



The
WORLDWIDE NEWBURGH FAMILY
MAPPING AND RESEARCH NEWSLETTER

October/November 2020

UP FRONT - A TEMPORARY HIATUS

Due to the fact that I will be extremely busy in the coming months with personal business, this will be the last newsletter for 2020. 😊

NEWS

THE NEW DOMAIN

The
de Novo Burgo Chronicles
Stories of the Norman Beaumont and English Newburgh families

Let me take you back in time.
When knights roamed the English countryside and upheld the King's law.
Then follow their descendants to America where colonists yearned to breathe free.
The Newburgh/Newberry descendants have always been pioneers in their time.

Since the last newsletter the World Wide Newburgh Project (WWNP) pages have been removed from the Internet to solve technical issues. A temporary platform was established to dispatch the last newsletter while setting up a new and **private** domain. It took several weeks to straighten out some glitches, but it is now live and functional. The new domain is:

deNovoBurgoChronicles.com

In order to secure the site I established password protection. The current, case sensitive password is **Dorset History**. It will be changed from time to time to maintain security. You will be informed by email when this occurs. If you have trouble logging in during a password transition period, just email me at gold sage@aol.com and I will send the new password. I was hoping to allow each member to set their own, but the hosting service doesn't have that option. If you encounter other access problems, please let me know.

If you know of folks who would be interested in reading the quarterly newsletter, share the link, but let them know they must be registered to be granted access. A link to the registration form has been established on the home page.

The new domain is a simpler design. You will find newsletters from various years. Eventually other articles of interest will be added. As a mailing list member you will be notified when new information is available. Thanks for your support.

PUBLICATION ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Lost Legacy of St Andrew's Church and Medieval Lulworth is still being peer reviewed. COVID 19 has slowed everything down. Hopefully, it will be available in the first part of 2021. 🙄

RESEARCH

EXPLORING WORCESTERSHIRE, UK Newborough and Clarke Families

The Newborough family discussed next was descended from the Berkeley clan of Thomas Newburgh son of John Newburgh Esq. The following information may possibly relate to the Newberry and Clarke families of New England. Mary Newberry daughter of Thomas Newberry who died in Dorchester, MA in 1634, was married to a man named Daniel Clarke. For those of you who are related to the Newberrys of Windsor CT through the Clarkes, it might be important to look at Worcester, UK if you haven't already done so.

In *Somerset Notes and Queries* the following excerpt was written in 1880.

“Benjamin Newberry: Daniel Clarke (6th S. ii. 128, 148) There is a pedigree for a Newborough family in the [Visitation of Somersetshire](#), 1623 (Harl. Soc. p. 78) But both these names occur in the parish registers of Oldawinford, Worcestershire. Benjamin, the son of Jasper Newborough was baptized there in 1619. He married in 1643, Joice Hickman and had issue. The name occurs frequently, the favourite baptismal names being Jasper and Joshua. In January, 1668-9 Samuel Clarke and Margery Newbrough were married by License, and in 1707 Mr. Daniel Clarke was buried. Of this Clarke family there is a pedigree in [Dr. Prattinton's MSS in the library of the Society of Antiquaries](#). The name Daniel was borne by several of them. H. S. G.

([Somerset or Dorset Notes and Queries](#), Vol. S6 No. 36, 1880 Sept-4 p. 195.)

GUILDS and FRATERNITIES

Documents at the TNA reveal that the Newburghs were part of the [Guild of the Holy Cross](#) at Stratford on Avon. The history of the guild is absolutely fascinating. It was an important cog in medieval life for those who supported the organization. The TNA document ([BRT1/3/215a+b](#)) suggests the family was involved as members of the Guild c. 1480, which is not too surprising given their ecclesiastical affiliations from the time of William the Conqueror.

John Newburgh Esq.'s will (d. 1484) also mentions the Fraternity of St. Christopher. Religious guilds or fraternities were established in England by the second half of the fourteenth century, ranging from small parochial associations in town and country, to those that played important roles in their home cities. They were distinct from craft guilds, (i.e. Westminster Staple¹) in which the Dorset Newburghs also participated.

“Religious fraternities were mostly lay organisations, giving their members the opportunity of holding funds and initiating acts of welfare and charity on a small scale; or in the case of the largest guilds, an influential level. Above all they provided their members with a suitable funeral and the guarantee of perpetual masses and prayers for the soul. This custom reflected the late medieval belief in the doctrine of Purgatory. They also offered a social life to their members and assisted in local infrastructure.”
(White, Eileen, *The St. Christopher and St. George Guild of York Borthwick Papers* No. 72)

Henry Newburgh and his Beaumont ancestors established many ecclesiastical foundations and abbeys.* Additionally, in the twelfth century the Newburghs supported the Knights Templar. Henry Newburgh's wife **MARGARET de PERCHE**, dau. of Geoffrey de Perche, Earl of Mortagne, (Mortain), was benefactress in 1156 to the **Knights Templar aka Order of Templars** and the **Canons Kenilworth**. [[Dictionary of the National Biography](#), 317] In the Chapter-House of St. Stephen, Normandy, her support was attested by Rotrode, Bishop of Everux (her son) and Henry de Novo Burgo (her son), Robert de Novo Burgo (her son) and Senechal of Normandy, Geoffrey de Novo Burgo (her son); Roger Beaumont, a Chaplain, and Waleran, Comte of Mellent who were her late husband's nephews. [[Eyton](#), 21]

Henry Newburgh may have been a Templar or merely a supporter. Nonetheless, in a medieval psalter, he was depicted with a beard, while other subjects in the same painting were clean shaven. According to historians, Templars were required to maintain a beard. It served as a method of identification for the order. (Holy Blood Holy Grail, by Baigent, Leigh and Lincoln.)

* Henry Newburgh was originally named Henry Beaumont. He took the Newburgh surname when he was belted as the 1st Earl of Warwick.

¹ Westminster Staple was a wool merchant's guild in London. See Nightingale, Pamela; *Knights and Merchants: Trade, Politics and the Gentry in Late Medieval England*. Journal of PAST AND PRESENT, Oxford University Press, VOL. 169, p. 36-62, 2000.

PANDEMIC CLOSURES LIFTED

The British National Archives (TNA) and other UK repositories are finally emerging from their virus shutdowns. I have begun ordering new documents from the TNA. In most cases, considering their backlog, the wait to get these precious pieces of history is still four to six weeks or longer. However, this may only be a lull in the virus closures, as it looks like the virus is apt to make a resurgence and closures will be re-instated. Heaving a disappointed sigh. . .



Happily however . . .

One document I was keen to see has been ordered and should come in the near future, as long as the archives don't clamp down tight again. This document will (hopefully) help determine the descendants of John Newburgh Jr. (the Yorkist) who was denied his primogeniture in 1471. Perhaps it will add pieces to the complicated puzzle of his descendants.

Finally . . .

Due to pandemic delays, this newsletter is shorter, but I have supplemented it with an article about the notorious baron Nicholas Poyntz, ancestor to the Newburghs. Poyntz was John Newburgh's (d. 1381) raucous father-in-law. John and his brother Gilbert Newburgh were married to Poyntz sisters Margaret and Avice. Read on. 😊

FEATURE ARTICLE

Outlawry and Abeyance Sir Nicholas Poyntz of Gloucester

By Sue Simonich, B. A., Art History, University of Utah 1975

Baronies in feudal England were held by a privileged few at the pleasure of the reigning king. Some baronies were lost due to a deceased feudal tenant having no issue, but occasionally it was due to punishment for criminal behavior. Such was the case with Sir Nicholas Poyntz of Tockington, Gloucester, who found himself disgraced after King Edward III withdrew his feudal tenure and noble title. His attainting was remembered by his descendants for more than a century.

Sir John Newburgh of Dorset (d. 1381), descendant of Henry Newburgh 1st Earl of Warwick, married Sir Nicholas' daughter Margaret, and should have become head of the Poyntz barony upon Sir Nicholas' death c. 1376. Margaret's dowry brought considerable lands to the Newburgh's demesne, but Sir John's rise to the barony failed due to Poyntz's egregious outlawry. Poyntz's treachery was felt by Sir Thomas Newburgh's widow Hawisa when Poyntz illegally acquired Winfrith in fee from her in 1365. His ignoble intentions against others were evident long before he preyed on the Winfrith Newburghs. Hawisa was cleverly able to recover Winfrith for her grandson, John Newburgh, whose mother was

Margaret Poyntz Newburgh.²

“Hawisia de Newburgh, que fuit uxor Thome Newburgh, tenuit die obitus manerium de Wynfred, in comitatu Dorsetie, et Johannes filius Johannis filii dictorum Thome et Matilde, est consanguineus et proxime heres, 5 Richardi II” [Risdon, 316]

As co-heiresses, Margaret and her sister Amica Poyntz, married into the Newburgh family and bore sons. Amica Poyntz, her husband Gilbert Newburgh and their son (name unknown) died, leaving Margaret and John Newburgh as heirs to the Poyntz barony. Possession of the baronial title and lands were never realized. Sir John Newburgh died during the Peasant’s War, and Margaret’s son John became the only surviving grandson of Nicholas Poyntz. Due to his grandfather’s outlawry the barony was essentially lost, but memory of the barony continued in the family for several generations, prompting the Newburgh’s into litigation to rescue several key manors.

EARLY DAYS - WICKED AND UNWISE

Chronicled in 14th century Patent Rolls thirty years before, Sir Nicholas and his retainers were charged with serious crimes of outlawry, theft, extortion and murder.

“1351 Nov. 10, Westminster. Commission of oyer and terminer to Richard de Wilughby, Robert Martyn, William de Notton and William de fifhide, on complaint by many that NICHOLAS DE POYNTZ, ‘chevalier,’ and very many others, outlaws, and others armed, at fairs, markets and other places in the county of Dorset, assault, kill or plunder men, taking and detaining persons against their will until they make ransoms, come to houses and other places and carry away by force cattle and goods and have their will of them, threatening those who would sue them for these trespasses in the king’s courts with loss of life or limbs, and further protesting in the full hundred court of the county, that, if any of those parts presume to sue any plaint against the same Nicholas or any other of the malefactors aforesaid, they would beat him in such sort that he would sue no more plea thenceforward, whereby the men of the county dare not sue against them, and that they are not vagabonds doing many other conspiracies, confederacies, and oppressions and excesses.”
By K. & C.”³

These depredations were reported from 1351-53. Escalating his felonious actions, Poyntz attacked the abbey at Abbotsbury. King Edward III finally stepped in, but curiously pardoned Sir Nicholas. As if rapping a child’s wrists for a minor infraction, the court declared:

*“ . . . By the tenour of the indictments sent before the king in the chancery by his order . . . the king [is] willing to do the said Nicholas special grace in this behalf has pardoned him the suit of the peace and whatever pertains to the king for the said felonies and trespasses, and any consequent outlawries.”*⁴

² At the time of Hawisa’s son’s death (Sir John Newburgh d. 1381) Margaret remarried William Payne in her third marriage and resided at Lulworth St. Andrew, producing a son (William) who complicated Newburgh possession of Lulworth until 1429.

³ Calendar of the Patent Rolls – preserved in the Public record Office, Vol. 24. p. 203-206.

⁴ Calendar of the Patent Rolls – preserved in the Public record Office, Vol. 24. p. 264.

In exchange of military service in Brittany, Edward III forgave the serious charges against Poyntz. Shortly thereafter the monarch's mild-mannered stance turned to iron-fisted rage when he discovered Poyntz had withdrawn from his promised service and had clandestinely returned to England to resume his vicious predations. Only then did Edward react. Attainting Poyntz he ordered a "revocation of protection with *clause volumus*" casting the barony into the abeyance.⁵ It is unclear if the barony fell into its indeterminate state as a condition of the pardon, or if it occurred after Sir Nicholas secretly stole back into England.

The last report of Sir Nicholas' conduct was recorded in September of 1353, when he and his band of marauders "ravished" Eva de Whitefeld, abducting her along with her husband's goods. Eva was the wife of Sir John de Whitefeld 'chivaler.'⁶ The code of a chivaler obliged members of the knightly class to protect the king, stand with integrity and honor, and afford special consideration to women and children. Above all, knights were obliged to protect one another and their respective families. Apparently their credo was derided and manipulated by Sir Nicholas and his brigand cohorts.

LIKE FATHER, LIKE SON

Sir Nicholas' second wife, Matilda de Acton bore him a son called John, who propelled the Poyntz name forward in history at Iron Acton, Gloucester.⁷ John Poyntz received none of his father's legacy acquiring Iron Acton through his mother's inheritance. Whether young John was in league with his father is not precisely known, but evidence suggests he participated in similar mayhem. Like his father, damning entries of his outlawry were written into the patent rolls.

While Nicholas was pillaging across the countryside, John was reportedly running amok with another group of outlaws, including his kinsman, John de Acton 'chivaler.' Following the designs of his father, his gang of reprobate gentry perpetrated chaos upon unprotected villages and manors.

"12 October 1351, Edmund Blount of Button charged that John de Acton, 'chivaler,' John Pointz, 'chivaler,' Richard atte Wode, Thomas de Byselegh and others, broke his close and houses at

⁵ Calendar of the Patent Rolls – preserved in the Public record Office, Vol. 24. p. 498. The word "attainder" is a term used in English common law. Condemned for a serious crime, the criminal could be declared "attainted," meaning his civil rights were nullified. As a consequence, all property and peerage titles were revoked, reverting to the Crown or his/her agents, thus dissolving all feudal chain of privilege for the noble and his heirs. ⁵ Reeves, John, *History of the English law: from the time of the Saxons to the End of the Reign of Phillip and Mary*, London, 1814, Vol. 3. p. 115-116. *Clause volumus* was usually obtained by persons going (or pretending to go) out of the kingdom in the suite of some great man, on the king's service; and it was under the great seal. Two laws were made to correct the abuse of protections; a species of privilege which created great obstacles to the course of justice. The *clause of Volumnus*, was usually accompanied with the clause of *Quia profecturus*, simply alleging that the party was going abroad; so other protections had in them a clause *quai moraturus*, signifying that he was to reside abroad.

⁶ Calendar of the Patent Rolls – preserved in the Public record Office, Vol. 24. p. 517.

⁷ Sir Nicholas' first wife was the mother of Margaret and Amica. She was Alianora Erleigh, daughter of Sir John Erleigh.

*Mangoddesfelde, co. Gloucester, felled his trees and fished in his stewes there, and carried away fish and the trees, with other of his goods.*⁸ By K.”

The patent rolls suggest his activities were fewer and less onerous. Perhaps influential relationships saved young John from the wrath of the king, thus rescuing his reputation and legacy.

Early historians were unable to establish a solid date of death for the elder Poyntz. However, Sir Nicholas and his stronghold at Tockington Manor, Gloucester are mentioned in a document catalogued by the British Archives stating he had become “penurious” before 1355.⁹ After having the baronial rug snatched from beneath his feet, he likely became a pauper when his feudal tenure and title were withdrawn.

A British Archive’s abstract noted that “[Thomas Lord Berkeley III](#) purchased Tockington in 1355 from Piers Chilworth who was holding it for the repayment of Poyntz’s debts.”¹⁰ Accordingly, it states Sir Nicholas Poyntz was impoverished and deep in debt, but lived another twenty-one years in relative obscurity, dying in 1376.¹¹ The abstract does not mention the reasons for his indebtedness, but his attainder was likely the cause. Neither a will nor an *inquisition post mortem* exists for Nicholas Poyntz. Criminals were generally denied the opportunity of passing a legacy to their heirs. Historians fail to mention the final outcome.¹² Poyntz and Lord Berkeley shared Zouche connections, so perhaps as kinsmen, Berkeley acquired Tockington and extended to a conditional reprieve to Poyntz. Not much is known about Sir Nicholas’ life after this period. The enduring part of this story notes that the Poyntz family was plagued for decades by his renegade reputation resulting in continued trouble for their own standing.

Poyntz lands became an important focus to the Newburgh family, and were the subject of various suits - as follows.

LAND RIGHTS AND THE NEWBURGHES

Though the baronial title passed into oblivion; history shows the Newburghs pressed the courts to regain and maintain control of some of the early Poyntz holdings. Particular focus was given to Sutton Poyntz in Dorset, the Manor of Roklegh in Wilts, and Lullingstone Castle/Manor in Kent. It seems the Newburghs never forgot their lost connection to the barony.

Over a one hundred year period, the Newburghs eventually re-acquired some of the more

⁸ Calendar of the Patent Rolls – preserved in the Public record Office, Vol. 24. p. 166.

⁹ Banks, Thomas Christopher, [Baronia Anglica Concentrata](#); Vol. 1, 373-74, Poyntz pedigree, some is inaccurate with regard to the Newburgh family.

¹⁰ Lord Berkeley was the heir to his father Maurice who died in 1326. In 1327, King Edward II was murdered at Lord Thomas’ Berkeley Castle. Edward’s queen, Isabella, turned against him, taking Roger Mortimer as her lover. Together they invaded England where Mortimer became the de facto king of England until he was beheaded by his adversaries in 1330.

¹¹ British Archives, TOCKINGTON (GLOS.) **BCM/A/2/45** [n.d.] (location Berkeley Castle Muniments)

¹² Doyle, James Edmund, [The Official Baronage of England: Showing the Successions](#), Vol. 1, 1886, p. 170. Thomas Lord Berkeley pedigree info.

significant Poyntz lands. At times there were struggles to maintain control over noteworthy manors. Their acquisition and continued possession was accomplished through attorneys and court appeals, rather than a re-establishment of the barony and customary primogeniture.

Historians agree the Newburghs were respected descendants of Nicholas Poyntz. Sir John Tiptoft the elder, mentions the Poyntz barony, the heiresses and their Newburgh spouses in his *Inquisition Post Mortem*.¹³

The ancient Poyntz property known as Sutton Poyntz in Dorset was in a constant state of flux from 1337 until 1478.¹⁴ The Dorset Natural History and Archaeological Society published a comprehensive survey of Sutton Poyntz history.¹⁵ The property was litigated often, but remained a part of the Newburgh demesne until the early 17th century.¹⁶ Dorset lands were not the only real estate for which the Newburghs' and their cadre of attorneys went to court. One of the most fascinating cases involved Lullingstone Castle near Shoreham, Kent.

KING EDWARD'S KIND REGARD FOR JOHN NEWBURGH, JR. c. 1461-1483

Over a century after the reign of Edward III who attained Poyntz, it was Edward IV who seemed to hold admirable regard for the eldest son of John Newburgh Esquire (d. 1484) great grandson of Sir Nicholas. The king assisted his loyal subject John Newburgh Jr. with reclamation of several Poyntz properties commencing in 1472.¹⁷ Edward IV held a firm and documented commitment to John Newburgh Jr. who had become a Yorkist, forsaking the Lancastrian loyalties of his father and family.¹⁸

It appears the king may have been protecting John Jr.'s reputation from his father the Esquire after the beheading of his step-brother William Newburgh on the battlefield at Tewkesbury. After the battle the king called several Lancastrians out of the abbey where they sought sanctuary. Promising forgiveness, his mercy was brief and swiftly retracted. To the horror of the abbey clergy Edward ordered the execution of William and other well-known Lancastrians. They were buried on the battlefield.

Later, King Edward pardoned John Jr.'s father the Esquire, a life-long Lancastrian, singling him out to avoid the attainders that touched many of his Lancastrian associates. Extant documents specifically raised him for protection by name above the rest.¹⁹ It appears John Jr. was responsible for his father's absolution by the king.

¹³ [Mapping the Medieval Countryside](#), *Inquisitions Post Mortem* 31 Jan 1443

¹⁴ Dorset PRO

¹⁵ Egerton, William, Proceeding of the Dorset Natural History and Archaeological Society Vol. 135, 2014, "How the Newburghs of Lulworth came to own Sutton Poyntz." Hon. Editor, Paul Lashmar. Internet.

¹⁶ Original documents from Dorset PRO, translated by Sally Thomson, acquired via digital photographs by Roger Hills - in the files of the author.

¹⁷ The British Archives, CP40/720 mil20; KB8/847 m8. These two documents hold not only Poyntz and Newburgh pedigrees submitted as evidence in the King's Chancery Court, but a 15th century descendant, gives details of feudal tenure of the lands.

¹⁸ More details on the relationship with the king can be found in Sue Simonich's article, *Primogeniture Derailed*.

¹⁹ [\(D/WLC/F3\)](#)

During Edward's reign, John Jr. became the lord of several properties previously owned by his father and other Lancastrians, some of whom died by Edward's hand. In swift retaliation the Esquire removed his eldest son John Jr.'s primogeniture to Lulworth via charters beginning in September of 1471. In so doing he established his grandsons, (sons of William) as his heirs.²⁰ This was the beginning of the end for the Newburghs at Lulworth.

LULLINGSTONE CASTLE

Another former Poyntz holding was acquired by John Jr. following Edward IV's restoration to the throne. The king presided over this case ruling in favor of his friend's re-acquisition of Lullingstone Castle on 10 December 1472.²¹

The first court hearing instigated by Newburgh for Lullingstone commenced prior to Edward's readeption to the throne. Thinking his strategy might be more successful if he waited, Newburgh retreated until Edward returned to England.

While the king was in Flanders awaiting his chance to resume control of the throne, John Jr. had been in Wales as keeper of the artillery at Caernarvon Castle until about February of 1471. By March Edward had gathered enough support to invade England and retake his position as king. The 1472 chancery case held at Westminster suggests Newburgh was looking to acquire the Poyntz properties for his own bailiwick, some distance from his Dorset family. There are a number of documents in The British Archives telling the full story of this period.

Ironically, before Edward's reign was over, John's father, the Esquire managed c. 1481 to arrange for Lullingstone to revert to William Newburgh's son also named John Newburgh 'the younger.' Gaining control, 'the younger' re-established Robert and Margaret Poyntz to their ancestor's former castle. They acknowledged, remised and quitclaimed the manor to be the right of John 'the younger,' and his heirs forever.²² It is believed, 'the younger's' descendants held ownership until it was sold to the Polhill family in the late sixteenth century.

²⁰ The charters are mentioned in the IPM of the Esquire's grandson, John Newburgh senior, who died a few months after his grandfather.

²¹ CP40/720 m 20, CP25/1/116, CP25/1/117/337, number 184, CP25/1/117/340

²² CP 25/1/117/340, number 268.



Site of former Lullingstone Castle.
Photo from [The Hop Shop](#)

About 1710, Lullingstone Castle lost its original title. In an official title transfer, the Hart-Dyke family petitioned Queen Anne for permission to rename Cockburst Manor, as Lullingstone Castle. It holds that title today. The transference of title resulted in the original castle assuming the modest name of Shoreham Castle, for its geographic location.

Later, the barren field where the old castle once stood became known as Castle Farm which today is a thriving [lavender farm](#). Remnants of the castle were used to build the existing farm house. Evidence of a moat survives. The castle was held by the Newburgh family from 1435 until 1575.²³ Because of their unwavering persistence, many of the lands comprising the Poyntz barony were held by his descendants long past Nicholas Poyntz's attainder and death. His name lives on as an important part of the Newburgh legacy.

~ Sue Simonich is a freelance historian in the United States. Copyrighted © 2020.

Best wishes and Happy Fall & Winter Holidays . . . see you next year!

Sue

²³ The British Archives, CP40/720 mil20 translated by Sally Thomson. Gatehouse Gazetteer [Le Castile](#).