

“The Fishacre Tribe”¹: the Family Origins of Richard Fishacre OP

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The starting point of the enquiry described here was a direct result of discussions at the Fishacre Colloquium². The existence of a Martin de Fishacre who was a witness in the early 1240’s to the Inquisition, now called Testa Nevill³ was identified. The place-name enquiry⁴ to find the Fishacre⁵ where Martin lived began with scrutiny of current Ordnance Survey maps and identified three places all with the element, Fishacre, in the name within a few miles of each other in the hundred of Haytor in South Devon⁶. They are Fishacre Barton, a farm, in the parish of Broadhempston; Combefishacre, a string village settlement in a small deep valley about four and a half miles to the east; and Coleton Fishacre, a very small settlement above the cliff top between Kingswear and Brixham. Examination of the publications of the English Place-Name Society showed that there are no other settlements in England and Wales with this unusual element of “fishacre” in the name. This part of South Devon with the streams flowing towards the river Dart on its east bank and the coastal peninsula between Dartmouth and Torbay contains the origin of the name, Fishacre. So far, it is uncertain which place was the first to have the name Fishacre. In the Exon. Domesday Book Combefishacre is recorded as Comba⁷ while Coleton Fishacre is recorded as Coletona⁸. Broadhempston is referred to in the Exon Domesday⁹ but not Fishacre Barton, which is about two miles southwest of the village. Barton is a name used in Devon for a manor farm. Study already done on Devon has established a fair continuity between past and present boundaries including the former hundred structure of the shire. It has also been possible to visit those parts of the shire where, according to the records, Fishacres settled. The clear geographical focus of the family is the southern part of the hundred of Haytor between Broadhempston, Ipplepen, Paignton, and Kingswear. They held in Waddeton, Combefishacre, Lupton, Coleton Fishacre, Fishacre Barton, Yalberton, Galampton, Hoodown, Woodhuish, Boohay and Crofiland. Today the first three have large houses, the rest are farmhouses. In other hundreds they held in Moreleigh and Woodleigh, in Ilsington, Ingsdon, in Natsworthy, in Ringmore, Langston, Marwell and Okenbury. They also held in Cornwall, in Morval, North Tamerton and Insworke. In the fourteenth century they were in Plymouth and Ashburton. Some of these holdings were continuous over several generations, others were

sporadic, some held for one lifetime only.

A Martin de Fisacre, probably identical with the juror in the inquisition noted above, is known from at least one charter drawn up before 1242–3, in the time of Henry III¹⁰. But there is a record of an earlier Martin de Fishacre who in 1210–12 held one knight's fee of the Bishop of Exeter¹¹, and there is a further record of the grant of 16 acres of land in Galmpton to Martin de Filacre¹² by Robert de Punchardon in 1199¹³. The family name of Fishacre is also found to the fourteenth century in over one hundred and sixty instances in printed royal and ecclesiastical records. From these records it is possible to make some reconstruction of the family history. It is tempting to be creative about their story but as so often happens, a theory based on limited knowledge already acquired is destroyed by the acquisition of more scraps of information. So the following account tries to be faithful to the actuality of the records.

There are several problems with dating some of the available Fishacre records. Here only two are identified. The first is the small number of names constantly used. The Normans not only used few Christian names like Henry, William, Guy, Roger, Richard and others, but they had the practice of repeating names, so that a Henry might have a son Henry, who in his turn had a son called Henry. Among the Fishacres exists the almost continuous use of the name, Martin. The second problem is the lack of regular time and place dating of charters. The existence of multiple ways of computing time from the mysteries of the letters and golden numbers of the ecclesiastical calendar, to variants in calculating the regnal years of the kings made dating hazardous. If a charter has a regnal year, the dating is easier. If such is not given, the only other source of possible clues to dates is its list of witnesses. Some of these may be members of an honour or a hundred court, or persons linked to the household of one of the parties to the document. Some lists of witnesses give relationships, such as fathers and sons; some charters contain family information about the donors. If lists of family trees, of generations, and of contemporaries can be established and linked to dated documents or sources, then approximate dates for individuals can be found by using the principle of contemporaneity, or "the flea" principle¹⁴. For establishing the beginning of the Fishacres the main sources of information are the *Book of Fees*, the *Red Book of the Exchequer* and the incomplete Buckfast Abbey cartulary¹⁵. This contains charters recording the gifts of land to the abbey by many donors often witnessed by local landowners. Among these witnesses are several Fishacres¹⁶. Some of the charters are confirmations, repeating details of gifts made earlier by members of the donor family. Dates are bonuses¹⁷. There are several significant land holders making gifts, but it has been possible only to discover something about the Nunant family, a "big

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flea". Several families appear frequently in some of the charters. In those witnessed by a Fishacre are often found the Bozuns, the Croccas, the Cumbas, the Mugges, and the Spychwykes. The Bozuns are a significant important multiple land-holding family, probably a "little flea". "Littler fleas" are the Mugges who seem to be servants of the Abbey, while the Fishacres and the Spychwykes have holdings near the Abbey lands. By establishing some of the dates of the more important originators of these South Devon charters—one of which is a member of the Nunant family, it is possible to give approximate dates to lesser landholders, including the first Fishacres.

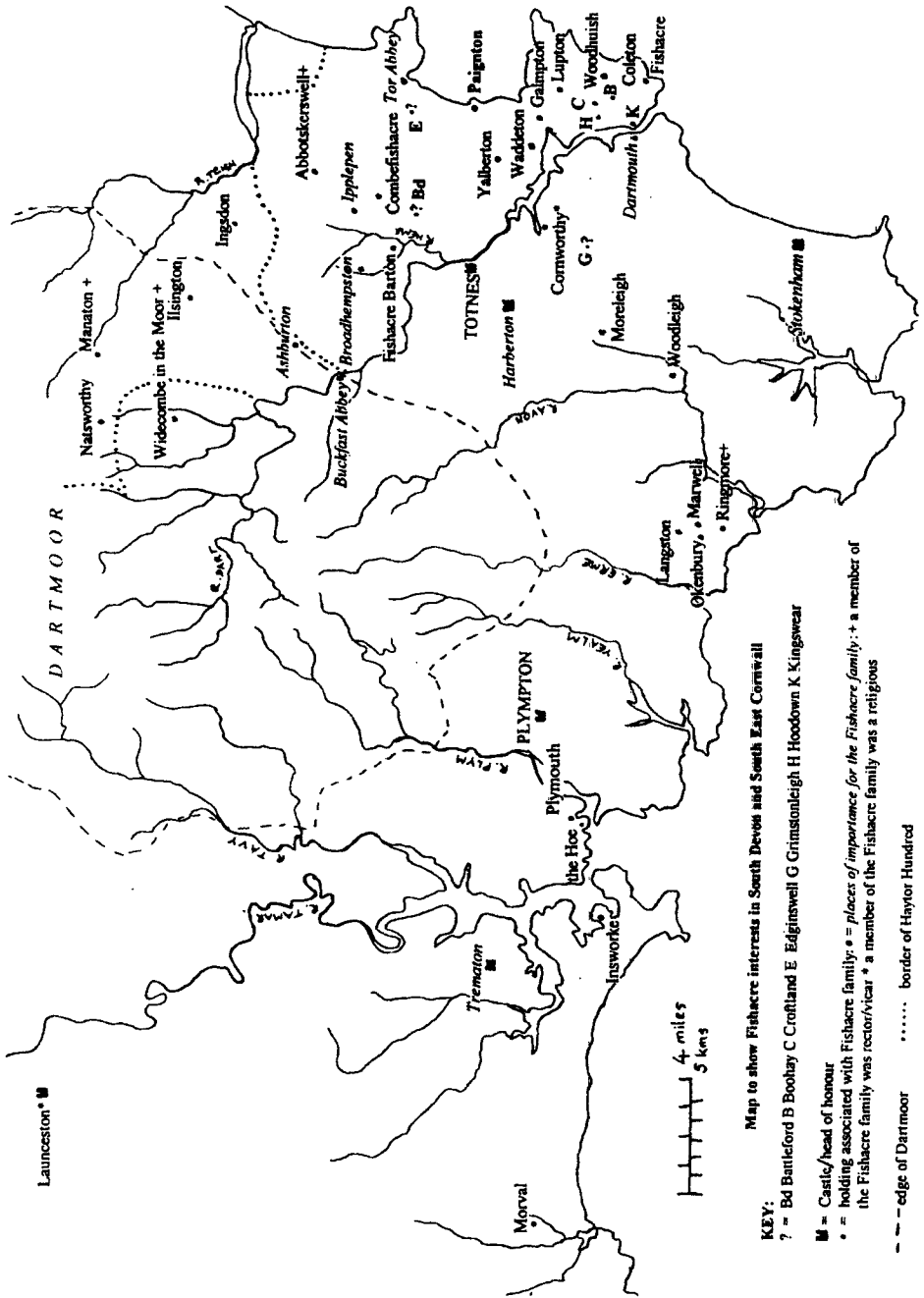
Fortunately much work done by O.J. Reichert has established a family tree of the Nunant family¹⁸. There are no birth or death dates. But when information, from documents of the time of Matilda and from the Buckfast charters is linked with information from the *Red Book of the Exchequer* about payments of scutage and about holdings, it seems possible to make reasonable guesses. Roger de Nunant whose family still held a fee in Normandy in 1172¹⁹, was a magnate holding land of the fee of Mortain, which had many lands in Cornwall and Devon. Henry I gave him Totnes Castles as a fee and also the honour of Hurberton, now Harberton, but not Chillington its chief manor which together with the village of Stokenham were retained by the king. Although Henry I had required all his barons to swear fidelity to his heir, his daughter Matilda, wife of the Emperor Henry, many of the barons had preferred the known military skills of her cousin Stephen. In 1141 the author of the *Gesta Stephani* claimed that Matilda had a very strong force with her and includes Roger de Nunant as one of her "men of valour and distinction"²⁰. In 1142 to 1143 Brian fitz Count wrote a letter to Henry of Blois justifying his continuing support of Matilda; Roger de Nunant's name is found as a witness to this document²¹. This is probably the same Roger who received the castle and manor from Henry I, who by charter gave Sidham to Buckfast Abbey²², and who is the first of four Rogers named in the Buckfast charters. As a guess, if he were born about 1100, he would be a mature man before the death of Henry I in 1135. If twenty years for a generation is estimated which allows for the age of marriage of men at about 14 or 15 and of girls similarly, then Roger's three children, Guy who married Mabel, Henry who married Elizabeth and Roger, spouse not mentioned, could have been born in the 1120's. Henry is responsible for two charters, numbers VII and VIII²³, both concerned with Sidham, while charter IX also about Sidham, originated by his brother Roger II, notes the latter's assent²⁴. It is this charter which is witnessed by a Martin de ffishachre. It is possible that these charters were made when the civil unrest was over, either after 1148 when Matilda left Stephen as *de facto* king, or in the early years of Henry II, that is between 1148 and 1156. Charter X²⁵ originates with

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Roger de Nunant, husband of Alice, grandson of Roger, son of Guy and Mabel. He is the third Roger, born possibly about 1140, and probably the donor noted in charter XI which is another gift to Buckfast Abbey²⁶. The witnesses include Robert the bishop of Exeter either Robert of Chichester, who died in 1155, or his successor Robert Warelwast who died in 1160. Two others are Hugh, the archdeacon of Totnes recorded about 1143; and Geoffrey who was prior of Plympton from 1128–1160. This charter is between 1137–1161.

The foregoing story of the Nunants has given us a possible date for a Martin de Fishacre who is asked to witness a charter and possesses enough status to be named on it. That charter IX probably dates from 1148 to 1156. As the Martin de Fishacre noted in the *Red Book of the Exchequer* in 1210–1212 is holding a military fee of the Bishop of Exeter, it is likely that the mid-twelfth century Martin de Fishacre held similarly with a holding from the lands of the Bishop. So it seems likely that the Martin de Fishacre who witnessed the charter of Roger II de Nunant is the founder of the Fishacre family which plays a significant part in Devonshire history in the next two centuries.

It is now time to turn to the Fishacre family proper to try to reconstruct something of the family background of Richard de Fishacre OP. Because of the difficulty of sorting out several owners of the same name, it is better to try and establish first the whereabouts of the various Fishacre holdings. They have two kinds of property, namely temporal and spiritual. The former are lands, sometimes a whole fee, and sometimes a fraction of a fee. The latter include rectories or other ecclesiastical benefices and some like advowsons with elements of both. It is clear from the available records, that some of the holdings stayed with the de Fishacre family for at least two centuries, whilst others were short-term. It seems logical to argue that primogeniture was as important for the de Fishacres as it was for those higher in the Norman social scale. One of their near neighbours was the Pomeray family which had a preference for the name Henry for the eldest son. Records up to Henry IX Pomeray are noted. Here the holding of lands is linked with an identified namesake as the main heir. The name Martin is the most common Christian name in the Fishacre family. It is possible that the name Martin in the de Fishacre family indicates an heir. Where land-holdings are short-term there could be several reasons. Either there is a marriage to an heiress, or to a woman with land in her own right, or there is a life-time grant by the king or by the head of an honour to a specific de Fishacre. This could be for services rendered. Such were the holdings of North Tamerton and Kenton. With lands owned by women, the heirs would be her children whose surname would generally be the paternal not the maternal one. This is how the de Fishacre name died out in England in the fifteenth century.



Map to show Fishacre interests in South Devon and South East Cornwall

KEY:

- ? = Bd Battleford B Doohay C Croftland E Edginswell G Grimstonleigh H Hoodown K Kingswear
- = Castle/head of honour
- = holding associated with Fishacre family; • = places of importance for the Fishacre family; + a member of the Fishacre family was rector/vicar * a member of the Fishacre family was a religious
- - - edge of Dartmoor border of Haytor Hundred

We have seen something of the geographical location of the Fishacre lands²⁷. Map 1 (page 328) *'To show places in Devon and Cornwall associated with the Fishacre family'* gives an overall picture. There are at least forty-six places known from the records. Those with a cross are churches, parishes linked with Fishacres either as priests—rectors or vicars—or a few parishes with lay Fishacres as patrons of the living, while two, Launceston and Cornworthy, are the houses of Fishacres who were members of religious orders. The rest are holdings, large and small. Most have been identified using the information both in the records about the hundreds and on the ordnance survey maps. Several different honours are involved in these holdings: the honour of the Bishop of Exeter; the honour of Cardinham; the honour linked with the Earl of Devon from Plympton Castle and the honour from Totnes Castle, later divided into two with Harberton as the other head of the honour. Map 2, pp 348/349. *'To show Fishacre interests in South Devon and South East Cornwall'* indicates Dartmoor and the rivers flowing from it to the sea. It is noteworthy that this area, which is the focus of Fishacre interests, has the brooding presence of Dartmoor in the landscape of many of the Fishacre holdings. It is very rich agricultural land best for mixed farming. Its fast rivers and streams have carved steep-sided valleys most of which are still heavily wooded. The horse was the only way of travelling any distance in the Fishacre centuries. Most of the Fishacre holdings here are within a day's riding from each other. Three of them, Coleton Fishacre, Ringmore and Waddeton are in walking distance of the sea, the latter overlooking the Dart sea estuary with sheltered wharfing. Devon, and specifically that part of South Devon, west of Torbay, in the valley of the Dart, in the South Hams, and into south east Cornwall is the real homeland of the de Fishacre family. (In medieval terms and even into the seventeenth century as Risdon indicates²⁸ the Cornish side of the Tamar valley was regarded as part of Devon.) I have located and explored most of these properties. Considering them and the earliest written records about Fishacre land, namely the Fishacre purchase of sixteen acres in Galmpton in 1199²⁹ and of more land in Woodhuish in 1219³⁰, I conclude that the Fishacres were extending their initial settlement, a holding which was probably part of the Bishop of Exeter's rich and extensive manor of Paignton. Combefishacre, Fishacre Barton and Coleton Fishacre did not belong to the Bishop of Exeter as feudal lord. But Waddeton, of which one Martin de Fishacre became lord by marriage with Isabel de Waddeton before 1240, is a manor carved out of the Bishop's lands. It seems likely that the Fishacres initially settled somewhere between Torbay and the Dart estuary and within easy reach of Waddeton. The availability of fish in this area is self-evident, while its use as a fertiliser by an enterprising farmer could lead to a nickname for a Martin and then to a surname

which later becomes a place-name.

But in the early thirteenth century there are also de Fishacres in Dublin. The number of references to Fishacres in Ireland are fewer than those to the Fishacres in Devon. The first Dublin Fishacre, Warin, at some unspecified time, is given a benefice of which the patron is Sir Peter de Fishacre³¹. In 1226 Warin is acting for the archbishop of Dublin³². On August 28th 1234 Warin de Fisacre is appointed Chamberlain of the Exchequer in Dublin³³. As a royal clerk he is important, and at a time when part of Ireland was being organised as English while Wales and Scotland were independent princedoms and kingdoms. From the royal records we learn that Warin has a younger brother, Isaac³⁴ who is required by the king to take over the Exchequer job when between 1237 and 1242 Warin has to travel on the king's business. This is the only reference to Isaac de Fishacre. In 1256, Warin was still a baron of the Exchequer in Dublin³⁵. About 1275–1279³⁶ a Warin de Fissacre witnesses a charter made by Isabella de Wadestone, widow of Martin de Fissacre, granting some land to Torre Abbey. It is very likely that this is the same Warin de Fishacre who has served in Dublin, but who has now retired back home to Devon. It seems probable that Warin, as rector of the church of Stoke Rivers is a priest, but that Isaac was a clerk who could marry. Certainly by the early fourteenth century there are several de Fishacres who act as attorneys in Ireland. Three times between 1309 and 1312, a Martin de Fissacre is named an attorney "in Ireland" for one or two years on behalf of clients travelling³⁷, while on July 15 1310 Martin de Fissacre is appointed "king's clerk in the office of chamberlain of the Exchequer Dublin"³⁸. Contemporary with this Martin de Fishacre is a Walter de Fissacre who three times, 21 September 1308, 8th June 1311 and 1st February 1314, is appointed her attorney by Agatha, widow of Geoffrey de Appleby "staying in Ireland"³⁹. It is not clear whether Walter was an Irish or a Devonshire Fishacre, but he had a clear Irish connection. A third Fyhsacre (sic) Robert is appointed attorney in Ireland for two years in November 1315⁴⁰. Between forty-two and fifty years later, another Fissacre, Roger, is being an attorney in Ireland for one or two years at a time for at least three different people⁴¹. It is clear from an earlier record that Roger Fissacre has land in Ireland, for in November 1352 he and three others, including the Bishop of Kildare, are asking the king to restore to them lands in counties Kildare and Meath⁴². Possibly some of the Irish de Fishacres had continued to work in the Dublin Exchequer. Neither their numbers nor their records, however, are as numerous or as detailed as those available in the same sources for the Devonian Fishacres. They are most likely a junior branch of the same family. As in Devon there are no Fishacres in Dublin today.

As the Fishacre family grew in social importance their name

became attached to places which they held over several decades, even for more than a century, namely Combefishacre and Coleton Fishacre. Fishacre Barton, the farm initially identified in the English Place-Name study⁴³, is described as follows:⁴⁴ “The intrusion of the manor of Fishacre from Ipplepen into Broadhempston is one of several indications // that Broadhempston had once been part of a large administration of which Ipplepen was the centre. A narrow extension of the manor included Fishacre Barton... .” The manor of Ipplepen was part of the honour of Plympton held in 1086 by Ralf de Fougères and forfeited by his heirs in the reign of King John⁴⁵. The holding still remained with the Plympton honour and was not part of the Bishop of Exeter’s holdings. Combefishacre is first noted as held by a Fishacre in 1228 and appears regularly in the records⁴⁶. In 1243–4, Martin de Fishacre holds one fee of the honour of Totnes in Coleton⁴⁷, while around the same time Sir Peter de Fishacre holds two fees one in Moreleigh, the other in Woodleigh⁴⁸. These are holdings of the honour of Plympton. Moreleigh, Battleford and Grimstonleigh together made one knight’s fee⁴⁹. Martin de Fishacre acquires the manor of Waddeton⁵⁰ sometime between 1216⁵¹ and the compilation of the *Testa de Nevil* in early 1242–4. The transaction is made by Martin de Fishacre and Walter son of Osbert of Waddeton with the agreement of Dionisie, Walter’s wife, and of his heir, Radulfus?? and described in a charter which gives great detail of buildings and of sizes and names of fields. Martin makes gifts of six silver marks to Osbert and of a gold ring to Dionisie. Which Martin marries Isabella of Waddeton is not clear as there is no date of this marriage⁵². With the ownership of Waddeton come other holdings in Devon and Cornwall, Yalberton about four or five miles distant, Rawstone in North Devon near Bishop’s Nympton, and Morval in Cornwall⁵³. The site of Dinnington in the hundred of South Molton is not identified. All these are held as one fee of the Bishop of Exeter. It is safe to say that by the fourth decade of the thirteenth century the de Fishacres are established in the main properties they hold for many years, namely Combefishacre, Coleton Fishacre, Waddeton and Moreleigh. But who are the specific members of the Fishacre family?

It is likely that the Martin de Fisacre who makes a first Fishacre appearance in the *Red Book of the Exchequer*⁵⁴ as being one of the fifteen knights of the bishop of Exeter who hold land by military service in 1210–1212, is a grandson of the Martin de ffischacre who witnessed Roger II of Nunant’s Buckfast charter IX. He may be numbered Martin II. The Martin de Fishacre who is a witness to the inquisition in the hundred of Haytor in 1242–3” is holding both of the Bishop of Exeter and of the Harberton element in the honour of Totnes. He may be numbered Martin III. It is not clear whether Martin II or III is the husband of Isabella de Waddeton. There is also at this time the Sir Peter

de Fishacre who holds Moreleigh and Woodleigh, together with Battleford and Grimstonleigh of the honour of Plympton⁵⁶. According to the records in the local parish church in the village of Moreleigh the building of the church was helped by Sir Peter's money. The first Peter has a wife called Beatrix⁵⁷. But through lack of clarity in the small number of records, it is not certain whether this Peter is the same as the one who died in Lupton some time after 1317 or an earlier one. It is likelier that there were two Peters, but only more evidence could clinch the facts.

Of other Fishacre contemporaries we already know the royal clerk, Warin de Fishacre and his brother Isaac working in the Dublin Exchequer. Richard de Fishacre who became a Dominican a member of the Blackfriars community in Oxford, a notable theologian, was living a different kind of life. According to the small evidence we have about him, he died in 1248 still a comparatively young man, although his reputation for goodness of life and scholarly significance led to unusual praise from Matthew Paris⁵⁸. Was it possible that Richard went from Devon as a young man to the schools in Oxford⁵⁹ with, perhaps the intention of becoming a priest of the Exeter diocese? But once there, his direction changed and he became, perhaps, one of master-general Jordan's student catch? The questions stand. He is the only one of the family who has so far reached some history books. Then there is Robert de Fishacre who was a member of the Augustinian priory in Launceston⁶⁰. He was elected prior at some point. He was, however, a poor administrator and problems with the management of the affairs and properties of the priory led to his excommunication by the Bishop on 17th September 1259⁶¹. Three days later on 20th September Prior Robert was at the church door in Bodmin for absolution and ten days later appeared before the Bishop at his manor in Tregony to answer for his mismanagement. There seems to have been no ill-feeling, for two years later in September 1261, a letter from Bishop Bronescombe to Robert de Fissacre guaranteed him a home and some income for the rest of his life⁶². There is also an Eleanor de Fishacre⁶³.

One can only speculate on their relationships. But as Peter and Martin III are holding different fees of different lords they probably belong to different families each descended from an earlier Martin de Fishacre. Warin and Isaac are brothers. Is Peter who prefers Warin to the living of Stoke Rivers of which he is patron also his brother? It does not seem unreasonable to assume that these contemporary Fishacres were at least cousins. The records about their holdings are so much more numerous from the 1230's than in the late twelfth and early thirteenth centuries, that one can conclude that the Fishacre family was growing fast, that it had several able members, and that their land holdings were increasing in status. Moreover, the fact that three of these early

thirteenth century Fishacres were serving the Church one way or another indicates a certain level of social standing.

In the next generation there are two more Fishacres, William and Giles. William may be the elder of the two, as he is with the Lord Edward on his expeditions in Wales⁶⁴ and is given exemptions and protections. Clearly, William was willing to be an active soldier. In 1259–1260 Marwell is held of him until October 1260⁶⁵. This would indicate that he held Ringmore with Okenbury and Langston, as Marwell is one part of this fee. There are no further indications of military service in Wales, but there are indications of other holdings, namely some interest in Kingswear, in 1271, which was shared with the Abbot of Torre⁶⁶ and in June 1276 of the holding in Hemmeston⁶⁷. This is more likely to be Fishacre Barton than Combefishacre.⁶⁸ Risdon indicates that Sir William was a successor to Sir Martin, but this is not confirmed in the records. Rather, Giles de Fishacre seems to be the successor to the main estates in the latter part of the thirteenth century. He holds Waddeton, Aleborn and Morval in 1268⁶⁹, holds Combefishacre for half a fee in 1278⁷⁰ and in 1280–1291 presents to Ringmore⁷¹, while in 1285 his holding of Combefishacre of Richard fitz Stephen of the king is reiterated, and his holding of Coleton Fishacre of the barony of Yealmpton is noted⁷². In May 1303 Giles de Fishacre sets out to go to the king in Scotland to help in the final campaign of Edward I's time and remains until at least Easter 1304⁷³. Like William before him Giles has given knightly service in the royal campaigns.

In the fourteenth century we meet a number of Fishacres. The distance between them and the original Fishacre founding father is such that it seems best to record some of the little that is known of them without trying to establish relationships between families.

In the first decade of the fourteenth century the first woman member of the Fishacre family who is not identified as someone's wife is met. She is Isabella de Fyshacre who possibly married into the Beaumont family, but who, as women with some property behind them at these times could, kept her family name. In 1303 she appears in the records⁷⁴ as holding with John de Beaumont one fee in Ilsington and one in Ingsdon, both in Teignbridge hundred. In 1312–1313 it is noted of Ilsington "which manor Isabel de Fissacre holds for life, rendering 2d yearly rent to the aforesaid John", that it is held of Earl Hugh de Courtenay of the honour of Plympton. In 1312 Dame Isabella asked permission of the Bishop of Exeter to have an oratory in her manor⁷⁵. This was granted for one year. Unfortunately the space in the register for writing the name of the manor was left blank! It is likelier to be Ilsington than Ingsdon. Both are situated at height, like Waddeton and Moreleigh, but Ilsington is on the edge of Dartmoor itself. In 1316–17⁷⁶ it is noted that "after Martin's death the manor would remain in its entirety

to Isabella his sister to hold... for her life." Dame Isabella is still alive in 1328 as she was recorded as the patron of Moreleigh⁷⁷ and presented the living in that year. The Moreleigh Fishacres were also holding, and in active service, of the honour of Plympton.

In the first half of the fourteenth century there are at least three more or less contemporary Fishacres in the Church: Reverend or Sir Peter de Fyschacre and Reverend or Sir Robert de Fishacre were priests and Dame Joanna de Fyssacre an Augustinian nun at Cornworthy Priory. In these times girls who were not married were often settled in religious life. Dame Johanna was given the third part of a knight's fee in Natsworthy of the honour of Cardinham⁷⁸ probably as her dowry. Cornworthy⁷⁹ was a small community with about eight members. Today its remains, mostly buried in a field now used for pasture but with a substantial gateway still standing, are seen on the hillside looking across the valley to the tower of the parish church. Cornworthy is on the west bank of the Dart almost opposite Waddeton. Dame Johanna died in either 1333 or 1334 as Prioress of her community⁸⁰. While such communities had a social function in providing some living for upper class women, their primary purpose was allowing women to pursue a vocation to religious life. The difficulties of maintaining such when there were no official procedures allowing women without a vocation to leave their religious house must not be underestimated. All we know of Peter de Fyschacre is that he was presented in minor orders as rector to the benefice of Stoke Rivers⁸¹; that he exchanged Stoke Rivers for the nearby church in Charles⁸² through the patrons, Sir Henry de Raleghe and Sir Peter de Fishacre. Both these churches are in North Devon on the borders of Exmoor. Peter received major orders 1309–13 1083, but does not appear again in the Exeter episcopal registers. It could be that the income of the rectorship of Charles was funding Peter's ordination studies, either in a school attached to a cathedral or collegiate church or at a College in Oxford or Cambridge. For Peter's younger Fishacre relative, Robert, there is scarcely more information. Robert was ordained priest on 18th April 1321⁸⁴ becoming vicar of Abbotskerswell⁸⁵ to his death in 1347⁸⁶. The edited records of the visitation of the Totnes archdeaconry in 1342⁸⁷ give a little insight into the life of Sir Robert de Fishacre. The enquiry at Abbotskerswell was made May 7th 1342. Several things were found wanting in the church including the loss of the altar frontals, the smallness of the chalice, the lack of a font cover, the worn-out alb, the defective Missal of monastic use. "The nave is dirty and badly roofed... The parishioners are warned that the said defects must be put right... The Hymnary, Collectar and Capitulary are defective.. The chancel is too dark. These defects belong to the rectors, the Abbot and Convent (of Sherborne...). . Sir Robert, the vicar, had nothing for the defects. At his institution all the vicarage which is very

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small was dilapidated and ruinous; he has repaired all, save the hall and the chamber..”⁸⁸ This picture shows something of the problems of a parish priest at that time, especially when a parish was regarded solely as a source of revenue and not as a pastoral concern. But it also illustrates the energy of Bishop Grandisson as a reforming bishop, and the determination of Sir Robert, unlike some other vicars who were equally impoverished and are noted in the same visitation, to do something about his difficulties.

In these years, another Sir Peter de Fishacre emerges. His land interests are extensive: in 1299–1300 he is holding half a fee in Insworke⁸⁹; the fees of Moreleigh and Woodleigh⁹⁰; and he presents to the living of Moreleigh in 1313⁹¹. In 1301–2⁹² he acts for Jocus de Dynham as attorney. He is not, however, living at Moreleigh, but at the estate of Lupton where in 1317 he asks the bishop for a licence to have a chapel. This is granted him on account of his physical frailty⁹³. By 1346 no Fishacres are holding Moreleigh. It would seem that Sir Peter’s heirs were two daughters⁹⁴, but there could be confusion here with the heirs of Martin de Fishacre who are also said to be two daughters. In 1323 another William de Fishacre is lord of Waddeton, but little is known of him except for a dispute between the parish of Stoke Gabriel and the manor of Waddeton⁹⁵. The subsequent inquiry revealed that the family had not only had a chapel on site in the time of lord Martin de Fishacre but that it went back to the time of Osbert of Waddeton in the eleventh century. Today, a beautifully kept and used chapel, on the site and foundations of the original chapel, stands beside the ruins of the old house which was replaced in the early nineteenth century by a new house about fifty yards away overlooking the estuary of the Dart. The only other reference to William is his appointment to the commission of the peace for the county of Devon in October 1327⁹⁶. But while William de Fishacre was living a relatively unknown life as a landed knight at Waddeton, another Fishacre was, as it were, hitting the national headlines.

Sir Martin de Fishacre collected lands and rich wardships during the troubled years of the reign of Edward II. In 1308 he holds “for life” the royal manor of Tamerton, now North Tamerton⁹⁷. In the same year he is granted “at will...the wardship of the lands late of Thomas of Kaynes in Thorich co. Devon... by reason of the minority of his heir, at the yearly rent of 13s 10d”⁹⁸. The reason for this favour becomes clear when we see that Martin de Fishacre is one of seventeen persons granted protection in May 1313 for going “beyond seas on the king’s service” in the household of Hugh Despenser the elder.⁹⁹ Edward II was a weak king who was at the mercy of many of his barons from Thomas, Duke of Lancaster, to the Despensers, father and son, and was finally the subject of the merciless activities of his wife and her partner, Mortimer. Most of

these persons eventually lost their heads. For those in the baronial households, as was Martin, there were rich pickings to be gained. Sir Martin de Fishacre as he is styled in 1315, is given the manor of Kenton “at will and worth £80.00 yearly”¹⁰⁰. Two years later he is granted not only the wardship of the lands “late of Matthew Trethek”, a Cornish tenant in chief, but also the marriage of the heir, and the remarriage of his wife, Joan¹⁰¹. In February 1320, and again in December 1321 Sir Martin is once more beyond seas with Hugh Despenser¹⁰². This most likely reflects the exile forced on the Despensers, father and son, by Thomas of Lancaster. But by 1322 the Despensers were back in favour, Hugh the elder was created earl of Winchester, and both were loaded with favours. Doubtless their households benefited. But Martin also had military duties. In March 1322, Sir Martin is commissioned to select 500 footmen in Cornwall and escort them to Newcastle on Tyne¹⁰³ by the octave of the Holy Trinity and a few weeks later he is repeating the same for Devon, one footman from every town, “arming them and conducting them to Newcastle by the eve of St. James”¹⁰⁴ (24th July) to serve the king for 40 days at the expense of the township.” With Hugh Despenser the elder and his followers, Martin is given protection for accompanying the king on the Scottish expedition¹⁰⁵, which was peacefully and successfully resolved in 1323 by Hugh. During these years Martin possibly lived it up as he shares in a debt of 500 marks to the king and is himself, with others, owed money¹⁰⁶. This debt is not settled fully until January 1327. In July 1326, there is a royal order “not to put Martin, son of Peter de Fisshacre in default for his failure to appear before them in five weeks from Easter last, as he was employed in the king’s service on the Sunday in the said five weeks and on the Monday following”¹⁰⁷. In September 1326 Isabella and Mortimer invaded England from France, overthrew and executed the Despensers, and imprisoned the king. He died in mysterious circumstances the following year. By this coup Sir Martin lost any influence and was probably lucky to remain alive. After he was forgiven a debt in January 1327 no more is heard of him.

The next Fishacre, that is John de Fishacre who in July 1335 is a commissioner to be a “searcher for money in the port of Plummthe and thence throughout the county of Cornwall”¹⁰⁸, has one reference only. This was part of a tax in Norwich and twenty three ports in the country. It is likely that this John lived in Plymouth. Perhaps he was linked with those Fishacres who lived in the half fee of Insworke at the end of the thirteenth century.

Five years later Ivo de Fishacre starts to appear in the records. According to the *Book of Fees* he is the heir to Giles de Fishacre¹⁰⁹. His records have two main thrusts: the identification of land holdings and collections of taxes. In so far as the lands are concerned Ivo holds in 336

Coleton Fysacre of the honour of Stokenham in 1340–1¹¹⁰ and in 1346¹¹¹ and Combefishacre of the honour of Totnes¹¹². There is no mention of Waddeton or Moreleigh or Ringmore. The other function by which Ivo was called to serve his country was tax-collection. Edward III had asserted himself as king and in time honoured manner was planning war with France. So he needed money and lots of it. Sadly, his subjects did not have the same eagerness to pay up. The tax-collectors were caught between the wrath of the king and the tardiness of the taxed. From October 1346 to August 1347 the effort continued to obtain the tenth and the fifteenth from the laity.¹¹³ Ivo de Fisshacre and Ralph Brit were the thankless collectors for Devon. The story ends here as there are no more records with Ivo in them. Moreover, this is the eve of the Black Death when many stories met an untimely end.

And so we come to the last three Fishacres of whom there are any records: Martin, Thomas and Reverend or Sir Edward. On 29th July 1349 Martin is reported to have appointed trustees of his manor of Waddeton¹¹⁴. In January 1363 Martin de Fissacre is appointed sheriff of Devon¹¹⁵ and confirmed in it the following November¹¹⁶. It entailed many responsibilities including the maintenance of the king's justice through the shire courts, the peaceful administration of the shire, at need its military organisation and above all ensuring that the annual taxes from the shire reached the Exchequer. The only duty detailed in the records, however, is an appointment in February 1363 of Martin de Fissacre, sheriff of Devonshire with another named person "to buy in the said county 1,500 quarters of oats etc. for 1000 horses for Edward, Prince of Wales". These supplies were needed by the Black Prince for his ongoing campaign in Spain. Between June 1364 and February 1365 there is some arrangement being made about money and lands between Martin de Fissacre and a William Cary¹¹⁷. On 13th February 1365, with a memorandum of acknowledgement December 1365,¹¹⁸ is noted: "Martin de Fisshacre, being a quit-claim with warranty to William Cary, his heirs and assigns, of all lands, rents and services in Bogheweeye, Hoo, Crofte and Ennewylle and of the ferry between Dertemuth and Kyngezwere". Boohay, Croftland, Hoodown and Edginswell are lands very near those first bought by a Martin de Fishacre in 1199. Finally there is the record for the last Martin de Fishacre of his doing homage to the Bishop at Crediton for a knight's fee "in dominico" in Paington, that would be Waddeton, and a quarter fee in Bishop's Nympton¹¹⁹. Some time between 1395 and 1419 Joan Fyschacre, "Joan, relict of John Speke, junior, and daughter and heir of Martin Fyschacre"¹²⁰, is co-patron of Moreleigh. But there is uncertainty about the daughters of a Peter de Fishacre who are also said to be heirs.¹²¹

Thomas Fisshacre of Plymouth is a larger than life person. In June 1350 he with Maurice Sprigge, Simon Bonereeve and nine others was

accused by Hugh de Courtenay, earl of Devon, of carrying away “500 florins with the shield and 60 florins of Florence...worth 140 marks” “at Plimmuth co. Devon” and of “assaulting his men and servants whereby he lost their service for a great time”¹²² A commission of oyer and terminer was established to deal with the complaint. But four years later, Thomas Fisshacre of Plummoth is granted “exemption for life from being put on assizes, juries or recognitions and from appointment as mayor, sheriff, escheator, coroner or other bailiff or minister of the king against his will”¹²³. Despite the affray of 1350 Thomas must have been a respected Plymothian. In 1360, however, came the royal threat of a swingeing fine. Thomas Fisshacre with William Smale, William de Asshelden, Richard de London and other owners, masters and pursers of ships of Dartmouth, Plymouth and Fowly was accused of the capture “of a certain cog, laden with money and divers other goods at Nautes in Brittany to be taken to Flanders”. Each of those named was “bound under pain of £1000 to be before the king in Chancery within fifteen days of Midsummer” “as the king for sure causes would have speech with him and other owners, masters and pursers of the ships of Dertemuth Plumuth and Fowly by which the same (cog) was to be taken”¹²⁴. Piracy is a long-standing tradition in Cornwall and Devon. This particular piracy, however, had political consequences in that Edward III in pursuance of his war with France was trying to secure the neutrality of Brittany. The solution of the above case is unknown, but nine years later in November 1369 Thomas is placed by royal commission on the side of law “to guard all ports, coasts and banks of the sea in the counties of Devon and Cornwall, to take into the king’s hand all wreck of the sea etc., make inquisition of wrecks, and names concerned or withdrawn”¹²⁵. Two weeks later Thomas with others from Plymouth, Dartmouth, New Sarum and Southampton, is required to find ships and sailors to get wines from Gascony and “to overcome and destroy the king’s enemies at sea to the extent of their power”¹²⁶. During these years—the Hundred Years’ War¹²⁷—the French were harassing English shipping, attacking towns and seaports on the south coast and sometimes landing parties to burn, kill and pillage. Naval defence was needed. Edward III eventually organised it by appointing two admirals, one for coasts north of the Thames, the other for coasts south of the Thames. Philip de Courtenay was appointed admiral for the latter. In April 1272 Thomas Fisshacre is noted as “lieutenant of the said admiral”. He is to ensure that sailors who in later terms would be called “press-ganged” are to be ready for the king’s service and not “withdrawing and eloining themselves in order to fish...”¹²⁸ Clearly Thomas Fishacre was a seaman, probably merchant, possibly shipbuilder¹²⁹. As he grew older Thomas, or perhaps it was Alice his wife, became more aware of the spiritual side of life, or was it

convenience? In October 1375 a licence was granted by the Bishop of Exeter to Thomas Visshacre¹³⁰ of Plymmouthe and Alice his wife to have services in the Chapel of St. Katherine near Plummouth¹³¹. Six years later in 1381 a licence was given to Thomas and Alice and four other couples to have a priest for celebrations at St Katherine near the Hoe¹³². One of Thomas's fellow-citizens worshipping at St Katherine's, William Cole, is also a petitioner with Thomas and two others asking the king and paying for licence¹³³ to give six acres of land in Plymouth to the Friars Minor "there to build a church with a belfry and other buildings for the celebration of Divine Service and for their habitation...20 shillings in hanaper". His last recorded public service May 1379, is again tax-collection, an appointment as one of the sixteen tax-collectors for Devon¹³⁴, and again as one of the sixteen commissioners for Devon to collect a tenth and a fifteenth¹³⁵. Thomas's final appearance in these records is as a witness to a charter on November 3rd 1384¹³⁶.

The last named Fishacre is Sir Edward Fysshacre whose only available ordination record is that of deacon¹³⁷ at Torre on 24th September 1379. He holds none of the traditional Fishacre benefices of Moreleigh, Stoke Rivers or Ringmore. He has a long pastoral service in many parishes in different parts of Devon. His first parish to 1388 is Manaton in Dartmoor. In September of that year Sir Edward exchanges benefice from Manaton to Widecombe¹³⁸, also in the Moor. He stays there for eleven years, exchanging for the rectorship of Honiton in 1399 or 1400¹³⁹. After eight years he moves to Shirwell, not far from Exmoor¹⁴⁰. In 1414–1415 he exchanges Shirwell for Cullompton¹⁴¹ where he dies by 1433–1434¹⁴². His name is on the board in the parish church to this day. Such a bald record covers long years as a priest. It is worth noting however, that Cullompton is only about five miles from Uffculme where the lady of the manor was probably a Fishacre as the Fishacre arms are carved on the fireplace in the great Hall of the manor. It has not been possible to confirm either of these.

So with Reverend Sir Edward Fishacre the Fishacre family which probably began with a Norman knight following William the Bastard in his invasion of England, and finding service with the Bishop of Exeter as a household knight who was later rewarded with some land from the episcopal holdings comes to an end in the male line. Is there any significance in a family beginning with a soldier and ending with a priest? There may still be descendants of the family in the female line. The fact that we know nothing about any and have little chance of discovering such says something about society then as well as now. Nevertheless, the available records have enabled some history of the Fishacre family and of some individual Fishacres to be partially written. So some human and local context for Richard Fishacre OP has been

established. Certainly he had some colourful cousins, as well as interesting forebears, while some of the later members are equally diverting. But perhaps the last word should be given to a writer in the 1877 volume of the *Reports and Transactions of the Devonshire Association* who was giving an account of famous Devonians of the past⁴³. No Fishacres are mentioned except the following: “FISHACRE, Richard: a Dominican; wrote largely; d. 1248”.

- 1 Tristram Risdon. *The Chorographical Description or Survey of the County of Devon*. begun 1605, probably finished about 1630. Published London and Plymouth 1811: reprinted by Porcupines, Barnstaple; 157.
- 2 Professor Luscombe’s enquiry on my behalf. I wish to record deep gratitude to him for his help, and to many of my family and friends who helped in finding so many of the places linked with the Fishacre families.
- 3 *Liber Feodorurn. The Book of Fees Commonly called Testa de Nevill*, hereafter *BF*.
- 4 Ordnance Survey maps of Dartmoor and South Devon: English Place-Name Society. ed. J.E.B. Glover. A. Mawer and F.M. Stenton, *The Place-Names of Devon* 2 vols. (Cambridge: CUP 1931–2) vol. IX, Fishacre Barton. 510–511: Combefishacre. 513: Coleton Fishacre, 507. (The 20C National Trust property of Coleton Fishacre is not the barton at the head of the cliff valley linked with the Fishacre family).
- 5 The equivalence of place-names with surnames occurs in the late 12th and first half of the 13th centuries.
- 6 These researches were aided substantially by the fact that South Devon and southwest Dartmoor are my own area and local knowledge has helped significantly in the interpretation of the written evidence. It is noted that sounding out the medieval name is a good clue to its modern equivalent.
- 7 Exon Domesday. ed. William Page FSA. *The Victoria County History of the County of Devon*, hereafter *V.C.H Devon*. Vol I. 375–547, 469–470, Juhel has a manor called Comba...Worth 15 shillings, and was worth the same when J received it.” The *V.C.H Devon* gives two places in this area called Comba, the present Combefishacre in the parish of Ipplepen and another village called Longcombe in Berry Pomeroy.
- 8 op. cit. 470 “Juhel has a manor called Coletona...worth 15 shillings: when Juhel received it 5 shillings.”
- 9 op.cit. 442 “The count [of Mortain] has a manor called Hamiston...worth 60 shillings and was worth 40 shillings when the count received it.”
- 10 British Library: Egerton Charters 2894 (Waddeton in Stoke Gabriel co Devon).
- 11 *The Red Book of the Exchequer*, RS 99. hereafter *RBE*, part II, 556–557.
- 12 This printed record probably transcribes “s” by an “1”. There is no Martin de Filacre in any other record.
- 13 *Reports and Transactions of the Devonshire Association*, hereafter *RTDA*. 40 (1908), 117.
- 14 The “flea” principle is contained in the doggerel “Big fleas have little fleas upon their backs to bite ‘em, little fleas have littler fleas and so ad infinitum”.
- 15 Godfrey Davies, *Medieval Cartularies of Great Britain, A Short Catalogue* (London: Longmans, 1958) 12.
- 16 Partial Buckfast Cartulary. preserved in *Reg. Exon Grandisson* III. 1561–1610. hereafter *B’fastC* Charters to which a Fishacre is a witness:
Charter IX. 1571–2. originated by Rogerus de Nunant. Other witnesses: Ricardo Flammage, Thoma de Vautort, Roberto filio Herebert, Martino de ffishachre, Benedicto clerico, Wydone Crocca, Willelmo de Cumba, Ricardo filio ejus, Roberto clerico et scriba. Roberto mazun, Willelmo Carpenter...
Charter XIII. 1574, (first part missing)—1248–1249. Other witnesses: Domino Radulpho de Walle Torta, Martino de ffissacre, Galfrido de la Bruyre, Hamelino de Dyadone, Warino de More, Ricardo de Cumbe...

Charter XXIII. 1581, January 1281–1282. originated by Ricardo Le Prouz. Other witnesses: Dominus Warino de sicca villa, Petro de ffyshacre, Militibus, Galfrido dicto le frere, Stephano Stoyl, Waltero de ffentone....

Charter LIIII. 1601, originated by Radulphus de Valle Torta at Trematon Castle. Other witnesses: Gilberto de Dunframuile, Hugone de Cardinam. Martino de ffishacre, Gilberto filio Stephano, Philippo de Bodrigan, Waltero Gervasio, Nicholao de fferariis....

Charters LVIII + LIX 1603–4. originated by Robertus de Wallewore and Alix his wife, Roger his heir. Witnesses: Ricardo fflandrino, Willelmo de Bosorahardi, Ricardo Peverel de Hermingtoune, Martino de ffishacre, Rogero de Groci, Roberto Bouzun, Ranulfo de Aubemare, Herberto de la Spineie, Ricardo de Doudewore, Gaufrido de Coredoune, Gilleberto Clerico, Ricardo Capelem, Roberto de Greigne, Willelmo et Ricardo Carpentariis....

- 17 *B'fastC*, Dated Charters: XI, 1572–3: between 1137 and 1161 by Rogerus de nunant: XII 1573: 1214–1225, by Reginaldus de Valle Torta: XX 1578–9: 1223, by Urglal de Holna: XLIX 1598, 3 May 1223, by Hurgelas de Holna; L 1599: 1224–5, by Urgelasius de Holna: XXXIII 1588–9: 1233–1238, by Reginaldus de Valle Torta, filius Rogeri de Valle Torta: XXII 1579–80: between 1237 and 1251, by Robertus de Hylion; XXXII, 1586–8: between 1237 and 1251, by Radulphus de Valle Torta: IIII, 1567–8, September 1242. Abbot of Buckfast and Henricum de Bodetone; XXXVII 1590: 1233–1238, by Reginaldus de Valle Torta: XIII 1574: 1248–49, start missing; XV, 1574–5: 1248–9 by Robert de Coletune, assensu Oresie sponse mee filie Willelmi Crocke de Crocketune; XVI 1575; 1248–9, by Alicia de Luneworthy, filia Willelmi Crocca; XVII 1575–6: 1248–9, by Turkesia filia Willelino Crocke de Croketune: XVIII 1576–7: 1248–9, by Adam de Lunewrthe; V, 1568–9: 1249? by Warinus de Bodetune; III, 1567, Christmas 1249, by Abbot William of Buckfast to Warino de Bodatone; XXXI 1585–86: 1256. disagreement between Abbot and Stephanum Bauceyn; XXXVIII 1591: 1257, by Lady Joanna de Valle Torta—Data apud Hineswork, ie Insworke near Millbrook. (This property was later held by a Fishacre.) XXXIX 1592: 1257 by Johanna uxor Radulphi de Valle Torta: XXIX 1584: October 1258, royal inspeximus; XL 1592: June 1264, by ??; XLI 1593: February 1269–70. lawsuit with Johannem Esleghe; XIX 1577–8: 1273, with Aluredum de Alnyhcote; XLII 1593–4: November 1280. Stephani le Mugge filii et heredis Osberti Mugge: XLIII 1594–5: c. 1280 by Rogerus de Nunont: XXIII 1581: January 1281–2. by Ricardus Le Prouz et Margareta uxor sua.
- 18 *RTDA* 43 (1911). 204, note 4: see also *V.C.H Devon* vol. 1, O.J. Reichel. "Feudal Baronage". 559–560.
- 19 *RBE*. II 630. Roger de Nunant has one knight's fee and seisin of II military fees in Normandy; II 632, Guy de Nonant, son of Roger III, has the same holding as his father. Does this indicate Roger III's death'?
- 20 Marjorie Chibnall, *The Empress Matilda Queen Consort, Queen Mother and Lady of the English*. (Oxford: Blackwell's 1991), 112–3.
- 21 *ibid.* 99.
- 22 *B'fast C*: charter VI, 1569–1570: Rogerus de Nunant et ...uxoris mee Alicie..
- 23 *B'fast C*: charter VII. 1570–I: Ego, Henricus de Nunant...et sponse mee Elisabeth...terram de Sideham, cum bosco, de qua pater meus Rogerus antea donacionem eisdem fecit, et, domino Gwydone, fratre meo et me presente. carta sua confirmavit...also charter VIII 1571. which is similar in content for gift to VII.
- 24 *B'fast C*: charter IX 1571–2, see note 16.
- 25 *B'fast C*: charter X 1572. Ego Rogerus de Nunant, pro salute anime mee et uxoris mee Alicie, et filiorum omniumque antecessorum meorum, et pro remedio animarum Rogeri avi mei, et Widonis, patris mei, et Mabilie, matris mee.....
- 26 *B'fast C*: XI. 1572–3: between 1138 and 1160 originated by Rogerus de nunant: witnesses Roberto episcopo, Hugone archidiacono, Gaufrido priore de Plimtone etc.
- 27 Abbotskerswell+, Battleford unidentified (Battleford Wood?), Bishop's Nympton, Boohay, Broadhempston, Charles+, Coleton Fishacre, Combefishacre, Cornworthy+,

- Croftland farm, Cullompton+, Dinnington, la Wodeland (unidentified), Edginswell (unidentified – near St Marychurch now Torquay), Fishacre Barton, Galmpton, Grimstonleigh (unidentified), Honiton+, Hoodown farm, Ilsington, Ingsdon, Insworke, Kenton, Kingswear (also ferry between it and Dartmouth), Langston, Launceston+, Lupton also its church, Manaton+, Marwell, Morleigh also church, Morval, Natsworthy, North Tamerton, Okenbury, Rawstone, Ringmore+, Shirwell+, Stoke Rivers+, Thorich (unidentified near Plympton?), Waddeton, Widecombe in the Moor+, Woodhuish farm, Woodleigh, Woolfardisworthy, Yalberton.
- 28 Risdon, 207, a description of Insworth which is on the Cornish side of the Tamar.
- 29 *RTDA* 40 (1908), 117: Robert de Punchardon granted 16 acres in Galmpton to Martin de Filacre (Fishacre).
- 30 *Excerpta e Rotulis Finium in Turri Londinensi* hereafter *ERF* vol. 1, 29: Martin de Fishacre holds 6 ferlings of land in Wodehewish (Woodhuish farm).
- 31 edd. F.C. Hingeston-Randolph (rector of Ringmore) *Episcopal Registers: Diocese of Exeter*, 10 vols. London (George Bell) and Exeter (Henry S Eland; William Pollard and Co.) 1889–1915, hereafter *Reg. Exon. Reg. Exon.* Bronescomb. I, 356. By 11 July 1282 when another priest is appointed Sir Warin de Fishacre has resigned his benefice which was in the patronage of Sir Peter de Fisher. It could indicate his death.
- 32 *Rotuli Litterarum Clausarum in Turri Londinensis*, hereafter *RLCinTL*, II 1220–1227, 16.
- 33 *Calendar of Patent Rolls* hereafter *CPR* Hen III 1232–1247, 67.
- 34 *Calendar of Close Rolls* hereafter *CCR* Hen III 1237–1242, 215–216.
- 35 *CPR* Hen III 1247–1258, 490.
- 36 *RTDA*, 64 (1932). Proceedings at the annual meeting, 53–54. This refers to the oldest manorial record of Waddeton. Its current whereabouts is unknown.
- 37 *CPR* Edw II 1307–1313, 189, *ibid.* 193. *ibid.* 502.
- 38 *CPR* Edw II 1307–1313. 268.
- 39 *CPR* Edw II 1307–1313, 138, 353. and *CPR* Edw II 1313–1317, 81, where the record states that Walter de Fishacre is nominated Agatha's attorney "in England" for two years.
- 40 *CPR* Edw II 1313–1317, 370.
- 41 *CPR* Edw III 1350–1353. 398, *CPR* Edw III 1354–1358, 523, 637, *CPR* Edw III 1364–1367, 118, 164, 165.
- 42 *CCR* Edw III 1349–1354, 337.
- 43 see note 4.
- 44 Rev H.R. Evans MC. MA. "Broadhempston", *RTDA* 90 (1958), 62–126, especially 69–70.
- 45 Reichel, "Feudal Baronage" in *V.C.H Devon*. 553. *RTDA*, 40 (1908), 116.
- 46 ed. O.J. Reichel, *Devon Feet of Fines* (Exeter. 1912) vol. I 94. no. 189.
- 47 *Feudal Aids; Issues, Issues of the Exchequer from King Henry III to King Henry VI inclusive*; hereafter *FA*, 326, 349, *BF* II, 769, see also *RTDA*, 40 (1908), 126.
- 48 *RTDA* 31 (1899), 389.
- 49 *RTDA* 43 (1911), 226.
- 50 BL Egerton Charter 2894, according to the catalogue the early reign of Henry III, between 1216 and 1241.
- 51 BL *Catalogue of Egerton Charters, Catalogue of Additions*, 1946–1950, 396.
- 52 The original grant was made 1275–1279 see note 46, but was confirmed 20 May 1316, *CPR* Edw II 1313–1317, 467: Confirmation to the abbot and canons (Tor Abbey, Prem.) of the church of the Holy Trinity Torre, of grants of land in Wadetone made by Isabella de Wadetone, sometime wife of Martin de Fissacre.
- 53 *Testa de Nevill* no. 1268, 192b. also *BF* II, 767. In 1166 Osbert of Waddeton had held these five separate holdings of the Bishop of Exeter, see *RTDA* 40 (1908), 113.
- 54 *RBE* II, 556.
- 55 *BF* II, 767.
- 56 *RTDA* 31 (1899), 389; *FA* 324, 332: *RTDA* 40 (1908), 115.

- 57 *ERF* II, 506 In 1270 Peter de Fisacre and Beatrix his wife give half a mark for something in Cornwall.
- 58 *Matthew Paris: Chronica Majora* vol V for year 1248, ed. Luard, 16.
- 59 ed. Thomas Hog, *Nicholas Trivet OP: Annales sex Regum* (London, 1845) for the year MCCXL, 229–230.
- 60 ed. P.L. Hull. *The Cartulary of Launceston Priory (Lambeth Pal. MA 719) A Calendar*, Devon and Cornwall Record Society NS 30 (Exeter, 1987), xi–xxxvii. D. Knowles and R.N. Hadcock. *Medieval Religious Houses England and Wales* (London, 1953, 1971) 162–163. A house of secular canons of St. Stephen had been established in the first Launceston castle. Their comportment led to their replacement by Augustinian canons. In 1127 the priory was rebuilt down by the river in Newport.
- 61 *Reg. Exon.* I Bronescombe, 200–202.
- 62 *ibid.* 20l.
- 63 *Calendar of Inquisitions* III, index page 431, (but record could not be found whatever variation of the page numbers was tried).
- 64 *CPR* Hen III 1247–1258, 658–659; 29 December 1257. William de Fissacre is one of nine people “of those staying in Wales in the service of the king and Edward his son, and have protection with clause (possibly volumus) to last as long as they are there on the said service”, and *CPR* Hen III 1247–1258, 611, some time in 1258 “Exemption at the instance of Edward, the king’s son, of William de Fissacre of the county of Devon from being put on assizes, juries or recognitions and from being made sheriff etc. against his will”.
- 65 *Calendar of Inquisition’s, Post Mortem*, hereafter *CIPM* I 134. no. 474.
- 66 *CIPM* I Misc. 133 no. 399, and *RTDA* 43 (1911), 224. William de Fysshacre and the Abbot of Torre were seised of Kingswear. Part of this is probably control of the ferry between Kingswear and Dartmouth.
- 67 *CCR* Edw I 1272–1279, 295. 5 June 1276: to the sheriff of Devon... to cause Eudo and Millicent to have seisin of two fees that John de Cantilupo and William de Fissacre hold in Hemmeston and Fissacre and under them to have advowson of Totten which the king assigned to them in Millicent’s purporting from the advowsons that belonged to... . See also Evans op.cit. *RTDA* 90 (1958), 69.
- 68 see note 44
- 69 *RTDA* 31(1899), 384; 1303, *RTDA*, 40 (1908) 114.
- 70 *FA* 1284–6, 317–318; *FA* 1303, 348; *RTDA* 31(1899), 386; *RTDA* 40 (1908), 116.
- 71 *Reg. Exon.* I Quivil, 1280–1291. 328. *FA* 352; He is still holding the four places of Ringmore, Okenbury, Marwell and Langston in 1303.
- 72 *FA* 317: *RTDA* 40 (1908), 126. Also he still holds Coleton Fishacre in 1303, *FA*, 348.
- 73 *Calendar of Chancery Rolls Various, including supplementary Close Rolls, Welsh Rolls, Scutage Rolls*, hereafter *CChan.RV.* 1277–1326. *Supplementary Close Rolls*, 88: *Calendar of Chancery Warrants*, hereafter *CChan. W* 187.
- 74 *FA*, 343. *CIPM* VII, 326. no. 462, *RTDA* 38 (1906), 322.
- 75 *Reg. Exon.* Stapledon, 300.
- 76 ed. O.J. Reichel, *Devon Feet of Fines* Vol. 2 (Exeter 1912). 159–60. no. 1045.
- 77 *Reg. Exon.*, Grandisson. 1264. In 1346 Dame Isabella is “quondam” in Ilsington and Ingsdon *FA*, 390.
- 78 *FA*, 392.
- 79 *Knowles and Hadcock*, 278–279.
- 80 *Reg. Exon.*, Grandisson, 737: the death of Prioress Johanna is found in the election record of her successor.
- 81 *Reg. Exon.*, Stapledon, 262.
- 82 *Reg. Exon.*, Stapledon, 199. 262.
- 83 *Reg. Exon.*, Stapledon 424: 20th September 1309, Peter de Fyzsacre, rector of Charles, is ordained subdeacon at Exeter Cathedral; *ibid.* 471: 4th April 1310, Peter de Fyshacre is ordained deacon: *ibid.* 472, no date, Dominus Peter de Fysacre is

ordained priest.

- 84 *Reg. Exon.*, Stapledon, 184.
- 85 *Reg. Exon.*, Stapledon, 538.
- 86 *Reg. Exon.*, Grandisson, 1361.
- 87 *RTDA* 81, (1949), 227–269.
- 88 *RTDA* 81, (1949), 238–239.
- 89 *CIPM* III, 477, no. 604.
- 90 *FA*, 351.
- 91 *Reg. Exon.*, Stapledon, 236.
- 92 *CPR Edw I* 1292–1301, 581.
- 93 *Reg. Exon.* Stapledon, 299–300.
- 94 *FA* 396.
- 95 *Reg. Exon.* Grandisson, 1535–1536. See also *RTDA*, I 40 (1908), 114.
- 96 *CPR Edw III* 1327–1330, 211.
- 97 *CIPM* III, 66 no. 141; see also *CPR Edw III* 1317–1321, 561.
- 98 *Calendar of Fine Rolls*, hereafter *CFR* 1307–1319, 22; *CPR Edw II* 1307–1313, 84; *Rotuli Originalium in Curia Scaccarii Abbreviatio* hereafter *RO in CS* Abbr., 158b.
- 99 *CPR Edw II*, 1307–1313, 582.
- 100 *CChancW I* 1244–1326, 430.
- 101 *CFR* 1307–1319, 339; *CPR Edw II* 1317–1321, 25.
- 102 *CPR Edw II* 1317–1321, 426; *CPR Edw II* 1321–1324, 96.
- 103 *CPR Edw II* 1321–1324, 96.
- 104 *CPR Edw II* 1321–1324, 123.
- 105 *CPR Edw II* 1321–1324, 187–8.
- 106 *CPR Edw II* 1323–1327, 193, 194, 626.
- 107 *CPR Edw II* 1323–1327, 475.
- 108 *CFR Edw III* 1327–1337, 453–454.
- 109 *FA* 391.
- 110 *CIPM* VIII. 204, no. 280.
- 111 see note 109; see also *RTDA* 40 (1908), 126.
- 112 *FA*, 392.
- 113 *CFR* 1337–1347. 482–483; *CCR Edw III* 1346–1349. 128: 245; *CPR Edw III* 1345–1348, 454.
- 114 *RTDA* 64 (1932), 54.
- 115 *CFR* 1356–1368, 237.
- 116 *CFR* 1356–1368, 268–9.
- 117 *CCR Edw III* 1364–1368, 64, 65.
- 118 *CCR Edw III* 1364–1368, 162–163.
- 119 *Reg. Exon.* Brantyngham, 209.
- 120 *Reg. Exon.* Stafford, 1395–1419, 109.
- 121 *Risdon*. 154 “...and Martin Fishacre in Henry the fourth’s days was the last who left these lands unto Jane and Agnes who was wedded to John Ufflet and had this for her portion, who left it unto Alice their daughter married unto John Walrond in whose name Combefishacre does remain”: *Risdon*. 157 about the Waddeton estate, “The last of this tribe left it to his heirs general Joan, wife of John Maynard and Agnes, wife of Ufflet”. Given *Risdon*’s interest in the pedigrees of Devonshire gentry, it is likely that these statements about the marriages of the last Martin de Fishacre’s daughters are accurate.
- 122 *CPR Edw III* 1348–1350, 586.
- 123 *CPR Edw III* 1354–1358, 133.
- 124 *CCR Edw III* 1360–1363, 120.
- 125 *CPR Edw III* 1367–1370, 350.
- 126 *CCR Edw III* 1369–1374, 120.
- 127 *VCH, Cornwall*, M. Oppenheim “Maritime History”, 475–511, has a graphic description of naval problems.
- 128 *CCR Edw III*, 1369–1373, 370–371.

- 129 It should be noted that Inswork is a barton on a neck of land near Millbrook in Cornwall. Millbrook has had a tradition of boat-building down the centuries.
- 130 The spelling with a "V" reflects the older Devonian way of sounding "F". It can be heard sometimes today.
- 131 *Rex. Exon.* Brantyngham, 362.
- 132 *Rex. Exon.* Brantyngham, 450.
- 133 *CPR Ric II* 1381–1385, 295.
- 134 *CFR* 1377–1383, 141–152, especially 146.
- 135 *CFR* 1377–1383, 335–340, especially 338.
- 136 *CCR Ric II* 1381–1385, 587–8.
- 137 *Reg. Exon.*, Brantyngham, 816.
- 138 *Reg. Exon.*, Brantyngham, 102.
- 139 *Reg. Exon.*, Stafford. I, 307 and II 45.
- 140 *Reg. Exon.*, Stafford II, 103.
- 141 *Reg. Exon.*, Stafford. II, 175.
- 142 *Reg. Exon.*, De Lacy, 160.
- 143 *RTDA* 9 (1877), 110.

Pastoral Training in the Time of Fishacre

Leonard Boyle OP

The original mission of the Dominican Order was preaching the word. It was a direct result of the constitution *Inter Cetera* of the Fourth Lateran Council in 1215 under Pope Innocent III, according to which bishops who were over-worked or who were not up to the demands of preaching should establish groups of preachers in their dioceses as their helpers and coworkers in the pastoral care.

Dominic Guzman, who was at the Council with his diocesan bishop, Fulk of Toulouse, was convinced that in the band of preachers he had set up in Toulouse, he had a means of making sure that this constitution would not remain a dead letter. A little more than a year later, in January 1217, he obtained from the new pope, Honorius III, a mandate that gave general approval to the work of preaching already begun at Toulouse.

This papal confirmation of Dominic's Toulouse preachers, as preachers in general, was followed over the next three years, 1218 to 1220, by many 'Letters to Prelates' urging them to make use of the preachers and to encourage them in the office of preaching to which they have been deputed. Now in these letters of recommendation and in the mandate *Gratiarum Omnium* (the real foundation charter of the