

The Charter Book of Raoul de Camprout:  
A Study of MS D47 at the Kenneth Spencer Research Library  
Department of Special Collections at the University of Kansas

by

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*For my mother and father  
With all my love and respect*

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## Introduction

MS D47 is a small bound volume of copies of legal charters which the Kenneth Spencer Research Library Department of Special Collections acquired in 1960. It contains fifty-five vellum folia, lined in light ink or lead. The volume measures approximately twenty-three centimeters in height and sixteen centimeters in width. The folia, bound in gatherings of four, show only one set of stitching. This indicates that these are the original gatherings. Two loose folia seem to have come detached from the first gathering, since it only contains two folia. Despite water damage, the text is legible throughout. Although the back cover of the volume is present, there is no front cover, and the bindings are cut, indicating that these folia were cut off from a larger volume. All these details indicate that the volume was copied at one time, in its current order of folia.

The volume contains thirty-nine copies of charters, originally dated between 1268 and 1544 and recording property acquisitions, marriage settlements, and other financial arrangements of the Campront family of the Cotentin peninsula of Normandy.

The documents are in French, and the copyist used extensive abbreviation. It seems likely that the copying was done all at once, in a clear and easily readable hand.<sup>1</sup>

Many of the documents begin with decorative initials, and on some folia the first or last line contains colored, decorated ascenders and descenders.

A large number of the copied documents date from 1438. Therefore, the copying had to occur no earlier than this year. The last document, in a much later hand, is dated 1544, and was probably copied into the volume. In fact, the first hand seems to date from before 1500.

The importance of this volume lies in the content of the documents themselves. Far from being a random assortment of contracts, the volume contains several "sets" of documents which detail transactions over a period of decades. Also included are resolutions and confirmations of previous agreements. Finally, a number of the documents seem to confirm the noble status and holdings of the family at an early date.

It will be seen that the contents of MS D47 reflect an effort in 1438 by Raoul de Campront, seigneur of Lorey and Campront, to "set his affairs in order" with the goal of arranging for the inheritance of his son to the family claims. This purpose is rendered clearer when coupled with the fact that Jehan de Campront was recognized

in 1463 by the *recherche* originated by the king into the nobility.<sup>2</sup> In addition, the composition of the cartulary suggests at the complexity of the economic and social systems under which Raoul was functioning. The rather intricate nature of many of the arrangements suggests that Raoul was attempting to record the settlements he reached in order to avoid possible conflicts, largely stemming from the uncertain political times.

This limitation means that the documents cannot be used to "reconstruct" the family history of the Campronts, or even to examine patterns of land-holding over the years in question. While it will be seen that several patterns of inheritance and tenure appear to be at work, the entire system cannot fully be determined. The selective nature of the collection, as well the restrictions of seigneurial documents as a whole, preclude their use for any comprehensive study of either the family or its dealings.<sup>3</sup> In addition, the documents offer only limited prosopographical information about the family and its tenants and neighbors. The Campronts and the other noble families with whom they dealt were part of the "petite noblesse" of the Cotentin peninsula. Although some information about their importance and achievements is located in the United States, an extensive search of archival sources in Normandy would be necessary to develop a complete "genealogy" of the families. Unfortunately, the only information the charters give is that which bears upon the agreements at hand. Only by deduction, and then only rarely, can the dates of important events be determined.

A few sources offer general information about these families. The most important of these is the published record of the feudal acknowledgments of many of the Cotentin nobles during the fourteenth century.<sup>4</sup> Here, not only familiar families, but specific individuals acting in the Campront cartulary are seen confirming feudal obligations. This provides verification of their identities, as well as additional information about the type and manner of seigneurial dealings in the region. Unfortunately, no equivalent source exists for the fifteenth century. While the *aveux* provide often complete transcriptions of feudal documents, another type of source, although far from scholarly, allows some degree of biographical examination. These are the "dictionaries of biography" of the French nobility.<sup>5</sup> Occasional references will be made to these other sources in the examination of the documents, since they complement the information to be found in the charters themselves.

The patrimony and status of the Campront family do not entirely explain the circumstances of the redaction of the cartulary. The historical context of the composition of the volume merits a brief survey. The most significant feature in the political landscape of the middle years of the fifteenth century in Normandy was its occupation by English forces. While scholars are by no means agreed as to the effects of the warfare and occupation of the period, several important points need to be examined. It is undeniable that the war affected the seigneurial classes of Normandy, and during the English occupation, life must have been disrupted to some degree. A

detailed history of the war and the occupation is neither necessary nor helpful to understand the documents, but a few points merit emphasis.<sup>6</sup> While it has been asserted that the Cotentin peninsula was peaceful compared to other regions,<sup>7</sup> widespread lawlessness and political upheaval in the area have been well documented. Patriotism may have led some historians to exaggerate the popular disapproval of the English, and consequently the rebellion against them,<sup>8</sup> but an occupation of several decades, after such a long war, seems unlikely to have left the populace and their property untouched. Although the documents themselves offer no mention of the disturbances of the war, and the homage agreements are silent on military obligations compared to other contracts of the period,<sup>9</sup> the situation certainly must have preoccupied Raoul de Campront as he arranged his affairs for his son.

In addition, a more widespread economic trend may have affected the distribution of the properties and the strategies of the Campront family. The famous "crisis of seigneurial revenues" cannot be examined in isolation from the war, especially in Normandy. However, historians of the economy have made notable attempts to prove and explain the widespread loss of seigneurial revenues during the late Middle Ages. The "crisis" has most often been explained by the combination of war, climate, and other factors. Peasant uprisings and population decline from epidemics and violence complete the standard analysis.<sup>10</sup> Yet continued study has suggested that although the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries may indeed have experienced a "crisis," the period

did not see a "regression."<sup>11</sup> It is argued that many of the difficulties were present before the population decline brought on by the Black Death.<sup>12</sup> Perhaps the most helpful analysis has been offered by Guy Bois, who emphasizes that the period was not simply a "parenthesis" between the decaying middle ages and the birth of the modern era.<sup>13</sup> He stresses that no single factor can account for the economic changes characteristic of the late Middle Ages, and calls for further study based on a combination of history and economic science.<sup>14</sup> Phillippe Contamine concludes that, despite general agreement about the "economic and demographic difficulties" of the period, "The total diagnosis calls for a certain amount of precision and nuance."<sup>15</sup>

Whatever the causes of the decline in seigneurial revenues may have been, most historians seem to agree that the fifteenth century saw a marked change in the economic status of French landowners, particularly in Normandy. Philippe Contamine asserts that seigneurial revenues "melted away" while expenses increased, forcing landowners further into debt.<sup>16</sup> Another often-cited factor in the decline was the population decline which left lands uncultivated and compelled landowners to lower rents in order to collect anything at all from those of their properties that were still being cultivated.<sup>17</sup> On the whole, while admitting that the causes of the decline both on the regional and international scale are open to debate, it seems safe to agree with the assertion that through the first half of the fifteenth century, seigneurial revenues from land declined.<sup>18</sup>

This brief discussion of the economic status of Norman landowners faced with the effects of the English occupation can be complemented with a comment on the geographic area of the Campronts' holdings. The documents give such precise descriptions of the land which is being exchanged that the properties can be located. Their distribution suggests several points. The Campront family, probably stemming from the small community of Campront roughly eight kilometers northwest of Coutances, was active in an area containing communities and villages in a thirty kilometer radius from Lorey, where they were established. Administrative and judicial matters sometimes drew them much further away, once as far as Rouen, but for the most part, their landholdings, and those of the neighbors and tenants with whom they dealt, were located in a very small area around the centers of Coutances and St. Lô. The geography of this area, although more difficult to discern, also reveals something about the holdings of the family. The lands in their immediate vicinity were clear and level, but to the south lay a heavily forested region. In fact, pockets of forest are found throughout most of the peninsula, and, like all medieval landlords, the Campronts were acutely conscious of the importance of the woodlands. Rivers and other waterways also figure largely in their negotiations.

Although the documents must speak for themselves, a few basic aspects of the administrative and legal structure in which they were composed should be underscored. The documents themselves are copies of documents, and in a few cases,

copies of copies. This raises the problem of possible clerical errors or omissions in copying, and indeed there seem to be a few examples of this. For the most part, however, the copyist seems to have understood the need for accuracy and taken every step to ensure that the agreements in question would be accepted as valid. With the exception of the earliest charters, all were given before a sworn notary. This ensured that the notary himself had a record of the transaction should any question of authenticity arise in the future. The documents were sealed with the seal of the vicomte of the seat where the document was presented, and authenticated by the official entitled the *garde des sceaux des obligations de la vicomté*.<sup>19</sup> They followed a standard pattern, including a salutation, a statement of agreement, guarantees and confirmations, names of witnesses, the date, and the notice of the affixing of the seal. While individual variations did occur, the similarity of the documents simplifies the analysis to a great degree.

These introductory remarks are meant only to provide a bare outline of the situation in which Raoul de Campront probably found himself around the year 1438. The wealth and abundance of the research being done on so many aspects of this period can only be hinted at. For the sake of clarity and brevity, many different studies have been omitted. The landscape will hopefully become clearer as the documents are analyzed, as will doubtless be the case with the notarial conventions under which they were written down. Therefore, let us pass on to an examination of Raoul de

Campront's proprietorial strategies themselves, hoping to form a picture of how one particular Norman family dealt with the so-called "century of calamities."<sup>20</sup>

## Chapter One

### Land Transactions

The study of the consolidation of the Campront properties should begin with the land transfers undertaken by Raoul de Campront in February, June, October, and December of 1438. Five of these documents, numbers thirty through thirty-four, were dated on the same day, 3 February 1438, and another two, thirty-six and thirty-seven, on another day, 8 October 1438, indicating the comprehensive nature of Raoul's plan. Several of the charters deal with neighboring properties, and the men who serve as witnesses on one document appear as actors in another. It is clear that Raoul was attempting to concentrate his holdings, while eliminating those which were no longer desirable. In addition, he appears to have made a substantial profit in the process.

Seven documents, all mentioning specific lands, with five principal participants were witnessed during February of 1438. The detail given in describing the property transactions makes understanding them much easier. The series can be divided into those documents dealing with land in three parishes: Buille, St. Ebremond de Bon Fosse, and Lorey. This is in itself significant, since the extent of the area, with about a twelve kilometer radius, demonstrates the extent of Campront ownership and

influence, both in land and jurisdiction. In fact, what seems to be occurring is that Raoul is surrendering possession of land in Buille and acquiring land in St. Ebremond and the fief of la Crassière in the parish of Lorey. While it would be ill-advised to assume too much from scanty documentation, the pattern hints at "entrenchment" on the part of the Campronts. In addition, Raoul is attempting to acquire some very specific types of land.

In the first document in this series,<sup>21</sup> number thirty-two, dated 3 February 1438, Raoul de Campront establishes Guillaume Vallet as the tenant on a piece of land containing about eight acres.<sup>22</sup> It is important to note that in this document, as in all the land transfers to be discussed, Raoul is explicitly identified as seigneur of Lorey and Campront, and holder of the fief of Malherbiere for his son Jehan de Campront. Therefore, the payments due from Vallet are to be paid to Raoul until the majority of his son, indicating that Jehan is a minor, and that Raoul is attempting to secure his inheritance, in this case, of the payments agreed upon by Vallet and his father.

The tract was bordered by the woods of the seigneur of Torigny on one side and the *lande* of Pierre Tillart and Colin Bile's widow on the other. The land abuts the woods on one end, and the Cherissy l'Abbaye road on the other. The *rente* for this land, eighteen *deniers* per *verger*<sup>23</sup>, is given only to set a price and is followed with the statement that should the land contain more than eight acres, Vallet will pay a

proportionate amount. This amounts to a total of two *livres* eight *sous* per year.<sup>24</sup>

Finally, it is stated that Vallet will pay eight *sous* per year for the next three years, despite the above settlement.

The uncertainty as to the exact area of the land, coupled with its geographic distance from Lorey, indicates that the Campronts probably have not made use of it. It is tempting to argue that the land may have been ravaged by war or left in disuse due to economic circumstances, but this remains only a hypothesis. In any case, Raoul settles Vallet on the land, which indicates that Raoul has ownership of the land, but needs someone to farm it, apparently so that he can receive the to which he would be entitled as seigneur. The eight *sous* price, if indeed it was intended to be paid instead of the eighteen *deniers*, would indicate that Raoul was willing to accept a token payment for the time until Vallet will have had improved the land enough to be able to pay the full sum.<sup>25</sup> It may also have served as a recognition of Raoul's ownership over the land. In any case, it is obvious that Raoul did not value this piece of land very highly, and indeed seemed more concerned with securing his son's rights to the *rente* Vallet would eventually be paying.

This is also the case with the other piece of land in Buille, detailed in document thirty-three, also dated 3 February 1438. Here Raoul transferred a tract of about two acres to Jehan Phelippe. Again the price was eighteen *deniers* per *verger*, which

strengthens the assertion that this is a standard yearly price for arable land. For this tract, the total comes to twelve *sous* per year. This piece of land is also bordered by the seigneur of Torigny's woods and those of Pierre Tillart<sup>26</sup>, and abuts the Dromme river and the property of Monsieur Jehan Auvrey.<sup>27</sup> Again, the provision is made for a proportional *rente* if the land contains more than two acres. The location of the two properties seems to indicate that they were at one time part of a larger piece of land, together totaling ten acres.

The last piece of land in this parish to be discussed appears in document thirty-four, from the same day. Although it was not specifically mentioned as being located in Buille, it was bordered by the two woods in the above documents, and abutting the Dromme water. Colin Fleant, the nearly ubiquitous neighbor of the Campronts, is the recipient of this tract, which was called "Le Clos au Clerc Perin," but the exchange is discussed here since it seems to be removed from other dealings he had with the family. Interestingly, the price for this land is only twenty *sous*, which, given the rate of six *sous* per acre determined above, suggests the piece in question contained three and one-half acres.

One final comment should be made about this first series of transactions. Along with the fact that they all took place on 3 February 1438, and were given before the same notary, Jehan le Roy, the parties in one agreement witnessed the others. For example,

Jehan Phelippe witnessed the sale of land to Guillaume Vallet, and Vallet witnessed Phelippe's agreement. This indicates that all the men were present on the day, and Raoul brought all his dealings before the notary. This, coupled with the location and area of the pieces, suggests that the lands were originally part of one large tract. Raoul was settling *rente*-paying tenants on the divided pieces.

While Raoul appeared to be converting land to *rente*-paying property in the parish of Buille, he acquired land in St. Ebremond de Bon Fosse the same year. Charter thirty-four, dated 20 June 1438, records the purchase of a small acquisition, about one half acre, which he purchased from Jehan Vinemer of the parish for ten *livres* plus ten *sous pour vin* in one lump sum.<sup>28</sup> Here the location of the land, not its area, seemed to be important. The land was bordered by the road from the mill of Bosq to the hostel of Nicolet on one side and the ditch of la Thomasière on the other. It abutted the fishpond of the mill on one side, and Thomas Vinemer's field on the other. This indicates that this small tract was strategically located near road access and near the mill.

The second document, number thirty-eight, was given seven months later, on 8 December 1438, but the two are clearly part of the same consolidation scheme. Here, Raoul acquired from Thomas Vinemer the piece of land adjoining that which he purchased from his kinsman earlier in the year. Again, it was a small tract, only about

one half acre, but it shared its strategic site near the mill and road access. The fact that the two pieces of land were next to each other suggests that the Vinemers were brothers, or at least that they had divided an inheritance of one acre. Raoul paid only eight *livres* and five *sous en vin* for this piece. Perhaps, with his kinsman no longer in possession of the neighboring tract, there was little motivation for Thomas to retain the land, and he was willing to part with it for a smaller sum. It is difficult to compare these sums with the *rentes* Raoul is receiving from the lands in Buille, since these transactions are paid in one lump sum. This seems to suggest that while Raoul paid cash for a strategic tract of about one acre, he negotiated to receive a large yearly *rente* for other unwanted, or uncultivated lands.

Significantly, Thomas agreed not to obstruct the water which comes by Nicolet, nor to prevent access to Raoul or his heirs. It seems, therefore, that Vinemer holds land nearby from which he could interfere with the functioning of the mill or the irrigation of the land and perhaps render it useless. In addition, a man named Renouf Maugier is listed as giving his assent to this transaction. Maugier might be the tenant who currently works this land, acknowledging its purchase by Raoul and agreeing not to impede its full use by Raoul.

Several points about these two sales should be emphasized. It is unfortunate that none of the documents mention ownership of la Thomassiere or of the mill of Bosq. It

seems logical that they would belong to the Campronts, since Raoul would then be buying out two men with small, but potentially bothersome, nearby holdings. In addition, no documents about them appear in the cartulary, which suggests that they have been uncontested property for some time. Had Raoul recently purchased them, the pertinent agreements should have been copied. In addition, Raoul was careful to have his clear title to the lands stated, both to avoid conflicting claims and to assure himself the use of the facilities he desired. This underscores the strategic importance of these particular tracts.

A final set of agreements can be discussed in relation to the consolidation Raoul undertook in 1438. The first, document thirty-six dated 8 October 1438, records the lease of a piece of land of about eleven and one half *vergers* by Thomas le Testu of the parish of Lorey. Raoul leased it for a *rente* of five bushels per year, at the measure of Quaratilly, owed by Raoul Herman.

On the same day and following it in the cartulary, document thirty-seven records that Thomas le Testu made another agreement with Campront. Here, Testu sold a tract of land containing only three *vergers* for the price of twelve *livres*, seven *sous*, and six *deniers*, plus five *sous en vin*. The amounts to a price of sixteen *livres* seven *sous* six *deniers* per acre. The land adjoins the land that Testu had previously sold to Campront,<sup>29</sup> and on the other side it adjoined the road from the manor of Lorey to the

mills of Campront. The purpose of these purchases is clear. Campront was attempting to secure the thoroughfares between his manor house and the mills.

This trend appeared earlier, as well. In document twenty-nine, dated 15 February 1436 Raoul seems to be divesting himself of unwanted land. Here Raoul abandoned a tenement to Richart Vigot of Lorey.<sup>30</sup> The area of the tenement is given as one half acre and one half *verger*: this odd wording, equal in fact to five-eighths of an acre, suggests that an original holding of five half-acres was split four ways. There are two interesting facts about this exchange. As we have seen with other agreements, several strategic aspects of the property, in this case the fishpond and its outlet, remain with the lord, along with quarry rights. This seems clearly a case of securing claim to the most profitable and strategic rights to a property. Vigot agrees to pay all *rentes* and services due on the property, both for the rights Vigot has acquired as well as those retained by Campront, which indicates again that Vigot is the peasant who will be responsible for the tilling of the land itself, paying a *rente* to Raoul.

These documents, chronologically among the last to appear in the cartulary,<sup>31</sup> make clear Raoul de Campront's desire to exploit his properties and concentrate on strategic land holdings. The importance of mills cannot be overestimated, especially for this period.<sup>32</sup> He clearly attempted to secure his son's rights to the sums he was negotiating, Raoul clearly felt pressure to confirm his acquisitions, and his probable

age at the time, fifty-seven,<sup>33</sup> strengthens the assertion that he felt his days were numbered.

In addition to the strategic reorganization of lands, Raoul appears to have benefited economically from these sales as well. The balance of his lost land and that which he acquired left him short about six acres, but he acquired a substantial yearly *rente*. For all the land which he purchased, he paid a total of slightly over thirty *livres*, with his yearly *rentes* equaling about seven percent of this amount. He seems to have taken advantage of standard land prices for his holdings, acquiring yearly *rentes* while purchasing other pieces cheaply, and paying in a lump sum.

In addition to the examples of consolidation given above it is necessary to examine the negotiations of Raoul de Campront with Colin Fleant, who had claims with the family's ancestors at least as early as 1399. The complex nature of the arrangements makes it necessary to follow them chronologically. Colin Fleant first appears in a set of documents from 8 September 1399. Document ten details the acquisition of the manor of Malherbiere and the milling rights at the mill of Homdouil from the nobleman Guillaume de Villiers, seigneur of Maupertus and Malherbière. Fleant had acquired these rights at some point in the past, in exchange for a *rente* of ten *livres* per year,<sup>34</sup> and he is now appearing before a notary to renounce the milling rights. At first this appears to be a renegotiation of a previous arrangement, perhaps initiated in

response to the ambiguous nature of an earlier settlement, and setting out that Fleant, who apparently is not a nobleman, will not claim the seigneurial right of *moultre*.

This agreement is much more complicated than that, however. Document seventeen, dated 7 January 1426, provides a confirmation of an earlier transaction, and indeed this "interior" charter also was given before notary on 8 September 1399. In fact, the "interior" document is a copy of the same agreement, setting out the acquisition of the manor and mill by Fleant. This version is much more detailed, however, stating precisely the rights retained by Villiers. These are largely of a seigneurial nature, including the *mote et repars*, wood rights, and patronage of the chapel. In addition, the donor would retain the right to administer justice in the fief. Yet, in this version there is no mention of Fleant renouncing the milling rights, and these are indeed listed as part of his acquisition. This suggests that the document at hand is a statement of the earlier agreement, perhaps given the same day, but not including the disclaimer by Fleant.

This document is no mere copy, however. In fact it ends with a confirmation of the above agreement by Villier's heiress, Ysabel and her husband Raoul de Campront. The whole document was brought before a sworn notary, who noted having seen the authentic letter, and affixed his confirmation on a copy. This, then, is a copy of a *vidimus*. By 1426, Guillaume de Villiers has died and Ysabel and Raoul acted to

reconfirm his outstanding business.<sup>35</sup> Both in this document and the one which follows, the *vidimus* lists witnesses while the "original" did not. This may indicate that the earlier documents were of a much less formal nature. In addition, Jehan de Campront, *escuyer*, is one of the witnesses, which furthers the suggestion that the couple were acting to secure their son's claim to his grandfather's claims.

Yet the matter of Colin Fleant and Malherbière continues in document eighteen, also dated 7 January 1426. This is again a copy of a *vidimus* brought before the same notary on the same day, 7 January 1426. But the "interior" document here is dated 13 September 1399, five days after the earlier pair. Here Colin Fleant had abandoned all the rights which he had from Villiers in the fief of Malherbiere in exchange for a *rente* of ten *livres*. This would indicate that Villiers has repurchased those rights which he had sold just five days earlier, except for one important detail. Fleant abandoned the rights which he had received in exchange with Guillaume de Buisson, self-proclaimed heir of Michel du Buisson. It is likely that de Buisson held a claim, however tenuous, to the fief. Perhaps after Villiers had surrendered the rights to Fleant, this claim was discovered. Both parties would be interested in this claim. Fleant's ownership of the property would be called into question if Villiers had not possessed the rights first, while Villiers could be responsible to another tenant. Therefore, Fleant has "bought out" Buisson, and promises that neither de Buisson nor his heirs will have any rights to the property.<sup>36</sup> Perhaps in exchange for the security of

the claim, or perhaps in response to the threat of litigation, Villiers agreed to pay Fleant ten *livres* per year. In effect, therefore, Villiers would now receive nothing on this property.

The substance of this exchange, ten *livres* for the rights which Fleant acquired from de Buisson, is repeated in document twenty-three, dated 4 October 1431. On 2 October 1431. Fleant and Raoul de Campront reconfirm the arrangement which Fleant had made with Villiers. Here, Raoul, specifically noted as Villier's heir through his children, discharged the ten *livres rente* by surrendering to Fleant a series of *rentes* which are to amount, apparently, to the same thing. Then in document twenty-four, Fleant sold the *rentes* which he had just acquired back to Campront in exchange for one hundred *livres* plus one hundred *sous pour vin* in a lump sum.

These two exchanges merit a close analysis. It seems that Fleant renegotiated the amount due to him, surrendering a yearly *rente* for a lump sum. The detailed *rentes* were given to him, in exchange for ten *livres*, which is the amount he had been receiving, only to be returned to Campront in exchange for one hundred *livres*. One might wish for a simple document outlining the transaction, but the series amounts to an exchange of the ten *livres* per year for one hundred *livres* at one time.

One further aspect of these documents deserves notice. In the first, where Fleant acquires the series of *rentes*, the sale was made effective 28 December 1427, nearly five years before the exchange. Then the new sum which Fleant was to receive, one hundred *livres*, is made effective as of 30 November 1427, nearly four years prior. The substance of these clauses would have the effect of adjusting the price which Fleant received. For example, if he were given the right to collect a *rente*, effective four years prior, he would be entitled to four year's worth of that amount. This means that he will be receiving an additional forty *livres* along with the hundred of that *rente*.

Raoul again made another agreement with Fleant which was included in the cartulary. The documents concerning this transaction were brought before a notary on 3 February 1438, the same day as Raoul's land consolidations discussed earlier. Yet they appear to be the latest development in the Fleant-Campront dealings, and it seems more logical to discuss them in the context of the family's relationship with Fleant.

Both documents, thirty and thirty-one, dated 3 February 1438, outline the same agreement. The second contains the same text as the first, with the only differences being word choice. Yet in the table of contents found in the beginning of the cartulary, the listing for the first has been crossed out and captioned "*deffait*" in a

hand similar to that which copied the 1544 charter. No similar emendation has been made for the listing of the second document, which appears on later folia. This suggests that the second document either escaped the notice of later scribe, or was in fact recopied into the volume, after the first had erroneously been excised from the listing. Of course, this is conjecture, and it is impossible to tell from the order or the hand why two copies of the same document, with no confirmations or changes which might have altered its significance, were included. For this reason, I will deal with the pair as if they were one document.

The following agreement was reached: Raoul de Campront, acting for his son who is technically seigneur of Malherbière, surrendered to Fleant one half of the rights to the mill of Homdouil. Fleant was to pay the sum of eight *livres* per year, half at All Saint's and half at Palm Sunday.<sup>37</sup> The rights could not be alienated, except if they were to be sold in their entirety, just as Fleant received them. Another clause allowed for the repurchase of the rights by Campront or his heirs, but the conditions are rather confusing.<sup>38</sup> Campront and his heirs retained the right to mill for themselves and their household, and all "feudal" rights such as *gage-plege*, as well. Colin would take possession of the property next St. Michael, and the first payment would be due the next All Saint's.

At first glance, this agreement might seem to contradict the spirit of the other attempts by Raoul at consolidation. He has, in essence, rented out half of his ownership of a milling right while earlier, he attempted to secure his holding of the strategic access to a mill. However, the specific wording of the document suggests that the actual circumstances of the exchange were more complicated. Campront insisted on the inability of Fleant to alienate the rights, and indeed it seems that Fleant would suffer a significant loss if he was forced to pay the additional fees. It seems likely, therefore, that this is a codification of Fleant's claim to the mill.

Campront concedes to Fleant's claim, but since Fleant cannot exercise the seigneurial monopoly, Fleant would probably not be in control of the milling. Instead, he would probably receive a portion of the dues which Campront received on the mill. In this way, Campront discharged Fleant's claim to the mill, while making it very difficult for him to pass the claim along. Fleant was therefore dependent upon Campront for the operation of the mill to receive any of the sums he might hope to acquire. At the same time, Raoul, as a nobleman, retained the feudal rights which accompanied the property. Seen in this light, the arrangement greatly benefits Raoul de Campront and suggests his consolidation of claims was at work even when he appears to be disposing of property.

A final document, number fourteen, dated 1 April 1405, needs to be examined in the context of the multi-generational exchanges between Colin Fleant and the

Campronts. Guillaume de Villiers leased the rights to mill of Beaumeis and its lands to Fleant for the sum of six *livres* per year, half at All Saints' and half at Palm Sunday. Again, seigneurial rights such as *gage-plege* are to be retained by Villiers. This document is unique among the Fleant agreements in that there is no evidence of further negotiations among the property. Apparently, unlike the mill of Homdouil, Villiers was content to leave this mill, in name at least, under the ownership of Fleant. Raoul de Campront was a witness to this charter, yet he did not undertake to repurchase it from Fleant when he inherited the holdings and title of Guillaume de Villiers. Another possibility is that the eight *livres rente* was seen as an good deal, or that the mill was not part of Ysabel's inheritance.

Unfortunately, any explanation of this apparent anomaly will never be conclusive. The location of the mill in question cannot be determined, so it is possible that it was outside of the area of Raoul's interest. Fleant was obliged not to alienate this property, either, and it may have been that it would revert to the Villiers estate, and thereby to Raoul upon Fleant's death. If this were the case, Raoul probably did not have long to wait. This explanation also addresses the issue of why this document was recorded in the cartulary, with no apparent reversion of the property to the Campronts. Perhaps it was sufficient to record that the gift was originally made by Villiers, in the knowledge that it would necessarily reenter the patrimony in a short while, as Fleant must have been even older than Raoul at this time. In any case, the document records

payments due and limits Fleant's rights of alienation over the mill, which may have been very important details to record. Again, this interpretation remains tenuous at best, but it seems to fit with the facts as they are presented.

This overview of the land consolidation attempted by Raoul in the fifteenth century has also suggested some of the problems attendant to this type of analysis. Many of the documents present clear evidence of Raoul's willingness to pay for important pieces of land, and his understanding of the importance of establishing clear and incontestable rights. In addition, he appears to have taken advantage of the land market, purchasing small tracts of land for lump sums while acquiring yearly *rentes* at favorable rates on his own lands. This policy also seems to have extended to *rentes* that he owed, such as to Fleant, where he renegotiated to discharge his debt in a lump sum and confirm the transaction.<sup>39</sup>

Yet, he was not operating in a vacuum. He had to settle the outstanding arrangements of both his father and his father-in-law, in order to secure his son's claims. In addition, the peasant tenants of his lands also had inheritance rights to the possession, rather than the ownership, of the land, and these too had to be taken into account. The volume of the charters which were actually entered into by these two important landowners is only hinted at by those which eventually found their way into MS D47.<sup>40</sup> Of course, even if all the recorded documents of the Campront family were

extant, it would still be possible only to discern a few general patterns of land-holding and transmission of wealth. Yet, based on the evidence available, it can be asserted with confidence that he undertook a relatively logical plan of consolidation and confirmation of his land claims. This scheme fits closely with the other types of claims he set out, those dealing both with long-standing non-land claims and lawsuits, and those of marriage settlements, which are to be discussed in subsequent chapters.

## Chapter 2

### Litigation and Contested Claims

Another series of documents is that recording the results of lawsuits or other contested claims,<sup>41</sup> especially important in view of the royal *recherches* being undertaken after the year 1470.<sup>42</sup> The earliest document of the Campront cartulary, number one, records a settlement reached in a suit brought by Rogier Durant against Guillaume de Campront in the year 1284. Apparently, Durant owed homage to Campront, but claimed that the conditions of his homage should be identical to that agreed upon between his father and the earlier generations of Campronts. An accord was reached between the parties in 1268 that the only claim Campront could make against Durant was the *rente* owed. Yet Campront proceeded to claim additional rights from the younger Durant, and Rogier produced the earlier documents, proving that the Campront claim was unjust. The case was taken to the Assize of Coutances, where Durant lost his case. But he did not give up, and the case came before the Exchiquier at Rouen. Despite the fact that Campront had secured legal representation, he lost the case when Durant produced the documentation proving

that Campront had overstepped his rights. Campront made amends, and the whole affair was recorded.

The charter records the fact that the litigation had continued for at least sixteen years before finally being decided. The number of years that a settlement of this suit was pending is rather surprising, but no conclusion can be drawn from the date preserved in the document. Durant is identified as a *clerc*, but the small amount of *rente* he owes, only two *sous*, hints that he was not a wealthy man.<sup>43</sup> Nevertheless, he was able to appeal his case all the way to Rouen, and eventually received justice. Although Campront had legal representation, and obviously a standing in the community, Durant was able to win based on his ownership of written records. The process was neither easy nor quick, however, and it must be stated that Durant's financial ability to maintain a suit over such a long period of time was probably extraordinary.

Document one is anomalous in other ways and stands alone in the entire collection. Durant is not cited in later documents, nor are the property and rights discussed in this charter involved in any later transactions. The first document appears to have no connection with any of the other documents nor with Raoul de Campront's purpose in having the cartulary compiled. One suspects that the charter in question was included for some reason other than its relation to the property or property rights of the Campronts. In ecclesiastical cartularies, the first document of the collection occupies

a position of particular importance and is usually a document that records the establishment and initial endowment of the institution. It would seem likely that the first document of the Campront cartulary should have been intended to serve an analogous function. However, the cartulary begins with documents concerning marriage settlements,<sup>44</sup> and then includes various charters relating to land dealings, in what appears to be a haphazard order at best.<sup>45</sup> Had this cartulary followed a logical and chronological order, there is little doubt that this document would have been copied first, since it specifically cites Guillaume de Campront as a *chevalier* or member of the nobility of Normandy, and thereby certifies that the Campront family had enjoyed noble status for well over a century. It is likely that one of the tasks assigned to the compiler of Raoul's cartulary was to find and include the earliest possible verification of the nobility of the Campront lineage. This charter bore witness to the fact that the Campront family, although hardly one of the great lineages, was one of considerable antiquity. It had survived the Hundred Years War, the Black Death, and other calamities of the fourteenth century, and this was no small claim to distinction. This argument seems more satisfactory when the next charter, number two, dated 23 January 1299, is considered. The document consists of a simple assertion by Richart de Courcie of the terms of the homage owed to him by Engerram de Campront, seigneur of Lorey. Richart de Courchie, the seigneur of Remilly, was probably the son of Guillaume de Courchie and Anne de Marigny, who was heiress of Marigny and Remilly.<sup>46</sup> Her family was a noted and powerful Norman

lineage.<sup>47</sup> It is likely that Engerram de Campront had just established himself as seigneur of Lorey, perhaps setting up a branch of the family separate from those Campronts still residing in the area around Campront itself.<sup>48</sup> It is important to note that the personal seal of Courcie was apparently sufficient validation, and that the agreement was neither given before a notary nor authenticated by the *garde des sceaux*.<sup>49</sup> Nonetheless, it must have carried weight for Raoul to have included it in his cartulary. It is likely that he saw it as another convincing statement of the antiquity and nobility of the Campronts which deserved to be included in order to strengthen the claims for his son.

Such notices were important in and of themselves, since antiquity and purity of lineage and descent were as important elements of a noble patrimony as were property and privilege. In addition, it established the fact that the Campronts were not simply minor figures whose claims to nobility stemmed from allodial or recently-seized land holdings. Great families did not accept vassalage from insignificant locals, no matter how extensive their holdings. Or, if they did, the act of homage was ennobling in itself. Thus, the earliest two documents of Raoul's collection clearly establish the antiquity and nobility of his lineage.

Another group of documents emphasizes the need to maintain accurate records of claims, even beyond the time one might suspect. It is not surprising that Raoul found

himself dealing with troublesome tenants and often had to support his claims with documents over a century old. It seems that at least Raoul learned the lesson of Guillaume de Campront well. Document four, dated 7 June 1350, provides a good illustration of such a case. Jehan Lamy and his wife Perotte surrendered property worth twelve *livres* plus ten *sous* to Jacques Lamy, which suggests the deal was initiated by Jacques. By the year 1389, in document seven, the rights had gone to Guyot Lamy, probably Jacques' heir, and Guyot sold them to Jehan de Campront for twenty-six *livres* plus ten *sous*. Jehan's acquisition of these rights -- twelve bushels, twenty-one *deniers*, and homage on three acres of land -- is somewhat curious. It seems odd that Campront would purchase what appears to be a *rente* of stable value for over twice the amount the elder Lamy had originally paid for it. One possible explanation is that the *rente* was sold cheaply in 1350 due to the inability of the Lamys to collect it. This took place very soon after the loss of Normandy to the English, and most likely was not a stable time, either economically or politically. By 1389, Normandy was again held by the French, and Campront may have been able to gain a profit from it, allowing a higher price to be charged. Of course, if this had been the end of the matter, Raoul probably would not have had the documents included in the cartulary. But, in 1428, he faced the task of enforcing his claim to the twelve bushels. By this time, the obligation to pay this *rente* has passed to Colin Ambroiz, called "le Gohin,"<sup>50</sup> who did not cut and assemble the grain as he was supposed to do. The affair was settled when Colin swore before a notary that he would do this in the

future. Campront, in a gesture of apparent generosity, releases him from payment of arrears, which was not to be taken as a precedent. In any event, Raoul probably felt that his son might have trouble enforcing this claim in the near future, and all three documents were copied into the cartulary, in the order in which the agreements were made.

Legal action was apparently necessary in the matter of another claim which had come into the Campront family over a century before Raoul began to assemble the cartulary. Document five, dated 19 October 1366, details the purchase of a substantial *rente*, including twenty-three and one half bushels of grain, by Guillaume le Bellont called "le Cailletel."<sup>51</sup> The previous owners, a nobleman named Guillaume de la Boissière and his wife Sebile, had conditionally surrendered this *rente* for the substantial sum of one hundred gold florins.<sup>52</sup> Although the wording is not clear, it is possible Sebile was a member of the Campront family. A clause in the document states that the agreement would be void if they repay the one hundred florins within one year. The conditional sale of income-producing properties or rights was an accepted method of lending money at interest, and it would seem that this was the purpose of the arrangement. Bellont had apparently loaned the couple a sizable sum on the security of this *rente*. Boissière and his wife were unable or unwilling to redeem their right, however, and Bellont apparently retained the *rente*. In any case, as with the Lamy family in the earlier documents, Bellont did not hesitate to resell these

*rentes* for a substantial profit.<sup>53</sup> Document 6, dated 4 October 1389, outlines this transaction. Jehan de Campront bought all of Bellont's rights in the parishes of Lorey and Campront for the sum of one hundred thirty-six *livres* ten *deniers* plus forty *sous*,<sup>54</sup> which is about a third again what Bellont paid.<sup>55</sup> In addition, Bellont and his wife will receive a stipend of twelve *livres* per year for their lifetimes, which is probably equivalent to the interest they would have gained on the original loan -- twelve percent. In an interesting aside, Bellont specified that two properties he had received from Guillaume de Mandovit would not be included, and when he surrendered *lettres de quittance* to Campront, these two were not included. This strengthens the assertion that Bellont frequently lent money, and the properties he received from Mandovit may still have been redeemable by him.

Jehan de Campront apparently attempted to claim the right of *gage-plege*, or the security on a loan, despite the conditions set forth for the transfer of the *rentes*. The case was heard before the Assize of Coutances, and was settled with the agreement by both parties to make amends. Campront agreed to pay arrears due to Bellont, perhaps for the stipend. This agreement was recorded in document eight, dated 14 May 1395, and the original purchase probably took place earlier, perhaps around the time Jehan was purchasing rights from Guyot Lamy. Its inclusion in the cartulary suggests that Raoul de Campront feared the settlement might be challenged. The transfer of property originally obtained by conditional purchase was always conveyed

by a clouded title. If the purpose of the arrangement was clear, there was always the possibility that heirs could appear with the claim that the original seller could not extinguish their rights to landed property by failure to meet the term imposed by a money-lender.

Another sustained dispute involved a *rente* at Lorey. Document twenty-two, dated 5 May 1431, begins with a simple statement that Guillaume Avurey sold Raoul de Campront seven bushels at the measure of Lorey for the sum of eighteen *livres*, and agreed to take the bushels to Raoul's granary. Despite the apparent simplicity of the agreement, and the assurance that Auvrey would fulfill his end of the bargain, a dispute arose. Document twenty-five, dated 14 July 1432, records the course of the matter. Estienne Auvrey had apparently inherited his father's arrangement,<sup>56</sup> but claimed to be owed seven bushels from Raoul de Campront rather than the reverse. Perhaps this is an error in the earlier document, but it seems more likely, based on the text, that some feudal right is involved.<sup>57</sup> In any case, Estienne persisted in his claim, and Raoul, represented by Jehan le Roy, affirmed that he had given Auvrey four of the bushels that he claimed were owed to him.<sup>58</sup> Auvrey abandoned his claim for the other three bushels, and promised that if he made another claim, he would pay both his and Raoul's costs, thus effectively abandoning any further litigation. Although the arrangement with Guillaume Auvrey made in 1432 was apparently not taken to a

higher court for settlement, Raoul was compelled to record that an accord had been reached.

Another title that Raoul considered clouded was one which he had inherited from Guillaume de Villiers. Document three, dated 10 October 1310, outlines the surrender by the widow Gires de Planes of her share of her father's inheritance to her sister Aliz and Aliz's husband Guillaume de Villiers.<sup>59</sup> The agreement was a simple one. Guillaume agreed to pay Gires a stipend of twenty-two *livres*, for her share of the patrimony. It was stipulated that the stipend would be paid in *deniers*, or cash money, rather than the *livres tournois*, or money of account. It was further stipulated that of this sum, four *livres* were escheated to Guillaume. This left Gires with eighteen *livres*, nine due on All Saints' and nine on Palm Sunday. Gires abandoned for herself and her heirs the right to make any additional claim on Aliz and Guillaume. Since Gire probably was childless,<sup>60</sup> this clause may have been designed to prevent collateral kin from advancing a claim in the event of her death. She is entitled to only a small late fee of two *sous* in compensation, should the couple not pay her the amount when due. The overall agreement would seem to be to Gire's disadvantage, but since there is no mention of how large an inheritance she surrendered, it is impossible to tell if she received a fair compensation. It is possible that Gires had retired to a convent. In this case, the four *livres* escheated to Guillaume might well have been Gire's portion of services or renders due on some part of the

property. This suggestion might also explain the stipulation that she be paid in cash, since a convent would already have secured sufficient grain and would not be inclined to market any surplus. Although this is merely supposition, it would account for the curious elements of this particular transaction. In any case, the security of a steady income without having to manage any property might have been very appealing to the widowed Gires.

There is yet another pair of documents concerning *rentes*, although their bearing on the mid-fifteenth century plans of Raoul de Campront is far from clear. Document nine, dated 10 September 1397, outlines the purchase by Rogier Fouchart of all the rights that Gieffrey Rigault held in the fiefs of la Choquetière and Danllevey and in the parish of Lorey, as well as two carefully described tracts of land. Rigault was to receive six bushels of grain per year, at the measure of Lorey, plus two loaves of bread and two hens. The final clause of the agreement states that Fouchart would pay Rigault the six bushels to be taken from one of his tenants. This appears to be a clarification of how the *rente* is to be paid.

In document thirteen, dated 30 Novemeber 1400, it is stated that Guillaume de Campront had acquired certain *estraciz* (apparently the goods of a bastard or person who dies intestate which reverts to the seigneur)<sup>61</sup> from Richart Roulant, who had acquired them from Gieffrey Rigault.<sup>62</sup> Roulant was probably Rigault's heir, and was

settling with Jehan de Campront to get back his inheritance. Before a notary, Jehan de Campront, nephew and heir of Guillaume, stated that he had received six bushels of grain per year, two loaves and two hens, taken from the inheritance mentioned, from Rigault. In exchange, Campront surrendered all rights which his uncle had received from Roulant to Rigault.

Two more charters outline a transaction which appears to have no bearing whatsoever on the Campront family inheritance, and so they will be mentioned very briefly. Document eleven, dated 7 December 1399, describes the acquisition in 1399 by Jehan le Roy the Elder of all the rights that Jehan le Vielle had inherited from his mother Jehannette. The price for these rights was to be two *sous* six *deniers* per year. Since Vielle retained the right of succession on this inheritance,<sup>63</sup> it was likely that this transaction was a lease for the lifetime of the lessor. In 1433 Loys la Vielle, obviously a kinsman, sold a *rente* of the same amount to Jehan le Chevalier, for the sum of forty *sous* plus five *sous pour vin*. This is also another case where reference is made to other pertinent *lettres* dealing with this arrangement, but such documents were not included in the cartulary.

One final document, number twenty-eight, dated 12 December 1435, remains to be examined. This outlines the acquisition of the right to cut at Christmas a tree in the forest of Monsieur de Coutances, that is, the bishop of Coutances.<sup>64</sup> Pierres le

Becyhaiz, *escuier*, sold this right, along with the right of *panage* in the same forest, for ten *livres* ten *sous*. Apparently, Becyhaiz's family had traditionally possessed these rights, and he was now selling them for a lump sum, hinting that he valued the cash more than these feudal rights. Of course, this document confirms a relatively recent agreement and seems to have been included for that reason. In fact, when the cartulary was redacted, only three Christmases had passed, so Raoul de Campront was still exercising new rights.

It would appear that Raoul de Campront felt the need to clarify his claims to many of the properties and *rentes* he had secured. As with land disputes, he took care to record recent transfers, to validate his claims. He also attempted to record the outcome of any litigation and to stem further litigation by providing himself with documentation of previous settlements. In setting his family's affairs in order, Raoul was facing a wide spectrum of problems. Some arose from the attempt of individuals to conclude contracts while insufficiently adept at the various legal principles which were in play, often in opposition to each other, at the time. Full and well-kept records were perhaps the best protection against losing one's rights amongst conflicting claims and customs.

## Chapter 3

### Marriage Settlements

A final category of documents is found in the cartulary. This includes marriage arrangements, *lettres de mariage*, as well as the records which confirm the settlement of the amounts due from such arrangements. They serve both to clarify the inheritance system of the Campront family and to demonstrate the financial dealings which accompanied marriage, allowing it to serve to distribute wealth. These documents indicate that inheritance law, largely based on the German gavelkind system, prevailed in the region.

An overview of some of the most important tenets of the system will help illuminate the analysis which follows.<sup>65</sup> Several major points should be made.

Married couples shared an estate that formed the patrimony of their heirs.

Therefore, it could not be alienated without assurance that the community property due to their heirs would not be unduly diminished.

- The couple's children were vested with a roughly equal share of the patrimony, and could alienate that share so long as they did not diminish the patrimony of their own heirs.
- A couple might advance one of their children before the division of the patrimony, provided the other heirs consented and the patrimony was not diminished to the extent that the other heirs would suffer. Such advancements could be counted against the heir's share of the patrimony.
- If an heir died before the division of the patrimony, his or her vested interest would pass to his or her heirs, or, if there were no heirs within the kindred, that interest would return to the patrimony. If an heir who had received an advancement died without heirs before the division of the patrimony, the advancement would return to the patrimony.
- The patrimony was generally divided in the following manner: upon the death of the father with the mother surviving,  $\frac{2}{3}$  would be distributed, with up to  $\frac{1}{3}$  remaining for the widow; upon the death of the mother with the father surviving: no division; upon the death of the father with the mother having already died: up to one hundred percent of the patrimony would be distributed.
- In no case would the patrimony pass out of the blood lineage.

With these characteristics of the inheritance system in mind, let us pass to a chronological examination of the marriage documents. The first such document to appear in the cartulary, number six, is the arrangement for the marriage of Raoul de

Campront and Ysabel de Villiers around the year 1384.<sup>66</sup> Here the conditional nature of the contract is clear. Jehan de Campront, Raoul's father, will give the couple a *rente* of forty *livres* per year if the marriage is realized.<sup>67</sup> He will also give them one hundred *francs* for movables.<sup>68</sup> Villiers and his wife agree to pay fifty *livres* per year, and to give one hundred *francs* for movables, yet while Villiers lives he will only pay thirty *livres* per year.<sup>69</sup> After his death, the couple will receive the full fifty *livres*, to be taken on his estate, indicating that Ysabel will be able to claim her share of the patrimony. Depending on the rate of interest, the amount which would generate this fifty *livres* would have been between four and eight hundred *livres*. In the event the couple have no heirs, the gifts will revert to the donors. Jehan de Campront will guard the couple and collect their *rentes*, apparently until they reach maturity.<sup>70</sup> It is significant that no subsequent settlement of this contract is included. The death of Guillaume de Villiers probably rendered a formal settlement unnecessary, since Ysabel would have inherited her share of the Villiers estate. Yet it is likely that had this not happened, Raoul's son Jehan might have settled with the heir of Guillaume, much like in the earlier agreement. The next document of this type, number twelve, is the "*Lettre de mariage de Robine de Campront au seigneur de Cronille*," dated 14 December 1399. Jehan de Campront, seigneur of Lorey, is stated to have given a sum of thirty *livres* per year to his daughter in arranging her marriage to Jehan Bondet, seigneur of Cronille. This arrangement took place sometime in the past. In 1399, Jehan offered a *rente* to be taken from a number of fiefs located in the parishes of

Nicorp, Tournille, Gratot, and Coutances, worth twenty-seven *livres*. Bondet, acting for himself and for his wife, accepted this in place of the thirty *livres*. Additional stipulations are made, as well. The fifty *sous* which remains can be collected yearly, or Campront can pay in one, two, or three installments, with the precise amount due if the sum is paid this way laid out.<sup>71</sup> Apparently, the sum was collected yearly until 1430, when Raoul discharged the debt, as outlined in document twenty-one, dated 7 February. The charter begins with a recitation of the earlier agreement. Then, it is stated that before a notary, the heir of the couple, Jehan Bondet, who was at this time himself seigneur of Cronille, received thirty-seven and one half gold *ecus* from Raoul, heir of Jehan de Campront. Campront and his heirs were no longer held responsible for paying the fifty *sous* per year.

The documents present a few challenges inherent in understanding the marriage settlements. The text of the first document explicitly states that the sum will be paid until the couple and their heirs are settled sufficiently. The original thirty *livres* was a conditional settlement made on Robine by her father. Then, in 1399, Campront provided a *rente* and promised to pay the couple and their heirs fifty *sous* annually for the remainder of the original thirty *livres*. Apparently, when an heir was born, or expected to live to adulthood, the settlement was converted to a permanent endowment, to form part of the young person's patrimony. Raoul paid the obligation off, with the agreement of the heirs, for thirty-seven and one half *ecus*, with the

implication that this sum would earn interest equivalent to the fifty *sous* originally due, about six percent.

From the marriage documents, it is clear that Raoul had at least three children. The marriage of his daughter Jehannette was the first to be settled. Document fifteen, dated 29 June 1421, outlines the gift given by her brother Jehan to her and her fiancé, also named Jehan de Campront, but obviously from another family, the seigneurs of la Ruquetière.<sup>72</sup>

Two fiefs, Rouge Fosse and Beaumont, are given to the couple, along with the accompanying rights, revenues, etc. Two specific *rentes* are mentioned from the parish of Lingreville, although all rights in the parish were mentioned earlier. This suggests that the two sums, one hundred *sous* from the hostel of Gauldrodouil and a *quartier* of grain, were newly acquired or subject to questioning. Raoul de Campront is listed as being present to the agreement, and wishing the couple to benefit from the gift as of their own inheritance. Raoul had apparently advanced his son Jehan to the lordship of Maupertus, but had not yet endowed him with the inheritance. The fact that Raoul himself does not arrange the agreement seems to indicate that Jehan was providing his sister with her share of the patrimony in his current holdings, so as not to infringe upon his future holdings as seigneur of Campront and Lorey. For this

reason, Raoul stated that the gift is to be considered as Jehannette's inheritance from that share of the patrimony.

In a subsequent agreement for Jehannette, rights in two fiefs are also given as gifts, yet in all the other documents, money *rentes* are specified. It is possible that these arrangements answered a particular type of need for the young husband-to-be, settling him on property befitting his wife.<sup>73</sup> Or the rights mentioned might actually refer only to the sums collected from the exercise of the Campronts' rights in these fiefs. Since neither of these agreements contain a subsequent settlement, it is impossible to tell.

This marriage apparently never took place, however, for in 1424 Raoul and Jehan settle Jehannette's marriage to Guillaume de Percy.<sup>74</sup> This document, number sixteen, dated 10 December 1424, strengthens the hypothesis that the men actually gave land to the couple, since Percy apparently was neither seigneur nor heir of anything.

Apparently, the gifts originally made to the Jehannette and Jehan reverted back to the Campront patrimony upon the failure of the marriage. It would be interesting to know why the earlier marriage did not take place. Death, financial complications, or other details may be responsible. Whether or not this is so, Raoul and Jehan attempted to secure for her a suitable marriage settlement. The couple would receive all rights the Campronts hold in the fiefs of Perrenilain and another, which Raoul had received in exchange with Bernard le Cointe, apparently outlined in other *lettres*. Again, it is

possible that only the money collected from the rights are actually to be given, but no mention of money is given anywhere at all in the document. While it remains conjecture, it seems likely that this marriage did indeed take place, since the cartulary was redacted at least fourteen years later, and no later documents were included.

Jehan de Campront himself was the next child to have his marriage arranged.

Document nineteen, dated 10 December 1426, states that Raoul Tesson, uncle of Marie de Villiers, will give her twenty-seven *livres* per year in arranging her marriage to the young Campront. This is one of the more revealing documents, and merits a close analysis.

Marie, while apparently at least a distant relative of the family of Maupertus, is identified only by the names of her parents. They are both dead, and Marie has been living in the household of her maternal uncle Tesson. In a particularly interesting passage, Tesson affirms that he is presenting this gift to his niece out of love for her and for services she rendered while she lived with Tesson and his wife. Tesson had made himself responsible for his orphan niece, and he settles this gift, which seems to be designed to enable her to marry. Marie has not inherited her share of her father's patrimony, as she should have at his death, and this suggests that for some reason she has not been able to claim her inheritance. It is likely that the property was seized and regranted by the English. In addition, Tesson states that the settlement will come

from his holdings until he claims his inheritance from the deceased Robert Tesson, apparently his father. This also seems to be a case of the holder of a property not being able to claim it due to the political situation. In any case, the inheritance system has obviously failed.

No mention is made of any money given by Raoul de Campront, as father of the groom, which is consistent with the assertion that, as heir to Lorey and Campront, he will be settled comfortably soon enough. In this contract, as in that of Ysabel de Villiers, the option is outlined for the settlement of the entire sum in one, two, or three installments. Tesson confirms that, should the couple die without heirs, the gift will return to him or his heirs, without Marie's collateral heirs having any claim to it. This is specifically stated since Marie should be entitled to her share of her grandfather's estate, passing through her deceased mother to her. By specifying that he himself is making this gift, Tesson is preventing any of Marie's relatives from making a claim on the property she is receiving.

One final document, number twenty-seven, dated 29 April 1435, details marriage settlements. This is apparently the second contract in an agreement, much like number twenty-one. The earlier charter originally outlining the conditions is not included, but it is restated that Raoul de Campront had settled thirty *livres* per year on his daughter Aliz' marriage to Olivier d'Anquetonille. One hundred *sous* of this could

be discharged by paying a lump sum of fifty *livres*, suggesting that the fifty *livres*, earning enough to generate one hundred *sous*, would be earning ten percent. This arrangement must have occurred much earlier, because in 1435, Oliver and Aliz appeared before a notary and received the fifty *livres* from Campront, settling the contract.

Several conclusions can be drawn from these documents. It seems that the amount to be paid to a couple remained constant over the period covered in the charters. Where money is specified, it amounts either to twenty-seven or thirty *livres*. The notable exception to this is the marriage of Raoul and Ysabel, where the couple appear to receive in total approximately one hundred *livres* per year. This can be explained by the apparent position of Raoul as heir to the seigneurie. The consistency of marriage settlements suggests that, despite the economic "crisis" of the period, the interest earned on this amount was seen to be sufficient to establish a young couple.

The position of the parents in these charters is less consistent. Raoul de Tesson's settlement for Marie de Villiers, as a disinherited orphan, is an anomaly. Robine de Campront is given *rentes* by her father. Jehannette receives land from her male relatives in both agreements, and it appears that Raoul de Campront was exclusively responsible for the settlement of Aliz and her husband. In Raoul de Campront's marriage, both he and his wife are to receive money from their respective parents. It

seems most likely that marriage was not viewed strictly as an economic transaction. In the marriage of Raoul and Ysabel de Villiers, perhaps both pairs of in-laws saw an advantage in the marriage, and concessions were allowed to account for the inheritance from the patrimony which Ysabel would receive at her father's death. The apparent gift of land to Jehannette also suggests a flexibility on the part of relatives arranging marriages. While the economic nature of the contracts themselves, full of complex details about payment, betrays the importance of the financial exchanges brought about by marriage, it should not be overlooked that apparent inconsistencies in marriage strategies might be explained by non-economic factors.

In sum, the marriage documents seem to have been included both for their character as economic transactions and in order to record lineage. Since many involve financial obligations, they can be treated like other agreements. Raoul included them in order to confirm either that debts were outstanding or that settlements had been made. In addition, the documents serve to illuminate the family relationships inherent in marriage. Local inheritance law was responsible for the importance played on the heirs which a marriage would produce, while the division of the patrimony upon the father's death would account for the two-fold nature of many of the settlements, establishing a permanent settlement instead of a yearly stipend. In this way, the marriage contracts serve both as economic and social means of continuing the family.

## Conclusion

MS D47 at the Kenneth Spencer Research Library is a fascinating and rich document that provides a glimpse of the affairs and concerns of the Norman seigneurial class. It has several limitations, but in conjunction with other sources, it can be used to reveal an outline of the structure of the Campront family and their neighbors and tenants. The wealth of information it provides ensures that much more work could be done with this cartulary.

It is clear that Raoul de Campront, seigneur of Lorey and Campront, undertook a program of consolidation of his seigneurial holdings in the middle years of the fifteenth century. This included acquiring strategic tracts of land and attempting to secure his income from others by settling tenants on unused land in order to collect revenues. In addition, he attempted to confirm agreements which gave him claims to land or money *rentes*, and to avoid litigation and legal challenges such as his family had encountered in the past. In these actions, he stressed that he was acting for his son, Jehan, suggesting that his motives included the establishment of his son as heir.

In addition to the fifteenth century agreements, the cartulary includes copies of many older documents which provide information about the Campronts' ancestors and

neighbors. The picture is far from complete, since it appears that only documents which bore upon the current situation were included. However, a partial genealogy can be discerned, in addition to a rough outline of the history of various properties and claims.

The picture which emerges is one of a family which attempted to maximize its holdings over generations. Land was alienated or acquired to increase revenues. Settlements were carefully recorded to ensure the collection of *rentes*. The marriage of children was meticulously arranged, with the suggestion that by the fifteenth century Campront children were in a position of social and economic desirability for marriage. It seems that the family enjoyed a measure of prestige and prosperity, despite the "economic crisis" so well documented by historians. Nevertheless, the social fabric had been disturbed by war and political upheaval, forcing the Campronts and other families to adjust their finances and to take extra care to record their holdings, in addition to the already complex systems of inheritance and tenancy which were in place in the region.

Despite their apparent success, the last document in the cartulary shows that by 1544, the Campront family was no longer in this enviable position. Lorey was by this time in the hands of Loys de la Luseur,<sup>75</sup> whose sale of two *vergers* of land to a resident of Campront is recorded in the charter. Apparently, the new seigneur of Lorey began to

record his transactions in the existing cartulary. It is impossible to determine from the evidence available how the Campront family lost their holdings, or what eventually happened to the lands under la Luseur. As it stands, the last document in the cartulary provides a convenient method of dating the earlier documents. In addition, it suggests that despite the resiliency of the Campront family throughout the tumultuous fourteenth and fifteenth centuries, they too eventually lost property and status, or that the patrimony was lost through the marriage of a sole heiress into another family.

Several avenues for further study remain open. More detailed prosopographical research could illuminate the kinship networks and inheritance patterns of the family and of their class as a whole. Similiar documents from the period from other archives could be used to develop a comparative approach. Local history research might broaden the picture of the region and its characteristics. As it stands, however, the cartulary itself has proven very useful for illuminating several aspects of the late medieval Norman seigneurie. While the documents certainly present new questions, they also provide many useful answers.

<sup>1</sup> I am indebted to Anne Hyde, Manuscripts Curator of the Department of Special Collections for her description of the volume, found in Catalogue 4, processed January 16, 1963, p. 2. Her knowledge of the copying and assembly of manuscript volumes, and her extensive familiarity with paleography, proved essential in describing and dating the volume. Although the suggestions were hers, my own research has led me to agree wholeheartedly.

<sup>2</sup> La Chenaye-Desbois, *Dictionnaire de la noblesse...* (Kraus Reprints, 1969), v. IV, 182. For a discussion of the royal *recherches*, see James Wood, *The Nobility of the Election of Bayeux, 1463-1666: Continuity Through Change*. (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1980) pp. 20-23. Jean Bloch has characterized these efforts as part of Louis XI's "war against the nobility," Jean Richard Bloch, *L'Anoblissement en France au temps de Francois 1er: essai d'une definition de la condition juridique et sociale de la noblesse au debut du seizième siècle*, (Geneva: Megariotis, [1977]) p. 44.

<sup>3</sup> Several historians who have based extensive case studies upon seigneurial sources have been forced to acknowledge the limitations of the documents. Jonathan DeWald, in examining the lordship of Pont-St.-Pierre admitted that the records reflected only the aims of the seigneurial administrators to record the claims of the lord, and further, that the lordship itself was an artificial entity, whose obligations may reflect neither the entire obligations of the community, nor the entire holdings of the lord. Jonathan DeWald, *Pont-St.-Pierre, 1398-1781: Lordship, Community and Capitalism in Early Modern France*, (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1987) p. 295. The volume under discussion, even more so than DeWald's sources, reflects these inadequacies since it does not create even the illusion of inclusiveness. Therefore, a certain caution must be borne in mind when generalizing from thirty-nine documents to the whole holdings of the lords of Lorey and Campront. For this reason, the purpose of the cartulary, to reflect and confirm Raoul de Campront's consolidation of claims must be always remembered.

<sup>4</sup> J. Durand de Saint Front, *Aveux du Cotentin sous les Rois Charles V et Charles VI*. (St. Lô, Imprimerie Jacqueline, 196-?)

<sup>5</sup> Particularly helpful are Gustave Chaix-d'est-Ange, *Dictionnaire des familles françaises anciennes ou notables à la fin du XIXe siècle* (Paris: Editions Vendôme, 1983) and La Chenaye-Desbois, *Dictionnaire de la noblesse...* Although these sources offer little in the way of bibliographic references, they do suggest that the families in question were sufficiently well known to make such a study possible. Also, they provide an interesting overview of the development of notable families after the period in question.

<sup>6</sup> For an excellent overview of the occupation itself, see C. T. Allmand, *Lancastrian Normandy 1415-1450: The History of a Medieval Occupation*, (New York: Oxford University Press, 1983). The earlier portion of the war, as it bears on demographic and economic matters, will be discussed below.

<sup>7</sup> Allmand, p.64.

<sup>8</sup> Joseph Toussaint, *Coutances: des origines à la Revolution*, (Coutances: OCEP, 1979-1980) portrays the resistance as based upon patriotic fervor of the Normans, and suggests that most "criminals" were in fact motivated more or less by a love of their country. A more impartial picture and useful study is Roger Jouet, *La Resistance à l'occupation anglaise en Basse-Normandie 1418-1450*, (Caen: Musée de Normandie, 1969) Unfortunately, the issue seems doomed to be plagued by questions of patriotism as long as local historians dominate the research in the field.

<sup>9</sup> Specifically, the homage agreements, while outlining all the customary obligations due to the lord, offer no mention of military obligation to be provided by tenant. This is a sharp contrast to the documents published in the *Aveux*, where frequently a tenement is listed as destroyed or damaged by the war. See *Aveux*, 3, 6, for examples.

<sup>10</sup> Gerald A. J. Hodgett outlines these standard causes in his *A Social and Economic History of Medieval Europe* (New York: Harper, 1974). Allmand asserts that "The physical damage caused by the war and by the depopulation movement, p. 166, which was the result of death and emigration caused by plague, adverse weather conditions, and unsound currency, led to a dramatic decline in seigneurial revenues."

<sup>11</sup> This is the argument of M.M. Postan in *The Cambridge Economic History of Europe*, v. 1 *The Agrarian Life of the Middle Ages*. (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, second edition, 1966)

<sup>12</sup> This point is made by Phillippe Contamine, "The French Nobility and the War" in Kenneth Alan Fowler, *The Hundred Years War*. (London: MacMillan Press, 1971), p. 149.

<sup>13</sup> Guy Bois, "Noblesse et crise des revenus seigneuriaux en France aux XIVe et XVe siècles: essai d'interpretation" in Philippe Contamine, *La Noblesse au Moyen Age: XIe-XVe siècles: Essais à la memoire de Robert Boutruche* (Paris: Presses Universitaires de France, 1976)

<sup>14</sup> Guy Bois, *The Crisis of Feudalism: Economy and Society in Eastern Normandy c 1300-1550*. (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1984), p. 4.

<sup>15</sup> Contamine, p. 149

<sup>16</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>17</sup> Bois, *Crisis*, p. 221.

<sup>18</sup> Allmand, p. 169

<sup>19</sup> For a list of the individuals holding this position, see Appendix F.

<sup>20</sup> The phrase is the title of an article by Guy Fourquin in Michel Mollat, *Histoire de l'Île de France et de Paris*. (Paris et Toulouse: Privat, 1971.)

<sup>21</sup> Document 32. The documents have been arranged chronologically. For a series such as this, where several are dated on the same day, I have chosen an order which seems most helpful. Throughout, references are to the numbers given in the register, Appendix C.

<sup>22</sup> In this document, the recipient's last name is spelled Bally, but the sobriquet indicates this is the same person mentioned in other documents. Although spelling throughout the charters is surprisingly consistent, there are a few variations, which are noted in Appendix D, the personal name index.

<sup>23</sup> A *verger* was equal to one-quarter acre. Ronald Zupko, *French Weights and Measures Before the Revolution: A Dictionary of Provincial and Local Units*, (Bloomington IN: University of Indiana Press, 1978), p. 181. In fact, eighteen *livres* per *verger* appears to be the standard price for land at this time, as will be seen in the other charters.

<sup>24</sup> Eighteen *deniers* per *verger* equals seventy-two *deniers*, or six *sous*, per acre. The total for eight acres would be forty-eight *sous*, or two *livres* eight *sous*.

<sup>25</sup> This suggestion was made by Dr. Lynn Nelson.

<sup>26</sup> In one of the more blatant examples of spelling variation, Tillart's name appears here as "Hendyart." The location of this individual's land makes it clear that the two Pierres are indeed the same person.

<sup>27</sup> Jehan Auvrey must be related to a family of Auvreys who have several transactions with the Campronts, but this particular piece of land cannot be identified.

<sup>28</sup> The phrase *pour vin* and the variation, *en vin*, appear frequently in the documents when a lump sum of money, rather than a *rente*, is being given. It is likely that this equals an addition amount "to boot," as an extra incentive to the donor to surrender his property. It could be a remnant of a custom calling for the purchase of land to be commemorated with a celebration, where the buyer would provide wine. Therefore, it seems likely that in sales involving sums *pour vin*, the purchaser had initiated the sale. I am indebted to Dr. Lynn Nelson for this suggestion.

<sup>29</sup> Although in this document the land just purchased is described as containing about ten acres, it is clearly the same tract. Perhaps since the sale, the precise area has been determined.

<sup>30</sup> This Richard Vigot is undoubtedly a descendant of the Vigots mentioned in document four.

<sup>31</sup> In fact, the last document dates from 1544.

<sup>32</sup> DeWald makes the point that the lordship in his work, Pont-St.-Pierre, contained only one mill until around the year 1455, when more were built at a surprising rate. DeWald, p.224. Although it should not be generalized to all of Normandy, this one example suggests that the mid-fifteenth century saw an upsurge in seigneurial interest in the profits to be made from milling. This point will be discussed in more depth in the section on Colin Fleant and the mill of Homdouil.

<sup>33</sup> This calculation is based on Raoul's first appearance in the charters as a participant, in 1399. His marriage was probably arranged in 1384, but there is no way of determining his age at the time. However, since he and his wife acted to confirm the prior agreements of her father, as will be discussed later, he was most likely at least eighteen in 1399.

<sup>34</sup> The fact that this document refers to an earlier agreement is also proven by the mention of previous *lettres* which are purported to give the times at which the *rente* is due.

<sup>35</sup> Here, as in other documents where a wife and husband are acting together, the wife is specifically stated as acting with the authority of her husband. She also swears not to go against this agreement. Without overstating the point, it should be mentioned that this disclaimer suggests that, without it, the woman might be able legally to contradict the dealings of her husband. If this was the case, it would mean that women held a great deal more power in regards to their business deals than is often argued. This is especially relevant in that Ysabel, as heiress, is responsible for bringing all of the Villier's land into the Campront patrimony.

<sup>36</sup> A clause of renunciation by the donor is very common in these charters, along the lines that neither he nor his heirs will go against this agreement. It complements the clause which states that one, or both, parties will sell all their possessions to cover legal costs if they should go against this, which primarily serves to emphasize that the parties do indeed possess the property which they are dealing with. For a discussion of these types of clauses, see Albert Giry, *Manuel de Diplomatique* (Paris: Hachette, 1894) pp. 553-576. This case is different, in that Fleant is guaranteeing that *Buisson's* heirs will not attempt to overturn the agreement.

<sup>37</sup> As is the case with St. Michael, these two days were very frequently assigned to the payment of debts, in this case, to sums which were divided into two payments.

<sup>38</sup> The text states "*il seroit au choes et vollente dud[dit] bailleur ou des ses hoirs la reprendre pour le prix ou avoir onecquez sa ditte rente la moitie de l'autre plus de ce aquoy il seroit en valleur plus que les huit livres dessus dis soit en meuble ou en rente.*" This seems to indicate that Campront could buy out Fleant by paying an additional eight *livres*, yet the sense is not clear.

<sup>39</sup> This policy seems to contradict the view that there was a sharp decline in seigneurial *rentes*. For at least these properties, Campront is acting to strengthen his income from *rentes*.

<sup>40</sup> This point is especially evident from the "table of contents" which precedes the table of contents of the documents at hand. Although the order of the *folia* suggest that the additional documents was probably never bound after the first table, it is worth noting that the titles of seventy-two other charters were recorded. The

appearance of the names of familiar fiefs and families implies that Raoul had a much larger administrative "mess" to deal with than the thirty-seven extant charters indicate. For these tables of contents, see Appendix I.

<sup>41</sup> A distinction has been made between these settlements and those which involve land, partly out of convenience, but also because the non-land settlements more frequently concern much earlier arrangements. Their inclusion must have been motivated by the desire to record the facts, and they therefore merit close scrutiny. An attempt has been made to impose general categories, but it will become obvious that the number of types of non-land agreements Raoul had included is very large indeed.

<sup>42</sup> See again Bloch, pps 43-44.

<sup>43</sup> Of course, there is no way to know if Durant held other lands. It is possible that the agreement with the Campronts comprised only a portion of his holdings.

<sup>44</sup> These will be discussed in the following chapter.

<sup>45</sup> In fact, neither chronological nor thematic order is present. Although often documents dealing with a particular property follow one another, they are not located in relation to other types of documents according to any obvious organization.

<sup>46</sup> *Dictionnaire de la noblesse...* v. 6, pp. 335-338. Although only one son from this marriage was known to La Chesnaye du Bois, Richard must have been born after the Remilly inheritance came into the de Courchie family. The known son, Guillaume, was active too late to have had a son at the date of 1399.

<sup>47</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>48</sup> This conjecture is based on the fact that Guillaume de Campront of the earlier document was not identified by his holding, making it likely that he was at this time, simply seigneur of Campront, as his name suggests. The origin of the Campronts in the community of Campront is beyond a doubt, both from the name evidence and the assertion of Chaix-d'est-Ange that "[La famille de Campront] para avoir eu pour berceau une seigneurie de son nom situee dans l'election de Carentan" (Chaix-d'est-Ange, v. IV, p. 182.) Although he identifies the Campronts as seigneurs of Lorey as early as 1066, the silence of document one on the matter raises the question of Guillaume de Campront's actual title. The matter is complicated by the

fact that an *aveux* of 1394 lists Engerram de Campront as holding *un parage* from Jehan de Campront, seigneur of Lorey. Durand de Saint-Front, p. 15. This seems to indicate that Jehan de Campront, not Guillaume, was seigneur of Lorey, and that the lawsuit brought by Durant was against a different branch of the family.

<sup>49</sup> For a discussion of the implementation of royal notaries in the early fourteenth century, see Alexandre Theodore Barabe, *Recherches historiques sur le tabellionage royal...* (Brionne: Le Portulan, [1971]) pp. 10-16.

<sup>50</sup> This colorful nickname appears to mean "the hinge." See Huget, v. 4, p. 334.

<sup>51</sup> Guillaume's sobriquet appears to be a derivative of a verb meaning "to clot" or "to curdle."

<sup>52</sup> The term "*florin*" in France in the fourteenth century was used synonymously with "*livres*." The additional phrase "*appelle franc du conng du Roy Monsieur de son poiz*" is likely an example of the attempt to specify florins of full value in the face of massive fluctuation. See Peter Spufford, *Handbook of Medieval Exchange*, (London: Royal Historical Society, 1986) pp. 172-176.

<sup>53</sup> It is worth noting that Bellont probably held more property than that which he received from the Boissières.

<sup>54</sup> The charter uses the phrasing *six vingt seize*.

<sup>55</sup> This seems to indicate the *livre* had been debased compared with the florin, a supposedly more stable currency.

<sup>56</sup> In the land negotiations of the previous chapter, it is clear that while seigneurs inherited ownership of land, their tenants inherited possession. This appears also to be the case in this document.

<sup>57</sup> The charter mentions Auvrey's claim *en cas de marchie de boursse par sange et lingeage*. I have been unable to determine the legal definition of this phrase. It is probably significant that when the settlement is stated, Raoul is said to be acting for *marchie de boursse par sange et lingeage* and for the monetary settlement.

<sup>58</sup> Again, the wording of the charter is very unclear. See Appendix C for a summary.

<sup>59</sup> Later, Guillaume is listed as retaining the *fons* of the inheritance.

<sup>60</sup> This seems likely since no mention is made of children from the marriage. In addition, she is in possession of a portion of her husband's inheritance, which she is fully able to alienate. This would not be the case were she dealing with her children's patrimony.

<sup>61</sup> See Godefroy, v. 3, pp. 636-638.

<sup>62</sup> This is a restatement of an agreement which was also formalized, since a phrase refers to this having been done as it is said in earlier *lettres*. Why this document was not included while the first one was is unclear. Technically, neither seem to have involved the Campronts until this point, so perhaps it was a matter of chance that the redactor was able to locate a copy of document nine.

<sup>63</sup> The document states that Vielle retains "*les successions du temps advenir qu'il en retient par devers lui tant soulement.*"

<sup>64</sup> The implication is that Raoul would be cutting a dead tree for a Yule log. The tree is described as named "faon," which appears to indicate "brown-colored." This would suggest a dead, rather than a green, tree was to be cut.

<sup>65</sup> This point, along with the outline of the system, was provided by Lynn Nelson.

<sup>66</sup> A clerical or copying error must have been made in recording the date of this charter, since it states *mil CCCcx iiiii*. Following the notation used in other documents, this would indicate the year 1424, by which time Raoul had actually arranged the marriage of one of his own children. It is most likely that the notation for three hundred was omitted, yielding a tentative date of 1380, with the accidental addition of one *C*, wherein the *xx iiiii* indicates the number *vingt-quatre*. This date fits with the children known to have been produced from the marriage, as well as the settlement of Ysabel's claims as her father's heiress.

<sup>67</sup> This amounts to the *rente* on one hundred thirty-three and 1/3 acres. With the additional acres given, plus the land required to constitute the fifty *livres* given by Villiers, the couple will have a total of approximately three hundred sixty acres.

<sup>68</sup> The use of the term *franc* here suggests that the sum will be paid in cash, while the *rente*, as in other yearly sums, is reckoned in money of account, the *livre tournois*.

<sup>69</sup> It is interesting that in all the settlements dealing with Campront children, the father alone is listed as presenting the gift, while in other families both parents are mentioned when their daughter is betrothed. This may indicate that Jehan de Campront was a widower when he arranged his son's marriage, and Raoul by the time his children marry. There is no indication of when Ysabel de Villiers died.

<sup>70</sup> Jehan's gift of a *rente*, plus the additional acres given outright, plus the land required to constitute the fifty *livres* given by Villiers, the couple will have a total of approximately three hundred sixty acres from which to collect *rentes*. This appears to be a typical settlement for the Campront family's social and economic class.

<sup>71</sup> For twenty *sous*, Campront can pay fifteen gold *ecus* each worth twenty-two *sous* six *deniers* each, or for the entire sum of fifty *sous*, he can pay thirty-seven and one half *ecus*. The *ecu* was a gold money, equal to twenty-three *sous tournois* in 1358. Spufford, p. 190. No later values are given for this currency.

<sup>72</sup> This branch of the family, like the seigneurs of Lorey, might have originated from Campront, and have been distantly related to each other. However, no indication of the relationship can be discerned from the cartulary. It is worth noting that in the document, Jehan is identified only as the son of the seigneur of la Ruquetière, while the title assigned to this charter by the copyist lists the marriage to the seigneur. While it is likely that in the interval between the settlement and the redaction, Jehan has in fact come into the lordship, the apparent failure of the marriage, discussed later, should have effectively ended Campront interest in the inheritance. The fact that someone took the trouble to "update" Jehan's status indicates the closely knit nature of the social and economic stratum of the families.

<sup>73</sup> See note 3 above for a comparison of *rente* to land area.

<sup>74</sup> The Percy family, which appears in two different marriages with members of the Campront family, is most likely related to the Percy family, earls of

Northumberland in England. It seems likely that the English Percys would have been involved with the conquest of Normandy, and that their ties with the Norman relations would have been strengthened.

<sup>75</sup> The sixteenth-century hand is much more difficult to read. This is the apparent spelling of the family name.

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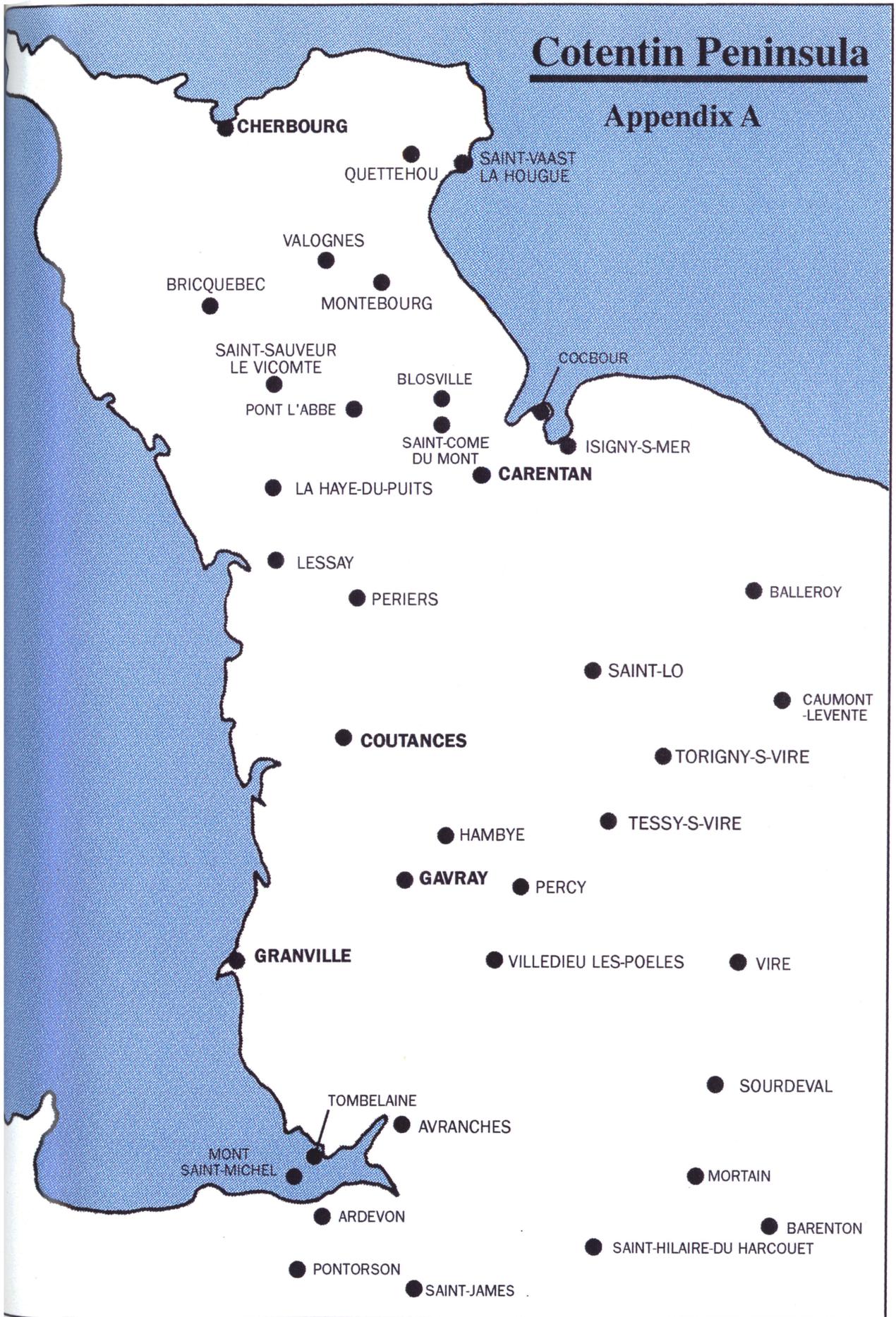
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# Cotentin Peninsula

## Appendix A





## Appendix C

### Register of Charters

1. Cotentin 1284 [May 1]

[Not listed in table of contents]

Rogier Durant, *clerc*, son and heir of Rogier Durant owes homage to Guillaume de Campront, chevalier, for manor, lands, rentes, etc. in Lorey. An accord was reached between the parties, by counsel of wise men, that Rogier should do homage, give service, etc. and pay amount of 2 *sous* per year at St. Martin in the summer. Rogier (father) had bought it from brothers Renault and Rogier de Campront, and son Rogier will hold it in the same manner. 3 *sous* is the only penalty for which he can be brought before justice at the lord's court.

Monday before Pentecost, 1268. [21 May]

Sealed with seals of monsieur le Roy de France and of Campront in the baillage of Cotentin.

Other letter as below:

The two parties entered into judgment about that which the knight demanded from the cleric, that is, *deux chevans et deux sas de ferme*, and the knight holds them as forfeit, for which reason they go to another mill than the lord's. After Rogier produced sealed letter, stating that the 2 *sous* was the only demand allowable, the parties entered into judgment at the Assize of Coutances over wording of the letter. It was decided that Guillaume de Campront can take his penalties and Rogier affirms the contrary. At the Exchiquier at Rouen, Campront was represented by Guillaume de Reniers, *actourne*, carrying sealed letters before the masters at Exchiquier. Friday after St. Mark the Evangelist, 1284. The judgment was that Campront has no right to demand anything except the 2 *sous* at St. Martin in the summer. The knight made amends for the judgment by *actourne* at the Exchiquier. These things are certified by these letters, sealed with seal of baillie of Cotentin.

Monday after St. Mark the Evangelist 1284 [1 May]

Sealed with seal of the baillie of Cotentin.

*xx vi xiiii [v] - xx vi xvi [v]*

2.

1299 [January 23]

[Not listed in table of contents]

Richard de Courchie, seigneur of Remillie, affirms that Engerram de Campront, *escuier*, seigneur of Lorey, is held to owe him 1 *esperrier sur ramage de rente* each year at St. Michel. Richard affirms that he orders Engerram to give it to him each year at the octaves of St. Martin in the winter. Richard or his heirs cannot molest Engerram or his heirs about this *esperier* before the octave of St. Martin.

Friday after St. Fabien and St. Sebastien 1299. [January 23] Salutation from Richard de Courchie. Sealed with the seal of de Courchie.

*xx vii iiii [r]*

3.

Coutances?

1310 [10 October]

"Lettre de xviii l de rente sur le fieu de Beaumez"

Gires de Planes (widow of Phelippes de la Rochelle, *escuier*) and her sister, Aliz (wife of Guillaume de Villiers, *escuier*, seigneur of Maupertus) and Guillaume (because of his wife) had inherited from Richart de Planes in the parishes of Perron, Drome, Dan Pierres, and elsewhere. Gires gives her inheritance to Guillaume (because of Aliz.) Guillaume had divided inheritance and gives Gires 22 *livres tournois* in deniers. Guillaume retains the *fons* of the inheritance [both acting on the counsel of friends.]

Before the *garde* of Coutances, Guillaume and Aliz (acting with husband's authority) admit that they owe 22 *livres* per year in *deniers*. 4 *livres* escheats to Guillaume from Gires because of his wife, so that Guillaume has only to pay 18 [9 at All Saints and 9 at Palm Sunday]. Gires or heirs cannot claim anything else from them, except 2 *sous* compensation if they don't pay. Gires relinquishes for herself and heirs the right to be believed by oath without other proof, and also other privileges and exceptions which could aid her.

Saturday after St. Denis, 1310. [10 October]

Sealed with seal of viscounty of Coutances. Salutation from *garde* of Coutances.

*c x iiii [r] - c xv [v]*

4.

Coutances?

1350 [7 June]

[Not listed in table of contents]

Jehan Lamy & Perotte (acting on authority of husband) of parish of Velly, sold rente of 12 bushels per year at St. Michel 2 *sous* 11 *deniers* due at the customary times, plus arrears with homage due from the heirs of Richart Hersent, Raoul Vigot, and Jehan Dany on 3 acres in the great park in Lorey (near land owned by heirs of Richart Vigot, abutting the Clos de la Potomie) along with all rights, to Jacques Lamy, of parish of Saint Nicholas de Coutances for 12 *livres tournois* plus 10 *sous pour vin*. Wife, by authority of husband, swears she will not demand any more for any reason, dowry or otherwise. (See #8, #20)

Monday after day Sainte Perinelle Vierge 1350 [7 June]

Given before Gieffrey le Fevre, [*clerc commis*]. Salutation from Colin de la Porte, *garde* of Coutances.

*xx vi ii [r] - xx vi iii [r]*

5.

Coutances?

1366 Monday [19 October]

"Lettre comme le Cailletel aquist le fieu de Saint Gire"?

Noble homme Monsieur Guillaume de la Boisse, chevalier, and Madame Sebille his wife, residing in the parish of Montpinchon, sold rente of 78 *sous tournois* 23 1/2 bushels (mesure de Lorey), 20 *rees devaine*, 4 loaves, 4 hens, and 6 cocks, with all rights (*gage-plege, cour et usage*, etc.) at customary times to Guillaume le Bellont dit le Calletel and rights in land in parishes of Lorey and Campront because of Sebille. This was done for the price of 100 gold florins ("*appelle franc du conng du Roy Monsieur de son poiz*") + 2 francs *pour vin*. Sebille swears on her word and by the holy angels of God that she will not go against this agreement. Given with the condition that the knight and lady pay the sum within one year or the contract is void and Guillaume le Bellont is held free of obligation. (See #8)

Monday after St. Lucas the Evangelist 1366 [18 October]

Given before Richart Gieffrey, *tabellion* under the king. Salutation from Colin de Baudre, *garde* of Coutances.

*xx vi v [r] - xx vi vi [r]*

6.

Marigny?

1380? March 17

"Lettre du mariage de noble homme Raoul de Campront"

About the marriage agreed to between Raollet de Campront and Ysabel de Villiers, daughter of Guillaume de Villiers, seigneur de Maupertus, and of Guillaumette. Before Renouf Guernet under Jehan Haye, following agreement reached:

If the marriage is accomplished, Jehan de Campront, seigneur of Lorey, and father of Raollet, to give 40 *livres tournois* per year at St. Michel + 60 acres in Campront and the hostel and manor of Campront and 100 francs for movables. Villiers and wife will give Ysabel 50 *livres tournois* per year, from fief of Nicorp. He will pay only 30 while he lives; afterwards the couple will get 50 *livres tournois* from the inheritance of the deceased Villiers. They also give 100 francs for movables. If the couple have no heirs, gifts will revert to donors. Jehan de Campront will guard and govern the couple and receive their rentes.

17 March 1380?.

Given before Renouf Guernet, *tabellion* at Marigny. Salutation from Jehan le Telier, *garde* of Coutances and the land which Charles de Navarre used to hold.

*xx vii v [v] - xx vii ii [r]*

7.

Coutances?

1389 October 4

"Lettre daquiscion de Guyot Lamy 12 boisseaux de forment"

Guyot Lamy, *clerc*, bourgeois of Coutances, was present, affirming what passed before Loys Ler, *tabellion* at Coutances, told that he sold Jehan de Campront, *escuier*, seigneur of Lorey, 12 bushels, *measure de Lorey*, at St. Michel, 21 *deniers* per year at the customary times, and homage on 3 acres of land in parish of Lorey which the heirs of Richard Hersent, Raoul Vigot and Jehan Damy held (as in #4) This is given for price of 26 *livres tournois* + 10 *sous pour vin*. (See #20)

Monday 4 October 1389.

Given before Gieffrey le Fevre [*clerc tabellion jure et commis*]. Salutation from Jehan le Duc *garde* de Coutances.

*xx vi iii [r] - xx vi iiii [r]*

"Lettre de laquisicion diceulx fieu [Saint Gire]"?

Guillaume le Belloq dit le Cailletel, bourgeois of Coutances, gave to Jehan de Campront, *escuier*, seigneur of Lorey, all rights which he had in the parishes of Lorey and Campront from Guillaume de la Boissiere, *chevalier*, and wife Sebile (see #5) with all his acquisitions, except 2, which he acquired from Guillaume de Mandovit

- 12 bushels, measure de Lorey, at St. Michel, 4 *patins*, and 4 hens at Noel, and 20 eggs at Easter, as in letters before Colin Chance, Sunday 5 March 1384
- 2 bushels, measure de Lorey, at St. Michel, 2 s at *la Mointin*, (Mointurin parish? -- see #15) which Jehan le Roy of Campront owes, as in letters before Gieffrey le Fievre, 15 March 1383

Campronts have no claim to these 2. Campront to pay 78 *livres tournois*? ("six vingt seize") 10 *deniers* plus 40 s *pour vin* to Calletel plus 12 *livres tournois* per year at St. Michel for the lifetime of Calletel and his wife Robine. Payment of 10 *sous tournois* per day for late payment. Cailletel gives letters of quittance to Campront, except for 2 acquisitions. The Assize of Coutances addresses the (case of) *gage-plege* presented by the lord against Cailletel. Parties make amends, and Cailletel to get arrears due. Both swear by faith and by bodies not to go against accord. (See #5)

Friday 14 May 1395.

Given before Gernaез le Vavassour, *tabellion* under Jehan de Roncy at Coutances. Salutation from Jehan le Duc, *garde* of Coutances. Witnessed by Jehan Jourdan dit le Sancoy? and Thomas le Roy.

*xx vi vi [r] - xx vi ix [r]*

9.

Coutances

1397 September 10 Monday

[Not listed in table of contents]

Gieffrey Rigault, of the parish of Lorey, sold all the inheritance which he could claim in the fiefs of la Choquetiere, Danllevy in the parish of Lorey, plus 2 tracts of land, amounting to 1 acre, in the fief of Jeheme:

- adjoining the field of Jehem, abutting land of Thomas Jehan
- adjoining Jehan le Roy, abutting the fief of Basiniere] to Rogier Fouchart, of the parish of Lorey

This done for 6 bushels per year, mesure de Lorey, plus 2 loaves and 2 hens at St. Michel. Rigault guarantees this fief by 1 bushel, 1 loaf, 1 capon per year to Colin le Moncheiz; 1 loaf, 1 capon per year to Jehan le Darondet and for rentes, services, etc. if need be. Fouchart, in exchange, gives 6 bushels on Roaul Ambroiz of Lorey to be taken from his tenement.

Monday 10 September 1397.

Given before Loys le?, *tabellion* at Coutances. Salutation from Jehan Boitvin, viscount of Coutances. Witnessed by Raoul l'Abbe and Jehan Heront.

*xx vii iiii [v] - xx vii v [v]*

10.

Antenille

1399 September 8

"Lettre comme ledit Fleant renoncha audroit de la moultre de Homdouil"

Noble man Guillaume de Villiers, *escuier*, seigneur of Maupertus and Malherbiere, had given the manor of Malherbiere and the right to mill at Homdouil to Colin Fleant of Bieuille for 10 *livres tournois* rente at times mentioned in the letter of this gift. Before Pierres de Goney, *tabellion* at D'Aubigny, Colin affirms that, despite the above gift, neither he nor heirs will claim the right to mill at Homdouil. See #17, #18, #23, #24.

Saturday 8 September 1399

Given at Antenille. Salutation from Jehan le Cordier, *garde* of St. Sauveur Lendelin.

*c xiii [v] - c xiiii [r]*

11.

Lorey

1399 December 7

[Not listed in table of contents]

Jehan le Roy the Elder, of the parish of Lorey, appears, affirms that he received the inheritance from Jehan la Vielle from his mother Jehannette, retaining only the *successions du temps advenir qu'il en retient par devers lui tant soullement* [the rights of future succession?], for 2 *sous* 6 *deniers* of rente per year at St. Michel. See #26

7 December 1399.

Given at Lorey before Thomas Fourmy. Salutation from Jehan Boyvin, *garde* of Coutances. Witnessed by Raoul du Trou Dilec and Colin Michel de Saneigny?  
xx vi x [v] - xx vi xi [v]

12.

d'Aubigny?

1399 December 14

"Lettre de mariage de Robine de Campront au Seigneur de Cronille"

Jehan de Campront, *escuier*, seigneur of Lorey, had given daughter Robine 30 *livres tournois* per year *jusqu'a ce que tournee et assiete leur en fust fette en lieu suffisant* to the couple and their heirs in the female line, in making her marriage to Jehan Bondet, *escuier*, seigneur of Cronille, as in previous letters. Jehan gave them rentes on fief-franc Nicorp, and all rights, [*gage-plege, court et usage, etc.*], the chief of which is in Nicorp, and also in Tournille, Gratot, and Coutances, stipulating only that fief be held by him or his heirs in parage, for the price of 27 *livres tournois* 10 *sous* of the 30. Bondet accepts this for himself and his wife. The remaining 50 *sous* will be paid at the customary time until settlement, or Campront can pay in one, two or three sums discharging the amount. Campront guarantees this by making rentes due as much to the King, to Jasmin du Mesnildo, *escuier* (from whom the fief is held) as to Henry de Guihebert, *escuier*, and his wife Jehannette le Nepnous, because of her. If sum is paid in one lump sum, for 20 *sous*, 15 *ecus d'or* at 22 *sous* 6 *deniers* each, or 50 *sous* for 37 1/2 *ecus*. See #21.

Sunday 14 December 1399.

Given before Pierre de Goney, *tabellion* at D'Aubigny. Salutation from Jehan le Cordier, *garde* of St. Sauveur Lendelin. Witnessed by Pierres Sabine, Richart Burgon, and Guiot Sabine.  
cii [r] - ciii [v]

13.

Coutances?

1400 November 30

[Not listed in table of contents]

Guillaume de Campront, *escuier*, former seigneur of Lorey, had acquired certain *estraciz* from M. Richart Roulant, formerly parson of Camotout, which Richard had acquired from Gieffrey Rigault, of Lorey, as in previous letters. Before Pierre Lagenn, *tabellion* under Gernoiez le Vavassour, *tabellion* at Marigny, Gieffrey Rigault said he gave nobleman Jehan de Campront, seigneur of Lorey, nephew and heir of Guillaume, 6 bushels, measure de Lorey, per year at St. Michel, 2 loaves, 2 hens, to be taken on the inheritance mentioned in attached letters. In exchange, Jehan gives Gieffrey all rights which Guillaume had from Roulant, priest, on Gieffrey's predecessors?.

St. Andrew's Day 1400 [Tuesday November 30]

Given before Pierre Lagenn. Salutation from Jehan Boitvin *garde* of Coutances.

Witnessed by Guillaume Bailleul? and Pherrot Vigot.

*xx vii v [v] - xx vii vi [v]*

14.

Cenilly

1405 April 1

"Lettre comme Colin Fleant pnt le moulin de Beaumes"

Colin Fleant of Bieuil present, affirms he received from nobleman Guillaume de Villiers, *escuier*, seigneur of Maupertus, the mill of Beaumeis, with lands belonging to it. The rights accompanying the mill remain with Villiers because of *gage-plege*. The services are not to be sold by Fleant or his heirs. This done for 6 *livres tournois* per year, given twice a year, half at All Saints and half at Palm Sunday.

1 April 1405.

Given at Cenilly before Thomas Vandyor. Salutation from Jehan Boitvin, *garde* of Coutances. Witnessed by Raoul de Campront, *escuier*, and Jehan Margnet.

*xx vi i [r] - xx vi ii [r]*

15.

Quibou?

1421 June 29

"Lettre de mariage au seigneur de la Ruquetiere"

Jehan de Campront, *seigneur en propriete de Mauperts*, gives 2 fiefs, Rouge Fosse in parish of Monturtin Engegne and Beaumont in parish of Lingreville plus rights, revenues, etc., to his sister Jehannette and to Jehan de Campront, son of Engerram, seigneur of la Ruquetiere. Included are rentes in parish of Lingreville:

- 100 sous tournois in parish of Grimoville on hostel and lands of Gauldrodouil and justice which goes with it
- 1 quartier of wheat upon Jehan le Rouxet, because of tenement he holds there

Raoul de Campront, father of donor, is present to this, and wishes that the couple benefit from it as if of their own inheritance.

29 June 1421.

Given before Pierre Osouf, *tabellion* at Quibou. Salutation from Jehan d'Anneville, *garde* of Coutances. Witnessed by Olivier de Soulle, Jehan Pellerin, *curé* of Saint Maritn de Bon Fosse, Thomas le Tenour, bourgeois of Coutances, and several others.  
*xx vi xiii [r] - xx vi xiii [v]*

16.

Quibou?

1424 December 10

"Lettre du mariage Guillaume de Percy"

Raoul de Campront, seigneur *a exufrit* of Maupertus, and Jehan de Campront, his son, seigneur of Maupertus *en propriete*, give all rights which they hold in 2 fiefs, nobly held in la Lande, Darouet, or elsewhere: 1 named Perrenilain and the other that which Raoul received from deceased Bernart le Cointe as in previous letters + rights, revenues, etc., to Jehannette de Campront, daughter of Raoul and sister of Jehan, making her mariage to Guillaume de Percy.

10 December 1424.

Given before Pierres Osouf, *tabellion* at Quibou. Salutation from Jehan D'Anneville, *garde* of Coutances. Witnessed by Guillaume de la Haie, *escuier*, M. Symon de Percy, and Perrin Letour.  
*xx vi xii [r] - xx vi xiii [r]*

"Lettre come ledit Colin Fleant pnt lostel de la Malherbiere"

Transcript, more detailed, of #10. Guillaume de Villiers, seigneur of Maupertus, gave Colin Fleant the manor of Malherbiere, including all rights, but not including the lands which came into the lordship through forfeiture, escheat, or otherwise. The wood of Plessais is included, along with the entries and exits from the manor and the wood, and the milling right at Homdouil. Exempt from the gift are the *mote et repairs* of manor, patronage of the chapel, and entries and exits to chapel. Donor also keeps all woods which are divisible by half?, entries and exits of hostel for himself, his household, or animals, whenever he wishes to come or go.

This done for 10 *livres tournois* rente, per year, 100 *sous* at All Saints and 100 *sous* at Ascension to be paid by the hand of the provost or receiver. The first payment will be due at the coming Ascension. Reciepent will pay all customary aides. Donor retains justice in the fief. Present to this were Raoul de Campront and Ysabel de Villiers, heir of Guillaume, acting by authority of husband. She swears she will never go against this agreement.

Saturday 8 September 1399.

Given at Anteville before Pierres de Goney, *tabellion* at d'Aubigny. Salutation from Jehan le Cordier. Witnessed by Jehan de Campront, escuyer, and Rogier Fouchart.

Colin Caunelande, *tabellion* at Saint Lo, affirms the above, having seen letter, whole and entire in seal and in writing, containing it. (See #10, 18, 23, 24)

7 January 1426.

Salutation from Guilluame Osber, *garde* of Carentin.

*c xi [r] - c xiii [r]*

18.

1426 January 7

"Lettre comme Guillaume de Villiers pnt le fieu de la Malherbiere"

Guillaume de Villiers, seigneur of Maupertus and Malherbiere gave to Colin Fleant of the Parish of Biulle, a rente of 10 *livres tournois* per year (*jusqu'a ce que tournee et assiete...*) by Villiers or his heirs to Fleant or his heirs. This done because Fleant abandoned all rights to Malherbiere, which he had received in exchange with Guillaume de Buisson of the parish of St. Pol, self-proclaimed nephew and heir of Michel de Buisson. Fleant guaranteed that heirs of Buisson would have no rights to this. Present to this were Raoul de Campront, *escuyer*, and Ysabel de Villiers, his wife and daughter and heir of Guillaume, acting by authority of husband, who promises not to go against this. (See #10, #17, #23, #24)

13 September 1399.

Given at Antenille before Pierres de Goney, *tabellion* at d'Aubigny. Salutation from Jehan le Cordier, *garde* of St. Sauveur Lendelin. Witnessed by Jehan de Campront, seigneur of Lorey and Rogier Fouchart. Signed by de Goney.

Transcript.

Tuesday 7 January 1426.

*c vi [v] - c viii [r]*

19.

Saint-Lo?

1426 December 10

"Lettre du mariage Jehan de Campront filz dudit Raoul"

Nobleman M. Raoul Tesson, *chevalier*, seigneur of Dangy gives niece Marie de Villiers, daughter of deceased Pierres de Villiers, seigneur of Villiers, and of deceased Jehannette Tesson, Raoul's sister, 27 livres *tournois* per year rente, [1/2 at Easter and 1/2 at All Saints] making her marriage to Jehan de Campront, *escuier*, seigneur of Maupertus. He does this for love for her and for services she rendered while she lived with him and his wife Beatrix de Percy, for which he guarantees this gift if the marriage takes place to them and heirs in the female line, until such time as he comes into the inheritance of his deceased father Robert Tesson?, which Raoul Tesson will pay in 1, 2, or 3 installments. If Marie has no heir, or if line dies out, gift will return to donor, without collateral heirs having any claim to it, no matter how long a time has elapsed, except the right of widowhood, if she is widowed, according to custom of the land.

20 December 1426.

Given before Colin Caunelande, *tabellion* at Saint-Lo. Salutation from Guillaume Osber, guard of Carentin. Witnessed by nobleman M. Pherrin de la Haye and Jehan de Maten, *escuier*.

*xx vii ii [v] - xx vii iii [v]*

20.

Coutances

1428 September 30

"Lettre du portage diceul 12 b [acquis de Guyot Lamy]"

Deceased Jehan de Campront, seigneur of Lorey, had acquired from deceased Guioy Lamy, residing at Coutances, 12 bushels of wheat per year at St. Michel, mesure de Lorey, to be taken from Colin Ambroiz dit le Gohin of the fief or from the fief of Lamy in Lorey? [*dudit lieu ainsue d'un fieu ou ainsnesse* named Lorey]. The bushels were not brought to the lord's granary. Before Colin Pelecoq, Colin Ambroiz affirms he will cut and assemble the wheat each year for the Raoul, heir and eldest son of Campront, and carry it to the granary like other men. Campront releases him from payment of arrears. See #4, #8.

30 September 1428

Given at Coutances before Colin Pelecoq. Salutation from Jehan Danneville. Witnessed by Richart de Fourteney and Guillaume Lecardonel.

*xx vi iiiii [r] - xx vi v [r]*

21.

Pont l'Abbe

1420 February 7

"Lettre de l'acquisition de l β de rente diceluy mariage [Robine de Campront & seigneur of Cronille]"

Jehan de Campront, *escuier*, seigneur of Lorey, had settled 27 *livres tournois* of the 30 on the marriage of Robine and Jehan Bondet. (See #12) 50 *sous* remained, which could be settled with 37 1/2 gold ecus.

14 December 1399.

Given before Pierres Degre [De Goney], *tabellion* at D'Aubingy, in St. Sauveur Lendelin.

Jehan Bondet, *escuier*, seigneur of Cronille and son and heir of couple, (and acting for all other heirs and establishing himself for other heirs) received 37 1/2 gold ecus from Raoul de Campront, *escuier*, seigneur of Lorey, son and heir of Jehan, discharging Campronts of 50 / year.

7 February 1430.

Given at Pont L'Abbe before Laurens Odion. Salutation from Ostie Boulley, *garde* of Valloigne. Witnessed by Germain Maloyssel and Michel Bufor?

*ciii [v] - cv [r]*

22.

Coutances?

1431 May 5

"Lettre de forment acquis de Guillaume Auvrey"

Guillaume Auvrey of Campront, sold 7 bushels per year at St. Michel, mesure de Lorey, on the fief of Burnouniere and other heritages, which he holds in the lordship of Campront, to Raoul de Campront, seigneur of Lorey and Campront, This done for price of 18 *livres tournois*, in one lump sum. He guarantees to pay the bushels and take them to the lord's granary. (See #25)

5 May 1431.

Given at Coutances before Colin Pelecoq. Salutation from Jehan d'Anneville, *garde* of Cotentin. Witnessed by M. Jacques de Campront, canon of Coutances.

*xx vi xvi [v] - xx xv ii [v]*

23.

Quibou?

1431 October 2

"Lettre daquisicion de x t de rente que pnoit Colin Fleant"

Colin Fleant, self-proclaimed holder of rights from Guillaume de Bisson, self-proclaimed nephew and heir of Michel du Bisson, had given all rights which he held in Malherbiere, to Guillaume de Villiers, seigneur of Maupertus and Malherbiere, in exchange for 10 *livres tournois* per year at St. Michel, as in letters before Pierres de Goney, *tabellion* at Aubigny. (See #10, #17, #18, #24)

13 September 1399. These letters are attached to the *vidimus*"

Raoul de Campront, seigneur of Lorey, heir of Villiers through his children, and Fleant pledge the above is true. As of 28 December 1426, Campront gives Fleant series of rentes in parishes of Quarantille, Trelly, Quetrenille, Grimomille, Tournville, and Rentenille, in lieu of 10 *livres tournois* Colin accepts this.

Tuesday 2 October 1431

Given before Colin Caunelande, *tabellion* at Quiebou. Salutation from Jehan d'Annenille, *garde* of Coutances. Witnessed by Jehan Senestre and Phellipot Butel. *cviii [r] - cx [r]*

24.

Quibou?

1431 October 4

"Lettre comme ledit Colin pnt lostel de la Malherbiere"

Effective 30 November 1427, Colin Fleant sold to Raoul de Campront rentes in parishes (above, with few minor changes) for 100 *livres tournois* + 100 *sous pour vin*. Colin had these from Raoul (*pour la tournée et assiete de dix livres de rente...o tout action raison* etc. which Fleant had) as in previous letters. (See #10, #17, #18, #23)

Thursday 4 October 1431

Given before Colin Caunelande, *tabellion* at Quiebou. Salutation from Jehan d'Anneville, *garde* of Coutances. Witnessed by Jehan Senestre and Phelipot Butel. *cx [r] - cxvi [r]*

25.

Coutances

1432 July 8

About that which Estienne Auvrey claimed from Raoul de Campront *en cas de marchie de boursse* by blood and lignage, 7 bushels, mesure de Lorey, [not 7 bushels a year] from the gift of his father Guillaume Auvrey, as in attached letters.

Before Colin Pelecoq, Jehan le Roy, *actorne* acting for Campront, who had himself to give a copy to attach *au double* to the present letter, affirmed he gave Estienne 4 of the seven bushels. And this was done for *marchie de boursse* and blood and lineage and for the price which he had from seigneur and for 1/13 of the acquisition, which Estienne is obliged to pay within 15 days. And of the 3 remaining bushels, Estienne abandons his claim, and if any claim is made to justices, Estienne obliged to pay for himself and for the lord. If he doesn't pay within the allotted time, the 4 bushels will be surrendered to the lord, in addition to the acquisition. See #22.

14 July 1432.

Given at Coutances before Colin Pelecoq. Salutation from Jehan d'Anneville, *garde* of Coutances. Witnessed by Michel le Roy and Guillaume Auvrey.

*xx vi xvii [v] - xx vi xviii [r]*

26.

Marigny

1433 May 28

"Lettre de ii s vi d de Louye la Vielle"

Loys la Vielle affirms he sold 2 *sous* 6 *deniers* per year at St. Michel to be taken on the heirs of Jehan le Roy the Elder (see #11) to Jehan le Chler, *clerc*, son of Guillaume, for 40 *livres tournois* plus 5 *sous pour vin*, assessed on such tenements as in letters.

28 May 1433.

Given before Gieffroy Darquerel *tabellion* at Marigny. Salutation from Jehan Danneville, *garde* of Coutances. Witnessed by Jehan Corbet and Jehan Bolet.

*xx vi xi [v] - xx vi xii [r]*

27.

Bellual

1435 April 29

"Lettre de l'acquisition de cent soubz de rente de Olivier d'Anquetonille"

Raoul de Campront, seigneur of Lorey, had given 30 *livres tournois* per year at St. Michel to Olivier d'Anquetonille, seigneur of Bellual and to Aliz, his wife and Raoul's daughter. (25 *livres tournois* of this amount was in *franc fieu*, 100 *sous* in *rentes routulliers*, as in attached letters.) 100 *sous* of this could be discharged by paying lump sum of 50 *livres tournois*. Olivier and his wife, acting with husband's authority, affirm they received 50 *livres tournois* from Campront, discharging Campront and heirs from further debt.

29 April 1435.

Given at Bellual before [Jehan] LeRoy *tabellion* at Marigny. Salutation from Jehan Danneville, *garde* of Coutances. Witnessed by Jean Senestre and Jehan Mansel.  
*ci [r] - ci [v]*

28.

Quibou?

1435 December 12

"Lettre de laquisition fce du Besigueie? sur la forest de Bon Fosse"

Pierre le Betsyhaiz, *escuier*, sells to Raoul de Campront the right to have next year a tree called Faou, which Betsyhaiz used to take from the forest of Monsieur de Coutances in Bon Fosse and also to put *pousson ou pasnage* 10 pigs and *unge seu*, without paying *pousson* or *panage*, as he and ancestors had, in exchange for 10 *livres tournois* + 10 *sous en vin*, which Pierre accepts.

12 December 1435.

Given before Pierres Escuf *tabellion* at Quibou. Salutation from Clemente le Cointe, *garde* of Coutances. Witnessed by Jehan de Pierrefite and Guillaume de Percy.  
*xx vi ix [r] - xx vi ix [v]*

29.

Lorey

1436 February 15

"Lettre de la baille du fieu Malestably"

Raoul de Campront, seigneur of Lorey and of Campront, gave Richart Vigot of Lorey the tenement of Malestably in Lorey, containing about 1/2 acre and 1/2 *vergez*, while the fishpond, *causie de biandoe*, and discharge of the fishpond are retained by the lord [*demi acre et demi verger de terre ou viron en ce copvins ce qui en est vivier et caussie de biandoe et en refoul diceulx vivier et entant que il en a endit vivier et refoul qui demouront audit escuier.*] This is done because Vigot and heirs will pay all rentes and services, both for that which the *escuier* gives and for what he retains. Campront also retains quarry rights.

15 February 1436.

Given at Lorey before Jehan le Roy *tabellion* at Marigny. Salutation from Clemente le Coint, *garde* of Coutances. Witnessed by Jehan Hardel and Pierres Girart.

*xx vi x [r] - xx vi x [v]*

30.

Marigny?

1438 February 3

"Lettre de la baille du moulin de Homdouil face a Fleant" -crossed out and captioned "deffait"

Raoul de Campront, seigneur of Lorey and holder of Malherbiere for his son Jehan, acting for Jehan, gave Colin Fleant all rights which they held *en demy* the mill of Homdouil for 8 *livres tournois* per year, at two times, All Saints and Palm Sunday. Colin or heirs cannot alienate this. At the discretion of the donor or his heirs, the other half of mill can be bought back for 8 *livres tournois*, either in movables or in rentes. Campront retains the right to mill there, without *mouture* for it, for him and his household. Sum to be paid to Raoul until Jehan's time. Campront also retains gage-plege, 1/2 of forfeitures, and jurisdiction of the *motens*. Colin takes possession next St. Michel, and the first payment due next All Saint.

3 February 1438.

Given before Jehan le Roy, *tabellion* at Marigny. Salutation from Clemente le Comte. Witnessed by Jehan Pherin? and Guillaume Vallet dit Pommier.

*cxv [v] - cx vi [v]*

31.

Marigny?

1438 February 3

Colin Fleant of Biulle appears, affirms that he received from Raoul de Campront seigneur of Lorey and Campront, and fief of Malherbiere (acting for his son Jehan) the rights in 1/2 the mill of Homdouil for 8 *livres tournois* per year. (See #30. These are exactly the same documents. Clauses are the same, although word and clause order is changed around, and some word substitution [ "*moitie*" instead of "*demy*," etc.] )

3 February 1438.

Given before Jehan le Roy *tabellion* at Marigny. Salutation from Clemente le Cointe, *garde* of Coutances. Witnessed by Jehan Pherin and Guillaume Vallet dit le Pommier.

*c xviii [v] - c xix [r]*

32.

Marigny?

1438 February 3

"Lettre comme Guillaume Balle dit Pommier pnt 8 acrez de boys"

Guillaume Bally (Vallet?) appears, affirms he received from Raoul de Campront, seigneur of Lorey and Campront, and of the fief of Malherbiere (acting for his son Jehan) rights which Campront had in an piece of land about 8 acres in the parish of Buille, [adjoining on one side that of the seigneur of Torigny and the other that of Pierres Tillart and the widow of Colin Billes, and abutting the same woods on one side and one the other, the road from *Besachez* to Cherissy l'Abbaye] This done for price of 18 *deniers tournois* per *verger* per year at St. Michel, to be paid to Raoul, then to Jehan. If more than 8 acres in piece, he will pay proportionately. Guillaume to pay 8 *sous* per year for next 3 years.

3 February 1438.

Given before Jehan le Roy *tabellion* at Marigny. Salutation from Clemente le Cointe, *garde* of Coutances. Witnessed by M. Jehan Vallee, priest, and Jehan Phelippe.

*xx vi [r] - xx vii [r]*

33.

Marigny?

1438 February 3

"Lettre comme Jehan Phelippe print deux acrez de boye"

Jehan Phelippe present, affirms that he received from Raoul de Campront seigneur of Lorey, Campront and fief of Malherbiere (acting for his son Jehan) all rights which Campronts had in a tract of land about 2 acres in parish of Byuille [adjoining on one side the woods of the seigneur of Torigny and those of Pierres Hendyart on other, abutting the Dromme water and on other side property of Monsieur Jehan Auvrey]. This for the price of 18 *deniers tournois* per year per *verger*. If more than 2 acres in piece, *escuier* will make rente proportional.

3 February 1438.

Given before Jehan le Roy *tabellion* at Marigny. Salutation from Clemente le Cointe, *garde* of Coutances. Witnessed by M. Jehan Vallee, priest, and Guillaume Vallet dit le Pommier.

*c xix [r] - xx vi [r]*

34.

Marigny?

1438 February 3

"Lettre comme ledit Fleant prnt le Clos at la Palle"

Colin Fleant of Biulle present, affirms he received from Raoul de Campront seigneur of Lorey and proprietor of fief of Malherbiere (acting for his son Jehan) his rights in a piece of land called "*le Clos au clerc Perin*." just as it is described in length and width [adjoining the seigneur of Torigny's woods on one side and those of Pierre Tillart on other, abutting the Dromme water] This done for 20 *sous tournois* per year at St. Michel to be paid to Raoul until Jehan's time.

3 February 1438.

Given before Jehan le Roy *tabellion* at Marigny. Salutation from Clemente le Cointe, *garde* of Coutances. Witnessed by Jehan Pherin and Guillaume Vallet dit le Pommier.

*c xvi [v] - c xvii [v]*

35.

Souilles

1438 June 20

"Lettre daquisition de praye de Jehan et Thomas Vinemer"?

Raoul de Campront seigneur of Lorey received from Jehan Vinemer of St. Ebremond de Bon Fosse the rights in a field about one half acre in St. Ebermond de Bon Fosse [adjoining on one side the road from the mill of Bosq to the hostel of Nicolet, and the fosse de la Thomasiere on the other, abutting the fishpond of the mill on one side and the other, the field of Thomas Vinimer, a certain portion of which is due to monsieur de Coutances, for which he gets 1 capon per year] This done for 10 *livres tournois* plus 10 *sous tournois pour vin* in one lump sum. See #38.

20 June 1438.

Given at Souilles before Richart le Bucle, *tabellion* at Tessy under Raoul Faunel. Salutation from Clemente le Cointe, *garde* of Coutances. Witnessed by Jehan le Fevre, priest, and Colin de la Fontaine.

*xx vi xix [v] - xx vii [r]*

36.

St. Ebremond de Bon Fosse

1438 October 8

"Lettre deschange faice ale Testu de Lorey"

Thomas le Testu of Lorey gave to noble homme Raoul de Campront, seigneur of Lorey, one tract containing 11 1/2 vergez of land in Lorey in the fief of la Crassiere. This adjoins the land of Jehan le Chevalier, as much because he holds it from Testu as from Richard de Fontenay. The piece adjoins on one side the land of Richard Vigot, and the Rue D'Abbillon on the other. (see #29) This done for 5 bushels per year to be given by Campront at St. Michel, mesure de Quarantilly, to be taken on Raoul Herman and his tenements of Quarantilly.

8 October 1438

Given at St. Ebremond de Bon Fosse before Richart le Bucle, *tabellion* under Raoul Faunel. Salutation from Clemente le Comte, *garde* of Coutances. Witnessed by Jehan le Chlrer? and Henry Cauquet.

*cv [r] - cvi [r]*

37.

St. Ebremond de Bon Fosse

1438 October 8

"Lettre deschange faice ole Testu du Lorey"

Thomas le Testu of Lorey said he sold Raoul de Campront, seigneur of Lorey, 3 *vergez* of land in the fief of Crasserie in Lorey for 12 *livres tournois* 7 *sous* 6 *deniers* plus 5 *sous en vin* in one lump sum. The land adjoins the route from the manor of Lorey to the mills of Campront on one side and the 10 *vergez* which Testu exchanged with Campront on the other, and abuts the Rue D'Abillon on one side and the land of Guillaume Bosmer on the other.

8 October 1438

Given at St. Ebremond de Bon Fosse before Richart le Bucle, *tabellion* under Raoul Samuel. Salutation from Clemente le Comte, *garde* of Coutances. Witnessed by Jehan le Chlrer? and Henry Cauquet.

*c vi [r] - c vi [r]*

38.

Soules

1438 December 8

[Not listed in table of contents]

Thomas Vinemer of St. Ebremond de Bon Fosse sold to Raoul de Campront, seigneur of Lorey, a piece of land about one half acre in St. Ebremond, [adjoining road from mill of Bosq to hostel of Nicolet on one side and the ditch of la Thassiere on the other, abutting the mill of Nicolet on one side and on other, the piece which Campront acquired from Jehan Vinemer by Thomas. This done for 8 *livres tournois* plus 5 *sous en vin* in lump sum. Thomas agrees not to obstruct the water which comes by Nicolet, nor to prevent access to Campront or heirs whenever he wants it. The fief is not to be sold. Regnouf Maugier present to this, and he swears by faith and by the body not to go against this. See #35.

8 December 1438.

Given at Soules before Richart le Bucle *tabellion* at Tessy under Raoul Samuel. Salutation from Clemente le Cointe. Witnessed by Jehan Porel (Povee?) and Colin du Pray.

*xx vi xviii [r] - xx vi xix [r]*

## Appendix D

### Personal Name Index

with the number of the documents in which they appear

l'ABBE, Raoul

#9 Alive in 1397. Witness.

AMBROIZ, Colin, dit le Gohin.

#20 Alive in 1428. Tenant of Campronts.

d'ANNEVILLE, Jehan

#15 Alive in 1421. Gardes des sceaux at Coutances.

#16 Alive in 1424. Gardes des sceaux at Coutances.

#20 Alive in 1426. [Gardes des sceaux at Coutances.]

#22 Alive in 1426. Gardes des sceaux at Coutances.

#24 Alive in 1431. Garde des sceaux at Coutances.

#25 Alive in 1432. Garde des sceaux at Coutances.

#26 Alive in 1433. Garde des sceaux at Coutances.

#27 Alive in 1435. Garde des sceaux at Coutances.

d'ANQUETONILLE, Olivier

#27 Alive in 1435. Marriage to Aliz de Campront.

AUVREY, Estienne

#25 Alive in 1432. Settled for father's agreement with Campront.

AUVREY, Guillaume

#22 Alive in 1431. Sold rent to Raoul

#25 Alive in 1432. Witness to son's act.

AUVREY, Jehan

#33 Alive in 1438. Landowner.

BAILLEUL (?), Guillaume

#13 Alive in 1400. Witness.

de BAUDRE, Colin

#5 Alive in 1366. Garde des sceaux of Coutances.

le BECYHAIZ, Pierre

#28 Alive in 1435. Settlement with Raoul about tree.

le BELLONT, Guillaume, dit le Calletel

#5 Alive in 1366 Received rent from de la Boisse.

#8 Alive in 1395. Sold rights to Jehan de Campront.

le BELLONT (?), Robine

#8 Alive in 1395. Wife of Guillaume-- to receive *rente* from Campronts.

BERNART, Jehan

#23 Dead in 1431. Former tenant of Campronts.

BESSIN, Colin

Aveux #32. Alive in 1395. Tenant of Campronts.

BILLES, (?)

#32 Alive in 1438. Widow of Colin. Landowner. Married to Pierres Tillart?

BILLES, Colin

#32 Dead in 1438.

BLACHART, Guillaume

#23 Alive in 1431. Tenant of Campronts.

de la BOISSIERE, Guillaume

#5 Alive in 1366. Sold rent to Guillaume le Bellont dit le Calletel

#8 Former owner.

de la BOISSIERE (?), Sebille

#5 Alive in 1366. Sold rent with husband to Guillaume le Bellont dit le Calletel.

#8 Former owner.

BOITVIN, Jehan -- also BOYVIN.

#9 Alive in 1397. Viscount of Coutances. [Garde des sceaux?]

#12 Alive in 1399. Garde des sceaux of Coutances.

#13 Alive in 1400. Garde des sceaux of Coutances.

#14 Alive in 1405. Garde des sceaux of Coutances.

BOLET, Jehan

#26 Alive in 1433. Witness.

BONDET, Jehan

#12 Alive in 1399. Marriage settled.

#21 Dead in 1430.

BONDET, Jehan (2)

#21 Alive in 1430. Final settlement of parents' marriage.

BOSMER, Guillaume

#37 Alive in 1438? Landowner.

BOULLEY, Ostie

#21 Alive in 1430. Garde des sceaux of Valloigne.

BOFOR (?), Michel

#21 Alive in 1430. Witness.

le BUCLE, Richart

#35 Alive in 1438. Tabellion at Tessy under Raoul Samuel.

#36 Alive in 1438. Tabellion at Tessy under Raoul Samuel.

#37 Alive in 1438. Tabellion at Tessy under Raoul Samuel.

#38 Alive in 1438. Tabellion at Tessy under Raoul Samuel.

de BUISSON, Guillaume

#18 Former owner, nephew.

#23 Former owner.

de BUISSON, Michel

#18 Dead in 1399. Former owner.

#23 Former owner.

BURGON, Richart

#12 Alive in 1399. Witness.

BUTEL, Phellipot

#23 Alive in 1431. Witness.

#24 Alive in 1431. Witness.

de CAMPRONT, Aliz

#27 Alive in 1435. Settlement on marriage to d'Anquetonille.

de CAMPRONT, Engerram

#2 Alive in 1299. Did homage to Richard de Courchie.

de CAMPRONT, Engerram (b)

#15 Father of Jehan (b)

*Aveux* #67. Alive in 1394. Tenant, holding fief for his son Jehan.

de CAMPRONT, Guillaume

#1 Alive 1268-1284. Homage dispute with Durant.

#13 Dead in 1400.

de CAMPRONT, Jacques

#22 Alive in 1431. Canon of Coutances.

de CAMPRONT, Jehan (1)

#6 Alive in 1399. Settles son's marriage.

#7 Alive in 1389. Bought lands and rent from Guyot Lamy.

*Aveux* #67. Alive in 1394. Father holds fief for him.

#8 Alive in 1395. Received rights from Calletel.

#12 Alive in 1399. Settles marriage.

#17 Alive in 1399. Witness.

#18 Alive in 1399. Witness (as seigneur of Lorey)

#13 Alive in 1400. Receives rent from Rigault.

#21 Dead in 1430.

de CAMPRONT, Jehan (2)

#16 Alive in 1424. Settles sister's marriage.

#21 Alive in 1430. Settles sister's marriage.

#30 Alive in 1438. Father holds his fief of Malherbiere.

#31 Alive in 1438. Father holds his fief of Malherbiere.

#32 Alive in 1438. Father holds his fief of Malherbiere.

#33 Alive in 1438. Father holds his fief of Malherbiere.

#34 Alive in 1438. Father holds his fief of Malherbiere

de CAMPRONT, Jehan (b)

#15 Alive in 1421. Marriage to Jehannette.

de CAMPRONT, Jehannette.

#16 Alive in 1424. Marriage to Guillaume de Percy.

#21 Alive in 1430. Marriage to Jehan (b)

de CAMPRONT, Raoul

- #6 Alive in 1380. Marriage to Ysabel de Villiers.
- #14 Alive in 1405. Witness.
- #15 Alive in 1421. Present to son's settlement on Jehannette.
- #16. Alive in 1424. Settles daughter's marriage.
- #17 Alive in 1426. Present to settlement on mill (through wife.)
- #18. Alive in 1426. Present to settlement (through wife)
- #20 Alive in 1426. Dispute with Fleant.
- #21 Alive in 1430. Final settlement on Robine's marriage.
- #22 Alive in 1431. Received rents from Auvrey.
- #23 Alive in 1431. Settles with Fleant.
- #24 Alive in 1431. Settlement with Fleant.
- #25 Alive in 1432. Received rente from Auvrey.
- #27 Alive in 1435. Settled daughter Aliz' marriage.
- #28 Alive in 1435. Settlement about tree with Betsyhaiz.
- #29 Alive in 1436. Gives Malestably to Vigot.
- #30 Alive in 1438. Holds Malherbiere for son.
- #31 Alive in 1438. Holds Malherbiere for son.
- #32 Alive in 1438. Sold land to Pommier. Holds Malherbiere for son.
- #33 Alive in 1438. Sold land to Phelippe. Holds Malherbiere for son.
- #34 Alive in 1438. Sold "le Clos.." to Fleant.
- #35 Alive in 1438. Received land from Vinemer.
- #36 Alive in 1438. Received land from le Testu.
- #37 Alive in 1438. Received land from le Testu.
- #38 Alive in 1438. Received land from Vinemer.

de CAMPRONT, Renault

- #1 Dead in 1268. Had given fief (with brother Rogier) to Durant.

de CAMPRONT, Robine

- #12 Alive in 1399. Marriage settled.
- #21 Dead in 1430.

de CAMPRONT, Rogier

- #1 Dead in 1268. Had given fief (with brother Renault) to Durant.

CAQUET, Henry

- #36 Alive in 1438. Witness.
- #37 Alive in 1438. Witness.

le CARNONEL, Guillaume

- #20 Alive in 1428. Witness.

CAUNELANDE, Colin

#17 Alive in 1426. Tabellion at Saint-Lo.

#19 Alive in 1426. Tabellion at Saint-Lo.

#23 Alive in 1431. Tabellion at Saint-Lo.

CHANCE, Colin

#8 Alive in 1380. Tabellion?

le CHEVALIER?, Guillaume

#26 Father of Jehan?

le CHEVALIER?, Jehan

#26 Alive in 1433. Clerc. Received rights from la Vielle.

#36 Alive in 1438. Landowner (holds from Testu?)

#36 Alive in 1438. Witness.

#37 Alive in 1438. Witness.

le CLUSE?, Jehan

#23 Alive in 1431. Tenant of Campronts?

le COINTE, Bernard

# 17. Former landowner.

le COINTE, Clemente

#28 Alive in 1435. Garde des sceaux of Coutances.

#29 Alive in 1436. Garde des sceaux of Coutances.

#30 Alive in 1438. Garde des sceaux of Coutances.

#31 Alive in 1438. Garde des sceaux of Coutances.

#32 Alive in 1438. Garde des sceaux of Coutances.

#33 Alive in 1438. Garde des sceaux of Coutances.

#34 Alive in 1438. Garde des sceaux of Coutances.

#37 Alive in 1438. Garde des sceaux of Coutances.

#38 Alive in 1438. Garde des sceaux of Coutances.

COULDRON, Jehan

#23 Alive in 1431. Tenant of Campronts.

CORBET, Jehan

#26 Alive in 1433. Witness.

le CORDIER, Jehan

#10 Alive in 1399. Garde des sceaux at St. Sauveur Lendelin.

#12 Alive in 1399. Garde des sceaux at St. Sauveur Lendelin.

#18 Alive in 1399. Garde des sceaux at St. Sauveur Lendelin

de COURCHIE, Richard

#2 Alive in 1299. Received homage from Engerram de Campront.

DANY, Jehan -- also DAMY

#4 Dead in 1350.

#7 Dead. Former owner.

DARQUEREL, Gieffroy

#26. Alive in 1433. Tabellion at Marigny.

la DOIS?, Remon

#23 Alive in 1431. Tenant of Campronts.

#24 Alive in 1431. Tenant of Campronts.

le DUC, Jehan

#7 Alive in 1389. Garde des sceaux of Coutances.

DURANT, Rogier (Jr.)

#1 Received fief in Lorey from Campronts. 1268

DURANT, Rogier (Sr.)

#1 Dead--had held fief from Campronts.

le FEVRE, Gieffrey

#4 Alive in 1350. Tabellion.

#7 Alive in 1389. Tabellion.

#8 Alive in 1383. Tabellion.

le FEVRE, Jehan

#35 Alive in 1438. Witness.

le FEVRE, Jehan (b)

#23 Dead in 1431. Former tenant of Campronts.

le FEVRE (?), (?)

#23 Alive in 1431. Widow of Jehan (b).

le FEVRE, Nicholas

#23 Alive in 1431. Tenant of Campronts.

#24 Alive in 1431. Tenant of Campronts.

FLEANT, Colin

#10 Alive in 1399. Settlement with Campront.

#17 Alive in 1399. Settlement with Campront.

#18 Alive in 1399. Receives manor from Guillaume de Villiers.

#14 Alive in 1405. Receives mill from Villiers.

#23 Alive in 1431. Settles father's agreement with Villiers.

#24 Alive in 1431. Settlement with Campront.

#30 Alive in 1438. Receives rights in Homdouil from Campront.

#31 Alive in 1438. Receives rights in Homdouil from Campront.

#34 Alive in 1438. Receives "le Clos.." from Campront.

de la FONTAINE, Colin

#35 Alive in 1438. Witness.

de FOURTENEY, Richart

#20 Alive in 1428. Witness.

#36 Alive in 1438. Landowner.

FOUCHART, Rogier

#9 Alive in 1397. Received rights from Gieffrey Rigault.

#17 Alive in 1399. Witness.

le GENEVOIS, Jehan

#23 Dead in 1431. Former tenant of Campronts.

#24 Dead in 1431. Former tenant of Campronts.

GIEFFREY, Richart

#5 Alive in 1366. Tabellion.

GIRART, Pierres

#29 Alive in 1436. Witness.

GIROT, Perin

#23 Alive in 1431. Tenant of Campronts.

#24 Alive in 1432. Tenant of Campronts.

de GONEY, Pierre -- also abbreviated de GRE.

#10 Alive in 1399. Tabellion at d'Aubigny.

#18 Alive in 1399. Tabellion at d'Aubigny.

#21 Alive in 1399. Tabellion at d'Aubigny.

GRASSITOT, Jehan

#23 Alive in 1431. Tenant of Campronts.

#24 Alive in 1431. Tenant of Campronts.

du GUIHEBERT, Henry

#12 Alive in 1399. Owed rents from Campronts.

GUERNET, Renouf

#6 Alive in 1380. Tabellion at Marigny.

de la HAIE, Guillaume

#16 Alive in 1424. Witness.

de la HAIE, Pherrin

#19 Alive in 1426. Witness.

HARDEL, Jehan

#29 Alive in 1436. Witness.

HERONT, Jehan

#9 Alive in 1397. Witness.

HERSENT, Richart

#4 Dead in 1350. Former tenant of Jehan Lamy.

#7 Dead in 1350 Former tenant of Jehan Lamy.

HIMAN, Raoul

#24 Alive in 1431. Tenant of Campronts.

JEHAN (?), Thomas

#9 Alive in 1397. Property owner.

JOURDAN, Jehan, dit le Sancoy (?)

#8 Alive in 1395. Witness.

LAGENN, Pierre

#13 Alive in 1400. Tabellion at Coutances under Vavassour.

LAMY, Guyot

#7 Alive in 1389. Sold lands and rents to Jehan de Campront.

#20 Former owner.

LAMY, Jacques

#4 Alive in 1350. Received rent from Jehan Lamy.

LAMY, Jehan

#4 Alive in 1350. Sold rent to Jacques Lamy.

#7 Former owner

LAMY (?), Perotte

#4 Alive in 1350. Sold rent with husband to Jacques Lamy.

LETOUR, Perrin

#16 Alive in 1424. Witness.

de la MAIRE, Guillaume

#23 Alive in 1431. Tenant of Campronts.

#24 Alive in 1431. Tenant of Campronts

MAUGIER, Renouf

#38 Alive in 1438. Present to land sale to Campronts.

MALOYSEL, Germain

#21 Alive in 1430. Witness.

de MANDOVIT, Guillaume

#8 Former owner.

MANSEL, Jehan

#27 Alive in 1435. Witness.

MARGNET, Jehan

#14 Alive in 1405. Witness.

de MATEN, Jehan

#19 Alive in 1426. Witness.

MAVARELON (?), Jacquet

#23 Alive in 1431. Tenant of Campronts.

#24 Alive in 1431. Tenant of Campronts.

du MESNILO, Jamin

#12 Alive in 1399. Owed rents from Campront?  
*Aveux* #32. Alive in 1395. Tenant of Campronts.

MICHEL, Colin

#11 Alive in 1399. Witness.

NEEL, Jehan

#24 Alive in 1431. Tenant of Campronts.

le NEPNOU, Jehannette

#12 Alive in 1399. Owed rents from Campronts.

ODION, Laurens

#21 Alive in 1430. Tabellion at Pont l'Abbe.

OSBER, Guillaume

#17 Alive in 1426. Garde des sceaux of Carentin.

#19 Alive in 1426. Garde des sceaux of Coutances.

OSOUF, Pierre -- also ESOUF

#15 Alive in 1421. Tabellion at Quibou.

#16 Alive in 1424. Tabellion at Quibou.

#28 Alive in 1435. Tabellion at Quibou.

PELECOQ, Colin

#20 Alive in 1428. Tabellion at Coutances.

#22 Alive in 1431. Tabellion at Coutances.

#25 Alive in 1432. Tabellion at Coutances.

PELLERIN, Jehan

#15 Alive in 1421. Priest. Witness.

de PERCY, Beatrix

#19. Alive in 1426. Niece's marriage.

de PERCY, Guillaume

#16 Alive in 1424. Marriage to Jehannette de Campront.

#28 Alive in 1435. Witness.

de PERCY, Symon

#16 Alive in 1424. Witness.

PHELIPPE, Jehan

#32 Alive in 1438. Witness.

#33 Alive in 1438. Receives land from Campront.

PHERIN (?), Jehan

#30 Alive in 1438. Witness.

#31 Alive in 1438. Witness.

#33 Alive in 1438. Witness.

de PIERREFITE, Jehan

#28 Alive in 1435. Witness.

de PLANES, Aliz

#3 Alive in 1310. Inheritance settlement.

de PLANES, Gires

#3 Alive in 1310. Inheritance settlement with Villiers.

de PLANES, Richart

#3 Dead in 1310. Left inheritance to daughters.

POREL, Jehan -- also POVEE

#24 Alive in 1431. Tenant of Campronts.

#38 Alive in 1438. Witness.

de la PORT, Colin

#4 Alive in 1350. Garde des sceaux of Coutances.

du PRAY, Colin

#38 Alive in 1438. Witness.

du PRAY, Perrot

#23 Alive in 1431. Tenant of Campronts.

#24 Alive in 1431. Tenant of Campronts.

de RENIERS, Guillaume

#1 Alive in 1284 Represented Guillaume de Campront against Durant.

RIGAULT, Gieffrey

#9 Alive in 1397. Sold rights to Rogier Fouchart.

#13 Alive in 1400. Sold rent to Campront.

de la ROCHELLE, Phelippes  
#3 Dead in 1310.

de RONCY, Jehan  
#9 Alive in 1395. Tabellion above Gernaex le Vavassour.

ROULANT, Richart  
#13 Former owner.

le ROUXET, Jehan  
#21 Alive in 1430. Holds tenement from Campronts.

le ROSSINGNOL, Jehan  
#23 Alive in 1431. Tenant of Campronts.  
#24 Alive in 1431. Tenant of Campronts.

le ROY, Jehan -- also Jehan le Roy THE ELDER.  
#8 Alive in 1395. Owes homage to Calletel, then to Campront.  
#9 Alive in 1397. Property owner.  
#11 Alive in 1399. Received inheritance from la Vielle.  
#26 Dead in 1433.

le ROY, Jehan (b)  
#25 Alive in 1432. Acts for Campront against Auvrey.  
#27 Alive in 1435. Tabellion at Marigny.  
#29 Alive in 1436. Tabellion at Marigny.  
#30 Alive in 1438. Tabellion at Marigny.  
#31 Alive in 1438. Tabellion at Marigny.  
#32 Alive in 1438. Tabellion at Marigny.  
#33 Alive in 1438. Tabellion at Marigny.  
#34 Alive in 1438. Tabellion at Marigny.

le ROY, Michel  
#25 Alive in 1432. Witness.

le ROY, Thomas  
#8 Alive in 1395. Witness.

SABINE, Guiot  
#12 Alive in 1399. Witness.

SABINE, Pierres  
#12 Alive in 1399. Witness.

SAMUEL, Raoul

- #35 Alive in 1438. Tabellion above Richart le Bucle.
- #36 Alive in 1438. Tabellion above Richart le Bucle.
- #37 Alive in 1438. Tabellion above Richart le Bucle.
- #38 Alive in 1438. Tabellion above Richart le Bucle.

SENESTRE, Jehan

- #23 Alive in 1431. Witness.
- #24 Alive in 1431. Witness.
- #25 Alive in 1435. Witness.

de SOULLE, Olivier

- #15 Alive in 1421. Witness.

le TELIER, Guillaume

- #23 Dead in 1431. Former tenant of Campront.
- #24 Dead in 1431. Former tenant of Campronts.

le TELIER, Jehan

- #6 Alive in 1380?. Garde des sceaux of Coutances.

le TENOUR, Thomas

- #15 Alive in 1421. Witness. Bourgeois.

TESSON, Jehannette

- #19 Dead in 1426.

TESSON, Raoul

- #19 Alive in 1426. Settles neice's marriage.

TESSON, Robert

- Aveux* #44. Alive in 1394. Tenant, holding fief of Dangy.
- #19 Dead in 1426.

le TESTU, Thomas

- #36 Alive in 1438. Sold land to Campronts.
- #37 Alive in 1438. Sold land to Campronts.

THOMAS, Jehan, dit le Masson

- #23 Alive in 1431. Tenant of Campronts.
- #24 Alive in 1431. Tenant of Campronts.

TILLART, Pierres also --HENDYART

#32 Alive in 1438. Landowner.

#33 Alive in 1438. Landowner.

#34 Alive in 1438. Landowner.

de TORIGNY, the seigneur

#32 Alive in 1438. Owns woods.

#33 Alive in 1438. Owns woods.

#34 Alive in 1438. Owns woods.

du TOUR DILEC, Raoul

#12 Alive in 1399. Witness.

VALLET, Guillaume, dit Pommier, also BALLY

#30 Alive in 1438. Witness.

#31 Alive in 1438. Witness.

#32 Alive in 1438. Receives land from Campront.

#33 Alive in 1438. Witness.

#34 Alive in 1438. Witness.

VALLEE, Jehan

#32 Alive in 1438. Priest. Witness.

#33 Alive in 1438. Priest. Witness.

VANDYOR, Thomas

#14 Alive in 1405. Tabellion at Cenilly.

le VAVASSOUR, Gernaez

#8 Alive in 1395. Tabellion at Coutances under Jehan de Roncy.

#13 Alive in 1400. Tabellion over Pierre Lagenn?

VEVIER, Richart

#23 Alive in 1431. Tenant of Campronts.

#24 Alive in 1431. Tenant of Campronts.

la VIELLE, Jehan

#11 Alive in 1399. Sold inheritance to Jehan le Roy.

la VIELLE, Jehannette

#11 Dead in 1399.

la VIELLE, Loys

#26 Alive in 1433. Sold rent to Jehan le Chler?

VIGOT, Pherrot

#13 Alive in 1400. Witness.

VIGOT, Raoul

#4 Dead in 1350.

VIGOT, Richart

#4 Dead in 1350.

#7 Dead. Former owner.

VIGOT, Richart (2)

#29 Alive in 1436. Receives Malestably from Campront.

de VILLIERS, Guillaume (1)

#3 Alive in 1310. Inheritance settlement because of wife.

de VILLIERS, Guillaume (2)

#6 Alive in 1380. Settles daughter's marriage.

#10 Alive in 1399. Sold manor to Fleant.

#14 Alive in 1405. Sells mill to Fleant.

#17 Alive in 1399. Sold manor to Fleant.

#18 Alive in 1399. Sold rent to Fleant.

#23 Alive in 1399. Received rights from Fleant.

#17. Dead in 1426.

de VILLIERS (?), Guillaumette.

#15 Alive in 1424. Daughter's marriage.

de VILLIERS, Marie

#19 Alive in 1426. Marriage to Jehan de Campront.

de VILLIERS, Pierres

#19 Dead in 1426. Father of Marie de Villiers.

de VILLIERS, Ysabel

#15 Alive in 1424. Marriage to Raollet de Campront.

#17 Alive in 1426. Settlement on mill.

#18 Alive in 1426. Settlement on rent.

VINEMER, Jehan

#35 Alive in 1438. Sold land to Campronts.

#38 Landowner

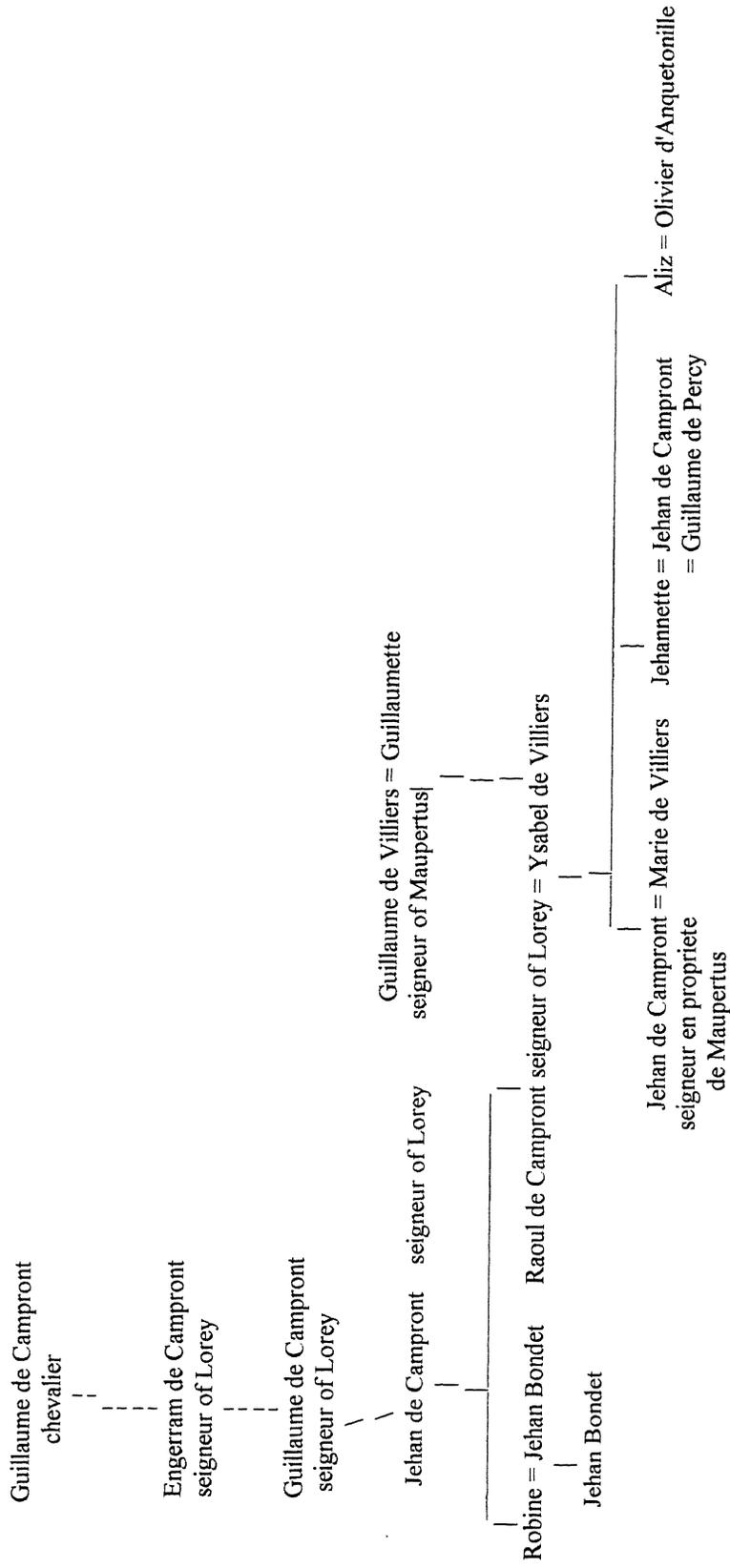
VINEMER, Thomas

#35 Alive in 1438. Landowner.

#38 Alive in 1438. Sold land to Campront.

# Appendix E

## Campront and Villiers Families



## Appendix F

### *Gardes des sceaux de la vicomté* and known active dates

(1310)	Coutances	
1350	Colin de la Porte	
1366	Colin de Baudre	
1384?	Jehan le Telier	
1389-1395	Jehan le Duc	
1397-1405	Jehan Boitvin	
1399		Jehan Le Cordrier (St. Sauveur Lendelin)
1421	Jehan D'Anneville	
1424	Jehan D'Anneville	
1426		Guillaume Osber (Carentin)
1428	Jehan D'Anneville	
1430		Ostie Boulley (Valloigne)
1431-35	Jehan D'Anneville	
1435-38	Clement le Cointe	

All individuals, unless otherwise noted, held the position of *garde des sceaux de la vicomté de Coutances*.

## Appendix G

### *Tabellions jurès* their sites and known active dates

Richart le Bucle

Tessy. fl. 1438

Colin Caunelande

Saint-Lô. fl. 1426-1431

Colin Chance

fl. 1384

Gieffrey Darquerel

fl. 1433

Gieffrey le Fevre

fl. 1350-1389

Pierres de Goney

d'Aubigny. fl. 1399

Renouf Guernet

Marigny. fl. 1424

Pierres Lagenn?

Coutances. fl. 1400

Laurens Odion

Pont l'Abbe. fl. 1430

Pierres Osouf

Quibou. fl. 1421-1435

Colin Pelecoq

Coutances. fl. 1428-1432

Jehan de Roncy

Coutances. fl. 1395

Jehan le Roy

Marigny. fl. 1435-1438

Thomas Vanyor

Cenilly. fl. 1405

Gernaез le Vavassour

Coutances. fl. 1395-1400

## Appendix H

### Transcription of "Tables of Contents"

Ensuit la table du chartrier / A noble homme Raoul deCam / pront escuier seigneur du lorey.

Premierement

La teneur de la baronnie de femille a	I
La teneur du fieu du Lorey a	vi
Les franchises et libertez dud fief a	ix
La decleracion des bois demaines gardins et / patronnagez a	x
Les franchises sur les moulins de la fosse dud / Lorey si est a	xi
Item ledon du fieu dAnteville a	xv
Item la teneur du fieu de la Ruquetiere a	xvi
Item le clos devant le mostier a	xvii
Item la teneur du fieu dAnteville a	xviii
Item la teneur Massie Gobin a	xxi
Comme len doit poier les relief a	xviii
Item autres terres q tient led Massie a	xxii
Item la terre Laurens Trechant a	xxiii
Le fieu au Riche Homme a	xxiii
Le fieu Michel Renouf et autres terres quil / tient suy sont a	xxiii
Le fieu Doubart a	xxv
Le fieu noble de Beslouze a // [2]	xxvi
Le fieu de la Tarenderie a	xxvi
Le fieu de la Gelerie a	xxvii
Le fieu de la Signetiere a	xxvii
Le fieu du Fresne a	xxvii
Le fieu de la Vigotiere a	xxviii
Le fieu de la Peleulie a	xxx
Le fieu de Roquier a	xxxi
Olivier Corbet pour plusieurs tenements	xxxii
Le fieu au Barberie a	xxxiii
Richard Hueby poir plusieurs tenements	xxxiiii
Jehan Vigault pour le fieu de la / Marcandie si est a	xxxv
Jaguet de la Lande pour plusieurs tenements	xxxv
Les landez de Saint Gire a	xxxvii
Le clos devant le Perbitaire a	xxxvii
Jehan Laisne a	xxviii
Rogier Fouchart a	xxviii

Fouquet Tourgie a	xxxix
Le fieu de la Hardelie a	xl
Le fieu de la Poterie a	xlii
Le fieu du Feugerey a	xliii
Le franc fieu dAnteville	xliiii
<i>Icy estoit la ligne Jean Guillemette Juntille</i>	
Le prey prin le Beluchel a // [3]	xliv
Le fieu Famuel est a "mangerie"	xlv
Le fieu au Moigne du Roquier a	xlvi
Le fieu de la Reaute a	xlvii
Le fieu de la Heberdiere a	xliv
Robin Corbet pour plusieurs tenements	liii
Le fieu de l'Ambroisiere a	lv
Le Robert Viel a	lvi
Michel le Roy et Alain de Launcy a	lvii
Le fieu Raoul du Vivier a	lvii
Le fieu des Guillebedierez a	lviii
Le fieu de l'Aunerie a	lix
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Le fieu de la Gobune a	lxiii
Le fieu du Casterlier a	lxiiii
Jehan Caudel pour plusieurs tenements a	lx
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Jehan Vigot pour les Houler a	lxvi
Massie Gobin pour le vau foret a	lxvi
Ledit Massie pour le camp des ++ a	lxvii
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Le fieu Camon a	lxx
Les camps Martin a	lxxi
Les fieux de la Moignerie a	lxxi
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Jehan Capelain a // [4]	lxxiii
La lande ala fessarde a	lxxxv
Laune martin a	lxxv

Cy ensuit la table des lettres a noble / homme Raoul de Campront

Premierement

La lectre de laquisicion de cent soubz de rente / de Olivier dAnquetonille a	ci
Lettre du mariage de Robine de Campront au seigneur de Cronille a	c & ii
Lettre de laquisicion de <i>l. β.</i> de rente diceulx / mariage si est a	c & iii
Lettre deschange faice ole Testu du Lorey a	c & vi
Lettrez comme Guillaume de Villiers print le fieu de / la Malherbiere a	c & vi
Lettre daquisicion de <i>x l</i> de rente que prenoit / Colin Fleant a	c & xi
Lettre comme ledit Colin print lostel de la / Malherbiere a	c & xi
Lettre comme ledit Fleant renoncha audroit de la moultre de Homdoull a	c & xiii
Lettre de xviii / de rente sur le fieu de Beaumez a	c & xiiii
Lettre de la baille du moulin de Hom / doull faice a Fleant a †	c & xv
Lettre comme ledit Fleant print le Clos a la Palle a	c & xvi
Lettre comme Jehan Phelippe print // deux acres de boye a	c & xix
Lettre comme Guillaume Balle dit Pomier / print viii acres de boye a	vi <sup>xx</sup>
Lettre comme Fleant print le moulin de Beaumes a	<sup>xx</sup> vi & i
Lettre daquisicion de Guyot Lamy xii bouisseaux de foment a	<sup>xx</sup> vi & ii
Lettre du portage diceulx xii β	<sup>xx</sup> vi iiiii
Lettre comme le Cailletel aquist / le fieu de Saint Gire a	<sup>xx</sup> vi & v
Lettre de laquisicion diceulx fieu a	<sup>xx</sup> vi & vi
Lettre de la baille du fieu Malesable a	<sup>xx</sup> vi & x
Lettre daquisicion de ii β vi <i>d</i> / de Louye la Vielle a	<sup>xx</sup> vi & x
Lettre du mariage Guillaume de Percy a	<sup>xx</sup> vi & xii
Lettre du mariage au seigneur de la Ruquetiere a	<sup>xx</sup> vi & xiii
Lettre de la teneur de lostel de / la Durandiere a	<sup>xx</sup> vi & xv
Lettre de foment aquis de / Guillaume Auvrey a	<sup>xx</sup> vi & viii
Lettre daquisicion de praye de Jehan / & Thomas Vinemer a et dix neuf //	<sup>xx</sup> vi & viii
La lettre du mariage de noble homme / Raoul de Campront a	<sup>xx</sup> vii
Lettre du mariage Jehan de Campront / filz dud Raoul a	<sup>xx</sup> vii & ii
La lettre du mariage de noble / homme Raoul de Campront ‡	

† This text is crossed out with the word "deffait" next to it

‡ This text is in the later sixteenth century hand