

Magna Carta - 800 Years

The Local Barons

William D'Aubigny or D'Albini from Belvoir in Leicestershire and Saer de Quincy were two of the 25 barons guaranteeing the terms of the Charter. Both men are remembered by history as parties to one of the most famous documents in the world.



William D'Albini

D'Albini was born around 1151 and was a prominent member of the establishment. He served as sheriff of several counties including Rutland from 1195-1198 and appears as a witness to several charters and deeds. We do not know when he married his first wife Margery but national records show that he had married his second wife, Agatha, by 1198. He had at least four sons: William, Robert, Odinel and Nicholas.



Belvoir Castle

Despite his position he rebelled against King John in 1201, joining with other barons objecting to service in Normandy. As a result one of his sons was held hostage by the King and, perhaps not surprisingly, William joined the rebel barons in June 1215.

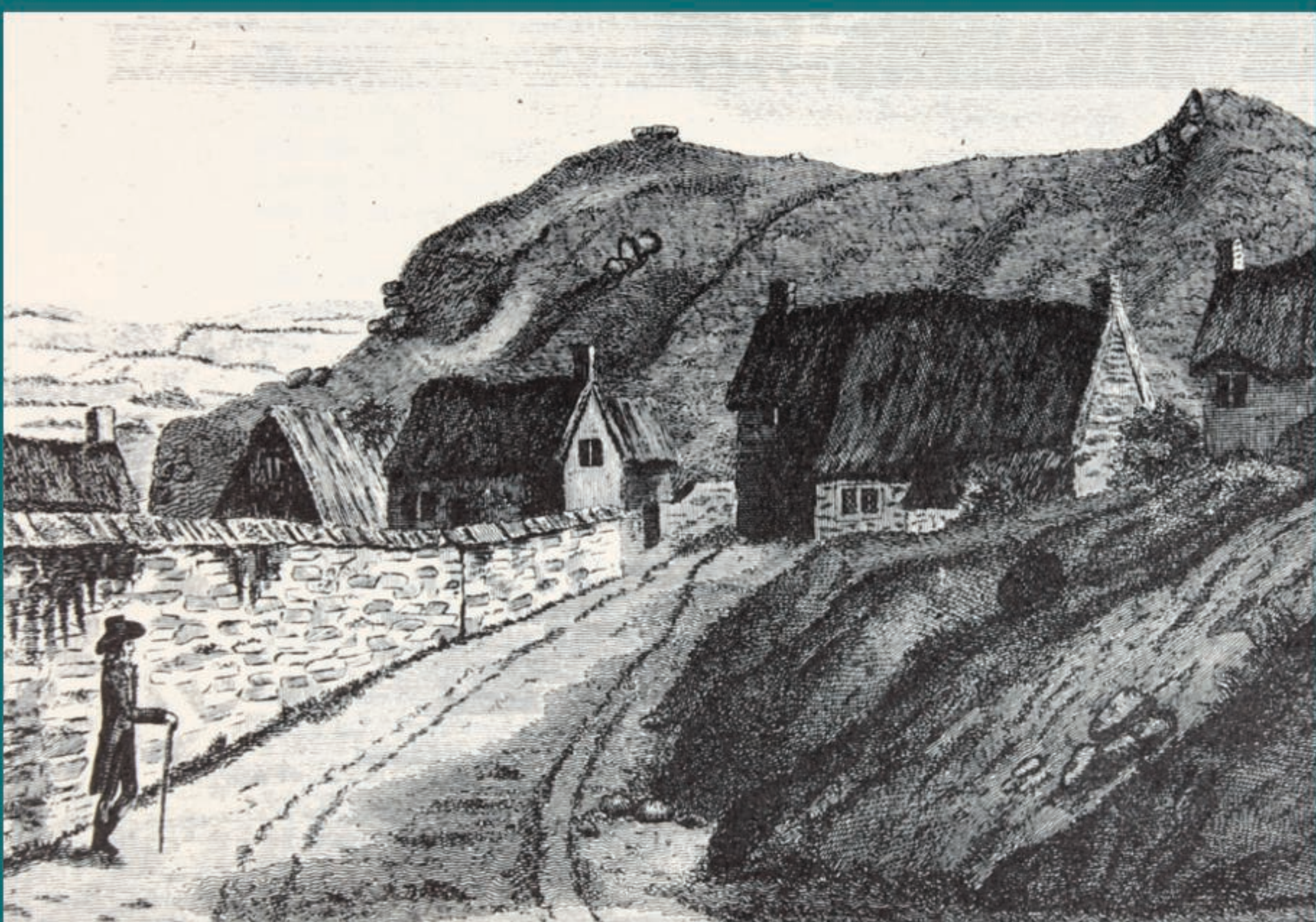
He fought against the King in the civil war following the sealing of the Charter, leading the defence of

Rochester Castle in Kent. He was captured in December 1215 and threatened with execution. A ransom was paid and he was released, although his wife Agatha and one of his sons were taken hostage in his place. She was released in 1217 but his son was held until 1220, despite the accession of the new King Henry III in October 1216. William died in Uffington, Lincolnshire in May 1236.



Saer de Quincy

Born around 1170 and brought up in Scotland, Saer de Quincy became Earl of Winchester and claimed lands in Leicester through his marriage to Margaret, sister of Robert de Beaumont. Having served with John in a military campaign in Normandy he was often employed by him before he too joined the rebel barons in 1215.



Castle Hill, Mountsorrel

De Quincy was one of the chief negotiators of the terms of the Magna Carta and, like D'Albini, was chosen as one of the twenty five barons who would guarantee the Charter. He benefitted from the terms which required the king to restore all lands and rights that had been taken without proper authority. This included the Castle of Mountsorrel which he had long claimed as part of his wife's inheritance.

In the fighting after 1215 he supported the claim of Prince Louis of France to the throne of England against both John and his son Henry. After the accession of Henry III he went on crusade and in 1219 died abroad. His heart was brought back to England and interred at Garendon Abbey near Loughborough.



13th Century Garendon Abbey deed and monk

