

THE EVOLUTION OF COLEORTON



SAMUEL T STEWART – MARCH 2022

PREFACE

Coleorton is presently a widespread village in North West Leicestershire and when the 2011 census was taken it had a population of 1,177. It has a great deal of interesting social and industrial history, much of which has already been documented in various publications by the author on his website.

The evolution of Coleorton is an extremely complex subject, and much of the historical research data available can be conflicting. Coleorton, to use its modern name, was once a manorial ecclesiastical parish which included the manors of Overton Saucey and Overton Quatremars. Numerous alternative spellings for the manors have been used over the centuries, thereby complicating the subject matter even further.

COMPLIMENTARY READING

Since writing the original version of the Evolution of Coleorton, the author has written a separate publication on the Manor of Overton Saucey entitled "**The Manor of Overton / Orton Saucey 1085-1786**" and "**An Ancient Beaumont Lineage**" in order to provide further clarity. They are free to download and read on the author's website:-

<https://samuelstewart940.wixsite.com/mysite>

AT ONE TIME, COLEORTON MUST HAVE BEEN A DIRTY AND FOREBODING PLACE

*The celebrated chronicler Camden writing in 1586 stated... 'Nor must we forget **Cole Overton** the residence of Henry de Beaumont. This place has its surname from the **coal dug here like hardened bitumen**, which yields much profit to the Lord of the Manor and supplies all the neighbourhood far and near with fireing'. In 1607, he noted that coalmining had been thriving at Coleorton for decades "to the lord of the manor's great profit".*

In William Burton's "Description of Leicestershire" published in 1622, he comments that coal was found on the surface before the days of King Henry III, and distributed around the countryside by donkey pannier. Burton tells us that "These coal mines in the beginning of the raigne of King Henry the Eighth (as I have heard reported) did burne many years together, and could not be quenched, until that sulphurous and brimstony matter (whereupon it wrought) was utterly exhausted and consumed".

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THE ROMANS TO THE NORMAN CONQUEST

Many of the existing villages in Leicestershire were established in Roman times or earlier, as well-dispersed settlements, and besides the few major highways created, a large system of secondary roads gradually came into existence to serve local needs. This opened up the partially wooded forests and open moorland, albeit in a small way, to exploitation. More recent archaeological research has indicated that population and settlement in Roman Britain was much more extensive than previously thought, and would have exerted a considerable influence on the local countryside.

The Romans were known to have mined lead, fluorspar and iron ore in Derbyshire from about 80 AD. It is assumed that they mined some coal from outcrops or shallow pits to use in the smelting of the ore, metallurgy and smithy work, lime burning and domestic heating. They were known to have been active in the Ashby, Ravenstone and Thringstone areas, and it is quite possible that they were also using surface coal in small quantities from the Coleorton area, particularly as the Coleorton coalfield is significant for the large number of outcropping coal seams in this small area. There is very little evidence of pre-historic or Roman occupation, but it is likely that the heaths which dominated much of the area in the Middle Ages (e.g.; Normanton-Le-Heath / Donington-Le-Heath) were cleared of woodland at an early stage of pre-history.

The *Dark Ages*, between the rule of Rome and the Norman Conquest was a period of disorder in Britain, and throughout this time and beyond, the settlement pattern was constantly changing. There would still have been considerable areas of woodland by the time the *Anglo-Saxons* infiltrated the area. They were industrious farmers and tackled even the heaviest soils, establishing an agricultural landscape with field systems, route ways and villages. The “ton” and “worth” names are evidence of their settlements, but there was still plenty of room for the “bys” and “thorps” to be founded by the Scandinavian invaders of the 9th and early 10th centuries.

By the time of the Norman Conquest, the area would have been thinly populated, and we can imagine the area between Ashby, Breedon and Whitwick as being partially wooded with some open moorland and scattered villages, around which would have been extensive field cultivation.

Goats and sheep for example would have grazed on the open moorland, and encouraged the extension of treeless landscape. Pigs were provided with woodland panage, and oxen were the beasts of burden. The use of timber and woodland products would have been widespread, and it is likely that early exploitation of readily accessible coal from outcrops would have been carried on in small scale operations. An outcrop is where main coal seams meet the surface.

THE 1085/86 DOMESDAY SURVEY

The Domesday survey of England was carried out in the years 1085 -1086 on the orders of William the Conqueror (William I) 1066-1087. This followed the Norman Conquest of Britain in 1066 when Harold Godwin was defeated at the Battle of Hastings. The Domesday Book is a manuscript that recorded the great survey of much of England and parts of Wales, which was started in 1085 and completed in 1086. While spending the Christmas time of 1085 in Gloucester, William had deep speech with his counselors' and sent men all over England to each shire to find out what, or how much each landholder had in land and livestock, and what it was worth.

One of the main purposes of the survey was to determine who held what, and what taxes had been liable under Edward the Confessor. The judgment of the Domesday assessors was final—whatever the book said about who held the material wealth or what it was worth was the law, and there was no appeal. It was written in Latin, although there were some vernacular words inserted for native terms with no previous Latin equivalent, and the text was highly abbreviated. Richard Fitz Nigel, writing around the year 1179, stated that the book was known by the English as "Domesday", that is the Day of Judgment, and that is the spelling used in this publication.

The *Reeve* from a manor and six peasants were questioned for every manor visited. A *Reeve* was a type of farm manager in modern day terms. The inquisitors were required to ask the following questions amongst other things:-

- How many ploughs are there in the manor?
- How many mills and fish ponds?
- How many Freemen, Villagers and Slaves are there in the manor?
- How much woodland, pasture and meadow?
- What does each Freeman own in the meadow?
- How much is the manor worth?

The Domesday Book contains records for 13,418 settlements in English counties.

Coleorton, which was recorded as being named **Ovretone** at that time, was mentioned in two sections of the Domesday book, and the two major land owners were recorded as - **Henry de Ferraris (Ferrers)** and **Robert of Bucy (de Buci)**. The Lordship of the manor of "Ovretone" at this time had 480 acres of ploughland, and 20 acres of woodland. Ovretone was presumably the French interpretation of Overtone, as it was subsequently spelt.

The assessors noted everything of value, but there was no mention of coal or coal mining. However, it is almost certain that outcropping of coal was being carried out at the time, albeit in a small way. It is probable that when the survey was carried out, no mining was actually taking place, as during the summer months the labourers worked on the land 'farming'. In the winter months they would have gathered the coal at the outcrop for the lord of the manor. Of course, the chief fuel for cooking and warmth at the time would have been wood, and remained so for many years. It is possible that coal, being of a secondary nature, and not thought valuable, was a perquisite for tenants in the same way as peat or brushwood, and therefore not mentioned.

THE EVOLUTION OF COLEORTON THROUGH TWO SEPARATE LINES FROM THE DOMESDAY SURVEY OF 1085 / 86

HENRY DE FERRERS OWNED 250 ACRES OF LAND IN <u>OVERTONE</u>	THE DOMESDAY SURVEY 1085	ROBERT DE BUCI LORD OF THE MANOR OF <u>OVERTONE</u> OWNED 500 ACRES OF LAND
<u>OVERTONE</u> LAND LEASED TO MEGINTA	THE DOMESDAY SURVEY 1085	<u>OVERTONE</u> LAND LEASED TO WARIN WHO BECAME LORD OF THE MANOR
THIS LAND PASSED THROUGH NUMEROUS PEOPLE OVER A PERIOD OF TIME UNTIL COMING INTO POSSESSION OF THE SALCEY / SAWCY / SAUCY / SAUCEY / SAUCE FAMILY. THE MANOR OF <u>OVERTONE</u> SUBSEQUENTLY BECAME KNOWN AS <u>OVERTONE SAUCEY</u> AND ORTON SAUCEY AND WAS SEPARATE FROM THE MANOR OF <u>OVERTONE QUATREMARS</u>	1130	ROBERT DE BUCIS' LAND IN <u>OVERTONE</u> PASSED ONTO RICHARD BASSET
THROUGH MARRIAGE THE MANOR CAME INTO THE HANDS OF THE LE ARCHER FAMILY IN THE EARLY 13TH CENTURY UNTIL RICHARD ARCHER SOLD IT TO THE SHELDONS IN 1533.	1166	LUCAS DE QUATREMARS OWNED 1440 ACRES OF LAND IN <u>OVERTONE</u> AND GODSBY. LUCAS HAD 4 CHILDREN - WILLIAM, ADAM, ADA AND AGNES
THE AUTHOR HAS WRITTEN A PUBLICATION ENTITLED "THE MANOR OF OVERTON / ORTON SAUCEY 1085 TO 1786" WHICH IS FREE TO DOWNLOAD AND READ ON HIS WEBSITE, SO THERE IS LITTLE ADVANTAGE TO BE GAINED IN REPEATING THE CONTENTS HERE.	c.1209 - 1235	WILLIAM DE QUATREMARS THOUGHT TO BE THE SON OF LUCAS ABOVE, BECAME THE ADVOWSON / LORD OF THE MANOR OF <u>OVERTONE</u> c.1209 AND THE NAME WAS CHANGED TO <u>OVERTONE QUATREMARS</u>. WILLIAM HELD IT TILL 1235
	1235.	ADAM DE QUATREMARS, SON OF LUCAS, INHERITED <u>OVERTON QUATREMARS</u> FROM HIS BROTHER WILLIAM ON HIS DEATH, AND BECAME LORD OF THE MANOR
	1235	GEOFFREY MAUREWARD MARRIED ADA DE QUATREMARS (DAUGHTER AND ONLY CHILD OF ADAM DE QUATREMARS) IN 1235.
	c.1243 to c.1254.	c.1243 GEOFFREY MAUREWARD INHERITED THROUGH HIS WIFE ADATHE ADVOWSON / LORD OF THE MANOR FROM ADAM DE QUATREMARS ON HIS DEATH (WITHOUT MALE ISSUE). HE HELD THE MANOR TILL c.1254.
	c.1254 to ??	JOHN CLAREL (SUB-DEACON) HELD CERTAIN LANDS IN <u>OVERTONE QUATREMARS</u> BUT SIR WILLIAM MAUREWARD Kt WAS LORD OF THE MANOR

	c.1303	SIR WILLIAM MAUREWARD JUNIOR HELD THE GRANT OF FREE-WARREN AND WAS LORD OF THE MANOR
	c.1328	SIR WILLIAM MAUREWARD JUNIOR GRANTED HIS MANOR OF <u>OVERTON QUATREMARS</u> TO HIS SON JOHN MAUREWARD .
	1346.	JOHN MAUREWARD DIED WHILST HOLDING THE MANOR IN EXTENT OF THE CASTLE OF ROCKINGHAM
	1426	THE LORDSHIP OF THE MANOR STAYED IN THE HANDS OF THE MAUREWARD FAMILY TILL 1426
	1426-1457	IN 1426 SIR THOMAS BEAUMONT INHERITED THE MANOR THROUGH MARRIAGE TO PHILIPPINE (AKA PHILIPPA) MAUREWARD . SHE WAS DAUGHTER OF THOMAS MAUREWARD , WHO WAS MARRIED TO ELIZABETH ODDING SELES . THOMAS WAS THE SON OF WILLIAM MAUREWARD
	1457-1464	SIR JOHN BEAUMONT (SON OF SIR THOMAS) HELD THE MANOR
	1464-1485	FROM 1464 TO 1485, EDWARD IV GRANTED THE MANOR TO RICHARD HASTINGS
	1485 -1531	FROM 1485 TO 1531, THE MANOR WAS RE-INSTATED TO SIR JOHN BEAUMONT (SON OF SIR JOHN ABOVE) BY HENRY VII .
	1531-	RICHARD BEAUMONT -LORD OF THE MANOR
	1538-1585	NICHOLAS BEAUMONT -LORD OF THE MANOR
	1585-1607	SIR HENRY BEAUMONT -LORD OF THE MANOR
	1607-1625	SIR THOMAS BEAUMONT, 1ST VISCOUNT OF SWORDS -LORD OF THE MANOR
	1625-1658	SIR SAPCOTE BEAUMONT, 2ND VISCOUNT OF SWORDS -LORD OF THE MANOR
	1658-1702	SIR THOMAS BEAUMONT, 3RD VISCOUNT OF SWORDS -LORD OF THE MANOR
	1702-1737	SIR GEORGE BEAUMONT, 4TH BARONET OF STOUGHTON -LORD OF THE MANOR
	1737-1738	REV LEWIS BEAUMON, 5TH BARONET OF STOUGHTON -LORD OF THE MANOR

	1738-1762	SIR GEORGE BEAUMONT, 6TH BARONET OF STOUGHTON-LORD OF THE MANOR
	1762-1827	SIR GEORGE HOWLAND BEAUMONT, 7TH BARONET OF STOUGHTON-LORD OF THE MANOR
	1827-1845	SIR GEORGE HOWLAND WILLOUGHBY BEAUMONT, 8TH BARONET OF STOUGHTON-LORD OF THE MANOR
	1845-1882	SIR GEORGE HOWLAND BEAUMONT, 9TH BARONET OF STOUGHTON-LORD OF THE MANOR
	1882-1914	SIR GEORGE HOWLAND WILLIAM BEAUMONT, 10TH BARONET OF STOUGHTON-LORD OF THE MANOR
	1914-1933	SIR GEORGE ARTHUR HAMILTON BEAUMONT, 11TH BARONET OF STOUGHTON-LORD OF THE MANOR – IN 1920 MOST OF THE BEAUMONT ESTATE WAS SOLD OFF.
	1933-1947	SIR GEORGE HOWLAND FRANCIS BEAUMONT, 12TH BARONET OF STOUGHTON-LORD OF THE MANOR
	1948	HALL AND GROUND SOLD TO THE NATIONAL COAL BOARD FOR THEIR AREA NO.7. HEADQUARTERS.

IT IS NOT AT ALL CLEAR WHEN THE VILLAGE NAME OF COLEORTON WAS FINALLY ARRIVED AT, BUT THERE IS EVIDENCE IN LEGAL DOCUMENTS THAT IN 1588 THE NAME COLEOVERTON WAS IN USE. COLLERTON WAS RECORDED ON JOHN SPEEDS MAP DATED 1611, AND COLLORTON WAS RECORDED ON BLOOME'S MAP OF 1681. IN A 1754 MAP OF CHARNWOOD FOREST, THERE IS REFERENCE TO COLE ORTON MOOR. IN PRIOR'S MAP OF 1777, HE USES COLE ORTON.

IT SEEMS LIKELY THAT THE NAME WAS FINALISED DURING THE YEARS AFTER THE BEAUMONTS CAME INTO POSSESION OF ALL THE LANDS IN THE TWO MANORS AND THEY WERE EVENTUALLY COMBINED INTO THE MANORIAL PARISH OF COLE ORTON, (LATER RENAMED INTO COLEORTON IN THE MID 20TH CENTURY). IT IS NOT KNOWN DURING WHAT PERIOD THE BEAUMONT'S CAME INTO POSSESION OF ALL THE LANDS THAT FORMED THE MANOR OF OVERTONE SAUCEY, BUT IT IS NOT THOUGHT TO HAVE BEEN PRIOR TO 1800.

COLEORTON HALL AND MUCH OF THE SURROUNDING MANOR / VILLAGE REMAINED IN THE HANDS OF THE COLEORTON BEAUMONTS FOR OVER 400 YEARS, UNTIL FINALLY IN 1948, THE HALL AND GROUNDS WERE SOLD TO THE NATIONAL COALBOARD FOR £33,000. IN 1920, MUCH OF THE LAND AND PROPERTY WITHIN THE MANOR / VILLAGE HAD ALREADY BEEN SOLD OFF BY THE ESTATE.

HENRY de FERRERS
**(OWNED 250 ACRES OF LAND IN OVERTONE WHEN THE DOMESDAY
SURVEY OF 1085 WAS CARRIED OUT)**

Henry de Ferrers, who, apart from owning land within "Overtone", also owned land at what are now Stretton, Donisthorpe, Worthington, Osgathorpe and Ravenstone. His fertile land remained a separate township for a long period prior to being eventually included as part of what became the Parish of Coleorton. The land held by Henry was recorded as 170 acres of Ploughland (*one "Ploughland" or "Carrucate" was equivalent to 100-120 acres at that time*), and about 10 acres of Woodland. All of this land was let to a woman by the name of "Meginta", and about 120 acres of wasteland which had been let to "Roger". Roger's land was recorded as taxable, so it must have been productive, and was possibly used for rough grazing.

ROBERT de BUCI
(LORD OF THE MANOR OF OVERTONE & OWNED 500 ACRES OF LAND AS
PER THE DOMESDAY 1085 / 86 SURVEY) AND HOW THE MANOR OF
OVERTON QUATREMARS CAME INTO BEING.

Robert de Buci is recorded in the Domesday book as holding the lordship of "Overtone", but in 1086, all his land, which equated to 4 carucates (480 acres of ploughland), plus 20 acres of woodland which (80 perches long and 40 broad), was sub-let to "Warin" under six ploughs. One plough was in the demesne, and two villains / villeins with 1 bordar had 1 plough. It is likely that Warin, as Lord of the Manor, would probably have had a manor house of basic timber construction. By 1130, Robert de Bucis' land had been passed onto Richard Basset and by 1166 the land was apparently owned by Lucas de Quatremars, who is recorded as owning 1100 acres of land in Overtone and Godsby at that time. The earliest record found of the "de Quatremars" lineage in England, which was recorded in the "Scutage Roll" of 1165, is Lucas (Luke) de Quatremars who was born c.1150. He was recorded as - *holding a Fief (fee) of Godfrey de Ridel in Northampton in 1165*. He is also recorded in 1166, in the "Red book of the Exchequer" - as *holding 12 carucates of land in "Overtone" and "Godsby", from Geoffrey II Ridel*. Several records suggest that the de Quatremars lineage originated in Normandy, France and they came over to England with William I.

Lucas (also recorded as Luke) de Quatremars, had 2 brothers named Godfrey and Ricardus. The records suggest that he fathered the following 4 children, who were possibly born in Elmsthorpe, Leics, as he was recorded as living there in the early years. The author has not been able to find who his wife was: -

William (1168 - ?)

Adam (1170 - ?)

Ada (1172 - ?)

Agnes (1173 - ?) – married William Charnels and had son named William.

The following, in italics, is loosely translated from an agreement in Latin between the Abbot of Lilleshall and Lucas de Quatremars dated 1179 which is entered in the "Cartulary of Lilleshall Abbey, ed. Una Rees, Shropshire, 1997:-

This is the final agreement made on the Monday preceding the feast of St.Peter made at Coventry in the reign of Henry II, between Bishop Nicholas, Galfrido Eliens archdeacon and Weseby, Hos and Pyppard who are the Kings Justiciars. Lucas has given land to the Abbot and Canons of Lilleshall and that land lies between "Overtone" and "Ashby-De-La-Zouch" and upon which there are some houses. You should know that Lucas for the love of his ancestors souls and the health of his own soul, renounces his and any claim of his heirs to that land and houses – it reads rather as though Lucas is aware that there might not be much time left to him and was possibly dying.

It is thought that Lucas and all his children actually died in Overtone / Overtone Quatremars. Luke's son William Quatremars held the lordship of "Overtone" by 1209, but was later succeeded in 1235 by his brother Sir Adam de Quatremars, as William is thought to have died in that year without male issue.

In "The Fine Rolls of 19 Henry III (C.60/34 28th Oct 1234 – 27th Oct 1235)", the following statement appears on 1st Feb, Faversham, Kent for Adam de Quatremars. To the Sheriff of Kent:- *Adam de Quatremars, brother and heir of William de Quatremars, has made fine with the King for 40 shillings for his relief of the land that William held of the King in Chief in his bailwick and that falls to Adam by inheritance, and the King has received the homage for this. Order that, having accepted security from Adam for rendering the aforesaid 40 shillings to the King, he is to cause him to have full seisin of the aforesaid land with appurtenances, of which William was seised as of fee on the day he died.*

Adam also held land in Kent which presumably was part of his inheritance from William. According to "The List of Knights fees in Kent" – "*Johan de Cobeham held a fourth of one fee in Cobeham from Adam de Katremars (Quatremars), and Adam holds from "The King in Chief"*".

In 1235, a Geoffrey Maureward (1170-1250) married Ada de Quatremars, sister and heir of Sir Adam de Quatremars, following his death. Adam had therefore presumably died without male issue. The advowson / lordship of "Overtone Quatremars" passed into the Maureward family through Ada at a later date, probably c.1243. It appears that Ada was 63 and Geoffrey 65 years of age when this marriage took place. It is thought that by 1254, Ada and Geoffrey had died.

The following is recorded in "the Fine Rolls 27 Henry III (C 60/40 28th Oct 1242 – 27th Oct 1243) on July 22nd and addressed to the Sheriff of Kent –

Geoffrey Maureward, who has taken to wife Ada, sister and heiress of Adam de Quatremars, has performed fealty to the King for a fourth part of a Knight's fee with appurtenances in Cobham and Shorne which the aforesaid Adam held from the King in Chief, and he will do his homage to the King for them when the King returns to England. Order that, having accepted security from Geoffrey for rendering 25 shillings. To the king for his relief, he is to cause him to have such seisin of the aforesaid fourth part of a Knight's fee as Adam had on the day he died. Witness W. Archbishop of York.

There follows a rather interesting extract from the "Tower Records" (Roll No. 97 20th April 1254). This relates to Ralph Basset, a descendant of one of the earliest lords of the manor Richard Basset. He is clearly trying to lay claim to the manor. As this is recorded in 1254, the William Maureward referred to was most likely the son of Geoffrey Maureward :-

Headed - "*Jurata et Assisœ captœ apud Pontem Staunford, in Comitatu Northanton, in crastino Clausi Paschœ, coram Gilberto de Preston et Ranulpho de Kareby, anno XXXVIII.*" [20th April, 1254.]M. 2. "*Adhuc de assisis captis apud Brimgeston, in Comitatu Leyc.*"

Leyc. An assize, &c., if Ralph Basset of Drayton, Ralph his son, Eustace de Folevill, William Basset, Roger Basset, James his brother, Robert de Drayton, and nineteen others named, had unjustly disseised William de la Ferté of the manor of Overton Quatremars, which had been demised to him for term of his life by one William Maureward for 20s. yearly rent ; and he produced the charter of the said William Maureward to that effect. Ralph Basset answered for all, and stated that William Maureward had demised the manor to William de la Ferté for six years which had expired, and had never demised it to him for his life. The jury state that William Maureward had formerly held the manor in his own hands, and had demised it to William de la Ferté for six years, which had expired at last Michaelmas day, and that the said William de la Ferté had come to Overton on the Saturday after the Nativity of the Virgin in this year, and had convoked the Curia of Overton, and had then produced a charter under the name of William Maureward which enfeoffed the said William de la Ferté of the manor for his life, and at the same time one Thomas de la Benneyfevere came into the Court and produced letters patent to put the same William de la Ferté in seisin of the said manor, according to the purport of the charter of the said William Maureward ; and that when Ralph Basset heard that William Maureward had died, he had come with the other defendants and taken the manor into his hands as capital lord ; and they say positively (precise) that William Maureward had never enfeoffed the said William de la Ferté of the said manor for his life, but that both the charters above named were drawn up by Thomas de la Benneyfevere without his knowledge, because he had been languishing in distant parts from that time until he died. Ralph Basset and the other defendants are therefore dismissed from the suit, and William and Thomas are in misericordiâ. Thomas was fined 20 marks; the fine of William does not appear. From: 'Plea Rolls for Staffordshire: 1251-55', Staffordshire Historical Collections, vol. 4 (1883), pp. 121-133. URL: <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=52390> Date accessed: 05 February 2014.

By 1283, the manor of "Overton Quatremars" had expanded. It comprised 540 acres of farmland, 300 acres of woodland, 2 watermills, 2 ponds and the patronage of the Church benefice.

The first record of what is thought to be a manor house in Overton Quatremars is in 1296, at a time when we find Sybil Maureward, thought to be the wife of William Maureward Kt (see preceding chart), living as a dowager lady in Overton Quatremars. Her son, and Lord of the Manor, William, is not old enough to assume his manorial responsibilities, and is in the guardianship of one Ralph Basset of Drayton. Sybil Maureward was having an altercation with John Clarel who had been found guilty at an Assize hearing of "unjustly raising a fence in Overton Quatremars, which prevented Sybil Maureward from driving her cattle direct from her house to her meadow and her carts from her meadow to her house". It is assumed that this house was the manor-house, and from what has been recorded, it was likely to have been a farmhouse. There is no record on the construction of this house, but it is likely that it could have been a mixture of wood and stone construction, both of which were readily available in the immediate area.

From what we understand, the lord of the manor was responsible for appointing the rector or incumbent at St. Mary's Church, Coleorton, and according to the records, Geoffrey Maureward appointed a John Clarel as Sub-Deacon in 1246. In 1266, 1277, 1293 and 1323, we have mention of Geoffrey Maurewards son William, so it is reasonable to assume that Geoffrey had a son William prior to his marriage to Ada de Quatremars and he became lord of the manor or had some controlling interest in his father's lands, following his death.

In records dated 1329, there is mention of a John Maureward and Richard Maureward and in 1336 a record states: - *John Russel (Rector), by Sir John Maureward, Knight, lord of Overton Quatremars, on resignation of Richard Maureward.* This confirms that the Maurewards were still lords of the manor of Overton Quatremars which they had held since 1235. There is a further record that a John Maureward held the manor in extension of Rockingham Castle in 1346.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS USED

A **fee** or **fief** (Latin: feudum) was the central element of feudalism and consisted of heritable property or rights granted by an overlord to a feoffee who held it in fealty (or "in fee") in return for a form of feudal allegiance and service, usually given by the personal ceremonies of homage and fealty. The fees were often lands or revenue-producing real property held in feudal land tenure: these are typically known as **fiefs** or **fiefdoms**. However, not only land but anything of value could be held in fee, including governmental office, rights of exploitation such as hunting or fishing, monopolies in trade, and tax farms.

A **seisin** is the legal possession of a feudal fiefdom (an estate of land).

The creation of an **advowson** was the necessary part of creating a Parish, which was generally performed by a lord of the Manor by building a Church within the boundary of his Manor, or within that of a newly subfeudinated Manor, and then transferring the proprietary rights to certain individuals of Fields, Mills or Messuages (hovels / cottages) in the Manor, which then carried rent to establish a **Glebe**. This was an area of land within an ecclesiastical parish used to support a parish. **Bailwick** is usually the area of jurisdiction of a bailiff and may also apply to a territory in which the sheriff's functions were exercised by a privately appointed bailiff under a royal or imperial writ.

Demesne (Demesue) was generally referred to as those lands that were held by the Crown at the time of the Domesday Book. **Scutage** is a form of taxation, in the law of England under the feudal system. This allowed a knight to "buy out" of the military service due to the Crown as a holder of a knight's fee held under the feudal land tenure of knight service.

*A **carucate (ploughland or plough)** might nominally be regarded as an area of 120 acres of land but this varied wildly depending on the quality and fertility of the soil.* It was based on the area a plough team of eight oxen could till in a single annual season (usually but not always excluding its suitability for winter vegetables and desirability to remain fallow in crop rotation). It was sub-divided into oxgangs, or "bovates", based on the area a single ox might till in the same period, which thus represented one eighth of a carucate; and it was strongly analogous to the hide, a unit of tax assessment used outside the Danelaw counties.

A **virgate**, was a former English unit of land measure, varying greatly in size, but most commonly equal to about 30 acres.

A **Villain or Villein**, was a serf or farm hand, and often referred to someone who held a virgate of land between 25 to 30 acres. A **Bordar** had lower status than a villain, and rendered menial service for his cottage.

A **Pone** was a writ in law used by the superior courts to remove cases from inferior courts.

Pannage is the practice of releasing domestic pigs in a forest, in order that they may feed on fallen acorns, beechmast, chestnuts or other nuts. Historically, it was a right or privilege granted to local people on common land or in royal forests.