

## Parry Lands in 1524, 1543, 1544 & 1545

### Introduction

Our research for the book *Mistress Blanche, Queen Elizabeth I's Confidante* took eight years. Page numbers below refer to this book. The second part of this paper will cover research into the geographical location of Ditton.

### The Inquisitions Post Mortem<sup>1</sup>

Henry Myles' 1524 IPM covers land and holdings in both Herefordshire and Monmouthshire. During his lifetime he may have held other lands and property that he had either exchanged, surrendered or already handed to other family members. The same is true of his son, Mylo (Myles) ap Harry and of his grandson Henry Mile. IPMs were local enquiries into lands held by people of some status in order to decide whatever income or rights were due to the Crown. Such inquisitions were only held when the deceased was thought, or known, to have held lands of the Crown. Mylo ap Harry has two surviving IPMs: for Monmouthshire in 1543 and Herefordshire in 1545. It is evident from this that IPMs could be taken months, or even a couple of years, after death. Mylo ap Harry's son, and Henry Myles' grandson, has a surviving IPM for Monmouthshire in 1544. Such IPMs are valuable tools for assessing the extent of family property provided the caveats concerning survival are born in mind. Here the owners' names, except when quoting, are spelled as Henry Myles, Mylo ap Harry and Henry Mile, forms they did use, to make it easier to differentiate them. All, however, also used the other spellings of their names interchangeably.

### 1524 Henry Myles' property<sup>2</sup>

[Blanche's father]

*Inquisition taken at Weobley 18 October 16 Hen VIII [1524] before Thomas*

*Monyngton esq. [probably Henry's brother-in-law] by virtue of a writ directed to him to enquire following the death of Henry Myle [1522]*

There were 14 jurors...*Who say on oath that the said Henry Myle was seised in his demesne as of fee of and in the manor of Backeton with appurtenances and 10 messuages, 200 acres land, 100 acres meadow, 60 acres pasture and 30 acres wood with appurtenances in Backeton, Ditton and Thruxton in the said county and also of and in the manors of Tregunter, Meleynock, Kusop, the manor of Jenkyn ap Pricard, Mererickeston, Trostre and Gernesny and of and in 60 messuages, 400 acres land, 200 acres pasture, 60 acres meadow, 40 acres wood with appurtenances in Tregunter, Meleynock, Kusop, the manor of Jenkyn ap Pricard, Mererickeston, Trostre and Gernesny with appurtenances in the Marches of Wales adjoining to the same county..... And the said Henry Myle held on other lands in the said county or in the March of Wales. And Henry Mile [Henry Myles] died on 17 September 14 Henry VIII [1522] and Miles ap Harry [Mylo ap Harry] esquire is his son and nearest heir and is 24 years old.*

### Manor of Backeton with appurtenances

Value: £10 per annum

Held: *of the heirs of Walter de Lacy of the Honour of Weobley by one knight's fee.*

Identification: Bacton, probably the upland area, the lowland belonging to Dore Abbey.

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<sup>1</sup> See definition in the Glossary.

<sup>2</sup> IPM of Henry Myle [1524] reference National Archives C142/42

### **Ditton - 1 messuage and 1 carucate of land**

Value: *33s 4d per annum*

Held: *part of the premises of the heirs of Richard Delabere knight, by a mill of pepper.*

Identification: ? (See forthcoming paper discussing the geographical location.)

Notes: Sir Richard Delabere of Kinnersley & Tyberton, Sheriff of Hereford in 1483, is recorded as holding lands by service from the Crown in his IPM of 9<sup>th</sup> Nov 1514<sup>3</sup>.

A mill of pepper was the rent payable if demanded, similar to the more modern peppercorn rent. Pepper in 1524 was an imported luxury item costing around 16d per pound [c.£31 now] for black pepper and about 24d per pound [c.£47 now] for white pepper.

### **Thruxton - 1 messuage, 100 acres of land, meadow & pasture**

Value: *part of the premises are worth 46s 8d per annum*

Held: *of heirs of Richard Skudamore of Thruxton but they [jurors] do not know by what.*

Identification: in Thruxton.

Note: Sir John Scudamore (c.1390-1475) of Kentchurch, Bredwardine, Moccas and Thruxton married Blanche (or perhaps Joan) the daughter of John ap Henry of Poston, and so she was the niece of Gruffudd ap Henry (p.8), Blanche Parry's great-great-grandfather. Sir John's and Blanche's fourth son, Richard, inherited Thruxton (died 1489) and it then passed to his son, also called Richard, who died in 1511. So this reference is to Richard, the grandson of Sir John Scudamore.

### **Manor of Tregunter with appurtenances**

Value: *£4 per annum*

Held: *of Charles [Somerset] now Earl of Worcester as of his manor of Englistalgarde [English Talgarth] by 6th part of a knight's fee.*

Identification: Tregunter Farm near Talgarth.

Notes: Tregunter came to the family as dowry of Mawd who married Gruffudd ap Henry (p.8). It is not mentioned in the later IPMs probably because it was inherited by Henry Myles' daughter Elizabeth [Blanche Parry's eldest sister] who married Thomas Vaughan of Tregunter (p.23).

Charles Somerset, the illegitimate son of Henry Beaufort 3<sup>rd</sup> Duke of Somerset, was created Baron Herbert of Raglan, Chepstow and Gower, and in 1513 Earl of Worcester<sup>4</sup>. He inherited Herbert lands by right of his first wife Elizabeth who was the grand-daughter of Sir William Herbert 1<sup>st</sup> Earl of Pembroke (1<sup>st</sup> creation), and the heiress of his eldest legitimate son. Charles and Elizabeth Somerset's son, Henry, was the patron of Sir William Herbert of Troy (p.21,27&35) and it was in the entourage of Henry's second wife that Lady Troy and Blanche Parry went to the Royal Court.

Englistalgarde was English Talgarth. As was common in Wales at the time the Welsh were confined to upland areas, such as in Welsh Talgarth, while the English held the fertile lower land.

### **Manor of Meleynock with appurtenances**

Value: *53s 4d per annum*

Held: *of Earl of Worcester as of his manor of Englistalgarde by 8th part of a knight's fee.*

Identification: Felinfach near Tregunter Farm and Talgarth [f & m mutae in Welsh].

Notes: called *Melyn* [mill] in 1543 IPM...in English Talgarth. For Earl of Worcester see above.

<sup>3</sup> reference HRO A81/II/124

<sup>4</sup> The 5<sup>th</sup> Earl was made Marquess of Worcester in 1643 and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Marquess was created Duke of Beaufort in 1682.

### **Manor of Kusop with appurtenances of his Lordship of Ewyas Lacy**

Value: £6 *per annum*

Held: *of George Nevile knight, Lord of Bergevenny as by the 6th part of a knight's fee.*

Identification: Cusop, near Hay. Henry Myles was Steward of Ewyas Lacy.

Notes: Bergevenny / Burgovene in the 1546 IPM below, is Abergavenny. George Neville was the 3<sup>rd</sup> Baron of Abergavenny. The Abergavenny title came into the Neville family through this George's grandmother, Elizabeth Beauchamp. Gruffudd ap Henry had received a royal pardon due to the intercession of Joan Beauchamp, Lady of Bergavenny (p.9). George Neville's third wife was a daughter of Edward Stafford, 3<sup>rd</sup> Duke of Buckingham, beheaded by King Henry VIII in 1521. Sir William Herbert of Troy was an annuitant of Buckingham (p.22).

### **Manor of Jenkyn ap Pricard with appurtenances**

Value: 40s *per annum*

Held: *of George Nevile knight, Lord of Bergevenny by a rent of 3s 4d per annum*

Identification: Newton St. Margarets...Newton was where the Newcourt outworkers lived.

Notes: A deed of 1630<sup>5</sup> states: *All that manor of Jenkin ap Richard al. [alias] Newton...*

For George Neville, Lord of Bergevenny see above.

### **Manor of Mererickeston with appurtenances**

Value: 40s *per annum*

Held: *of heirs of Richard late Duke of York as of the manor of Ewyas Lacy part of Earldom of March by the 10th part of a knight's fee.*

Identification: Tremorithic Farm, in Bacton and St. Margarets.

Notes: Called *Mereroxscon* in 1546 IPM below. A deed of 1629<sup>6</sup> makes clear the identification by stating: *the manor of Tremorythige al. [alias] Moreithiceston*. In his 1573 Will Symond Parry, Blanche's brother, mentioned: *My mansion house & lands in Vowchurch, Turnaston, St. Margarets & Bacton...* so Tremorithic was probably this mansion house. Tremorithic was the apparent core inheritance of the family as the family tree was said to originate with Moreiddig (p.7). The name Tremorithic derives from Moreiddig.

Richard, Duke of York, the Protector of England during the illness of King Henry VI, claimed the English throne which led to the Wars of the Roses. He inherited land and the title Earl of March through his mother Anne Mortimer. Harri Ddu ap Gruffudd, an adherent of the Duke of York (p.13-15), was appointed Steward of Usk, Caerleon and Ewyas Lacy (Longtown). The Duke's son Edward, Earl of March became King as Edward IV.

### **Manor of Trostre with appurtenances**

Value: £6 *per annum*

Held: *of heirs of Richard late Duke of York as of the manor of Uske part of Earldom of March by the 8th part of a knight's fee.*

Identification: Trostrey, near Usk.

### **Manor of Gernesney**

Value: £8 *per annum*

Held: *of heirs of Richard late Duke of York as of the manor of Uske part of the Earldom of March.*

Identification: Gwernesney near Usk.

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<sup>5</sup> 11February 5 Charles I [1630] reference HRO F37/10

<sup>6</sup> 26 November 5 Charles I [1629] reference HRO F37/9

Total Value: £44 13s 4d minus 3s 4d rent = annual income of £44 10s

This was twice the average esquire's income and the same as the lower ranks of knights. Blanche Parry's immediate family lived very comfortably, despite harassment from the Abbot of Dore.

**The following lands and property in Monmouthshire were in the lordship of Usk.** All were held from the King through his earldom of March, having come to the Crown when Edward, Earl of March, eldest surviving son of Richard Duke of York, won the Battle of Mortimer's Cross in 1461 and was crowned as King Edward IV. All these lands were enfeoffed, the date given in the IPM was the 5 May 15 Henry VIII [1523]. Feoffment was a transfer of property which gave the owner the right to sell the land or pass it to his heirs. The new owner became liable for the services due on the land.

**1543 Mylo ap Harry's Monmouthshire property<sup>7</sup> [Blanche's elder brother]**

Source: IPM of Miles ap Harry taken at Monmouth the 5 August 35 Hen VIII [1543] before the Escheator, Thomas Rynaldes and 14 jurors. Mylo/Miles ap Harry died 12<sup>th</sup> January 1543 (modern dating). It is noted that his wife Elinor (Scudamore) was still living. His heir was named as his son Henry Mile aged 16 years and upwards.

**Manor of Trostre**

Value: £6 Held: *of the king as of his earldom of March by one knight's fee.*

Identification: Trostre, near Usk.

**Manor of Gwernesseny with advowson of the parish church of Gwernessny**

Value: £6 13s 4d Held: *of the king by his earldom of March by half a knight's fee.*

Identification: Gwernessny, near Usk.

Note: The value appears to have decreased between 1524 and 1545.

**Manor of Langyho**

Value: £3 Held: *of the king by his earldom of March by the eighth part of a knight's fee.*

Identification: Llangeview, near Usk.

**And the said 60 messuages, 500 acres of land, 200 acres of pasture, and 60 acres of meadow with appurtenances in Trostre, Gwernesseny, Langyho, Melyn', Penclauth, Tredeon and Llanysyn within the lordship of Usk . . . are worth 20s and are held of the King as of his earldom of March by the 20<sup>th</sup> part of a knight's fee:**

**Melyn'** } Identification: Felinfach, same place as Meleynock above (1524 IPM).

**Penclauth(e)** } Identification: Pen-y-clawdd Court Farm, near Llanfihangel Crucorney.

**Tredeon'** } Identification: Tredeon, south of Llanishen.

**Llanysyn** } Identification: Llanishen, near Trelleck. Tredeon & Llanishen are along B4293.

**1544 Henry Mile's Monmouthshire property<sup>8</sup> [Mylo's son & Blanche's nephew]**

Source: IPM [1544] of Henry Myle [Henry Mile] taken at Dynhom [see Further Notes below] in the county of Monmouth the 16 May [unreadable but must be 36] Henry VIII.

<sup>7</sup> IPM of Miles ap Harry the 5 August 35 Hen VIII [1543] reference National Archives C 142/69/no.130

<sup>8</sup> IPM [1544] of Henry Myle [Henry Mile] 16 May [ 36] Henry VIII reference National Archives C142/71/no.131

Henry Mile had died the previous 27<sup>th</sup> February. He was the son of Mylo ap Harry & Eleanor / Elinor [Scudamore]. His heirs were Joan ap Harry, aged 13 years and 7 months old on the day of this inquisition, and Elizabeth ap Harry, aged 12 years old on the previous 26 June before the taking of this inquisition. These were the daughters of Miles ap Harry deceased and the sisters and next heirs of the said Henry Mile. The girls were minors and so were wards of the Crown. Their wardships were bought by Sir William Vaughan of Porthaml, near Talgarth.

The date of this IPM is unreadable. However, comparing the ages of the two girls given in this IPM and in the next 1545 IPM it is clear that this IPM must date to 1544. Henry Mile is given as his father's heir in his Monmouthshire IPM of 1543 (above) and Joan and Elizabeth as their father's heirs in his Herefordshire IPM of 1545 (below). So Henry Mile died between August 1543 and May 1544, specifically on 27<sup>th</sup> February 1544 (in modern dating).

This IPM was taken before two commissioners of the King by virtue of a writ directed to them and to a third commissioner, Matthew Herbert esquire. There were 14 jurors. Mylo ap Harry's other Monmouthshire property had to have already been disposed of before the date of this IPM.

### **Manor of Trostrey with appurtenances**

Value: The jurors said they did not know the annual value (presumably £6)

Held: *of the king as of [earldom] of March*

Identification: Trostrey, near Usk.

### **1545 Mylo ap Harry's Herefordshire property**<sup>9</sup>

**[Blanche's elder brother]**

Source: IPM of Mylo ap Harry esq. taken at Hereford before Richard Palmer Eschaetor for the King in the said county, on the 31 October 37 Henry VIII [1545]. There were 13 jurors.

Mylo ap Harry died 12<sup>th</sup> January 1543, *Friday before the Feast of the Epiphany last past*. This IPM notes that his wife, Eleanor [Scudamore] was still living. Mylo ap Harry's heirs were named as his daughters: Joan, now wife of Walter (Watkyn) Vaughan of Bredwardine and Moccas, and Elizabeth, now wife of Roland Vaughan of Porthaml, near Talgarth, who later became Member of Parliament for Brecon and a Groom of the Chamber to Queen Elizabeth before his death in 1566. Joan was described as aged 15 years, and Elizabeth as aged 14 on 26 June last past. Sir William Vaughan of Porthaml had married Joan to his second son and Elizabeth to his grandson (p.12 +). Joan's son, Rowland Vaughan author of *His Booke*, married Elizabeth's daughter.

### **Manor of Kelpec with appurtenances - the demesne**

Held: *as of fee made by feoffment 5 May 15 Henry VIII [1523]*

Identification: Kilpeck

Notes: This feoffment was made to William ap Morgan, Richard Cornwalle, Thomas ap Roberte all of whom had died by October 1545, and to Thomas Baskervyle who was still living. Thomas Baskerville continued to hold the land *until the statute of the said King* [...] when Mylo ap Harry and Eleanor were *seised of the property*. This Thomas Baskerville was the last Steward of Dore Abbey and married Alice widow of Henry Myles. He was, therefore, the step-father of Mylo ap Harry and of Blanche Parry.

### **Below 3 Manors – Backeton, Jankyn ap Rychard and Dytton / Ditton**

**Below with [...] messuages, 200 acres land, 100 acres of meadow, 60 acres pasture, 30 acres:**

#### **Manor of Backeton**

Value: £10      Held: *of honour of Weobley by one knight's fee*

Identification: Bacton

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<sup>9</sup> IPM of Mylo ap Harry esq. the 31 October 37 Henry VIII [1545] reference National Archives C142/73/no.94

**Manor of Jankyn ap Rychard**

Value: 40s      Held: *held by rent of [...] and 4d for all services*

Identification: Newton (now Newton St. Margarets, see above)

**Dytton / Ditton**

Value: 33s 4d      Held: *held of the heirs of Richard Dalabere knight by service*

Identification: ? in Dorstone Parish

**Below with 20 messuages, 500? acres of arable, meadow, and pasture with appurtenances:**

**Long(e)towne**                                    } Valued together: £10

**Llansillo**   } Held: *of Lord of Burgovene as of his manor of Ewyslacie.*

**Mychellchurche Esklyn / Else** }

Identifications: Longtown, Llancilo, Michaelchurch Escley.

**Manor of Kewsope with appurtenances**

Value: £6

Held: *of Lord of Burgovene as of his manor of Ewyslacie part of one knight's fee.*

Identification: Cusop

**Mereroxson**

Value: 40s

Held: *of manor of Ewyslacie, part of Earldom of March by the tenth part of one knight's fee*

Identification: Tremorithic Farm, in Bacton and St. Margarets, see above.

Total value of Mylo ap Harry's lands in both counties = more than £49 6s 8d

**Note:** Although this appears to be an increase in value from £44 10s in 1524, this is actually a decrease in value of c.20% which must have caused financial problems (see Glossary below). The decrease in value was very real even though the land described is not exactly the same in the IPM of 1524 and the IPMs of 1543, 1544 & 1545. There was a very definite slump in the value of property holdings in this period. The years 1521 and 1545 were two of the periodic harvest failures, others being in 1529, 1551, 1556 and 1587. Blanche Parry was at Newcourt to see the catastrophic affects of the 1521 failure and she certainly continued to be in touch with her family. The 1587 failure was evidently the impetus for her bequest of a dole of corn to the people of Bacton and Newton.

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**Glossary**

Definitions mainly from *A Dictionary of Medieval Terms & Phrases* compiled by Christopher Corèdon with Ann Williams, 2004 D.S.Brewer.

**Advowson** - The right to present a clergyman for appointment to the bishop of the diocese. The person who did so was the patron.

**Appurtenances** - Usually specified rights attached to land, e.g.: pasture rights.

**Carucate** - Land which could be ploughed in one year with eight oxen.

**Demesne** – Land held for a lord's own use, not let or leased, worked by dependent tenants.

**Dowry** - A portion given, or allotted, on marriage.

**Escheator** – Escheat was the reversion of land to a lord on the death of a tenant without heir. The person appointed to enquire into this was the Escheator. If the heir was a minor then the lord had the right to the wardship. The ward was supposed to be handed to the heir when of age to inherit in good condition. Wardships could, and were sold.

I.P.M. - Inquisition Post Mortem – An enquiry held after death. A writ was issued so that local people could be questioned to determine if an heir was of age and able to inherit. A number of local people, called the jurors, would be asked to confirm on oath dates of birth, baptism etc. Typically, Henry Myle's 1545 IPM above includes fourteen jurors... *Who say on oath that Henry Myle on the day of his death was seised in demesne as of fee of and in the manor of Trostrey with appurtances. They do not know the annual value but they say that he held it of the king as of his [earldom?] of the March by services which they do not know.....*

Knight – The military servant of someone of high rank; a feudal tenant holding land for which he owed military service.

Knight's fee – The area of land required to pay for the service of one knight.

Manor – Estate comprising the demesne, and other tenements let in return for rents or services.

March of Wales – The boundary between England and Wales. In the Medieval period this was a series of lordships comprising areas of land which at times were virtually independent of the English Crown. The border became more defined after the Laws in Wales Acts particular of 1536 and 1543 which imposed the English legal system.

Message - The plot of land taken up by a house, its associated buildings and land.

National Archives – Formerly called the Public Record Office (PRO).

pa – per annum, that is each year.

Seised – Freehold possession of land or goods.

s & d – shillings & pence. 12 pence = 1 shilling. Using the National Archives currency converter as a guide the value in modern terms of the currency detailed here was as follows:

In 1525:        £1 = c.£350                      1 shilling = c.£17-50p                      1d = c.£1-46p

In 1545:        £1 = c.£254                      1 shilling = c.£12-70p                      1d = c.£1-06p

So using this approximate guide it can be seen that the value of the property detailed in Henry Myles' 1524 IPM as c. £44 10s would now be worth approximately £15,408-75p

Whereas the 1543-1545 IPMs valued c. £49 6s 8d would be approximately £12,530-68p

So the value of these holdings over c.20 years had actually decreased by about 20%

Tenements – The holding of land from a lord by freehold or other kinds of tenure; later this name was used for any building used as living accommodation.

## **Further Notes**

HRO – Herefordshire Record Office in Harold Street, Hereford.

National Archives – Formerly called the Public Record Office (PRO).

Modern Dating – Until 1752 the legal year changed date on 25<sup>th</sup> March, the feast of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, called Lady Day. Therefore, for example, 1544 was from 25<sup>th</sup> March 1544 to the following 24<sup>th</sup> March, which in modern dates is 1545.

Regnal dates – such as 35 Henry VIII use the accession date of the Sovereign as the start date. Lists of regnal dates need to be used for determining these dates. See *A Handbook of Dates* edited by C.R.Cheney, revised by Michael Jones, 2000 Cambridge University Press.

For Dynhom / Dinham Castle in Llanvair Discoed see [www.castlewales.com/dinham](http://www.castlewales.com/dinham)

Dinham Castle is marked as *Castle remains of* at ST 481924 on the OS map. It is about a mile north-east of Caerwent.

Other references for Richard Scudamore of Thruxton: *A Revisionist's Look at the Skydmore-Glyn Dwr Alliance* by Warren Skidmore, Occasional Paper no.13, [www.skidmoregenealogy.com](http://www.skidmoregenealogy.com)

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