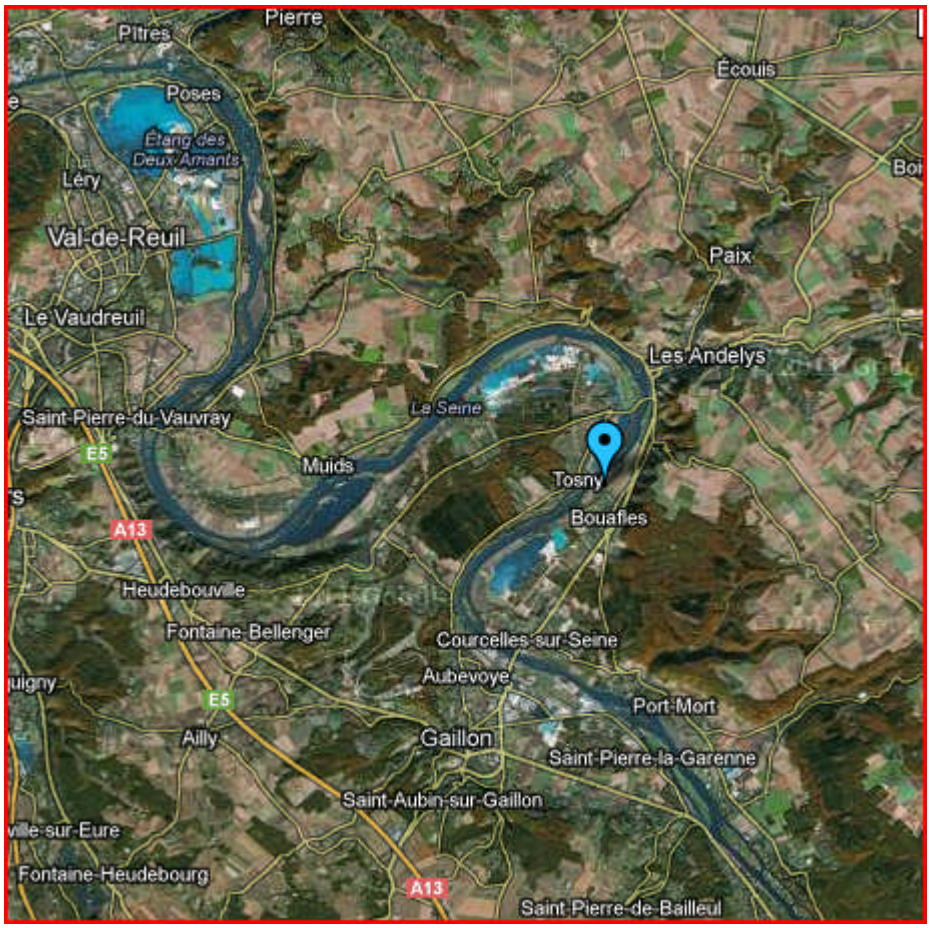
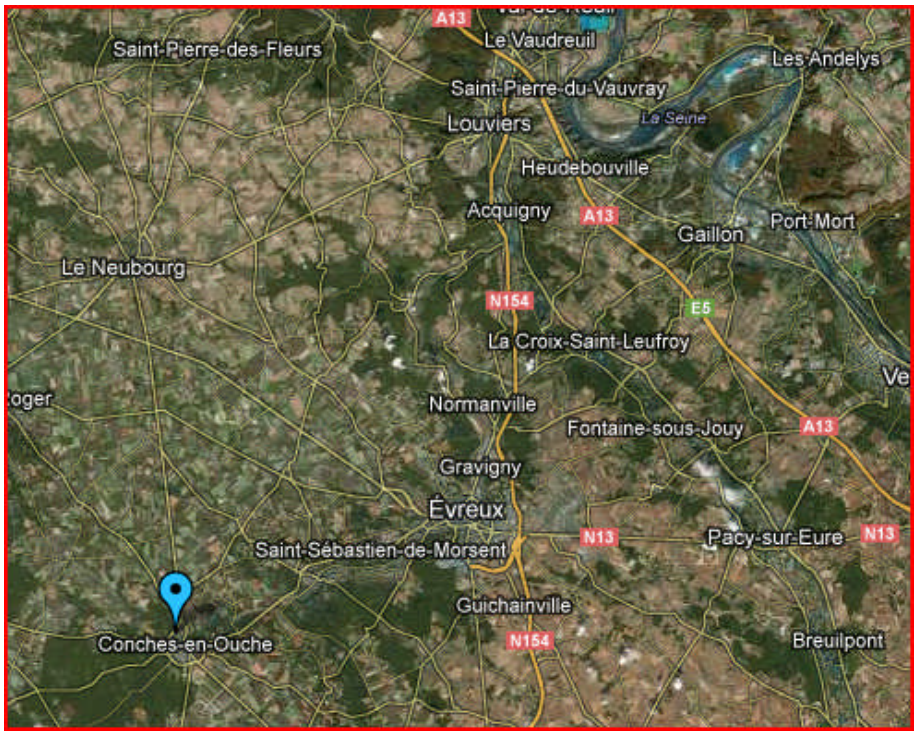
# De TOSNY - Visuals

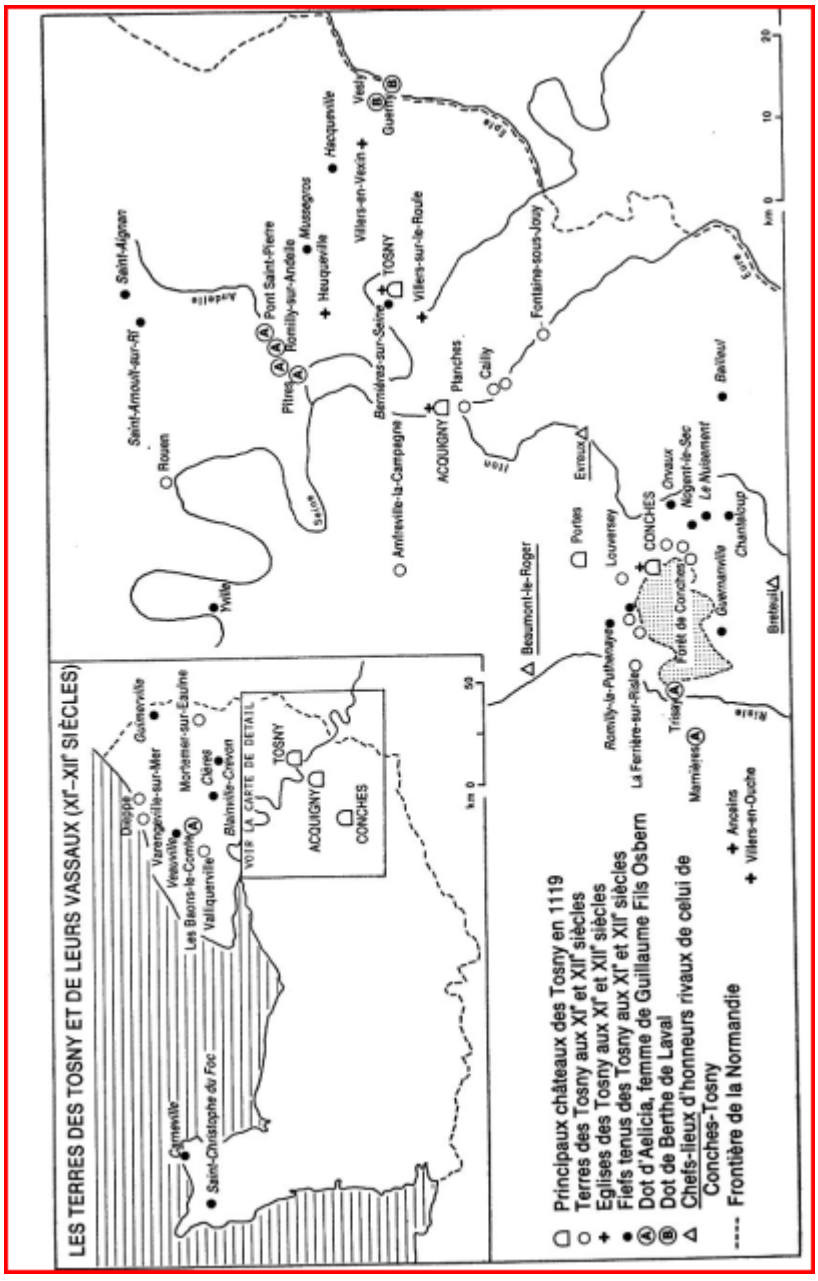
## Normandy France

Maps:

Above, street map, below, satellite maps of Tosny and vicinity.

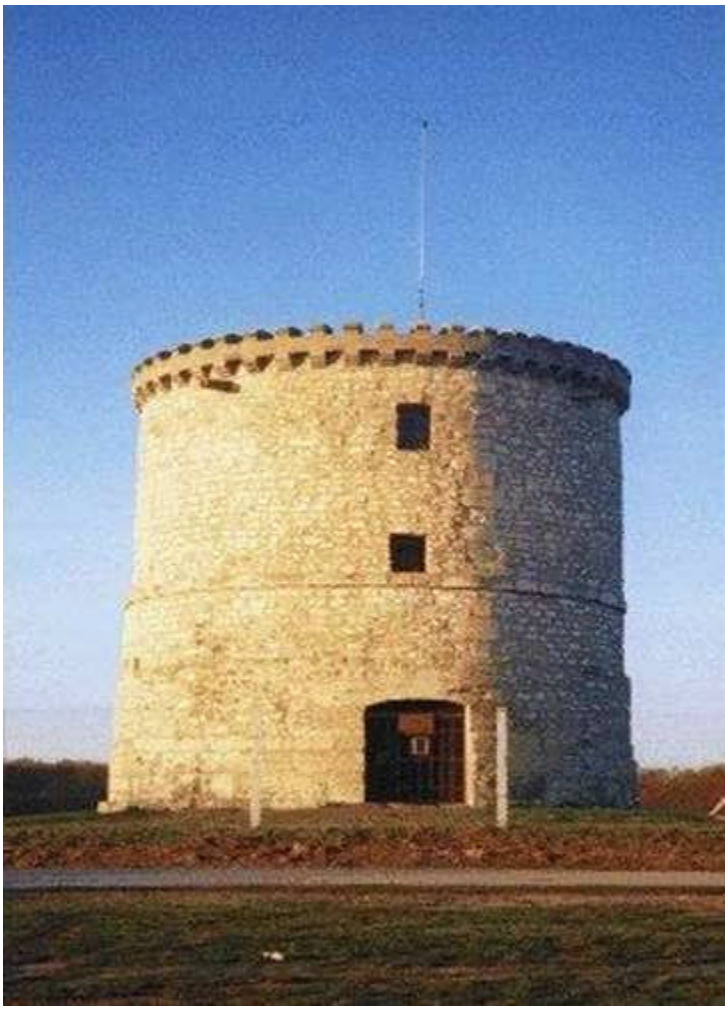

Pitres
Pierre
Écouis
Poses
Étang des Deux Amants
Léry
Val-de-Reuil
Paix
Le Vaudreuil
Les Andelys
La Seine
Saint-Pierre-du-Vauvray
E5
Muids
Tosny
Bouafles
A13
Heudebouville
Fontaine-Bellenger
Courcelles-sur-Seine
Aubevoye
E5
Port-Mort
Ailly
Gaillon
Saint-Pierre-la-Garenne
Saint-Aubin-sur-Gaillon
Fontaine-Heudebourg
A13
Saint-Pierre-de-Bailleul


A13
Saint-Pierre-des-Fleurs
Le Vaudreuil
Les Andelys
Saint-Pierre-du-Vauvray
La Seine
Louviers
Heudebouville
Acquigny
A13
Gaillon
Port-Mort
Le Neubourg
N154
E5
La Croix-Saint-Leufroy
Normanville
Fontaine-sous-Jouy
A13
Gravigny
Évreux
N13
Pacy-sur-Eure
N13
Saint-Sébastien-de-Morsent
Guichainville
Conches-en-Ouche
N154
Breuilpont




***Tosny Lands, Villages, Castles***

Pictures:



***Tour de Tosny along Route de Gaillon, on western outskirts of Tosny***

***Donjon built 1035 by Roger de Tosny at Conches-en-Ouches***

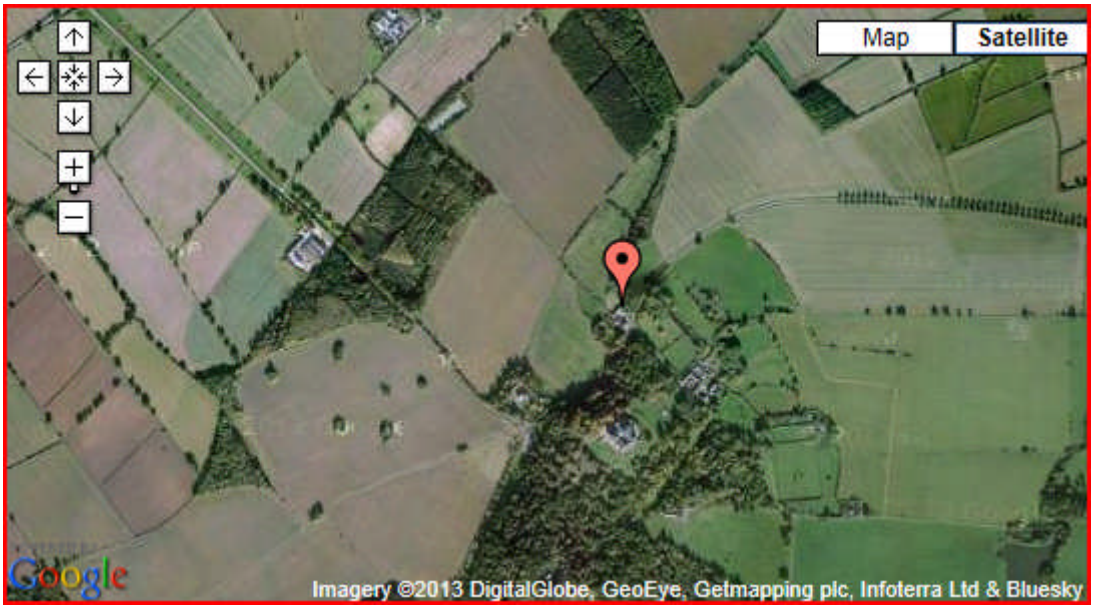
***11th Century Abbey and Hospital at Conches-en-Ouches***

*Chateau Gaillard, 4 km from Tosny*

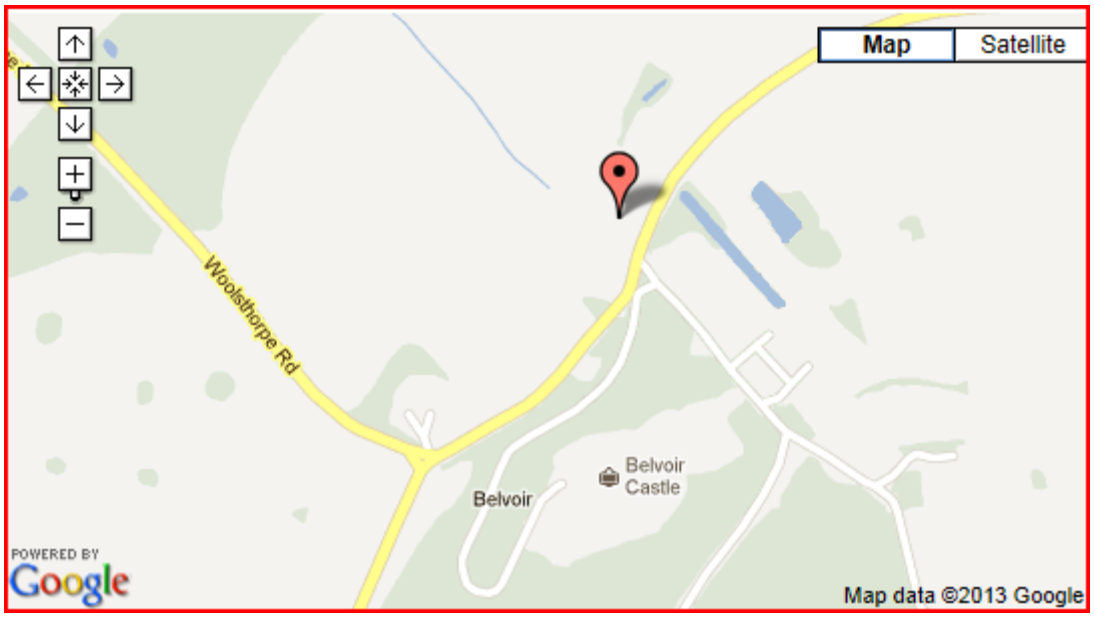
## Leicestershire England

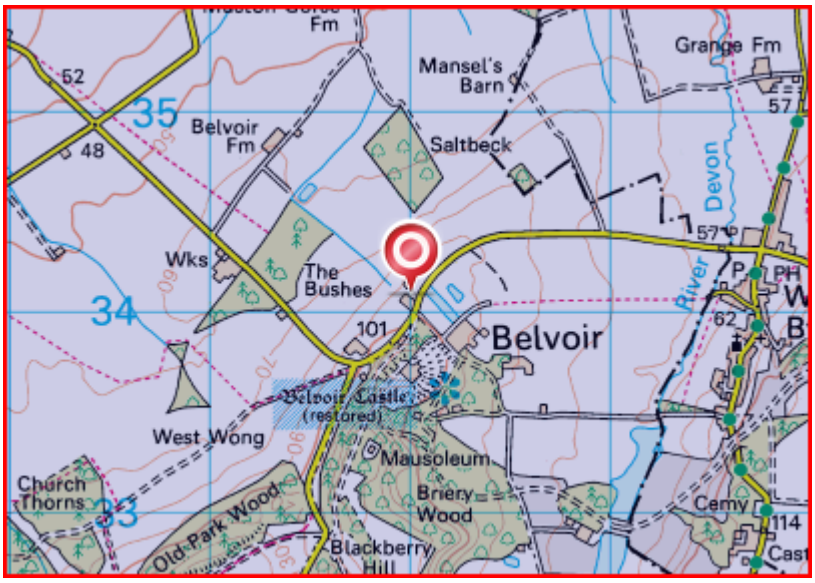
Maps:

**Belvoir Priory and Castle**:




***Satellite Map***




http://www.old-maps.co.uk/maps.html?txtXCoord=482000&txtYCoord=334100

***Street Maps***

Descriptions:

"Robert de Todeni, after erecting the castle, founded at the foot thereof, in 1077, a priory for four Benedictine or Black Monks, which, by a subsequent stipulation with his friend Paul, Abbot of St. Albans, became a cell of that monastery. Robert endowed the same with ample revenues for the maintenance of the monks, who were to pray for the souls of Count Robert de Mortaigne, Earl of Cornwall, half-brother to the Conqueror ; of Robert de Todeni, the founder, and Adeliza, his wife ; and for the soul of the King; as well as the

souls of their parents and children. Not being able to complete the work he had begun, he assigned the privileges of patron to the Abbot and fraternity of St. Alban's, upon condition that they should complete his design, and that the bodies of himself and his wife should be buried at St. Alban's, or in the church of St. Mary's Priory at Belvoir, if they died in England. He promised that he would endow the church of St. Mary's Priory with a tenth of all his lands, including four carucates of land (each carucate containing about one hundred and twenty acres of plough land), with the meadows pertaining to the same, near the castle, and twenty acres of land near the church, for offices and buildings for the monks and their dependants, with free and undisturbed possession ; also the tenths of his vineyards,and a site for a mill the tenths of all his vills, with the firstfruits of all that was titheable, etc. On the death of his wife Adeliza, Robert de Todeni gave one carucate of land at Sapperton (Co. Lincoln) to the church of St. Mary, for the benefit of her soul. The total yearly revenue of all the grants to the Priory of Belvoir, by him and his successors, at the time of the dissolution of the monasteries, would be represented, at the present value of money, by from six to eight thousand pounds. Robert de Todeni died in 1088, and was buried on the north side of the chapter -house of the Priory. His remains continued undisturbed till December 6th, 1726, when a ridged stone coffin was dug up upon the site of the old chapel, with an inscription in French, and in Longobardic characters of lead, noticed by Dr. Stukeley,who records : " that his bones lie in the same trough underneath." The inscription is: " Robert de Todeni le Fundeur," whose sculptured memorial tradition asserts to be the small figure in mail armour, of speckled marble,affixed to the north wall of the chancel of Bottesford Church, but which is more probably that of William de Albini III, who died in 1236. ” (BAA, p.300-301).

At the foot of the Castle hill, Robert de Todeni, in 1077, founded a priory for four Black Monks, which in later days became a cell of the Monasteiy of St. All)ans. Recent excavations made by Mr. Pogson, the landlord of the "Peacock Inn," though in a somewhat desultory manner, have disclosed some interesting remains of the foundations of the Priory Church, including nave, apsidal choir, and side chapels; but these are too fragmentary to enable any idea of the architecture of the building to be formed. The building formerly contained many monuments of the Todeni, Albini, and De Roos families, but all are gone.” (BAA, p.51).

Benedictine Priory founded in 1076, dissolved in 1539. Excavations have recovered the plan of the church, a nave, apsidal chancel and side chapels, but the remains were so poor that no architecural evidence of date was extant. Iron Age and Roman pottery, and a bronze stylus were also found.  (SK 81983414) Site of St Mary's Priory (Benedictine, founded c AD 1076).(1)

Benedictine Priory founded 1076-88 for four monks; dissolved 1539 (2). Excavations have revealed fragmentary remains of the Priory Church (3) and the inscribed coffin-lid of the founder Robert de Todeni (4).

Fragments of late Celtic or Roman pottery and part of a bronze stylus were found in 1900 (5). (2-5)

Extensive excavations were carried out about the published site by the 8th Duke of Rutland. The founder's coffin, which now rests in the chapel, is recorded as being found at SK 82033408 where the end of a barn now stands.

Two fish ponds to the east were probably originally associated with the priory but have now been landscaped and are of no archaeological interest.
Finds are kept in Belvoir Castle. (6)
http://www.pastscape.org.uk/hob.aspx?a=0&hob_id=323855#aRt

*Coffin-lid from Belvoir Priory.*—The Duke of Rutland also sends the following :—The photograph represents the coffin-lid of the founder of Belvoir Priory, Robert de Todeni, as he is now called. It is an exceedingly interesting lid, with the inscription along one side— ROBERT : DE TODENI : LE FVNDVR : —incised and originally filled in with lead. The stone is of Lincolnshire Oolite. Robert de Todeni came over with the

VOL. XI F



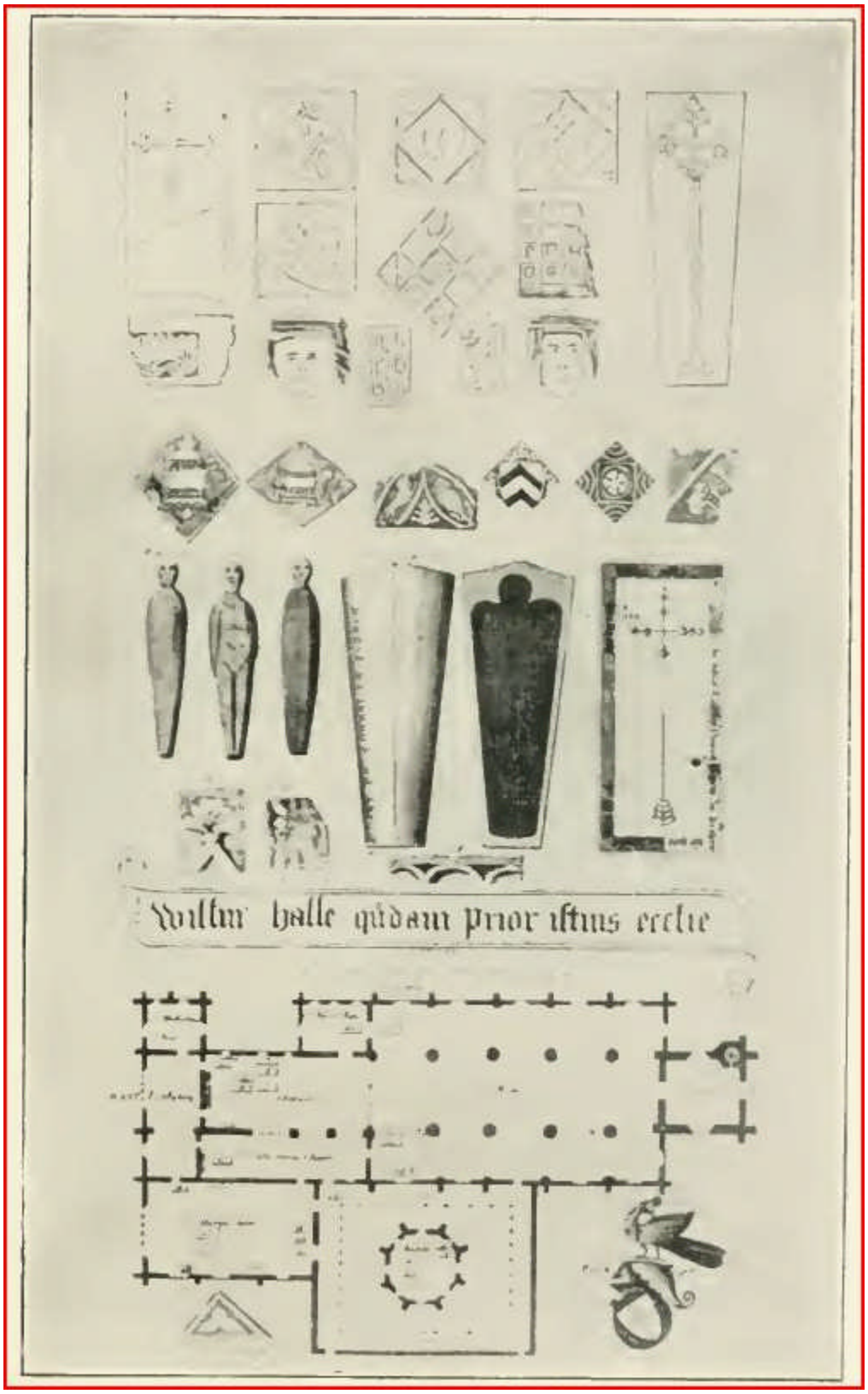
Conqueror and founded Belvoir Priory in 1076. He died in 1088. The slab measures 6 ft. 7 in. long by 2 ft. 7 in. at the top and 1 ft. 3 in. at the bottom, and appears from the inscription to date from the early part of the thirteenth century, although this may have been recut. I found it during excavations on the site in December 1923.

This coffin was first discovered in December 1726, when Dr. Stukeley saw it and made a rather inaccurate drawing of it. The drawing is now in the British Museum (Stowe MSS. 928). The illustration in Nichols's *History of Leicestershire*, vol. ii, pt. 1, Framland Hundred, p. 79, is taken from Stukeley's drawing. It was again uncovered in 1792 (when Nichols

Coffin-lid from Belvoir Priory

himself was present) when workmen were cutting a way for the Belvoir Castle Edge railway which was completed in 1793. On and off from 1905 I tried to find this coffin, and it was not until 1923 that I was lucky enough to come across it.

**The Antiquaries Journal : Journal of the Society of Antiquaries of London, 1931, Vol. 11, Issue 1 (January), pp. 65-66.**



http://journals.cambridge.org/action/displayAbstract?fromPage=online&aid=7846070&next=true&jid=ANT&volumeId=11&issueId=01

“Register of the Priory of Belvoir, formerly in ihe possession of Thomas, Lord Brudenel.
Note.—The figures refer to corresponding figures on
the accompanying Plate, reproduced from the original in Nichols' Ilistorif of Leicestershire.

" In tlie Chapter House to the North were deposited : 1, Robert de Todeni the founder ; aud near him, 2, William Albini I, or Brito, before the door of the Chapter House ; 3, Symon de Eopesley, and near him, 4, Oliver Deincourt on the South.
"In the old Church before the Cross ……”
http://archive.org/details/journalofbritishns07brit (BAA, p.322).

Nichols, in his Leicestei^shire, observes :
—
" From the foregoing list I am convinced tliat the I'liory Church of Belvoir was the Parochial also. If tliese two Churches were not the same, the Parish Church was at least a part of the Priory Church. The repeated use of tlie old churcli would imply tliat the Parochial Church was made to serve the Priory, and was indeed the 'ecclesia Sanctie Mariie juxta Castellum/ which Robert de Todeni liad originally founded."

Nichols, writing towards the end of the eighteenth century, says :
—
" Many of the antient lead coffins are still carefully preserved in two old vaults at Bottesford. Some of these, modelled as in Plate, Fi"s. 1, 2, 3, had an inscription upon a brass plate, soldered to the breast. The body of one was observed to be perfectly round, tapering from the shoulders to the feet; another was quite square, tapering in the same manner. A third (the middlemost) showed the belly, the knees, the calves of the legs, and particularly the feet standing up. The lead over the body seemed to fit very tightly, and over the head, face, and neck it also fitted very well, though the nose and cheeks might not be quite so protuberant as these figures may lead one to suppose ; but it was partly fitted to the face, and the deficiency supplied in some measure by engravings for the eyes, mouth, ears, &c, " In digging among the ruins, May, 1791, were discovered some cornices and capitals of pillars, with several paving-tiles, stones, coats-of-arms, &c., as represented in Plate, Fig. 4-20, and Fig. 1-4.

" In the Chapter House of the Priory, the coffin of Eobert de Todeni, the founder, was dug up in 1726, and twice again, in 1792, when the founder's skull was found in a perfect state of preservation, wanting only the under-jaw and the teeth of the upper. At the right hand lies a coffin of the same materials : this is that of William Albini I, or Brito.

" From the site of the Lady Chapel many very large flat stones have been taken out, particularly two with crosses, represented in Plate, Figs. 23 and 24.

" Prior William Halle, who succeeded in 1452, was also buried near his brethren, as is evident from a fiat white stone, with an inscription on a scroll, Fig. 25.

" At the head of Todeni and Brito, and in the same line, did lie a white stone, 7 ft. long by 3 ft. broad, with an inscription, in some parts worn out. The inscription on this stone implies the juxtaposition of Symon Ropesley and Oliver Deincourt" (Ibid., p.323).

The coffin with the interior shaped to fit the head is that of Robert de Tosny.

Castle:

"Of the ancient Castle, founded by llobert de Todeni, standard-bearer to the Conqueror shortly after the Conquest, nothing now remains but a few fragments discovered in the foundations of the present building. It was probably erected on the site of an ancient British encampment." British Archaeological Association, 1931, p.51). See: http://archive.org/details/journalofbritishns07brit

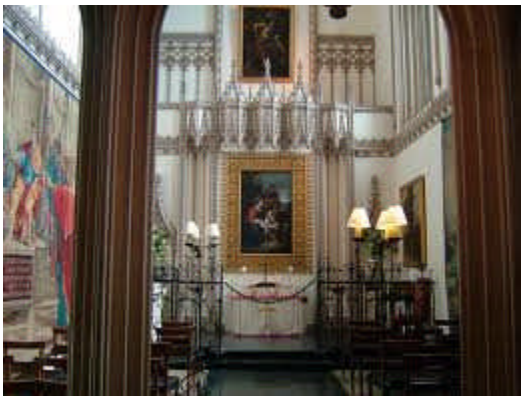
"A charter has been preserved, with a seal attached of green wax,bearing, perhaps, an approximate representation of the castle, as it was originally built. The castle appears there as an embattled elevation of three tiers, the two upper of which have on the face a succession of Norman arches and buttresses. On the opposite corners of the battlements there are two representations of men's heads facing each other, behind one of which rises a staff, with a flag. The whole is surrounded by a assive outer wall. The seal upon which this representation is found is that of William de Albini III, attached to a charter of confirmation of the grant of a meadow between Bottesford and Muston, to Huo'h de Charmel, a distino-uished knio-ht, who had the keeping of Belvoir Castle under the said William." (Ibid., p.300).

The Castle built by Robert de Todeni appears to have survived until the era of Thomas, Lord Ros, whose estates, in consequence of his adherence to the House of Lancaster during the Wars of the Roses, were, on the accession of Edward IV, confiscated ; and Edward rewarded one of his adherents, William, Lord Hastings, commonly called "the Bastard," with the honour, castle, and lordship of Belvoir, with the park and all its members, consisting of Woolsthorp, Barkston, Plungar, Redmile, Harby, Bottesford, Normanton, and Easthorpe ; with the advowsons of their churches, and the rent called Castleguard, throughout England, at that time an appurtenance of the Castle. When Lord Hastings came to inspect the Castle—his contemplated residence—he was suddenly attacked by a Mr. Barrington, a friend to Lord Ros, and driven away. Incensed by this opposition. Lord Hastings came with a strong force, and so injured the Castle that it fell to ruin. The timber of the roof, stripped of the lead with which it was covered, rotted away, and the soil between the walls grew full of elders, in which state it remained until it was partially rebuilt by Thomas, thirteenth Lord Ros, created Earl of Rutland in 1526. Lord Hastinofs carried the lead from the Castle to Ashby-de-la- Zouch, where he built extensively. This Earl received an augmentation of his arms, by reason of his descent from a sister of Edward IV. He died September 20th, 1543, and was buried in the middle of the chancel of Bottesford Church, where there is a beautiful alabaster tomb to his

memory, on which lie the recumbent effigies of the Earl and his Countess, Elianor. The rebuilding of the Castle was completed, in 1555, by his eldest son and successor, Henry, Earl of Rutland. It appears, from the accounts at Belvoir for the years 1540 and 1541, that, on the spoliation following the dissolution of religious houses, quantities of timber, stone, lead, slate, etc., from the Abbey of Croxton and the Priories of Belvoir and Thurgarton, were used in the rebuilding of the Castle : full details of which, with the operations at the Castle, are given in detail in the Volumes for those years. Owing to the attachment of John, eig-hth earl of Rutland, to the Parliamentary party, the Castle was taken possession of in 1643 by the adherents of Charles; and it suffered a series of bombardments by the Parliamentary forces from the end of November, 1645, to the end of January, 1646, resulting in its surrender to the arliamentarians, February 3rd, 1646 ; and subsequently, in 1649, the Castle was demolished by an order in council. After the restoration of the monarchy, the Castle was rebuilt by the same Earl. In the year 1664 much work was done at the Castle, and the accounts contain numerous charges for materials, wages to masons, plumbers, carpenters, painters, labourers, etc. In the year 1668 it was completely finished, and adorned with gardens, plantations, etc. The fabric remained until the beginning of the last century, when the fifth Duke, father of the present noble owner, conceived the design of rebuilding it. The work was continued from 1801 to 1816, and the structure was advancing towards completion, when, on October 26th, 1816, a fire broke out, resulting in the total destruction of the north-east and north-west fronts, entailing the loss of a large and valuable collection of paintings, many by Sir Joshua Reynolds ; and a portion of the plate. The work of restoration was recommenced March 10th, 1817. The cost of rebuilding the Castle from 1801 to 1816 amounted to £118,555, and from 181G to July, 1829, a further sum of £81,987 was expended. Stained glass of four ivindows in gallery of the Guard Boom, executed by Wyatt. On the first are the arms and scroll of "Robert de Todeni ; " in the second light of the same window, the arms and scroll of " William de Albini." The second window contains representations of two knights in Barons' coronets and mail armour, with shields and scrolls, memorials of " Robert de Todnei le Fundeur," and " D'Albini." The former holds a standard, on which appears, gides, two lions passant guardant, denoting the office of standard-bearer. In the third window are representations of knights with similar coronets and armour, commemorating " Walter Espec—Fidem semper regibus servans ; behind whom is some drapery, with the cognizance of Scotland, in allusion to his valour in the Battle of the Standard, in 1138; and Robert de Roos," on whose tabard of argent is a cross-moline, gules. The fourth window contains the shields and helmets, etc., of Robert de Todeni and De Roos. The arms of Todeni are gides. an eagle displayed within a bordure argent ; of Albini or, two chevrons with a bordure gules; of Belvoir azure, a catherinewheel or." (BAA, pp.308-9).

About Belvoir Castle

In the chapel you can see the tomb of Robert de Todini who way back in the mists of time built the first Belvoir Castle. He was originally buried in the chapel of the Benedictine Priory he had built in neighbouring Lincolnshire. When the priory fell into disrepair in the 18th-century, his Norman tomb was discovered and taken back to the chapel at Belvoir. Robert de Todini died in 1088. (PicturesofEngland.com).



***Chapel at Belvoir Castle where the tomb of Robert de Tosny is located***

*Tomb of Robert de Tosny in Belvoir Castle North-West End of Outer Chapel*

*Todeni Coat of Arms in Guard Room of Belvoir Castle*