

only daughter and heiress, Dionysia, became the wife of William de Montchensy, Baron of Swaincamp in Kent, and brought him this estate. His sister Joan was married to William de Valence, Earl of Pembroke, brother by the mother's side to King Henry III. By his wife Dionysia he had a son, William, who died young, and a daughter, Dionysia, married to Hugh de Vere. Hugh died in 1313 without issue, and was buried in the Church of Wakes Colne. His wife departed this life the same year. Adoumer or Aymer de Valence, son of Joan de Montchensy and William de Valence, was her next heir. He held the Manor of Great Braxsted, with the advowson of the church, and 300 acres of arable, of Robert Fitz Walter. Though he had three wives, yet he died without issue (1323). His last wife was Mary de St. Paul, daughter of Guy de Chastillon, Count of St. Paul, kinswoman of Edward III. His widow had the Manor of Redgwell for part of her dower, and lived till 1376, having continued a widow fifty-three years. Of her it was said, she was maid, wife, and widow in one day, her husband being unhappily slain at a tilting match on their wedding day. She founded Pembroke Hall, or Pembroke College, Cambridge. Upon her decease, the estate passed to John de Hastings, Lord Bergavenny and Earl of Pembroke, and to William de Beachamp. Richard, their son, who died 1422, left an only daughter and heir, Elizabeth, who became the wife of Sir Edward Nevill, fourth son of Ralph, Earl of Westmoreland, and in her right was Baron Bergavenny. Aymer de Valence had been much employed as a general in the wars with Scotland, where he captured and put to death Nigel, the brother of Robert Bruce. He was a tall, pale man, nicknamed by Gaveston, from his appearance, "Joseph the Jew." The effigy of this earl, in full armour on his tomb in Westminster Abbey, is very fine, though now some of the figures on the tomb are in a mutilated condition. Guy de Castillon, Count of St. Paul, father of Mary de St. Paul, held the Manor of Taffe Hall in Great Dunmow, of the King in capite, by the service of a pair of gilt spurs, or 6d. per annum, about the year 1263.