

Part 7. The Revells of the West Country — Devon, Cornwall, Somerset and Wiltshire. Compiled by Mike Clifford, Debra Revell and Sue Dauris. Major revision October 13th 2010.

It is said that the Revells are associated with Revelstoke in Devon and Curry Rivell in Somerset, but only the latter is well-documented. ‘*Revelstoke was the property and residence of the ancient family of Revell. **Richard Revell**, of this place, was several years sheriff of the county, in the reign of Richard I*’.¹ Richard I reigned 1189–1199. However, the earliest records in the West Country (Cornwall, Devon, Somerset, Wiltshire) are rather confusing, in part because of the repetition of Richard and William as a forename, but also because the two names have been confused and probably wrongly transcribed from their abbreviated forms in old documents.

Further confusion is generated by conflicting accounts in what might be considered high quality texts, such as the account by *Pole* (which contains statements not supported by references) and the *Dictionary of National Biography* that are simply not supported by some of the electronic records now readily accessible, such as *Pipe Rolls* and the like. These inconsistencies are discussed in detail below, along with the other evidence that has been located. However, the discussion is complex and quite wide-ranging, and a simpler account is given here that summarises the conclusions reached.

There is good evidence that these Revells held land in clusters each some 15 miles in diameter. There are two in Somerset, one encompassing Curry Rivel, Hescombe, Langport, Pitney, Somerton, Swell, Taunton and Wearne and the second on the Somerset–Wiltshire border including Downhead (Somerset) and Warminster (Wiltshire) about 12 miles away. There are two in south Devon, the first embracing Holberton, Idmerston, Ivybridge, Kingsbridge, Malston, Modbury, Penquit and Ugborough, and the second embracing the Ogwells, Totnes and Kingswear (both of which fall in the ancient South Hams) and another in north Devon encompassing Bideford, Buckland Brewer, East Putford and Great Torrington.

Dates of birth, marriage and death have rarely been located. The earliest west country Revell for whom good dates are available is **Richard Revell** who must have been of age possibly by 1166 and certainly by 1171 / 2. He must have been born no later than *ca* 1150 and possibly earlier. His parents are uncertain although Pole suggests a **William Revell** who must have been born no later than *ca* 1130. It is possible that this William has sometimes been referred to as Walter and that he was from Beenleigh near Totnes.

There is evidence to suggest that Richard had at least one brother, **Henry Revell** of Swinford in Northamptonshire who is discussed in [Part 1](#), and who also is estimated to have been born *ca* 1150. Richard married Mabel de Esselegh and died 1213. They had several children — a **Richard Revell junior**, a **William / Walter Revell** and a **Sabina Revell**. There is strong evidence for a relative **Adam de Stawell**, possibly a son or son-in-law, but this is not shown in the Stowell pedigree in the *Visitation of Somerset*.² Sabina married de l’Orti and is the best documented of the children, and in some cases described as the sole heir. William / Walter held land in Somerset and might be connected to the William who married Hadewise noted in Berkshire late 12th and mid-13th centuries — see [Part 10](#). Many accounts suggest that they are the ancestors of the Cambridgeshire Revells / Reynells but this cannot be confirmed. **Richard Revell junior** died in the period 1222 to 1225 and there is no hard evidence of children, but he or a brother might be the father of the **Richard Revell** associated with Totnes, extant at least 1225 to 1230, who married Joanna.

Early records according to Pole and Polwhele

The earliest records of west-country Revells are provided by Pole, but his accounts are poorly supported by references and much criticised

‘*Devon Notes and Queries*’, quoting Pole, gives ‘**Will. Renell, Castel of Exceter**’ during the reign of Richard I (1189–99),³ followed by a comment that this has been subsequently overlooked. Pole also says:

‘**William Renell** or Reynell was probably seated at Exeter Castle before 1191, and this most likely led to his son. Sir **Richard Reynell** of Pyttney, co. Somerset, being made Sheriff of Devon and Cornwall and warden of the Castles of Exeter and Launceston’, and ‘**William Renel** or Reynell, the father of the Sheriff, lived on into John’s reign, for in Pole’s list of Crown tenants in Devon, temp. John (p. 42) occurs **William Revell**, but with no address. Perhaps on vacating Exeter Castle he had retired to Revelstoke’,⁴ and defines William’s son as Richard.

The evidence that he held Exeter Castle is not good, and there is no independent evidence for when he died, and the absence of authentic pre-1180 records for this William leave considerable doubt as to his date of birth. In 1196 / 7 and 1199 / 1200 the *Liber Rubeus* clearly records a **William Revell** in Devon,⁵ on the second occasion listing him with ‘*William de Novo Mercato*’,⁶

1 Magna Britannia Volume 6 <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=50589&strquery=revell>

2 *Visitation of Somerset* <http://www.archive.org/stream/visitationcount05britgoog#page/n118/mode/1up/search/stowel>

3 ‘*Devon Notes and Queries*’ <http://www.archive.org/details/devonnotesquerie02ame>

4 “*Devon notes and queries*” http://www.archive.org/stream/devonnotesquerie02amer/devonnotesquerie02amer_djuv.txt

5 *Liber Rubeus* <http://contentdm.lib.byu.edu/cdm4/document.php?CISOROOT=%2FFHMedieval&CISOPTR=49603&REC=0&CISOBX=revell>

6 *Liber Rubeus* <http://contentdm.lib.byu.edu/cdm4/document.php?CISOROOT=%2FFHMedieval&CISOPTR=49603&REC=0&CISOBX=revell>

who is probably a relative of Bernard de Neufmarché — see [Part 1](#). This might be the **William Revell** of Warminster mentioned in connection with a long-running dispute also involving the Lord of Furnax,⁷ in the period 1194 to 1199, discussed below.

However, Hitchens in *A History of Cornwall* refers to a **Walter Reynell** as a knight of Gascony holding the manor of Trebartha (Cornwall) while he was the Castellan at Launceston during the reign of Richard I, but does not define a source.⁸ BHOL cites Polwhele who in turn cites a manuscript in the British Museum,⁹ but gives no reference. Trebartha is about 7 miles from Launceston. In *Launceston past and present* it is stated that '**Richard Reuel held Launceston and Exeter about 1191 but did not hold them long, his place being taken by a Walter Reynell, lord of Trebarth, possibly a relative**'.¹⁰ In 1250 a **Richard Rivel** is named in a quitclaim that refers to property at 'Lostidiel' in Cornwall,¹¹ possibly Lostwithiel some 20 miles west of Launceston.

Church in 'Household Knights of King John' refers to '**William de Revell father and son**' as receiving grants of royal demesne with regard to manors of Pitney and Wearne in Somerset,^{12,13} and cites sources in the *Liberate Rolls* and the *Close Rolls* (*Rot. Lib.*, p. 35; *Rot. Litt. Claus.*, i. 296b). The *Liberate Roll* is dated 1203, but unfortunately, that particular Close Roll is not available electronically, thus suggesting the later reference is to some date before 1227. **Pole's account has been much criticised and Church's is probably more reliable.**

Devon Notes and Queries' quoting Pole also has William the Sheriff supporting King Richard when he was in the Holy Land and repelling his brother John. When John acceded to the crown William was dispossessed — again not entirely consistent.

'**Sir Richard Reynell had taken against him, deprived him of his estates.**' Pole (p. 82) calls him "Richard Revell the sonne of William" (meaning evidently Will. Renel of the Castel of Exceter, previously referred to on p. 40).

According to *Devon notes and queries*, quoting Pole, William is said to be the father of Richard,¹⁴ and his wife was one of the three female coheirs of Robert Fitz William, lord of Furnax,¹⁵ which probably equates to Robert son of William de Furnell (Furneaux, Furnellis, etc).

The Revells of Pitney and Wearne (Sheriff Richard and his children Richard, William and Sabina)

The Revells of Pitney and Wearne in Somerset are better documented, but there are still confusing inconsistencies in the literature. BHOL states that the holdings at Pitney and Wearne 'were made up from a succession of Crown grants, mostly from Somerton manor, to **Richard Revel the elder** between c. 1190 and 1203. The first grant appears to have been described as a *soke*, held at a rent of 72s. 6d., confirmed to Revel in 1190. (fn. 36) **Richard Revel the younger** still held this in 1219 and probably until his death in 1222. (fn. 37) The second was a gift by Richard I to the elder Revel of rents of 60s. in Somerton in return for a quit rent. (fn. 38) The third, made before 1203, was of land for £12 a year, to which was added in 1203 a further estate in the same manor comprising land worth 50s. a year, and described under the form 'Pettewurth'. (fn. 39) The larger of these estates was subsequently described as at Pitney and at Wearne. (fn. 40) Part of **Richard Revel's** land was granted to his son William in 1205. (fn. 41).¹⁶

In *War, government and aristocracy in the British Isles* this William is defined as one of the Household Knights who rebelled against King John and in a footnote the authors state '*John certainly granted land at Pitney and Wearne to William (RLI p35; RLC i pp 49, 51) but there is no reference to this in the Pipe Rolls and William's holdings were presumably subsumed within those of his father, Richard Revell, in Somerton. The most important of these was the £12 worth of land he held between 1202 and 1208 (PR 1202 p. 85; PR 1203 p. 150; Pr 1208 p. 103) and this seems coterminous with the £12 worth of land held by Godfrey in Pitney and Wearne from 1217 ...*'.¹⁷ The *Liber Rubeus* has **Richard Revell senior** explicitly holding land at Somertone in the period 1210 to 1212 whereas **Richard Revell** (presumably junior) named in the same document has separate entries for land at Somertone and land at Langport and Curry.¹⁸

7 A History of the County of Wiltshire: Volume 8 <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=16088>

8 *The History of Cornwall* Volume 2

http://books.google.co.uk/books?id=YUYQAAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA519&lpg=PA519&dq=%22manor+of+Trebartha%22&source=bl&ots=QblGHtC-iw&sig=wtFmset_2cAx8nr3HaTIKOfnHuE&hl=en&ei=xBczTPmtMJYsQao3rjOAw&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result&resnum=4&ved=0CCUQ6AEwAw#v=onepage&q=%22manor%20of%20Trebartha%22&f=false

9 BHOL <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=50648>

10 *Launceston past and present* <http://www.archive.org/stream/launcestonpastpr00robb#page/34/mode/2up/search/reuel>

11 T/466 http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/A2A/records.aspx?cat=021-t_1&cid=1-1-30-34&kw=revel%20revell%20revyl%20revyl%20rivel%20rivell%20cornwall#1-1-30-34

12 'The Household Knights of King John' by S.D. Church. Page 91

13 The Rewards of Royal Service in the Household of King John: A Dissenting Opinion S.D Church *English Historical Review* 1995, **110**, 277–302

14 *Devon notes and queries* <http://www.archive.org/stream/devonnotesquerie02amer#page/110/mode/2up/search/revel>

15 <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=16088>

16 BHOL <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=66486>

17 *War, government and aristocracy in the British Isles*

http://books.google.co.uk/books?id=fp0ciCnFdBAC&pg=PA26&lpg=PA26&dq=%22The+Household+Knights+of+King+John%22&source=bl&ots=9EjUD8bKv-&sig=dJL0DjYa4Y9WQsbnVY69wzkJoW0&hl=en&ei=O40oTMCWE4ey0gT44NnKBA&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result&resnum=6&ved=0CCYQ6AEwBTgK#v=onepage&q=revel&f=false

18 *Liber Rubeus* <http://contentdm.lib.byu.edu/cdm4/document.php?CISOROOT=/FHMedieval&CISOPTR=52814&CISOSHOW=52322>

The *Curia Regis Rolls* dated ca 1200 refer to a **Richard Revell**, uncle to Ralph de Furnells with regard to 'half a hide in Southminster' in Essex,^{19, 20, 21} but whether this is Sheriff Richard or his son is not clear. It is probably the same **Richard Revell** who arrested two men with horses in Lincolnshire in 1198,²² and he is possibly related to the **William Revell** also record in Lincolnshire in 1198.²³

Gladwyn M. Revell Turbutt shows **Richard Revell** of Curry Rivell and Langport, Somerset, as a son of **Henry Revell** of Swinford,²⁴ see [Part 1](#), but this cannot be confirmed, and seems unlikely. However, as discussed in [Part 1](#) and below, their arms are similar and there is evidence to suggest that they might be brothers.

Two accounts of Sheriff Richard's son William

This **William Revell** is usually associated with Warminster. Gladwyn M. Revell Turbutt lists a **William Revell** of Wincanton as a son of **Henry Revell** of Swinford,²⁵ but no other reference to him has been located and it is possible the two have been confused.

The first account connects this William to the lords of Furnax and Warminster. In the period 1174 to 1188 a '**Willelmo Revel**' and an '**Alano de Furnellis**' are recorded as witnesses on a document relating to, and possibly lodged at, the Abbey of the Holy Trinity of Caen, for Benedictine nuns, in the diocese of Bayeux.²⁶ An Alan de Furnell, or Furneaux, was Sheriff of Cornwall in the period 1181 to 1185.²⁷ He was followed in the period 1191 to 1200 by **Richard Rivell** who was also Sheriff of Devon.²⁸

In the period 1194 to 1199 a **William Revell** of Warminster is mentioned in connection with a long-running dispute also involving the Lord of Furnax.²⁹ This dispute, recorded in the *Curia Regis Rolls*, is concerned primarily with the advowson of the church at Warminster, and whether it was possessed by Thomas Mauduit, a minor when his father Robert died ca 1191, the Fitzwilliam heirs, or the Bishop of Wells. In the *Antiquities of Shropshire* it is stated 'In 1194 he (Thomas Mauduit) was impleaded by **William Revell** who claimed the advowson of Warminster in right of his wife'.^{30, 31} The matter was still undecided in 1199 when **William Revell** was supported by Henry de Furnell who also claimed in right of his wife,³² indicating that their wives were sisters, daughters of Robert Fitzwilliam, onetime lord of Furnax. There is another reference to this in the *Curia Regis Rolls* dated 1200.³³ Henry de Furnax (Furneaux, Furnellis) married Joan, born about 1158 at Ashington, Somerset, in 1179.³⁴ A third daughter of Robert Fitzwilliam married a Nicholas Avenel, but there appear to have been two people of this name at about the same date, and their relationship is uncertain.³⁵

William Revell's wife is not so clearly documented, but appears to be Hilary as described in the following records dated to the period 1195 to 1199. The *Buckland Cartulary* records a grant of land at *Winescum* made by **William Revell** in which one of the witnesses is recorded as '*Helaria uxore mea*',³⁶ and records in the '*Rotuli Curiae Regis*' refer to **William Reuell** and his wife '*Ylaria*' and land at '*Bruiton*'.³⁷ *Bruiton* is possibly Bruton, Somerset, about 15 miles from Warminster. *Winescum* has not been identified, but might be Winscombe. A **William Revell** is named in the *Curia Regis Rolls* associated with Gloucester in 1198,³⁸

19 *Curia Regis Rolls*

http://contentdm.lib.byu.edu/cdm4/document.php?CISOROOT=%2FFHMedieval&CISOPTR=62618&REC=0&CISOBX=revel*

20 *Curia Regis Rolls*

http://contentdm.lib.byu.edu/cdm4/document.php?CISOROOT=/FHMedieval&CISOPTR=56955&REC=0&CISOBX=revel*&CISOSHOW=56334

21 *Curia Regis Rolls*

http://contentdm.lib.byu.edu/cdm4/document.php?CISOROOT=/FHMedieval&CISOPTR=56955&REC=0&CISOBX=revel*&CISOSHOW=56334

22 *Curia Regis Rolls*

http://contentdm.lib.byu.edu/cdm4/document.php?CISOROOT=/FHMedieval&CISOPTR=56955&REC=0&CISOBX=revel*&CISOSHOW=56334

23 *Curia Regis Rolls*

http://contentdm.lib.byu.edu/cdm4/document.php?CISOROOT=/FHMedieval&CISOPTR=56955&REC=0&CISOBX=revel*&CISOSHOW=56334

24 <http://www.rotherhamweb.co.uk/revill/gmrturbutt.htm>

25 <http://www.rotherhamweb.co.uk/revill/gmrturbutt.htm>

26 '*Transcripts in D'Anisy's "Cartulaire de la basse Normandie". Calendar of Documents Preserved in France*

27 '*The History of Cornwall* By Richard Polwhele, John Whitaker <http://books.google.co.uk/books?id=C0QQAAAAAYAAJ&pg=RA1-PA86&dq=Sheriff++of+Cornwall+Revel>

28 http://www.archive.org/stream/notebookoftristr00risdrich/notebookoftristr00risdrich_djvu.txt

29 A History of the County of Wiltshire: Volume 8 <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=16088>

30 *Antiquities of Shropshire* <http://www.archive.org/stream/antiquitiesshro07eytogoog#page/n74/mode/1up>

31 *Curia Regis Rolls* <http://contentdm.lib.byu.edu/cdm4/document.php?CISOROOT=/FHMedieval&CISOPTR=98006&CISOSHOW=97258>

32 *Curia Regis Rolls*

<http://contentdm.lib.byu.edu/cdm4/document.php?CISOROOT=%2FFHMedieval&CISOPTR=98400&REC=0&CISOBX=mauduit>

33 *Curia Regis Rolls*

http://contentdm.lib.byu.edu/cdm4/document.php?CISOROOT=%2FFHMedieval&CISOPTR=98400&REC=0&CISOBX=reuel*

34 http://www.familypursuit.com/genealogy/fitzwilliam_joan/joan-fitzwilliam-b.1158-1

35 BHOL <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=16082>

36 *Somerset Record Society* <http://www.archive.org/stream/somersetpub25someuoft#page/72/mode/2up/search/revell>

37 *Rotuli Curiae Regis* <http://books.google.co.uk/books?id=r2OGRqOzZbAC&printsec=frontcover#v=onepage&q=yalaria&f=false>

38 *Rotuli Curiae Regis* <http://contentdm.lib.byu.edu/cdm4/document.php?CISOROOT=/FHMedieval&CISOPTR=56955&REC=0>

Bruton in 1199,³⁹ Hertfordshire in 1200,⁴⁰ and Lincolnshire in 1202 and 1203.⁴¹ The eastern counties references are probably to William who married Agnes de Lodne — see [Part 11](#).

These records establish that this William of Warminster was born no later than 1170 and while it is perfectly possible that he was born appreciably earlier, say *ca* 1150, it seems unlikely that this William could have been born early enough to be father of **Richard Revell** and **Henry Revell** who were born *ca* 1150, and it seems much more likely that he was the son of Richard.

An ‘Assize of mort d’ancestor’ in the *Somersetshire Pleas* dated 1201 refers to a **William Revell** who holds one virgate at Hecombe (Hescombe, about 12 miles from Pitney and Wearne) and further property at ‘Chesfod’ held by ‘Ralph de Fontibus and Angodus de Marisco’, but notes that he is ‘overseas in the service of the king’.^{42,43} The location of ‘Chesfod’ is uncertain, but a record in the *Feet of Fines* probably refers to the same ‘Mort d’ancestor’ as being held at Taunton.⁴⁴ It is worth noting that it is most unlikely that these records refer to a William who was father of Sheriff Richard because that would require him to have been overseas on the king’s business aged over 75.

The second account of William son of Sheriff Richard is based on the ODNB. According to the ODNB, Richard junior’s brother, William, ‘obtained land in Devon on his marriage to the daughter and heir of William, son of Reginald, but is said to have died without known issue in 1208 or 1209’.⁴⁵ This statement appears to conflict with the account given by S.D. Church who refers to ‘**William de Revell father and son**’, see below.

Some of the references given in ODNB, in particular the *Cartae antiquae*, are not available electronically and it has not been possible to investigate this fully. The references listed in ODNB by Robert Bearman are as follows:

- H. E. Bates, ed., *Two cartularies of the Benedictine abbeys of Muchelney and Athelney in the county of Somerset*, Somerset RS, 14 (1899) ·
- *Pipe rolls* · L. Landon, ed., *The cartae antiquae: rolls 1–10, printed from the original in the custody of the master of the rolls*, PRSoc., 55, new ser., 17 (1939) ·
- H. C. M. Lyte and others, eds., *Liber feodorum: the book of fees*, 3 vols. (1920–31) ·
- H. Hall, ed., *The Red Book of the Exchequer*, 3 vols., Rolls Series, 99 (1896) · T. D. Hardy, ed., *Rotuli de oblatiis et finibus*, RC (1835) ·
- C. Roberts, ed., *Excerpta è rotulis finium in Turri Londinensi asservatis, Henrico Tertio rege, AD 1216–1272*, 2 vols., RC, 32 (1835–6) ·
- T. D. Hardy, ed., *Rotuli litterarum clausarum*, 2 vols., RC (1833–4) · *Curia regis rolls preserved in the Public Record Office* (1922–), vol. 3, pp. 129–30

Examination of the references that are available electronically has located in the ‘Red Book of the Exchequer’ references to ‘William son of Reginald’ spanning at least the period 1162 to 1210 (and possibly 1160 to 1212) with mention of Devon, Essex, Gloucestershire, Herefordshire, Somerset and Wiltshire. There is also a reference to someone of that name at Hilton in Huntingdonshire dated 1219,⁴⁶ but it is not certain that all these refer to the same individual. Of most interest is the ‘CARTA WILLELMI FILII REGINALD’ dated 1166 that reads

‘Ego Willelmus filius Reginaldi habeo de Rege in capite feodum unius militis de anno et die quo Rex Henricus avus domini Regis fuit vivus et mortuus ; et nullum habeo de novo feodamento. Walterus modo habet tenementum illud Nicholaus Avenel, scilicet, Scepewalle cum fiha et haerede preedicti Willelmi’ with an associated footnote

‘Sic in MS.; but the passage is evidently corrupt. The true version is evidently that given in L. N. as follows:—Valete. Modo habet feodum illud Nicolaus Avenel, scilicet, Schepeieaat cum filia et harede pradicti Willelmi; but the concluding sentence is in a later hand in L.N.’⁴⁷

These translate as ‘I William son of Reginald hold of the king in chief for a fief of one man at arms for a year and a day of king Henry who was living and is now dead, grandfather of the lord king; and no-one has made a new feoffment. Let it be known that Walter only holds this land as a tenant of Nicholas Avenel....’

The correction in the footnote replaces ‘Walterus modo...’ with ‘valete. Modo...’, and the translation becomes

39 *Rotuli Curiae Regis*

http://contentdm.lib.byu.edu/cdm4/document.php?CISOROOT=/FHMedieval&CISOPTR=56955&REC=0&CISOBX=revel*&CISOSH=56334

40 *Rotuli Curiae Regis*

http://contentdm.lib.byu.edu/cdm4/document.php?CISOROOT=/FHMedieval&CISOPTR=56955&REC=0&CISOBX=revel*&CISOSH=56334

41 *Rotuli Curiae Regis*

http://contentdm.lib.byu.edu/cdm4/document.php?CISOROOT=%2FFHMedieval&CISOPTR=59048&REC=0&CISOBX=revel*

42 *Somersetshire Pleas* <http://www.archive.org/stream/somersetshirepl01chadgoog#page/n94/mode/1up>

43 *Somersetshire Pleas* <http://www.archive.org/stream/somersetshirepl01chadgoog#page/n97/mode/1up>

44 *Feet of Fines* <http://www.archive.org/stream/pedesfiniumcomm02pleagoo#page/n44/mode/1up>

45 Oxford Dictionary of National Biography

46 *The place names of Cambridgeshire* <http://www.archive.org/stream/octavopublicato00turngoog#page/n259/mode/1up>

47 *Red Book of the Exchequer Volume 1*

<http://contentdm.lib.byu.edu/cdm4/document.php?CISOROOT=/FHMedieval&CISOPTR=49603&CISOSH=49021>

‘... and no-ne has made a new feoffment, let it prevail. In this way let it be known that the aforesaid Nicholas Avenel holds the fief [Sheepwash or Shipwash] along with the daughter and heir of the aforesaid William’. Sheepwash is some 9 miles from Great Torrington, in north Devon.

In the period 1210 to 1212 is a statement relating to Wiltshire ‘*Willelmus filius Reginaldi de Lulleworde*’,⁴⁸ that presumably refers to the same person.

To an extent, this confirms the account in the ODNB, but it does not identify *William Revell*’s wife or date of death. Further investigation suggests that ‘*William son of Reginald*’ is William de Ballon the son of Reginald, himself the son of Roger de Breteuil, Earl of Hereford.⁴⁹ Reginald married Emmeline de Ballon and took her name. Their son William is sometimes shown as William Fitz Reginald, and as the heir of his mother in 1166.⁵⁰ Records of the Nunnery at Godstow are consistent with this.⁵¹ Risdon states that ‘*Nicholas Avenel married a daughter of William Fitz Reginald, lord of Shepwas*’,⁵² but her name is not recorded. Nor is it clear which Nicholas Avenel is referred to here — it is not necessarily the person referred to in the first account, above.

If ODNB is correct, then the *William Revell* of the second account married a daughter of William de Ballon / William Fitz Reginald who must have been born before 1146.

Church in ‘*Household Knights of King John*’ refers to ‘*William de Revell father and son*’ as receiving grants of royal demesne with regard to manors of Pitney and Wearne in Somerset,^{53,54} and cites sources in the *Liberate Rolls* and the *Close Rolls* (*Rot. Lib.*, p. 35; *Rot. Litt. Claus.*, i. 296b). The *Liberate Roll* is dated 1203 and clearly records a *William Revell* as paying tax for land held at Pitney and Wearne,⁵⁵ but unfortunately, that particular Close Roll is not available electronically, thus suggesting the later reference is to some date before 1227. The identity of the son is uncertain, but might be the *William Revell* of Woolhampton, Berkshire, who married Hadwisa — see [Part 10](#).

It is possible that William the son of Sheriff Richard married twice. It is also possible that William who married a Fitz Reginald and William who married a Fitz William are the father and son Household knights of Church, but which is the father and which the son, and who married Hilary and who Hadwisa, is far from clear. Indeed there might have been two *William Revells* who were not so closely related

Cecil M. Humphery-Smith states (page 76) that William son of Sheriff Richard held land in Berkshire in the mid 13th century,⁵⁶ but on the basis of both date and location it seems more likely that this is *William Revell*, the son of William, and probably husband of Hadwisa — see [Part 10](#). An otherwise unknown *William Ryvell* of Hampshire is recorded by Capua as holding his own court in the second half of the 13th century.⁵⁷

The two Richards (father and son)

It is not easy always to distinguish which Richard some of the old records refer to, and as many accounts refer to both, it is simpler to discuss them together. Supposedly authoritative accounts frequently have significant differences. Some of the confusion probably arises from the use of the descriptors ‘*senior / elder*’ and ‘*junior / younger*’ when it is quite possible that there were *Richard Revells* in three consecutive generations.

The ‘*Dictionary of National Biography*’ records,⁵⁸ that *Richard Revel* was an administrator of unknown parentage who died in 1213, and who was first recorded in 1166. Richard’s administrative duties included custody of Carmarthen Castle (1190 / 91) and being Sheriff of Devon and Cornwall at least in the period from Christmas 1193 to Michaelmas 1194.⁵⁹ In addition to holding land at Downhead in Somerset,⁶⁰ he was granted the manors of Langport and Curry Rivell by Richard I *ca* 1190 and the manor of Horncastle in Lincolnshire from *ca* 1193. With reference to the latter, it is recorded during the period 1196 to 1199 ‘... *letter of Bishop Hugh to the effect that on the presentation of Richard Revell with the consent of king Richard he has admitted*

48 *Red Book of the Exchequer Volume 2*

<http://contentdm.lib.byu.edu/cdm4/document.php?CISOROOT=/FHMedieval&CISOPTR=52814&CISOSHOW=52322>

49 <http://www.wikiwak.com/texis/wcolz/viewcache.html?q=ralph+butler+lord+sudeley&h=b44c2f13ca6c7b2ccc2875a87c06416a>

50 *Arithmetic for Young Children* <http://www.archive.org/stream/studiesinpeerag01roungoog#page/n279/mode/1up/search/ballon>

51 *The English Register of Godstow Nunnery* <http://www.archive.org/stream/englishregist12900godsuoft#page/630/mode/2up/search/reginald>

52 *The Notebook of Tristram Risdon* <http://www.archive.org/stream/notebookoftristr00risdrich#page/148/mode/2up>

53 ‘*The Household Knights of King John*’ by S.D. Church. Page 91

54 The Rewards of Royal Service in the Household of King John: A Dissenting Opinion S.D Church *English Historical Review* 1995, **110**, 277–302

55 *Liberate Rolls* <http://www.archive.org/stream/rotulideliberat00commgoog#page/n59/mode/1up>

56 ‘*Hugh Revel: Master of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem 1258-1277*’ by Cecil R. Humphery-Smith 1994.

http://books.google.co.uk/books?id=wlsaAAAYAAJ&dq=intitle:Hugh+intitle:revel&lr=&as_drrb_is=q&as_minm_is=0&as_miny_is=&as_maxm_is=0&as_maxy_is=&as_brr=0&pgis=1

57 Feudal and Royal Justice in Thirteenth-Century England: The Forms and the Impact of Royal Review Capua, J.V. *The American Journal of Legal History*, 1983, **27**, 54–84

58 ‘*Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*’

59 <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~bathonia/SheriffsDevon.htm>

60 *The particular history of the County of Somerset* <http://www.archive.org/stream/particulardescri00gerarich#page/198/mode/2up/search/rivel>

*Osbert de Bisshoppesduna, clerk, to the chapelry of Horncastle ...*⁶¹ Strangely, the various histories of the Manor of Horncastle in Lincolnshire make no reference to the Revells.

Much of this was lost when King John came to the throne (1199) but at some stage (variously recorded as 1200 or 1210) he or his son Richard went to Carrickfergus, Kilkenny and Dublin with King John's army. A **Richard Revell** is clearly recorded on the king's service in 1210 at Kilkenny,⁶² at Carrickfergus,⁶³ and at Dublin.⁶⁴ Interestingly Walter de Esseleg and Everard de Trumpington are recorded with Richard at Carrickfergus, and there is an obscure reference to a **Walter Revell** and a Johannes Marescall in 1210, Johannes apparently having repaid to the Exchequer an imprest of 3 marks, with payment made at Nottingham.⁶⁵ This John Marescall (Marshall) is possibly the father of William Marescall (1214–1264) who married Petronilla d'Ortiaco, daughter of **Sabine Revell**, and granddaughter of **Sheriff Richard Revell**.⁶⁶ **De Revell**, along with St John and le White, were names recorded in Newcastle parish, Dublin, after the 12th century invasion.⁶⁷ The parish of Newcastle in Dublin was in the custody of a **Peter de Revell** in 1232,^{68, 69} but the connection, if any, is not known.

An interesting but somewhat obscure reference to **Richard Revell**, probably the elder, is dated 1201, '*Reginald le Teinus accused of the receipt and fellowship of Robert the outlaw comes and defends. The jurors say that they suspect him, and the four neighbouring townships say that they suspect him of it. So let him purge himself by water under the Assize. And there must be inquiry as to Richard Revel, who was sheriff when the said Robert escaped from his custody*'.⁷⁰ The escape mentioned presumably occurred prior to 1199 while Richard was Sheriff.

Sheriff Richard married Mabel (Mabilla), sister and heir of Walter de Esseleg (probably Ashley on the Gloucestershire–Wiltshire border), but some accounts have '*Richard Revell, senior*' as her father-in-law.⁷¹ Sheriff Richard had at least two sons, Richard his heir and William, and a daughter Sabine (Sabina). In the '*Cartulary of the Abbey of Muchelney*'⁷² **Richard Revell senior** is referred to explicitly as late as 1211 and his son **Richard Revell junior** is explicitly referred to from 1204. A Charter dated within the period 1198 to 1222 lists witnesses including **Richard Ryvel, senior**, **William Ryvel**, and **Richard Ryvel, junior**. William is possibly Richard junior's brother who had dealings in Warminster, Wiltshire, in 1189.^{73, 74}

Richard Revel, senior, was succeeded at Langport by his son Richard in 1212⁷⁵ and he had died by 1213.⁷⁶ On March 31st 1215 is recorded '*his translation and burial at Muchelney*'.⁷⁷ A **Ricardo Rynel de Buckeby**, witness to a charter of Daventry Priory (Northamptonshire) in 1216, is possibly **Richard Revell, junior** and Henry's nephew— see [Part 1](#).⁷⁸

It is not certain whether Richard or William was the younger son. Some records have Richard junior born *ca* 1202, but this seems unlikely in view of his father's probable date of birth (*ca* 1146 if he was holding land in 1166). A birth in 1202, if indeed it did occur, might correspond to a third consecutive Richard, possibly the Richard of Totnes who married Joanna, extant at least in the period 1225 to 1230. This is plausible, especially as William, father, grandfather, and potentially great grandfather, of these three Richards, is described in some accounts as of Benlegh or Beulegh, i.e. Beenleigh near Totnes.

Gladwyn M. Revell Turbutt states that Richard and Walter, sons of Richard the Sheriff, accompanied King John to Ireland *ca* 1200,⁷⁹ which if correct would have these two born not later than *ca* 1180 and possibly earlier. Whether this Walter is a third son, or whether he is William, is not clear. It is similarly unclear whether he might be the Walter Revell who in the 1190s was associated with Hugh Revell of Puxley (see Part 1) and who was reported in Yorkshire (see Part 5).⁸⁰ There can be no doubt that at least one Walter Revell was active in this period, for example, witnessing two conveyances by William de Beaumont the third

61 *Lincoln Record Society* <http://www.archive.org/stream/publicationslinc28lincuoft#page/272/mode/2up/search/revel>

62 *Liberate Rolls* <http://www.archive.org/stream/rotulideliberat00commgoog#page/n204/mode/1up/search/revel>

63 *Liberate Rolls* <http://www.archive.org/stream/rotulideliberat00commgoog#page/n227/mode/1up>

64 *Liberate Rolls* <http://www.archive.org/stream/rotulideliberat00commgoog#page/n244/mode/1up>

65 *Liberate Rolls* <http://www.archive.org/stream/rotulideliberat00commgoog#page/n257/mode/1up>

66 <http://wc.rootsweb.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/igm.cgi?op=DESC&db=bruesch639&id=I34760>

67 '*The families of County Dublin, Ireland*' By Michael C. O'Laughlin, Irish Genealogical Foundation

<http://books.google.co.uk/books?id=wOaDFYPvE8UC&pg=PA121&lpg=PA121&dq=newcastle+parish+dublin&source=bl&ots=aN6TTgBa36&sig=Qw>

68 *A history of the County of Dublin* <http://www.archive.org/stream/ahistorycounty00ballgoog#page/n148/mode/1up/search/revel>

69 <http://www.chaptersofdublin.com/books/ball1-6/Ball3/ball3.10.htm>

70 <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/seth/pleas-cornish.html>

71 <http://www.archive.org/stream/proceedingsvolu03sociqoog#page/n89/mode/1up/search/revel>

72 Two cartularies of the Benedictine abbeys of Muchelney and Athelney in the county of Somerset

http://www.archive.org/stream/twocartulariesof00mulcrich/twocartulariesof00mulcrich_djvu.txt

73 *A History of the County of Wiltshire: Volume 8* <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=16088>

74 Courtesy Alastair Revell.

75 *A History of the County of Somerset: Volume 3* <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=66484>

76 Two cartularies of the Benedictine abbeys of Muchelney and Athelney in the county of Somerset

http://www.archive.org/stream/twocartulariesof00mulcrich/twocartulariesof00mulcrich_djvu.txt

77 Two cartularies of the Benedictine abbeys of Muchelney and Athelney in the county of Somerset

http://www.archive.org/stream/twocartulariesof00mulcrich/twocartulariesof00mulcrich_djvu.txt

78 *Cartulary of Daventry Priory*, ed. M.J. Franklin, Northampton, 1988

http://scriptor.deeds.utoronto.ca:7777/d_mech/doc/d_traindoc.jsp?dnum=00220589

79 <http://www.rotherhamweb.co.uk/revill/gmrturbutt.htm>

80 '*Rotuli Curiae Regis*' http://books.google.co.uk/books?id=r2OGRgOzZbAC&pg=PA60&dq=Walteri++Reuel&lr=&as_brr=3

Earl of Warwick, dated to the period 1153 to 1184,⁸¹ and along with his brother Robert named in the Pipe Rolls for Huntingdonshire and Cambridgeshire in 1175.⁸²

The foregoing does not agree fully with the account in the *'Dictionary of National Biography'*, which states *'Richard the younger, who is recorded in 1204 as quarrelling with the sheriff of Somerset, forfeited his lands during the political crisis of 1215, but was reinstated on his making peace with the government of Henry III in July 1217. He married Mabel, sister and heir of Walter of Ashley, lord of Stoke Trister, Somerset, and died in 1222, leaving as heir his daughter, Sabina, married to Henry de l'Orty'*. This book is usually reliable, but the contributor seems to have confused the two Richards. There seems little doubt that Richard senior married Mabel and was dead by 1213, and it must be Richard junior (or his mother Mabel) to whom the lands were reinstated. It is Richard junior who is recorded as dying in 1222, and that event, perhaps compounded by the complications inherent with the confiscation and reinstatement of his property, precipitated an investigation of land held by him.⁸³

This confusion is repeated by Cecil M. Humphrey-Smith who says on page 66 *'..Richard Revel the elder was dead by 27 June 1213...'*, but on page 75 says of Richard the elder *'Dying in 1222,...'*⁸⁴

This dispute with the Sheriff in 1204, recorded in the *Curia Regis Rolls*,⁸⁵ has received considerable attention, for example, it is said that he informed the Sheriff at the Somerset County Court that *'he and his mail kin were natives and gentle men (naturales homines et gentiles) within their locality (patria)'*.^{86,87} A more detailed account is given by Robert Bartlett in *'England Under the Norman and Angevin Kings, 1075–1225'*, as follows

*'A lively dispute in the county court of Somerset, in the very year that the men of Cornwall made their offer to have a local sheriff, reveals the hostile feelings that a sheriff from outside the county could arouse. Richard Revell had ejected William Dacus from his holding in the county and William had brought a suit against him. At a meeting of the county court William had produced letters from the royal justices awarding him 60 marks damages and commanding the sheriff to ensure they were paid. At this Richard Revell's son, Richard Revell junior, protested that 'he and his father and brothers were native and well-born men of the county'. The sheriff, Alan of Whitton, replied reasonably enough, that he knew that, but this should not stop him carrying out the orders of the royal judges. Richard answered that 'they were native and well-born men of the county'—the dull inflexibility of his thinking seems to have matched the violence of his father. The sheriff again repeated this point, whereupon Richard was driven to elaborate his arguments with insult: 'they were indeed native and well-born men of the county but he was a carpetbagger [adventicius]. Alan admitted he was from another county, but perhaps, he said, as native and well-born in his county as Richard was in his. This slanging match eventually came to the attention of the king's central court and an inquiry was ordered. It brings out very vividly both the strength and parochialism of county sentiment.'*⁸⁸

This account could be read as if Richard Revell were calling the sheriff a 'newcomer' when in fact it seems more likely that this was aimed at William Danus, i.e. William the Dane, (not Dacus as transcribed here), although the outcome seems to be the same as the sheriff decided in favour of William.

A somewhat different account is given by J.C. Holt.⁸⁹ *'A certain William Dacus had produced in the shire court a writ ordering Alan the sheriff to see that he received 60 m. damages which he had suffered as a result of disseisin by Richard Revel. Richard Revel the younger was in court and, on hearing this, he asked the sheriff to deal justly with his father, his brother and himself for they were native born and local gentry. The sheriff replied that he was well aware of this but that he was bound to execute the writ. Richard repeated his statement and received the same reply. Richard again asserted that he and his family were native born and local gentry and added that the sheriff was a newcomer. The sheriff admitted that he came from other parts where perhaps, he added, he also might be considered as local gentry. Tempers must now have been roused for the rest of the story runs as follows. One of the sheriff's sergeants tried to execute a royal writ for the arrest of a clerk who was present in court. Richard prevented him, saying that the clerk ought not to be imprisoned without judgement, and the sheriff himself had to arrest the clerk. William Revel here intervened to pacify his brother and to ask that the clerk should be released on pledges. The sheriff, for good measure, now tried to arrest both Richard and William. William retorted that he saw no royal order for his arrest and asked the court whether he ought to be imprisoned without such an order. He added that he had been in prison before for the king's sake and would go there again on his behalf whenever he desired. The interest of this case lies not only in its illustration of the deep-rooted prejudices of the local knight against the outsider, prejudices of special significance when related*

81 Warwickshire's Past Unlocked CR0026/1/1/1 and CR0026/1/1/38

<http://archivesunlocked.warwickshire.gov.uk/dserve.exe?dsqIni=Dserve.ini&dsqApp=Archive&dsqCmd=Show.tcl&dsqDb=Catalog&dsqPos=9&dsqSearch=%28%28text%29=%27revel%27%29>

82 Pipe Rolls p74 <http://contentdm.lib.byu.edu/cdm4/document.php?CISOROOT=/FHMedieval2&CISOPTR=157621&CISOSHOW=157338>

83 6/266 (17 August 1222) http://www.frh3.org.uk/cocoon/frh3/content/search/do_simple_search

84 'Hugh Revel: Master of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem 1258-1277' by Cecil R. Humphrey-Smith 1994.

http://books.google.co.uk/books?id=wlsaAAAAYAAJ&dq=intitle:Hugh+intitle:revel&lr=&as_drbb_is=q&as_minm_is=0&as_miny_is=&as_maxm_is=0&as_maxy_is=&as_brr=0&pgis=1

85 Curia Regis Rolls <http://contentdm.lib.byu.edu/cdm4/document.php?CISOROOT=/FHMedieval&CISOPTR=58576&CISOSHOW=58087>

86 'The Origins of the English Gentry' by Peter R. Cass, Cambridge University Press 2003. http://books.google.co.uk/books?id=IWLHPu-R_RgC&printsec=frontcover&dq=%22The+Origins+of+the+English+Gentry%22&as_brr=3&client=firefox-a#PPA4.M1

87 'Magna carta' By James Clarke Holt

http://books.google.co.uk/books?lr=&as_brr=0&id=GzQLAQAAIAAJ&dq=sheriff+somerset+%22richard+revel%22&q=richard#search_anchor

88 'England Under the Norman and Angevin Kings, 1075-1225' By Robert Bartlett

http://books.google.co.uk/books?id=0RNq8ZqdxlUC&pg=RA1-PA154&dq=sheriff+somerset+%22richard+revel%22&lr=&as_brr=0

89 J.C. Holt 'The English Historical Review', 1955, 70, 1–24 'The Barons and the Great Charter' <http://www.jstor.org/stable/556898>

to the demands of 1215, but also in the skill with which Richard Revel and his brother played their hand, first whipping up the emotions of their audience, then stating that imprisonment should only follow a judgement and denying the sheriff's right to arrest without a royal writ, then appealing to the opinion of their fellows in the court and concluding with a little sarcasm at the expense of the king himself.. This account makes it clear that the protagonist Richard Revell had a brother William, and this also lends support to it being Richard the younger.

In 1215 Richard junior is mentioned in connection with property in Fife confirmed by King Alexander II of Scotland as belonging to his Uncle Henry of Swinford in Leicestershire, as discussed in [Part 1](#). At about the same date a **Willielmi Revel** is a witness to a grant relating to property in Dundee, presumably Richard's brother. Stringer concludes that '*The best suggestion as to his origins is that he was identical with William son of Richard Revell of Langport and Cury Rivel (Somerset), whose Uncle Henry and elder brothers Richard II and Adam, were successive lords of Coultra from the 1170s*'.⁹⁰

There is a reference also to Henry's nephew **Adam de Stawell** but there is no evidence that he is a nephew in the strict sense of the word, and therefore the precise relationship of Henry to Richard might not be uncle and nephew. In 1225 Adam inherited Richard's Scottish property and sold to Ermengarde, widow of William I of Scotland and mother of Alexander II. In the original Latin document Adam and Richard are described as follows, '*...quas etiam Adam de Stawell, frater, et haeres Richardi Revell nobis ad opus dominae Ermengardis reginae*' but at that date '*frater*' might mean '*cousin*' and that may mean merely a '*kinsman*'.

Sabina, daughter of Sheriff Richard and Mabel

Sabina, the daughter of Richard senior and Mabel, married Henry de l'Orti (Henry d'Ortiaco) before 1222.⁹⁶ A document exists describing discussions at Ivelcestre in 1227 involving Henry and Sabina with Mabel regarding Mabel's dower.⁹⁷

In 1246 there is a document in old Latin that refers to Mabel and her brother, as follows '*Walter' de Eshelagh tenuit "vij car" terr' in com' Som'set, et valent cu' redd' et oibus rebus p ann' xixl'. xvs. ob. p servic' duoa feod' [de Mortoyne]. Et qd Mabilla Reuel, soror dicti Walteri, est heres ejus ppinquior, et est etatis lx anno?. Som. 19*'.⁹⁸ In 1247 Mabel is recorded as holding the Manor of Charlton, Gloucestershire.⁹⁹ Another, dated 1254 states '*Mabilla Ryvell tenuit de D. 11. in C. M». de Stokes, Swelle, et Perret p servic' feodi un? militis de pvo feodo Mor- tano*' but the old Latin is difficult to translate. What appears to be the same document is listed in the National Archives but dated 1252, and is described as a Chancery Inquisition *post mortem*, as follows '*Mabel Revel alias Rivel: Somerset; Stoke manor, Swell manor, Perrot manor, Swell*'.¹⁰⁰ Mabel, wife of Richard senior, named Sabine d'Ortiaco, '*aged 40 and more*' as her heir.¹⁰¹ Sabina who died in 1254 is considered the last of the Revells at Curry Rivel.¹⁰²

It is claimed in some accounts, for example, in the *Dictionary of National Biography*, that the direct line from William through Sheriff Richard died out as his daughter Sabina who married de l'Orti inherited his estate. However, there are later records in the period 1225 to 1230 with regard to a grant of curtilage to a **Richard Rivel** and wife Johanna in connection with Totnes Priory,¹⁰³ and in 1250 a **Richard Rivel** is named in a quitclaim.¹⁰⁴ In the late 13th century a **Richard Rivel** mentioned in connection with land at Membury and Buckland Brewer.¹⁰⁵ The surname reappears in the early 15th century through to the early 16th century as summarised below, but the connections are obscure.

90 'Earl David of Huntingdon, 1152-1219: a study in Anglo-Scottish history' By Keith John Stringer http://books.google.co.uk/books?lr=&cd=1&as_brr=0&as_drrb_is=q&as_minm_is=0&as_miny_is=&as_maxm_is=0&as_maxy_is=&id=kvYgAA_AAMAAJ&dq=intitle%3A%22Study+in+Anglo-Scottish+History%22&q=revel#search_anchor

91 'The household knights of King John' By S. D. Church http://books.google.co.uk/books?id=cfxvovpQJeAC&pg=PA118&pg=PA118&dq=%22adam+de+stawell%22&source=bl&ots=SiTgK0ckkU&sig=I0KPi3njK0Oz5eMFPwFrb7m3BE&hl=en&ei=RG71SeS_Bo7KjAfAxtnZDA&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result&resnum=2

92 *Liber Rubeus* <http://contentdm.lib.byu.edu/cdm4/document.php?CISOROOT=%22FFHMedieval&CISOPTR=52814&REC=0&CISOBX=stawell>

93 <http://www.wainwrightfamily.org/earlystawell.htm>

94 'Hugh Revel: Master of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem 1258-1277' by Cecil R. Humphrey-Smith 1994.

http://books.google.co.uk/books?id=wlsaAAAAAAAJ&dq=intitle:Hugh+intitle:revel&r=&as_drrb_is=q&as_minm_is=0&as_miny_is=&as_maxm_is=0&as_maxy_is=&as_brr=0&pgis=1

95 *The Stowill Genealogy* <http://www.archive.org/stream/stowellgenealogy00stow#page/n19/mode/2up/search/adam>

96 Dictionary of national biography http://www.archive.org/stream/dictionaryofnati48stepuoft/dictionaryofnati48stepuoft_djvu.txt

97 Somerset Feet of Fines http://www.archive.org/stream/somersetpub06someuoft/somersetpub06someuoft_djvu.txt

98 'Collectanea Topographica et Genealogica' edited by Frederic Madden, Bulkeley Bandinel, John Gough Nichols

http://books.google.co.uk/books?id=Js0KAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA30&dq=Robert+de+Bosco&lr=&as_brr=3

99 *Norman Rolls* <http://books.google.com/books?id=KnbRAAAAMAAJ&q=reuel#v=onepage&q=revel&f=false>

100 C 132/13/12 <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/catalogue/displaycataloguedetails.asp?CATID=-5130294&CATLN=7&accessmethod=5&j=1>

101 <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=108009>

102 Proceedings of the Somersetshire Archaeological and Natural History

http://www.archive.org/stream/proceedings61someuoft/proceedings61someuoft_djvu.txt

103 312M/TY146 and 147 <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/A2A/records.aspx?cat=027-312m&cid=1-2-9&kw=wiltshire%20devon%20somerset%20cornwall%20richard%20rivel#1-2-9>

104 T/466 http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/A2A/records.aspx?cat=021-t_1&cid=1-1-30-34&kw=revel%20revell%20revyll%20revyl%20rivel%20rivell%20cornwall#1-1-30-34

105 Z16/1/1/1a-b <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/A2A/records.aspx?cat=027-z16&cid=1&kw=wiltshire%20devon%20somerset%20cornwall%20richard%20rivel#1>

Robert Revell of Somerset

In 1201 there is in *Somersetshire Pleas* a reference to an obscure **Robert Revell** and land at 'Dychenestone'.¹⁰⁶ This might be an otherwise unknown son of Richard. The only well-documented candidates known otherwise are the Robert who married Cecelia and resident in Chester or Robert of Swinford son of Henry (see [Table 1b](#) and [Part 1](#)). Humphery-Smith asserts that that Robert of Swinford held land at Clyst (Devon) in the mid-13th century but provides no evidence to support it. The location of *Dychenestone* has not been identified, but might be Duddlestone two miles from Taunton. The *Liber Feodorum* has a **Robert Revell** holding land at Clist Ewelme in 1242 / 3 but his origins are not stated,¹⁰⁷ and as discussed in [Part 1](#) there are two other plausible candidates, a **Robert Revell** of Crendon who married Alice, and a **Robert Revell** associated with Tiffield. Courtesy of Debra Revell, *Devon Feet of Fines* contains a record dated November 25th 1256, as follows, '...Between Thomas de Boley, plaintiff and Robert Rynel, tenant as to 1 ferling of land in Clystewlyne (Clyst William in Plymtree) ** Robert acknowledged the land to be the right of Thomas For this Thomas granted to Robert the said land to have and to hold to Robert during his life of Thomas and his heirs...'.¹⁰⁸ Plymtree is about 20 miles west of Taunton.

Radulphus Revell of Somerset

The *Rotuli de oblatiis et finibus* have an entry for Somerset that refers to a **Rad Revel** dated 1205.¹⁰⁹

Later Reynells in Somerset

In 1428 *Inquisitions relating to Feudal Aids* record a **Walter Reynell** as holding land in Somerset at Thurlbere,¹¹⁰ and Boterlegh (Botleigh).¹¹¹

In 1451, a 'Maister Robert Raynell' is the parson of West Codford (Wiltshire) but only some seven miles from Warminster (Somerset).¹¹² There is a record of a **John Raynell** marrying a Cristina Gascoigne, who by a deed dated 1466 granted property at North Newton (some six miles from Wearne) to Wells cathedral.¹¹³

Somerset Record Office, courtesy of Debra Revell, has a document dated November 15th 1458 that states 'To pay 1d a year in recompence because Thomas Clode, late husband of Emota, by negligence erected a certain wall upon the soil of William Sanford in William's tenement in which **Thomas Reynell** then dwelt in Milverton in Northstrete opposite the rectory garden there, the tenement of Robert and Emota in the same street on the east [altered from west, to the damage of William]'.¹¹⁴ It is probably the same **Thomas Reynell** who in 1455 witnessed a quitclaim at Winsford, Somerset.¹¹⁵ Milverton is midway between Taunton and Winsford, some 16 miles from each. In 1486 a **William Renell** is mentioned in connection with property at Winsford and Bradle (Bradleigh) that is to be the dower of his wife Crityans.¹¹⁶

The Revells of Revelstoke

It has been suggested that the place name 'Revelstoke' arose because of the Revell family association with it. However, an alternative origin has been proposed.

Surprisingly, with the exception of an account by Pole, summarised below, it has not been possible to locate any records that connect the Revells to Revelstoke or its immediate vicinity prior to the early 15th century, when in 1428 there is a reference to a **Thomas Revell** in connection with land at Idmerston and Ludbrok.¹¹⁷ The manor of Ludbrok is near Ugborough, some 10 miles from Revelstoke. In the period 1456 to 1460 there are references to a **William Ryvel** of Stolyford (near Modbury some 8 miles from Revelstoke),^{118, 119} this also mentioning the Hill family, who might be the Hill family mentioned in Pole's pedigree, below.

Sir William Pole in 'Collections towards a Description of the County of Devon' refers to 'Revelstoke, in Holbeton, as the dwelling place of **Richard de Revell**, son of Walter de Benlegh (Beulegh), who had issue; **John Revell**, who had issue; Walter, who had issue; William, who had issue; Walter, who by Joane, daughter of Robert Legh, had issue; **William Revell**, who by Isabel had issue; Jane, wife of Robert Hurst; Mabill, wife of William Hill, of Penquit (Ivybridge, Devon) ; Alis, wife of William

106 Somersetshire Pleas <http://www.archive.org/stream/somersetshirepl01chadgoog#page/n505/mode/1up>

107 Liber feodorum <http://contentdm.lib.byu.edu/cdm4/document.php?CISOROOT=/FHMedieval2&CISOPTR=30442&CISOSHOW=29585>

108 Devon Feet of Fines

109 Rotuli de oblatiis et finibus <http://www.archive.org/stream/rotulideoblatse00johngoog#page/n339/mode/1up/search/revel>

110 Inquisitions relating to Feudal Aids <http://www.archive.org/stream/inquisitionsasse01grea#page/236/mode/2up/search/reynel>

111 Inquisitions relating to Feudal Aids <http://www.archive.org/stream/inquisitionsasse01grea#page/476/mode/2up/search/reynel>

112 The Tropenell Cartulary Volume 1 <http://www.archive.org/stream/tropenellcartul00davigoog#page/n164/mode/1up>

113 The Architectural Antiquities of the City of Wells <http://www.ebooksread.com/authors-eng/john-henry-parker/the-architectural-antiquities-of-the-city-of-wells-ala/page-6-the-architectural-antiquities-of-the-city-of-wells-ala.shtml>

114 Somerset Record Office [DD\SF/2/39/25](http://www.somerset.gov.uk/recordoffice/DD/SF/2/39/25)

115 Somerset Record Office [DD\SF/2/62/4](http://www.somerset.gov.uk/recordoffice/DD/SF/2/62/4)

116 3704M/EL2/12 <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/A2A/records.aspx?cat=821-3704m&cid=2-2-10&kw=renel#2-2-10>

117 Feudal Aids Volume 1

118 C 1/26/218 <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/catalogue/displaycataloguedetails.asp?CATID=-2408673&CATLN=7&Highlight=%2CWILLIAM%2CRYVEL&accessmethod=0>

119 C 1/26/555 <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/catalogue/displaycataloguedetails.asp?CATID=-2408958&CATLN=7&Highlight=%2CWILLIAM%2CRYVEL&accessmethod=0>

Fountayn the younger. William had Legh Durant, Revelstoke, and Northland-broke, and Stoliferd, in the same parish, which descended to his three daughters'.¹²⁰

In 1464 a Robert Reynell is a witness to an 'inspeximus and ratification by William Champerton' of a document originally dated 1302 relating to property at Great Modbury.¹²¹

The Revells of Totnes and Oghwell

There is a moderate number of documents referring to the Revells of Totnes and East and West Oghwell (some seven miles north-east), from at least 1230, but it has not been possible to connect these Revells to each other or to the Revells of Somerset. These are summarised below in chronological order. It should be noted, however, that the unreferenced accounts by Pole and Risdon refer to a **Walter Reynell** of Benlegh (Beulegh) that is probably Beenleigh, five miles south-west of Totnes. The name 'de Benlegh' is well documented in the area, for example Willelmus de Benlegh is recorded in *Feudal Aids* in the period 1284 to 1286,¹²² and 1303.¹²³

Richard Rivel and Johanna his wife are named at Totnes in a charter in 1225,¹²⁴ and there is a 1230 grant of curtilage to a **Richard Rivel** and his wife Johanna in connection with Totnes Priory.¹²⁵ In 1289 a **Johanis Rivel** witnessed two charters concerning a grant at Kingswear.¹²⁶ This might be the **John (Johannis) Revel** who ca 1305 is named in two documents relating to the Priory of Modbury.¹²⁷

There is then a gap until 1377 when a **Walter Ryvell** and Agnes his wife are named as deforcians in connection with 'I messuage and I ferling of land in Lamsyde',¹²⁸ i.e. at Lambside, Totnes. A **Walter Reynel** is recorded at Totnes on November 5th 1405, and in 1406,¹²⁹ and on April 10th 1416 a '**Walter Reynell, Walter Reynell his son and Christina his wife**' are mentioned in connection with a deed of gift referring to the Manor of East Oghwell.¹³⁰ In 1419 a **Walter Reynell** of East Oghwell is recorded as the patron of the new rector,¹³¹ in 1423 a **Walter Raynel** is a witness to a deed of gift made by John Copplestone that refers to land at various places in Devon and Cornwall, including Berry Pomeroy some two miles from Totnes,¹³² and in 1428 *Inquisitions relating to Feudal Aids* record a **Walter Reynell** as holding land at 'Estwoggewelle'.¹³³ Tentatively, these records can be integrated as **Walter Reynell** marrying Agnes de Lamsyde, and their son Walter marrying Christina, but these individuals do not obviously feature in any of the pedigrees that are widely disseminated.¹³⁴

However, Pole states that Walter son of Walter and Joan had two wives, first Christian and second Jone, daughter of William Wolrand.¹³⁵ Either the birth of Johanna Walrond or her marriage to **Walter Reynell** is shown in Pole's pedigree as 1434. If this is a birth date, and if her husband was born at much the same time, then this interpretation fits quite well, because this Walter's father was born around the end of the 14th century, and his grandparents are associated with Devon by 1415 (if not earlier) and extant 1423.

A **Willelmus Ryvell** held land in Kingswear prior to 1433,¹³⁶ and a **Johannes Reynell**, tanner, is listed at Totnes in 1475,¹³⁷ and 1477.¹³⁸

120 'Collections towards a Description of the County of Devon' by Sir William Pole http://books.google.com/books?id=WF4OAAAQAAJ&pg=PA309&dq=John+Revell&lr=&as_brr=3&cd=18#v=onepage&q=John%20Revell&f=false

121 GB1472 ECR Eton College Records http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/nra/online/GB1472%20ECR_1.pdf

122 *Feudal Aids* <http://www.archive.org/stream/inquisitionsasse01grea#page/324/mode/2up/search/benlegh>

123 *Feudal Aids* <http://www.archive.org/stream/inquisitionsasse01grea#page/350/mode/2up/search/benlegh>

124 *The history of Totnes Priory* <http://www.archive.org/stream/cu31924091781322#page/n147/mode/2up/search/rivel>

125 312M/TY146 and 147 <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/A2A/records.aspx?cat=027-312m&cid=1-2-9&kw=wiltshire%20devon%20somerset%20cornwall%20richard%20rivel#1-2-9>

126 *The history of Totnes Priory* <http://www.archive.org/stream/cu31924091781322#page/n207/mode/2up/search/rivel>

127 GB1472 ECR Eton College Records page 69 http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/nra/online/GB1472%20ECR_1.pdf

128 CP 25/1/44/61, number 424 http://www.medievalgenealogy.org.uk/fines/abstracts/CP_25_1_44_61.shtml

129 *The History of Totnes Priory* <http://www.archive.org/stream/cu31924091781322#page/n323/mode/2up/search/reynel>

130 4625M-0/T/11/4 <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/A2A/records.aspx?cat=027-4625m0&cid=1-11-3&kw=walter%20reynell#1-11-3>

131 *The register of Edmund Stafford* <http://www.archive.org/stream/registerofedmund00cathuoft#page/164/mode/2up/search/reynel>

132 3799M-0/ET/2/46 <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/a2a/records.aspx?cat=027-3799m0&cid=1-#-1>

133 *Inquisitions relating to Feudal Aids* <http://www.archive.org/stream/inquisitionsasse01grea#page/484/mode/2up/search/reynel>

134 *Visitation of Devon in 1620* <http://www.archive.org/stream/visitationcount02camdgoog#page/n10/mode/1up>

135 *Collections towards a description of the County of Devon*

http://books.google.co.uk/books?id=WF4OAAAQAAJ&pg=PA318&pg=PA318&dq=%22walter+reynell%22&source=bl&ots=IPdwKaiSw9&sig=EY93vZ8wPc1GZJQg_rez0gqgrl&hl=en&ei=sPI1TNv9CYfw0gSYndjnAw&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result&resnum=5&ved=0CCIQ6AEwBDQe#v=onepage&q=%22%20reynell%22&f=false

136 *The history of Totnes Priory* <http://www.archive.org/stream/cu31924091781322#page/n381/mode/2up/search/ryvel>

137 *The history of Totnes Priory* <http://www.archive.org/stream/cu31924091781322#page/n493/mode/2up/search/reynel>

138 *The history of Totnes Priory* <http://www.archive.org/stream/cu31924091781322#page/n497/mode/2up/search/reynel>

The return of the Cambridgeshire Reynells to Malston

Malston is near Kingsbridge at the south-western end of the ancient South Hams, some 20 miles from East Ogwell.

The Cambridgeshire Reynells are more extensively dealt with in [Part 11](#), but a summary is presented here. **Walter Reynell** the husband of Joan is unequivocally referred to as late as 1422 / 3,¹³⁹ and their son Walter is referred to in the same document so as to suggest that he was of age. The date of Walter and Joan's marriage is not precisely recorded but is thought to be just before 1400 after the death of her first husband whom she married about 1393. If this is correct then their son Walter was probably born about the turn of the century and this is consistent with his being of age in 1422 / 3 and the death of a **Walter Reynell** in 1475 / 6.

Walter the son apparently married Margaret the daughter of William Stighull (Strigull, Malston *alias* Stoghill or Style), and this Walter is described as of Malston, near Kingsbridge, Devon.¹⁴⁰ The date of this marriage and the date of the Reynells return is not clearly documented. Nor is it clear whether **Walter Reynell** the husband of Joan returned. There are *Patent Roll* records (see [Part 11](#)) that record a **Walter Reynell** in Ireland in the period 1384 to 1386 and this is probably Walter who married Joan.

An imprecisely dated Chancery record, but post 1386, states 'Walter Reynell, of Devon v. Thomas Hethe and Thomas Gedlyng, his son-in-law.: Assault on complainant and his servants at Badelyngham. ...',¹⁴¹ and there is further interaction between **Walter Reynell** and Thomas Hethe in the period 1404 to 1426.¹⁴² This is probably the Thomas Hethe documented around Bury St Edmunds and Hengrave *ca* 1375.¹⁴³

These records indicate that a **Walter Reynell** had business in east anglia and the west country, but the lack of precision in dating the documents makes it impossible to judge whether they refer to Walter who married Joan, their son Walter, or both. However, a *Fine Roll* record dated 1420 refers unequivocally to a '**Walter Raynell the younger of the county of Devon**',¹⁴⁴ who is probably the son of Walter and Joan.

An '*inspeximus*' dated 1415 describes a **Walter Reynell** as of Devon and refers to Joan his wife as a heiress and kinswoman of Alan le Fraunceys, and confirms a charter dated 1270.¹⁴⁵ This charter records a '*Grant to Alan le Fraunceys, and his heirs, of free warren in his demesne lands in Bedelingham, co Cambridge, in Fencotes by Fletham, and Fencotes by Skurverton, co York*'.¹⁴⁶ It does not define Joan's relationship Alan le Fraunceys, but might explain some of the confusion as to when Joan lived. It also establishes that **Walter Reynell** who married Joan de Bassingbourne was associated with Devon by 1415, and possibly resident there.

A document dated 1382 to 1383 refers to a **Walter Reynell** of Cornwall and a John Trebartha of Cornwall,¹⁴⁷ but whether this is the same Walter or a descendent of another member of the Reynell family recorded there some 200 years earlier is not known.

In 1442 a **Walter Reynell** and a Robert Hille and others, are commissioned in the *Patent Rolls* to investigate the piracy of a ship at Kingesbrygge.¹⁴⁸ In the 1465 *Plea Rolls* it is recorded that a **Walter Reynelle** sued John Colyford, Prior of St John of Exeter,¹⁴⁹ and from the evidence presented it is clear that this is the Walter who married Margaret Stighull. An *Inquisition Post Mortem* for a **Walterus Reynell**, armiger, dated 1476,¹⁵⁰ probably refers to this Walter but it describes him as holding land at Malston and Estwogwell. This Walter is recorded as having three sons (John, Robert and Walter) and two daughters (Alice and Elinor).

139 *Feet of Fines* <http://www.archive.org/stream/pedesfiniumfine00pleagoog#page/n155/mode/1up/search/reynel>

140 *Visitation of Devon* <http://www.archive.org/stream/visitationofcoun06colbrich#page/234/mode/2up/search/reinele>

141 C 1/69/341

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/catalogue/displaycataloguedetails.asp?CATID=-2419844&CATLN=7&Highlight=%2CBADELYNGHAM&accessmethod=0>

142

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/catalogue/searchresults.asp?SearchInit=0&txtsearchterm=walter+reynell&txtfirstdate=&txtlastdate=&txtrefraction=&hdnsorttype=Reference&image1.x=0&image1.y=0&image1=GO>

143 *Bury St Edmunds*

http://books.google.co.uk/books?id=HxcwAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA176&lpg=PA176&dq=%22Thomas+Hethe,+of+Mildenhall%22&source=bl&ots=ZLd08qLAB-&sig=QryiQ517h1OYmCoPHk2oH3Ff7Y&hl=en&ei=zW8zTI6jLY360wSPnfWWAw&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result&resnum=4&ved=0CCQQA6AwAw#v=onepage&q=heth&f=false

144 *Fine Rolls* <http://www.archive.org/stream/calendaroffiner14greauoft#page/330/mode/2up/search/raynel>

145 *Patent Rolls* <http://sdr.lib.uiowa.edu/patentrolls/h5v1/body/Henry5vol1page0336.pdf>

146 *Charter Rolls* <http://www.archive.org/stream/calendarcharter01cunnngoog#page/n160/mode/1up>

147 C 241/170/26

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/catalogue/displaycataloguedetails.asp?CATLN=7&CATID=-5095635&FullDetails=True&i=1&Gsm=2008-08-08>

148 *Patent Rolls* <http://www.archive.org/stream/calendarpatentr00blacgoog#page/n164/mode/1up>

149 *The Genealogist* <http://www.archive.org/stream/genealogist01unkngoog#page/n47/mode/1up/search/reynel>

150 *Inquisitions Post Mortem*

<http://contentdm.lib.byu.edu/cdm4/document.php?CISOROOT=%2FFHMedieval2&CISOPTN=82179&REC=0&CISOBX=reynel>

In 1428 there is a reference to a **Thomas Revell** in connection with land at Idmerston and Ludbrok (Ludbrooke?) Devon,¹⁵¹ and in the period 1456 to 1460 there are references to a **William Ryvel** of Stolyford (near Modbury), Devon,^{152, 153} and the Hill family, at least this latter possibly consistent with Pole's pedigree purporting to show the descent of the Revells of Revelstoke..

In 1410, the *Close Rolls* contain a record '*Richard Leycestre prior of Modbury to John Roggor prior of Tywardrayth and the king's farmer of Modbury priory*', *Richard Huchoun*, **William Revelle**, *Robert Marchall*, *William Hillynge*, *Ambrose Broun* and *Thomas Stoupston*. *General release of all personal actions*'.¹⁵⁴ Tywardrayth, located in Cornwall, was closely associated with Totnes.

The Reynells of north Devon

In the late 13th century a **Richard Rivel** mentioned in connection with land at Potteford (East Putford) and Buckland Brewer,¹⁵⁵ and in 1414 another **Richard Reuell** is mentioned in *Feet of Fines* at Great Torrington some five miles from Buckland Brewer.¹⁵⁶ In 1447 A John Reynyll and Christian his wife, and their daughter and heir, Emma, are named in *Feet of Fines* in connection with land at Wodewill and Bedeford.¹⁵⁷ At some uncertain date there is reference in a pedigree to Anne daughter of Reynell of Holsworthy.¹⁵⁸

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152 C 1/26/218 <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/catalogue/displaycataloguedetails.asp?CATID=-2408673&CATLN=7&Highlight=%2CWILLIAM%2CRIVEL&accessmethod=0>

153 C 1/26/555 <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/catalogue/displaycataloguedetails.asp?CATID=-2408958&CATLN=7&Highlight=%2CWILLIAM%2CRIVEL&accessmethod=0>

154 *Close Rolls* <http://contentdm.lib.byu.edu/cdm4/document.php?CISOROOT=/FHMedieval2&CISOPTR=29584&CISOSHOW=29124>

155 Z16/1/1/1a-b <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/A2A/records.aspx?cat=027-z16&cid=1&kw=wiltshire%20devon%20someset%20cornwall%20richard%20rivel#1>

156 CP 25/1/45/76 http://www.medievalgenealogy.org.uk/fines/abstracts/CP_25_1_45_76.shtml

157 *Feet of Fines* CP 25/1/46/88 http://www.medievalgenealogy.org.uk/fines/abstracts/CP_25_1_46_88.shtml

158 *Visitation of Devon in 1620* <http://www.archive.org/stream/visitationcount02camdgoog#page/n10/mode/1up>