

**County Records of the Surnames of Francus, Franceis,
French, in England AD 1100-1350
by A D Weld French, 1896**

ESSEX [pages 120-130]

GENERAL

AD 1194, November 16 - Hauis de Munfirun essoined himself de malo veniendi, by Bartholomeus le Franceis, at an assisa de morte antecessoris versus Ricardus de Munfirun, his brother.

AD 1198, April 12 - Ricardus le Franceis and Matilda, his wife, appeared, on the fourth day, versus Radulphus de Bruele, in a plea of one carucate of land with its appurtenances in A . . . na; but Radulphus neither came nor essoined himself. So it was decided that the land should be taken into the king's hand, and that Radulphus should be summoned to answer at Westminster on Monday next after the feast of Saint George.

Matilda appointed in her place Ricardus, her husband, ad lucrandum vel perdendum.

In the records of the pleas on the twenty-seventh day of October it is found that the pledges of Radulphusetce Binesle for fifteen marks, to be paid to Ricardus Franceis and his wife within two years, were Umfridus Hasteng, who pledged for two marks; Ricardus Wastenell', for two marks; Albinus de Angr', for two marks; Radulphus Dagemer, for one mark; Gilbertus, son of Mauricius de Lamburn, for one mark; Hugo de Inges, for one mark; Willelmus de Bataille, for two marks; Magister Radulphus de Wichering, for two marks; Radulphus filius Salomonis, for one mark; Radulphus de Haldeg', for one mark; Fulco de Berkiges, for one mark. And, on the morrow of Saint Martin, he should have found pledges for the residue.

BARSTABLE HUNDRED

Corringham

AD 1329 - "Indenture of defeasance on a bond from William de Teye to Leonel de Bradenham.

"Miles le **Frenssh**, provided the said William, allows Johane, his intended wife, late wife of Mons. William Band, to devise at her death, or himself devise to her, if she survive him, goods, etc, to the value of 200l, allows her during coverture the profit of the manor of Corringham ' pour sa chambre.' He shall gain the order of knighthood before Pentecost, and endow Katerine, daughter of the said Johane, on marriage, with 100 marks in land or money. Dated at Colchester, on Saturday after the feast of Saint Peter in Cathedra, in the third year of the reign of King Edward III."

Shenfield

Extract of the Fines Patentium, etc, of the Chancery of the twenty-seventh year of the reign of King Edward I (1298-99):

Felicia, who has been wife of Philippus Fraunceys, junior, has shown in the King's Court at York that she recovered her seisin against Thomas de Wokendon and others, of a third part of a messuage, twenty-four acres of land, and 10s rent in Shenefeld, in this county.

BECONTREE HUNDRED

Barking

"AD 1330-36 - Simon de Leyththone, vicar of Westhamme, and Johannes Duk, vicar of Bursted Magna, grant to King Edward III, among many other lands, four acres of arable land in the east marsh of Berkyng, which Johannes le **Frenyshe** and Lucia, his wife, and Johannes, their son, hold for the term of their lives for a yearly rent of 6s. Among the witnesses to this deed is John de Poulteney, mayor of London, who was mayor in the years 1330, 1331, 1333, and 1336."

West Ham

AD 1259, October 14 - Indenture of agreement whereby Robert, son of John de Glindle and Margaret, his wife, daughter and heir of Solomon de Hodleghe, grant to Reginald, son of Herbert de Berghers, the moiety of all the land of which Solomon de Hodleghe died seised in Westhamme, the cost of securing such land to the said Reginald to be entirely defrayed by him or divided between the parties according to the method adopted. Witnesses, Sir Stephen de Penescestre, knight, Ralph and William de Heavere, William Franceys, and others. Dated on the morrow of Saint Edmund the Confessor, in the forty-third year of the reign of King Henry III.

CHELMSFORD HUNDRED

Baddow

In 1198 we find the name of Osbertus Franceis, of Badewe, in the hundred of Chelmesford.

Little Leighs

The parish church of this place was a rectory subject to the archdeaconry of Essex and deanery of Chelmsford. Among its rectors were the following :

1st. Robertas Kere, cl. 5 Kal. Febr. 1333

2d. Johannes **French**

3d. Robertas Beverych, cap. 3 Junii 1387, per mortem **French**

HARLOW HUNDRED

Great Parndon

9 Edward I (1280-81) - Appointment of two justices to take the assize of novel disseisin arraigned by Walter le Fraunceys against Henry Aucher, touching a tenement in Perendon.

Hatfield Broad-oak

Hugh de Vere, Earl of Oxford, was hereditary patron of the priory of this place. Among his tenants was Reginald Arsik, the grantor of the following charter, who held two knights' fees in Selverle (in County Cambridge) of the barony of this Hugh de Vere. In the scutage of King Henry III for the voyage into Gasconne, in the thirty-first year of his reign (1246-47), Reginald Arsik paid for the same into the treasury 4l.

Reginald Arsik to all his men, present and future. Gives to the monks of Hatfeld Regis all tithes of his windmill in Silverley, in the field called Breche, in frankalmoign. Witnesses, Ralph Arsik his brother, William Franceis, Alexander Campiun, Geoffrey the dean, Ralph the clerk Reginald the baker, William Cementarius, Ralph Musca, and many others.

Circa AD 1248 - Ysabella de Brus, daughter of Earl David, for her soul, etc, grants to God and the Church of St Mary, of Haffelde Regis, and the monks there, in frankalmoigne, all the services of Nicholas Bus and his heirs; to wit, in homages, reliefs escheats, rents, suits, tallages, and all customs named and not named, pertaining to her, in which the said Nicholas to the king or to her is bound : to wit, for half a virgate of land with the appurtenances which Alan Bus, father of the said Nicholas, formerly held; and for certain land not hided, namely, that which is called terra filsegot; and for an acre of new purpresture with the appurtenances; and for the fourth part of a virgate of land with the appurtenances, formerly of Stephen le Fraunceis. And also all services and customs which she or her heirs can claim out of the said lands. Witnesses, Dom. John de Gatesdene, Dom. Peter de Tani, Dom. Robert de Beaumis, Dom. Nicholas de Barentone, knights; Peter Marescall, Hugh clerk, then bailiff of Haffelde, Jordan de Westone, and others.

HINCKFORD HUNDRED

Felstead

The manor of **Frenches** of this place was so called from a family of that surname. It was situated on the great common near the windmill, where the court was formerly held, and was afterward called **Frenches** at the Fairy.

15 Edward III (1341-42) - Galfridus le **Frensh** was among the persons taxed in this vill at the inquisitiones nonarum.

Escheat of the forty-third year of the reign of King Edward III, 1369.

Johannes **Frenssh**, chaplain (probably the recorded rector of Little Leighs who died in 1387),

and others (held) for the prior and convent of Lega (Leighs) one hundred and twenty-six acres of land in Felsted, which are seized in the king's hands; but divers lands and tenements in Leghes and Dunmowe remain to the aforesaid Johannes.

Morant states that John **French**, chaplain, and John **French**, clerk, had license in 1369 and 1373 to give land in this parish to the priory of Lees.

LEXDEN HUNDRED

Colchester

9 Edward I (1280-81) - Commissions to Richard le Fraunceis and others of gaol delivery for Colchester.

ROCHFORD HUNDRED

Rayleigh

9 Edward I (1280-81) - Commission to Richard le Fraunceys and three others of gaol delivery for Releigh.

This place is in the archdeaconry of Essex, of the diocese of London, and had among its rectors Gilbert de **Frensh** and Nicholas de Horton, of whom we have the following record :-

Gilbert **de Frenssh** had presentation on the 26th of September, 1353, and was thereupon admitted; for on the 27th of January, 1354, he had license to exchange it for the church of Findon, in the diocese of Chichester, county of Sussex, with Nicholas de Horton.

Trindehay

Circa AD 1199 - The assisa de nova disseisina between Robertus le Franceis and Matilda, his wife, plaintiffs, and Robertus les Hese and Radulphus films Johannis, defendants, touching a free tenement in Trineliee (Trindehay, a manor in the parish of Rawreth), is postponed until the octaves of Holy Trinity for defective recognizance, as some of them came and others neither came nor essoined themselves ; and therefore they were attached to be present on the aforesaid octaves of Holy Trinity.

TENDRING HUNDRED

Ardleigh

AD 1222 - It is found by an inquisition of the manor of Ardleigh, made by Theobaldus, Archdeacon of Essex, that Walterus de Mora, together with the nephew and heir of Hamo, hold half a virgate here, paying 2s 6d to the Church of St Paul's, which land had been held by Robertus Franceis, who held it of Magister Albericus (who was a witness, in 1162, to the agreement about the Church of St Mary Magdalen, London, made between the canons of St Paul's and Bartholomeus films

Galfridi), who held for life of the canons of St Paul's, London.

King Edward III, in the twenty-fourth year of his reign, AD 1350, for 100s grants to Robertus de Teye, Leonellus de Bradenham, and Milo de **Frensh** that they may grant the manor of Ardelegh with its appurtenances, etc; and he grants to Ricardus de Sutton and Anna, his wife, the right to hold the same.

Bradfield

At an inquisition made in the second year of the reign of King Edward I (1273-74) the jurors said that Bradefeld in the hundred of Tendringe was formerly held of the king in capite, and it is now held by a burgess of Herewyc, whose mesne lord is Willelmus Franc; but they do not know the value of the same or by what tenure it is held.

They also said that Willelmus Franc has royal liberties (libertates) in Bradefelde, but they do not know by what warrant.

In the year 1312 Willelmus Franc' the elder, granted all his manor of Bradfield to Johannes de Brokesburne and Johanna, his wife.

THURSTABLE HUNDRED

Langford

In the roll of assizes taken at Stafford in the year 1198 it is found that Eustacius de Langefar' appeared on the fourth day versus Williellmus de Donemow' concerning a free tenement in Langefar', but Williellmus neither came nor essoined himself. Judgment: no day of attendance is given to Eustacius, and Williellmus is in misericordia for his non-attendance. His pledges were Williellmus Francus and Nicholaus Cocus, who are in misericordia. It is found that a Williellmus Francus was amerced half a mark in this year.

WINSTREE HUNDRED

Fingringhoe

AD 1328 - Commission of oyer and terminer to John de Bousser, Benedict de Cokefeld, and John de Dyne, on complaint by William **Frenshe**, of Fyngryngho, that Walter, prior of Westmersey, Robert Lucas, clerk, Robert Grippel, "the Norman", Adam Bacoun, of Westmersey, and others, broke his houses at Fyngryngho, County Essex, and took away nine horses, one mare, four oxen, one bull, twenty cows, thirty bullocks, eighty sheep, and forty swine, worth 100l. Dated at Lincoln, on the 22d of March. Changed because sealed at another time