

Guilliumus Williamus Johonnie Prater

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Guilliumus Williamus Johonnie Prater was a Shire Reeve under the Prince of Powys. The position of Reeve was very much like a combination of what we know today to be Governor, Magistrate, Justice, Tax Collector/Assessor all rolled into one position. He may have also been a "Baron" of Powis. The position and word SHERIFF used today comes from the words SHIRE REEVE. A shire is the English term for county. The position of Shire Reeve in those days was much more powerful than that of today's County Sheriff.

Williamus married a descendant of the Prince of Powys, thus we can see how important his social and political standing must have been. Only nobles of the highest stature could marry into a royal house.

Brockwell Yscitheor, the "Prince of Powys", had another descendant who married Hugh Delamere (also spelled Delamare / DeMara) who was a descendant of Norman Delamere of Normandy, whose Castle was -- De la Mere (Castle of the Lake), built in the early 900's on the edge of a lake in Normandy. These Delameres were the ancestors of, Sir Johonnie Delamare, who built Nunney Castle at Nunney, Somersetshire, England in 1373. This castle went to his heirs and later went to Paulet family by marriage. George Prater purchased it from his cousins the Paulets in a tax transaction and exchange from his father, John Prater's estate. George conducted business there but his son and heir Richard Prater was the first Prater to live in the castle. Richards tomb and statue effigy is in the church at Nunney. Richard was our grandfather's older brother. Our grandfather, Anthony, was trustee of the castle and estates when his brother Richard died in 1580.

The family connection with the De la Mere family and Brockwell Yscitheor is proven by the family coat-of-arms. For example, in the lower section of the coat-of-arms is 3 wolves heads erased, silver in color with the background of the shield in sable (black). This was the coat-of-arms of Brockwell Yscitheor, the Prince of Powys. Because of the "exacting" rules governing heraldy, we know that the lower portion of a shield, "in Chief" as it is called, is an indication since the wifes family coat-of-arms is ALWAYS in the lower 2/3's of the shield. Thus, Guilliumus Prater married a female descendant of direct succession of Brockwell Yscitheor, such as a daughter or granddaughter, etc.!

Guilliumus Prater came with William the Conquerer, Duke of Normandy, in 1066. He had connections with Gerald of Windsor (Pembroke Castle and Carew Castle). it is believed he was a noble that served under William the Conquerer in the Welsh Kingdom of Powis. It is certain that he married the descendant of the Prince of Powis. His descendants married a Carew (Carew Castle) and into other Nobility. Carew Castle was built by Gerald of Windsor in 1109 and his heir took the name.

The first of the family to live at Eaton Water was established around the year 1086 or before. The half brother of King William held Eaton Water after 1066, but it was taken from him and

given to other "servants of the King". We also know that Hugh de Drews held part of the area. The statement of "the servants of the King" very well could have referred to Guiliumus who was the Reeve of Powys. As a "Reeve of Powys" this meant that he was the King's representative in Powys, thus the "King's servant".

Guiliumus Williamus Johonnie Prater gave the College of Heraldry the Manor of Eaton Water, Wiltshire, England, as his Manorial Estate and Seat of Power. His Coat-of-Arms was registered sometime around or before the 1100's.

It is also thought that Guiliumus Williamus had held the Manor of Eaton Water under the "Lordship" of Odo; the half brother of King William. But, Odo betrayed his brother and all of his many estates in England were taken from him and given to many "loyal" servants of the King, many of which held under Odo. Also note that Reinbald de Prater held the nearby Manor of Latton. Reinbald de Prater (Presbyter) was the first Chancellor of England. George Prater came into possession of Latton Manor in the early 1500's as inheritance. Latton Manor passed from Reinbald de Presbyter (Prater) ca. 1080's, in succession to the Earl of St. German, Cliftons, and Ellis families; then in the early 1500's to George Prater. Latton Manor is located near Eaton Water, Inglesham, and other known Estates held by the Prater family.

Researched by Gary Benton Prather