

KIDNER

The origins and history of a name



Peter W.E. Kidner

PART 1 - THE MIDDLE AGES

A One-Name Study of **KIDNER**

And its variants and aliases, namely -
Ketenore, Kidenore, Ketnor, Kitnor, Kitner, Kydnor
Chibbett and Gebbett

Peter Kidner asserts the moral right to be identified as the author of
this work

© P.W.E.Kidner 1996-2008.

Cover: Culbone Church © Simon Kidner

INTRODUCTION

It has been said that nothing is certain in genealogy. Written records were often prepared long after the event and were based on oral accounts or on hearsay. Names were spoken and the writer wrote down what he heard - or thought he heard. Parish clerks were often poorly educated and easily confused. There was always scope for error!

In drafting this study I have had two specific aims. The first and obvious aim has been to occupy my retirement years with something which has a great fascination for me and which, at the same time, seems to be constructive and of probable interest to others - the history of our family name.

My second aim has been to carry on the research started by my father, William Elworthy Kidner, which occupied much of his later years. Although he studied the whole of our family history from the Conquest to the present century, he specialised in the medieval period. His research notes are comprehensive, detailed and accurate; and incorporate extracts and translations of all the more important source references. But he never attempted to put together a coherent sequence of events which could form the basis for a narrative account; nor did he pass on his findings to any but a few close friends and relatives. It is my hope that I can complete such a narrative, either publish it or, at least, deposit it with the Society of Genealogists and the Somerset County Record Office. At the same time, I would edit my father's notes and deposit them also, so that both become available to others who may study - and perhaps extend - the research we have both done.

In preparing this study, I have adopted the following method which seems appropriate: -

First, to assemble and collate all the available and relevant facts; from these, to prepare an initial scenario which satisfies the facts and, at the same time, to tell a coherent story, even though some parts may be little more than informed guesses.

Secondly, to use the scenario so drafted to identify the additional information needed to fill the gaps and confirm the less well-established assumptions, and to consider how and from where that information might be obtained.

Finally, to search for those further facts needed, and then to revise the scenario to satisfy all the facts both old and new.

This cycle may need to be repeated two or three times before an acceptable draft can be written.

Few of our Kidner ancestors named in this study were either famous or important in the context of national events. So our story must be one primarily of social change, from knighthood in an age when rebellion and war were the norm, to landowner, farmer, craftsman and merchant, sometimes in England and, in later years, often in the colonies and empire. I hope to include all in the later parts of this study.

This Introduction is intended to accompany Part 1 of the study, covering the Middle Ages. In Part 1 I have used the Domesday spelling of our name; that is, Chetenore or Ketenore. However, when quoting from a contemporary document, I have used the spelling found there. Thus it is possible to follow the gradual changes in the name and its spelling over the years and in different localities.

For the general historical background I have relied principally on three major works:

1. *The Oxford History of England*, particularly Volume II (Anglo-Saxon England, by Sir Frank Stenton); volume III (Domesday Book to Magna Carta, by A. L. Poole) and Volume IV (The Thirteenth Century, by Sir Maurice Powicke).

2. The Oxford *Medieval England*, ed. H.C.W. Davis, 1924.

3, *Ireland under the Normans* by G.H. Orpen, Oxford, 1911.

However, where I have drawn facts or opinions of direct importance to the narrative I have, as far as possible, listed the precise source references in an Appendix to each Part of the narrative.

Finally, I would like to record my thanks to all those who have contributed ideas and information, both for Part 1 and for the later Parts not yet written. In particular, I am grateful to Leonard and Arthur Gebbett and C.Scott Hooper for their contributions to Part 1 and comments on my early drafts.

P.W.E.K.

August 1996.



Sir John d'Abernon, Knight

This brass at Stoke d'Abernon, Surrey, shows the personal equipment of a knight of the period - less his helmet.

CONTENTS

Part 1 — The Middle Ages

Chapter I **The Place and Time**

Culbone; the Domesday Survey; the reign of Henry I; knight service and the Feudal system.

Chapter 11 **Norman Origin**

Henry II and his Norman supporters; the Return of Fees of 1166; William de Ketenore and his family; Culbone and Timberscombe; the campaigns in Ireland; Robert de Ketenore and Yorkshire.

Chapter III **Carhampton Hundred**

William de Ketenore's descendants in Carhampton Hundred; Timberscombe and Quarme; Isabel de Ketenore inherits and marries John Bochel.

Chapter IV **Cannington Hundred**

William de Ketenore's younger sons, Jocelin and Adam; Maud de Ketenore's marriage and the reversion of Adam's estates to William de Ketenore's heirs; De Ketenores of Petheram and Stogursey.

MAPS

Page 16	Map 1	Carhampton Hundred
Page 36	Map 2	Cannington Hundred

TABLES

Page	Table	Subject
11	1	De Ketenores of Somerset - 12 th -13 th Centuries
28	2	Descendants of William de Ketenore 5, Carhampton Hundred
45	3	De Ketenores and Kydners of Cannington Hundred

CHAPTER I - The Place and Time

"Culbone, Oare and Stoke Pero,
Parishes Three, no parson'll go"
Porlock doggerel

Our name - Kidner - is derived from a place-name; and that place is now called Culbone, a tiny hamlet some two miles to the west of Porlock Weir in the extreme north-west corner of Somerset. It has always been an isolated and unspoilt place, recorded in literature as a place of extraordinary wild beauty.

Culbone lies in a wooded combe running down to the Severn estuary on the northern edge of Exmoor. It was known as Ketenore in Saxon times, when it was the site of a hermit's cell. The tradition is that a Welsh Saint, Columban, (or, in Welsh, St Coulban) landed at Porlock about AD 500 in the company of St Dubricius to whom the church in Porlock is dedicated. St Columban is said to have established himself in the secluded combe at Culbone where he remained until his death. Sometime after he died, a small chapel was built there in his memory.

The chapel, incorporating traces of an earlier building, was still standing at the time of the Norman Conquest though it may well have been derelict by then. It was rebuilt and enlarged sometime in the 12th Century and has been further altered and restored in more recent times. But the church as it stands today is still largely of Norman construction. It is thought to be the smallest complete parish church in England, and is still in regular use.

Over the years, the name of the place has changed from Ketenore to Kitenor, Kitnor and eventually to Culbone. There are early references to "Kitnor St Columban" and to "Culbone formerly Kitnor". As a surname, Kitnor changed to Kidner generally in the 16th Century though the forms Kitner and Ketnor survived to the west of the Quantock Hills into the 20th century.

The derivation of these names is somewhat controversial. Ketenore is probably derived from the Old English words *cyta an* meaning 'kite' and *ora* 'steep slope': a hill slope frequented by kites. Culbone is probably a variant of the saint's name Columban or Coulban. But another school of thought attributes the name to another Welsh saint - St Bueno, and derives it from the Old English *kil* meaning church: Kilbueno, or the Church of St Bueno.

Domesday Survey of 1086

Under the feudal system introduced into England by the Normans, all land was owned by the king, in whose gift it lay. Large tracts of land were granted to the great and famous amongst the king's supporters such as his half-brother Robert Count of Mortain, Geoffrey de Moubray Bishop of Coutances, William Malet, William de Mohun of Dunster and Roger Arundel, all of whom had accompanied King William in 1066. They held their lands directly from the king and were known as Tenants-in-Chief. These in turn retained some of their estates for their own use, and granted the rest to their own supporters

and members of their families in return for an oath of loyalty to the king and an undertaking to provide military service when called upon to do so.

William the Conqueror spent Christmas 1085 at Gloucester where he had assembled many of his principal advisers. The Danes were threatening an invasion of England, and William needed to know how large an army he could assemble. He therefore ordered the preparation of a detailed survey of the country, which came to be known as the Great or, because it left no stone unturned, Domesday ("Day of Judgment") Survey. Officials were to be sent into every county to determine the ownership of each estate, how much it was worth, how it was farmed and what livestock was held, and so on. This huge task was completed during the following year, the written record being known as The Domesday Book.

The most important questions asked were: what is the name of each manor? who holds it? and what is its annual value? And the survey covered many other more detailed aspects. Such information was necessary for the fair assessment of taxes and for establishing the military potential of the counties.

The Tenant-in-Chief whose estates included Ketenore in 1086 was Geoffrey de Moubray, Bishop of Coutances, who held a total of 77 manors in Somerset and more than 90 in Devon, including all those which later became the Honour of Barnstaple. Geoffrey gave to Drogo, probably his steward, three manors in Somerset and others in Devon. The Somerset manors were Ketenore, Wilmersham and Exton.

The Domesday entry for Ketenore (spelt Chetenore, since the Norman-French alphabet had no 'K'), as translated, reads: -

"Drogo holds of the Bishop CHETENORE. In the time of King Edward [the Confessor] it gelded for one hide and one virgate. The arable is two carucates. In demesne are one hide and one plough-team and the villeins have one virgate. There are two villeins, one cottager and one serf with one plough-team and fifty acres of pasture and one hundred acres of wood. It is worth fifteen shillings, and when the Bishop received it five shillings. These two manors [Wilmersham and Chetenore] Osmund Estramain held in the time of King Edward".

A *hide* is generally held to have been about 120 acres, and a *virgate* one quarter of that area. But the *acre* here is not the modern acre; and the hide and virgate, being units for tax purposes, vary according to the quality of the land. The total area of the manor in 1086 is thought to have been about 500 modern acres.

A *carucate* is the area of arable land which can be ploughed in the proper season by one plough-team of eight oxen, and again depends on the quality of the land. The *villeins* were smallholders with their own land; and the *cottager* perhaps a retired villein no longer able to work full-time but given a small plot to keep him in his old age. The *serf* was the lord's servant who worked for his keep, and was virtually a slave. All these lesser men worked on their lord's land (demesne) when required and paid no rent for the land they had for their own support. And when the lord was required for military service he would require the others of the manor to accompany him according to his needs.

Thus we have a simple rural community of probably five adult men with their women and children, in all perhaps twenty-five souls, farming about 300 acres with additional woodland to provide fuel and timber for buildings and domestic items. In addition to the two plough teams there would have been a few head of cattle, some sheep and other livestock. Life may have been primitive and harsh at times, but people were largely self-sufficient and independent (and generally ignorant) of the outside world. There was the sea to the north and Porlock within easy walking distance along the coast from whence the few necessities they could not produce themselves could be obtained. And to the south and west lay the combes and heathlands of Exmoor. Drogo, the overlord, and Geoffrey de Moubray, the Tenant-in-Chief, must have been remote indeed from the tiny hamlet of Ketenore.

Only the Lord of the Manor would have met either, and then only in the course of military duty. But these were times of great turbulence and conflict between the king and his rivals for power, in which the bishops and barons were not always true to their oaths of fealty. The lord of Ketenore at this time has not been identified, and it seems very unlikely that his name will ever be known. He was most probably a Norman of comparatively low social status, rewarded for military service during the Conquest and after, who found favour with Drogo his master.

Bishop Geoffrey de Moubray retained his estates until his death in 1093 when they passed to his nephew and heir Robert de Moubray, Earl of Northumberland. But two years later Robert rebelled against the king, forfeited his estates and spent the rest of his life in prison.

Meanwhile, William the Conqueror had died in September 1087 of wounds suffered at Mantes in Normandy two months earlier. He was succeeded by his second son William Rufus, while his eldest son Robert succeeded to the Dukedom of Normandy. Robert never accepted this sharing of what he believed was his rightful inheritance, and his claim to both England and Normandy led to conflict between the two brothers and a division of loyalties amongst the great barons and magnates in both countries. Fortunately for William, Robert's attempts to gain the throne of England swiftly collapsed. But the dispute smouldered on even after William Rufus's death in August 1100 and the accession of the Conqueror's youngest son, Henry, to the English throne. It was not finally settled until 1106 when Henry, after a short campaign in Normandy, defeated Duke Robert at the battle of Tinchebrai. Robert was captured and spent the remaining 28 years of his life as his brother's prisoner.

Henry I (1100-1135)

The accession of Henry I to the throne of England was, as will be seen, a crucial event in our family story. Henry's position in the early years of his reign was more than usually precarious and it was vital that he should take action to expand the support he had. In particular, he acted quickly and vigorously in three respects: promising to re-establish the traditional standards of government throughout his kingdom; acting to redress the grievances of the church, and expelling from England many of those who had supported Duke Robert, sending them back to Normandy and confiscating their lands.

In place of those expelled, Henry summoned many of his supporters from the continent, granting them offices of state and property in England in return for their loyalty.

Much of the land granted was taken from those expelled. One man above all was associated with Henry's reformation of the country. That man was Roger le Poer who first came to Henry's notice some years previously as able to read mass more quickly than any other. Henry appointed him his chaplain. In 1101 he was made Chancellor and, a year later, Bishop of Salisbury. He virtually ruled England during Henry's absences in Normandy, issuing decrees in the king's name. His loyalty was never in doubt, despite the great powers vested in him.

The le Poer family were, in the main, priests and Henry made the greatest of them bishops in the Norman tradition of 'warrior bishops': it was sometimes said that they knew more of the principles of war than of the church. Roger's son, also Roger, became Chancellor in succession to his father in 1135; his nephew Nigel became Lord Treasurer and Bishop of Ely; and another nephew, Alexander, was appointed Bishop of Lincoln.

The le Poers, and others brought by Henry from Normandy, came accompanied by their household staffs, dependants and supporters. The laymen amongst them were granted land, both for their support and to ensure their continued loyalty. In this fashion the common people, in the West Country in particular, found themselves serving new lords and subject to renewed emphasis on the military duties required of them. Henry further called upon his Tenants-in-Chief to grant knight's fees to as many of their supporters as practicable so as to increase the number of knights available to fight for the king when trouble arose. In this context, it is important to understand the role of the knight in the essentially Norman society of early 12th Century England.

Knight Service and Land Tenure under the Normans

The feudal system of land tenure described earlier in this chapter allowed Tenants-in-Chief to grant land to whomsoever they favoured - family relatives and loyal supporters. By this means they ensured that they had at their command a body of men whose services they could call upon in case of need. The basic unit of land tenure was the knight's fee: an estate sufficient to support the knight and his family with their servants and retainers. A knight granted land in this manner was said to be *enfoeffed*, and enfoeffment brought with it responsibilities for both parties. The overlord, who might hold a few or many fees of the Tenant-in-Chief, was responsible for the military training and equipment of his knights; and each knight was responsible for rendering military service to his lord when required, without pay for an agreed period each year - usually 40 days but sometimes more - and for further periods when called. In the latter case, he was paid 8d per day during most of the 12th century, a rate which was raised from time to time as costs increased and the value of money depreciated.

The knight was usually provided with a war horse, a coat of mail, helmet, sword and lance. Any additional items he had to provide from his own resources. These usually included at least a servant, supplies and baggage - and the means to transport them, and occasionally if mustered in an

emergency, perhaps one or more foot-soldiers or an archer. His routine duties included the provision of castle-guards and escorts for his lord's retinue when the lord travelled far from his local district. In emergencies, he might be called, with others, to repel a hostile incursion or coastal raid.

But the knight's social status demanded other duties of him. As he was likely to be literate and to have some degree of learning, he would be required to give jury service in the courts and to witness charters and other legal documents concerning land transfers, wills and so on. These 'civic' duties increased as the years passed and in due course led to the enactment of laws requiring all men with an annual income in excess of a fixed sum - initially £20 - to accept knighthood.

Finally, the holder of a knight's fee often became Lord of the Manor by virtue of his status as the major landholder in the locality. As such, he would preside over regular meetings of the Manorial Court to decide local disputes and complaints.

But not all knights were enfeoffed, particularly the younger and more ambitious sons of the lords and knights who saw their future in soldiering rather than as settled landholders. They were retained as members of their lords' households and formed cadres of fighting men to serve and protect their masters' interests.

In all the country, there were never more than about 5,000 knights available to serve the king. But such a number, with their retinue of attendants, archers and foot-soldiers, could muster a considerable army if called upon in a national emergency.

Towards the end of the 12th century, land held by military service became heritable. Sub-infeudation was accepted and a class of tenants holding only a fraction of a fee became widespread. Consequently, it was progressively more difficult to exact military service from those holding only a fraction of a knight's fee and the payment of money in lieu of military service, known as 'scutage', became commonplace.

So much for the setting within which we shall look for the first of our ancestors to be named in the surviving documents of the period.

CHAPTER II - NORMAN ORIGINS

Henry I died on 1st December 1135. Stephen of Blois seized the throne and was crowned King of England at Westminster before Christmas, giving his elder brother Theobald no opportunity to forestall him.

Stephen was a nephew of Henry. Henry had had no fewer than twenty-one children although only two were legitimate: William, who died in 1119; and Matilda, whom Henry had named as his rightful successor.

However, Matilda was a disagreeable woman, haughty, tactless and grasping, and unpopular with the Norman barons¹. As a result, Stephen's claim to the throne had wide support in England at the time. His reign, though, was marked by nine years of conflict with Matilda (1138-1147), who gained the support of many others in Normandy and England and, in particular, of Robert of Gloucester—Matilda's half-brother². The resulting civil war and the Third Crusade which followed it disrupted the administration to such an extent that Stephen's reign has been dubbed the '*anarchy*'. He died on 25th October 1154 and was succeeded by Henry II, Matilda's son by her second husband Geoffrey Plantaganet.

Henry II (1154-1199)

After his succession to the throne, Henry II found that the available records of land tenures and knights' fees were inadequate for the assessment of the military strength of the country. So he ordered all his tenants-in-chief to submit a return of their lands, who held them and, in particular, the names of their enfeoffed knights. This return was completed in 1166 and survives to provide information of the greatest importance to genealogists³.

By the middle of the 12th Century William de Braose held the Honour of Barnstaple, which included Ketenore and a few other Somerset manors. This is an extract from his return of 1166, translated from the Latin of the original: -

"These are the fees of William de Braose of the Honour of Barnstaple [Devon] ... and Ranulf Poher holds of 'William de Braose three knights' fees. And these are the knights who hold [them] of Ranulph: William Poher, and William de Ketenore ... All these fees are of the old enfeoffment"⁴.

The 'old enfeoffment' comprised all those enfeoffed before the death of Henry I in 1135.

¹ The Oxford History of England (OH), Vol. 3 p.131

² *ibid* p. 135

³ *Liber Niger Scaccarii* (The Black Book of the Exchequer or BBE) Ed. Thomas Hearne, 1728, Vol. 1 pp. 127-8

⁴ The original Latin text reads:-

"Isti sunt milites Willelmi de Braosa de Honore de Berdestaple...Et Ranulfus Poher tenet de Willelmo de Braosa feodum III Militum. Et isti sunt milites qui de Ranulfo tenent: Willelmus Poher, et Willelmus de Chetenora ... Omnes isti milites fefati sunt de veteri fefamento."

This is the first specific documentary reference to William de Ketenore that has been found. But William's signature has been found on two earlier charters of the Honour of Dunster. Neither charter is precisely dated but the accepted dates are given below. The first is a charter, probably of William de Mohun II, confirming land held by William son of Durand by the service of five and one half knights. It is witnessed by twenty-four persons known to hold land in Somerset or Devon including Willelmo de Kytenora, and was made probably about 1155 at the Hundred Court of Carhampton. In acknowledgement, William son of Durand gives de Mohun a war-horse and a silver mark⁵.

Another witness to this charter was Nigel de Dilesword (Elworthy), who held four fees of the Honour of Dunster at Elworthy, Willet, Poleshill in Milverton, and Runnington near Wellington. This is the earliest known reference to an Elworthy.

The second charter is dated to about 1160. It was made by William de Mohun III, granting the church of Lyons (in the Rhone valley) to St Mary's, Bruton, in Somerset. The witnesses included Willelmo de Chetenora and twelve of those who witnessed the earlier charter⁶.

The le Poers of Devon and Somerset

Ranulf le Poer was a grandson of Joel of Totnes, but it has not been possible to identify his father. That he was related to Roger le Poer, Lord Chancellor under Henry I and Bishop of Salisbury, seems very probable for he was called upon to serve in matters of national importance from time to time. For example, in 1175 he was witness to the agreement setting out the terms on which Henry II released William the Lion, King of Scotland, after his capture at Alnwick in July 1174 and his subsequent imprisonment at Falaise⁷.

Ranulf was born about 1110 and died between 1175 and 1185. It seems that he had no effective son and heir, for the bulk of his estates passed to his niece Juliana on his death⁸. Juliana married Richard de Raleigh who became mesne tenant of the Honour of Barnstaple for the estates previously held by Ranulf, including Ketenore. But the situation is confused by a claim made by Juliana in 1196 against David de Cherrhull (Churchill in the Barony of Blagdon in Devon) for a fee formerly held by Ranulf le Poer. In his defence, David pleaded that Juliana was not Ranulf's true heir because Ranulf had had a son William⁹ who was seized of the fee in question after Ranulf's death. Juliana lost her claim and David de Cherrhull retained the estate.

Thus it appears that the William le Poer who held a knight's fee of Ranulf in 1166 may not have been Ranulf's son.

There was another member of the le Poer family, Radulfus le Poer, who held land in Cannington Hundred of the Honour of Curci. Radulfus (Ralph) had four sons, William, Robert, Roger and Durand; and, possibly, a fifth son

⁵ Mohun Cartulary, Somerset Record Society (SRS), Vol.33

⁶ Cartulary of the Abbey of Troan, Lower Normandy; Calendar of Documents, France, 918-1206, SRS Vol.8

⁷ BBE Vol. 1 pp 36-40; OH Vol.3 pp 277-8

⁸ Curia Regis Rolls, Vol VII p. 238 (1195-96)

⁹ *ibid*

or nephew - Fulk. It is suggested that it was Radulfus' eldest son William who owed knight service to Ranulf, and that Ranulf's son William was in some way defective, perhaps illegitimate or an idiot. Both Williams were born between 1125 and 1135 and were contemporaries of William de Ketenore. William son of Radulfus also held a knight's fee of the Honour of Curci which included land at Knaplock and Petheram.

William de Ketenore 1 (c.1130-ante 1186)

Some conclusions can be drawn from the references to William de Ketenore so far noted. First, he would not have witnessed the Mohun charters unless of age. So it seems certain that he was born before c.1134. His signature on these charters implies that his status was that of a knight and, probably, Lord of the Manor. There are later documentary references to William de Ketenore, in 1175 and between 1175 and 1180¹⁰ which suggest that he was alive at least until 1180 though, for reasons to be explained later, he is believed to have died before 1186.

We have noted that the enfeoffment of Ranulf and J William le Poer and William de Ketenore was 'of the old enfeoffment'. But both Williams would have been children in 1135 and the enfeoffment must refer to the earlier generation - to Ranulf certainly; but does it refer to the enfeoffment of William de Ketenore's father? Without further evidence, this question must remain unanswered. William de Ketenore and, by implication, his father must have been close members of the le Poer family, comparable in status to brother and son. But the actual relationship is unknown. Either a marriage with a le Poer daughter or a position such as steward are possibilities.

Robert de Ketenore (c.1130-post 1174)

Robert de Ketenore witnessed two charters, in 1156¹¹ and 1174-75¹², which were also witnessed by, amongst others, Robert de Braose, Richard de Raleigh, William de Curci and William le Poer, indicating that he was of knightly status though not enfeoffed, and probably William de Ketenore's brother. His place in our story will be told later in this chapter.

The Next Generation

William de Ketenore had four sons - William 2 (c.1150-c.1220), Geoffrey 1 (c.1155-c.1205), Jocelin (c. 1155-post 1205) and Adam (c.1160-c.1220). We know of no daughters. William, the eldest son, inherited Ketenore together with all other lands held by his father in accordance with the principle of primogeniture. As head of the family and Lord of the Manor he would have exercised his authority over all those living on his estates and, in particular, the grant of sub-tenancies to relatives and others.

¹⁰ Pipe Rolls, 21 Henry II; and SRS Vol. 61, No.25. Note that in that transcript William's name is given as 'Flettusore', whereas it is thought that the correct transcription would be 'Kettenore'.

¹¹ Wells MSS, Vol. 1 pp. 19-20

¹² Wells MSS, Appx III p. 493

William de Ketenore 2 had a son Geoffrey 2 (c.1185-c.1250) who, in his turn, also inherited the family estates. It is not known whom either William 2 or Geoffrey 2 married, nor the names of any of their younger sons or daughters. But it is known that Geoffrey held land at Timberscombe in 1236 and this provides a clue to the marriage of the first William de Ketenore about 1150.

Timberscombe

Timberscombe lies in the valley of the River Avill some 2 miles south-west of Dunster and 10 miles east of Culbone (see map on page 26). The land in the valley is highly fertile and the hill slopes well wooded. A charter made by the Prior of Bath in the mid-13th Century records the grant to Richard le Tort of "one furlong of the vineyard at Timberscombe... for a yearly rent of ten shillings"¹³.

In 1176, Timberscombe was held by Adam de Timberscombe as a knight's fee¹⁴. Adam is thought to have died about 1185, leaving his estate to be divided equally between his four daughters - Cicely, Christina, Alice and Sarah - in the absence of a male heir.

After her father's death, Cicely de Timberscombe, the eldest daughter, made a gift of the church at Timberscombe to the church of St Andrew at Wells, with the agreement of her three younger sisters and their husbands, all of whom are named in a charter dated 1186 recording the gift, though no mention is made of Cicely's husband¹⁵.

A further charter of King Richard I dated 1189 confirms the gift of the church by Christina de Timberscombe and her sisters Alice and Sarah, but makes no mention of Cicely. It is presumed that Cicely had died between 1186 and 1189¹⁶.

An event some 50 years later clarifies the probable situation at the time. In 1236 a levy was made to mark the marriage of the King's sister. The returns for this 'aid' have survived in part and record that the joint holders of the knight's fee at Timberscombe were Adam Washford, Robert de Vigore, Richard de Cloutsham and Geoffrey de Ketenore¹⁷. The first three were the successors of the husbands of the three younger sisters and the ¼ fee held by Geoffrey de Ketenore was that inherited by Cicely. The most plausible explanation is that Cicely had married William de Ketenore 1 about 1150 but was a widow in 1186 and had died before the date of the second charter of 1189. Such a marriage would have been entirely appropriate: Cicely and William would have been about the same age, and the two families of similar status, living about 10 miles apart. Cicely's ¼ fee would have passed from William de Ketenore 1 to his son William 2, and then to Geoffrey de Ketenore on his father's death about 1220. It was held by the de Ketenore family for over 200 years.

¹³ Lincoln's Inn MSS No. 241 (F. Hancock, Dunster Church and Priory, p.48)

¹⁴ Pipe Rolls, 22 and 23 Henry II (1176-1177)

¹⁵ Wells MSS, Vol. 1 p.46

¹⁶ *ibid* p. 308

¹⁷ Book of Fees Vol. 1, 1198-1242, p. 581 (Testa de Nevill).

Jocelin and Adam de Ketenore

William de Ketenore's two younger sons lived in Cannington Hundred in their early years. Jocelin may have moved to Northamptonshire about the end of the 12th Century; but Adam certainly settled permanently in Cannington Hundred, possibly at Stogursey, and remained there until his death about 1220. The story of Jocelin and Adam is told in Chapter IV.

The Campaigns in Ireland, 1169-1190

Ireland in the mid-twelfth century was a divided land, comprising many tribal kingdoms frequently at war with each other. There had been several attempts to establish a High King with authority over the whole island, but they generally failed - at least to the extent that the inter-tribal fighting continued with only occasional respite.

In 1166 Dermott, King of Leinster, had been forced to flee the country in the face of the combined forces of other Irish kings and chieftains led by Rory O' Connor, King of Connaught. Dermott went to Normandy where he pleaded with King Henry II to intervene on his behalf. The idea of an expedition to Ireland appealed to Henry, and in exchange for an oath of fealty, he gave Dermott Letters Patent advising "all his liegemen, English, Norman, Welsh and Scots" to render Dermott support "in recovering his dominium".

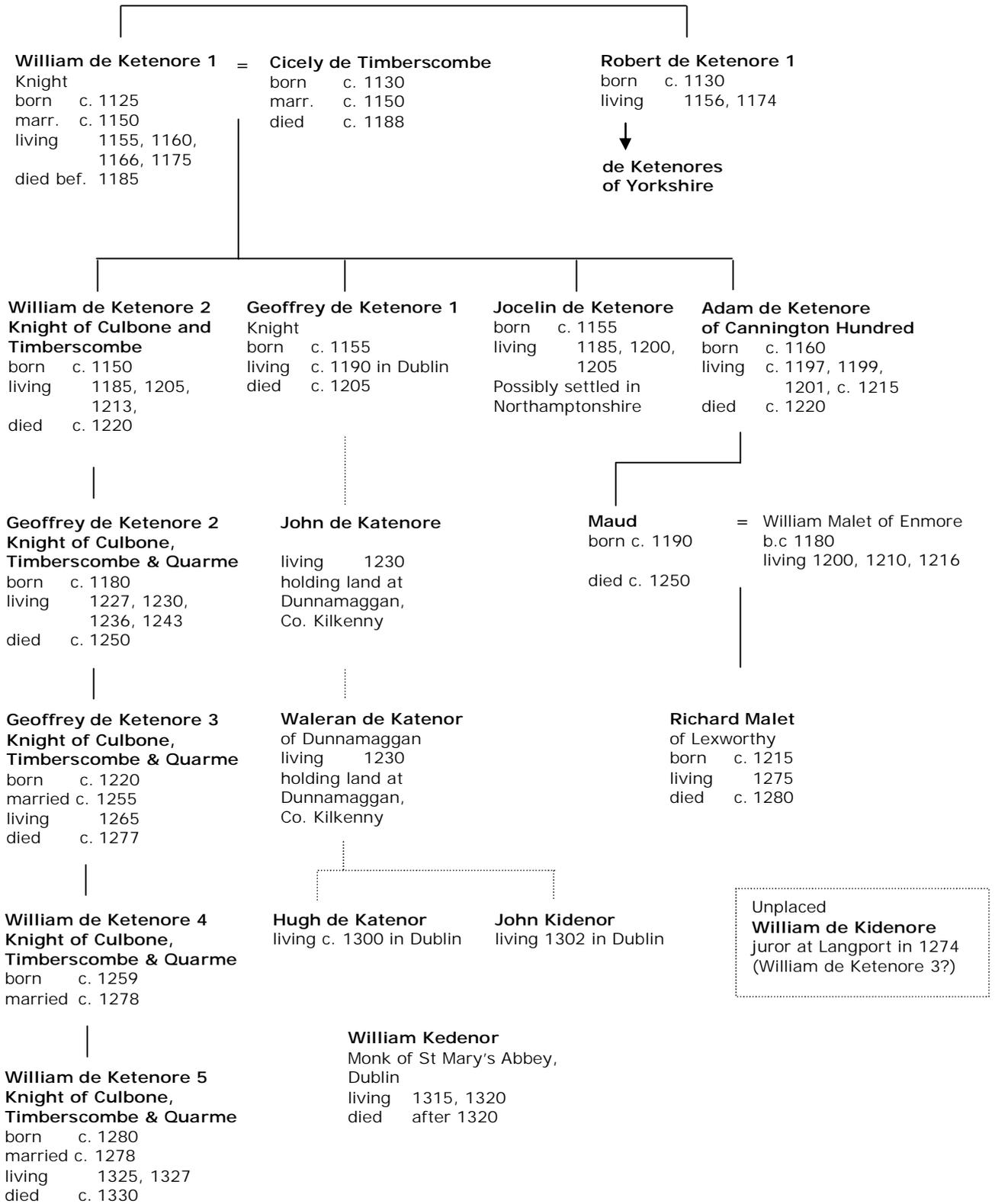
Dermott returned to England where he met Robert FitzHarding in Bristol and Richard de Clare, Earl of Pembroke (better known as 'Strongbow') at Chepstow. Strongbow agreed to assemble an expedition to Ireland in return for Dermott's eldest daughter in marriage and a promise of his own accession to the throne of Ireland after Dermott's death.

On 1st May 1169, a force of thirty knights, sixty other horsemen and some three hundred archers under FitzStephen — who owed allegiance to Strongbow — landed at Bannow Bay near Wexford. This force was the first significant Norman entry into Ireland and marks the beginning of the Anglo-Norman conquest of the country which would be brought to a conclusion - of sorts - some fifteen years later with the conquest of Ulster by John de Curci.

FitzStephen quickly linked up with forces under Dermott who already held Waterford, and was soon joined by a second mainly Norman force under Maurice de Prendergast. Together they succeeded in establishing a secure base around Wexford and Waterford which could sustain them in further operations to the north. Other local chieftains quickly realised Dermott's strong position and promised him their support. Consequently, by the end of 1169, Dermott controlled much of Leinster including Dublin, and felt able to ask Strongbow himself to join him, claiming that their combined forces should be able to conquer the rest of Ireland.

Strongbow sailed from Milford Haven in August 1170 with a force of 200 knights and about 1,000 other troops, probably in the main lancers and archers. He landed at Crook near Waterford on 23rd August, and recaptured Waterford (which had been taken from Dermott by the 'Ostmen'- Viking settlers). Strongbow effectively took command of all the forces under Dermott as well as the English, Norman, Welsh and Flemish troops who had by then joined the expedition.

Table 1: DE KETENORES OF SOMERSET - 12TH - 13TH CENTURIES



↓
Table 2

By late summer 1171, Strongbow had secured the whole of Leinster and much of the surrounding area and felt able to ask the King to accept the formal surrender of Dublin and the other strongholds that he controlled. Henry again favoured the idea of a royal expedition and, accepting Strongbow's proposal, put in hand the organisation of an expeditionary force. He landed near Waterford on 17th October 1171 at the head of a considerable army some 4,000 strong and including 500 knights and many archers, and the horses, arms and provisions needed to sustain it for a lengthy period. Strongbow did homage to Henry for Leinster and was granted the Lordship of Leinster as Tenant-in-Chief of the English Crown. A few months later, Henry moved to Dublin where he had had a palace built. There he received the submission and homage of many Irish chieftains, but with the notable exception of several from the northern tribes who were too busy with their inter-tribal feuds to pay much attention to events further south.

This was to prove a high point in Irish affairs, for Henry returned to England in April 1172, leaving Hugh de Lacy as Justiciar to act for him in Ireland. Henry soon became embroiled in Normandy, even recalling both Hugh de Lacy and Strongbow to his aid. As a consequence, the situation in Ireland rapidly deteriorated. The Irish chieftains became discontented and revolted against the weakened Anglo-Norman rule. Forces under the leadership of Raymond (of Cannington, Somerset) maintained control for a while, but the final blow came with the news that Strongbow had died. As a consequence, by the end of 1176, the areas remaining in the hands of the Anglo-Normans and their Irish supporters had again shrunk to the ancient kingdoms of Leinster and Meath, including Dublin, Wexford and Waterford. Much of this territory had been parcelled out to the Norman barons who had supported the campaigns since 1169, including the Raymond and de Curci families from Somerset and Devon.

Robert le Poer, probably William le Poer's brother and second son of Radulfus, went to Ireland in 1172; he was appointed Marshal of Waterford in 1177 but died some five years later. John de Curci and Miles de Cogan of the Honour of Curci and of Huntspill respectively, went out in 1176 after the death of Strongbow.

It was at this time that John de Curci, with the support of William de Braose, began to revitalise Anglo-Norman rule in Ireland. He had become disillusioned by events following the King's departure in 1172 and had been quietly planning an initiative based on his lands in the Cannington/Stogursey area. In the years prior to 1177 and probably for some time thereafter William le Poer and Hugh Pincerna farmed probably the whole of the Honour of Curci with the intention of supporting the forces in Ireland, and it seems likely that William de Ketenore was involved in the project. Certainly, corn was shipped from Comwich to Robert le Poer in Ireland in 1179 and 1180¹⁸.

From the beginning of 1177 until about 1185, John de Curci and his supporters, against enormous odds, became the masters of the whole eastern part of Ulster, and it is as the conqueror of Ulster that John de Curci will always be remembered.

Several of the le Poer family were actively engaged in Ireland during these years. Robert, as already noted, was Marshal of Waterford. Roger,

¹⁸ Pipe Rolls, 25 and 26 Henry II

Robert's younger brother, was in Ireland before 1176; he set out from Dublin with John de Curci on the campaign in Ulster the following year, but was later killed in a disastrous fight in Ossory in 1188¹⁹. Robert and John le Poer, Robert of Waterford's sons, were in Ireland in or before 1186. In 1185, William le Poer went to Ireland with nine companions and fifty horses "in the service of the King's son John", then Lord of Ireland and later King John²⁰.

William de Ketenore may never have gone to Ireland — he would have been in his late forties in 1175 — but played his part in supporting John de Curci's operations from the Stogursey area.

We do not know, and probably will never know, what part Geoffrey de Ketenore played in the Irish campaigns. But it seems certain that he was active in Ireland for much of the period between 1175 and 1190, and thereafter settled in Ireland. However, the evidence is largely circumstantial.

First, there is no doubt that he owed knight service to the le Poers and, in particular, probably to Robert le Poer 1 of Waterford and, later, perhaps to Robert's son Robert le Poer who went to Ireland in 1185. Although the status of a knight was one of honour and distinction, Geoffrey was one of about 1,000 Anglo-Norman knights deployed in Ireland and the names of only a very few are recorded in contemporary records.

Secondly, Geoffrey is named in a document dated to the 1190s known as the 'Dublin Roll of Names' which is a list of the citizens of Dublin who had been active in the Anglo-Norman occupation of Ireland, whether in a military or civil capacity²¹.

By about 1210, the lands occupied by the Anglo-Normans had been secured by the construction of numerous simple - castles, and parcelled out to the English and Norman leaders in fiefs of five, ten or twenty knights who had taken part in the campaigns. Although Geoffrey de Ketenore probably died about 1205, he and his heirs appear to have benefited from this distribution of land, held in accordance with the feudal practices introduced in England at the beginning of the previous century. It is interesting to note that it was also welcomed by the Irish, for the peasant farmers were not displaced but found themselves subject to new landlords who were able to impose both local security and more advanced farming methods and thus increased prosperity²².

Thus we find that a John de Katenore, probably Geoffrey's son, held four tenements and a carucate of land - say 200 acres in all - in Dunnamaggan, Co. Kilkenny, some 35 miles north of Waterford, in the year 1230. In a charter, undated but made between 1230 and 1250, John granted to Waleran de Katenor and his heirs his lands at Dunnamaggan, then held of Sir Waleran de Wellesley "for a pair of white gloves at Easter or a penny, and the services of an archer"²³.

There were Ketenores (Kedenors) in Dublin until early in the 14th Century. In 1315, William Kedenor was a monk of St Mary's Abbey, Dublin: At vespers on 1st December 1320 he killed two monks in the choir of the Abbey.

¹⁹ J.J. McGregor *True Stories from the History of Ireland*, 1829, pp.175 et seq.

²⁰ Pipe Rolls, 31 Henry II (1185)

²¹ J.T. Gilbert 'Historic and Municipal Documents, Ireland', 1870. But see also OH Vol.3 p.308; Orpen Vol. 1 p.270; R. Stalley in *Archaeologia* Vol. 106 p.109, 1975

²² OH Vol.3 pp.316-7

²³ Edmund Curtis *Calendar of Ormond Deeds* Vol 1 No. 77, 1932

He was committed to prison in Dublin goal but was later transferred to the prison of St Mary's Abbey, where he died²⁴. No later occurrence of the name in Ireland has been found.

However, in March 1335, a John de Kidenore was renting a house in Southovere Street, Wells²⁵ and it seems likely that he was one of the Irish de Ketenores. Geoffrey de Ketenore 3 of Timberscombe had also held a house in Wells about 1243 and it is probable that a link between the Irish and Somerset families was maintained at least until the early 14th Century²⁶.

The de Ketenores of Yorkshire 12th-14th Centuries

Earlier in this chapter we noted that William Ketenore 1 had a brother Robert who witnessed two charters in 1156 and 1174/75. Although Robert was probably a knight in the service of the le Poer family, nothing specific is known of his movements after 1175. He is thought to have died in the late 1190s.

However, there are records of de Ketenores in Yorkshire in the early 13th Century and later. About 1207, a Richard de Autrey sold his land and mill in Hunslet, near Leeds, to Roger, Constable of Chester, for 100 marks²⁷. The charter was witnessed by a William de Kadenor. And in 1379, Adam Kitener paid poll tax in Yorkshire²⁸. Both were undoubtedly Ketenores. Were there any circumstances which could account for their settlement in Yorkshire?

As well as their estates in Devon and Somerset, both the de Curcis and the le Poers held land in Yorkshire in 1166²⁹. When William de Curci 3 died in 1171, his son and heir William de Curci 4 was still a minor. The King gave the guardianship of the young William and the custody of the de Curci estates to Robert le Poer³⁰. But Robert, together with his supposed brothers William and Roger and all the de Curci men from Somerset were heavily involved in the campaigns in Ireland from about 1171 onwards.

William de Curci was cared for by his grandmother Avice de Curci and her household in Yorkshire³¹. Avice was already a widow in 1166, and when she died is not known; but, in any case, she or her successors would have needed the services of a military detachment for the protection of the household and estates at least until William came of age in 1186. Who better, perhaps, than Robert de Ketenore, an elderly knight in the service of the le Poer family without lands of his own to manage?

So it seems possible that William de Kadenor who witnessed the Hunslet charter in 1207 was the son of Robert de Ketenore, and that they were the founders of the Yorkshire branch of the family.

²⁴ J.T. Gilbert 'Cartularies of St Mary's Abbey, Dublin' 1884

²⁵ SRS Vol. 46 p.53

²⁶ SRS Vol.11, Nos. 418 and 422

²⁷ William Farrer 'Early Yorkshire Charters' Vol 3 p.238, 1916

²⁸ Bardsley 'Dictionary of English and Welsh Surnames'

²⁹ BBE pp. 305, 321 and 326

³⁰ Maxwell Lyte 'Curci', Somerset A&NH Soc. Vol. 66 (1920), pp. 98-126

³¹ *ibid*

The Opening of the 13th Century

The story of the family during the 13th to 15th Centuries is told in Chapters III and IV; but it is appropriate, at this stage, to summarise the situation at the start of the 13th Century.

In the opening years of the 13th Century the de Ketenores held land at Culbone, Timberscombe, Petheram and probably near Stogursey in Cannington Hundred. They also had an undefined interest in land in Andersfield Hundred in the vicinity of Durleigh and Buckland Priory, Durston. Culbone and the Timberscombe estate were held as one knight's fee and a quarter-fee respectively. Petheram had paid tax for lone half virgate at the time of the Domesday Survey, when it was valued at ten shillings; and it may have been rated as a quarter-fee in the following century. In 1166, Petheram was held by William le Poer of the Honour of Curci as part of one fee. The land amounted, perhaps, to about 100 acres of arable and meadow but was liable to flooding by the River Parrett^{32, 33}.

In Ireland, Geoffrey de Ketenore held land and property in Dublin and Dunnamaggan, Co. Kilkenny, in his own right. But the Somerset estates were held in fee tail, occupied mainly by William's three other sons, William 2 in Carhampton Hundred and Jocelin and Adam in Cannington Hundred.

It is from these de Ketenores that all the Kidners living today are descended. In the following chapters, their history over the next seven hundred years - as far as it is known - will be traced.

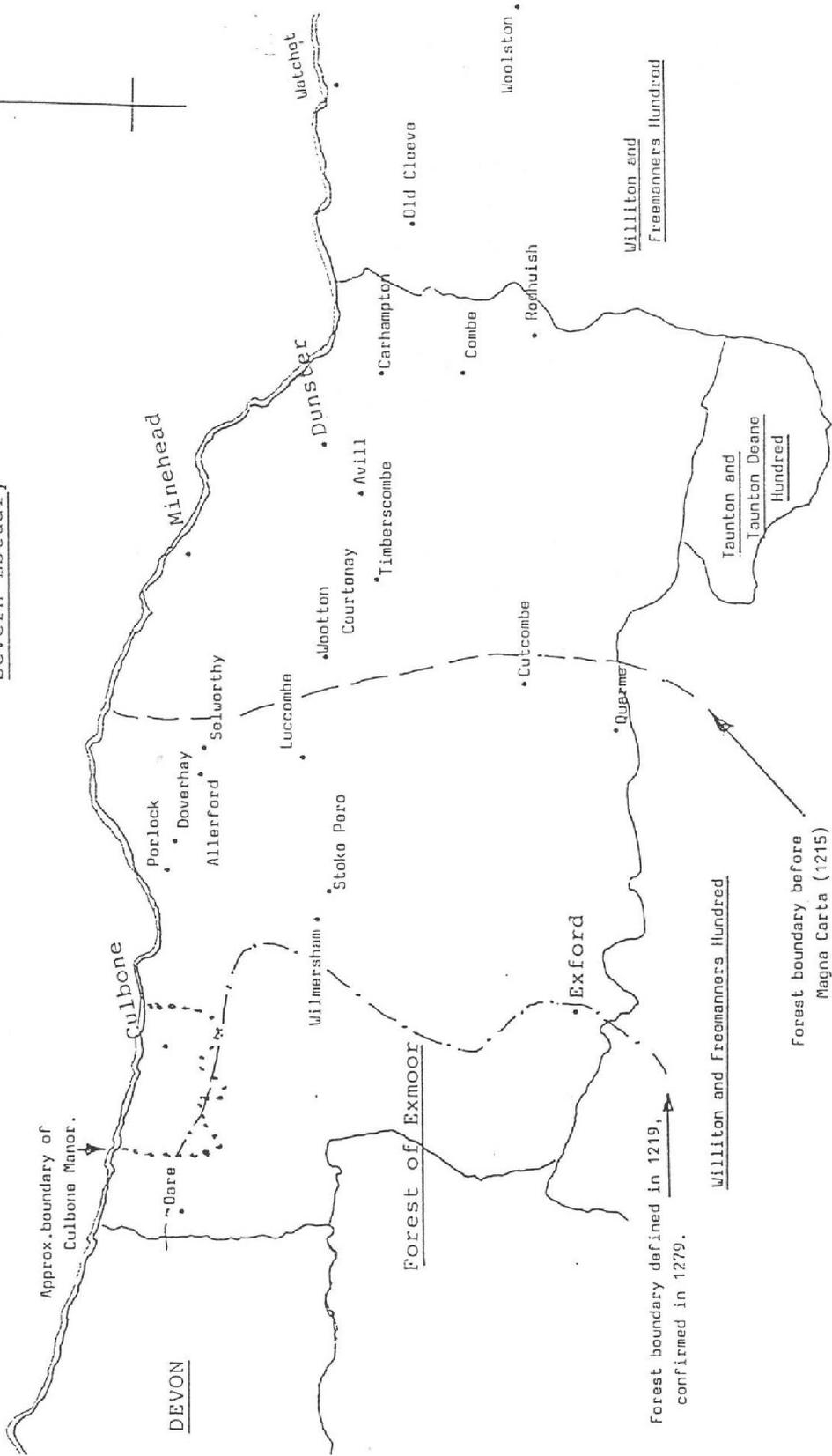
³² Thomas Hugo 'The Medieval Nunneries of the County of Somerset' p.40

³³ The Red Book of the Exchequer (RBE), Hubert Hall, 1896, pp.225, 258 and 259



CARHAMPTON HUNDRED

(West Somerset) - Severn Estuary -



0 5 Miles

Approx. Scale

CHAPTER III - CARHAMPTON HUNDRED

When William de Ketenore died in about the year 1185, his son William 2 inherited his lands at Culbone and, probably, Timberscombe. We know very little about the life of the younger William. He was born in the 1150s and, after coming of age, may well have been left at Culbone to manage the estate while his father gave service as a knight to Ranulf le Poer, particularly after 1175 when John de Curci and William le Poer began preparations for their expedition to Ireland. After his father's death about 1185, he would have continued to be occupied in his role as Lord of the Manor of Culbone while his brother Geoffrey discharged the family's obligation to provide knight service.

One of the problems to be overcome when studying the history of a family in medieval times is the scarcity of written records of all but the rich and famous. We must rely on land charters, court proceedings and records of jury service, and the very few surviving wills. Another difficulty is the fact that surnames in the modern sense did not exist. Men who held land were generally known by the place where their land lay; and such names were usually passed down from one generation to the next for so long as that land was still held even though other land might be acquired. But it is often found that younger sons who were granted land elsewhere tended to assume the name of the place where they settled.

Land held by knight service was passed down intact to the eldest son and was never divided. If a younger son was to become a landholder in his own right, land might be granted at the discretion of the *mesne* tenant or overlord in return for a commitment to service or for a money payment in lieu. When there was no male heir, land would be divided equally between any daughters and thus passed to their husbands provided they accepted the obligations that passed with it.

In the case of William de Ketenore 2, he most probably gave knight service to the le Poers, although there is no specific record of it. Nor do we know whom he married or what children he had other than his son and heir Geoffrey who inherited on his father's death and thus retained the name de Ketenore.

The first specific record of William de Ketenore 2 is dated 1205, when he was fined three marks for a pledge he had given. This was paid the following year^{34, 35}.

³⁴ Curia Regis Rolls, Vol. VII, Rotuli de Oblatis et Finibus, 1201 - 1216, p.200; T.D. Hardy, 1835

³⁵ Pipe Roll Society, Vols 57-58, 1941-42. (PR 7 and 8 John, Dorset and Somerset).

With the acquisition of the fee at Timberscombe, William owed knight service to the Lord of Dunster as well as to the le Poers of the Honour of Barnstaple. Over the next century and later, the de Ketenores became progressively more committed to the Honour of Dunster and less so to that of Barnstaple. In the early years of the 13th Century, the Tenants-in-Chief of Dunster were Reynold de Mohun 1 (1204-1213) and his son Reynold 2 (1227-1258). Neither Reynold left an heir of full age, so that the Honour was held in trust during the years of their minority³⁶. The de Mohuns held Dunster from the time of the Conquest until about 1376 when it passed to the Luttrell family.

It was between 1204 and 1213 that William de Ketenore witnessed two charters confirming the gifts of land by the de Mohuns to the church of Dunster and to Bruton Priory³⁷.³⁸

William died about the year 1220, and his estates passed to his son Geoffrey de Ketenore 2.

Geoffrey de Ketenore 2 (c.1180-c.1250)

The first records of Geoffrey after his father's death occur in 1227 and 1230, when he brought cases to court claiming land he believed he was entitled to inherit.

The first case is dated 25th February 1227 (11 Henry III), claiming a ferling of land at Timberscombe by assize of mort ancestor³⁹. He won his case, and the ferling is assumed to have been part of the $\frac{1}{4}$ fee inherited by his grandmother, Cicely de Timberscombe. The case confirms that the $\frac{1}{4}$ fee was held by William 2 during his lifetime.

The second case, in 1230, was of greater practical effect. In it, Geoffrey claimed a $\frac{1}{4}$ fee at Woolston near Watchet which was also claimed by Agnes de Windsor, daughter of William de Mohun 3⁴⁰. The case was not settled until 1236 when, following intervention by Reynold de Mohun, Lord of Dunster and Tenant-in-Chief, Agnes' great-nephew, the estate at Woolston was granted to Agnes. However, Geoffrey's claim must have been well justified, for Reynold de Mohun gave Geoffrey eleven marks as part of the settlement, and Geoffrey was granted a $\frac{1}{2}$ fee at Quarme, 5 miles south-west of Timberscombe in the honour of Dunster, apparently as compensation for the loss of Woolston⁴¹.

³⁶ H.C. Maxwell Lyte *Dunster and its Lords*, 1862

³⁷ *ibid*

³⁸ Maxwell Lyte and T.S. Holmes *Cartularies of Bruton and Montacute Priors, Bruton No. 58* (SRS Vol 8)

³⁹ SRS Vol. 6, p.51

⁴⁰ Calendar of Close Rolls, Henry III, Vol. 1 (1217-1231), p.395

⁴¹ Maxwell Lyte *Historical Notes on some Somerset Manors formerly connected with the Honour of Dunster*, SRS Extra Series, 1931

How William de Ketenore came to hold the land at Woolston has not been determined, but it seems probable that it was granted in recognition of service, by him or his father, to the de Mohuns at some time before 1220.

Quarme lies to the south of Cutcombe and north of the modern parish of Exton. It was assessed in the Domesday Survey as worth 15 shillings, comprising land for four ploughs (c.400 acres), about 250 acres of pasture, an acre of meadow and 10 acres of woodland, in all some 700 acres. Richard Lock, writing in the 18th Century, said that "Quarme passed in two parcels by the names of North and South Quarme. North Quarme, sometimes called Begger's Quarme⁴², passed with Culbone and is a freehold of 640 acres. . ." He added that Quarme lay "in one of those high parishes near Exmoor that teacheth its inhabitants the virtues of industry and frugality from a necessity of nature"⁴³.

The de Kitenores continued to hold Quarme – known as Quarme Picot or North Quarme in the 13th Century and as Quarme Kitenore later - until the major part was sold to John Whiton in about 1330.

It was in 1236 that the inquisition for the collection of aid for the marriage of Henry III's sister Isabel to the Holy Roman Emperor Frederick II found that Timberscombe was held as one fee jointly by Adam Washford, Robert de Vigore, Richard de Cloutsham and Geoffrey de Kitenore. These four are the successors of the four sisters who held Timberscombe in 1186. The original records of the collection for this aid have been lost, but extracts were copied in the *Testa de Neville* including the return for Timberscombe⁴⁴.

Geoffrey was involved in three court cases at Ilchester in 1243, a year which must have been a difficult one for him, for he was by then in his early sixties, an age which many of his contemporaries would not expect to attain.

The first case concerned his tenancy of a house in Wells which he held of Ernisius de Dunheved⁴⁵. The de Dunheveds⁴⁶ were closely connected with Ireland at the time. The outcome of the case is not known but it is of interest that in these proceedings Geoffrey is named as 'Geoffrey de Tymerscumb'⁴⁷.

In the next case, Geoffrey was accused of having made a charter in 1230 for the purchase of land in Broomstreet near Culbone from a minor, Roger Jollain, who was also his ward. This was a serious misuse of Geoffrey's guardianship, and he was fined 15 marks - a very considerable sum - and the charter was cancelled. In this action, Geoffrey's pledges (guarantors of his compliance with the court's ruling) were his neighbours Roges, son of Simon of Porlock, David de Pentir from Devon, Philip of West Luccombe, Adam de Washford of Timberscombe and Geoffrey de Luccombe of East Luccombe⁴⁸.

⁴² Begger is OE for marsh

⁴³ Collinson's *History of Somerset*, Vol. 3, p.556 and Supplement

⁴⁴ *Book of Fees*, Part 1 (1198-1242), p.581

⁴⁵ Dunehefde in Domesday, or modern Downhead, between Shepton Mallet and Frome

⁴⁶ *Somerset Placenames*, Stephen Robinson, 1992

⁴⁷ SRS Vol. 11, Nos. 418 and 422.

⁴⁸ SRS Vol.11, No. 496

In the third case, Geoffrey was pledge for the Prior of Dunster who owed money for land in Doverhay in East Luccombe to Ralph de Sandhill⁴⁹.

About the same time, 1243, Geoffrey witnessed three charters of Reynold de Mohun 3, one of which granted the burgesses of Dunster the right to hold a fair, for which the burgesses gave de Mohun a tun of wine worth 40 shillings⁵⁰; and another concerning repairs to the walls of Dunster Castle to the value of 5 silver marks⁵¹.

Also in 1243, Geoffrey witnessed two charters recorded in the cartulary of Buckland Abbey - near Durston in North Petherton Hundred - concerning land in East Luccombe.

These charters are thought to be the last documentary records of Geoffrey de Ketenore 2, and he probably died about 1250. His son, Geoffrey de Ketenore 3, inherited his estates in Culbone, Timberscombe and Quarne, all of which he held by military service.

But it is possible that Geoffrey 2 had another son, whose name was John, for there is a record of a John Cadynar living at East Luccombe in 1270. It is thought that Cadynar is a variant of Ketenore⁵².

It must be borne in mind that during the first half of the 13th Century William and Geoffrey de Ketenore were carrying out the routine duties of knighthood as well as managing their estates. There is no evidence that they were called upon to serve in any serious military action, let alone any of the Kings' campaigns on the continent, during the years from 1190 to 1252. Much of that period was a time of comparative peace in England as a result of the Kings' pre-occupation with affairs abroad and their delegation of government at home to Councils of State which attempted gradually to achieve long-awaited reforms, albeit at the cost of ever-increasing bureaucracy and taxation.

Richard I (1189-1199) spent almost four years on the Third Crusade - including 15 months as a prisoner in Germany which delayed his return - and almost all the remaining years of his reign fighting to recover his possessions abroad that had been lost during the previous years. His visits to England were few and short-lived.

King John (1199-1216), too, was far more concerned with affairs on the continent than with problems in England during the early years of his reign. When he returned to England in 1203 he immediately clashed with the church, gave offence by tightening the already unpopular Forest laws and extending the bounds of the Royal Forests. More importantly, he angered the barons by resisting their proposals for the reform of the government of the country. The last ten years of his reign were marked by increasing resistance to the king's rule which finally deteriorated into a state of civil war.

⁴⁹ SRS Vol.11, No. 636

⁵⁰ Maxwell Lyte *Dunster and its Lords*, 1862

⁵¹ SRS Vol. 33, p.35

⁵² E.T. McDermot *The History of the Forest of Exmoor*, p.84, 1973

There were two events in the later years of John's reign which are of particular importance to our story. The first is the enactment of the Great Charter, or Magna Carta, of 1215, which embodied many of the reforms demanded by the barons and which the King was forced to accept in the face of the developing civil war.

The second event was the claim to the throne of England by Louis, son of Philip Augustus of France. The English rebel barons invited Louis to join them, and in May 1216, under Louis' leadership, they entered London. By October 1216, when John died, the South and East of the country was torn by the civil war which threatened to engulf the whole country.

Henry III (1216-1272)

Henry III was nine years old when he succeeded his father in October 1216. For the next twelve years the country was ruled by a regency Council⁵³ led by William the Marshal, under whose generalship the barons under Louis were defeated at Lincoln in May 1217; and again, in a sea fight off Dover, in August. Louis then sued for peace, and the war was brought to an end by the Treaty of Kingston, signed on 12th September 1217⁵⁴.

Henry III's reign was one of consolidation. At home, the country was at peace and prospered under wise government. Overseas, in spite of a number of unsuccessful military adventures, the period was marked by a gradual withdrawal from the continent culminating in the Treaty of Paris (1259) by which Henry gave up his claims to Normandy, Anjou, Poitou and Gascony.

Meanwhile, the role of the feudal knight in England was by now limited to one of home defence in all but exceptional circumstances. By this time, there was an expanding body of professional soldiers recruited from the growing numbers of young men wholly given over to the profession of arms, who were ready to stay in the field or castle, at home or overseas, for as long as they were properly paid⁵⁵.

One of the problems that beset the country at this time was the King's preference for foreign advisers. Many of his favourites were not English, and many had been invited to join him in England from abroad. Henry increasingly ignored his English barons and ministers, leading directly to the crisis which broke in 1252 when the Pope offered Henry the Kingdom of Sicily. The King accepted this proposal in 1254 on behalf of his younger son Edmund, later to become the Earl of Lancaster, for whom he hoped to acquire overseas possessions. Henry chose to ignore the fact that the Pope had already spent the vast sum of 135,000 marks on an unsuccessful campaign to wrest Sicily from Manfred, son of the Emperor Frederick II. In accepting the Pope's offer, Henry agreed to meet the Pope's outstanding debts, finance a further campaign in Sicily and provide the forces necessary for its success. This commitment was patently absurd, and it ended in 1258 with the barons taking

⁵³ OH Volume 4, pp.2-3

⁵⁴ OH Volume 4, pp.12-13

⁵⁵ OH Volume 3, pp.370-372, 471-472

the government out of the King's hands. For the next six years the country teetered on the brink of civil war - which finally broke out in 1264.

In that year, the rebels under Simon de Montfort, Earl of Leicester, defeated forces loyal to the King at Lewes. The following year, de Montfort's army was in turn defeated at the battle of Evesham when Simon himself was killed. During the remaining years of his reign, Henry III gradually regained his royal authority.

Henry's eldest son, later Edward I, had led the royalist forces at Evesham. After that victory, he went off on crusade and was in Sicily on his way home in 1272 when he heard of his father's death. Although heir to the throne, he was in no hurry to return and did not reach England until the autumn of 1274.

Geoffrey de Ketenore III

It is possible that Geoffrey de Ketenore III fought at Evesham; less likely at Lewes. If he did fight, it is by no means certain on which side his loyalties lay. He owed knight service to the de Mohuns of Dunster, but John de Mohun II was a minor at the time and the Honour of Dunster was held by Sir Adam Gurdon during John's minority. By 1265 Adam Gurdon had collected a small force at Dunster loyal to the rebel barons, and when Sir William Berkeley landed at Minehead in August 1265 to ravage the countryside - but notionally for the King - Adam's forces at once fell upon them and almost all of Berkeley's men were killed or drowned⁵⁶.

Parliament met at Winchester on the 14th September 1265. One of its first measures was to order the confiscation of the lands of all those who had been engaged in the rebellion. Accordingly, on the 21st September, the King called for a report, to be completed by the 20th November, listing the names of all the rebels and the values of their estates. He ordered that "two of the more discrete and faithful persons who were available in each Hundred were to be appointed to collect the rents due at Michaelmas"⁵⁷.

Thus, inquisitions were held in each Hundred; and in Carhampton Hundred the inquisition named some 53 rebels headed by Sir Adam Gurdon, and selected Geoffrey le Tort, bailiff of Carhampton Hundred and Geoffrey de Ketenore "to answer for the issues"⁵⁸.

Although Geoffrey de Ketenore was not named as a rebel, an order was issued confiscating all his lands and awarding them to Thomas de Berkeley⁵⁹.

However the King, under pressure from the Pope, rescinded the orders for confiscation and arranged for twelve mediators to be appointed to negotiate a settlement. The result was the *Dictum de Kenilworth* dated 1st

⁵⁶ H.T. Riley *Chronica Monasterii St Albani: Willelmi Rishanger Chronica et Annales* (1259-1307), p.41, 1865

⁵⁷ Pipe Rolls Henry III, Vol. 5 (1256-1266); (49 Henry III, m.8d)

⁵⁸ *Calendar of Miscellaneous Inquisitions*, Vol. 1 (1219-1307) (No. 865, p.266, October 1265)

⁵⁹ Rev. J. Hunter *Rotuli Selecti*, 1834, p.250

November 1266, allowing former owners to redeem their lands by paying a fine "as much as their lands be worth by the space of five years". This was deemed to be the equivalent of half the accepted value of the lands⁶⁰.

Thus Geoffrey de Ketenore recovered all his property, at Culbone, Timberscombe and Quarne together with any smaller holdings he had elsewhere. He died between November 1276 and November 1277⁶¹ when his son and heir, William de Ketenore IV, was still a minor - aged at least 17 and probably nearer 20 years old⁶².

In a court case of 1280⁶³ it was stated that before his death Geoffrey de Ketenore was "doing the service which belongs to one knight's fee entire". This suggests that he was still a comparatively young man, perhaps in his early forties.

Geoffrey had married Joan de Bosco of Bawdrip about 1255. When he died, Joan sent William to stay with Humphrey de Kael at Withycombe near Winsford while she married Robert de Bawdrip⁶⁴. After her marriage, she and Robert, with the help of Adam de Bawdrip - probably Robert's nephew - arranged for William to marry Adam's sister⁶⁵. Robert de Bawdrip held land in the manors of Bawdrip and Stawell, some 5 miles north-east of Bridgwater. William de Bosco, Joan's father, also had a house and land in the parish of Bawdrip, and when Geoffrey married Joan about 1255, he granted him land there which Geoffrey later settled on his son William, possibly when William married about 1280⁶⁶.

In 1301 William, in his turn, settled the same property on the de la Ford family of the manor of Ford in the parish of Bawdrip. This latter settlement may have been a dowry for the marriage of a daughter of William de Ketenore IV, but I have found no positive evidence of this. However, the same land was held in 1303 by Adam de la Ford and his wife Isabel, so it seems likely that Isabel de la Ford was born a de Ketenore⁶⁷.

In 1277, before his sister's marriage, Adam de Bawdrip held the ¼ fee in Timberscombe previously held by Adam de Washford. Without doubt the de Bawdrips and de Washfords were related, and both families were near neighbours of the de Ketenores in Timberscombe.

Geoffrey and Joan de Ketenore had a daughter Maud and probably another son whose name is not known. We will meet Maud again shortly.

⁶⁰ Stubbs Select Charters, 9th Edition, H.C.W. Davis, 1951, p.407

⁶¹ Somersetshire Pleas, 1272-1279 (SRS 41); Roll No. 1230, p.64, 11 Nov. 1276; Roll No. 1234, p.128, 14 Nov. 1277

⁶² SRS 44, p. 101

⁶³ Somersetshire Pleas, 1280, Roll No. 763 (m.6); SRS 44, p.36

⁶⁴ SRS 3, p.180; SRS 44, pp.252, 265

⁶⁵ C.E.H. Chadwyck Healey *The History of Part of West Somerset*, 1901, pp. 390-1

⁶⁶ Victoria County History (VCH), Somerset, Vol 6, p.188

⁶⁷ *ibid*

William de Ketenore IV (c.1258-c.1310)

About five years after his father's death, William's inheritance was confirmed by a general inquiry as to feudal tenures known as 'Kirby's Quest', the record of which is dated 1284/85⁶⁸. The following extracts concern us: -

"William de Ketenore holds one fee in Kitenore of Thomas de Raleigh, who holds of the heirs of Henry de Tracy, who holds of the King".

"Richard de Cloutsham, William de Ketenore, Hudo de Domelton and Geoffrey le Tort hold one fee in Timberscombe of Robert Fitzpayn, who holds of the King".

"William de Ketenore holds half a fee in Quarme Begger of John de Mohun, who holds of the King".

William's name occurs several times in the records of the Forest of Exmoor, one of the Royal Forests held directly by the King for his own sport and pleasure, subject to the special Forest Law which severely restricted the rights of the inhabitants affected.

The Forest of Exmoor in the 13th Century

During the 12th and early 13th Centuries and particularly under King John, the Royal Forests had been wrongfully extended. However, under the terms of the Magna Carta, signed on 16 June 1215, such tracts were to be disafforested and returned to their former owners.

In West Somerset, Culbone, Porlock and Quarme, and many other areas, had been brought within the Forest boundaries and the already harsh forest laws had been made worse by the misbehaviour of the Foresters who exploited them for their own benefit⁶⁹.

The Forest Law prior to 1215 prohibited the hunting of any wild beasts, especially deer, within the Forest bounds; the possession of bows and arrows, and of dogs without a licence; restricted the taking of fuel wood and the grazing of livestock; and required the appointment of Foresters by landholders to enforce observance of the Law who were answerable to the King's Master Forester.

Penalties imposed for offences against the Law included fines, mutilation (hands, eyes) for stealing the King's game and, in extreme cases, hanging⁷⁰. These penalties were relaxed after 1217 when a new Charter of the Forest was issued in the name of King Henry III⁷¹. This Charter included provisions for the disafforestation of lands afforested since the accession of Henry II in 1154 and for the application of the law as it stood before that date. In particular, it abolished the more extreme punishments of death and mutilation and substituted fines or imprisonment in their place. Furthermore,

⁶⁸ Feudal Aids, 1284-1431, Vol. 4 (SRS 3 pp.36-38)

⁶⁹ McDermot, p.114

⁷⁰ McDermot pp. 47-48

⁷¹ McDermot pp. 50-51

the traditional rights of commoners to take fuel wood, bark and charcoal from woodland were restored⁷².

With the intention of defining the new Forest boundaries, perambulations were made in 1219⁷³ and in 1279⁷⁴, but acceptance of the changes was very slow. The perambulation of 1279 confirmed that the new boundary enclosed only a small part of the Manor of Ketenore. But it was not until 1301, after further perambulations had been made in 1298 and 1300, that King Edward I agreed to confirm the new boundaries by Letters Patent dated 14th February 1301.

Extracts from the findings of the 1298 perambulation, confirmed by that of 1300, are significant⁷⁵: —

"... the bounds of the Forest aforesaid, according to the tenor of the Charter of the Forest of the Lord Henry sometime King of England, begin at a certain place which is called Cornesyete⁷⁶, and from thence going on by a certain way between the demesne of the Lord King and the fee of William de Kytenore to those stones which are called Fifstones..."

Later in the report we read: -

"All the lands and woods underwritten on the left [moving clockwise] without the bounds aforesaid were afforested to the injury of the tenants after the coronation of the Lord Henry sometime King of England son of the Empress Matilda, and ought to be disafforested according to the tenor of the Charter aforesaid, to wit: —

"The vill⁷⁷ of Kytenore with the woods, moors and its other appurtenances, which William de Kytenore holds; ... The township of Begger Quarne with the woods, which William de Ketenore holds..."

Timberscombe was never within the Forest bounds, although the report does include "the lands of Elleworthy [in Wootton Courtenay] which James le Tort holds."

These two perambulations (1298 and 1300) were carried out by twenty-one persons chosen for the task, one of whom was Richard de Avele (Avill) who married Maud de Ketenore, William's sister, in about 1285.

Richard de Avill died in 1307. His will, dated 16th June 1307, is one of the few West Somerset medieval wills to have survived⁷⁸. In 1303, he had held ½ fee in Avill which lies in the valley of the River Avill between Timberscombe and Dunster, where Aville Farm is shown on the modern Ordnance Survey map⁷⁹.

⁷² McDermot pp. 93 et seq.

⁷³ McDermot pp. 116-117

⁷⁴ McDermot pp. 130-131

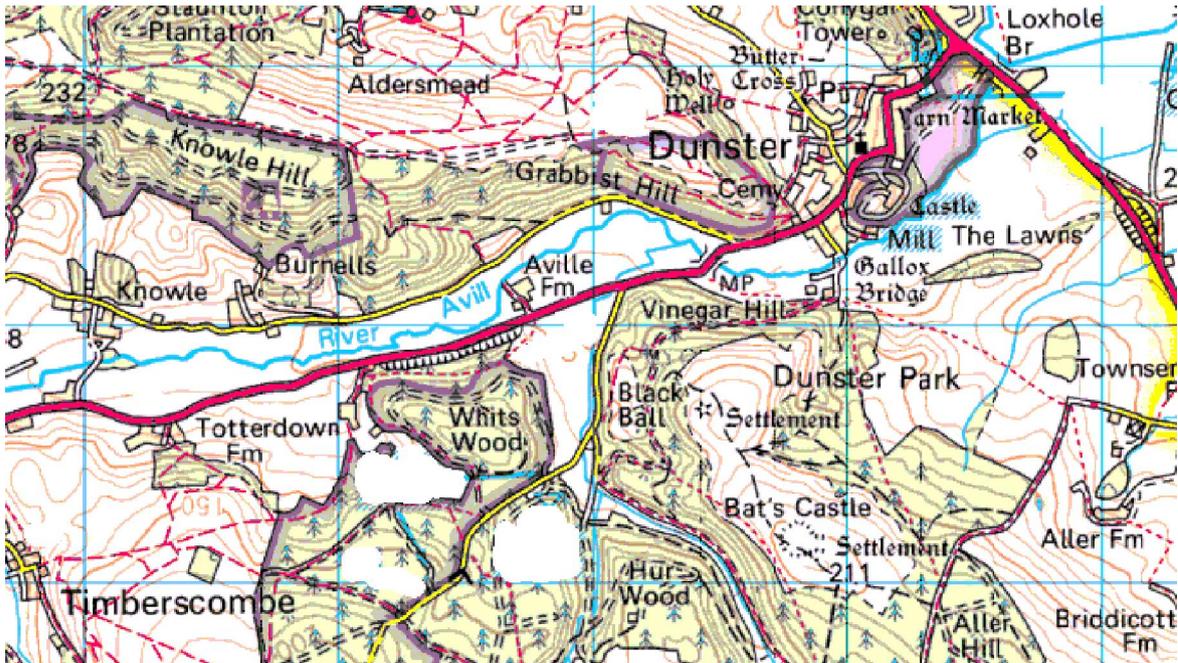
⁷⁵ McDermot pp. 138-141

⁷⁶ now County Gate

⁷⁷ a *vill* was a group of houses with a name; a hamlet.

⁷⁸ Notes and Queries, Somerset and Dorset, Vol. 16 (1920), p.48

⁷⁹ 1/50,000 sheet 181, MR SS.978431



Reproduced from Ordnance Survey map data by permission of Ordnance Survey, © Crown copyright.

Richard's will is of interest not only because he married Maud de Ketenore, but also as an indication of the wealth, status and way of life of a knight of the period in the West Country. It seems that, although less wealthy than William de Ketenore, he was of similar status, doing the service due to his Lord and at the same time farming his own lands. His will includes the following provisions: —

"To the Church of Dunster - a male calf to the value of four shillings, for tithes forgotten;

"To the Chaplain celebrating on the day of [my] burial - three shillings; and to the other chaplains celebrating on that day - sixpence each;

"For candles to be lighted round [my] body - twelve pounds of wax;

"For distribution to the poor on the day of [my] burial - two quarters of grain;

"To Maud [my] wife - my horse, a plate, all my part of my chamber [? linen and furnishings] except what is separately bequeathed, a mare and a cart bound with iron, and all the residue not otherwise bequeathed;

"To Geoffrey my son - a best robe, a wagon bound with iron, a basin and ewer, a pot of the best copper, and all my armour;

"To Robert my son - a surcoat;

"To Thomas my son - a green coat;

"For the roofing of the Chapel of St Mary Magdalene⁸⁰ - five sheep;

"For the re-building of the bell-tower of Timberscombe - sixpence;

⁸⁰ still standing in the 16th Century in Avill

"To the bridge at Frekeford⁸¹ - twelve pence.

Finally, he appoints as his executors Geoffrey his son, Maud his wife and William de Ketenore, and requests that his body be buried in the church of Dunster. The will was proved at Clatworthy (Clatworthy, 8 miles south of Watchet) on 12th July 1307.

Richard was succeeded by his eldest son, Geoffrey de Avill, who was appointed a Regarder of Exmoor Forest sometime before 1333. Geoffrey died in 1349, the year when the Black death reached its peak in Somerset⁸².

William de Ketenore 4 served on the jury at Inquisitions Post Mortem (PM) in August and December 1306 on the deaths of Simon Roges of Porlock⁸³ and Walter Barun also of Porlock⁸⁴; and he was witness of a charter before 1307 concerning the gift of land at East Lynche in Timberscombe to Buckland Priory⁸⁵.

There is a significant gap in the documentary record of the de Ketenores after 1307 until 1323, and it is thought that William 4 died during this period. He was succeeded by his son William de Ketenore 5 who, by 1320, was about 40 years old.

⁸¹ Frackford Bridge stands on the Dunster Road ½ mile east of Aville Farm

⁸² Maxwell Lyte *Somerset Manors*, SRS Extra Series, 1931

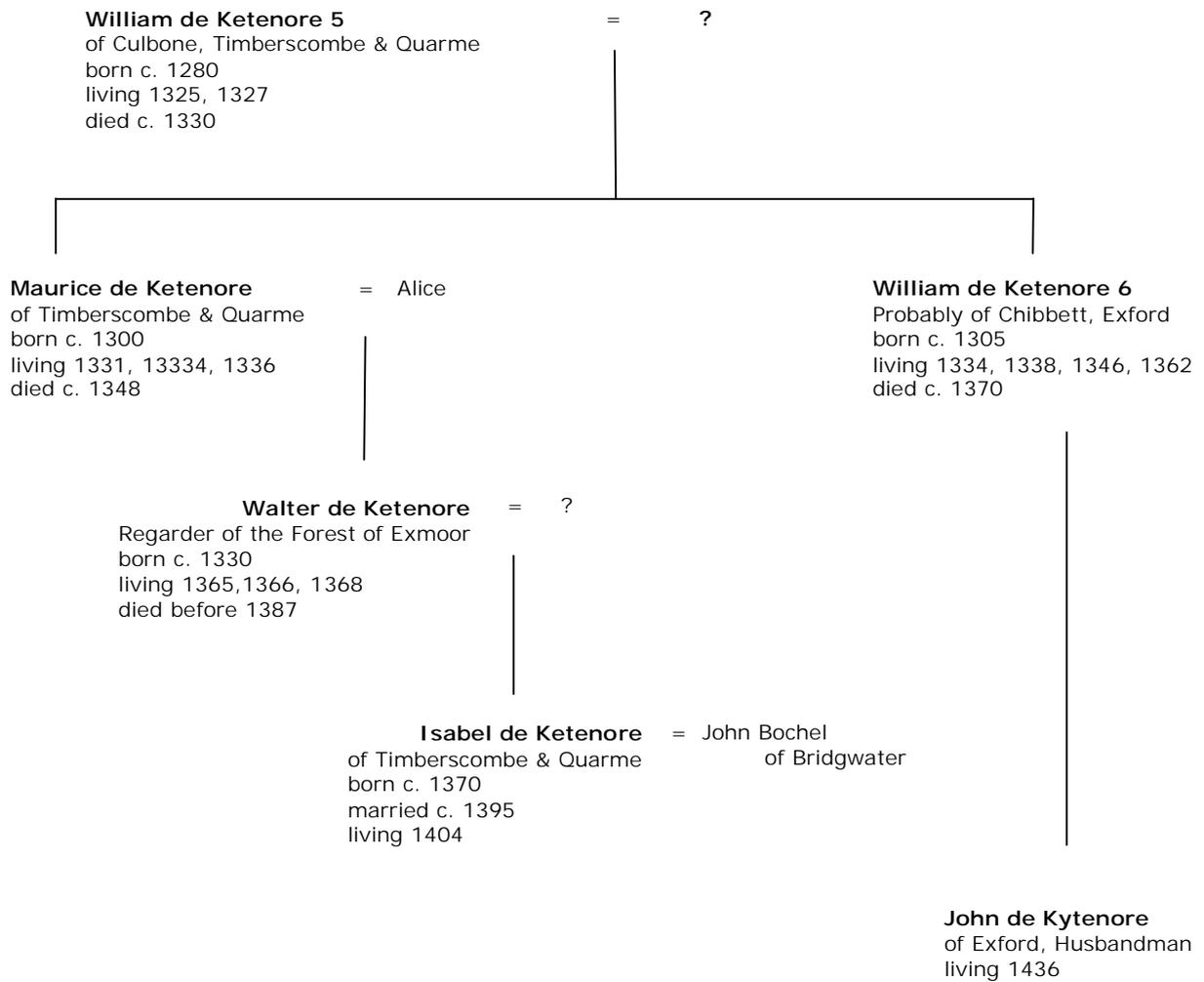
⁸³ *Calendar of Inquisitions Post Mortem* (CIPM), Vol. 4No. 367 (Simon Roges of Porlock)

⁸⁴ CIPM Vol. 4, No. 397 (Walter Barun of Porlock)

⁸⁵ SRS 25, No. 158

Table 2: Descendants of William de Ketenore 5

- Carhampton Hundred (13th and 14th Centuries)



William de Ketenore 5 (c.1280-c.1330)

The younger William served as a juror at Luccombe on an Inquisition PM on the death of Hugh de Luccombe in June 1323⁸⁶; and on two further Inquisitions in 1324 and 1325 on the estates of John de Luccombe and his son Hugh, called by the King, Edward II⁸⁷. On the second of these the jurors included Geoffrey de Avill and John de Kytenore. The jurors drew up a list of the lands held by tenants of Hugh de Luccombe in Somerset which included: -

<u>Fees</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Free Tenants</u>	<u>Value p.a.</u>
1/16th	Alreford [Allerford]	The heirs of John Cadyfer	6s 8d

Cadyfer may be a further variant of the name Ketenore. A John Cadyner of Allerford was fined 12 pence by a Forest court in Ilchester on 23rd May 1270 for default - that is, failing to appear when summoned (16). The two Johns could be the same person or father and son. Both were probably Ketenores, at least related to the juror of 1325, John de Kytenore. All the jurors on these inquisitions would have been local landholders in the area of Luccombe and Timberscombe.

Names written down by scribes and transferred from one document to another, and in different hands, can very easily be confused and the spelling altered. There is some evidence that Ketenores and Kitnors lived in and around Allerford for many years, although their common descent is unlikely to be proven.

At a further inquisition PM on the estate of John de Luccombe, taken at Exford on 1st November 1334, the jurors included Geoffrey de Avill, William de Kytenore and Maurice de Kytenore. Maurice was William de Ketenore's eldest son, and it is possible that the William de Kytenore on this inquisition was also William 5's son, Maurice's brother. We will identify him as William de Ketenore 6.

The raising of money to support the King and Parliament was regularised during the reigns of Edward I and II. Taxation became the responsibility of the Exchequer, subject to the wishes of Parliament; and under Edward II the administration and record keeping by the Exchequer was much improved⁸⁸. Thus the 1327 Subsidy [tax] Roll for Somerset has survived and is of great value to genealogists.

The following extracts concern us⁸⁹: -

⁸⁶ Chadwyck Healey, pp.51-2

⁸⁷ *ibid* pp.52-54

⁸⁸ OH Vol. 4, pp.531-539

⁸⁹ Exchequer Lay Subsidies, 169/5 (SRS 3, pp.247-8).

Place	Landholder	Amount of Tax paid
Codecombe (Cutcombe)	Willelmo de Quarne	12d
Timbercombe	Willelmo de Kytenore	2s
Exeford	Willelmo de Chyobeyete (Chibbett)	13d
Yauere (Yearnor with Culbone)	Galfrido de Avele Johanne de Brattone Emma de Brattone	12d 4s 2s 6d
Radeway (Rodway in Cannington Hundred)	Willelmo de Kytenor William Bythesee	6d 12d

This tax was levied at 1/20th of the value of movable goods excluding arms, equipment and jewellery, when such value was not less than 10 shillings.

Culbone was at this time taxed with Yearnor, and it is apparent that William de Ketenore was no longer living there; he had moved to Timberscombe, living probably at Well⁹⁰. The de Brattons had already moved to Culbone following the agreement, still to be formalised to acquire it from William de Ketenore .

Willelmo de Quarne was certainly William de Ketenore 5; and Willelmo de Chyobeyete was probably William de Ketenore 6. Willelmo Kytenor of Rodway was William de Ketenore 7 of Petheram in Cannington Hundred whose identity is uncertain. His land was at Petheram which was taxed with Rodway. We shall meet him in Chapter IV.

The amounts paid in tax in 1327 were assessed in a fairly arbitrary manner. But it is useful to look at that paid by William Bythesee of Rodway. He died in 1336, when his movable property was listed and valued thus: -

Growing crops (36 acres)	£5 -7- 5½
Grain, Forage etc.	1-16-11
Livestock	10 -12- 0
Agricultural implements	12 - 6
Furniture & utensils	6 - 9 -10
Personal clothing	13 - 4

⁹⁰ Well Farm on the OS maps, just one mile to the west of Timberscombe village.

Miscellaneous

17 - 1

Total ⁹¹

£26 - 9 - 1½

It is apparent that by the beginning of the 14th Century, the status of a knight had changed, and the holding of land by 'knight service' had become little more than a form of tenancy for which an annual money rent was paid. In theory, a knight was still liable for military service when called; but all routine duties such as castle guards were by now carried out by full-time paid soldiers. The title of 'knight' was indicative of professional, largely ceremonial status.

The feudal landholder was fast becoming a yeoman, a freeman who farmed his own land or sub-let it to others for a money rent, of an intermediate social class jealous of its origins and standards but no longer of the aristocracy. This trend developed rapidly after the Black Death and the consequent shortage of agricultural labour⁹².

William de Ketenore 5 died between 1327 and 1331. He was succeeded by his son Maurice de Ketenore.

Maurice de Ketenore (c.1300-1348)

On the 14th October 1331, Maurice de Ketenore and Alice his wife concluded an agreement with John and Joan de Bratton of Bratton near Dunster for the exchange of the Manor of Ketenore for just under 200 acres of land in Doverhay (near Porlock), Borghe, Torre, Pitte Combe and Timberscombe⁹³. This exchange must have taken place before 1327 when the de Brattons paid tax on Culbone, and before William de Ketenore's death.

The exchange was finalized in October 1331, when two separate legal documents were warranted. The first acknowledged the right of John and Joan de Bratton to hold Ketenore, for which they paid Maurice and Alice the sum of 100 marks⁹⁴ in silver. The second acknowledged the right of Alice and Maurice de Ketenore to hold the lands given in exchange, for which they gave John and Joan £20 sterling.

Thereafter, the de Ketenores had no interest in Culbone, Timberscombe having become the family's principal estate, now of considerable size as the table shows.

The holding at Chibbett in the Manor of Exford was acquired at about the same time - prior to 1327. The circumstances are not known, though the whole of the Manor of Exford was leased by the Abbot of Neath to Sir John

⁹¹ SRS 48, No. 123.

⁹² G.M. Trevelyan *English Social History*, 1944, pp. 8-11

⁹³ Feet of Fines, 1307-1346 (SRS 12, pp.153,156)

⁹⁴ The mark was worth 13s 4d, (ie 2/3 of one pound) but was never minted as a coin

Ingge in 1322⁹⁵ and it seems likely that this provided an opportunity for parts of the Manor to be sub-let to suitable tenants.

De Ketenore landholding at the end of 1331 (excl. Chibbett and Quarne).

	Domesday Survey	¼ fee at Timberscombe (c.1185)	Acquired by Maurice de Ketenore (1331)	Total held (acres)
Arable	900	225	108	333
Pasture	158	40	50	90
Meadow	11	3	10	13
Wood	65	16	11	27
Moor	-	-	8	8
<i>Totals</i>	1,134	284	187	471

- Notes
1. The areas comprising the quarter-fee at Timberscombe assume proportional division, which is unlikely, though the total acreage is probably correct.
 2. The Domesday figures are based on a carucate of 100 acres.
 3. It is clear, even when the difference in areas is taken into account, that the quality of the land at Timberscombe was superior to that at Culbone. The Domesday valuations were: -
 - Culbone - 15 shillings
 - Timberscombe - 45 shillings.
 4. The locations of the 187 acres acquired in 1331- excluding Porlock and Timberscombe - are thought to be as follows:
 - Borghe - in Avill near Dunster. The exact location has not been established.
 - Torre - although Torre is the old (Domesday) name for Dunster, this is believed to be Torre just south of Washford in Old Cleeve parish.
 - Pitte Combe - perhaps located in the vicinity of Combe Farm, in Withycombe parish. Domesday lists Combe (CUBE) here, and a hamlet named Combe is shown on the early OS maps.
 - Torre and Combe lie about 4 miles south-east of Dunster.

⁹⁵ Descriptive Catalogue of Ancient Deeds, Vol. 2 (1894) : (Somerset A.3213), 14 October, 16 Edward II

It seems that William de Ketenore V, in his later years, sought to provide land for the growing number of his dependents, including younger brothers, nephews and, perhaps, cousins, whose names are not known. The properties he acquired in exchange for Culbone included no fewer than nine messuages - that is, plots of land with a dwelling house on each - located in the area delineated by the coastline from Porlock to Watchet and extending inland to include Quarme and Exford. In particular, the estate at Chibbett in the Manor of Exford provided land for his probable second son William de Ketenore VI. In this way, the spread of the family name in West Somerset was established and was to be found largely unchanged in the 16th Century when parish registers were introduced.

About this time, 1331 or a little earlier, the greater part of the ½ fee at Quarme⁹⁶ together with the property at Well in Timberscombe passed to John Whiton of Bossington⁹⁷. The circumstances of this change of tenure are unknown, though de Ketenores continued to live in the vicinity of Timberscombe and Quarme during the remaining years of the 14th Century and beyond.

Maurice de Ketenore served as a juror on an inquisition at Somerton in June 1334; and on another at Exford in November of the same year when William de Ketenore VI was also a juror. Maurice was alive in 1346 when the Sherriff's Roll listing those who were to contribute to the Aid for the knighting of the Black Prince included his assessment at 20 shillings⁹⁸.

The Black Death struck Somerset in 1348, and in that year and the following one at least one third of the population died⁹⁹. Maurice de Ketenore was probably a victim; and John Whiton, the new tenant of Quarme also died in 1348. But their names were not quickly forgotten, for the subsidy roll of 1428, eighty years on, lists the property at Quarme Kytenore "which Maurice de Kytenore formerly held" as the property of the heirs of John Whiton¹⁰⁰.

William de Ketenore VI (c.1305-c.1365)

William de Ketenore VI was probably a brother of Maurice, and is thought to have been the William de Cheyobeyete who paid tax in Chibbett in 1327. He is recorded as a witness to charters made at Dunster in 1346 and 1362. He was also named as a juror at sessions of the Forest Court held at Langport in 1333 and 1335¹⁰¹. In both these sessions Geoffrey de Avill was also a juror. In 1338, at a session of the court at Taunton, William was "a Regarder appointed for the day", while Geoffrey de Avill was named as a Regarder.

Once every three years an inspection of the Forest was made by twelve independent men chosen for the purpose. These inspections were called 'Regards', and the men who made them were 'Regarders of the Forest'. A regarder, once chosen by the Sheriff, held office for life unless incapacitated by age or illness. He was required to report any offence discovered as well as

⁹⁶ Maurice retained 1/8 of a fee, a quarter of the total

⁹⁷ SRS 33, pp.70, 72

⁹⁸ Feudal Aids Vol. 4, pp.335, 342

⁹⁹ Trevelyan p.8

¹⁰⁰ Feudal Aids Vol. 4, p.391

¹⁰¹ McDermot, pp. 96-98

record the state of the woods, enclosures and moors, attending sessions of the Court to give evidence. The most serious cases were concerned with the killing of deer and taking the venison; but the great majority were about minor infringements such as the grazing of livestock without a warrant, the cutting of turves for fuel and damaging 'the vert' - that is the trees, bushes and underwood affording food and cover to the beasts of the Forest.

It is not known when William died, but by 1362 he would have been an old man. I have found no later reference to him.

John de Ketene of Luccombe

On 13th May 1336, a John de Ketene, probably of Luccombe, was a Freeman of the City of Exeter. The record describes him as a nephew of William de Ketene¹⁰². The reasons for this honour are unknown, but both men are thought to be de Ketenores: John de Ketene probably the same as the John de Kytenore who, in 1325, served on the inquisition post mortem on the estates of John and Hugh de Luccombe; and William de Ketene his uncle William de Ketenore IV.

Walter de Ketenore (c.1330-1386)

Walter was probably Maurice de Ketenore's eldest son¹⁰³. and was a Regarder of the Forest from the year 1365 or earlier¹⁰⁴. He attended sessions of the Forest Court at Somerton in 1365, at Wells in 1366 and again at Somerton in 1368. After 1368, few offenders against Forest Law were brought to court and the sessions lapsed altogether at the end of the reign of Edward III in 1377.

Walter married before 1370, though the name of his wife is unknown. They had only one child, a daughter Isabel born prior to 1373. There was, therefore, no male heir to the de Ketenore estates when Walter died in 1386 or very early in 1387, and all his properties passed to Isabel.

Isabel de Ketenore (born c.1370)

On March 25th 1387, a court at Dunster found Isabel liable to pay a relief of 12s 6d on $\frac{1}{8}$ of a fee in Quarne Kytenore¹⁰⁵. This was a customary payment due from the heir of a deceased freeholder to the Lord of the Manor for the privilege of taking up the estate of his (or her) predecessor. The amount was usually one year's rent. At this date, Isabel must have been at least 14 years old, otherwise she would not have been liable.

She also inherited some 440 acres¹⁰⁶ of land in the vicinity of Timberscombe, Porlock and Dunster previously held by her father and grandfather.

¹⁰² Exeter Freemen, 1266-1967: Mayor's Court Roll, 9/10 Edw III, 13 May 1336

¹⁰³ Maxwell Lyte, *Manors*, p.96

¹⁰⁴ McDermot, pp. 101- 102

¹⁰⁵ SRS 33 p.97

¹⁰⁶ The difference in total acreage is probably due to the earlier sale of the messuage at Well

Isabel married John Bochell of Bridgwater, and as a consequence all the remaining lands held by the de Ketenores by military service passed to the Bochell family. Within a few years, on 9th June 1404, John and Isabel sold the whole of Isabel's inheritance except the $\frac{1}{8}$ fee in Quarme to Margaret and Elizabeth, co-heirs of John Whiton and grand-daughters of the John Whiton who had bought Quarme and Well in Timberscombe from Maurice de Ketenore about 1330. The $\frac{1}{8}$ fee in Quarme was still held by William Bochell, John and Isabel's son, in 1428¹⁰⁷.

It must be remembered that it was the freehold of all these properties which passed, and the occupants of the time may have stayed on as tenants paying an annual rent.

Margaret married Henry Sydenham; and by the middle of the 15th Century, the Sydenham family had acquired the whole of the Manor of Timberscombe and were also holding several other manors in Somerset¹⁰⁸.

There are very few other 15th Century references to the de Ketenores, although the birth of some before the end of the century may be deduced from the earliest 16th Century records. There is, however, evidence of a John de Kyttenore, husbandman, living in Exford in 1436. He may well be a descendant of William de Ketenore VI.

The story of the de Ketenores of Carhampton Hundred will be continued in Chapter V.

¹⁰⁷ Feudal Aids Vol. 4 p.391

¹⁰⁸ Chadwyck Healey, pp.307-309

CHAPTER IV - CANNINGTON HUNDRED

1200 - 1550

In the closing years of the 12th Century, Jocelin and Adam de Ketenore were living in Cannington hundred. They were of the land-owning aristocracy and comfortably well off. Their service as witnesses to a number of charters¹⁰⁹ suggests that they held land near Stogursey and Cannington township and, perhaps, in the vicinity of Buckland Priory at Durston and near Durleigh in Andersfield hundred.

During the same period, it is apparent that they were on friendly terms with several of the leading families in the area including the Malets, Fichets, de Brattons, de Bawdrips and, perhaps, the de Estons.

Although it has not yet proved possible to establish the exact locations of the properties, it seems probable that they were held of one or more of these families. But because the de Ketenores were not themselves major landholders in the area there are few surviving charters relating directly to their land.

Cannington hundred at this time was prosperous and well populated, and was becoming an important area for trade in mainly agricultural produce. There were two principal centres in the hundred: Cannington township and the borough of Stoke Curci (later Stogursey), with a small port at Comwich from which shipping plied to Bristol, South Wales and Ireland. Stogursey was the seat of the de Curci family and 'caput' of the honour of Stogursey, held in 1166 by William de Curci¹¹⁰, probably an uncle of the John de Curci who conquered Ulster in 1177. Among those who held land of the honour of Stogursey at the end of the 12th Century were William II and Fulk le Poer, William being the son of the William le Poer who held three fees of the honour of Barnstaple jointly with William de Ketenore; and Hugh Malet, probably of the Enmore family, who held no less than eight fees¹¹¹, though some of these may have been outside Somerset.

Jocelin de Ketenore (c.1155-c.1220)

Documentary references to Jocelin de Ketenore are few. About the year 1190, or a little earlier, when he was about 30 years old, he witnessed a charter concerning Buckland Priory and land in the vicinity of Durleigh near Bridgwater. All the other witnesses to this charter held land by military service, though there is no other evidence that Jocelin owed military service of any kind¹¹². That he had some link with Buckland Priory seems certain. The Prior at this time was one Hugh de Alneto who, for a time, was also Grand Prior of England.

In June 1200, a relative of Hugh, Henry de Alneto who was perhaps his nephew, brought a case to court to assert his right to hold the whole of the

¹⁰⁹ SRS 25 No. 132; SRS 61 Nos. 24 and 35; Historical MSS Commission 9th Report Part 1 p.354.

¹¹⁰ VCH Vol. 6 pp.73-76

¹¹¹ G.E.G. Malet *The Origins of the Malets of Enmore*, Genealogists Magazine, Vol. 8, 1938/39; and BBE Vol. 1 pp.90-91

¹¹² Cartulary of Buckland Priory, SRS 25 No. 132



Map 2: Part of Somerset containing Cannington Hundred

Reproduced from Ordnance Survey map data by permission of Ordnance Survey, © Crown copyright.

manor of Maidford in Northamptonshire in demesne¹¹³. The case was finally settled in Henry's favour in 1205¹¹⁴. During the whole period of this action his

¹¹³ Curia Regis Rolls, Vol.1 (1189-1201), Roll 16.

¹¹⁴ *ibid* Vol. 3 (1203-1205), pp. 13, 67, 179, 229, 254, 307 & 341

attorney was Jocelin de Ketenore. I have found no later reference to Jocelin in Somerset and it seems probable that he settled in Northamptonshire.

It is tempting to think that this possibility is supported by the fact that, following the death of Henry de Alneto, sometime before 1270, the tenure of Maidford Manor passed to a Thomas Kynne. Could 'Kynne' be a corruption of Ketenore? And could Thomas have been a son or grandson of Jocelin?

Over 250 years later, a Thomas Kyne of Cannington died. His will, made in 1559, includes the bequest of "my best coat and doublet to my brother William Kydnor".¹¹⁵

Fitzhugh¹¹⁶ tells us that the word 'brother' was often used to mean 'brother-in-law', Perhaps it was sometimes used in the sense of 'kinsman'. Could a recollection of some much earlier link between the two families have been passed down by word of mouth over the centuries? The idea deserves further research.

Adam de Ketenore (c.1160-c.1220)

It was in the year 1197 or perhaps a year or two earlier that William de Eston of the manor of Chilton Trivet near Cannington made a charter confirming grants of land by his ancestors to the churches of Lonlay in Normandy and Stogursey in Somerset¹¹⁷. William de Eston held his manor of Alice de Curci who, in turn, held it of William Malet of Curry Malet, the Tenant-in-Chief. Adam de Ketenore was one of twelve named witnesses. The other eleven all held land in Somerset, most in Cannington hundred.

A year or two later but before 1200 Adam witnessed another charter by William de la Mora granting land near the River Parrett and giving his daughter Mabel in free marriage to Robert son of Wlwric¹¹⁸. All the other witnesses to this charter lived near Cannington. The land may well have been given as a dowry for Mabel.

On 3rd July 1201, Hugh Fichet of Stringston, two miles west of Stogursey, was sued for disseisin in Merridge near Spaxton. Adam was one of Hugh's pledges¹¹⁹.

While these three cases provide evidence that Adam held land in Cannington hundred, they give no specific indication of where it lay. However, they in no way conflict with the later conclusion that Adam's lands were in the vicinity of Petheram and at Idson near Stogursey.

Nothing is known of Adam's marriage except that he had a daughter, Maud de Ketenore, who was born about 1190. The little we know about Maud is the result of her marriage, about 1215, to William Malet I of Enmore as William's second wife¹²⁰. Nothing is known of William's first wife except that she bore him a son, William Malet II.

¹¹⁵ A.J. Monday, SA&NH Notes & Queries, 1886

¹¹⁶ T.V.H. Fitzhugh, Dictionary of Genealogy, 1988

¹¹⁷ SRS 61, Stogursey Charter No.35

¹¹⁸ ibid Stogursey Charter No. 24

¹¹⁹ SRS 11, No. 24

¹²⁰ Malet 1938

William Malet I seems to have been prone to trouble with the authorities. In 1200, he was sued by his cousin William Malet II of Curry Malet about land in Sutton Malet, when one of the witnesses was William de Bawdrip¹²¹. In 1210, he was fined £100 for taking a stag in Taunton Park¹²²; and in 1216, his lands were confiscated by King John, although they were later returned to him¹²³.

William and Maud had a son, Richard Malet of Lexworthy in Enmore parish, born soon after their marriage. William died about 1223 and was succeeded by his elder son by his first wife, William Malet II of Enmore.

As Lord of the Manor, William had an important role to play, and many of his duties would have been shared with Maud. She would not have had an easy life, but would have been responsible for all the administration of a busy household including the accommodation and entertainment of many important visitors.

Richard, after coming of age, also held the Manor of Gothelney in Charlinch parish. In 1275, when an old man, he was fined "for not keeping hospitality" there. It is not known whom he married nor what children he had.¹²⁴

In the Middle Ages, marriages were usually arranged by the parents, often while the prospective couple were still minors and with little regard for the young people's own feelings. A dowry would be offered with the bride and the promise of a large dowry would frequently be the deciding factor. It would be paid to the head of the family rather than to the intended husband, for marriage was commonly regarded as a means of increasing that family's wealth¹²⁵. Maud's marriage may well have cost Adam dearly, probably paid in land rather than money.

G.E.G. Malet calls Adam 'Sir Adam de Kitenore', though there is no other known reference to such a title. Adam died about 1220; I have found no later reference to him; nor have I found any record of his wife nor of any children other than Maud. It seems that he died without a male heir.

Between c.1220 and 1274, there seems to be no documentary reference to de Ketenores in Cannington hundred but, from later references, it is apparent that the main de Ketenore line in Culbone and Timberscombe retained the lordship of the family properties there. The most likely explanation is that after Adam's death the title to his lands reverted to his eldest brother William de Ketenore II or to William's son Geoffrey - Adam and William both died about 1220. The Cannington landholdings were probably leased to sub-tenants for their lifetime, assuming that Adam had held his lands from his father under a form of tenancy known as Fee Tail, or entailment. Such tenancies had been common since Anglo-Saxon times but were reviewed and strengthened by Edward I's statute *De Donis Conditionabilis* of 1285¹²⁶. They were favoured as a means of preventing the

¹²¹ Curia Regis Rolls, Vol. 1 pp.259 & 411; Vol. 2 p.16

¹²² Malet 1938

¹²³ Rotuli Litterarum Clausarum, p.274b

¹²⁴ VCH Vol. 6 p.93

¹²⁵ Trevelyan 1944, pp. 64-65

¹²⁶ H.W.C. Davis (Ed) Medieval England, Oxford 1924, p.331

fragmentation of estates. Fitzhugh¹²⁷ describes entailment thus: "An owner of lands in Fee Simple could, by a grant of land to a person and his heirs, tie up that land in one family. Such land was called Estate Tail, and the mode of tenure Fee Tail. Each successor would enjoy only a life interest in it, but it would pass to his heirs on the principle of primogeniture. If ever the direct issue of the original grantee died out, the land reverted to the grantor or his heirs". The original grant would often restrict inheritance to the male line, when the tenure would be known as Fee Tail (male).

It was on the 24th July 1274 that an inquisition was Table held at Langport by command of the King, into the "rights, liberties, demesne lands, rents, possessions, etcetera of the King in the Hundred of Cannington". The members of the jury were William de Kidenore, Walter de Cantock [Quantock], John de Eston, Geoffrey le Poer, Henry Everard, Thomas de Gelhampton, Nicholas Doget and William Gyvernay, all of whom held land as free tenants in Cannington hundred. The identity of William de Kidenore needs to be established.

It is unlikely that the spelling of the name is significant, although the substitution of the 't' by a 'd' is more frequently found in Irish documents of the period.

William is most likely to have been a younger son of Geoffrey de Ketenore II of Culbone and Timberscombe, acting on behalf of his elder brother, Geoffrey III, who was at this time the head of the family in Carhampton hundred. However, one cannot wholly discount the possibility that he was a son of John de Katenore of Dunnamaggan in Ireland. Chapter II records how John de Katenore granted all his estate in Ireland to Waleran de Katenore, presumed to be his son; but there is no reason to think that John was his only son nor even his eldest. His lands in Ireland would not be divided on his death, and a younger son would hope to be granted any family holding for which the tenancy was vacant, wherever it might be.

In July 1275, in a court case heard in Bridgwater, William de Kyttore, Richard Ducle and Robert de Wyteford¹²⁸ were charged with disseisin by John son of Herbert de Dunsterre of a tenement in that town comprising eight acres of arable and common rights over eight acres of alders during the period from November 1274 to February 1275. They were acquitted and John "was in mercy for a false claim"¹²⁹. This William de Kyttore has not been identified with any certainty, but may well have been the same as the juryman of July 1274 or, alternatively, William de Ketenore IV of Culbone, still a minor in his 'teens. But, as a minor, he would not have served as a member of the jury in the important inquisition of July 1274.

William de Ketenore VII of Cannington Hundred

Positive evidence that de Ketenores were again in permanent occupation of land in Cannington hundred is not found until the beginning of the 14th Century, when the subsidy roll of 1327 records that Willelmo Kytenor

¹²⁷ Fitzhugh p.101

¹²⁸ In another account, the name is given as Robert de Wytewode. It is not known which is correct.

¹²⁹ SRS 41 pp.19-20; Somerset Pleas 1272-1279, Roll 1224, Membrane 13.

paid sixpence tax in Rodway - which included Petheram¹³⁰. He will be identified as William de Ketenore VII. It is possible that he was the son or grandson of the William de Kidenore who served on the jury at the inquisition of 1274.

There is further good evidence of the re-occupation of the former de Ketenore lands during the 14th Century in the Steyning charters¹³¹. Steyning was a small estate held by the de Eston family of the manor of Chilton Trivet until 1200. After that year it passed in part to Stogursey church and part to William de Steyning whose family held it until 1340¹³². The village of Steyning is located about 2 miles to the east of Stogursey borough. The Steyning family also held land at Petheram. The de Ketenores may have been amongst their tenants.

In Steyning Charter No.7 dated 18th June 1339 and made at Petheram, Gilbert of Thorne, rector of Oare in Carhampton hundred¹³³, quitclaimed¹³⁴ to William de Kitenore lands and tenements in Pederdham [Petheram] which he formerly held of William. The witnesses were all local landholders and included John Bythesee¹²⁴.

Seven years later, on 10 July 1346, a similar charter - Steyning No.8 - made by Henry Poier (le Poer) at Otterhampton, quitclaimed to William de Kytenore all the lands etc. in Pedredham in the hundred of Cannington "which William had by inheritance". Again, all the witnesses were local landholders, including John Bythesee¹²⁴. Henry Poier held an estate of some 128 acres near Otterhampton, had been a member of Parliament in 1332 and manucaptor of Stogursey Priory until 1350¹³⁵. He is thought to have been a descendant of the le Poers who served in Ireland in the late 12th Century.

On 1st October 1347, William Kytenore witnessed a charter by John Busschel of Bridgwater concerning rents and services due for 7 acres of arable land in the vicinity of Petheram and Rodway¹³⁶. John Busschel was probably of the same family as the John Bochell who married Isabel de Ketenore about 1400. The charter confirms that there were still close links between the two branches of the family.

Roger Kytenor or Kedenore of Petheram and Idson

The Black Death struck Somerset in the autumn of 1347, and for some time thereafter references to de Ketenores are scarce. What impact the plague had in Cannington hundred is only known in general terms; which individuals fell victims to it, and how many, can only be guessed.

On 9th May 1372, a charter made at Bridgwater by Richard Bythesee, the eldest son of William Bythesee¹³⁷ who died in 1336, concerned the lease of

¹³⁰ SRS 3 p.142; Exchequer Lay Subsidies 169/5: Tax Roll for Somerset of 1 Edw III (1327)

¹³¹ SRS 57, Steyning Charters Nos. 7, 8, 10 and 11

¹³² VCH Vol. 6 p.146

¹³³ Chadwyck Healey p.403; SRS 9.

¹³⁴ quitclaim: to acknowledge the right of a person to hold land

¹³⁵ Calendar of Fine Rolls, Vol. 6 p.253; SRS 61 p.57

¹³⁶ Bridgwater Borough Archives, 1200-1377; SRS 48 No. 150.

¹³⁷ See Chapter 3, p.43

7 acres of land "with a warth¹³⁸" in Petheram and was witnessed by Robert Bythesee, Richard's brother, Roger Kytendor and others¹³⁹. Roger was probably a grandson of William de Ketenore VII¹⁴⁰.

Roger Kedenore, almost certainly the same Roger, was named in a further charter made at Stogursey on 18th March 1391/92 by Ralph son of John Vernay, Lord of Fairfield. granting a lease of a cottage and two gardens at Ediston¹⁴¹, and a half-acre of meadow "in the yerdemore between that of Roger Kedenore on the west and that of John Poleswell on the south, in the parish of Stokurcy", to William Lyghe and Agnes his wife for their two lives, for "an annual rent of 3 shillings for all save the King's service and a fifteenth (tithe) when due, and attendance at the grantor's court twice a year"¹⁴².

So Roger held land at Idson at this time as well as at Petheram. The reference to the King's service in the terms of the lease seems to imply that the land was still held as a fraction of a fee, even though military service was most unlikely to be demanded. The grantor's court refers to the manor court of Fairfield over which Ralph de Vernay presided¹⁴³.

William Kitenor VIII of Petheram

By 1421, Roger was almost certainly dead and a younger William Kitenor VIII appears. On 14th June 1421 Joan, widow of John Gardiner of Combwich, and Richard their son quitclaimed to William Kitenor all the lands etc. in "Pederham in the parish and hundred of Cannington, and all actions real and personal"¹⁴⁴. This charter - Steyning No. IO - was made at Bridgwater and was witnessed by William Gosse, William Gascoigne and John Pytte, all of whom were members of Parliament for Bridgwater at various dates between 1406 and 1435¹⁴⁵.

On 21st April 1449, William Kitnor signed a charter granting power of attorney to John Rycheman and John Poyer binding them to "deliver seisin of properties in Pedyrdham to John Kitnor and his wife Agnes"¹⁴⁶. William by this date was probably old and may have died soon afterwards. John is presumed to have been his son and heir. In this charter, the shortened spelling of the family name - Kitnor- is found for the first time. Within a few years it became the accepted form, although the 't' was soon replaced by a 'd', as in 'Kydnor', except in Carhampton hundred where the former spelling, Kitnor or Kitner, was retained and survived into the 20th Century.

The only later references to the Kidners of Stogursey are found in three wills and one entry in the churchwardens' accounts for 1503 - 1547.

Walter Kydnor of Stogursey made his will at Stogursey on 3rd December 1531. He left twopence to Wells Cathedral, twopence and an altar

¹³⁸ Warth: Wartha in the latin text, probably an area of land raised above a marshy field and therefore protected from flooding

¹³⁹ Bridgwater Borough Archives, 1200 - 1377; SRS 48 No.150

¹⁴⁰ Roger's father may have been a victim of the Black Death

¹⁴¹ Ediston: Idson; Domesday Edevestone, Edith's Place. The origin of the de Estons

¹⁴² Historical MSS Commission, Series 12, 10th Report, Appx.3; Wells MSS Vol.1 p.517

¹⁴³ VCH Vol. 6 pp.136-142; Wells MSS Vol.1 pp.505-520

¹⁴⁴ SRS 57, Steyning No. 10

¹⁴⁵ SRS 58, pp. xi-xii

¹⁴⁶ SRS 57, Steyning No. 11

cloth to the church [of St Andrew, Stogursey], and two oxen to his son William. The residue of his estate was left to his wife Joan; and, finally, he asked that his body be buried in the churchyard of St Andrew, at the east end. The will was witnessed by Sir Nicholas Phillips of Bridgwater and Clement Hale, clerk, perhaps the vicar of Stogursey. Walter's executors were Richard Hoge and Robert Grove¹⁴⁷.

Joan made her will at Stogursey in 1544¹⁴⁸.

Walter had two sons, John and William. John was probably the elder and is mentioned in the will of Henry Audley, vicar of Stogursey in 1539¹⁴⁹. John died in 1560 and was buried at Spaxton on 27th April that year. William was churchwarden of Stogursey in 1546/47¹⁵⁰. He is thought to have moved to North Petherton sometime after 1547. The William Kidner who was buried at North Petherton on 9th January 1579 is believed to have been William's son. William the elder may have died before 1558 when the North Petherton parish registers start. His wife Edythe was buried at North Petherton on 23rd August 1576¹⁵¹.

A William Kydnor is mentioned in the will of Thomas Kyne of Cannington, proved on 15 February 1558/59. He was almost certainly William of Stogursey, Walter's son.

The Victoria County History relates how an estate at Pedredham or Petherams Marsh was held as a fraction of a fee by John Steyning before 1464 and then by his son Richard. By 1534, it had passed to John's grandson John Steyning who, in 1544, sold the estate to two of his tenants, John Lawrence and his wife Maud. It seems likely that John and William Kydnor were tenants of the Steyning family and that their tenancy lapsed after the Steynings sold the estate in 1544. At about the same time, the village of Petheram and the church of St James there were abandoned, probably because of their vulnerability to flooding. What remained of the estate changed hands several times, but by that time had become known as 'Kitner's'¹⁵².

After 1550, there is no record of any Kidner living in the Stogursey/Cannington area for at least 200 years.

Some Conclusions on Cannington Hundred

In spite of the rather fragmentary account presented in this chapter, some sound conclusions can be drawn.

First, it seems certain that William de Ketenore or, possibly, his son Adam was granted land in Cannington hundred following the conquest of Ulster in the last quarter of the 12th Century. The greater part was probably in the vicinity of Petheram, though some may have been at or near Stogursey. These lands were in the gift of the de Curci family of which William de Curci held the honour of Stogursey from 1171 to 1194. But when William's father

¹⁴⁷ F.W. Weaver, *Wells Wills 1528-1536*

¹⁴⁸ *Taunton Wills Part 1, Vol.1 folio 280*

¹⁴⁹ Rev. R.G. Bartelot, original note dated c. 1920

¹⁵⁰ Historical MSS Commission, 6th Report, pp.348-9 (Stogursey Churchwardens' Accounts, 1503-1547)

¹⁵¹ *Dwelly's Parish Records, Vols 10-13 and 15, North Petherton Funerals, 1558-1837*

¹⁵² *VCH Vol.6 p.84*

died in 1171 William was a minor and did not become of age until 1189. During the whole of his minority, the custody of his estates was given by the King to Robert le Poer . There was a well-established relationship between the de Curcis and the le Poers and the de Ketenores who had served them as knights from before 1166 until about 1200.

The land at Petheram, and possibly that at Stogursey was held by Adam de Ketenore of his father until Adam's death about 1220. The nature of Adam's tenancy may have been fee tail (male), so that when Adam died the lands reverted to the main de Ketenore line, that is to William de Ketenore II (who also died c,1220) or to William II's son and heir Geoffrey de Ketenore II.

Some part of the estate may have passed to the Malets of Enmore as a dowry for Adam's daughter Maud when she married William Malet I about 1215.

For perhaps 100 years after 1220, the bulk of the estate was probably sub-let to tenants who have not been identified, though the mesne tenancy was retained by Geoffrey II and his heirs.

In 1274, a William de Ketenore was called upon to act on the jury for the inquisition to establish the extent of the King's estates in Cannington hundred. His identity is uncertain, although he was clearly acting as representative of the descendants of the original holder William de Ketenore I.

The situation changed during the first half of the 14th Century as the family reclaimed their Petheram lands from their sub-tenants as and when 'the leases could be terminated, a process largely completed by 1347. Thereafter, the de Ketenores continued to occupy their Petheram estate as tenants of the Steyning family until the middle of the 16th Century when the Steyning leases seem to have lapsed, perhaps with the sale of the Steyning lands in 1544. By 1550, William and John Kydner had moved to North Petherton and Spaxton respectively.

The first parish registers for both North Petherton and Spaxton start in 1550, providing a firm basis for later studies of our genealogy. The story is continued in later chapters.

