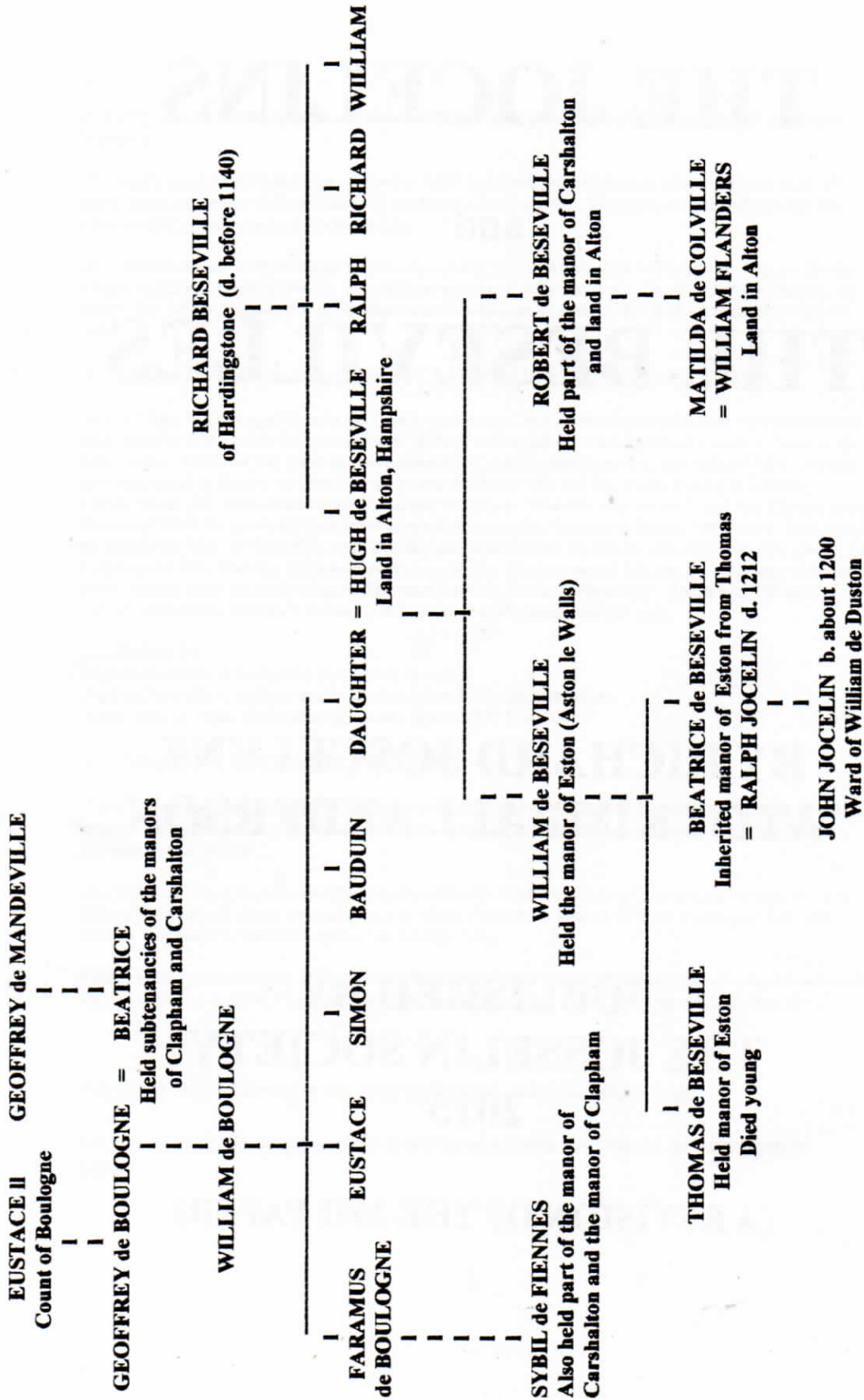


THE JOCELINS
and
THE BESEVILLES

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The Jocelins and the Besevilles

The present Paper is a new version of 'The Besevilles, the Jocelin family and their Inheritance' published by the Josselin Society in 2011. The changes are due to a recent addition to the list of corrections to Keats Rohan's Domesday Descendants (1) and to further thoughts about Beatrice de Beseville's parentage. These and the results of further research and reflection have led to a good deal of rewriting and the discarding of material obviously no longer relevant. A number of new references come from Charles Cawley's Medieval Lands hosted on the website of the Foundation for Medieval Genealogy.

The correction to Domesday Descendants points out that the list of family witnesses in the Charter of Faramus de Boulogne, confirming his grandfather's gift of land in Clapham to Okeborn Priory, includes Faramus's sister and her husband, Hugh de Beseville, as well as their two children, William and Robert. The Charter thus clarifies the relationship of this William de Beseville of Eston in Northamptonshire to Hugh de Beseville; he was his son, not his brother.

I am grateful to Kimball Anderson for bringing both these items to my attention and for much help besides.

These corrections together lead to the conclusion that the Beatrice de Beseville who married Ralph Jocelin in about 1199, was a direct descendant through her grandmother of both Eustace II, Count of Boulogne, and Geoffrey I de Mandeville, major figures in the Norman Conquest.

Boville, Beseville and Boseville.

It is probable that Boville, Beseville and Boseville are variant spellings of a name originating in the town of Beuzeville in Normandy and that the families bearing them descend from Saswal de Bovila or his son William, both recorded in the Domesday Book of Suffolk.

One supposes that the names were pronounced *bersevil* or, with the silent French's' *bervil*. Boville, Beseville, Boseville and a number of other variants were all used during the 12th century although Beseville is more common in the later part of the century.

There is evidence of three family groupings.

The first group seems to have moved from Suffolk to Essex in the reign of Henry I, although some of this family evidently remained in Suffolk. The first

William is mentioned posthumously as an unpopular tax collector in Essex in the earliest Pipe Roll (1129-30). The ownership of the manor of Springfield dates from the reign of Henry I and would certainly have been purchased by this first William. His son, also William ('Will de Bovila'), who is mentioned in a charter of King Stephen in 1141, also held this manor. It must certainly have been held by William's son Otuel, who held 6 ½ knight's fees of Geoffrey III de Mandeville in 1166. His possible sons or grandsons, Phillip, Ralph, Michael and William lived in Essex in the last 40 years of the 12th century; a William is in possession of Springfield Hall in 1200 and in 1212 (2).

A second group descends from Robert Boseville, who attested a charter of William II de Warenne in 1100. His family seems to have moved northwards to Yorkshire (3).

A third group descends from Richard Beseville of Hardingstone in Northamptonshire, probably a subtenant of the earls of Senlis. He probably died before 1140. Three of his sons, Ralph, Richard and William, were benefactors of the Abbey de Pre, a nunnery, which was founded by Simon II de Senlis in 1143.

A fourth son Hugh de Bosseuill witnessed a charter of Earl Simon with his elder brother Ralph. (4).

The Charter of Faramus de Boulogne (5)

It is this fourth son Hugh de Boseville who married a sister of Faramus de Boulogne and thus became an heir to the lands of Faramus's father William.

Faramus de Boulogne came from a family of some considerable distinction. His lineage is made clear by the Charter, which refers to his father William, his grandfather Geoffrey, and his great grandfather Eustace II Count of Boulogne (6).

His grandfather Geoffrey had married Beatrice, the daughter of Geoffrey I de Mandeville. Geoffrey de Mandeville gave, with the hand of Beatrice, a marriage portion consisting of the subtenancies of the manors of Clapham and Carshalton in Surrey, and Eston in Northamptonshire. Parts of the manor of Clapham were then given by Geoffrey de Boulogne to the Priory of Okeborn, a minor house of the Abbey of Bec (7).

The purpose of the Charter was to confirm this gift to the Priory.

The Charter, written in about 1160, is signed by seven 'Concessores et Testes' (8), all of them Faramus's siblings or husbands and children of siblings. They were Faramus's three brothers (Eustace, Simon and Bauduin), his sister (unnamed), and brother in law Hugh de Beseville and their two sons William and Robert.

The family of Hugh de Beseville.

Hugh must have been born in the first 15 years of the 12th century (9).

Hugh and his wife, a daughter of William de Boulogne, had two sons, William and Robert. William (10) inherited the Manor of Eston (now Aston le Walls) in Northamptonshire; Robert inherited part of the Manor of Carshalton in Surrey, the other part being held by Sybil de Fiennes, the daughter and only surviving child of Faramus. (Sybil also inherited the manor of Clapham, part of which as we have seen was given to the abbey of Bec. She also gave another part of this inheritance to the abbey by a separate charter. The gift is today remembered in the south London suburb of Tooting Bec).

William's children Thomas and Beatrice, and Beatrice's son John Jocelin.

Our knowledge of this part of the family is based on one of Bracton's Cases of 1221 (11).

William had two children, Thomas and Beatrice. Thomas was still a minor when his father died and was made a ward of Hugh de Chaucombe. Thomas died a few years after reaching his majority and Beatrice inherited the manor of Eston from him; her marriage to Ralph Jocelin brought the manor into the Jocelin family.

Beatrice died in 1206, and Ralph Jocelin in 1212. John was still a minor and became the ward of an ambitious Northamptonshire neighbour, William de Duston.

William de Duston seems to have set out to enhance the profitability of his ward's estates. The estate had included the advowson of the parish of Eston, but John's grandfather William de Beseville had been the last person to present a cleric to the Living. Hugh de Chaucombe, Thomas's guardian, founded a

Priory at Chaucombe. When Thomas reached the age of 21, he made a gift of the advowson of the Parish of Easton to the Priory. However William de Duston appointed a Clerk to the Living in John Jocelin's name. The Priory disputed his right to do so. In his defence, John stated that his uncle Thomas had been under undue pressure from Hugh de Chaucombe to make the gift. But the Court found against John.

Apart from the intrinsic interest of the story, the value of this Case to this Paper of course is that it allows us to trace the ancestry of John Jocelin back through his uncle Thomas de Beseville to his grandfather William.

A Family Dispute.

In 1198 a Feet of Fine (12) records the purchase by Hugh de Beseville of three hides of land in Alton in Hampshire. A year later his son Robert passed this land on to William Flanders and William's wife, Matilda de Coleville, who were his son-in-law and daughter.

A Pipe Roll of 1203 (13) show Ralph and Beatrice Jocelin claiming their rights on this land against William and Matilda (Beatrice's first cousin). The fee for this injunction, one palfrey (or presumably its equivalent in cash), was only paid in full nine years later. Ralph and Beatrice do not therefore seem to have pursued the injunction very seriously; perhaps an out of court settlement was made.

William had certainly died before his brother Robert passed the land on to his daughter; Thomas would also have died. It seems therefore that Ralph and Beatrice may well have felt left out of the loop when it came to the settlement of her grandfather's estate.

Richard Joscelyne with Kimball Anderson 2013.

Notes.

(1). 'Domesday People' by K.S.B Keats Rohan, published by the Northridge Press in 1999. The amendments are published by The Foundation for Medieval Genealogy available on the Internet,

(2). William's dispute with Hasculf de Tany which is recorded in the Pipe Roll of 1229/30 links him to Otuel. Otuel held a knight's fee 'of old enfeoffment' (i.e. from the reign of Henry I) of Hasculf's son recorded in Henry II's Cartae Baronum of 1166 (Red Book of the Exchequer). The charter of King Stephen is given in full by Round in 'Geoffrey de Mandeville, a Study in Anarchy'. A footnote reads: 'what is here granted is the manor of Springfield Hall which William de Beseville held of the honour of Peverel of London by the service of two knights.' It is the ownership of this manor that holds this line of family together.

(3). Domesday Descendants page 341.

(4). King Edward III's Charter of the Abbey of la Pre listing the benefactions is transcribed in Dugdale's Monasticon Anglicanum, volume V, page 208. There is also a 12th century charter (now in the Northampton Record Office) of Earl Simon II de Senlis, earl of Northampton and Huntingdon, which was witnessed by Ralph de Bosseuill and his younger brother Hugh. Simon II held the earldom from 1138 until his death in 1153 and founded the Abbey in 1143. The Beseville benefactions to the Abbey can therefore be dated within the ten years 1143-1153

(5). Dugdale, Monasticon Anglicanum, volume IV, Priory of Okeborn, reads:

' Carta Farami filii Willielmi Boloniae.

Omnibus fidelibus ecclesiae, tam presentibus quam futuris, Faramus filius Willielmi Boloniae, quae est in Christo, salutem.

Notum sit fraternitati vestrae, quod ego recognosco et ex parte mea concedo donationem quam antecessores mei, scilicet, Gaufridus filius comitis Eustacii de Bolonia, avus meus, et Willielmus de Bolonia, filius ipsius, pater meus, fecerunt ecclesiae Sanctae Mariae Becci, scilicet unam hidam in Belghem, quae pertinebat ad manerium de Clopham, in elemosinam in perpetuum possidendam, solutam et quietam ab omni servitio quod ad me et ad haereditatem pertinet.

Hanc donationem antecessorum meorum concedo pro salute animae meae et ipsorum antecessorum meorum, praefatae ecclesiae sanctae Mariae Becci. Hujus concessionis meae fuerunt concessores et testes fratres mei, Eustacius, et Simon, Hugo de Bosevilla, et uxor ejus, et filii ipsius Willielmi et Robertus de Bosevilla, Baldvinus Richetala. Item ex parte ecclesiae testes fuerunt.....'

(6). Faramus de Boulogne was a notable figure during the reigns of both Stephen (he was a cousin of King Stephen's Queen Matilda) and of Henry II. He was Constable of Dover Castle under Stephen, Chatelain of the Castle of Tingry near Boulogne and an important landowner in Buckinghamshire, Cambridgeshire Essex, Somerset and Surrey. His grandfather Geoffrey de Boulogne was an illegitimate son of Count Eustace, although his illegitimacy has been questioned (Cawley), and thus a half-brother of Godfrey the famous Crusader, and Baldwin, the first King of Jerusalem.

(7). A charter of William I of England confirmed the donations in Balham and Walton by Geoffrey, son of Count Eustace with the consent of Geoffrey de Mandeville. The Domesday Book records 'land held by Geoffrey son of Count Eustace of Carshalton' adding that 'Geoffrey de Mandeville gave him this land with his wife.' (Cawley). The Survey of Northamptonshire (begun in the reign of Henry I, but additions were made during the reign of Henry II) reads 'In Estone et Apeltreya William de Bolonia VII hid de feudo comitis de Mandevilla.' This indicates that Eston and Apeltre must have formed part of the Wedding Gift.

(8) This is an important phrase because it states that the people named were not only witnesses but also held rights in the property they conceded through the Charter. Eustace was a clergyman. Simon was eventually given the sub-tenancy of Martock in Somerset, with Sybil de Fiennes as tenant in chief; Bauduin (Baldwin) was also a clergyman: Archdeacon of Sudbury (1143) and then Norwich (1164). He witnessed a charter

(1145/47) with his brother Eustace under which Queen Matilda ratified her gift to the church of Witham (Cawley).

(9). Hugh's second son Robert was married in 1155. It follows that Hugh must have been born some 40 years earlier. He seems to have lived until 1198 (see 12 below), which suggests he was well into his 80s when he died, a very great age for those days.

(10). William signed another charter of Faramus ceding land in Afladewich to Hugh, son of Ulger (British Library additional charters 28345). His children were born quite late in his life. John Jocelin was born in about 1200, which suggests that his mother Beatrice was born in about 1180. William may have married twice.

(11) Bracton's Notebook: a Collection of Cases edited by F.W. Maitland (CUP 1887).

'In 1222 John Joscelin sued to have the right to present (*a Clerk*) to the church of Easton, co Northampton. John stated he was a minor in the custody of William de Duston who had appointed a clerk to this post in John's name. However, the prior of Chaucombe stated that Thomas Beseville, the uncle of John Joscelin, gave the church of Easton by charter to the priory of Chaucombe and that Hugh, Bishop of Lincoln, confirmed the gift. John Joscelin responded that Thomas de Beseville was his uncle and that Thomas made his charter while he was in the custody of Hugh de Chaucombe, founder of Chaucombe Priory. John stated his antecessor, Wm. de Beseville, presented the last person before the charter was made [no date given]. In a subsequent 1224 Hearing, three men swore on oath that Thomas was of full age and held lands and was not in custody when he made the gift. The court found in favour of the Priory'. (Hugh was bishop of Lincoln 1186-1200; Thomas's charter must have been made during that period).

(12). Richard 10.

Hugh de Boseville v. Alexander de Wicford in Aulton

Hugh de Boseville v. William the Prior of St. Mary Sudiwerk in Awelton.

(Surrey Feet of Fines. National Archives ref. 25/1/225/3, 33 & 45).

(13). Pipe Roll for Hampshire for 5 John (1203).

'Nova Oblata. Radulphus Joscelin et Beatrice uxor eius debent j palfredum, pro habenda recto de iij hidis terra cum pertinentiis in Aulton versus Willielmus Fleming et Matildem uxorum eius, quas clamat tenere pro feodum dim militis'.

New Offering. Ralph Joscelin and Beatrice his wife owe 1 palfrey (7 marks), for having the right to three hides of land with all things belonging to it in Alton, Hampshire, against William Fleming and his wife Matilda who claim to hold the land for half a knight's fee.

Further entries continue until 1212, probably the date of Ralph's death. Beatrice's name is mentioned in all the documents up to 1206. I have presumed this is the date of her death. The debt was settled in 1211.

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