

Ralph of Sudeley Research

Objective: Find out about Ralph de Sudeley, his connection to the Knights Templars, and where he went on his travels. Is there any connection with Oak Island/ Nova Scotia?

Oxford National Biography – Brief overview of family history

John of Sudeley (fl. c.1100–c.1140) was probably on the fringes of court circles in the reign of Henry I. He married an unidentified sister of Henry de Tracy, lord of Barnstaple, and he appears to have been friendly with the Beaumonts, to whom he was related, and who were intermittently in favour with King Henry. However, although he gave his support to Stephen in the years immediately after the latter's accession, the landing of Matilda in England in 1139 caused Sudeley to reconsider his position, and he joined Robert of Gloucester. For this his lands were subjected to a terrible ravaging by the Beaumonts, and he lost control of Sudeley itself, at least for a time. A benefactor of Winchcombe, he also gave land at Greet and Gretton to the Templars.

He had two sons, **Ralph [i] of Sudeley (D. 1192)** and William. The latter, who took his mother's name [Tracy] (d. around 1174), surrendered his inheritance at Burton Dassett, Warwickshire, to his brother, probably in the 1130s or 1140s, and received in exchange the manor of Toddington, a few miles north of Sudeley. Ralph took little part in public affairs. A benefactor of Winchcombe, St Peter's at Gloucester, and the Templars, before December 1159 he founded a small Augustinian priory at Arbury, Warwickshire. His foundation charter shows that he was already married, to a woman named Emma, and had a son, Otuel (a name also found in the family of the earls of Chester), who succeeded when Ralph died, at what must have been an advanced age, in 1192.

The Conspiracy:

- Graham Phillips believes Ralph de Sudeley was leader of the Templars and joined them to the Holy Land in 1182, then returned in 1189 to his home in Herdewyke. The 1192 Feet of Fines shows he had sacred artefacts in his possession, and Phillips assumes these are potentially the same items discovered at the cave in Jebel Madhbah, but doesn't know what happened to them. Doesn't believe they're still in Herdewyke, speculates could be at Burton Dassett Church, hidden during the Black Death and gravings on the wall may lead to their location.
 - o <http://www.grahamphillips.net/ark/ark6.html>
- Zena Halpern, *The Templar Mission to Oak Island and Beyond: Search for Ancient Secrets: The Shocking Revelations of a 12th Century Manuscript*, (2017) → Suggests 12th Century Templar's went to America before Columbus, and hid treasure on Oak Island.
 - o <https://zenahalpern.info/2017/05/22/muir-diana-review-on-amazon-zena-halpern-corrects-misinformation-in-a-point-by-point-rebuttal/>
 - o IN-DEPTH REVIEW OF HER WORK: <http://www.jasoncolavito.com/blog/review-of-the-templar-mission-to-oak-island-and-beyond-by-zena-halpern-part-1> &&&&
<http://www.jasoncolavito.com/blog/review-of-the-templar-mission-to-oak-island-and-beyond-by-zena-halpern-end>
- S. Eric Wachtel (March 2011), *The Essene Conspiracy*. [Nowhere in UK holds it].
- Vikas Khatri, *World Famous Treasures Lost and Found*. [Nowhere in UK holds it].
- *Random conspiracy site*: It was the founder of one of these preceptories in England, one Ralph de Sudeley, who was the responsible for building the crusader forts in Petra during the 1180s. In 1189 the Arabs re-conquered what is now southern Jordan and the Templars were forced to abandon the Wadi Musa and returned to England – evidently with the treasures they had found.
 - o N.B. Technically, Chilverscoton not a preceptor either! It was Balshall.

Alternative spellings

- Ralph, Ralf, Radulfi, Radulfus, Raphe or Ralp.
- Radulfus de Suthleia/ Ralph, Baron of Sudeley.
- Sudeleagh [seems to be name of manor only].
- Seudeley, Sudley, Suydleie, Sudleia, Sudleye, Sudlega, Suydle, Sudleg, Sudlia, Sudney, Suthleg, Sutley, Suttle, Sudlee, Sudle
- NOTE: At the time, in 1190, it was spelt Radulfus de Sudlega in pipe rolls

Potentially:

- Earl of Warwick according to some deeds he owned: <https://archive.org/stream/collectionsforhi02staf#page/238/mode/2up/search/Sudeley>
- Or Baron Stafford - Again, according to the website above, he held something under this name - probably induced the favour of Baron Nicholas and his son, Robert, to Ralph's foundation at Erdbury.)

Places related to Ralph, and their alternative spellings

- Toddington Manor, Gloucestershire manor & manor of Bradninch
- Sudeley Castle
 - o AKA: Sudeleagh castle.
 - o All the variations above in Ralph's section.
- Chilvers Coton
 - o Chilvers Coton derives its name from the Saxon name which means Ceolfrith's cottage.
 - o AKA: Cilverdestoche (12th C? name), Chelvercote, Chilverdescote, Chelvredeschote, Chelverscot.
 - o N.B. Sudeley gave most of Chilvers Coton to the Templars, and to Arbury Priory, thus Griff Manor became the seat of the family (<http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/warks/vol4/pp173-178>).
- Arbury Priory, located in Chilver Coton, Warwickshire – now replaced with Arbury Hall.
 - o <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/warks/vol2/pp89-91>
 - o AKA: Priory of Ordburi, Erdbury, Ordbury, Orbyri, Erdebury, Erdbury, Edburgeberie, Orreby, Orbiri, or Orthbury.
 - o Situated 7 miles north of Coventry, erected by Ralph de Sudeley.
 - o Note – it was dissolved by a bull of Pope Clement VII at the request of Cardinal Wolsey, who was casting about for means to establish his great college at Oxford. Arbury Hall now stands there.
<https://archive.org/stream/memorialsfoldwa00dryd#page/212/mode/2up/search/Ralph+de+Sudeley>
- Griff Manor, located in the same parish as Arbury Priory/ Chilvers Coton
 - o Shared its moat with Sudeley Castle.
 - o Possibly the same as Sudeley Castle?? According to this page: <http://www.weddingtoncastle.co.uk/sudeley-castle.html> &&&& this pdf on the matter: http://www.weddingtoncastle.co.uk/uploads/1/9/5/1/19515001/sudeley_castle_1968.pdf
- Temple Herdewyke
 - o AKA: Herdwick, Hierdanwic etc.
 - o For more info about the conspiracy and this location: <http://www.cotswolds.info/strange-things/knights-templars.shtml>
- Burton Dasset
 - o AKA: Derceto, Dercetone, Derset, Great Derset, Dercet.
 - N.B. Dugdale says 'Derset', commonly called Burton Dasset, but gives no information as to why.

Archives

- **Gloucestershire Archives:**
 - o Sudeley Manuscripts:
 - Listed here: <http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/browse/r/h/a64c26ea-8cda-4894-b385-8e195d6065dd>
 - Problem: Nothing pre-1300.
 - o Copy of 12th C deed between Ralph & William giving Toddington in exchange for Burton Dasset → <http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/r/33109158-2c55-4d23-a621-f3d0e1b393ca>
 - o If I just search 'Sudeley' on this page: <http://ww3.gloucestershire.gov.uk/CalmView/Overview.aspx> lots comes up, but none of it personal to Ralph – again, mainly deeds over properties.
- **National Archives, Kew:**
 - o Release by Richard Russel, to Ralph de Sudley and William de Ses, of all his right in Hudeles wood which he held from Sir Ralph de Sudley, and in other land part called 'Buristude' which he held from the same. Witnesses:- Alexander, prior of Orbury, Stephen de Sadgrave, Saer de Stoke, Thomas de Essebi, and others → <http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/r/C4529822>
- **Berkeley Castle Muniments (<http://www.berkeley-castle.com/archives.html>)**
 - o Documents relating to Chilvers Coton (Warws.)
<http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/r/4b84e859-19b0-462e-8ae3-f1d9d808fba8>
 - o Problem: Mainly seems to be about the Segrave family's inheritance of the area.
- **Warwickshire Archives**
 - o Early Chilvers Coton deeds from or involving the Sudeley family:
<http://archivesunlocked.warwickshire.gov.uk/calmview/TreeBrowse.aspx?src=CalmView.Catalog&field=RefNo&key=00301%2f2%2f2%2f3%2f3%2f2>
 - o Early deeds for Griff relating to Sudeley family:
<http://archivesunlocked.warwickshire.gov.uk/calmview/Record.aspx?src=CalmView.Catalog&id=00301%2f2%2f2%2f4%2f3%2f2&pos=2>
 - Includes: License to have a chaplain in chapel, copy of quo warranto plea relating to Griff, copy of crown grant to John de Sudeleye of assize of bread & ale etc.
 - o Grants to or by Arbury Priory:
<http://archivesunlocked.warwickshire.gov.uk/calmview/Record.aspx?src=CalmView.Catalog&id=00301%2f2%2f2%2f3%2f3%2f1&pos=3>
 - Includes: Grant of land in Arbury to Priory, exchange of rights in Arbury etc.
 - Problem: Not really about Ralph, just who owns the lands when.
 - o Winchombe and Sudeley:
<http://archivesunlocked.warwickshire.gov.uk/calmview/Record.aspx?src=CalmView.Catalog&id=00307%2f2%2f7%2f4&pos=4>
 - Problem: None of the documents relate to the period in question.

Sample of Books Consulted

- Various (eds.) *A History of the County of Gloucester*: vols. 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 + 13.
- Various (eds.) *A History of the County of Warwick*: vol. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7,
- Sir William Dugdale, *The Antiquities of Warwickshire Illustrated: From Records, Leiger-books, Manuscripts, charters, Evidences, Tombes, and Armes: Beautified with Maps, Prospects, and Portaictures*, (2. Vols), consulted vol. 1 and 2 (1730).
- Materials for the history of Thomas Becket Archbishop of Canterbury (vol. VI + VII)
- John Britton, *Graphic Illustrations with Historical and Descriptive Accounts of Toddington, Gloucestershire, the Seat of Lord Sudeley*, (London, 1840).
 - o <https://archive.org/details/graphicillustrat00brit>
- Welbore St Clair Baddeley, *A Cotteswold Shrine: Being a contribution to the history of Hailes county Gloucester: Manor, Parish and Abbey*, (London, 1908)
 - o <https://archive.org/stream/cotteswoldshrine00badd#page/n7/mode/2up/search/Sudeley>
- Alice Dryden (ed.), *Memorials of Old Warwickshire*, (London, 1908)
 - o <https://archive.org/stream/memorialsoldwa00dryd#page/n5/mode/2up/search/Sudeley>
- Salt Archaeological Society (eds.), *Historical Collections for a History of Staffordshire*, Vol.2
 - o <https://archive.org/stream/collectionsforhi02staf#page/n5/mode/2up/search/Sudeley>
- Emma Dent. "Annals of Winchcombe and Sudeley," J. Murray, 1877.
- D. Crouch, *The Beaumont twins: the roots and branches of power in the twelfth century*, Cambridge Studies in Medieval Life and Thought, 4th ser., 1 (1986) [Accessed via Warwick Uni Library].
- F. C. Wellstood, ed., *Warwickshire feet of fines*, 1 (1932) [Warwick Uni Library].
 - o Just had 2 tiny pieces on Burton Dassett loan to William.
- Domesday book
- H. Cam, *The Hundred and the Hundred Rolls*,
- John Gillingham, Richard Ist
- Richard Mortimer, *Angevin England (1154-1258)*,
- David C. Douglas, *English Historical Documents*, vol III, 1189-1327
- Emma Mason (ed), *The Beauchamp cartulary: Charters, 1100-1268*, (1980). [University of Oxford].
 - o Not the time frame I needed! Only about Bart Sudeley.
 - o Does give other names though: Sudleg, Sudlia, Sudney, Suthleg', Sutley, Suttle
- Ivor John Sanders, *English Baronies: A Study of their origin and descent*, (Oxford, 1960), p.20 [University of Oxford].
 - o Turns out it just had brief summary of lineage.
- Francis Palgrave (ed.) *The Parliamentary writs and writs of military summons*, 1 (1827), pt 2, p.852. [University of Oxford].
 - o Turns out not the time frame I needed! Lots of info on later Sudeley's
- Eileen A Gooder, *Temple Balsall: the Warwickshire preceptory of the Templars and their fate*, (1995)
- John Bruce Williamson, *The History of the Temple*, London: From the Institution of the order of the knights of the Temple to the close of the Stuart Period.
- J. R. H. Weaver (ed.), *The Chronicle of John of Worcester*, (1908). [University of Warwick [DA190.J64]].
- J. Postance, *AE Salmon: Sudeley Castle. An illustrated guide*. Sudeley Castle Ltd., Winchcombe 1977, [Uni of Oxford].
- Rev. Cooper Willyams. *The History of Sudeley Castle in Gloucestershire*. (London, 1791). [Oxford Uni].

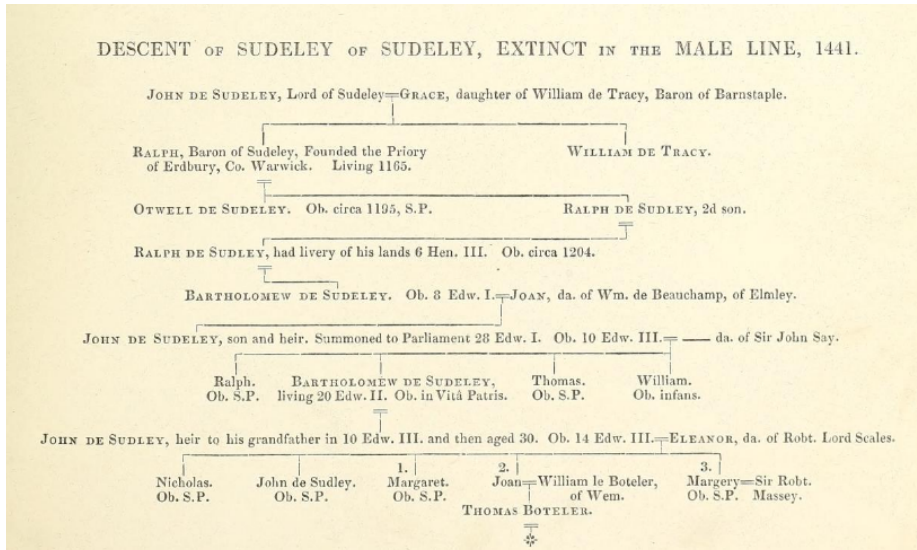
- B. A. Lees, ed., *Records of the templars in England in the twelfth century: the inquest of 1185 with illustrative charters and documents*, British Academy, *Records of Social and Economic History*, 9 (1935) [Uni of Oxford].
- John Ashdown-Hill (2011), *Eleanor the Secret Queen*, p.79 [Warwickshire Library & Info Service or Uni of Oxford]
- Manorial Society of Great Britain, *The Sudeleys : Lords of Toddington*, (London, 1987), pp.77-8, 82, 88 [University of Oxford].
- Thomas Parker, *The Knights Templars in England*, (Michigan, 1994) [Oxford Uni].
- Elizabeth Ashcombe: *Behind Castlewalls at Sudeley Past and Present*. 1st edition. Amberley, Stroud 2009.
- *Chancery records* (Public Record Office)
- W. Dugdale and R. Dodsworth, eds., *Monasticon Anglicanum*, 3 vols. (1655–72); 2nd edn, 3 vols. (1661–82); new edn, ed. J. Caley, J. Ellis, and B. Bandinel, 6 vols. in 8 pts (1817–30); repr. (1846) and (1970)
 - o New Edn, 6/1, pp.406-8

Information found

Ralph de Sudeley [ii], son of John de Sudeley (m. Grace, daughter of William de Tracy, Baron of Barnstaple), and brother to William de Tracy (famous for killing Thomas Becket in 1170). He married Emma/ Emma (daughter of William de Beauchamp of Elmley) in Worcester in December 1159, and had two children – Otwell de Sudeley was the eldest, and then Ralph de Sudeley [iii] followed. In 1165 Ralph succeeded to Sudeley Castle and gave Toddington to his brother William. On his death in 1192, Otwell succeeded him in his possession. Emma, his widow, was buried in Winchcombe Abbey. *[Verified this information from various sources].*

Small sample of family tree's found.

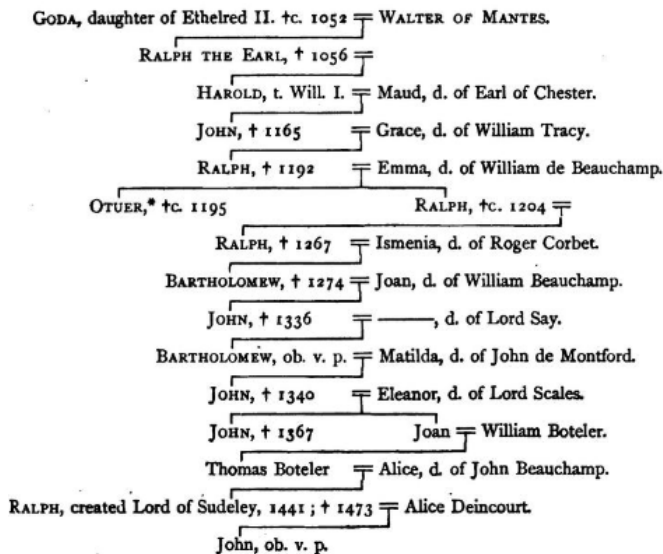
From John Britton Book



Tree of the Lords of Sudeley from "Annals of Winchcombe and Sudeley" by Emma Dent, Lady Sudeley, 1877 <https://tudorqueen6.com/2013/02/20/sudeley-castle-history-ralph-boteler-1st-baron-sudeley/>

"Those Knights are dust,
And their good swords are rust;
Their souls are with the Saints, I trust."

LORDS OF SUDELEY.



Sudeley Castle Website

- 1165: who assumed his mother's name of Tracy and was the ancestor of the present Tracy family.
- 1170: William de Tracy was one of the four knights who murdered Thomas a Becket in Canterbury Cathedral.
- 1368: John 9th Lord de Sudeley was killed in Spain while fighting for the Black Prince having earlier been Lord Chamberlain to Edward II. Sudeley inherited through his sister by the Boteler family.

John Burke, A General and Heraldic Dictionary of the Peerages of England, Ireland and... :

https://books.google.co.uk/books?id=0alfAAAACAAJ&pg=PA503&lpg=PA503&dq=Ralph+de+%22Sudley%22&source=bl&ots=GCySxjPfr_&sig=IU3duw4wacUNT45rHORhuNRdWlc&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKewj0hpHcj8PWAhVqJcAKHaYNDfcQ6AEIQTAE#v=onepage&q=Ralph%20de%20%22Sudley%22&f=false

- In the 12th C Ralph certified his knights' fees to be in number, four.

Emma Dent, Annals of Winchcombe and Sudeley, (London, 1877), pp.80-90, 104.

<https://archive.org/stream/annalswinchcomb00dentgoog#page/n6/mode/2up/search/Ralph+de+Sudeley>

In 1165 (in the reign of Henry II) Ralph, son and heir of John de Sudeley, succeeded to his father's estates, and became a liberal benefactor to religious houses. He founded the Priory of Erdbury in the vicinity of his lordship of Griffen in Warwickshire, and endowed it with lands in Dersett, Radway, Chilverscoton, and Herdwick, beside which, in the 31 Henry II (1185) he gave other lands, lying in the two last-named places, to the Knights Templars. He also gave Toddington to his brother William.

The order of the Knights Templars, to whom the Lord of Sudeley gave these lands, originated in the Crusades; they were also called the Soldierly of the Temple, as it was their office to protect it, to assist against the infidels, and succour pilgrims. They began taking vows of poverty and chastity, but in less than half a century they were notorious for their wealth, pride, and licentiousness. In the previous reign Gilbert de Laci had granted to the Knights Templars three burgages in Winchcombe. Again, Roger de Wateville was seized of houses in Winchcombe, which he granted to the Master of the Knights Templars in the reign of Edward I.

At the period when Ralph made his grant to the order, the Templars had their chief seat in London, as it is supposed in the Old Temple, near the present Southampton Buildings. Ralph also built a Benedictine Priory to the honour of St Mary and St John Baptist at Alcester.

Beside owning lands and other property, we find the Knights Templars frequently associated with the possession or making of mills. Thus in the county, the earliest mention of them is of two which the Templars made, before 1175, at Barton, in Temple Guiting, one of which was rented for 32s and the other for 12s, very high rents for those times.

G. E. Cokayne, The complete peerage of England, Scotland, Ireland, Great Britain, and the United Kingdom, 8 vols. (1887-98). New edition, volume 65

- In 1086 Harold de Sudeley held Sudeley, Toddington, Chilvers Coton and Burton Dasset
- Ralph's father, John, married Grace, daughter of William de Tracy, natural son of King Henry I. He probably died late in the reign of Henry I. Ralph de Sudeley in 1166 returned his Carta, showing that he held $\frac{3}{4}$ and $\frac{2}{5}$ knights fees of the old feffment, and two of the new. In 1169 he is recorded as owing 2 shillings for the aid to marry the King's daughter. In 1172, 1173 and 1174 he was accounting for scutage, and in 1176 and 1177 under Worcestershire for a fine for a forest offence. He was again accounting for or owing scutage in 1190 and 1191. He married Emma, and he died before Michaelmas 1192.

- Note, his son (also called Ralph), was engaged in litigation concerning rights in Chilvers Coton and Burton Dasset.

Sir William Dugdale, *The Antiquities of Warwickshire Illustrated: From Records, Leiger-books, Manuscripts, charters, Evidences, Tombes, and Armes: Beautified with Maps, Prospects, and Portraitsures, (2. Vols), consulted vol. 1 and 2 (1730).*

https://books.google.co.uk/books?id=PhBaAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA1071&lpg=PA1071&dq=Radulfi+de+Suthlega,&source=bl&ots=o6Z09yzkVo&sig=yVbWUxTzUNKMss2uhJdKzs6WEa8&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKewjstIWhj8XWAhVsAsAKHe4_DqIQ6AEILjAC#v=onepage&q=Radulfi%20de%20Suthlega%2C&f=false

Section on Herdwick (p.525).

This, being a member of Dercet, is not particularly mentioned in the Domesday book; but was then reckoned in the number of hides, which are there certified for that place. In Henry 2nd's time, Ralph de Sudley (part of whose possessions it was, as belonging to Dercet) gave some quantity of what he had here to the Templars, which in 31. H. 2. Was valued at xl. S. per annum. And in 7.E.I. rated at 4. Yard land, being then held by xi. Tenants (as in Dasset I have already intimated). But of the residue the *Sudleys* continue owners, *John de Sudley* in 9. E. 2. Being certified Lord therefore, together with Dasset, and as a member of the same. Howbeit that which the Templars had here, came to the Hospitalars in E. 2. Time, as all their other lands did; and so continued their possession till the general dissolution of the religious houses in 30. H. 8. That they were brought to the crown.

Section on Temple Balsall/ Knight's Templar (p.962)

- Many in Warwickshire gave lands to the Templars, 'the revenues of all which, were for the most part, employed for the maintenance of the Knights Templars residing here... small parcells [include]... Chelverscoton, Dercet and Herwike, by *Barth. De Sudeley.*' (p.964)
 - o BARTH is Ralph's son. I believe (though I could be wrong), Ralph only gave Chelverscoton/ Arbury priory.

Chilverscoton (p. 1071)

In the Conquerors survey, this is written *Celverdeffoche*, from the Saxon time. Within the precinct of this parish had the Knights Templars certain lands given to them; which the Record of 31. Hen. 2. Says were *de feodo Radulfi de Suthlega*, being (probably) of his or his Father's gift, and afterwards reputed for a Mannour; for by that name had those Templars free warren granted to them and their successors therein, in 32. H.3. which Mannour coming to the Crown in 30. Hen. 8. With all other the possessions belonging to the Religious Houses was in 4. Eliz. Fold unto John Fisher and Thomas Dabridgecourt. Which Thomas Dabridgecourt having obtained a Release from Fisher of all his right therein, by his last will and Testament in 44. Eliz. Gave it to Christian, one of his daughters, who became the wife of William Belcher.

The Church was given to the Canons of Erdburie, together with two yard land, by Raphe de Sudley, founder of that mosterie, and in anno 1291. (19. Edw. 1.) valued at viii. Marks being then appropriated to that Religious House; and the Vicaridge but at half a mark. But in 26. Hen. 8. The said Vicaridge was estimated at viii. lvs.

Erdbury Priory (p. 1072)

John succeeded Raphe, gave the divers lands lying in Herdwike (juzta Derlet) to the Knights Templars, as also founded the Priorie of Erdburfe, adjoining to this lordship, and left issue *otwel* and Raphe, which Raphe, by his brother's death became heir to the estate and residing here at Frigge had a peculiar chapel in his mannour house, where he had a special license from the canon of Erburte to have divine service celebrated at such time only, as himself or his heirs, their wives or mothers, should be personally there present.

Various (eds.) A History of the County of Warwick, Vol. 7: Chilvers Coton section

COTON of the King, (which his father had held before him. John son of this Harold took the surname of Sudeley from his estates in Gloucestershire, and his son **Ralph** founded the Priory of Arbury in Chilvers Coton, (fn. 11) and endowed it with lands and the advowson of the church there. **He also granted lands to the Templars, who are returned in the inquest of 1185 as holding lands there of the fee of Ralph Sudeley, which he himself held to farm for the annual rent of 6½ marks.** (fn. 12) In 1267 the right of free warren was granted to Bartholomew Sudeley for this lordship. (fn. 13) After this time the Sudeley estates descended with their manor of Griff in this parish.

At an early date the manor of GRIFF was included in that of Chilvers Coton, and thus belonged to the Sudeley family. When **Ralph Sudeley gave most of Chilvers Coton to the Templars and to Arbury Priory Griff became the seat of the family.** His great-grandson John Sudeley in 1285 claimed to hold there view of frankpledge, assize of bread and ale, gallows, infangentheof, waifs, and free warren, the last by charter and the rest by prescription. These claims were allowed on his acknowledging that he was bound to make suit at the hundred court and to contribute ward-penny and sheriff's aid. (fn. 14) John's grandson John Sudeley died in 1367 holding the manor of Griff, worth £8 a year, in which Thomas of Merynton held 1 / 7 of a knight's fee. He also held the right of presentation to Arbury Priory. His heirs were Thomas Boteler, son of his sister Joan, and Margery his younger sister. (fn. 15) In the next year the latter received Griff and other manors as her purparty, (fn. 16) but on her death in 1380 it went to Thomas Boteler, (fn. 17) who in 1385 settled the manor on himself and his wife Alice, (fn. 18) and she received livery thereof in 1398. (fn. 19)

The lands in Chilvers Coton which **Ralph Sudeley** had given to the Templars passed to the Knights Hospitallers when the former Order was disbanded. A reference in 1338 to rents of £15 17s. 6d. received by the Hospitallers in 'Chelidcote' in Warwickshire presumably refers to Chilvers Coton. (fn. 32) In the 15th century the land was leased to Sir Edward Grey, (fn. 33) and in 1481 (fn. 34) Edward Grey, Lord Lisle, was granted the stewardship of the lordship of Chilvers Coton, with a fee of 26s. 8d. Thenceforward the property is always referred to as a manor. About the year 1529 an action was brought in Chancery by William Weston, Prior of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem in England, against Martin Docwra, a kinsman of Thomas Docwra, late Prior, concerning his detinue of deeds relating to the commandery of Balsall and its possessions, among them the manor of CHILVERS COTON. (fn. 35)

After the dissolution of the Order these lands went to the Crown and surveys made in 1541 (fn. 36) state that the farm of the manor was demised to Robert Akers at £18 a year. It was not apparently returned to the Order by Philip and Mary in 1558, as it is not mentioned in the patent of that year which recited their possessions county by county. The tenancy of the land remained with the Acres family, and Henry Acres, by his will dated 15 September 1567 and proved in the following August, bequeathed to his wife a life interest in the 'capital house called the Temple, with the barn, barn yard, chapel yard, the dove house', and various named fields. (fn. 37)

Various (eds.) A History of the County of Warwick, Vol.2 Arbury Priory section

The original endowment consisted of the church of Chilvers Coton, with two virgates of land that belonged to it; six other virgates of land, a wood, and other possessions in the same parish; lands and a meadow at Sulingfen; the church of Dasset, and 200 acres and other possessions in that parish; and a hide of land at Radway. The canons were also granted timber for building purposes, and wood for fuel, and pannage throughout the founder's demesne lands. Another early benefaction was the church of Weston under Wetherley, but the donor's name is not known.

Various (eds.) A History of the County of Warwick, Vol. 5, Burton Dasset/ Darcett section

Harold son of Earl Ralph of Hereford held 15 hides in DASSETT under both the Confessor and the Conqueror. (fn. 12) **His son John took his name from Sudeley in Gloucestershire and was succeeded by Ralph de Sudeley.** Ralph's eldest son Otuel (fn. 14) died in or shortly before 1198, when his estates went to his brother Ralph, (fn. 15) who died in 1221–2, his son Ralph inheriting his estates. (fn. 16) This Ralph died in 1241–2, when his widow Imenia bought the custody of his lands and heirs, with the reversion of land held in dower by Isabel widow of the elder Ralph. (fn. 17) The knight's fee held of the king by Ralph in 1235 is called Dasset (Dercett), (fn. 18) but in 1242 is distinguished as GREAT DASSETT. (fn. 19) His heir was Bartholomew de Sudeley, presumably his son, who in 1267 obtained a grant of a market on Friday and a fair on the eve, day, and morrow of St. James in this manor, (fn. 20) which is therefore often called CHIPPING DASSETT. Bartholomew died seised of the manor in 1280, leaving a son Sir John, (fn. 21) who was created Baron Sudeley in 1299. (fn. 22) Sir John was involved in financial difficulties (fn. 23) and in 1293 leased the manor for 9 years to two Italian merchants; (fn. 24) in 1318 he demised it to Sir William de Bereford for 10 years, (fn. 25) and in 1323 for the term of Sir William's life, (fn. 26) two years later granting the reversion to Sir William's son Edmund for his life, with eventual remainder to his own grandson John son of Bartholomew de Sudeley. (fn. 27) Lord Sudeley died in 1336, and his grandson and successor John in 1340, (fn. 28) leaving a widow Eleanor, who was holding part of the manor at her death in 1361. (fn. 29) Their son John, an infant at his father's death, was the last Lord Sudeley of his line and died in 1367 seised of the manor of Chipping Dasset, valued at 12 marks in addition to £37 in rents. (fn. 30) His heirs were Thomas son of his sister Joan, formerly wife of Sir William Boteler, and his younger sister Margery. (fn. 31) This manor was assigned to Margery, (fn. 32) on whose death without issue in 1380, being then widow of Sir Robert Massy, (fn. 33) it passed to her nephew Thomas Boteler. He in 1385 settled the manor on himself and his second wife Alice (fn. 34) and died in 1398. (fn. 35) Alice afterwards married Sir John Dalynregge (fn. 36) and died in 1443, when the manor passed to her third, but eldest surviving, son Sir Ralph Boteler. (fn. 37) He gave it to his son Thomas and his wife Eleanor, but as they died without issue it reverted to Sir Ralph (fn. 38) and on his death in 1473 was divided between his nephews Sir John Norbury and William Belknap. (fn. 39) William's nephew Edward Belknap in 1498 acquired Sir John Norbury's share of the manor. (fn. 40) Sir Edward died in 1521 leaving as his coheirs four sisters: Alice wife of William Shelley, Justice of Common Pleas; Anne wife of Sir Robert Wotton; Elizabeth wife of Philip Coke, or Cooke; and Mary wife of Gerard Danett. (fn. 41) Alice apparently died without issue, and about 1540 Sir Edward Wotton, son of Anne, Mary Danett, and Sir Anthony Cooke, grandson of Elizabeth, were claiming portions of the manor against Sir Edward Belknap's widow Alice and her then husband John Brugge. (fn. 42) In 1545 Mary Danett settled on herself, with remainder to her son Thomas, her portion of lands in Burton and Dasset called 'Halle Feldes' and 'Olde Lees', in the tenure of Peter Temple. (fn. 43).

Martin Wilson, *Warwickshire's 'Sudeley Castle': Griff Manor House Revisited, (Dec. 2011)*

Sudeley's Gifts

In the late 12th century, Harold's grandson Ralph began to reshape the Chilvers Coton landscape, by first giving away a third of his manor to the Austin priors where they began to build Erdbury Priory, and then donating another third to the Order of the Knights Templars. Such huge acts of piety chimed with a trend throughout England following the example of Henry I; Ralph's own monarch Henry II surpassed all of his predecessors with his generosity to the Templars' cause. Ralph rented back the land from the Templars for his own use at a charge of 6½ marks a year, which he did until his death in 1191. Ralph's soul was indeed to be a healthy one. It is uncertain who began the construction of Griff Manor House. Ralph had two sons, Optuel, his eldest and heir, and Ralph. It is quite possible that the manor of Griff and Coton was intended for Ralph. When Optuel died in 1198, Ralph became sole heir to the Sudeley estates.

J. Bruce Williamson, *The History of the Temple, London: From the Institution of the Order of the Knights of the Temple to the Close of the Stuart Period, (London, 1924).*

- 'At first, [the order] consisted of Knights only who were all required to be of noble birth. The next step had been the admission of the Serving Brothers who attended upon the Knights.... Pope Alexander III in 1162 still further extended the membership by admitting Priests to the Order.' (p.12)
- Possible reason why Ralph gave his lands to the Templars? → 'The estates of the Order were managed in the interests of the common object, the defence of Christianity in the East, and the revenues they yielded devoted to that purpose. They formed a network over Christendom, and the means of communication this elaborate organisation afforded led to the Templars becoming in the financial agents of the Crusaders and later the Bankers of Kings and Princes.' (p.16)
 - Some suggestion that he was at least a member of the Templars, even if nowhere else explicitly verifies it.
- Author believes while Richard the Lionheart had tight relations with the Templars, there's little information on it because details of his relations 'belong to the annals of the East.' But, should be noted during his first year he granted 'the Knights a charter confirming the min all the possessions and privileges they held and enjoyed throughout the whole of his dominions.' (p.18)

Eileen Gooder, *Temple Balsall: The Warwickshire Preceptory of the Templars and their Fate*, (Chichester, 1995)

- Around 1130, the French Templars gained a foothold in England through the grants of the lands from King Stephen and Matilda his wife. These signs of royal approval, together with their increasing reputation, sparked off many other gifts to the Order, especially gifts of land from which the knights could draw rents to help finance the crusades. Balsall was one such donation. The donor was Roger de Mowbray.
- The author guesses that John de Sudeley attempted to regain control of Chilverscoton in the 1300's after Ralph had donated it centuries prior and he believed he was the rightful heir to the property. 'Certainly, after the formal dissolution of the Templars a number of such heirs seized the manors given by their ancestors and successfully held them for sometime before being obliged to give them up to the Hospitallers in accordance with the pope's decree.' (p.41)
- 'Leicestershire manors dependent on Rothley, the Leicestershire preceptor, and a handful of small properties just over the border into Leicestershire which were dependent on **Chilverscoton** (north Warwickshire), **which in turn was accountable to Balsall.**' (p.37)
 - Remember, Chilverscoton owned by Sudeley – so yes, they looked over parts of Leicestershire, but were still subordinate ultimately to Balsall.
- In 1185 at Temple Hardwick there were 9 tenants. Thurgoth (ON Thorgautr or O. Danish Thurgot) // Thurkil (ON Thorkell or O. Danish Thurkil).

Thomas Parker, *The Knights Templar in England*, (Uni. Of Arizona Press, 1963)

- 'The Moslems, determined to drive Christians out of the east, continued their campaign with vigor during the 1280's. When Acre, the last Christian stronghold in the east was attacked, the Christians, led by the Master of the Temple, resisted as best they could. During the last hours of the siege 11 Templars, under cover of darkness, escaped by sea with the wealth of the order to Cyprus while a small band of determined Templars remained behind and fought to the death. With the fall of Acre (May 28th 1291), Christian possession of territory in the Near East ended and the Crusades as such were over. In the long run, the purpose of the Templars had not been achieved; and without persons and property to protect in the east, the need for the military orders was no longer urgent.' (p.13)
- 'Lack of information [about the Templars] is partly due to the small number of Templar records in England; but it may also in part be due to the fact that there is relatively little to know. After all, England was a remote province which developed later than many of those on the continent. **Precise details on the Templars organisation in England, then, cannot be given.**' (p.17)

- Monasteries and nunneries apparently found it convenient upon occasion to transfer to the Templars lands, tithes, or rents in return for an assured yearly payment. For the Templars, the grants by individuals, and by institutions, offered the opportunity, through efficient management, to increase their holdings and revenues.' (p.23)
- Why become a Templar?/ Their privileges: Religious – were allowed own priests and to receive special collections/ offering, and exemption from ecclesiastical taxation, and from all but papal excommunication and interdict. Political – favoured by Kings and lords.
- The earliest comprehensive material on holdings is 'to be gotten from the Inquest of 1185 which Geoffrey Fitz Stephen, then Master of the Temple in England, wisely made.' (p.32)
- 'Numerous small holdings belonged to the Templars in Warwickshire, chief among which were lands at Sherborne, Warwick, and Fletchamstead. But the major centre was the preceptor of Balsall which returned £104 in 1308.'
- A list of the preceptories of the Templars in England:
 - o In Gloucestershire: Temple Guiting.
 - o In Warwickshire: Balsall.

Beatrice A. Lees, *Inquest of 1185: Records of the Knights Templars, (1935)*

Knight's Presence in Warwickshire

- 'The lands assessed in the *baillia* of Warwick extended in to six shires... the second earl of Warwick, Roger [de Beaumont], who died in 1153, founded the Templar's house at Warwick, of which his successors were hereditary patrons, but the comparatively insignificant grants to the **Templars were dwarfed by the imposing Beaumont foundation of the Warwick Priory of St Sepulchre, a house of regular Canons. In later days it was the preceptor of Balsall, on the Mowbray fee, which was recognised as the chief seat of the Templars' authority in the western midlands.**'
- The Templar's 'third considerable benefactor in Warwickshire was Robert Mermion, lord of Tamworth, who gave them the manor and mill of Barston. They also held land of the fee of Robert of Stafford, one of the most important 11th Century landholder in Staffordshire and Warwickshire, and on those of the local feudatories **Ralph of Sudeley** and Henry of Clinton. In all these territorial entires the fee and the overlord are named, but the fact of donations is only mentioned once, though it is generally assumed and the assumption is support by the later history of these estates, that the feudal lord was also the direct donor.'
- 'When all these entries are restored to what seems to have been their original order, the Templars appear as the lords of three large manorial estates in Warwickshire; Sherborne, Balsall and Barston, besides smaller rural properties and an urban centre at Warwick.'
- 'Newbold, Morton, **Hardwick**, and Tysoe, the group of estates in Kington hundred, had still lighter service, four days' boon work a year, with food, and on the royal grant at Fletchamstead the four days were reduced to three.' (p.cx)

Knight's Presence in Gloucestershire

- 'Less lavish benefactors of the Gloucestershire Templars were the great county magnates, Roger, Earl of Hereford, Reginald of St Valéry, lord of Hazleton and Tetbury, John of Sudeley, and Elias Giggard, lord of Brimpsfield.' (p.cxxiv)
 - o footnote for John of Sudeley reads CF. p. 50, and n. 5.

Other pages:

Pages: 1-21, 49-73,

- Ralph de Sudeley's line continued till the mid 14th century when it failed male issue, and the estates passed through an heiress to the family of Boteler, the most eminent of whom, Ralph Boteler, was Treasurer of England in the reign of Henry VI, built the earliest portions of the present Sudeley Castle, and was created Lord Sudeley.

Note: This is from vol. 1 of 'Warwickshire feet of fines', but I couldn't really make sense of what it was talking about due to the amount of acronyms

76 FEET OF FINES FOR
land of def. of Neubald, nor did def. do to pl. any service for which he ought to have the said common of Beauton. Def. quitclaimed. Cons., pl. granted (in so far as he could) that neither he nor his men of Beauton would henceforth claim or demand common in the land of def. or his heirs of Lalleford and Neubald; neither would def. or his heirs (in so far as they could) henceforth demand any common in pl.'s land of Beauton.
391. **Burton Dasset.** (As 362.) Ralph de Sudlegh,¹ pet. William the marshal, ten. A virgate of land in Derscete. Assize of mort d'anc. Pet. acknowledged right of ten., to hold of pet. and his heirs for ever, by a yearly rent of 2s. (at the Annunc. and Mich.) f. a. s. s. f. s. Ten. gave & quitclaimed to pet. 3s. rent which he used to receive from the tenement which Edric held of him in Sudlegh.

398. **Burton Dasset.** (As 359.) Ralph de Sudlegh, pet. Ralph son of Richard, ten. $\frac{1}{2}$ virgate of land in Dersete. Assize of mort d'anc. Pet. acknowledged right of ten., to hold to him & his heirs of pet. & his heirs by the yearly rent of 12d. f. a. s. s. f. s. Cons. a mark of silver.

Note: If you ever want more detail about a certain location, consider checking out some of these:

Mediaeval Sudeley A bibliography is provided in the article by Mrs. Winkless and myself on Mediaeval Sudeley in volume 10 No. 61/2 of Family History for July 1977.

Possession of Burton Dasset and Chilvers Coton in Warwickshire during the Middle Ages
N. W. Alcock: Enclosure and Depopulation in Burton Dasset (Warwickshire History Vol. III No. 5).
C. J. Bond: Paper for post graduate seminar given at Birmingham University in 1968 on deserted villages in Warwickshire (on Burton Dasset).
C. J. Bond: Paper on Deserted Villages in Warwickshire for the Transactions of the Birmingham and Warwickshire Archaeological Society Vol. 86 (1974).
C. J. Bond: Chapter on Deserted Villages in Warwickshire for 'Field and Forest', edited by P. Jarvis and T. Slater.
Dugdale: Monasticon (for reference to Erdbury or Arbury at Chilvers Coton).
Dugdale: Warwickshire.
Alan Hunt: Note on New Discoveries in Burton Dasset (West Midlands Archaeological Newsletter, 1973).
Frances O'Shaughnessy: Story of Burton Dasset Church.
N. Pevsner and Alexandra Wedgewood: Warwickshire
Victoria County History for Warwickshire.
Stanley E. West: Griff Manor House (Sudeley Castle) at Chilvers Coton (J. of the Br. Arch. Assoc. 3rd ser. Vol. 31 1968).

Possession of Ewyas Harold, Herefordshire during the Middle Ages
A. T. Bannister: History of Ewyas Harold.
Dugdale: Monasticon (on the Abbey of Dore and on Ewyas Harold).
V. H. Galbraith: Herefordshire Domesday (Pipe Roll Society Publications. New Series 25-1950)
Transactions of the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society Vol. 27, (1950) (by Lydiard Tregoz).

Other

- Why join the crusades? Crusader privileges, exemption from the crusade tithe, and access to the tithe money of their noncrusading vassals and tenants. Some also joined "for the love of God and the remission of Sins, some out of respect for the king themselves".

Latin texts to be better translated

Richard Howlett (ed), St Aelred [abbot of Rievaulx], 'Relatio de standardo', *Chronicles of the reigns of Stephen, Henry II, and Richard I*, vol. 3, Rolls Series, 82 (1886)

<https://archive.org/stream/chroniclesofreig03howl#page/134/mode/2up/search/Tracy>

Successit in comitatum suum Willelmus filius suum, senior quidem ætate, sed vir mollis, et thalamorum magis quam militiæ appetitor. Hic tamen in primo comitatus sui exordio, quod præter omnium opinionem vix una vice contigit, egregiæ probitatis successus indeptus fuit. Henricus namque de Traceio, vir bellicosus, et in militari exercitio expertissimus, qui et regis partibus parebat, ante castellum, quod Cari dicitur, et aliud firmabat, quo et comitem Glaornia per hoc facilius arceret, et diffusioris provinciæ dominium possideret: cum ecce ipse comes, talibus fama intimante perceptis, cum immenso repente supervenit exercitu, inceptumque Henrici municipium fundotenus complanavit, ipsumque cum suis inglorium cedere coegit.

Hubert Hull (ed.), *The Red Book of the Exchequer*, (1896)

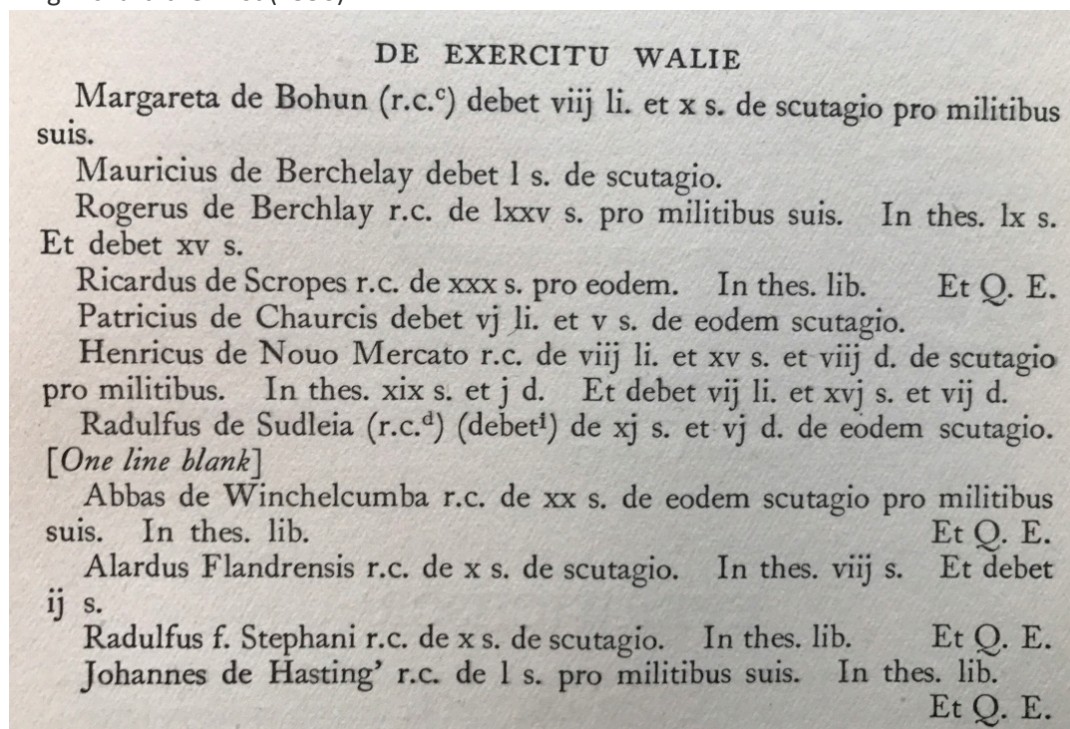
In latin: "Radulfus de Sudlega, lxijs., scilicet, de tribus partibus et duabus quintis [partibus] de veteri, et duobus [militibus] de novo."

Translation acc. to google: Ralph Sudlega, lxijs., Namely, about two-thirds of the fifth [parts] of old, and a couple of [soldiers] again. → **Better translation needed from someone that reads latin.**

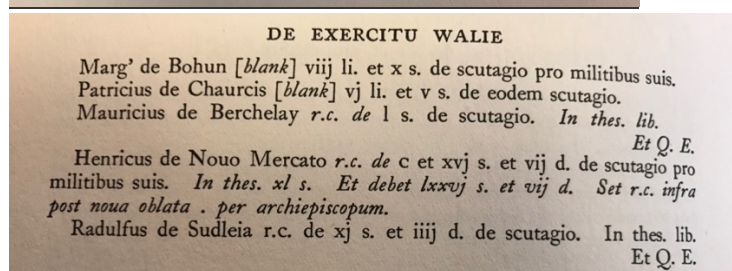
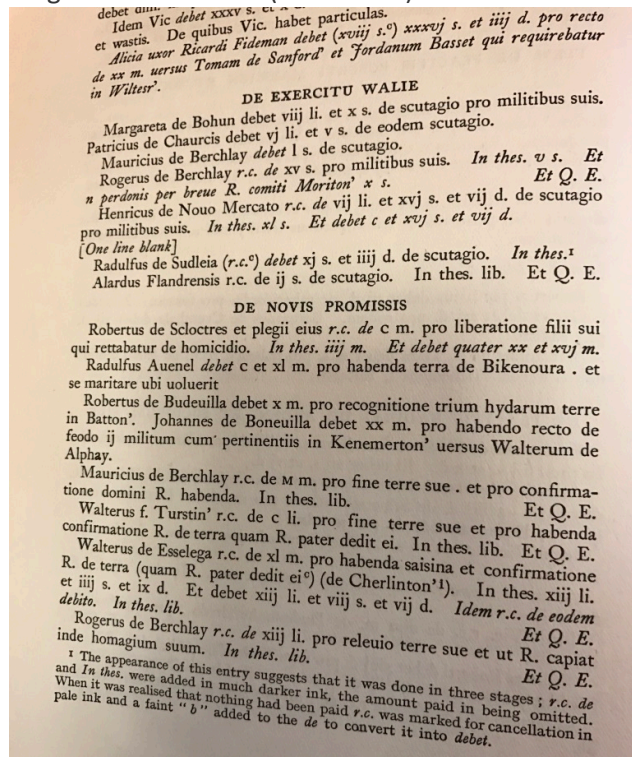
Also relevant material on pages: 42, 57, 73, 156, 268, 295 if we can get access to the other volumes.

Pipe rolls

King Richard the First (1990)



King Richard the First (1191-1199):



Beatrice A. Lees, *Inquest of 1185: Records of the Knights Templars, (1935)*

Relevant pages in Latin that need to be translated better (see google drive for pdf with these pages):

- p.28, footnote no. 8
- p.32 contains Ralph's fee, see footnote no.7
 - o References the Red Book of the Exchequer.
- p.38 generally, more specifically footnote no.7
- p.49 references to Hardwick
- p.50, footnote no.5 contains info about Sudeley castle.

Opinion

Honestly, every book I have consulted (now in the hundreds), there has been no reference to Sudeley being the head of the Knights Templars, or even venturing out of the country. Warwickshire was an important area to the Templars, but of more importance was Temple Balsall – this didn't belong to the Sudeley's until much later than the Ralph de Sudeley in question. It wasn't until his great-grandson, also called Ralph, came and took over it from the Templars – maybe people have been misinterpreting this by not realising the Ralph de Sudeley mentioned is actually his great-grandson.