

From the *Transactions* of the
Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society

The Early Lords of Little Rissington

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1931, Vol. 53, 219-235

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THE EARLY LORDS OF LITTLE RISSINGTON

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ONE of the leading barons fighting at Hastings was Walter de Laci, lord of Lascy in the diocese of Bayeux, and like other Companions of the Conqueror he and his brother were liberally rewarded with manors, the caput of his barony being Weobley, co. Hereford. According to Domesday Survey (1086) Little Rissington was then held by Roger his eldest son, Hugh the second son being tenant. With the story of the de Laci and their Gloucestershire fees now rendered available by Mr St. Clair Baddeley in his history of Painswick (*A Cotswold Manor*, 1907, 2nd ed. 1929) it will suffice for the present purpose to say, that on the death of the aforesaid Hugh (1121) without male heir of his body, and the vocation of his surviving brother Walter, abbot of St. Peter's, Gloucester, invalidating any claim he otherwise could urge, Henry 1 appears to have taken temporary possession (cf. *Dict. Nat. Biog.*) of all the de Laci fees save one. Thus ended the lordship of this family in Little Rissington, though collateral descendants of Hugh re-appear in the seigneury of Wick Rissington.

In whatever way the king ultimately disposed of the de Laci patrimony it is clear that two very high officials of the crown became, each in a different manner, administrators of the vast Honour, namely, (1) Pain FitzJohn, the great sheriff, who had married Hugh's daughter, Sybil, and (2) Ralf Basset, the great justiciar, whom it is probable Henry directly rewarded with the gift of Little Rissington manor excluding that significant moiety or token of the de Laci Honour, which Gilbert, the 4th baron, gave later to the Templars when he joined their Order.

This Ralf Basset, of Norman origin, employed by Henry I soon after his accession as justice of the forests, an itinerant and finally chief justiciar, is described by Ordericus Vitalis as 'of ignoble birth'. The words of the historian must however be taken with some qualification. Before Orderic's time, the chief justices of England had been men of the highest dignity and birth, and the contrast between these and the elevation of a man from a private station and small estate to the most important office in the realm, lead, no doubt, to an exaggerated depreciation of Ralf in the description given of him by that writer.

Sometime before his death in or about 1127, the historians of this county assert that Ralf Basset demised the manor of Little Rissington to his younger son Gilbert.¹ But can this alleged enfeoffment be established? There is one objection, which if sustainable, is fatal to the accepted devolution of the Basset fees in the Honour of Wallingford, *viz.*:—that the Gilbert Basset of the period was probably brother² to, and not son of, the great justiciar. This Gilbert, dead early in the reign of Henry II, was succeeded by his son Thomas. Neither of them can be connected by Pipe Roll or other record with Basset fees in the Honour. Ralf appears to have left four sons, Thurstan, lord of Colston; Richard, lord of Sapcote; Nicholas; and Ralf, a clerk. Richard, though probably not the eldest son, married Maud daughter and heir of Geoffrey Ridel, the chamberlain of Henry I (Round, *Red Book of the Exchequer*, 1, 329), and according to Dugdale retained the office of justiciar throughout the reign of Stephen. 'He did not inherit any of the manors which his father held of the Honour of Wallingford. We have

¹ Atkyns, *Gloucestershire*, 1712, p. 622; Rudder, *Gloucestershire*, 1779, p. 625; Bigland, *Collections*, III, 349. Fosbrooke is silent.

² Notes on the history of the Honour of Wallingford by the late Dr William Farrer, quoted by Canon E. H. Salter in 'Boarstall Cartulary', p. 324, published by the Oxford Historical Society.

an illuminating document in the cartulary of Osney, whereby Ralf Basset the elder grants to Ralf his son, a clerk, all advowsons in his demesne ; amongst these he mentions Treotune (Drayton in Domesday) in co. Oxon, Turkdean and Rissington in Gloucestershire, all of which passed to Nicholas'.³

Additional evidence for this devolution is derived from the record of the dedication of Godstow priory (1136) by Theobald, archbishop of Canterbury, in the presence of Stephen and his queen. The document reciting benefactions already presented, mentions the gift of one acre of land in 'Risenduna' by Nicholas⁴ Basset, who must therefore, prior to 1136, have been in a position to alienate land in the manor.

When civil war broke out on the death of Henry 1 between the rival claimants to the crown, a sense of loyalty to his father's friend and benefactor doubtless impelled Nicholas to support the cause of the Empress Maud, and in consequence he was attainted by Stephen and his lands forfeited. However in 1140 Richard Basset gave the king 200 marks and 6 light horse for livery of the lands which his brother had held in chief (*Pipe Roll*). May not this transaction represent a fine paid by Stephen's justiciar to redeem his brother's fees ? In times of civil commotion it has not been unusual for families to divide their loyalties so that the family could not suffer with the victory of either faction. Either this arrangement prevailed or other means were devised to obtain pardon for Nicholas and restoration of his lands. A reinstatement is certainly demanded by his ability in 1147 to found and endow Bruern abbey, situated approximately at the centre of his fees in cos. Gloucester and Oxford. For endowment of the convent he alienated

³ Boarstall Cartulary, p. 309.

⁴ *English register of Godstow*, p. 675. Early English Text Society, 1905-11.

the manor and church of Treton, which from that time acquired the name of Bruern, *i.e.*, The Brewing House. A bull of Pope Eugenius III, in 1152, recites:—'Eugene, servant of the servants of God, to his loved son Wigord, prior of seynte Marye of Oseney . . . ordains to the monks all their possessions including the church of Bibury with the chappels . . . the church of Turkdene and the church of Rysyndon'.⁵ While the rescript fails to indicate the benefactors by name, external evidence points to Nicholas as donor of the two latter advowsons. That he held lands in Turkdean is certain from the *Book of Fees* (p. 117). The bull is also of interest as it contains the earliest mention of a church in Little Rissington and incidentally corrects Bigland (III, 350) in attributing the gift of the advowson to Robert de Taiden. These impropriations of churches were bitterly resented by the parochial clergy and proved a fruitful source of friction. In this instance the appropriation does not appear to have involved more than an assignment of a pension⁶ to the monastery out of the resources of the church and left the parson in his former position of rector. The incumbents were never at their institutions designated vicars or chaplains, but always rectors, and so continue unto this day.

At the great Inquest of Knights (1166) Nicholas held 10 fees of the Honour of Wallingford, 'of these we can identify seven fees, *viz.*:—Rissington 3 fees, Treton 2 fees, Turkdene $\frac{1}{2}$ a fee, Thenford $\frac{1}{2}$ a fee, Clifton, co. Worcester one fee, but the other three are uncertain'.⁷ With this date Nicholas fades from historical notice. Whether he died in 1166-67 or then renounced his estates

⁵ Osney Cartulary, III, 348. This is no. 15 in the second part of the Cartulary. Oxford Historical Society.

⁶ Osney claimed 5 marks per annum. Bishop Giffard of Worcester, however, in 1270 persuaded the Convent to accept 20s per annum. The pension at the dissolution was appropriated to Christ Church, Oxford (Hockaday mss. The Rissingtons).

⁷ Boarstall Cartulary, p. 310.

to pass the remainder of his days in the seclusion of his foundation at Bruern we do not know. He left two daughters, Agatha and Hawise and some sons. These latter were in possession by 1167 and promptly forfeited their patrimony by participation in a revolt against Henry II (*Book of Fees*, 117, 118). Dr William Farrer, ending his notes on the Basset fees in the Honour of Wallingford, writes:—‘After the forfeiture in 1167, Turkdean and part of Treton were farmed by the sheriff (*Pipe Roll*, 16 H. II) which proves that Rissington must have been given away at once. The owners were the family of de Taiden from Essex’.⁸

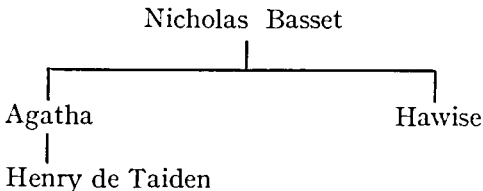
This and the previous quotations, it should be noted, are taken from material collected for a fourth volume of ‘The Honour and the Knights Fee’, which has never been published, and so being unrevised and incomplete cannot claim to present a final and considered judgment of the historian. While the acquisition of the manor by the de Taiden barony is true, the Pipe Rolls hardly favour the immediacy of the grant. In 1168-9 the sheriff accounting for the ‘Ferm of Wicumba’ mentions the receipt of xls from the ‘Honour of Nicholas Basset’. In 1169-70 and the following year, the sheriff accounts for 25li.3.8 ‘of the ferm of the land of Nicholas Basset’. Possibly the entries allude to the lands of Nicholas ‘in the burgh of Oxford in the custody of the Constable of Wallingford’ (*Book of Fees*, 117). Still, from the cessation of such receipts in and from 1171-2, it may be inferred that a final disposition of the escheated estates was not made until that year.

What may have been an earlier designation (if any) of the family enfeoffed with the seignury of Little Rissington is unknown. Surnames only began to crystallize amongst the knightly class towards the end of the 12th century—it was 200 years and more before everybody had a

⁸ Boarstall Cartulary.

surname. It would therefore be with the acquisition of the manor of Theydon Mount in the Honour of Raleigh and county of Essex, forfeited for cowardice on active service in 1163 by Henry de Mandeville, Constable and Hereditary Standard Bearer of England, that a certain Robert attained rank among the lesser barons. This knight, to be known henceforth as Robert de Taiden (with many variations in the spelling thereof), became later by enfeoffment of Henry II, lord of the three fees in Little Rissington and $\frac{1}{2}$ a fee in Turkdean, which had escheated as already set forth, with Theydon Mount (by Epping Forest) caput of his barony.

This acquisition of fees in Gloucestershire was probably connected with a marriage (implied by Fosbrooke, *Gloucestershire*, II, 395) contracted by Robert with Agatha, daughter of Nicholas Basset. The historian quotes the Plea Roll (5 H. III) wherein a Henry de Taiden sues for a moiety of Turkdean as heir of Nicholas Basset (p. 423). From the same roll Fosbrooke deduces the following:—



and Henry was the name of the son and heir of Robert de Taiden.

The family appear to have definitely settled in Gloucestershire with capital mansions at Little and Wick Rissington and Turkdean, and their numerous benefactions to monastic houses favoured by Nicholas Basset to the exclusion of similar institutions in East Anglia indicate persistent loyalty to an inherited tradition. A charter to Godstow priory, c. 1180, discloses interesting details of Robert and his family. It reads, 'I, Robert de Taiden

with consent of Agatha my wife, of my heirs Henry and Warin, my son in law Robert⁹ of Dodwell for the souls of my wife, myself, heirs and forbears, have given to Godstow $\frac{1}{2}$ a hide and $\frac{1}{2}$ a yard land in Rysendon, but without the attached tofts, instead of which I give of my demesne lands double; also that the nuns' sheep and pigs should go in pasture and elsewhere with my own unchallenged', *i.e.*, without being impounded by the manor bailiff. (*Godstow Register, E.E.T. Soc.*, vol. 129, no. 186).

The Pipe Rolls are silent concerning Robert and his fees in the Honour of Wallingford until 1186-7 when he paid 60s scutage in lieu of personal service with the army of 'Galweie'¹⁰. The Oblate Roll for the same year records that 'Robert de Taiden holds 3 fees of the H. of Wallingford' (p. 166).

From various fines we learn of Robert, and Henry his son, enlarging their barony by the acquisition of fees in Suffolk, Wilts and Warwick. In the latter Robert is mentioned as a benefactor of the priory of Pinnely (*Book of Fees, 1251-2*). He was cited in 1200 to serve on a jury of knights to investigate conflicting claims to the advowson of Ruardean (*Curia Regis Roll*). Of these juries Maitland writes (*Pleas of the Crown, co. Gloucester, 1221, p. xxv*) 'it seems that in 1194, 4 knights chosen by the county, chose 2 knights from each hundred, who in turn chose 10 others, so as to make with themselves a jury of 12'.¹¹

The probability of Robert's death sometime in 1200 may

⁹ Robert of Dowdeswell, known only in history by his de Taiden marriage and service on knightly juries in Gloucestershire and Leicestershire.

¹⁰ The Galloway expedition of Henry II ended at Carlisle in a diplomatic arrangement. Nevertheless the scutage levied at £1 per fee was at once put in course of collection.

¹¹ 'By ordinance of the Great Assize, 12 recognitors to be nominated by 4 knights summoned from the shire wherein the disputed property lies'. (Stubbs, *Introductions to the Rolls Series*, pp. 303-5).

be inferred, as the records know him no more after this service, and Henry the elder son and heir had quittance for a scutage on the three fees in the Honour of Wallingford (*Pipe Roll*, 1200-01). This, the second scutage of king John, was levied at 2 marks per fee to meet the expenses of an expedition to Brittany, invaded by Philip of France and Arthur duke of Brittany.

An imperfect entry in the Warwickshire court roll (1201) records an agreement between Osbert Norrens (the Norwich man) and the 'Abbas . . . if Henry, chief lord approves'. Its value however is impaired by a failure to indicate the manor whereof Henry was chief lord. In the same year he was impanelled on a jury by Hugo de Culliardvill, William de Mulesle, Walter de Sireburn, Andreas de Wenric, four knights of the county, to determine a dispute between Robert de Marisco and William de Mara concerning 2 hides in Wenric (*Curia Regis Roll*. M.T., 1201). Of the knights mentioned in the record, Hugo de Culliardvill, probably a descendant of an Ansfred de Culliardvill, who held two de Laci fees in 1137-8, was one of the coroners of the county, from which office he obtained relief in 1221 by paying a fine of 40s. (Maitland, *Pleas*, no. 465). From allusions to Hugo in the Eynsham cartulary as a de Taiden tenant in Wick Rissington we learn of a daughter named Agnes (vol. 1, no. 263) who in her widowhood, granted land called 'Wolmede' in Wick Rissington to Robert, son of Gerard of Slaughter (Royce, *History of Stow*, p. 63). Her son William de Collintone, a clerk, subsequently sold land in the same vill for 5 marks sterling to his aunt Isabella de Culliardvill (*Eynsham charters*, no. 263) afterwards alienated by her to the abbey (*ibid.* no. 264).

William de Mulesle or Munesle is identified by the editor of the *Curia Regis Roll* (vol. 5, p. 383) with Mundesley, Norfolk. While hesitating to differ from such distinguished authority a more likely identification would be with Munsley, a manor in Hereford. Walter de Sireburn

(Sherborne), probably a sub-tenant of Winchcombe abbey, was in 1221 sued with his nephew Walter by Geoffrey Wind for robbery. 'But Geoffrey did not come and Walter was dead, so nothing could be done' (Maitland, *Pleas*, p. 2). Andreas de Wenric (Windrush), possibly akin to Azo de Wenric, who held one fee of Winchcombe (*Knights Fees*, 1166), served on a jury of '12 lawful men' in 1204 to hear the rival claims of Walter de Sireburn and Alan son of Peter, to the advowson of Sezincote (*Curia Regis Roll*). Again with Henry de Taiden and his son-in-law Robert of Dowdeswell, Andreas was amongst the knightly jurors 'to make the great assize between Christine de Burchton (Bourton on the Water) and John the chaplain concerning $\frac{1}{2}$ hide of land in Burchton' (*ibid.*, H.T. 1207). Robert de Marisco, literally 'of the mereish', *i.e.*, a country-side full of meres or pools. (The original sense of the A-S 'mere' was dead, hence its application to stagnant water). The name is suggestive of physical conditions then prevailing in the lands below the Rissington Downs, watered by the Windrush and Dikler brook. Robert, a litigious quarrelsome person, is mentioned in a Godstow charter (E.E.T.S., vol. 129, no. 190) as a de Taiden tenant in Rissington. William de Mara, one of a family taking a name from the great fief of Mara in the commune of Antretôt, Normandy, with the caput of their English barony, at Little Hereford. Their Gloucestershire fees are enumerated by Mr Disney Thorp in the Society's *Transactions*, L, 169-170.

Henceforwards the records tell nothing of Henry de Taiden, save payments on his lands, until 1210, when 'cum exercitu Hibernie' at Dublin prests¹² of xl sols were allocated to him and iiij m. to his son Paulinus, also

¹² Prest, a monetary loan made by the king to individuals, usually but not always, to equip themselves for military service due to the king in his wars.

serving. The latter received a second grant of the same amount at Carrickfergus (*Prestita Roll*). To recover the lost province of Poitou king John collected an army and sailed for La Rochelle, taking with him 'an inestimable treasure of gold, silver and precious stones'. With this expedition Henry did not go, but being represented by the aforesaid Paulinus he obtained exemption from the Poitou scutage charged at the high rate of 3 marks per fee (*Close Roll*, 1213). During the campaign Paulinus was taken prisoner by the French, and to obtain money for ransom Henry borrowed xviii^{li} from the Jews. The debt however was cancelled by the king (*Fines Roll*, 1213) on the principle then prevailing that Jews could own nothing, 'whatever they acquire, they acquire not for themselves but for the king' (Bracton, f. 386 b).

In the great struggle of 1215 between John and the barons, Henry comes seriously to grief, being one of the garrison of Rochester castle defended by William de Albiñ. After a siege of six months it fell into the king's hands. John was so exasperated by the endurance of the defenders, that, on its surrender, he threatened to hang every one within its walls. But he modified his anger on it being pointed out that such action would bring retribution on his own knights. The prisoners were therefore sent to various strongholds, and Henry was incarcerated in Wallingford castle (*Patent Roll*, 18 June 1215). Presumably he escaped with nothing worse than the loss of his estates, which being taken into the king's hands so remained for the rest of John's reign.

Sometime before this forfeiture Henry granted the following charter in favour of Godstow priory:—'I, Henry, son of Robert de Taiden, for the souls of my father and mother and of my wife Beatrice give to Godstow with my daughter Agatha who became a nun there, lands in the vill of Rysyndon; of my demesne, viz., (a) in one field "en at hulle" eleven acres, and "at the ashen causeway", 10 acres; (b) in another field land called

“ Tenacre ” and another called “ three acre ” and land called “ Pilehulle ” ; (c) a meadow of yardland in common with the mead of the town as the lot will give ; (d) with all freedom for pigs etc., that they may eat over all my demesne, but be excluded from all crops and from meadows from Lady Day till the meadows be mowed and the hay carried. “ I also confirm my father’s gifts to the said monastery ”. Witnesses de Chistetuna and Hugo de Cullerville, knights’. (*Godstow Reg.*, vol. 129, no. 187).

This charter conveys a clear statement of the times during which meadow and arable land were ‘ in defence ’, *i.e.*, not open to pasture. The reference to the custom of meadow by lot is not without interest. In many places just before haymaking, the common meadow of a vill was marked off, probably by pegs, into acre or half-acre strips. These were numbered and the persons who had rights of common meadow drew lots and chose their share for the year in the order which the lot assigned.

When Henry died is unknown ; with the forfeiture of his manors the records know him no more.

To follow the fortunes of Paulinus, son and ultimate heir of Henry, a glance is necessary at the political conditions which ensued on the death of king John. The real rulers of the country in the earliest years of Henry III were William, the great earl Marshall, styled ‘ Governor of the king and his realm ’, and Gualo the papal legate, but not for long. In December 1218 Gualo was succeeded by Pandulf, and on 14 May 1219, the Earl Marshall died. Power then came to Hubert de Burgh, justiciar, and he found a rival in Peter des Roches, bishop of Winchester, to whom was delegated custody of the king’s person. It may be that Paulinus owed the restitution of his patrimony (*Close Roll*, 1217) to the good offices of the Earl Marshall, a gallant soldier, and so appreciative of military services already rendered by a disinherited heir.

William de Fortibus, a baron powerful and discontented, having rebelled in 1221, the Regents collected an army and besieged Castle Bytham, chief stronghold of the insurgent. In a note to Roger de Wendover (vol. iv, p. 66) we are told that the castle 'held out for 5 days and was taken and burnt to the ground'. The Peterborough Chronicle (sub.ann. 1221) describes the prisoners taken as 'quamplurimi'. In the operations Paulinus served and with Robert de Auberville¹³ was employed in escorting certain prisoners to London, and, for their expenses in so doing, they were allowed 12^{li}. (*Close Roll*).

In 1222, with Peter de Langeberg, Paulinus accompanied Hubert the justiciar on a diplomatic mission to Scotland, probably to negotiate a marriage between Joan, the king's sister, and Alexander II, which was solemnized the next year at York. The diplomatists were granted 59 m. to cover their expenditure (*ibid*). Paulinus next appears in 1224, custodian of lands in Middleton Coney (Cheney held of the Honour of Chester) forfeited by Colin de Lintot (*Liberate Roll*). This knight, a feudatory also of Bedford castle, had been implicated in the revolt of his lord, Fulk de Breaute, a Norman employed by the late king to misgovern Gloucestershire and other midland counties. On the surrender of the castle, Robert of Gloucester relates that 'iiij score knights were honged for thur trespass'.¹⁴ Among these Colin de Lintot was probably included.

Henry III in Jan. 1226-7 declaring himself of age promptly revoked all grants made during his minority, taking fines for their renewal. The king however looked favourably on Paulinus and gave him 'remission of his relief' (*Tower Fine Roll*). Not that this was the sole occasion of his being a recipient of royal bounty; the

¹³ Robert de Auberville, Forester of Somerset, caput of his barony at West Melcombe in North Petherton. (*Book of Fees*, 1212).

¹⁴ Hearne's edition, II, 519.

grant of a fair at Theydon Mount (1225) and an order to the keeper of the forest of Essex to deliver to him 2 bucks and 8 does for his park there testify to an appreciation of his services by the king and his ministers (*Close Roll*, 1227).

In spite of political disorder in the reign of John the normal administration of affairs had not altogether failed to function. Abundant evidence exists that prests (loans) made by that king were duly noted by the exchequer clerks, in whose view lands held in chief by grantees afforded security for eventual repayment. An important part of a sheriff's duty was to recover debts due to the crown and the Pipe Rolls record their failure or success in discharging this obligation. To quote a concrete instance—in the accounts for the Honour of Wallingford (1230) Paulinus 'owed 14 m. for many prests in the reign of king John; paid 2 m.'. In this instance the fees of Little Rissington and in Turkdean constituted security for the loan. One of the curious facts emerging from the records is the difficulty which even persons of position found in responding to the demand for ready money. Was it that some of them deemed it wise to hide their wealth?

Two other entries in the Pipe Roll for 1230 deserve attention. In the first, Paulinus has quittance for 10^{li}, 'pro passagio et scutagio', relevant to an expedition to Brittany. In the second a 'Henry de Taiden' is said to owe 4 m. for 3 fees in the Honour of Wallingford, but had quittance having already performed service with the army. The conflicting entries can only be reconciled on the supposition that the recording scribe's information was not up to date. The appearance of Henry's name does not necessarily mean that he was alive at the time, but that Henry was the last lord of the fee within the knowledge of a particular clerk.

About this time indications emerge of an intention in the mind of Paulinus to seek peace and quiet in a monastic

house.¹⁵ It may be that the grant of land to Bruern abbey was intended to ensure welcome and his reception. The charter (undated) reads:—' I, Paulinus de Tayden, son of Henry, for the health of my soul and of my forbears, have given to the convent of St. Marie de Bruera, one virgate of land in Risendon Basset, with all liberties' etc 'Witnesses: Henricus Flandrensis, Robert de Marisco' and many others (Rawl. MSS. Bodleian Library, B. 103, 124).

The attestation of Henry le Fleming, lord of Great Rissington (1220–1236), limits the benefaction to a period within these years, and with the disappearance of Paulinus from the Pipe Roll after 1230 the charter must have been executed at the latest in that year. In fact the cumulative effect of converging evidence points to 1230 for the renunciation of his estates, and not the least is the grant of the custody of Beatrice his daughter to Walter de Evermue, a Lincolnshire knight (*Close Roll*). The same Roll in 1231 recites a confirmation by Richard, earl of Cornwall (lord of the Honour of Wallingford) of an exchange of lands in Turkdean for their equivalent in Rissington, effected between Paulinus and a certain Juliana, whose identity is disclosed in an *inspeximus* (*Charter Roll*, 1320) as (second ?) wife of Henry de Taiden the elder.

From another source evidence emerges explaining the mind of Paulinus in effecting the exchange of his manor in Turkdean for lands in Rissington. He desired to provide endowment for Osney additional to that already conferred by his forbear, Nicholas Basset. A bull of Pope Gregory IX, c. 1235, confirmed to the monks a fourth part of Turkdean with the capital mansion, etc., held by the gift of Paulinus de Taiden (*Osney Cart.*, III, 346). Incidentally the bull also confirms the previous gift of Nicholas Basset of land in 'Risenduna' to the abbey.

¹⁵ ' Henry de Theiden the elder had a son Paulinus who in infirmity retired to a certain house and left the vill of Resindone to his daughter, whom Robert de Brewis married'. (Cotton MSS. Vesp. B. xxiv.F.47).

Paulinus died without male heir in 1236 (*Close Roll*), and on his death an element of confusion in the disposition of his estates came to the surface. Apparently the land appropriated to Bruern abbey had also been assigned in dower to 'Nichola, that was wife of Paulinus'. The widow seems to have acquired possession and the abbot appealed for redress to the king in person, who wisely referred the dispute to his judiciary. That the convent ultimately obtained the property and retained it until the dissolution of the house may be inferred from the grant of the Bruern lands in Little Rissington to Thomas Reeve and George Cotton (Atkyns, 1712, p. 624).

According to an Eynsham charter, Paulinus also diminished the heritage of his daughters Beatrice and Leticia by investing his brother Henry with demesne land in the adjoining vill of Wick Rissington. 'I have given to Henry de Teydon, my brother . . . all my lands in Wykerisindon, in demesne . . . belonging to myself or my heirs by service of 2 soar hawks or 2 bisancios'¹⁶ (*Eynsham Charters*, 1, no. 274). How Henry, also without male heir, disposed of his acquired estate is disclosed by another Eynsham charter, which reads:— 'I, Henry de Taydon, knight, have given to the church of Egnesham, iv virgates of land taken from the heir of Hugo de Cuylardvillae in the vill of Wykerisendon, also my mansion house in Wick, which my brother Paulinus gave to me. Further I have given one virgate of land which Hugh de Anglo held of me, besides 4 acres which I bought of master William de Taney. Cons. 4 silver shillings or 2 sorehawks to the heirs of Paulinus' (*ibid.*, no. 247). It is not unlikely that this alienation was contingent upon a provision by the monastery of a building more durable in material than an existing Saxon church constructed of wood and thatch. Mr G. Daubeney assigns portions of the present church in

¹⁶ A gold coin worth 2s sterling. (*Pipe Roll*, 8 John, m.9).

Wick Rissington to the first quarter of the 13th century and adds that it was 'erected under the auspices of Eynsham abbey . . . with Henry de Taydon, a local landowner as patron'.¹⁷ Without undue rashness one might go a step further and ascribe the gift of a substantial structure to the generosity and inspiration of this Henry de Taiden the younger and last male of his line.

That a church previously existed in Wick is indicated by a fine in the Public Record Office and hitherto unpublished :—

Feet of Fines, Henry III, case 73, file 7, no. 96.

At Gloucester. In the Octave of St. Hilary. 2 Henry III. Between Paul de Taydene, querent and Beatrice de Coillardvill, Adam de Colinton and Agnes his wife, Walter de Underlithe and Alice his wife, Sarah de Coillardvill and Isabella, sister of Sara tenants of 2 hides of land in Wike Risendon with the advowson of the church of the same vill and of a meadow called Campummedwe and of the homage and the whole services of Geoffrey the miller in respect of one mill in the same vill, to wit of 22s which Geoffrey owes yearly. Thereupon a plea of warranty of charter was summoned between them in the same Court, to wit that Beatrice, Adam and Agnes, Walter and Alice, Sarah and Isabella have acknowledged the premises to be of the right of Paul and his heirs . . . rendering therefore yearly one pair of gloves or one half-penny at Easter for all services, saving foreign service ; and for this Paul has given Beatrice, Adam and Agnes, Walter and Alice, Sarah and Isabella the right of grinding at their own houses . . . and to hold them quit of toll for ever . . .

The fine adds a little to our knowledge of Hugh Culliardvill, the Gloucestershire coroner. He now appears to have had five daughters and co-heiresses inheriting from their father lands in Wick Rissington and the

¹⁷ *Ancient Cotswold Churches*, p. 85.

advowson of the church, which passed by purchase to the de Taidens. The mention in the fine of a Sarah among the daughters is of interest. If this daughter married a de Taiden (Henry the younger for preference) it would solve the difficulty in the identification of the Sarah de Taiden grantee of a 20 acre meadow in Little Rissington to the Templars of Guiting (*Inq. Templars Lands*, 1328).

With a writ in the Liberate Roll of 1241 bidding delivery of 12 qrs. of the king's wheat at Tewkesbury to Henry de Taiden 'at his house at Wik Resyndon' the de Taiden family in the male line disappears from the records.

That this Henry the younger held a lordship is evident from the prefix 'Dominus' to his name when witnessing a charter granting lands in Windrush to Winchcombe abbey (*Winchcombe Reg.*, II, 256), and support is given to the conjecture by the frequent mention of demesne land and a domicilium¹⁸ in the de Laci fee Wick Rissington. A leading authority on manorial constitution has written that 'an estate with a hall, a tract of land in the possession of a single person, were deemed manors'¹⁹. May not Walter de Laci, contemporary chief lord of the vill, sometime before his death (1241) by infeudation have created a mesne lordship for the de Taidens in Wick Rissington, even as he did for his henchman, William de Lucy of Charlecote? Be this as it may, there did exist in Wick Rissington an Eynsham manor with a continuous history until the dissolution of the convent in 1543, when there was granted to Sir Robert Darcy 'in fee the manor of Wykerisdon . . . and all the possession of Eynsham in Wykerisdon' (*Letters Dom.*, vol. 18).

Among the muniments of Magdalen College, Oxford, is a de Taiden deed with an impression on the seal presenting the family crest, viz.: an eagle displayed.

¹⁸ Eynsham Cartulary, I, no. 296.

¹⁹ Paul Vinogradoff, *Growth of the Manor*, p. 301.