

## ANNEX TO THE CHARNY GENEALOGY

DOROTHY CRISPINO

## UNIDENTIFIED CHARNYS

**Jeanne de Charny, dame de la Fauche.** All references are from the Acts of Joinville, published by Delaborde.

1324 — Anseau, seig. of Joinville, confirms the manumission of Perrin, provost of la Fauche, and Jaquet his son, by Jeanne de Charny, dame de la Fauche.

1334 — Andre de Joinville arrested her sergeant; she obtains a warrant from the bailiff to have him returned.

1353 — Ogier, sire d'Effincourt et de la Fauche, mar. Marguerite de Beaupre (a secondary branch of Joinville). Son Henri and dau. Marguerite each inherit half of la Fauche in 1362. Marguerite mar. Henri de Saint-Dizier, seig. **de la Roche** in 1366; then Eudes de **Savoisy**. Jeanne, another dau. of Ogier, mar. Jean de **Noyers**.

1362-1364 — Ogier bears the title *sire de Donjeux* as tutelary of his niece. (Ogier was the second son of Simon de Donjeux; a secondary branch of Joinville.)

1362 — Henri, count of Vaudémont, seig. of Joinville (and cousin of Geoffroy de Charny), mentions his "cousins of Donjeux". In 1364, Ogier de Donjeux witnesses an Act of Henri, count of Vaudemont.

1363 — While Ogier accompanies Jean II to Avignon, his castle is traitorously taken by Humbert de **Bauffremont** (Simon de Beaupré was mar. to Cunegonde de Bauffremont).

Henri, count of Vaudemont, seig. of Joinville, was suzerain of la Fauche, a fief that had belonged to Joinville at least since 1218 when Simon was seig. of Joinville. In 1270, Jean de Joinville (son of Simon, and father of Marguerite, dame de Charny) goes to the castle of la Fauche to receive the homage of the seigneur, insuring his loyalty against the seig. of **Vergy**.

Because of her connection with Joinville and the appearance of other lords associated with the family of Geoffroy de Charny, I believe that Jeanne de Charny, dame de la Fauche, must be considered a close relative of Geoffroy. I assume that she was a widow by 1324 because her Act of that date does not include the consent of husband, nor are any sons mentioned.

## UNRELATED CHARNYS

**Robert de Charny.** References from VIARD: *Les Journaux du Trésor de Philippe VI de Valois*; VIGREUX & GABIN: *Histoire de Charny*; ROSEROT: *Dictionnaire Topogaphique de Département de la Côte-d'Or*; PRINET: *Armorial de France*; Private conversation with Jacques Bouvet, historian; and "Les Lettres de Prunoy".

1340 — Robers [sic] de Charny, knight and counsellor to Philippe VI and Jean, Duke of Normandy, gives a receipt at Roanne for 20 livres, received for his expenses.

1342 — Jean, Duke of Normandy, summons his "beloved and loyal knight and counsellor" to repair to Roanne to assist at the assizes.

1344 — Another receipt from Robert [sic] de Charny.

1349 — Robert receives his pay for November/December of 1347.

Robert de Charny died in 1350. He is addressed as "Dominus" in the *Trésor*, but never as seigneur of any fief. He was a contemporary of Geoffroy I; the two were certainly acquainted, almost certainly unrelated. There is no "Robert" in Geoffroy's branch of Charny, nor in Mont-Saint-Jean nor in Joinville. There is a Charny (town) in the Yonne, once a fief of the Courtenay family wherein the name Robert occurs regularly.

In the XI<sup>th</sup> century, Charny/Yonne was a fief of Anthon de Courtenay. In the first quarter of the XII<sup>th</sup> century, a vassal of Courtenay, Fromond de Charny, with the approval of his wife and son, makes a donation to an abbey at Fontaines, but later concedes all his rights there to Milon de Courtenay. Haimo de Charneio is in the Yonne in 1189. In the XVI<sup>th</sup> century, some families emigrated to Quebec where they founded a town named Charny.

In 1653, the title "Count of Charny" was created for a bastard son of Gaston d'Orleans. Although the title lasted only four years, the town retained the right to blazon arms, *azure three fleurs de lys or*, replacing the ancient Courtenay arms, *or three torteaux*. Monsieur Bouvet told me that the tombstone of one of the lords of Courtenay still exists in the town church; as the building was closed for repairs, I was prevented from photographing this evidence.

**Geoffroy de Charnay** is listed in LEONARD: *Cartulaire Manuscrit du Temple 1150-1317*. A principal source is BARBER: *The Trial of the Templars*. See also *Spectrum* #18, p. 18, "Charny".

1294 — Geoffroy de Charnay was preceptor of a Templar house (*domus*) at Villemoisin in the County of Nivernais;

1295 — preceptor in Fretay, near Loches, in what was the medieval dukedom of Anjou;

1307 — preceptor of a *domus* in Normandy, at the moment of the king's surprise arrest of all Templars in France.

Geoffroy de Charnay's name will forever be coupled with that of Jacques de Molay, with whom he shared the stake on the Isle of the Jews on 18 March 1314.\* Although it was tentatively conjectured that de Charnay was an uncle of our Geoffroy de Charny, no evidence, genealogical or other, has been presented to support the idea. Without elaborating on the practical considerations, i.e., that the arrestation was a surprise attack; that Normandy is quite a way from Burgundy; that no documentation points to Geoffroy de Charnay or Jacques de Molay or the Templar Order as being holders of the Shroud: the implacable fact cannot be dodged that in 1307 our Geoffroy was still in diapers.

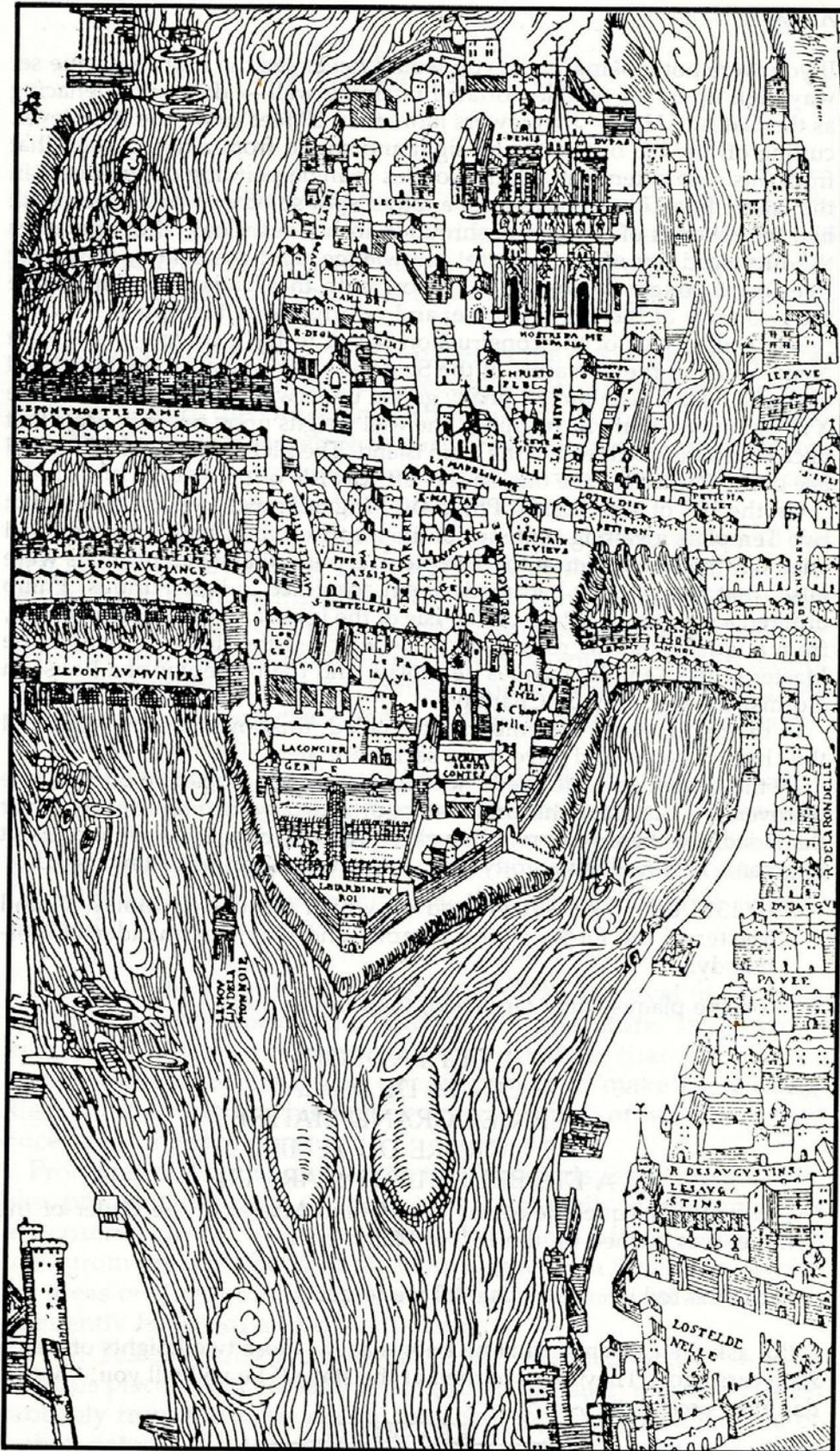
There was an Odo di Charni, preceptor in the Indre in 1202; and a Gaufridus de Charmoy, 1283. However, since Roserot gives 12 scattered localities called Charmoy, this should not be considered an aberrant misspelling of Charny.

**Jean de Charny**, in 1385 instrumental in the overthrow of Etienne Marcel, was from canton Claye in the Seine-et-Marne (Perret).

**Landricus de Cherné**, in 1170, lived in the canton of Vitteaux (Roserot).

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\* Some authors have written that the stake was set up on the Ile des Javiaux. This islet was one of three at the south end of the Ile de la Cité: the Ile Notre-Dame and the Ile aux Vaches were joined to form the Ile Saint-Louis. The Ile des Javiaux was incorporated with the Right Bank.



*A FOOTNOTE*

If you were not looking for it, you would never see the bronze plaque set way high up in the double-ported retaining wall — dark and menacing as the Gates of Hell — that lowers more than 20 feet above the river level, cutting off the life of the city by sight and sound from a tiny garden that from this base extends in a long isosceles triangle pointing downstream in the Seine. In all Paris there is not another spot so other-worldly peaceful; like the reveries of a monk enshrouded in hooded cloak, there breathes the unvoiced joy of some secret knowledge. Red roses nod, flowering trees bend boughs to shade the narrow path that leads to the tip where the two arms of the river re-unite; and returns along the opposite side.

The wall is part of the construction raised to lay a bridge — the Pont Neuf — across the two arms of the Seine at what was once the blunt end of the Ile de la Cité; a project finally gotten underway toward the end of the XVI<sup>th</sup> century, Henry IV reigning. The wall weighs upon two tiny islets that once lay off the north end of the main island. The islet on the right was called Isle of the Patriarchs; the one on the left was Isle of the Jews.

On the 18<sup>th</sup> of March 1314, Philip IV, King of France, was informed that two Templars awaiting sentence of life imprisonment had recanted. Had cried out that the Order of the Temple was pure, that all accusations were false, that sheer terror had made them acquiesce to lies. Furious, Philip ordered a stake to be set up on the Isle of the Jews; and that same evening, from a window in his royal palace, he watched the flames consume the Master of the Temple, Jacques de Molay, and the preceptor of a house in Normandy, Geoffroy de Charnay.

In the night, when the embers had cooled, unknown persons collected the charred bones and gave them secret burial.

By the garden gate, perched 7 feet above ground, tangled in bushes, one discovers the customary historical notice provided by the municipality. Over the faded text there is a protective glass whereon dust and rain and insect fragments have welded a gritty film. A few words can be distinguished:

In 1314 the stake was erected on which Jacques de Molay, Grand Master of the Order of the Temple, and Guy, commander of Normandy....

And on the plaque, time-tarnished, high in the wall:

A CET ENDROIT  
JACQUES DE MOLAY  
DERNIER GRAND MAITRE  
DE L'ORDRE DU TEMPLE  
A ÉTÉ BRULÉ LE 18 MARS 1314

(At this place Jacques de Molay, last Grand Master of the Order of the Temple, was burned on the 18<sup>th</sup> of March 1314)

Let Lethe roll over Jew's Isle till we forget....

But ask the gardener what he knows about those two knights of nearly 700 years ago. "They were burned at the stake," he will tell you, "but today they are saints."

