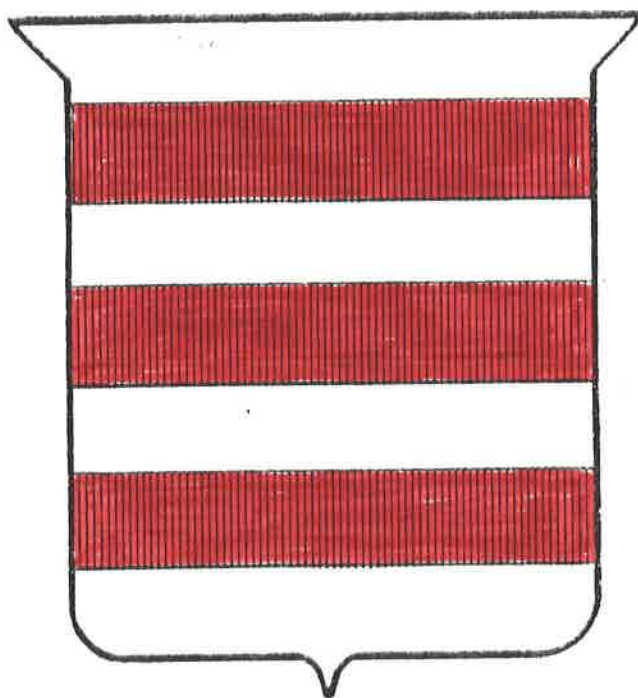


DESPARD

The history of a family - from
their origins in Burgundy, through
Ireland for a century or more -
to the shores of the U. S. A.



written and researched by

Henry Lyndon Despard of
Birmingham, Michigan



DESPARD - MAISON de MONT ST. JEAN

"Pugno, Pugnás, Pugnavi"

This book is written that those of the Despard name who are to follow may know somewhat of their ancestry - that they may bear the name proudly and bow their heads to no man. May they live their lives honorably and to the full; cherishing those who bring the light of the sun into their lives and striving always to do their best, in every way.

From earliest youth I had heard the names of: William, Colonel of Engineers, sounding so grand and legendary; Philip who, "abandoning title and estates rather than his Huguenot principles" fled from the impending massacres of St. Bartholomew to England, from whence he was sent to Ireland by Queen Elizabeth as a Royal Commissioner; and Edward Marcus who, having distinguished himself on the Spanish Main, was later wrongfully "hanged by the neck until dead".

What a thrill for the thoughts of the young; what a lasting impression on the mind of a boy! Little wonder that a keen awareness of these illustrious persons stays with us through our later days ! Thus was I introduced to ancestry, thus did I learn of fortitude - and heritage. Thus do we proudly bear the Despard name.

This knowledge handed down from earlier days was all well and good - but only superficially, only in a fragmentary manner did we seem aware of the old French line, the trunk from which we stemmed. Here, then, was the greatest challenge - how to surely establish the link between Philip, first in Ireland, and the old French stock - a link still undefined until a few short years ago.

This question I confidently feel has since been answered, leaving only one obstacle of importance: an accurate establishment of the proper son of Philip as the father of Colonel William, which would complete the parent line through ten full centuries to the present day. Perhaps this fact, too, can one day be determined.

No words can adequately express our great indebtedness to Isabella Daly and Jane Despard for their earnestly penned legacies - the first Despard histories - from which have developed all further pursuit of information relevant to these family lines in Ireland. Without these personal missives there would have remained far too little accurate knowledge of the early days, from which the record has been reconstructed.

Personal appreciation is due my father for the interest and effort he took in furthering the story along its way. He it was, with his natural bent for such lore, who set my own curiosity afire. Thanks also to the able assistance given me by other Despards in setting the record straight.

I count myself fortunate to have had the opportunity to see both the old homes in County Queens - and Mont St. Jean, built eleven centuries ago !

Throughout the years of jotting down a name found here, a date found there, and the uncovering of many flecks of information in scores of books and places, an accumulated story of the Despard family and its related lines has gradually taken shape. Herein are the evident truths of our past, checked and carefully weighed in such manner that - unless past records err - no misinformation is knowingly included.

Keep well this book within your house, lest the meager knowledge of the past - still retained - be lost to those who will yet bear the name.

FOREWORD

A look at the feudal map of Burgundy - after Charlemagne and before the Crusades - shows it to be quilted with fortresses. The more the public power weakened, the more each man felt compelled to fortify his own house. The land bristled with towers and battlements: the plain with its fortified houses and mottes (mounds); and the mountain with its citadels and keeps. There was an inundation of stone. The hilly regions of Chatillonnais, Auxois, the slopes of the Côte, the passes of Bugey and the principal chain of the Jura mountains crowned with turrets, triple walls and strong, heavily fortified entranceways.

Everywhere that the Barbarians had left a Roman fortress or Gaulic intrenchment standing, the feudal society hurried to repair it and plant its vari-colored pennons - so dear to the German eye.

Thus appears the Chateau of Vergy, which sat high on its mountain for a thousand years - from 673 to its dismantling in 1609, and whose founding was attributed to Vercingetorex; those of Mont St. Jean, Til and Montbard, constructed during the ninth century; Pouilly-sur-Saone, where Henri, first beneficiary Duke of Burgundy died in 1002; Sombernon, Chateauneuf, Chaudenay, Commarin, Gisseyle-Vieux, Malain, Marigny and Aignay; Noyers, fortified in 860, restored in 1195 and destroyed early in the 17th century, upon which depended 80 smaller fiefs; Montreal and Blaisy, first mentioned in 942; Frolois, Salmaise and Semur; Saulx, demolished in 1602 after 700 years of existence, and many others.

Most of these Chateaux in time fell - either in peace or in war - to the Dukes of Burgundy; but it would take centuries to disintegrate their mighty foundations.

The dukes, the bishops and the monasteries profited most advantageously from the Crusades. For, since nearly all of the Seigneurs incurred heavy debts in outfitting for the Holy Land, many of their lands were mortgaged or sold; and the greatest profit from these knightly but ruinous expeditions passed quickly into the hands of the money lenders, the monks and the dukes. The first got the money; the second gave the prayers; and the third were able to acquire - for just a little gold - that which their weapons had been unable to conquer.

Geoffroy de Donzy, Count of Chalon, for example, before departing for Palastine in 1098, sold half of his County to Bishop Gauthier for a mere 200 ounces of gold; and there exist more than 50 lists of donations made to the Abbey of St. Seine by the Seigneurs who were leaving for the Holy Land. Duke Hugues III, the Sires of Mont St. Jean, Drée, Saulx and Sombernon figure amongst the principal doners.

It was during this time when these first Chateaux were rising, that the proper names - family names - first made their appearance. In 992, at the Abbey of Flavigny, we find - for the first time - names other than first names acknowledged at baptism. In 1106 Pope Pascal II consecrated the church of St. Benigne de Dijon in the presence of many notable men whose family names were mentioned for the first time - among them Guillaume de Til-Chatel. Only then did the genealogical lines begin to form, and were affiliations and family ties established.

Aside from a very small number of illustrious lines, issue or close relatives of sovereign houses like Vienne, Chalon, Geneve, Braucion and Vergy - there was very little known as "family" before the 11th century. Even the most ancient and most noted - like those of Rye, Neufchatel, Semur, Montreal and Damas - can not be dated before this time, cannot even prove their existence before that era.

From this time on, however, the Burgundian nobles can be divided into three distinct classes: the high, the middle, and the lower ranks of nobility.

The First Rank comprised those families possessing the great fiefs, who discharged "in all justice" the high offices of the Duchy. Among these were the Seigneurs of Mont St. Jean, close relatives and descendents of Vergy - with whom they shared interests and resistances; who early possessed the high court office of Seneschal of Burgundy, and who would not - in 1239 - cede to Hugues IV their rights to collateral title to the fortress of Vergy, except on the double condition that the Duke give his daughter in marriage to the heir of their house, and that the Chateau of Mont St. Jean would no more be "jurable et rendable" [subject to temporary occupation by the Duke and his forces - at his discretion], but "fief-liege" [allied on a more equal level - not subject to occupation].

The house of Espiard, as well, is one of the most ancient and well respected in the Province - having descended in the male line from the house of Mont St. Jean. Espiards have at all times given proof of personal valor and distinction - in the Army, the Clergy, the États-Generals and the Parliaments of France.

The last Seigneur of Mont St. Jean - from whom they descend - was Guillaume II who died in 1255; whose grandson Etienne III de Mont St. Jean - cousin to the Espiards - in trying to assert his independence from feudal control, found himself engaged in twenty years of disputes with the Dukes of Burgundy who, upheld by the King of France, in 1333 stripped him bare of his possessions.

* * *

DESPARD GENEALOGY - from 1040

BURGUNDY - FRANCE 17 Generation Index

Pedigree Chart No.	Code	Dates	Parent
2AC/4	F0 -0	1040-1100	Raynaud, Sgr. de Mont St. Jean m. ----- de Bligny
2AC/2	F0 -1	1070-1120	Hugues I, Sgr. de Mont St. Jean
2AB/16	F1 -1	1095-1150	Guy, Sgr. de Mont St. Jean m. ----- de Saulx
2AB/8	F2 -1	1135-1196	Hugues II, Sgr. de MSJ, Thoisy, Chatel-Censoir m. 1158 Elizabeth de Vergy
2AB/4	F3 -1	1160-1223	Guillaume I, Sgr. de MSJ, Salmaise, Vergy m. Buré d'Ancy-le-Franc
2AB/2	F4 -1	1200-1260	(Son) de MSJ
2AA/16	F5 -1	1230-1290	(Son) de MSJ
2AA/8	F6 -1	1260-1330	Stephan (Etienne) de Espiers [Bourg de MSJ]
2AA/4	F7 -1	1295-1378	Jehan de Espiers [de Bourg de MSJ] m. Asceline _____
2AA/2	F8 -1	1325-1378	Jehan Espiars, Sgr. de Ignon, Fleé, Sonottes
2A1/16	F9 -1	1345-1415	Edmé Espiard, Sgr. de Fleé, [Ignon, Sonottes] m. 1369 Anne de Genelard
2A1/8	F10-1	1370-1435	Sebastien Espiard, Sgr. de Fleé, [Ignon, Sonottes] m. 1400 Aiglantine Poinot d'Eguilly
2A1/4	F11-1	1405-1460	Guy Espiard, Sgr. de Fleé, Ignon, Sonottes m. 1445 Marie de Vesvré
2A1/2	F12-1	1446-1483	Antoine Espiard, Sgr. de Ignon, Sonottes, [Fleé] m. 1473 Jeanne de Margueron
2A/16	F13-1	1475-1525	Thomas Espiard - m. 1500
2A/8	F14-1	1510-1570	(Son) Espiard - m. 1535
2A/4	F15-1	1545-1600	Philip d'Espard - m. 1580 [Emigrated to Ireland - 1572]

DESPARD GENEALOGY - from 1572

IRELAND - U.S. 11 Generation Index

<u>Pedigree Chart No.</u>	<u>Code</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Parent</u>
2A/4	1- 1	1545-1600	Philip d'Espard of Queen's County
2A/2	2- 1	1589-1650	Henry Despard, of Cranagh, Queen's Co. m. Esther Croasdaile, of Rynn
2/16	3- 1	1635-1705	William, Esq., of Cranagh & Coolbally, King's Co. m. pr. 1674 Elizabeth Gray, of Cuddagh
2/8	4- 1	1680-1719	William, of Killaghy Castle, Co. Tipperary m. 1708 Frances Green, of Killaghy
2/4	5- 1	1718-1779	Richard, of Larch Hill (Mountrath) - Rev. m. Frances Burton, of Burton Hall, Co. Carlow
2/2	6- 1	1753-1819	Francis Green, of Larch Hill - Rev. m. 1781 Jane Humphry
1/16	7- 1	1781-1846	Richard, of Larch Hill; removed to New York m. 1808 Isabella Daly
1/8	8- 1	1820-1870	Clement Johnson, of Brooklyn m. 1849 Matilda Pratt
1/4	9- 3	1859-1923	Walter Douglas, of Bronxville, N. Y. m. 1883 Cornelia White
1/2	10-11	1885-1954	Douglas Cornell m. 1917 Sarah Cheney
	11-11		Douglas Cornell m. 1st, 1948 Marion Severin 2nd, 1969 Janet Harwood
	12-10	1955-	David Dodge m. Alix Oliver

ENGLAND

London

ENGLISH CHANNEL

MONT ST. JEAN -

140 m. SE of Paris
30 m. W of Dijon

Seine R.

SEINE-
ET-OISE

PARIS

110 m.

Loire R.

INDRE-
ET-LOIRE

FRANCE

AUBE

HAUTE-
MARNE

YONNE

HAUTE-
SAONE

NIEVRE

DOUBS

SAONE-
ET-LOIRE

JURA

Charolles

Macon

Avallon

Montbard

Chabillon

COTE D'OR

Mont St. Jean

140 m.

30 m.

W of Dijon

SE of Paris

140 m.

110 m.

140 m.

140 m.

140 m.

140 m.

140 m.

140 m.

140 m.

140 m.

140 m.

140 m.

Lesparre

Dondeux

GIRONDE

Rhone R.

Arles

BOUCHES-
DU RHONE

Aix

(L'Esperre is a separate family -
No connection with d'Espiard.)

THE FEUDAL REGIME . . . Feudal Rights and Justice

In the beginning - in looking backwards through the centuries in which our earliest family has lived - an understanding of the feudal system which governed their society is essential to an understanding of their place in the society of their own times.

When a Prince who was in possession of a country seized another country - in this feudal society of almost a thousand years ago - he distributed a portion of his conquest between those warriors who had served most illustriously during his campaign. The domains thus gained were given the name of Alleu (de Allodium, complete propriety; absolute).

The French allodial lands (freeholds) were exempt from all seignorial rights; they were hereditary. The recipient could, at his pleasure, detach some parcels from the principal domain received, and abandon them to his comrades, who then became vassals to him. Beneficiences both noble and common were distributed by the Prince; but the noble ones possessed more rights of justice than the commoner.

During the 9th century, the populations were continuously invaded by the Normans, pirates streaming out of Denmark and Scandinavia against them; for after the death of Charlemagne, the Royal power had become impotent - and the peoples grouped around the seigneurs for protection. And they, in their turn, sought out the protection of their suzerains.

Thus, little by little, the alleus disappeared; and as the 9th century drew to a close, there were no more men that were truly free. And as the ancient alleus lost their independence by being transformed into fiefs, Feudality - the state of social transition between barbaric and modern times - rose to its proper place in the scheme of things.

The seigneurs - possessors of a fief - now owed loyalty and homage to their suzerains, and were further obliged to certain dues; such as rents in silver, in personal and seigneurial honors. In a word - the seigneurs had exchanged their independence for the protection of their suzerain.

These fiefs, however linked with one another by certain bonds, were only through their own suzerains submissive to the central power. For the King was, in effect, only the foremost of the feudal seigneurs.

It was during the time of this state of society that most of the chateau strongholds were constructed; with which French soil was so well covered. These chateaux were placed on the highest points - as nearly as possible inaccessible - facilitating, by their very placement, the seigneurs' tendency to return to their allodial independence. And to keep the fiefs intact in their families in perpetuity, the eldest of the sons succeeded the father - to the exclusion of the younger ones.

The daughters did not have, at first, any part in the paternal successions, even in the case of a non-existence of males. Not until the 12th century did the daughters

have the right to succeed. The eldest of the family then had the "fief dominant", and that part of the domain conceded to the other children took the name of "fief servant". The first was the "suzerain", the others were the "vassaux".

The principal products of these feudal ties were the service owed by the vassel to his seigneur, and the protection owed by the seigneur to his vassel. It was really a two-way arrangement - each had need of the other. If the vassel (at no matter what level) forgot his obligations and his commitments, his goods were confiscated; and the seigneur was stripped of his seigneurie.

When the King bestowed a fief, the beneficiary owed him homage and an oath of loyalty - even before his investiture.

A fief was given only to one of noble birth. If a noble contracted marriage with a commoner, the children born of this union were declared illegitimate; and the trace of common blood would disappear only after three generations. Among the commoners, prelates and abbés alone had the right to the title of feudal nobles, but only because of their high office.

Below those of noble rank were the freemen and the serfs. The first lived in the towns to which the seigneur had given a charter of freedom; but the serfs worked the land, without power to dispose of it. The right of the seigneur reappeared at the time of the decease of the serf - who held it only in the condition of perpetual farmer, during his lifetime.

The status of the serf was that of slave; for serfdom was devoid of liberty and propriety. Being attached to the domain, however, they could not be sold or disposed of by the seigneur. Only the Crusades bettered their situation by permitting freedom by taking the Cross.

The extinction of serfdom evolved only gradually, from several different causes: the influence of the church; the customs of the Germans, among whom service resulted in the payment of a due; and the right of sanctuary granted by certain towns. Louis XVI finally ordered it suppressed in all of his Royal domains, but only the Constitutional Assembly - by its decree of June 27, 1792 - brought an end to servitude in all French territories.

The feudal organization - however - permitted it to resist the Normans, and softened a little the customs of the seigneurs; in creating family life and elevating women to a certain degree of dignity. But, on the other hand, anarchy reigned as mistress, as a consequence of local fights which the central government was too weak to prevent.

This state of affairs, continued wars and enslavement of all of that part of the population which did not take arms, led inevitably to an abandonment of the culture of the spirit. The intellectual movement created and encouraged by Charlemagne, no more sustained, disappeared even from the monasteries, destroyed by the incessant incursions of the Normans.

This feudal regime was combatted by three adversaries.

The church, which had lost its preponderance and no longer had even the right to name its bishops and its abbés; who were now chosen by the princes and seigneurs who gave these benefices to their juniors.

"All prudent fathers, said Michelet, arranged for their younger sons to head a bishopric or an abbey. He had his serfs elect his younger children to the grandest ecclesiastical seats. An archbishop of six years would mount upon a table, babble two words of catachism, and be elected. The father, in his name, sells the benefices, receives the tithes (the price of masses) and then saves on the cost by not having them said. He makes his vassals confess, bear witness, make bequests; and then reaps the profits. He smote his people with two swords; tower by tower he fought them, excommunicated them, killed them, damned them - at only his whim."

Following the marriage of priests, these ecclesiastic seats became hereditary. The wife of a priest assisted at all the religious ceremonies, at the altar, at the side of her husband. The wife of a bishop was ranked equally with the wives of the grandest seigneurs.

The son of a carpenter, Hildebrand, elected Pope under the name of Gregory VII, April 22, 1073, took steps to reform all these abuses by disagreeing with the Emperor of Germany, then the recognized head of the church. He commenced by cleansing the clergy of its two greatest evils: simony and immorality; and brought the church under the power of the Holy Empire.

A council reassembled at Rome decreed that all persons found guilty of simony would be excommunicated and declared unfit to exercise an ecclesiastical jurisdiction. The same council decreed that all married priests who did not practice chastity would be dismissed.

The break between the pope and the emperor was the direct result of these decisions. They reciprocally excommunicated each other; but the Emperor Henri IV, deposed by Gregory VII, in 1077 was obliged to give in and humble himself before the Pope at Canossa.

The new Church triumphed; and profited from carrying out a deadly coup on the possessors of fiefs, by sending the christian populations forth on the Crusades in the 11th, 12th and 13th centuries.

The siegneurs were obliged to sell their lands to make good the expenses of the war, to give charters of freedom to the towns, to accord them privileges - thus diminishing their power. They carried back from the Orient - it is true - the glory and the honors; but these goods, more chimereal than real, did not compensate for the loss of the others.

The effort of the Crusades remained sterile, since Jerusalem soon fell again to the power of the infidels, but these distant expeditions did, nevertheless, stop the progress of Islamism and brought on the eventual Christian majority in Europe. The seigneurs returned to their homes, not to rest their bones, but to continue to war amongst themselves.

To diminish the calamities set in motion by these feudal wars, the Church suggested a custom known as the "Truce of God" (Trêve de Dieu). No war could take place between Advent and Epiphany, between Quinquagesima and Pentecoste, nor during the Quatre-Temps - feast days, and each week between Wednesday evening and Monday morning. The seigneur who violated the "truce de Dieu" could have his fief taken from him, whereupon it would pass to his heirs or to his suzerain. The "truce de Dieu" commenced soon after the famine of 1028-1030, and was renewed in 1119 by Calixte II at the Council of Reims. It disappeared, however, when internal peace finally spread throughout France.

The second adversary of the feudal system was royalty, who at first lacked both authority and prestige; but the kings of France made every effort to weaken the high Barons and destroy their power.

Louis VI freed his domains from the yoke of the smaller seigneurs. Philippe-Auguste at Bouvines in 1214 defied those seigneurs allied with the Germans and the English. Louis IX at Taillebourg and at Saintes, in 1242, won out over the Barons who had joined those same enemies. Philippe IV, called the Fair, created a new peerage, ended the prerogatives of a do-nothing Parliament and established the États- General; three motivations which proved fatal to the feudal system.

Under the reign of this Prince with few scruples, the monarchy gained almost absolute power. Louis XI fought against the great feudataires of the kingdom and profited cleverly from the death of Charles-le-Téméraire under the walls of Nancy by annexing Burgundy, Anjou and Brittany to the crown. And with Francis I and Henry II, royal power became absolute.

The third adversary of the feudal system was the serf; for the populations had submitted to an obedience and a tyranny against which human dignity was forced to revolt.

During the "religious wars" a new aristocracy was created and some Provinces became almost independent. But it took the genius of Richelieu to destroy this resurrection of feudality, of which the last traces disappeared - together with all the feudal rights - on the night of August 4, 1789, when the Constitutional Assembly decreed its abolition.

The feudal rights were very numerous: independency from military service, the right of justice, of farming services, of the rights of guardianship, of marriage, of hunting, of fishing, the warren and the pigeon-house. There also existed others entirely fiscal, such as: those of escheat (the right to appropriate the goods of strangers who died in the country); of strays (lost animals or objects found on the lands of the seigneurs); of "relief" (the taxes owed by the heritor of a fief);

Of mainmorte (the return to the seigneur of goods accrued by the serf or tenant farmer); of poll-tax (an imposition levied on persons neither noble nor ecclesiastic, or who did not enjoy some particular exemption); of hearth-tax (the tax due from each home or couple); of forage (tax on the wine opened or pierced to be sold at retail); of field-rent (the right to part of the fruits, the quarter, fifth, or twentieth part - in accordance with the custom of the country); of chevage (tax paid by the bastards and married "aubains"); of fifth (right to a fifth part on the acquisition of a fief); of requint (right to a fifth of the fifth on the acquisition of a fief); of traverse (tax gathered on the produce or goods transported across the lands of the seigneur); of rouage (tax exacted for a cart transporting wine on the public roads).

There were many other forms of tax, both ridiculous and vexatious.

During the time of feudality, justice was one of the seignorial functions; feudal justice being divided into high, middle and low orders. It is most difficult to draw a line of demarcation between these three. While one could say that the seigneur meted out "high justice" for all civil and criminal affairs which had not been reserved to royalty; these last took the name of "cas royaux". Even the death sentence came within the bounds of "high justice". In the area of "low justice" were found the administrative acts, the minor offenses of the road, the occasions of personal transgression, the wide scope of trivial acts and injuries.

The "middle justice" could judge the civil complaint as first presented; on criminal complaints their jurisdiction covered not only all those of the "lower justice", from risks and blows, even to the letting of blood from a fight, to the simple homicide without forethought. "Middle justice" could not pronounce the sentence of death; but only bodily punishment and fines.

"Low justice" passed judgement on personal matters, matters up to 60 Sols Parisienne, and misdemeanors for which the fines did not pass 10 Sols Parisienne.

The Seigneur of Mont St. Jean judged all three orders - high, middle and low.

FORMATION OF FEUDAL FRANCE and THE DUCHY OF BURGUNDY

The night of the 9th century . . . what was its course ?

The records give only a dim glimpse of a people scattered and without guidance. The Barbarians had broken through the ramparts. The Saracen invasions had spread in successive waves over the South. The Hungarians had swarmed over the Eastern provinces. These strangers gave themselves over to the most cruel outrages; they sacked town and village and laid waste the fields. They burned down the churches and departed with crowds of captives . . . and no one was able to prevent them.

The country as far as the Loire was laid waste so completely that, where once were prosperous towns, wild animals roamed. The plain where once the harvests ripened now knew only the thistle and briar - and Paris lay but a heap of ashes.

In the course of the 9th and 10th centuries almost every French town had been destroyed.

Powerless to resist the invaders, many men joined them and plundered the countryside together. There no longer being a viable supreme authority, private quarrels of man against man, family against family, and district against district broke out time and again.

No longer was there any trade, only unceasing terror. Fearfully men put up buildings only of wood. Architecture had ceased to function.

The peasant had abandoned his ravaged fields to avoid the violence of anarchy. The people had gone to take refuge in the depths of the forests, in inaccessible regions or in the high mountains.

The ties uniting the inhabitants of the country had been burst asunder; customary and legal usage had broken down. Society had no longer any governance.

But - putting this turmoil of the 9th century behind them, the family unit began once again to reorganize. From the reorganized family group developed the household; and from the household came the fief; and the grouping together of little fiefs produced great fiefs; among which was the Duchy of Burgundy, created in 877 by Charles II, grandson of the Emperor Charlemagne.

The 11th Century

One consequence of this social reorganization was the frequent occurrence of famine, which desolated France during the reigns of Hugh Capet and Robert the Pious. There was famine in 987, 989 and 1001; from 1003 to 1008; from 1010 to 1014; from 1027 to 1029; and once again in 1031 and 1032, the first years of Henry I. The statistics are frightful.

This scourge of famine was a direct result of those barriers erected between the many fiefs of which the country was composed. There were some hundreds of little states with closed frontiers; innumerable tolls, payments for market rights imposed on the merchant, unsafe roads infested with men-at-arms who had regard only for the people of their own Lord. If bad harvests desolated one part of the country, no food could pass from another area where the harvests had been plentiful. In the 11th century - within 73 years - 43 periods of dearth occurred.

Under these sad auspices opened the reign of Henry I (963-1002). His mother, Queen Constance, would have preferred to see her 3rd son, Robert, crowned King; so now came civil war between the two sons. For a while Henry came out second best, but after his mother's death in July 1032, his luck returned. Unfortunately for Henry, however, to restore peace, he gave to Robert the Duchy of Burgundy. Here Robert founded a practically independent, strong dynasty - which would last more than 300 years, till 1361, when the reign of Philip de Rouvres came to an end.

The Duchy of Burgundy, at the time of Henri le Grand, was made up of the Dioceses of Langres, Chalon, Macon, Autun, Nevers, Auxerre and Troyes, and the Archdioceses of Sens and Provins. Duke Henri had not only suzerainty over these territories; but possessed also, in the interior of the Duchy, the Counties which depended directly on him; those of Auxerre, Nevers and Autun.

Scarcely had Henri died in 1002, than Otte-Guillaume seized both the Duchy and the Counties of Auxerre and Autun that Henri had assigned to others. But Robert II, King of France, disputed the succession, not only as King of France, but as the closest relative of Henri, his uncle.

Robert, in 1003, laid siege to Auxerre; but failing in this, in revenge, ravaged Burgundy as far East as the Saone, and in 1005 took the town of Avallon (40 Km. NW of Mont St. Jean). When Otte finally submitted is not known, but in 1006 the authority of the King was already recognized in Burgundy, although not yet solidly established. In 1015 he took the town of Sens and laid siege to Dijon, and when it fell in 1016, the conquest of Burgundy had been completed.

Robert placed the government of Burgundy in the hands of his son Henri, probably in 1017, and when ten years later Henri became King of France, he soon passed the rule of the Duchy, in 1032, to his brother Robert.

Robert the Pious, whose reign was troubled with frequent violent wars, was first of the Dukes "of the Premiere Race" [1032-1361].

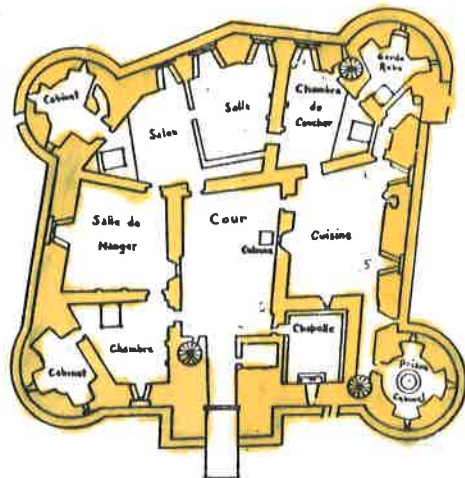
The Feudal Domain

At the time of the "First Dukes", feudalism was vigorously entrenched within its stone keeps. The "mesnie" of the Barons was extended and fortified; their fortresses - masterpieces of architecture - with their ponds covered with a

green carpet of conferva, with their thick "courtaine" walls and their high towers, defied the armies of the times, which did not yet have at their disposal machinery for effective sieges.

Feudal castles were built on the same scheme as the Royal Court - only on a smaller scale. It had the same officers: the Seneschal, Marshal, Pantler, Butler, and a Chaplain sometimes called Chancellor. It was not the feudal Lord who copied the Sovereign; it was the Royal Court which developed from the Feudal Court of the high Barons.

Let us take a look at the Castle of one of these Barons of the 11th century. In the shadow of the high tower - at the summit of which the sentinel, to kill time, sings some songs of the watch, or plays on the flute, the timbrel or the cornet - has been built the palace, the residence of the Seigneur. There are two principal apartments: the Chamber, which is reserved for him and his family; and the Hall, where meals are taken. A part of this latter room, at the extreme end, is slightly raised like a stage, from which a view can be had of the whole apartment; it is the Dais. In the Hall the public life is passed, the common life of the Castellany.



But it was not long before the feudal Lords began to suffer from want of money. The dues which they levied on their vassals were payment "in kind". These were consumed like the products of their domains by their family, their servants, and their men-at-arms.

As trade and industry developed, money acquired a greater value. It became daily more difficult to do without, and the feudal Lords seemed always short of money. Hence the habits of plunder which came to mark the feudal system: the same Lord who was a model of order and justice within the limits of his fief was often transformed into a brigand without - against those who were strangers to his fief.

There is an urgent need for a royal authority to be more strongly developed as feudal society advances along its separate ways. As the 11th century ends, however, royal authority - while a most cohesive force - is still widely opposed by the power of the Seigneurs.

The numerous Barons - who encumber with their towers the royal domain - have grown increasingly more powerful, with their impregnable strongholds and their men-at-arms.

A Further History of the Duchy

In mid- 11th century, several expeditions were sent against the Moors:

- . 1033 - a Burgundian army under Odilo de Cluny.
- . 1063 - an expedition from Aquitaine.
- . 1065 - an expedition under Thibaut de Semur.
- . 1073 - another under Eble de Rouc, with support of the Pope.

Upon the death of Robert the Pious, in 1076, the Seigneurs of Burgundy selected Hugues, son of Henri I, and under his government peace was once again restored. He retired in 1079 to the Abbey of Cluny, leaving the Duchy to his brother Eudes.

As the century wore on, in 1078 and 1083, two more expeditions were raised against the Moors; and in 1089 Burgundy, which had in 1077 been ravaged by famine, was further desolated by pestilence. The event which dominated the end of the 11th century, however, was the founding of the Abbey of Citeaux in 1099 - of which Hugues II of Mont St. Jean was one of the founding fathers.

Between 1096 and 1202 the Sires of Mont St. Jean followed the Dukes of Burgundy on a succession of four Crusades:

- . Hugues II de MSJ - 1st Crusade , 1096-1099 - Philip I
- . Hugues III - 3rd " , 1189-1192 - Philip II
- . Guillaume I - 4th " , 1202-1204 - French Nobles
- . Guillaume II - 7th " , 1248-1254 - Louis IX

Duke Eudes I died at Tarsus in 1102, on his way to the Holy Land, and was succeeded by Hugues II, called "le Pacifique".

In 1101 Burgundy was ravaged by still another epidemic.

In 1115 the Abbey of Clairvaux was founded by St. Bernard.

Duke Hugues II died in 1143, and Eudes II succeeded his father.

A great number of Burgundian Seigneurs went on the 2nd Crusade in 1146, under Louis VII of France.

Duke Eudes II died in 1162 and was succeeded by Hugues III, who was then a minor, his mother taking the direction of affairs into her own hands.

Hugues III took over the reign of government in 1165, started preparations for another Crusade in 1196, and left for the Holy Land in 1171 accompanied - among others - by Eudes de Champagne, Sire de Champlitte; whose son Guillaume, Vicomte de Dijon, married Elizabeth de Mont St. Jean.

Duke Hugues returned the next year, and in 1174 declared war on Guy, Count of Nevers - who was subsequently taken prisoner and obliged to sign a treaty of peace, for which Hugues II de Mont St. Jean was one of the arbiters.

In 1185 Duke Hugues besieged the Chateau of Vergy, whose Seigneur had refused him homage; but Philippe-Auguste of France came to the aid of the Sire de Vergy, and Hugues III was obliged to raise the siege.

In 1190 Hugues III embarked with King Phillippe for the Holy Land; but died in Tyre in 1193.

Although Eudes III had governed the Duchy during the sojourn of his father in the Holy Land, he did not take the title of Duke until 1193. The quarrel between the Dukes and the Sires de Vergy began again in 1196, but was ended by a treaty in which Hugues, Sire de Vergy, exchanged his Chateau of Vergy for the Chateau of Mirebeau and the title of Grand Senechal of Burgundy; agreeing also to give him his daughter Alix in marriage. Eudes died in 1218 and was succeeded by his son Hugues IV, who was then only six years old. During his minority his mother, Alix de Vergy, governed the Duchy with great wisdom.

His daughter Marguerite was betrothed, in 1239, to Guillaume III de Mont St. Jean, the marriage taking place about 1244.

Hugues de Til-Chateau (grand-nephew of Etienne de Mont St. Jean), flag-bearer (porte-banniere) for the Sire de Joinville, was killed at Massoure in 1248.

Guillaume II de Mont St. Jean, in 1239, served as "security hostage" for Hugues IV of Burgundy, at the Court of Louis IX.

Etienne de Mont St. Jean, Chevalier, served both with and against the Dukes of Burgundy in their campaigns from 1296 to 1333.

Hugues V, still an infant, succeeded his father in 1305 - though the government remained in the hands of his mother, Agnes.

Eudes IV, his brother, was Duke of Burgundy from 1315 to 1350.

Philippe de Rouvres, last of this line of "the Premiere Race", succeeded in 1350 and reigned until his death in 1364, when King John II of France bestowed Burgundy as a fief, upon his son Philip the Bold.

Following the Battle of Poitiers in 1356, the English forayed into Burgundy: Chatillon-sur-Seine (25 Km. North of Mont St. Jean) was destroyed, Tonnerre was pillaged, the walls of Auxerre were torn down, and the enemy, in 1360, advanced as far as Flavigny.

The 100 Years War

To re-establish peace between France and England, Philip of Burgundy succeeded in concluding at Calais, in 1396, the marriage of seven year old Isabel, the daughter of Charles VI with Richard II, the English king.

In 1400, Richard II was overthrown and assassinated by Henry of Lancaster, who, as Henry IV, then ascended the English throne.

Louis of Orleans sent a personal defiance to the new King of England, who had put to death his neice's husband, while in Paris, Queen Isabel - exercising the regency during the mental alienation of her husband - saw first the town, and then the country, divided into two hostile camps which disputed the government of the kingdom, ready to come to blows.

At the Hotel d'Artois the Duke of Burgundy with his two sons, Jean and Antoine grouped around them many men-at-arms. And in his Court in his house near the gate of St. Antoine, Louis de Orleans gathered about him also a numerous knight-hood.

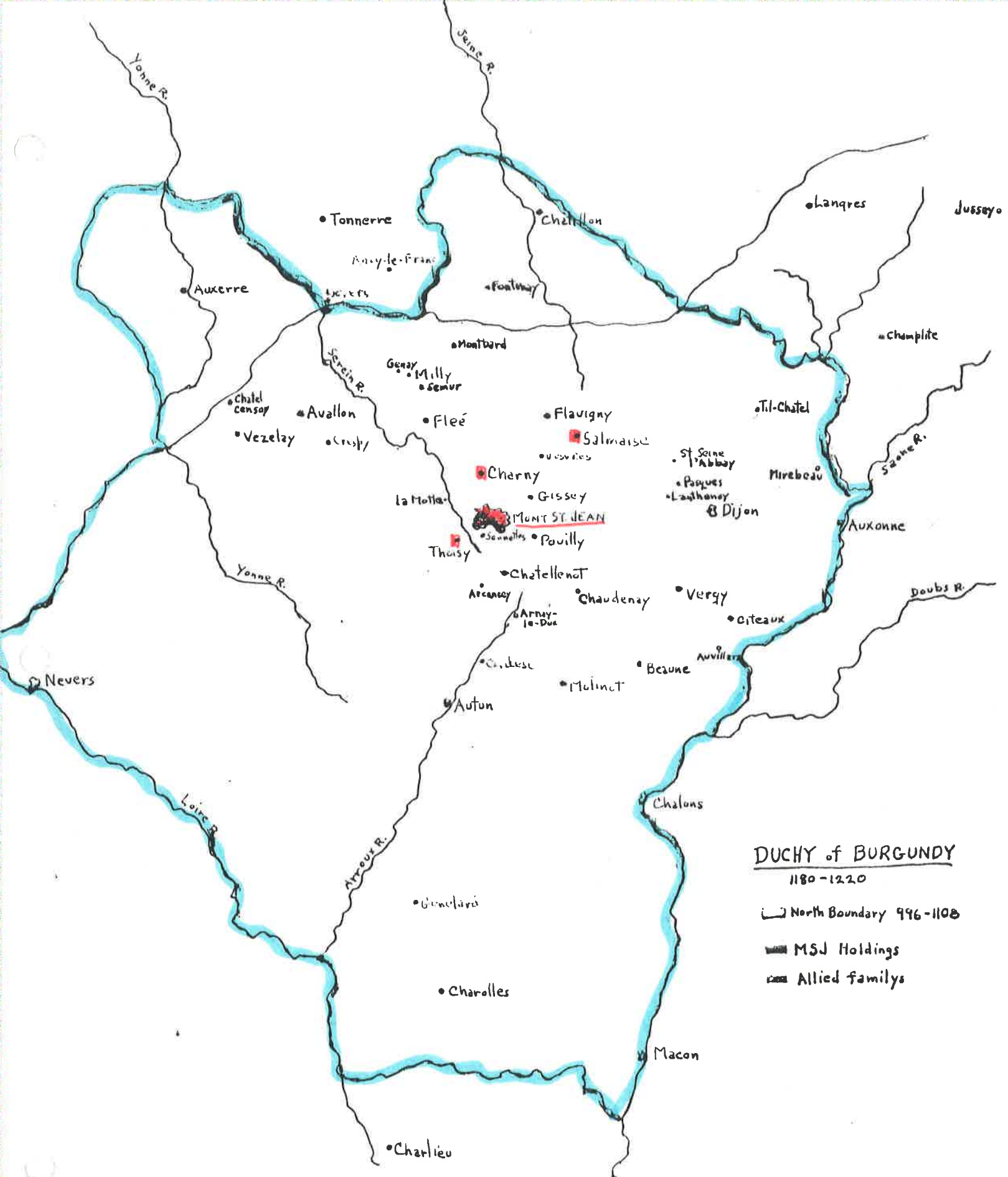
On April 27, 1404, Philip the Bold, Duke of Burgundy, died. His son, Jean the Fearless, was 33 years old; very courageous, high spirited, subtle, doubting, suspicious and trusting no one.

Philip (Count of Charolais before his succession) and his successors: Jean the Fearless, Philip the Good and Charles the Bold acquired between them - by conquest, treaty and marriage (1467-77) - vast territories, including Nivernais and Charolais, and in early 15th century the Dukes of Burgundy dominated French politics, through their partisans in France.

England, at first supported by Burgundy in the 100 Year's War, suffered a crucial setback when Philip the Good withdrew that support in the Treaty of Arras (1435). A great power, Burgundy at that time had the most important trade, industries and agriculture of Western Europe. Its Court, a center of the Arts, was second to none.

In 1440 the "Ecorcheurs" invaded Auxois, but in 1444 were defeated at Saulieu - just West of Mont St. Jean.

In 1477 Charles the Bold was defeated by Louis XI, who seized the Duchy and incorporated it as a Province into the Crown Lands; to which Louis XIV later added Charolais.



MONT ST. JEAN ... THE VILLAGE

The ancient village of Mont St. Jean, situated in Auxois, in the Cote d'Or - on the salient prominence and point of its mountain top - was once of considerable size, enclosed by walls with seven gates, of which only one - the gate of St. Christopher - remained into the 17th century.

The lower part of the village is called St. Jean-le-Bourg, and the upper part St. Jean-le-Chateau. The village is divided by three roads; the first leading to Glanot and Montbertaut; the second to the Bergeries, where the fairs were held; and the third descends to Gensey, where remains an old castle built by Leonor Chabot and a beautiful fountain. Another runs before the Priory of Glanot, to where the waters reunite with those of the gorge of Conian - where grinds the mill of l'Etang (the pond). In the part called St. Jean-le-Bourg was the Chateau of l'Ognon, once home to Espiard.

The church of Mont St. Jean-le-Chateau, built partly in the 11th and partly in the 12th centuries, contains a Roman crypt holding the remains of St. Pelagie, a beautifully preserved altar screen in stone dating from the 16th century, and two most delicately carved reliquaries of wood from the 17th century.

Its Parish answers to St. Jean-Baptiste, patron of the Priory of Glanot, once also of the Archpresbytery of Saulieu. Many relics preserved there, some richly encased, were brought from the Orient by the Seigneurs at the time of the Crusades. Among them those of Ste. Pelagie, a celebrated penitent; St. Macaire of Egypt; St. Julien, a martyr of Alexandria, who one invokes for the gout and of which Clement XI - when suffering from severe aches and pains - in 1705, through his nuncio, sought a portion from Gabriel de Roquette, an early Bishop of Autun.

This church, once the central chapel - with a body of eight priests to officiate in this place only - was consecrated in 1453, at the time of removal of the relics from the Chateau to the church.

* * *

The Priory of Glanot - called Glenoul in 1348 - a dependency of Cluny answering to St. Pierre, was established in the 13th century by the Seigneurs of Mont St. Jean, of whom there were many here interred.

Its church - formerly a Parish church - was vast and vaulted, with twelve altars. The Prevosts of the Cross, Seigneurs de Sonotte, had there a Chapel and a vault; while those of Espiard were in the Chapel of St. Blaise. In the lower part of the church are three tombs of Espiards, one that of Claude Espiard of Sonotte - dating from 1552.

Its Prior was Patron of the parishes of Mont St. Jean, Missery, Thorey, Gissey-le-Vieux and Soussey. He was pledged to a daily alms giving and a general gift on Holy Tuesday, after having washed the feet of twelve poor folk, according to the register of livings with their revenues of Cluny, published in 1644. The Seigneur, for this endowment, was pledged to give 4 quarters of mutton, 96 bushels of wheat, 48 of oats and 16 pints of wine.

The ancient Hospital was joined in the 13th century to the Priory of Nailly, and then to the "Mepart" de Flavigny, from which came the curate; and finally given to the inhabitants of the town in 1576.

A rural Chapel answered to Ste. Pelagie; and much further down was a Leprosorium, in a field still called "la Maladiere".

The Parish outside the town is composed of 5 villages: Mairey of the Abbé of St. Martin d'Autun, a rural Chapel of 1340; the Come, a fief united to that of Doran; Fleury, with an ancient chapel; Ormancey; and Moulin (or Melin) separated by the stream of Doran.

Near the Cavern of Doran emerges a fine fall of water which activates many mills and a fulling mill, falling finally into the Serein.

Between Fleurey and Mont St. Jean remains an old road coming from Autun, where the cultivated ground was called "l'hate pavée", leading to Jonchere, Charny and Thorey-pour-Alise. It was here, nearby, where the Maréchal de Cossé-Brissac - going out to fight the Huguenots in June 1570 - came from across the valley near Saulieu to camp at Mont St. Jean - below which he skirmished with the enemy; just before closure of the main battle fought between Clomot and Arnay-le-Duc.

The soil of the valleys is gray, that of the hillsides lighter. Many acres round about are covered with sharp stones, placed horizontally from North to South, which astonish the curious, and here and there are found fossils of all species. There are many stone quarries close by from which are cut enormous blocks without flaws.

The wheat is good, there are some cantons of vines which were once more considerable, and fruits of good taste. In the surrounding area are raised famed sheep, whose wool would be better if they were penned up, as in England.

Tuesday is market day and three Fairs have been in existence since 1348. The Tuesday before the Fete-Dieu [Fete de Ste. Pelagie] there was always held a race for which the prize was a measure of cloth, and for jumps (sauts) a pair of gloves; a belt (ceinture) given to a girl, a hundred pins to another, and a mirror to a woman. The Officiers de Justice long distributed these prizes originated by the Seigneurs of Mont St. Jean during the centuries of ignorance.

The ancient families of Mont St. Jean were Espiard, of whom one sees a Guyot Espiard in 1380; Brocard, long since gone from the spot; and the Crespeys at Mairey, Patrons of the Chapelle de la Magdeleine, built in the vaulted crypt under the Choir of l'Eglise Paroissiale [the Parish church].

The powerful Seigneurs of Mont St. Jean were the founders of the Priories of Glanot; Val-Croissant; St. Jean-de-Jericho in the parish of Soussey; St. Jean-de-Bonnevaux, since then a hermitage; and they were continuing contributors of donations to almost all of the Abbeys of Burgundy; to the Chapitres of Autun, Langres, Sainte Chapelle of Dijon and many others. Their memorial tombs were once prominent at Glanot, Val-Croissant and at Citeaux.

The Baronnie of Mont St. Jean was charged with many "rents" (incomes) accorded by the ancient Seigneurs: to the Habitues serving their central (castrale) Chapel, to Citeaux, to the Chapitre d'Autun, to the Ste. Chapelle de Dijon, to the Priory du Val-St. Benoit, to those of Glanot, Val-Croissant, and to the Abbey de Fontenay; the financial means by which these religious orders were able to exist.

* * *

After Etienne III of Mont St. Jean was divested of his properties in 1333, the Chateau passed down through the remaining members of Etienne's line.

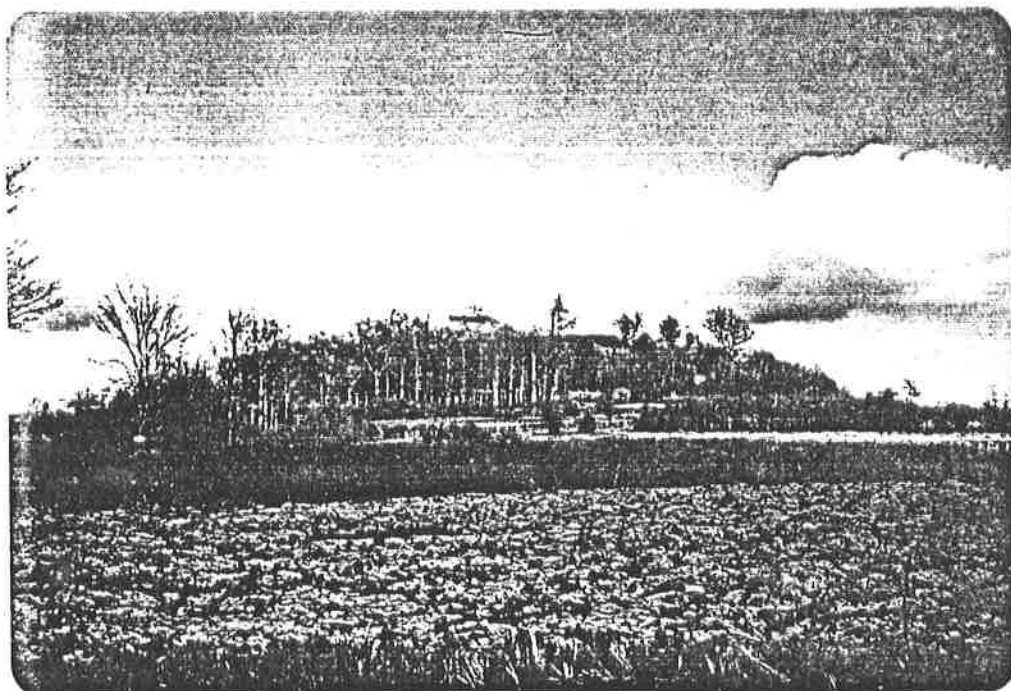
Hugues, son of Etienne III, nephew of Isabelle de Mont St. Jean, detailed the enumeration of his properties in 1348; and was invited by Duke Eudes IV to betake himself to Beauvais - rendezvous of the nobility - to take part in the fight against the English. He appeared also at the Tournament d'Avalon in 1358 with 21 Nobles à cheval (on horse).

Jeanne, his daughter, carried this rich succession to the Sires de Til. Pierre de Til, Chevalier, Seigneur de St. Beurry, made homage to Duke Jean in 1414 for the Chateau of Mont St. Jean, and released the town from the rents levied by Guillaume - in return for 13 francs, 4 deniers; payable each year by the proprietors of the maisons.

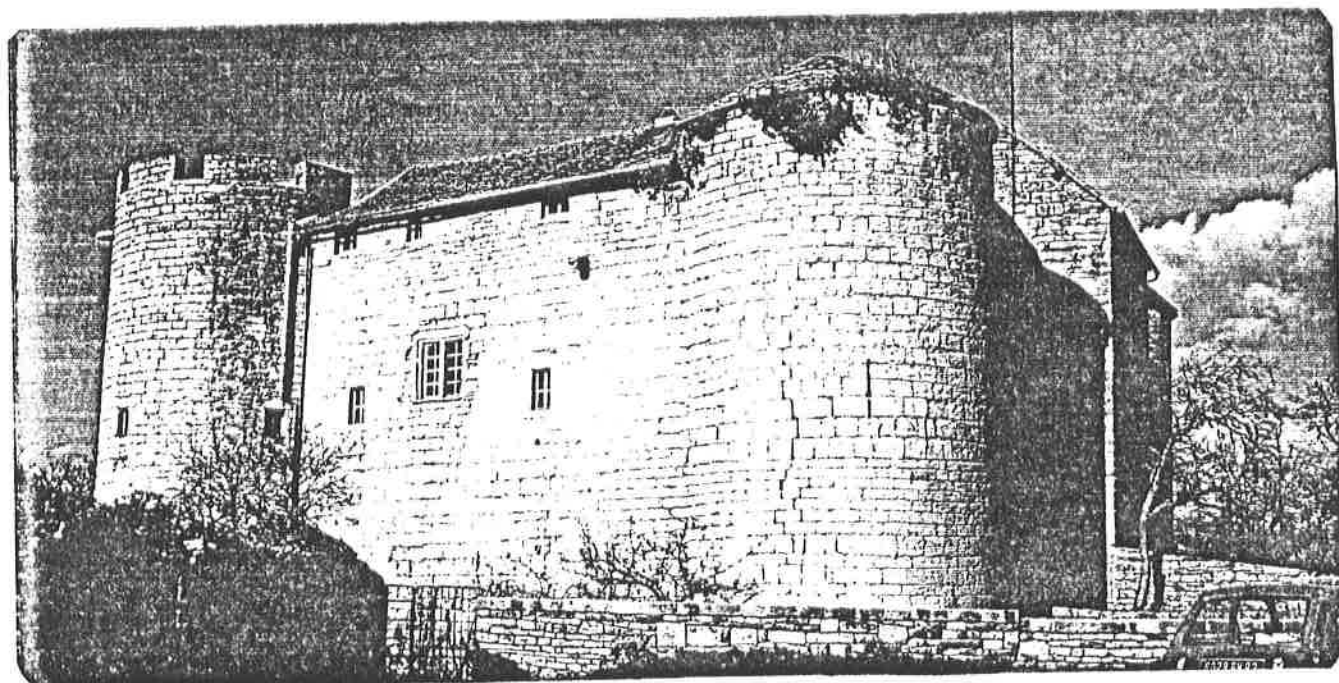
Claude Beauvoir de Chastelux, Chamberlain to Philippe le Bon, Maréchal de France - who had married Guyé de Mont St. Jean, sister of Jeanne - lived in this town, of which he was termed Seigneur in 1434. He had a beautifully figured tomb built for the body of his sister-in-law Jeanne, who had been interred at the Priory of Glanot in 1411.

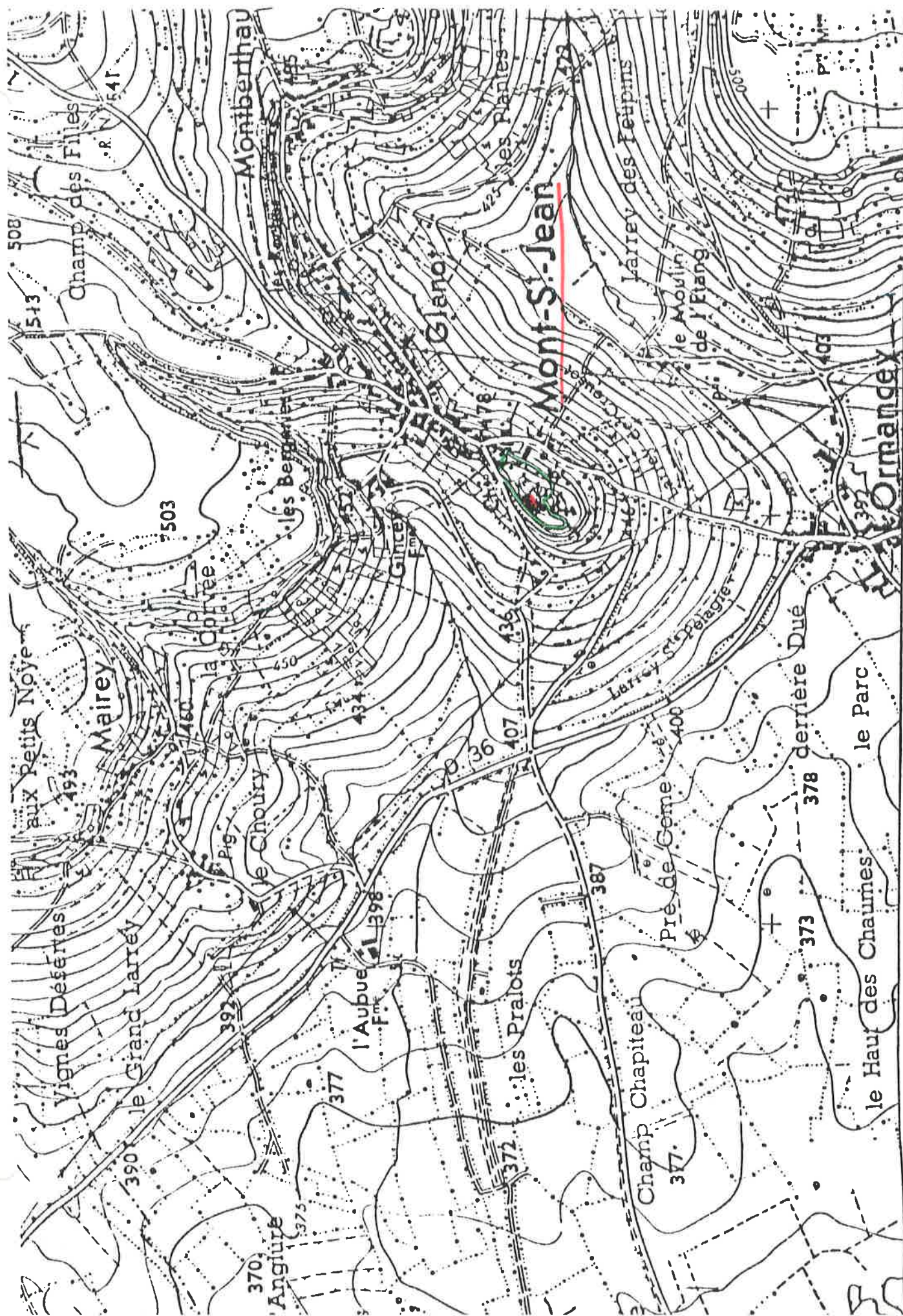
The Duke sent him to Auxerre to treat (discuss) the general peace. Upon his death in 1453, the Baronnie de Mont St. Jean passed to Pierre de Beaufremont, son of Philippe and Marie de Charny.

Philippe le Bon, in 1456, established the Barony of Charny as a Comté (County) in 1450 and created the Seigneurie of Charny en Comté - composed of the lands of Mont St. Jean, Arnay, Pouilly, Vilaines-les-Prévôtes and Montfort - in favor of Pierre de Beaufremont, who had married his natural daughter Marie, and who died in 1473, leaving three daughters. [See Fief of Charny].



Château de Mont St. Jean





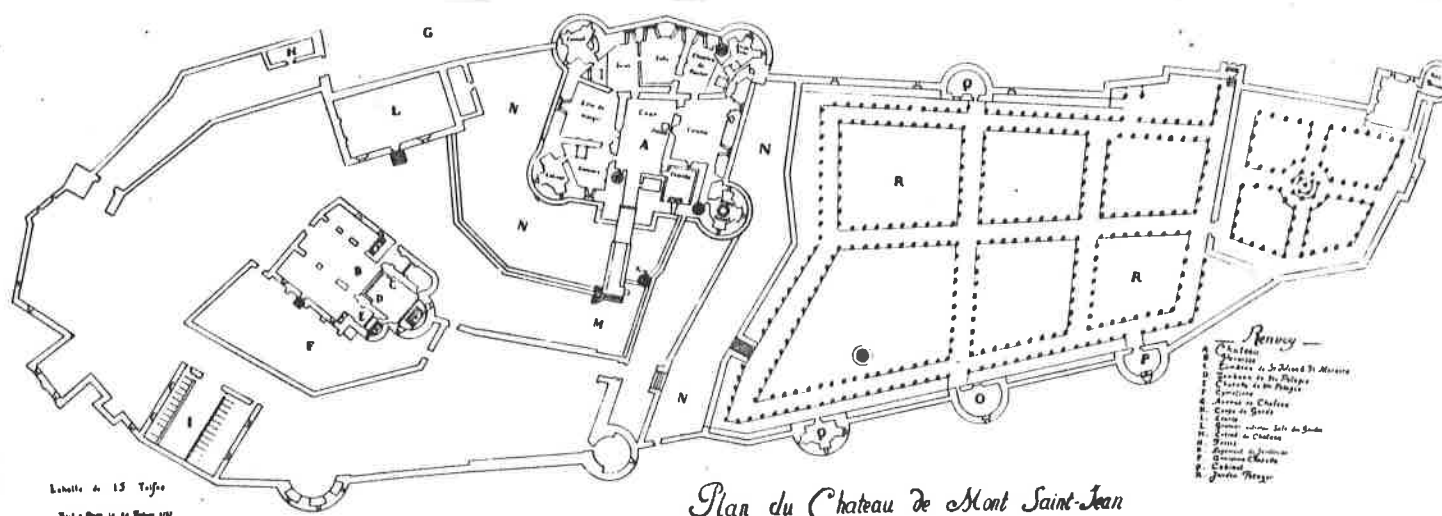
MONT ST. JEAN ... THE CHATEAU

Deep in the Cote d'Or in the province of Burgundy, some miles westward from the juncture of the beautiful valley of the Serein and the River Yonne, stands the time-hallowed Chateau de Mont St. Jean. Not too grand and not too bold, but neat and trim as castles go - high on its promontory it stands there still - sound and habitable, mellowed in age and history.

Here, for more than a thousand years - a century before William the Conqueror and his band of Normans invaded the British Isles and the 1st Crusade began - the castle has stood defiant on its ancient Roman campsite; guardian of the surrounding fertile valleys and the little peasant village of Mont St. Jean. Here also stands its nestling church - of almost like antiquity - and all that remains of defensive walls, moats, guardhouse and kitchen gardens; enduring reminders of days long past.

This once was a true fortress - withstanding years of seige and confrontation - indicating still, through the substance of its ruins, the power and grandeur of the masters who lived within its walls. Ten guard towers, at intervals of 60 feet, protected its surrounding curtain wall - of which five still remained late into the 17th century. Its central donjon castle was constructed with four corner towers, an entry drawbridge, a cistern and deep well. Over the wet moat which afforded it protection were later built two charming promenades bordered with trees, commanding a sweeping view of the vast valley of the meandering Serein - surrounded by its amphitheatre of mountains, rich forests, ponds, chateaux, villages and the major town of Saulieu.

First noted in the chronicles of 924 A.D., it was for centuries the seat of the Seigneurs of Mont St. Jean - those Sires who rode forth on crusade with the Dukes of Burgundy and stood stoutly beside the Kings of France against the enemies of the realm - long counted high amongst the most ancient and most honorable lords of the Duchy.



I shall certainly always remember that April day in 1946, when - a 1st Lieutenant on leave from my regiment in West Berlin - I had crowded aboard a solidly packed bus at Dijon and, having stood jammed-in for some thirty miles, descended onto the country road to see, off in the distance, a spire rising from a far-off hill. There lay the Mont St. Jean I had so long dreamed of seeing and had come so far to visit ... birthplace of the Despard family. Off I went down the winding road, climbing gradually up-grade to the town two miles away - nothing in sight but fields, cows, and an occasional distant peasant.

Having reached the town and asking haltingly if any trace of the old castle remained, I was directed towards the promontory of the hill, expecting no more than crumbled stones and fallen walls ... all usually left standing of such ancient, time-worn structures.

Imagine my surprise then, seeing first a stretch of wall in tolerably good repair, and soon after a most imposing gem-like Castle - complete with church, cemetery, caretaker's house and stable. Here the caretaker and his family, visibly impressed by the presence of an American officer in uniform claiming it as his own, took me into their home - for another likewise halting conversation. A brief history of the family - in French - which I had fortunately brought with me, caused an immediate flurry of keen excitement and a desire to take the young officer on a tour of the castle which he had come so far to see.

* * *

The Arms of Mont St. Jean

Every great house of those countries embracing the heraldic markings of the medieval years used the emblazonment of their Coats of Arms to reflect the power and glory of their Siegneuries - either in property or historic events from their earliest years.

The Arms of the house of Mont St. Jean - Three Shields of Gold on a Red Field - must, therefore, be presumed to represent those three great properties which the Siegneurs of Mont St. Jean - early in the 12th century - held in fief from the Dukes of Burgundy: Mont St. Jean, Charny and Salmaise.

The Espiard arms which followed in its stead: Three golden stems of wheat on a field of Blue; had long been seen in the village of Mont St. Jean - a quaint old town of less than a thousand souls, adjacent to the Chateau grounds - home of Espiards since 1300.

Chateau and village together lie lost in the farm and vinyard lands of the surrounding countryside on a plateau some 120 meters above - a visit to which can never be forgotten.

* * *

ARMS OF MONT ST. JEAN, ESPIARD AND DESPARD

DERIVATION

If, as is reasonable to surmise, the ancient arms of the house of Mont St. Jean were carried as identification at the time of the 1st Crusade - in which Hugues I participated in the Company of Hugues de Vermandois (109601098) - then it is also reasonable to assume that the three shields comprising the Arms represented the three great chateaux then held in fief from the Dukes of Burgundy by the Siegneurs de Mont St. Jean.

Those records now in hand would suggest that these three principal fiefs were Mont St. Jean, Salmaise and Charny.

This appears most likely from the record; for not only were they mentioned as the three principal holdings in an 1196 transaction between Etienne I and the Duke, but Charny is first noted in my records as a holding of Hugues II, born ± 1120, and the same three shields - in reverse color - were also carried by the Charny branch, established as a cadette (junior) line by Ponce (living 1172-1211), 3rd son of Hugues II.

It is reasonable to presume that Charny was a holding which considerably antedated the lifetime of Hugues II; and that it was one of the properties held by his father, Hugues I (the Crusader) during his lifetime.

Mont St. Jean was a fortress of great strength in its time, its four towered Donjon - the main castle stronghold - surrounded by a curtain wall having ten great towers. Salmaise was strong enough to hold out against the Duke's forces in 1304, and the Donjon of Charney was itself protected by a wall of ten strong towers - a formidable threesome indeed!

If one of the shields represented Thoisy, another possibility, I find no mention of it as a holding of Mont St. Jean until the time of Guillaume II in the 13th century; at about the same time Ponce (his uncle) took Charny to his own right.

Thoisy was a strong fortress of perhaps older vintage, and could easily, therefore, have been one of the original three. However, since it is not mentioned in the 1196 transaction with the Duke, it may not have been a holding of Mont St. Jean at that time. Its first mention as part of the then important Mont St. Jean threesome comes in 1231, when Guillaume II acknowledged it to be one of the three principal chateaux available for the Duke's use; which use was disputed by Etienne III in 1304 - leading to an open break with the Duke through the following twenty years.

Unless the possession of Thoisy antedated 1190, therefore, it is hardly likely that Thoisy would have been represented as one of the three shields retained in the Arms of Charny.

It is my presumption, lacking evidence to the contrary, that the three shields on the MSJ escutcheon do, in fact, represent Mont St. Jean, Salmaise & Charny.

ESPIARD ARMS

The 14th century Arms of the house of Espiard - 3 stems of wheat upon a field Azure - would seem a logical extension and modernization of this same MSJ display; then symbolizing three now less warlike holdings of the Junior line - as the ancient Mont St. Jean estates were never properties of the Espiard descendants. These Arms are carried by the French family to the present day.

THE IRISH DESPARDS

The Irish Arms of Philip d'Espard [1572]: 3 Bars Gules (Red) on a field of Argent would be a further extension of this same theme; as were the 3 Bars alternating Argent and Azure carried on the 17th century Arms of Despars of Tournais.

The first reference I have found relating to the Irish Arms was to those carried by Philip's grandson William of Cranagh, Colonel of Engineers in King William's army (1635-1713):

Arms: Argent 3 Bars Gules.

Crest: A broken dagger, dripping 5 drops of blood.

Motto: Pugno, pugnas, pugnavi. [I fight, I have fought, I will fight].

- certain indication of the proud heritage carried down from father and family before him.

Of his 5 sons, both William of Killaghy and Richard of Cranagh bore the same Arms and Motto - with the addition of a Canton Azure mounted with a mailed fist and upright dagger upon it.

His 2nd son, John, used the varience of: Argent 2 Bars Azure and a Canton Gules, also with the broken dagger. His eldest son Edward made use of a Seal carrying a Lion Rampant.

William of Killaghy had 7 children. Of these, his son William (1710-1765), while High Sheriff of County Queens, made use of a Seal with Ducal Coronet.

This William's grandson Francis Green Despard (1753 - 1818) possessed a Carnelian Signet Ring inscribed with the initials FGD and the same broken dagger. This ring has passed down from eldest son to eldest son - and is now fondly worn on my own left hand.

THE DESPARD COATS OF ARMS

In the thousand years of Despard heraldic history, Coats of Arms borne by the succession of families - although distinctly different - have all carried on their fields a common "set of three."

The shield of Vergy was emblazoned with 3 roses; Mont St. Jean - 3 shields, denoting principal properties; Espiard - 3 stems of wheat; and Despard - 3 red bars.

In accordance with tradition and the custom of the day, although sons would inherit and carry their father's Arms, each one - upon coming of age or setting up his own household - would vary or add elements as a mark of distinction. So, often, with our own family.



VERGY - Gules, three Roses Or, each with 5 petals.

(790-960)

Motto - "Preux" (gallant)



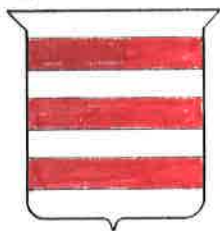
MONT ST. JEAN - Gules, three escutcheons Or.

(950-1240)



ESPIARD - Azure, three stems of wheat Or, tipped Gules.

(1265-1570)



DESPARD - Argent, three bars Gules, on a canton Azure a mailed fist proper, in fess, grasping a dagger Argent, hilted Or.

(1545-)

Crest - A broken dagger, with 5 drops of blood.

Motto - "Pugno, pugnas, pugnavi".

Variations of these basic Arms, as noted below:



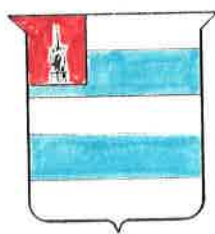
MONT ST. JEAN - Charny branch, Ponce 1172, thru 1400.
Argent, three escutcheons Gules.



DESPARS of Tournais - (16th-17th century)
Fess Argent and Azure, a border compony
of the same colors.
(A variation of the Irish Despard Arms).



DESPARD - (1572)
William of Killaghy Castle (1680-1720) and Richard of Donore
(1682-1741), 4th & 5th sons of Col. William of Cranagh (1635-
1713), carried the basic Arms with addition of a canton Azure,
mounted with mailed fist and broken dagger.



John (1675-1716), his 2nd son, carried the variation of
Argent, two bars Azure, canton Gules, also with the dagger.

Edward (1674-1753), his eldest son, used
a seal with Lion Rampant.



William (1710-1765), eldest son of William of Killaghy,
while High Sheriff of County Queens (1739-1742) made use
of a Seal with Ducal Coronet.



Francis Green (1753-1818), grandson of this William,
wore a Carnelian Signet Ring inscribed with his initials
FGD and the broken dagger of the crest.

Shield shapes varied with time and country:

Ancient French - A somewhat rounded triangle, set on
an inclined angle.

Modern French - An elongated box with rounded lower corners,
terminated in a point at center of the base.

English - A variation of the modern French shield,
widened at top corners with angular extensions.

THE SEIGNEURS OF MONT ST. JEAN ... VERGY, ESPIARD & DESPARD

The Arms:

Vergy: De gueules a trois Roses d'or, de cinq feuilles chacune.

MSJ: De gueules á trois Ecussons d'or.

Espiard: D'azur, a trois espies de Ble d'or, ardents de gueules.

Despard: D'argent, three Bars gules; on a canton azure, a mailed fist grasping a dagger argent.

The earliest record of the once powerful fortress of Mont St. Jean is noted over one thousand years ago - in 924 - early in the tenth century. In this year Flodoard, the ancient chronicler of those times, while traveling in the company of Rudolph, King of France, spoke of coming "to a certain Chateau called Mont St. Jean, which Count Raynaud de Vergy had seized and wrongfully occupied; to which the king was then intending to lay siege".

We have no record of the exact time at which this ancient fortress of Mont St. Jean was erected, or by whom, but it is probable that it was built by one of the early Sires de Vergy, from whom the Seigneurs de Mont St. Jean are descended.

* * *

THE SEIGNEURS OF VERGY

1. First known of the illustrious house of Vergy and earliest ancestor of the Seigneurs of Mont St. Jean was GUERIN - Count of Macon and Chalon, Count d'Auvergne, Marquis de Bourgogne, Duke of Aquitaine & Seigneur de Vergy - one of the most celebrated men in all of France; who for his outstanding qualities of virtue and good service, merited elevation to the most eminent honors of the State, during the reigns of Kings Louis the Debonnaire and Charles the Bald.

GUERIN - born about 790 A.D. - was created Governor of Auvergne by Louis the Debonnaire, son of the Emperor Charlemagne, and in this high office in 819 went to battle against Loup - surnamed Centoul - Duke of the rebellious Gascons. And when Louis, some years later, had been imprisoned by his sons Lothaire and Pepin, and shamefully debased in both kingdom and empire ... Guerin was one of the first who aroused the people of Burgundy to fight for restoration of their King.

His efforts in this regard brought such favorable success that, through the use of the forces of his brother-in-law Count Bernard of Autun and himself taking the lead at Bonnoeil-en-Brie in 834, Lothaire - as a consequence - was compelled to set his father free. Lothaire henceforth conceived such a great hate for Count Guerin that he shortly thereafter went forth to beseige him in his castle of Chalon-sur-Saone; which he finally took over by a compromise settlement.

Upon the death of Louis the Debonnaire in 840, however, Burgundy fell to the lot of Charles the Bald, his youngest son. Whereupon Count Guerin went straightway to Orleans, where, being graciously received by Charles, he swore to uphold and serve him faithfully, as his lawful and sovereign Seigneur.

He thus acquitted himself so well and so faithfully that, for his aid in helping Charles chase his nephew, King Pepin of Aquitaine, out of the country, he was given the honorary title of Duke, made Governor, and attributed the principal honor of the victory won against Lothaire near Fontenay in Burgundy, in the year of 841. Guerin, now additionally honored with the rank of Marquis, swore continuing allegiance to the ancient Dukes of Burgundy.

In the Articles of Agreement of the Assembly General of the Kingdom held at Covleines near Mans in 844, the name of Guerin alone - amongst all the great Seigneurs - is there noted for his excellence of character and prerogative of rank.

When Guerin married the Lady Blanche de Cluny sometime prior to 825 - in the 12th year of the Empire of Louis the Debonnaire - Hildebrand, Bishop of Macon, transferred to him all of the town and appurtenances of Cluny, in exchange for other villages situated in the Nivernais and Auvergne countryside. Guerin died about 856.

He was father of:

1. Theodoric, his heir, and
 2. Ermengarde - who married Bernard, Count of Bourges and Auvergne, Marquis de Nevers - to whom King Louis the Begue entrusted the government of Louis III, his son.
2. THEODORIC, son of Guerin - born about 830 - succeeding to all the honors of Burgundy held by his father, was no less powerful and renowned than any near the kings who reigned there in his time.

For history notes that King Charles the Bald (having occupied the Kingdom of Lorraine of which - at the death of Lothaire - his brother, King Louis of Germany claimed to be co-heiritor) in the accord drawn up at Aix in 870, was assisted by Count Theodoric, as one of the principal Councilors of his kingdom. Charles named him also as chief among the Counts to whom he entrusted the affairs of Louis-le-Begue, his son and heir.

Louis-le-Begue, after his coronation, was so impressed with Theodoric's capabilities that he not only made him his Grand Chamberlain, but relegated to him the management of his most important business, and - when traveling for the second time into Italy during the year 877, left to Theodoric the full administration of his kingdom.

Pope Jean VIII, who had crowned Louis at Troyes in 878, in one of his *Épistres* also paid him most eloquent testimony. For, in wishing to extend his commendations to those near his majesty Boson, Duke of Provence, he wrote particularly to Theodoric, to Bernard, and to Hugues the Abbot; whom he regarded as the

most illustrious men of the Kingdom of France - those who through their trust and authority could best preserve affection for the King in their part of the country".

This had such telling effect that King Louis - when the Marquis de Languedoc, his brother-in-law, rebelled against him, divided the honors that Bernard had possessed in Burgundy between Theodoric, his Chamberlain, and Bernard, the Count of Auvergne.

Theodoric received as his portion the County of Autun; but he did not retain it long, for Boson (whose daughter had married Louis' son Carloman) badly wanted it for himself. Believing that this could cause a serious rift between Boson and Theodoric, Abbot Hugues arbitrated the matter so that Boson could live in the County of Autun; by having Theodoric exchange it for those Abbeys which Boson then held in the same area. The two Seigneurs, as a result of this intervention, were thus able to remain friends, contrary to the opinion of those historians who maintained that a long and serious war had broken out between them.

Count Theodoric remained such a close confidant of King Louis that his majesty - just before his death - committed to him the guardianship of both Carloman and his son Louis III. As a consequence, at the beginning of 880, Theodoric betook himself to Meaux with Hugues, Boson and other French Seigneurs to strongly advise their coronation; to protect them against Louis, the young King of Germany, who also aspired to the Crown.

And if one is to believe a letter which Hincmar, the Archbishop of Rheims then wrote to the Count, one would have to believe that all the affairs of government then lay in his hands. For this prelate, after having cautioned him to be alert to the safety of the children of the late King Louis who had committed them to his care, took great pains to impress him with the fact that he - just one man - had in his hands the entire rule of the kingdom, and that - without the counsel and approval of others - this was a matter charged with both presumption and great peril.

Theodoric ended his days replete with honors and titles: Count of Autun, of Macon and of Chalon, Seigneur de Vergy, and Grand Chamberlain of France. But history records no more about him.

He died about 890, leaving three sons:

1. Manasses I, his heir.
2. Valon, who succeeded as Bishop of Autun, and died about 930.
3. Raynaud, who we see occupying the Chateau of Mont St. Jean in 924.

3. RAYNAUD de VERGY, 3rd son of Theodoric - born about 862 - was in 886 Vicomte d'Auxerre. From most illustrious parents, extremely wealthy in possessions of lands and Seigneuries, possessing abundant treasures of gold, silver and all other goods, he was customarily accompanied by a great following of Chevaliers; clearly testifying to the early grandeur and power of the house of Vergy.

Raynaud - at the Court of Duke Richard of Burgundy - ranked second to none in influence and authority; not even his noted brother Count Manasses outranked him.

In 896 Berthardus, venerable Abbot of the Abbey of Montstierreamey, and his advocat Adrevert came to the Castle Court of Onulsi to complain to Duke Richard and his council; that Raynaud and his vassals had forcefully taken men from the village of Caduscia and - without authority or jurisdiction - pressed them into his service. Raynaud, duly condemned by the assembly for his actions, was told to forthwith restore all which he had wrongfully taken; and it was then and there decided that - no matter how boldly or wilfully he might henceforth act - the lords there assembled would in the future make full use of their forces and noble men of arms to diligently see to the maintenance of the agreement. Duke Richard, his son Rudolph, Count Manasses, Count Raynaud and six others were party to this agreement, signed at the Court of Onulsi, January 21, 896 - in the 4th year of the reign of King Charles II of France.

In 924 - noted Flodoard's Chronicles - Raynaud had incited the wrath of Rudolph, now King of France, by having wrongfully occupied the Chateau of Mont St. Jean in opposition to the claims of Valon and Gislebert, his two nephews. Whereupon Rudolph had ridden with his forces against the fortress to induce its surrender.

Raynaud, heeding the advice and insistence of Valon and Gislebert, soon released it to the custody of the King - who had by then taken it under seige; sending him as hostage, as a guarantee of his future good behavior, his only son - from whom the Seigneurs of Mont St. Jean trace their descent.

Rudolph, in his turn, ordered the son returned and accorded a truce to his father; and all those who had been with him were sworn to an oath of allegiance. No sooner had the King gone his way, however, than Raynaud once again took the Castle, which he held till Rudolph returned later that year to force him out once more.

About 925 - under his mandate of authority granted by the Duke - he appointed Gerranus XIII as Bishop of Auxerre; and to Betton, who succeeded him as bishop some years later, Raynaud granted the lands of Gay and Jussey, while at the same time restoring a great sum of money to the Church, from which it had earlier been taken.

In 929, following another three years of turmoil throughout the countryside, a peace was finally arrived at in the quarrels between King Henri and Raynaud, and Gislebert and the other Lorraines. King Rudolph then returned once more to Burgundy in August for a meeting with Hugues-le-Noir, from whence he made his way to Rheims to make peace with Charles III, who died that same year.

Raynaud died about 935, leaving only one son.

4. Raynaud's son (whose name is unknown) - successor to his father - born about 907, we find mentioned in just the one reference noted above; when in 924 he was sent briefly as hostage into the custody of King Rudolph, as a guarantee of his father's good behavior.

It is to be presumed that, later on, he became Seigneur of the Chateau and properties of Mont St. Jean - and that it was his son Hugues who was first of the name at Mont St. Jean.

It is probable that the stronghold of Mont St. Jean might well have been built by or during the time of Manasses de Vergy or his father Theodoric, since the dispute which arose in 924 between Raynaud his brother, and Valon and Gislebert his two sons shows likelihood of being a dispute between Manasses' survivors for possession of this most desirable property. It is possible, too, that this family argument was ultimately solved by simply conveying the Seigneurie to Raynaud's son, since Valon soon died without heirs and Gislebert had retired in 943 to his many holdings in the County of Burgundy.

During his lifetime the Dukedom changed hands many times. Duke Rudolph, the son and successor of Richard who died in 921, was in 923 elected King of France - at which time he ceded the Duchy to his brother-in-law Gislebert, son of Manasses de Vergy. Gislebert, however, forgetting the beneficence of the king, soon took up arms to dethrone him; whereupon Rudolph went straightway to Burgundy, seized Dijon and forced Gislebert to ask for pardon.

As a consequence, until after Rudolph's death in 936, Gislebert was exiled and the duchy ruled by Rudolph himself. In 938 three pretenders to the Dukedom: Gislebert, Hugues-le-Noir (Rudolph's brother) and Hugues-le-Grand disputed its possession, but settled their dispute by signing, at Langres, a treaty by which they divided the duchy into three equal parts, each taking an equal title of Duke.

In 943 Hugues-le-Noir abandoned his portion to Hugues-le-Grand, who in the same year had received from King Louis d'Outremer title to all of the Duchy of Burgundy. Gislebert then retired to the County of Burgundy, where he had amassed considerable possessions.

Hugues-le-Grand died in 956 and his son Otto, who had married Gislebert's daughter, succeeded him in the Duchy. Otto died in 963; being succeeded by his brother Henri-le-Grand - who held sway until 1002.

Raynaud's son died about 960 or later, leaving one son of record.

The Seigneurs de Mont St. Jean:

Establishment of a separate, yet affiliated Seigneurie of Mont St. Jean - as a Cadette branch of the historic House of Vergy - is evidenced to some degree by the similarity of the Arms carried by those allied families . . . The Red field of Vergy's shield continues, three golden Roses being now replaced with three Shields of gold.

5. Hugues I, Chevalier, Seigneur de Mont St. Jean was born about 950.

Of Hugues, history has left only one record; which notes that he left his domain of Eringe, near Missery - including vines, lands and surroundings, as well as pasturage for thirty cows, three mares and a hundred sheep - to the monks Bar-le-Régulier; a monastery of the 10th century, which had been founded by the powerful Counts of Nevers.

He died about 1010, leaving at least one son.

6. Guy I de Mont St. Jean, his son, was born about 990, died about 1050, had four sons:

1. Agnon de Mont St. Jean, Bishop of Autun from 1055 till his death in 1098.
2. Raynaud II de Mont St. Jean, who carried on the line.
3. Jean de Mont St. Jean, living in 1055.
4. Galdri Calticenis, a monk of Flavigny.

7. Raynaud II, Seigneur de Mont St. Jean and Sire de Bligny - born about 1020 - was chastised in a Cartulaire of Autun in 1076 for having made encroachments on the domain of his brother Agnon, Bishop d'Autun, and having made himself master of the lands of Bligny which had come to him through his wife; and in 1077 he was obliged to make resoration to the Cathedral d'Autun for that which he had taken from it.

He married a daughter of the Sire de Bligny and died about 1090, leaving only one son of record.

8. Hugues II, Chevalier, Seigneur de Mont St. Jean and leige to Duke Eudes I of Burgundy - born about 1050 - was mentioned in a Cartulaire d'Autun in 1077, and again in 1098 and 1110 in a Cartulaire de Cîteaux.

He was one of the founders and signers of the original Charter of the Abbey of Cîteaux, founded in 1098 by the Duke of Burgundy - consecrated March 21, 1099. This great abbey was the birthplace of the powerfully influential Cistercian order created by Robert, its first Abbé in 1098 in the beautiful forest lands near Beaune, where, under the dominant leadership of St. Bernard, it grew within the century to a remarkable instrument of 530 satellite Abbeys throughout the country.

Hugues was perhaps first of a succession of Seigneurs de Mont St. Jean who followed the Burgundys on four Crusades - in the first of which (1096-1099) the French contingent, which returned in 1098, was led by Prince Hugues de Vermandois, brother of Philip I of France.

Hugues II died about 1115.

He had four sons and a daughter:

1. Guy II de Mont St. Jean and Salmaise, who succeeded.
 2. Etienne I de Mont St. Jean, a Canon of Autun, noted in a Cartulaire of Citeaux in 1112.
 3. Raynaud, named also in a Cartulaire of Citeaux in 1119.
 4. Helirannus, living in 1133-1139 according to a Cartulaire of la Bussiere.
 5. A daughter, born about 1100, who married in 1120 a Sire de St. Romain.
9. Guy II, Seigneur de Mont St. Jean and Salmaise - born about 1090 - married Damerons (?), daughter of Sire Guy de Saulx, died in 1152 and was buried at the ancient Abbey de St. Seine, founded in the 6th century near Dijon.

In 1120, in a Charte of Guy de Mont St. Jean - in favor of the Abbey de la Ferte, he appears with the Seigneurs de St. Romain, who had furnished an alliance to his father or grandfather; for one other document of 1120 cites Guy as uncle of Renaud, Sire de St. Romain.

He is mentioned in a Cartulaire of Citeaux in 1116 and 1122, and de la Bussiere in 1145.

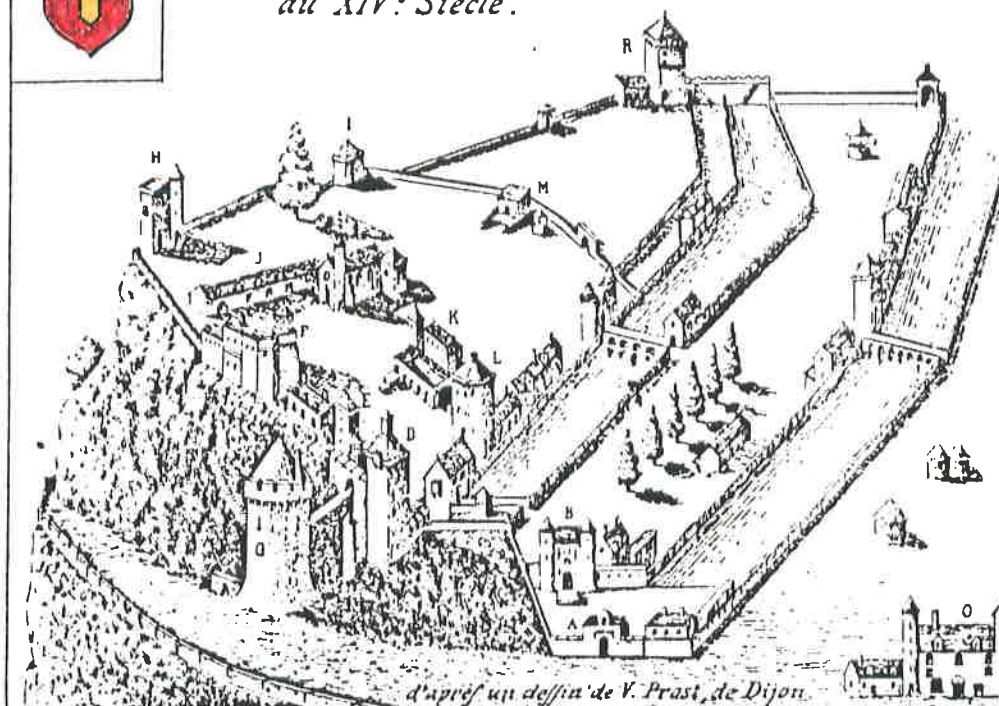
It was during the lifetime of Guy II that the Chateau de Salmaise was acquired as a holding of the Sires de Mont St. Jean. The Religieux de Flavigny and St. Benigne de Dijon, who possessed the Priory of Salmaise, at the beginning of the 12th century found themselves engaged in a continuing series of struggles with powerful factions which - theoretically - were their avowed protectors. Those of St. Benigne were then at war with the Sires of Salmaise and Sombernon - Robert, Bishop of Langres having attacked the Chateau de Nogent; Duke Hugues II besieging Rainaud de Grancy in his fortress; and the Seigneurs de Frolois being at war with Guy, Seigneur de Mont St. Jean.

The Religieux, in complete frustration, found it necessary to seek out yet another protector and called on the Sires de Frolois to come to their aid. The Sires de Frolois, as it turned out, behaved no better than the others, and Humbert de Frolois in 1090 went even so far as to appropriate the lands of Salmaise for his own use.

Finding no help in this direction, the monks of St. Benigne next appealed their case to Guy, Seigneur de Mont St. Jean, who in 1117 took the Chateau of Salmaise for himself, thereby - the year following - igniting a long and tedious dispute with Mile de Frolois, the Constable of Burgundy and his allies de Grancey, de Blaisy and de Saffres.



L'Ancien Château ducal de Salmaise au XIV.^e Siècle.



d'après un dessin de V. Prast, de Dijon.

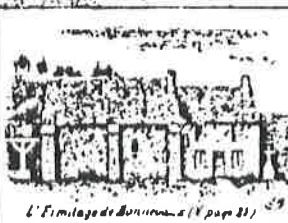
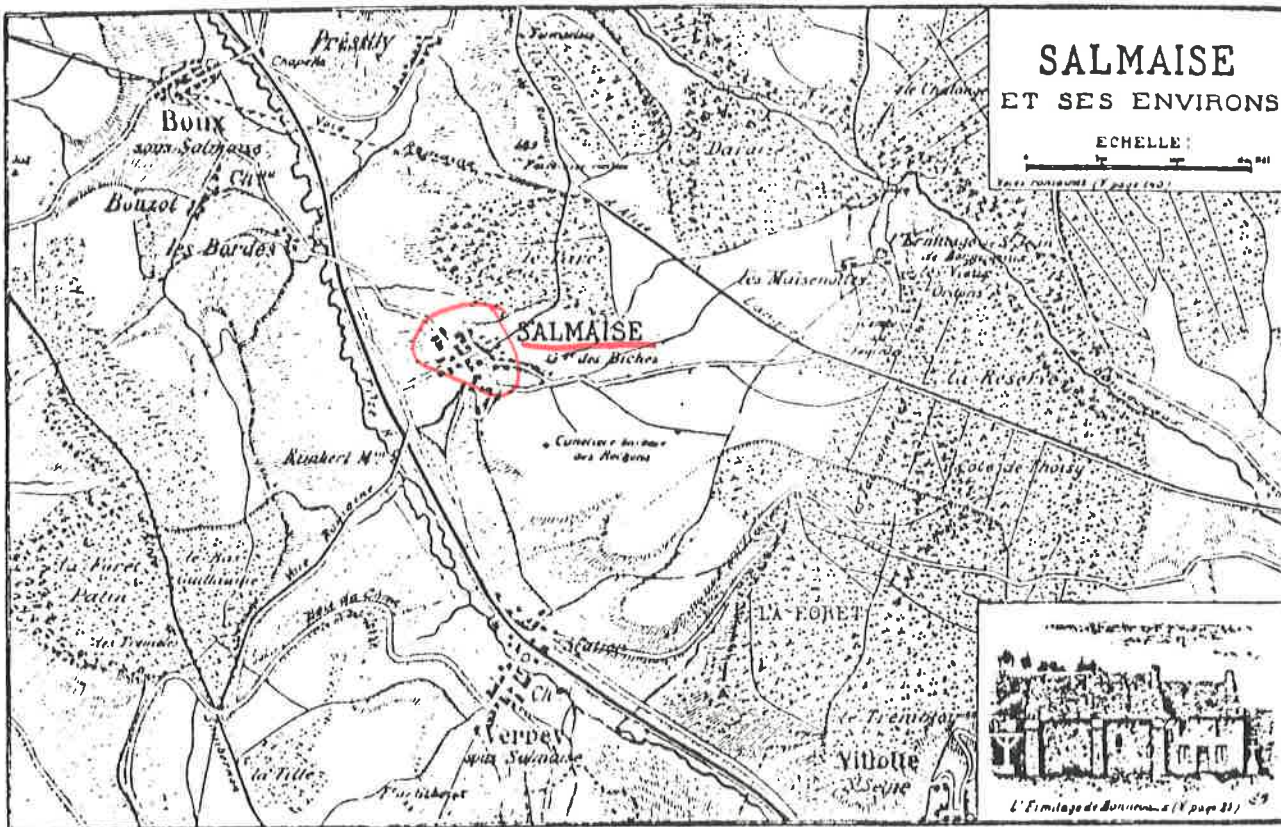
NOTICE

A 1^{re} Entrée, près au midi et le point du portier, petite cour et l'office large de 33 pieds. Un pont jete sur la fosse et fut défendu par une tour carrée.
B. 2^e Entrée fortifiée. A droite, logement du 2^e portier, grande cour située entre les deux fosses, entourée de murs, remises et constructions neuves pouvant servir d'abri aux défenseurs de la forteresse.
C. 3^e Part de 33 pieds de large. Au milieu, un pont fixe permettant de pénétrer dans la grande cour.
D. Grande tour carrée à 3 étages, lanterne et épi, appelée "Tour Saint Laurent".
E. Tour Perce-neige à trois étages et bâtiment d'habitation.
F. Tour octogonale contenant les cuisines en vis, d'où l'on descendait ou étaient les cuisines.
G. Tour ronde protégeant le puits ancien.
H. Tour double donnant sur l'écue et le Salaise.
I. Le Cohort, espèce de fortification à angle saillant.
J. Chambre de Monseigneur le Duc. En retour d'angle, chambre blanche et chambre des Chaplains joignant la Chapelle.
K. Bâtiment fortifié protégeant le puits.
L. Doyon appelé "Chambre de Justice".
M. Fontaine alimentée par le puits de l'écue et l'écue par des conduites de plomb.
N. Tour Saisseuse, à l'extrémité des Prisons.
O. Bâtiment dans lequel se trouvaient les murs. Dans l'un d'eux se logeait un escalier en vis. Conduit au puits par un passage souterrain. Distance : 300 mètres.

SALMAISE ET SES ENVIRONS

ECHELLE

0 100 200 mètres



L'Emplacement de Salmaise (V. page 11)

Early in this fight the Chevalier, Guy de Turcey, son of Dame Emiline, was badly wounded, whereupon he deeded his lands of Boux to the Priory of Salmaise and - taking the habit of the Benedictine - he retired to the confines of the monastery of St. Benigne.

Shortly thereafter an agreement was reached, whereby Mile and Humbert de Frolois were permitted to remain in residence at Salmaise for the remainder of their lifetimes, and the monks were given free use of the lands adjacent to the Priory.

Upon Humbert's death, Guy de Mont St. Jean took full possession of Salmaise and there remained until his own death in 1152.

His widow in 1152 - as guardian of the properties of Hugues III, her eldest son, ceded the lands of Buxieres to the Monastery of St. Seine. Approval of this grant by his eldest son, Hugues III Seigneur de Mont St. Jean and his wife, Elizabeth de Vergy, whom as yet had no children; by Jean, his 2nd son; and by his daughters Ameline and _____, together with their own sons and daughters, is recorded in a series of letters written by Ameline, Dame de Blaisy, and her sister, the Dame de Chaudenay, in the same year. [See gift to St. Seine]

Guy II had two sons and two daughters:

1. Hugues III de Mont St. Jean, who carried on the line.
2. Ameline, who married a Sire de Blaisy, was living in 1152.
3. A daughter, living in 1152-1160, who married about 1140, Jean, Seigneur de Chaudenay.
4. Jean de Salmaise and Pouillenay, living in 1145-1164, who married in 1162 Reine, the widow of Bertrand de Vergy. He is noted in Cartulaires of St. Seine, Citeaux and Templiers.

10. Hugues III, Siegneur de Mont St. Jean, Charny, ~~Thois~~ and Salmaise, co-Seigneur de Vergy and Chatel-Censoir - and before the death of his father termed Sire de Pouillenay.

Hugues was born about 1125 and upon his death in 1196 was accorded the great honor of being buried beneath the doorway of the Abbey of Citeaux - a notable tribute to one of their great benefactors.

In 1152 he married Dame Elizabeth de Vergy, only daughter and heiress of Hervé, co-Seigneur de Vergy and Chatel-Censoir, who died also in the same year of 1196. [See lineage of Vergy].

Hugues III was recognized as a lord so wise and powerful that Popes Eugene III and Anastase IV - by their letters of 1149 and 1153 - entrusted to him preservation of the freedom and goods of the Abbey of Vezelay, against Guillaume, Count de Nevers.

His name appears in Cartulaires of St. Seine in 1145 and 1152, and in Chartes of the Abbey d'Autun in 1158.

It is evident that Hugues was a man of great rank and distinction, since in 1174 after a war between Hugues III, Duke of Burgundy, and Guy, Count of Nevers, he was chosen - along with Anseric de Montreal and the Abbés de Citeaux and de Clairvaux - to arbitrate and sustain the treaty of peace, by which Guy declared himself to be a liegeman of the Duke. [See Treaty of Peace - 1174]

His inheritance of those portions of the Seigneuries of Vergy and Chatel-Censoir - through his marriage to Elizabeth - gave him great power and leverage with the Dukes of Burgundy, his contemporaries.

In 1180, or thereabouts, he granted a portion of the lands, woods and pasturages of Chatel-Censoir to the Abbey and Religieux of Rigney of the Order de Citeaux, and the Bishop of Autun. He gave them also - in the presence of Guillaume, Abbot of Citeaux; Hugues, Abbé du Mireur; Pierre, Prior of Citeaux; Hugues, Seigneur de Vergy and Simon, his brother; Hugues Bujon and Humberte de la Porte, Chevaliers - the vines of Perret Abonet, the road of Perriere, and the woods and grange with all its appurtenances; a gift ratified by his wife Elizabeth in the Castle of Vergy, in the presence of the monks of St. Denys. [See Lands of Chatel-Censoir]

In 1188 he made a gift of lands of Vergy to the Abbey of Citeaux.

Hugues may well have been on Crusade with the King of France and Duke Hugues III from 1189 to 1191, as were many of the Seigneurs of Burgundy.

His power and standing were so strong that Eudes III, in 1191, gave to Etienne, his eldest son, the high office of Senechal of Burgundy - one of the most powerful and most coveted positions in the Duchy; a position which he held until 1196. [See story of Etienne I].

He had five sons and two daughters:

1. Etienne I - born 1153 - Seigneur de Mont St. Jean and Senechal de Burgundy for Eudes III.
2. Guillaume I - born 1165 - who succeeded Etienne as Seigneur de MSJ.
3. Ponce, Seigneur de Charny - living in 1172, died 1229 - who married 1st - Helvis de Toucy, Dame de Diges in 1201, and 2nd - in 1211 Sibelle de Noyers, daughter of Miles III, Seigneur de Noyers; and established the cadette branch of Charny - disfranchised from Mont St. Jean in 1222. [See story of Charny].
4. Jean, Chevalier - living in 1180 - was a soldier and in 1190 was named in a Charter of the Abbey de Rigney. He died in 1224. [See Thoisy].
5. Hugues IV - living in 1201 - as Chantre of l'Eglise d'Autun.

6. Elizabeth (Isabeau) married - about 1187 - 1st, Aimon de Marigny, Constable; 2nd - in 1196 - Guillaume de Champlitte, Vicomte de Dijon, Seigneur de Pontailier and Thalimer; son of Eudes de Champagne, Seigneur de Champlitte and had issue.
7. Agnes, married the Seigneur de Til-Chatel and had a son Hugues de Til-Chatel, and married 2nd - about 1210 - Mile VII, Sire de Noyers. She was named with her brother in the Charte de Rigny and died in 1231.

All of the above marriages were to very notable and powerful families of the duchy, and reflect the high position of the House of Mont St. Jean in those times.

11. Guillaume I, second son of Hugues, Seigneur de Mont St. Jean, la Motte, and Ancy-le-Franc - and after the death of his brother Etienne in 1198, Seigneur de Salmaise and co-Seigneur de Vergy.

He was born about 1165 and died March 31, 1223 at Citeaux, where he had retired and where he also was buried with great honor.

He married Buré, Dame de Ancy-le-Franc, daughter and heiress of Joubert, Sire de Ancy-le-Franc and Damerons de Melisey, born in 1201, died 1226.

It was either Guillaume or his father who was on Crusade with Hugues III, Duke of Burgundy in 1190, as noted in the following account:

Early in 1190 the great nobles of France had gathered their numbers to ready themselves for their departure for the Holy Land. Henry, Count of Champagne took his departure before that of the King of France, sometime near the end of May.

But it was on June 24th that Philippe-Auguste came to take the Ori-flamme to St. Denys, arriving at Vezelay July 4th, in the company of Richard, Coeur de Lion. A certain number of crusaders attended, among them Hugues III, Duke of Burgundy, perhaps Hugues II or his son Guillaume I of Mont St. Jean, and Guillaume des Barres, surnamed l'Achille of his times, one of the most valiant Chevaliers of the world; whose daughter Marie, in 1222 was to marry the eldest son of Guillaume de Mont St. Jean.

The voyage was launched from Marseilles, with 20 armed galleys and 3 round vessels with sails. It was not a happy one, however, as - being pushed by contrary winds - they were thrown on the coast of Sicily at the end of September, and obliged to pass the winter at Messina. And, having suffered great damage from the violence of the storm, they had lost a large part of their baggage. To repay them for which, Philippe-Auguste granted to the Duke of Burgundy 1,000 marks of silver; to Guillaume des Barres, 400 marks; and to other Seigneurs, other suitable sums.

In 1196 Guillaume was named as one of the hostages pledged to the Duke to guarantee execution of the treaty signed by his brother Etienne. [See story of Etienne I - Pledge of Fealty to Eudes III]

Guillaume in 1202 set free his vassals (hommes) and accorded to his townspeople the same rights and privileges recently bestowed upon those of Vezelay by the Abbés, vowing that they would thereby have recourse in case of difficulty. [An action known in modern times as "the freeing of the serfs"]. For 900 Livres Dijonais he reserved (as part of this accord) the right of taking, during the harvest season, a sheave of wheat from the field of each person, except from those already harvested - "in prato-falcato non capiam eam".

He also - in 1202 - ceded to the Church of Langres his properties at Fixin, and made considerable donations to the monastery at Pontigny, the Abbey de St. Seine, and other monasteries, upon leaving for the Holy Land on the 4th Crusade of French Nobles (1202-04).

He gave also to l'Eglise de Citeaux half of Vaure St. Marcel, in letters dated 1209.

In August 1215 the Duke of Burgundy, in a series of letters, noted the on-going dispute between Guillaume and his brother Ponce relating to the fealty of Charny, which had been given quittance from the fief of Mont St. Jean. It was thereupon agreed that Ponce would continue to acknowledge Charny "fief-liege" to the Seigneur de Mont St. Jean, and both "jurable and rendable" to Mont St. Jean only whenever the Duke or his successors might demand its use of the Siegneur de Mont St. Jean.
[See Fealty of Charny]

By a treaty signed December 1216, Guillaume acknowledged that if Duke Eudes III should acquire that portion of Vergy which he, Guillaume, possessed, it would then be passed on to Guillaume de Vergy and his heirs. [See Accord re Vergy]

And also in 1216, with the approval of Gautier, Bishop of Autun, Guillaume created in honor of Our Lady, the Priory de Val Croissant - a few miles Northwest of Mont St. Jean. Built in a magnificent forest, on the stream of Bracon, it was formed as a spacious square, at the center of which were the courtyard and the cloisters.

Guillaume had two sons and a daughter:

1. Guillaume II, Seigneur de Mont St. Jean, his heir.
2. Joubert, Seigneur de Ancy-le-Franc, named in a Charte of the Abbey de Pontigny in 1203; excommunicated in 1218; and on pilgrimage to St. Jacques in 1224. He married Jeanne _____ in 1220 and died in 1237.
3. Elizabeth - living 1198-1216 - married Guillaume de Mello, Sire de St. Bris.



1239
Equestrian Seal of
Guillaume II de Moudon
(1190-1250)
d. 8 Feb 1250
at battle of Massoure
7th Crusade

12. Guillaume II, Chevalier, Seigneur de Mont St. Jean, Salmaise, Thoisy and co-Seigneur de Vergy. Born in 1190, married in 1222 Marie des Barres, Dame de Ferté-Alez, daughter and heiress of Guillaume des Barres, Chevalier and Seigneur de la Ferté-Alais en Beauce - one of the most celebrated warriors of his time.

In 1221 Guillaume II, together with other Seigneurs, pledged to constrain Alix, the Duchess of Burgundy (sister of Guillaume de Vergy, Senechal of Burgundy) to observe the privileges earlier accorded the city of Dijon.

In 1222, for 30 livres of annual rent from the Fairs of Bar-sur-Aube, he declared himself liegeman to Thibault, Count of Champagne - promising to aid him against his enemies with both his person and the Chateau de Mont St. Jean.

On his father's anniversary, in 1228, he made a gift to the Abbey de St. Seine of his mill and battoir (beater) at Terzé, together with the right to fish in the stream.

By letters of March 1229, he - and his brother Joubert, Seigneur de Ancy-le-Franc - confirmed to the church and Religieux de Pontigny the gift of 10 sols of rent that Damerons, their great-grandmother, and Buré, their mother, had given as their quit-rent of the lands of Pouilly.

To the agreement made between Etienne I and the Duke, and confirmed by his son Guillaume II, there was added in December 1231 a further transaction under the terms of which Guillaume acknowledged that "although the donjons, castles and towns of Mont St. Jean, Salmaise and Thoisy were held in fief from Hugues IV, being at the same time not only "jurable" to the Duke, but "rendable" to both large and small forces at his request on condition, however, that he - the Duke - would never demand use of all three at one time; that he would repair all damage incurred through such use; and that at least one of the three would always be reserved to Guillaume's own use." [Meaning that the Duke and his forces could occupy them for a period of time, whenever the Duke might deem it necessary, such as in times of strife.] [See Agreement with Hugues IV]

Also that if the Duke died without issue by his present wife, Guillaume would be discharged from the pledges which he had made relating to the donjon of Mont St. Jean. This document was sealed with the "Red Seal" of Guillaume de Mont St. Jean - which carried three escutcheons of gold on a red field.

Guillaume de Mont St. Jean and Guillaume des Barres, in 1238, sold to the Duke all of their properties at Vesvres. And in the same year Guillaume also approved the sale of a piece of land from the fief of Mont St. Jean, made by his son Guillaume III de Salmaise, to the priory de Salmaise. [See sale of lands of Vesvres & Salmaise]

Duke Hugues IV, in a treaty sealed the month of June 1239, gave over to King Louis IX, as his liege lord, and as surety of his faithfulness in the observance of all agreements, many lords, his vassals, as "security hostages" - among them Guillaume, Seigneur de Mont St. Jean and Guillaume de Vergy, Senechal of Burgundy; each of

whom gave their own pledge of security, quoted together with the pledge of the Duke - in the Inventory of the Charters of the King, preserved in the Royal Archives, sealed also with the Seal of Mont St. Jean. [See Act of Fealty - 1239]

In spite of the ties of affection which linked Duke Hugues IV and Guillaume II de Mont St. Jean, there continued between them an everlasting debate on the subject of Guillaume's rights to the Chateau of Vergy - inherited by Elizabeth from her father - still the object of many of the quarrels between the Seigneurs of Vergy and the suzerains of the Duchy. Hugues did not want to relinquish his own estates without bringing to this affair a solution satisfactory to both parties, by which subsequent difficulties and demands could be avoided.

For settlement of this dispute, a treaty was drawn up between them in June 1239, by which the Duke promised to give in marriage his second daughter Marguerite - not yet of age - to Guillaume III, eldest son of the Sire of Mont St. Jean.

Stating that: "To settle a certain dispute between Guillaume and Duke Hugues, they had agreed that the Duke would give his daughter Marguerite - not yet of age - in marriage to Guillaume, the eldest son of the Sire de Mont St. Jean; in return for which he would cede to the Duke all that he had at the Castle and Mount of Vergy, and the woods called Episse; reserving to the said Guillaume all that he should have in the chatellenie and outside the said Vergy, in fief, justice and other things. That for this the Duke would give his daughter, as a dowry, 500 livres of land, in Dijonais money; 200 livres assigned on the land of Molinot, and the other 300 livres to be assigned after the marriage celebration.

That the Chateau of Mont St. Jean would no longer be "jurable and rendable" to the Duke, but would remain "fief-liege". That if the said Marguerite should die before the marriage ceremony the said Duke would give the one who survived her; that if Guillaume died instead, the Seigneur de Mont St. Jean would give his next son to the marriage. And that the said Seigneur de Mont St. Jean, after her death would give - to whichever of his sons married the Duke's daughter - Mont St. Jean, Salmaise and Thoisy, with their dependencies. And in case there were no children from the marriage, the 300 livres of land would be returned to the said Duke; but Molinot and its dependencies, like the "Juramentum et redditus" of Mont St. Jean, would be restored to the Seigneur de Mont St. Jean, in consideration for the release of Vergy."

[See marriage of Guillaume]

The marriage itself must have taken place sometime about 1245, when the young couple had reached their maturity. But fate was to provide its own solution. This purely political marriage had been arranged expressly to put an end to the debates which had for so long caused such great contention between the Dukes of Burgundy and the Sires of Vergy; but as it turned out, Marguerite had no children by Guillaume, who died in 1256.

Molinot did pass to the Seigneur de Mont St. Jean, but Mont St. Jean did not become "fief-liege" to the Duke of Burgundy. Marguerite remarried, in 1259, Guy VI, Vicomte de Limoges, who died in August 1263. She died in August 1277.

By 1248 the periodic "freeing of the Holy Land" had once again raised religious fervor to a high pitch, and "Crusade" once again became the battle cry of the day. This Crusade of 1248, under the leadership of Louis IX of France, was - for many of the Seigneurs of Burgundy - one of great personal tragedy.

The names of those Chevaliers listed on the ecclesiastic Rolls of that year were, for the most part, those belonging to the great feudal families and a certain number of ladies who had chosen to accompany their husbands on this difficult and dangerous undertaking. That of Guillaume II de Mont St. Jean appears among them.

Under the leadership of Duke Hugues IV, the Burgundian crusaders completed preparation for the trip to the Holy Land during the month of June 1248, and - after a long and arduous journey - debarked at Damiette, June 6, 1249, with great difficulty; only to have their ranks riddled with arrows by the waiting Saracens.

During even the first engagements of this Crusade, a number of Chevaliers were lost and others wounded so grievously they could not continue the campaign. Among them, Jacques, Seigneur de Saulx; whose unconsolable widow, Marie de Mont St. Jean - pressed to put an end to her grief - married again in the month of March, the following year, this time to Jean de Passavant.

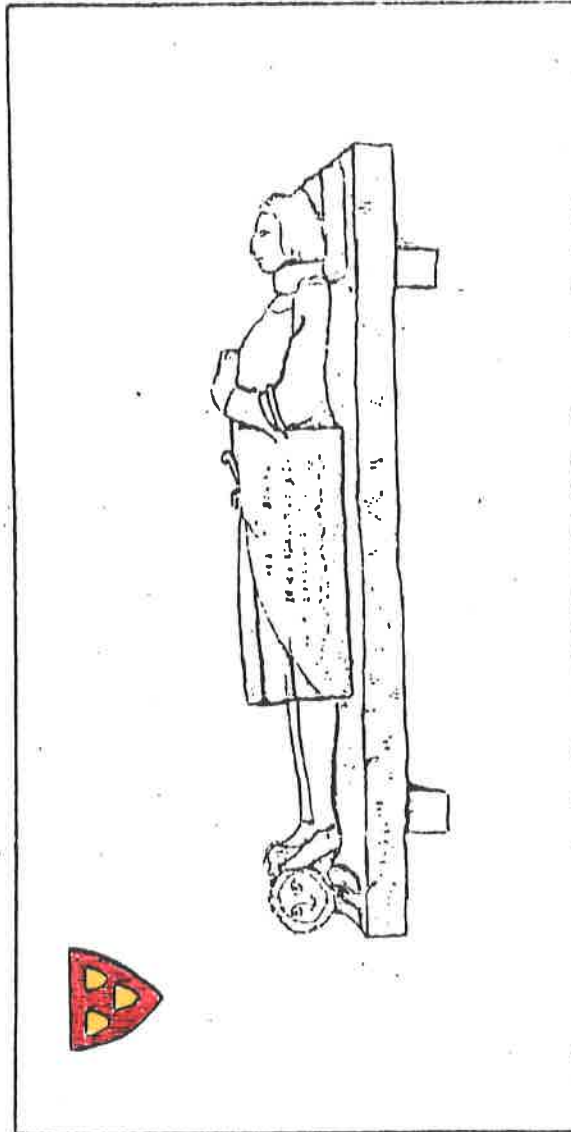
On February 8, 1250 - at the battle of Massoure - Hugues de Til-Chatel, Seigneur de Coublanc, who carried the banner of Joinville's company, was killed traversing the river. And - on the same day - Guillaume II, Seigneur de Mont St. Jean and Salmaise, also met his maker.

The year following, Marie des Barres, his widow, gave as a gift to the Religieux de Tart - on the anniversary of the death of her husband "de bonne remembrance" - the right of picking their "fine wines of Morey" whenever they wished. Marie then remarried with Guillaume de Montague, himself the widower of Jacquette de Sombernon.

One can still see, at the museum of Semur, the stone tomb of Guillaume II, attired in the armor which he carried at the time of his departure for the Crusade; at his feet, a crouching lion.

The crusade which had begun under such favorable circumstances, terminated in a manner even more disastrous than the previous ones: The King of France a prisoner, the flower of the French Chivalry destroyed, enormous sums spent without even the smallest profit for Christianity, and many livres to the infidels for ransom of their captives - such was the sad end of this expedition. Of the 2800 Chevaliers who had left from Cyprus with Louis IX, there remained scarcely a hundred around him, when, after his deliverance from the Saracens, the pious monarch set sail for St. Jean-d'Acre, May 8, 1250.

By the end of the year 1250, with the surviving remnants of his crusading army, Hugues IV, too, had returned home to Burgundy.



WILK BOBIN, ARCH. DEL.

Imp. Phot. Aron frères, Paris.

(44) TOMBE DE GUILLAUME II, SEIGNEUR DE MONT-SAINT-JEAN (milieu du XIII^e siècle);
(au prieuré du Val-Croissant, maintenant au Musée de Semur).

Guillaume II
1190-1250
Died at battle of Masegros -
7th Crusade to Holy Land

Guillaume des Barres, father of Marie, was a Chevalier celebrated for his strength and valiance, who - on two occasions - jousted victoriously against Richard Coeur de Lion; first in Normandy, then in Sicily, during the fêtes given by Philippe-Auguste and Richard before their departure for Palastine. During these jousts the King of England was unhorsed by the French Chevalier.

Richard was so vexed by this occurance that, as a result, he raged vehemently at Guillaume and ordered him "to stay far out of his sight and never make an appearance, for he would always be the mortal enemy of himself and those close to him". To keep peace between them - while on Crusade - it was necessary for the prelates "to convince Richard to accord Guillaume des Barres "la paix du roi", during the entire time of the pilgrimage."

Guillaume de Mont St. Jean died February 8, 1250 at the battle of Massoure, and a tomb was erected to his memory in the Priory of Val-Croissant. [Later moved to the Musée de Semur]

He had four sons and two daughters:

1. Guillaume III, born about 1223, Seigneur de Mont St. Jean, who married Marie de Burgundy and died without heirs in 1256. She married 2nd, Guillaume de Touillon in 1263 and 3rd, Mile de Frolois in 1269.
2. Etienne II, born about 1226, Seigneur de Mont St. Jean, who succeeded his brother and died about 1300.
3. Pierre, born about 1227, Seigneur de Salmaise, who died in 1257.
[See documents]
4. Jean, born about 1230, from whom the Espiard line descends.
5. Marie, born about 1225, who married 1st - Jacques, Seigneur de Saulx, who died June 1249 in the Holy Land, and 2nd - in March 1250, Jean de Passavant.
5. Agnes, born about 1228, who married Anseau de Trainel, Constable of Burgundy, and died after 1278.

At the death of his brother Guillaume in 1256, Etienne II de Mont St. Jean - the second son of Guillaume who died in the Holy Land - succeeded to the Seigneurie of Mont St. Jean; and Pierre, the third son, became Seigneur de Salmaise. From his mother's portion he was also Seigneur de Ferté-Alais en Beauce; but this estate, in September 1259, he sold to Louis IX, the King of France, for 300 livres of rent on the Temple (the Royal Exchequer at Paris).

[See Sale of Ferté-Alais]

Etienne, in January 1258, together with Guy de Saffres, Chevalier, sold to Duke Hugues IV all of the property which he owned in the town of Vesvre and its dependencies, which Guy then held in fief from Etienne, Seigneur de Salmaise, who in his turn, sold to the Duke the right of fief which he held in it.

Duke Hugues IV, in 1258, repurchased for 700 Dijonais Livres the annual rent of 70 livres which Etienne, Seigneur de Mont St. Jean, Damoiseau, had the right to obtain and levy each year in coin of the realm, until he had been allotted a like amount. Etienne, at this time, held the lands of Salmaise and a portion of Vergy, which he had ceded to the Duke for the annual rent of 70 livres which the Duke later redeemed, as attested to by Amedée, Abbé de St. Etienne de Dijon and Jean, Abbé de Ste. Marguerite.

In the year 1265 he octroyed to the inhabitants of Salmaise the rights of Mairie, Eschevinage and other franchises.

He married a Dame Mahaut, with whom he sold to Jean Sarrazen, Chamberlain of the King and Agnes his wife 150 livres of rent of the 300 that the King had assigned to him on the Treasury of the Temple, by letters of March 1269.

From this marriage he had, among others, Etienne III, Seigneur de Mont St. Jean and Salmaise; father of Etienne IV, Seigneur of the same places, who by his will of 1333 ceded his Chateau and land of Salmaise to Robert de Burgundy, Count of Tonnerre.

In February 1276 he approved the gift of a plot of land at Salmaise, made by Jean de Meneures, Chevalier, to Droynet, a minstrel of Mont St. Jean.

[See gift of land at Salmaise]

On April 16, 1281 Etienne II declared that Beatrice, dowager Duchess of Burgundy, and Huguenin, Seigneur de Montreal, her son, had granted him all the rights which they had had in the fief that Guillaume de Verry held from them at Verry and at Villotte.

Etienne died about 1300.

He was succeeded by his son Etienne III, who died in 1303, and left the Siegneurie of Salmaise to Etienne IV, named Etienne-Pierre in a letter under the seal of the Prevost de Villeneuve-le-Roi, on the day of Epiphany 1304. It was he who had the long and bitter dispute with the Duke of Burgundy relating to the occupation of Salmaise and Thoisy - which was settled only by his death in 1333.

[See documents relating to Disputes of Etienne]

October 1249
Jean de MSJ

Lasting Hommage to Mont St. Jean

I, Marie, Mistress of Mont St. Jean, make known by these presents - that Guillaume de Montague, damoisou, has been taken in homage by me, to our house of Mont St. Jean, through the efforts of our brother Jean, and taken the oath of fealty for the land of Montague.

So that this agreement may be made firm and stabile, I have confirmed this Act made the year of our Lord 1249, the month of October, sealed with the Seal of our house and documented for the record.

Marie de Mont St. Jean

* * *

This document attested to by Marie de Mont St. Jean, establishes the fact that she did have a brother Jean, they being son and daughter of Guillaume II and Marie des Barres.

13. Jean I de Mont St. Jean, youngest son of Guillaume II, was born about the year 1230, as indicated by an action of his sister Marie - in his behalf - while he was still a minor, during the time when his father was on Crusade in the Holy Land.

Marie de Mont St. Jean, in a letter of October 1249, indicated that she had taken in fief, for his house of Mont St. Jean, the land and service of Guillaume de Montagu; "for which the said Guillaume is to render homage only for his land of Montagu".
[See Homage de Montagu]

This Guillaume de Montagu (or perhaps his father), the widower of Jacquette de Sombornon, married secondly Marie des Barres, the widow of Guillaume II de Mont St. Jean, shortly after his untimely death in the Holy Land in 1250.

Marie married first Jacques, Seigneur de Saulx, who was also killed while on Crusade in June 1249; and secondly Jean de Passavant, in March of 1250.

Jean I died about 1290. His only known son was Etienne d'Espiers of the Bourg of Mont St. Jean.

* * *

At this time in history it was the eldest son who succeeded to his father's principal domains; the second or even third sons received those of lesser importance - or perhaps those inherited from his mother's family; while the sons who happened to be younger were often left with very little but the reputation of their family name.

And so it apparently was with Guillaume's youngest son. For - without property of consequence - he seems to have turned to other chivalrous pursuits.

It was either Jean or his son Etienne who first assumed the surname of Espiard - or Espiers, as it first appeared. And, after Marie's letter, we find no other record until 1329.

* * *

And once again the Arms change, but retain their similarity. Now the Red field and three Shields of the house of Mont St. Jean are replaced with a Blue field and three golden spikes of Wheat, tipped red.

ESPIARD . . . of MONT ST. JEAN le BOURG

14. Etienne d'Espiers, of the Bourg and family of Mont St. Jean, was born about 1265 and was apparently the first to have adopted the surname of Espiers.

His wife was named Asceline, and both are mentioned in a document of 1329, relating to his son Jean II.

Etienne died about 1330, his only son of record being Jean II.

* * *

The name Espiard is very possibly derived from the following sequence of French words; for it is probable that - coming from a landed family, the following generations also possessed land in their own right - land on which crops were grown; and that thus evolved their emblazonment of Arms.

viz -

Épi a head of grain

Espie terminated by an Épi (Qui porte des épis)

Espier . . . property right in grain (Droite domaniale en blé)

-ard a suffix appended to nouns to form proper names)

Espi-ard . name derived from a domain possessing wheat fields - such as might have been true of Mont St. Jean, Salmaise and Thoisy - or other properties, which could have been emblazoned as "3 espies de Blé d'Or" (Three spikes of Wheat of Gold).

* * *

15. Jean II d'Espiers, Chevalier of the Bourg de Mont St. Jean, was born about 1298 and apparently died about 1365.

He is first mentioned in a document of 1329 - a Pardon signed by King Philip, September 1329, found in the Archives of France - which states:

"A Confirmation of the Complete Release of Jean, son of Etienne d'Espiers"

"We, Philip VI, by the grace of God, King of France, wishing a fuller indulgence to be bestowed on the aforesaid Johanni, Jean [of the family of Mont St. Jean] - son of Etienne d'Espiers and Asceline his wife - have granted to the said Jean full and complete freedom - to whatever position he may attain, or may have attained . . . It is entirely fitting that we release him and, furthermore - he being of noble birth - we shall release and free him entirely, holding back no rights whatsoever". [See Release of Jean d'Espiers]

This Jean d'Espiers (later known as Jacquot Espiard) of the Bourg de Mont St. Jean is the first of the family of this name, of which authentic documents make mention.

In April 1333, in the capacity of Receiver of the Baillage d'Auxois for Duke Eudes IV of Burgundy, it is noted that he gave quittance to the inhabitants of the village of Thoises, in the sum of 18 Gros - amounting to 30 Sols - which they had been taxed as their portion of an assessment of 13,000 Florins, accorded by the États General to Duke Eudes.

Whom he married is not known, but it would seem, from the dates, that he was no doubt father of two sons:

1. Jean III, who succeeded.

2. Droin, Bourgeois de Mont St. Jean, who conjointly with his brother Jean, pleaded his case against Peronne de Malins, living at Dijon - at the Parlement de Beaune, which held hearings from December 8, 1370 (the day of the Octave de St. André), lasting from Sunday until the Saturday following.

Droin died in 1442. His daughter married Symon Basin.

16. Jean III d'Espiard, Esquire, Chevalier and Seigneur de Bourg de Mont St. Jean, Ignon, Sonnottes & Fleé was born about 1325, and died about 1378.

Jean was, in 1343, Master of Crossbowmen of the Garrison de Jussey, in Burgundy.

In this capacity he received, on January 4, 1343 - from Perrin de Sondrecourt, Prevost de Jussey - the sum of 9 livres (which was to be forthcoming) - for 3 Deniers: a Silver Coat of Mail; and monies for 26 crossbowmen and 2 trumpeters, the Banneret and his valet. For which sum he gave quittance under the Seal of Jean de Mars, Lieutenant of the Chateau de Jussey, plus a charge of one Écu for a Saltire (St. Andrew's cross.)

In the year 1358 he served in the army of Philippe de Rouvres, Duke of Burgundy, commanded by Girard de Thurey, Marechal de Burgundy, and Jacques de Vienne, Captain General of Wars; and appeared - dressed in the style of a man-at-arms and Esquire - at the Revue mustered at Avalon, January 12, 1358, under Girard de Bourbon - as an Écuyer [Esquire] in the Company of Thomas, Seigneur de Voudenay; and also at a Revue in 1359.

This army was kept busy with a war against Edward, King of England, who had invaded Burgundy, advanced as far as Tonnerre - seizing many places - and from thence to Noyers and into Marigny, which he took, and which became the subject of a treaty of peace - soon concluded on the condition of a sum of money being promised him.
[See Muster Rolls of 1358-59]

In 1359 he was Chatelain (Lord Chamberlain) for Duke Philippe-le-Hardi of Rouvres, and was entrusted by this Prince with various diplomatic missions. From 1358 to 1361 he was also Lord of the Manor of Pouilly-en-Auxois, another holding of the Duke.

He was Captain of the Garrison de Jussey, captured and devastated by the English in 1360; and rendered numerous services at the time of the English invasion.

In 1360, Duke Philip, wishing to compensate Jean for the loss of a warhorse while in his service - noted by letters dated from Rouvre, December 16, 1360 - gave him another from his own stables, as a gift to the Chevalier.

In 1364 - the Sunday after the Feast of St. Luke - (October 20), Jean ceded to Jean Dadelot, Moulins below Mont St. Jean, for which he was to pay five sheaves of wheat annually, by Act acknowledged in February of that year.

He appeared also at the Parliaments - or "Great Days" - held at Beaune in 1370.

In December 1370 he and his brother Droin - as agents for Guillaume de la Motte de Thoisey - were parties to a default judgement by the Parliament de Beaune, relating to a suit by Peronne de Molins for payment for a quantity of wheat -

"and that Jehan Espiars had received of Guillaume de la Motte de Thoisey 23 Florins for the beating of wheat and 13 Florins for the teaseling of wool, that the said younger Guillaume de la Motte Thoisey owed to Guillaume de Molins."

which action was contested by Droin and Jehan, but upheld by the Court in a default judgement.
[See Judgement - Parliament de Beaune]

After Jean Espiard had left the Service, Pierre de Thil, Chevalier, and Jeanne de Mont St. Jean - his wife - Seigneur and Dame de Mont St. Jean, held him in such high esteem that - recognizing his capacity for being entrusted with the complete supervision of their household - the Monday after the Feast of Pentecoste, May 26, 1373, gave him general power-of-attorney to take over administration and management of their household, and maintenance of their affairs.

He had one son Edmé and a daughter Marguerite.

17. Edmé Espiard, Esquire, Seigneur de Fleeé (and perhaps also of Ignon and Sonnottes) was born about 1345, married in 1369 Anne de Genelard, and died in 1400.

Nothing more is known of Edmé, except that he had three sons:

1. Sebastien, his heir.
2. Jacquot, born about 1380, who married Blanche de Cordesse and died in 1434. He was Grenetier of the Grenier-a-Sel at Arnay-le-Duc in 1403 and was Receiver of the County d'Auxois 1417-1431.

His son Jacot married Jeanne (who married 2nd Monin d'Eschenon) and had two sons: Jacot and Anthoine.

3. Guyot - who was in 1404 surety for his brother Jacques, for the office of Grenetier de Sel d'Arnay -le-Duc, at his induction and administration of Oath of Office at the Chambre des Comptes, March 23rd.

18. Sebastien, Esquire, Seigneur de Fleeé (probably also Ignon and Sonnottes) was born about 1370 and married in 1404 the Lady Aiglantine Poinot d'Equilly.

He was Bailli d'Epée (Administrator) of Charolais, and died in 1435.

He had two sons:

1. Guy, who succeeded.
2. Jacques, born about 1385.

19. Guy, Esquire, Seigneur de Fleeé, Ignon and Sonnottes (?), of the Bourg de Mont St. Jean - was born about 1400. He married, in 1446, Marie de Vesvres, and died about 1453. Marie married 2nd, Perrin de Ravieres.

He was Lieutenant General of the Baillage (District) de Charolles in 1446 and, like his father, Bailli de Epée (Administrator) of Charolais.

He had four children:

1. Antoine, who succeeded.
2. Hugues of Valabrégues in Arles, who married Catherine d'Abeille.
3. Pierre, who removed to Arles and died at Valabrégues in 1513.
4. Antoinette, who married Aymard Damas and was living in 1440.

20. Antoine, Esquire of Ignon, Bourg de Mont St. Jean, was born about 1446 and married in 1467 Jeanne, daughter of Huguenin Margueron de Pouilly-en-Auxois. [Huguenin was, by letters written at St. Maximin de Treves, November 13, 1473, made a Noble by Duke Charles, in consideration of his honorable estate and well-born family; and as a reward for the services of his two sons: Guy Margueron, Councillor and Maitre d'Hotel, and Jean Margueron, Secretary to the Duke.]

Antoine was a master-at-law and was living at Mont St. Jean in 1470, where he rebuilt and enlarged the Chateau de l'Ignon, situated near the lower court of the Chateau de Mont St. Jean. In 1475 he let the fishing rights of the Pond of _____.

He was proved Noble by "bail a cens" in 1483, and died in the same year.

His marriage produced many children, for whom, after the death of their father, Jeanne Margueron de Vienne, widow, was made their guardian. In this capacity, on May 6, 1483, together with Gautier Brocard, their legal guardian, they gave to Raymond Montault a house situated in Mont St. Jean - near the beef market - called la Maison St. Thibault; in consideration of the sum of two Francs quit-rent, payable each year on the day of the Pentecoste.

The children enumerated in this lease were:

1. Sebastien, who married Aiglantine Poinsoit. At his death he was interred at the Priory de Glanot, in Mont St. Jean, near the Chapelle des Espiard. For the lease and lease of land for farming, of the proclamation of August, he paid 2 Francs in 1491 and 1 Franc in 1494, at Mont St. Jean.
2. Pallas, who married a daughter of the family de la Mare, of Beaune.
3. Jean, of Sonnottes, who succeeded his father. He married June 14, 1497 Guillmette de la Bouthiere; and was father of Claude, in 1508 Lt. General of the Baillage (County) de Charolles.
4. Thomas, of whom nothing further is recorded.
5. André, Esquire of Ignon, born about 1475 and married in 1500 Jeanne de Crespy. He died in 1582, leaving, among others:
 - Antoine, Esquire of Ignon, who died in 1582, married 1st - in 1527, Jeanne Guichard de Bessy, and 2nd - Pierrette Languet de Gergy. Her brother (a Huguenot) left Burgundy because of religious persecution prior to 1580. He went in 1560 to Franche-Comte, and then to Tours.
6. Mathey, who married Antoinette de Chassey, Comtoise de Franche-Comte.
7. Jacques, of Ignon, who married Philiberte de Chanus.

8. Jeanne (or Jaquotte), who married Gaultier Brocard, Esquire, Captain de Mont St. Jean, son of Gaultier Brocard, Councillor of the Parlement de Dijon. He became Lt. General of the Bailliage d'Auxois, having previously been Councillor of Duke Charles of Burgundy. His widow, two sons and three daughters survived him.

Antoine's widow Jeanne in 1490-91 was paying rent of 3 Gros per year for her house at the Chateau de Mont St. Jean; as did her sons in 1493.

21. Thomas Espiard, Esquire of Mont St. Jean, was born about 1475, married about 1500, and died about 1525.

Of him we have no record, but being a younger son he no doubt left Mont St. Jean to make his way elsewhere in the country - perhaps to Paris or in the country near Tours; but this is pure conjecture.

22. _____ Espiard, son of Thomas, name unknown, would have been born about 1510, married about 1535, and died about 1570.

There is no record of who he was or where he lived, but as it said that his son Philip came to England from either Paris or near Tours - at the time of the Huguenot massacres, 1572 - it is possible that he also resided in one of those places. If, however, this is not a valid presumption, then he and his father must have both been living still in Burgundy - perhaps still near Mont St. Jean.

THE IRISH ERA

23. PHILIPPE ESPIARD, 1st of the name in Ireland, and apparently one of several brothers, in 1572 fled to England to escape the fate of all those of the Huguenot persuasion - in the impending massacres that were soon to sweep all of France.

He was born about 1545, and died about 1600.

This Protestant emigré, having - it is said - lived some time at Paris, under the impending threat of Huguenot Massacres, fled from his homeland in 1572; "abandoning title and estates rather than abjure Protestantism". Having chartered his own ship, he brought with him those who would believe him when he said a massacre was about to take place, as well as at least part of the fortune that he may have possessed.

Arriving in England on St. Bartholomew's Eve (August 23, 1572), perhaps with brothers who later returned to France, he repaired to the English Court where he was received with distinction by Queen Elizabeth - and perhaps remained at the Court for some time. Here he attracted the Queen's attention and confidence and, being a good mathematician, was sent to Ireland as a Royal Commissioner to superintend the partitioning of Confiscated Church Lands.

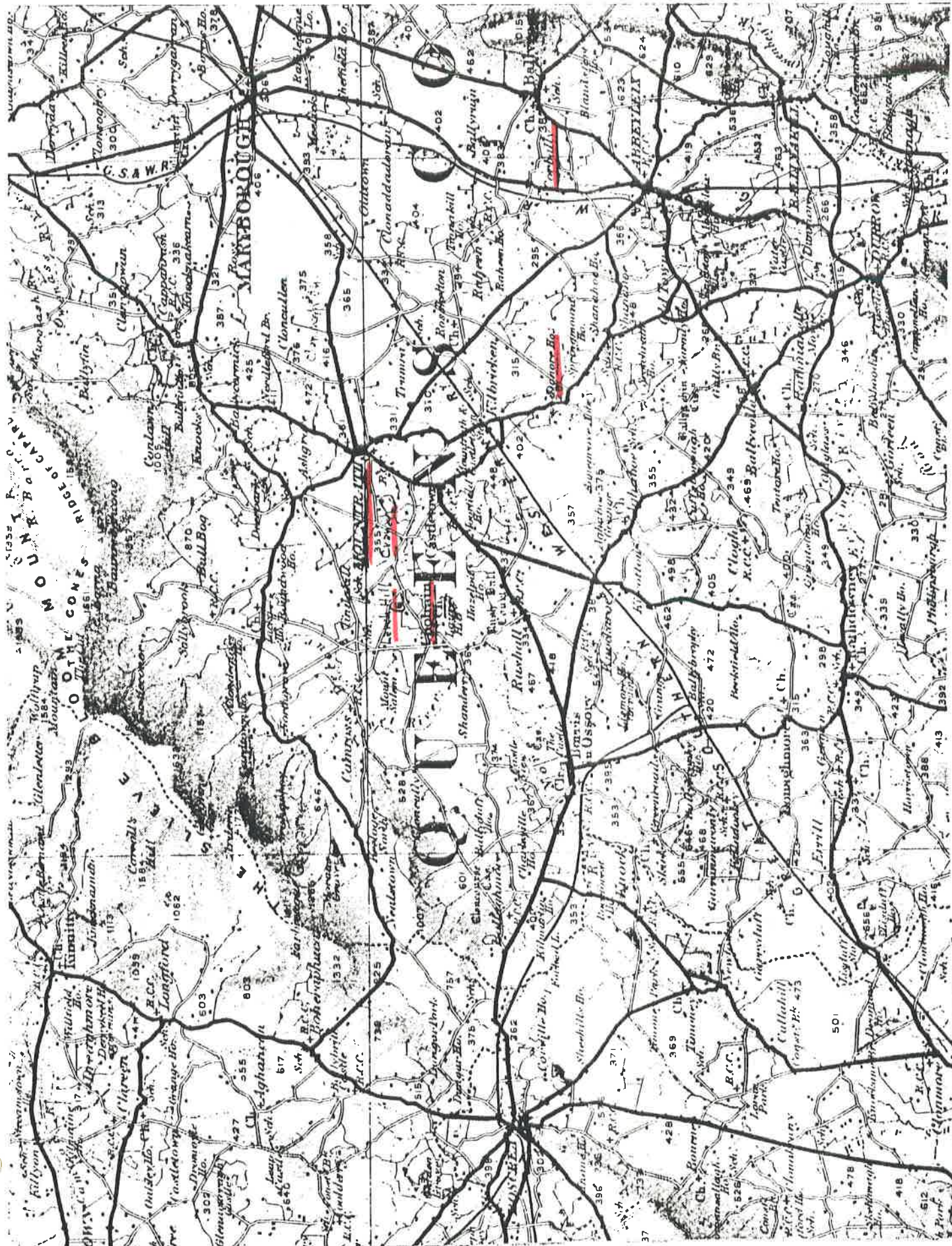
Sometime during the 1600's, apparently, he settled in Queen's County at Mountrath, where he acquired large tracts of land both in Queen's and in County Kilkenny.

"At what exact period his family settled at Cranagh, I cannot say, but in 1641, the time of the extraordinary massacres of the Protestants in Ireland, they were obliged to hide themselves for a time. There was in my childhood [Jane D.] an old tree on the top of the hill fronting Donore, where we were repeatedly informed, perhaps every time we drove by it, that it was the tree where the papists used to hang up their Protestant neighbors when they could get hold of them".

The peasantry long applied to the Mountrath district the distinctive name of "Despards' County" - a tribute to their respect for the family's character and manner.

Philip had two sons of record:

1. Henry (or William) [2-1] born 1589, who married circa 1630 Esther Croasdaile of Rynn, Co. Queen's - a few miles from Mountmellick - and succeeded his father.
2. William (or Henry) [2-2] born prior 1589, who had a son Henry [3-4] married c. 1660; father of William of Mountrath [4-8] born about 1665 and married prior 1690, and possibly a daughter Hannah, born about 1670 who married in or before going to America, 2nd - 1690 - Timothy Somes.



[It is not entirely clear which of these sons was the father of William [3-1], Colonel of Engineers, from whom our branch has descended, but I favor Henry - of Cranagh - to be the younger son. HLD]

24. HENRY [2-1] of Cranagh, Queen's Co., born 1589, married about 1630 Esther Croasdaile of Rynn and was father of:

1. William [3-1] born 1635, who succeeded.
2. Elizabeth [3-2] who married Richard Thompson of Dublin. She died 1718 (will proved 7 Jan 1719), leaving a son Richard and a daughter Elizabeth, who married a Mr. Read.
3. Henry [3-3] "Generosus" of Queen's, married prior to 1673 and was living in 1696. He was undoubtedly the "other" Henry mentioned in the "Breach of the Peace" in 1696, together with Henry [4-6].

He was father of William [4-9] born 1673, died 1732, who entered the University of Dublin Dec. 2, 1692 and was a member of the Irish Bar in 1700, who married about 1700 Elizabeth Croasdaile, daughter of Thomas of Cloghstoakin, Co. Galway, Rynn and Ballinroan, Leitrim.

25. WILLIAM, Esq. [3-1] "Generosus", 2nd son, was of Mountrath, Cranagh and Coolraine, Queen's; Acerancery and Coolbally, King's Co.; and Glengariffe in Co. Cork.

He carried Arms: Argent, 3 bars gules.

Crest: A broken dagger, dripping 5 drops of blood.

Motto: "Pugno, pugnas, pugnavi".

He was born 1635 at Mountrath, married prior 1674, Elizabeth, daughter of William Gray, Esq. of Cuddagh (Caddoe), near Mountrath; and died prior February 1713. (Will Jan 1709 - proved 8 June 1713).

He built the house at Cranagh [replaced by 1838, remembered by Jane D].

"On the visit of James II to Ireland in 1687, the whole family was proscribed as Protestant and of course joined King William - of glorious, pious and immortal memory - who delivered us from Popery, slavery, brass money and wooden shoes". [Jane D]

As Colonel of Engineers under William II, 1685-1688, he campaigned in the Peninsular Wars and fought at the Boyne in 1690. He purchased various properties under the Williamite Confiscations in 1688 and 1702-03 in Queen's.

Among these:

- . About 1688 - Ballintaggart and Killvartan - 51 acres.
- . June 18, 1703 - Rahinsavage and part of Ballintaggart Bog - 145 acres, for L 490.
- . In 1702-03 - another 398 acres in Queen's.
- . June 19, 1703 - Raheenferage, Askip and Ballycoolbeg in Upper Ossory, 14 acres for L 487. This deed witnessed by his sons Richard and Henry.
- . November 2, 1705 - Kilmartin and part of Ballintaggart in Upper Ossory, 236 acres.
- . November 9, 1710 - Town and lands of Derineserry in Queen's - 600 acres, and Ballygirmill in Queen's - 200 acres.

He erected an extensive cannon foundry at a property he had purchased in Glengariffe, and another Iron works at Cranagh.

William had five sons and two daughters:

1. Edward [4-3] of Cranagh, Coolbally, etc. - eldest son - was born prior to 1674, died June 1709. He married July 29, 1707, Abigail Minnett, born April 23, 1685, died 1753, daughter of Robert Minnett of Huygh Castle, Islackfort, Co. Tipperary - and left a son William (1708-19) and Hester (1709- after 1719).

His widow Abigail married 2nd to John Fletcher of Killosollagh, Tipperary, and was on November 28, 1719 given administration of her son William's goods.

Edward's will (Jan. 8, 1709, proved June 28, 1711 in Dublin) carried his Seal: "A Lion rampant".

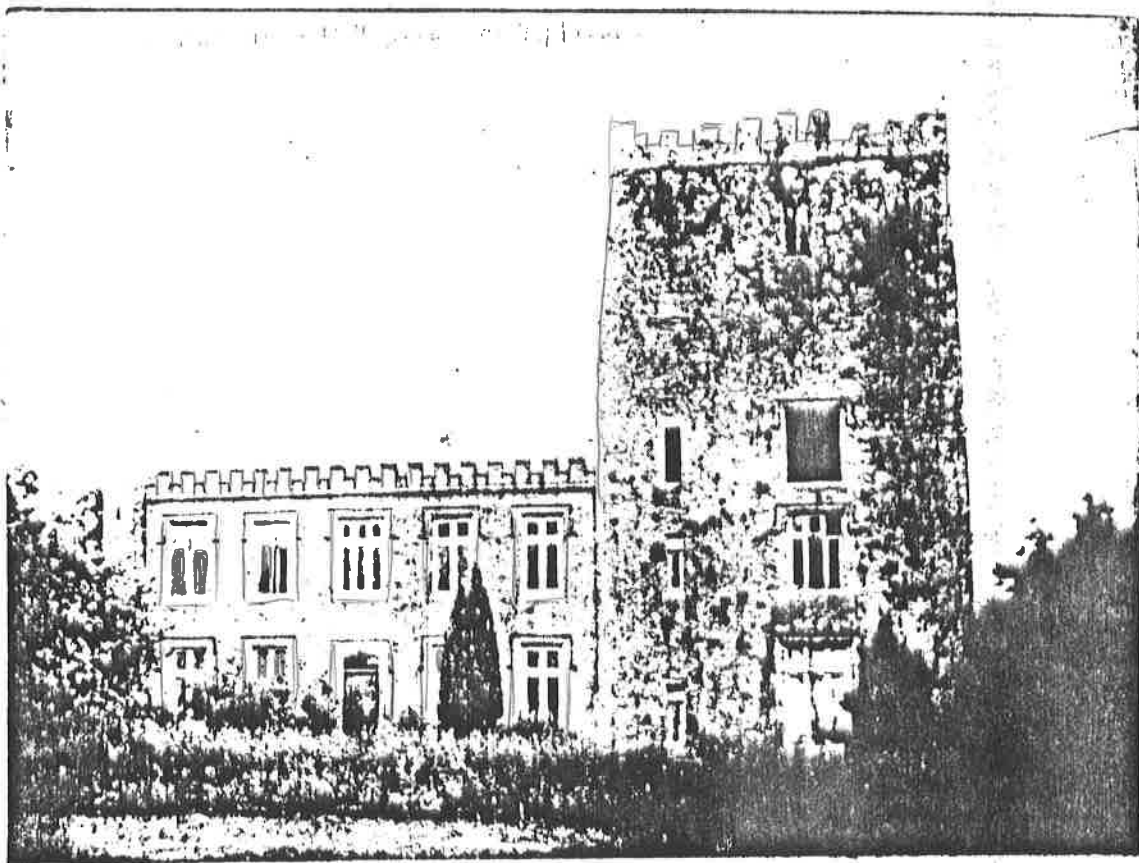
2. John [4-7] his second son - of Cranagh and Cardstown (Cartown), Queen's, and Glengariffe, Cork - was born at Cranagh in 1675 and died February 14, 1716 (will May 8, 1713 administrated by his 2nd wife Maria). His body interred near Mountrath November 20, 1716.

He entered Temple College, Dublin December 2, 1692 and was executor of his father's will, by which he was left 1,000 Pounds - out of the woods, lands and Iron works of Glengariffe.

John married 1st, about 1700, Elizabeth (died prior 1715), daughter of Charles Willington of Ballymoney, King's County, and had:

Killaghy Castle

- Mullinahone, Co. Tipperary



- a. Jane [5-16] born prior 1713, died 1779, married in 1774 John Humphreys (who died 1775). Jane inherited her father's property of 1,200 Pounds per annum. She was [said Jane D] "The proudest, crossest, cleanest, hardest good woman that ever lived".

It was her daughter Jane Humphreys who married, in 1781, Francis Green Despard [6-1].

John married, secondly, his aunt Maria Gray of Cuddagh - who died at the age of 22 (will April 11, 1717 - proved August 4, 1717). She was born in 1695 - the sister of his mother Elizabeth - and daughter of William Gray of Cuddagh.

He carried Arms: Argent 2 bars azure, on a Canton gueles a mailed fist proper, in Fess, holding a broken dagger argent, hilted Or.

3. Henry [4-6] was termed "a merchant of Francis St." and a Freeman of Dublin 1703. He was born 1676 and died prior 1743, having married in 1700 Mary Crellin (of the Poddle) in Dublin - at the Parish of St. Nicholas Without the Walls.

He was known as Henry "Kithogue" [the Lefthanded], who fought a duel with Conway of Cappanara, and was cited - with a second Henry [Henry D'Espard, Sr. [3-3] and Henry D'Espard, Jr. [4-6]. - before the Irish Parliament in 1696 for a "Breach of the Peace" against St. Leger Gilbert.

Henry leased from St. Leger Gilbert (for 3 lives) the townlands of Cards-town and part of Gurteenmallagh, Ballycloughlin, etc. - 1,000 acres in Upper Ossory, Queen's.

Although mentioned in "Davies Pedigrees, Vol. 405" and in his brother Richard's will (1741), and as witness to a Deed of his father's in 1703 - he is for some curious reason not mentioned either in the wills of his father, nor those of his brothers Edward (1709) or William (1719).

Henry had one son and two daughters:

- a. John [5-15] who, as eldest son and heir, inherited the lease of lands of Gurteenamele (235 acres) from his father upon his death in 1743. William [4-1] his uncle, November 24, 1714, granted him a lease (for 3 lives) of Ballyloughlin; in exchange for a lease of Gorteenmiele.
- b. Jane [5-13] born 1704 in Dublin and died young.
- c. Mary [5-14] died 1706, also in Dublin.

4. William [4-1], 4th son - of Killaghy Castle - who succeeded.
5. Richard [4-2] Esq. "Armiger", of Caddoe (Cuddagh), Donore, Newtown, Cranagh and other properties - who established the Donore branch. He was born 1682 and died December 1741.

He married 1st - about 1707 - Elizabeth, daughter of Richard Cochrane of Cuddagh, Queen's.

2nd - about 1722 - one of the five daughters of Richard Warburton of Garryhinch, Co. Tipperary.

3rd - Elizabeth Kent of Offerlane.

Richard of Donore had 6 sons and 2 daughters [5-6/ 5-10].

He was High Sheriff for Queen's County (1726-38) and Assessor of the Manor of Villiers. He remained at Cranagh, which had a good property annexed, and continued the Iron works there - later building the manor house at Donore.

He carried the same Arms as his brother William: Argent, 3 bars gueles, Canton azure.

6. Alice [4-4] married April 28, 1697, Richard Phillips, Esq. of Gaile, Co. Tipperary, Cashel, Co. Cork and Foyle, Co. Kilkenny. She died prior 1709 at her nephew's home at Larch Hill, leaving several children.
7. Anne [4-5] married William Harris and died after 1717, also leaving several children.

26. WILLIAM [4-1] of Cranagh and after 1710 of Killaghy Castle, Co. Tipperary, was born at Cranagh in 1680 and died prior April 7, 1720.

William was a very clever lawyer and a determined Protestant. He warmly exerted his superior talents against the Popish party in favor of the Hanoverian Succession, in the Irish House of Commons in the latter part of the reign of Queen Anne (1702-14) - who was supposed to be secretly in favor of the Pretender.

He compiled or wrote "Robin's Contraction of the Laws" for Country Magistrates, and gave it to Robin, his attorney, for publication.

He was a Member (M. P.) for the Borough of Thomastown in the Irish House of Commons 1715, and sat for the County of Kilkenny 1715-20. He also sat on the Commission of the Peace in Tipperary 1715, and on the Grand Jury, March Assizes in 1718. He apparently attended the law school at King's Inn in Dublin in 1700, at age 20.

He was admitted a Freeman of Fethard, Co. Tipperary prior to 1719, and elected a Burgess for the term June 8, 1719 - May 10, 1720; in the place of Oliver Latham, resigned - who was an uncle of Frances Green, his wife.

His principal properties were: Coolraine - which includes Cranagh, Donore and other estates in Queen's; Killaghy in Tipperary, and other properties in Cork and Kildare.

In 1709 he purchased the "Mountain Property" in Upper Ossory from the "Hollow Blade Sword Company" - the deeds for the sale being signed on Strongbow's Monument in Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin. And in a Conveyance of February 13, 1709 William [of Dublin, Esq.] granted to St. Leger Gilbert of Kilminshey, Queen's, the lands of Derrycanton (55 Acres) and part of these Hollow Sword Blade Company properties.

He was administrator for his brother John who died in 1716: "late of Cranagh, in the 1st part, and Richard Wheddy Island, Co. Cork, Esq. in the other part". William agreed to convey the lands of Glengariffe, etc. at Bantry, etc., to White [Lord Bantry] - whose ancestors had been tenants of the Despards. These properties were transferred, per Articles dated Nov. 18, 1717, for 400 Pounds per annum.

Jane Despard, in her Notes, said: "He got rid of a great deal of property by selling land for votes at election time for one penny an acre".

In his will he directs that if any of his children should marry, or in any way connect their Silver with persons professing the Popish religion, such child was to have but Twenty Pounds a year for maintenance for life.

William married in 1708, at Killaghy, Frances Green (died July 1732), eldest daughter of Major Samuel Green of Killaghy Castle. Her portion of the estate was Killaghy Castle, with 1,500 acres of land - which remained in the Despard family for some 150 years.

After his death, his widow married April 28, 1720, Councillor Peter Hughes, Esq., S.P., William's particularly valued friend, whom he had appointed one of the guardians of his sons, and to whom he had betrothed his wife before he died. Hughes sent William, Jr. to Eton College, but died of decline within a year of his marriage - prior Oct. 23, 1720. [or perhaps February 1721 - Eileen Burke says he died 10 months after the marriage.]

Frances then married in 1728 Richard Keating [Baron of the Exchequer], and had two daughters. Frances died after July 12, 1732.

* * *

William's will - Jan. 7, 1719/20 - gave his children Francis, John, Richard, Mary and Jane 20 Pounds apiece per year for maintenance and education until they were 14 years of age. And also -

- . 1,500 Pounds.to Mary, when 21, or on marriage, whichever occurs first.
- . 1,000 to Jane, likewise.
- . 1,000 to each son when of age, unless they marry papists, in which case their money shall revert to my eldest son William.
- . To my executors, all real and personal estate in trust till William is 21.
- . To Frances, my wife, the lands of Killaghy, Ballyvadoly, Ballynacloghy, Co.Tipperary and 100 Pounds a year out of lands purchased by me in Queen's Co. and Kildare since our marriage. She shall have my goods, plate, jewels, corn (in and out of the ground), my best coach and chariot, and four of my best coach horses.
- . I appoint as guardians to my children: my brother Richard of Cranagh, Queen's Co., and my (wife's) uncle William Latham of Ballyshehan, Co.Tipperary.

7 January 1719/20 - Proved December 3, 1720.

William had seven children:

1. William "Generosus" [5-18] the eldest, of Killaghy, Cartown and Cool-raine. Born 1710, died after 1765. He attended Trinity College in 1728 and was High Sheriff of Queen's Co. 1739-42 - in which office he used a Ducal Coronet on his Seal.

He was admitted a Freeman of Fethard in 1748. He gave or sold Killaghy Castle to his brother Francis Green [5-17], but it was later sold to Riggs Falkiner in 1759.

He sold or rented Larch Hill to his brother Rev. Richard [5-1], and leased Cranna Lands property [Deed #125340] to his brother George 1757.

Jane Despard said that he ruined his own and his brothers' families by giving away, leasing at nominal rents, and denying his brothers their share of their father's wealth, which he inherited for them, to make votes for the Parnells.

By Decree in Chancery 8 July 1748 (Thomas Newenham, Plaintiff; William and Jane Despard, Defendants) "Defendants to sell lands of Killaghy, Ballynacloghy, Ballyvadley. Banarona and Molynahone, Co. Tipperary".

William's widow Jane lived later on in Dublin. [Isabella Despard (7-1) spoke of visiting her there.]

William married August 2, 1732, Jane, daughter of Rev. Philip Walsh, M.A., Vicar of Blessington, Co. Wicklow. She died after 1765.

He had 3 daughters and 7 sons - six of whom were officers in either the Army or the Navy - among whom:

- . Major General John, who was at St. Johns, Canada in 1775 when it was surrendered to the American troops; fought at Bunker Hill; was Adjutant General at Yorktown with Lord Cornwallis; and Governor of Newfoundland for 7 years following.
- . Colonel Andrew, who fought at Bunker Hill.
- . Colonel Edward Marcus, who was Superintendent of Belize and Governor of Honduras [a document from whence, with his signature hangs in my home], and was later wrongfully accused of and executed for High Treason in London in 1803. [See story].

2. Francis Green [5-17] Gent., of Killaghy Castle, 2nd son, born about 1715, died prior June 1782, who inherited Killaghy.

He was also a clever lawyer and served on the Grand Jury at the March Assizes 1750, and was a Magistrate in Co. Tipperary in 1751. He was admitted Freeman of Fethard 1744.

He married 1st - March 3, 1746, Elizabeth, daughter of Lawrence Marshall of Timolin, Co. Cork, by whom he had a son and daughter.

He married 2nd _____ Lloyd of Limerick; and 3rd - by 1775 - Frances Cooke, daughter of John Cooke, Esq. of Rainstown, Co. Tipperary.

3. John [5-2] born about 1715, died April 1766 - unmarried - a Captain of Dragoons. He was named 3rd in his father's will.
4. Richard [5-1] of Larch Hill, who carried on the line. Named 4th in his father's will,
5. Catherine [5-5] born 1709, died 1719. (Prior to father's will of 7 Jan 1719).
6. Mary [5-3] born about 1715, who married 1731 Rev. John Walsh of Kilcooley, Co. Tipperary and Prebendary of Fenour [brother of Jane Walsh who married William D [5-18], and had three sons. Died prior 1760.
7. Jane [5-4] born about 1715, unmarried.

The apostrophe (D'Espard or d'Espard) was apparently dropped after this generation.

William's will - January 7, 1719/20 - carried the Arms:

Argent, 3 Bars Gules; on a Canton Azure, a mailed fist grasping a dagger Argent. [The dagger is unbroken].

By design, or by chance, these are the same colors as those of Mont St. Jean, and there are also 3 elements - as in the previous Coats:

[i.e.: 3 Shields, 3 Stems of Wheat, and now 3 Bars Gules.]

His Crest: A broken Dagger, dripping 5 drops of blood.

[As inscribed on my family ring, which belonged originally to Francis Green Despard, born 1753.]

His Motto: "Pugno, Pugnas, Pugnavi"

[I fight, I have fought, I will fight.]

27. RICHARD [5-1] Reverend (Gentleman) of Larch Hill was born , 1718 at Killaghy and died in 1779. He attended Temple (Trinity) College, Dublin and matriculated July 8, 1734.

"He married [said J.D.] September 9, 1747, Frances Burton - aged 17 - born 1730, whose father was Samuel Burton, a son of the Burton Hall, Co. Carlow family; but had no money to give his daughter who was, as the sequel will prove, pious and amiable. He settled within a mile or two of Coolrain at a place called Larch Hill, I imagine either purchased or rented from my grandfather; which his son the late Rev. Francis Despard - who died in the year 1819 - when I was there, had brought to a high state of beauty just previous to his death.

Richard left at his death 6 children, and his widow in the family way of the seventh. They were, however, provided for sufficiently to shut out anything like distress, and the good little widow confining herself to the house (Larch Hill) and to her maternal duties - with my grandfather for a guardian - educated her children (5 sons and 2 daughters) to man and womanhood. Her visiting was confined almost entirely, not to the gay house of her brother-in-law but to our sister who lived in the neighborhood." Frances died sometime after 1794.

Richard was Rector of Clonenagh, the old Irish name of the Parish in which is the town of Mountrath, and many years Curate of Annatrim Church, Mountrath, and Rector of Rathdowney. Reverend Richard and his pious wife brought up all their children to be out and out Christians and to know their Bible well, especially the New Testament [said Jane D].

LARCH HILL - Mountroth



Frances was called "friend of the poor" - greatly loved and respected by all. Richard was an exemplary clergyman, Curate at Annatrim. Highly moral, charitable and humane, attentive to the clerical duties of that day, retired in his habits and delightful as a companion the moment he was free from pain - for he was an early martyr to gout, of which he died.

He especially discountenanced any levity or inattention during divine service, irrespective of person or rank. He was well loved by those of his parish, however, and it was often said - for many miles around - that "Wherever sickness or sorrow was in a house, especially of the poor, the white horse of Parson Richard Despard was sure to be seen at the door".

He had five sons and two daughters:

1. William [6-2] the eldest, born 1752, died about 1770 in London, of fever, while a student at the Temple, after passing through Trinity College, Dublin.
2. Francis Green [6-1] 2nd son, who succeeded.
3. Thomas Burton [6-3] 3rd, unmarried, who graduated from Trinity College as a physician, and - as Lieutenant in the Army in the West Indies - was present at the capture of Jamaica. He died prior Sept. 1794.
4. Samuel [6-4] 4th son, of Larch Hill and Portarlinton - a merchant of Dublin and active during the Rebellion of 1798 - married August 27, 1784, Letitia, daughter of Colonel McMahon of Monaghan (who died 1847) and had 4 sons and 3 daughters. She was a celebrated beauty, with beautiful corn colored hair.
5. Richard Brooke [6-5] of Dublin and Clarksburg, 5th son. He was born 1773, died 1853, married April 27, 1804 Diana McMahon of Dublin - sister of Letitia. A Captain in the Army in Ireland, he went to New York in 1803 and returned to marry, but settled again in New York City where he lived till 1824. Having previously invested in land in Harrison Co., he removed to Clarksburg, West Virginia - where he established the West Virginia branch of the family.

Richard was listed in Longworth's 1808 N. Y. Directory as a "Merchant - 41 Greenwich" and in 1806-1811 as "Despard & Thomas - Merchants - 117 Front St. "

In 1819-20 as "Home - Bowery Hill; Merchant - 119 Front St." and in 1823 as: "Grocer - 143 Fulton."

At the storefront next to Richard was another Despard, listed in the 1810 Census (NYC - Ward 5) as: "John Despard - and 4 other persons - not taxed." [Evidently he was not yet a citizen and was living, perhaps, with Richard and his wife, since there is no census record of Richard.]

Richard had two sons and four daughters [7-13/ 7-18].

6. Mary [6-6] born about 1750, who married 1801 Rev. Edward Dempsey at Portarlinton. She died about 1845 at the age of 96, without issue.
7. Elizabeth [6-7] born 1780, died prior 1817. She married a steward of their house.

28. FRANCIS GREEN [6-1] Reverend, of Larch Hill (Larchfield) born 1753, died November 18, 1818; attended Temple College July 1771-1776.

He married 1st, February 24, 1781, Jane Humphreys - by whom he had five sons. Jane, who inherited her father's property at Cartown - of 1,200 Pounds per annum - was a daughter of John Humphreys and his wife Jane Despard [5-16], daughter of John [4-7] of Cartown and grand-daughter of Colonel William. She died August 28, 1789 and he married 2nd - June 1, 1809 - Gertrude Calcutt, widow of James Bradfield of Norfolk, who died in 1855, aged 95.

Francis Green was Curate of Annatrim Church at Mountrath - as was his father - for 30 years, and then Vicar of Rathsarren until his death.

" Francis Green [said Jane D] , our first pastor, was a very good man indeed as he served the church of Annatrim near us, of which he was curate for many years, and lived at his beautiful little place near his church, like father, in retirement, but always ready to entertain a friend with a joint of mutton and a bottle of port, the extent of clerical hospitality, and no bad specimen of a bed followed, which was generally the case, all managed, or more likely the work of a head mistress. He married neither advantageously nor happily, Jane Humphries, whose grandfather had been coachman at Coolrain many years, and like other dependants, made a good sum of money in that service.

She enabled him to rear his son a gentleman attorney, and who, being admitted as such to the society of Captain John Despard of Cardtown, requited him by running away with his daughter and only child, Jane [5-16] and I see no blame to him for doing so, seeing the young lady was willing. (Cardtown belonged to my grandfather, but, seeing his military relation was a non-farmer, he made him a present of the farm which was reckoned £800 a year when I was a child).

This lady, Jane Humphreys, had the entire disposal of the property in her own power, which she left to her eldest son, who, with all his children, is turned vagabond through the world, and portioned her other sons and daughters with £500 each. Her character was described as being the proudest, crossest, cleanest and hardest good woman that ever lived.

Her daughter Jane, Mrs. Francis Despard, had five sons - at the birth of the last of which she died. After the first shock was over, Francis lived in tranquil happiness, his mother - nee Burton - residing with him, a pattern of everything that

was mild and comfortable. I much fear, however, that though an attentive pastor, as far as his clerical duties went, and beloved, as all the Protestant ministers were in those days, especially those who lived the life he and his father did, he did not take the pains he ought with his children's education; although none of them ever betrayed a dereliction of principle, but quite the reverse. But he made an idol of his eldest son, and was much engaged in beautifying Larch Hill in those days of repose. He was kind and gentle in his manner.

His son Richard, shortly after this, was drawn into forming a hasty union with a girl who had not a penny, with whom his father was not on terms, and this grieved the old man exceedingly; however, he received him and her at Larch Hill, but he shortly after disobliged his son by marrying a widow with £400 a year, a comfortable old companion to him, and - having some little time previously been presented to a living of £300 a year about eleven miles off - he contrived, by keeping a curate, to remain at his own pretty place (Larch Hill); to which he was too fondly yet naturally, attached."

Having spent several months taking over care of a second Parish (Offerlane) during the illness of its rector, he was given the following testimonial:

" ----- descended from a most respected family, long inhabitants of this parish, son of a clergyman in the Diocese of Ossory, revered and beloved while on earth, and whose memory still lives in the hearts of all who had the happiness of knowing him, born amongst us and for thirty years our spiritual guide; during which lengthened period, integrity, truth and undissembled piety, guided you in your sacred duties and taught us to feel that precept, exemplified by upright conduct, is the most essential characteristic of a clergyman."

When Francis Green had re-entered Annatrim Church to resume the duties he had performed there for so many years before, the roads to the church were crowded with people, assembled from the farthest bounds of the parish, to again see their beloved minister in his long accustomed place. He had had reason to expect, in case of a vacancy, to succeed to the parish.

"In 1818 the Bishop had held a Confirmation and other services in Annatrim Church. At the conclusion he returned to Larch Hill, where he was to remain till the following day. The place was lovely in that bright summertime, A small lake contributed to its beauty. The Bishop, with the Parson (FGD) and myself (Isabella Daly) stood in the window of the drawing room enjoying the view. He gradually drew from Mr. Despard that he had been born on the place, what ornamental improvements he had made, that he had entirely rebuilt the house, etc. After a few minutes silence, the Bishop said, "Mr. Despard, you are the man who ought to have this parish." But a greater interest, I suppose, interfered. I heard the words - "However -----".

A year and a half later Francis Green had died.

"Never did a more charitable man exist, both as a man and a Minister of the Church. He died that summer while I was staying at Shanderry. His widow (his second wife) gave him a most expensive funeral and all ranks came in crowds to attend it to his father's grave at Mountrath; whose funeral, I have been told, was equally attended at night by torch light according to the customs of the time.

He had built a glebe house on his living, and had a happy set of tenantry who worked only as yearly tenants on the glebe lands, fully confident that whether protestant or papist, as long as they were honest and industrious, they would always be his tenants, and he told me himself that he often found them at work at dawn of the day.

Larch Hill was left to his widow, and after, to his eldest grandson on his attaining the age of 25, who is called Richard, and is fully that now, and if alive, is with many other children in America with his father (Richard, Sr.).

Richard, Sr.'s uncle Richard, an honourable upright man, was also in New York some years ago.

Those in America are all from Larch Hill - that sweet, pretty place, bereft of those with whom a few years ago it was an idol, and now with only a nominal owner. The affectionate remembrance which so many of the peasantry still retain in that part of the Queen's County, still called the Despard's country, proved that no acts of oppression stain their memory, or left their memory behind them." [Jane D.]

"I may here sum up the character of the Despards, as written by Jane Despard, and testified by all who knew them. As country gentlemen they were hospitable, unostentatious, social, adept in all field sports. As subjects, faithfully loyal. As landlords, generous, unexacting, kindly, only too free in giving leases on the lowest terms, many forever, upon which tenants have grown rich, the grantees suffering thereby from one generation to another. As soldiers, most brave and enterprising. As ministers of the Protestant church, exemplary in life, humble, open handed, visiting, counseling the sick, rich or poor, reproving where needful, irrespective of rank, as became their sacred calling. In family circles, gentle, sweet tempered, most amiable and equally so to their servants.

Landlords, clergymen, soldiers - these were the three denominations of the Despard family. The first merchant of the name was William, 3rd son of the Reverend Francis Green Despard of Larch Hill, in Dublin in 1806 - a truly honest man." [Isabella D.]

Francis Green's carnelian Signet Ring - with the Despard Crest and initials F.G.D. - which I now wear, has been handed down from eldest son to eldest son for six successive generations - and is to so continue. [H. L. D.]



Grey

Richard Burke Despard
1781

Richard Burke Despard
1781 - 1846

Of Francis' five sons:

1. Richard, the eldest, succeeded.
2. John, 2nd, born Dec. 7, 1782, died 1797 of fever, while a Midshipman in the Navy.
3. William, 3rd, born Jan. 1785, died April 1815, was in the Iron business in Dublin.
4. Francis Green, 4th, born Feb. 22, 1787, died Jan. 15, 1849: married May 1829 Hannah Bishop of Strangford, Co. Down. He was in the Revenue Department of Ireland.
5. Green, 5th, born Aug. 28, 1789, died April 25, 1826. He married in January 1821, in New York City, Mary Ann Usher.

29. Richard Brooke [7-1] was of Larch Hill and Brooklyn, N. Y. He was born at Larch Hill Dec. 22, 1781 and died in New York Dec. 10, 1846. (Proved 19 Mar. 1847). He married, Sept. 21, 1808, Isabella (Aug. 6, 1785- 1872, in Dublin), daughter of Arthur Daly of Dublin. It was she who wrote the Despard family Memoirs, of which I have the original copies. [H. L. D.]

Richard, the eldest son, was in the Army. In 1797-98 he was Paymaster of the Dublin Militia, and was present at the battles of Carlow, Castlecomer and Ross during the Rebellion of 1798.

"When not actually on service, Richard was at Larch Hill. In that neighborhood most families kept guard at night, strengthened by trustworthy tenants, or by yeomen. No guard was kept at Larch Hill, as no man would molest that house. Richard often went to Laurel Hill on that duty, always in full uniform, and returning home, at early dawn of the summer mornings met the Rebel patrols. Being challenged he gave his name in full, "Richard Despard of Larch Hill", and immediately, invariably received the order to, "Pass on, an' God bless you." No one in that part of the country would injure any belonging to Parson Frank." [I. D.]

After the Rebellion, Richard was appointed - Nov. 28, 1800 - a Cornet in the 23rd Light Dragoons, garetted March 4, 1801; the Regiment being, however, disbanded on the Peace of Amiens March 27, 1802. He was greatly liked by his brother officers, particularly Lord Portarlington and Lt. Col. Spencer, who entrusted him with the command of his own troop. In September 1802, he joined the 7th Dragoon Guards at Newcastle-upon-Tyne, as Lieutenant, and was Captain of Dragoons in 1808.

In 1818 Richard went to America; was at Fort Lee, N. J. May 1818; Utica, N. Y. 1822-26; Oswego, N. Y. 1830-37 - where Isabella maintained a School for Young Ladies - and was in Brooklyn after 1840. He died in New York six years later and was buried in Greenwood Cemetery.

Isabella, his widow, sailed from New York to Liverpool May 1847, on the "SS. Sarah Sands", returning to Dublin where she lived with her daughter Jane until her death.

Richard had seven children:

1. Richard Brooke [8-2] born June 26, 1809 in Dublin and died in New York Dec. 25, 1889. He married April 16, 1844, in Brooklyn, Susan Augusta, daughter of Daniel Dodge of Brooklyn, but left no children.

He came to New York with his brother Francis, May 26, 1821 on the "Erie" and at the age of 25 inherited Larch Hill from his grandfather Francis.

2. Francis Green [8-3] was born Oct. 4, 1810 at Larch Hill and died April 30, 1861 near New York. He married Oct. 1, 1844 in Brooklyn, Mary, daughter of William Somner of East Lothian, Scotland.

He was in Utica, N. Y. in 1826; and before his marriage visited Ireland, returning through Philadelphia on the Brig "Harriet" Aug. 11, 1845.

Dec. 15, 1845 he went to Bermuda, where his six children were born. He was buried in the Despard plot in Greenwood Cemetery, Brooklyn.

3. Henrietta [8-5] was born Feb. 24, 1813 at Waterford. She married Nov. 16, 1837 in Oswego, N. Y., Richard James Dodge of New York - brother of Susan, who married Richard Brooke. She died May 26, 1874 was buried also in Greenwood, having had seven children.

4. Jane Isabella [8-6] born Jan. 7, 1815 in Cartown, was living in Dublin in 1870, and died Jan. 17, 1905 at her home "Winton Hill", Bermuda.

5. Arthur William [8-4] of New York. He was born May 6, 1817 at Mullamore, Co. Tipperary, and died April 1885 in New York. He married in Brooklyn, Oct. 1, 1849, Mary Serena Merry, daughter of Captain Thomas Merry of Ireland. He had four children.

6. Isabella Lyndon [8-7] born May 21, 1819 at Fort Lee, N. J. and died Aug. 11, 1819 - baptized by her mother, buried by her father, as there was no Episcopal minister, and another would not come.

7. Clement Johnson, who succeeded.

30. CLEMENT JOHNSON [8-1] of Utica, Oswego and Brooklyn, N. Y.

He was born Nov. 8, 1820 in New York and died at Bay Ridge, N. Y. on May 20, 1879.

He married Oct. 4, 1849 at St. George's Church in New York City, Matilda Pratt (born in Ireland Aug. 31, 1827), daughter of Rev. James Calcott Pratt of Drogheda, Co. Louth. Matilda was born Aug. 31, 1827 and died April 8, 1915 in Mt. Vernon, N. Y.

Reverend James Pratt was a Methodist minister, son of a gentleman farmer in Leinster, Co. Marybow.

Matilda was author of "Old New York from the Battery" (N. Y. P. L.) a book of etchings by her sister Eliza Greateorex, an artist of some reknown. She also authored a novel "Kilrogan Cottage" (Harper & Bros. / N. Y. Public Library).

Clement went to Ireland on at least two occasions, returning to New York - September 1842 on the "Philadelphia" and May 23, 1844 on the "Switzerland".

Clement and Matilda had four children:

1. Henry [9-1] born in Brooklyn Aug. 17, 1850 and died there Dec. 11, 1909. He married April 17, 1873 at Mt. Kisco, N. Y., Fanny Isabell Reeve - born Jan. 9, 1844 - died Sept. 28, 1924 at Provincetown, Mass., daughter of Jeremiah Reeve of Mattituck, Long Island and N. Y. C.

He had two children: Henry Lyndon 1874-1926, and Renee 1888-1971. This Henry was father of Henry Lyndon, born 1912 - author of this history.

2. Clement Lyndon [9-2] born in New York July 15, 1853, died April 16, 1916. He married Oct. 18, 1883, Caroline Russell Bates and had four children: Clement Lyndon, Margaret, Gwendolyn and Catherine.

His business was listed in the New York directory as:
"Despard & Co., 7 Hanover St. - Insurance Brokers (1873)".

3. Walter Douglas [9-3] born in New York Dec. 13, 1859, died Nov. 27, 1923. He married Nov. 1, 1883, Cornelia White at Christ Church, Shrewsbury, N. J. His home was: Lawrence Park West, Bronxville, N. Y.

4. Alice Isabella [9-4] was born in New York Oct. 8, 1866. She married Carl Hexamer, Aug. 31, 1905, went to Bermuda to live, and died there in 1952, without issue.

31. WALTER DOUGLAS [9-3] 1859-1923, had three children:

1. Douglas Cornell[10-11] born 1885, married 1917 Sarah Cheney and died 1954.
2. Estelle[10-9] born 1886, married William Vanderhoof
3. Marie [10-10] born 1886 - a twin of Estelle - was unmarried. She died 1924.

32. DOUGLAS CORNELL [10-11] married 1948 Marion Severin (died 1968). He married 2nd 1969 Janet Harwood. and now lives in Carmel, California. He had four children:

1. William [12-08] born 1950, died 1967 unmarried.
2. Lyndon [12-09] born 1951, married 1982 Yvonne Garnerio.
3. Barbara [12-10] born 1953, married 1981 George Stone.
4. David Dodge [12-10] born 1955, married 1986 Alix Oliver.

DESPARD FAMILY HISTORY

CLOSING NOTES:

This history has been carefully written for and distributed to those members of the family who are either very close to me or have expressed interest in having their own lines traced back to the beginnings.

There are included no known discrepancies, as every piece of information has been carefully traced back to its origin and authenticated by records now in my personal files. Much from the early centuries has been personally translated from the original Latin and old French manuscripts, and then put into perspective.

The descendency from Mont St. Jean to Espiard, is incorrectly shown in "authoritative" French genealogies. I believe that I have been able to correct these errors and set the record straight.

The Irish information comes basically from records handed down from earlier days, and filled out by diligent search of public records. It is open to correction or supplementation by those who may have other authenticated records to supply.

Additional authenticated information would be most welcome, in the interest of making the History even more complete. It is important that I be advised of any corrections, additions or revisions that can be supplied by other family members, as there are often many gaps in the record and dates are often only approximated. The lack of information in 17th century Ireland is most notable.

I trust this story will be well received and carefully preserved. Once lost, it is irreplaceable, and future generations will have no knowledge of their distinguished heritage.

I can be contacted at: 17130 Dunblaine Road
Birmingham, Michigan 48009
313/ 644-7090


Henry Lyndon Despard

December 26, 1986