

Additional Circumstantial Evidence

suggesting that the second wife of Peter de Brewes was Joan Howard

In October 1366 Piers Breous, kt, was the firstnamed in a set of feoffees chosen by Robert Passelee to hold the manors of Passelee [Pashley in Ticehurst], Willegh' [Whiligh in Ticehurst] and Bourne, the manor of La Mote [in Iden] with the advowson of the Free Chapel there; the manor of Alstede in Surrey and the reversion of the manor of Thevegat, Kent.¹

The feoffees agree to return seisin of these properties to Robert, his attorney or his heirs at any time they are asked to do so.

In the event that Robert died without issue, then the property would pass to Anne his wife, with remainder to Robert's right heirs, except that the reversion of the manor of La Mote on the death of Anne would be to Sir Piers Breous and his heirs who would provide suitable chaplains to sing masses in the Free Chapel of La Mote for the soul of Robert and his ancestors.

Peter de Brewes is clearly being singled out as a particularly trusted friend who is being given possession of a manor in return for organising the care for the souls of Robert and Anne after their deaths.

Why was Peter, who does not seem to have any connection with the area, at Robert Pashley's manor of La Mote (near Rye) at the time, and chosen to take this special rôle?

The answer may be provided in Richardson's Plantagenet Ancestry,² where Anne, daughter of John Howard and Alice du Bois, is given as the wife of Robert Pashley. Anne was then the sister of Peter de Brewes' supposed wife Joan.

This close connection by marriage would explain Peter's involvement in the family affairs of Robert and Anne Pashley.

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1 East Sussex Record Office: Additional Manuscripts, Catalogue D:

Reference: AMS4872/1

2 Douglas Richardson, "Plantagenet Ancestry" 2004; p233 & p334