

H. Bedcock

Seigneurie

de l'Île



de Sark.

Notes on Feudal Tenure

*Within the Empire,
particularly relating*

to

THE ISLAND OF SARK,
Channel Islands,

By

Sibyl Mary Beaumont

(née Cellings)

Dame de l'Île de Sark et Dépendances.

*Sark,
1928*

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## *Contents*



- I. List of the Lords of Sark ..... p. 5
- II. Feudal Tenure ..... 7
- III. Island of Sark ..... 12
- IV. Extracts from Assize Rolls, XIIIth Century ..... 16

*List of the Lords of Sark,  
so far as at present known.*

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A.D. 550.—NIVO (" a nobleman who chose Sark as his burial place, and who seems to have held possession of WEST SARK, now Guernsey ").

580.—COUNT L'OISEAU (probably a descendant of NIVO).

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942.—NEEL (of Mont St. Michel?).

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1026.—DUKE RICHARD III. of Normandy.

1042.—WILLIAM THE CONQUEROR (who gave Sark to the Monastery of Mont St. Michel).

1100? LORD REVIERS (also Lord of the Isle of Wight).

1136.—LORD DE VERNON (descendant of the founder of the Abbey of Montebourg).

1155? WILLIAM DE VERNON.

1196.—RICHARD DE VERNON.

1230.—VERNON Estates forfeited and Sark taken by HENRY III., who in 1234 gave to " his beloved RICHARD, Vicar of St. Mary in Sark," certain tithes.

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1354.—SIR W. STURY (held Sark from Edward III. for debt).

AFTER THE CHARTER OF QUEEN ELIZABETH.

- |      |                                                                         |
|------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|      | 1.—SIR HELIER DE CARTERET, Bart., 58th Seigneur de St. Ouen.            |
|      | 2.—SIR PHILIP DE CARTERET, 59th Seigneur de St. Ouen                    |
| 1565 | 3.—SIR PHILIP DE CARTERET II., 60th    "    "                           |
| TO   | 4.—SIR PHILIP DE CARTERET III., 61st    "    "                          |
| 1720 | 5.—SIR PHILIP DE CARTERET IV., 62nd    "    "                           |
|      | 6.—SIR CHARLES DE CARTERET, 63rd,    "    "                             |
|      | 7.—LORD CARTERET (afterwards EARL GRANVILLE) 64th Seigneur de St. Ouen. |
| 1721 | 8.—JAMES MILNER, ESQUIRE, by purchase.                                  |
| TO   |                                                                         |
| 1729 | 9.—THE LORD BISHOP OF GLOUCESTER, by purchase.                          |
|      | 10.—MADAME SUSAN LE PELLEY ( <i>née</i> Le Gros), by purchase.          |
|      | 11.—NICHOLAS LE PELLEY, ESQUIRE, by descent.                            |
|      | 12.—DANIEL LE PELLEY, ESQUIRE,        "                                 |
|      | 13.—PETER LE PELLEY, ESQUIRE,        "                                  |
|      | 14.—PETER LE PELLEY (II) ESQUIRE,    "                                  |
|      | 15.—PETER LE PELLEY (III) ESQUIRE,   "                                  |
| 1730 | 16.—ERNEST LE PELLEY, ESQUIRE       "                                   |
| TO   |                                                                         |
| 1928 | 17.—PETER CAREY LE PELLEY, ESQUIRE   "                                  |
|      | 18.—MADAME MARY COLLINGS ( <i>née</i> Allaire), by purchase.            |
|      | 19.—REVEREND WILLIAM THOMAS COLLINGS, M.A., (Cantab.), by descent.      |
|      | 20.—WILLIAM FREDERICK COLLINGS, ESQUIRE, B.D., (Durham), by descent.    |
|      | 21.—MADAME SIBYL MARY BEAUMONT ( <i>née</i> Collings), by descent.      |

## Feudal Tenure

English and Continental newspapers have recently drawn public attention to the Channel Islands and their claims for exemption from Imperial taxation. Lying within sight of Normandy, and speaking a dialect originating in that province, it is not surprising that they have kept many of the same customs in spite of the fact that for nearly nine hundred years they have been subjects of the British Crown. Increased communication with England, however, and the influx of English residents during the last twenty years, and more especially since the war, are gradually modifying all the old customs and peculiarities. The language of the Islands is interesting to the student of the English language, as we owe to the Norman-French of the Conquest a large number of words incorporated into English. The language of the Channel Islands differs in pronunciation in each Island, but is still fundamentally old Norman-French, though it has long ceased to be written and lacks polish, since no literature remains beyond the poems of Wace, who was born in Jersey, and died in England in 1184.

It is not easy to define the Constitution of the Islands before they finally separated from Normandy in the reign of King John, but it will be readily understood that the Norman code of legislature—such as it was—which in 1066 was in force in these Islands, was not affected by the Conquest, although it materially altered all the English laws of the time. The laws in Normandy, as in the Channel Islands, were really only created for the Seigneurs or Lords of the Manors of the Duchy, who held their lands direct from the Duke, and for which they paid him direct homage, and owed him knights' service in time of war. The most ancient laws entirely concerned the Seigneurs, as the "villeins" were not taken into account in those days, and in fact the word "vassal" does not seem ever to have been in use in the Channel Islands, the word invariably used being "tenant," the meaning of which is not that of the English

tenant, but denotes a possession—a holder or possessor of land within the fief of the Seigneurie—such possession being strictly subject to certain forms of service which still constitute the conditions of occupancy.

Yet in 966 according to Wace, the villeins “commune faseint”; this phrase admitting of more importance than appears at first sight, for it denotes that towns, boroughs and even villages existed in Normandy under Duke Richard II. which possessed independent rights and privileges, and proves without doubt the existence of “allodial” and “burgage” tenure. Allodium consists of the holding of property free from any rent, servitude, drawback, or contingency whatever, the owner of such property having full and immediate ownership. Feudal tenure abolished allodial proprietorship, and placed all land under the Duke, no subject being able to hold independant property, even the highest baron in the land having to pay homage for his territory, and being called upon to repeat the oath of fidelity, besides which, certain “rentes” or dues payable to the Duke, were imposed on all holders of “fiefs.” Burgage tenure, as explained by Blackstone, is where houses or lands which were “formerly the site of houses in an ancient borough, are held of some lord in common socage, but at a certain established rent.” Allodial and burgage tenure exist even now in some of the Channel Islands.

Prior to the reign of King John, tradition says that judicial matters were referred to knights who held Courts at certain times; after the loss of Normandy King John established twelve Jurats in each Island, who were to be elected for life from among the inhabitants, and administer justice in the Islands; this was the original basis of the charters and privileges of the Islands, which were granted by his successors, of whom Henry III., Elizabeth, Charles II. and Anne were the most concerned with the welfare of the Islands.

Time and circumstance have naturally altered the laws in the various Islands. Amendments have been made by the local parliaments, of which many were founded on the famous “Code Napoléon I<sup>er</sup>,” which was generally taken as a model for the formation of new laws and regulations.

From the time of Edward I. the office of Bailiff (the chief civil authority) appears to have been continuous, and finally in Jersey (*circa* Henry VII.) and in Guernsey (*circa* Charles II), the Governors of the Islands were deprived of the right of appointing to this office, the Crown alone having the nomination. The Lieut.-Governor has precedence over all other public officials by reason of his military command, but on being appointed, before he can exercise any function of his office, he must present his commission to the Royal Court, by whom he is sworn to be faithful to the King, and to uphold and defend the privileges of the Island.

The “States” as at present existing may be described as a general Council, for to them belongs all regulation of finance and taxation, the enactment of new and the amendment of old laws. The authority of the Crown, acting with the advice of the Privy Council, is admitted, but not to the extent of altering the Constitution without the consent of the inhabitants. The latter have a claim to consideration by the fact that they render compulsory military service, which every able-bodied man, in every rank of life, is bound to perform in the ranks of the local militia.

The old feudal laws and rights are so quaint as to claim more attention. By far the oldest of these feudal customs of the Duchy of Normandy, which custom is still in existence, is the “Clameur de Haro.” Duncan in his “Dukes of Normandy” describes the procedure as follows: “The word ‘Haro’ is compounded of ‘Ha!’ the ejaculation of a person suffering or astonished, and ‘Ro,’ a contraction of Rollo, the name of the first Duke of Normandy. If a party were assaulted, or any trespass committed on his property, he thrice repeated the word ‘Haro’ and all who heard it were bound to come to his assistance. If the wrong-doer escaped, the cry was repeated from district to district throughout the whole Duchy till he was apprehended, so that the system made every citizen a constable, and rendered escape almost impossible.”

Nowadays the injured person after having repeated the Lord’s Prayer, cries aloud “Haro! Haro! Haro! A mon aide

mon Prince, on me fait tort !” The matter is then deferred for the decision of the Court and no further action can be taken until the plea has been heard. During recent years the “Clameur” has been almost entirely confined to disputes over landed property. A “Clameur de Haro” was actually raised at the burial of William the Conqueror in Caen Cathedral. When he built the Abbey, he pulled down several houses to obtain space enough for it, and did not compensate all the owners, with the result that one Ascelin raised a “Clameur” which was investigated on the spot, and as his claim was supported by evidence he was awarded “sixty sous, and promise of the full amount of his loss.”

The law of inheritance in these Islands is not the same as in England, for a man is practically unable to disinherit his eldest son by Will, as he is legally entitled to succeed to all landed property and to a third of the personal estate, so that a father is only able to provide for younger children out of one third of his property, as his widow is entitled to the remaining third. A man can of course sell his property, but if the heir wishes at the time of the sale to buy back the estate he can do so by the old law of “retraite,” which requires some explanation. In the event of a sale the “contrat” or deed of sale, has to be registered at Court, and for forty days the notice of the transaction with full particulars as to whom the estate has been sold and the sum paid, have to be publicly posted at the “Greffe,” which is the local “Somerset House.” During the forty days the heir or any other near relative of the vendor is empowered by this law of “retraite” to re-purchase the estate.

There are some curious old laws relating to debt which are in force even now, and one cannot be too cautious in purchasing land. No title can be more secure than that which is given by the laws of tenure when proper precautions are taken, but nowhere is the unguarded purchaser exposed to so much danger, for, from the fact that all parts of the seller’s property may be jointly and severally guaranteed for debts charged on the whole or part, it may, and does sometimes happen, that after a person has bought and paid for a piece of land, and perhaps

built a house on it, he may be deprived of it because the other portion of the property of the vendor may be insufficient to meet the debts secured on it. In the case of a lease for a term of years, should the landlord of the property become insolvent the creditors, should they find it to their advantage to dispossess the tenant, can restrict his occupancy to three years. The old custom of being able to imprison a debtor still remains, but the value of his debts must exceed seventy “livres tournois.” All fines are inflicted in livres tournois, a coin which neither now, or ever has existed; its actual value at present being about one shilling and fivepence farthing.

The person and property of strangers are exempt from arrest until they have resided in the Island for a year and a day, for cases of debt contracted elsewhere, but they are liable to arrest on bills of exchange.

The Undesirable Emigrants Act is practically the old Norman law on which the Emigrant Laws have been grafted. There are also a number of old tithes on certain properties called “Les rentes anciennes de la propriété foncière,” which are really taxes on cereals, apples, poultry, pepper, and even bread and conger-eels, which to this day are paid to the Lords of the Manors.

The legal and official language of the Islands as from the earliest times is French, and in many of the country churches Evensong is always in French. A divorce cannot be obtained by any couple domiciled in the Islands, the utmost relief allowed by law being a Deed of Separation. A minor comes of age at twenty, but the Courts are able to postpone majority for a year should the child have come under the displeasure of the Court.

Owing to the fact that “Varech” or sea-weed is used to such an extent for fertilizing the ground, a law has been made that none may be cut except at certain tides of the year, so that there is quite a trade among the old country people in the collection and sale of the floating weed that is washed ashore.

## Island of Sark

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Sark, being an entirely independent Feudal State within the Empire, possesses more quaint laws and customs than any of the other Islands, as none of the rights and privileges conferred on Sir Helier de Carteret, the first Seigneur to whom Queen Elizabeth granted the Island in 1570, and which are set forth at length in the "Grant of Serck," have ever been annulled, though some have fallen into abeyance owing to their not having been enforced for many years, although still capable of enforcement at any time. Queen Elizabeth's grant was modelled on the old Norman system of Feudal tenure, the Seigneurie being held direct from the Crown for one-twentieth of a Knight's service, and in 1582 an Order in Council decreed the payment of "Première Saisine" to the Queen. When the Seigneurial rights were in force in all the Islands, we find that each Seigneurie had its "Droit de Colombier" or Pigeon-Cote, as only the Seigneur had the right to keep these birds owing to the vast amount of damage they were supposed to do to the crops. This right exists in Sark at the present day, as also the "Droit de Moulin" whereby the tenants could only have their corn ground at the Seigneurial Mill. It is also laid down that the Seigneur alone is allowed to keep a female dog, a law strictly enforced by twenty-one successive Seigneurs of Sark. Queen Elizabeth's grant stipulated that the Island should be divided among forty families, the head of each family being the "tenant," and addressed officially to this day as "Sieur." The present representatives of these forty, with the "Sénéchal" or judge, the "Greffier" or clerk of the Court, the "Prévôt" or sheriff, constitute the "Chef Plaids" or parliament which assembles thrice yearly in the presence of the Seigneur, or his legally appointed proxy, and which has the power of making any new laws and regulations for the Island and fixing the necessary taxation, provided such enactments meet with the approval and consent of the Seigneur, who holds the right of veto.

In the old feudal Courts the Seigneur could not, and even now cannot, sit in his own Court as judge, but has a right to appoint a Sénéchal who is sworn in by the Guernsey Court and before whom all cases are tried. In certain cases appeal to the Court of Guernsey is allowed.

The grant of Queen Elizabeth (and the powers which it conferred on the Seigneur) was much augmented in 1662 by Charles II., who granted a further extension of the Seigneur's rights and privileges in recognition of his loyalty and services when the King was an exile in Jersey, as the Seigneur of Sark of that day was also Seigneur of St. Ouen in Jersey.

All cereals grown in Sark are subject to seigneurial tithes, and no man may harvest his crops until these tithes, called "dîmes," have been collected; he has to notify the Seigneur forty-eight hours before he intends carting, so that someone may be sent to the fields, usually a woman called the "dimeresse," to count every sheaf as the carts are being laden and see that every tenth sheaf is set aside for the Seigneur, who also has a tithe of cider, lambs, and wool in shearing time, and a royalty on all minerals discovered. Each of the forty "tenants" pays a yearly tithe or "rente" as it is called, on his property to the Seigneur, and the old chimney tax or "Poulage" is still in force, paid in live chickens to the Seigneur.

Estates in Sark cannot be sold without the Seigneur's permission, and to him is payable a due called a "triesième" on the sale of all estates. There is ample proof that this law has been in existence since 996, according to the history of Ordericus Vitalis, who mentions the feudal law which requires the "congé," or licence of the lord of the fief before any "tenant" may sell or alienate property held under the Seigneur. During the time of Duke Richard of Normandy we find that a great many properties changed hands with no other legal formality than the congé of the Seigneur, while under other Dukes, when a tenant rendered back lands which were to be conveyed to another party, he gave back the "verge" or rod given to him or his ancestor when possession was first obtained from the Seigneur, and if it happened that the tenant, for non-payment



of rentes, or any other neglect of homage, were ever deprived of his lands, the rod was publicly broken in proof that the contract was cancelled, and the land reverted to the Seigneur. To this day land in the Channel Islands is measured in "vergées," a vergée being equivalent to about half an acre.

With regard to the laws regulating the sale of land in Sark at the present day, the laws of the old Norman fiefs still exist to a great extent. Before a property can change hands the prospective purchaser must obtain the Seigneur's congé or permission to buy, and must pay him the thirteenth of the sum to be paid for the property. No tenant may sell a part or parcel of his property, the grant of Queen Elizabeth providing that "a man may not break up, or sell in portions or divide in any way whatsoever his inheritance." The whole tenancy must be sold intact.

By a law passed about 1735, modelled on the old French "Corvée," every man above the age of sixteen must give two days' labour every year, towards the repair of the roads, or pay for a substitute, and every owner of a horse and cart must send the same for one day's cartage.

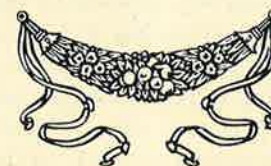
It has been shown that it is impossible for any tenant to sell a portion of his inheritance, neither can the Seigneur sell his Manoir or Seigneurie without a "permet" from the Crown, for which permission he has to pay a certain fee, his "trisième" as it were, for the King's "congé," thus observing the old feudal law of dues to the liege lord, be he King of England or Duke of Normandy.

The dower a wife can claim on the sale of a property by her husband is a third share of the rooms in the house, a third of the stalls in the stables, and a third of all gardens, fields and fruit lands. On the sale of an estate the wife is usually asked to waive her dower, or to take a fixed sum paid into Court, or paid to her annually, in return for which she will agree not to take her actual share of the property. A wife cannot actually prevent the sale, but she can, by refusing to waive her dower, and by taking the share of the house to which she is legally entitled, make the property hardly a desirable purchase.

The greatest and most important right belonging to the Seigneur is the "Droit de Succession," that is to the Seigneur reverts the absolute possession of any property to which there is no heir within the fifth degree of affinity, as no land may be left by will.

There are the usual close seasons for game, but in the case of sea-gulls the law enacts that they shall not be killed at any time under a penalty of "not more than ten and not less than three livres tournois," the reason being that during time of fog these birds fly round the rocks and by their loud cries warn the fishermen of danger.

It is impossible in a small space to give details of the many laws and customs which make Sark unique in the Empire, but sufficient has been stated to rouse the curiosity of those interested in a portion of the Crown possessions which has never been conquered and still forms part of the Dukedom of Normandy.



*Extracts from Assize Rolls*  
(Translated)

*A.D. 1238 ET SEQ.,*

*shewing the importance of Sark in the  
XIIIth Century.*

**A.D. 1238. SARK.**

PLEAS AT SARK of the same Eyre on Thursday next after the Octaves of St. John . . . . . up to Friday on the morrow as from day to day.

CHURCH ADVOWSON, ETC.

The lord the King by William des Mareys, who sues for him, actioned on the 4th day Robert . . . . . concerning a plea of the advowson of the Church of Sark. And Nicholas, Bishop of Avranches, concerning a plea of the advowson of two (holdings?) of the Church of Sark. And the abbot of Montebourg concerning a plea that the same Abbot together with the Prior of Sark should give up to him (the Abbot) one mill with the appurtenances in Sark, which he claims as his right &c. And the aforesaid Bishop & Abbot . . . . . were summoned &c. the judgment is that the aforesaid advowsons & mill &c. be taken into the hands of the lord the King. And the same are summoned at St. Helier in Jersey on the morrow of St. Margaret the Virgin &c. Also a day is given to the said Bishop in King's Bench. Afterwards at that day at St. Helier the said Prior (of Sark) came. And he produced certain letters sealed with the seal of the aforesaid Abbot (of Montebourg) witnessing that the said Abbot & the chapter had constituted

him (the Prior) their general attorney & proctor &c. And he says that a certain lord de Vernon . . . . . was lord of Sark & his progenitors had given to the aforesaid Priory the said mill which the aforesaid Ralph acknowledges that he holds for the term of his life, together with 3 acres of land which they now hold & 4 livres every year to be received from his revenue by the hand of his receiver. So that . . . . . the possession of the Priory, where the said Prior is, regularly conducting the service in the Church for the lord the King, does not extend to more than 15 livres Tournois by the year &c. . . . . And all this was found by the jury &c. Therefore it is permitted to them to hold as they hold until the lord the King shall see fit to order otherwise therein.

RIGHTS OF SUCCESSION.

Having heard the petition of Drogo Fausilioun praying for delivery to be made to him of 6 virgates of land which Ralph his . . . . . whose heir &c. before the time of the last war demised to Ralph Collochi to farm at his will . . . . . paying therefor to him by the year 3 sols as long as he shall hold them &c. and likewise having heard the answer of Stephen son of the said Ralph (Collochi?) who admits all this. And all witnessing that the land ought to be restored to the aforesaid heir. Therefore the aforesaid land is restored to him saving the right of each & saving to the said Stephen the moiety of the crop growing on the same land. And the said rent is now in arrear for 4 years. Therefore the said Stephen shall answer therefor to the lord the King & the aforesaid Drogo shall answer to the lord the King for the relief.

PARTNERSHIP.

John du Val for himself & his partners, claiming from Ralph Ode 8 parcels of land, came & they were agreed, to wit, that the said John had conceded to the said Ralph the whole dispute concerning the said tenements, & thereof he shall cause publication to be made &c. and shall give sufficient guarantee for his partners &c. And for this &c. the aforesaid Ralph gives to the aforesaid John 20 sols. And both of them to be amerced.

EX-PROVOST AGGRIEVED.

Richard Durel complains that whereas he long ago was made Provost here by Nichols de Cheny then Warden of the islands &c. and the same Richard thus remained Provost from the feast of St. Michael to the feast of Pentecost & then Ralph Ode father of Ralph Ode, who now is, was made Provost in his place by the Prior of Wenlock, the said Richard was charged in his account with 16 livres which the said Ralph the father &c. took & they never came to the hands of the said Richard, whereupon he claims relief.

And Ralph comes & well knows that Ralph his father together with the Receiver of the said Nicholas received 14 livres of the said money by the order of the said Nicholas which had come into the hands of the said Nicholas. And this he offers to establish both as to the place & time &c. And a day is given to them before &c. on Monday before the feast of St. Margaret the Virgin when it is believed the said Nicholas will come.

And as to the 40 sols remaining, he says that his father never received it.

And Richard says that the aforesaid Ralph the father &c. dealt at his own will with the corn in sheaf to the value of 40 sols of which he is charged as is aforesaid. And for this he submits himself to the verdict of the country. And Ralph likewise. Therefore let a jury be formed thereon. The jurors say upon their oath that the said Ralph the father &c. took the said corn in sheaf & dealt with it according to his will. And therefore it is judged that the aforesaid Richard shall recover against him the aforesaid 40 sols. And Ralph to be amerced; no damages awarded because he claims none.

SARK.

PLEAS OF THE CROWN THERE, continued.

Name of the Bailiff appointed, William son of Richard.

JURY OF TWELVE.

Names of the jurors of the Crown.—Peter du Val, Peter le Gastein (Electors), Stephen Collhachet, William Fraunceys,

Nicholas Carupel, Robert Abraham, William Hoel, Bertoldus Bense, Martin Wakelyn, Robert le Parmenter, William du Port, Jordan Simon.

KING'S JURATS.

Names of the Jurats of the King.—Peter le Parmenter, William Gilbert, Richard Durel, John Gorreik, Ralph Ode, Richard Marie.

EXISTENCE OF JAIL IN 1200.

The jurors present that Ralph Ode seeing a sheep of William Blenlok thinking it to be his took it with him to his house and did not wish to restore it to the said William, but during the contention therefor between them that sheep being on the sea-cliff fell & died. And the said Ralph convicted thereof by the jury to which he submitted himself is committed to jail &c. And he compounded for 10 livres by the pledge . . .

CONCEALMENT OF WRECKAGE.

And Petronilla the wife of Vincent le Bot found of wreck near the sea a small chest value 2 sols which the Provost found concealed with her &c. and took it & shall answer for it. And Petronilla to be amerced for concealment.

CONTINUATION OF THE PLEAS OF THE CROWN  
AT SARK.

THE KING'S LAND.

They present also that the ancient farm of the lord the King of the land of Sark amounts to 10 livres of which the Prior of Sark in the name of the Abbot of Montebourg takes by the year 4 livres & the chapter of Coutances . . . . . sols. And the rest remains to the lord the King.

SARK A CHURCH SANCTUARY.

They present also that Jordan Simon in the 25th year of the reign of Edward the father &c. fled here to the Church for theft and acknowledged the deed &c. and abjured the islands. The same Jordan had land of inheritance with Richard his brother whereof the share of Jordan is one acre & a half which are worth per annum one bushel of wheat besides services &c. and up to now were concealed &c. Therefore Godfrey Peveril who holds that land is charged with the arrears together with the heirs of the aforesaid Richard. And of the aforesaid rent &c. They present also that Matthew du Val & Andrew his brother in the 27th year of the said King &c. fled here to the Church for thefts & there acknowledged the deed &c. and abjured the islands. The said Matthew was one of the heirs of Roger his father who died 10 years ago &c. and the share of the said Matthew of the aforesaid inheritance extends to 2 virgates & a half which are worth per annum besides services &c. 2 small bushels of wheat, up to now concealed &c.

Therefore the tenants shall answer to the Lord the King as well for the arrears as for the aforesaid rent &c. And the aforesaid Matthew afterwards returned with letters patent of pardon of the lord the King &c. And Andrew du Val & Nicholas his brother in the same year likewise abjured the islands for thefts &c. and they had land of inheritance to wit, 4 virgates of land which are worth by the year 2 small bushels of wheat besides the services &c. up to now concealed &c. Therefore the tenants shall answer therefor &c. And the said Nicholas died. And the said Andrew afterwards returned saying that he had letter of pardon of the lord the King &c. And as soon as the present Justices came here the said Andrew fled to the Church here and remained in the same, who being asked on behalf of the Justices if he had letters of pardon &c. said that his brother had lost them.

And when the Justices went to him in the cemetery permitting him to be released on bail by four of his neighbours from now to the month of St. Michael so that in the meantime the rolls may be searched &c. he did not wish it, but of his own choice abjured the islands again. The same Andrew had of the

inheritance of his mother &c. besides the aforesaid land 3 virgates of land which are worth per annum besides services &c. one bushel of wheat.

SARK VALUES IN 1200.

And the crop of his land sown this year is worth 60 sols. He had also one cow value 20 sols, one heifer value 20 sols, one calf value 5 sols, one foal value 20 sols, a sheep value 20 sols, wool value 10 sols, one hog value 6 sols, timber value 4 sols, one chest value 3 sols, ropes and fetters value 7 sols, one pan with a tripod value 4 sols, & the 6th part of a boat value 8 sols of which the aforesaid Provost shall answer. And because the commonalty permitted him to remain among them as if he were a man within the peace of the King, therefore to be amerced.

BAILIFF'S JUDGMENT REVOKED.

They present also that Ralph Blondel in the 17th year of the aforesaid King &c. abjured the islands for theft &c. and about two years ago the said Ralph returned with letters of pardon of the now King for the abjuration & felony &c. And the bailiff by the judgment of the jurats of the lord the King in Guernsey re-delivered to him his land without other warrant &c. which being considered as wrongly obtained is revoked &c. And he had 9 acres of land which are worth per annum besides the services 2 bushels of wheat whereof the tenants of the same are charged with the arrears of the aforesaid 2 years & of the rent &c.

AT THE FIRST ASSIZE.

And to the judgment of the said jurats &c. chiefly as the aforesaid lord the King shows &c. that by his writ in the 18th year of his reign he had caused it publicly to be forbidden that such deliveries of lands should be made without consulting the King.

THE KING'S ESCHEATS.

They present also that in the fee of Capis there are of the escheat of the lord the King 20 virgates of land of which the tenants pay to the lord the King by the year 3 bushels of wheat & 26 deniers one poulage & one fowl & a half. And they say that that land is worth more by the year by 2 bushels of wheat which ought to be levied upon Ralph son & heir of Ralph Ode formerly Provost &c. who 30 years ago and more without warrant occupied & appropriated to himself 2 virgates of the better (land) &c. which are well worth 2 bushels of wheat beyond services &c. Therefore the said Ralph shall answer as well for the arrears as for the rent &c.

They present also that Ralph Roiry formerly serjeant of the said Ralph the Provost &c. 30 years ago &c. abjured the islands for theft &c., and the said Ralph the Provost appropriated to himself a certain close of the same felon beyond the Priory &c. which is & ought to be the escheat of the lord the King & is worth per annum beyond the services &c. one measure of wheat. And the aforesaid Ralph the son &c. is charged as well with the arrears as with the aforesaid rent.

(The remainder of the same is in another roll).

**SARK.**CONTINUATION OF THE CROWN PLEAS OF SARK.SEVERAL FREE-FARMS IN SARK.

The jurors present that there are of yearly rent due to the lord the King in this island . . . . . 3 measures 2 hanapats & a half. And be it known that 5 hanapats make a small bushel and . . . . . bushel. The lord the King has of escheat for default of heirs &c. 6 virgates of land which pay . . . . . 6 paris is by the year & are further worth one bushel & 5 hanapats of wheat. Also he has of the escheat of . . . . . Vale which pay of certain farm 5 deniers & they are further worth one bushel of wheat and one small bushel. He has also . . . . . of Colin du Val 3 virgates of land which pay of ancient farm

5 deniers by the year & it is worth . . . . . & small bushel. Also the lord the King has of the escheat of Geoffrey le Moigne who died without heir . . . . . Henry Warren holds & it is worth by the year 3 sols & 3 hens. He has also of the escheat of the same Geoffrey le Moigne of land which Ralph Ode held of the demise of John de Newent late Receiver for . . . . . by the year. And the same Ralph demised them to Robert le Parmenter & Peter Argent for 9 bushels. And the same Peter offers to the lord the King 12 bushels of wheat by the year for the said land & it is granted to him &c. Also . . . . . King has one messuage of the fee of Faleyse together with the curtilage which is worth by the year one bushel of wheat & 2 hens . . . . . has also of the fee of Richard du Port & his brothers 11 virgates of land which are worth per annum one bushel of wheat 13 sieves . . . . . also of the fee of Ralph Mynot 10 virgates of land & a half which are worth per annum one quarter of wheat half a sieve & 16 deniers. And of the fee of Anfrey 18 virgates of land which are worth per annum . . . . . Also the lord the King has of escheat 3 virgates of land which belonged to John Pynere & are worth per annum 6 deniers & one bushel of wheat. He has also of the fee of Set . . . . . messuage 16 virgates of land which are worth per annum . . . . . . . . . . And of the fee of Sarder 3 virgates of land which pay of farm 11 deniers & are further worth 5 measures of wheat & 2 hens. He has also of the fee of Alaneyne 5 virgates of land which Richard Neel holds of the demise of the Prior of Wenlock for 5 sieves of wheat per annum & they are further worth one measure of wheat. Therefore he shall answer henceforth for the whole. Also the lord the King has one virgate of land of the escheat of Germeyne which is worth per annum one sieve of wheat & 12 deniers. The lord the King also has of the fee of Aese 13 virgates of land which pay to the lord the King by the year 16½ deniers & 2 bushels of wheat. And of the fee of Blondel 30 virgates of land which pay to the lord the King by the year 22 deniers of farm & 6 bushels of wheat. And the aforesaid land of the fees of Aese & Blondel is further worth 2 bushels of wheat by the year. Therefore they shall answer therefor henceforth. Also the lord the King has of the fee of Ralph de la Croix 14 virgates of land which are worth per annum 14 paris is & one quarter of wheat. And of the fee of

Fanchillon 6 virgates of land which are worth per annum 16 deniers of farm & 2 bushels of wheat & 2 sieves & are further worth one bushel of wheat per annum. Therefore it shall answer therefor henceforth. Also of the fee of Meleis 3 virgates of land which pay per annum 5 sieves of wheat & 2 loaves. Also the lord the King has of the fee of John Geoffrey as well enclosed as open 8 virgates of land which pay to the lord the King by the year 10 deniers of farm & 3 bushels of wheat, & it is not worth more because Ralph Ode has thereof 5 sols of rent which his father long ago bought of the tenants of the same. He also has of the land of Dalion one virgate of land and one close containing the 8th part of one virgate which are worth per annum one bushel of wheat. They say also that the lord the King has near the Priory in front of the house of Putybale one close containing half a virgate of land where the lord the King was wont to have his grange & they say that the Provost is accustomed to have the herbage thereof, but they do not know by what warrant. They say also that the house of Putybale is built partly upon the King's demesne to wit, on one side towards the south and on the other side towards the west & Ralph Ode now holds it, who comes & gives to the lord the King the yearly rent of 2 sols, so that he may hold the said house in the manner in which it now stands & it is granted to him. Also the lord the King takes champart of the corn of his tenants in this island which is worth one year with another 20 livres. Also the lord the King has his rabbit warren in this isle & right of warren through the whole & it is let to farm this year with another to 65 pullages, to wit, of each pullage 2 hens, & the lord the King may take, when he shall value his pullage, of each of his tenants' hens for 2 deniers as often as he shall wish & if he have not hens he shall be paid for the same 2 deniers. They say also that there are in this island 5 fees, to wit, the fee of Collochit in which are 12 virgates of land. And the fee of Machon containing 12 virgates of land. And the fee of Richard Marie in which are 12 virgates of land. And the fee of John Neel (containing) 12 virgates of land. And the tenants of the aforesaid fees owe carriage of the corn of the champart of the lord the King in Normandy wheresoever the officers of the lord the King shall wish between Mount St. Michael & Cherbourg, so that the same tenants are bound to

find at their own costs boats for the aforesaid corn so to be carried. And other tenants of the lord the King owe the service in the same boats. Also the tenants of those fees ought to keep the prisoners of the lord the King in the aforesaid fees. Also the same tenants ought to find linen cloths & sacks for the carriage of the said corn & for this they ought to receive yearly of the other tenants of the lord the King 2 bushels of wheat & 2 bushels of barley.

#### DEATH DUTIES?

They present also that Colin Carupel owes of relief for the death of his father 9 sols. And William Houel owes likewise of relief 35 deniers & both for 4 years past.

#### PROVOST AMERCED.

They present also that Ralph Ode caused to be summoned Ralph Neel out of the dominions of the King at Coutances in the Court of Christianity. Therefore he is to be heavily amerced.

#### AT LEAST TWO TAVERNS IN SARK.

They present also that . . . . . le Roseye taverners of wine & ale . . . . . & Peter le Parmenter junior, taverner & baker, have transgressed in selling. . . . . Therefore they are to be amerced.

#### JURY AMERCED!

And the jury of 12 for many concealments in their verdict of which (they were convicted) by the justices by examination to be amerced.

## CONTINUATION OF THE CROWN PLEAS OF SARK.

John de Fresingfield.

FEALTY TO THE KING OF ENGLAND.

(The jurats) of this island challenged concerning the fealty due to the lord the King to be made to him . . . . . and they joyfully assent to make fealty to him & they made it to him on their corporal oath, saving to Otto de Grandison those things which belong to him for his term by the grant made to him by the lord Edward formerly King of England father of the now lord the King.



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