

SOME NOTES on the ANCESTORS of my FAMILY

Henry Raymond Wansey, Bishopstrow Rectory, Warminster,
Wilts (1925)

Notes:

See -

1. List of Wills proved in P.C.C. from 16th Century backwards printed by the Harleian Record Society.

A student's ticket 1/- can be obtained from the Secretary, Public Record Office, Chancery Lane, London.

2. For dates of grants of Arms apply Hon. Philip Cary, Heralds College, Queen Victoria Street, London, E.C.

3. See Lower's "Essays on Family Nomenclature."

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HEREDITY

Heredity means the linkage or chain between one generation and the next, both forward and backward. The present is the child of the past, and the parent of the future. The directing and influencing hands of the past are upon the present, both for good and ill. Much of the past lives on in the present. Man has strands of virtue in his constitution which are much older than himself.

GULES 3 gloves argent. These arms are seen amongst those who lodged at the Monks of Ely Chapel just after the Conquest.

Vaunci Sable 3 sinister hands coupes argent.

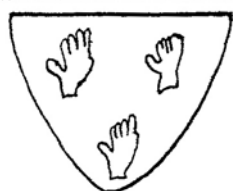
Wauncy Sable 3 gloves argent

Wauncy Gules 3 gloves argent. Suffolk.

Vancey Sable 3 gloves in pale argent.

Vancy Argent eagle displayed azure armed or.

COAT OF ARMS.



Gules, 3 dexter bands, coupe, erect; argent, also hands downward, also gloves pointing down.

"The ascendant hand is what I feel most strongly:

I am bound in and in with my forefathers. . . . We are all nobly born. Fortunate those who know it. Blessed those who remember it" - So wrote Robert Louis Stevenson.

"In Pedigrees we can follow back the careers of our component parts, and be reminded of our ante-natal lives".

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Piety, religious sentiments and convictions, literary ability, love of preaching the gospel, generosity etc., etc., may possibly be transmitted from OUR ANCESTORS, who have been said, poetically, to move in the blood, whisper words to us, and sit efficient in every knot and centre of our being.

Coat of Arms

Gules, 3 dexter hands, coupee, erect, argent - Northampton.

Gules, 3 dexter gloves, pendent argent - Norfolk.

Giles de Wanci, Gules, 5 dexter bands coupee erect, argent - Norfolk (3.2.1)

Sable 3 dexter gloves in pale - Hertford.

Sable 3 dexter gloves in pale argent - Northumberland & Devon.

Burkes General Armoury gives the arms of Wancye of Devonshire as "Gules, three dexter gloves in pale argent" and the Wancye of Northumberland bore "argent on a cross sable 5 lions rampant or".

Edmonson's Heraldry "Argent on a cross sable 5 lions rampant."

Manors and Estates in England once held by the Wauncy Family.

NORFOLK

North Barsham, East Barsham, West Barsham, Southall or Vancy's Manor & Easthall or Welholme, Kings Walden, Depeden

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

Astwell, Liburn & Bifield (now to the Earl Ferris)

BERKSHIRE

Cumpton and Leewarton (Lea Bridge)

HERTFORDSHIRE

Stansted, Wivelsford, Lockleybury and Sencamp and Leabridge. Stansted Manor was given by Wm. Wauncey to Waltham Abbey which now belongs to the Earl of Halifax.

SUSSEX

Wullampton Wilarston.

SURREY

Chingtin and Catherine Chapel.

WILTSHIRE

Hilmarton, Clive Wancy & Wodhull (Widhill, Cricklads an ancient town pleasantly situated on S. banks of R. Isis or Thames.)

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Notes.

The Manor of Wellholme or Easthall was taken out of the Gonville Manor temp. H.3. and was held by Adam de Metheland under William de Wancy who confirmed it to him, being granted before by Sir Hugh de Wancy his father and he further granted 4 acres with liberty of the fold course for 180 sheep and by ancient deed confirmed to him the mill called Bridgemill.

Southall was an ancient estate of the Wancy's and went for ages by the name of Wansey's Manor. Leswarton in Berkshire was held in long succession by the family of Wancy (from 1200 H.3.)

The Charter of William Wancy, who had the whole pasturage of the Down of Leewarton is signed by Robert the Archbishop of York and Richard de Percy. Geoffrey de W. "unum feodum tenet in Leewarton" temp. H. III.

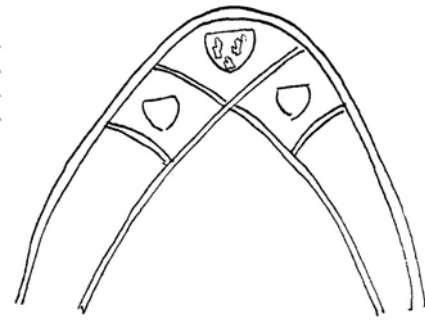
OUR FAMILY NAME

The family is supposed to have derived its name from Wanchy or Vanci, now Nancy in Normandy. Nancy - the original home of the Wanseys - before the Norman Conquest in 1066 - is about 175 miles East of Paris, and 25 miles N.E. of Neufchateau. There is still a Comptess de Waunci in France.

The name is spelt in various ways, viz:-

Wanci, Wancie, Waunci, Wauncie, Wancy, Vancy, Vauncy, Wansye, Wansie, Wanse, etc., to Wansey.

Lower says:- The name Wansey is traditionally derived from a town in Normandy called Vancy. The Norman origin of the family is indisputable. Hugh de Waunci came over at or soon after the Conquest, and settled at Barsham, Co. Norfolk, which manor he held under, William, Earl of Warrenne. Amongst other benefactions this Sir Hugh de Wauncie gave the living of Thruxton Church to Castle Acre Priory, also the Church of Depeden. His daughter Esmond married Philip le Veltre (the huntsman) and when she became a widow was a great benefactress to Castle Acre Priory, and so were many of his descendants. Sir Hugh lived about twenty years on his estate and left it (circ. 1088) to his eldest son Sir Ralph de Wauncie., who was father to another Sir Hugh.



East Window, West Barsham Church. Wansey arms, centre, top.
Earl Warren's & Earl Clare's below on the sides.

OUR EARLY ANCESTORS.

1066. Sir Osberne de Wanci was one of the "Compagnons" or Knights who accompanied William the Conqueror when he landed near Hastings and fought the battle there taking part in the Norman Conquest.

Sir Hugo de Wanci served under William, Earl Warren, his patron and settled in Norfolk, owning much land, being Lord of Barsham etc.

Sir Hugo (also called Sir Hugh de Waunci) gave the Church of Thruxton to the Priory of Castle Acre, Norfolk. Our Wansey coat of arms appear in many Norfolk Churches.

(William Wansey wrote in his letter to me, 1914:- "I motored through West Barsham, and in the Church there, I found, about the only bit of old glass left in the window - the Wansey 3 hands, and on a tombstone in the aisle, to some one of the Gurney family our arms quartered with the Gurneys about 1350).

The Wansey coat of arms can still be seen in the East Window of Barsham Church. Earl Warren son in law to the King founded the Priory of Castle Acre in 1072, and left Sir Hugo de Wanci to complete the same, who also contributed considerably to endowing it, and was Patron of the Churches at West Barsham and Thruxton. The full Charter of Earl de Warren was witnessed by this Hugh de Wanci, who leaving Sir Ralph de Waunci as his heir, died in 1088. His grandson, Hugh de Waunci, was the 1st witness to a Charter in 1133, by which Matilda of Senley gave lands to Daventry Church.

Barsham

From the Domesday book we find that Hugo de Waunci holds Barsham of Earl Warren. The lordship contains 4 carucates of land with 10 villani (tenants) 26 bordarii (cottagers) with 4 servi (servants). Four carucates are in demesne and five amongst the men etc. There are 3 acres of meadow 4 mills and a Church endowed with 100 acres of land, valued at £6. The land is 1/2 league in length and same in breadth. Toke was Lord of Barsham Manor in the reign of King Edward the Confessor.

Thruxton was another estate of his as thus described-

Ten Hug 1 Carter & 1111 bord et 1 servus et X acr prata semper et 1 Car et dim in dominio et dim car homini et 1 liber homo XII acr val XXX solidi et hoe pertinent ad Lewes et habet X quar in longo et dim leuca in lato et XV den de Gelto quicunque ivi teneat.

This Manor was granted to Hugh by the Earl Warren to be held of his Castle of Lewes, Sussex, and paid XV pence gold (tax) whoever should hold it.

N.B. The West Barsham Gurneys have always quartered the De Wancy arms with theirs, since the marriage with Katharine the heiress. Her descendants of Gurney ended in co-heiresses temp. Charles II. West Barsham passed to the Calthorpes and in a generation or two passed to the ancestors of the present possessor (1846). In N. Barsham, Wauncy's (also called Southall) Manor also passed to the Gurneys and Branch's Manor there, was once the Wauncies!

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DOMESDAY BOOK

Hugh de Wanci is named in the Domesday Surrey as the, mesne tenant of West Barsham, Norfolk, under the Earl Warren. It is remarkable that their names are associated in the Battle Abbey Roll (Leland's copy) thus:-

Warrene et Wauncey,
Chanunt et Chauncy.

The Norfolk Estates.
Sir Hugo de Wanci 1066 . . . Died 1088
Sir Ralph de Waunci 1120

Sir Hugh de Wanci 1160

Sir Giles de Waunci 1160 - 1180
Sir Walter de Waunci
Sir William de Wanci 1180

Sir Giles de Wancy 1243
Sir William de Wancy

Sir Edmund de Waunci

Catherine de Wancy : Sir Edmund Gurney

Sir John Gurney 1387
Succeeded to the Property in 1380

In the Record of the House of Gournay, by Daniel Gurney F.S.A., printed 1848, pp_319, 489. Armorial Window of the Gurney Pedigree we read:-
Of all the families commemorated in that excellent example of genealogical history, there is none more distinguished in the centuries next following the Norman Conquest of England than that of Waunci, with which Gurney formed an alliance in the reign of Edward the Third, and thereby became possessed of the Manor of West Barsham ...(as elsewhere recorded)

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In the Annals of Roger Hoveden a Dominus de Wanci - his Christian name is not mentioned, - is stated to have died at the siege of Acon in 1191.

The usual coat of arms of Waunci was an allusive one of three "gauns" or gloves, and this still remains with the noble coats of Warren and Clare In the Chancel window of West Barsham Church. The same coat of Waunci was in a window of Denton Church in Norfolk, but is now removed to North Runcton (p.358) in the Gurney's house.
In the Roll of Arms temp. Edward II. the blazon of the gloves is thus given, among the Knights of the County of Suffolk:-

Sir William de Wauncy, de goules a vi gauns de argent - six gloves instead of three; unless, which is not improbable vi is an error for iii. At the same time there was a branch of the family in Northamptonshire, which bore three gloves, differencing their field as sable.

Sir Robert de Wauncy de sable a iii gauns de argent. These flourished for several generations at Astwell (Northamptonshire). Various notices occur of later members of the family in the Record of the House of Gournay (p.367) and in Collectanea Topographica et Genealogica iv. 223.

See "The Herald and Genealogist" for the year about 1840 for Wanseys in Wilts see pages 40, 49.