SIR ROGER DE MORTEYNE, KNIGHT BANNERET
A BIOGRAPHY

***By John M Ellis*[1]**

ABSTRACT

By extracting biographical details from a range of primary and secondary sources, a picture begins to emerge of Sir Roger de Morteyne, the head of the medieval knightly English family of Morteyne - of Eyam, Risley and Mapperley, Derbyshire; Wollaton and Cossall, Nottinghamshire; Braunston and Misterton, Leicestershire; Dunsby, Lincolnshire; and Walsall, Staffordshire.

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Introduction

In previous articles I have given some account of the medieval Morteyne family (Ellis, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2003). Here I focus on one man, Sir Roger de Morteyne, who was born on 29 September 1262[2], the son of Sir Roger de Morteyne who predeceased his brother Sir William de Morteyne. Sir William died on 6 October 1283 and Sir Roger de Morteyne, the subject of this article, came into his uncle's estates, lands and properties on 14 January 1284. Sir Roger married Isabel, daughter of William Touchet, the nephew and heir of William de Luda (Louth) Bishop of Ely[3].

The details and events set out in this article all relate to this Sir Roger (b.1262) - the internal evidence concerning the estates etc. is convincing that this is the correct conclusion. I recounted in my article "*A Mediaeval Mystery*" (Ellis, 1999) how he and his son William de Morteyne disposed of the ancestral estates of the Morteynes (commencing with the manor of Eyam in 1307) for reasons not known.

It is clear from the petition of 27 May 1324 concerning their dispute with the prior and convent of Thornholm, that both Sir Roger and his wife Isabella were living at that date. On 29 September of that year he would have been 62 years old, and perhaps died shortly thereafter as, for that time, he would be considered to be an old man. However, he could have lived some further years - for instance William Marshall, Earl of Pembroke and Regent of England during the minority of Henry III, lived a vigorous life well into his eighties. Some others, but perhaps not many, lived to a great age, particularly those of the knightly class who survived combat in the king's wars in Scotland and Wales, and did not succumb to the prevalent medieval diseases such as plague and smallpox.

In fact it has not proved possible to determine the date of his death. I have found no Inquisition Post Mortem in the Calendars up to 1391, and he must have died many years before that. His name last appears in the Calendars of Patent Rolls on 22 October 1340 concerning the acquisition from him of property in Eyam, by Robert de

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2 He was 21 years old on the feast of St. Michael, 11 Edw.I, (29 September 1283), according to the Inquisition Post Mortem (IPM) of his uncle Sir William de Morteyne, whose heir he was.

3 Isabel wife of Roger de Morteyn was of full age in the bishop's IPM, 17 June 1298.

Sulby, but there is no indication as to whether or not Sir Roger still lived. His last entry in the Calendars of Charter Rolls on 12 March 1337 concerns the grant by him to the prior and convent of Haverholm, but, again, no indication as to whether he still lived. In the Calendars of Close Rolls he is referred to on 10 January and 12 October 1333 in connection with the prior and convent of Thornholm, also with no indication whether he was alive. He appears in the Calendars of Fine Rolls on 14 January 1284 when the escheators for north and south of Trent were ordered to deliver his lands to him, but I found no further mention in those Calendars up to and inclusive of 1391.

Sir Roger was present at the siege of Caerlaverock Castle by Edward I in July 1300, and the author of the Caerlaverock Roll, Poem or Song described him as striving "*that he might acquire honour*". As he appeared in the Great Parliamentary or Bannerets' Roll, c.1312, I assume that he was a knight banneret, and would lead a troop of 30 to 50 mounted troopers or men-at-arms. At Caerlaverock he would have been 37 years of age. He would have been an experienced warrior, possibly a little elderly to have striven to acquire honour, but maybe not!

Sir Roger, in common with most medieval estate owners, appears to have travelled extensively between his respective estates, no doubt in order to look after their interests. On 2 February 1300 he was at Eyam, Derbyshire, granting property, land and common of pasture throughout the manor to Roger le Rus and Agnes his wife, while in July of that year he was present at the siege of Caerlaverock Castle.

The Morteynes' relations with the church seemed to vary; initially benefactors, matters later deteriorated to the point of outright antagonism. In 1303 Sir Roger endowed Thornholm Priory with land in Appleby, Riseby and Roxeby, Lincs. (Wrottesley, 1898-99). The items in the Patent Rolls dated 13 October 1300, 3 February 1311, 27 May 1324, 10 January 1333 and 12 October 1333, all detailed below, illustrate the dealings and difficulties experienced by Sir Roger and his wife Isabella concerning their Appleby estate. Their dispute of 27 May 1324 against the prior and convent of Thornholm resulted in the king ordering the justices to hear the reasons of Roger and Isabella, and of the prior and others, and to "*cause due and speedy justice to be done to Roger and Isabella in this matter*". The outcome of the dispute is not known, but the family's relations with Thornholm appear to have seriously deteriorated because in 8 Hen.IV (1406/7) Robert Mortayn, the great-grandson of Roger and Isabella, sued the Prior of Thornholm for the manor of Appleby, "*which William Tuchet had given to Roger Mortayn and Isabella, his wife, and to the heirs of their bodies*". Again, the outcome of the Court action is not known, but it may have gone against the Morteynes because, on 26 January 1408, a Memorandum was made of a main price under a penalty of £100 made in chancery the 28th of that month by Henry Retforde, knight, and others, for Robert Mortayn and others, "*that they should do or procure no hurt or harm to the prior of Thornholm or any of the people*" (Wrottesley, 1898-99; CCR, Vol.13, Hen.IV, 1405-1413, p.355).

Between 8 June 1313 and 5 February 1324 (the period during which he was disposing of his ancestral estates), Roger incurred debts totalling £970 190s., of which £220 150s. was cancelled upon payment. Whether or not the balance of £750. 40s. was ever repaid is not clear. Each loan was to be levied, in default of payment, upon his lands and chattels in Lincolnshire.

It is clear from the Calendars of the Patent Rolls that acts of violence such as assaults were by no means perpetrated solely by the lower orders of medieval society, and were frequently carried out by members of the knightly class. The Morteynes were no exception. The 14th century was a lawless age and dangerous for the individual. Between 3 April 1312 and 25 February 1313, six complaints of assault were made against Roger de Morteyn, which resulted in Commissions of oyer and terminer being

directed to justices for investigation. On 25 December 1312 Sir Roger made a complaint against Ranulph Prat and others that they forcibly entered his close at Dunsby, Lincs., broke the dykes, carried away his goods, and assaulted William Shirlok his servant.

Sir Roger de Morteyne: documentary evidence[4]

Sir Roger de Morteyne's birth on 29 September 1262, is evidenced by the Inquisition Post Mortem of his uncle Sir William de Morteyne which records him completing his 21st year on the feast of St. Michael, 11 Edw.I, (29 September 1283). He was Sir William's heir taken in pursuance of a Writ of 14 November 1283 following the death of Sir William on the 6 October of that year. On the 14 January 1284 all his uncle's lands and properties were delivered to Sir Roger (IPM, Vol.2, Edw.I, Years 1-19, No.508; CFR, Vol.1, Edw.I, 1272-1307, p.197; Farrer, 1923).

William de Luda (Louth) Bishop of Ely died 25 March 1298, and, by his Inquisition Post Mortem on 17 June of that year, William Touchet and Isabel[5] wife of Roger de Morteyn were found to be his next heirs and of full age (IPM, Vol.3, Edw.I, Years 20-28, No.482).

Sir Roger de Morteyne came into his estates at the beginning of 1284, having attained 21 on the previous 29 September, and on 12 February of that year there was a grant to him and his heirs of free warren in all his demesne lands in Dounesby (Dunsby), Lincs.; Braundeston (Braunston), Leics.; Wolaton and Cosalle, Notts.; Eyam and Rysell (Risley), Derbys.; and Walesall (Walsall), Staffs. (CChR, Vol.2, Hen.III - Edw.I, 1257-1300, p.272; Yeatman et al., 1886-1907, Vol.2, Section 3, p.8), and on 6 February 1292 a Commission of oyer and terminer was given to John de Chinton of Coleshiell and two others touching the persons who broke the park of Roger de Morteyn at Walshale (Walsall) Staffs., hunted therein and carried away dear (CPR, Vol.2, Edw.I, 1281-1292, p.514).

On 17 January 1298 Roger de Morteyn, knight, acknowledged that he owed William de Bernewell, tailor, of London, £19 13s.4d., to be levied in default of payment of his lands and chattels in Lincolnshire (CCR, Vol.4, Edw.I, 1296-1302, p.192).

By grant dated 2 February 1300 at Eyam, Roger de Morteyn lord of Eyum granted 4 messuages, 6 bovates of land in Eyum and 4 acres of waste land near Leyghumsti (Leam Sty) and common of pasture throughout the manor to Roger le Rus and Agnes his wife, at a rent of 40s. (Jeayes, 1906, p.149, No.1212; Yeatman et al., 1886-1907, Vol. 4, Section 8, p.411; Hall, 1939, pp.4-5).

On 10 March 1300, Roger de Morteyn, knight, acknowledged that he owed £40 to Gilbert Pecche, to be levied in default of payment, of his lands and chattels in Lincolnshire (CCR, Vol.4, Edw.I, 1296-1302, p.376).

In July 1300 Roger de Morteyne was present at Edward I's siege of the Castle of Caerlaverock, co. Dumfries, according to the Roll, Poem or Song of Caerlaverock, a contemporary verse account, in Norman French rhymed couplets, of the lords and knights present, giving blazons of their arms, and compiled in the year after the siege. He was recorded thus:

> *Then there was Roger de Mortaigne,*
> *who strives that he might acquire honour,*
> *he bore yellow with 6 blue lions,*
> *the tails of which we call double.*

(Harris Nicolas, 1828; Wagner, 1950, pp.29-34; Denholm-Young, 1965, pp.13, 22-24, 55, 59, 112, 113).

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[4] The entries are given in chronological order

[5] Isabel(la) was the daughter of William Touchet (the bishop's nephew).

The arms of "Roger de Mortaigne" as blazoned in the Caerlaverock Roll, are, I submit, sufficient to state with certainty that he was Roger de Morteyne the subject of this article, because of the following five further sources:

1. Guillim' s Roll of Arms c.1295-1305 – "*114. Sire Roger de Morteyn - Azure three lions rampant argent (or in Harl. Ms. 6589), Harl. Ms. 6137, fo. 60b space 3*" (Greenstreet, 1877).
2. The Great Parliamentary, or Bannerets' Roll, c.1312, compiled between 1312 and 1314; execution contemporary or nearly so – "*Sire Roger de Morteyn, de or, vj lioncels de sable, od les couwes forchees*" (Harris Nicolas, 1829; Wagner, 1950, pp.42-50).
3. A seal of – "*Roger de Mortain, alias Mortein, lord of Walsall, co. Stafford, Knight, temp. Edw. II*" (8 July 1307 - 20 January 1327) - a shield of arms: "*3 lions rampant queues fourchees*" (Birch, 1887-1900).
4. Foster (1989).
5. "*Issabell daughter of Sir Roger Mortein Knt., lord of Dunesley (Dunsby), or 6 lioncels rampant sable*", married Sir Richard de Willoughby (the younger) of Willoughby Knt., one of the Justices of the Common Bench, Chief Justice of King's Bench; he died in 1362 (Marshall, 1871; Dakeyne Mss.[6]).

On 13 October 1300 Roger Morteyn and Isabella his wife were pardoned for entering a messuage, 11 Bovates of land and 12s. in rent in Appelby (Appleby, Lincs.) without licence, formerly the property of William de Luda, late Bishop of Ely, whose nephew and heir William Tuchet, after the Bishop's death, granted them in fee simple to Roger and Isabella who received licence to retain them (CPR, Vol.3, Edw.I, 1292-1301, p.540).

In 1302-3 Rogerus de Morteyn held Wollaton and Cossall of the honor of Peverel for 1 fee (HMSO, 1899, Vol.4, p.99; Farrer, 1923).

In 1303 Roger de Morteyn endowed Thornholm Priory with land in Appleby, Riseby and Roxeby (all in Lincs.) (Wrottesley, 1898-99).

On 10 June 1304 Roger de Morteyn and Thomas le Rus were acquitted of the tallage assessed upon them and their tenants in the manor of Waleshale (Walsall), as they held that manor acquitted of such tallage by the late king's charter (Hen.III - 28 Oct. 1216 - 16 Nov. 1272) (CCR, Vol.5, Edw.I, 1302-1307, p.145).

Sir Roger de Morteyn, at that time lord of Maperlay (Mapperley), witnessed a grant from Isabella sometime wife of Geoffrey de Herdeby to William her son of her lands in the vill and territory of Mapirleye, temp. Edw.I (1272-1307) (Jeayes, 1906, No.1634).

On 1 April 1307 Thomas de Furnivall was granted a pardon for acquiring in fee the manor of Eyum (Eyam), Derbys., from Roger de Morteyn who held it in chief, with licence for him to retain it (CPR, Vol.4, Edw.I., 1301-1307, p.516; Moor, 1930; Farrer, 1923).

On 16 December 1307 Roger le Rous and Agnes his wife were pardoned for acquiring in fee without licence of the late king (Edw.I, 20 Nov 1272 - 7 July 1307) from Roger de Morteyn 4 messuages, 6 bovates of land and 6 acres of pasture in Eyum (Eyam) Derbys., held in chief, with restitution of the same (CPR, Vol.1, Edw.II, 1307-1313, p.31).

On 3 February 1311 a licence was given for Roger de Mortayn to grant, in fee, to John le Forester of Appelby (Appelby) in Lyndeseye a bovate of land and 11 acres of meadow in Appelby in Lyndeseye, held in chief (CPR, Vol.1, Edw.II, 1307-1313, p.320).

On 24 November 1311 John de Somery was pardoned for acquiring in fee, without licence, from Roger de Morteyn, a moiety of the manor of Walsall (Walsale) held in chief (CPR, Vol.1. Edw.II, 1307-1313, p.401; Farrer, 1923).

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[6] Dakeyne Manuscripts, Vol. 6, pp.302, 303. Derbyshire Record Office, Matlock, Derbyshire.

On 12 March 1312 Roger de Morteyn, knight, demised, for the term of his life, to. Richard de Wylughby, the younger, his manor of Cossale (Cossall), with "*housbote*" and "*heybote*" by the view of his "*wodeward*" in his wood of Cossale Lount, and appurtenances, excepting his coalmine, wood, and court of freemen and bondsmen, at an annual rent of £4 (Stevenson, 1911, p.87).

On 3 April 1312 a Commission of oyer and terminer was directed to Henry Spigurnel and Hugh Wake, justices, on complaints by Richard de Roderham, chaplain, Simon de Everdon, William Symundesman de Everdon and Thomas "Of the Bedde", that Roger de Morteyn and Thomas de Hauville with others assaulted him, at Morton, Lincs. (CPR Vol.1, Edw.II, 1307-1313, p.474).

On 7 December 1312 a Commission of oyer and terminer was directed to William de Ormesby and Robert de Maddingle, on complaint by John Muschet of Fenditton that Roger de Morteyns, Adam son of John and Elizabeth his wife with others assaulted him at Fenditton, Cambs. (CPR, Vol.1, Edw.II, 1307-1313, p.544).

On 25 December 1312 a Commission was directed to Philip de Kyme, Lambert de Thikyngham and John Chaynel, on complaint by Roger de Mortein that Ranulph Prat of Hermesthorpe, John atte Welle of Brunne, Jocens del Dike and Robert Nicholas of Brunne, with others, forcibly entered his close at Dunnesby (Dunsby), Lincs., broke the dykes, carried away his goods and assaulted William Shirlok his servant (CPR, Vol.1, Edw.II, 1307-1313, p.546).

On 25 February 1313 a Commission of oyer and terminer was directed to William de Ormesby and two others on complaint by John Muschet of Fenditton that Roger de Morteyn and Adam son of John and Elizabeth his wife, with others, assaulted him at Fenditton, Cambs., and imprisoned him until he made a fine of £100 with them for his release (CPR, vol.1, Edw. II, 1307-1313, p.599).

On 8 June 1313 Roger de Morteyn acknowledged that he owed to Mament Francisci and his fellows, merchants of the society of the Bardi of Florence, £10, to be levied in default of payment, of his lands and chattels in Lincs. (CCR, Vol.1, Edw.II, 1307-1313, p.599).

On 8 June 1313, Roger de Mortein acknowledged that he owed to Stephen de Stanham, citizen of London, £120, to be levied in default of payment, of his lands and chattels in Lincs. Cancelled on payment, acknowledged by Richard de Sealleby, one of the executors of the said Stephen (CCR, Vol.1, Edw.II, 1307-1313, p.584).

On 4 November 1314 Roger de Morteyn was granted a licence to grant in fee 80 acres of wood in Wolaton (Wollaton) with the advowsons of the churches of Wolaton and Cosshale (Cossal), held in chief as of the honor of Peverel, to Richard de Wylgheby the elder. By fine of 40s. (CPR, Vol.2, Edw.II, 1313-1317, p.197; Stevenson, 1911, p.87; Moor, 1930; Farrer, 1923).

Sir Roger de Morteyne enfeoffed his son William of the manor of Wollaton before 1316, when his said son was lord thereof (HMSO, 1899, Vol.4, p.111; Farrer, 1923).

On 24 July 1317 Roger de Morteyn, knight, acknowledged that he owed to John de Ousthorpe, clerk, £60; to be levied in default of payment, of his lands and chattels in Lincs. (CCR, Vol.2, Edw.II, 1313-1318, p.558).

On 25 January 1318 Roger de Morteyn, knight, and Adam son of John, knight, acknowledged that they owed to John de Assheby £600; to be levied in default of payment, of their lands and chattels in Lincs. (CCR, Vol.2, Edw.II, 1313-1318, p.590).

On 18 May 1318 Roger de Mortayn acknowledged that he owed to Andrew de Norton and Richard de Stalleby 40s., to be levied in default of payment, of his lands and chattels in Lincs. (CCR, Vol.2, Edw.II, 1313-1318, p.611).

On 8 June 1318 Roger de Morteyn, knight, acknowledged that he owed to William de Ayremyne, clerk, 140 marks; to be levied in default of payment, of his lands and chattels in Lincs. (CCR, Vol.2, Edw.II, 1313-1318, p.618).

On 12 November 1318 William son of Roger de Morteyn, knight, acknowledged that he owed to Ralph de Crophull, knight, £600, to be levied in default of payment of his lands and chattels in Notts. (CCR, Vol.3, Edw.II, 1318-1323, p.107).

On 8 June 1319 Adam de Wellum was granted a pardon for acquiring, in fee, without licence, 14 messuages, 14 bovates and 12 acres of land and 4 acres of meadow in Wolaton from Roger de Morteyn and William de Morteyn, and 16 acres of wood in Sutton Passeys from John de Passeys, tenants in chief, as of the honor of Peverell then in the king's hand. By fine of 20s. (CPR, Vol.3, Edw.II, 1317-1321, p.350; Moor, 1930).

On 8 October 1319 Roger de Morteyn was granted a licence to enfeoff Richard de Wylughby, the younger, of 6 messuages, 5 bovates of land, 10 acres of wood, 6 acres of pasture and 20s. of rent in Cossale, and for William de Morteyn to enfeoff the said Richard of 6 messuages, 8 acres of and 2⅓ bovates of land in Wollaton, held in chief as of the honor of Peverel, as appeared by inquisition, to hold to him and his heirs; by fine of 1 mark (CPR, Vol.3, Edw.II, 1317-1321, p.393; Moor, 1930; Farrer, 1923).

On 8 October 1319 William de Morteyn was granted a licence to enfeoff Richard de Wylughby, of his manor of Wollaton, held in chief as of the honor of Peverel, as appeared by inquisition taken by Ralph de Crophull, escheator on this side Trent, excepting 26 messuages, 20 acres and 17⅓ bovates of land, 4 acres of meadow and 80 acres of wood on the said manor, and of the advowson of the church of the manor, to hold to him and his heirs; by fine of 20s. (CPR, Vol.3, Edw.II, 1317-1321, p.393; Stevenson, 1911, p.89).

On 6 March 1320 Roger de Morteyn acknowledged that he owed to Robert de Bristollia, merchant of London, £100; to be levied in default of payment, of his lands and chattels in Lincs. (CCR, Vol.3, Edw.II, 1318-1323, p.224).

On 24 March 1320 Roger de Morteyn, knight, acknowledged that he owed to Roger de Suthcote, merchant of London £80; to be levied in default of payment, of his lands and chattels in Lincs. (CCR, Vol.3, Edw.II, 1318-1323, p.226).

On 31 December 1322 Thomas de Furnival senior, lord of Hallumchire (Hallamshire) acquitted Agnes, who was the wife of Roger le Rous, and John her son who had granted an annual rent to him of 20s. from 4 messuages and lands (6 bovates) in Eyum, in respect of the said rent against the lord Roger ..... and the lord Roger de Mortein. (Jeayes, 1906, p.149, No.1214; Yeatman et al., 1886-1907, Vol.4, Section 8, p.413).

On 15 January 1323 Roger de Morteyn, knight, acknowledged that he owed William de Ayremynn, clerk, 100s.; to be levied in default of payment, of his lands and chattels in Lincs. William de Herlaston, one of the keepers of the seal, received the acknowledgment. Cancelled on payment (CCR, Vol.3, Edw.II, 1318-1323, p.693).

On 3 April 1323 John son of Roger le Rous granted to Gervase Rankel a toft and bovate of land in Eyum, as in a deed of feoffment which the said Roger had from the lord Roger de Morteyn then lord of Eyum. (Jeayes, 1906, p.149, No.1215).

On 1 July 1323 William son of Roger de Morteyn was granted a licence to grant to Richard de Wylughby, the elder, the reversion of 14 messuages and 14 bovates of land in Wolaton, held in chief as of the honor of Peverel, after the expiration of the lease of 21 years for which Adam de Wellum, parson of the church of Wolaton, held the premises; by fine of 40s. (CPR, Vol.4, Edw.II, 1321-1324, p.304; Farrer, 1923).

On 5 February 1324 Roger de Morteyn, knight, acknowledged that he owed to William de Ayremynn, clerk, 50s., and 5 marks on 22 October of that year to the same lender, both to be levied, in default of payment, of his lands and chattels in Lincs. (CCR, Vol.4, Edw.II, 1323-1327, pp.155, 323).

On 27 May 1324 Roger Morteyn and Isabella his wife had a petition before the king concerning a dispute which they had against the prior and convent of Thornholm stating that William Tochet granted to them 2 messuages, 4 tofts, 12 bovates of land and 6 marks of rent in Appleby, Lincs., to them and the heirs of Isabella's body, and that afterwards they demised the tenements aforesaid to the said prior and convent for ten years, and that after the said demise the said Roger and Isabella made a charter of feoffment of the said tenements to the said prior and convent. The king ordered the justices to hear the reasons of Roger and Isabella and of the prior and others, and to "*cause due and speedy justice to be done to Roger and Isabella in this matter*" (CCR, vol.4, Edw.II, 1323-1327, p.110).

On 6 February 1325 a release by Roger de Morteyn, knight, to Sir Ralph de Crophull, knight, dated at Boniton (Sutton Bonington) 25 January 1325, of his right in the park of Dunnesley (Dunsby) and in the lands within the same, and on the same date a Release by the said Roger de Morteyn, lord of Dunnesby, to Sir Ralph de Crophull, knight, dated as above, of his right in 4 messuages, 4 bovates of land and 10 acres of meadow, all in Dunnesby, all of which Ralph had by charter of Roger's demise, were enrolled. Roger came into chancery at Westminster on 6 February 1325, and acknowledged the above deeds (CCR Vol.4, Edw.II, 1323-1327, pp.342-343).

The Inquisition Post Mortem (writ dated 7 April 1325) of Richard de Wilughby taken at Lincoln on 4 May 1325 found that he held Dunnesby - a capital messuage, dovecot, a moiety of a windmill, and 113s. 6d. rent of free tenants, 106s. 8d. from enclosures, and 18d. from cottars, held of the bishop of Lincoln by service of 1/20 knight's fee, and that Richard his son, aged 40 and more, was his next heir. (IPM, Vol.6, Edw.II, Years 10-20, p.383, No.610).

On 16 May 1327 a Grant of special grace was made to Richard de Wylughby and his heirs, of free warren in their demesne lands of Wylughby, Wolaton, Cossale and Redyngton (Ruddington), Notts.; and Ryseleye (Risley), Aylewaston (Elvaston), Engleby and Maperlaye (Mapperley), Derbys. (CChR, Vol.4, Edw.III, 1327-1341, p.12).

On 16 September 1328 a Commission of oyer and terminer was directed to Walter de Friskeneye and Robert de Malberthorpe, on complaint by John de Crumbewell that Robert son of Roger de Morteyn, John de Tylleney and others, carried away his goods at Hacunby (Haconby), and Moiton, co. Lincoln, assaulted his servants, and imprisoned them until they paid a fine of £26 10s. (CPR, Vol.1, Edw.III, 1327-1330, p.351).

In an Inquisition *ad quod damnum* (4 Edw.III, 1331, No.78), Roger de Mortayne is stated to hold Dunnesby of Thomas Wake, Lord of Lyddel, lands in Appleby etc. of Richard Tuchet, and the manor of Barre, co. Stafford, in chief (Wrottesley, 1898-99).

On 10 January 1333 the prior and convent of Thornholm were pardoned, reciting that the king lately, in part satisfaction of £10 of land and rent which he had previously given them licence to acquire, granted licences for the alienation to them by Roger Mortayn of a messuage, six tofts twelve bovates of land and six marks of rent in Appelby, Roxby (Roxeby) and Rysby (Riseby), after return of an inquisition whereby it was found that the same were not held in chief, the prior has now given him to understand that the said Roger had acquired the premises from William Tochet, who held them in chief of Edward I, and had entered upon them without licence of the said king, and that the king has granted that they may retain them notwithstanding these trespasses (CPR, vol.2, Edw.III, 1330-1334, p.382).

On 12 October 1333 the treasurer and barons of the exchequer were ordered to allow £11 2s. to the prior of Thornholm against £20 owed by him to the king for the pardon of a trespass which he made in acquiring for himself and his house, from Roger Mortayn, certain lands in Appelby, Roxby and Risby, held of the king in chief, to be held away from the king, and the late king (Edward II) was bound to the said prior and convent in the said sum of £11 2s. for corn and other victuals bought from them for his use for the war in Scotland in the fourth year of his reign (8 July 1310 - 7 July 1311), for ,which the prior had not yet received any satisfaction (CCR, Vol.3, Edw.III, 1333-1337, pp.141, 142).

On 12 March 1337 an *inspeximus* and confirmation was made in favour of William de Walden, now prior, and the convent of Haverholm, Lincs., and the bretheren and nuns there, of a charter being the grant of Roger de Morteyn, knight, of all the convent has of his fee in North Rouceby or South Rouceby in demesne or in tenants (*tenentibus*) (CChR, Vol.4, Edw.III, 1327-1341, pp.403, 414).

On 22 October 1340 James son of Robert de Sulby was pardoned for the acquisition in fee by the latter from Roger de Morteyn of a messuage and four bovates of land in Eyum, held in chief, and the entering into these of the said Robert and afterwards of James, without licence, and licence was given for the latter to retain the same (CPR, Vol.5, Edw.III; 1340-1343, p.45; Yeatman et al., 1886-1907, Vol.2, Section 3, p.32).

Conclusions

This article cannot of course be accepted as a biography in the popular sense. The subject, his relatives, friends, acquaintances and enemies have been silent for approximately the last 700 years, and the details and events of Sir Roger's life which are set out above, in chronological order, have been obtained from the Public Records and other sources listed in the References.

The details and events extracted above give some indication of the character of Sir Roger, but much of that aspect of him will, of necessity, be merely conjecture. The study does indicate that, for some individuals at least, considerable information may be found by the dedicated researcher. By collating references to a single person from different sources the possibility exists of developing a prospographical account of their life.

Abbreviations

CChR: Calendar of Charter Rolls.

CCR: Calendar of Close Rolls.

CFR: Calendar of Fine Rolls.

CPR: Calendar of Patent Rolls.

IPM: Calendar of Inquisitions Post Mortem.

English county abbreviations: Cambs. - Cambridgeshire; Derbys. - Derbyshire; Leics. - Leicestershire; Lincs. - Lincolnshire; Notts. - Nottinghamshire; Staffs. - Staffordshire.

Gazetteer of Places Mentioned in this Article

- Appleby: Lincs. 6 km NE of Scunthorpe.
- Braunston (Braundeston): Leics. 6 km SW of Oakham.
- Cossall (Cosalle): Notts. 9 km W of Nottingham.
- Dunsby (Dounesby, Dunnesby): Lincs. 3 km N of Bourne, 19 km. SE of Grantham.
- Eyam (Eyum): Derbys. 16 km ENE of Buxton.
- Fen Ditton (Fenditton): Cambs. on River Cam, 4 km NE of Cambridge.
- Hacconby (Hacuaby): Lincs. 5 km N of Bourne, 2 km S of Dunsby.
- Haverholme[7]: Lincs. 6 km NE of Sleaford.
- Mapperley: Derbys. 11 km NE of Derby.
- Misterton: Leics. 2 km E of Lutterworth.
- Rauceby North: Lincs. 5 km W of Sleaford.

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[7] A double house - Gilbertine Nuns and Canons, and Cistercian (and Order of Savigny), united 1147-8.

- Rauceby South: Lincs. 1 km S of Rauceby North.
- Riseby: Lincs. 6 km NE of Scunthorpe.
- Roxeby: Lincs. 6 km NE of Scunthorpe.
- Risley (Rysell): Derbys. 13 km E of Derby.
- Thornholm Priory (Augustinian): Lincs. 4 km SE of Appleby.
- Treswell (Tyreswell): Notts. 6 km ESE of Retford.
- Walsall (Walesall): Staffs. 13 km NW of Birmingham.
- Wollaton (Wolaton): Notts. district of Nottingham 5 km W of city centre.

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