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THE PIXLEY SEPULCHRE
IN SAINT CLEMENT'S CHURCHYARD

by
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THE JERSEY MUSEUM
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In the Archives Section Report for 1983 the late Mrs Joan Stevens mentioned the donation to the Société of an heraldic carving which, she averred, was identical with that hewn in marble on the face of a tomb, or sepulchre, raised to commemorate Monsieur Thomas Labey (1810-68),¹ amongst others. As a member of a more junior branch of Thomas's family, the history of the sepulchre, its creators and owners, has always intrigued me. As it is amongst the most imposing sights to be encountered in Saint Clement's Churchyard or, indeed, amongst any of the Island's cemeteries, I have always believed that it is a subject which deserved more attention. As the story of this monument comprises at least three quite separate topics, I shall be examining them under three different headings.

The Sepulchre

Commanding the end of the avenue in the western extension to Saint Clement's Churchyard, the sepulchre cannot but captivate the attention of both the casual traveller making his way along La Grande Route de Saint Clément or the more committed visitor who comes to pay his respects at the grave of a relative or friend. There can be little doubt that, because of this prominent position, the owner of this monument paid dearly for the underlying plot as well as for what was to be built upon it. Styled in the form of a very small classical temple, its facade is dominated by a marble portico of three pillars supporting a triangular pediment. At the back of this portico is the southern wall of a small chamber which was designed to shelter both the mourners and the tribute they brought. However, as the floor of this chamber may have been designed to be easily removed for the interment of further occupants, it was not as sturdy as more permanent structures. By the beginning of the last decade it had collapsed and posed a threat to unsuspecting members of the public. During the process of restoration in recent years the entrance to this chamber was sealed and, as a result, the principal source of interest is now the facade of the southern wall and the details included on the portico.²

The pillars were not made after the example of any particular order but close examination does reveal that simple garlands of ivy have been carved onto the surface of them just beneath their very limited capitals. There is no discernible reason why this plant should have been chosen for any symbolic significance and the only intention may have been to imitate similar foliage on classical ruins whose state of desolation appealed so much to the Victorian love of the picturesque. In the midst of the pediment is an elaborate Latin cross surrounded by curving branches whose stock of leaves is very difficult to identify.

¹ *Ann. Bull. Soc. Jersiaise*, 1984, 23, 415. The dedicatee was of course Thomas not George Labey as stated in 1984.

² Our gratitude is due to Mrs Frances Moxon of Saint Clement's Farm, Thomas Labey's great great great niece, for arranging to save this monument from total ruin.



PLATE 1 The Pixley sepulchre, Saint Clement's churchyard

The portico shelters the southern wall which is bedecked not only by the aforementioned coat of arms, which we shall be examining later, but also by two full sized angels and a small table. Each angel stands in front of an arched alcove on which the words "Listen, Listen, The Angles of Heaven ... Their sweet voices reclaim you" have been inscribed. These figures are supported by substantial plinths, their feet resting on marble surfaces carved to resemble billowing clouds. The left-hand figure nurses a wreath whose contents have been eroded beyond recognition, while the other, clutching a valveless trumpet in one hand, points heavenward. Careful examination of these figures reveals that there is a minor inconsistency in their composition for while the cloak of the left-hand figure has a plain strap around its waist, its companion has a strap which has been embellished with stars. We have a very slight suggestion here that the two figures may have been carved by separate masons for it is only logical to assume that, in detail if not in overall form, a single statuary would have striven for a certain uniformity when carving a pair of complementary figures. It is possible, therefore, that, in order to expedite the tomb's completion to suit the order of his customer, the master of the yard assigned more than one of his colleagues to this commission. Although they are very satisfactory figures, one is forced to admit that they are more the result of fine workmanship than the products of genius, for no amount of detail can compensate for a fundamental lack of suppleness in their form. One cannot escape a sense of how their composition was determined more by the masons' knowledge of their limitations than by any great, creative vision. Nevertheless, both the figures and the sepulchre as a whole serve as an impressive testimony to one of the most successful firms of monumental masons in Victorian Jersey.

The Masons

The name PIXLEY carved on the plinth of the central column attests to the fact that this sepulchre was created at the yards of Edward Pixley and his family, he being a mason and statuary who not only advertised his services for the completion of tombs and gravestones but also for a multiplicity of more cheerful household ornaments.³ In order to sustain this diverse range of products, Edward was obliged to maintain a sizeable staff and at the time of his death, shortly after the completion of this sepulchre, he is known to have employed a total of fifteen hands.⁴ The extent of his commercial success can be gauged by the size of the estate which he left to his surviving children.⁵ Besides his principal premises at 34 The Parade and 30 Parade Place, there was also a total of ten houses in Savile Street, Saint Helier, many of which he had built, and No. 13 Aquila Road. His sedulity, however, was by no means restricted to his business interests. Although not born in Jersey, he chose to take as active a part in its civic life as any of his more indigenous contemporaries. Research has proved that he was involved with the Honorary Police, the beginnings of the Fire Brigade in Saint Helier, an obscure private school and a commercial association. However, to discover the origins of this apparently tireless man, one must look some distance away from the community to which he devoted so much of his energy.

Edward Pixley was born in Gibraltar on the 20th of July 1793, and baptised at the King's Chapel there, son of Bartholomew Pixley, a bombardier in the Second Battalion of the Royal Artillery, by Sarah his wife. ⁶ As no evidence has surfaced to suggest that either of his parents ever lived in Jersey, there is a strong possibility that Edward came to this island alone shortly before 1809 when sixteen years of age. At the time of his death in 1871, it was claimed that he had been appointed Sergeant of

³ Advertisement, *The British Press & Jersey Times Almanac* for 1872, p. 63.

⁴ 1871 Census for Saint Helier. District 31, p. 17.

⁵ Public Registry reference: 251:216, 30th January 1872.

⁶ Research undertaken by Malcolm Pinhorn. Public Registry references: 251:216, 131:86, 15th September 1821.

the Saint Helier Grenadiers at this age,⁷ but, as more contemporary evidence suggests otherwise, the only conclusion one can draw from this claim of precocity is that he was present in the island at that time. The Militia Census of 1815 proves that Edward Pixley, a twenty-three-year-old soldier, resided in the Vingtaine du Rouge Bouillon, Saint Helier, and was thus already very near to where he would become established in later years. On the 15th of September 1821, Edward bought a house and appurtenances from the attorney of James Le Gallais, senior, which situation was described as being to the east of the Military Parade.⁸ Later evidence proves that this deed of sale represented the first of a total of three acquisitions marking the evolution of 34 The Parade and adding a certain amount of authority to the claim made by his commercial successors that the business was established in 1822.⁹ By 1842 Edward was sufficiently esteemed in the local business community to be appointed President of the Mechanics' Institute and Commercial Association which, at that time, was based in Beresford Street.¹⁰ However, it is known that this Association bore no relation to its modern namesake and, as a result, only the most rudimentary evidence of its existence has survived. All we do know is that it charged its members ten shillings a year and that, in return, it offered a circulating library of some fifteen hundred volumes.¹¹

Shortly after this time, on the 15th of October 1845, the Parish Assembly of Saint Helier declared its intention to form a parochial Fire Brigade comprising twenty-six men. Amongst the engines at the service's disposal was one donated by the West of England Company and stationed at the Esplanade Foundry. As this would have been a mere stone's throw away from The Parade it is not surprising to learn that amongst the volunteers who were accepted for recruitment was none other than Edward Pixley.¹² This involvement may have coincided with Edward's ownership of the Providence School for Boys, a very minor institution, which never figured under that name in any of the local almanacs of the time. It must have suffered from Edward's other commitments for on the 18th of September 1847, it was sold to Philippe de Gruchy, son of Noé.¹³ Undoubtedly, the zenith of Edward's civic career was reached on the 3rd of November 1849, when he was sworn in as Centenier of Saint Helier.¹⁴ As the parish's political life was the subject of some detailed study by the journalists of the time, we can follow the story of Edward's term of office quite closely. His predecessor, François Robilliard, had retired from the post on the grounds of "pressing mercantile avocations" and in the ensuing election Edward Pixley, senior, romped home with a hefty majority of one hundred and thirty-two votes over his nearest rival, John Ching, of Broad Street.¹⁵ Such was his reputation at this time that even the usually reticent reporters of *The Jersey Times* remarked: "... we congratulate the town-public on the accession of so desirable an officer as Mr. Pixley to the foremost rank of its police."¹⁶ Nevertheless, advancing age and the very same pressures which had brought down his

⁷ Obituary, *La Chronique de Jersey*, 2nd August 1871.

⁸ Public Registry reference: 131:86.

⁹ As note 5.

¹⁰ *The Royal Almanack, or Year Book for the Channel Islands*, 1843, p.79.

¹¹ As note 10, 1844. Advertisement.

¹² *The Formation of the First Jersey Fire Brigade* by Raymond Falle, Scrap Book IVB, Lord Coutanche Library. *Almanach des Iles de Jersey*, etc. published by *La Chronique de Jersey*, 1846.

¹³ Public Registry reference: 193:140.

¹⁴ *Almanach des Iles de Jersey*, etc., as note 12, 1850, p. 38.

¹⁵ As note 14, 1849, p.38.

La Chronique de Jersey, 31st October 1849.

The Jersey Times, 30th October 1849.

¹⁶ *Ibid.* as note 15.

predecessor precluded Edward from standing for re-election, despite the praise of *La Chronique de Jersey* and pleas from a delegation of his supporters.¹⁷

Besides being a successful businessman and respected citizen, Edward was also father to a total of eight children by Marie Guiton, his wife, daughter of François Guiton and Anne Pequin.¹⁸ Of the four sons that survived to maturity, the eldest, Edward and his immediate junior, Peter, succeeded to their father's business and kept the Pixley yards open until the 1890s, Edward's main premises at 34 The Parade being sold to Alfred Gulliver in 1891.¹⁹ The Pixley flair for business was certainly shared by the wife of Edward Pixley junior — namely Mary Ann Thompson — a remarkable woman who was quite clearly an entrepreneur in her own right as one of the 'Misses Thompson', milliners, of 14 Beresford Street who, in 1871, employed a total of twenty-four hands.²⁰ Of Edward Pixley senior's two daughters, the eldest, Mary Sarah, wife of Clement du Parcq, also deserves mention as paternal grandmother to Lord Herbert du Parcq.²¹ When Edward died at the age of seventy-eight on the 31st of July 1871, his family's sense of loss was shared by many of their contemporaries. *La Chronique de Jersey* praised his selfless devotion to his community and it is a mark of their esteem for a man who was essentially an outsider that they awarded him with the title *un Jersiais*.²² Therefore, when we come to consider the story of this man's life, it is only right that we should refer to the grand monument in Saint Clement's churchyard as the Pixley Sepulchre, for it is as much a memorial to this assiduous Victorian, who built a business, family and civic career entirely from the results of his own efforts, as it is to the plethora of families mentioned in its inscriptions and coat of arms.

The Owners and their Arms

The inscription on the southern wall of the Pixley sepulchre provides a fair bit of information about Edward Pixley's customer, her husband and parents. It was erected, we are told, by Marie Noël of L'Aiguillon, Grouville, daughter of Philippe Noël and Anne Vaudin, his wife. It is known that Marie's father died some years before the completion of this memorial but as Marie's mother, Anne, lived to what was, by the standards of the time, the handsome age of eighty-four years and died on the 5th of February 1871, the privilege of being laid to rest in this grand tomb was extended to her as well. The inscription also acclaims Thomas Labey as "one of the descendants of the Anquetil family, many members of which had been buried in the Church of this parish"; also stating that his grandfather, George Labey, was the last to be laid to rest in that place in the year 1787.

If one looks at the coat of arms, a splendid piece of work by any standards, one can see that the tale of both Thomas and Marie's ancestry is laid out in some detail. As Mrs Stevens has established already, the arms in question were those of the Labey, Anquetil, Falle, Messervy, Vaudin and Le Brun families, the first four being a reference to Thomas's ancestry and the latter two to Marie's forebears. In particular the arms of Anquetil, Messervy, Falle and Labey help to remind us of the successive owners of the property now known as Saint Clement's Farm, home to Thomas's grandfather, uncle and elder brother.²³

¹⁷ *Ibid.* 30th November 1852.

¹⁸ 1871 Census for Saint Helier, as note 4.

Public Registry references: 245:282 & 286, 13th November 1869.

Church records of Saint Helier.

¹⁹ Public Registry reference: 307:8, 12th September 1891.

²⁰ 1871 Census for Saint Helier, District 26, p.2.

²¹ *Ann. Bull. Soc. Jersiaise*, 1966, 19, 141.

²² *Ibid.*, as note 7.

²³ The principal source of information with regard to the history of the Labey family remains a pedigree completed by Mrs A. Messervy in 1925 and commissioned by the late Captain George Thomas Labey, M.B.E.,



PLATE 2 The heraldic carving in the Pixley sepulchre

of Saint Clement's Farm. As it was her brief to trace Captain Labey's ancestry she paid particular attention to the branch of the family which lived at Le Marais à la Cocque, Grouville, and Saint Clement's Farm and to which Thomas belonged.

At the beginning of the eighteenth century, that property was owned by Thomas Anquetil, Procureur du Bien Public of Saint Clement from 1702-09 and, in 1708, Lieutenant in the Jersey Militia. By his wife, Elizabeth de Carteret, Thomas is known to have had a son and two daughters — Helier, Marie and Elizabeth. At the death of Helier Anquetil in 1711, his sister, Marie Anquetil, succeeded to the property as the eldest of his two sisters and thus conferred its ownership on her own heirs, the children of her marriage to George Messervy. George originated from Faldouet in Saint Martin where he had owned a Farm, a property which he subsequently sold to his brother, Amice, on the 1st of August 1713.

He rose to a position of some prominence, being appointed solicitor by the Royal Court in 1713 and was also, at one time, Quartermaster of the Eastern Regiment of the Militia. In 1735 he was appointed as *Lecteur* to his adopted parish but in this post he served only for three years for he died in 1738 at the age of around fifty-one years. George and Marie's eldest son, Helier Messervy, having pre-deceased his mother in 1725, the majority of her estate passed, at her death in 1763, to his younger brother, Thomas. Thomas, in turn, married Rachel Falle, daughter of Philippe Falle of the Vingtaine de Saint Nicolas, Saint Peter, by Elisabeth Hamptonne his wife. By Rachel, Thomas became father to four daughters and it was the eldest of these, Marie Messervy, who married George Josué Labey at Saint Clement's Church on the 31st of July 1773.²⁴ The couple's marriage survived for only fourteen years as George was already over fifty years of age when he married. At the time of his death, George Josué Labey was indeed buried in Saint Clement's Church, an interment which took place on the 21st of September 1787, as averred by the aforementioned inscription. The then *Lecteur* of Saint Clement, Jean Le Neveu, diligently recorded the fact that George Josué's mortal remains were laid to rest beneath the pew of the heirs of the late Thomas Filleul, a privilege which would have come to George as great grandson of Sara Filleul, daughter of the said Thomas Filleul of Saint Clement.

When one comes to examine the story of Thomas Labey's own life, however, one can see little, beyond the bereavement of his devoted widow, to justify the construction of such a grand monument. The intensity of her sense of loss is strongly emphasised by the following verse amongst the inscriptions on Thomas's equally dramatic tomb:

The only one who made, here on earth, my happiness
Has gone away to heaven with his dear Saviour
And from that high rest contemplates my sadness,
He calls me to that place of joy and of cheerfulness.

Born in 1810 Thomas was baptised at Grouville Church on the 6th of May of that year, third son of Philippe Labey and Elizabeth Le Feuvre his wife. As Philippe was, in turn, only the second son of George Josué Labey and Marie Messervy and as his eldest brother, George Labey gent. (1774-1847), inherited the bulk of his parents' estate, Philippe would have had to forge his own livelihood from the products of his own schemes and labours.

A deed of sale dated the 10th of September 1836²⁵ proves that when Thomas's eldest brother, Philippe, bought his brothers' shares in their father's estate, the value of their portions came to a modest thirty-four quarters in rentes. It was not until 1851, when the divisions of his mother's and uncle George's estates were ratified finally by the heirs and the pertinent transactions passed before the Royal Court, that Thomas's estate would have yielded a fair income. By that time, it comprised a

²⁴ As note 23 and *Généalogie de la Famille Messervy* by T. W. Messervy, 1899, pp. 41-42.

²⁵ Public Registry reference: 164:102.

total of forty-eight quarters of rente and two fields in Saint Clement, the former bringing in just over £37 every Michaelmas Day.²⁶ As Thomas and his wife were sheltered in the care of his eldest brother Philippe at Le Marais à la Cocque, Grouville, his expenses would have been minimal, thus allowing him to live in a state of modest but rather artificial gentility. The only noteworthy event in Thomas Labey's life was his election to the post of Centenier of Grouville on the 13th of November 1852.²⁷ However, neither this event, the end of his term in office in 1858, or even his death ten years later on the 15th of January 1868, drew any comment from the contemporary media.

A similar shroud of obscurity envelops the lives of his wife's family, the Noëls of L'Aiguillon, Grouville. Marie Noël was baptised at Grouville Church on the 22nd of June 1817, and belonged to a family which, during the second half of the nineteenth century, rose to prominence in terms of material wealth, if little else. Her only brother Philippe, while a landowning farmer like the majority of his contemporaries, appears to have been involved in minor banking schemes. The name of Philippe Noël appears beside that of Amice Bertram as partners in a scheme which ran under the rather misleading name of the Grouville Parish Bank²⁸ and, as one Amice Bertram was once the owner of Le Parcq, Grouville, a property just down the road from L'Aiguillon, we have good cause to believe that the Philippe Noël in question was indeed brother-in-law to Thomas Labey. Marie's eldest sister Elizabeth was an active landowner in her own right and, in 1856, became the owner of Le Carrefour au Clercq, Grouville, as receiver to the estate of Elizabeth Nicolle. Although this particular property was sold to her brother Philippe ten years later, in 1866, she continued to dabble in the property market until 1875.²⁹

Marie herself survived her husband by some sixteen years, spending her last days at Maitland Cottage in La Grande Route de Saint Clément but, sadly, was to meet with a rather unpleasant end. The civil registers of the time prove that she died on the 20th of April 1884 from gangrene of the foot. As Marie and all her siblings died without issue, the remains of their accreted estates became the subject of complex litigation after the death of the survivor, the youngest daughter Jeanne, on the 15th of July 1885. The legal documentation relating to the final settlement of this estate helps us to draw a fairly detailed account of the family's lineage and, from this, establish the story of their presence at L'Aiguillon.³⁰ It would appear that this began on the 24th of May 1766, when Nicolas Nicolle sold a house and appurtenances in the Fief du Roi, Grouville, to Jean Noël son of Edmond.³¹ However, never could Jean have imagined the extent to which his Victorian descendants would accumulate property as a result of these ostensibly modest beginnings. When the Noël estate was finally divided between the two principal heirs, namely Hannah Elizabeth Noël and the Reverend Thomas Le Neveu, M.A., the residue comprised L'Aiguillon, a house immediately to the north of L'Aiguillon on the other side of La Rue Malo, Le Carrefour au Clercq, Nos. 1 to 4 Garden Lane, No. 29 George Street, and No. 12 Windsor Road in Saint Helier, together with just over one hundred and six quarters of rente. L'Aiguillon itself still bears evidence of the Noël's presence in the very fabric of its

²⁶ In 1851 the income raised from 1 quarter of rente assignable was fifteen shillings and five pence halfpenny or 77.3 pence in modern terms. See *Tables Facilitant le Calcul des Rentes* by A. Messervy, printed by *La Nouvelle Chronique*. A copy of this is available in the Lord Coutanche Library.

Public Registry references: 203:94 and 95, 19th April 1851

²⁷ As note 14, 1853. *La Chronique de Jersey*, 13th November 1852.

²⁸ As note 14, 1849.

The British Press & Jersey Times Almanac 1870, p.142.

²⁹ Public Registry references: 293:171, 8th January 1887, 238:50, 18th September 1866 Decrets 42A :221.

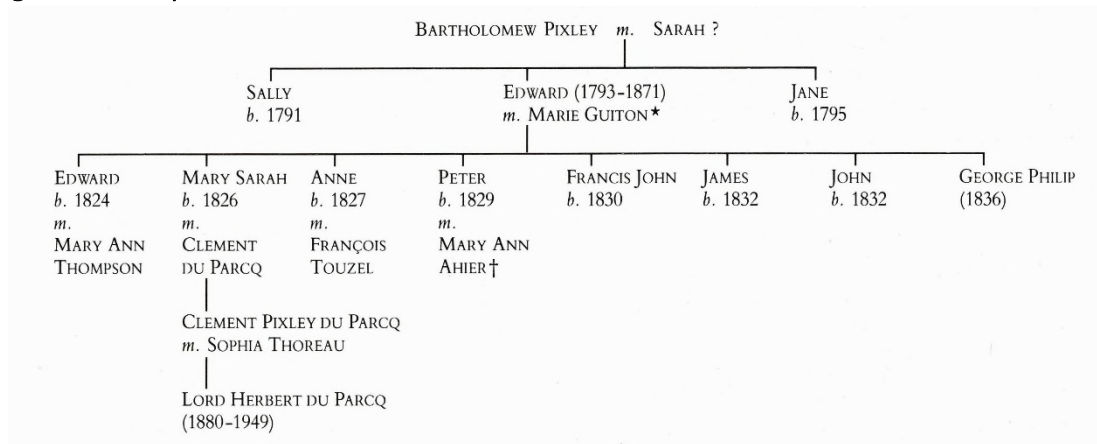
Public Registry reference: 260:15.

³⁰ Public Registry references: 293:166, 291:228, 213:41, 160:10, 96:230, 66:42, 49:73.

³¹ Public Registry reference: 49:73.

buildings but of all the date stones to be found there none has caused more confusion than that which is inscribed with the text 17 EVD MLB 33.³² There can be little doubt that this represents Edouard Vaudin of Trinity who, on the 25th of April 1714 married Marie Le Brun of Saint Saviour at Trinity Church. As the principal heir to her brother, Thomas Le Brun, Marie inherited a property in the Fief de Gorges ou Bagot, Saint Saviour, which Thomas had bought from Estienne Dolbel on the 4th of September 1701. It was this same property, or whatever structure succeeded it, which was inherited by Marie Noël's first cousin Jean Philippe Aubin, Ecr. after the death of her uncle Jean Vaudin, only surviving son of Edouard Vaudin. The historical truth concerning the lineage of the Vaudin family of Bagot, Saint Saviour, contradicts the assumption made by J. Bertrand Payne in *An Armorial of Jersey* that Marie Noël's maternal grandfather Edouard died unmarried. Edouard Vaudin, eldest son of Edouard Vaudin and Elizabeth Grandin, married Catherine Alexandre, daughter of Jean Alexandre and Marie Aubin, and by Catherine had a total of six children including the aforesaid Jean and Marie Noes mother, Anne. Apart from that error, however, the information supplied in his pedigree of Vaudin of Saint Helier is largely accurate.³³

Pedigree of Pixley of Saint Helier



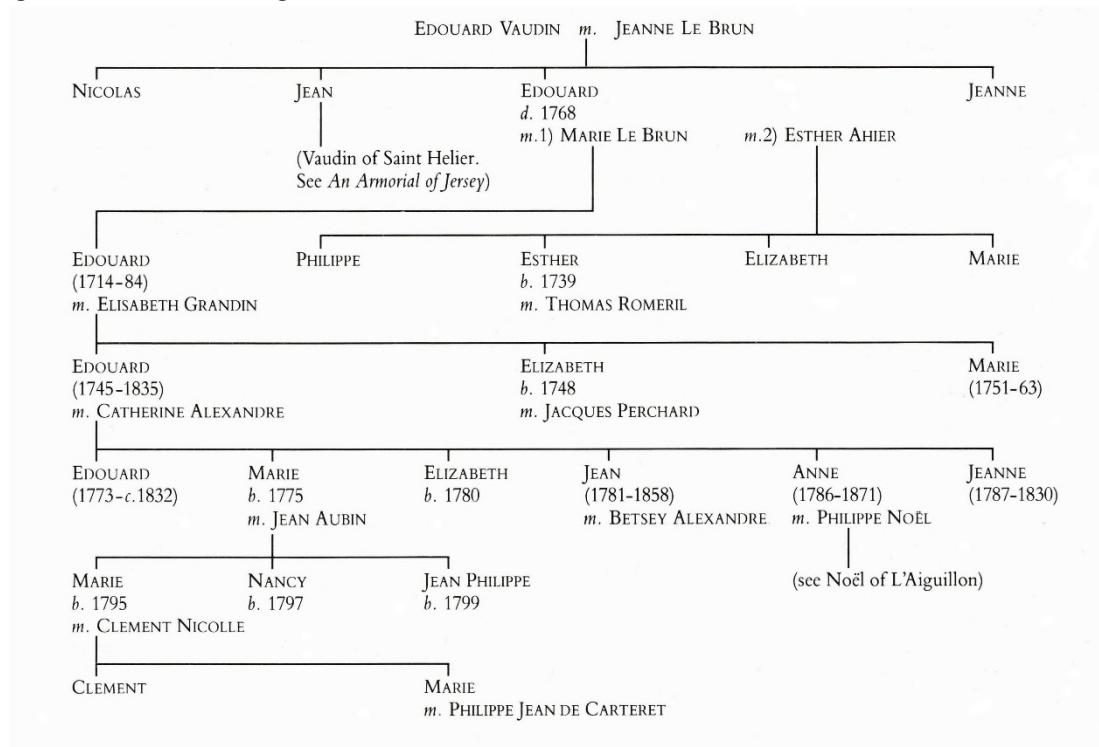
* Daughter of Mons. Bernabey Vicq and Mse Marthe Falk, Public Registry reference 82:155. Marie's sister Jeanne married Mons. Josué Godfray of Saint Clement, great grandfather of Dlle Eliza Labey whose portrait now hangs in the Jersey Museum, St. Helier.

† Mary Ann Ahier, wife of Peter Pixley, daughter of Mons. Jean George Ahier and Mse Françoise Poingdestre. Source: Public Registry reference 294:162

³² *Old Jersey Houses Volume II*, by Joan Stevens, p. 89.

³³ In order to substantiate this very point a review was undertaken of all transactions at the Public Registry in which Edouard Vaudin was mentioned as a party during the period 1714-1835, and similarly Jean Vaudin as a party during the period 1835-1859. This review thus covered a total of 231 transactions. It would be impractical to give all the evidence in the space available in this publication. I can give the references and dates of the items concerned to anyone wishing to know further details. Other sources are as follow: *Extente de L'île de Jersey* 1749, p. 34. *Cour d'Heritage* 28:18, 23rd September 1736, 33:375, 6th October 1768, 36:29, 8th October 1778.

Pedigree of Vaudin of Bagot, Saint Saviour



The inclusion of the Vaudin article in *An Armorial of Jersey* was the responsibility of Doctor Charles Vaudin of York House, Saint Helier. Amongst the original correspondence received by Payne are three letters by Charles which provide an interesting insight into how Payne's work was compiled and how he often muddled his facts. The source for the Vaudin arms was indeed the Elizabethan seal which Payne mentions but at no time did either Charles or his own source, his nonagenarian great aunt, ever state that it was made for a Paul de Vaudin.³⁴ Similar errors can be found in the arms which Payne attributed to the Anketill family of Dorset.³⁵ They are not a truncated green saltire on a gold ground but a truncated green saltire on a silver ground, the arms which in fact he attributed to the Labeys. Although Payne states that the arms of the Anquetil family of Saint Clement, Jersey, are three green leaves on a gold ground one cannot escape a nagging suspicion that Payne's human source of information, who reported to his researcher François Guillaume Collas, transposed the arms of Labey and Anquetil and that the latter were plagiarised from their namesakes in Dorset. If we return to the Payne correspondence, we shall find evidence to suggest that Jersey men were not beyond acting on their own initiative and making the necessary enquiries on this matter long before François Guillaume Collas turned up on their doorstep.

In 1819 a member of the Anthoine family of Saint Saviour wrote to the College of Arms in London to enquire about their arms and received a reply which, when misinterpreted by the passage of time, not to mention Payne himself, formed the basis of the myths concerning this family's origins.³⁶ However, it is also possible that the Labeys looked to the other side of the Channel to find their arms. In the *Armorial General* J. B. Rietstap makes the observation that the arms of Labey of Jersey, which he gleaned from Payne, are identical with those of l'abbaye de La Rocque of Normandy and

³⁴ The original Payne correspondence is now in the care of the Lord Coutanche Library.

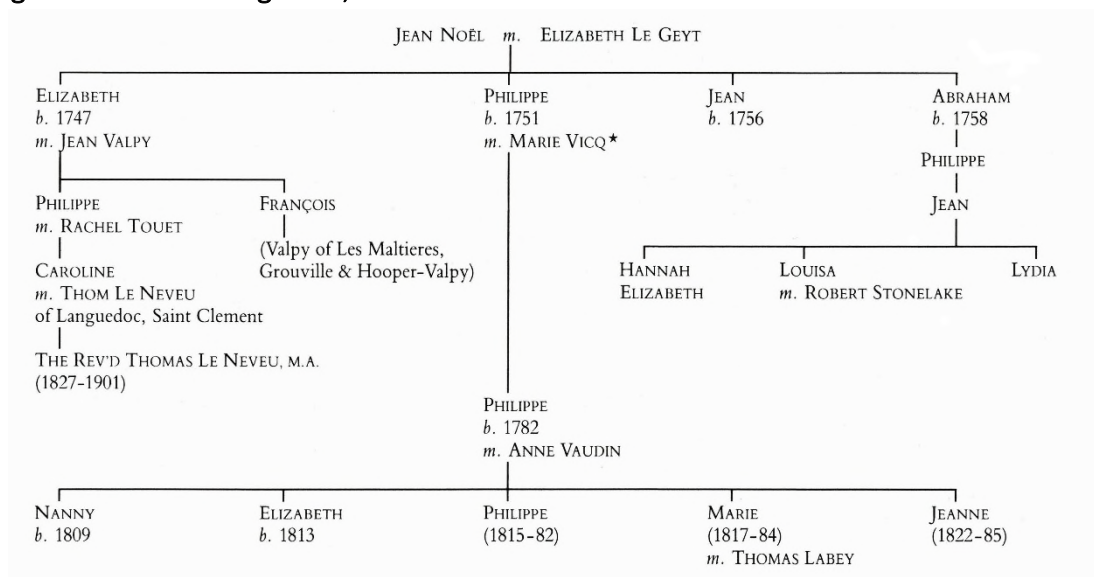
³⁵ *An Armorial of Jersey* etc. pp. 30-32.

Letter to author from Thomas Woodcock, Somerset Herald, the College of Arms, London, 6th November 1991.

³⁶ Letter to J. Bertrand Payne from Nicolas Anthoine of Rouen Cottage, Saint Saviour, 12th December 1856, and copy of letter from G. I. Belsh 29th July 1819, submitted by same. As note 34.

Brittany, an assertion which confuses the matter even further.³⁷ There is thus no clear answer to this historical puzzle, for either theory is perfectly credible.

Pedigree of Noël of L'Aiguillon, Grouville



The assumption of the arms of Falle on the Pixley sepulchre would not only have been a reference to Thomas Labey's great-grandmother Rachel Falle but also to his forebear Elisabeth Falle, wife of Jean Anquetil and daughter of Philippe Falle and Sara Messervy.³⁸ As such Elisabeth was indeed, as Payne averred, aunt to the Very Reverend Philippe Falle, M.A., the distinguished cleric and historian. However, in his *Armorial*, Payne states that his source for the Falle arms is the heraldic bearings of Lieutenant Colonel Philip Fall (1736 c. 1811), Lieutenant-Governor of Jersey in 1787 and said to be "of the same family as the historian." From this one could infer that Philip Falle was of the same family as the Anquetils of Saint Clement were it not for later research which comprises, as it were, the historic small-print of the matter. According to the Reverend J. A. Messervy, Philippe Falle the historian, Philip Falle the Lieutenant-Governor and the Anquetils of Saint Clement all had a common ancestor in one Philippe Falle of Saint Saviour, who was alive in the year 1493. What is more, no evidence has emerged that Falle's arms were ever in use prior to the end of the eighteenth century and, as a result of these facts, one can see that Payne's assertions about the Falle arms were based on extremely tenuous evidence.³⁹

Of all the arms which are shown on the tomb, the only ones which can boast a respectable antiquity are those of the Messervy family which were observed by John Gibbon, Bluemantle Herald, on his visit to Jersey in 1655.⁴⁰ By something of a sharp contrast, however, we can be sure there is no truth in the pompous fable proffered to François Guillaume Collas in explanation of the oak branches encircling the Anquetil arms.⁴¹ The Anketill family of Dorset are known to have born a crest of an

³⁷ *Ibid.* Vol. I, p. 2.

³⁸ *An Armorial of Jersey*, pp. 30-32, footnotes pp. 32-33. Illustration p.127.

Falle de Maufant by the Reverend J. A. Messervy, Bull. Ann. Soc. Jersiaise, 5, 218-229.

³⁹ *Falle de Maufant*, as note 38.

Heraldry in the Channel Islands by Major N. V. L. Rybot.

⁴⁰ *Heraldry in the Channel Islands*, as note 39.

⁴¹ Collas's original note can be found in notebook C 11 pp. 253-254, now in the care of Richard Stevens. This matter was first repudiated by Philip Ahier, B.Sc., in his article *Some Jersey Surnames — And the Traditions &*

oak tree since 1623⁴² and, if their Jersey namesakes did plagiarise these same arms at some stage, this fact may have been mixed with an exaggerated tale of how Jean Anquetil entertained a member of Charles II's retinue to produce the myth we read in Payne.⁴³

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Legends Associated with them, see Scrap Book VIB, p. 6, in the Lord Coutanche Library. He refers to *Le Journal de Jean Chevalier* in the version printed by the Société Jersiaise, p. 774. Mrs Joan Stevens also made a similar observation in *Old Jersey Houses Volume I*, p. 56.

⁴² Letters from Thomas Woodcock to author, as note 35. Mr Woodcock quoted the *Heraldic Visitation of Wiltshire and Dorset* of that year as his authority.

⁴³ *An Armorial of Jersey* etc. as note 35.