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# Early Worle 1066 to 1307

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**2014**

The results of the research leads Lesley to point out that 'One thing that becomes clear from the documentation so far uncovered is that Worle has a more important history than it is usually credited with.'

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Other local history works by the same author:

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## **Author's Note**

Modern day England began to take shape from the outset of the Norman Conquest in 1066. They made a detailed survey of the country with counties, manors, lords and serfs counted and recorded in the Domesday Book of 1086. The many baronial uprisings during the ensuing period led to the closest thing England has as a written constitution in the form of Magna Carta of 1215.

Sadly, documentation was very limited during the twelfth century but from the thirteenth century forward the need for it was recognised and written records increased. Many of the charters and court records of the time refer back to events of the twelfth century. Put together in chronological order, they begin to tell their own fascinating story as do those relating to the village, manor and parish of Worle.

There is very little point in having a story without telling the tale and the object of this small book is to outline the foundations of the present day village and parish. The word 'outline' is used because there is always something more to be discovered or another opinion to add to the history.

One thing that becomes clear from the documentation so far uncovered is that Worle has a more important history than it is usually credited with. It was connected with many of the major national events through some of the most notable medieval families who grew out of the Conquest and eventually shaped the nationwide culture and democracy we claim today. At the same time retaining its own unique identity of course.

Kings and Queens of England 1066 – 1307

William Duke of Normandy = Matilda of Flanders  
Reigned 1066 – 1087

The Norman Conquest, introduced Forest Law

William II Rufus  
Reigned 1087 – 1100  
Murdered in the New Forest

Henry I Beaulerk  
= Matilda of Scotland  
Reigned 1100 – 1135

Adela  
= Count Stephen of Blois

Empress Matilda  
= Geoffrey Plantagenet  
Count of Anjou  
The Anarchy

Stephen of Blois  
= Matilda of Bolougne  
Reigned 1135 – 1154  
The Anarchy

Henry II Plantagenet (FitzEmpress)  
= Eleanor of Aquitaine  
Reigned 1154 – 1189  
Spread of the forests, murder of Becket

Richard I The Lionheart  
= Berengaria of Navarre  
Reigned 1189 – 1199  
The Third Crusade

John Lackland  
= Isabella of Angouleme  
Reigned 1199 – 1216  
Signed the Magna Carta



Henry III Plantagenet  
= Eleanor of Provence  
Reigned 1216 – 1272  
Regency Council

Edward I Hammer of the Scots  
= Eleanor of Castille  
Reigned 1272 – 1307  
Disafforestation

**Medieval Worle**  
**1066 – 1300**  
**Chapter One: 1066 and All That**

Two or three miles inland from the Bristol Channel to the west and north, Worle is a village and parish situated in the county of North Somerset. Unfortunately, today it is frequently regarded as little more than a suburb of the seaside town, Weston-super-Mare and yet it has a long, continuous and quite separate history.

The manor of Worle was certainly inhabited during the late Saxon period because according to the Domesday Census of 1086 it was held during the reign of Edward the Confessor by Esgar. 5 serfs, 22 villeins and 3 bordars were also recorded and allowing for their families, the total population was probably about one hundred and twenty. Under the feudal system a serf was little more than a slave and could be sold at the lord's will. A villain was an unfree tenant who held his strip of land subject to various agricultural services to the lord. A border was a cottager, a little higher in status but who held land for similar menial tasks.

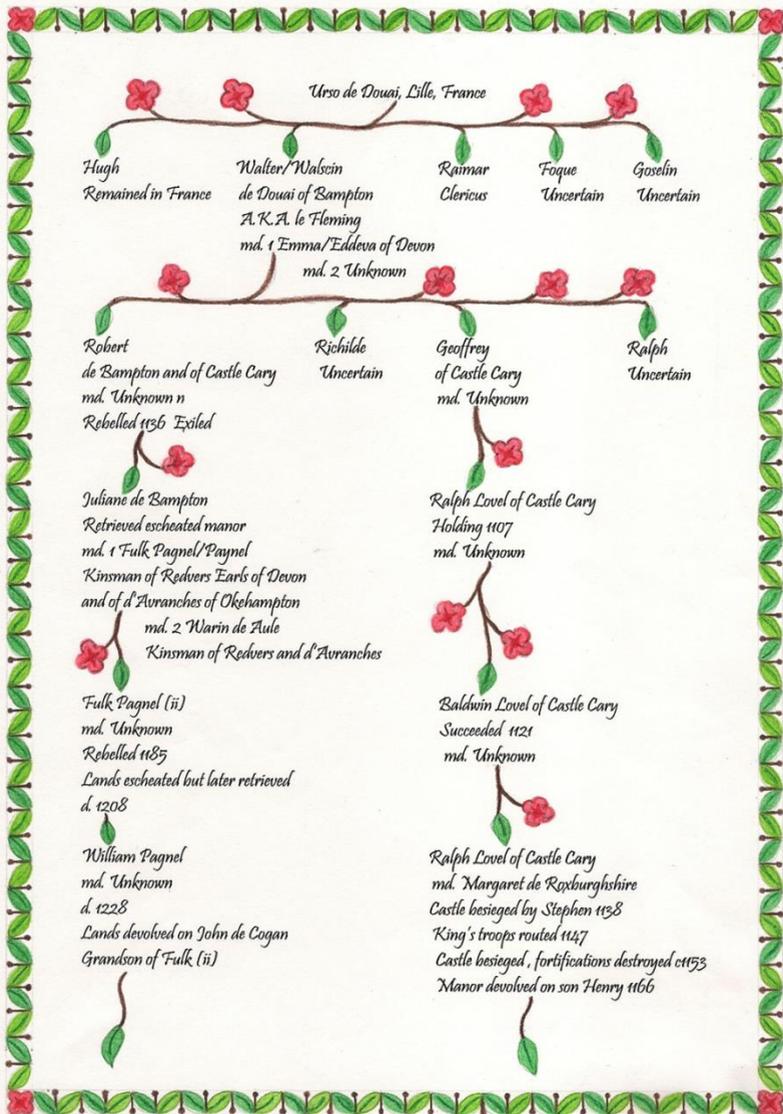
Walter de Douai was the Domesday lord of Worle and he came from Douai near Lille in Normandy. Walter was one of the many knights who followed William the Conqueror from France and fought at the Battle of Hastings in 1066. As a younger son he probably had limited prospects in Normandy but in England was rewarded with a substantial

amount of holdings in both Somerset and Devonshire. His principle residence was at Bampton in the latter county and the second was at Castle Cary in Somerset. He married Edeva of Devon, her lineage is unclear but they had at least two sons, Robert and Geoffrey.

Amongst all the other animals belonging to the manor of Worle in Domesday, a riding horse was also noted. In Norman times they were used mainly as a speedy way of communication in times of strife as opposed to the obvious uses of a war horse. It is believed that the value of the manor had fallen from £10 at the time of the Conquest to £7 because the land had suffered some degradation. In the year following Hastings two of King Harold's sons had returned from Ireland and sailed along the Bristol Channel to Bristol where they were thwarted. They and their army then rampaged back through north Somerset despoiling all in their wake. Perhaps as a result the riding horse was kept as a means to rapidly raise the alarm in the event of further incursions.

Other livestock kept in the manor were 24 beasts (presumably cattle), 18 swine and 60 sheep. It would seem that Worle's main objective was the production of wool. However, there was land enough for 15 ploughs for arable farming with substantial amounts of pasture and meadow. It may be described as a fairly sparsely populated area but with plenty of every day human activity.

It is thought that the manor took its name from the Old English or Anglo-Saxon words, 'wor' meaning grouse and 'leah' meaning a clearing or meadow. It is worth noting that the neighbouring manor, Worspring contained the same first element. Both lay in the Hundred of Winterstoke which is believed to have taken its name from a stoke (settlement) in the manor of Banwell, the administrative centre. A hundred was a division of a Saxon shire thought originally to have contained a hundred families, all answerable to the hundred courts in matters of law and order.



## Chapter Two: The Castle

There is no reference to Castle Batch at Worle before 1610 when it was referred to as a field name. Despite the name, during the nineteenth century it was written off as a prehistoric structure of some sort. The local population seems to have had more idea of its relevance. It is today, a grassy mound which was built on a limestone ridge at the eastern end of Worle Hill. However, it has been identified as the motte of a medieval wooden structured castle. A recent geophysics survey of the area revealed considerable archaeology to the west of the motte in what would have been the bailey. Presumably this represents the Anglo-Norman village of Worle.

The word 'castle' evolved from the Anglo-Saxon word 'castel' which could also mean a town or a village. A 'batch' was again an Anglo-Saxon word mainly found in the south west and meant a slope, hill or mound.

The motte at Castle Batch occupied a good defensive position with, in those days, uninterrupted views towards the coast. It was surrounded by a shallow but broad ditch with an entrance to the south west. A Lammas pond just outside the bailey was arguably dug to extract clay but may just have been dug for the villagers to water the livestock. The name, Lammas usually referred to the festival at the beginning of August when the hay harvest had been completed.

A hollow way led to Dunkite Lane which flanked the northern boundary of the bailey. A dunkite was a breed of bird which commonly inhabited the surrounding moorland. This ancient track way joined another, Colum Lane which led down to the manor of Worspring. Situated on the coast of the Bristol Channel, this manor is believed to have contained another motte and bailey also known as Castle Batch but this has not been conclusively proven. However the origin of the name 'Colum' has not been established and perhaps it referred to a tall structure of some sort.

Ancient track ways also led from Worspring through Worle and out to the manor of Locking where there was another motte and bailey. The three castles would have formed a strategic line of communication. There are at least thirty-six such identified sites in Somerset. The timber structures were easily and quickly erected and most of the more substantial Norman castles such as Bristol began life in much the same way.

Madam Lane in Worle was another track way to the east of the bailey, it was flanked by Madam Rhyne which led to the tithing of Ebdon. Here it joined the River Banwell where there was probably a wharf. 'Madam' may have been corrupted from the word 'maeoham' meaning a meadow where corn or grass was cut.

The original course that the River Banwell followed is not clear but it flows out into the Bristol Channel in the north of the manor of Worspring at St. Thomas's Head. It rises from a

spring at Banwell to the south of Worle and forms the eastern parish boundary. Much of it is so straight it was probably dug as a canal although it does help to prevent inundation. The construction is believed to have started during the twelfth century, probably for the convenience of the Bishop of Wells who had a residence at Banwell. Being so close to each of the castles it would also have offered some further means of travel and transportation between all three.

Norman castles were power bases arguably built to over awe and control the local population. Those sanctioned by the Crown may have been but during the period of English history known as the Anarchy, many were thrown up without royal consent in defiance of the King. Very often the existing manor house was fortified and it has often been suggested that Castle Batch at Worle was no more than that. Whilst manor houses were built as administrative centres, the existence of a motte surrounded by a ditch does suggest it was built more as a castle. As the site is believed to date to the twelfth century, could it have been one of the adulterine castles hastily constructed during the Anarchy?

Worle's Domesday lord, Walter de Douai had died by 1107 when records show that his possessions had been inherited by his son, Robert. No records show that Robert took control of Worle but equally, no records show that he did not. Robert styled himself after his father's chief domain and became known as Robert de Bampton. He is credited with having built a motte and bailey castle there which was

besieged by the King in 1136 following Robert's insurrection. He and Baldwin de Redvers of Devon were amongst the first barons to lead an uprising in the south west which was strongly opposed to Stephen. They were sent into exile and their lands were escheated which means Worle was probably taken into the King's hands temporarily.

King Stephen spent much of 1137 putting down uprisings just across the channel in south Wales. He had withdrawn by 1138 when he turned his attention on Bristol Castle but the siege proved futile and he set about despoiling the surrounding power bases. Castle Cary and that at Harptree in Somerset were besieged and surrendered. Both had been amongst the holdings of Robert de Bampton.

Baldwin de Redvers returned with Matilda's invading army in 1139, his family became the earls of Devon under her son, Henry II. The fate of Robert is not known but he is thought to have led a nomadic life until his death a couple of years later. His manor of Bampton was eventually settled on his daughter, Juliane who married a kinsman of the Redvers family, Fulk Pagenel. There are no records to suggest their descendants were ever involved with the manor of Worle. Castle Cary continued in the possession of the Lovel family who are believed to have been the descendants of Geoffrey, brother of Robert de Bampton. Again no records show they had any dealings in Worle in the aftermath of the civil war.

The fortifications at Castle Cary were finally destroyed at the start of the reign of Henry II which began in 1154. It would make sense if Castle Batch followed a similar course of events at much the same time. Worle begins to appear in records again at the beginning of the thirteenth century but no mention is made of a castle by this time. During building excavations, medieval pottery was found around Hollow Lane to the west of Castle Batch and it has been suggested that the manor's administrative centre may have moved there.



### **Chapter Three: The Church and the Forest**

Hollow Lane is another ancient track way which leads from Ebdon Road where Castle Batch is situated, to upper Worle and the church. Dedicated to St. Martin, it dates back to the early twelfth century; a key of the same period was unearthed in the churchyard. The name, St. Martins usually indicates that a church is of very early origin.

The establishment of a church created a parish and was usually built at the expense of the principle lord of the manor. The benefice normally included a vicarage or rectory to which land was assigned as glebe to support the incumbent. The process was useful in the administration of the manor as the lord retained the advowson or right to appoint the parish priest, subject to Episcopal approval. As with Castle Batch no record of the founder of St. Martins exists but later records show that the church did indeed belong to the lord of the manor.

The original structure was largely rebuilt at the end of the fifteenth century and extensively restored in 1870. However, the inner door of the south porch retains a Norman arch and the font dates to the same era. The lower part of the tower may also have been of Norman origin. The completion of building is thought to have been around 1150. Again, later records show that the church was in existence by the beginning of the thirteenth century. The village

undoubtedly began to spread along the hill around the church at this time.

With the lack of records not much else is known about the history of Worle during the twelfth century but a document of the late thirteenth, may provide some clues. The perambulation of 1298 included the manor as part of the Forest of Mendip where both Saxon and Norman Kings are said to have hunted. The word 'forest' was taken from the Latin word 'Foris' meaning everything outside rather than just a wooded area.

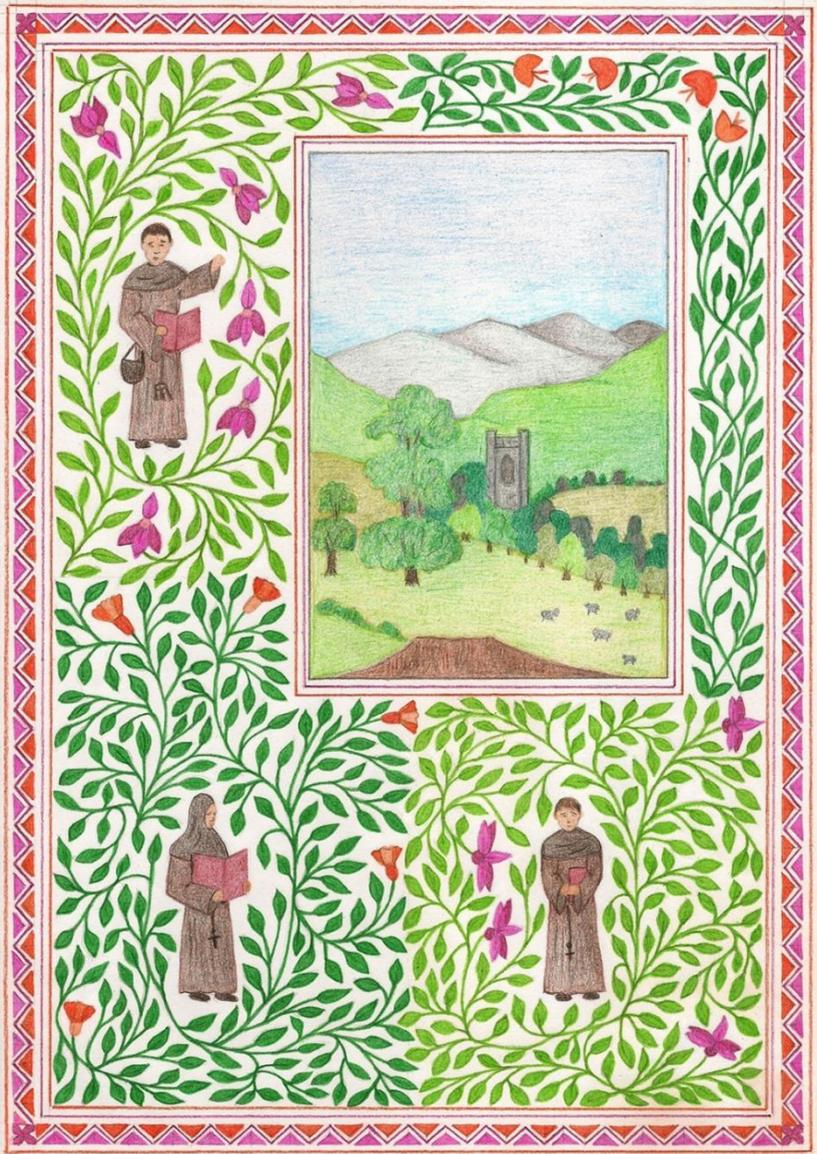
William the Conqueror first introduced forest law and set aside large tracts of land for hunting which were outside the common law. Through the fines and taxes which were exacted these soon became profitable enterprises, especially to the usually impoverished monarchy. There was a respite during the Anarchy when things were a free for all but during the reign of Henry II, the forests encroached on more and more land including any settlements within the bounds.

Unscrupulous magnates took full advantage of this situation and the villagers of Worle would have been subject to a draconian rule of law. These mandates were issued supposedly to protect the venison or deer and wild boar and the vert or trees and vegetation. Charges were made to travel through the forests and for grazing livestock, to do so without permission was in breach of the law. Other

misdeemeanours included fencing in crops, the taking of firewood and clearing wasteland.

Killing a deer was punishable by death whilst you could lose your hands for shooting at them and your sight for merely disturbing them. These harsh punishments were gradually relaxed by the forest courts and were replaced by fines which brought in a greater income. It is strange now to think that deer, wild boar and probably even wolves once roamed the countryside around the village.

These laws played a large part in creating the dissatisfaction which brought about the Magna Carta, signed by King John in 1215. Whilst the charter contained forest clauses little changed before 1225 when Henry III declared that all freeholders should have their lands restored. He was a weak king and it took until the reign of his son Edward I for any action to be taken. Following the perambulation of 1298, twenty manors of Mendip were disafforested leaving only Axbridge and Cheddar within the bounds. There were said to be four lords of the forest at this time, the King who had assigned his right to the Bishop of Bath by fee farm, the Abbot of Glastonbury and Lord Bonville who was succeeded by Sir John Newton.



## Chapter Four: The Priory

The Newtons gave their name to a small manor which bordered the western boundary of Worle and also some land in Worspring. Sir Robert Newton gifted these holdings to the priory which was founded at Worspring at the beginning of the thirteenth century. Incorrectly known today as Woodspring, it would be impossible to separate the history of Worle from that of the priory during the rest of the medieval period.

At the time of Domesday Worspring was held by William de Fallaise by right of his wife, Geva daughter of Serlo de Burci, Lord of Blagdon. With the King's consent, Serlo had settled the manor on William and Geva as part of her maritagium. Their first daughter, Sibyl is said to have been born at Worspring which helps to support the suggestion that there was a castle within the manor.

It has been claimed that Sibyl de Fallaise was the illegitimate daughter of Henry I and whilst this is not proven, according to a document of 1226, she was certainly related to him in some way. She married Baldwin de Boulers, Lord of the Honour of Montgomery and they had a daughter, Maud. She married Richard FitzUrse whose parentage is unknown. One theory is that he may have been the grandson of Urso de Berseres, a minor landholder in Buckinghamshire at the time of Domesday. However, it might be worth considering that Worle's Domesday lord was Walter son of Urso de Douai.

Richard FitzUrse held Worspring by right of his wife but some of his descendants later claimed that he also held the manor of Worle. He was a supporter of Stephen during the Anarchy and it is possible that following the expulsion of Robert de Bampton, the King simply granted him the manor and some other estates in the region for his loyalty. However, all these lands were originally held by Walter de Douai.

Matilda's arrogance lost her the crown which she so nearly won but eventually she and Stephen reached an accord and her son, Henry was acknowledged as heir to the throne. Henry II spent much of the early part of his reign subduing the still rebellious barons and one of his chief concerns was the adulterine castles. Despite Richard's previous allegiance, the FitzUrse family retained their holdings and held a position of prominence in the King's court.

During 1164 with the Constitutions of Clarendon, Henry attempted to bring the ecclesiastical courts into line with state law. Thomas Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury refused to sign the documents and was brought to trial. He was convicted of the charges against him and fled to the Continent. Becket returned in 1170 as truculent as before and his deliberations caused the King to fly into a rage and utter words to the effect of 'will no one rid me of this turbulent priest?' Four knights left the court and rode to Canterbury Cathedral where they slew the Archbishop. One of the knights was Reginald or Rainald FitzUrse son of Richard

who had inherited his father's estates by this time. Interestingly earthquakes were recorded in south Gloucestershire and north Somerset during 1112 and 1118, the latter being the supposed year of Becket's birth. Perhaps an omen of what was to come but undoubtedly frightening to the local population.

The murder caused outrage and even the King did penance. Not much seems to have been done to track them down but the four knights were obliged to flee the country. Rainald FitzUrse died three or four years later but his holdings in north Somerset devolved on his daughter, Matilda who married Robert de Courtenay. He was a kinsman of those at Okehampton, later Earls of Devon by marriage into the Redvers family.

Matilda and Robert had one son, William de Courtenay who married Ada, daughter of the Earl of Dunbar. William built a chapel in his manor of Worspring where his parents were laid to rest. The Bishop of Bath later recorded that William had decided to found a priory there and to endow it with all his lands in the manor which he held by right of his mother, Matilda FitzUrse. His intention was to move the priors of Dodelyng or Dodelinch to the priory at Worspring.

The priors were Cannons Regular of the Order of St. Victor and they were in some way attached to the Augustin priory at Bristol. The site of Dodelyng is unknown but thought to have been somewhere in the vicinity of

Worspring. The name was probably corrupted from Dodda's Lynch, most of the manors in the area contained a lynch including Worle.

No foundation charter survives for Worspring Priory but it is generally assumed to have been around 1210. William de Courtenay had certainly died before 1218 and probably before 1215. His priory was dedicated to the Holy Trinity, St. Mary the Virgin and not surprisingly, St. Thomas the Martyr. However, William made no reference to his grandfather's part in Becket's murder. The information comes from a letter of Jocelin, Bishop of Bath in 1230 when he also confirmed that William de Courtenay had endowed the priory with the church at Worle. This was asserted again in 1262 and to be able to do so William must have been the lord of the manor. Presumably the gift came complete with glebe land and tithes and it did mean the prior became the parish priest, an appointment which continued into the sixteenth century.

William de Courtenay died without issue and before long his maternal cousins became embroiled in disputes over his estates including his lands at Worle. They made their claims to the manor by descent from Richard FitzUrse No members of the Courtenay family became involved. This suggests that Richard had been the lord of the manor at the time St. Martins Church was built and certainly in possession by the time of its completion.

## **Chapter Five: Disagreement and Division**

In an undated record of about 1215, Vitalis Engaine and Roger Gernet brought William de Cantilupe and Mazilia his wife to court to claim back a carucate and a half of land at Worle. They also sued Elias de Beauchamp for the same amount of land in the manor, probably the same estate. In the latter case Engaine and Gernet claimed their ancestor, Richard FitzUrse had held the land in question. It had devolved on his son, Rainald who had a daughter, Matilda to whom it passed and then to her son, William de Courtenay.

Richard FitzUrse also had two daughters, Margery grandmother of Vitalis and Mabel mother of Roger. They claimed that William de Cantilupe had entered the land during the civil uprisings of King John's reign and that Elias had gained entry from him. Elias claimed that Geoffrey de Limesi had held the land in question and settled it on his daughter, Beatrice. She had married Rainald FitzUrse but died without issue when it reverted to her sister, Matilda mother of Elias. As he had elder brothers with a greater claim, Elias was probably making the whole thing up!

During the following year the Sheriff of Somerset was ordered to oblige Elias to deliver seisin to Engaine and Gernet. Seisin meant possession rather than ownership, the delivery was often performed by cutting a piece of turf from the land and literally handing it over to the next possessor.

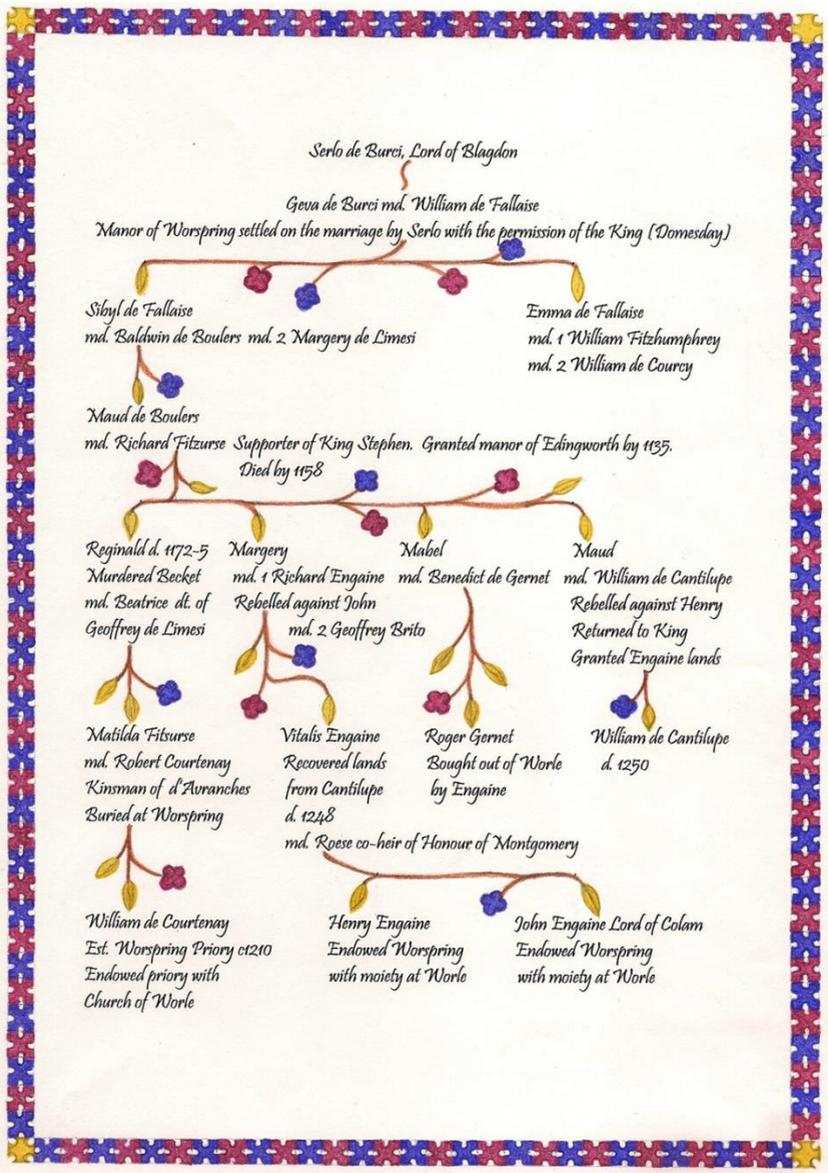
It is often claimed that William de Cantilupe was the son of another of Rainald's sisters, Maud FitzUrse. He was almost certainly related the Engaine family in some way. At the time of Magna Carta he was granted several manors formerly belonging to rebel barons, notably those of Vitalis Engaine. He was though, commissioned by King John to negotiate the baron's return to peaceable terms. The King died in the following year and in the minority of his son, Henry the Regency Council was instigated headed by William le Marshall. Many of the barons were reluctant to hand over their strongholds until Henry became of age and this was met with considerable force from the council.

In 1217 on behalf of the King, William le Marshall directed Peter de Mauley, Sheriff of Somerset to deliver seisin of the manor of Worle to William de Cantilupe, apparently in recompense for his fidelity. Mauley had been appointed as the sheriff in 1216. Contemporary accounts describe him and Cantilupe as two of 'John's evil counsellors'.

The following year, 1218, Vitalis Engaine recovered a moiety in the manor of Worle from William de Cantilupe except for the dower of Ada, widow of William de Courtenay. (This record confirms that Worspring Priory must have been founded before 1218.) A moiety was usually half a portion of an estate which had been shared amongst the heirs. This suggests that Worle had been divided between Engaine and Cantilupe.

Things seem to have settled down for a few years until 1227 when Benedict son of Elyas quitclaimed twenty acres in Worle to Vitalis Engaine having acknowledged his right. Presumably Benedict was the son of Elyas Beauchamp and by this action, he renounced the previous claims. Vitalis was succeeded by his son, Henry and Worspring's records show that he endowed the priory with half the manor of Worle. Henry died without issue and was succeeded by his brother, John. The priory's records note that in 1277 they were able to redeem a yearly rental of £10 in Worle payable to Sir John Engaine, Knight. This was probably a successor to the first John.

A less confrontational record of 1234 although quite provocative today, records 'Weston prope Worle.' A similar note occurred again in 1311 when the description was 'Weston juxta Worle.' This of course, refers to Weston-super-Mare which was not mentioned in the Domesday Book. It is believed to have been a tithing in the manor of Ashcombe. It is therefore, an historical inaccuracy to describe Worle as being near Weston at any time before the nineteenth century. Weston was near Worle.



## **Chapter Six: Knights Templar and the Barony**

At an assize of 1257, the court met to decide whether or not William de Stures, Roger de Stures, William Selwood and John de Stures had unjustly diseised the Master of the Knights Templar in England of his tenement in 'Wurle.' A tenement at that time would have been a farm held from the lord. William de Stures appeared at the assize whilst the others could not be found. It was claimed that William had enfeoffed the master with his lands there by charter. In his defence William said that whilst he was ill and in the care of the Templars at Cumb (Temple Combe), they forced his seal from him and used it to create their own charter.

It was noted that when the chief lord of the manor heard of the grant, he had desired the Templars not to enter the land and so William and the others had diseised the master. The court ruled in favour of the Templars and William was ordered to recover the land and as he was poor, to pay two marks for damages.

Presumably as lord of the manor, the prior of Worspring disapproved of the order but they must have entered and undoubtedly held the land as his tenants until they were disbanded by the Pope. The Templars objectives at this time were primarily financial and in England they were usually in favour with the hard up Crown. Many of them were brought to trial between 1309 and 1310 when they acknowledged their tenet that the master could grant

absolution was heresy. This reconciled them with the church temporarily until their dissolution in 1314.

At an inquest of 1273/4 a moiety of land in Edingworth within Brent Mareys was held of the King in chief, as a member of the barony of Worleston. The barony apparently also included half a knight's fee in Kewstoke, the fourth part of a knight's fee in Burton (in Wick St. Lawrence), half a vigrated in Locking, half a knight's fee in Tarnock and Edingworth and Stonhalle in Devon. It is said that the Calendar of Inquisitions Post Mortem makes it clear that this was the Barony of Worle and believed that Rolestone in the manor of Banwell formed the caput. What land in Worle was attached is not clear but perhaps two later records from the Close Rolls throw some light on the matter.

In 1276 the sheriff and escheator of Somerset was required to cause Eudo and Milisent to have seisin of a fee that the heirs of Thomas de Verdun were holding in Worle. They were also to have half a fee that the heirs of Thomas Corbyn held in Ternak (Tarnock) and the advowson of the priory of Worspring. In the rentalia of Glastonbury between 1235 and 1252, William de Cantilupe and Helyas de Bello Campo (Elias de Beauchamp) were listed as holding a fee in Edingworth.

A similar order was issued again in 1277 but this time Worspring was not mentioned. Eudo la Zuche and Milicent his wife were to have seisin of a knight's fee held by Thomas de Verdun, a fee that Philip Corbyn held in Ternake and some

fees elsewhere. George de Cantilupe was the tenant in chief, Milicent was his sister and he had assigned the estates as part of her purparty or share of their inheritance.

They were the descendants of William de Cantilupe, probably his grandchildren and clearly the family had not entirely released all their holdings in Worle. It is also claimed that at some time around 1135, Richard FitzUrse took possession of Edingworth, perhaps he was granted a barony. Edingworth was of course, another holding of Walter de Douai at the time of Domesday.

A couple of years later in 1279, the priory of Bath exchanged land with the Bishop of Bath and Wells with land at Worle for land in the city. It was the priory's intention to extend their land in Bath. The bishop it should be remembered, was one of the lords of the Forest of Mendip. It is possible that the landholders in Worle paid rent to the prior of Worspring as lord of the manor but there is no record of this. Under the feudal system the lesser tenants would have taken their tithes to the tithe barn built next to St. Martins Church.

There is certainly more to Worle's history than at first glance, it had a little of everything. There are always more records to be discovered and maybe one day they will resolve some of the unanswered questions raised here. In the meantime to say it has anything less than a long and fascinating history is a nonsense.

## Time Line

1086 Domesday Lord, Walter of Douai - British-history on line.

1135 Manor of Edingworth (subtenancy of Walter of Douai) granted to Richard Fitz Urse sometime before this date - groups.google.com

1210 Worspring Priory founded around this date by William de Courtenay - A History of the County of Somerset and Delineations of Somerset

C 1215 Vitalis Engaine and Roger Gernet sued William de Cantelupe and Mazilia his wife for a carucate and a half of land in Worle and also Elias de Beauchamp for the same - Bracton's Note Book

C 1216 Sheriff of Somerset to require Elye de Beauchamp to deliver seisin to Vitalis Engaine and Roger Gernet - Google Groups and PRO C47/14/3/26

1217 Peter de Mauley to deliver seisin of the manor of Worle to William de Cantelupe - Patent Rolls 1216-1255

1218 Apart from the dower of Ada, widow of William de Courtenay Vitalis Engaine recovered a moiety in Worle from William de Cantelou - Google Groups

1226 William de Cantilupe gave money and land in Worle to Worspring Priory - Seaboard of Mendip and Close Rolls of 10 Henry III

1227 Benedict son of Elyas quit claimed land in Worle to Vitalis Engaine – Notes and Queries and Somerset Fines 11 Henry III

1257 Assize at Behangre when William de Stures, Roger de Stures, William Selewood and John de Stures unjustly disseised the Master of the Knights Templar of land in Worle. Found in favour of the Master – 1434. Somerset Pleas

1262 Confirmation of an earlier charter granting Worle Church of Worle to Worspring Priory – A History of the County of Somerset and Bath Chartulary. The Lincoln's Inn MS

1273/4 Barony of Worlestone or Worle first recorded. VCH online, Calendar of Inquisitions Post Mortem vol II

1276 The heirs of Thomas de Verdun to have seisin of a fee in Worle and the advowson of the Priory of Worspring – Close Rolls 1272-1279

1277 Eudo la Zuche and Milicent his wife, sister and second heiress of George de Cantilupo to have seisin of a knight's fee held by Thomas de Verdun in Worle – Close Rolls 1272-1279

Bishop's legacy to Worspring Priory enabled them to clear an annual payment of £10 to John Engayne on the manor of Worle – History of the County of Somerset and Calendar of the MS of the Dean and Chapter of Wells

1279 Exchange of land in Bath and Worle between the Bishop of Bath and Wells and the Prior of Bath – Winchester 86

1298 Perambulation of the Forest of Mendip - online

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A History of the County of Somerset

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