

Pendomer gets its name

Listed as **Penne** in the Domesday Book in 1086, when it was held by a high ranking Norman official, no further record of the place survives from the subsequent hundred years, but we can suppose that the subsequent lords may well have styled themselves as “de la Penne”. In the late 12th century it is recorded that Agnes de la Penne, heiress to Penne, married Ralph de Domer, from Domer (now Dummer) in Hampshire, the manor afterwards being known as **Penne-Domer** or, as we now know it, **Pendomer**.

Little is known about Agnes de la Penne except that she was a lady of considerable wealth. She is listed in the exchequer records for 1201:

Agnes de la Penne . r̄ . comp̄ de .v. m̄. p .ii. mil de hoñ
Moretoñ de t̄ra Johis de Monte Acuto. In thro .li. s̄. 7
.viii. d̄. Et deb̄ .xxviii. s̄. 7 .iiii. d̄.

This shows¹ (amongst other things) that she had paid taxes (“Knight’s Fees”) of 51s 8d (about £2.60) and still owed 28s 4d (about £1.40). These were very considerable amounts in those days.

There were three sons of the marriage: Henry, Geoffrey (who became parson of Domer) and Robert. Henry, the eldest, was the grandfather of Sir John de Domer (1268 – 1320) whose magnificent effigy (pictured below) survives in Pendomer Church. A few miles away in **Chilthorne Domer** a similar effigy is believed to be that of Sir John’s father, Sir William.



The Domers sold their Somerset interests in 1407. They had taken the name of a Hampshire manor as their own, as was the custom, carried it to Somerset, and left it with two villages there.

Left: The effigy of Sir John Domer in Pendomer Church

¹ Agnes de la Penne reddit computum de 5 marcis pro 2 militis de honore Moretonis de terra Johnis de Monte Acuto. In thesauro 51s 8d. Et debet 28s 4d