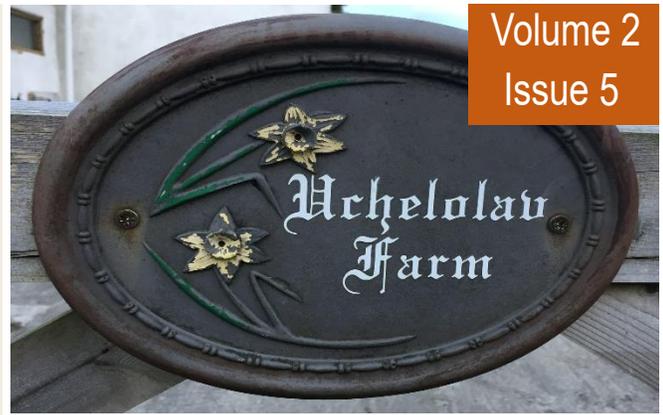




in this issue >>>

- *Halloween in Wales*
- *How the St. Johns inherited Penmark's Odyn's Fee and Highlight Manors*
- *Corrected de Port-St. John and St. John Pedigrees*



Volume 2
Issue 5

October 2019

An Insight into the St. John Family of Highlight

FOCUS ON *primary* records

current topics >>>

Why a family newsletter

By Suzanne St. John

The St. Johns of Highlight, Glamorgan, Wales are *lost* in Modern History. The individuals of this family, their ancestors and descendants have been merged, confounded, and obliterated into non-existence by well-meaning researchers, heralds, and family before us. It is our responsibility and right to honor our ancestors based on the primary records that have been left for us. We owe it to them as genealogical preservationists to correct the historical record and the public's understanding.

For more information go to
www.stjohngenealogy.com
or email stjohngenealogy@gmail.com



Halloween in Wales

Spooky unique Welsh traditions

by Suzanne St. John

Many Halloween traditions such as souling or trick or treating can be found across the world; but Wales does have its own unique traditions.

Festivals that celebrated the end of harvest and start of winter in pre-Christian times probably took place in Wales. Beginning in the 9th century they were merged with Christian festivals that were moved from spring to autumn such as All Saints and All Souls Day. This led to the emergence of Calan Gaeaf in Wales where the elements became our modern understanding of Halloween.

Celebrations included a feast of stwmp naw rhyw which was nine root vegetables mashed with milk, butter and pepper. During this time animals that weren't thought to be able to survive the winter were chosen for slaughter or sent to market. This gave rise to a macabre ritual called Hwch Ddu, or Black Sow. One of the slaughtered pigs – usually a man covered in cloth or animal skin – would rise out of the flames of the fire and chase the children away. It had an associated rhyme that detailed how the pig would catch the last child to reach their home.

Other Calan Gaeaf rituals included the scratching of their name onto a stone they would cast into the fire. If the stone was missing when the fire went out, that person would die within the year according to the folklore. Another ritual

involved single women that would walk around the church grounds and chant “here is the sheath where is the knife”. During this chant they would hear the name of the person they were to marry.

Y Ladi Wen was the apparition of a white lady who could be found at crossroads and graveyards, guarding it against other, darker spirits.

The purpose of these rituals was to bring the community together and overcoming death and separation as one community.

Halloween terms in Welsh:

- Apple bobbing – Twco Fala/fale
- Black sow – hwch du
- Costume - gwisg
- Ghost - ysbryd
- Ghostly – ysbrydion
- Halloween – Calan Gaeaf
- Pumpkin – pwmpen
- Soul - enaid
- Witch – gwrach
- Witchcraft - Teiliwr

Calan Gaeaf is the name of the first day of winter in Wales, observed 1 November. The night before is Nos Galan Gaeaf or Noson Galan Gaeaf.

Write for us >>>

Submitting articles for future publications

The articles will be sent in Word Format to:
stjohngenealogy@gmail.com

Focus

We seek articles on the St. John families that are direct ancestors or descendants of the St. Johns of Highlight, Glamorgan, Wales. This forum encourages descendants and avid researchers with any level of writing skill to participate. We can always find persons to help edit and improve submissions. The family tree at www.stjohngenealogy.com is the primary tree we use, update, and correct.

Types

- Immigrant origins with a genealogical summary.
- Problem solving articles with genealogical summary.
- Genealogical accounts of families, especially families for which no genealogy now exists.
- Source Material
- Current Events
- Common Bonds
- Brick walls
- Help requests
- DNA discoveries
- Phonetic variations
- Newly discovered branches
- Persons or Events of Interest
- Biographies

Writing Guidelines

- Microsoft Word, 12-point type
- Citations for each statement of fact that is not common knowledge. Each should be cited to one or more reliable sources; primary sources preferred.

Submission Guidelines

- Submit a description of your article in advance.
- Limit to 6000 words or less
- Consider including digital copies or scans of original documents
- Do not submit articles that have been published before
- Do not submit articles you are submitting elsewhere
- Include author's direct lineage up to Christopher St. John 1547-1616 of Highlight, Glamorgan, Wales if known.
- A PDF digital copy of your article once published will be attached to your person record on our website

Primary records >>>

Primary Records and Documents for Genealogy

Primary source materials include such resources as vital records (birth, marriages, and death), abstracts of wills, court records, town records, city directories, church (parish) registers, census, newspapers, land deeds, military lists, passenger list, heraldry trees, Visitation reports, tax rolls, archeological reports, and family folklore.

Evaluate the Evidence

- How helpful is the evidence?
- How reliable is the evidence?
- Is it valid for meeting the research objective and does it produce some level of proof?
- Is it objective evidence
- Does it answer questions
- Does it stand on its own merit?
- Do others interpret it differently



Remember all records are not equal



St. John Genealogy & DNA

Social Media is a great way to connect with other St. Johns, share information, ask questions, and learn. In addition to this newsletter, we have a Facebook page and group!



www.facebook.com/groups/stjohngenealogy

Groups Insights

64 +3.1K% New Members Last 28 Days	590 +37% Posts, Comments and Reactions Last 28 Days	 Julie Kaufman, Jeff St John and others are top contributors.
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Events Calendar Settings + Create Event

September 2017

- St. John Family Reunion**
Sunday, September 24, 2017 at 11 PM CDT
Jason J St. John and 74 other guests You hosted.
- International Talk Like a Pirate Day 2017**
Tuesday, September 19, 2017 at 12 AM
1 guest You hosted.



Preserve your DNA for the future

We are looking for DNA test subjects with a documented and provable St. John lineage to participate in our ongoing Genealogical and DNA study. Collections kits obtain saliva for testing. They are non-invasive, painless and private.

Volunteer Job Role openings

- Writer:** A writer is someone who uses descriptive and engaging written language to create historical profiles and summaries of our St. John ancestors.
- Technical Author:** A writer that specializes in explaining genealogical and other technical processes in a simple, easy to understand, manner.
- Copy Editor:** makes sure that published or soon to be published works are free of spelling and grammar errors.
- Editorial Assistant:** helps with the general running of the newsletter, from administrative to editorial.
- Art Editor:** creates an overall look of the newsletter, making sure it's both attractive and easy to read.

If any of these VOLUNTEER job roles interest you, please send an email to stjohngenealogy@gmail.com

ask the experts >>>

Q: *Is a DNA test 100% accurate?*

A: *DNA testing is generally considered to be the most accurate testing method available. DNA paternity testing can show that a man is highly likely to be the father with about 99.9% accuracy, or that he is excluded as being the father with 100% accuracy ~ Ancestry.com*



How the St. Johns inherited Penmark's Odyn's Fee and Highlight Manors

Removing the merging mistakes to find the truth about Penmark and its sub-fees

By Suzanne St. John

In the late 1500s, Herald, Richard St. George married into the de Port-St. John family of Lydiard Tregoze. During this time, he began to document the lineage of the de Port-St. Johns that became embedded into historical Visitation records while simultaneously obliterating our St. John family history. In 1611, Sir William St. John, Knight of Highlight also married into this same de Port-St. John family. Richard St. George didn't know there were two different St. John families with unique origin and Y-DNA, so he began a claim that the St. Johns of Highlight were a cadet or lesser branch of the prestigious de Port-St. John family of Fonmon Castle. He naturally, in a period before DNA was discovered, assumed the de Port-St. Johns of Fonmon Castle were related to the St. Johns of Penmark because they shared the same surname, St. John, and general vicinity, Glamorgan, Wales. As such, he began to merge the two families with the available primary records as reinforcement. And, tragically, he created fictitious historical characters that replaced their historical counterparts in addition to merging persons of similar names or shared surnames and their unique contributions to history. He then created a confusing and collapsed family tree full of characters and merging mistakes. Even after it became clear Adam de Port's descendants assumed the St. John surname, from an earlier St. John family, the merging continued. Modern historians in Wales like Howard J. Thomas and those at Lydiard Tregoze such as Brian Carne and those persons involved in the Friends of Lydiard Tregoze organization that are responsible for the conservation of the church there have extensively studied his conclusions but have failed to recognize and acknowledge the blaring mistakes that created fictitious characters like Elizabeth Umfreville and the merging of Alexanders, Johns and Olivers with their peers of the same forename and surname. And, then, the obvious "Alexander/John/Oliver St. John" compilation characters that run amok in their family tree and claimed ancestry. It is only through DNA and the removal of Richard St. George and his misleading conclusions, that the real history of each family can be reassembled from the primary records. One only need to start trying to build a St. John family tree of her/his own to find immediate conflicting issues. For whatever reason, researchers seem to accept these conflicts repeatedly without hesitation or analysis. I was no different when I first started researching my surname. I tried every mental trick to accept the chaos and conclusions of the 'experts' because I was 'just' an amateur hobbyist, but the issues just kept piling up until it became mentally stressful and unhealthy to continue to perpetuate that behavior. I restarted several times before I realized Richard St. George's mistakes were unique to him and so far back in history, that modern researchers couldn't help themselves but to accept it, in all its chaos and contradiction. Ultimately, I had to remove Richard St. George as a source and any modern historian and published work that repeated his claims including those published in Visitations and research publications by renowned and widely accepted St. John authoritarian, Douglas Richardson. When I emailed Douglas Richardson and he told me he never heard of the Bawdrip family, I knew he was lacking a huge understanding of St. John family history. It felt so wrong to drop these sources as reliable but ultimately proved to be the best decision I made, when it came to my own research. I take no pride or satisfaction in pointing out the mistakes. But equally distressing is not having a publicly recognized family history and being forced to defend sound DNA and primary record research because people want to cling to obvious secondary mistakes for selfishly motivated purposes. This chaos defeats the purpose of basic record keeping and defies acceptable genealogical practices and standards. As much as it pains me, the conclusions need corrected. A great way to understand the makeup of the two families is to understand how and when they came to possess their properties and how those properties passed on to their unique descendants. But in order to see the correct lineages, the errors must be deconstructed.

In 1385, a John St. John was named as an heir in succession to his kin for a property called $\frac{3}{4}$ fee of Penmark and its sub-manors that had belonged to the parents of Henry Umfreville. The primary record lists succession from Henry Umfreville down to John Arundel as follows:

- Henry Umfreville and his wife Isabella
- their daughter, (Alice (Umfreville) Furneaux)
- her daughter, Elizabeth (Furneaux) Blount
- her daughter, Alice (Blount) Sturry
- ?, John St. John
- ?, Walter Graunt
- ?, Hugh Taple
- ?, John Whitefeld
- ?, John Arundel

You can scour the web and the published sources for an explanation of the family structure that details how John St. John fits, but you'll only find two incorrect conclusions unless you find my website: 1) John St. John was the descendant of an Elizabeth Umfreville, alleged daughter of Henry and Isabella; or 2) John descends from unexplainable family connections. The claims that

use Elizabeth Umfreville refer to Penmark as the whole fee of Penmark in an explanation for how the de Port-St. Johns of Fonmon Castle came to hold Penmark Castle. Not only is it that Penmark and its submanors make up 3/4ths of the whole of Penmark, it is a separate 3/4th fee from the 1/4 fee that held Penmark Castle and Lancadle. Regardless, Elizabeth Umfreville is a made-up genealogical character, by Richard St. George, who never existed in this family or in records before the 1500s.

The creation of Elizabeth Umfreville

John's ancestor Alexander St. John of Instow, Devon England had married his second wife Elizabeth, the widow of Hugh Luccombe, of East Luccombe and her first name appeared in several records about East Luccombe. The de Port-St. John's claimed the family of East Luccombe as their own and in doing so needed to 'explain' this Elizabeth. So, without a surname in any known records, Richard St. George made her an Umfreville. Richard St. George just assumed she was an Umfreville and that she was Alexander's first wife and mother to his son Oliver St. John that married Elizabeth Luccombe, the daughter of Hugh Luccombe and his wife Elizabeth. Alexander's first wife and the mother of his children was, however, Margaret Arundel not Elizabeth Umfreville. Henry Umfreville's mother Alice de la Herne had married John Umfreville and Sir Renfry Arundel, so when the Umfreville line expired, it forfeited to the next heir of Alice de la Herne, the Arundels.

Relationship to Alice Blount, Stafford, Sturrey



Sir John (II) St. John, Knight is the 3 x half cousin 3 times removed of Alice Blount, Stafford, Sturrey

In merging fashion, to now adjust for this made up Elizabeth Umfreville, it is this Alexander St. John that is also made into a compilation character with his peers John and Oliver as portrayed in the de Port-St. John family history database as a de Port-St. John. The sources refer to either Richard St. George's work or modern publications that rely on his work. The death date for Elizabeth Umfreville is the death date of Alexander's second wife Elizabeth, the widow of Hugh Luccombe whose maiden name has not been revealed in primary records. There is simply no evidence an Elizabeth Umfreville lived in this family or that such a person was the mother of the listed children. It is through Margaret Arundel that John St. John came to be an heir of 3/4ths of Penmark and had nothing to do with the widow Elizabeth (____) Luccombe, St. John, erroneously named Elizabeth Umfreville.

“Alexander (Oliver) John St. John” and “Sir Oliver (John) St. John”, as just two examples in the de Port-St. John family tree database, simply do not exist and are merged genealogical characters created to explain how only ONE family, the de Port-St. Johns, existed as St. John. When we unravel these characters into separate persons and use DNA science and primary record research, the truth becomes hard to ignore – there were two families, St. John and de Port-St. John.

From the de Port-St. John research database it is easy to see how they merged all these individuals and justified it by using and citing conflicting sources; published at <https://www.seyntjohn.org.uk/Genealogy/getperson.php?personID=I00146&tree=tree> :

Alexander (Oliver) John St.John^[1, 2, 3]

♂ 1295 - 1342 (~ 47 years)

Individual	
Personal Information	
Name	Alexander (Oliver) John St.John ^[4, 5, 6, 7]
Born	c. 1295 Abermaw (Barmouth), Merionethshire, Wales ^P <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Barmouth is the English name given to Abermaw, but it is more likely that the name ought to be Aberthaw, Glamorganshire. Aberthaw was the nearest sea port to Penmark & fonmon.
Gender	Male
Died	c. 1342 ^[8]
Person ID	I00145 StJohn Genealogy
Last Modified	18 Sep 2016
Family	
Father	John St.John , b. c. 1272, Abermaw (Barmouth), Merionethshire, Wales ^P
Mother	Beatrice Broy
Married	c. 1292 Castle Faumont, (Fonmon) Glamorgan, Wales ^P
Family ID	F00117 Group Sheet Family Chart
Family	
Family	Elizabeth Umpherville , b. 1296, Penmark, Glamorganshire, Wales ^P , d. 24 Aug 1345 (Age 49 years)
Married	c. 1318 Castle Faumont, (Fonmon) Glamorgan, Wales ^P
Children	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Theobald St.John, d. without issue ^P [Natural] Henry St.John [Natural] Alexandra St.John Oliver (John) St.John, b. c. 1320, Castle Faumont, (Fonmon) Glamorgan, Wales ^P, d. Before Aug1373 (Age ~ 53 years)

Alexander (Oliver) John St.John^[1, 2, 3]

♂ 1295 - 1342 (~ 47 years)

Individual	
Sources	
Sources	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> [S00073] Genealogies of Glamorgan. [S00077] Visitation of Bedfordshire 1566. [S00234] Baronetage of England, William Betham. [S00073] Genealogies of Glamorgan, 464. Named here as Oliver [S00073] Genealogies of Glamorgan, 429. St. John of Fonmon named here as John [S00077] Visitation of Bedfordshire 1566, Page 51. [S00234] Baronetage of England, William Betham, Vol. III page 386. [S00089] Curiously Painted, Brian Carne, (The Friends of Lydiard Park; Location: Lydiard House, Lydiard Tregoze, Swindon; Date: May 2007.), 978-0-9555357-0-3., Page 7, 8.



Elizabeth Umpherville

♀ 1296 - 1345 (49 years)

Individual		Family	Ancestors	Descendants	Relationship	Timeline	Suggest
Personal Information Sources Event Map All PDF							
Name	Elizabeth Umpherville [1, 2, 3]						
Born	1296	Penmark, Glamorganshire, Wales ^P					
Gender	Female						
Died	24 Aug 1345 [4]						
Person ID	I00146	StJohn Genealogy					
Last Modified	19 May 2013						
Father	Harry Henry Umpherville, b. Penmark, Glamorganshire, Wales ^P						
Relationship	Natural						
Mother	Isabella Umpherville (Mrs.)						
Relationship	Natural						
Married	c. 1392	Penmark, Glamorganshire, Wales ^P					
Family ID	F00118	Group Sheet Family Chart					
Family	Alexander (Oliver) John St John, b. c. 1295, Abermaw (Barmouth), Merionethshire, Wales ^P , d. c. 1342 (Age ~ 47 years)						
Married	c. 1318	Castle Faumont, (Fonmon) Glamorgan, Wales ^P					
Children	<ol style="list-style-type: none">Theobald St John, d. without issue ^P [Natural]Henry St John [Natural]Alexandra St JohnOliver (John) St John, b. c. 1320, Castle Faumont, (Fonmon) Glamorgan, Wales ^P, d. Before Aug 1373 (Age ~ 53 years)						

Elizabeth Umpherville

♀ 1296 - 1345 (49 years)

Individual		Family	Ancestors	Descendants	Relationship	Timeline	Suggest
Personal Information Sources Event Map All PDF							
Sources	<ol style="list-style-type: none">[S00073] Genealogies of Glamorgan, 464.[S00077] Visitation of Bedfordshire 1566, Page 51.[S00234] Baronetage of England, William Betham, Vol. III page 386.[S00105] Welsh Journals, Vol XXXXIII page 66.						

The de Port-St. John family tree continues the merging with the son “Oliver (John) St. John of Castle Fonmon”. And here we have Oliver St. John m. Elizabeth Luccombe merged with his son John St. John m. Elizabeth de la Bere but as de Port-St. Johns instead of St. Johns. Neither of these St. John men were of Fonmon Castle. The de Port-St. Johns have no idea what their real lineage is for their ancestors at Fonmon Castle and to compensate for this informational loss they for lack of a better term hijacked the St. John ancestry of 3/4ths of Penmark as their own. <https://seyntjohn.org.uk/Genealogy/getperson.php?personID=I05392&tree=tree1>:

Sir Oliver (John) St.John^[1, 2, 3]

♂ 1320 - Bef 1373 (~ 53 years)

Individual	Family	Ancestors	Descendants	Relationship	Timeline	Suggest
Personal Information	Notes	Sources	Event Map	All	PDF	
Name	Oliver (John) St.John ^[4, 5, 6]					
Title	Sir					
Born	c. 1320	Castle Faumont, (Fonmon) Glamorgan, Wales ^P				
Gender	Male					
Also Known As	Sir John St.John					
Death	1373					
Possessions	inherited Fonmon from his father ^P ^[7]					
Died	Before Aug1373 ^[8, 9]					
Person ID	I05392	StJohn Genealogy				
Last Modified	27 Sep 2016					

Father	Alexander (Oliver) John St.John , b. c. 1295, Abermaw (Barmouth), Merionethshire, Wales ^P , d. c. 1342 (Age ~ 47 years)					
Mother	Elizabeth Umpherville , b. 1296, Penmark, Glamorgonshire, Wales ^P , d. 24 Aug 1345 (Age 49 years)					
Married	c. 1318	Castle Faumont, (Fonmon) Glamorgan, Wales ^P				
Family ID	F00115	Group Sheet Family Chart				

Family 1	Elizabeth De Luccombe , b. 20 May 1320, Stockleigh Luccombe, Devon, England ^P					
Married	Bef 19 Jun 1335					
Children	1. John St.John , b. c. 1336, d. c. 1360, at sea ^P (Age ~ 24 years)					
Family ID	F00923	Group Sheet Family Chart				

Family 2	Elizabeth De La Bere , b. c. 1330, Weobley, Llanthidian, Glamorganshire, Wales ^P					
Married	Castle Faumont, (Fonmon) Glamorgan, Wales ^P ^[10]					
Children	1. John St.John , b. c. 1360, Castle Faumont, (Fonmon) Glamorgan, Wales ^P , d. 26 Dec 1424 (Age ~ 64 years) 2. Alexander St.John , b. c. 1364, d. Before 1424, without issue ^P (Age ~ 60 years)					
Last Modified	18 Sep 2016					
Family ID	F00110	Group Sheet Family Chart				

Sir Oliver (John) St.John^[1, 2, 3]

♂ 1320 - Bef 1373 (~ 53 years)

Individual	Family	Ancestors	Descendants	Relationship	Timeline	Suggest
Personal Information	Notes	Sources	Event Map	All	PDF	
Sources	<ol style="list-style-type: none">^[S00111] Manor and castle of Fonmon, Thomas, Howard J.,^[S00112] Golden Grove, (Manuscripts bound into books), Castell Gorfod 7.^[S00131] Glamorganshire Pedigrees, Isaac Heard, (Worcester: Deighton, 1845;).^[S00111] Manor and castle of Fonmon, Thomas, Howard J., page 66.^[S00112] Golden Grove, (Manuscripts bound into books), Castell Gorfod 7., book 5 p. C635(c), 719.^[S00131] Glamorganshire Pedigrees, Isaac Heard, (Worcester: Deighton, 1845;), p. 4.^[S00073] Genealogies of Glamorgan, 464. Named here as Oliver^[S00089] Curiously Painted, Brian Carne, (The Friends of Lydiard Park; Location: Lydiard House, Lydiard Tregoze, Swindon; Date: May 2007;), 978-0-9555357-0-3., Page 7, 8.^[S00104] History of Parliament 1386-1421, J. S. Roskell L. Clark C. Rawcliffe, (Alan Sutton), 0 86299 943 X., the House of Commons 1386-1421.^[S00085] Antiquaries Journal Vol 86 AR/20/2 1371, John Arundell senior, lord of Lanhem, (Date: Thursday 20th November 1371;), AR/20/2.					

There is no logical explanation for the use of ‘merging’ to solve genealogical conflicts. There is no reason to believe these men suffered from multiple personality disorders that would result in multiple names appearing in the records and the merging of two, three, or four persons into one person. It simply defies logic when there is an alternative explanation for the two, three, and four different names in the various generations appearing in the records. Each of these persons were unique individuals from two separate families that shared the same St. John surname and some even shared the same forename. In some cases, these two St. John families married into the same families as in the case of a John St. John marrying Elizabeth de la Bere and an Oliver de Port-St. John marrying her aunt, Elizabeth de la Bere, the widow of John Arundel. John and Oliver became merged just as the two Elizabeth de la Bere’s were merged. This ridiculous merging practice must stop.

The Umfrevilles and the four fees of Penmark

In 1314, John Umfreville had been succeeded by Henry de Umfreville. Before 1314, at the partition of the de Clare estates, Henry Umfreville held four fees in Penmark, as detailed in the Spenser survey of 1329. By no later than 1290, the de Port-St. Johns already held Fonmon Castle and East Aberthaw. This was documented in a deed when William de Port-St. John, lord of Fonmon deeded East Aberthaw to his brother Philip. Therefore, the four fees of Henry Umfreville did not include the lands already held by the de Port-St. Johns, namely Fonmon and East Aberthaw.

In 1327 Henry de Umfreville was on the inquisition held at the petition of Gilbert Turberville, and he was then a knight. In 1349, on the death of Hugh le Despencer, he still held the four fees in Penmark, valued at £70. His wife's name was Isabella [N. Mon. ii, 403] and Alice was his heiress. In Welsh Gavelkind custom and Hywel Dda law, if there was no male heir all daughters inherited equally. If Alice de Umfreville had a sister named Elizabeth de Umfreville St. John, then both sisters would have been equal co-heirs of the four fees of Penmark. Instead, what we see is only one daughter, Alice was Henry's heir. Alice de Umfreville married in 12 Ed. II to Sir Simon de Furneaux, son and heir of Matthew de Furneaux of Stringston. Simon died 24 Ed. III, leaving issue by her one child, Elizabeth de Furneaux.

Elizabeth de Furneaux, heiress of Furneaux and Umfreville, married during her father's lifetime to Sir John Blount, who died before 1362. Lady Blount survived her husband, and in 8 Richard II, founded a chantry in Athelney Abbey for the good estate of William Aungier and Henry Rodham, and herself, Elizabeth, of Lady Alice Stafford, Lady Maud Stafford, Robert Wrench, and all other friends and benefactors of the said Elizabeth. Also for the souls of Sir John Blount, Sir Simon de Furneaux and Alice his wife, Sir Henry de Umfreville and Isabel his wife, Sir William Blount and Maud his wife, the Lady Julian Talbot, Lady Elizabeth Cornwall, Sir Brian Cornwall her son, Sir Richard Stafford and Sir Richard Stafford the younger his son, Robert Flito and Robert Stockton, and for the souls of all her departed friends. [Coll. I, 262]

Among the St. John evidence [Lansdown MS. 860a. fol. 348] is a charter by which, "Elizabeth le Blount, wife of the Lord John le Blount, Knight, in her widowhood, grants to John Purvill, perpetual vicar of Lankarvan [Lancarfan], and to John Tokiker, son of William Tokiker [Tinker ?], all the pasture between my wood in the castle of Penmark, and the brook there, etc. Dated 13 May, 36 Ed. III."

Sir John and Lady Elizabeth Blount had one daughter Alice le Blount, heiress of the Umfreville and Furneaux estates. She married 1) Sir Richard Stafford, who was dead 8 Richard II and 2) Sir Richard Storey [Sturry], who survived. She died childless, 1414-1415. [Inq. p.m. 2 Henry IV, No. 27] Upon Lady Storey's death the Furneaux estates seem to have gone to the descendants of the sisters of her grandfather, Simon.

On the death of Ed. Le Despenser in 1375 (1345-6) [Escaet. 19, Ed. III] three of the Penmark fees were held conjointly by Elizabeth Blount, John de Arundel [II m. Elizabeth Carminow or III m. Elizabeth de la Bere (aunt)], and John de Hath, and Thomas Michell, and John Andrews, so that John St. John did not succeed at once to a share of the Umfreville property, even if, as is generally stated, he married one co-heir of Umfreville, while Furneaux married the other. This provides more evidence there was no second co-heir.

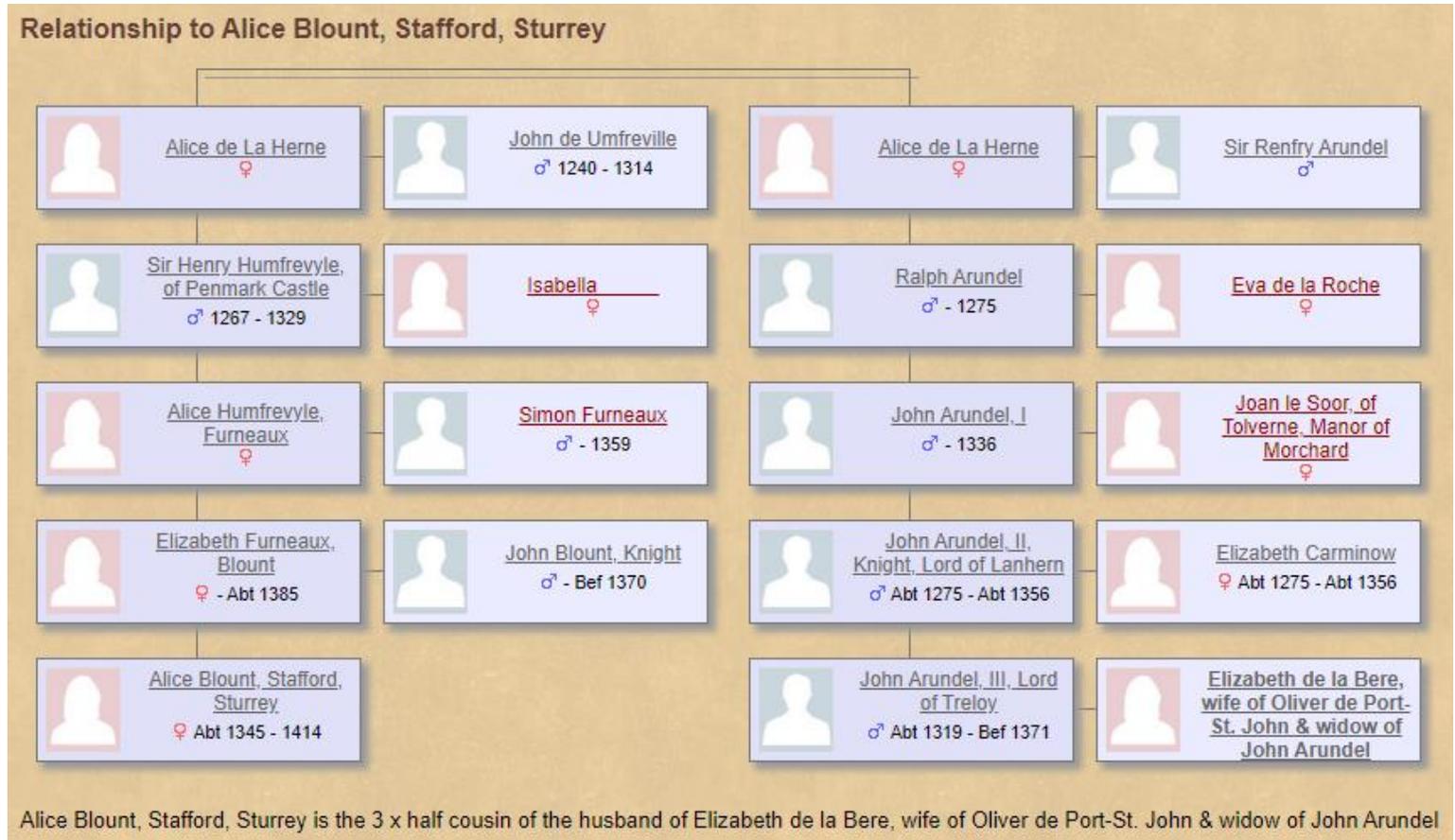
1 fee of Penmark: Penmark Castle

In 44 Ed. III, 1370, was a deed of partition by Elizabeth Blount, Lady of Calme, as follows:

"Know all men present and to come that we, Nichol Denis parson of the Church of Coytif, Thomas Michel, parson of the Church of Pourkerrye [Porthkerry], William Bachelor, parson of the Church of Pconstew give, grant, and by this our present charter, confirm to Oliver [de Port-St. John] St. John, John Arundel [IV, Oliver's stepson], Robert Willis, and John de Hach, a moiety of the manor of Penmark [1 of the 4 fees], and the advowson of the Church pertaining to that manor, with all their appurtenances, which lately were given to Oliver [de Port-St. John] St. John and Elizabeth his wife, daughter of John de la Bere [and widow of John Arundell III]. Witness Laurence de Berkerolles, Edward de Estaradlyne [Stradling], Thomas Turberville," etc.

Before 1370, John Arundel III, lord of Treloy died. His widow, Elizabeth de la Bere Arundel then married Oliver de Port-St. John. Oliver became the administrator of his stepson's, John Arundel IV, Arundel inheritance during his minority. Elizabeth de la Bere, Arundel, de Port-St. John had two more children with Oliver: John and Alexander de Port-St. John.

Upon the death of the last Umfreville heiress, the property reverted to the mother of Henry Umfreville, Alice de la Herne. Alice de la Herne married 1) John de Umfreville and 2) Sir Renfry Arundel. As you can see there is no need for the fictitious Elizabeth Umfreville to explain how the de Port-St. Johns came to possess ¼ fee of Penmark: Penmark Manor (Castle) and Lancarfan in 1370.



3 Fees of Penmark: Cwmcidy, West Barry: Odyn's Fee (Penmark Place) & Uchelolau (Highlight)

In 1385, another deed of partition with Elizabeth Blount was documented for the remaining ¾ fees of Penmark. In it the heirs of succession were Henry Umfreville & Isabella, then Elizabeth (Furneaux) Blount, then Alice (Blount) Sturrey, then John St. John, then Walter Graunt, then Hugh Taple, then John Whitefield, and finally John Arundel [IV] (the stepson of Oliver de Port-St. John). Again, the succession was based on Alice de la Herne's descendants through her marriages to 1) John Umfreville and 2) Sir Renfry Arundel.

There is simply no evidence for or need for a fictitious, Elizabeth Umfreville when the Umfreville family is factually understood.

Alice (Blount) Sturrey died in 1414-1415 and ¾ fee of Penmark passed to John St. John, the son of John St. John, of East Luccombe and his wife, Elizabeth de le Bere (the niece of the other one), of Weobley Castle.

See page 5 for the pedigree for John St. John, of East Luccombe.

How the de Port-St. Johns acquired Barry

Because historians didn't know the pedigree for the de Port-St. Johns of Fonmon, they didn't understand how they came to possess Barry Castle in East Barry (not to be confused with West Barry a part of the $\frac{3}{4}$ fees of Penmark). Thus, they mixed up East Barry held by the de Port-St. Johns with West Barry, part of Penmark held by the St. Johns.

Barry is in South East Glamorgan, Wales along the port. In 1536-39 John Leland in his Itinerary of Wales said this about Barry: 'This castelle stondith on a little hil, and most of it is in ruine. Master S. John of Bedfordshir is Lorde of it. Maurice S. John, uncle to Syr John S. John, was owner of it'

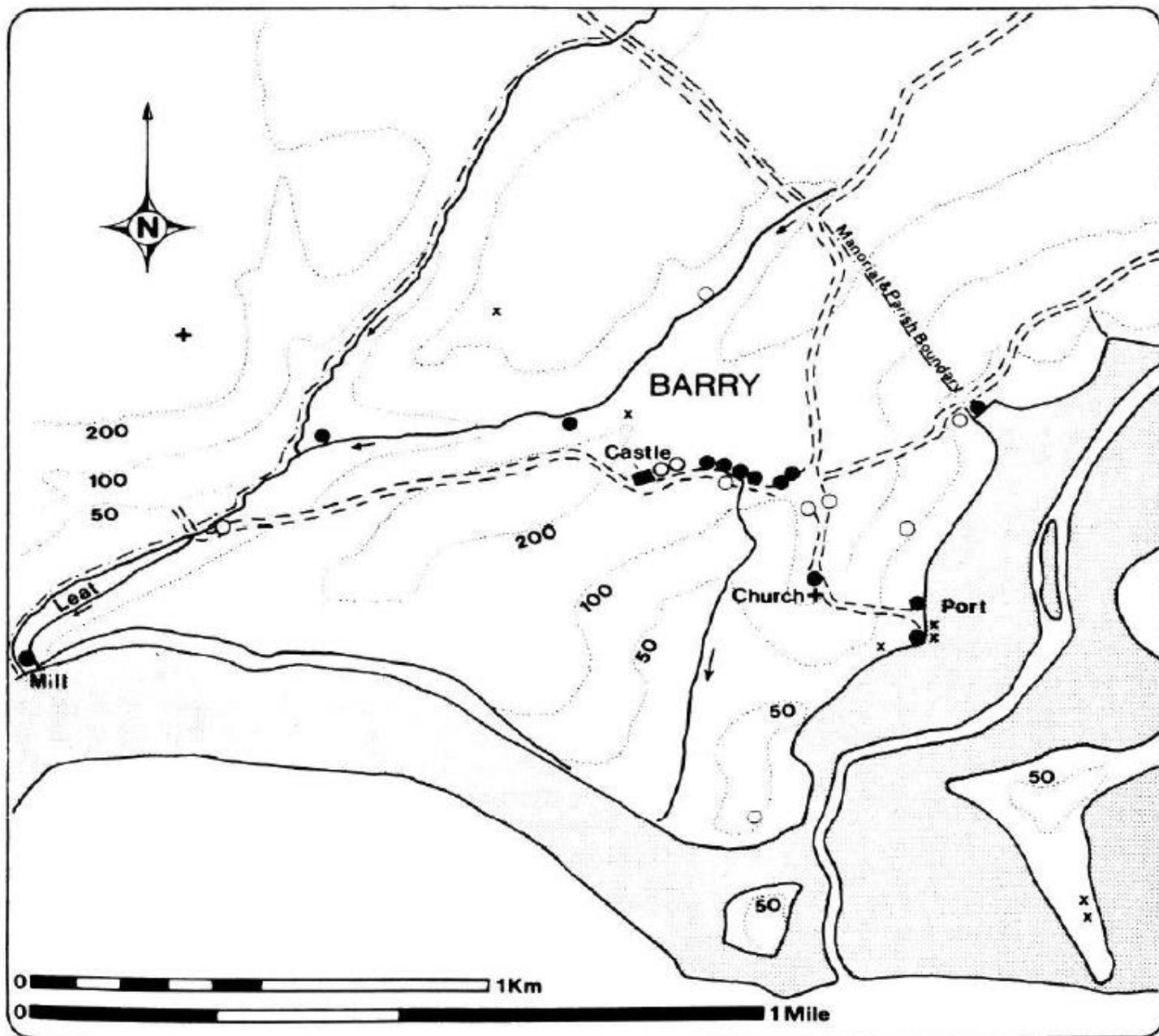


Fig. 2. Distribution of medieval settlement in Barry *ca.* 1300, based on the 1622 and 1878 maps. Closed circles represent habitation sites known from finds, open circles houses marked on the 1622 map, and assumed to be medieval sites. Stray findspots of potsherds are marked by crosses.

At the close of the thirteenth century, a Luke de Barry (fl. 1287-1319) was lord of Barry. He granted the manor in marriage to his son John de Barry (fl. 1322-29) with Isabelle, daughter of Philip de la Mare. They had a son Richard and a daughter Joan who married Ralph Marshall, lord of West Chinnock, Somerset. Richard de Barry (fl. 1320-46) succeeded to his father's properties but died without issue about 1349. His sister Joan inherited Barry and Lufton and married secondly (before 1347) Hugh Poyntz who held West Chinnock in her right. After her death, Barry descended to her son Thomas Marshall, whose three children, Thomas, Alice and Joan all died without issue. [Early Chancery Proceedings (P.R.O. C 1/6/322, 323), contain a pedigree of the de Barry family, lords of Barry.]

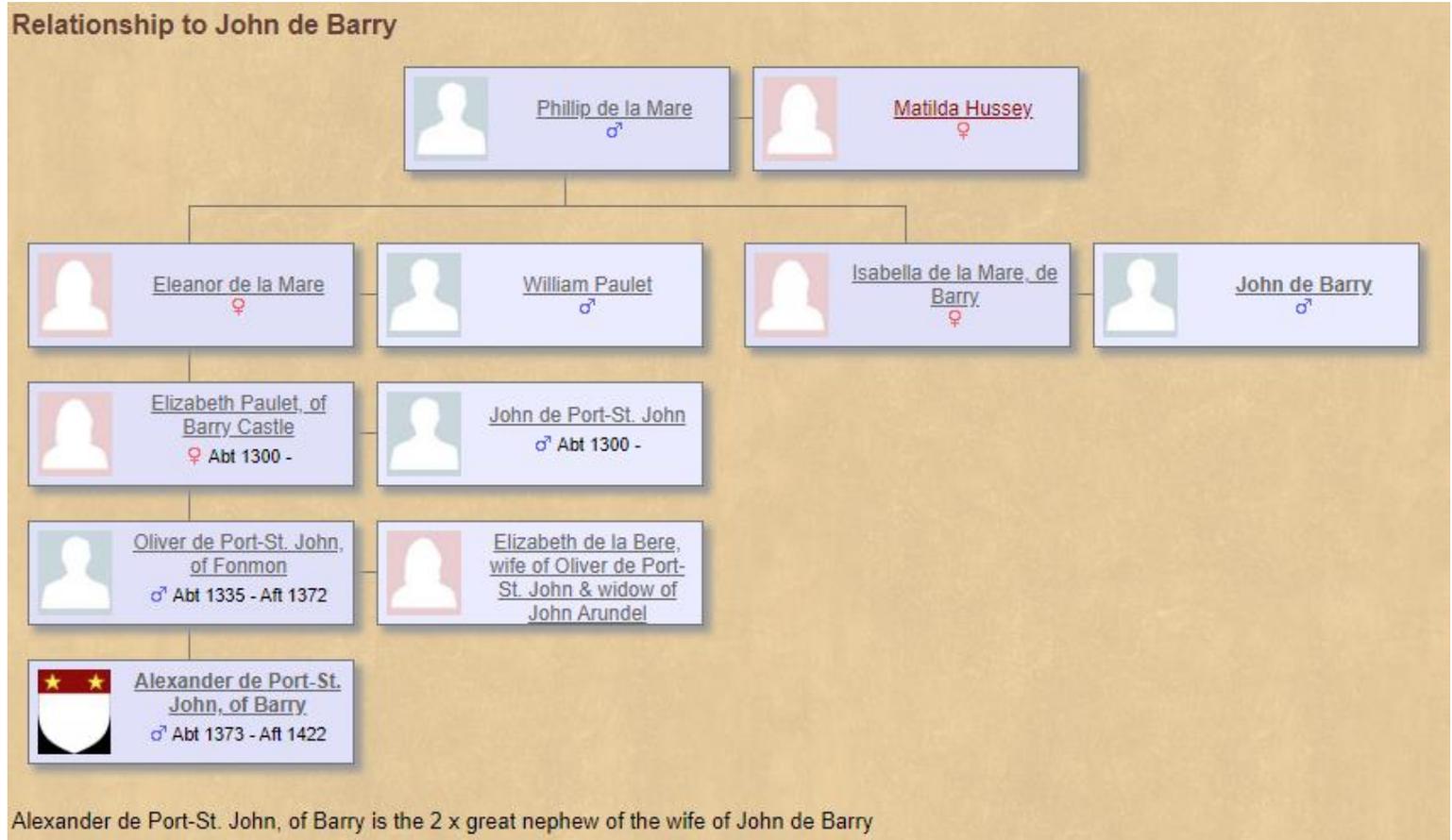
Upon the death of Thomas Marshall's children, Barry passed to the de Port-St. Johns of Fonmon before 1371. Oliver de Port-St. John leased it for life to John Andrew of Roose. In the 1390s, Barry was settled by Trustees upon Alexander, a younger son of Oliver de Port-St. John and his male heirs in tail. Alexander de Port-St. John died without issue and Barry afterwards went to his elder brother John de Port-St. John.

John de Port-St. John granted a messuage and lands in Barry to Robert Mayo and Maude his wife. In Beuchamp's survey of 1429, Oliver de Port-St. John is described as holding Fonmon Castle, Penmark Castle, Barry Castle and Llancadle.

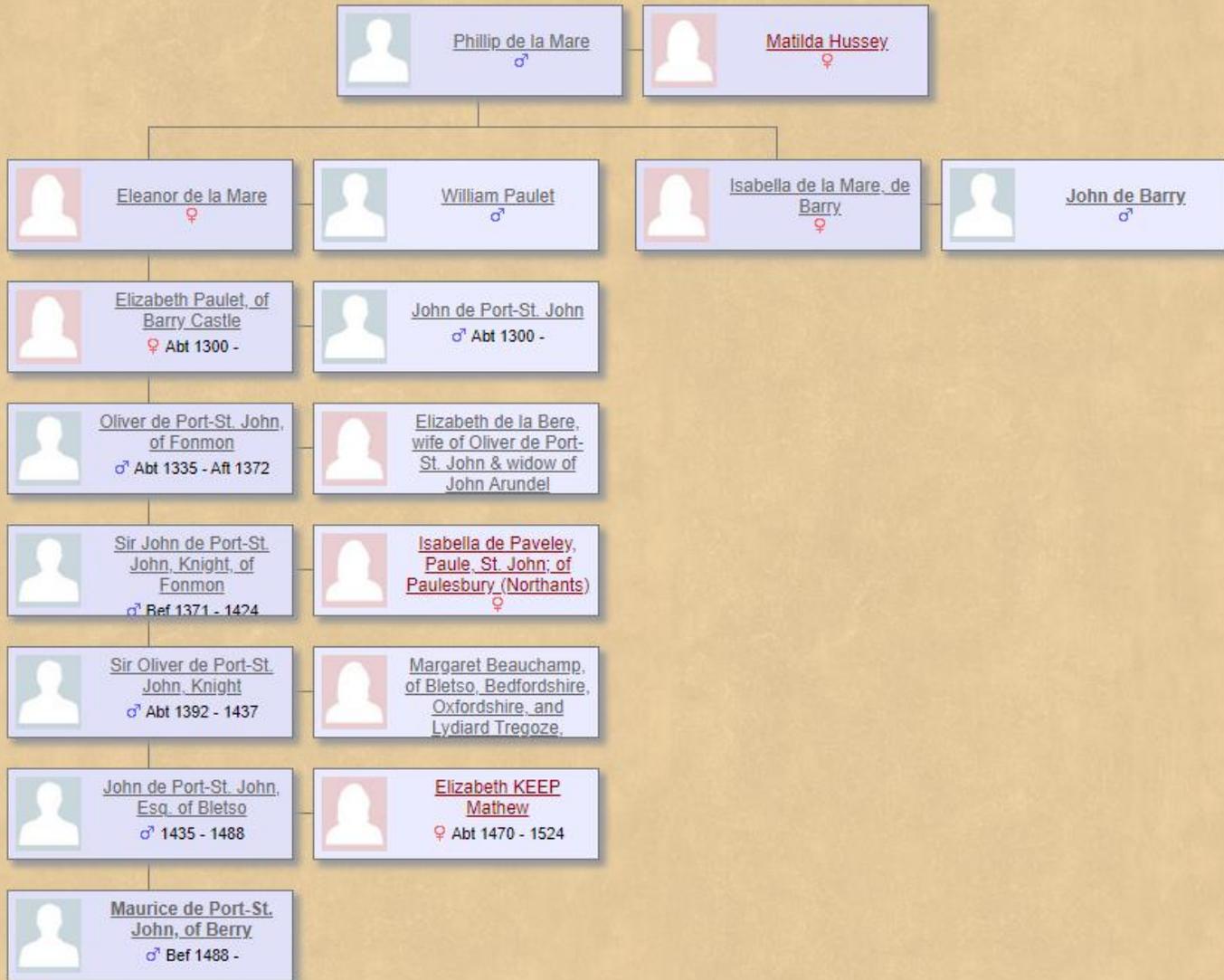
In about 1500, Maurice de Port-St. John was lessee of Barry. The de Port-St. Johns continued to possess Barry until 1660 when Barry was sold by Oliver de Port-St. John, Earl of Bolingbroke to Evan Seys, Serjeant-at-law of Boverton for £1,740.

At the extinction of the de Barry family, Barry reverted to the heirs of Isabelle (de la Mare) de Barry through her sister Eleanor de la Mare. Eleanor de la Mare married William Paulet and had a daughter named Elizabeth Paulet.

Elizabeth Paulet married John de Port-St. John of Fonmon Castle, the parents of Oliver de Port-St. John.



Relationship to John de Barry

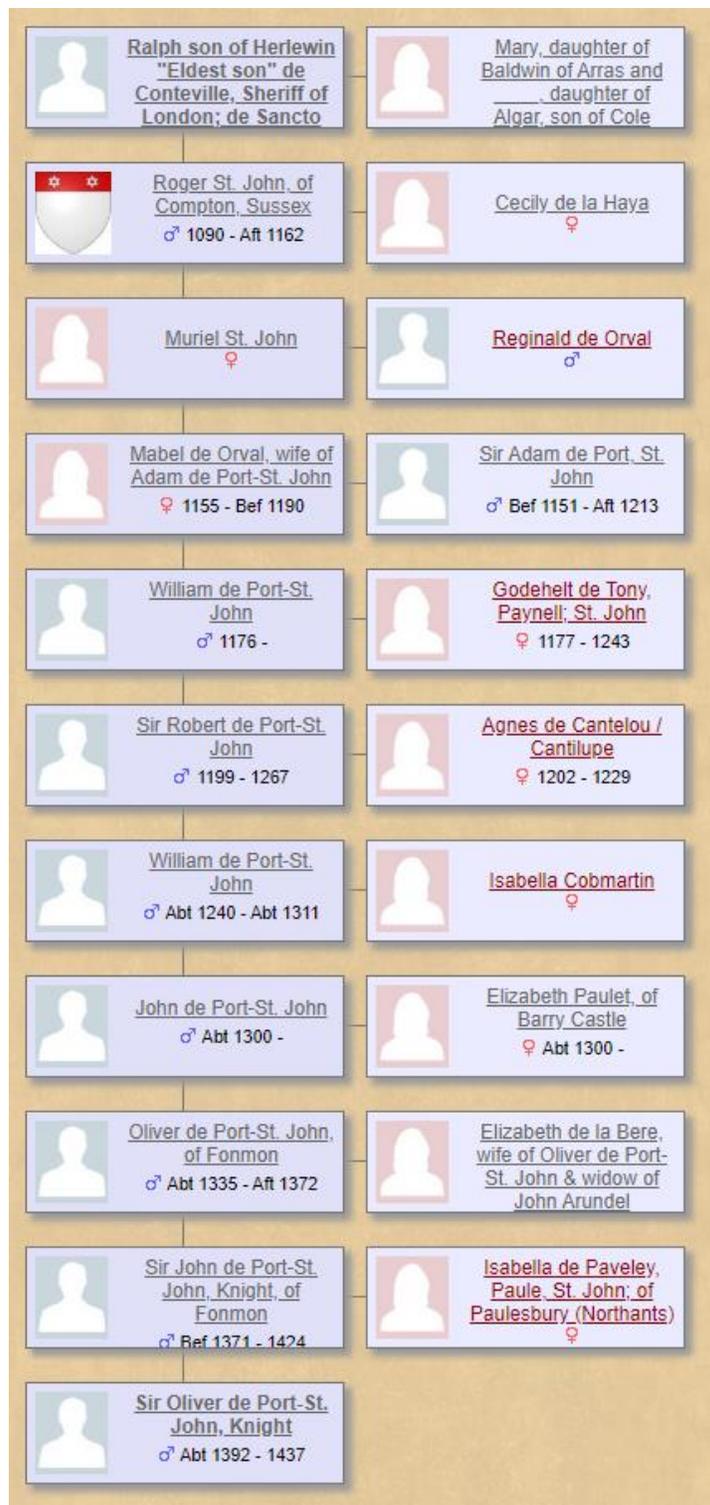


Maurice de Port-St. John, of Berry is the 5 x great nephew of the wife of John de Barry

The corrected de Port-St. John origin pedigree

The de Port-St. John pedigree descending from the original St. John lineage becomes clear when the merging and fictitious characters are removed.

This pedigree explains how they acquired their properties and how they passed them down to their heirs. There is no reason to reject this corrected pedigree when it's compared to the primary records.



The corrected St. John origin pedigree

Once the de Port-St. John pedigree is clearly understood, the St. John pedigree can be reconstructed from the primary records:



And now we can see how the ancestry of Christopher St. John is not in conflict with the de Port-St. Johns of Fonmon and that having different Y-DNA profiles is expected:





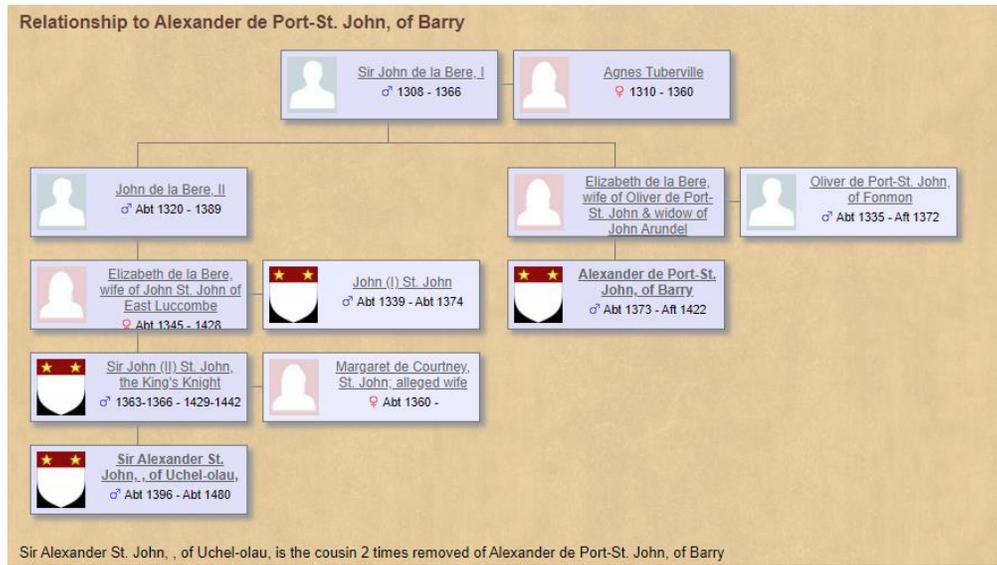
Sir John (II) St. John, the King's Knight is the 7 x great grandfather of Christopher St. John



Sir John (II) St. John, the King's Knight is the 5 x great grandfather of Christopher St. John

The de la Bere Family Tree

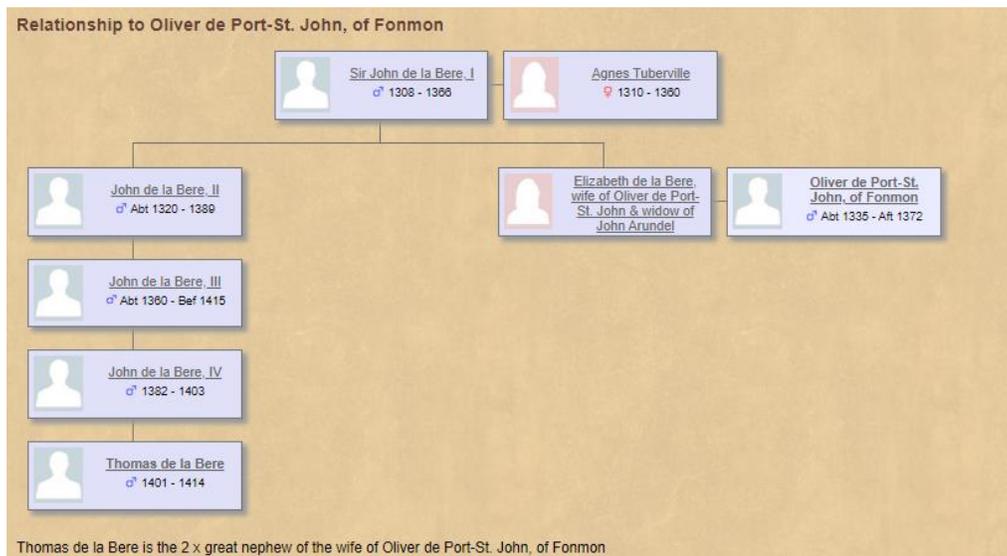
In this tree, we can see there were two different Elizabeth de la Beres. The aunt who married 1) John Arundel and 2) Oliver de Port-St. John and the niece who married John St. John:



Now that the family structures of the de la Bere family and both St. John families is corrected, it becomes clear which St. John family inherited Weobley Castle. Weobley Castle is another property credited to the de Port-St. Johns incorrectly. Weobley was held by Sir John de la Bere I and his wife Agnes Tuberville. It passed to their son John de la Bere II who passed it to his son John de la Bere III who passed it to his son, John de la Bere IV who then passed it to his son, Thomas de la Bere.

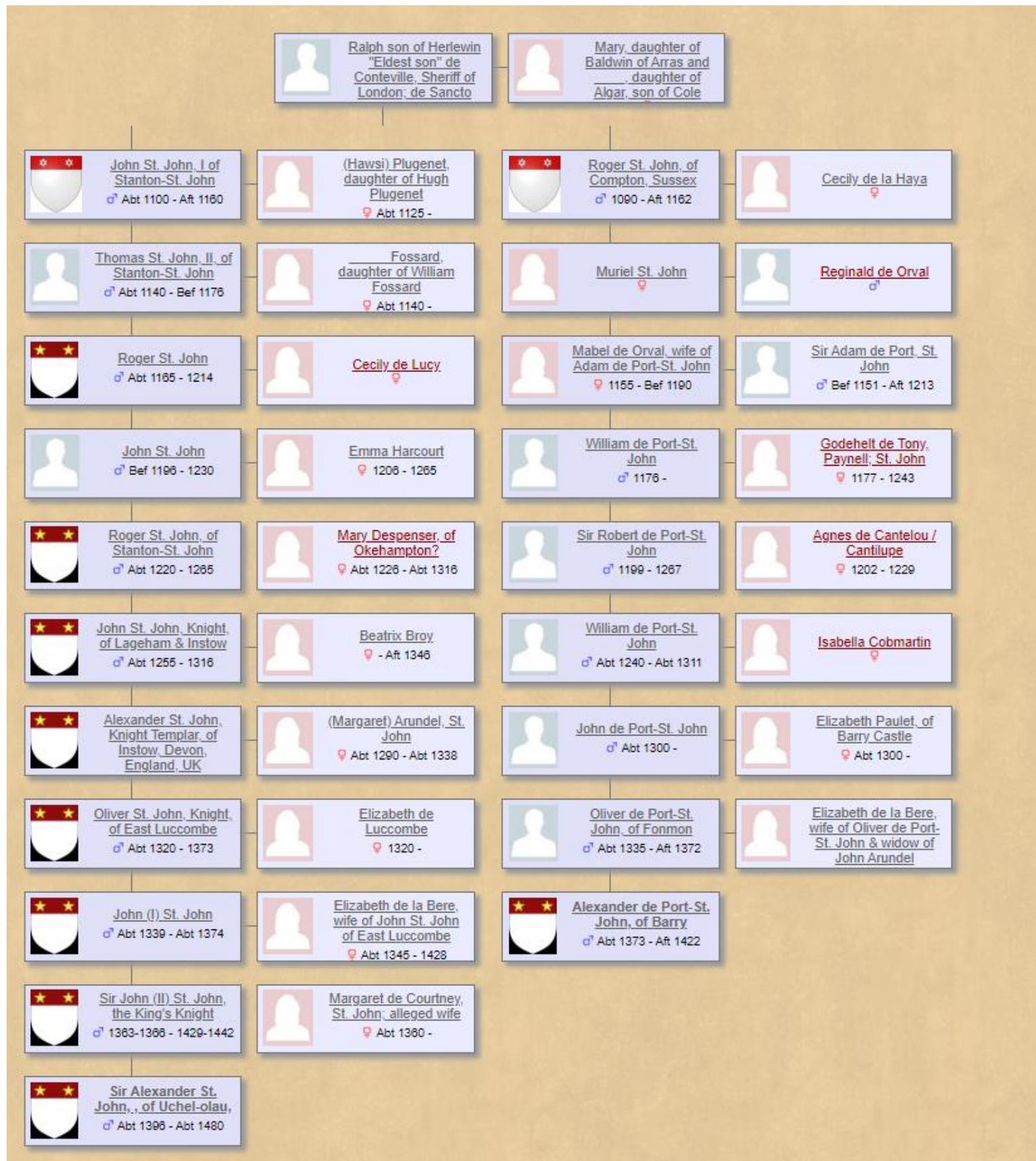
John de la Bere III died before 1415. His son and grandson also died in this time period. John de la Bere IV died 24 Sep 1403 and he left behind a two-year-old son, Thomas. The toddler was then sent to the sister of John de la Bere III, Elizabeth de la Bere St. John. Elizabeth and her sister Margaret were the next heirs to John de la Bere III of Weobley Castle. When the St. Johns took custody of Thomas de la Bere they moved into Weobley Castle. Upon Thomas's death in 1414-1415, the Castle reverted to John de la Bere III's next heirs, his two sisters. Weobley Castle was split equally into two Moieties or parts. Half going to the St. Johns and the other half going to the Bassets. (Margaret de la Bere married Elias Basset and had a son John Basset). Weobley went to Agnes St. John and then her brother Alexander who passed it to his son John St. John, of Gwyr.

The Elizabeth de la Bere that married Oliver de Port-St. John was never eligible to inherit Weobley Castle unless the sisters of John de la Bere III failed to produce heirs.



The St. John & de Port-St. John Origin Pedigree

When we use the primary records and understand how the properties passed to individuals, neither family line is in conflict. Notice in this tree there are no Alexander (Oliver) John St. Johns or an Elizabeth Umfreville to throw off the timeline and destroy history:



printed copy...

In 2020, the St. John newsletter will be available for purchase in combined booklets for each complete year.

DNA isn't just for scientists

The St. John Genealogy & DNA project has been an ongoing DNA effort since 2002. Suzanne St. John became the volunteer administrator for the project in 2013.

In this role, she documented the lineages, where known, of each test subject. She has compared DNA results, compiled reports, and documented genetic family trees. Test subjects are identified by kit numbers not names.

FTDNA projects:

St. John Family DNA Project: 154 members.
<https://www.familytreedna.com/groups/st-john/about/background>

Glamorgan Wales Cousin Project: 461 members.
<https://www.familytreedna.com/groups/glamorgan-wales-cousins/about/background>

AncestryDNA share results with THEPOETZ



coming soon >>>

In the Next Issues

- *Living Trees Genealogy Network*
- *Sir William St. John, Knight*
- *The St. John Family Website*
- *Pedigree Reports*

Contact us at stjohngenealogy@gmail.com <https://www.stjohngenealogy.com>



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