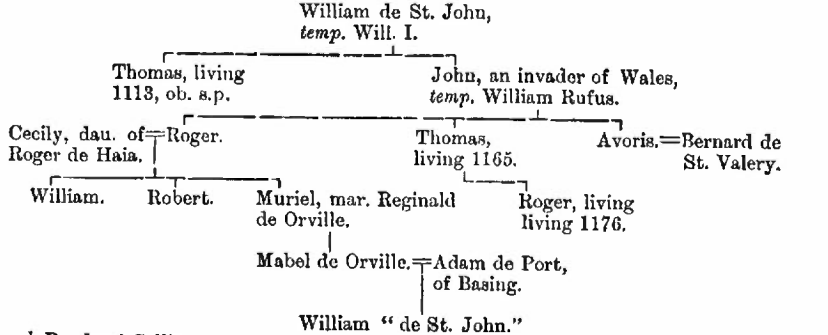
The Genealogist.

THE FAMILIES OF ST. JOHN AND OF PORT.

Among the few great feudal families of which the name is still found in the ranks of the English peerage is that of St. John. An interesting chart pedigree in the valuable *Complete Peerage* (i, 368-9) shews the connexion between the existing Barons St. John of Bletsho (1559) and the existing Viscounts Bolingbroke (1712)—who are also Viscounts St. John (1716) and Barons St. John (1712 and 1716)—together with the other dignities bestowed on the male descendants of Sir Oliver St. John of Bletsho (d. 1437).

Two questions of much interest arise from the St. John pedigree. The first is the origin of the family in England; the second is that of the connexion between Sir Oliver St. John and the feudal barons of his name. If, as asserted, he descended from them, his own descendants in the Peerage to-day can claim the very rare, if not unique distinction, of direct descent in the male line from a great Domesday tenant-in-chief (Hugh de Port).

It is to Dugdale's credit that, working from records, he began, as we must begin to-day, with Thomas de St. John, of Oxfordshire, *temp.* Henry I. The tale of that William de St. John who "entered England with the Conqueror, whose army he attended as grand master of the artillery and supervisor of the wagons and carriages,"[1] finds no place in his pages. At whatever period this tale made its first appearance, it was fully accepted in Brydges' Collins, whence it has been copied into other books, including the Duchess of Cleveland's *Battle Abbey Roll.* It is also annually repeated, under "Bolingbroke," in "Burke's Peerage." The pedigree in Brydges' Collins, which is duly followed in Burke, is based on one "in possession of Viscount St. John," and belongs to a type which is peculiarly misleading and difficult to deal with. For while some of its statements are based on records, the references for which are duly given, others rest on no authority, or at best on tradition. The affiliations also must be in part conjectural. For what it is worth, however, here it is:—



[1] Brydges' Collins.

At the very commencement of this pedigree we meet with these two statements:—

(1) That William de St. John was "denominated from the territory of St. John, nr. Rouen, in the province of Normandy." Now it is, on the contrary, certain that the English house derived its name from St. Jean-le-Thomas, overlooking the bay of Mont St. Michel, in the extreme west of Normandy.

(2) That this first William, "part of whose estate was the manor of Belington, had to wife Oliva, dau. to Ralph de Filgiers, of Normandy." It was, on the contrary, the William who in the pedigree is his great-grandson, that married Olive; and she was the mother, not the daughter of Ralph de Fougères, of Brittany (not "of Normandy"). Moreover, (Long) Bennington (co. Lincoln) was held by him in her right alone, and was not part of his own estate.[1]

Now when we find a pedigree begun with such demonstrable errors as these, it is, I take it, sound criticism to maintain that its statements cannot be accepted where no evidence is vouched for them. There is the statement, for instance, that John, son of the above William, acquired Fonmon Castle, in Glamorganshire, by sharing in the invasion of that district under William Rufus. That he should have done this about 1092, or at least before 1100, and yet, according to the same pedigree, have witnessed charters, of which one at least, is as late as 1141, is, indeed, not impossible, but is sufficiently improbable to make us anxious for evidence of the former fact.

That evidence is found in a tale of notoriously weak authority, which is quoted by Dugdale as from Powel's *History of Wales*. According to this, Robert Fitz Hamon, in 1091, invaded Glamorgan with twelve knights, of whom the last two were John de St. John and William le Esterling (*alias* Stradling) who received, respectively, the castles of Fonmon and St. Donat's.[2]

Mr. Freeman had occasion to deal, in his *Reign of William Rufus*, with the "Legend of the Conquest of Glamorgan,"[3] which he speaks of as "an elaborate romance which has stepped into the empty place of the missing history." He adds that

> "The romance is, as usual, the invention of pedigree-makers, working, after their manner, to exalt the glory and increase the antiquity of this and that local family. This is perhaps the meanest of the many forms of falsehood against which the historian has to strive; . . . . the legend is untrustworthy as containing names of families which did not appear in the district till later."

Mr. Clark also has discussed the story,[4] which he speaks of as "a legendary tale," adding

> "By whom or when this story was concocted is not known. . . . Probably its author was some follower of the Stradlings of St. Donats, a family somewhat given to literature, and whose fictitious pedigree it sets forth as true."

He also observes that the interesting Inquest of the Honour of Glamorgan in 1262 does not name St. John of Fonmon among the tenants in chief of the Honour.

[1] See the Savigny charter below.
[2] *Baronage*, i, 406.
[3] Vol. ii, pp. 79 *et sq.*
[4] *Archæological Journal*, xxxiv, pp. 19 *et sq.*

Notwithstanding this, in his interesting paper on Fonmon Castle itself,[1] Mr. Clark wrote that it "was, no doubt, built by Sir John de St. John soon after the conquest of Glamorgan; and part of the present building is original." The keep, for instance, "may be presumed to be Sir John de St. John's work."

The statement that this John de St. John took part in the conquest of Glamorgan is one, so far as I can see, that can neither be proved nor disproved. But, apart from the chronological difficulty, the pedigree based upon that statement can be demonstrably overthrown.

The first proved mention of the St. Johns in England is, as I have said, so far as is known, under Henry I. To establish their pedigree it is necessary to consult the records of many religious houses on both sides of the Channel, namely, the abbeys of Mont St. Michel, of Lessay, of La Luzerne, of Savigny, and of Fontevrault, with the priories of Lewes and of Boxgrove, and the abbeys of Gloucester, Abingdon, Eynsham and Oseney.

The best starting point is a document in the Cartulary of Mont St. Michel, dated 1121. It concerns a dispute between the monks of the abbey and their neighbours at St. Jean (le Thomas), namely, Thomas de St. John, with his younger brothers, John and Roger. We can account for all three of them. John and Roger are spoken of by Orderic Vitalis as being with Henry I. in Normandy in 1119; while Thomas appears in Oxfordshire as early as 1111, when he seems to have been joint sheriff.[2] He also, in 1112, gave some land to Gloucester abbey,[3] but in 1130 he was dead, and his brother had secured his lands in England" by payment of the large sum of 160 marcs.[4] The third brother, Roger, is the most important for our purpose, and the county in which he settled was Sussex. In my *Ancient Charters*[5] I printed a charter of confirmation to Lewes Priory in 1121, which proves that the church of Compton in West Sussex had already been given to it by Roger de St. John,[6] together with the confirmation of that gift by his son William de St. John in 1174—1175.[7] There is an entry under Hants in the Pipe Roll of 1130 (p. 80):—"Filius Rogeri de Sancto Johanne reddit compotum de LXXX marcis argenti pro relevamento terre patris sui." It would seem that this must clearly refer to our Roger, but a difficulty is presented, it will be found, by the late date at which his sons are known to have been living.

It would, indeed, be difficult to believe that Roger's sons were alive as late as 1187 if we had not decisive evidence of the fact. I have specially examined for the purpose the cartulary of Boxgrove Priory, founded by the lords of the Honour of Halnaker. We have there a charter of confirmation granted by William de St. John and Robert,

[1] Mediæval Military Architecture, ii., pp. 49 *et sq.*
[2] *Abingdon Cartulary*, ii, 119. *Cf.* p. 111.
[3] Cartulary of St. Peter's, Gloucester, *passim*.
[4] Rot. Pip., 31 Hen. I (Oxon).
[5] Pipe Roll Society Series.
[6] "ecclesiam de Cunctona cum his que Rogerius de Sancto Johanne ibidem dedit" (p. 18).
[7] "ecclesie de Conthonia quam dedit pater meus Rogerius de Sancto Johanne" (pp. 71-2. See also Cott. MS. Vesp. F, xv, fo. 135 d).

his brother, with Godeheld, wife of William, in which we have mention of "Robertus avus suus de Haia et pater suus Rogerius de Sancto Johanne;" and this document gives its date as 1187.[1] Again there is a charter of William de St. John, in which he speaks of "Robertus de Haia avus meus . . . Rogerius vero pater meus qui honorem Halnaci cum filia predicti Roberti habuit" (fo. 38). His brother Robert speaks in a confirmation of "avus meus Robertus de Haia et pater meus Rogerius de Sancto Johanne et frater meus Willelmus de Sancto Johanne" (fo. 27 d). These are the two brothers who, we have seen, were living in 1187. A Fontevrault charter shews them, in 1162—1169, jointly granting to their mother Cecily their manor of Compton for her life, a fact which shows that she, like them, long survived her husband, who probably died rather young. I have been able to establish the fact, hitherto I think unknown, that William de St John married twice. Godeheut, we have seen, was his wife in 1187. But there is in the archives of La Manche a very important charter to the Abbey of La Luzerne, a few miles north-east of St. Jean-le-Thomas, which is dated 1162. In it we find the two brothers, as in 1187, acting jointly and endowing the abbey from their estates at St. Jean and in Sussex. But in this charter the wife of William is not Godeheut, but Olive, who, by the way, also occurs in one of his charters to Boxgrove. To learn who Olive was we must turn to a Savigny charter. There at last we find her in 1174 wife of William de St. John, mother, by a previous husband of Ralf de Fougères, and daughter of Count Stephen of Brittany.

It is a very instructive illustration of the improbabilities which, in genealogy, sometimes prove to be true that the name of Robert de St. John's wife, like that of his brother's first wife, was Olive. This is absolutely proved by his charters, in two of which he speaks of his wife Olive.[2] Stranger still, his brother William's namesake and heir, William de St. John "secundus,"[3] married, like him, a wife bearing the somewhat rare name of Godeheut. This is proved by two of his charters, in one of which as "Willelmus de Sancto Johanne filius et heres Ade de Port," he speaks of "Godeude uxoris mee,"[4] while in another he styles her "Godeheldis uxoris mee."[5] This charter is dated December 1222, and presents, in a witness. William "de Godiuode," an early form of the now "glorious" name of Goodwood.

It is evident, although the fact is not mentioned by Dugdale, that this Godeheut was subsequently the wife of a Richard de Lucy, for we read in the *Testa*:—

> Ricardus de Lucy et Godheud de Sancto Johanne uxor ejus tenent manerium de Westsipford [Berks] de hereditate Roberti de Sancto Johanne quod est de baronia sua de Basinges, nec facit scutagium (p. 124).

This manor she must have held in dower.

[1] fo. 18. There is also a confirmation of it by William, Bishop of Constances.
[2] Boxgrove Cartulary, fos. 25, 30 d.
[3] Ibid., fo. 31.
[4] Ibid., fo. 32 d.
[5] Ibid., fo. 33 d.

We can now attempt a pedigree of the original St. Johns:—

- Thomas de St. John, of St. Jean-le-Thomas, Normandy, and Stanton St. John, co. Oxon, dead 1130.
- John de St. John, heir to his brother in England. ↓ A quo St. John, of Stanton St. John.[1]
- Roger de St. John, of Compton, co. Sussex, heir to his brother in Normandy. = Cecily, dau. of Robert de Haia, lord of the Honour of Halnaker.
  - (1) Olive, dau. of Count Stephen, of Brittany, and widow of [Henry] de Fougères. = William de St. John, of St. Jean-le-Thomas, Normandy, and Lord of the Honour of Halnaker, co. Sussex, living 1187.
  - (2) Godeheut.
  - Robert de St. John, apparently shared in his brother's possessions, living 1187. = Olive.

This pedigree, it will be seen, differs widely from that which has been hitherto accepted. In case any doubt should still be felt as to the above William and Robert living so late as 1187, I would point out that their maternal uncles, Richard and Ralf de Haia, were both living under Henry II. And if it be urged that, in that case, the Roger who gave Compton Church to Lewes in or before 1121 cannot have been their father, I reply that William de St. John, in his charter confirmation, distinctly asserts that he was.[2]

Let us now pass to the heir of Halnaker, William de St. John "the second," son of Adam de Port. In a charter of confirmation, styling himself "Willelmus de Sancto Johanne secundus," he confirms endowments "pro animabus Willelmi et Roberti de Sancto Johanne et Ade de Port patris mei et Mabiliæ matris mee."[3] For his actual connexion with the above St. Johns, we are dependent on a "stemma fundatoris,"[4] which seems far more trustworthy than is usually the case. I here place within square brackets the statements derived from this source, it would seem, alone:—

- William de St. John.
- Robert de St. John.
- [Muriel de St. John.] = [Reginald de Orval.]
  - Adam de Port. = Mabel [de Orval].
    - William "de St. John." ↓

Members of the families of de Orval and de Haye are found attesting the St. John charters to Boxgrove, and Mr. Stapleton, through the Norman Exchequer Rolls, claimed to connect Adam de Port with Orval (in the Côtentin).

But it is now time that we should turn to the Ports.

The early pedigree of the Port family has proved singularly difficult. If we had only to do with the house seated at Basing, the leading

[1] The charters of Oseney and Eynsham throw light upon this branch. There is evidence that Reginald de St. Valery had, in at least one instance, succeeded John de St. John, while, in another, his land, forfeited by Stephen, was bestowed by that King on John de St. John; but the authority for the match between the two families seems, at present, to be only a conjecture in Kennet's *Parochial Antiquities*.
[2] See p. 3 above.
[3] Boxgrove Cartulary, fo. 31.
[4] Ibid. (Cott. MS. Claud. A, vi), fo. 1.

feudal family in Hampshire from the time of the Conquest, our task would be simple enough. But there was another house of Port, which Dugdale treated separately as "Port of Herefordshire," and the existence of which has proved the source of almost endless confusion. Dugdale assigned to the latter house only one individual, Adam de Port,[1] who returned his fees as $22\frac{13}{20} + \frac{2}{3}$ in 1166. But, under Port of Basing, he mentions an earlier Adam, *temp.* Henry I, whom "I guess," Dugdale adds, "was a younger son of Hugh de Port, the Domesday lord of Basing." This "guess" has been subsequently accepted, but is, I shall contend, erroneous.

We must, however, first grasp the pedigree of Port of Basing.

Hugh de Port, of Basing, 1086.=Orenge.[2]
|
Henry de Port, of Basing, *temp.*=Hawise.
Hen. I. Sheriff of Hants.[3]
|
William de Port. — John de Port, of Basing,=Maud. 1148, 1166, 1167.
|
Mabel [de Orval ?]=Adam de Port, of Basing,=Sybil, the Countess. (succeeded circ. 1170.)
|
William "de St. Jean," of Basing, succeeded his father 1213.
|
Geoffrey. — Robert. — Adam.

Henry is proved to have been the son and heir of Hugh, by the cartulary of St. Peter's, Gloucester. From Henry to William "de St. Jean" the descent is proved by the charters of Monks' Sherbourne Priory, Hants, and of Montacute Priory, Somerset.[4] The descent from William is all clear. I have only affiliated the sons to their mothers where the descent is certain. The Countess Sybil attests, as his wife, a charter of Adam de Port to Sherbourne, but Maud (de Orval), heiress of the St. Johns' Honour of Halnaker, is known to have been the mother of William, his son and heir.

Dugdale became terribly confused in dealing with this Adam, tracing him in favour with the Crown to 18 John, then harking back to 22 Henry II, and then writing, on the strength of a charter in the Cotton collection:—

> But the next mention I find of him is, that being accused for the death of King Henry the Second, and thereupon adjudged to forfeit all his lands, King John in the eight (*sic*) of his Reign, gave of those Lands so escheated, the Mannor (*sic*) of Berewick to Alan Basset, etc.[5]

But he did not know the contemporary authority for Adam de Port's forfeiture, which proves that it took place in 1172,—forty-four years before Dugdale makes him Governor of Southampton Castle!

[1] *Baronage*, i, 465.
[2] The name of his wife has, I believe, never before been given.
[3] I have charter evidence for this.
[4] See the Montacute Cartulary (Somerset Record Society).
[5] *Baronage*, i, 463-4.

> Eodem anno [1172] Adam de Port calumniatus fuit de proditione regis; et quia ipse ad summonitionem regis stare judicio nollet, exlegatus est ab Anglia.[1]

In 1840 the problem was approached by Mr. Stapleton, admittedly the greatest authority we have known on Anglo-Norman pedigrees. His work on the Rolls of the Norman Exchequer led him to discuss Adam de Port as connected with Lithaire and Orval.[2] In 1180 (26 Hen. II), Mr. Stapleton observes, "Adam de Port gave 1,000 marks to the King for livery of his wife's inheritance in Normandy, as also that he might be restored to the King's favour and do his homage.[3] He then continues:—

> This baron . . . . appears to have been thrice married, and to have survived to the 15th year of King John; his first wife was the countess Sibilla, widow of Milo, earl of the county of Hereford, and daughter and heiress of Bernard de Novo-mercato, a powerful baron of that country, whose fief Adam de Port reported to the Exchequer, 14 Hen. II, with the nomenclature of the knights' fees held of the old and new feoffment, at which date his father John de Port, Lord of Basing in the county of Southampton, was yet living. Not long after, A.D., 1172, an accusation of treason was brought against him, and not appearing to the summons to abide his trial, he was banished the realm, when his barony in the county of Hereford escheated to the Crown, and ever after continued to be described in the records of this and the following reigns, as "feodum Adæ de Port fugati" or "fugitivi." By the countess Sibilla he had no issue, and her property descended through her daughter by her first husband, Berta, wife of Philip de Braiose, to William de Braose, who in 1194 paid 22 li. 13s. for the knights' fees which had belonged to Adam. His second wife was Mabilia de Aureavalle, whose inheritance in Normandy he has been shewn to have obtained in 1180, and by whom he had a son named William de Portu, who had possession of the Honour of Lithaire (and Orval) in 2 John . . . . The third wife of Adam de Port was sister of William de Braose; she was living in 1210, 12th of King John, the year of her brother's rebellion. . . . On the later roll of Richard I, he (Adam) is a debtor to the Crown in £100 for having the farm of Lithaire.

It will be seen that Stapleton followed Dugdale in identifying the man forfeited in 1172 with the lord of the Basing barony, but that he went further in identifying him as well with that Adam de Port, who made his return under Herefordshire in 1166. He had thus to account for Adam possessing a Herefordshire barony, which evidently led him to make it the inheritance of Adam's wife, "the countess Sybil," whom he therefore identified, ingeniously enough, with the daughter of Bernard de Neufmarche, whose husband Miles, Earl of Hereford, had died in 1144. His whole account is so positive that it is not easy to believe that it must have been all guesswork—and erroneous guesswork—as I shall prove. It will, however, be observed that Mr. Stapleton contradicts himself, by asserting that Adam's Herefordshire fief passed to his wife's heirs, the Braoses, and yet that it "escheated to the Crown, and ever after continued to be described in the records of this and the following reigns as 'feodum Adæ de Port fugati.'"

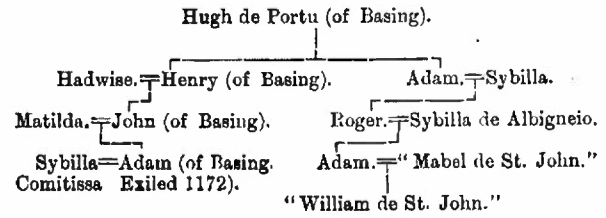
The Port pedigree was investigated anew, in 1862, by the Rev. W. H. Gunner,[4] who seems to have been unacquainted with Stapleton's conclusions on the subject, but who enjoyed the advantage of access to

[1] *Gesta Regis Henrici*, i, 35; *Hoveden*, ii, 41.
[2] *Rotuli Scaccarii Normanniæ*, I., lxi.
[3] This is taken, word for word, from Dugdale (i., 463).
[4] *Archæological Journal*, ix, pp. 248 *et sq.*

the Andwell charters at Winchester.[1] Andwell was an alien priory, near Basing, a cell of the great abbey of Tiron, which obtained endowments in England under Henry I. We find, in its charters, the real clue to the pedigree of the Ports, for as Mr. Gunner truly observed :—

> They open to us a collateral branch of the family, who founded and endowed the priory of Andwell, and bestowed it on the abbey of Tyrone ; while the barons of the elder line endowed the house at Shirebourne as a dependency of the abbey of Cerasie.[2]

Mr. Gunner, however, added that "this branch must have descended from Adam, younger son of Hugh, the first baron" (of Basing), an affiliation which I shall deny on the strength of these very charters. He also, in common with Dugdale, Stapleton, and Mr. Duthy,[3] assumed that the Adam de Port banished in 1172 was no other than the lord of Basing.[4] He was, by this assumption, led so far astray as to arrive at the conclusion that the only escape from the difficulties created by Dugdale's version was to hold that the elder line of Port came to an end with this Adam, and that his kinsman and namesake "succeeded to the honours and influence of his house, and that he is the stock from which the present representatives of the family are descended," through his son William de St. John.[5] He accordingly produced this pedigree :—



I now intend to advance the following propositions :—

(1) That the first Adam was not a son of Hugh.

(2) That he had already a fief in Herefordshire under Henry I.

(3) That this fief was in no way derived from Bernard de Neufmarché.

(4) That it was *his* grandson and namesake, and not Adam de Port of Basing, who was exiled in 1172.

(5) That William "de St. John" was the son of Adam de Port of Basing.

Of these propositions the fourth is the most important, and affects the manorial history of some half-a-dozen counties.

As to the first of the above points, it can be proved that Mapledurwell (1) belonged to Adam de Port under Henry I, (2) belonged to another Adam in 1167, (3) was granted by John 10 March 1200, to Alan Basset, who also obtained Berwick, Wilts, forfeited by Adam de Port, from John. The obvious inference, we shall find, is that *Hubert* de Port, who held Mapledurwell in 1086, as his solitary English manor, was the ancestor of this line of Port.

[1] I cannot obtain access to these, as they are shortly to be printed.
[2] Ibid, p. 260. Monks Sherbourne was a cell of St. Vigor de Cerisy (Manche).
[3] *Sketches of Hampshire* (1839).
[4] *Archæological Journal*, ix, p. 257.
[5] Ibid, pp. 260-261.

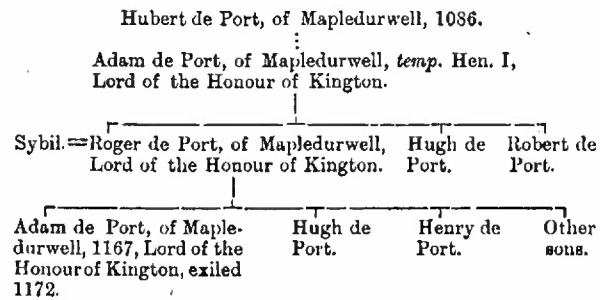
My second point is proved by a Tiron charter, which I assign to 1120—1122,[1] wherein Henry I confirms to the monks the land which Adam has given them in "Chinton" and Beverton.

For my third point we have only to turn to the Monks Sherbourne charters printed in the Monasticon, which shew clearly that Sybil was the wife of Adam de Port of Basing, not of his contemporary and namesake, Adam de Port, "of Herefordshire." This disposes of the whole of Mr. Stapleton's version.

For my fourth point, the identity of the man who was banished in 1172, it will be necessary to show that the Honour and manors described as having belonged to this exile, and escheating, through his banishment, to the Crown, were, in no case, part of the Basing barony, but belonged to that other branch of Port which bestowed its endowments on Tiron.

The fifth point, which is the parentage of William de St. John, is proved by the Monks Sherbourne charters.

I shall now, therefore, devote myself to proving the fourth point by tracing the descent and history of that line of Port which bestowed its benefactions on Tiron. I make their pedigree to be this :—



The abbey of Tiron only began to attract the gifts of English benefactors in the latter half of the reign of Henry I. I think, therefore, that we must assign to the earlier half of the reign Adam de Port's gift to the Priory of Monks Sherbourne (or rather to the parent house of St. Vigor de Cerisy). Dugdale, who had seen the charter at Queen's College, Oxford, describes the gift as of

> "The Chapel of Newham, with all the tithes of that Lordship as also the tithes of Mapelth and Welle, with one yardland in Mapeth, and half a yardland in Newham, in the presence of William Giffard, then bishop of Winchester, upon the day of the dedication of that Chapel."[2]

"Newham" must be Newnham two or three miles from Mapledurwell,[3] and "Mapelth" or "Mapeth" must represent Mapledurwell itself, while "Welle," perhaps, is Greywell.

After this, Adam's gifts were made to the abbey of Tiron, possibly because it was in special favour with Henry I, from whom, I expect, he obtained his large increase of possessions. There is printed in Dun-

[1] See my *Calendar of Documents* preserved *in France*, No. 1005.
[2] *Baronage*, i, 463.
[3] The Advowson of Newnham (with Mapledurwell) is now vested in Queen's.

comb's "History of Herefordshire" (i, 296-7) from the original in private hands, the charter by which Henry I granted a fair at Hereford to the see of Hereford, which is addressed to Adam de Port and Walter de Gloucester, and which implies, therefore, that Adam was the principal officer of the county. This charter, which was granted "Apud Berchelai in Pascha," must, from internal evidence, belong to Easter 1121 or Easter 1122. Fortunately, Henry of Huntingdon tells us that at Easter 1121 "Rex ad pascha fuisset apud Berchelea,"[1] so that we can date this charter precisely.[2] It was in Herefordshire that Adam made his grant to Tiron at "Chinton" and Beverton,[3] which was doubtless the origin of Titley priory. "Chinton" I identify with Kington, Herefordshire, the *caput* of that Honour which his grandson forfeited in 1172.[4] But I am bound to say that, in the latest history of Herefordshire (1897), I cannot find even mention of Adam in the twelve pages devoted to Kington.[5] The next gift to Tiron I assign to 1123—1133. It has been printed by Mr. Gunner,[6] who deemed it the virtual foundation of Andwell Priory. The lands given are at Mapledurwell and at Nately adjoining.

Passing to the next generation we find Roger de Port giving the monks of Andwell land at Mapledurwell and Andwell, together with the churches of Stratton (Wilts) and of Hinton and Bradford (Peverel), which two latter, we learn, had been given by Adam de Port.[7] On the anniversary of his death (he was buried at Tiron), Sybil, his widow, gave them a virgate at Bradford (Peverell), at which place the gift was confirmed by Adam, their son and heir.

This latter Adam, Mr. Gunner wrote :—

also confirmed to them the church of Ernlee, "quam quidem ecclesiam Adam de Port avus meus et pater meus Rogerus pro anima regis Henrici, eisdem monachis multo ante dederunt et concesserunt."

This was the church of Arley, Staffordshire, of which we shall hear again, and which, we thus learn, was held by the first Adam de Port.

We may now endeavour to learn something of the fiefs held by this branch of the family of Port. I have succeeded to some extent, in reconstructing that "Honour of Kington," which Adam de Port possessed. In 1166, he returned his knight's fees as $21\frac{3}{20}$ of the "old" feoffment and $1\frac{2}{3}$ of the "new."[8] But of this very considerable holding, only sixteen fees. we find, were comprised in the Honour of Kington,[9] leaving more than seven independent of it. Of these sixteen fees, five were in Herefordshire and eleven in Wiltshire (and

[1] Rolls Series, p. 243.
[2] Its witnesses are Geoffrey Archbishop of Rouen, Roger Bishop of Salisbury, Teold Bishop of Worcester, Ranulf the Chancellor, William de Tancarville, Adam de Port, Walter de Gloucester, Payn Fitz John, Geoffrey de Clinton, and Roger de Candos.
[3] See p. 9 above.
[4] It is identified in the *Red Book of the Exchequer* (Ed. Hall) with a "Kington, co. Dorset" in one place, and with a supposed Wiltshire manor in another.
[5] Continuation of Duncomb's History ; Hundred of Huntington, pp. 64-76.
[6] *Archæological Journal*, ix, 248-9.
[7] Ibid., p. 249.
[8] *Liber Rubeus*, pp. 279-280.
[9] Ibid., 497, 600.

Dorset).[1] One can go further and identify some of Adam's Dorset manors. Among them were Bradford Peverel, Swyre, and Thornton in Marnhull, all of which were among the manors which William of Eu had held in 1086 and had forfeited under William Rufus. At Bradford, probably, was the Dorset residence of the family, and here they founded another cell of the Abbey of Tiron.

The grants made by them to Tiron and the subsequent grants made by the Crown of their forfeited estates, enable us to trace their possessions further, but nothing is more difficult, in feudal history, than to reconstruct these "Honours" which were formed by special Crown grant after the time of Domesday.

The chronicler's statement of Adam's fall in 1172 is confirmed by the contemporary Pipe Roll, from which we learn that in that year three cart-loads of prisoners reached London from the West in connexion with this affair.[2] And his land at Arley, Staffordshire, was at once seized.[3] Of this land we have heard already, and we find it subsequently in the hands of Hubert de Burgh by royal grant : –

Erneleg fuit Ade de Port et est escaeta domini Regis, H. de Burgo tenet per dominum Regem.
Thomas de Burgo tenet manerium de Arneleg de antiqua escaeta de Ad' de Port de dono domini Regis Johannis.[4]

There are two suits relating to Hubert de Burgh's tenure of it abstracted in "Bracton's Note-book."[5] I desire to call special attention to a peculiar series of entries in the Pipe Roll of 1167, because their value is, I think, unknown to topographers and genealogists. Under Staffordshire (p. 56) we read, "Erneslea Ade reddit comp. de I marca." This is a type of the entries I speak of, and I deem it proof that Adam (de Port) was in possession of Arley in 1167.

When we turn to Hampshire (p. 189) we find these entries in point :—

Basing Johannis de Port reddit comp. de dim. marca.
Maperdewella Ade reddit comp. de dim. marca.

Here again the entries show that Basing was held by John de Port and Mapledurwell by Adam (de Port) in 1167. And they further confirm my own version of the Port pedigree. Bramley and Sherborne (St. John) are similarly shewn by these entries to have been held by John (de Port) in 1167.

Mapledurwell, as I said above, was granted by John to Alan Basset 10 March 1200,[6] and I have identified the charter by which he also granted to Alan the manor of "Berewic"[7] 1 June 1206.[8] This was

[1] Ibid. But the entry "In comitatu Wiltescire xj milites" is erroneous, for some of these were in Dorset.
[2] "Et pro locandis iii carretis ad portand' prisones pro Adam de Port de Oxineford ad Lund[oniam]," p. 18. "In custamento et conductu prisonum pro Adam de Port et xviii paribus Boiarum ad opus predictorum prisonum" (Gloucestershire), p. 119.
[3] "Idem vicecomes reddit compotum de xxxv s. de Erlega terra que fuit Ade de Port," p. 106.
[4] *Testa de Nevill*, pp. 54, 55.
[5] Ed. Maitland (Cambridge University Press).
[6] *Rotuli Chartarum*.
[7] See above, p. 6.
[8] Cott. Charter, viii, 25.

Berwick, Wilts, not "Berwick, co. York," as is oddly asserted in the British Museum catalogue, which says that the charter speaks of it as having "been escheated with the lands of Adam de Portu, 'qui appellatus de morte H. Regis patris nostri abjudicatus fuit de tota hereditate sua.'" Here we have conclusive evidence that Adam forfeited the whole of his inheritance. The Basing barony was not forfeited, because it belonged, not to him, but his kinsman. The "Honour of Kington," on the other hand, escheated, and became the "Honor of Kingtone quod *fuit* Adæ de Port.[1]

A considerable portion of this Honour was situated in Dorset and Somerset, and we find, under John, in the *Testa de Nevill*, the following allusions to its forfeiture:—

Robertus de Columbarius tenet feudum unius militis de honore de Kington qui est in manu domini Regis (p. 162).

Robertus Belet tenet Swere, in Dorset de dono J. Regis Angl' per servicium dim. militis de honore Ade de Parc (*sic*) de Kineton (p. 164).

Robertus Peverel tenet Bradefort in capite de dono domini J. Regis de feodo Ade de Parc (*sic*), et est escaeta (p. 164).

Robertus Chantemerle tenet Dalewode pro quarta parte militis de dono (*sic*) domini regis J. (p. 164).

Henricus de Sancto Paulo dicit quod tenet de domino Rege III hid. et dim. in capite de honore de Kington qui fuit Ade de Port (p. 164).

Gilbertus de Port tenet Thornton per servicium dim. militis de escaeta de feodo qui (*sic*) fuit Ade de Port fugitivi (p. 165).

The corresponding entries will be found in *The Red Book of the Exchequer* (p. 546). But we there read:—

Robertus Chantemerle tenet de dominico (*sic*) domini Regis pro tertia parte unius militis.[2]

HONOR DE BOLONIA

Robertus Peverel, Bradeforde de eodem honore.

Reference to the Red Book itself showed me that this was an error due to the rubricator. Bradford Peverel was essentially part, not of the honour of Boulogne, but of the honour of Kington. We again read in the *Testa de Nevill*:—

Bradeford est eschaeta domini Regis que fuit Ade de Port utlagati. Robertus Peverel tenet eam (p. 171).

John had granted it to Peverel 17 Jan. 1200. In Hutchins' Dorset, I may add, this has all been misunderstood.

In Wiltshire, Adam de Port's fief lay in Stratton and Berwick. Its Stratton tenants are entered in the Red Book on pp. 489, 600.[3] Berwick, as we have seen, was granted to Alan Basset.

For genealogists this enquiry has a very clear moral. When a chronicler tells us that "Adam de Port" was exiled in 1172, and when we find that, in that year, there was living a great feudal baron, Adam

[1] *Red Book of the Exchequer*, p. 600.

[2] There is evidently some confusion in one or the other entry. Dalwood was a "member" of Fordington, which had been royal demesne. But the Red Book enters it under "Honor de Kincestona."

[3] Ralf "de Arguilla" (p. 489) and Ralf "de Aigville" (p. 600) are the same man, though indexed separately. The "v" in "Aigville" is, of course, a "u," and reference to the MS. shows that it is possible to read the "i" as "r." But these points of "reading" are always open to question.

de Port of Basing, it is natural that we should identify the two. And this is what has been done. Yet, as I have urged in my latest paper—dealing with "The Origin of the Swintons"[1]—it is precisely this assumption of identity, however simple it may seem, that may always lead us, as here, astray, and that we cannot safely make, unless it is established by proof.[2]

This paper has become so long that I can only glance at the problem to which I referred at the outset, namely the descent of the St. Johns of Fonmon (Glamorgan), and afterwards of Bletsho, from St. John (formerly Port) of Basing.[3] It is noteworthy that Dugdale does not assert more of them, under Bolingbroke, than—

These being a branch of the antient Family of St. John of Stanton St. John, in Com. Oxon., as I guess.[4]

Nor does he allude to their origin under St. John of Basing. The accepted statement (as in Brydges' Collins), is that Fonmon was acquired, in the days of William Rufus, by John de St. John, and that on the death of his descendant, Robert de St. John, of Basing, his younger son William inherited the castle (circ. 1267), and became the founder of the Fonmon branch. No evidence, unfortunately, is given for this statement, but the names of the St. Johns who occur in Mr. Clark's great collection (in four volumes) of charters and muniments relating to Glamorgan seem to be in harmony with the pedigrees claimed. A William de St. John, knight, is a witness at Usk, 13 April 1289, and in the County Court of Glamorgan, 1299, we have "Domino Johanne de Sancto Johanne, juniore; domino Rogero filio suo." On the other hand, their acquisition of Fonmon has not been satisfactorily explained, and there is the fact, adduced by Mr. Clark, that they are not found as tenants of the Honour in 1262.[5] I would suggest that the problem should be studied in the light of the descent of Instow, Devon, which was held by a branch of the St. Johns, with similar Christian names, under the honour of Gloucester.[6]

It is greatly to be wished that a pedigree so exceptionally fine should be placed beyond cavil by the publication of the proofs.[7] If the St. Johns of Fonmon can be clearly traced from a cadet of St. John of Basing, their descent from Hugh de Port (1086) follows as a matter of course, especially now that I have proved that the Basing barony was not forfeited, as alleged, under Henry II.

J. H. ROUND.

[1] *Genealogist*, April, 1899.

[2] Mr. Duthy printed in his *Sketches of Hampshire* (Appendix vii) an agreement with the Bishop of Winchester which he dates 1171-2, and connects with the exiled Adam. But its real date is 1173-4, and it relates to Adam de Port of Basing, who held Abbotstone of the Bishop.

[3] The armorial evidence is, I believe, wholly in favour of this descent.

[4] *Baronage*, ii., 398.

[5] See p. 2 above. A William de St. John, who occurs in Mr. Clark's volumes circ. 1200, might, possibly, be the son of Adam de Port.

[6] It was held by a John in 1303 and 1316, and an Oliver in 1346. The St. Johns had held it as early as the days of Henry III.

[7] The Lansdowne MS. 860A (fo. 348), to which Mr. Clark refers for the "St. John evidences," does not, I find, help us.