes and enforcement of the assize of bread and ale' (Allnutt).
8. VCH Herts.
9. 'Ralph le Bygod, knight, executor of the will of Walter de Essex, knight, has granted to Adam de Stratton, clerk, the giving in marriage and the guardianship of the body of Thomas the son and heir of Thomas Jocelin' (Allnutt).

### **Ralph II, Geoffrey I and Ralph III (1297-1383).**

1. Calendar of Fine Rolls, vol. 1, p.392 HMSO; cited in NEHGR 1917 page 238.
2. The Calendar of Inquisitions Post Mortem, Edward I p.323 HMSO; cited in NEHGR 1917 page 238.
3. NEHGR 1917 page 238 unreferenced.
4. Calendar of Chancery Inquisitions Post Mortem, vol.1, no.1870; HMSO. Cited in NEHGR 1917 page 238.
5. Calendar of Patent Rolls, 1307 to 1313 p.184; HMSO; cited in NEHGR 1917.
6. 'Roger de Berners and Matilda his wife, who was the wife of Ralph Jocelin deceased, are exonerated from arrears of the ferm of the manor of Spishe which the lord Ralph owed from the time when he was Keeper ('Custos') of the aforesaid manor by grant of the king, because the same Roger and Matilda do not possess any lands that belonged to the aforesaid Ralph except the manor of the Hide in the parish of Sawbridgeworth and a messuage and land in Shelewe Jocelin, in which the same Matilda was jointly enfeoffed with the aforesaid Ralph before he became a debtor of the king.' The Exchequer Memorandum Rolls for 17 Edward II (Allnutt)
7. 'Nicholas Villiers and Matilda his wife, sometime wife of Thomas Jocelin, has given up to Adam de Stratton all their right in a third part of all the land of the Hide which at one time belonged to the aforesaid Thomas' (1286/7) Allnutt. 'Joan de la Le, late wife of Thomas Josselyn the elder released her rights of dower in he late husband's lands during the minority of the heirs of Thomas. NEHGR 1917 page 237.
8. Cited in Allnutt; unreferenced.
9. 'Geoffrey Jocelin, brother and heir of Thomas the son and heir of Margaret, the daughter and one of the heirs of John Patmere, the son and heir of John Patmere and Sarah his wife, the which John was the son of Philip.' 13 Henry IV (1411/12) (Allnutt).

### **Thomas IV and Geoffrey II (1383-1423).**

1. All these charters are quoted in Allnutt.
2. Although Elizabeth French in NEHGR says that Geoffrey's will 'is now lost' Allnutt quotes from it extensively. The dates of death of Geoffrey's sons Geoffrey and Ralph (1467 and 1478 respectively) show that Geoffrey's family was still quite young when he died in 1423/4. Geoffrey II himself was 57 or older at his death: he must have been at least 21 when he is first recorded as a witness to a charter in 1388/9. Likewise his eldest son Thomas first signed a charter in 1423 so he may barely have reached his majority when his father died. This seems to be confirmed by Elizabeth French in NEHGR who says without quoting her sources that Thomas married in 1426 and his only son George was born in 1428. The College of Arms pedigrees state that Geoffrey II married twice, his first wife being Catherine the daughter of Thomas le Bray and the second Joan - who is the executrix of his will. Both the pedigrees state that his children were born to Catherine. It is possible that Geoffrey married Catherine as a young man; that she died without bearing him children; and that he married secondly Joan. It is equally possible that we should trust what the pedigrees say and accept that he married Joan to look after his young family after Catherine died, possibly in childbirth. In either case the marriage from which his children were born must have taken place in about 1400.



The year of Geoffrey's death on the Sawbridgeworth Brass has long been obscured. It was recorded by Weever in his 1631 publication *Ancient Funeral Monuments of Great Britain, Ireland and the Lands Adjacent* as M cccc lxx (1470). Neither Geoffrey II nor Geoffrey III died in that year. The date was wrongly transcribed by Weever: he did not have a good reputation in this respect. Elizabeth French in NEHGR concludes that Catherine and Joan were the names of the wives of Geoffrey III. This, it seems to me, is possible but unlikely.

The Raven pedigree gets Geoffrey II's sons wrong, omitting Geoffrey III and calling his clergyman son a second Thomas rather than William. The 1627 pedigree includes Thomas, Geoffrey, Margery and Elizabeth but omits William and Ralph.

## **6. Thomas V and his heirs.**

(1). The charters are quoted in Allnutt. I have also consulted Elizabeth French NEHGR and the College of Arms pedigrees.

## **7. Notes for Geoffrey III and his heirs.**

(1) A pedigree of the family of 'Josselyn of Little Horkelesley' was published in 'Genealogical Memoranda showing the Armorial Bearings of the family of Josselin' signed by A.S.Scott-Gatty the York Herald at the College of Arms on 30 September 1902. It opens with John of Sheering. This pedigree is preceded by 'The Josselyn pedigree from A.D.1200 to A.D. 1470' based, it says, on a comparison of the pedigrees in Clutterbuck's and Chauncey's "Histories of co. Hertford", Morant's "History of Essex", Lodge's "Peerage of Ireland", and Harleian "Visitations of Essex". This surprisingly is less reliable than other published pedigrees, although it does pick up on a characteristic howler by Lodge.

(2). The key documents here are the wills of John of Sheering and Thomas of Stortford which are quoted in Allnutt but were evidently not found by Elizabeth French. Allnutt does not indicate where the originals are stored – perhaps in the UK National Archives at Kew. Elizabeth French guessed that the brothers John the elder and Simon of Fyfield were the sons of Ralph a grandson of John of Sheering through his eldest son, also Ralph. It really was a guess as she offers no evidence to support this descent. Further evidence that we now may have the correct descent for the American Joslins and the Joslins of Rayne is given in the wills of John of Stortford and his wife Eleanor (later married to Neville), the former quoted in Allnutt and the latter in the Essex Record Office. Although it is not possible to prove that Thomas the brother of John of Sheering who was an executor of John's will is the same person as the Thomas of Stortford who made his will in the following year, it is a reasonable assumption.

## **Appendix A: The Bosevilles.**

(1). This is suggested in Keats Rohan: *Domesday Descendants*. The pronunciation may have been 'Berzvil' or 'Bervil.'

(2). Lambert held the manor of Scelga, later Selewes, in Essex of Geoffrey de Mandeville at Domesday. The *Victoria History of Essex* states that the manor's 'earliest possessors were of a family named De Bowel, Boel, or Bowles'. It is however speculative to suggest that the Lambert of Domesday was an ancestor of the Lambert de Buelle of the Cartae Baronum of 1166. Keats Rohan *op.cit.* suggests that the Bosevilles descended from Robert de Boseville who attested a charter of William de Warenne in c.1101. A separate but perhaps related family of Bosevilles lived in Yorkshire.

(3). Quoted in 'Les Ancetres de Faramus de Tingry' by Marcel Fournet. His reference is to British Museum Additional Charters 28345. The dating of the various charters in M. Fournet's article should be treated with caution.

(4). Bracton's Notebook: a Collection of Cases edited by F.W. Maitland (CUP 1887) includes a case concerning John Jocelin's plea to have the advowson of the parish of Eston (Aston-le-Walls) restored to his

family. John Jocelin was at the time of this case a minor in the custody of William de Duston who had appointed a clerk to this benefice in John's name. The case refers John's his uncle, Thomas de Beseville, the brother of Beatrice, who had confirmed a charter of his 'antecessor', certainly his grandfather, William de Beseville, granting the advowson of Aston to the Friary of Chaucombe.

(5). The Glanvilles and their Boseville/Boville/Beseville tenants are extensively treated in 'Records of the Anglo-Norman House of Glanville from A.D. 1060 to 1880' by Wm. Urmston Searle Glanville-Richards. London 1882.

An entry in a Pipe Roll of 6 Richard I (1196) reads:

*'William de Glanville owes 100 marks for having custody of the heir of William de Boville whose estate they have with the land of Glorestorp and Rawenna.'* (The 12 year old son of Matilda de Colville, Robert de Boseville's daughter, was a ward of Ranulf de Glanville in 1185 quoted in Keats Rohan op.cit.).

In the Norfolk Feet of Fines for 9 Richard I (1198) there is a petition of Wltn de Basingeha against Will Fleming and Mathilda de Beseuill *'tenets de feod dimid milit in Matelaskes.'*

(6). The 12<sup>th</sup> century charter of Earl Simon of Northampton to which Ralph de Bosseuill and his younger brother Hugh were witnesses is in the Northampton Record Office.

The donation of the fishpond is mentioned in a History of Delapre Abbey by the Rev. R.M.Sarjeanston (1909). It was a House of Cluniac nuns. The Foundation Charter dates from the reign of Edward III: it includes lists of the various benefactions made to the abbey from its foundation by Earl Simon during the reign of King Stephen.

The placing of the Boseville family in Hardingstone comes from the work of the learned antiquary John Bridges 1666?-1724: 'The History and Antiquities of Northamptonshire compiled from the manuscript collections of the late learned antiquary John Bridges Esq. by the Rev. Peter Whalley late Fellow of St. John's College Oxford. 2 volumes, 1791.' Available in the Northants public library system.

(7). An internet article 'Les Ancetres de Faramus de Tingry' by Marcel de Fournet quotes the full charter in a French translation:

*'A tous les fideles de l'Eglise, tant les vivants que ceux a venire, Faramus fils de Guillaume de Boulogne ville chretienne, vous salue:*  
*Sachez fraternellement que je reconnais et fais don d'une partie de ce que m'ont legue mes Ancetres, c'est-a-dire ce que Gaudefroi, fils du compte Eustache de Boulogne, mon grand-pere, et Guillaue de Boulogne son fils, mon pere, ont fait pour la Sainte Eglise du Bec, c'est-a-dire d'une hide de terres situees a Balham (Belgheham), qui devait demeurer a Clapham, tranquille et delivree de toute servitude en ce qui me concerne ainsi mes heretiers. Je cede cette donation de mes predecesseurs pour le salut de mon name et de leur, a la Sainte Eglise precedement nomme Marie de Bec.*  
*Pour cette donation, j'eus comme conseillers et temoins: mes freres Eustache et S imon, Hugo de Boseville et son epouse, et Robert le fils en personne de Robert de Boseville, Bauduin Richetale'.*

(My guess is that Bauduin Richetale signed on behalf of Hugh's son Robert as he was not yet 21; we know that Robert's daughter Maud was born in 1158 and it is fair to calculate that Robert was probably in his 20s at the time. M.de Fournet dates the charter at 1154. As English charters were not dated, dating is often difficult and we cannot rely upon 1154 as being correct without corroborative evidence. But given Robert's age it may not be far off.)

The Beseville/Boseville family holdings in Carshalton are extensively dealt with in the Victoria History of Surrey Volume IV, pages 178-88. Robert married Albreda de Tresgoz the daughter of the chief tenant and tax collector of the Honour of Peverill of London of which the Beseville family held the manor of Springfield Hall. Albreda had two children Robert and Maude/Matilda who shared the family inheritance in Carshalton between them. Maude married first Gilbert de Colville and second William le Fleming. In 1185 she was aged 27 a widow with 7 children; the eldest boy aged 12 and a ward of Ranulf de Glanville. (Keats Rohan op. cit.).

The only source I have discovered for the manorial history of Aston le Walls is Whelan's Directory of Northamptonshire (1878). This shows William de Boulogne as a tenant of the Mandevilles. It is not mentioned elsewhere as a Boulogne tenancy of the Mandevilles. The Northamptonshire County Archivist notes that ' there are no recently published histories of Aston : the standard treatment is to be found in the works of the antiquarian county historians John Bridges and John Baker who published in 1791 and 1822 respectively. The details...in Whelan will undoubtedly (have been) based on these.'

**(8).** The Henry III Fine Rolls Project has transcribed and translated a number the Orders of Henry III taking properties in various counties out of the hands of William de Duston (John Jocelin's guardian) into the king's hands in 1218. The fruits of the Project, still in progress, have been digitalized and are available on the internet.